BARUCH

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

PROBLEM SOLVERS

BARUCH FACULTY RESEARCHERS SHAPE THE FUTURE



Dear Baruch Alumni and Friends,

I'd like to begin by sharing an experience from my recent travels. Last fall, I was invited by Taiwan's Ministry of Education to visit a dozen top universities to explore possible research and educational collaborations with Baruch. This visit also provided a perfect opportunity to host a gathering for our Baruch in Taiwan alumni group. More than 90 alumni came out for the event in Taipei. Amid the camaraderie and networking, many alumni came up to me to share their stories. One alumnus, a university faculty member and a celebrity TV commentator on financial news (much like what you see on CNBC), told me that Baruch opened his eyes to the world (in his case, finance) and that he treasures his experience at Baruch and in New York—a sentiment shared by almost everyone in the room. It was amazing to see how strong that Bearcat bond is—some 7,500 miles away.

Back at home this spring, the annual Bernard Baruch Dinner brought together hundreds of alumni, friends, and community leaders to celebrate Baruch's proud accomplishments and tremendous momentum. For the eighth consecutive year, the dinner raised more than \$1 million, funds that support scholarships, career services, and such basic needs as those met by the Bearcat Food Pantry and the Counseling Center. With the theme "Make It Happen," the dinner honored two highly accomplished alumni: Stephanie P. Smith ('96) received the Distinguished Alumna Award, and Marvin C. Schwartz ('62, LLD Hon. '02) received the William and Anita Newman Medal for Philanthropy.

I also had the privilege of recognizing outstanding students in the audience. Case in point: our team of Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) students, who competed in the Rotman International Trading Competition against teams from 40-plus of the best universities around the globe and finished first place for the fifth consecutive year!

Whether in Manhattan, Taiwan, or countless other locations around the world, the Baruch community is

an estimable force not only for individual success but for driving change and innovation. As I said at the dinner: "Baruch alumni have an 'underdog mentality' that makes them strive to not just beat the odds but become the very best at what they do. That's what makes them Unstoppable."

Reimagining Higher Education

It is Baruch's rare combination of academic excellence, access, and student outcomes that continues to propel the College's reputation as a "beacon of hope" and "an antidote to cynicism about higher education" (Aspen Institute/ Bloomberg Philanthropies), an "upward-mobility machine" (New York Times), and the #1 Best Value College in the country (Wall Street Journal). Bearcats, you should be proud. More institutions need to follow Baruch's example: our commitment to providing world-class academics to a socioeconomically diverse student body.

Built by Baruch

Impactful faculty research, the theme of this edition of the alumni magazine, drives Baruch's rising reputation as well. This year, the National Science Foundation awarded the Department of Mathematics a nearly \$1 million grant to develop mentoring programs for students who wish to pursue degrees in STEM fields. Creating policies that improve the lives of millions of Americans will be the province of the new NY Retirement and Disability Research Center. Baruch has been tapped as part of the CUNY–New School partnership to establish this federal center, one of only six in the country.

The Bearcat Spirit

Please continue to stay connected with your alma mater: Attend Baruch events. Join alumni networks. Hire your fellow graduates. Read and engage with my blog. Share your Baruch story. Because of your support, engagement, and generosity, the Baruch spirit continues to thrive.

Thank you for contributing to this thriving community.

Sincerely,

S. DAVID WU President, Baruch College



President Wu and students celebrating at this year's Spring Fling.



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NEWS&NOTES

Baruch Is Flying High

During the spring semester, the American Talent Initiative (ATI) an offshoot of the esteemed nonprofit The Aspen Institute—along with Bloomberg Philanthropies, designated Baruch College as an

The status denotes Baruch as a high-graduation-rate institution leading progress toward equitable education for lower-income students. Baruch is one of only 28 "high-flier" U.S. colleges and universities, a short list that includes other prestigious institutions such as Princeton University and Yale University.

"There are very few colleges in the country like Baruch," says Josh Wyner, executive director of the College Excellence Program with The Aspen Institute.

