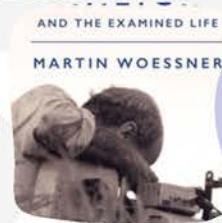


# SCOPE

## NEWSLETTER

### 2024-2025

WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY LORENA DE MIRANDA MARQUES  
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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# JUMP START YOUR FUTURE

Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
at the Center for Worker Education



The City College  
of New York



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# From the Dean's Desk

AUGUST 2024: Progress Continues, Opportunities Multiply



**Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado**  
DEAN

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

*"As life returns to normalcy, meaningful academic, professional, and personal relationships flourish both in person and online."*

Dear CCNY CWE Community,  
Welcome to the **2025–2026 academic year!**

Whether you're a new or returning student, I'm excited to welcome you to our community. Our **advisors, faculty, and staff** are here to support you on your academic, professional, and personal journeys.

We continue to lead the way in online education at The City College of New York. Following the successful launch of the **B.A. in Urban Life and Social Justice** last year, we're excited to announce our two newest online programs, the **M.A. in Instructional Design** and the **M.A. in International and Transcultural Education**, which will begin in Fall 2026.



Last year was a busy one for us. Our faculty earned competitive grants, published groundbreaking research, and represented CCNY CWE on national and international stages.

Our students also shone, earning prestigious **scholarships** and **honors** while **creating meaningful change** both in and out of the classroom. And none of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff and faculty.

We also celebrated several significant milestones:

- The first **International Multilingual Creative Writing Conference** (MCWC) and the **Americas Poetry Festival of New York** (TAPFNY) held in November 2024.
- The 10th **International Historical Links Conference** (LINKS) took place in April 2025.
- The 12th **Americas Film Festival of New York** (TAFNY) in June.

- The inaugural **FRAME FORWARD Student Video Festival** (FFSVF) brought together CUNY students to share their academic journeys.

In addition, we hosted a variety of lectures and screenings, including CUNY's first **AI/ChatGPT Lecture Series**.

After the last few years during and after the pandemic, we are undoubtedly shining again. And as we start this new year, I want to recognize your perseverance. As students, faculty, and staff, we inspire one another and move forward together as a unified community. I look forward to another year of growth and shared achievement.

Thank you for everything you do to make CCNY CWE a truly remarkable place.



**Juan Carlos Mercado**

# Academic Programs

2 B.A.s, 1 B.S., 1 M.A., and 2 NEW M.A.s Expanding Horizons, One Program at a Time!

## 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 | Program Director

## B.A. Social Justice and Urban Life



Rooted in an interdisciplinary framework, our B.A. in Social Justice and Urban Life equips students to critically examine social justice and inequality in urban communities across New York City, the Americas, and beyond. Designed for engaged learners, the program blends coursework, research, experiential learning, and public lectures to build advanced reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Drawing from Urban Studies, Human Rights, Labor Studies, Carework, Black, Race and Ethnic Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies, students connect with scholars, professionals, and activists as they work toward a capstone project that synthesizes their academic journey.



## B.S. Early Childhood Education



**Dr. Gail Buffalo**  
Program Director

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 enhances 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 undergraduate students for New York State Initial Teacher Certification in Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 2) and are CAEP-accredited.

This spring, the program proudly celebrated the graduation of 11 graduates ACE (Accelerate, Complete, Engage) fellows, CCNY's four-year college version of ASAP, making Early Childhood Education one of the leading programs in the number of ACE graduates.

## M.A. Study of the Americas



### **NOW WITH AN ONLINE OPTION!**

Applying 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, and Dominican studies.



**Dr. Susanna Rosenbaum**  
Program Director

**NEW / F26****FULLY ONLINE, ASYNCHRONOUS !**

## M.A. Instructional Design

**Launching in Fall 2026**, our fully online, asynchronous 32-credit M.A. in Instructional Design program prepares graduates to create, implement, and evaluate effective learning experiences across educational, corporate, and nonprofit settings. Students gain expertise in educational theory, evidence-based decision making, innovative technologies, assessment, research methodology, problem solving, and professional communication. The program culminates in an 8-credit capstone project, where students develop a professional Instructional Design portfolio showcasing their competencies to prospective employers. Designed for working professionals, the curriculum combines practical preparation for immediate career entry with a strong foundation for doctoral study.

## M.A. International & Transcultural Education

**Launching in Fall 2026**, the M.A. in International and Transcultural Education prepares students to address today's global educational challenges. This fully online, asynchronous 33-credit program offers the flexibility to study from anywhere—ideal for working professionals and international students. The curriculum develops skills in leadership, research, policy, program management, and fundraising, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application. Students gain real-world experience through internships, partnerships, and an applied thesis project, all guided by distinguished faculty. Graduates are equipped for careers in education administration, NGOs, government, multinational organizations.





# QUEST at 30

## SPECIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### CELEBRATING LIFELONG LEARNING AND CREATIVITY

Founded in 1995 by a group of retirees at CCNY CWE, QUEST began with a simple but powerful idea: learning should never stop. Thirty years later, QUEST has become a thriving community of nearly 245 intellectually curious, retired and semi-retired individuals who lead over 35 peer-taught courses each semester, participate in cultural outings, and engage in a wide range of creative, academic, and social activities.

On May 16, 2025, QUEST celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gala dinner at Michael's New York, organized by President Donna Ramer and Social Events Chair Michael Wellner. Over 120 members attended, joined by founding members, past presidents, and special guests from CCNY, including CCNY CWE's Dean Juan Carlos Mercado. The evening honored QUEST's past and looked ahead to its future as a vital part of the CCNY family.



#### QUEST Lifelong Community members and donors:

Ruth Amberg (Mathew K. Amberg Sch.); Michael Collucci (CCNY '66, Wittes '66 Endowed Sch.); Robert Hartmann (Founding Member, Hartmann Schs.); Sandra Abramson (Angelie T. DeFiore & Arlene S. Abramson Sch.); Michael Wellner ("Captain Mike" Sch.); Carol Rubin (Member); Elaine Martin (Robert Schurtman Memorial Sch.); Donna Ramer (President, Donor); Meghan Demarkis (for Dr. Mary Lutz, Commitment to Social Justice Award)



**QUEST at 30 (cont.)**

That same spirit of giving back was reflected through nine scholarships awarded in the 2024–2025 school year, including the **MICHAEL WELLNER (“CAPTAIN MIKE”)** Scholarship, the **PETER COTT AND KEN LEEDOM MEMORIAL** Scholarships, the **QUEST** Scholarships, the **ROBERT HARTMANN** Scholarship, **ANGELIE T. (TERRY) DEFIORE AND ARLENE SANDRA ABRAMSON** Scholarships, and the **Robert Schurtman Memorial** Scholarship.

Among QUEST's most beloved offerings is the long-running Great Plays course, which began before QUEST's founding and still thrives today. On December 9, the course staged a dramatic reading of *Meeting of Minds* by Steve Allen, featuring members Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, and June Jacobson — a cast with talent ranging from professional stage experience to joyful late-life debuts.

This same group also performed at The Origin Theatre's Irish Festival in April, reading two plays by CCNY librarian and Irish playwright Séamus Scanlon — a collaboration that reflects QUEST's deep ties to CWE and the broader cultural life of New York.

Just a few highlights from a year of learning, performing, and connecting. Visit [www.questlifelong.org](http://www.questlifelong.org) to learn more.

[www.questlifelong.org](http://www.questlifelong.org)



Participants in Origin Theatre's Irish Festival: Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Playwright & CCNY CWE Librarian Séamus Scanlon, June Jacobson, and Roy Clary



# Patai

## SPECIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Named for a 1955 City College graduate and feminist activist, the **Frances S. Patai Program in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies** carries forward Patai's legacy of expanding access to education, preserving the lessons of the Holocaust, and engaging global human rights struggles. Under the direction of Dr. **Danielle Zach**, the program organized a series of lectures and screenings in 2024–2025 that engaged the CCNY CWE community and beyond.



