

WEISSMAN SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GENERAL FACULTY REPORT (Spring 2013)

As the midpoint of the spring semester approaches, the Weissman School finds itself occupied to an unprecedented degree with faculty hiring. With a full twenty-five searches either successfully completed or still underway, the majority of our departments have been reviewing materials, interviewing candidates, attending job talks and teaching demonstrations, and generally making arrangements to see their numbers expand by a percentage that few could have anticipated only a year or two ago. Our searches have brought about an extraordinary parade of highly qualified candidates, who in the course of making campus visits have sat down with the deans to discuss their work and their careers. There is no question that our school is witnessing an influx of talent entirely commensurate with the large number of positions in the process of being filled.

New Positions, Projects, and Gifts

Of the twenty-five searches being conducted this year in the Weissman School, eleven have come to a successful conclusion as of this writing. They include two hires in the Department of English, two in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, one in the Department of Philosophy, one in the Department of Psychology, three in the Department of Mathematics, one in the Department of Political Science, and one in the Department of Natural Sciences.

In a step that testifies to its growth and capacity for self-determination, the Weissman School is preparing a five-year Strategic Plan, which will complement and extend the Strategic Plan of the college. During the spring semester, a faculty committee chaired by Professor Joshua Mills of the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions has been meeting; subcommittees have been convened to study curriculum development, faculty development, branding, and globalization; and a wide variety of other faculty members and administrators have been invited to contribute to these discussions, which will culminate in a written document to be submitted to the Dean in May.

From April 15th through the 17th, Baruch will be hosting a conference of the international WC2 Network. Developed to bring together “World Class Universities in World Cities” to address issues of cultural, environmental, and political importance, WC2 aims to offer a forum in which universities can explore ways to be more responsive to the needs of their stakeholders in major cities around the world. Dean Peck currently serves as CUNY’s representative to the Network and aside from hosting the event, Dean Peck will moderate the kickoff roundtable with participants from network representatives from around the world.

In preparation for an all-day conference on “Civic Engagement and Public Scholarship” scheduled for May 14th, the Dean’s Office has invited Weissman faculty to submit a one-paragraph description of their ongoing civic engagement and public scholarship activities. An annual prize will be awarded to the faculty members who best exemplify civic engagement and best display public scholarship efforts. The purpose of the conference is to promote civic engagement as vital to the Weissman mission and to encourage the public dissemination of faculty research that benefits all.

In anticipation of the retirement of Professor Paula Berggren, Professor Cheryl Smith has been named Director of the Great Works Program. This program, widely regarded as one of the most successful educational efforts ever mounted by the Weissman School, was created by Professor Berggren over twenty-five years ago and has been overseen by her for the whole of that period. Another of Professor Berggren's administrative assignments, the Directorship of the Feit Seminars, has been assumed by Professor Michael Staub. The Feit Seminars are made possible by a gift from Baruch alumnus Charles Feit, whose generosity has made it possible for the school to offer a series of interdisciplinary seminars, each co-taught by two faculty members over the last three decades.

The Weissman School has received another extraordinarily generous gift from the Weissman family. It consists of a \$7,000,000 endowment, which will generate \$350,000 per year in support of the school's activities.

The Sidney Mishkin Gallery has been the recipient of a generous gift of \$20,000 from Dr. Alvin E. Friedman-Klein. These funds are being used to provide more visible street-level signage for the Gallery. Dr. Friedman-Klein has made an additional gift of \$25,000 to fund a special exhibit.

Student and Faculty Awards and Achievements

Four members of the Department of Natural Sciences—Jason Munshi-South, Jamal Jalilian-Marian, Stefan Bathe, and Chester Zarnoch—have been awarded grants totaling almost a half a million dollars. The largest of these grants, for over \$260,000 in support of Professor Munshi-South's study of adaptive evolutionary responses in mice, comes from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), a division of the NIH.

Professor Esther Allen of the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature has been awarded \$20,000 from Amazon Services LLC for a project on "Translators on their Work and Meaning."

The Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions has been awarded \$5,000 from the Dow Jones Foundation in support of the 9th High School Journalism Conference at Baruch College.

This year's nominees for the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend awards are Professor Stephanie Golob of the Department of Political Science and Professor Bert Hansen of the Department of History.

Former student Bill Cheng, an *Encounters* magazine contributor and Harman creative writing program alumnus, has published his debut novel, *Southern Cross the Dog*, which is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

A team from Baruch's MS program in Financial Engineering won third place in the 10th Annual Rotman International Trading Competition, which was held in late February at the University of Toronto.

This year the Deans Office distributed \$75,000 in funds for research and conference travel, and 106 faculty members were each awarded three hours of reassigned time.

Weissman as a Center of Cultural Life

Among the many BPAC theatrical offerings this semester, two stand out. Through April 14th, and in collaboration with BPAC, the Wakka Wakka theatre company and Nordland Visual Theatre present *Saga*, which features thirty puppets ranging from three inches to ten feet in height. Later this spring, from April 21st to May 12th, Folksbiene will present *The Megile of Itzik Manger*. In addition, BPAC will host individual performances by Sandra Bernhard, Jackie Hoffman, Tovah Feldshuh, Sheba Mason, Rachel Sage, Inna Faliks, and Judy Gold in a series entitled *Making Trouble, Making History: Jewish Women in Art and Entertainment*. Finally, the Joel Segal Great Works series continues this semester with readings of Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* from April 8th through April 11th.

This spring's Harman Writer-In-Residence is *The New Yorker's* theater critic Hilton Als. He will read from his work on March 19th at 5:45 p.m. in the Asriel and Marie Rackow Conference Room (Room 750) of the Information and Technology Building.

Continuing its celebration of "Women in Jazz," the Milt Hinton Jazz Series will present Moroccan singer Malika Zarra on Thursday, April 4th at 7:30. On Tuesday April 16th at 6 p.m., banjo player Jayme Stone and his band will perform original American folk music inspired by folk traditions from around the world. This concert will form part of the International WC2 Conference. On April 25th at 2:45 p.m., the Alexander string Quartet will perform Mozart's String Quartet no. 23 in F major and Shostakovich's String Quartet no. 7 in F sharp minor. Baruch in Concert, or the Best of Baruch Student Musicians, will perform on Thursday May 2nd at 1 p.m.; and the Baruch Choir will appear on Thursday, May 16th at 6 p.m.

The New York Times's art critic Roberta Smith reviewed the Mishkin Gallery exhibition *Franz Kline: Coal and Steel* on March 2 (C1, C6). The review can be seen on the Baruch web site. The day of the review over 100 people visited the exhibition, and the gallery has received calls from all over the USA. Last fall, the exhibition *Women in Jazz* was reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal* (December 1-2, 2012, A22) and the *Daily News* (November 12, 2012, 54-55). This exhibition was coordinated with Baruch's Milt Hinton Jazz Perspectives concert series. During this November-December show and the *Decisive Moments* exhibition in September-October, almost 600 students visited the Gallery for talks/tours.