

DIVISION OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
FALL 2003
GENERAL FACULTY REPORT
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Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students

The Dean and Vice president have actively participated in the College's initiative to address the issue of academic integrity with students and faculty. We have visited departmental meetings and consulted with student groups to raise the issues and stimulate the kind of dialogue that accompanies increased concern and awareness. The reporting of student incidents regarding violations of academic integrity increased almost five fold during the past calendar year. This can be attributed to the efforts of the Task Force on Student Academic Integrity and the follow-up meetings with a large number of academic departments where this matter was openly discussed. During the summer, we worked with the Associate Provost and a group of Baruch College students in assisting them in the development of a draft of a brochure titled Student Guide to Academic Integrity at Baruch College. This will be circulated for discussion among various groups during this current semester.

In the coming months we will raise the issues of student satisfaction and faculty engagement through many of the same venues in an effort to move these issues to the front of our awareness as we interact daily with our students.

We are happy to report that Alexis Dunning, a Baruch College senior was selected last May as a recipient of the prestigious Clark Foundation Fellowship, (an award worth \$30,000) A great deal of activity has taken place promoting and working with student applicants for scholarship support from the National Hispanic Fund, Belle Zeller PSC Scholarship program and The Women's Forum Inc. We are hopeful that once again more than 20 students will be selected as scholarship recipients from the National Hispanic Fund.

Office of Student Life-(OSL)

Undergraduate Student Government Elections-were held on April 8-10, 2003. A record number of candidates vied for positions. There were 97 candidates on the ballot running for 43 different positions. There was also a student activity fee referendum to restructure and increase the student activity fees paid by undergraduates effective Fall 2003. Record 2,251 students representing 18% of those undergraduates eligible to vote participated. The referendum, which was approved by the student body, was later approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees in May. The **Graduate Student Assembly Elections** were scheduled for Internet balloting from April 1 through April 10. There were 11 candidates competing for 9 seats on the GSA Board of Governors and a student activity fee referendum as well. Five percent of the eligible graduate students voted and the referendum was defeated.

Senior Yearbook. Lexicon 2003 was completed and distributed before Commencement 2003, 800 seniors had pre-ordered the book. This is the largest print run in Baruch history. Lexicon 2003 also marked the first full color edition of the yearbook. This was the second yearbook completed prior to commencement in a row. ***Lexicon 2004*** has begun production. The student staff hopes to complete production of this year's full-color edition in time to distribute books again prior to commencement.

The 25th annual ***Spring Fling*** (formerly known as Street Fair) returned to the streets late last spring. The annual event sponsored by the OSL, was forced to move indoors into the Lexington Avenue Armory due to the Vertical Campus Construction for the past few years and was forced indoors due to heavy rain in 2002. The annual rite of Spring was held on Bernard Baruch Way on Thursday, May 1, 2003 from 12 to 3 PM. Free food, games, and music were provided.

The 38th ***Commencement Exercises*** of Baruch College was held on Wednesday, May 28, 2003 at Madison Square Garden in the Arena for the first time. OSL again coordinated academic regalia, commencement tickets and ceremony logistics for the combined undergrad and graduate arena

ceremonies. 2,325 candidates for bachelors and masters degrees attended together with 15,000 of their guests. The ceremony was capped off by a confetti display upon the ceremonial conferral of degrees by the President.

Student Club Officer Training. OSL staff updated, published and distributed new copies of *The Informer*, the student organization handbook for club presidents and treasurers. Additionally, as part of our leadership development activities, the staff faced with a reduction in staff, substituted a one-hour videotaped training program to replace the 30 live presentations that were previously done each Fall. The videotape was required viewing for club presidents and treasurers to review program planning and fiscal accountability procedures and responsibilities. The videotape was produced and edited by Traci Espinet, the computer specialist in the Office of Student Life.

Community-Service Projects. OSL sponsored its annual **Fall Blood Drive** on Wednesday and Thursday, October 1st and 2nd. 186 units of blood were collected beating our target by 66 units. OSL also organized a team of walkers in the annual **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** fundraiser for the American Cancer Society on Sunday, October 19, 2003. Last year the Baruch College team raised \$4,133 which was the largest amount of any New York City college. We hope to break last year's record.

Club Fair. OSL coordinated the annual **Club Fair** in the Vertical Campus on Thursday, October 9th. Over 60 student organizations were represented. The event took place on the first and second floors of the Vertical Campus.

