

WEISSMAN

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Baruch
COLLEGE

GENERAL FACULTY REPORT – FALL 2026

INTRODUCTION

Fall 2026 opens a new chapter for the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences. In July, **Nukhet A. Sandal** joined Baruch College as Dean of the Weissman School from Ohio University, where she served as Associate Dean for Student Success and Strategic Partnerships and Interim Associate Vice President for Community Impact. A political scientist whose research focuses on peace and conflict, religion and politics, and minority rights, Dean Sandal holds a BA from Bilkent University and a PhD in Politics and International Relations from the University of Southern California. The School is grateful to Professor of Psychology **Jennifer Mangels**, whose service as Interim Dean carried Weissman through the transition, including the launch of four new degree programs and Baruch's selection for a student spaceflight research mission.

Dean Sandal has set four priorities for AY26–27: **exploring strategic growth opportunities; increasing retention; external relations and fundraising; and strengthening communication and budget transparency.** This report covers March through October 2026.

WEISSMAN BY THE NUMBERS

Weissman is teaching **42,628 course enrollments across 1,715 sections** this fall — **99 percent of the seats offered**, up from 87 percent in Spring 2026. **3,229 students** are in a Weissman major (declared and intended) and **6,306** in a Weissman minor; minor enrollment has grown 27 percent over three years, led by the interdisciplinary minors (1,478), Communication Studies (1,382), and Psychology (809). Majors are down 7 percent over the same period, and the share who are intended has risen from 17 to 51 percent — the trend behind the Dean's retention priority. In AY25–26, **228 Weissman students received \$687,747 in scholarships** through 92 awards. (*Office of Institutional Research, September 17, 2026; Office of Donor Relations.*)

SCHOOL-WIDE DEVELOPMENTS

WEISSMAN WELCOMES 23 NEW FACULTY **Black and Latino Studies:** Marcos Gonzalez (Associate Professor with tenure), Chinonye Alma Otuonye (Assistant Professor). **Communication Studies:** Carla De Ycaza, Brent Saindon. **English:** Saronik Bosu (Assistant Professor). **Fine and Performing Arts:** Lee Bynum (Distinguished Lecturer), Robert Buonaspinga, Peter Kramer. **History:** Rupali Warke (Assistant Professor). **Journalism and the Writing Professions:** Kevin McKenna, Ellen Wulfhorst. **Mathematics:** Max Weinreich (Assistant Professor). **Modern Languages and Comparative Literature:** Sarah Valente, Monserrat Garcia

Rodenas (Assistant Professors). **Natural Sciences:** Laura Podzikowski (Assistant Professor), Kristelle Capistrano, Rosalie Zawadzki. **Philosophy:** Judah Isseroff, Brendan De Kenessey (Assistant Professors). **Psychology:** Nahama Broner, Allison Siminovsky. **Sociology and Anthropology:** Ana Flavia Badue, Leonidas Vournelis. The **Weissman Executive Committee** for AY26–27 is Lisa Blankenship (English), Chair; Abby Anderton (Fine and Performing Arts); Sarah Bishop (Communication Studies); Els de Graauw (Political Science); and Chester Zarnoch (Natural Sciences).

THE EDMOND J. SAFRA VISITING PROFESSOR IN RESIDENCE Roger Bolton — former CEO and President of Page, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs under President George H.W. Bush, and Special Assistant to President Reagan — is on campus this fall as the inaugural Edmond J. Safra Visiting Professor, co-teaching a course on strategic communication and enterprise authenticity with **Caryn Medved**. The Edmond J. Safra Foundation's nearly \$2 million gift, the largest since the School's naming, also funds the housing and digitization of the Edmond J. Safra Republic National Bank of New York Archives at the Newman Library, an accompanying video series, and full tuition-and-fee fellowships for six MA in Strategic Communication students conducting research in the archives this year (see Graduate Studies, below).

SANDRA K. WASSERMAN JEWISH STUDIES CENTER LEADS A NEW CUNY FELLOWSHIP ON HOLOCAUST DISTORTION The **Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center** leads the new CUNY Faculty Fellowship on Holocaust Distortion, a Baruch–Queens–Hunter consortium funded by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The yearlong fellowship supports six full-time faculty in developing courses that address the minimizing or misrepresentation of Holocaust history, including firsthand study in Eastern Europe.

