

WEISSMAN SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GENERAL FACULTY REPORT (Spring 2017)

In his first six months after assuming leadership of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, Dean Aldemaro Romero Jr. has launched a variety projects designed to raise the profile of the school and thus to contribute toward our strategic goal of becoming a destination for incoming students. A significant part of our strategic plan concerns the need to define and publicize Weissman's identity, and Dean Romero's publicity initiatives represent a series of significant steps toward realizing this part of the plan. Some of these initiatives are detailed below.

New Projects, Gifts, and Events

As of this writing, Dean Romero has produced well over thirty installments of his weekly video blog, which profiles Weissman faculty and students. He has also interviewed more than a dozen Weissman faculty members on his syndicated radio show and published the substance of those interviews in article form in his syndicated column on education.

Weissman's one-day "Art-a-Thon" will take place this spring on March 7th and will feature a range of performances, readings, and exhibitions organized by several departments. A highlight of this event is 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.

Manuscripts have been received for a book about the Weissman School that is being edited by Dean Romero and Associate Dean Gary Hentzi. Provisionally entitled *From Departure to Destination: Reminiscences of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College*, the volume is expected to be published within the year.

Thanks to a generous gift from Hedwig Feit, the Weissman School has received \$250,000 for the development of a room in the Newman Vertical Campus equipped with 3-D software and projection equipment, which will offer new pedagogical opportunities for Weissman faculty in a variety of disciplines. Two other proposals for an additional \$250,000 each have been submitted to grant organizations.

Also thanks to the generosity of Hedwig Feit, the Weissman School will receive \$25,000 per year in funding over the next five years for five visual arts exhibits featuring the work of Latin American artists.

This spring's New Media Artspace artist in residence is Carla Gannis. Ms. Gannis will give a public lecture on her work in the Engelman Recital Hall on April 19th at 6:00 p.m.

The next Weissman Global Seminar will feature Professor Ted Henken of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and will be held at 12:00 on Tuesday, February 28th in Room 8-210 of the Newman Vertical Campus. Professor Henken's talk is entitled "The Digital Revolution Meets the Cuban Revolution: Cuba's Entrepreneurs, the Internet, & Its Internet Entrepreneurs." Professor Allison Hahn of the Department of Communication Studies will be the speaker on

March 28th, and a third Weissman Global Seminar will feature Professor Roseanne McManus of the Department of Political Science on May 2nd.

The 8th annual Paul Andre Feit Memorial Lecture will be given on Wednesday, March 8th by the prominent writer and former Vice President of Nicaragua Sergio Ramirez. The lecture will be held in Room 750 of the Information and Technology Building.

The 26th annual Addison Gayle Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr. Cheryl A. Wall, the Zora Neale Hurston Distinguished Professor of English at Rutgers University. Dr. Wall's lecture is entitled "City of Dreams: Harlem in the 1920's" and will be delivered at 12:30 on Thursday, March 9th in Room 14-250 of the Newman Vertical Campus.

Weissman's series of Undergraduate Research and Civic Engagement Faculty Lunch Seminars continues this spring with a slate of four events. On Thursday, March 2nd, Professors Vera Haller and Josh Mills of the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions will hold a discussion of student journalism with the editor-in-chief of the student magazine *Dollars & Sense*, Benjamin Long, and reporter/photographer Yulia McClamrock. On Thursday, March 23rd, Professor Daniele Artistico of the Department of Psychology and his students Kiley Cappetta and Matthew Liu will discuss their research on "everyday problem-solving across lifespans"; and on Thursday, April 6th, Professor Allison Hahn of the Department of Communication Studies and her students Ashley Bolivard, M.D. Choudhury, Mohini Pacha, Sitara Sawh, and Samantha Strachan will consider the question of how new media affects deliberation in the public sphere. Finally, on Thursday, May 18th, the fourth annual Creative Inquiry Day will showcase student undergraduate research and creative endeavors.

New Positions

A search is currently underway for a new Director of Enrollment for the Weissman School's graduate programs. The search committee is being chaired by Professor Alison Griffiths, and our expectation is that the position will be filled by the end of the spring semester.

Seven departments in the Weissman School are currently conducting nineteen faculty searches, which are in various stages of completion. As of this writing, six new hires have been made in the Departments of Mathematics, Political Science, and Psychology.

Gifts, Grants, and Prizes

The team representing Baruch's Master of Financial Engineering program won the 2017 Rotman International Trading Competition (RITC) for the third time overall and the second year in a row. Our team's performance this year surpassed even that of our record-breaking team from last year. We congratulate our winners: Bell Chen, Hongshan Chu, Qinkai (David) Mao, Dmitriy Treyger, Zhaoyue (Robert) Wei, and Gongshun (Gordon) Yin, as well as their coach, Professor Jarrod Pickens of the Department of Mathematics.

Professor Stefan Bathe of the Department of Natural Sciences has won a \$153,000 grant from the Department of Energy for his work on partonic energy loss in quark-gluon plasma.

