

SCOPE NEWSLETTER 2023-2024

PRODUCED BY **THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN**
CCNY'S DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION (**CCNY CWE**)



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Website www.ccnycuny.edu/CWE



JUMP START YOUR FUTURE

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education



The City College
of New York

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Juan Carlos Mercado
Dean

CCNY Division of Interdisciplinary studies at the Center for worker education (CCNY CWE)

We have created a robust intellectual community that reflects the ethos of this division.

From the Dean's Desk

JULY 2024: New School Year, New Possibilities.

I hope that you and your family are doing well.

As you may know, our Division stands out as the only one in the College with a degree approved for entirely online delivery. In addition, we are excited to announce that the University and Albany have approved a new **BA in Urban Life and Social Justice**, which will be available starting in Spring 2025.

As I informed you in my last communication, we have finished upgrading the Auditorium and two big classrooms to offer online/hyflex classes. Also, every single classroom is upgraded with the latest technology and all new podiums. In addition, we upgraded the computer lab with new computers in order to offer new programs. I wish to recognize **Robert Hernandez** and his team for their work on this.

Now some news on our Division activities. You will see through these pages what we have been doing. In April, we had the **Third International Conference on Human Rights**, an extremely successful conference with over 100 participants from 25 countries. My recognition to **Prof. Danielle Zach** for her amazing work. We also had the **Eleventh Edition of The Americas International Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY)**, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Indian Museum and Instituto Cervantes, with record attendances.

For the next academic year, we are planning three major events: in November, the **First International Multilingual Creative Writing Conference (MCWC)** - with thanks to Prof. **Carlos Aguasaco** who is working on this new initiative; in April, the **Tenth Historical LINKS Conference**; and in the spring, the **First IN SHORT Student Video Competition** - with thanks to **Lorena De Miranda Marques** for this new project.

My congratulations to our students **Lucero Saavedra Huerta** (2023), and **Sena Tossou** (2024) who both won \$10,000 scholarships from the Women's Forum of New York Education Fund, as well as to the Class of 2024 Salutatorian **Tiffany Ramirez Duncan** and Valedictorian **Christanya Symplice**. We also remember with fondness **Shania Grosvenor**, one of our students who passed away recently. Her spirit and contributions to our community will be deeply missed.

I would like to recognize Professor **Martin Woessner** for publication of his best-selling book "**Terrence Malick and the Examined Life**," and his promotion to Full Professor. In the fall semester, we plan to have a series of book presentations by our own faculty. Additionally, congratulations to Professors **Danielle Zach**, **Séamus Scanlon**, **Susanna Rosenbaum**, and **Joan Robinson** on winning PSC-CUNY Awards.

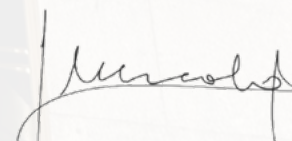
I would like to welcome the new faculty and staff to the CCNY CWE family:

Professor **Rafia Zafar** as an Economist, **Lenard Estacio** as Assistant to the Dean, **Antonio Galica** as Assistant Office Manager, and **Lorena De Miranda Marques** as Advisor | Strategic Media | Marcom Specialist. Additionally, we are actively planning to hire new faculty next year.

Following her recent retirement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Dr. Sophia Demitriou** for her dedicated service, throughout her tenure here, to the College, our Division, and our students and to wish her well in the next chapter of her life.

As I've said in previous communications, we admire the tenacity, dedication and application shown by you, our students. CCNY CWE staff and faculty have been doing exceptional work as advisors, as staffers, in and out of the classrooms, in the various committees at the Divisional level as well as at the College and University level. What you (the faculty, staff and students), all working together, have been able to accomplish during the last year is simply amazing.

Thank you again for all that you continue to do.



Juan Carlos Mercado

Academic Programs

2 B.A.s, 1 B.S., 1 and M.A. Our Family is Growing!

NEW

B.A. Social Justice and Urban Life

Through the collaboration of colleagues under the leadership of Prof. Kathlene McDonald, the new IAS-CCNY CWE major in B.A. Social Justice and Urban Life has been registered by the New York State Education Department. Beyond textbooks, this program offers students real-life learning experiences and provides an interdisciplinary framework for analyzing social justice issues and inequality within urban communities. Students will embark on a scaffolded journey that blends coursework, experiential learning, and public lectures, culminating in a capstone research project and presentation.

B.A. Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

A dynamic educational journey tailored for working adults and transfer students, our B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences program is offered both online and in-person, bridging classroom learning with real-world application. Emphasizing essential skills such as interpersonal communication, intercultural understanding, and global awareness—vital for today's global citizens—each course is designed to enhance critical thinking, reading, and writing across various formats, preparing our students for success in our rapidly evolving world.



Dr. Carlos Aguasaco
Chair



Dr. Gail Buffalo
Program Director

B.S. Early Childhood Education

Committed to understanding and embracing the needs and perspectives of individuals from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds, our B.S. in Early Childhood Education Program views diversity as a valuable resource that faculty leverage to enhance the strengths of all learners. Our focus lies in utilizing diversity-related issues to enrich student learning and positively impact schools, particularly in urban environments. We prepare graduate students for New York State Initial Teacher Certification in Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 2) and are CAEP-accredited.

M.A. Study of the Americas

With a combination of a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives, including literature, anthropology, history, philosophy, urban studies, cultural studies, film, and political science, to the study of race, gender, human rights, contemporary politics, immigration, and popular culture, our M.A. in the Study of the Americas provides a rich interdisciplinary experience from three specialized tracks: core, human rights, black studies, and Dominican studies.



Dr. Susanna Rosenbaum
Program Director



QUEST

SPECIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

QUEST was born in 1995 when a group of retirees secured space at CCNY CWE to initiate a platform for lifelong learning, exchanging ideas, and developing new interests. Today, **QUEST** is a vital part of the CCNY CWE family with nearly 245 active members who lead classes, self-administer more than 35 peer-taught courses each semester, and actively participate in committee and social activities.

