

Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

General Faculty Report

Spring 2021

For the Academic Year 2020-2021, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences has continued to meet the challenge of adapting to an educational environment that is almost entirely virtual. In the Spring 2021 semester, 99% of our classes remain entirely online, a direct consequence of the pandemic. Although no one would have chosen to explore new pedagogical techniques out of grim necessity, our faculty and staff have risen to the occasion, and it now seems clear that the school will emerge from this period of forced separation with new skills and a greater flexibility in the delivery of the curriculum and learning goals.

A primary goal of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences is to dedicate itself to creating meaningful change for the school around issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. To that end, the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative moves away from the committee model of planning and work and adopts a more grassroots, interactive, consultative model, one that engages every department in the School.

The WSAS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative, launched in late 2020, is led by three Dean's Fellows: Professors Cheryl Smith, David Milch, and Pablo Peixoto. The Fellows have created a network of departmental allies that are meeting to better understand the culture within the departments, and within the School as a whole, with regard to the practices of equity and inclusion, its history, progress made, and challenges that need to be defined and addressed. Working with department liaisons, the Fellows will design short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals that specifically focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In December 2020, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Council was officially called into session. Composed of 21 faculty, alumni, and friends of WSAS, the Council has been tasked with developing approaches on the following issues: 1) Visibility and Identity Building; 2) Roadmap towards Success: WSAS Majors; 3) Success in Diversity; 4) Development. <https://weissman.baruch.cuny.edu/about-weissman/office-of-the-dean/deans-council/>



Along with our academic offerings, the quality and range of programming produced by the Baruch Performing Arts Center and the Mishkin gallery have been exemplary, and programs created to publicize student and faculty achievements have flourished. The Black and Latino Studies Department's plans to expand their faculty and to introduce a new major have begun to be realized, and the new *Initiative for the Study of Latin America* (ISLA) introduced a robust fall/spring program calendar that includes numerous cross-disciplinary cultural events sponsored by the Mishkin Gallery, BPAC, and the Department of Black and Latino Studies.

In the fall, Weissman introduced a refreshed, enhanced, and more user-friendly website, which highlights our undergraduate and graduate offerings as well as the achievements of students and faculty. New features like the Facebook feed and navigation improvements increase engagement and connect the site to Weissman's social media platforms. A new program to publicize faculty accomplishments, *Weissman Proud/Research Strong*, is a multi-media campaign that details and celebrates faculty teaching and research.

In addition to publicizing the scholarship of our faculty, the school is launching a new marketing campaign to increase student interest in the arts and sciences, featuring videos of alumni who explain how their Weissman education gave them the foundation for a successful career. This new initiative, *Weissman/Forward*, will be introduced on the Weissman website as well as on our Instagram and YouTube platforms, and the first video will feature a Weissman biology major who is now a registered nurse at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences is partnering with Vice President Mary Gorman and her team in the Office of Enrollment Management on this initiative.

Weissman faculty and staff have turned the challenges of the pandemic into a strength by capitalizing on possibilities offered by Zoom webinar technology to reach a broader and often a national audience, which is encouraged to join us for a wide variety of programs, including exhibits in the Mishkin Gallery, concerts live-streamed by BPAC, panel discussions sponsored by our departments, and events offered by the Harman Writer-in-Residence program, the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, and ISLA. All these programs receive campus-wide publicity and a strong social media and website presence. In addition, the *Art Speaks Justice* and *We Are Climate Action* programs reach both the Zoom audience and a local television audience via CUNY-TV, which has an audience of 7.3 million cable viewers in the New York metropolitan area.

In an effort to find new ways to support faculty research and student learning, faculty are now able to hire Federal Work/Study students as research assistants. While this new initiative was launched at the beginning of Spring 2021, this resource will continue to be in place for faculty and students in upcoming semesters.

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences is delighted to announce that nine faculty positions have been approved for next year, seven of which are full-time positions and two of which are one-year substitute positions. These positions were approved by both Vacancy Review Boards (at Baruch and at CUNY Central).



