



Press Release

Event: Dominican Identity and Migration to Hispaniola- A documentary by Nestor Montilla

Date & Time: April 27th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Columbia University- Lerner Hall (2962 Broadway, at 115th), Broadway Room

Directions: #1 train, M4, M5, M60, M104 buses to 116th Street

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Currently New York City serves as the home to a growing Dominican and Haitian population. Identity and migration have been a hot topic in both Diaspora communities. With the support of the Kraft Family Funds, a group of Columbia students of Haitian and Dominican background have decided to collaborate on a project that would dissect the roots and origins of how identity and migration is tied to the issue of nationality and dual citizenship.

As part of this ongoing project, launched by members of Haitian Students Association and Grupo Quisqueyano, we are hosting a film screening on the different migration waves that have influenced the ethnic composition of today's Dominicans. *Dominican Identity and Migration to Hispaniola* is a film that documents the roots of the different ethnic groups, including Arabic, African, Jewish, and Asian migrations as well as the cultural influence of Haitians and US freed-slaves to this Caribbean island. Dr. Irma Nicasio, Sociology Professor from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), Ana Lopez from Hostos Community College, and other prominent Dominican figures narrate the film.

This event is part of a larger goal executed by students, which can be summarized in two main points:

- 1. We believe that it is essential to reach a mutual and clear understanding of the island's historical perspective as an island/two nations, followed by an update of the current socioeconomic and political situations maintaining both nations torn and in misery;*
- 2. Sketch a proactive plan and transform it into a concrete instrument that would temper the discord between Dominicans and Haitians and open the lines of communication between the communities, both in the States and on the island.*

This screening is the part of an ongoing students and community collaboration to address this important migration and identity issue. In addition to this screening, Columbia students will also be hosting an open forum, titled "**Quisqueya: Voices of the Haitian and Dominican Diaspora in the United States,**" on **May 3rd, 2008 at 12:30pm** in the Hammer Health Sciences Center at **701 168th street corner of Ft. Washington, room 401**. For inquiries and more information, please contact Rosemary Almonte and Alba Mota.