

**Division of Student Development
Report to the General Faculty
April 2004
Vice President S.D. Johnson Reporting**

**Office of the Vice President for Student Development and
The Dean of Students
322 visits by 235 students**

Student Development continues to provide substantial service on minimal resources through the use of extensive part-time and intern staff. Documenting the use and demand for service has been aided by the addition of card swipes in now nearly every major service area. This semester's report is the first to report utilization data in terms of number of visits and number of students served. When the data is available, it will be included right after each section header.

In addition to seeing students regarding complaints and other issues the professional staff has been involved in the distribution of scholarship information and materials to Baruch's most talented students, the distribution of student health insurance materials and the maintenance of documented files for students requesting coverage for dependents in CUNY's GHI student health insurance program, the writing of recommendations for students seeking to transfer out of Baruch or those applying to law and other professional and graduate schools. In addition, most of the work associated with the coordination of the activities of the Bernard M. Baruch College Association and the Bernard M. Baruch Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation are the responsibility of the Associate Dean of Students. This includes the review, assessment and authorization of student groups to participate in off campus events.

We are also actively involved in adjudicating disciplinary problems and alleged acts of student academic dishonesty. Increasing numbers of faculty are reporting student academic integrity incidents to our office with the request for us to both adjudicate the incidents and meet personally with the students. Disciplinary cases have seen a dramatic rise this year with the increased emphasis on enforcing cheating and plagiarism violations at the college. Each of these cases requires a meeting with the student with an educational focus as to the appropriate sanction for the violation and the educational component of reducing such behavior. In conjunction with the Office of the Provost, on March 18th Larry Zicklin addressed the issue of ethical practices in the college setting and its' implications in the work place.

The fall recruitment effort for membership in Golden Key resulted in excess of 310 students joining. Golden Key students are once again coordinating a large Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program that was highlighted during the 5 PM, TV News on Channel 4 on Thursday, April 1st. They currently have approximately 200 certified student volunteers working at nine site locations in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Active outreach efforts are being made throughout all locations to inform the local residents of this free income tax preparation assistance program.

The Baruch Chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, a national academic honor society, that recognizes freshmen who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher after completing between 12 to 29 credits of course work held their annual induction on Thursday, March 25th. Approximately 165 students were inducted.

Our Office along with Golden Key conducted a Sophomore Recognition reception on March 16th to recognize those members of the sophomore class who have earned cumulative grade

point average of 3.4 or higher. In excess of 225 students attended the event during which CUNY Trustee, Kate Pesile delivered the keynote remarks

A scholarship symposium for freshman and sophomores with GPA's in excess of 3.4 is tentatively scheduled for Club Hours on April 29th. In addition to an overview of the scholarship application process, a group of successful scholarship winners will talk with their fellow students.

Student Support Services

There continues to be an increased demand upon all aspects of Student Support Services including health, disciplinary counseling and general problem solving. A national trend reflecting a general "lack of civility" among college students is reflected here at Baruch. There have been other severe disciplinary issues resulting in widespread disruption in classes from the behavior of students with emotional/psychological disturbances. After frequent meetings with these students and threats of disciplinary actions, the usual outcome has been hospitalization and medical withdrawal for the semester.

The student Healthcare Center and programs have also been quite active. General examinations, immunizations, referrals and treatment have continued at the same rate as last year (200 student/month) with the greatest number of cases involving STD's. We have had success with our health fair programs with topics ranging from assessments and nutrition to holistic modalities and violence preventions. These fairs have been well attended and have garnered favorable reviews. We plan to continue our contract with Continuum of Beth Israel as well as evaluate future options. We were also required to advise student about the prevention and dangers of meningitis through college wide mailings and electronic broadcast.