2021 WEISSMAN PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

Black History Month

The Black and Latino Studies Department hosted a month-long celebration of Black History Month in collaboration with other programs, initiatives, and units across the College. Programs, guest speakers, faculty highlights, and multi-media posts and videos illuminate the transformative impact of Black history and Black voices at Baruch. This year also marks the 50th year anniversary of Black and Latino Studies at Baruch.

Tuesday, February 2: Opening Ceremony | 12:30-2:00 PM

Games with our Black Student Organizations, Poetry Workshop, Black Media History, Live with DJ Tyler. Co-sponsored by the Department of Black and Latinx Studies. [Join us on Zoom.](#)

Thursday, February 4: CUNY-Wide Back to School Bash | 6:00- 8:00 PM

Connect with students all across CUNY as they celebrate Black History Month! In partnership with the Department of Black and Latinx Studies, we will be going live on Instagram (@BHM_Baruch) with Black professionals making trailblazing moves in the name of social justice.

Thursday, February 18: BLS Open House: Celebrating 50 Years of BLS@Baruch | 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Join the Department of Black and Latinx Studies to celebrate their 50-year anniversary at Baruch and to learn more about their plans for the future.

Thursday, February 18: Carnival/Carnaval! Celebrating the Great Afro-Latinx Tradition in the Americas | 6:00- 7:00 PM

Carnival (known as Carnaval in Brazil and in Spanish-speaking Latin American countries) is one of the most colorful, joyous, and fascinating traditions of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is also one of the most important contributions of the Afro-Latinx and Afro-Caribbean communities to the region. Join the conversation with Baruch professors Tshombe Miles, Rojo Robles (Department of Black and Latinx Studies) and Gisele Regatao (Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions) to hear more about the origins, traditions, and impact of the great Afro-Latinx Carnival/Carnaval tradition in the Americas. Hosted by The Initiative for the Study of Latin America.

The following events were captured on YouTube:

President S. David Wu presented on President Robert C. Weaver, the first President of Baruch College, an economist with a longstanding commitment to racial justice. President Weaver was the first African American to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which he helped to launch. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzvXUiPoJ_A).



Jamel Hudson, a lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies, performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” also known as the “Black National Anthem” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zM0aelGyw0I>).

Karanja Carrol, substitute lecturer in the Department of Black and Latino Studies, spoke about the historical development of Black History Month and tied it to the development of Black Studies (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDYIHnu8I08>).

The Black and Latino Studies Community Blog is here:
https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/blackandlatinostudies/?_ga=2.144938420.1255134869.1615176524-64445127.1612377420

A complete list of Baruch events celebrating of Black History Month can be found here:
<https://weissman.baruch.cuny.edu/home/black-history-month-at-baruch/events/>.

The Black Studies Colloquium

The Black Studies Colloquium (BSC), founded in Fall 2020, creates space for interdisciplinary discussion and idea generation for students and faculty interested in Black Studies at Baruch. Each semester BSC offers a series of events that provide a forum for faculty and students to engage with exciting scholars, activists, and public intellectuals whose work speak to issues critical to Black Studies. https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/blackstudiescolloquium/?page_id=7

Events held or scheduled to be held in AY 2020-2021 are:

October 9, 2020: “Negras: Stories of Puerto Rican Slave Women” with Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro and Rojo Robles, Substitute Assistant Professor of Black and Latino Studies at Baruch College.

October 22, 2020: “Abolition and the Policing of Black Mothers,” with Dorothy Roberts and Erica Richardson, Assistant Professor of English at Baruch College.

October 23-29, 2020: “dwb” or “Driving while Black” with Roberta Gumbel and Erica Richardson, Assistant Professor of English at Baruch College.

March 4, 2021: Black Studies Colloquium Community Event and Happy Hour. 6PM.

March 11, 2021: “Black and Indigenous Resistance to Racist Backlash Across the Americas.” A talk by Juliet Hooker at 1:00PM.

December 3, 2021. “Perils of Liberalism: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Its Limitations.” At 12:30PM. This anti-racist teach-in will bring together students and faculty to develop critical language and perspectives for organizing a collective antiracist movement at Baruch. Featuring Jashua Rojas (Baruch '23), Professor Angie Beeman, and Professor Karanja Carroll.