SARAH VALENTE ASSUMES THE DIRECTORSHIP; THE ANTISEMITISM STUDIES LAB RECOGNIZED IN CONGRESS In August, **Dr. Sarah Valente** began her role as William Newman Director of the Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center and the Antisemitism Studies Lab alongside her tenure-track appointment in Modern Languages and Comparative Literature. In the spring, the Lab was recognized by Congresswoman Virginia Foxx on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

2026 EXCELLENCE AWARDS The WSAS Excellence Awards, announced in May, marked the debut of the **Weissman Student Star Award**. Recipients: Teaching, Full-Time — **Tim Aubry** (English); Teaching, Part-Time — **Caroline Altenbernd** (Communication Studies); Scholarship or Creative Activity — **Chester Zarnoch** (Natural Sciences); Mentorship — **Sarah Bishop** (Communication Studies) and **Zachary Calamari** (Natural Sciences); Institutional Leadership or Service — **John Wahlert** (Natural Sciences); Gary Hentzi Award for Staff Contribution — **Kathy Lypides** (Dean's Office); Student Stars — **Yang Yang Ou** (Music Business) and **Amalia Parrish** (History). **Zachary Calamari** and **Jennifer Whiting** (English) also received 2026 Presidential Excellence Awards for Distinguished Teaching, and **David R. Jones** (Political Science) received the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Service.

WEISSMAN IN THE BARUCH AI LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE **Elizabeth Edenberg** (Philosophy) is Weissman's liaison to the College-wide initiative led by Mahima Hada, joined by **Scott Erich** (Sociology and Anthropology), **Evan Fink** (Mathematics), and **David Lindsey** (Political Science). The AI Learning

Commons, open to all students, faculty, and staff, launched in September; a faculty course opens in January, and an Applied Intelligence Lab will house credit-bearing projects and research partnerships. **Rebecca Spokony** (Natural Sciences) and **Sabrina Kizzie** (Communication Studies) were named Weissman's **CUNY Beyond Faculty Fellows**, and Psychology's **Clemente I. Diaz** is Interim Director of the Starr Career Development Center.

WEISSMAN COMMUNICATIONS The Communications Office wrote, edited, and staged more than 300 pages for the new Weissman website on deadline and has begun rewriting all department pages to the College's new style guidelines; produced the *Living History Archives* video series for the Edmond J. Safra Republic National Bank of New York Archives; led communications for the AddressHate partnership; and piloted a student-facing newsletter. The monthly Weissman Newsletter reaches about 11,500 readers with open rates near 50 percent; the Instagram account added 500 followers, with several posts reaching 20,000 to 50,000 views. In July, Weissman School also launched its LinkedIn page.

IN MEMORIAM The School mourns **Professor Johanna Fernández** (History), author of the Frederick Jackson Turner Award–winning *The Young Lords: A Radical History*, who died July 30 and was remembered in *The New York Times*. The School also mourns **Stephen Dishart** (Communication Studies), who died April 7, and held an April memorial concert for **Professor Mindy Engle-Friedman** at BPAC.

STRATEGIC PROGRAM INITIATIVES: HIGHLIGHTS

FOUR NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS LAUNCH Natural Sciences welcomed the first students into the **BS in Environmental Science** and **BA in Environmental Studies**, with transfer pathways planned with Kingsborough, Queensborough, and Hostos. Psychology welcomed the inaugural cohorts of its fully online, asynchronous **Online BA in Psychology** and **Post-Baccalaureate Certificate**, redesigned with the Digital Learning Hub and co-directed by **Nahama Broner** and **Allison Siminovsky**; a new one-credit **Career Pathways (PSY 3000)** course debuts in the spring. In the pipeline: a **4+1 MA in Strategic Communication** (recruiting Spring 2027) and, with Zicklin for Fall 2027, an **Optional Focus in Entrepreneurship and Innovation**, a revised **Business Communication major** with Corporate Communication, Graphic Communication, and Business Writing tracks, and a revised **Economics major**.

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PROGRAM TO DOUBLE The **MA in Mental Health Counseling**, which had to turn away qualified applicants in the past, will admit a second cohort in Fall 2027. A \$68,970 CUNY grant laid the groundwork, funding standardized patients, placement-tracking software, and certification in complex trauma and couples counseling. The 60-credit, state-registered program, directed by **Rose Marie Chatterton**, leads to licensure eligibility through a 100-hour practicum and 600-hour internship.

BARUCH SELECTED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION RESEARCH MISSION Baruch has been selected for **Mission 22 of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program**; the plan led by **Krista Dobi** (Natural Sciences) passed on first submission. The project grew from Dobi's and **Zoe Sheehan's** (Fine and Performing Arts) MakerHub prototype of a microgravity simulator. This fall, some 40 students in Dobi's and **Rebecca Spokony's** courses are designing microgravity experiments; one will fly to the International Space Station on a SpaceX launch in spring 2027. **Ana Gonzalez Nayeck** advises the teams, and Graphic Communication students are competing to design the mission patch.