Not only that, **QUEST** members' generosity and passion for learning have supported many of our students in fulfilling their academic potential, serving as both a source of inspiration and a source of financial assistance, with a total of nine scholarship awards given to CCNY CWE students in the 2023-2024 school year, including the **MICHAEL WELLNER ("CAPTAIN MIKE")** Scholarship, the **PETER COTT AND KEN LEEDOM MEMORIAL** Scholarships, the **QUEST** Scholarships, the **ROBERT HARTMANN** Scholarship, and the **ANGELIE T. (TERRY) DEFIORE AND ARLENE SANDRA ABRAMSON** Scholarship.

QUEST Lifelong Community members Lois Klein, Roy Carey, and Jennifer Jolly.



Study Abroad

SPECIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Our **Study Abroad** Special Program keeps giving CCNY students a variety of opportunities to earn academic credit for offered courses, or for research and experiential learning while living in and absorbing another country's culture. Programs run from semester-long to short-term during the fall, winter, spring and summer sessions in various locations throughout the world.

The Summer 2024 Session is wrapping up, with students returning soon from **Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, England, Greece, Netherlands, South Korea, and Spain.**

Our Team

Leadership

Juan Carlos Mercado, Ph.D. | **Dean** | jmercado@ccny.cuny.edu
Carlos Aguasaco, Ph.D. | **Chair** | caguasaco@ccny.cuny.edu

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Trisha Baboolal, A.B.D. | **Advisor, Recruitment Coord., BA Degree Audit** | tbaboolal@ccny.cuny.edu
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 ○ **Rafia Zafar**, Ph.D. | **Economics** | rzafar@ccny.cuny.edu

Staff

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 ○ **Lenard Estacio**, B.S. | **Assistant to the Dean** | lestacio@ccny.cuny.edu
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Ewa Wiechnik | **IT Assistant** | ewiechnik@ccny.cuny.edu
Ninoshka (Nina) Woods, B.A. | **Off. Manager, Graduation Events Coord.** | nwoods2@ccny.cuny.edu

NEW Colleagues

Dr. **Rafia Zafar**, PhD in Economics from Fordham University, is our newest faculty member. She was a Postdoctoral Scholar at the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, CUNY Graduate Center. Her research interests include inequality, intergenerational mobility, education, and gender.



Ms. **Lorena De Miranda Marques**, M.F.A. in Film and M.P.S. in Branding + Integrated Communications, currently working on her Ph.D. in Strategic Media, is our new Advisor | Strategic Media | Marcom specialist. She comes to us with extensive experience and many years of work at CCNY.

Lenard Estacio, B.S. in Computer Technology, is the new Assistant to the Dean, performing important administrative tasks to ensure the smooth functioning of the office. He has previously worked in the Dean's offices at NYC College of Technology and St. John's University.



Antonio Galica, B.A. in Psychology, comes to our team with many years of experience in assisting and coaching disabled adults to reach their fullest potential. He is taking care of the Front Desk to enhance the experience for both in-person and online students and visitors, faculty, and staff.

FRONT: Elizabeth Matthews, Rafia Zafar, Gail Buffalo, Monica Ortiz-Suloway, John Calagione, and Eskimo Omolade. **BACK:** Andrew Aprile, Marlene Clark, Susanna Schaller, Carlos Aguasaco, Robert Hernandez, Danielle Zach, Juan Carlos Mercado, Trisha Baboolal, Lorena De Miranda Marques, Joan Robinson, Lenard Estacio, and Bonita Bonet-Haskins.



OUR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



We are pleased to recognize several outstanding recipients of the PSC CUNY research awards, showcasing our faculty's excellence. Among them are Prof. **Danielle Zach** and Librarian **Séamus Scanlon**, who received awards for round 55; Prof. **Susanna Rosenbaum**, recognized for round 54; and Prof. **Joan Robinson**, awarded Fall 2023 Release Time to write her book.

Professor **Martin Woessner's** book, *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life*, about one of American cinema's most celebrated filmmakers came out in March.

"Martin Woessner illuminates Malick's early education in philosophy at Harvard and Oxford as well as his cinematic apprenticeship at the American Film Institute to show how a young student searching for personal meaning became a famous director of Hollywood films."

**TERRENCE
MALICK**
AND THE EXAMINED LIFE
MARTIN WOESSNER



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH

*A Portrait of
Leadership & Empowerment:
Panel Discussion*



Lydia T. Blanco
Journalist, Host, and
Media Personality

Elizabeth T. Lundt, Esq.
Assistant Commissioner, Office of
EEO at NYC Dept. of Correction

Okema T. Moore
Producer, Director,
Actor, Writer

Joan H. Robinson, JD, PhD
Assistant Professor of
Social Science and Law at CUNY

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 | 6:00PM-8:00PM
NAC BALLROOM

RSVP AT [TINYURL.COM/CCNYWHM24](https://tinyurl.com/ccnywhm24)

FREE FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS



Professor **Joan Robinson**, J.D., PhD, participated in **A Portrait of Leadership & Empowerment: Panel Discussion**. Her research examines the intersection of technology, inequality, and law, with a particular focus on technologies of surveillance.

She also organized the **The Milton Stern Workshop: Pathways to Careers in Financial Advising**, supported by The Milton Stern (1957) Scholarship, Bridgewater Advisors, and The Foundation for City College. The event showcased pathways to careers in financial advising and provided guidance to City College of New York students on accessing scholarship and internship support. Guest speakers included Dr. Karen Altfest and Dr. Lewis Altfest.



Guest speakers Dr. **Lewis Altfest** and Dr. **Karen Altfest**.

