



Weissman School of Arts and Sciences General Faculty Report Spring 2019

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 and 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 digital newsletter, *The Weissman Weekly*. In addition to featuring “Destination Weissman” and “College Talk,” the bi-monthly newsletter includes information about upcoming events, announcements, grant opportunities, and faculty accolades. It now reaches over 730 subscribers.

Over the Fall 2018 semester, the Weissman School’s Office of Marketing and Communications offered all faculty and staff members free photoshoots. The goal of this initiative was to provide faculty and staff with high quality, professional photos to be used for their own purposes and to help build the school’s photo archive. Over 60 faculty and staff members participated in this opportunity.

Upcoming Events

From February 13th to May 3rd, 2019, Weissman’s Department of Fine and Performing Arts is hosting a new exhibit in its New Media Artspace, located in the Newman Library. The exhibit, “Lily Benson: Future Mechanism Replacement,” will feature work by local artist Lily Benson. A casual discussion with the artist was held for students on February 26th, and an artist lecture and closing reception are scheduled for April 2nd, 2019 in the Engelman Recital Hall.

On Thursday, April 11th, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences will host its third annual Art-A-Thon. This day-long program will include over thirty art-oriented events for students and faculty to take part in.

On April 16th, the Department of Psychology will be hosting a lecture by Marjorie Rhodes, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Psychology at New York University. Dr. Rhodes will speak about “How differences become different kinds” and focus on the development of children's conceptual representations of the social world.

Past Events

On October 16th the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence program hosted noted author, playwright, and director Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins. Jacobs-Jenkins addressed a large crowd at a staged reading of his recent work and also taught a playwriting class to students during the Fall 2018 semester.

On November 7th the Department of Political Science, in conjunction with CUNY Graduate Center’s Ph.D. and M.A programs in political science, hosted a panel event at Baruch College. Panelists include Baruch College professor Dr. David Jones, who, along with other CUNY professors, discussed the results of the 2018 midterm election.

On November 8th, the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center hosted Dr. David Greven of the University of South Carolina, who spoke about “High Anxiety: Harold Bloom, Influence, and Sexual Politics.”

On November 13th, Weissman’s Department of Psychology held the third event in its 2018 Colloquium Series. At the event, Dr. Jonathan Haidt, a professor of Psychology at NYU and one of the leading authorities on morality across cultures, spoke about American education.



On November 27th, the Department of History held a special lecture featuring Marcia Gallo of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who spoke about "Kitty Genovese, Diane di Prima, Virginia Apuzzo, and the Roots of Italian American Feminism in 1960s New York."

On November 27th, the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature hosted a Globus Lecture featuring Professor Minoru Otsuki of Daito Bunka University, Tokyo, Japan, who spoke about "What's in a Name?".

On December 4th, the Sidney Harman Writers-in-Residence program held its 20th anniversary celebrating the program's achievements and growth over the years. Since the program's inception in 1988, over 41 distinguished writers have come to the Baruch College campus to share their knowledge with students and faculty alike. Led by program director Bridgett Davis, the celebration was attended by former writers of the program, current and past students of the program, faculty, and members of Sidney Harman's family.

Between December 10th, 2018 to February 1, 2019 Weissman's Department of Fine and Performing Arts is hosted an exhibit entitled "'Void Awake (){'", in its New Media Artspace, located in the Newman Library.

On December 11th, all full time Weissman faculty and staff were invited for a special holiday breakfast with Dean Aldemaro Romero Jr.

On December 13th, the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature held a daylong conference in honor of the late Egyptian-Israeli film director, Moshe Mizrahi. The conference explored foreign cinema and deep portrayals of the human condition, love and loss of love, existential problems and urban issues.

On March 5th, the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature in conjunction with the Globus Lecture Series held a special workshop for faculty led by Dr. Amanda Licastro of Stevenson University in Maryland. Dr. Licastro focused on impact that



immersive technology has in the teaching of the humanities, especially virtual reality and augmented reality, and how to leverage this technology in the classroom. The event was held in Weissman's new Hedwig Schindler Virtual Reality Lab.

