

General Faculty Report Spring 2018

Weissman School of Arts and Sciences: General Faculty Report (Spring 2018)

Along with our ongoing efforts in the three key areas of increasing faculty diversity, raising the profile of the school, and building our fundraising base, the Weissman School has taken steps toward becoming a center of innovation in the world of higher education. In particular, four key areas have received special attention: 1) we have now completed our new Virtual Reality Lab; 2) Dean Romero has created the I.D.E.A. grants program to support faculty innovation; 3) the school has emphasized experiential learning by creating opportunities for students to participate in research projects with faculty members; and 4) the Dean's Office has initiated a partnership with the Field Center to bring entrepreneurship opportunities to the attention of Weissman students.

New Projects and Events

Over the past six months, Dean Romero has continued to produce installments of his weekly video blog, "Destination Weissman," which profiles Weissman faculty and students. He has also continued to interview Weissman faculty members on his syndicated radio show, "College Talk." The media produced by Dean Romero is shared with faculty and staff on Weissman's new digital e-newsletter, *The Weissman Weekly*. In addition to featuring "Destination Weissman" and "College Talk" in the bi-monthly newsletter, the Weissman Weekly includes information about upcoming events, announcements, and faculty accolades.

A search has begun for an agency to redesign the WSAS website. This process is expected to take 12-18 months. In the interim, the Weissman School has worked in collaboration with the Office of Communications and BCTC to give the current WSAS site a cleaner, fresher look. The reworked site was launched on March 2nd.

Upcoming Events

From February 12th to May 4th, 2018, Weissman's Department of Fine and Performing Arts will host a new exhibit in its New Media Artspace, located in the Newman Library. The exhibit, "exonemo: The Life-Cycle of Interfaces" will feature work by Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa. The artists will be available to interact with students on February 27th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the New Media Artspace. Additionally, a special reception will be held Wednesday, March 28th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the Engelman Recital Hall.

On Thursday, April 12th, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences will host its second annual Art-A-Thon. This day long program will include over 30 art-oriented events for students and faculty to take part in.

Past Events

The Weissman Global Seminar, held on Tuesday, November 7th, 2017, featured Dr. Anna D'Souza from the Marx School of Public and International Affairs. The topic of the seminar was "How Do Experiential Food Security Measures Respond to Shocks? Evidence from the Gallup World Poll."

On Friday evening, November 17th, the Weissman School, in collaboration with BPAC, hosted *Venezuelan Fiesta*, celebrating the music of Aldemaro Romero Sr. The evening presented the Venezuelan composer's music as featured in the latest album, *Natural no Literal*, by the pianist Selene Quiroga, who appeared along with the Alexander String Quartet, Latin Grammy winner Jorge Glem, and others in a variety of ensembles conducted by Dean Aldemaro Romero, Jr. The Blue Notes student choir joined in for a number, and a musical arrangement was contributed by Professor Philip Lambert of the Department of



Fine and Performing Arts, making for a sold-out evening full of campus spirit. One reviewer from *New York Music Daily* wrote: “This music is full of life and color . . . when’s the last time you saw a classical pianist move to the mic for a display of vocal power and versatility?” The concert raised funds for BPAC and inspired a substantial gift pledge. A DVD will be available shortly.

The last Weissman Global Seminar of the Fall 2017 semester was held on December 5th and was led by Leonard Sussman of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Professor Sussman spoke about “Svalbard- Land of Water, Ice, and Rock.”

On December 7th, 2017, the Weissman School hosted the Globus Lecture led by Professor Jeffery Johnson of Daito Bunka University and Sophia University, Tokyo. Professor Johnson spoke about “Translation in Modernist Poetics with Reference to American, French and Japanese Poetry.”

The Weissman School’s Department of Fine and Performing Arts hosted a special exhibit in its New Media Artspace housed in the Newman Library. The exhibit, entitled “Screenshot,” featured work created by students in the Fall 2017 New Media Capstone course and was on display between December 11, 2017 to February 2, 2018.

From February 1st through the 3rd, the Department of Fine and Performing Arts held a special sale of pianos to the general public in conjunction with the Rockley Family Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to the support of music education. In turn, the Rockley Family Foundation has provided the department with new first-class pianos at no cost to the school.

On February 22nd, 2018, Weissman’s Department of Psychology held its first event in its 2018 Colloquium Series. Dr. Carl Hart, the Chair of the Department of Psychology at Columbia University spoke about the opioid crises.



