

The background of the cover is a photograph of a multi-story brick building, likely a Baruch College building, taken from a low angle looking up. A blue banner with white text hangs from the building, reading "Baruch College CUNY". The sky is a clear, bright blue.

# 17 SOCIETY LEX

NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2022

17 SOCIETY  
LEX

# WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL 17 LEX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER!

The 17 Lex Society represents the loyal and generous leaders who remain committed to the next generation of Baruch students, investing in their potential and creating opportunities that will change their lives. This newsletter will be published twice a year and will feature stories that illustrate the impact of your philanthropy, member profiles, campus news, and photos from recent events. We hope you enjoy reading this inaugural issue. We look forward to sharing these updates with you biannually.

On behalf of our entire Baruch community, thank you for your partnership. We are so grateful for everything you do for Baruch, and we look forward to a brighter 2023 for all of us. ●



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

# PIVOTING FOR PURPOSE

When **Josh Solomowitz (BBA '17, MIA '23)** decided to shift from his career in financial services towards a more impactful career in public policy and sustainability, Baruch felt like the obvious choice. Not only was Baruch his undergraduate alma mater, but the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs was renowned and home to the Washington Semester, a life-changing opportunity which may have not been possible without the support of 17 Lex Society donors.

On the heels of his summer internship at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Solomowitz was accepted as part of the Fall 2021 cohort for the Washington Semester, even extending his internship with the EPA to meet the program requirements. Despite the virtual nature of the Washington Semester amid the pandemic, Solomowitz gained insight into the public policy process through his degree's special concentration in Global Governance and Environmental Sustainability. He even managed to balance the program's intense and immersive coursework with data analysis and recruitment at the EPA.

"I had never had experience in a government agency, so the Washington Semester was a big draw to return to

Baruch," says Solomowitz, who recently started a new role as a Sustainability Advisory Fellow

at AccountAbility, a sustainability consulting firm. "The Washington Semester gave me an incredible opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the public sector, while taking thought-provoking classes with esteemed professors and being a part of an amazing cohort of Marxe students. It's all thanks to Baruch."

In addition to his internship at the EPA, Solomowitz teamed with his classmates to participate in the Climate Investment Challenge, an international climate finance competition. His team was recognized, along with Harvard and Berkley, as the only U.S. graduate programs to be named semi-finalists. He was also named a Rosenthal Fellow earlier this year and completed an internship at the UN Global Compact. Seizing these opportunities, and making the most of his Baruch and Washington Semester experiences, wouldn't have been possible without the support of critical financial aid, like the BCF-funded Impact Scholars Scholarship, says Solomowitz.

"Having the support of a scholarship gave me the flexibility to pursue different opportunities," he says. **"During the Washington Semester I was a full-time student, and I had no income, yet I was able to continue my internship unpaid and participate in the Climate Investment Challenge. These opportunities might not have been possible if I had to pick up another job to cover expenses."**

Now, with his career transition in its final stages, Solomowitz hopes that more students will utilize the incredible resources available at Baruch and follow his lead. "I'm sure there are plenty of others, like me, who want to make a career change," he says. "The sheer amount of opportunities that Baruch offers—it's made all the difference." ●

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# MEET A 17 LEX SOCIETY MEMBER

## NOGIOMWAN “NOGIE” UDEVBULU ’01

For as long as she can remember **Nogiomwan “Nogie” Udevbulu ’01** was set on following in her banker father’s footsteps, despite not knowing the first thing about the industry. But all of that changed when she arrived at Baruch in 1999.

“My interest in finance really sparked when I attended Baruch,” says Udevbulu, who now serves as Global Head of Research and Analytics for the ETF and Index Investing division at BlackRock. “For someone who spent most of her childhood life in Nigeria, Baruch was a safe space to learn about what Wall Street was all about and explore all of my opportunities within finance.”

It wasn’t long before Udevbulu set her sights on her future, more specifically, investment banking. She took advantage of Baruch’s career development services, a key resource

in preparation for the countless Fortune 500 companies who recruit from Baruch’s campus, conveniently located in Manhattan, the epicenter of the financial industry.

As a member of Baruch’s Finance Club, she saw the success of fellow Baruch graduates firsthand, and still remembers the impact their experiences had on her more than 20 years ago.

“To see folks in investment banking that came from Baruch, that was really inspiring,” she says. “They worked so hard, but they still made time to share their insights and stories. It gave me hope that someone like me could end up in their shoes one day.”

Today, Udevbulu’s professional accomplishments speak for themselves. In her current role at BlackRock, one of the world’s leading asset management firms and provider of investment management, she leads a team that delivers world-class index research and thought leadership to the organization’s portfolio management teams globally. Prior to joining BlackRock, she held several positions at Bank of America and went on to receive her MBA from the University of Virginia. She also continues to give back to her alma mater as a member of the 17 Lex Society.