OUR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Debbie Edwards-Anderson's passion for facilitating growth, connection, and community shows up in her work with students and colleagues as the Program Manager for the **B.S. in ECE Program**. Her passion also shows at the **Walt L. Shamel Community Garden** in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, where she grows herbs and vegetables and raises chickens with her husband and other garden members. The garden is part of **GreenThumb**'s network of more than 500 community gardens throughout New York City.

Debbie was featured in the **Community Gardener Portrait Project** by fellow gardener and photographer **Zachary Schulman**. Her portrait and interview excerpt were part of an exhibit showcasing 68 Brooklyn gardeners from 21 gardens across nine neighborhoods, displayed at the Walt Shamel Garden from November 11 to December 17. Her portrait was also included in Schulman's exhibit at the **Arsenal Gallery** in Central Park, where she served as a panelist for the event "**Community Gardeners in Conversation**" on March 13.



Debbie Edwards-Anderson's portrait by photographer **Zachary Schulman**.



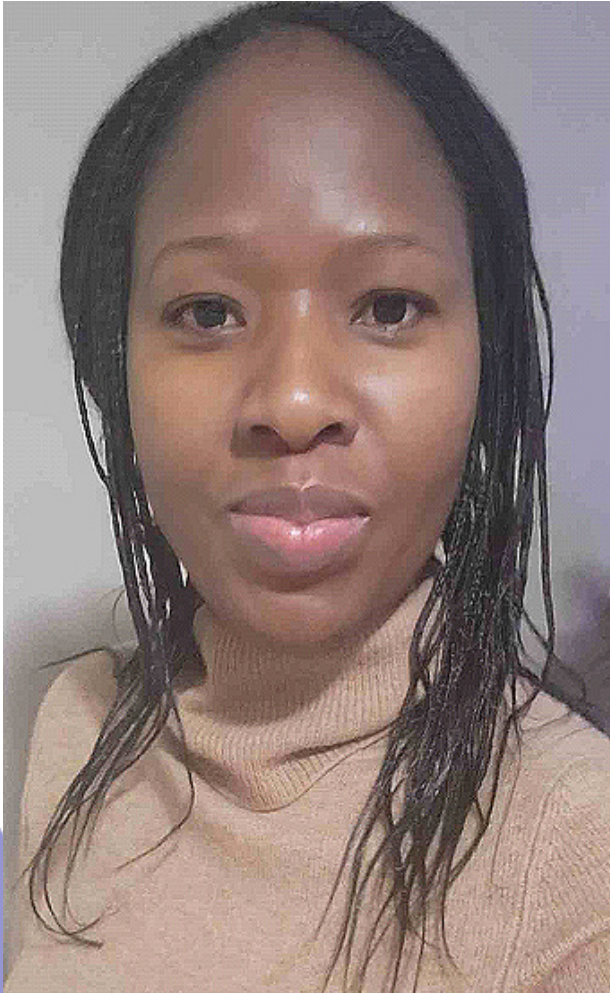
Congrats Sophia

After over a decade of dedicated service, Dr. **Sophia Demetriou**, Executive Director for Student Affairs at CCNY CWE, has retired. Since joining in 2012, she has been instrumental in establishing a vibrant Office of Student Affairs that significantly enhanced the out-of-classroom experience for our adult learners.

Her impact will live on CCNY CWE for years to come. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for her exceptional service and wish her all the best in her retirement!

Our Students

OUR STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTS



Our current student **Sena Tossou** became our 12th **Women's Forum Education Fund** recipient. The award recognizes and supports extraordinary women over the age of 35, who have overcome extreme adversity to resume their education, with unrestricted \$10,000 grants.

Previous winners from CCNY CWE:

- **2023:** Lucero Saavedra Huerta
- **2022:** Rainbow Sarah Farr, Darresa Rodriguez
- **2021:** Patriece Spann
- **2020:** Sandra Serrano, Michelle Caines, Sheila Castillo
- **2019:** Kereen Brown
- **2018:** Jilian Alvelo
- **2014:** Rita Rivera
- **2010:** Christa Meir-Staudel



Alumnus **Derrick L. Middleton**, '22, published an opinion piece with **MSNBC!**

"The film rating process is overdue for a racial reckoning. Racial violence in films is all too frequently absent from the reasons for a movie's rating, leaving viewers unprepared."



Rainbow Sarah Farr, '24, is a 2024 **Great Grad!** She was part of the National Society of Leadership and Success and made the 2020 Dean's List. She received the Women's Forum Education Fund Award, the Quest Peter Cott/Ken Leedom Memorial and a Quest Scholarship.

"The knowledge I have obtained as an early childhood education major has given me more love and insight into teaching and how I can provide children with a solid foundation they will use for their entire academic futures."



Farley Gulston, '24, is also a 2024 **Great Grad!** The 64-year-old graduated with a 3.8 GPA and aims to pursue a master's degree at CWE, showcasing CCNY CWE's spirit of persistence and hunger for knowledge.

"As an immigrant who faced significant challenges in the education system, CCNY provided me with a second chance to pursue higher education and fulfill my potential. The supportive environment and dedicated faculty helped me develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in my career"



Current student **Lucero Saavedra Huerta**, is one of 2023's **Women's Forum Education Fund** recipients! She also obtained a Dreamers Scholarship. She immigrated to the United States from Mexico as a teenager and her struggle to learn English create an interest in teaching and fostered her dreams to attend college.

"I love working with children, and for me it is very important and rewarding to give back to my community [...] to make the world a better place,"



In Search of Bengali Harlem, a film by alum **Alaudin Ullah**, '19, is now episode 5 of the 12th season of PBS's **America ReFramed**, a series that brings to life compelling stories, personal voices and experiences that illuminate the contours of our ever-changing country.

"I would always say to my mother, 'I'm not from Bangladesh. I'm from New York. I listen to hip-hop. I'm a Knicks fan. I love the Yankees. I'm born and bred New York.'"