WEISSMAN OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Weissman's model of graduate education embeds academic and student operations in a single unit: the Office of Graduate Studies supports faculty program directors, current students, and prospective applicants for all six programs — the MA programs in Arts Administration, Strategic Communication, and Mental Health Counseling, and the MS programs in Financial Engineering and I/O Psychology, including the third cohort of the re-introduced Executive MS in I/O Psychology. The School welcomed **151 new graduate students** this fall, a 6 percent increase over Fall 2024 (142), bringing total graduate enrollment to **373, up 3 percent from Fall 2025**; 58 percent are enrolled full-time. Applications to the six programs grew 2 percent for Fall 2026. The Office has scheduled 20 information sessions this fall, four per program plus a special session for Mental Health Counseling.

Program	FA25 Applied	FA25 Admitted	FA25 Enrolled	FA26 Applied	FA26 Admitted	FA26 Enrolled
MA in Arts Administration	48	37	18	64	53	26
MA in Strategic Communication	28	25	18	45	28	22
MS in Financial Engineering	563	32	23	538	33	24
MS in I/O Psychology	151	75	48	182	73	31
MA in Mental Health Counseling	227	39	23	192	46	32
Executive MS in I/O Psychology	19	13	12	27	15	12
TOTAL	1,036	221	142	1,048	248	147

Graduate program admissions, Fall 2025 and Fall 2026. Source: Weissman Office of Graduate Studies.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS The **Nagelberg** funds support MA in Arts Administration students through scholarships — six newly enrolled students received \$1,500 each this fall — and fellowships of up to \$12,300 for roughly 20 hours a week at BPAC or the Mishkin Gallery under **Ariadne Condos** and **Maika Pollack**; this year's fellows are **Stankley Kim** and **Jukes Krainin** (BPAC) and **Kaija Groom** (Mishkin). The **Edmond J. Safra Foundation** provides \$80,000 annually through 2029 for fellowships covering full tuition and fees; the current Edmond J. Safra Fellows are **Gisela Garrett**, **Angella Eufemia Flores**, **Bianca Benoliel-Schoenfeld**, **Brianna Chavez**, **Honor Dibouey**, and **Shani Bellegarde**.

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES:

HIGHLIGHTING EXCELLENCE ACROSS WSAS'S DEPARTMENTS, CENTERS, AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

EXTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS **Stefan Bathe** (Natural Sciences) is lead PI on a **U.S. Department of Energy Genesis Mission** project applying AI to particle physics with Colorado Boulder, Columbia, and Brookhaven — one of 278 funded from more than 5,000 proposals. **Louis-Pierre Arguin** (Mathematics) is one of 12 PIs in the **Simons Foundation's** Universal Statistics in Number Theory collaboration (\$560,000 over four years). **Guy Moshkovitz** (Mathematics) received a \$440,826 **NSF CAREER Award**. **Charles Scherbaum**, **Jaihyun Park**, **Tatiana Emmanouil**, and **Patrycja Sleboda** (Psychology) renewed the department's **NSF REU** site grant (\$377,072), now in its 20th year. **Rianne Subijanto** (Communication Studies) is a **2026 ACLS Fellow** — Baruch's first since 2002. **Zoe Sheehan** and **Elizabeth Edenberg** received Baruch **AI Innovation grants**.

BOOKS SINCE MAY **Naima Coster** (Journalism and the Writing Professions), *Take What You Can* — the **Good Morning America Book Club pick for August**, on summer lists in *The New York Times*, *Time*, PBS, and *Harper's Bazaar*. **Zoe Griffith** (History), *Egypt's Mediterranean: Muslim Merchants and the Business of Empire in the Eighteenth Century* (University of California Press). **Harold Goldstein, Elliott Larson, and Charles Scherbaum** (Psychology), *Cognitive Abilities and the Modern World of Work* (Cambridge University Press).