### IMPACT OF THE "REVOLUTION OF COMMON SENSE" ON THE EUROPEAN RIGHT | APRIL 7, 2025

**Dr. Jarosław Szczepański** of the University of Warsaw explored how the so-called Revolution of Common Sense has shaped contemporary European right-wing politics. Drawing on his expertise in law, politics, and administration, he offered a variety analysis of the movement's influence across the continent.



### TRANSATLANTIC CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM: LINKING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1960S | FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Delivered by **Dr. Niall Ó Dochartaigh** of the University of Galway, Ireland, this lecture traced how the U.S. civil rights movement inspired activists in Northern Ireland, who adopted its protest tactics, slogans, and songs to confront discrimination. The talk highlighted the transnational alliances forged in the 1960s despite opposition from conservative Irish Americans.



### GHOST MOUNTAIN FILM SCREENING WITH DIRECTOR Q&A | OCTOBER 7, 2024

Presented by director **Bunseng Taing**, the screening of **Ghost Mountain** chronicled his father's journey as a Cambodian refugee who survived the Killing Fields and forced returns from Thai camps, followed by a moving Q&A on memory, survival, and resilience.

# Study Abroad

## SPECIAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our **Study Abroad** Special Program continues to offer CCNY students diverse opportunities to earn academic credit through coursework, research, or experiential learning while immersing themselves in another country's culture. Programs range from semester-long to short-term experiences during fall, winter, spring, and summer sessions in locations around the world.

The Summer 2025 session included programs in **Argentina** (Buenos Aires), **Costa Rica** (San José), **Greece**, the **Netherlands** (Amsterdam), **South Africa** (Johannesburg), and **Spain** (La Rioja and Alicante). These programs focused on language, culture, service learning, and environmental field methods—providing students with rich global experiences both in and out of the classroom.



Looking ahead, CCNY's Winter 2026 Study Abroad Programs offer students the chance to deepen their academic and cultural understanding in just a few weeks. Destinations include **Argentina** (Buenos Aires), **Costa Rica** (Marine Biology in San José), **Cuba** (Faculty-led Music & Culture program in Havana), and **Spain** (Spanish Studies Abroad in Seville). These immersive programs are open to all majors and provide hands-on learning that broadens perspectives and builds global awareness.

Applications are open now and due by October 1, 2025. Interested students can **contact Ninive Gomez** at [ngomez@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:ngomez@ccny.cuny.edu) to request the application form and get full program details.





# Meet Our Team

## Leadership

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**Carlos Aguasaco**, Ph.D. | **Chair** | caguasaco@ccny.cuny.edu

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## Our Team **HIGHLIGHTS**

### DR. TASHANNA WALKER **WELCOME TO CCNY CWE!**

Tashanna J. Walker is a human geographer and urban studies scholar whose research examines the intersections of urban militarization, redevelopment, and state power in the Caribbean and beyond. She earned her Ph.D. in Geography from Rutgers University, where her dissertation developed the concept of "sensorial fugitivity" to explain how residents respond to overlapping regimes of surveillance, violence, and poverty. Her forthcoming book, *Under Siege: Decolonial Explorations of Space, Power, and Black Resistance*, has been supported by various research fellowships at institutions across the United States and Europe.

In addition to her academic appointments at the University of Pennsylvania, Oxford, and the University of Amsterdam, Dr. Walker has collaborated extensively with international NGOs, community-based organizations, and policy groups including the World Bank, USAID, UNESCO and the Agency for Inner City Renewal, Jamaica. She has also led and co-founded several local and regional initiatives that advance education, mentorship, and social equity. At City College, Dr. Walker currently teaches *Plagues Past and Present* and *The Right to the City*.

*I am excited to bring insights from research on contemporary urban security practices, inequality, and development across the Caribbean and Latin America into the Social Justice and Urban Life B.A. program at CCNY CWE.*

*My work has been shaped by collaborations with scholars, researchers, and change-makers across leading universities, grassroots organizations, and multinational agencies, partnerships that have deepened my commitment to bridging scholarship and practice. Through these experiences, I look forward to empowering students to connect justice-centered research into bold, practical policy solutions capable of reshaping urban environments.*



Dr. Tashanna Walker



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**Our Team HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)**

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**CELEBRATING DR. MICHELE SWEETING-DECARO  
ADJUNCT FACULTY, WRITING CENTER  
DIRECTOR, AND NOW PH.D.**

Dr. Michele  
Sweeting-DeCaro

Her dissertation, "*Nontraditional Students' Perceptions on Using an Asynchronous Video Writing Tutorial*," completed at Walden University, reflects a deep commitment to student-centered learning, supported in part by contributions from CCNY CWE students.

Join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement!

**CELEBRATING DR. PAMELLA E. TERRY  
ADJUNCT FACULTY, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATOR, AND NOW PH.D.**

Dr. Pamela E. Terry

Her Ph.D. in Psychology from Concordia University reflects a deep commitment to culturally responsive care and student success, shaped by her work with children, adolescents, and adults in both schools and private practice.

We are proud to celebrate this milestone with her!

*Our Team HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)***SIX CWE FACULTY NAMED  
PSC CUNY RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS**

We are pleased to announce six CCNY CWE faculty winners of the PSC CUNY Research Awards:

**Dr. Andrew Aprile,  
Dr. Marlene Clark,  
Dr. Joan Robinson,  
Librarian Séamus Scanlon,  
Dr. Susanna Schaller,  
and Dr. Danielle Zach.**

The PSC CUNY Research Awards are funded by the PSC union and managed by the CUNY Research Foundation.

They provide academic support for faculty research across all disciplines and are highly competitive, judged by expert panels from 18 disciplines.

Three types of awards are offered: Traditional A (up to \$3,500), Traditional B (\$3,600–\$6,000), and Enhanced (\$6,500–\$12,000).



Dr. Andrew Aprile



Dr. Marlene Clark



Dr. Joan Robinson



Séamus Scanlon



Dr. Susanna Schaller



Dr. Danielle Zach

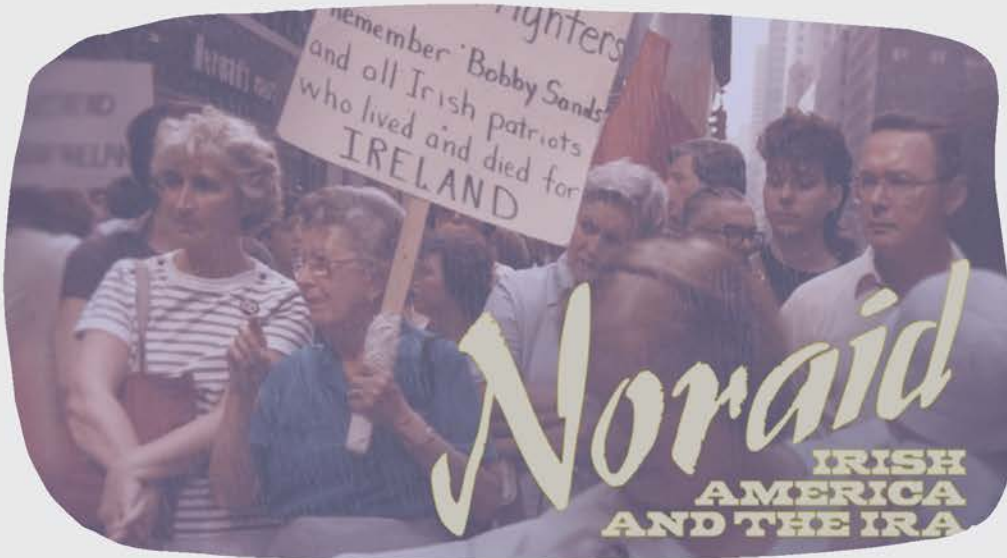


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*Our Team HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)*

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**DR. DANIELLE ZACH'S  
RESEARCH ON THE IRISH DIASPORA  
REFERENCED BY DOCUMENTARY PRODUCER**



Dr. Danielle Zach

Professor **Danielle Zach**'s scholarship on diaspora activism during the North of Ireland's "Troubles" (1969–98) was recently highlighted in publicity for a new **RTÉ** documentary on the US-based Irish Northern Aid Committee (Noraid) and the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Her work shows how NORaid, which lent material and moral support to the republican movement's campaign to end the island's partition, served as a "social glue" among pockets of Irish America. She illustrates how the organization forged a long-distance rebel support base by cultivating a sense of community, embedding "the cause" into the cultural life of waning Irish ethnic neighborhoods, and cross-border networks.