"Leaderquest," the 21st **annual Student Leadership Training Weekend** is scheduled to take place from October 31 through November 2nd at the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff Manor, New York. Approximately 85 student leaders from government, clubs and media will attend.

9. **Freshman Seminar.** Seventy-eight sections of **Freshman Seminar** are running this fall, all sections are block programmed with academic classes. The classes are staffed by 80 student leaders and 78 faculty/staff. The program is coordinated by Lisa Miller, Assoc. Director and Dennis Urqhart.

10. **Childcare.** The **Early Learning Center** has enrolled 34 children of Baruch students this year. The center continues to be located at 104 E. 19th St. The director of the early learning center is Anne Austin.

SEEK

As part of the College's recruitment effort, a special workshop for prospective SEEK students who were considering attending Baruch this fall was held in early spring. The 2003 incoming class of 182 freshmen represents the largest in recent SEEK history. In addition, approximately 40 transfer students were also admitted to the Program

The thirty first annual SEEK Awards Ceremony held on May 2, 2003. It was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Julia Bhasin, a teacher who worked in the Program for many years. The late Robert LeGoff was also recognized for his service to the college by bestowing a special award in his name. University Dean Dolores Straker, the University Associate Dean for Academic affairs and Vice President David Dannenbring joined Baruch faculty and staff in recognizing outstanding SEEK students.

Some of the evenings other highlights included the presentation of the "Friend of SEEK Award" to Professor Harry Bixler from the Department of Mathematics. He was honored for his outstanding teaching and contributions to our students. Another was the special recognition of Dr. Audrey Williams a former SEEK Director as a person who has played such an important role in helping SEEK students. The Jim Murphy award was presented by Mr. Murphy to one of our graduating seniors.

Approximately 24 freshmen who passed all Skills Assessment tests participated in the SEEK Summer Enrichment Program during July and August. Students were able to take Math 2001(pre-calculus).

Our Academic Survival Workshop for SEEK students on probation started on September 9. Students attend three group meetings and three individual counseling sessions. The emphasis is on student's taking charge of their education. Students use a wide range of tools including a standardized inventory, a mid-semester progress report, a probation quiz and a book on lessons in personal change.

A Study Abroad workshop for SEEK students was held on October 9. A workshop on Money, Credit Cards and Budgeting is scheduled for November 13.

On October 17, a chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, Beta Alpha, instituted at Baruch last year will have an induction ceremony for SEEK students. Forty five SEEK students will be inducted this year. During this induction ceremony, eleven of the students inducted last year will also be able to trade in their induction pins for jewel pins, signifying that they have attained GPA's of 3.5 or higher in the semester after being admitted to the Honor Society. The Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society was founded in 1989 at West Chester University of Pennsylvania to recognize the academic achievements of students admitted to colleges and universities through nontraditional criteria. Its purposes are to promote continued high academic standards, to foster increased communication among its members, and academic excellence. The private induction ceremony will be followed by a public ceremony which family and friends will be invited to attend.

Four SEEK students sponsored by the Program will attend the Student Leadership Weekend in late October. These SEEK students are student leaders, mentors and tutors who will hone their leadership skills and network with other leaders on campus.

Several activities started in previous semesters will be continued this fall. This includes a program to lend graphic calculators to SEEK enrolled in math 2001, 2006 and 2010 as well as one for laptops.

The transfer unit continues their outreach to CUNY Community Colleges, especially in light of the new acceptance requirements for the Zicklin School of Business.

Our undergraduate test prep program, which includes GMAT, LSAT, and GRE, will be entering its seventh year of existence. This program has assisted our students in their admissions to such graduate schools as Columbia, NYU, the Wharton School and various other notable graduate programs throughout the country. Workshops for students considering graduate school will be offered later in the semester.

The SEEK Peer Mentoring Program continues to recruit and train high achieving SEEK students to mentor and tutor other SEEK students. Current emphasis is on supporting students in the freshman year. Mentors work with freshman seminar courses.

Students in the SEEK Program are also participants in the Baruch College Alumni Association Mentoring Program. The Program matches Baruch students with working professionals who will advise and direct students on their chosen field. Forty- seven of fifty-three SEEK students who applied to the program last year were matched with mentors in their field. Thirty students have applied so far this semester.

During the month of January, preparatory classes for CIS 3100 will be offered to SEEK students.

