July 2022

Don't forget to Check your CityMail Everyday!

From the Dean's Desk

Dear CWE Community,

I would like to introduce the new edition of Scope. Here we are again, more than 2 years from the time that this pandemic nightmare started, but what a ride this has been; we are all still cautious knowing that we're not yet fully out of danger as the numbers of Covid and Covid variant cases are still increasing in the US and in many parts of the world.

We have had a great semester, thanks to you all, students, staff and faculty. We have been opening the Center, little by little, more classes in person, as well as keeping some events the same. We had a terrific Human Rights Conference, with participants from around the world, panels in person as well as virtual. I would like to thank Prof. Danielle Zach for organizing this Conference. Also, we had the 9th edition of the Americas Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY), in person, in different venues; as always, we had record attendance of movie lovers in every single venue.

The Divisional Committee on Inclusive Excellence organized several events during the Spring semester.

1.) Black History Month: Cyrus McQueen talk, (McQueen is a comedian, cultural critic, and author of Tweeting Truth to Power: Chronicling Our Caustic Politics, Crazed Times, and the Great Black and White Divide)

2.) Black History Month: Eve L. Ewing interview/discussion, (Ewing is a poet and sociologist of education at the University of Chicago. Her research is focused on racism, social inequality, and urban policy, and the impact of these forces on American public schools and the lives of young people. The discussion covered her book Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism & School Closings on Chicago's South Side, her poetry collection 1919, and her children's books).

3.) Women's History Month Poetry Share/Open Mic: faculty, staff, and students were invited to read poems by their favorite women of color poets.

I would like to thank Prof. Vicki Garavuso and Prof. David Eastzer for their years of service to our Division and the College. I would like to wish them all the best and a very happy
retirement. In addition, I would like to welcome three new full-time faculty, who have been with us for a while as substitute, fellow and adjunct: Prof. Gail Buffalo, Prof. Danielle Zach, and Prof. Andrew Aprile. My recognition to the search committees for an excellent job.

Our 25 Broadway lease renewal is almost complete. We expect contractors to come in at the end of summer and into the fall to handle the upgrades we requested for the 7th floor. As soon as we have a schedule of construction and projects we will let you know. I ask for and appreciate your understanding and cooperation during construction as there may be some inconvenience. Thank you.

I have said this numerous times but it merits repeating: to see what you, the faculty, staff and students, all working together, have been able to accomplish during these two years is simply amazing.

Thank you again for all that you continue to do.

J. C. Mercado
Juan Carlos Mercado, PhD
Dean | Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education

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I am very happy to announce that Benny’s Food Pantry is now open at CWE 25 Broadway (located in the Student Lounge).

The College first launched Benny's Food Pantry in 2017, and through the on-going work of Dee Dee Mozeleski, VP of The CCNY Foundation, it has been expanded to our downtown location. "Benny’s" is a way to anchor the tradition of our pantry to the founding mission of our college to "open the doors to all".

Benny’s is open to anyone in the CWE community—students, faculty and staff. It is self-service. If you’re a student, a member of staff, or on the faculty, you are welcome to visit Benny’s whenever you or someone you care for is in need. We want to serve as a resource to anyone who finds themselves in need throughout the year. You are encouraged to stop by and take what you need for you and your family. The VP and her staff uptown will continue to work hard to ensure the pantry is stocked with a range of non-perishable food items, taking into consideration a wide variety of dietary needs and restrictions of our community. You are invited to leave us a suggestion of any special needs you would like them to consider when placing new orders.

If you wish to learn more about the college efforts on Benny’s Food Pantry please click on the link below. Thanks to President Vincent Boudreau, Dee Mozeleski and her team, and Nina Woods as well as all College Assistants who helped with this project.

[https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/benneysfoodpantry](https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/benneysfoodpantry)

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CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
Protocols and Guidance for Fall 2022 (effective January 31 2022)

**Classes are a mix of In-Person, Online and Hiflex and are not to be changed without prior approval of Chairperson and the Dean**
Entry Requirements

- As usual at 25 Broadway everyone to present college ID to the Building Lobby attendants on the ground floor. Those without a CCNY ID must present a valid government issued ID.
- Everyone to use CWE entrance only on the 7th floor and present vaccination credentials to CWE Security.