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*Our Team HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)*

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### DR. APRILE AWARDED NEXT-GEN LEARNING

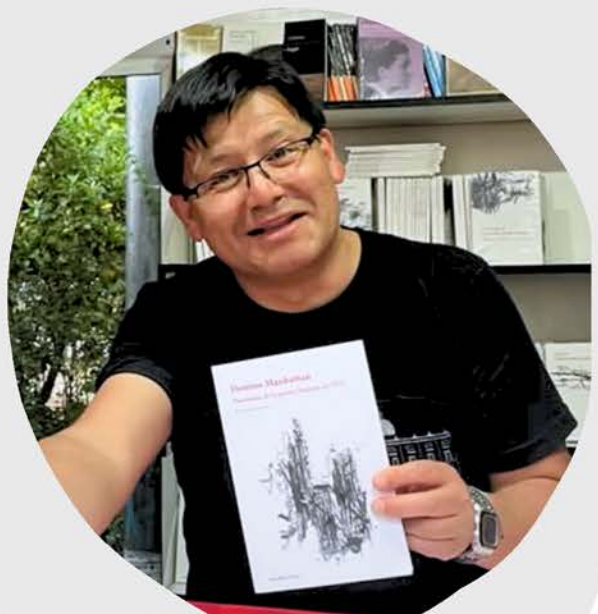
The assignment Mapping NYC Schools with ArcGIS (SOC 38144), developed by Professor Andrew Aprile, was selected for funding by the Next-Gen Pathways Civic Engagement funding. The project integrates civic engagement and digital mapping, giving students the opportunity to analyze New York City's educational landscape through geospatial tools. By supporting this work, the initiative underscores how innovative teaching can expand student learning and strengthen community impact across CUNY.



Dr. Andrew Aprile

### DR. AGUASACO PUBLISHES *DESTINO MANHATTAN*

Professor and Chair **Carlos Aguasaco** has published *Destino Manhattan* (Vaso Roto, 2025), an anthology showcasing poets based in New York whose writing is profoundly influenced by the city. The volume highlights how writers draw inspiration from NY's languages, theaters, bookstores, cafés, universities, immigrant communities, and artistic life—from opera to dance and beyond. In bringing these voices together, *Destino Manhattan* celebrates the city as a universal center of culture and a second home for poets from around the world.



Dr. Carlos Aguasaco



Our Team **HIGHLIGHTS** (cont.)

DR. WOESSNER  
**FEATURED IN COMMONWEAL,  
 PRAISED IN THE HEDGEHOG REVIEW**

**Commonweal Magazine** (August 2025) features "All Things Shining: Terrence Malick's Spiritual Exercises," an essay by Professor **Martin Woessner**, author of *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life* (Penn Press, 2024). Reflecting on the film *Voyage of Time* and drawing on the work of intellectual historian Pierre Hadot, Dr. Woessner shows how Malick's films serve as spiritual exercises that train attention, widen perspective, and reconnect viewers to a shared world.

As scholar Alan Jacobs notes in his review of *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life* for The **Hedgehog Review**, Woessner is "the first



Terrence Malick

academic writing about Malick to take fully seriously the possibility that Malick's films are themselves philosophical projects." Jacobs highlights Dr. Woessner's meticulous research, his nuanced reading of Malick's career, and his ability to show how cinema itself can serve as a mode of philosophical inquiry and a way of life.

In addition to these recent recognitions, Dr. Woessner delivered the 7th Annual Dean's Lecture at the University of Tampa this past spring and participated in a Rifkind Center event with Professor Nickolas Pappas of the Philosophy Department. Looking ahead, a paperback edition of *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life* is slated for release in 2026.



Dr. Martin Woessner



**Our Team HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)****DEBBIE EDWARDS-ANDERSON & MONICA ORTIZ-SULOWAY  
CHAMPIONING ACCESS**

Academic advisor and ECE program manager **Debbie Edwards-Anderson** and professor and social worker **Monica Ortiz-Suloway** played a key role in CCNY CWE's representation at the **CUNY Accessibility Conference**, hosted at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Debbie encouraged **Alexandra "Sasha" Tsytsareva** to submit a conference proposal and supported them in refining their presentation, while Monica introduced Sasha's workshop. Debbie and Monica were thrilled to celebrate Sasha's achievement with the CWE community, highlighting the importance of amplifying student voices in critical conversations about accessibility.

Their encouragement, mentorship, and presence underscored the division's commitment to representation, community, and guiding students toward professional success.



Debbie Edwards-Anderson,  
Alexandra "Sasha" Tsytsareva,  
and Monica Ortiz-Suloway

**DR. BUFFALO  
AWARDED FELLOWSHIP**

Dr. Gail Buffalo

Assistant Professor and Program Director **Gail Buffalo** has been awarded an Open Publishing Initiative Fellowship to support the development of her open textbook, ***Supporting Early Language Development in Diverse Settings: Mapping Linguistic Knowledge for Early Print Literacy Acquisition***.

Valued at \$10,000, the fellowship will fund the creation of the book designed to blend Buffalo's expertise with student research "insets" that will strengthen candidates awareness of pre-print literacy acquisition that can also be adapted and expanded over time. The project aims to provide an evolving, accessible, and collaborative tool for teaching and learning in early childhood education.



Our Team **HIGHLIGHTS** (cont.)

## DR. MERCADO ADVANCES SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH KEYNOTE AND NEW PUBLICATION

This October, our Dean, **Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado**, will deliver a keynote address at the prestigious Cátedra Biblioteca Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña Forum in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (Oct. 11–15). His talk will explore literary historiography, national identity, and transatlantic cultural exchange, with special focus on the intellectual legacy of Pedro Henríquez Ureña. All keynotes will be digitally archived and later published in an anthology.

He has also published a newly revised edition of *Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the Chronicles of La Florida*. This updated work brings fresh insight into the founding of St. Augustine (1565), highlighting cultural encounters, territorial ambitions, and the lasting consequences of conquest. With careful annotation and contextual analysis, he offers an important new contribution to early American history.

In addition to these scholarly achievements, Dr. Mercado is chairing the search for the next dean of the Colin Powell School, following Dean Andrew Rich's appointment as president of Franklin & Marshall College. Nearly one hundred applications have been received, with finalist visits expected this fall. Dean Mercado's scholarship, mentorship, and leadership remain a steady source of enrichment for our academic community.



Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado



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*Our Team HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ESKIMO OMOLADE HONORS**  
**DR. BARBARA J. OMOLADE (1942–2023)**  
**FOUNDING MEMBER OF CWE**



Ms. Eskimo Omolade

Eskimo Omolade honors the legacy of her mother, Dr. **Barbara J. Omolade** (1942–2023), a founding member of the Center for Worker Education (CWE). Her final published work, ***Faith Confronts Evil***, provides historical examples of African American women using the Christian gospel as a source for resilience in a system used to dehumanize them.

**Dr. Omolade dedicated her life to teaching, activism, and the advancement of intersectional scholarship**

Eskimo, current Library Assistant at CWE, shares that her mother drew inspiration from the women she wrote about, and she hopes readers will find inspiration in their stories as well.







