

WEISSMAN SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GENERAL FACULTY REPORT (Fall 2016)

On July 5th, the Weissman School welcomed Dean Aldemaro Romero Jr., who has assumed the leadership of the school after an extensive search during which a number of candidates visited the campus, interviewed with a variety of groups, and appeared in public forums. Dr. Romero, who was previously Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, is a distinguished biologist and the author of more than twenty books and monographs, as well as hundreds of articles on environmental biology, evolutionary biology, marine biology, the philosophy of science, and science communication. He brings extensive experience in the marketing of academic institutions and programs, especially through the use of modern technologies, and more generally in the communication of academic perspectives and issues to the broader public. Following a productive year under the leadership of Interim Dean Alison Griffith, the Weissman School has every expectation of advancing with renewed energy toward its strategic goals under Dean Romero.

New Projects and Events

At the first meeting of the Weissman faculty this fall, Dean Romero announced a wide range of projects designed to raise the profile of the school. The Dean himself has inaugurated a weekly video blog and a syndicated radio show. Weissman faculty members will be regular guests, and their work will be featured both in the blog and on the show. He also announced a one-day “Art-a-Thon,” which will take place this spring on March 7th and will feature a range of performances, readings, and exhibitions organized by several Weissman departments. A highlight of this event will be a musical flash mob, which will assemble at noon on the steps of the 24th-street entrance to the Newman Vertical Campus. The event will be streamed live, videotaped, and made available to the public through social media. Finally, together with Associate Dean Gary Hentzi, Dean Romero will be editing and publishing a book of reminiscences about the Weissman School written by emeritus and current faculty members as well as alumni.

Dean Romero has announced the development of a room in the Newman Vertical Campus equipped with 3-D software and projection equipment, which will offer new pedagogical opportunities in a variety of disciplines, making it possible for biology students to perform dissections in three-dimensional space, for example, or history students to walk through a virtual simulation of Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello. Together with our global emphasis, the development of cutting-edge technological resources for teaching and scholarship is in keeping with the school’s newly adopted slogan: “Weissman—The Education of Tomorrow, Today.”

Work is all but complete on Room 13-185 in the Newman Vertical Campus, which has been formally transferred from BCTC to the Weissman School. The room, an underwater exploration lab, houses the controls for Professor David Gruber’s unmanned submarine, which is engaged in exploration of the ocean floor. When the submarine comes upon items of interest, it notifies the professor, who can now direct its further investigations from the newly constructed control room here on campus.

Dean Romero has announced a complete redesign of the Weissman School’s website, which will emphasize our openness to the greatest possible variety of world cultures and languages. The dean has recorded video of his welcoming message in both English and Spanish, and the written text of the message is now available in twenty-eight different languages via a drop-down menu. Eventually, this number will be increased to 100.

Dean Romero has announced the development of a new program in entrepreneurship, which the Weissman School is undertaking in coordination with the Zicklin School. The aim is to offer Weissman students the opportunity to acquire entrepreneurial skills, which they can use to develop business proposals using ideas from arts and sciences disciplines.

The Weissman initiative on Undergraduate Research and Civic Engagement has announced a series of Faculty Lunch Seminars, which will take place over the course of the fall. The series began with an International Conference of Undergraduate Research on September 27th and 28th; it continues with three more events on October 18th, November 10th, and December 1st. The first of these, organized by Professor Shigeru Suzuki of the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature along with two of his students, considers opportunities for bringing local and global experiences of Japanese culture to students of Japanese. At the second, Professor Chun-Wo Pat of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts and his students will discuss the project of creating works of graphic design to commemorate historical occasions in the past. At the third, students in the Department of Natural Sciences will work with Professors Jean Gaffney and David Gruber to learn about opportunities for collaboration with labs across New York City.

The Weissman Global Seminar has announced three events this semester. The Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) workshop took place on September 22nd. On October 20th, Dean Romero will deliver a talk entitled “Whaling in the Caribbean: An Analysis of Human Behavior and Species Conservation.” On November 8th, Professor Peter Hitchcock of the Department of English will speak on “The Paradox of Moving Labor: Workers in the Films of Jia Zhangke.”

