

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, CUNY



Talking Research

English Department

Newsletter

Volume 3 | Issue 1

Table of Contents

Chair's Message	1
Editor's Note	1
New Faculty Spotlight	2
Faculty Reading List	2
Learning Commons Update	3
ENG 110/10 Outcomes	3
Women's History Month	4
Writing Center Welcome	5
Upcoming Events	6
Recognizing Faculty Excellence	6
Start-of-Term Checklist	6
In Memoriam	6

Departmental Contacts

Andrea Fabrizio, PhD
Chair of Department
afabrizio@hostos.cuny.edu

Heidi Bollinger, PhD
Deputy Chair of Department
hebollinger@hostos.cuny.edu

Shalema B. Averett-Hunt
CUNY Office Assistant
saverett-hunt@hostos.cuny.edu

Arisbel Marte
CUNY Office Assistant
amarte@hostos.cuny.edu

Questions or submissions?

Victoria Muñoz, Editor
vmunoz@hostos.cuny.edu

Elizabeth Porter, Assistant Editor
eport@hostos.cuny.edu

Chair's Message

Well Wishes for a Successful Term



Welcome back to spring 2020! I hope everyone's semester is off to a smooth start. This term has been exciting for the Department already as we continue to grow with the hire of Professor Botwick and Professor Genzale; I am so happy to welcome them to our wonderful department. We have also met the demands and challenges of re-envisioning our approach to Developmental education with the implementation of ENG 10 and the ongoing success of ENG 100.

Congratulations to us all on the vibrancy and success of our department and on all of the individual achievements celebrated so beautifully in this edition of our newsletter. Thank you so much for all that you do in the classroom, in your scholarship, and through your service. I look forward to our work together this spring and I wish us all the best for a happy and rewarding semester.

Editor's Note

Talking Research



The Year of the Research Project continues on a strong note. The semester kicked off with a galvanizing Day Zero event, organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning and MC'd by our very own Professor Elizabeth Porter. The event also featured programming organized by several departments, including a presentation by Professor Bury (English) and a discussion of research by Library liaison, Professor Haruko Yamauchi (cover).

As part of English's interest in enhancing undergraduate research, and inspired in part by previous presentations and collaborations with Professor Yamauchi, the English 110 and English 111 course managers, Professors Connolly, Gerrity, Bury, and Muñoz, have teamed up for joint meetings and discussions with English faculty to discuss the role of research with undergraduate faculty.

The semester also marks new transitions: Professor Nguyen has taken on the directorship of the Writing Center (page 2), whilst Professor Moses, who successfully ran the Center for seven years, continues his excellent work as CAP/FYS Coordinator. Meanwhile, Professors Rounds and Michael are revamping the Learning Commons site (page 3). In this issue, we also welcome the English department's newest assistant professors, Aaron Botwick and Ann Genzale (page 2).

Special thanks is owed to our issue contributors: Carl Grindley provided the ENG 110/10 data. Professor Porter provided the Day Zero photographs. The Library provided the photographs of Professor Kayondo (page 6) and of the 1988 Yearbook (back cover). Finally, we give a thank you to Elizabeth Porter, Assistant Editor, and Anne Rounds, Learning Commons Liaison.

New Faculty Spotlight

Aaron Botwick, PhD

Assistant Professor, English



Q: What most excites you about your new position at Hostos CC?

A: The students. I have taught at three other CUNY schools and each time the students have impressed me with their passion, their intellectual curiosity, and the diversity of their thinking. Although I have only

had a few classes at Hostos, I am already struck by our students' commitment to honest and critical argumentation.

Q: What is unique about this institution?

A: Hostos is unique because it was founded in response to demands by Puerto Rican and Hispanic leaders who advocated for a community college in the South Bronx. It is the result of direct and local political action, and thus its roots—and, I believe, its ethos—are deeply democratic.

Q: What are your current research projects?

A: Right now, I'm working on a project about suicide and the British novel. I begin in the nineteenth century with *Jane Eyre* and make my way to *The Good Soldier* and *Women in Love*. I also spend quite a bit of time on non-fictional discourse that was circulating through the country at the time: sermons, newspapers, early works of suicidology, and so on.