Current student **Nelson Igunma**, was highlighted by CCNY's **City Beat**, the college's periodical that shares education news on research, publications, achievements, community engagement and events..

*"I appreciate that CCNY offers classes and programming across two campuses. [...] This semester, I'm working more on my **autoethnography** while also taking some graduate-level courses, thanks to the advocacy of my professors."*



Darresa Rodriguez, '23, served as moderator for the 2023's **Women's Forum Education Fund Scholar interviews**. She introduced the scholars at the Women's Forum of New York 2024 Elly Awards, embodying a perfect example of the award's impact, having herself come full circle as a 2022 awardee.

"Throughout my educational journey, I've discovered the power of speaking up and sharing my story. It was a story I used to feel ashamed of, fearing judgment and rejection. But as I learned to embrace vulnerability and be unapologetically ME, everything changed."



Our alumna Dr. **Lara Rodriguez-Delgado**, '13, is now an adjunct faculty member at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C. She currently teaches *Environmental Sustainability* and has previously taught *Gender and Culture*.

"Prof. Martin Woessner was extremely influential in shaping my academic pursuits, and significantly, my intellectual perspectives. His approach to mentorship and dedication to teaching inspired me to pursue a career in academia and serve as a model for my own work."



IN MEMORIAM

One of our students, Ms. **Shania Grosvenor**, passed away peacefully in her sleep on November 7, 2023. Shania joined the CCNY CWE community after obtaining her A.S. degree at BMCC and was enrolled as a full-time student in our ECE program, making excellent progress toward her B.S. degree. Her presence and dedication will be deeply missed by all of us as we mourn the loss of one of our own.

Awards and Scholarships

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS CEREMONY

HOSTED BY
John Calagione

2024

DONORS AND SPONSORS

Ms. Katherine Titakis
Dr. Justin Williams
Mr. Daniel Rivera
Mr. Nicholas Titakis
Mr. David Bellin
Mr. Peter Kinoy and Dr. Mary Lutz
Dr. Devon T. Wade Award Committee
Ms. Sandra Abramson
Mr. Michael Wellner
Ms. Donna Ramer (Quest President)
Mr. Robert Hartmann
Mr. Bradley Tusk and the Stern Family
Ms. Elaine Martin

AWARDS AND AWARDEES

**DEAN'S AWARD
FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**
Christanya Symplice (Divisional Valedictorian)
Tiffany Ramirez Duncan (Divisional Salutatorian)

**CWE DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE
ON INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE PANAFRICAN PRIZE**
Hawa Diallo

ELENA TITAKIS MEMORIAL AWARD
Alina Reyes

ADA SHEPARD AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING
Josef Rodriguez

EDWARD RIVERA PRIZE FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Josef Rodriguez

EUGENE BELLIN AWARD
Nelson Igunma

FRANCES S. PATAI ESSAY PRIZE
Ana Cano

MICHAEL WELLNER ("CAPTAIN MIKE") SCHOLARSHIP
Josef Rodriguez

**THE QUEST PETER COTT AND
KEN LEEDOM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
D'Asia Fields
Mary Surin

QUEST SCHOLARSHIP
Nelson Igunma
Harpreet Kaur
Mary Surin

ROBERT HARTMANN SCHOLARSHIP
Laura Valle
Fatema Zohara

SAMUEL WALLACH '29 AWARD FOR EDUCATORS
Sheerel Abraham

THE DEAN & WILLIAM MATZKIN SCHOLARSHIP
Ana Cano
Josef Rodriguez

**ANGELIE T. (TERRY) DEFIORE AND
ARLENE SANDRA ABRAMSON SCHOLARSHIP**
Nilda Cruz

SUSAN KNOPF KINOY SOCIAL JUSTICE PRIZE
Nelson Igunma

THE DR. DEVON T. WADE AWARD
Hawa Diallo

HENRY J. STERN SCHOLARSHIP
Talisa Smith

MATHEW K. AMBERG SCHOLARSHIP
Nelson Igunma



Christanya Symplice, Tiffany Ramirez Duncan, Nelson Igunma, Josef Rodriguez, Ana Cano, Harpreet Kaur, Hawa Diallo, Alina Reyes, Fatema Zohara, Sheerel Abraham, Nilda Cruz, Talisa Smith, and Laura Valle. NOT PICTURED: D'Asia Fields and Mary Surin.

Class of 2024

CANDIDATES: B.A. in IAS, B.S. in ECE, and M.A. in the Study of The Americas

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

SEPTEMBER 2023

Mariea Bowman
Louis Charles
Emily Crespo
Racine Higgins **
Taylor Jarrell
Rosemarie Liz ***
Moisella Long *
Josefany Lopez-Rojas ***
Fausta Luna
Nikki Matos
Zuleyka Perez
Elaine Perez-Rojas ***
Carlos Quiroz
Joyce Ribí
Jaydy Salce **
Sade Thomson **

JANUARY 2024

Mecaira Bridgewater
Natonía Cazaubon
Miriam DeJesus
Edward De LaRosa
Tiffany Ramirez Duncan ***
Tatiana Felter
Catherine Ferguson
Johanna Ferrierra
Dalixa Fuchu
Kelli Johnson
Narene Lawrence **

Lisa Livesay ***
Jessica Melendez *
Naydelyn Nieves
Eskimo Omolade
Le'Garland Parker
Naomi Payano
Alexis Pierantoni
Genesis Rosario
Pamela Santos
Jahaira Vega
Asher Yanovsky ***

JUNE 2024

Nadine Andre *
Lisette Ayala ***
Monica Costa *
Dashauna Dawson *
Dakarie Downie **
Jacqueline Espinoza *
Brianna Frias
Daniry Gomez
Gabriel Gossman-Ruiz *
Gabrielle Greenaway
Farley Gulston ***
Tania Guzman **
Simone Haynes
Jason Herbert **
Estefania Jaramillo *
Ayoka Johnson *