STUDENTS and FACULTY & STAFF & VISITORS

Only those faculty and students who are fully vaccinated and boosted (if you are eligible for the booster shot) are allowed to attend in-person classes or visit the CWE campus. Proof of vaccination (with booster) to be presented to 7th Floor Security (only Cleared4Access Pass accepted).

*The college requires Faculty, Staff, and Students to upload vaccination credentials into CUNY First and then obtain the Cleared4 pass for presentation to security. Those faculty and students who are not vaccinated for health/religious factors and have been approved for an exemption, are also required to upload information to CUNYFirst to obtain the necessary Cleared4 pass. All staff who are not fully vaccinated and students/faculty who are exempt, must have a Negative COVID-19 Test taken at one of CUNY’s testing centers before they are allowed to come to campus. If you have not already done so, please go to CUNYFirst and click on the Vaccine Verification Link to register.

Mask Policy

Anyone who would like to continue wearing masks in any setting is welcome to do so at any time. Masks will continue to be available on campus and offices for people who want them. The CDC is not requiring people to wear a mask in communities that have low or medium COVID-19 levels like New York City’s boroughs, but I urge the small number of faculty, staff and students who are still not vaccinated, or those who have been or will be granted a medical exemption or religious exception, to wear a mask.

Student Services

*Students are to continue to contact the Virtual Front Desk (email, phone call or video) to make adviser appointments and continue to communicate with advisers and faculty by email.

*Computer lab, library and designated study rooms will be available to students. Specific schedules to follow. Room capacity will be limited to accommodate social distancing.

The Writing Center will provide in-person consulting on two days of the week and online consulting on 3 days each week. This is by appointment only. Please contact the Virtual Front Desk for appointment.

Front Desk Waiting Area is to be kept clear. This area is reserved for Security to perform entry screenings.

CWE Protocols for Those who Get Sick

Please do not come to CWE if you are sick.

If someone gets sick while on the premises they are to inform the Front Desk right away. Assistance will be provided to get you home or to a medical facility.

If someone gets sick at home after visiting 25 Broadway they are to isolate, contact their doctor and inform CWE right away. This is important for the college to initiate contact tracing and reduce risk to others.

COVID Guidelines from CCNY VP of Operations to the Campus Community (1/31/2022)

CUNY has recently changed our COVID Quarantine and Isolation Procedures to align with the latest guidance from the CDC. Below, I am going to share our new procedures with you and also bring your attention to a new reporting process for the campus so that we simplify who you need to contact if you test positive or are feeling symptoms. The new email address for communicating health status regarding COVID is CCNY-COVID@ccny.cuny.edu. This email is monitored by CCNY’s COVID Team and will help us respond to you with the information you need. Please make sure you include:

- Your full name (as registered in CUNY First) and if known, your EMPLID.
State whether you are an employee or a student
The last date on campus.
Phone number

Now for the new procedures on Quarantine and Isolation:
• You quarantined when you might have been exposed to the virus.
• You isolate when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don’t have symptoms.
Based on the evolving nature of COVID, CDC has revised their guidance on isolation and quarantine.

### Isolation Guidelines

(is if you Test Positive for COVID-19). This is for everyone, regardless of vaccination status).

- Stay home for 5 days (day 0 is your first day of symptoms, or the day of your first positive test if you do not develop symptoms).
- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Take steps to improve ventilation at home, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don’t share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a well-fitting mask (CDC Guidance) when you need to be around other people.

- If you’re free of symptoms or your symptoms have resolved after 5 days, you can leave your house, which includes returning to campus.
- If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an antigen test towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10.
- Continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 additional days; if you cannot wear a mask (CDC Guidance), continue to isolate for 5 days.
- If you have a fever, continue isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- If you were severely ill with COVID-19 you should isolate for at least 10 days. Consult your doctor before ending isolation.

### Quarantine Guidelines

Circumstances for quarantine will be based off of your vaccination status. A person is considered fully vaccinated if they have received the full regiment of vaccine and, if eligible, have received their booster.

- If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

**Fully Vaccinated**
If you have received a booster, OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine within the last 5 months or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months, OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months OR Tested positive for COVID-19 with a viral test within the previous 90 days and subsequently recovered and remain without COVID-19 symptoms
Then do the following:

- As long as you are symptom free, you may continue coming to campus.
- Wear a well-fitting mask (CDC Guidance) around others for 10 days.
- Get tested at least 5 days after your close contact (the date of your exposure is considered day 0); if you test positive, stay home and isolate per guidelines above.
- If you develop symptoms, get a test, stay home and follow the isolation guidelines above.