Ann Genzale, PhD

Assistant Professor, English



Q: What most excites you about your new position at Hostos CC?

A: I'm really excited to teach Hostos students—I was born and raised in NYC, and I'm looking forward to sharing my passion for writing and helping students achieve their academic goals.

Q: What is unique about this institution?

A: So far what really stands out to me is how friendly and welcoming everyone is, and the engagement and enthusiasm of the students.

Q: What are your current research projects?

A: My main research areas are Contemporary American Fiction and Multi-Ethnic American Literature. Right now, I'm working on a paper on memoirs written by women who have thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail for a panel on travel writing at this year's American Literature Association Conference.

The National African American Read-In

February 25th, 2020

"Once you learn to read,
you will be forever free."

Frederick Douglass

Author, Government Official, Journalist, Civil Rights Activist (c. 1818–1895)

"The African American Read-In (AARI) . . . is built on an ambitious yet confident premise: that a school and community reading event can be an effective way to promote diversity in children's literature, encourage young people to read, and shine a spotlight on African American authors" (NCTE *Council Chronicle*, November 2014).

Since February 1990, the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and NCTE have sponsored a nationwide African American Read-In that celebrates diversity in literature. Hostos Community College in past years has participated in this national reading community. We hope to see you at this year's event!

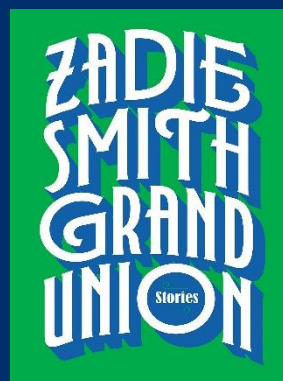
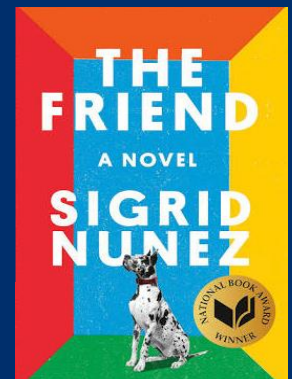
Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM, in B501.

Faculty Reading List Great Books for Winter

Sigrid Nunez,
The Friend (2018)

"I typically hate academic drama, but the dog and prose won me over."

- Prof. Bernardini



Zadie Smith,
Grand Union (2019)

"...the stories all contained the wit and social criticism I associate with Smith's novels."

- Prof. Porter

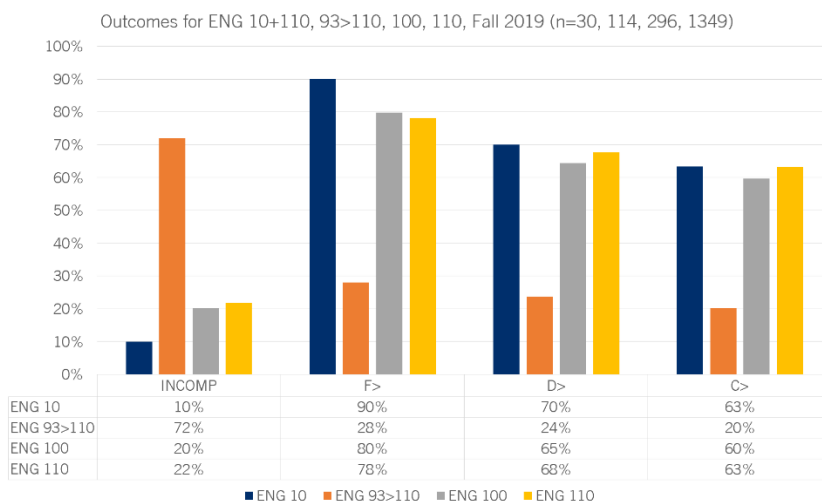
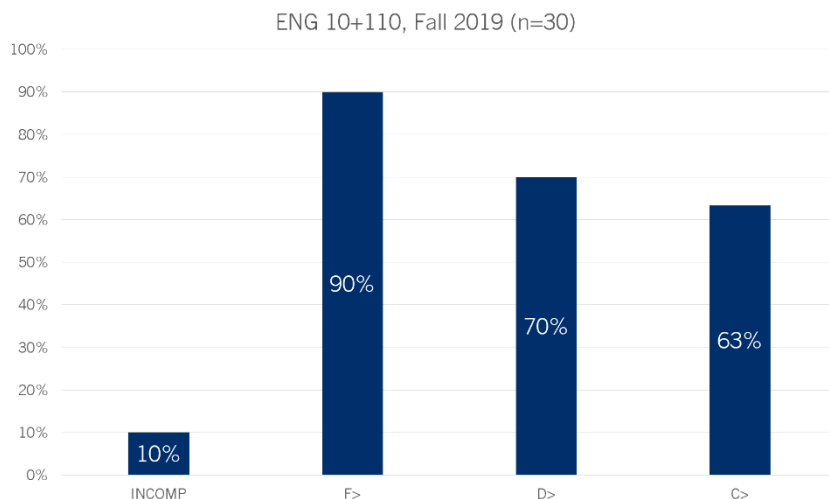
Learning Commons Update New Site Migration



