

THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISER



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News from OISSS

by Maribel Morua

Welcome new and continuing students. Although we are working and studying remotely, we continue to stay connected via Zoom, e-mail, and our virtual front desk. The past year has been challenging, and I praise you for your dedication and motivation to continue your education during these trying times.

I trust that we will be able to resume to normalcy soon but in the meantime, I wish you a productive and successful semester!

Be well,
Maribel Morua, Director

SAVE THE DATE:

**CCNY Immigration Updates Workshop- February
25th, 2021 @ 12:00pm**

**OPT Q&A Sessions- February 26th and March 12th,
2021 @ 12:30pm**

Student Interview: Tamires Amorim

In this newsletter, we feature students who are willing to share their experiences. **Tamires Amorim** came to CCNY in 2020, and discusses her experience below.

OISSS: What program of study are you pursuing?

TA: I am currently studying the Master's program in Economics at the Colin Powell School.

OISSS: When did you start your studies at CCNY?

TA: I started studying at CCNY in January 2020, taking two pre-requisite classes for the Master's program. Although I could have taken these classes somewhere else, I chose City College because I wanted to experience the student life here which led me to meet students with the same situation as mine. And luckily, we are pursuing the master's degree together.

OISSS: How has your remote learning experience been? How has online learning impacted your study?

TA: It has been a great experience so far. Some of the reasons are the flexibility of the classes' schedule, the elimination of the commuting time and being able to spend more time in studying. Initially, the remote learning experience was challenging because I did not know how to manage my time wisely, but after setting up a balanced schedule between studies and leisure. Also, I was able to participate in events hosted by City College such as mentorship programs, and workshops organized by the student career center.



OISSS: What have you learned to appreciate differently after this experience?

TA: The personal interactions with professors and other students, even if it is a quick chat before the class starts. After this experience I learned to appreciate the conversation with my fellow students, going to a professor's office for inquiry, or even dropping by at the international student's office to browse in the events that I might be interested in. I think the college environment provides a sense of community among us which is extremely important for our academic journey, for example, we never know what a simple hi or hello to somebody at the hallway could result to a long-lasting friendship, a networking opportunity or both.

OISSS: Have you picked up any new hobbies during this time?

TA: I have been learning how to play a guitar, which is something I have always wanted to do. So far, I can string two songs while I sing along, which I consider a great achievement since it is challenging to coordinate singing and playing. Furthermore, I downloaded an app to better my Spanish. Although, I have a basic understanding of it, I am not a native speaker because I am Brazilian. The funny thing is that a lot of people here always mistakenly identified me as either Dominican or Puerto Rican and addresses me in their native language.

OISSS: What are you looking forward to most about Spring 2021?

TA: The Spring 2021 will be my second semester in the Master's program, so I am thrilled to experience more challenges that I will have to overcome. I am grateful that the City College offers the online classes which shows their concern in the health and safety of the students and professors alike. I am sure this semester will be as great as the previous semester because we are accustomed with this virtual experience.

OISSS: CUNY is planning to re-open for in person classes in Fall 2021. What is one aspect of student life that you are looking forward to?

TA: I am looking forward to meeting the students and professors I met during online classes. I made very good connections with them and finally interacting with them personally will be a whole new experience.



Student Interview: Danielle de Alcantara

In this Spring 2021 issue, we also hear from Danielle de Alcantara, who is graduating this Spring.

OISSS: What program of study are you pursuing?

DA: I am taking a Master's in international Affairs at The Colin Powell School.

OISSS: When did you start your studies at CCNY?

DA: I started in the Fall of 2019.



OISSS: How has your remote learning experience been? How has online learning impacted your study?

DA: It took me by surprise, once as an international student (I am from Sao Paulo, Brazil), one of the biggest parts of this experience is to be in the country and live like a native. Living the school and the city at full extent. The commute, the weather, everything. The pandemic hit us unexpectedly, forcing us to shelter in home and changed our lives completely. In the beginning it was so weird and sad, but luckily, I got used to it and learned how to cope. It's still not the best scenario, but I am very grateful I did not get sick, I survived and kept it up.

OISSS: As a continuing student, how have you adjusted to not having full access to the campus?

DA: I won't lie, it took me some months to adjust and settle my new routine and also disciplining myself to it. But I received a tablet from CCNY, my professors have been extremely helpful and understanding. I have been using CCNY Library online for texts and books... so although it was not ideal, but I can say I had all the supported I needed to continue studying.

OISSS: What have you learned to appreciate differently after this experience?

DA: Relationships. People. Time. Experiences. It was clear to me how we take things for granted. This pandemic reminded me that nothing is everlasting, as corny as it may seem. So, I am more mindful and attentive to myself, taking more care of my mind and body, and I have tried to live as healthy and well as possible.

OISSS: Have you picked up any new hobbies during this time?

DA: YES! I bought a new acoustic guitar and I have been having virtual classes since November. I love singing, and music is a huge part of my life. I am studying Italian and French, and I am back to playing cards.

OISSS: What are you looking forward to most about Spring 2021?

DA: It is my graduation semester; I am beyond excited, and a bit anxious about my thesis research and writing. This degree is a huge milestone to me, and I am putting all my energy love and soul to this. I can't wait for it to start!!

Socially Distant Activities to Do This Spring

Looking for safe activities to do during this time is a challenge. Despite the ongoing reality, there are still activities that you can take part in around New York City in the Spring. For those who want to venture out safely, here are some suggestions.

- The Open Culture Program beginning in March, is a program with in-person, socially distanced events on the street. To find out more, visit: [Open Culture Guidelines - CECM \(nyc.gov\)](#)
- Visit the New York Botanical Gardens. They allow visits on a timed basis for safety reasons. For more info, visit [nybg.org](#)
- Biking- (Citibike bikeshare program- <https://www.citibikenyc.com/>)



Student Highlight: Flavio Perez

The Department of International Student and Scholar Services welcomes Flavio Perez to the office. Below is a statement from Flavio.

I am a first-generation graduate student pursuing a degree in the Study of the Americas at CCNY. I graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. For 2 years, I have worked at the CCNY ID Office and it has been an interesting experience for me. It has led me communicate with many different students, faculty, and staff. When I transitioned to OISSS, it felt like a continuation of my previous work; communicating with more students, except now with the international student community. What I found most interesting about the office is the amount of work it does to provide a great experience for many students coming in from different countries. I am looking forward to working with the community and contributing all I can.



OISSS Contact Information

Maribel Morua
Director
mmorua@ccny.cuny.edu

Angelique Cordero
Associate Director
acordero@ccny.cuny.edu

Marc Polite
Department Administrator
mpolite@ccny.cuny.edu

Paniz Peiravani
College Assistant
ppeiravani@ccny.cuny.edu

Flavio Perez
CUNY CAP
fperez1@ccny.cuny.edu

HAVE A QUESTION FOR US?

CONNECT WITH US VIA EMAIL AT
OISSS@CCNY.CUNY.EDU

OR THROUGH OUR

VIRTUAL FRONT DESK

[HTTPS://CCNY.ZOOM.US/J/2126508106](https://ccny.zoom.us/j/2126508106)

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER,
YOU CAN CALL 1-646-558-8656 AND ENTER
MEETING ID 2126508106

MONDAY - FRIDAY
10 AM - 4 PM



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