On March 27th, the Department of Political Science hosted a special panel on the topic of "The United States and Iran: The Past, Present, and Future of a Challenging Relationship" Panelists included Simon Davis, Professor of History at the CUNY Graduate Center; Omid Memarian, Deputy Director of the Center for Human Rights in Iran; Richard Nephew, Senior Research Scholar at the Columbia Center for Global Energy Policy and former Principal Deputy Coordinator for Sanctions Policy at the U.S. Department of State; and Nilo Tabrizy, Video Journalist for *The New York Times*.

Wins at Weissman

Some of the faculty gifts, grants, and prizes awarded during the Fall 2018 semester and the first half of the Spring 2019 semester include:

- Dr. Andrew Sloin has been awarded the 2018 Dorothy Rosenberg Prize from the American Historical Association for his book *The Jewish Revolution in Belorussia: Economy, Race, and Bolshevik Power*.
- Dr. Stephen Gosnell of the Department of Natural Sciences part is part of a team that was awarded a \$2.5 million NSF grant for his project on "Integrating Computational Science with Environmental Sciences Associated with Habitat Restoration and Education in New York Harbor."
- Dr. Sarah Bishop and Dr. Caryn Medved of the Department of Communication Studies have been awarded with the 2018 Stanley L. Saxton Applied Research Award for their coauthored project, "Relational Tensions, Narrative, and Materiality: Intergenerational Communication in Families with Undocumented Immigrant Parents."



- Dr. Logan Watts of the Department of Psychology has been awarded the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology's (SIOP) 2019 Bray Howard Award for research on assessment centers.
- Dr. Pablo Piexoto of the Department of Natural Sciences was awarded with a CUNY Research in the Classroom Idea Grant for \$7,500 to work on his project entitled "The power of light: optogenetics as a tool to bridge experiential learning and research in the physiology classroom".
- Dr. Grace Schulman, Distinguished Professor of English has been elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Letters, which is considered the highest form of recognition of artistic merit in this country.

Report of the Division of Graduate Studies

Fall 2019 Enrollment:

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences welcomed forty new graduate students this spring. The count of new students held steady against last year's new enrollment of 44 students for Spring 2018. Total WSAS spring 2019 enrollment is 327 students.

Students came from a diverse set of undergraduate institutions including Baruch College, CUNY Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College, University of Delaware, University of Pennsylvania, Wesleyan University, Columbia University, and Amsterdam University of the Arts. 78% of incoming students reported race and ethnicity data. Ethnicity data for incoming graduate students who chose to report this information is 41% white, 13% Hispanic/Latino, 13% Asian-Indian, 9% Asian, 9% African American, 6% Puerto Rican, 3% Italian American/White, 6% Other. 76% of the incoming students are female; 24% of this group are male.



Weissman graduate programs continue to receive accolades for their excellence:

- The MA program in Corporate Communication was selected, for the second year in a row, 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 American University School of Communication, Boston University College of Communication, DePaul University, and Elon University.
- The Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) program continues earning national recognition by receiving top placement in QuantNet’s ranking of the “Best Financial Engineering Programs” for 2019. The Baruch MFE Program finished #2 behind only Princeton University and tied with the University of California, Berkeley. The program has placed in the top two spots of this ranking for four consecutive years: #1 in 2017 and 2016, and #2 in 2015.
- The Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) program also placed #3 in the “Quant Finance Master’s Guide 2019” worldwide ranking compiled by Risk.net, which evaluated forty-six quantitative finance master’s programs from eleven countries.