Exciting changes are coming to the English Department's Learning Commons site! Starting this term, Professors Rounds and Michael are migrating the English Department Teaching and Learning Commons from the Hostos Commons to the CUNY Academic Commons to facilitate more robust collaboration among faculty. The new site on the CUNY Academic Commons will allow course-level leaders to post best practices, share assignments, and email updates to the English department community all in one place. Explains Professor Michael, "we are designing the new English Department Teaching and Learning Commons to be a space that we can collectively curate so we can all benefit from the amazing work English professors are doing in their classrooms at Hostos Community College."

The English Department looks forward to the enhanced collaborations and improved student service that will be facilitated by this web migration.

ENG 110/10 Grade Outcomes Improving Developmental Education



Preliminary results from the new ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) for developmental English are in (graph 1). Although this sample of 30 students (from the program's pilot) is relatively small, it could bode well for the future of ALP developmental courses in English. Only 10% of students received an incomplete. 90% of students earned an F or higher. 70% earned a D or higher. 63% earned a C or higher. Moreover, the rates for students earning a C or higher is comparable to those in ENG 110, which is a course for college-prepared students. If we compare these results to data from ENG 93 (graph 2), where there was only a 20% successful completion rate, the ALP pilot points to the likelihood of improved student experience and higher completion rates moving forward.

Women's History Month **March 2020** Events

"Off the Wall": The life and work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Wednesday, March 4, 12:30–1:45PM, room C391
Organizer: Professor Jerilyn Fisher

Ann Timmons, playwright, will give a staged reading of her one woman show that celebrates 19th c. social reformer and prolific writer, Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860–1935). Gilman is, famously, the author of the classic feminist critique of patriarchy, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892). "Off the Wall" is the intimate story of this prodigious woman's struggle to change the world at the turn of the century.

"WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?"

Monday, March 9, 2:00–3:15PM, room B501
Organizers: Professors Julie Trachman and Jacki DiSanto

Professor Julie Trachman, who is conversant with CUNY's policy on sexual harassment, and Professor Jacqueline DiSanto will use the game show format to educate the Hostos community about sexual harassment: what it is, how to respond effectively, and how to prevent such violations on campus. The organizers will connect this information to the #MeToo movement and relevant changes in legislation.

Domestic Violence and the Domestic Violence Survivors' Justice Act

Tuesday, March 10, 11AM–12:15PM, Savoy Manor, Multi-Purpose Room
Organizer: Professor Sandy Figueroa

The session will explore the work of advocacy groups combating domestic violence. There will be a presentation from the Coalition of Women Prisoners on their work in promoting the passage of the Domestic Violence Survivors' Justice Act, discussing implications and implementation of the Act.