Athletics /ARC

The Fall 2003 Fall semester began with much enthusiasm and interest from the students that was reflected in the large turnout of athletes. All four "Fall teams" had enlarged squad sizes this season. The Women's Volleyball team entered the Embry-Riddle Volleyball tournament in Daytona Beach. This was the first opportunity for a varsity volleyball team to play in a tournament out of state.

It was a good opportunity for our students enrolled in a 4-year public university to what “private universities” have to offer their student-athletes. They lost three close games to some strong teams on the east coast. Their current record of 10-9 and 4-1 (CUNY) reflect their hard work and dedication and may surprise a few teams in the upcoming CUNY Championships.

The Women’s Cross-Country team with veteran captain, Hana Pechackova placed 3rd in the Bard College Invitational, the highest finish for this team in an “outside invitational” in its short history (3rd of 10 teams). Hana winning this 6K meet and finishing first out of 49 competitors highlighted this. This was her best finish since winning the CUNY X-C Championships in her freshman year.

The Men’s Soccer team and Women’s Tennis team with current records of 3-6 and 2-5 respectively have young and inexperienced squads and look to have much stronger teams next season. Both coaches have made big strides in recruitment, now that we have outstanding facilities with which to practice and train.

Athletic Recreation Center (ARC)

The second full year of operation in the ARC has gotten off to a “fast start”. Enrollment in ARC memberships and community rentals have increased and sparked a lot of interest and discussion. The Summer Camp had its largest enrollment ever and continues to grow by “word of mouth” every year. The development of a swim program, along with Water Safety Instructor and lifeguard classes and certifications is growing daily. The possible addition of new program initiatives will include “Karate club and Baseball camps” in the near future. The operations of the ARC continue to meet student, faculty and staff needs in addition to satisfying community needs.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center remains under the direction of Dr. David Cheng, and Dr. Elisa Brunelle is the Assistant Director. Returning as adjunct faculty to supervise our interns and externs and to provide direct student contact are Dr. Jairo Fuertes, Dr. Toni Heris, Dr. Elizabeth Merrick, and Mr. Anthony Liotta, C.S.W. Our psychiatrists, Pauline McHugh, M.D. and Andrew Rosenbach, M.D. and Rebecca Twersky, M.D. have been instrumental in providing psychiatric consultations and prescribing medication to students already being treated in the center.

Our internship and externship programs continue to attract excellent doctoral and masters level psychology graduate students from Columbia University, Fordham University, Seton Hall University, Yeshiva University, New York University and University of Hartford who are present full time and part time to work with our students in the Counseling Center, Freshman Orientation Seminar, Helpline, Peers for Careers, the Early Childhood learning Center and the Career Development Center. After the success of last year, we again have two full time pre-doctoral interns who will be completing their internship training requirements at our counseling center. We have also applied for APPIC (Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers) membership and have since been accepted.

The Counseling Center continues to have increasingly serious cases as well as a noticeable increase in volume. In addition to working with individuals, the Center continues to offer a variety of services, such as assessment and counseling groups. These possibilities include learning disability evaluations as well as support groups for international students and students with disabilities. In addition, the Center staff is prepared to initiate other groups, based on feedback and request. Recent screenings have addressed depression; alcohol, eating disorders and upcoming workshops including Time Management, Stress Management and Test Anxiety. Screenings are available throughout the year at the Counseling Center. We are in the process of revamping our workshop and outreach efforts as a part of the Health and Wellness Committee in an attempt to more successfully reach a greater audience of students.

The Counseling Center maintains a page on the Student Development Web Site. It is possible for students to request particular topics and sign-up on-line for various groups and workshops. This site is undergoing further modification. We have recently added a referral guide for faculty and staff on our website. We continue to utilize interactive e-mail for students as needed. We also plan to continue to

monitor the needs of the Baruch community and to outreach and develop opportunities for coping with the long-term effect of terrorism and continued threats to our safety.

Finally, we continue to offer in service training for our interns and externs and for faculty and staff. Some of our recent and upcoming topics include intake interviewing, Psychopharmacology, Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, Group Counseling, Character Disorder and Multicultural Issues.

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities

In the last three months, thirty-one new students have identified themselves to Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. During this period, we have administered approximately 16 CPE exams with reasonable accommodations. CPE administration is a new area for us, but it has been integrated as smoothly as possible. We are preparing approximately 14 students for a career -mentoring day.