In addition, the College received high marks in ATI's 2023 annual report, prompting New York Times columnist David Leonhardt to call Baruch "an upward-mobility machine" in an April edition of his popular Times newsletter, "The Morning."

Leonhardt writes, "Among all U.S. colleges with a graduation rate above 70 percent, Baruch may be the most economically diverse." He goes on to share that more than 60 percent of Baruch students receive Pell grants, while nearly 75 percent of Baruch students are people of color.

Baruch President S. David Wu has acknowledged the numerous issues college students face, including burdensome student debt and increasing tuition costs, all of which inform the College's mission to serve a broader population of students.

"Baruch is joining forces with ATI, The Aspen Institute, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to meet these challenges head-on," President Wu says. "We share a goal: to ensure that traditionally underrepresented and underserved students have access to a world-class education paired with top-notch career and student services—which will prepare them to be creative, collaborative, and pioneering leaders in tomorrow's economy."

Baruch's excellence is notable considering the diverse student population the College serves. "Our diversity," President Wu says, "very much reflects the diversity of New York." -MOLLY TURNER



At an event celebrating Baruch's recognition as an "ATI high-flier," President Wu (left) led a fireside chat with alumni Briana Staten ('22, MS '23) (middle), a senior precision analyst with Digitas North America, and Aliou Sidibe ('19, MS '20), a senior technology consultant at EY.

Online Graduate Programs Grow

To better meet the needs of today's learners, Baruch College continues to expand its online graduate degree offerings. Baruch's Marxe School of Public and International Affairs now offers an Online Master of Public Administration, and the Zicklin School of Business will launch an Online MS in Business Analytics and an Online MS in Marketing in Fall 2024 (joining Zicklin's already established online MBA). Additionally, an online MS in Finance degree program will begin in the fall of 2025.

These new programs "offer the same academically rigorous classes taught by the same faculty as our traditional programs," says Helaine Korn, PhD, executive director of graduate programs at the Zicklin School. Dr. Korn adds that the virtual options attract "the same ambitious, gritty student body—busy professionals managing work and family while fitting in education. With these online programs, we're eliminating a point of friction in people's ability to pursue graduate school and advance their personal and professional development."

Case in point: Inna Shellkopf, the chief operating officer for Brownstone Door, a Brooklyn-based custom wood door manufacturing company she started with her husband. Trained as an architectural designer, Shellkopf decided to go back to school for her MBA, and as a working mother, she wanted the flexibility of an online program. Because she also wanted the option of attending campus events, she sought out the Zicklin School specifically while researching programs in the fall of 2022, and was disappointed at first to learn there was no virtual option—at least, not yet.

"Then I checked the website again last spring, and lo and behold there was an announcement of the online MBA," she says. The timing couldn't have been better: Shellkopf applied immediately and was accepted into the inaugural program cohort in Fall 2023.

Although the Online MBA program has only completed its second semester, student Alina Levitsky says she has already reaped benefits. As a pharmacist, Levitsky had worked in hospital

there was a lot of business lingo and concepts I didn't know," she explains. "Now, after just one semester in the program, I definitely understand the

-SARA J. WELCH

conversation better."

4TI High-Flier photo by Mike Buri Zaruma ('25')

Fashioned for Success

Baruch Undergrads Launch Clothing Startup

You could say that Djamina Drabo ('25) and Renukh Rampaul ('25) know how to roll up their sleeves—in more ways than one. The two enterprising young women, undergraduates in Baruch's Zicklin School of Business, are co-founders of Homme D'Affaire, the first student-clothing brand from the College's entrepreneurship club.

Homme D'Affaire sells business-casual sweaters and polos as well as comfy T-shirts and hoodies through its online store, which launched in December 2023. The startup was founded in 2021 by Baruch's entrepreneurship club, the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO), and is the club's first startup to offer a tangible product line.

In many ways, Homme D'Affaire is the quintessential Baruch brand. Its tagline is "the attire of ambition," and its highly professional website is impressive. On the landing page, a photo carousel shows Baruch students modeling Homme D'Affaire clothes. The company's USP, or "unique selling proposition," is that it is exclusively student run, striving "to empower students at Baruch to learn business through the execution of Homme D'Affaire operations." Indeed, the stylish startup is run by a team of around 20 Baruch undergraduate and graduate student interns.