December 3, 2021. “Speaking Truth to Power: Evidence of Disparity Demands a Response.” At 6:00PM. This town hall will feature student, academic, and policy voices in a roundtable conversation. Participants: City Council Members Inez Barron and Laurie Cumbi; Professor Regina Bernard of the Department of Black and Latino Studies at Baruch, Andrea Gonzáles (Macaulay Honors College at CUNY). The moderators are: Professor Marcus Johnson of the Department of Political Science and Teona Pagan, President of the Black Student Union.

Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence

The Harman Writer-in-Residence Program brings a distinguished writer to campus every semester. It has hosted poets, playwrights, journalists, non-fiction authors, and novelists, who offer master classes in workshop-style to a select group of students, give campus-wide readings, and serve as judges in student creative writing competitions.

Spring 2021 Writer-in-Residence, Stew Stewart, is a New York City-based singer-songwriter and playwright from Los Angeles, California. Stewart has produced multiple award-winning albums, including two named Entertainment Weekly’s Album of the Year. In 2008, his musical, *Passing Strange*, was nominated for Tony awards in seven categories and won for Best Book; it also received two Obie awards for Best New Theater Piece and Best Ensemble. Stew plans to instruct and work with the Spring 2021 Harman students on writing a musical, which will be staged by students in the Fine and Performing Arts Department during the Fall 2021 semester.

2021 Programs

- Thursday, March 11th, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - *In Sudden Darkness*. A screening of Tayler Montague’s critically acclaimed film, followed by a conversation with Professor Bridgette Davis
- Tuesday, March 23rd, 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. – “The Role of the Arts in the 21st Century,” with Lauren Yee. Lauren will join us for a public talk in which she will discuss her playwriting process, followed by a Q&A.
- Thursday April 8th, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - “A Reading and Conversation with Stew.” Harman Writer-in-Residence Stew Stewart
- Thursday, April 22nd, 12:50p.m. - 2:15 p.m. “Welcome Back, Daphne Palasi Andreades,” Spring 2021 Harman Fellow



Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center

The Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center (WJSC) in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences at Baruch College reflects the legacy and heritage of the college, its tradition of educating New York City immigrants, its diverse population, and its special relationship to and place within Manhattan. The WJSC is dedicated to teaching and informing the Baruch community and public about the history and experiences of Jews in America, specifically in New York City; the Center also holds events that explore diasporic Jewish culture, history, and politics.

This academic year has presented unprecedented challenges for Baruch College and CUNY. Despite these challenges, the WJSC has worked to fulfill its mission by supporting the academic needs of Jewish Studies students, faculty, and partners at the college; collaborating with colleagues and partners at the College to engage students, faculty, alumni, and the broader community in opportunities to gather in stimulating, meaningful, and accessible programming; offering a broad array of interdisciplinary courses taught by Baruch full-time and adjunct faculty. Given the challenges of this particular moment, the WJSC requested that board members direct their annual donations to student scholarships and emergency funds.

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center is thrilled to announce a generous gift from Baruch alumnus and WJSC Advisory Board member sponsoring a new advanced seminar series. The series, named the Sarah Laterman and Sara Ivri Schlein Jewish Studies Seminar, will be a team-taught upper division seminar focused on the study of Jewish history and culture in a global, interdisciplinary, comparative setting.

In this difficult period, the WJSC has continued to thrive by providing new and innovative ways to maintain and develop our community through a dynamic program of public talks, book discussions, virtual film series, and more.

Film Series: Israeli Women Directors

- *Gett: The Trial of Vivianne Amsalem* (dirs. Ronit Elkabetz and Shlomi Elkabetz, 2014) 48 hour viewing access: February 27th and February 28th
- *400 Miles to Freedom* (dirs. Avishai Mekenon and Shari Rothfarb Mekenon, 2012) 48 hour viewing access: March 19th and March 20th
- *Fig Tree* (dir. Aäläm-Wärqe Davidian, 2018) 48-hour viewing access: April 22nd and Friday, April 23rd
- February 22nd at 5:30 p.m.- Distinguished Author Series: A conversation with Masha Gessen and Dr. John Brenkman
- March 10th at 6:00 p.m. – Distinguished Author Series: Poetry Reading: Dr. Grace Schulman (member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and Frost Medalist for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement in American Poetry). Selections from *The Marble Bed*
- March 31st at 6:00 p.m. - Book Launch: *Off the Derech: Leaving Orthodox Judaism*, edited by Ezra Cappell and Jessica Lang