**Dr. Barbara J. Omolade**  
CWE FOUNDING MEMBER



# Our Students **HIGHLIGHTS**

## HONORING RESILIENCE: CWE STUDENTS AND THE WOMEN'S FORUM AWARD

The Women's Forum Education Fund Award is a prestigious scholarship that recognizes women over 35 who have demonstrated extraordinary resilience in returning to complete their college education. The award provides vital financial support while honoring each recipient's perseverance, leadership, and commitment to transforming their lives and communities through higher education.

At CCNY CWE, we are proud that so many of our students have been recognized over the years, a testament to the strength and determination that define our division. Their journeys reflect the very essence of the award: overcoming challenges, embracing education as a transformative force, and inspiring others along the way.

THE 2026 EDUCATION FUND APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025.

### CWE AWARDEES

- 2024:** Sena Tossou, ECE Childhood Studies '25
- 2023:** Lucero Saavedra Huerta, ECE Disabilities Studies '24
- 2022:** Rainbow Sarah Farr, ECE Childhood Studies '24;  
Darresa Rodriguez, IAS Urban Studies and Public Administration '23
- 2021:** Patriece Spann (not pictured), ECE History, Politics and Society '24
- 2020:** Sandra Serrano, IAS Urban Studies and Public Administration '22;  
Michelle Caines, ECE Childhood Studies '25  
Sheila Castillo, ECE Disabilities Studies
- 2019:** Kereen Brown, ECE Social Welfare '20
- 2018:** Jilian Alvelo, IAS Disabilities Studies '21
- 2014:** Rita Rivera, AS Human Services '15
- 2010:** Christa Meier-Staude, IAS Literature Communication Arts '11
- 1999:** Elnora Kennedy  
Celeste Palmer



**WOMEN'S FORUM**  
OF NEW YORK



*Our Students* **HIGHLIGHTS** (cont.)



Sena Tossou



Lucero Saavedra Huerta



Rainbow Sarah Farr



Darresa Rodriguez



Sandra Serrano



Michelle Caines



Sheila Castillo



Kereen Brown



Jilian Alvelo



Rita Rivera



Christa Meir-Staudel



Elnora Kennedy

*Our Students* **HIGHLIGHTS** (cont.)**LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZED**  
**#CUNYWCW**

Four CCNY CWE students have been nominated to participate in the 21st Annual CUNY Student Women's Leadership Conference, each representing the strength and spirit of our division.

**VANESA CANO MELO** (FOUNDATION):**B.S. in Early Childhood Education, Childhood Studies**

Works at a legendary pre-K center with deep ties to early childhood education, applying her studies to support and inspire the next generation of learners.

**YASUA CASTILLO** (TRAILBLAZER):**B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, Social Welfare**

Recently honored by the CUNY Black Male Initiative for his leadership and advocacy, delivering a powerful speech that highlighted his commitment to mentorship and community empowerment.

**USHA ROOPNARINE** (BEACON):**B.S. in Early Childhood Education, Social Welfare**

Devoted mother and seasoned childcare provider who uplifts peers while balancing work, family, and academics, pursuing her passion for child development and developmental psychology.

**MARION WALKER** (RESILIENCE):**B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, Social Welfare**

Former parole officer and proud grandmother returning to complete her degree after injury and health challenges, inspiring her family with her determination and perseverance.

We are proud of our students, whose resilience, commitment, and leadership shine every day. These nominees are just a few examples of the strength and spirit that all of our students bring to the division.



Our Students **HIGHLIGHTS** (cont.)

Usha Roopnarine

**USHA ROOPNARINE  
ONE TO WATCH**

**Usha Roopnarine**, Class of 2026, is pursuing a B.S. in Early Childhood Education with a co-concentration in Social Welfare at CCNY CWE. As a mother and seasoned childcare provider, she approaches her work with empathy and purpose, drawing on her personal and professional experiences to inspire young learners. The flexible evening schedule at CWE allows her to balance family, work, and academics while fueling her growing passion for child development and developmental psychology. Along the way, she has found a supportive community of classmates and professors who continue to shape her journey as both a student and educator.

**SIBY KEBE  
REPRESENTS ECE  
AT AERA CONFERENCE**

Early Childhood Education student **Siby Kebe**, along with Professor **Monica Ortiz-Suloway** and Professor **Gail Buffalo**, represented the program at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference in Denver, Colorado, on April 26 in an invited ***Vice-Presidential Session for Division K, Teaching and Teacher Education***. The session, ***Addressing Problems of Practice in Structured Research Community***, was conceptualized and designed by Professor Buffalo in partnership with Dr. Lindsey Bravo of New York's Early Childhood Research Network, with Siby and Monica powerfully contributing their practitioner knowledge and expertise.



Siby Kebe

*Our Students* **HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)****ALEXANDRA "SASHA" TSYTSAREVA  
AWARDED ORCA SCHOLARSHIP**

Early Childhood Education student **Alexandra "Sasha" Tsytsareva** has been awarded a competitive \$3,000 ORCA grant to support the development of family-centered and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) resources for Professor Buffalo's open textbook, ***Supporting Early Language Development in Diverse Settings***. Over the summer, Sasha contributed valuable work toward creating accessible and inclusive materials that will enhance the textbook for future learners.

Last academic year, Sasha was the only student selected to present at the CUNY Accessibility Conference, hosted at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Sasha's paper highlighted the growing enrollment of neurodivergent students and the need for approaches beyond "one size fits all." An interactive exercise further demonstrated thoughtful preparation and sophisticated research, earning admiration from educators and peers alike.

Sasha's achievements reflect the strength and impact of CCNY CWE students.



Alexandra "Sasha" Tsytsareva



*Our Students* **HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)****KAZI AKTER '25  
B.A. INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS & SCIENCES  
IS A GREAT GRAD!**

Brooklyn native Kazi Akter turned high-school setbacks into purpose as a first-generation Bangladeshi-American college student. At CCNY's Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE), she rediscovered her passion for learning through a flexible, well-rounded program that fit her work schedule. "I am proud to be a trailblazer and the first in my family to graduate from a traditional four-year college," says the 23-year-old Brooklyn High School of the Arts alumna.

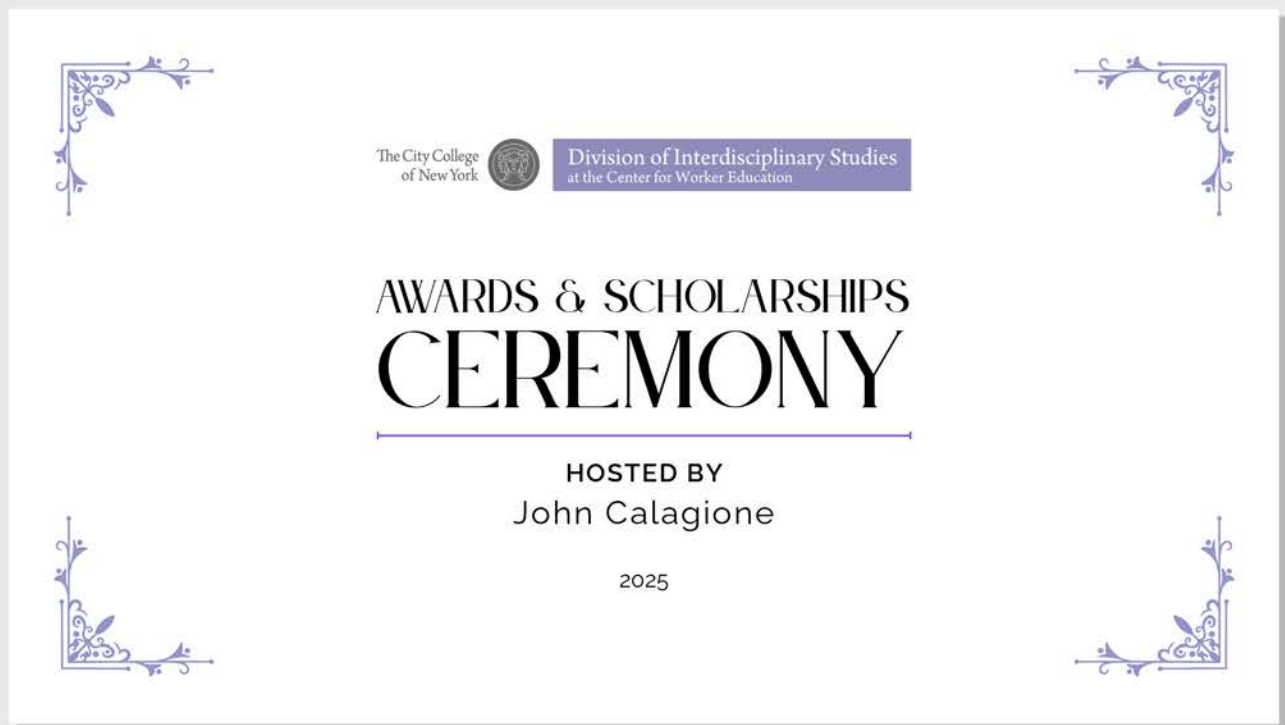
*"As a Bangladeshi-American and first-generation college student, I am proud to be a trailblazer and the first in my family to graduate from a traditional four-year college."*