A special launch celebration of the new Weissman Book entitled *From Departure to Destination: Reminiscences of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences* was held on the evening of February 22. Former and current Weissman faculty and staff were in attendance, as well as contributors to the book, which will be used in the school's fundraising efforts.

New Positions

The School is currently conducting searches for twenty-seven faculty positions. We have fifteen accepted offers in various departments, eleven of which are people of color. We hope to have the rest of the faculty searches concluded by the end of the spring semester.

The Dean's Office is also conducting several searches for staff positions. This past fall, the Director of the Sidney Mishkin Gallery, Dr. Sandra Kraskin, announced her retirement after twenty-nine years of service to the College. Sandra was instrumental in making the Gallery a well-known venue for small museum-quality exhibitions that highlight innovative scholarship, significant artists, and multicultural concerns. The search for her replacement will be conducted this spring. We will also be conducting searches to fill five new positions in the offices of the Dean, the Associate Dean, and Graduate Studies.

Gift, Grants, and Prizes

Professor of Philosophy Eric Mandelbaum has been awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend for his project entitled "Propaganda and Belief in the Modern World: An Introduction to the Psychological Immune System." The grant enables Professor Mandelbaum to advance his work on a book project, currently under review at Oxford University Press.

Dr. Barbara Katz Rothman has been awarded the Fulbright-Saastamoinen Distinguished Chair Grant in Health Sciences (2018-2019), and Professor Vincent DiGirolamo won a



Furthermore Grant in Publishing for his book *Crying the News: A History of America's Newsboys*, published by Oxford University Press.

Report of the Division of Graduate Studies

Spring 2018 Enrollment:

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences welcomed forty-five new graduate students this fall semester. This count held steady against last year's new enrollment of 44 students for Spring 2017. Total WSAS spring 2017 enrollment is 351 students, with a total graduate FTE of 193 students.

Students came from a diverse set of undergraduate institutions, including Baruch College, Hunter College, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY-New Paltz, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, North Carolina School of the Arts, University of Pittsburgh, University of Puerto Rico, and the University of the Witwatersrand. Sixty-four percent of incoming students reported race and ethnicity data. Ethnicity data for the incoming graduate students who chose to report this information is 41% white, 43% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 3% Black, 3% Asian Indian, 3% Other.

The graduate programs continue to receive accolades for their excellence. The MA program in Corporate Communication was selected as a finalist by *PRWeek* in the category of "Outstanding Education Program of the Year" for its annual U.S. awards. The program finds itself in good company with programs at DePaul University, Georgetown University, Syracuse University/Newhouse, and the University of Alabama also named to the list.

Graduate Program Admissions Summary Report

MA in Arts Administration

Accept rate = 100% (100% Spring 17) Yield rate = 94% (89% Spring 17)

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.37

Total enrollment: 80



MA in Corporate Communication

Accept rate = 100% (92% Spring 17)

Yield rate = 78% (100% Spring 17)

Average GRE of admitted students: V=155; Q=150, A=3.75

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.24

Note: The GRE was waived for 56% of applicants who presented a professional portfolio in place of this requirement

Total enrollment: 60

MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Accept rate = 54% (62% Spring 17)

Yield rate = 88% (71% Spring 17)

Average GRE of admitted students: V=154; Q=150; A=4.10

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.42

Total enrollment: 118

The MA program in Mental Health Counseling and the MS program in Financial Engineering enroll new students only in the fall semester. Current enrollment in the MA in Mental Health Counseling is 40 students. Current enrollment in the MS in Financial Engineering program is 53 students.

Graduate Programs are also undergoing changes in program leadership. In the fall, Bruce Payne, director of the MA in Arts Administration program, left Baruch for a position at Hunter College. Associate Professor Karen Shelby is serving as the interim director. The search committee, chaired by Professor Elizabeth Wollman of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, identified four candidates, who are scheduled to be on campus in late February and early March. The anticipated appointment date for a new director is July 1st, 2018.



Graduate Career Services

Weissman Graduate Career Services takes pride in providing individualized career services and resources for our students and alumni. We meet with students and alumni on a one-to-one basis providing resume/cover letter edits, LinkedIn profile reviews, mock interviews, job/internship search techniques, and support at every stage of their career development.

Networking is a key focus of our approach. We work closely with employers, our students, and alumni to connect people who can refer, give support, and provide introductions. We work with other colleges offering similar graduate programs to collaborate on career fairs and events. Our goal is to provide quality services and to develop relationships that are beneficial to our students and the companies we serve. We employ Symplicity to post jobs and internships for students and alumni and to track interactions and outcomes.