**Partially Vaccinated or Unvaccinated**
For those who have completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine over 5 months ago or Moderna vaccine over 5 months ago and are not boosted, OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted, OR are unvaccinated
Then do the following:

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a well-fitting mask (CDC Guidance) around others for 5 additional days. If you cannot wear a mask for the additional 5 days, continue to quarantine for those 5 days.
- If you are unable to stay at home you must wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days.
- Get Tested at least 5 days after your close contact. If you test positive, stay home and isolate per the guidelines above.
- Do not travel during your quarantine period.
Events Recap

The Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education celebrated the 11th Annual CWE Divisional Ceremony on June 3rd, 2022!
THE CINEMA OF OUR ORIGINS:
The history of the Americas is a woman, an immigrant, it is the land

Diana Vargas
TAFFNY Artistic Director

"In these times of a global digital subculture, which tends to be loaded with misogyny, homophobia, post-truths, it is important to find genuine humanity through cinema. Stories that cross borders and create healthy dialogues are much more important in this era of diversification and massification of content. The Americas Film Festival NY celebrated its 9th anniversary, finally in person and in emblematic places in the city such as the Instituto Cervantes NY, the National Museum of the American Indian, the consulates of Colombia and Argentina in New York and the downtown campus of City College; It was an emotional reunion, full of familiar faces and new faces; old and new friends.

Nine years ago, these faces, our audience, were just an idea, a dream. As artistic director and co-founder of a festival that celebrates The Americas, defining the editorial purpose of the festival has been a fundamental task since its inception. Together with the dean of CCNY Downtown, Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado, and a group of advisers, it was clear that this would be an event that, in addition to bringing innovative aesthetic proposals, first-hand premieres and awarding prizes to new directors, would connect and make visible the peoples and artists of the Americas who, in many cases, have difficulty finding exhibition spaces in NY. We understood that every time that we use an art form it is important to make sure that it represents ALL of us.

At TAFFNY 2022 we showed films that spoke of immigration from a more global perspective than that of a border with Mexico; the survival of the planet as a project that must have solutions now and not in the future, stories that showed us the vulnerability of women who with their lives and struggles make us yearn for lasting social change, stories of the LGBT and gender fluid communities who want to change our perception of them so that we can have a genuine respect for their rights. Films that affirmed the importance of not forgetting our past, where we come from, because as Winston Churchill said, "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." The combination of experienced directors with a new generation of directors from City College's MFA program and the 28 filmmakers..."
who participated in The Americas short film competition, is an opportunity to allow creative minds to bring fresh ways of telling stories from all walks of life.

Most of the TAFFNY stories had women as directors, producers or cinematographers. These films were not selected because of the gender of their filmmakers; they were chosen because they were the most interesting and attractive for our audience. Despite the fact that in the global context only 25% of films are made by women, it is great to see how, slowly but surely, women are playing a greater role behind the camera.

The stories and films presented in TAFFNY 2022 sought to offer an alternative perspective of the societies in which their creators live and, above all, sought to "alter" the perspective and preconceptions of our viewers. The festival, which is free and open to all, truly represents the philosophy of inclusion and diversity that City College has shown since its inception. With the 7 feature films and more than 30 short films that were part of The Americas Film Festival NY, we wanted to break stigmas and give power and visibility to stories and people who are not normally "allowed" to have it, because in the end, as we thought when we created this festival in 2014, TAFFNY is a window to that "cinema of disobedience" that imagines The Americas without borders.”

The Americas Film Festival NY (TAFFNY) is a platform for artistic and cultural exchange, celebrating the work of existing and emerging talent while creating bridges between The Americas, Spain film industries and New Yorkers.

The 9th Annual The Americas Film Festival New York, June 17–24, 2022 showcased an excellent selection of the latest films representing The Americas as well as cutting edge documentaries; alternative works in new media, and a variety of educational programs.