Kazi maintained a 3.9 GPA while working, mentoring fellow students, and leading in the MSO/WII club. Her achievements include the CUNY-NYCHA Scholarship, S. Jay Levy Scholarship, and CWE Social Justice Prize. After graduation, she will continue working at the Brooklyn Public Library while applying to graduate school with the goal of becoming a philosophy professor.

**Kazi Akter**

# Awards and Scholarships

2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



## DONORS

Ms. Sandra Abramson  
 Ms. Ruth Amberg & Ms. Margaret Winz  
 Mr. David Bellin & Family  
 Mr. Robert Hartmann  
 Dr. Mary Lutz & Mr. Peter Kinoy  
 Dr. Elaine Martin  
 Ms. Donna Ramer (Quest President)  
 Mr. Daniel Rivera  
 Mr. Bradley Tusk and the Stern Family  
 The Milton Stern Family: Rosalie Wolf, Dina Pruzansky, Leo Marzen & Jane Weber  
 Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas and Katherine Titakis  
 The Dr. Devon T. Wade Awards Committee  
 Mr. Michael Wellner  
 The Wittes '66 Fund Members & CCNY Alumni

## PERFORMANCE

Dr. Carlos Velasquez Torres & Maestra Sun Young Chang



**Awards and Scholarships 2024-2025 (cont.)****AWARDS AND AWARDEES****DEAN'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Presented by: **Dean Juan Carlos Mercado**  
 Karina Smith | Valedictorian  
 Ángel Marroquín | Salutatorian

**DEAN'S SPECIAL AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Presented by: **Dean Juan Carlos Mercado**  
 Christina Morse  
 Stephanie Caesar  
 Fatumata M. Juwara (not pictured)

**EDWARD RIVERA PRIZE FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Presented by: **Prof. Kathy McDonald**  
 Talashia Jackson

**THE DR. DEVON T. WADE AWARD**

Presented by: **Dr. Joan Robinson (Representative)**  
 Talisa Smith

**THE HENRY J. STERN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Prof. Rafia Zafar**  
 Talisa Smith

**MATHEW K. AMBERG SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Ms. Ruth Amberg (Donor)**  
 Nelson Igumma

**THE MILTON STERN SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Prof. Rafia Zafar**  
 Mary Surin (not pictured)

**THE WITTES '66 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Michael Collucci (Donor)**  
 Guillermina Armendia

**ELENA TITAKIS MEMORIAL AWARD**

Presented by: **Prof. Joan Robinson**  
 Talashia Jackson

**ADA SHEPARD AWARD FOR CREATIVE WRITING**

Presented by: **Prof. Joan Robinson**  
 Arthur Clark

**EUGENE BELLIN AWARD**

Presented by: **Prof. Susanna Rosenbaum**  
 Talisa Smith

**MICHAEL WELLNER ("CAPTAIN MIKE") SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Mr. Michael Wellner (Donor)**  
 Sheerel Abraham

**THE ROBERT SCHURTMAN  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Dr. Elaine Martin (Donor)**  
 Laura Valle

**THE QUEST PETER COTT AND KEN LEEDOM  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Donna Ramer (Donor, Quest President)**  
 Mary Surin (not pictured)  
 Guillermina Armendia

**QUEST SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Donna Ramer (Donor, Quest President)**  
 Laura Valle  
 Sheerel Abraham  
 Mary Surin (not pictured)

**ROBERT HARTMANN SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Robert Hartmann (Donor, Quest Founding Member)**  
 Morelia Cruz Alcantara  
 Jacqueline Smith

**SAMUEL WALLACH '29 AWARD FOR EDUCATORS**

Presented by: **Prof. Gail Buffalo**  
 Fatema Zohara

**SPECIAL MENTION OF ACE SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Prof. Gail Buffalo**

**THE DEAN & WILLIAM MATZKIN SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Dean Juan Carlos Mercado**  
 Igor Prokhorko  
 Jacqueline Smith

**ANGELIE T. (TERRY) DEFIORE****& ARLENE SANDRA ABRAMSON SCHOLARSHIP**

Presented by: **Sandra Abramson (Donor)**  
 Morelia Cruz Alcantara

**COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD**

Presented by: **Ms. Megan Demarkis**  
 (daughter of donors **Dr. Mary Lutz & Mr. Peter Kinoy**)  
 Kazi Akter



CCNY President Vincent Boudreau and Provost Tony M. Liss, along with students, awardees, and sponsors, attended the Scholarship and Awards Ceremony



*Awards and Scholarships 2024-2025 (cont.)*



Sheerel Abraham



Kazi Akter



Guillermina Armendia



Stephanie Caesar



Arthur Clark



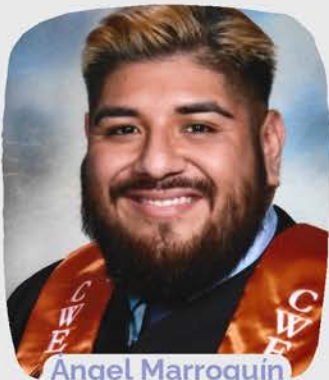
Morelia Cruz Alcantara



Nelson Igunma



Talashia Jackson



Angel Marroquin



Christina Morse



Igor Prokhorko



Jacqueline Smith



Karina Smith



Talisa Smith



Laura Valle



Fatema Zohara



# Latin Honors Recipients

2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



*Latin Honors Recipients 2024-2025 (cont.)***CLASS OF SEPTEMBER 2024****CUM LAUDE**

Mariana Hernandez (B.A.)  
Jewel Ayuso (B.S.)

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

Alvise Masetti-Zannini (B.A.)

**SUMMA CUM LAUDE**

Maya M. Barbosa (B.A.)

**CLASS OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025****CUM LAUDE**

Keoisha Bryan (B.S.)  
Pamela Cornelio (B.S.)  
Sherry Davis (B.A.)  
Miracle Evans (B.S.)  
Jahrel Lallave (B.A.)  
Shaniece A. Spivey (B.A.)

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

Yavely C. Bonifacio (B.A.)  
Michelle K. Caines (B.A.)  
Joseline Calle (B.S.)  
Ashley Andrea Garcia (B.S.)  
Ashley S. Guerrero (B.A.)  
Lilibeth F. Hernandez (B.A.)  
Berta Jimenez (B.A.)  
Jessica Jimenez (B.S.)  
Edona Kajoshi (B.S.)  
Lismary Paulino (B.A.)  
Maritza Rosas Gonzalez (B.S.)  
Lucero Saavedra (B.S.)  
Nayelis Torres Liranzo (B.S.)