As of Feb 2018

Registered Employers: 1708

Registered Employer Contacts: 1835

Registered Students & Alumni: 1384

Current Active Job Postings: 149

Fall 2017 in Review

We continue to offer programming throughout the semester, both program-specific and across all Weissman graduate programs, including:

The first-ever Weissman Graduate Career Services Meet and Greet, designed for incoming students to learn more about the career services and held on August 31st, 2017.

On Thursday, September 28th, 2017, a simulation event was held for students by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Participants played the role of a CIA intelligence analyst assigned to a team. During the simulation, CIA officers walked students through the



thought process and the role of an analyst as they investigated a potential emerging problem demanding critical thinking skills and analysis.

JetBlue conducted an Information Session on Wednesday, October 11th, 2017 with representatives who spoke about the company's history, its emphasis on community service, and its internship program offerings.

The annual Industrial/Organizational Psychology Career and Internship Fair was held on November 2nd, 2017. Over 100 graduate students attended from eight colleges. We had 15 companies recruiting for I/O Psychology internships and jobs, with a good mix of returning and new companies.

On Tuesday, Nov 14th, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Baruch Chapter co-sponsored a panel, "Building Your Own Business in PR, Communications, and Marketing," featuring three guest speakers, each at a different stage of his or her career. Presentations included the panelists' journey in becoming entrepreneurs in their own agencies, as well as career advice to students.

Students from Baruch's MA in Arts Administration organized a three-day symposium dedicated to "Cultural Competency," from November 13th through November 16th, 2017, co-sponsored by the WSAS Dean's Office and WSAS Graduate Career Services. The goal of the symposium was to ensure that the next generation of Arts Administrators feel confident in creating, developing, and executing impactful programming and leadership decisions for a diverse and inclusive audience. Speakers included Andrew Shade, founder of BroadwayBlack.com; Diep Tran, editor of *American Theatre* magazine; Jane Hsu, Head of Interpretation and Engagement at the Rubin Museum; and Kaisha Johnson, founder of Women of Color in the Arts. The symposium was open to the public and sponsored in part by the Dean's Office of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, in partnership with Baruch's Office of Diversity, Compliance, and Equity Initiatives.



On Thursday, November 16th, 2017, the Association for Talent Development (ATD) NYC, the Baruch College I/O Psychology Student Club, and WSAS Graduate Career Services hosted Dr. Sy Islam and Dr. Mike Chetta of Talent Metrics, who led a workshop on data analytics and cutting-edge talent management techniques.

On Friday, Nov 17, ArtTable, the national leadership organization for professional women in the arts, invited students to attend their annual “Career Roundtable” for rising professionals. This program provided career development opportunities for students to meet with leading professional women working in the visual arts and learn about their backgrounds and experiences, to gain career insights and advice, to network and build relationships with peers and mentors, and to learn about taking the next steps towards a career in the arts.

On Friday, November 17th, The Metropolitan Museum sponsored “Career Insights,” where students spoke with staff from many different backgrounds about their jobs and learned how to apply their skills toward an internship or a museum career. Students met with administrators, curators, conservators, educators, designers, photographers, scientists, and writers.

Upcoming Spring 2018 Events:

- LinkedIn Professional Photo Booth
- Information Session: Fulani Fellowships
- Presentation: “LinkedIn – Real Returns on Professional Branding!”
- Meet the Dean
- Mental Health Counseling Internship and Career Fair

The 2017 WSAS graduates are listed with their job titles and companies for the M.A. in Arts Administration, M.A. Corporate Communication, M.S. Industrial/Organizational Psychology and M.A. Mental Health Counseling programs at:



<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/graduatecareers/employmentstats.html>

The M.S. Financial Engineering program continues to present outcomes for current students on their web site at: <http://mfe.baruch.cuny.edu/employment-stats/>

Weissman as a Center of Cultural Life

This semester's Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence, the poet and sportswriter Rowan Ricardo Phillips, will offer a reading of his work on March 20th, 2018.

In the fall, BPAC's season of forty cultural programs (not including the programs of renters) were attended by 5,146 people, suggesting a trend towards increased attendance compared to last year.

Our quartet-in-residence, the Alexander String Quartet, offered residencies to twenty-two classes across the curriculum, including communications, writing, theatre, music, and psychology. Their free community concert, supported by the Silberman series, included works by Kodály and Beethoven.