OPENING NIGHT FILM:
"The King of All The World" by legendary filmmaker Carlos Saura (Mexico-Spain)
@elreydetodoelmundo
@pipafilmsproducciones
@alfonsofilm

FEATURE FILMS:
LGBT: "Si Dios Fuera Mujer"
Environment: "The Land of Azaba"
Women Rights: "Fly So Far"
The Female Gaze: 6 films by female directors

CLOSING NIGHT FILM:
"Bootlegger" Caroline Monnet | Canada | Fiction

Pictured moments below from the opening night on June 17th, 2022 at the Cervantes High School New York, with great guests, many friends from the cinema and a massive attendance.
On June 24th, 2022 the closing ceremony of the festival took place with the awarding of the short film competition and the screening of the "Bootlegger" film by the director Caroline Monnet, who joined us at the end to answer questions from the audience.

Pictured moments below:
Thanks to all the directors, producers, sponsors, hosts, organizers, guests and attendees who make it possible for the festival to take place every year.

See you at #Taffny2023
CCNY’s Second Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference (CPHRC) hosted dozens of scholars and practitioners at CWE and virtually in late April.

The CPHRC convened a dozen panels and three special events on a broad range of pressing human rights challenges. The former featured panelists from nearly 20 countries, while the latter included some of the most worldwide renowned human rights scholars and practitioners. The Keynote Address was delivered by founding and former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Luis Moreno Ocampo on the theme of War and Justice in the 21st Century. The memorial tribute to CCNY’s distinguished Professor of History Eric Weitz included remarks by CCNY President and honorary conference chair Vincent Boudreau, two divisional deans, and five accomplished panelists in the fields of history and political science.

Meanwhile, the ICC at 20 Years special event featured prominent US- and Africa-based scholars and practitioners. Over three days, CPHR conference panelists engaged such themes as forced migration, atrocity crimes, justice, sexual and gender-based violence, racism and ethnic nationalism, authoritarianism, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change through a variety of disciplinary and professional lenses.

- Danielle Zach, PhD
  pronouns: she/her/hers
  Frances S. Patai Postdoctoral Fellow
  The City College of New York, CUNY
  The Center for Worker Education
  Division of Interdisciplinary Studies

Academics

CWE Virtual Front Desk

The DIS/CWE front desk is available for you to provide our academic community and staff with the highest level of support and customer service during this sensitive time in our community.

Find help here: CWE Virtual Front Desk
The front desk at CWE services students in the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies only.

Hours of Operation:
Monday- Friday: 10am-6pm
If you need assistance, please email or call us.

The Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences is pleased to partner with the CCNY School of Education to offer a new Accelerated Master’s Option, an M.S.Ed. in Teaching Students with Disabilities, Grades 1-6 / B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Undergraduate students accepted into the Accelerated Master’s option will be able to apply up to 12 credits of graduate courses to the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences and the M.S.Ed. in Teaching Students with Disabilities, Grades 1-6 degree requirements. At the undergraduate level, the courses would count as general electives. To be admitted to the accelerated M.S.Ed. option, students must:

- be a current B.A. in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences major
- have completed at least 72 credits
- have taken the major requirements (IAS 24200, IAS 23324 or 23304, and SPAN 22504)
- have an overall GPA of at least 3.0
- Submit a personal statement

For years, the supply of special education teachers has been far outpaced by the demand for these specially trained educators in New York City schools. Exacerbating the problem is the inverse relationship between the number of students with disabilities entering schools versus the number of special educators entering the profession. Arguably, the number of students retained in special education could be greatly reduced if they were identified early and received the appropriate services to prevent, compensate, and/or remediate the effects of a disability.
Today our members can participate in any of approximately forty courses each semester, all of which are taught and/or led by fellow members. Subjects range from literature and history to science and math; from politics and current affairs to philosophy and the arts. There are no exams, no papers, no grades, and no required attendance — just stimulating classes and lively discussions. We encourage our members to prepare and present at least one class each semester, and to open themselves up to the extraordinary variety of offerings available.

Classes are held four days per week, Monday through Thursday, in the morning from 10:30 to noon, and in the afternoon from 1:00 until 2:30; in between is an hour for lunch, when members may eat in our lunchroom or nip out for a quick bite in a nearby place. We also hold “Noontime Knowledge” mini-sessions to which members can bring a sandwich and relax while listening to talks on a wide variety of topics.

