

Report of the College Committee on Undergraduate Honors
Submitted 3/26/03

Theses: In the fall, the committee granted honors to four students Judy Chiu [*Comparing Pro Forma Earnings with GAAP Reported Net Income for Companies Listed in the DOW*], Bobby Geornas [*Efficient Markets Theory: Does it Still Apply?*], Simi Junior [*Patterns of Antibiotic Resistance Among Enterococci Isolated from Retail Poultry Samples*], and Marcin Muszynski [*An Empirical Evaluation of Models Used to Estimate A Company's Enterprise Value: Financial Ratio Methods v. Income Capitalization Methods*]. In May, the committee expects to review seven theses that are currently in progress: Marisa Gamble [*A Comparative Study of the Accused and the Accusers*], Eric Gong [*The Role of Female Demons in the Journey to the West*], Stanley Kovler [*Did the Glass-Steagall Act Hinder Operational Performance or Earnings Potential for US Brokerage Firms and Commercial Banks?*], Lidija Markes [*Toward a Truly Free Society: Freedom of the Press and Evolution of Democracy in Croatia and Serbia*], Fernando Massaro [*The Impact of Government Assisted Trade on the GDP – the Case of Argentina*], Victor Semah [*Negative Campaign Advertising Affects Vote Choice*], and Marina Vishnepolskaya [*Communist Propaganda in Soviet Animated Films for Children: 1950 – 1985..*]

Library workshops: For the second consecutive year, workshops were offered to prospective and enrolled thesis writers. With the assistance of Professor Francoeur, of the Newman Library, these workshops addressed the development of a thesis proposal and the policies and procedures relevant to successful completion of the thesis.

Writing support: Professor Locke, Chair of the Committee and Director of the Undergraduate Honors Program met with members of the Robert Schwartz Communications Institute to discuss some of the writing problems encountered by thesis writers who are not experienced with writing lengthy and original papers. As reported last year, the committee has also been concerned about the proliferation of plagiarism. As part of an ongoing effort to support faculty mentors as well as students, Professor Locke and Dr. Arpaia, Director of the Institute, will collaborate to develop a pre-thesis writing/research experience for prospective thesis writers.

In the fall, Professor Locke and Mr. David Wilson, Associate Director of the Honors Program, met with the department chairs and honors coordinators of all Zicklin School Departments, as well as the Dean. The purpose of these meetings was to inform all involved of thesis procedures and policies and to encourage faculty participation in mentoring thesis writers. Honors coordinators were also encouraged to provide information and support to honors students who are thinking of pursuing graduate studies.

Dean Aaron of the Office of the Dean of Students has asked the committee to review the College's current policy regarding the awarding of Latin Honors at graduation. At present the GPA requirements are as follows: Summa cum laude – 3.8; Magna cum laude – 3.5, and Cum laude – 3.2 An analysis completed by the Office of Program Assessment indicates that between 1995 – 2000, approximately 30% of graduates during that period

qualified for graduation with honors. The Committee will consider a recommendation to raise the qualifying GPA criteria to 3.5 [Cum laude], 3.75 [Magna cum laude], and 3.85 [Summa cum laude]. This would reduce the qualifying population to approximately 22%. An additional concern is that transfer students must complete 60 credits at Baruch in order to qualify for graduation with honors. Given that this requirement was instituted at a time when the Baruch degree required 128 earned credits, it has been suggested that the number of Baruch credits be reduced to 56 credits or more.

Respectfully submitted:

Baruch College Committee on Undergraduate Honors

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