Trivia for Women's History Month: "The Category is Gender"

Thursday, March 12, 11:00AM–12:30PM, room C391
Organizer: Professor Elizabeth Porter

Students will play a trivia game, consulting with each other and then writing down their responses to questions read aloud about women, gender and sexuality in history. Prizes will be offered to top winners.



"The Triangle Fire"

Tuesday March 17, 12:30–1:45PM, room B501
Organizer: Prof. Marcella Bencivenni

This PBS historical film chronicles the March 1911 fire that tore through the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City, killing one hundred and forty six young workers, almost all poor immigrant women, whose labor was exploited for capitalist gain. The fire forever changed the relationship between labor and industry in the United States. Still today, many Americans are recognizing the tragic losses that result from motivations of global capitalism, which the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire exposed.

"The Beauty of Loca: An Intergenerational Performance Encounter"

Monday, March 23rd, 5:30–7:00PM, Longwood Gallery
Organizers: Professors Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla and Charles Rice-Gonzalez
Co-sponsors: Hostos Latin American Writers Institute and Hostos Center for Arts and Culture in collaboration with the Women's History Month Task Force

Bronx born Boricua and Springfield, MA Poet Laureate, Magdalena Gómez joins New York based Puerto Rican multidisciplinary artist Alejandra Ramos Riera, to present excerpts from Gomez's award winning play, *Perfectamente Loca/ Perfectly Insane*, and her often-taught poetry collection, *Shameless Woman*. The artists first met at Pregones/PRTT. Delighted to collaborate in honoring Latinas during Women's History Month, Magdalena exclaims: "I cannot wait to be in my beloved Bronx again!"



"Harriet," the 2019 film about Harriet Tubman

Tuesday, March 24, 5:30–7:00PM, room B501
Organizer: Professor Jerilyn Fisher

This extraordinary biographical film, starring Cynthia Erivo, tells the story of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and her transformation into a fearless abolitionist hero, whose courage, ingenuity, and persistence freed hundreds of slaves and helped changed the course of history.



She Took Justice

Thursday, March 26, 3:30–5:00PM, Savoy Manor, Multi-Purpose Room
Organizers: Professor Jerilyn Fisher and Professor Kris Burrell
Co-sponsors: WGS, Behavioral and Social Sciences and Office of the President

Gloria Browne-Marshall, civil rights attorney and Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, will speak about her book of the title above. Her research emphasizes the history of Black women and the law, from long ago to present day activism.

Celebrating Women's History and Women Writers: A Student Research Perspective

Monday, March 30, 9:30AM–11:30AM, room C312, Faculty Dining Room
Organizer: Professor Victoria Muñoz

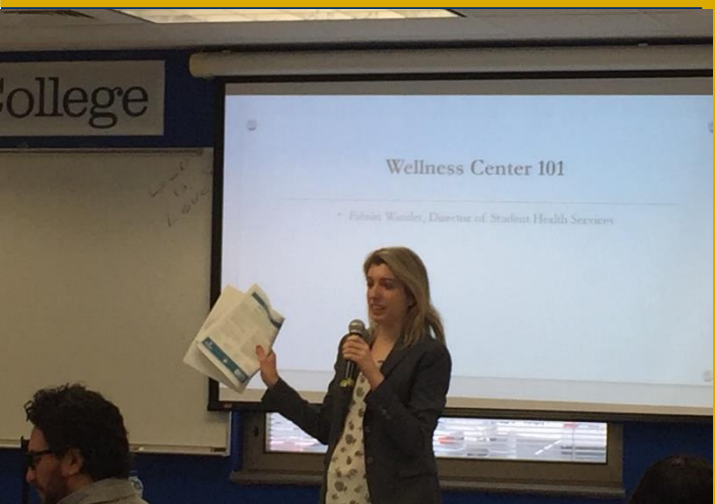
This event will celebrate original student research projects inspired by the Women Writers Online database, and they will share their learning about women writers throughout history.

ABOUT WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

The WGS program and its faculty provide a variety of classes as well as academic enrichment through year-round cultural, educational events: The WGS Fall Film Festival and Women's History Month activities each March.