**SUMMA CUM LAUDE**

Doris Acevedo (B.S.)  
Maritere Altamirano (B.S.)  
Jackeline M. Alvarez (B.A.)  
Priyanka Ghosh Bhowmik (B.S.)  
Joshua K. Delgado (B.A.)  
Aneedra T. Ethe (B.S.)  
D'Asia M. Fields (B.A.)  
Samantha Gonzalez (B.S.)  
Fatumata M. Juwara (B.S.)  
Krystyn Michelle King (B.S.)  
Christina A. Morse (B.A.)  
Daisy Rescalvo (B.S.)  
Jessica Jazmin Reyes Bravo (B.S.)  
Dariana Solorzano (B.S.)  
Shahreen Sultana (B.S.)  
Sarah Torres (B.S.)  
Marea Kedisha Wilkes (B.S.)



*Latin Honors Recipients 2024-2025 (cont.)***CLASS OF MAY 2025****CUM LAUDE**

Sarina Anderson (B.S.)  
 Cheryl A. Baptiste (B.A.)  
 Shaniya A. Cherebin (B.A.)  
 Kiara C. Delgado (B.A.)  
 Tiffany Dominic (B.S.)  
 Deyadira Enriquez (B.S.)  
 Disnaira M. Fernandez (B.A.)  
 Tyanna Linton (B.S.)  
 Marcela Nunez (B.A.)  
 Walesca Altenia Ramos Luciano (B.S.)  
 Gina Ringston (B.S.)  
 Jessica Vergara (B.A.)

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

Kahime K. Abrams (B.A.)  
 Diana Alvarez (B.A.)  
 Leslie Baez (B.S.)  
 Ana P. Barroso (B.A.)  
 Jasmin Calixto Gil (B.S.)  
 Sandra E. Duran Rivera (B.A.)  
 Tracey N. Fuller (B.A.)  
 Giselle Hidalgo (B.S.)  
 Siby Kebe (B.S.)  
 Manfry Jose Martinez (B.A.)  
 Sheralin Nicholas (B.A.)  
 Mariela Ortiz (B.A.)  
 Catalina Ventura (B.S.)  
 Aaron W. Ramsey (B.A.)

**SUMMA CUM LAUDE**

Kazi Hafcha Akter (B.A.)  
 Juliana Alves Ervilha (B.A.)  
 Archita Barot (B.A.)  
 Stephanie D. Caesar (B.S.)  
 Ana Berta Cano (B.S.)  
 Vanesa Cano Melo (B.S.)  
 Nelson Chak (B.S.)  
 Arthur Clark (B.A.)  
 Nilda L. Cruz (B.S.)  
 Amanda R. Cruz (B.S.)  
 Sumaya Othman Darwish (B.A.)  
 Elizabeth Flores (B.S.)  
 Daisy Flores  
 Talashia M. Jackson (B.A.)  
 Esteffany Tanairy (B.S.)  
 JenniferLuna (B.A.)  
 Ángel Marroquín (B.S.)  
 Grisel P. Martinez (B.S.)  
 Thalia N. Reyes (B.A.)  
 Drew Michael Riffell (B.A.)  
 Destiny L. Rodriguez (B.S.)  
 Karina Smith (B.A.)  
 Ana C. Sosa Silva (B.S.)  
 Katelyn Thang (B.S.)  
 Marleny D. Ventura (B.S.)  
 Davonne White (B.A.)  
 Fatema Zohara (B.S.)





*Latin Honors Recipients 2024-2025 (cont.)*



Staff, faculty, honorees, and family members listen to **Karina Smith**, Class of 2025 Valedictorian



Ms. Debbie Edwards-Anderson, Dr. Gail Buffalo, Dr. Mary Ruth Strzeszewski, Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado, and Dr. Carlos Aguasaco cheer alongside CCNY CWE students



Congratulations to all our 2025 Latin Honors awardees!



# Class of 2025



## VALEDICTORIAN KARINA SMITH

A public service leader and community strategist, she earned her B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from CCNY CWE with a 3.945 GPA. As Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Community Engagement at NYC Parks, she leads major initiatives like Let's Green NYC, reaching nearly 900,000 New Yorkers annually. She began her academic journey at Howard University and remains dedicated to public space, equity, and civic engagement.



### DIVISIONAL VALEDICTORIAN

Karina Smith

B.A. IN INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS & SCIENCES

*Class of 2025 (cont.)*

## **SALUTATORIAN** **ÁNGEL MARROQUÍN**

An early childhood educator with over five years of experience, he recently completed the ECE program at CCNY CWE with a 3.8 GPA. After earning his A.A. in Human Services from BMCC, he joined Aim High Leadership as a Teacher Assistant, where he brings intercultural fluency, collaboration, and a strong commitment to equity. He steps into a lead teaching role this fall.



### **DIVISIONAL SALUTATORIAN**

Ángel Marroquín  
B.S. IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



*Class of 2025 (cont.)*

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## 11 ACE GRADUATES EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This spring, the program proudly celebrated 11 graduates from ACE (Accelerate, Complete, Engage), CCNY's four-year college version of ASAP. With this milestone, Early Childhood Education stands out as one of the leading programs in the number of ACE graduates, underscoring both student commitment and the division's dedication to supporting working learners through to graduation.



Advisor **Trisha Baboolal** (left) and ECE Program Director Dr. **Gail Buffalo** (right), with ACE students (L-R): **Walesca Altenia Ramos Luciano**, **Destiny L. Rodriguez**, **Siby Kebe**, and **Esteffany Luciano Medrano**











# RECURRING EVENTS

## 1<sup>st</sup> MCWC | Nov 13-15, 2024

RECURRING EVENT

The First **International Multilingual Creative Writing Conference (MCWC-NYC)**, was a resounding success and a milestone in the cultural and academic life of the City College of New York. Over three days, the conference welcomed more than one hundred writers, scholars, publishers, and cultural leaders from the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. With over thirty panels, keynote addresses, and special events, the program showcased extraordinary richness, weaving together scholarship, pedagogy, translation, and artistic performance.





## MCWC (cont.)

At the core of the conference, the **Americas Poetry Festival of New York (TAPFNY)** delivered two unforgettable evenings of multilingual poetry readings in more than a dozen languages, including **English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Catalan, and Chinese**. These vibrant performances captivated audiences and embodied the conference's mission: to celebrate diversity and foster intercultural collaboration through creative expression.

Highlights included keynote sessions on amplifying Latinx voices, the twentieth anniversary of Hostos Review, landmark presentations of new works by Giannina Braschi and Espido Freire, and a groundbreaking forum on Indigenous literatures. Panels explored identity, translation, pedagogy, theatre, audiovisual writing, and the intersections of literature with psychology, politics, and the visual arts. Collectively, they demonstrated the conference's power to **bridge academic research and artistic practice while amplifying historically marginalized voices**.

The conference was the brainchild of Professor **Carlos Aguasaco**, Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Building on ten successful multilingual poetry festivals, he expanded the project into a broader platform for creative writing in all its forms. The 2024 edition validated his vision, strengthened international networks, and positioned CCNY as a global hub for multilingual creative exchange. The conference was organized in collaboration with **Universidad de La Rioja**, and the support of **The Academy of American Poets**, the **Latino Writers Institute**, and the **Latino Book Review**.



Front: Carlos Aguasaco, Maria Cristina González, Huang Xiang, Victoria Zhang, Hei Feng, and Dao Zhi.  
Back: William Rock



MCWC Audience



Carlos Aguasaco, Carlos Villar Flor, Giannina Braschi, Espido Freire, Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, and Javier Valdivieso Odriozola



# 10<sup>th</sup> LINKS | April 30 - May 02, 2025

RECURRING EVENT

The 10th **International Conference on the Historical Links Between Spain and the Americas (LINKS)** took place in New York City from April 30 to May 2, 2025, successfully bringing together **scholars from over 40 institutions**. The conference explored how deep historical interconnections between Spain and the



Americas continue to shape today's challenges — from democracy and cultural identity to climate change and emerging technologies.