Graduate Program Admissions Summary Report

MA in Arts Administration

Accept rate = 88% (100% Spring 18); Yield rate = 87% (94% Spring 18)

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.49

Total enrollment: 60

MA in Corporate Communication

Accept rate = 86% (100% Spring 18)

Yield rate = 58% (78% Spring 18)

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.45

Total enrollment: 55



MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Accept rate = 63% (54% Spring 18)

Yield rate = 85% (88% Spring 18)

Average GRE of admitted students: V=153; Q=149

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.45

Total enrollment: 123

The MA program in Mental Health Counseling and the MS program in Financial Engineering enroll new students only in the fall semester. Current total enrollment in the MA in Mental Health Counseling is **35** students. Current total enrollment in the MS in Financial Engineering program is **54** students.

WSAS graduate programs have experienced changes in program leadership. This fall, David Milch was appointed as the director of the MA in Arts Administration. This spring, Drs. Eric Gander and Caryn Medved are serving as interim co-directors of the MA in Corporate Communication program.

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 *Symlicity* to post jobs and internships for students and alumni, and to track interactions and outcomes.

Registered Employers	1970
Registered Employer Contacts	2166
Registered Students & Alumni	1533
Current Active Job Postings	166

(as of October 2018)

Spring 2019 in Review

We continue to offer programming throughout the semester both program-specific and across all Weissman graduate programs. The events scheduled for Spring 2019 include:

- 3-Minute Thesis: Competition
- Meet the Dean
- METRO Career Day (off-site)
- ATD Workshop
- Mental Health Counseling Internship and Career Fair
- Information Session: “LinkedIn - Real Returns on Professional Branding”!
- I/O Psychology Student & Alumni Networking Social

WSAS Graduate Career Services also partners with and/or is invited to have our students attend events with other Baruch College career offices. The following is scheduled for Spring 2019:

- Social Impact Career Fair
- LinkedIn Professional Photo Booth
- USAJOBS.GOV Information Session
- Introduction to Consulting with Former McKinsey Consultant Mike Ross



Fall 2018 in Review

Events during the Fall 2018 semester included:

- Arttable Career Development Round Table, 11/2/18
- Meet the Dean, 10/11/18
- Industrial/Organizational Psychology Career & Internship Fair, 11/27/18
- UN/SIOP Information Panel, 9/24/18
- JetBlue Information Session, 10/25/18

82% of graduate students who reported obtaining internships were paid

The 2018 WSAS graduates are listed with their job titles and companies for the M.A. in Arts Administration, M.A. in Corporate Communication, and M.S. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at: www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/graduatecareers/employmentstats.html.

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

Weissman as a Center of Cultural Life

Baruch Performing Arts Center's quartet-in-residence, the Alexander String Quartet, played two concerts last fall. Their regular ticketed concert for the public included works by Mozart and Ravel, as well as Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*. In addition, they collaborated with clarinetists Michael Beit-Halachmi and Charles Neidich, violinist Sergiu Schwartz, and pianist Yeeha Chiu in a concert commemorating Freda Silberman, generous supporter of the Silberman Concert Series, and featuring works by Mozart, Brahms, Bloch, Kreisler, and Gershwin. The quartet interacted with twenty-one writing, music, theatre, psychology, and journalism classes during their week-long residency.

Other chamber music recitals included Avery Fisher Career Grant winner Tessa Lark (violin) and pianist Andrew Armstrong playing works by Stravinsky, Beethoven, and Lark's



own *Appalachian Fantasy*. Senior TED Fellow and acclaimed cellist Joshua Roman played a recital with pianist Gilles Vonsattel that included works by Janacek, Beethoven, Pärt, Brahms, and Amy Williams. A multi-disciplinary concert by pianist Guy Livingston, *Dada at the Movies*, was a recreation of an event given by the Paris Dadaists in 1923, including music by Antheil, Satie, and Milhaud and films by Man Ray, Picabia, and others.