"The club decided we wanted to do a clothing brand, and because Baruch is mainly a business school, the idea of business-casual fashions made sense," says Drabo, CEO's president. "Coming back from Covid lockdowns, we liked the idea of looking semi-professional in Zoom meetings while still being comfortable."

Rampaul, who oversees recruitment and other activities, said that Homme D'Affaire has departments of communications, marketing, operations, design development, finance, and business development. When hiring interns, "Even if it's their first working experience, if they're willing to learn, we'll hire them, and they can attain valuable skills," Rampaul says.

Homme D'Affaire also collaborates with student clubs at Baruch and other CUNY schools to provide custom merchandise, most recently T-shirts for Baruch's Weissman School of Arts and Sciences' Study of Latin America club. At the Field Center's annual Baruch Marketplace event last December, Homme D'Affaire showcased a new quarter-zip sweater line, which quickly sold out.

Surprisingly, neither of Homme D'Affaire's co-founders planned on a business career. Drabo studied computer science in high school but, after watching Shark Tank, developed a passion for entrepreneurship, which led her to apply to Baruch.

Rampaul's path was also circuitous. In high school, her passion was animals and she wanted to be a veterinarian or a zoologist. But during Covid lockdowns, her family's lack of economic stability drove her to teach herself about stocks. taxes, and other financial literacy topics, compelling her to study business at Baruch.

Rampaul and Drabo initially met through the SEEK program, a CUNY program that offers academic and financial assistance to qualifying students. When Drabo told Rampaul that she was thinking of launching a clothing brand, it didn't take long to convince her to join. "You might even say she joined Homme D'Affaire at









Engaged Education Expands



As part of the El Paso del Norte project, Baruch students have been painting murals to display imagery and histories of migrants. Here, Assistant Professor Lizbeth de la Cruz Santana, PhD, stands in front of the murals as students from her classes continue their work.

In keeping with strategic planning goals, Baruch continues to purposefully forge impactful links between classroom learning and the world outside the College campus. Among recent noteworthy accomplishments: development of an experience-centric BA degree in Black and Latino studies (BLS) in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences and the creation of a director-level position dedicated to College-wide coordination and implementation of experiential learning initiatives.

The new degree program, launched in Fall 2022, was designed by Shelly Eversley, PhD, professor of English and interim chair of the Department of Black and Latino Studies. It draws upon the discipline's perennial commitment to community engagement as a key component of transformational higher education, she explains: "Connections between classrooms and communities empower students to apply in-class learning to the world beyond school and give them the confidence and the skills to contribute to more just futures."

The BLS major's experiential learning and local community engagement components explicitly link classroom learning and real-world applications, including research, communications and advocacy, and policymaking. Students in the Climate Justice class learn about how the climate emergency intersects with social justice issues while working with City advocacy organizations to create short documentaries that integrate their own personal experiences into those of affected communities. In Fieldwork in Racial and Social Justice, students interact with Bed Stuy's Restoration Plaza to help build an archive of stories about Brooklyn community development. In a class on US-Mexico border policy, they engage with the El Paso del Norte Mural Project, whose goal is to present imagery and oral histories of migrants whose journeys reflect the life experiences of many Baruch students. Dr. Eversley hopes to provide more participatory learning opportunities via work-study trips during school breaks.

Eversley, who chaired Baruch's search committee for the newly created position of Director of Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning, is looking forward to an expanded focus on participatory learning throughout the College. "I'm excited about increasing opportunities for research as a high-impact experiential learning practice," she says.

The search culminated in the hiring of Anthony Maniscalco, PhD, whose experience encompasses more than 20 years in high-level director roles at CUNY involving oversight of a variety of career development, internship, and experiential learning programs. "What appealed to me about the new position at Baruch was the opportunity to serve in a campus setting while linking student experiential learning opportunities to curricular goals and faculty development," he says.