Over the course of three days, **14 panels** addressed topics such as Spanish influences in American literature, transatlantic artistic movements, and socio-economic collaborations. Keynotes by Professor **David Jeruzalmi** and philosopher **Lou Marinoff** inspired lively discussions on the roles of science and philosophy in shaping society.

Thanks to its hybrid format, LINKS reached a wider audience and strengthened collaboration among academics dedicated to advancing transatlantic relations. We are proud to recognize the partnership of **Instituto Cervantes New York**, the **Franklin Institute - UAH**, and all members of the organizing and scientific committees for their contributions to this impactful event.



John Nieto-Phillips



Lou Marinoff and  
Dean Juan Carlos Mercado



Yolanda López López



# 12<sup>th</sup> TAFFNY | June 13-21, 2025

RECURRING EVENT

The 12th edition of **The Americas Film Festival of New York** (**TAFFNY**) successfully concluded its run from June 12 to June 20, 2025, once again celebrating the rich diversity of stories, languages, and cultures from across the Americas. The festival showcased nine feature films and more than 45 short films from 17 countries, reaffirming its role as a vital platform for cinematic voices often overlooked by mainstream media.



EMERGING VOICES: CITY COLLEGE'S MFA & BFA SHOWCASE



12<sup>th</sup> TAFFNY (cont.)

The festival opened on Thursday, June 12 at Instituto Cervantes NY with the New York premiere of *Becoming Vera*, directed by Sergio Vizueté. The moving story of an 18-year-old pianist navigating life after foster care captivated audiences, and the director engaged in a lively Q&A following the screening.

Over the course of nine days, audiences experienced films that explored women's resilience, the complexities of love, and issues of mental health and inclusion—especially within LGBTQ+ communities and among adolescents. The Americas Panorama program featured internationally acclaimed films from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Canada, Spain, the United States, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The festival culminated on Friday, June 20 with the Short Film Awards Ceremony at the National Museum of the American Indian, followed by the New York premiere of *So Surreal: Behind the Mask*, directed by Neil Diamond (Cree) and Joanne Robertson. The screening included a thought-provoking Q&A moderated by Maria Galban of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

The Americas Short Films Competition brought together over 45 works from emerging filmmakers competing in the categories of Animation, Documentary, Experimental, and Fiction. A distinguished jury of filmmakers, professors, and critics evaluated the works, celebrating the talent and creativity of a new generation of storytellers.

As part of the program, TAFFNY also highlighted the talent of student filmmakers from The City College of New York's MFA and undergraduate film programs. In a special event, Oscar-winning filmmaker Roger Ross Williams attended the City College MFA showcase and presented the inaugural Roger Ross Williams Award to emerging talent, underscoring TAFFNY's mission to nurture the next generation of storytellers.

Reflecting on the festival's success, Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado, Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at CCNY and TAFFNY co-founder, noted:



TAFFNY Audience



12<sup>th</sup> TAFFNY (cont.)

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*"This twelfth edition was one of our most vibrant yet. The enthusiasm of audiences, the quality of the films, and the presence of world-class filmmakers like Roger Ross Williams made this festival a true celebration of cinema and culture. TAFFNY continues to reaffirm City College's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and the transformative power of the arts."*

Artistic Director Diana Vargas added:

*"Each year, filmmakers and their stories offer a mirror to the struggles, dreams, and hopes of their societies. This edition highlighted narratives that not only moved audiences but also deepened conversations about identity, resilience, and cultural belonging. TAFFNY remains a space for joy, discovery, and connection—and best of all, it is free and open to all New Yorkers."*

Founded by The City College of New York (CUNY) and cultural partners, TAFFNY continues to serve as a beacon of multiculturalism and creativity, fostering cinematic appreciation and supporting the work of emerging and established filmmakers alike.



Juan Carlos Mercado (Founder), Diana Vargas (Director), Cynthia Benitez (Advisory Board, Indigenous Film Scholar), Carlos Aguasaco (Coordinator)



# 1<sup>st</sup> FRAME FORWARD | June 2025

RECURRING EVENT

Student voices took center stage at the inaugural **FRAME FORWARD Student Video Festival (FFSVF)**, where CCNY students earned leading honors.

Founded by Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and Senior Advisor and Strategic Communications Specialist Lorena de Miranda Marques, the festival gave CUNY students a platform to share their stories under the theme *"Featuring Student Life Through the Eyes of Those Living It."*



**EMILY ADON**

(Grove School of Engineering)

Winner of all Video for  
*Through My Eyes*

Debut video capturing everyday student experiences with original music and editing.



**KIARA & KAYLA BATTLE**

(Humanities and the Arts)

Best CCNY Video for  
*Eye of the Fish*

A poetic short documentary blending archival and curated images.



**ALICIA LEON (LEFT)**

(Bronx Community College)

Best CUNY Video for  
*In My Head*

An exploration of student anxiety as academic pressure blurs lived reality.



**1<sup>st</sup> TAFFNY (cont.)**

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As part of their award package, the winning films were screened at The Americas Film Festival New York, giving students visibility beyond FRAME FORWARD's own celebration. Winners were honored with trophies, gift cards, and the opportunity to showcase their work at the festival — all made possible through the support of CCNY CWE. FilmFreeway contributed by waiving platform fees, streamlining the submission process for both organizers and participants. To mark the occasion, local partners Café One, Fumo, White Horse Tavern, and B&H curated a special goody bag, highlighting the meaningful role community support plays in nurturing student creativity.

**FRAME FORWARD's first edition highlighted the talent and energy of CUNY students and set a strong foundation for future storytellers.**





# AI/Chat GPT 2024-2025

## LECTURE SERIES

### Opportunity and Challenges to transform patient care by implementing AI solutions in healthcare settings.

Thursday, Sep 26, 2024, 5 PM | Zoom

With over a decade in Human-Computer Interaction, AI in Healthcare, and Data Governance, Dr. Mehdi Hasan has built a tech-driven public health portfolio. He has worked at WHO, BRAC, Toyota R&D, and Elix. Dr. Hasan is a Senior Project Manager at Elix Healthcare in New York and a Visiting Lecturer at Yeshiva University. Today, he also reviews for the International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications and organizes HealthTech sessions at the Pacific Telecommunication Council. Dr. Mehdi holds a PhD from Kyushu University and an M.Sc. from the Institute of Computing and is a Horowitzscholarship scholarship awardee.



#### A Lecture with Dr. Mehdi Hasan, Ph.D.

Senior Project Manager  
Elix Healthcare, New York



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
The City College of New York



FREE  
Scan QR  
to RSVP

### AI in the Workplace & Beyond

Tuesday, Nov 5, 2024, 5 PM | Zoom

Join brothers Eric and Tim Cotter as they explore the impact of AI in the workplace. Eric is a Business Intelligence Analyst for a non-profit in medical education, having previously worked as a Sales Operations Director. Focusing on sales compensation and territory reassignment, Tim has spent 20 years in Human Resources, specializing in employee compensation and benefits for both global and U.S.-based companies, primarily in the pharmaceutical industry.



#### A Lecture with the Cotter Brothers

Tim Cotter, Human Resources  
Eric Cotter, Business Intelligence Analyst



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
The City College of New York



FREE  
Scan QR  
to RSVP

### Community-Centered Journalism in the Age of AI

Tuesday, Dec 3, 2024, 5 PM | Zoom

How can we harness AI in journalism and media without losing humanity at its core? In this session, Jos Duncan-Rae draws from Love Now Media's community-centered initiatives to show how AI can uplift authentic voices and preserve empathy in storytelling. Join us to discover strategies for using technology to support impactful, people-first reporting in today's rapidly evolving media landscape.



