



**Belissa Reyes**

Hell's Kitchen Lounge  
150 Lafayette St., Newark, NJ  
"I go to the New Jersey Ironmen Indoor Soccer games every weekend located in the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey; I am part of the dance team for the soccer games. After every game all the players, fans and dancers meet up at the Hells Kitchen Lounge, a few blocks away from the arena, for a good time. Everybody comes together for drinks and karaoke. As ironic as it sounds, it is a family place."



**Alexandra Nunez**

The New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx River Parkway at Fordham Road, Bronx, NY

"I love the Botanical Garden because it's basically a place to find peace and meet other people from different cultures seeking peace also. Everyone there has at least two things in common: appreciation for beauty and a search for quiet, inner peace! As if that isn't enough, the different exhibitions keep you coming back for more!"



**Asa Scott**

The Museum of the Moving Image  
35th Avenue on the corner of 36th Street, Astoria, Queens, NY

"I am an EDM major here at CCNY and I try to take advantage of the city we live in. So this weekend I'm hitting two places I've been meaning to visit; the Museum of Moving Image in Queens and then to Williamsburg Brooklyn to a Barcade. This place is so much better than Dave and Busters because they have all the old school games for only a quarter!"



**Johanna Ortiz**

Pollos Mario  
8302 37th Ave, Jackson Heights, NY  
"I love going to Pollos Mario because it is drowned in my Colombian culture! A meal at this restaurant is like an escape to my hometown in Colombia, but I'm still in New York. Besides the great food, the music and the atmosphere are great too! I highly recommend Pollos Mario for a great Spanish cuisine."

## What Are Your Favorite Weekend Activities?

Compiled By Alexandra Suazo

During the first week of February, I was assigned this column, which would publish once a month. The idea for the column was a student perspective on culture; that is, the column would show how students expose themselves to their own culture or different cultures. Through this publicized column, students who read The Campus would be exposed to other students' weekly activities, whether they are for fun or educational purposes.

I soon learned that society has changed and many students are consumed with significant others, jobs, school or family. In respect to publicizing and keeping this column active though, I will hunt down students who make time to expose themselves to culture.

I asked the following seven students the same questions and through much consideration they were able to pick a location they'd visited lately that had exposed them to something different. Next to each picture is the student's name, his/her most recent or favorite cultural place to visit, and why. Some cultural establishments are for music and some are for art, while others are just for a good country-cooked meal. Stay tuned to The Campus Arts and Culture section to see where your fellow CCNY students get their culture on!

*\* If you'd like to be featured in this column, please contact [asuz000@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:asuz000@ccny.cuny.edu).*



**Alvin Vargas**

Albert's Mofongo House  
4762 Broadway (at Dyckman), New York, NY  
"A mofongo dish is made of a combination of mashed plantains, garlic and meat, whether it is pork, chicken or beef. I love the taste of Albert's mofongo. It is a traditional Puerto Rican/Dominican dish and I love being a part of that culture."

**Kelstin Batista**

El Aguila Bar and Restaurant  
80 W Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY  
"Wednesday nights are the best nights to spend a few hours drinking and dancing at "The Eagle" as translated in English. Their DJ plays great salsa music, and, well, all kinds of great Spanish music. It is really just a fun night of all different kinds of people coming together for one thing - dancing!"



**Lilibeth Aguirre**

The Museum of Natural History  
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY  
"I love museums and the Museum of Natural History happens to be one of my favorites. It's just a fun Saturday morning outing with family or friends. My favorite exhibition is the water one; the huge whale has been there for years! People from all over the world visit the Museum of Natural History; for us New Yorkers it's like our backyard."

# Graduate Center: Chamber Concert

By Alexandra Suazo

On Jan. 30, I took a quick subway ride to the CUNY Graduate Center on Fifth Avenue for a chamber music concert. I thought it would be exciting to listen to, and watch, the concert without any prior knowledge of what chamber music is. A few semesters ago, a professor told me that to listen to music, one must close one's eyes and feel the music - that is how I approached the performance.

I soon learned that this hour-long production was going to take the audience through the early years of the innovator Galileo, his intricate study, and the exploration of the measure of time through his love of playing the lute. A lute, for those who are unfamiliar, is an instrument shaped much like a guitar, but with an arm about 2 feet longer. Chamber music, as defined by the woman who introduced the concert, is quiet acoustic music.

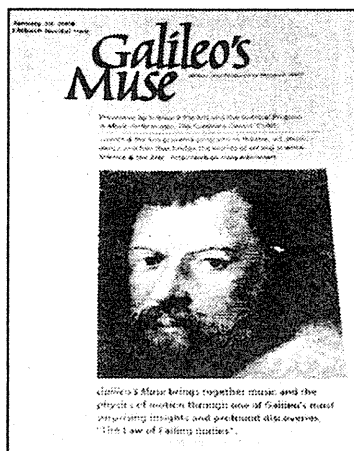


Photo by Alexandra Suazo

Graduate Center: Chamber Recital.

The Elebash Recital Hall in the Graduate Center is the perfect place for a quiet performance as such; the hall's shape, its wood paneling and its lighting, all added to the relaxing and educating experience. The five artists performing - Dongmyung Ahn, Amy Kauffman, Andy Rutherford, Charles Weaver and Benjamin Wolff - drew in a full house of all kinds of people, ranging from the elderly, out to

enjoy music's beauty, to high school students, taking notes for papers. The writer and producer, Benjamin Wolff, truly put together an unforgettable story through narration and music.