- April 21st at 6:30 p.m. – Distinguished Scholar: Public Lecture: Nancy Sinkoff, Rutgers University, “From Left to Right: Lucy Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History”

The New Media Artspace

The New Media Artspace, organized and run by Fine and Performing Arts faculty member Professor Katherine Behar, proudly presents the online exhibition *Prajakta Potnis: The Slow Burn*, a sequence of twenty-one images and videos harkening from various distinct bodies of work by this versatile interdisciplinary Mumbai-based artist. In this interactive exhibition, as users advance through the works, they stitch together an enigmatic narrative in which the shifting, unseen protagonist is someone or something taking shape in a domestic surround. Intentionally staged through the now routine mediation of digital distance, the exhibition interface uses everyday digital touches—taps on a phone or clicks on a screen—to advance the narrative as well as to inquire into how, as people come to think twice before touching, the current pandemic is transforming the intimacy of touch and tactility.

Artist in Residence: Prajakta Potnis, “The Slow Burn”

Exhibition: February 16th - May 7th

Public Lecture via Zoom: April 20th from 8:30 p.m.

Initiative for the Study of Latin America (ISLA)

The mission of the initiative, based at the Weissman School of Arts & Sciences (WSAS), is to promote and nurture the interdisciplinary study of the Latin American and the Caribbean region—its languages, literature, arts, and cultures; its politics, societies, and economies; its geography and environment—on the Baruch campus. This year ISLA’s student-focused online programming has been designed to connect our students with Baruch faculty, courses, and resources, and to underscore the value of studying Latin America and the Caribbean toward advancing one’s academic, professional, and life goals. We have also partnered with WSAS faculty and departments to re-energize the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) minor based in the Department of Black and Latino Studies (BLS). ISLA is led by its Director, Dr. Stephanie R. Golob, who is Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science and a member of the doctoral faculty in Political Science at the Graduate Center, CUNY. ISLA is made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Hedwig Feit and is dedicated to the memory of her grandfather, Valentín Lizana y Parragué.



ISLA EVENTS, SPRING 2021

<https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/islabaruch/>

Spring 2021

Starr and ISLA Present: Career Cafecito (02/11)

The Starr Career Development Center and ISLA partnered to present a conversation with successful alumni and current students on the tools they are using to build a perfect resume and for a guided tutorial on how to use Starr Search in the most effective ways.

Carnival/Carnaval! Celebrating the Great Afro-Latinx Tradition in the Americas (02/18)

ISLA partnered with the Baruch College Black History Month committee to present a conversation with Baruch professors Tshombe Miles and Rojo Robles-Mejías (Black and Latino Studies) and Gisele Regatao (Journalism and the Writing Professions).

Success and Giving Back: The Black Experience in the Workplace (02/23)

ISLA partnered with the Baruch College Black History Month committee to facilitate an informative panel of successful Black Baruch alumni who are doing excellent work in their careers and/or their prospective communities.

Fulbright Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean (02/25)

In partnership with Baruch College Office of National and Prestigious Fellowships, ISLA facilitated an information session about the prestigious Fulbright fellowships and gave students the opportunity to hear from Baruch students and alumni about their Fulbright journeys.

Women's History Month Opening Ceremony: Transforming Struggles into Art: A "Tiny Zoom Concert" with Yancyabril (03/02)

As part of the Opening Ceremony for Women's History Month at Baruch, ISLA was proud to present a "Tiny Zoom concert" and conversation with Yancyabril. In partnership with the Women's History Month (WHM) Committee 2021.