Sybil Johnson **
Alejandra Maldonado
Cynthia Martinez
Rui Miguel Martins Coias ***
Landria Meehan **
Geraldine Miranda
Anajunie Monjuene *
Angelica Naxi **
Diana Nazar
Brittany Ramos
Angelita Rivera
Celia Rowen **
Eileen Ruiz *
Vanessa Sanchez *
Sally Sandoval
Janice Sanguinetti **
Tracey Sercia **
Shakeema Simons
Patriece Spann ***
Vandita Subick **
Dena Thomas
Anabel Trotman ***
Diana Vivas **
Pamela Zambrano

SEPTEMBER 2024

Maya Barbosa
Nataly Cando
Sofia Llop

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2023

Evelyn Acosta ***
Linda Anselmo **
Lissett Astudillo **
Rosemarie Carty **
Chamberlain Grisy **
Franchesca Cruz ***
Brianna Diaz ***
Rainbow Farr **
Kelsey Gordils ***
Suany Jeffrey **
Lizbeth Morel **
Julenny Morel ***
Cameron Mouzon **
Nalesha Mursalim ***

Shannon Plunkett **
Jordan Reneau *
Destiny Rivera
Erika Salce-Puello ***
Karimah Saleh **
Christanya Symplíce **
Yslandy Tavares **
Emily Tejeda-Postigo **
Irina Volkov ***
Marlene Williams **
Natalia Zhirova **

JUNE 2024

Jewel Ayuso *
Michelle Caines ***

Andrea Cajilima ***
Joseline Calle **
Ivonne Diaz Vargas **
Hinda Hussin ***
Dania Marcelino ***
Delcy Nieves *
Francia Petit *
Shayna Pressley-Troche
Alina Reyes **
Maria Rivera **
Guadalupe Rodriguez
Jacqueline Rosas Mejias **
Catherine Tapia **
Elaine Zerbo Guerin ***

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF ARTS IN THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS

SEPTEMBER 2023

Angie Keyser

JANUARY 2024

Janet Sanchez

JUNE 2024

Phyllis Archibald
Kevin Brown
Edwin Done Tirado

Carlos Gomez
Lisa Rifkind
Gina Rodriguez
Charles Thornton

*** SUMMA CUM LAUDE | ** MAGNA CUM LAUDE | * CUM LAUDE

This is a list of candidates for graduation and not an official list of graduates.

Class of 2024

CCNY CWE 2024 Salutatorian & Valedictorian

Tiffany Ramirez Duncan, a Bronx native and first-generation college student, embarked on her academic journey amidst the challenges of the pandemic. Juggling roles as a mother, caregiver, and full-time employee, she navigated through the obstacles with resilience and excelled academically, earning a remarkable 3.982 GPA in her B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing on Disabilities Studies. Her dedication to excellence earned her a place on the Dean's List every semester and induction into Phi Beta Kappa. What's more, she dedicated herself to community service, advocating for ASL integration and supporting the disabled. Transitioning to a teaching role in Austin, Texas, Tiffany continues to inspire others with her unwavering dedication and perseverance. Her journey symbolizes the transformative power of resilience in the face of adversity.



SALUTATORIAN
Tiffany Ramirez Duncan
B.A. IN INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS & SCIENCES



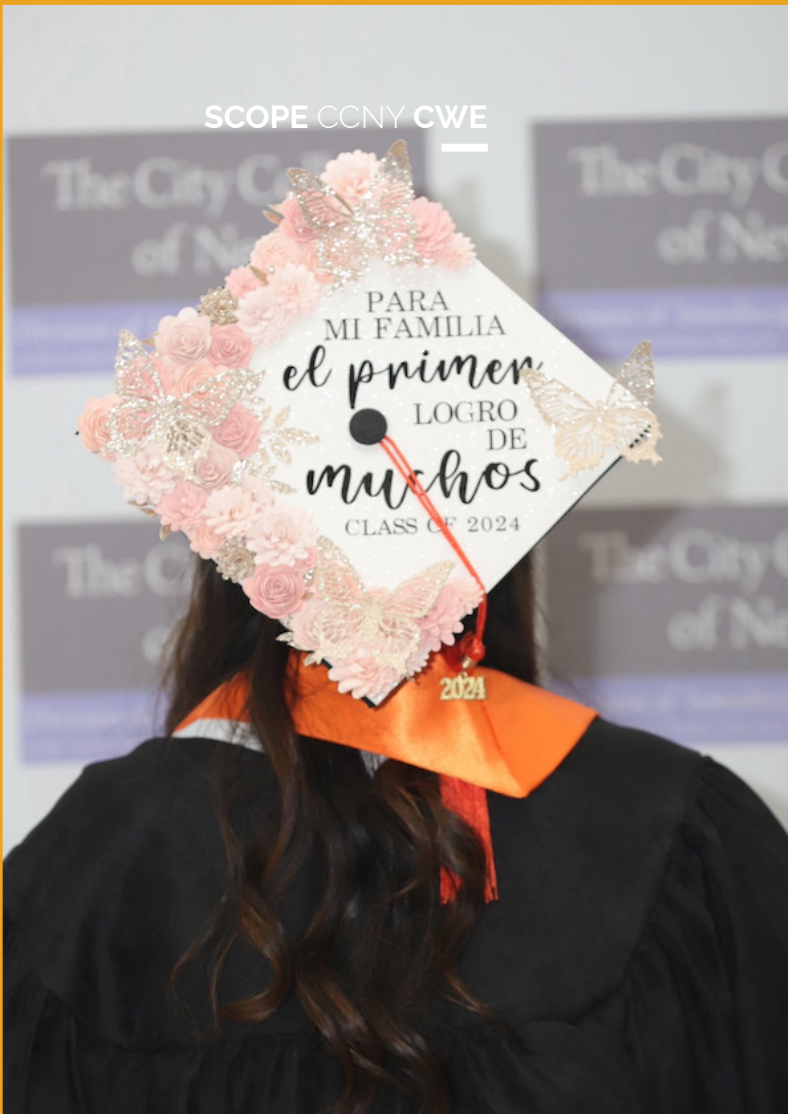
Christanya Symplice, a first-generation graduate born to immigrant Haitian parents, embarked on her higher education journey amidst the pandemic, earning a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. Motivated by a profound desire to effect positive change, she passionately engages in volunteer work, connecting children with sponsors through Food for the Hunger and supporting therapeutic horsemanship programs at the Bronx Equestrian Center. Her philanthropic efforts extend to organizations like the Red Cross and Bridging Africa and Black America Incorporated, where she installs carbon monoxide and smoke detectors for Bronx families. Honored with the Edward I. Koch Fellowship, Christanya interned at the NYC Department of Education's Office of School Performance, gaining insights into educational policies. Committed to growth, she participates in the Racial Justice Fellowship, tackling racial and socio-economic disparities in education. As a recipient of this fellowship, she completed an internship at RESI at Teachers College, Columbia University, engaging in initiatives aimed at tackling amplified racial and socio-economic disparities in education precipitated by the pandemic. Christanya's journey exemplifies resilience and a commitment to serving her community.

