

Report to the Baruch College General Faculty
Submitted by Arthur Downing
Vice President for Information Services and Dean of the Library
Spring 2023

Leadership Transition – Arthur Downing, Vice President for Information Services & Dean of the Library will retire in May 2023. The College will be conducting separate national searches for a CIO and a Dean of the Library. Michael Richichi will serve as Interim CIO and Michael Waldman will serve as Interim Chief Librarian.

William and Anita Newman Library

Head of Access Services – Pamela Cora joined the Newman Library as Head of Access Services on January 23, 2023. In this role, Ms. Cora is responsible for leading circulation services, interlibrary loan, course reserves, technology loan, and stack management. She had been the Managing Librarian of the Bronx Library Center, which is New York Public Library's flagship facility in that borough. Faculty should feel free to contact Ms. Cora directly regarding any issues with access services or to make special requests.

New Digital Resource – Roper Health Poll is a comprehensive database for health-related U.S. survey questions, covering eighty years of national polling. Searchable questions and results, demographic crosstabs, and trends are available on a wide range of topics related to health, from social determinants and influences on health to insurance, costs and health-care utilization.

Alumni Access – Alumni of Baruch College may again access floors 2-5 of the library after they have completed the process to get an Alumni ID card. Alumni can obtain an ID card by completing the form that has been posted by the Office of Alumni Relations <https://www.alumni.baruch.cuny.edu/benefits/alumni-id-card>. Remote access to the library's digital collections is not available to alumni due to restrictions in the license agreements.

New Media Artspace - From February 28 through April 27, the New Media Artspace is hosting "Kerry Downey: This is a reenactment but this time it will be different," a solo exhibition of single-channel videos and two-dimensional elements. There will be discussions with the artist for Baruch students from 1:15–2:15 p.m. on March 22 and 10-11 a.m. on March 23 in the Library. The exhibition is also available online: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/1091/production/1150770?performanceId=11230162>

Credit Courses – In spring 2023 library faculty are teaching 5 class sections, including courses toward a Minor in Information Studies: Economics of Information (3032); Information and Society (3040) – 2 sections; Electronic Resources for Writers (3065) and the capstone course, Advanced Topics in Information (4900).

Baruch Computing and Technology Center

Wi-Fi Upgrade – BCTC is continuing the campus-wide upgrade of the WiFi network. We received the contractor's report of its WiFi site survey of the Vertical Campus and Information & Technology Buildings. We used that report to create a new network design for the optimal placement of access points, including many additional ones. The new access points have been received. The necessary cabling and mounting of the access points will take place during the remainder of the spring semester and through summer. We appreciate the campus community's understanding of the inconvenience as the contractors work on ladders throughout the two buildings.

Software Update – All Baruch faculty, staff and students now have access to Minitab by going to <https://licensing.minitab.com> and logging in with CUNY Login credentials. Users can download the Windows version or use the browser app on macOS, Linux or Mobile. There is a new STATA license available via the Dropbox link on the BCTC home page. CUNY has completed the Mathematica license renewal and the product should now be working normally.

Web Directory – The College's web directory (<https://www.baruch.cuny.edu/directory>) now allows users to update the following information on their personal entry: Building, Room number, Office Phone number, Mail box number, and Fax number. To edit these fields the user needs to click on "Update your directory info" and log in using Baruch username and password. Currently, many of the directory entries are lacking phone number and room number. All faculty and staff of the College should check their directory entry and add or correct information as needed. The email address that is displayed in the public directory is the official Baruch email address and cannot be changed.

Network Upgrade – All the network switches in the Vertical Campus have been replaced. BCTC is now migrating users over to the new switches. When that is completed, users should experience improved network performance. The WiFi upgrade in the building is also dependent on the switch upgrade.

Classroom Upgrades – In the vertical Campus Building the replacement of the ceiling-mounted projectors with new laser models was done during the January break, along with the installation of a meeting Owl camera on each lectern. BCTC has also started the placement of touch screen monitors on the classroom lecterns. The installation of equipment (cameras, large displays, microphones, speakers, etc.) to support HyFlex instruction in an additional 85 classrooms will resume over spring break and continue through the summer, when work crews can get uninterrupted access to the classrooms. Equipment that will be used to improve the experience in large lecture halls is still arriving. For example, a video wall will be installed in 5-150 to improve the quality of the image at the front of the room and allow instructors to use more complex displays than are currently possible with a simple projector.

Laptop Distribution – The College has purchased laptops for all full-time staff. BCTC is working with the Deans and Vice Presidents on the distribution, which will be done over the next few months. The distribution of new laptops and MacBooks to faculty is ongoing.