Professor David Gruber of the Department of Natural Sciences has been awarded a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship.

Professor Louis-Pierre Arguin of the Department of Mathematics has received a National Science Foundation Career Award for his research on the statistics of extrema in complex and disordered systems.

Assistant Professor Jean Gaffney of the Department of Natural Sciences has won an NSF career award.

Associate Professor of Philosophy Eric Mandelbaum has received a grant from the Education Institute and Yale University for his work on self-control cooperation.

Assistant Professor of English Allison Curseen has been awarded a 2017 Career Enhancement Fellowship funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Report of the Division of Graduate Studies

Enrollment:

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences welcomed 44 new graduate students this spring. Total WSAS spring 2017 enrollment is 359 students for a total graduate FTE of 222.92, which represents an 18% increase in graduate head count and a 6.5% increase in graduate FTE over spring 2016. All of our programs either held steady or showed substantial growth.

Graduate Program Admissions Summary Report – Fall 2017

MA in Arts Administration

Accept Rate = 95% (80% spring 2016)

Yield Rate = 89% (62% spring 2016)

MA in Corporate Communication

Accept rate = 61% (96% spring 2016)

Yield rate = 100% (74% spring 2016)

MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Accept rate = 48% (58% spring 2016)

Yield rate = 71% (48% spring 2016)

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 throughout their careers to research opportunities, explore areas of interest, identify skills, hone presentations, and build strong professional networks. We examine

the big-picture and carefully study the career search process with the aim to sustain or reignite all students' career development.

We employ *Symlicity* to post jobs and internships for students and alumni, and to track interactions and outcomes. To date we have:

Registered Employers	1392
Registered Employer Contacts	1488
Registered Students & Alumni	1313
Current Active Job Postings	212

Fall 2016-Spring 2017 Events Included:

On October 14, 2016, a panel representing the *Top 40 Under 40* acknowledged by *PRWeek* as "Young PR pros, who get results, never settle for second best, and represent the future of communications," addressed trends in the Communications and Marketing field. Panelists included Shante Bacon, CEO/Founder, 135th Street Agency; Michael Gonda, VP, Corp. Communications, Chobani, LLC; and Marc Johnson, VP, Digital Strategy, APCO Worldwide.

We hosted our annual *Industrial/Organizational Psychology Career & Internship Fair* on November 8, 2016. The fair brought over 100 graduate students from more than eight colleges, and twenty companies, including a good mix of returning and new companies.

On February 22, 2017, we held our annual *Mental Health Counseling Career & Internship Fair* with over sixty students attending from eight colleges and seventeen agencies, more agencies than the previous year.

On February 24, 2017, we hosted a *LinkedIn Photo Booth* with a professional photographer. 20 Weissman graduate students and alumni took photos to use for their LinkedIn profiles.

On February 24, 2017, JetBlue invited a small group of Baruch students to a site visit and networking event celebrating African American History Month. Two Weissman graduate students were among those selected to attend this prestigious event.

The Career Services Office initiated an *Ambassador Program* in fall 2016 to facilitate current graduate students partnering with incoming graduates student within the same master's program. A total of 58 current and incoming students participated in the fall, and an additional 32 students participated in the spring.

We continue our successful *Meet the Dean* events each fall and spring semester, where a group of between 8-10 graduate students across our programs have an informal discussion with the Dean about school, concerns, interests and goals.

Internships

WSAS Career Services assists current graduate students with obtaining internships, utilizing *Symlicity*, alumni, various job search engines, as well as repeat companies. The

New York City MTA has been consistent in hiring our students, including 20+ paid interns since 2013. The United Nations accepted a second student-intern for this academic year, and Mount Sinai Health System currently has three graduate interns.

Twenty-seven students reported twenty-eight internships from three of our five programs (Arts Administration, Corporate Communication, and Industrial/Organizational Psychology), dating from fall 2016 through February 2017. Sixteen of those internships were paid ranging from \$12-\$26 per hour, and two internships led to full-time positions. (All Mental Health Counseling students are required to complete an internship and practicum as part of their degree program, and are not included in these numbers).

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

The 2016 WSAS graduates and recent placements are posted for the M.A. Corporate Communication, M.S. Industrial/Organizational Psychology and M.A. Mental Health Counseling programs at http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/wsas/graduatecareers/Where_are_they_now.htm

Upcoming Events

We are planning a *Careers in the Arts* panel for April 21, 2017, and will feature representatives from various disciplines to discuss how to pursue and advance careers within the arts. The panel will be facilitated by Michael Royce, Executive Director of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA).

Retensa is in the process of setting up on-campus internship interviews for our Industrial/Organizational Psychology and Corporate Communication graduate students.