Since joining Baruch in March, Dr. Maniscalco has been working with faculty, chairpersons, and administrators to build and showcase an inventory of experiential learning activities, specifically, faculty-mentored student research and community-engaged service connected to students' classroom learning activities. "The College is already very active in experiential learning—with many champions working in all three schools," he says. "The goal is to transition from pockets of experiential learning at Baruch to a *culture* of experiential learning at the College." —SALLY FAY

Fulbrights Flourish at Baruch

For the second year in a row, Baruch College is among the nation's colleges and universities with the highest number of students selected for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, according to the U.S. State Department.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship academic program that supports funding for American citizens to study or teach abroad. This academic year, Daniela Toribio ('21) and Ashley Mendez Cortez ('22) were awarded a prestigious Fulbright Binational Internship Award to Mexico.

"Our propensity for producing Fulbright recipients is a strong proof point for Baruch's unique ability to deliver a world-class education to students that are too often underrepresented and underserved by traditionally elite institutions," says President S. David Wu. "Baruch students compete—and achieve success—at the highest levels in every field, including the upper echelons of academia."

He adds: "I want to thank our faculty for their dedication to fostering excellence in the classroom, and the National and Prestigious Fellowships Advising Office who work tirelessly to ensure that our students have access to global opportunities like the Fulbright Program. Their collective efforts show how, at Baruch, student success is truly everyone's responsibility."

Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 400,000 talented and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals with the opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research abroad. The newest Fulbright awardees demonstrate the College's track record of academic excellence.

Baruch was named a top producer for Fulbright U.S. students and scholars in the 2022-23 academic year, making it one of only three institutions to be awarded a dual designation in the master's degree category. Additionally, Baruch was named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Top Producer institution for the 2020-21 academic year and a top-producing institution for the U.S. Student Program for 2017-18. —MOLLY TURNER

Courting Basketball Greatness

Mia Castillo's Record-Breaking Season

Caitlin Clark took the basketball world by storm this past year with her scoring prowess—but Baruch has its own all-star.

Junior Bearcat Mia Castillo enjoyed a remarkable 2023–24 basketball season, finishing as the NCAA Division III leader in points per game (27.4), total points (794), steals per game (5.38), total steals (156), and triple doubles (4).

She produced 23 games with 20+ or more points, including 10 games of 30+ points and one 50-point outing this past season.

And while Clark may have gained national headlines, Castillo earned some significant buzz of her own here in New York City: NY1, one of the city's most prominent news networks, ran a feature on Castillo at the end of her successful season.

The piece focused on why Castillo chose to attend Baruch and even featured her playing one-on-one basketball with news anchor Roger Clarke in Baruch's ARC Arena.

"In terms of the great business school that Baruch is, its location in the city...basketball was just a cherry on top," Castillo told NY1.

The women's basketball team finished the season with a 17-12 record, their best record in more than 10 years, and they also finished runner-up in the regional ECAC Division III Championship Tournament.

Castillo was voted the Most Valuable Player in both the local CUNY Athletic Conference and regional ECAC Division III.



Best of all: she still has one more season of competition left, and we look forward to seeing what she will accomplish next year! She is quick to note, though, that individual accomplishments pale in comparison to team success, and she told NY1 that her

main goal next season is to win the CUNY Athletic Conference championship.

"That's been my goal ever since I started here, and that's one thing I really have left to accomplish," she said.

-JOHN NEVES

Winning Ways

In addition to Castillo's individual heroics, Baruch Athletics enjoyed a number of team successes this year. The men's volleyball team (pictured) captured the CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) championship in April. Additionally, the men's basketball and men's swimming teams both won their respective CUNYAC championships. In the fall semester, meanwhile, the women's tennis and men's soccer teams brought home the hardware, also earning CUNY championships.





When Baruch graduates recall the effect their professors have had on their lives, what first comes to mind likely involves inspiring classes, mentorship, or sound advice. But while teaching is incredibly impactful, Baruch faculty are also esteemed scholars. Faculty from all three schools routinely pursue research on a multitude of topics, both independently and in collaboration with College colleagues and beyond. Not only do their avenues of research inform and enhance their classroom teaching, some of their discoveries might even change the world.