**VALEDICTORIAN**

Christanya Symplice
B.S. IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



SCOPE CCNY CWE



13th Annual Divisional Ceremony | Wednesday, May 29, 2024





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13th Annual Divisional Ceremony | Wednesday, May 29, 2024

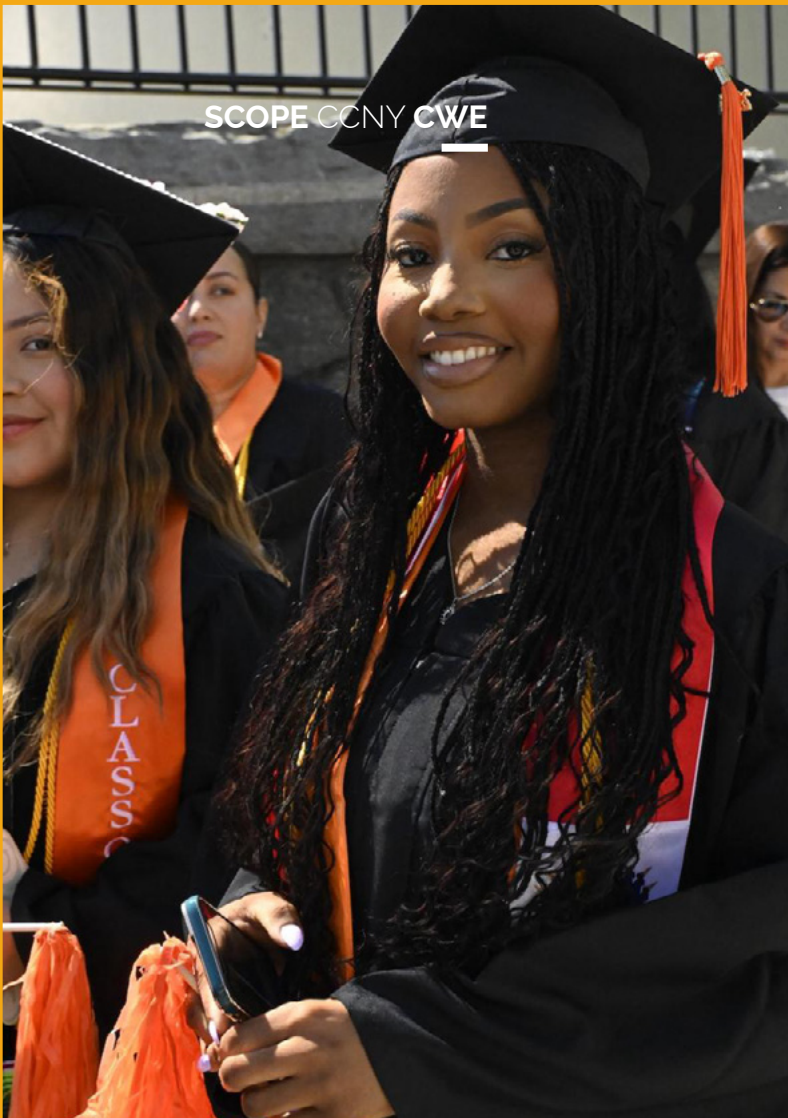


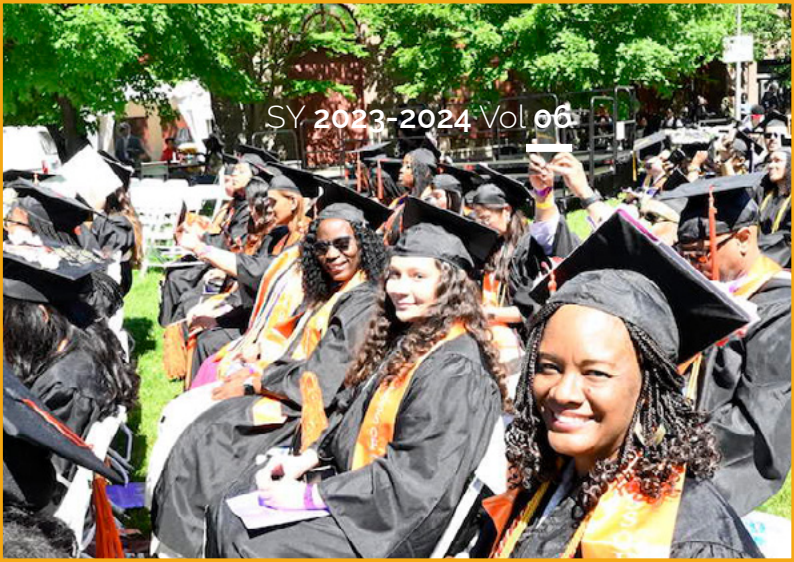
13th ANNUAL
CWE DIVISIONAL
GRADUATION

Ceremony









TAPFNY | Oct. 11-13, 2023

RECURRING EVENT

The Americas Poetry Festival of New York (TAPFNY) held its tenth multilingual poetry festival in 2023, in New York City. The event was organized by the City College of New York Division of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences in collaboration with the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association and the Instituto Cervantes New York, and curated by professors and writers Carlos Aguasaco, Yrene Santos, and Carlos Velásquez Torres.