Theatre included readings of scenes from Pulitzer Prize Winner and MacArthur Fellow Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' most recent work, presented in collaboration with the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence program. The Department of Fine and Performing Arts produced *Anna in the Tropics*, directed by Christopher Scott and performed by Baruch students, in the Bernie West Theater. Independently produced student projects under faculty supervision have become an important educational experience for students interested in artistic and administrative work in the arts. In Fall 2018, *Cabaret* was directed by Zeynep Akca and Ruthie Ostrow, stage managed by Dana Spataru, produced by Ellie Daar with a mostly student cast under the supervision of Professor Debra Caplan. *Ex-Gay*, written and directed by J.P. Pelletier, and *The Argentinean Prostitute Play*, directed by Zeynep Akca and written by Reuven Glezer, were presented as readings, the latter supported by the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center.

Hedda Gabler was presented in the Great Works series as a staged reading with a professional cast. Additionally, playwright/performer Penny Arcade was in residence over three weeks to cast and create the filmic landscape to accompany her play *The Faghag and her Friends in the Summer of Love*. During their time here, she and her collaborator Steve Zehentner held an open rehearsal for LGBTQ History Month, with lunch provided by Student Life. Their residency included sessions with classes taught by Professors Shelly Eversley and Debra Caplan. Three public performances were attended by students and members of the general public. The World Premiere of a music-theatre performance based on the poems of Anna Rabinowitz was co-created in residence by director Kristin Marting, video designer Lianne Arnold, and a diverse ensemble of performers, including acclaimed soprano Lauren Flanigan and actor John Kelly. During their residency three class interactions included Lianne Arnold discussing new media with Professor Debra Caplan's



theater class, Professor Susan Tenneriello's Honors students attending a *Words* rehearsal, and director Kristin Marting discussing her approach to directing and the idea of hybrid forms in live performance with Professor Susan Tenneriello's theatre class.

In the genre of film, the documentaries *On the Map*, about the 1977 victory of the Israeli basketball team over CSKA Moscow, a game that captured a nation amidst the turmoil of the Cold War, and *Doing Jewish*, a film about a small community in Ghana who practice Jewish customs, were shown as part of an ongoing series presented with the support of the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center.

On January 17th, 2019, the Mishkin Gallery opened the exhibition *The Aesthetics of Learning* curated by Gallery Director Alaina Claire Feldman. The exhibition featured artwork entirely from the Baruch College collection and asked how learning may become an emancipatory and democratic event through art. The exhibition included documentation of a performance by Joseph Beuys and Henning Christiansen, four photographs by Catherine Wagner, and seven "do-it-yourself" sculpture instructions by Juan Downey. Each from a different decade and by artists who have taught in higher education, the works examine the creation of institutional frameworks through three distinct approaches: listening, looking, and communicating. The exhibition received many mentions in press outlets and was reviewed in the journal *Artfully Learning*. It hosted a record number of Baruch classes and, we hope, established life-long art appreciators among the students.

On February 7th, 2019, the Mishkin Gallery collaborated with Baruch's Art Club to host its first *Open Drawing Session*. Students from all majors were invited to reflect on *The Aesthetics of Learning* and spend an hour sketching and drawing in the gallery. The program was organized by Federica Mei, the Mishkin Gallery's Nagelberg Fellow and a current Masters in Arts Administration student.

On February 19th, 2019, the Mishkin Gallery organized a public Listening Session of *Scottish Symphony*, a recorded performance by Joseph Beuys and Henning Christiansen on view in



The Aesthetics of Learning. The artwork was introduced by Abby Anderton, Baruch College's Assistant Professor of Music in the Fine and Performing Arts Department.

On March 13th, 2019 the Mishkin Gallery opened *Pedagogy of the Streets: Porto 1977*. Continuing the theme of art and education, this historic exhibition was organized by the University of Porto in Portugal. *Pedagogy of the Streets: Porto 1977* follows the work of Elvira Leite and her Social Practice art projects throughout the Pena Ventosa neighborhood in Porto, Portugal. During an exciting post-revolution moment, the artist worked with children to reimagine how public space could be used and who had access to it. The two curators attended the opening from Portugal and gave tours to classes about their research and the exhibition. Several public programs including film screenings and tours were offered. And on March 14th, the Mishkin Gallery hosted a special tour of *Pedagogy of the Streets: Porto 1977* for the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce.