Here, we highlight two areas of research by Baruch faculty that have garnered recent attention in their fields.

NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

In January, a multidisciplinary research team including Baofu Qiao, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry in the Department of Natural



Sciences, published a groundbreaking study, "Controlled adsorption of multiple bioactive proteins enables targeted mast cell nanotherapy," in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*. The study focused on an innovative approach to the treatment of allergies using selectively tailored nanoparticles, microscopic structures capable of exerting a therapeutic effect on the mast cells responsible for allergic reactions.

A computational chemist who joined the faculty of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences in 2022, Dr. Qiao conducted the fundamental computer modeling studies on protein-polymer interactions while a research associate professor at Northwestern University. "If we understand the atomistic interactions—how the components are reacting with each other—then we can explain many kinds of microscopic observations," he says. In his experiments, "surprisingly, we found that the surface of the nanoparticles is adaptive. It adjusts its polar and nonpolar domains based on the antibody neighbors."

The results of Qiao's modeling study formed the basis for his colleagues' design of the nanoparticles, which carried both a specific allergen and antibodies capable of switching off the mast cells that generate an anaphylactic response to allergen exposure. The nanotherapy was ultimately tested on modified mouse models whose tissues contained human mast cells, with impressive results: no mice manifested allergic response, and no side effects were observed.

Given that current therapeutics can only treat but not *prevent* allergic reactions, Qiao's study's results are a potential game changer for allergy sufferers and a lifesaver for those prone to anaphylaxis—an acute

reaction to an antigen that can result in death. "Our work showed that the design of allergy-targeting nanomedicine is highly promising," says Qiao. "Currently our experimental collaborators are examining nanotherapeutics for other kinds of allergies. If outcomes are successful, biological trials could be on the horizon."

THE BEST MEDICINE

Broadly, Dr. Qiao's ongoing research supports clearer understanding of the structure, properties, and functional interactions of proteins, polymers, and other molecules. "Proteins and polymers are critical to the optimal design of emerging biomaterials and nanomaterials, and have great potential for many kinds of practical applications in fields ranging from medicine to energy and more," he explains.

Another such practical application in medicine relates to developing better means to regulate the Covid spike protein via an allosteric approach, which targets secondary binding sites rather than the protein's primary (orthosteric) sites. "Allosteric regulation embodies a 'butterfly effect' in proteins in that peptides (or drugs) binding to one site of the protein affect the distal regions," Qiao says. His

ongoing research in this area focuses on enabling the accurate prediction of allosteric regulation specific to individual peptides. This information is key to the design of safer, more effective drugs that are specifically tailored to combat the virus.

Qiao's research on allosteric regulation in the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein was recently published in *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*. In recognition of the importance of the topic, the journal designated the article one of its 2024 "HOT PCCP" articles, making it free to access and thus facilitating future research in this area.

While Dr. Qiao relishes the challenges of applying computational chemistry to elucidate the characteristics and behavior of subcellular particles, he is also determined to inspire his students to see research as a part of their futures. "Computational chemistry is becoming more and more powerful with the rapid development of computer facilities and capabilities, and is helping to shape the design of many functional materials and energy applications," he says. "My biggest challenge, and greatest opportunity, is to train the next generation of computational chemists at Baruch."

continued on next page







Among the functions of research is to make sure we're asking the right questions, says Professor Dahlia Remler, PhD, who teaches graduate-



level courses on research methods at the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. "Thinking about what you're trying to measure and how to make that measurement happen in the most valid way is an important part of what I teach my students," many of whom are practitioners in policy analysis, implementation, and management, she explains.

Dr. Remler, a health economist, frequently uses her own research on incorporation of health insurance into U.S. poverty measurement as a classroom example of how to define and solve measurement problems. Dr. Remler's work since 2010 with professor and interim Marxe School Associate Dean Sanders Korenman.