SCHOLARSHIP ACROSS THE 13 WSAS DEPARTMENTS

- **Black and Latino Studies:** **Shirley Reynozo** organized the second annual *Háblame Dulce* spoken-word event and the inaugural *Poetry as Protest* slam for first-year SEEK students.
- **Communication Studies:** **Rianne Subijanto's** ACLS Fellowship was accompanied by *Nusantara*, a podcast on Indonesia with The Dig Radio; **Sarah Bishop** was quoted in *The Atlantic* on deportees in Salvadoran prisons and received the WSAS mentorship award.
- **English:** **Allison Deutermann** received CUNY's inaugural Jerome Krase & Sandi Cooper Award; **Rafael Walker** co-authored a *Chronicle of Higher Education* essay on DEI; **Eva Shan Chou** published in *Dance Research*; **Grace Schulman** published "Yew" in *Commonweal*; **Josh Kruchten** holds an American Trust for the British Library–Clark Library fellowship; **Sally Wen Mao** is Oklahoma State's 2026 Burke Visiting Scholar.
- **Fine and Performing Arts:** **Jack D. Coen** composed the music and co-wrote lyrics for *I Became We*, premiering at Atlantic Theater Company (October 16–November 15); **Grace Hamilton** presented the CUNY 1969 Archive redesign at the AIGA Design Education Conference; **Katherine Behar's** capstone students curated *Ourchive* in the New Media Artspace.
- **History:** **Zoe Griffith's** *Egypt's Mediterranean* appeared with UC Press; **Carol Berkin** was quoted in BBC News Mundo.
- **Journalism and the Writing Professions:** **Naima Coster's** *Take What You Can* was a GMA Book Club pick; **Gisele Regatão** published reporting from Brazil for PRX's *The World and Marketplace*; **Andrea Gabor** moderated a League of Women Voters forum on voting rights.
- **Mathematics:** **Arguin's** Simons collaboration and **Moshkovitz's** NSF CAREER Award; **Andrew Obus** received the Graduate Center's Mentoring and Teaching Award; **Max Weinreich** was quoted in *The Atlantic* on AI and mathematical research.
- **Modern Languages and Comparative Literature:** **Sarah Valente** assumed the Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center directorship; **Esther Allen** and **Jennifer Alberghini** wrote for the Starr Center's faculty series on career readiness in the humanities classroom.
- **Natural Sciences:** Beyond **Bathe's** DOE award and the SSEP mission, **David Gruber's** Project CETI recorded a sperm whale birth on video for the first time, covered by CNN and *Science News*; **Baofu Qiao** published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* with undergraduate first author **Annemarie Ianos**; undergraduates co-authored papers in four further journals and presented at the

Drosophila Research Conference; **Chester Zarnoch** was profiled in the Hudson River Foundation's *Tidal Exchange*.

- **Philosophy: Elizabeth Edenberg** leads Weissman's role in the AI Leadership Initiative and received a second AI Innovation grant for *Ethical Alms*.
- **Political Science: Viviana Rivera Burgos** co-led the inaugural LabPOP survey of Puerto Rico with the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Michigan; **Carolyn Abott** received the National Academy of Public Administration's Louis Brownlow Book Award for *The Politics of Public Pensions*; **David R. Jones**'s work on vaccine polarization was featured by the Graduate Center.
- **Psychology: Charles Scherbaum** was elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and of SIOP; the department's seven pre-tenure faculty published in *Nature Reviews Psychology* (**Yang**), *Policing* (**Chatterjee**, invited to the Rockefeller Bellagio Center), *Professional Psychology* (**Caporale-Berkowitz**), and *Decision* (**Rovenpor**), and **Slebocka** presented her study of trust in medical AI at the FDA.
- **Sociology and Anthropology: Ted Henken** was quoted in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Deutsche Welle*, and *PolitiFact* and published in the *Miami Herald*; **Katrin Hansing** co-authored a *New York Times* opinion piece and wrote for *Foreign Policy* on Cuba; **George Gonzalez** was quoted by the Associated Press and **Ken Guest** in *Documented*.

CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

BARUCH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Under Interim Managing Director **Ariadne Condos**, the spring closed with the New York premiere of *Rising* for Pigeonwing Dance with the Neave Trio; the fall season includes the Acting Company, the Silberman Series, Great Works' *God of Vengeance*, and a November Open House.

THE MISHKIN GALLERY Under the new directorship of **Maika Pollack**, the Zhen Guo retrospective curated by **Gail Levin** ran through June. The fall exhibition, ***People in the City: Modern Portraits from the Baruch College Art Collection*** (through December 11), draws on the permanent collection — Steichen, Hinton, Winogrand, Warhol, Katz, Sherman, Longo — with a talk series by scholars and artists. *Liu Shiming: Chinese Folk Performers*, co-organized with the Liu Shiming Art Foundation, is installed in BPAC through June 2027.

HARMAN WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM **Gisele Regatão** succeeds **Esther Allen** as director, hosting National Book Award winner **Sarah M. Broom** as Fall Writer-in-Residence and playwright **Ngozi Anyanwu** as Fall Harman Fellow; the spring residency with Lauren Yee concluded with the April Reading and Conversation.

SANDRA K. WASSERMAN JEWISH STUDIES CENTER AND ANTISEMITISM STUDIES LAB Director **Sarah Valente**'s fall program includes the Sephardic Voices series, the Antisemitism: From Ancient Times to AI series, and the Israeli Chamber Project's Kristallnacht commemoration in Engelman Recital Hall.