The opening chamber music concert featured the viol consort Sonnambula, playing the work of little-known Baroque female composer Elisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre on period instruments. The Silberman Recital Series highlighted pianist Sara Davis Buechner, "a deeply experienced musician . . . agile, powerful, and exciting" (*New York Classical Review*), who engaged LGBTQ students in a candid discussion about being a "trans" artist, as one of many talks and events celebrating LGBTQ History Month. She performed a stunning program of Mozart, Chopin, Arensky, and her own arrangement of George Gershwin's *Second Rhapsody*.

The Milt Hinton Jazz Perspective Series presented Matuto, a local band of virtuoso artists who fashion an eclectic mix from Brazilian music and Bluegrass.



The Department of Fine and Performing Arts presented *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by faculty member Christopher Scott in the Bernie West Theater. The first of two staged readings of *The Odyssey Part I* was presented in the Great Works series. A four-week run of *Arden/Everywhere: The As You Like It Project*, developed in residence at BPAC in 2016 and 2017 and featured a multi-national cast in a timely adaptation of Shakespeare's play. "As reimaged by Ms. Bauman," said Ben Brantley in a *New York Times* article, "this story of exiles in love and in conflict becomes a meditation on immigrants and refugees today . . . an approach that might well have warmed the heart of that prescient champion of multiculturalism in the arts, Joseph Papp." Alongside the run, the Weissman Dean's Office, BPAC, and *Arden/Everywhere* co-sponsored an experience called Baruch_Portal, coordinated by MA Student in Arts Administration Stanley Bahorek. This was "a gold space equipped with immersive audiovisual technology," casually referred to on campus as "the cube." As an extension of themes explored in *Arden/Everywhere*, the Baruch Portal connected students and audience members with displaced people around the world. Over 300 students and four classes, both graduate and undergraduate, attended as a part of the course curriculum. The Portal was live for thirteen performances and connected for 39 hours and 30 minutes with Erbil, Iraq, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and Mexico City, Mexico.

Students' said of the Baruch_Portal:

"I really enjoyed talking with the refugees. My family are also refugees, so I was able to connect with them on a very personal level."

"I just witnessed a rapper from NY and a rapper from Iraq rap to one another through video. How crazy is that?"

"What a brilliant idea that brings people from all over the world together and reminds us that despite distance, borders and immigration policies, humans around the world are still the same people."

"Amazing experience! I had a conversation with two refugees from Iraq that were going through some difficult times with their families. We shared many similarities even though



our current situations are quite different. It was very heartwarming to be able to verbally encourage the two young refugees. Thank you for letting me experience this.”

Discussion programs included a panel moderated by Emeritus Professor of History Carol Berkin on *The Future of Higher Education* as part of the annual Berkin-Friedman Forum; and BPAC and the New Media ArtSpace presented conceptual and media artist Richard Jochum in a talk on his exhibition *The New Playground*.

Two films were shown as part of the ongoing collaborative series between the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center and BPAC. The Academy-Award winning *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* was presented for Kristallnacht, and the current feature film *Menashe* was filmed in a Brooklyn Hasidic community.

This past fall, the Mishkin Gallery presented two exhibitions *The Photographs of Marcel Sternberger: Portraits of the 20th Century* from October 5th to November 3rd. *Photography: A Focus on the Figure*, on display from November 22nd to December 15th, featured thirty-seven photographs, both color and black and white. The selection of photographs ranged from whimsical to disturbing, from traditional subject portraits to images of figures that actually are “objects”—mannequins, or even shadows or body parts. Photographers whose work was represented included Fran Antmann, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Larry Clark, Lucien Clergue, Elliott Erwitt, Larry Fink, Donna Ferrato, Ralph Gibson, Milt Hinton, Jerome Liebling, Gilles Peress, Candace Scharsu, Neil Slavin, Edward Steichen, Andy Warhol, Carrie Mae Weems, and Garry Winogrand. The opening reception on November 21st featured a book signing by one of the photographers in the exhibition, Weissman Fine and Performing Arts Department faculty member Fran Antmann.

In February, the Mishkin Gallery held its fourth annual small works Baruch exhibition, open from February 16th to March 15th, with an opening reception on the evening of February 15th. The Mishkin Gallery received hundreds of submissions of work. From those entries, the judges, Richard Timperio of the Sideshow Gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and Elizabeth Avedon, independent curator and contributor to *L’Oeil de la Photographie*,



selected around 100 regional New York artists for participation in the show. The paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, and graphic works on exhibit represent a variety of forms, media, and styles, from abstract expressionism, assemblage, and surrealism to still life compositions, landscape paintings, and portrait photography.