PhD, embodies a realm of research whose outcomes are highly conceptual. "If you want to answer questions related to poverty today, you have to be able to define complex needs for health insurance and health care," says Remler. "Our challenge was to develop a practical and viable way to measure health insurance benefits—from government or employers—as a resource."

Current poverty measures used by U.S. government agencies, which provide important information about the country's economic well-being from year to year, stemmed from research conducted in the 1990s—research that did not address the value of health insurance benefits in its algorithms. But as societal and health economic forces became more complex, "there was a feeling in the policy arena that we can't continue to ignore those benefits in poverty measurement," Remler says. Her and Korenman's decade-plus of research gradually gained the attention of powerful players among researchers and within the statistical agencies involved in U.S. poverty measurement.

A WIDENING CIRCLE

Initial interest came from a National Academy of Sciences panel, which, dissatisfied with the shortcomings of existing poverty measures, commissioned a background paper in 2017 on how to reduce child poverty. "Sanders and I and [Marxe colleague] Rosemary Hyson, a PhD research economist who collaborated on much of our empirical work, did some calculations for the academy. As a result, they recommended that the statistical agencies look more broadly at the viability of our 'Health Insurance–Inclusive Poverty Measure,' or HIPM," explains Remler.

Noting that the new measure better captures the realities of a post–Affordable Care Act society, Remler adds, "Census seems excited about the HIPM. They implemented our approach to calculate rates going back to 2014 and said they're planning to release it in a Research Report Series this fall." She's particularly pleased that an analyst and researcher at the bureau has already presented its implementation at conferences: "We

always intended our measure to stimulate more research and further deliberation."

Remler says the comprehensive, soundly conceived approach she and Korenman took to development of the HIPM holds great appeal for the statistical agencies. "It was very important to them that the health insurance data was easily available and we had eliminated the need for them to make difficult modeling judgments. To them, the HIPM is practical, and they like that."

STIMULATING DISCUSSION

Remler and Korenman's article "On the Importance and Intrinsic Difficulties of Incorporating Health Insurance Benefits in Absolute Poverty Trends," published in the October 2023 issue of Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, explains why the HIPM is widely viewed as valid among the major agencies and many researchers involved in poverty measurement. The research findings presented in the body of HIPM research formed an integral part of a recently released consensus study report, produced by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, recommending changes to how poverty is measured.

Last fall the members of the consensus study panel—including Korenman, who co-authored the health insurance section of the report—gathered at the Marxe School to present their recommendations to an audience of public policy practitioners and researchers. The event, sponsored by the Marxe School, NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and the Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University of Social Work, concluded with a lively roundtable discussion in which Remler shared details of her and Korenman's research assumptions and process with the audience.

Opening the event, Marxe Dean Sherry Ryan, PhD, cited the commonalities among Marxe students and those of the other host institutions, all of whom are

equipping themselves to "serve and uplift the neediest, to improve ability to analyze causes and consequences of deprivation, and to measure outcomes of policies."

SLOW AND STEADY

Behind all the announcements of discoveries and publication of research results lie the years—sometimes decades of conceptualizing, planning, defining, and proving or disproving theories. Researchers are in it for the long haul.

Despite the positive response to the HIPM, it will likely be some time before the United States imposes new agency standards for poverty measurement. Nevertheless, having a new means of measurement is of great value in policy research, Remler explains. "Our data comes from the current population survey, which is what statistical agencies are mandated to use, and from marketplace data on health insurance. But you can do the calculations with other data if they have the right variables, and I hope researchers do that, because that can lead to other discussions and additional enhancements to poverty measurement."

Dr. Remler recounts Korenman's frustration with the U.S. government's official implementation of Supplemental Poverty Measures (SPM) in 2010 that set them down a long and unexpected research path to development of the HIPM. Those measures, based on research conducted 15 years prior, were meant to improve the original federal poverty measure that was used since the 1960s and that had been based on research conducted in 1955. "Knowing I like public engagement, he enlisted me to help write an op-ed about why the SPM was inadequate," she recalls. "What I thought was going to be a fairly quick op-ed piece became more than 13 years of collaborative research."