As a member of the leadership giving society, Udevbulu is proud to pay forward the support that was afforded to her as a scholarship recipient, creating opportunity for future Baruchians to pursue their passions.

“Baruch was foundational to my career, and I want to ensure that it still has that same level of influence and excellence for the next generation of students coming through,” she says.

**“Baruch levels the playing field by creating access to students from all types of backgrounds—what it did for me, I would love to see others have the same opportunity.” ●**



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

# REINFORCING THE POWER OF RESEARCH

As a faculty member, **Professor Katherine Pence** has witnessed the powerful impact that research opportunities can have on undergraduate learning.

Pence, who serves as associate professor of history in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, was also recently named a Provost's Innovation Fellow for Cross-College and Undergraduate Research, a role that has allowed her to heighten and celebrate opportunities for research at all levels, including the International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR) and Baruch's Research and Creative Inquiry Expo.

Nine years ago, Pence was instrumental in bringing ICUR to Baruch, an annual, two-day academic conference that showcases the best in undergraduate research from around the world. The online and in-person conference, organized by Warwick University in the United Kingdom and Monash University in Australia, allows Baruch undergraduates to present their work alongside peers from among 14 participating universities on five continents through the ICUR app.

Aside from the experience it provides students presenting to an international and interdisciplinary audience, it is also an exercise in writing clear abstracts that encapsulate their argument, methodology, and the data they have collected. Additionally, students must communicate their work orally and field questions, both of which promote greater confidence in their work and themselves, according to Pence.

"For our first generation, low-income students, it's an opportunity to own a topic, develop an expertise, and communicate effectively," she says. "And it's no cost to them, thanks to the support of the Baruch College Fund."

In addition to these undeniable benefits, participating in research at Baruch prepares students to enter their next chapter with the skills to bring their own perspective to the workplace or their post-graduate education, says Pence.

**"Regardless of what profession these students enter, they will see themselves as critical thinkers, people who can produce knowledge, not just consume it," she says.**

"Research prepares students for the graduate pipeline as well. As universities seek to hire more diverse faculty, our students are prime candidates for these future positions, and we want to prepare them to be the scholars and educators of the future."

Ultimately, what students often remember most about their educational experience is delving deep into a project they are passionate about and working through steps to uncover solutions themselves, according to Pence. Participating in research has proven to be a high impact practice for both students and their faculty mentors, shaping students' view of themselves as scholars.

"We want all of our students to be heard and to see themselves as contributors," she says. "I think it's a matter of equity for our students, who are coming from all different backgrounds. They should have their voices heard as people who have brilliant ideas." ●



A group of four people, three women and one man, are smiling and posing for a photo at a reception event. They are standing in front of a backdrop that features the Baruch College logo and the text "17 SOCIETY LEX RECEPTION" and "CELEBRATING GENEROUS AN...". The man on the right is wearing a name tag that says "Liam Cooper" and "STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE".

# BARUCH NEWS CENTER

## 17 LEX SOCIETY RECEPTION RETURNS TO CAMPUS!

After a two-year hiatus, we were thrilled to welcome 17 Lex Society members back to campus for our annual 17 Lex Society Reception. This year's event brought together nearly 100 attendees, including 17 Lex donors and Baruch students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the remarkable generosity of our leadership donors.

Alumni and friends had the opportunity to tour campus—including the Aaronson Student Center, the Baruch One Stop Shop, and Clivner=Field Plaza—and mingle with Baruch College President S. David Wu and Helen Mills, President of the Baruch College Fund. Guests also heard from student speaker Electra Economopoulos '23, who shared a firsthand account of the transformative impact of 17 Lex donors.

If you would like to reconnect and learn more about opportunities to get involved, contact us at [donorrelations@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:donorrelations@baruch.cuny.edu). ●



## PRESIDENT WU ON ABC NEWS

Baruch College President S. David Wu was featured by ABC News in a national segment on two Supreme Court cases concerning affirmative action in college admissions. The interview first aired on *ABC News Live* on October 28, and then on *Good Morning America* on November 2nd. **Scan the QR code to watch the ABC News segment.**



## BARUCH STUDENT SELECTED AMONG FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE NEW OBAMA-CHESKY SCHOLARSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Bricen Fisher '24 is among 100 students selected from a nationwide pool of nearly 1,800 applicants for the inaugural Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service—a new program created by President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and Airbnb Co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky to “shape the next generation of young leaders to bridge divides and help solve our biggest challenges to create meaningful change.”



## BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND BARUCH COLLEGE LAUNCH BUSINESS ACADEMY

Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) President Anthony E. Munroe and Baruch College President S. David Wu held a signing ceremony on October 19 to celebrate the launch of the BMCC-Baruch Business Academy, which provides a seamless pathway for transfer students to obtain their associate's and bachelor's degrees in business to propel their professional careers.





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