All courses are designed, managed and taught by our members, who first create and organize a course and then recruit instructors to teach individual classes. (Or, perhaps, teach specific classes themselves.) Some presentations draw from the members’ expertise; many from their interests and avocations. We also sponsor field trips to local museums, theaters, places of architectural and historic interest, and more, where learning can be broadened and friendships strengthened.

Of course, at Quest, the real learning comes from the insights and questions raised by the participants in each class. We encourage people from all backgrounds to join us, and do not discriminate on the basis of prior education, work experience, race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion. Our members include people of all life experiences; we believe strongly that the broader the diversity of our members the richer the experience for all. We have retired teachers, musicians, former trades union workers, engineers, lawyers, artists, doctors, business people, and more. Most live in Manhattan, but we also have a large contingent from Brooklyn, and several members from Queens, Long Island and New Jersey.

Awards and Scholarships

2021 Award Winners

Video features two CWE winners of the 2020 Women’s Forum Education Award

PAST CWE RECIPIENTS

2021: Patricee Spann
2020: Sandra Serrano, Michelle Caines, Sheila Castillo
2019: Kereen Brown
2018: Jilian Alvelo
2014: Rita Rivera
2010: Christa Meir-Staude
Read Marlene Clark’s book *The Woman In Me: Willem De Kooning, Woman I-VI* that was mentioned in this *New York Times* Article and has been reprinted in *ArtNews*, *Medium*, *The LA Times*, *Art Daily*, and *Clarin* (in Spanish). The painting (and its theft) pictured in both the cover of the book and the *New York Times* Article, was the subject of an Epilogue in her book.

**Marlene Clark** is an Associate Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).


**Gail Buffalo** is an Assistant Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

Read Gail Buffalo’s book chapter, *Early childhood teacher certification as a site for the re-production of racial and cultural injustice.* in *Education for Social Justice in Early Childhood* (pp. 46-68), Published in 2020 by Routledge.

**Gail Buffalo** is an Assistant Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

**Articles**

Read Joan H Robinson’s contribution to the Article *"Screaming, ‘No! No!’ It was Literally Like Being Raped”: Connecting Sexual Assault Trauma and Coerced Obstetric Procedures.* Theresa Morris, Joan H Robinson, Keridwyn Spiller, Amanda Gomez. *Social Problems*, July 2021.

Joan H Robinson, JD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Social Science and Law at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

Read Danielle Zach’s Research Paper in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies,* *'It was networking, all networking': the Irish republican movement's survival in Cold War America.*


Danielle Zach, PhD is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

Read Martin Woesnner’s Research Paper in the journal of American Literary History, *'New Detours in American Intellectual History,*


Martin Woesnner is an Associate Professor at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

Now up to 23 Episodes, Hosted by Professor Danielle Zach, Rights Talk is devoted to engaging contemporary challenges around the world across the human rights spectrum of civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; and solidarity rights, including to a safe and healthy environment. The podcast invites critical perspectives and questions the future of rights in the twenty-first century. 

[Listen to all episodes here](#)

**Faculty News**

**Congratulations on your Retirement!**
CWE alum Alaudin Ullah’s recent show *Dishwasher Dreams* was held at the Writers Theater in Chicago

Alaudin Ullah was a trailblazer for the past two decades as one of the first South Asian comedians featured Nationally on HBO, MTV, BET, PBS, and Comedy Central. Limited by negative stereotypes, with little to no representation of his people, Alaudin turned from acting to writing. As a member of the Public Theater’s Inaugural Emerging writers group, he wrote plays about Harlem and Bangladesh. He workshoped and/or produced those writings at The Public Theater, New York Theater Workshop, Lark Play Development Center, Schomburg Center For Research In Black Culture, Labyrinth Theater Company, New Federal, Cape Cod Theater Fest, and in Chicago (at Silk Road and Victory Gardens).

https://www.writerstheatre.org/dishwasher-dreams

Read more bio info for Alaudin Ullah.

"She loved CWE students"
- Dean Juan Carlos Mercado

"Quandra Prettyman, Champion of Black Women’s Literature, Dies at 88"

As Barnard’s first Black full-time faculty member, she broke ground in merging feminist literary studies with a study of Black writers.


Read More: Quandra Prettyman, Champion of Black Women’s Literature, Dies at 88 - The New York Times (nytimes.com)