Women's and Gender Studies exposes students to the importance of gender in our personal lives as well as from a political/social standpoint, especially as gender intersects with other social identities such as race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and religion. In WGS classes, students learn to challenge conventional assumptions about gender, sex, and sexuality; they also discover diverse women's histories of achievement and oppression, and learn about the resisters and persisters who have historically fought for equal rights. In the local community and transnationally, WGS classes prepare and empower our students to actively promote social/gender justice. For questions, contact: Professor Jerilyn Fisher, jfisher@hostos.cuny.edu.

Day Zero January 23rd 2020



Day Zero is a Professional Development Event Sponsored and Planned by the Center for Teaching and Learning. This year's event was MC'd by Prof. Elizabeth Porter (photos 1 and 3) and featured presentations by numerous faculty and college departments.

Writing Center Welcome By Professor Tram Nguyen, Director



The Writing Center (C-596F) is excited about its projects in the works: Flash Tutoring on the Bridge and Tutor-led Workshops (Mar. 6th & March 20th, Apr. 3rd, May 1st). Our new column in Academic Scoop will feature stories and interviews with tutors by Professor Bury.

If you are keen to have our Poet-in-Practice Sarah Key speak with your students about analyzing poetry, please contact our WC administrator Ashley Thomas. Shaneka Crossman can answer any questions concerning SIP tutors.

We look forward to working with you!

Contact:

Director: TRNGUYEN@hostos.cuny.edu

Faculty Advisor: LBURY@hostos.cuny.edu

WC Administrator: ADTHOMAS@hostos.cuny.edu

SIP Administrator: SCROSSMAN@hostos.cuny.edu

Appointments: <http://hostos.mywconline.com>

Mondays & Thursdays 10 am – 8 pm

Fridays 10 am – 3 pm

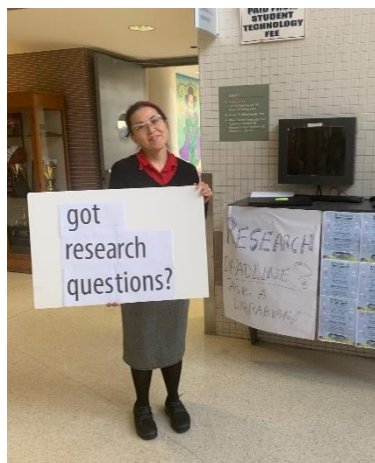
Walk-Ins

Tuesdays 10 am – 3 pm

Wednesdays 3 pm – 8 pm

Spotted on Campus

During Fall 2019 finals week, Library Liaison, Prof. Yamauchi, fielded a table on the third floor of the C building to field research questions. The English Department is currently working to enhance research in 100-level classes. If you have questions or would like help on a research project for your students, contact Prof. Yamauchi. The Library also offers in-class visits and targeted lessons.



Contact: English Library Liaison, Prof. Haruko Yamauchi, HYAMAUCHI@hostos.cuny.edu

Upcoming Events

Union Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 26 at 3:30 (B-503)

Course-Level Meetings

All Course-Level Meetings Take Place at 3:30 PM in the English Conference Room

ENG 100 & ENG 10: Wednesday, March 4th
Wednesday, April 29th

ENG 111: Monday, March 23rd
Monday April 27th

ENG 110: Wednesday, March 18th
Wednesday, April 22nd

Electives: Monday, March 9th
Thursday, April 2nd

Recognizing Faculty Excellence Publications

Darling, Gregory. {review} Darren McGettigan's *Richard II and the Irish Kings*, (Four Courts Press, 2016), in *North American Journal of Celtic Studies* 4 (1) 2020.
Rounds, Anne Lovering. "American Diptych." *Revisiting the Elegy in the Black Lives Matter Era*. Ed. Tiffany Austin, Sequoia Maner, Emily Ruth Rutter, and darlene anita scott. (Routledge: 2020).