New Positions

Four faculty searches were successfully concluded last spring, and this fall the Weissman School welcomes Professor Rianne Subijanto of the Department of Communication Studies, Professor Elizabeth Stepp of the Department of Mathematics, Professor Emily Johnson of the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions, and Professor Brooke Schreiber of the Department of English. In the current academic year, the School will be conducting no fewer than fourteen faculty searches, three each in Communication Studies, English, Mathematics, and Psychology, and one each in Natural Sciences and Political Science.

The Dean’s Office has announced a search for a Director of Communications and Marketing for the Weissman School. The search committee for this HEO Associate position is being chaired by Associate Dean Gary Hentzi, and the hope is to have the position filled by the end of the semester.

Earlier this fall, the Weissman School bid farewell to our Director of Graduate Studies, Michael Lovaglio, who was instrumental in furthering a considerable expansion of Weissman’s graduate enrollments and oversaw the launch of our successful MA program in Arts Administration. The open position is being advertised with the expectation of having a new Graduate Director on staff by early spring.

Gifts, Grants, and Prizes

Dean Romero has announced an initiative to seek donor funds for the naming of Weissman departments. He is also working on a major initiative to provide a more stable source of funding

for the Mishkin Gallery. To that end, he is preparing an exhibit of Latin American art that he and his wife have been collecting for decades. That exhibit will be used to attract major donors for the Gallery.

The winner of the second installment of the Weissman Teaching Award was Professor Rebecca Spokony of the Department of Natural Sciences.

Professor of Physics Jamal Jalilian-Marian has been awarded a Jean d'Alembert grant by Idex Paris-Saclay. The grant enables Professor Jalilian-Marian to join the faculty of the University of Paris, Saclay as a visiting professor for one year.

Report of the Division of Graduate Studies

Enrollment:

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences welcomed 144 new graduate students this fall semester, representing a +5.9% increase in new graduate students from last fall's entering class. Total WSAS fall 2015 enrollment is 380 students or total graduate FTE of 273.71, representing a +24.5% increase in WSAS graduate FTE from fall 2015, or +27.9% increase in graduate head count.

Fall 2016 applications for graduate study at WSAS increased by +13.1% from fall 2015 applications. The MA in Arts Administration, MA in Corporate Communication, MA in Mental Health Counseling, MS in Industrial Organizational Psychology and MS in Financial Engineering programs experienced application changes of +74.2%, -27%, -13%, +10.2% and +19.5% respectively.

WSAS saw enrollment growth across all of our programs. The most robust growth was in the Arts Administration program, where enrollment grew +192% from fall 2015; Corporate Communication enrollment grew +5.3%; Financial Engineering enrollment increased +11.8%; for a third consecutive year growth in Industrial/Organizational Psychology exceeded +15% with a gain of +18.1% from fall 2015; our small cohort-style Mental Health Counseling program enrollment grew +8.6%. 61% of Weissman graduate students are enrolled full-time or are pursuing course work of nine or more credits, representing a -2% decrease in full-time student enrollment from fall 2015.

Women, again, make up 60.5% of the graduate student body. Of 280 students reporting ethnicity data, 42% (57%)* identify as White; 11% (13%) Black; 14% (10%) Hispanic; 8% (10%) Asian; 3% (2.5%) Other; and 22% (7%) chose not to respond. International students represent 27% (25%) of the WSAS graduate student population. Ethnicity data for incoming graduate students is 35% (58.5%) White; 14% (7.3%) Black; 20% (12.2%) Hispanic; 5% (7.3%) Asian; 3% (2.4%) Other; and 23% (12.2%) chose not to respond. WSAS's first-time graduate student population is comprised of 58% (60%) women and 42% (40%) men. International students represent 32% (40%) of the WSAS fall 2016 entering class.

*values in parentheses are fall 2015 values; static values are not followed by parentheses.

Graduate Program Admissions Summary Report – Fall 2016

MA in Arts Administration

Accept rate = 80% (97% fall 2015)

Yield rate = 62% (80% fall 2015)

Average undergraduate GPA of incoming students = 3.45 (GPA range 2.41 – 4.0).