SHE WROTE THE BOOK: Celebrating Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (03/16)

In partnership with Women's History Month 2021, ISLA is proud to present a conversation led by Baruch College Faculty Host Professor Elena Martínez (Modern Languages) and featuring translation scholar Professor Esther Allen (Modern Languages; Director, Harman Writer in Residence Program) and Professor Paul Julian Smith, CUNY Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Mishkin Gallery

The Mishkin Gallery began 2021 with a new website offering more accessible resources for the Baruch community during distanced learning, including a new landing page with exhibition documentation; a new Publications page with digital scans of past exhibition catalogues; and a new Research and Resources page with audio guides, a student blog (updated by the student staff



who work at the gallery), information on the art collection, and opportunities such as fellowships and jobs with the gallery. <https://weissman.baruch.cuny.edu/mishkin-gallery>

The Mishkin Gallery worked with Professor Anika Sarin to implement a new graphic brand based on the original 1991 Mishkin Gallery logo, which appears on all marketing materials and streamlines the identity of the gallery for the public.

The Baruch College Art Collection is undergoing an ambitious initiative to research, digitize, and make public its collection as overseen by the Gallery. This project includes researching artist biographies, artwork titles, portfolio editions, provenance, value history, and a revised image database, which will eventually become a website that houses the collection data as OER.

The Gallery's first public program of the year was an artist talk with renowned Singaporean artist Ho Tzu Nyen who presented *The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia* on February 4th. The event was co-organized with CUNY's Asian/Asian-American Research Institute (AAARI), and the artist was in conversation with Baruch's Professor Katherine Behar.

On March 11, the Gallery will partner with the Harman Program and the Black and Latino Studies Department to present the film *In Sudden Darkness* by the young filmmaker Tayler Montague who will be in conversation with Baruch's Professor Bridgett M. Davis.

Throughout the month of April, the Gallery is organizing *Critical Ecology on Film* to pose questions regarding ecological crises in relation to climate change, inter-species communication, nuclear power, and privatization of the commons. Artists will join professors from across the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences to connect visual culture and the humanities in transdisciplinary conversations that concern the entanglement of politics and our contemporary ecologies.

- April 8: *Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm* (2019), Dr. Yarimar Bonilla in conversation with Professor Rojo Robles Mejias
- April 15: *Tahlequah* (2019), Dominique Knowles in conversation with Professor David Gruber
- April 22: *Americium* (2017), Erik Blinderman and Lisa Rave in conversation with Professor Alison Griffiths
- April 29: *Cactus River* (2012), Apichatpong Weerasethakul in conversation with Mishkin Gallery Director/Curator Alaina Claire Feldman
- May 13: Mishkin Gallery will be hosting an intimate talk with artist and Queens College Professor Chlöe Bass about her public art installation *Wayfinding*, commissioned by the Studio Museum in Harlem and soon to be on view at the Pulitzer Art Foundation. The event is in collaboration with the Pulitzer Art Foundation and Baruch's Black and Latino Studies program.



The catalogue for the upcoming exhibition *Nicolás Guagnini: Theatre of the Self* has arrived in New York and the Gallery is partnering with Barnes and Nobles to make copies are available for purchase online and at the Baruch B&N bookstore. Pdfs of the publication are available for free for any CUNY faculty member.

The bilingual catalogue (English/Spanish) for *Minerva Cuevas: Disidencia* will also be available this spring. The exhibition, produced by Mishkin Gallery, continues to be on view this spring at Pitzer College in Claremont, California.

As always, all Mishkin Gallery events remain free and open to the public.

Baruch Performing Arts Center (BPAC)

Winter-Spring 2021

The Baruch Performing Arts Center (BPAC) remained operational in the fall of 2020 thanks to savings accomplished through rolling staff furloughs, a generous grant, and endowment support. Like all Weissman colleagues, BPAC staff worked remotely and ascended a steep learning curve to accomplish new tasks such as creating, editing, and broadcasting streaming-on-demand and live-streamed programs, with and without audience interaction. The emphasis this fall was on access. Programs were promoted 100% digitally; the box office platform was adapted to facilitate admission in exchange for donations and artist agreements to encompass the new demands of broadcast media. BPAC continued to emphasize diversity and social justice its programs, collaborating with other campus centers and initiatives to maximize service to the Baruch community.

In September 2020, BPAC collaborated with the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence program to expand Chinese/British writer Xiaolu Guo's residency to encompass three of her films: *We Went to Wonderland*, *Far and Near*, and *Once Upon a Time Proletarian*. The films streamed on-demand for a week and were followed by two artist conversations, one with film scholar Patricia White of Swarthmore, the other with the Harman Residence director and Baruch professor Esther Allen.