During the closing ceremony at Instituto Cervantes in New York, curators and organizers distinguished Guatemalan Kaqchikel Maya Poet Miguel Angel Oxlaj Cúmez with the 2023 Poet of the Year Award *"in recognition for his poetry that reflects the quest for freedom and the right to exist of the Native American nations; furthermore, for his brave and poetic deconstruction of neocolonial hegemonic discourses and resistance to new and emergent forms of cultural appropriation and displacement."*



CPHRC | Apr. 17-19, 2024

RECURRING EVENT

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE, NEW YORK 2024

The Critical Perspective in Human Rights Conference (CPHRC) happened both in-person and virtually, exploring the contested legacy of human rights in increasingly uncertain times, and fostering dialogue and scholarship from a wide range of perspectives. Some conference presenters are scholars and activists who continue to view the human rights project as a moral and ethical challenge to power; others see it as an enabler of political and economic domination. The Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference participants seek to reassess the origins, foundations, and contemporary forms of human rights discourse, ideas, and practice.



Paghilom Children
by Filipino freelance photographer Raffy Lerma.

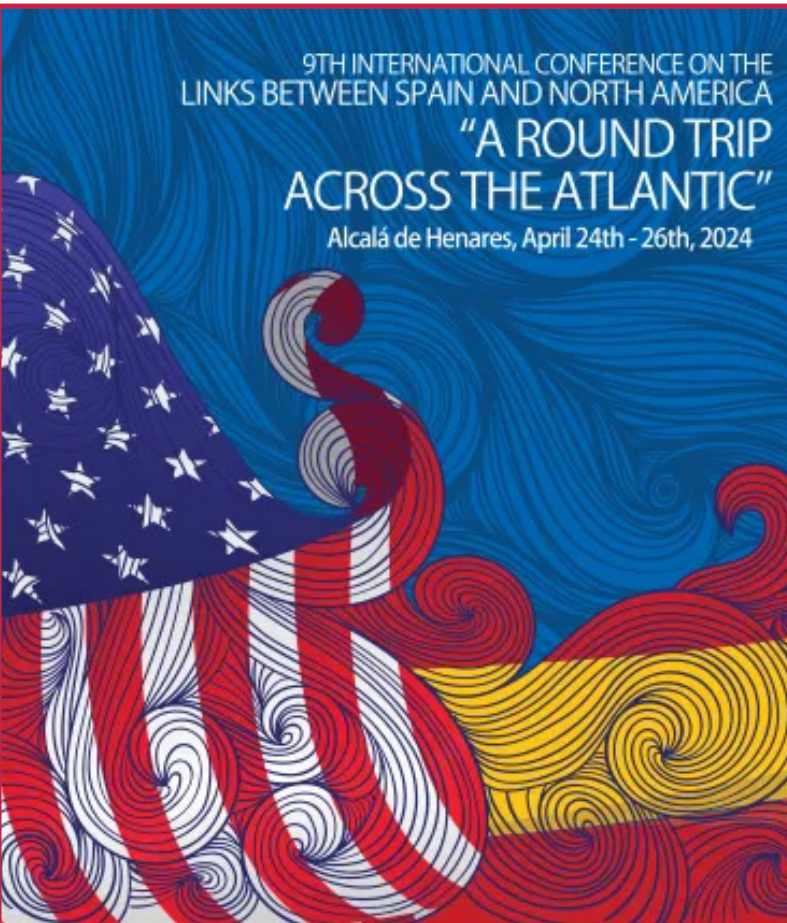




LINKS | April 24-26, 2024, Spain

RECURRING EVENT

The IX International Conference on the Links between Spain and North America (LINKS) “A Round Trip Across the Atlantic” dealt with the influences and connections across the Atlantic, both in the past and the present from a political, social, economic and cultural point of view, as well as in relation to the current challenges of the international community due to the new geostrategic order imposed by the war in Ukraine, the emergency of climate change, or the new Asia-Pacific relations. These issues, from an Atlantic perspective, as it related to the relationship of Spain and North America and the Caribbean Islands, were the focus of this conference. New answers to new problems were explored and proposed without disregarding the roots of a more than a 500-year-relationship with the American continent.



Dean Juan Carlos Mercado introduces CCNY Professor Ramona Hernandez, the keynote speaker



ORGANIZERS

COLLABORATORS



TAFFNY | June 13-21, 2024

RECURRING EVENT

The Americas Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY):

Eleven Years of Film Festival Magic Uniting the Americas
Diana Vargas (Artistic Director, TAFFNY)

Eleven years of organizing a film festival like the Americas Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY) is an exhilarating journey filled with countless lessons and moments of inspiration. At TAFFNY, we deeply believe that true openness and societal transformation begins when minorities take the lead. Many of us are migrants who have discovered a vibrant haven for our ideas and beliefs in this dynamic city. We proudly represent the LGBTQ+ community, Indigenous groups, and women's empowerment movements, united in our mission to highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion. These principles are not just slogans—they are the very foundation of our actions.

