General Studies, SIPA and CUNY’s Hostos Jointly Establish Serrano Scholars Program

By James Devitt

Columbia’s School of General Studies and School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the City University of New York’s Hostos Community College have established the Serrano Scholars Program, which will prepare non-traditional students for careers in foreign affairs.

The program will accept eligible Hostos students and graduates to attend the School of General Studies for two years to complete their bachelor’s degree in liberal arts, then attend SIPA for two years to earn a master’s degree in international affairs.

The program, backed by grants from the U.S. Departments of State, Education and Defense, honors Democratic Congressman José E. Serrano, U.S. Representative for the 16th District of New York, who has been instrumental in its conception.

“I am proud to officially inaugurate this program, which already has its first Serrano scholars who will bring their unique backgrounds and skills to tomorrow’s leadership positions in America’s foreign policy,” said Serrano. “This program is designed to be a challenge as our scholars move from Hostos Community College to Columbia. I am proud that with the help of so many I am able to officially bring this opportunity to our young people who have accepted this challenge and will have futures filled with service, pride and satisfaction.”

The first Serrano Scholars are currently enrolled at Columbia for the 2001-02 academic year. Participants receive Serrano Scholars Fellowships, which include tuition and fees for full-time study for four years at Columbia (two years at the School of General Studies and two years at SIPA), plus a stipend. In addition, participants will take part in mentoring, lead-ship and internship programs designed to guide and support students in their academic and career goals.

For fiscal year 2002, the Serrano Scholars Program will receive $2.6 million in federal funding. It received $2.3 million in fiscal year 2001.

“The Columbia community is proud to be a part of this ground-breaking program,” said President George Rupp. “The University as well as the fields

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From left: United States Congressman José E. Serrano; Dolores M. Fernándiz, President of Hostos Community College, and President George Rupp hold a $2.6 million model check from the federal government which will help sponsor the 2002 Serrano Scholars Program.

Photo by Ervin Barrios

The 1960s folk music scene thrives inside Postcrypt Coffeehouse, located underneath St. Paul’s Chapel.

Scientists and policy makers discuss dealing with climate extremes and changes in the NYC metropolitan area.

India’s past and present intersect in Golden Globe-nominated film by professor/student team.

The working title of Douglas’s third book, “It’s Only Real When It’s Dark: The Noir Generation and Urban Culture, 1940-1960,” reflects her life-long fascination with the period in America’s cultural history noted for creative explosions and regional diversity. The book presents a new period, the 1940s and 1950s, and a new place.

The object of her academic affection this time is Hollywood and the Cold War. With this book, Douglas has narrowed her exploration specifically to New York and the cultural climate between 1940 and 1960 that was affected by the unique film genre of noir. Douglas—who has known since she was in her middle twenties that she would write these books—admits that “It’s Only Real...” picks up where her last one left off.

“The [last] book ended with the thought that New York was too big for anything but the media to outgrow. I’m someone who’s been fascinated with the conjunction between a new generation, a time of crisis and creativity and a geographic place consolidating its power within the cultural hierarchy of cities and regions within the U.S. and the world,” Douglas said. “That left me in a new period, the 1940s, 1950s, and a new place.”

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Yiling Li performs a traditional dance in Roone Arledge Auditorium.

PHOTOS BY XINMIN ZHANG

‘Year of the Horse’ Celebrated By More than 1,200 in Lerner

By Jason Hollander

Throwing a new year’s party at home generally requires a lot of work.

Putting on a new year’s party for more than 1,200 friends inside of Lerner Hall’s Roone Arledge Auditorium and cinema, including dinner, a movie, games and entertainment, is a major feat.

The Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CUCSSA) rang in 4700, the Year of the Horse, on Saturday, February 17 with a lavish affair that has become a new tradition for a large percentage of Chinese students on campus. The organization, Columbia’s biggest student group, is intent on providing opportunities for both students and alumni to meet and exchange ideas and experiences.

Zongchun Zhao plays the Urheen, a Chinese string instrument.

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Zhiyong Zhou, CUCSSA president and Ph.D student in chemistry, says the organization works annually to create the traditional festive setting in order to bring together those who might not normally cross paths.

Many Chinese students, he notes, struggle when they come to New York because they are very far from friends and family and often lonely.

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