BPAC joined forces with ISLA (Baruch's newly created Initiative for the Study of Latin America) to present Stick & Bow, a duo featuring Juan Sebastian Delgado on cello and Krystina Marcoux on marimba. They recorded their customized program—an eclectic, energetic performance of music from Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Chile, and Puerto Rico—at a studio in Montreal. In celebration of Latinx Heritage Month, it streamed for a week and was followed by a live Artist Conversation hosted by ISLA Director and Baruch Professor Stephanie Golob.



In October 2020, the Silberman Recital featured pianist Yael Weiss. Ms. Weiss's *32 Bright Clouds: Beethoven Conversations Around the World* is a program commissioning new works from countries of conflict around the world that take their inspiration from Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas. BPAC recorded its program with a three-camera set-up at Klavier Haus in New York. It was expertly edited for three weeks of streaming availability. The program featured works by composers Saed Haddad (Jordan), Aslihan Keçebasoglu (Turkey), Bongani Ndodana-Breen (South Africa), and Adina Izarra (Venezuela) inspired by Beethoven's Sonatas 27, 28, and 32. On a single evening, the concert was followed by a conversation between the pianist and Izarra and Ndodana-Breen.

BPAC collaborated with the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center on a three-film series, *Tevye* (1939), *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971), and *Miracle of Miracles* (2019), a documentary about the success of the beloved musical inspired by Sholem Aleichem's short story, which was streamed in December.

Partnering with Opera Omaha, BPAC co-produced *dwb (Driving While Black)*. Originally planned for live presentation in March of 2019, *dwb*, the May 2020 murder of George Floyd encouraged BPAC's engagement with the creative team to figure out how a high-quality video directed explicitly for streaming presentation could be produced. The taut, 44-minute sung drama is a musical provocation to engage with the essential conversation taking place on racial injustice. It documents the familiar story of an African American parent whose child approaches driving age as what should be a celebration of independence and maturity turns out to be fraught with the anxiety of driving while black. The week-long broadcast was extended due to popular demand and reached hundreds of viewers around the world. It featured an artist-community dialogue moderated by Baruch Professor Erica Richardson with librettist/soprano Roberta Gumbel, J.T. Roane (Assistant Professor of African America Studies at Arizona State University), and Baruch students Teona Pagan (senior, President of the Black Student Union) and Yael Meegan (junior, writer).

In November BPAC also joined the Wasserman Jewish Studies Center in presenting a talk between award-winning playwright David Adjmi and Alisa Solomon, Director of the Arts and Culture concentration at Columbia College (Journalism, M.A.). It delved into his entertaining memoir *Lot Six* and posed the question: How do human beings create themselves and, when they are artists, how does their life get made into art?

Finally, we continued our week-long residency of BPAC's quartet-in-residence, the Alexander String Quartet. Thanks to the ingenuity and dedication of the quartet, we were able to replace the usual in-person visits of Baruch students to the recital hall with pre-recorded content, which was customized to the specifications of Baruch faculty members and shared on the media of their choice.

In celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday, the quartet recorded and presented two programs for the public. The first was a guided performance of Beethoven's early, middle, and late string quartets featuring sections of the String Quartet in F major, Op. 18, No. 1; the String Quartet in E minor, Op. 59 No. 2 ("Razumovsky"); and the String Quartet in F major, Op. 135. The second paired Beethoven's String Quartet in A minor, Op. 132, with American composer George Walker's *Lyric for String Quartet*. Walker, the first Black composer to win the Pulitzer Prize in Music, wrote *Lyric* in response to the death of his grandmother. Its theme echoes the "Heiliger Dankgesang" movement from Beethoven's Op. 132. A live conversation with composer George Walker's son Gregory and acclaimed violinist Kelly Hall-Tompkins provided rich context for the second concert.

Sadly, a lack of operating funds has necessitated the temporary shuttering of BPAC's venues in winter/spring 2021, as well as the furloughing of many staff members. BPAC hopes to return with programs for the Baruch and broader New York cultural communities in the fall of 2021.