With each passing year, we've grown to understand our audience better. We now have loyal followers eagerly anticipating our annual gathering of film enthusiasts and critics, who are always on the lookout for the latest trends in Latin American and Native American filmmaking. We've also learned to push and redefine boundaries by selecting films that address both contemporary and historical issues in ways that are more creative and insightful than mainstream cinema. Our festival fosters dialogues that would not occur otherwise, bridging filmmakers and New Yorkers in meaningful conversations.

This year, TAFFNY spanned eight venues across Midtown, Hell's Kitchen, West Village, Chelsea, and Battery Park. We had 28 short stories competing for the prestigious Americas Award in four categories: Animation, Documentary, Experimental, and Fiction. Over 190 filmmakers submitted their films, showcasing a rich tapestry of voices and perspectives. We also presented eight feature films, providing a platform for those invisible voices to

express their struggles and achievements. From narratives crafted by or about women in "The Female Gaze" segment to Indigenous Voices from Latin America and native perspectives of Native American filmmakers, our festival is a celebration of diverse stories. Being Pride Month, we also featured powerful narratives from the LGBTQIA+ communities.

None of this would be possible without the tenacity and conviction of the Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at City College Downtown, Prof. Juan Carlos Mercado. Our long-time partners, including the Cervantes Institute NY, The National Museum of the American Indian, the Consulate General of Argentina in NY and numerous other wonderful organizations such as NYU's Caribbean and Latin American Studies (CLACS), La Nacional Spanish Benevolent Society and Manhattan Neighborhood Network, have been instrumental in our success.

As we reflect on our journey, we are reminded that good cinema has the power to break down negative perceptions and rejuvenate ideas. Independent films, in particular, address society's essential issues, reminding us that, in life as in cinema, people always matter. TAFFNY is not just a film festival; it is a beacon of change, inclusivity, and creativity, lighting the way for a more open and understanding world. Here's to the next decade of celebrating the stories that unite us all! See you next year!



Juan Carlos Mercado, Kika Child, Diana Vargas,
Delia A, and Richard B H



Juan Carlos Mercado | NMAI



Best Documentary: *Surcos* | Cesar Cardenas



Best Animation: *Entre Lineas* | Juan Paulin



Jury Mention: *Sonidos from Bushwick* | Alvaro Nieto



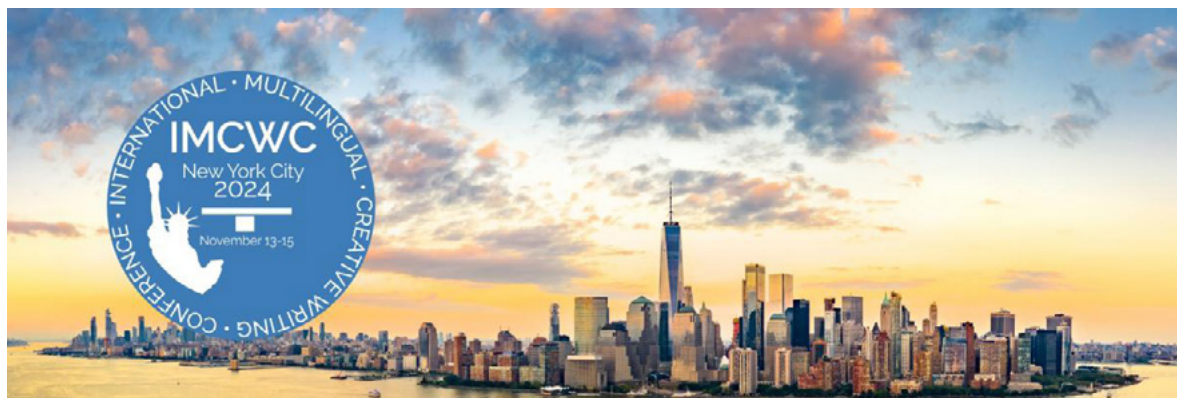
TAFFNY 2024 Team

MCWC | Nov 13-15, 2024

UPCOMING RECURRING EVENT

The International Multilingual Creative Writing Conference (MCWC) is a platform to celebrate the rich diversity of human experience across cultures and a unique opportunity to foster intercultural collaboration with artists, editors, media outlets, and publishers. As a discipline in its own right, creative writing programs are now present across the Americas and Europe. Universities, NGOs, private groups, and individual practitioners contributed to this growth. However, a multilingual approach is critical to unlocking the potential of intercultural cross-pollination and collaboration between practitioners with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Organizers: **CCNY CWE, TAPFNY, Universidad de La Rioja, Proyecto Valle de la Lengua, and Latino Book Review.**



Campus
VALLE DE LA LENGUA

VALLE DE
LA LENGUA

La Rioja

UNIVERSIDAD
DE LA RIOJA



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education

The City College
of New York

IN SHORT Student Video Competition | SP25

UPCOMING RECURRING EVENT

IN SHORT: Showcase Your Academic Journey. Join our school's first-ever short video competition! More information coming in August.

Connecting

04/12/24

CCNY CWE signed an MOU with **CodersTrust**. This agreement is particularly significant for City College Continuing and Professional Studies, as it will enable us to offer online training in high-demand job market areas, especially to marginalized communities on a global scale.



04/12/24

Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, visited the new **Consul General of Argentina, Jorge Pinero Aramburu**. The Consulate and CCNY CWE collaborate in organizing different events together, such as TAFFNY, TAPFNY, and various lectures and presentations.

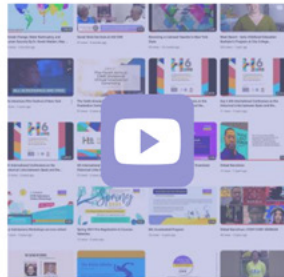


07/04/24

CCNY CWE signed a new MOU with the **University American College Skopje's rector, Prof. Marjan I. Bojadjev**, initiating an international collaboration that will facilitate the development of joint and collaborative research projects, as well as student and faculty exchanges!



Our Socials | @ccnycwe



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies
at the Center for Worker Education



The City College
of New York