In successful research, collaboration is critical, Remler says. She describes her teaming with Korenman as a fortuitous merging of distinct backgrounds: "I came in as a health economist, Sandy as a longtime social welfare/poverty researcher. Integrating our different knowledge bases and perspectives was really key to arriving at a method to develop and validate our new poverty measure. So though we're from the same department, in many ways it's interdisciplinary research."

ENGAGED AND ENGAGING

The diverse research pursued by Professors Remler, Korenman, Qiao, and so many of their Baruch colleagues is emblematic of the climate of intellectual curiosity and knowledge sharing at the College. Their success both as researchers and as educators has far-reaching implications not only for the students who learn from and are inspired by them, but also for the world beyond the campus.

"Our faculty aren't only teachers in the classroom, they are also thought leaders in their disciplines who are advancing new knowledge through their research and creative activity that has the potential to have real-world, life-changing impacts locally and globally," notes Provost Linda Essig, PhD. "It's an honor to work with them to create the dynamic intellectual environment that is Baruch College."



From MBA to IPA

Denise Ford Sawadogo (MBA '00) and her husband break barriers at their New Jersey brewery

Plenty of home beermakers have dreams of launching their own brewery. But how many of those dreamers also have a marketing and finance pro for a life partner? At Montclair Brewery in New Jersey, Denise Ford Sawadogo (MBA '00) and her husband, brewmaster Leo Sawadogo, have joined their talents to found a microbrewery that produces flavorful lagers, ales, and stouts. And, at the same time, the couple is creating a more inclusive landscape in their industry.

Leo, a native of Burkina Faso, had spent years as a hobbyist brewer, experimenting with ingredients such as fruit from the baobab tree to create unique beers that spoke of Africa. Denise, raised in Brooklyn and Freeport, New York, in a family with Jamaican roots, had used her Baruch MBA to build a career in brand management, handling marketing and communications for large global companies.

In 2014 the couple had a dream to establish their very own brewery and decided to combine their expertise to create a solid business plan. They found—and completely renovated, with support from their community—a building in their hometown of Montclair. They also won a \$50,000 grant from the 8 Trill Pils Initiative, founded by the Black-owned Crowns & Hops Brewing Co., which seeks to create racial equity in an industry in which fewer than 1 percent of craft breweries are owned by African Americans.

The brewery is celebrating its fifth anniversary, and Denise and Leo put community at the center of their business, hosting local jazz and film events in their taproom. Saluting Black achievement and history are also key to the brewery's mission.

"Montclair itself has such a rich history," Denise said. "Every February, for Black History Month, we honor someone from the community." They also brew a special beer inspired by the honoree. For example: In 2020 they honored late baseball great Larry Doby, the second man to break the sport's color barrier, and brewed "Doby Major Leagues Caramel Pale Ale."

Inspiration for other unique brews comes from a variety of sources: poet Maya Angelou inspired the mango purée-infused "Maya Double IPA," brewed for Women's History Month; a vacation to France, with scents of menton lemons and lemon verbena, inspired the couple to produce the citrusy, Belgian-style saison called "Verb," a collaboration with Maine-based Allagash Brewing Company.

Through her work as a board member of the Black Brewers Association, Denise also seeks to inspire other African Americans to join the industry. "We're seeing how we can increase opportunities so that there are more brewery owners that look like me," she said. "We have to build that pipeline."

-NANETTE MAXIM

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Meil Schwartz ('65) received the SBA Score Business Mentor Impact Award and White House Volunteer Service Award at a recent presentation from the Score Palm Beach County Chapter.