Wins@Weissman

An anonymous donor has gifted \$25K to the Black and Latino Studies Department. The donor "has made this gift because of the vital role the Department of Black and Latino Studies plays in fulfilling the fundamental mission of Baruch College's and in its historic commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, a role that is more important now than at any time in the Department's history." The gift is made in recognition of Professor Shelly Eversley's leadership of the Department.

Debra Caplan, Associate Professor of Theater, received the Modern Language Association of America's tenth Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies for an outstanding scholarly work in the field of Yiddish.

Professor of Journalism Bridgette Davis' recently published *The World According to Fanny Davis*, which was selected as the freshman text this year, has inspired an alum to create a creative writing prize for our students. The theme of the essay contest is: COVID Diaries. All students are invited to write personal essays related to the pandemic and to compete for a \$1500 first prize; \$1000 second prize; and a \$500 third prize.

The two pioneers of rough volatility modeling, Jim Gatheral, Presidential Professor of Mathematics in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and Mathieu Rosenbaum, Professor of Probability and Finance at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, were named Risk.net's "2021 Quant of the Year" in recognition of their work. Professor Gatheral explained that "rough volatility models are the first models to realistically capture empirical features of the historical price series and at the same time reproduce key features of the market pricing of options, as captured by the implied volatility surface." Rough volatility has grown into a very active and flourishing branch of research.



Wayne Finke, Associate Professor of Spanish and Deputy Chair of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, was recognized as a living giant in Geolinguistics at the Annual International Geolinguistic webinar entitled, "Theory, Research, and Practice in Geolinguistics."

Catherine Good, Associate Professor of Psychology, was featured in an NPR segment and *The Gothamist* about anxiety and the return of indoor dining in New York City.

Alison Griffiths, Professor of Film and Media Studies in the Department of Communication Studies, is the recipient of a 2020-21 \$10,000 research grant from the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society for a project entitled "Collective Memory and Visual Communication: The Archival Legacy of the Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, Gallup, New Mexico." A vibrant four-day celebration of Native American dance and material culture, the Ceremonial began in 1922 and continues to this day.

David Jones, Professor in the Department of Political Science, served as a presidential election exit poll analyst for *The New York Times* and CBS. He spent election night 2020 at CBS headquarters.

Jarrold Pickens, Lecturer in the Mathematics Department, led two Baruch MFE teams to place first and second in the international Rothman Competition.

Erica Richardson, Assistant Professor of English, is the winner of a Fall 2021 Career Enhancement Fellowship from the Institute for Citizens and Scholars (formerly the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation).

Baruch College's Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) program at the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences continues to earn high marks for academic excellence and alumni success ranking #2 on QuantNet's 2020 list of the "[Best Financial Engineering Programs](#)." Among public institutions, Baruch ranked #1. Over the last five years, Baruch has dominated the first or second spot in the QuantNet rankings, which is considered the most comprehensive classification to date of master's programs in financial engineering and mathematical finance. To compile the rankings, QuantNet [surveyed 33 MFE programs](#) in the U.S. on admission, placement, and career services information. Baruch finished behind only Princeton University and placed ahead of prominent institutions like Carnegie Mellon University, Columbia University, University of California, Berkley, and New York University.

Report of the Division of Graduate Studies

Enrollment

The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences welcomed sixty new graduate students this spring, a 25% increase from Spring 2020. Total WSAS Spring 2021 enrollment is 393 students, a 10% growth from Spring 2020. 59% percent are enrolled full-time or are pursuing course work of nine or more credits.



Application Counts	Spring 19	Spring 20	Spring 21
Arts Administration	17	22	17
Corporate Communication	15	30	20
I/O Psych	41	40	99

New Graduate Enrollment	Spring 19	Spring 20	Spring 21
Arts Administration	11	12	12
Corporate Communication	7	18	13
I/O Psych	21	18	35



Overall Headcount by Program	Spring 19	Spring 20	Spring 21
Arts Administration	60	69	89
Corporate Communication	55	74	77
I/O Psych	123	130	143
Mental Health Counseling	35	42	52
Financial Engineering	54	39	32
Total	322	357	393

Graduate Program Admissions Summary Report

MA in Arts Administration

Accept rate = 76% (77% Spring 2020)

Yield rate = 100% (70% Spring 2020)

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.55

MA in Corporate Communication

Accept rate = 95% (67% Spring 2020)

Yield rate = 93% (90% Spring 2020)

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.23

MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Accept rate = 23% (48% Spring 2020)

Yield rate = 100% (95% Spring 2020)

Average GRE of admitted students: Not applicable for Spring 2021

Average undergraduate GPA of admitted students = 3.50



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 and provide 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 that help our students and alumni progress in their careers and to develop continued and new relationships with the companies we serve.