Demand for emergency loans and scholarship advice have also increased as a result of higher tuition and difficulties encountered by international students

Office of Services for Students with Disabilities

There are eighty-four new students identified for services, accompanied by continuing increases in the number of proctored tests administered. This year we had the largest number (26) of students participating in the Federal Employment Recruitment Program. Our staff presented on OSSD's services to citywide high school guidance counselors. April is disability awareness month. The theme is awareness of local programs and activities.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center remains under the direction of Dr. David Cheng, and Dr. Caroline Kasnakian is the new Assistant Director. Returning as adjunct faculty to supervise our interns and externs and to provide direct student contact are Dr. Michelle Berniker, Dr. Jairo Fuertes, Dr. Toni Heris, Dr. Elizabeth Merrick, and Mr. Anthony Liotta, C.S.W. Our psychiatrists, Pauline McHugh, M.D., Rebecca Twersky, M.D., Andrew Rosenbach, M.D., have been instrumental in providing psychiatric consultations and prescribing medication to students already being treated in the center. We would also welcome to our staff, Dr. Nancy Ziehler from the Calandra Institute.

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. Our internship program has been approved for APPIC (Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers) membership since 2002.

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 plans to initiate other groups, based on feedback and request. Recent screenings have addressed depression; alcohol, eating disorders and upcoming workshops include 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 continue to utilize interactive e-mail for students as needed. We have recently added a referral guide for faculty and staff on our website. 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.

Physical & Health Education:

All 15 sections of Physical Education classes and 5 sections of Health Education classes have been completely filled this year. There seems to be an increased awareness of the need for fitness and better nutritional habits. If more sections were offered, they would be filled to capacity as well. The student demand for courses in our department continues to be extremely high.

Athletics:

The intercollegiate athletic program continues to be very competitive as evidenced by their fine records in 2003/04. Nearly every single team had at least a winning percentage of .500. The records of the varsity teams were:

Women's Volleyball: 11-12

Women's Tennis: 3-4

Women's Cross-Country: 2nd Place CUNY Championships

Women's Basketball: 14-13

Women's Swim: 4th Place CUNY Championships

Men's Basketball: 15-11

Men's Volleyball: 11-12

Men's Swim: 3rd Place CUNY Championships

Men's Soccer 3-11
Men's Baseball: In progress
Men's Tennis: In progress (currently in 1st place)
Women's Softball: In progress (currently in 4th place)

With the addition of new assistant coaches, and an emphasis on recruiting student-athletes to Baruch – the future for Baruch athletics point toward an upward trend competitiveness and unparalleled success.

Athletics and Recreation Complex (ARC):

The numbers of students, faculty, and staff that “come down” and use the athletic facilities keeps on growing. The “lunch hour” (12-2pm) is the busiest time of the day and is consistently used by everyone. Just about every “machine” (treadmill, elliptical, recumbent bike, rowers, etc) is fully occupied and almost in use 100% of the time. Use of the fitness center, pool, gym, and even racquetball courts is increasing and word of mouth advertising is expanding usage even more. The addition of yoga classes, step aerobics, and abdominal classes has generated much enthusiasm and interest.



2589 visits by 1600 students

•“*Leaderquest*,” the 21st annual Student Leadership Training Weekend was held from October 31 through November 2, 2003 at the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff Manor, New York. Eighty-five student leaders from student government, clubs and media attended the retreat together with staff from the Office of Student Life, the Career Development Center, the Student Services Accounting Unit and the Office of the VP for Student Development.

• Undergraduate Student Government Elections, are scheduled to take place on April 20—22, 2004. This year, there is only one contested race for President of the Undergraduate Student Government between the incumbent, Adrian Lovell of the UNITY Party and independent candidate Sime Marnika of the Baruch Honors Program and the Men's Basketball Team. Incumbents are filling the balance of the seats in the USG. The Graduate Student Assembly Elections are uncontested with no races on the ballot. The Student Election Review Committee has cast one ceremonial ballot in favor of all nominees who declared their candidacy and will oversee the election for USG President in April.

•Four major Auditorium Cultural Programs will be presented this spring beginning March 26 through May 7. These include the African Students Association, the Asian Students Union, the Caribbean Students Association and the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. OSL staff will support these large-scale events.