Congratulations

To Ms. Shalema Averett-Hunt for the recent birth of her son, Ra'Khari Apollo Averett, born April 3, 2019 6 pounds, 9 ounces. 21 inches.
To Prof. Anne Lovering-Rounds on the birth of her daughter, Katherine Calliope Szeto, born September 8, 2018, at 5 lbs, 12 ounces.
To Prof. Milsom and partner Joseph Petrucelli for the birth of their daughter Ruby—born on New Year's Eve!
To Prof. Soto-Franco, Awarded "Third Place of the Innovation Chase," by the Office of Educational Technology and the Division of Academic Affairs at Hostos CC, Dec. 12, 2019.
To Prof. Widney, Finalist, for "Greenville Tomorrow." 21st Century American Voices Contest. American Stage, St. Petersburg, FL.
Semi-Finalist, for "The Enchanted Circle." Rover Dramawerks 10 Minute Comedy Contest, Plano, TX.

Presentations & Performances

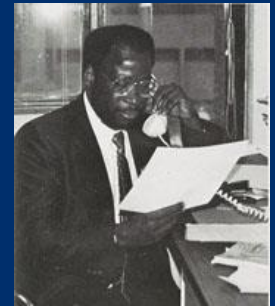
Fabrizio, Andrea and Gregory Marks "Communities of Practice and Learning: Embedding Humanistic Questions in Composition Courses" TYCA Northeast. Portland, Maine. October 2019.
McLennan, Leanna. Writer/Performer, Stand Up Comedy Routine, 12 October 2019 and 19 October 2019. The Comedy Cellar, New York, NY.
Widney, Chris. "Stuck." Play Reading, Art Truckee. Truckee, CA. January 20, 2019.

Start-of-Term Checklist

Requirements	Check
Akadosmos (CUNY Online Bookstore)	
Get new semester sticker for ID.	
Deliver syllabus to the English Department (hard copy).	
Email syllabus to course managers.	
Complete Office Hours, Adjunct Hours, Teaching Hours forms.	
VOE (Verification of Enrollment) Roster deadline 2/19.	
Deliver VOE Roster printout to department	
Complete schedule grid for next semester.	
CUNY Edge (Attendance Submission (ongoing))	
Succeed@Hostos (ongoing)	

Prepared by Prof. Soto-Franco

In Memoriam Prof. Frances Kayondo



The Department honors the life of Prof. Frances Kayondo, who provided many years of dedicated service in English.

"I was very fortunate of taking three ingles classes with him... How to forget Hamlet and its universal values after stud[ying] it with Dr. Kayondo? This is only one of the many subjects learned with this unforgettable professor that motivated me to do a bachelor's degree in Modern and Classical Literature. Thanks, Dr. Frances Kayondo, for all your dedication to our people."

- Mr. Roberto Williams, Public Safety/ID Office

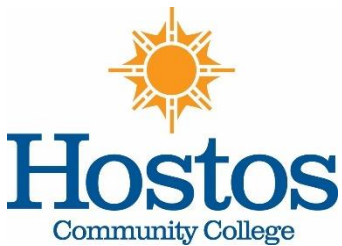


English Department

Front Row — LEFT TO RIGHT — Dr. Ralph Ranald, Ms. Diosa Carmona, Secretary, Dr. Clara Velázquez, Chairperson, Ms. Mindy Feliciano, Secretary, Prof. Norma Lawrence. 2nd Row — Prof. Michelle Cohen, Ms. Renee Coleman, College Asst., Prof. Susan Dicker, Dr. Delia Romaro, Prof. Mildred Rabry, Prof. Evelyn Silverman, Dr. Elizabeth Wheeler, Dr. Henry Lesnick, Dr. Brijraj Singh, Prof. Lewis Levine. Last Row — Dr. Bowman Wiley, Prof. Luncinda Hughey, Dr. Nellie Justicia, Prof. José Cruz-Matos, Prof. Victor Cummings, Dr. Francis Kayondo.

Throwback! Hostos English circa 1988

Photograph courtesy of
the College Archive.



Department of English
Hostos Community College, CUNY

a. 500 Grand Concourse, Room B504
Bronx, NY 10451
p. 718-518-6600
w. hostos.cuny.edu

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