We utilize *Simplicity* to post jobs and internships for students and alumni, and to track interactions and outcomes.

As of February 2021

Registered Employers	2450
Registered Employer Contacts	2734
Registered Students & Alumni	1893
Current Active Job Postings	278

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Fall 2020

Virtual Career Services:

After quickly pivoting to a virtual environment in the Spring 2020 semester, WSAS Graduate Career Services has been able to advance our offerings and services to address student and alumni needs as the pandemic persisted during the Fall 2020 semester.



The Weissman Graduate Career Services Office provided the following:

- One-on-one career advisement sessions were firmly established on Zoom where students and alumni were able to schedule appointments through Simplicity and select from a variety of meeting topics.
- Three workshops were offered to review best practices for LinkedIn profiles, networking, and resumes.
- The Director of Weissman Graduate Studies and WSAS Graduate Career Services offered several more Monday Meet-Ups for students to have a place for informal conversation and concerns.
- We hosted “Meet the Dean” for WSAS graduate students and Dean Jessica Lang, which was successfully established on Zoom.
- The career office continued to collaborate with Weissman Graduate Student Clubs to help support their longevity and promote their events, including “To Swipe or Not to Swipe: Navigating Dating and Relationships as a Therapist” (sponsored by Weissman Graduate MHC students) and a Leadership Development and DEI Panel, sponsored by the MSIO Student Association.
- We hosted the NJ Transit Summer 2021 Internship Program Info Session.
- We Worked with the Alumni Relations Office to get the speakers for a panel on “Mental Health and Coping During COVID 19,” which included an alumna and an MHC agency that works with the WSAS Career office.
- We sponsored MA in Arts Administration students to attend the Art Table Career Round Table Symposium.

Virtual Career Services:

WSAS Graduate Career Services also promoted and/or partnered with the Baruch Career Offices, CUNY Career Offices and various companies to offer Info Sessions, Workshops and Career Events. These offerings addressed a variety of career concerns and issues such as promoting diversity, finding employment during a pandemic, maintaining morale, presenting oneself favorably, and locating job/internship opportunities with specific companies and organizations.



Partial List of events:

- Baruch College's four career offices joined to offer "Speak with a CIA Recruiter by Phone" opportunity.
- LGBTQ+ Job Search 101 with Matthew French
- Ergonomic Work-At-Home Workshop
- Women of Color Panel (DTCC and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield)
- Dealing with Career Anxiety & Imposter Syndrome
- Digital Interviewing/Networking Workshop with American Express
- Launching Your Media Career During the Age of Covid - SMPTE NY
- Information Session: Human Resources Management Associate Program
- What Every International Student should know about U.S. Employment
- Muslim Women in the Workplace
- Supporting LGBTQI+ Student Mental Health
- Virtual Career Insights – The Met
- U.S. Department of State Information Session
- The 311 CUNY Project
- Port Authority Fellowship + Internship Programs Information Session
- Fourth Annual Women + Media Career Summit
- The H-1B Visa: What International Students Should Know
- Managing Work-Life Balance in Uncertain and Challenging Time

The following events either hosted or promoted by WSAS Graduate Career Services) scheduled for Spring 2021 include (so far):

- Chat with the Dean
- Stress Management for the Job Search with Lindsay Collins
- Breaking Through Career Norms That Hold You Back
- Sustainable Career Pathways - Workshop with Trish Kenlon
- What Every International Student Should Know About US Job Search
- Careers in Consulting Panel, moderated by Professor Ken Abbott
- How to Turn More Job Interviews into Offers with Austin Belcak
- Social Service and MHC Counseling Jobs with Saint Dominic's Family Services Info Session