•The 26th annual Spring Fling (formerly known as Street Fair) will return to the streets this year, weather permitting. This annual rite of spring is sponsored by the OSL. Manhattan Community Board #6 has approved our application for a street closing on Bernard Baruch Way (E. 25th St.) on Thursday, May 6, 2004 from 12 to 3 PM. Free food, games, music will be provided.

•The 39th Commencement Exercises of Baruch College will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2004 at Madison Square Garden. OSL will again coordinate academic regalia, commencement

tickets and ceremony logistics for either one arena or two theater ceremonies, depending on the fortunes of the Knicks in the NBA playoffs.

- *Senior Yearbook.* *Lexicon 2004* has completed principal production on this year's book and plans are to distribute the book before Commencement 2004 to the 750 seniors and graduate students who have pre-ordered the book. This is the third yearbook completed before commencement in a row and the second to be published in full-color. *Lexicon 2005* began organizing meetings in March.

- *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. A *Spring Blood Drive* was held on Tuesday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 3 in which 132 students, faculty and staff donated.

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. The Baruch College team exceeded the mark set last year, and collected the largest sum of any New York City college, two years in a row.

- *Student Development Website.* The Student Development website, web mastered by Traci Espinet, in conjunction with Office of College Advancement and the Office of Financial Aid, has added a new and improved site on scholarships with online application forms available. The student development site has received well over 250,000 hits since its inception.

- *CUNY Legislative Action.* The OSL in conjunction with the Undergraduate Student Government operated the first email legislative lobby effort during March to influence the state legislature to improve funding for TAP and the SEEK Program. Over 4,000 emails were sent by students at Baruch College to six key legislators in Albany.

SEEK Program

10,424 visits by 964 students

The month of January was a busy one for the SEEK Program. Tutoring classes for STAT 2000 were offered to SEEK students. In addition, SEEK students who were reinstated for the Spring 2004 semester were required (as part of the conditions of reinstatement) to attend a workshop especially designed to guide students on probation back to good academic standing. The Academic Survival Workshop continues during the semester as part of a yearlong program targeted at students in academic jeopardy. Using Stephen Covey's *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* and other tools, we attempt to develop self-assessment skills and effective learning strategies in this at risk cohort.

Baruch's SEEK Program co-sponsored a university wide Recruitment and Advisement Fair on March 15, 2004. Over 100 guidance counselors from New York City high schools attended this event that highlighted the various special programs available at CUNY.

In addition, in March, we prepared our SEEK sophomores to take the CUNY Proficiency Exam (CPE) by administering a practice exam and giving each student individual feedback on their performance.

A Financial Aid Workshop for SEEK students was co-sponsored with the SEEK Society to inform students about ways of financing their college education. Chi Alpha Epsilon, the SEEK Honor Society, sponsored a series of workshops on Internships and made it available to the Baruch Community.

SEEK offered a workshop for perspective Fall 2004 incoming SEEK students and their parents on April 12 at the Vertical Campus.

As part of the SEEK freshman year experience, second semester SEEK freshmen were blocked programmed for spring 2004. The Spring semester of SEEK's yearlong freshmen seminar (FRO 2000S) will focus on testing for college readiness, career exploration and counseling. In addition, special tutorials were included to assist students with Psychology 1001, Economics 1001, Calculus, Pre-calculus, and Business 1000. All second semester Freshman were given the Strong Interest Inventory to assist them in making informed decisions about their majors and careers.

Another SEEK counselor continues to coordinate Baruch's Test Prep Program providing test preparation for the GRE, LSAT, and GMAT for SEEK students as well as students college wide at a reduced price.

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.

This past semester we initiated a cultural enrichment program. A SEEK counselor organized a guided tour for students enrolled in Art History 1021 to both the Whitney Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In collaboration with a member of the Performing Arts Department, the tour attempted to expand our student's perspective of art and culture.

This year's SEEK Awards Ceremony is scheduled for April 30th in the Newman Library Conference Center.