49 different colleges and universities are represented in the fall 2016 applicant pool, including Baruch College, Belarus Academy of Design, Boston Conservatory, Bryn Mawr College, China Central Academy of Fine Arts, Empire State College, George Washington University, Manhattanville College, NYU, Parsons The New School For Design, Pontificia U. Catolica de Sao Paulo, Shanghai Normal University, Stetson University, SUNY-Purchase, The New School – Eugene Lang College, University of Nottingham, University College London, University of California at Los Angeles, U. de Granada, University of Idaho, Stephen F. Austin State University, Wellesley College, Wuhan University of Technology

MA in Corporate Communication

Accept rate = 96% (87% fall 2015)

Yield rate = 74% (63% fall 2015)

Average undergraduate GPA of incoming students = 3.33 (GPA range 2.53 – 3.95).

Average GRE of entering students: V=147; Q=144, A=3.25

20 different colleges and universities are represented in the fall 2016 applicant pool, including Baruch, City College, Fu Jen Catholic University, Georgia State University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Hunter College, Muhlenberg College, National Pingtung University, Northeastern University, Nyack College, SUNY Oneonta, St. John's University, College of New Rochelle, U Leipzig, Yantai University, Yuan Ze University.

MA in Mental Health Counseling

Accept rate = 55% (32% fall 2015)

Yield rate = 41% (43% fall 2015)

Average undergraduate GPA of incoming students = 3.4 (GPA range 2.8 – 3.94).

73 different colleges and universities are represented in the fall 2016 applicant pool, including Baruch College, Barnard College, Brooklyn College, St John Fisher University, The College of New Jersey, Virginia Tech, George Washington University, Georgetown University, New York University, SUNY Purchase, SUNY Albany, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Potsdam, Rollins College, Goucher College, Texas State University, U. Libre de Bruxelles, Universidad de Lima, U. College of Lillehammer, U. Degli Studi – Firenze, University of Delaware, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Oklahoma, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Central Florida

MS in Financial Engineering

Accept rate = 8% (10% fall 2015)

Yield rate = 72% (75% fall 2015)

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.68

Average GRE of admitted students: V=169; Q=156, A=3.5

Over 283 different colleges and universities (among the most highly rated nationally and internationally) are represented in the fall 2016 applicant pool, including Baruch College, Bates, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing University, Brandeis, Brown, Chinese University of Hong Kong, College of William & Mary, Columbia University, Cooper Union, Cornell, Dartmouth, Emory, Fudan University, Imperial College London, Indiana University – Bloomington, London School of Economics, MIT, McGill, Mt. Holyoke, Nanjing University, NYU, Peking University, Renmin University, Shanghai Jiao Tong, Stanford, Tsinghua University, UCLA, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, University of Cambridge, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, University of Mumbai, UNC Chapel Hill, Penn, University of Rochester,

University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin at Madison, U. Degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, Vanderbilt, Washington University St. Louis, Wesleyan, Yale, Zhejiang University

MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Accept rate = 58% (52% fall 2015)

Yield rate = 48% (55% fall 2015)

Average undergraduate GPA of accepted students = 3.54

Average undergraduate GPA of enrolled students = 3.55 (GPA range 3.02 – 3.97)

Average GRE of admitted students: V=156; Q=153; A=4.0 (V=156; Q=152, A=4.1)

Average GRE of enrolled students: V=151; Q=148; A=3.9

110 different colleges and universities are represented in the fall 2016 applicant pool including: American University, Barnard College, Baruch, Cal State – Dominguez Hills, Clarkson University, Clemson University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard College, Howard University, Indiana University at Bloomington, Ithaca College, La Sierra University, Michigan State University, NYU, Penn State University, SUNY Geneseo, Cortland, Stony Brook, Buffalo, Binghamton, Union College, University of Delaware, University of Maryland at College Park, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, University of Notre Dame.

Weissman as a Center of Cultural Life

The *New York Times* reviewed the Mishkin Gallery's opening exhibition *Qing Dynasty Peking: Thomas Child's Photographs* on September 23rd. The article dramatically increased the number of viewers coming to the Gallery. Thomas Child's photographs are early examples of albumen silver prints made in the 1870's by a British engineer and photographer who lived in China for two decades. Eight classes have come to see the show during the first two weeks. Many people of Chinese descent from the New York area have also viewed the show and discussed their own families' histories with the Gallery director and her assistant, Li Jin.