Every musical piece between the storytelling captivated the audience in a tranquil and serene manner. The music dispersed different emotions; at times it was witty and quick, and at other times it was very grim and slow. This can only be achieved when the artists are, beyond doubt, consumed by their music. It seemed as though every note came from deep within, and exited through their fingers and facial expressions.

The five accomplished artists mentioned earlier all presented their appreciation of 17th century music, and indulged the audience in nothing but sweet soothing melodies.

Ultimately, we followed the story of Galileo's trials and tribulations of physics through the instrument he treasured: the lute, which he considered to be his muse.

# Documenting Dominicans in New York

By Alexandra Suazo

**O**n Oct. 22, the Dominican Archives received the 2007 Debra E. Bernhardt Annual Archives Award for Excellence in Documenting New York's History. I had the honor of meeting and speaking with Chief Archivist Idilio Gracia Peña, or Don Idilio, as he prefers to be addressed, and Dominican Studies Institutes Director Dr. Ramona Hernández, both proud recipients of the award.

Being of Dominican ancestry at City College is not a peculiar trait. The community of Dominican students here is very lively and prominent. There are at least two clubs related specifically to Dominican culture—the Salsa Mambo Club and the Dominican Students Association. But neither can provide the same resources to explore Dominican culture and history as the Archives.

The Dominican Archives is a bona fide New York State archive that strives to preserve the Dominican population/community in New York. Between Dr. Ramona Hernández, Don Idilio, and four to five work-study students, thousands of items of Dominican significance from people all over the US have been documented and organized. Meeting

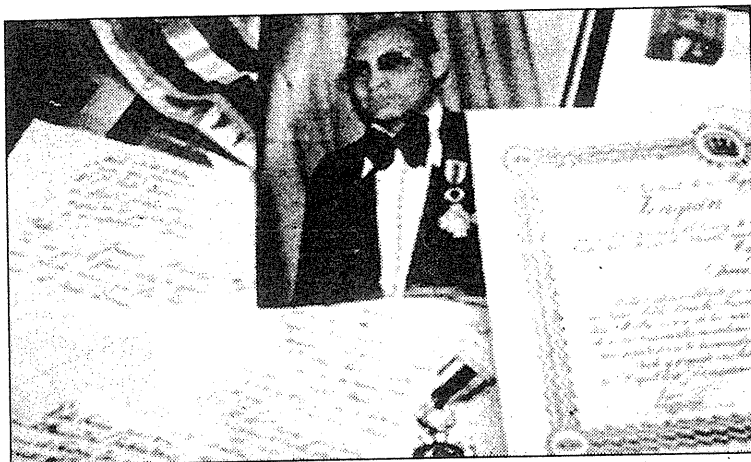


Photo by Zachary Frankel

*Uncovering a wealth of knowledge at the Dominican Archives*

with Don Idilio was a pleasure, and he gave a great overview of the outstanding collections. City College should feel very privileged to have such an accomplished man assembling this historic repository.

The Dominican Studies Institute has received astonishing funds throughout its development. It was recently approved for \$1 million in funds for the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility. The new offices and archives will be located by the Cohen Library in the NAC and will "forever ensure the success of the Dominican Archives," according to Mr. Idilio. The construction will begin in November and should be completed by Spring 2008.

"With the continuing hard

work and new facility, we can preserve and continue to document the community and the population, work with different vast collections, and offer a great incentive for students," stated Mr. Idilio.

Both Dr. Ramona Hernández and Don Idilio made it clear that, to them, the concentration should not have been so much about who had received the award, but about the archives themselves, the hard work put into the thousands of documents and numerous collections, and the continuous work in making them accessible to the student body and the public.

"We are not just another race, we are a community, a milestone in New York history," noted Dr. Hernández.

# Global City Hosts CCNY Professors

By Alexandra Suazo

It is ultimately refreshing and assuring to a student when his or her professor is up to par on the material that is being taught. I know, as well as most of you who are reading this, that there are a handful of professors who leave you speechless and downright bored. This is not the case for three specific City College professors, all of whom are published authors and are very important to our Creative Writing Program.

On the night of Nov. 8, at the McNally Robinson Booksellers on Prince Street, CCNY professors Linsey Abrams, Frederic Tuten and Michelle Yasmine Valladares, shared different compositions with an attentive full house. These professors are authors who contribute their work to *Global City Review*, which describes itself as "a literary metropolis of the imaginations." This mini-magazine, if you will, reflects the different cultures of NYC through essays, poems and stories.

Abrams is the director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing and has written the novels "Our History in New York" and "Charting by the Stars." She had the room in laughter with a witty snippet from a chapter in her new novel, a sequel to "Our History in New York." Fred Tuten, recognized writer, author of five novels and professor of graduate fiction workshops here at City College, read excerpts from his work as well. Tuten's



Photo by Vaughn Francis

*Professor Valladares*

reading, also from an upcoming novel, had the crowd bursting out in laughter again. Both Tuten and Abrams know their readers and audiences well.

Valladares, on the other hand, read a selection from her collection of poems, "Nortada, The North Wind." She also read a few from her new anthology of poems, "First Map of the New World." I can't find many words to describe the house reaction; the audience was silent, mesmerized and thoughtful. As opposed to the stricken laughter of Abrams' and Tuten's stories, Valladares' poems left everyone interpreting the experience and beauty of her words.

These three distinguished writers shone in the bookstore's café and truly succeeded in proving that even though *Global City Review* is a literary periodical, it is worthy of a spot at newsstands. It is wonderful that the professors and the rest of their talented staff have found a way to share New York literature in a global manner.