#### A Lecture with Jos Duncan-Rae

Founder & CEO  
Love Now Media/Love Now Magazine



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
The City College of New York



FREE  
Scan QR  
to RSVP

### Hopeful Intelligence: Enchanting AI with New Possibility

Wednesday, Feb 5, 2025, 5 PM | Zoom

Rev. Dr. David Kim, CEO and co-founder of Goldenwood, brings his expertise in faith, work, and technology to explore how artificial intelligence challenges our understanding of reality while offering profound opportunities for creativity and societal renewal. Drawing on thinkers like Charles Taylor and C.S. Lewis, Dr. Kim reframes AI as an "enchanted" tool to expand human potential and nurture a hopeful social imagination. With a robust academic background and contributions to works like Faithful AI: Stories of Hope from 2024, he inspires approaches to AI that simplify human flourishing and resilience in a rapidly changing world.



#### A Lecture with David Kim

CEO, GOLDENWOOD



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
The City College of New York



FREE  
Scan QR  
to RSVP

### Breaking Barriers: AI-Powered Technologies in Communication for ASL and Navigation for the Visually Impaired

Tuesday, Mar 12, 2025, 5 PM | Zoom

In this talk, Dr. YingLi Tian will share our research on how AI and computer vision technologies can be applied to create innovative solutions for individuals with special needs.

The presentation will focus on two key applications:

- AI-Driven ASL Learning Tool
- Wayfinding and Navigation for the Visually Impaired



#### A Lecture with Dr. YingLi Tian

Distinguished Professor, CCNY and GC  
IEEE, MAPR, and AAA Fellow



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
The City College of New York



FREE  
Scan QR  
to RSVP

### Robust AI for Mission Critical Decision Support in Healthcare and Critical Infrastructure

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 5 PM | Zoom

Explore how artificial intelligence enhances decision-making in complex environments. This talk will introduce algorithms that enable AI systems to adapt efficiently while optimizing effort in problem-solving. Learn how these innovations are advancing disease risk prediction, prevention, and critical infrastructure management.



#### A Lecture with Dr. Anita Raja

Professor of Computer Science,  
specializing in AI, CCNY



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
The City College of New York



FREE  
Scan QR  
to RSVP



# Connecting

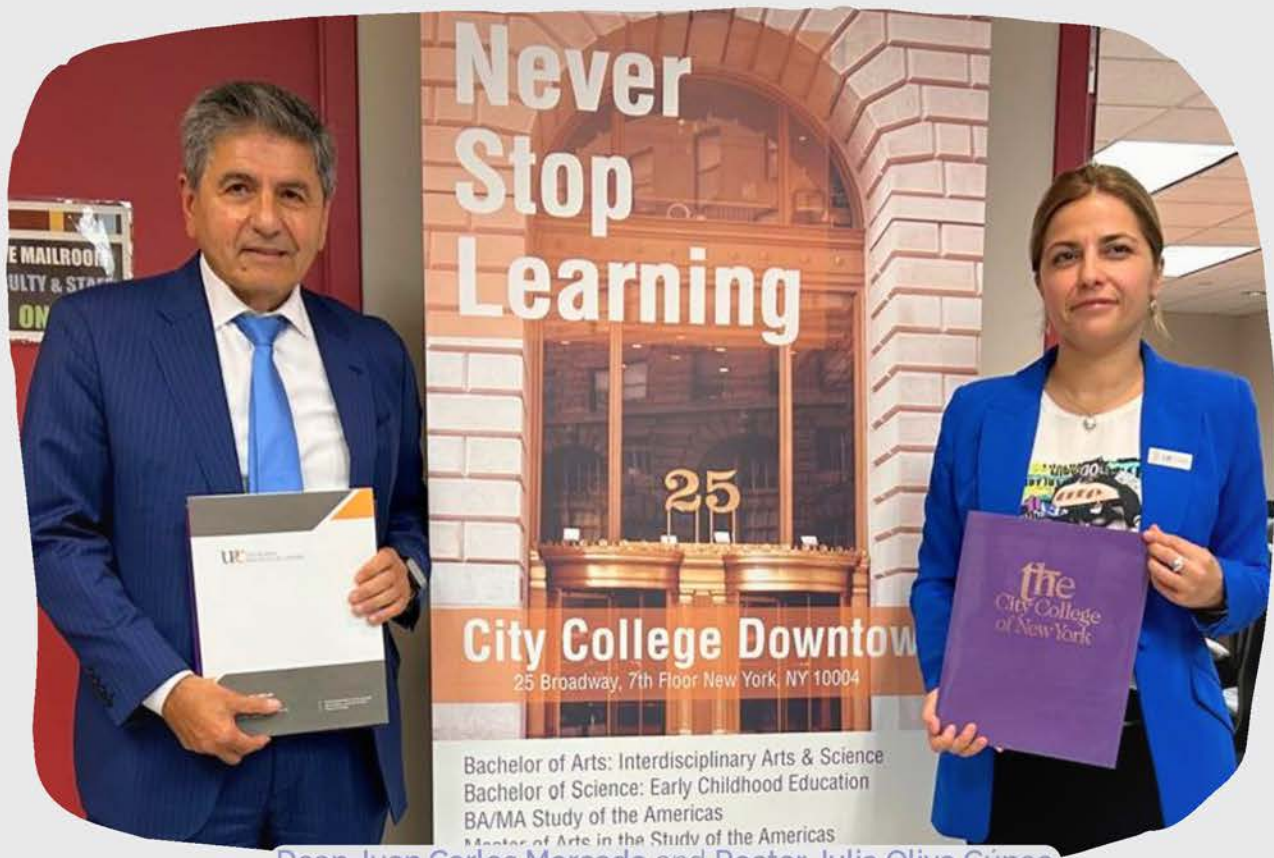
BUILDING GLOBAL BRIDGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

11/08/24

## City College Signs International Agreement with Argentina's Provincial University

The City College of New York (CCNY) has signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Universidad Provincial de Córdoba (UPC), a public university in Argentina known for its innovation in education and regional impact. The agreement, signed by **Dean Juan Carlos Mercado**, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies (CCNY CWE), and **Rector Julia Oliva Cúneo** of UPC, took place during a visit by a Córdoba academic delegation.

This new partnership will promote joint research and collaboration in areas of mutual interest—expanding CCNY's global reach and creating valuable cross-cultural opportunities for our academic community.



Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and Rector Julia Oliva Cúneo



*Connecting (cont.)***10/22/24****Our Dean Represents CCNY at the Official Launch of the American Balkan Chamber of Commerce (ABCC)**

Dr. **Juan Carlos Mercado**, CCNY Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at The Center for Worker Education (CCNY CWE)f, represented The City College of New York (CCNY) at the launch of the **American Balkan Chamber of Commerce (ABCC)**, held at the Penn Club in New York City.

The event gathered leaders from business, education, and diplomacy to advance U.S.–Balkan economic cooperation, with ambassadors from all six Western Balkan nations in attendance. Highlights included a keynote address by Edward Mermelstein, NYC Commissioner for International Affairs, emphasizing global collaboration and transatlantic engagement.

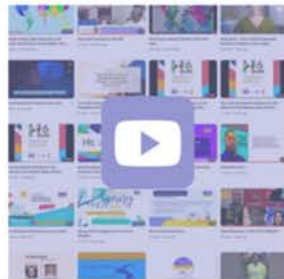
This collaboration, developed with the **University American College Skopje (UACS)**, builds on CCNY's ongoing partnerships that connect education, business, and diplomacy across borders.



Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and Edward Mermelstein



## Our Socials | @ccnycwe



Division of Interdisciplinary Studies  
at the Center for Worker Education



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of New York



Thank You

**CCNY CWE**