On November 15th, the Gallery will open *Photography: Technology + Art*, a show highlighting the development of photography with examples of various photographic techniques including daguerreotypes, palladium prints, cyanotypes, laser dye transfer prints, as well as more familiar kinds of prints.

This fall's Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence is the Brooklyn-based novelist and essayist Monique Truong. Ms. Truong read from her work on Tuesday, October 18th in the Asriel and Marie Rackow Conference Room of the Library Building.

The 2015-16 season of Baruch Performing Arts Center was unprecedented in richness and diversity. 323 cultural performances were presented and an additional 43 classes and community meetings hosted; these were attended by 48,055 people. For the first time, BPAC began differentiating between its own curated season and programs presented by renting organizations. Spring 2016 included cultural programs across the disciplines of dance, music, theatre, film and talk. These included a dance/circus program by Circo de la Luna and the premiere of the dance performance *Unidentifiable; Bodies* by New York choreographer Sidra Bell.

Classical chamber music included a concert for Women's History Month: *Heavy is the Head – Musical Portraits of Queens Powerful and Vulnerable*, performed by Soprano Monique McDonald and pianist Michael Fennelley, with a pre-concert lecture by Baruch faculty member

Allison Deutermann on how female rulers from the renaissance to the present day managed their images. Repast Baroque Ensemble gave two recitals: *Capriccio Stravagante: Music from the Exuberant early Baroque* and their own arrangement of J. S. Bach's *The Goldberg Variations*. Alon Goldstein gave a solo piano recital of *Orchestral Music from the Keyboard* for the spring Aaron Silberman Concert, and our own Alexander String Quartet performed two programs, one of works by Mozart, Shostakovich, and Beethoven, including his *Grosse Fugue*, the other of works by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Beethoven and a free community concert featuring works by Mozart and Mendelssohn. The Milt Hinton Jazz Perspectives Series presented two concerts, one with Arcoiris Sandoval and her Sonic Asylum Quintet, the other featuring the inimitable vocal/piano duo of Miles Griffith and Kirk Nurock, who presented a special program for April 1 entitled *Fooling Some of the People Some of the Time*.

Theatre programs included the return of the Creative Arts Team's Youth Theatre performing a company-created work called *Walls*. The Fine and Performing Arts Department presented their first musical production in a decade, *Rent*, which brought hundreds of audience members to Mason Hall. The spring Great Works Reading Series presented August Strindberg's classic play *Miss Julie*.

BPAC and the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center continued their collaborative film series by presenting the Sundance Select drama *Phoenix*, starring Nina Hoss, and the award-winning documentary *The Flat*. In addition, spring 2016 was rich in talk programs, including a talk with the authors John Donovan and Caren Zucker on their *New York Times* bestselling book *In a Different Key: The Story of Autism*, and a talk with cognitive scientist Ted Coons and music therapist Concetta Tomaino about their work at the intersection of music and brain science. In conjunction with the 2016 PEN World Voices program, a panel of writers including Francisco Goldman, Yelena Akhtiorskya, Valeria Luiselli, and Alvaro Enrigue spoke on how classic works of literature influenced their work, and artist Nicholas O'Brien spoke about his exhibition at Baruch's New Media Artspace.

Two conferences rounded out BPAC's spring. The Jewish Studies Center offered a day-long conference on the evolution of ultra-Orthodox communities, which featured bestselling author Nathan Englander as keynote speaker. BPAC collaborated with faculty members Susan Tenneriello, Sara Bishop, Alison Griffiths, Katherine Behar, Shelley Eversley, and David Gruber to present a day-long interdisciplinary conference and art exhibit on immersive technology across science, art, and narrative entitled *Immersive Worlds*. Thought leaders from the fields of neuroscience, education, gaming, business and the arts, including contributors from NYU, The New School, Baruch, The Metropolitan Museum of Arts, and 3-Legged Dog Theater joined keynote speaker Lance Weiler, director of Experiential Learning and Applied Creativity at Columbia, and creators making augmented and virtual reality arts experiences, including Baruch New Media Arts students, for a day of exploring how multi-sensory, virtual and augmented reality change the way we play, create, consume news, enjoy art, sell products, and understand the world.