Weissman as a Center of Cultural Life

The 2016-17 season of the Baruch Performing Arts Center, which began on July 1st, offers 44 programs as part of a curated season across the disciplines of dance, music, theatre, film, and talk, emphasizing new works presented in intimate performance spaces. The first half of the season included classical chamber concerts by Sonnambula, a viol ensemble, which presented a program for Halloween that included music by King Henry VIII. It was preceded by a free class in renaissance dance conducted by specialist Thomas Baird, who taught his students how the rhythms of renaissance music originated in dance forms.

The Alexander String Quartet offered twelve in-class residencies for students in writing, music, theatre, and psychology, a free community concert, and two concerts for the general public featuring works by Haydn and Schubert, including the latter's String Quintet in C major with guest cellist Jay Campbell, as well as New York premieres by contemporary composers Tarik O'Regan and Cindy Cox. The fall Aaron Silberman Concert presented a trio including violinist Scott St. John, pianist Peter Longworth, and the principal horn player of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, James Sommerville. Their program offered works by Dukas and Brahms along with

the premiere of a work by Vivian Fung. BPAC and the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center co-presented the Israeli Chamber Project in the first of two concerts, featuring music by Khachaturian, Brahms, Schulhoff, and the contemporary composer Gilad Hochman.

The Milt Hinton Jazz Perspectives Series presented two concerts: one, a nearly sold-out evening celebrating jazz/blues great Etta James, was called *Echoes of Etta* and featured the talents of William Blake and Michael Thomas Murray; the second, *Flutronic*, featured flutists Nathalie Joachim and Allison-Loggins-Hull and their drummer Jeremy “Bean” Clemons, who offered a concert of eclectic electronic flute and vocal music.

Theatre programs included a workshop by New York director Jessica Bauman, who worked with a company of immigrants and recent refugees (including CUNY students) to develop a theatrical language for a production of Shakespeare’s *As You Like It* seen through the lens of the refugee crisis. Her workshop merged the non-professional company with professional actors in two workshop presentations in anticipation of a full production next fall at BPAC. A professional company of actors offered a reading of *Oedipus Rex* for 550 students as part of the Great Works program, and the Fine and Performing Arts Department presented Garcia Lorca’s *Blood Wedding* in the Bernie West theatre.

BPAC, with the support of the CUNY Dance Initiative, was the home for two creative residencies by New York City choreographers. Gabrielle Lamb and her Pigeonwing Dance company were in residence for four weeks creating *Bewilderness*, a dance piece inspired by the writings of historian and activist Rebecca Sonit. The residency culminated in an open rehearsal with Q & A, which was attended primarily by CUNY students, and a public performance of *Bewilderness* and *Tesselations* for nearly 200 audience members. In addition, Urban Bush Women spent the first four weeks of an eight-week residency during which a company of dancers, a choreographer, a writer, and a director began development of *Hair and Other Stories*, a multi-disciplinary work addressing matters of race, gender identity, and economic inequality in the lives of African-American women. That project that will conclude with four additional weeks and a public performance in March 2017.

BPAC and the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center continued their collaborative film series with presentations of *Defiance*, which tells the story of the Bielski brothers’ resistance to Nazi occupation in Eastern Europe. The screening concluded with a Q & A with Aron Bielski, one of the brothers. *Germans and Jews* was presented on Kristallnacht and tells the story of Germany’s transformation from remaining silent about the Holocaust to facing the facts of the country’s past history.

In Talk programs, BPAC was the site of Campaign ’16, a collaborative program between the Weissman and Marx Schools in which students, community members, and experts watched presidential and vice presidential debates together, engaging in discourse on the issues. Artist Elise Rasmussen spoke about her exhibition at Baruch’s New Media Artspace. Finally, BPAC, the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, and Hillel at Baruch co-presented Israel Story, a live podcast about Israeli Women, to a sold-out house.

“Small works Baruch 2017,” which includes several Baruch artists, will open at the Mishkin Gallery on March 3rd. This exhibition is a juried show of 100 New York regional artists. It will feature paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and relief sculpture. The selection of artworks was made by Richard Timperio, director of the Sideshow Gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and Elizabeth Avedon, an independent curator and contributor to *L’Oeil de la Photographie*.

The Mishkin Gallery will present the exhibition *Self-Taught Art from Latin America and the Caribbean: The Aldemaro and Ana Romero Collection* from Friday, April 21st to Friday May 19th, 2017. This exhibition features a variety of paintings and sculptures created by artists who do not have professional training, but who produce dramatic images from their imaginations. The major characteristics of this art are simplicity, repetition, a free sense of perspective, and the use of brilliant, saturated colors. This exhibition was made possible by Hedwig Feit, in honor of her mother Sylvia Lizana Y Parague. Funding was generously provided by the Schindler-Lizana Fund for Latin American Arts & Cultures at Baruch.

This spring’s Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence is the poet and children’s book author and editor Marilyn Nelson. Ms. Nelson, who has just been awarded the NSK Neustadt Prize for Children’s Literature, will read from her work on Tuesday, March 21st in the Asriel and Marie Rackow Conference Room of the Library Building.