William Bosco ('67) was inducted into the Equipment Finance Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

Marshall Adesman ('70)
released the novel *The Mountain Empire League* (2024, Akrettype). Richard Friedman ('72) independently published a book of cartoons titled *Richard's Best of 2023 Political Cartoons*. Yolene Legrand ('72) has two of her works in the Smithsonian National Museum of

American History's graphic arts permanent collection. Supremex Inc. appointed **Paul Reilly** ('74, MBA '76) as new independent director of the board of directors. **Walter Siefert** ('76) was selected for inclusion in the prestigious Marquis *Who's Who in America*. **Nicole Reid Yarling** ('78) was invited to perform in the Pompano Beach

Cultural Center's concert "Jazz Reflections: The African American Women of Jazz." **Terrie Brennan** ('79) was appointed chief commercial officer of Beatgrid. **Stephen Diamond** ('79) reached out to the Office of Alumni Relations to send his thanks to Baruch and fellow classmates for the instrumental role they played in preparing him for the business world.

 $80s \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Trevor Edwards ('84, MBA} \\ \text{'90, LHD Hon. '14) was} \end{array} \right.$ appointed to the Board of Directors of VF Corporation, a global leader in branded lifestyle apparel, footwear, and accessories. Eric Kirsch ('84) joined Star Mountain Capital as senior advisor. SAB Biotherapeutics appointed Michael King Jr. ('85) as chief financial officer. **Jeffrey Lieto** (MBA '85) is the new senior vice president of the Richmond Health Network. Jacqueline Wright ('86) was honored with the Trailblazer Award at the 30th Annual Caribbean American Heritage Awards Gala. The Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized selected Marta Febos ('88) as a Woman of the Month for November 2023.

90s Kathleen Perrott (MBA '91) was elected president of the Glove Theatre board of directors. The International Association of Exhibitions and Events welcomed Marie Browne ('92) as chairperson of the board of directors. Herbein welcomed Louis Palladino (MBA '94) as the firm's state and local tax director. Claudia Carmona Castellanos ('95) joined Snowden Lane Partners as vice president and senior registered client relationship manager. Vincent Bruno (MPA '96) published the book *The Beatles:* From Liverpool to Abbey Road. Donna Frisby-Greenwood (MPA '96) was named a 2023 Women of Influence by the Philadelphia Business Journal. Andrew **Kane** (MBA '96) is the vice president of finance and operations at Sarah Lawrence

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PROUD MAMA BEARCAT

Last year's Commencement was a particularly special moment for Gabriela Robles ('10) (middle), posing here with her son, Leonard Medina ('22), and Ellen Stein, PhD, director of Baruch's Starr Career Development Center. A former participant in Starr's Peers for Careers program, Robles was a single mother when she studied at Baruch and enrolled Leonard in the College's Early Learning Center. She was exceptionally proud to see her son follow in her footsteps and join the ranks of Baruch alumni.



An Inspired Career

Amy Hau (EMBA '01) may have begun her role as director of The Noguchi Museum in January 2024, but she has a much longer history with both the legendary artist and the Queens-based institution. "I worked for Isamu Noguchi from 1986 until he passed away in 1988," Hau explains. "At the time, it was really working for the artist, not the institution."

Hau stayed on after Noguchi's death to assist in the massive undertaking of managing his estate and developing the Isamu Noguchi Foundation, gaining priceless experience through projects such as inventorying the artist's complete body of work. As she took on more responsibility with the museum, Hau decided to pursue a degree through Baruch College's Executive MBA program.

"Ultimately, I decided an MBA would be most applicable to what I was doing," she says. "It takes a lot of financial planning to develop any kind of strategy for growth."

Hau also pursued additional opportunities to grow outside of the museum, including volunteering on the boards of the Asian American Arts Alliance and Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City. Most recently, she worked with WXY Studio, a for-profit architectural design firm that gave her a chance to study other facets of public art.

Hau's enthusiasm about the next chapter—for her and the museum—is contagious. "It's totally a full-circle moment, yet the operation has grown quite a bit," Hau explains. "It's wonderful to step into something that's somewhat new and not the same old job."

A new exhibition of Noguchi's contemporary and good friend, Toshiko Takaezu, highlights the museum's mission to elevate individual artists. The exhibition is on view until July 28, 2024, and displays nearly 200 of Takaezu's works in an entirely new light.

After devoting so many years of her life to preserving and promoting Noguchi's artwork and legacy, Hau remains unsurprisingly enthusiastic about her former mentor. "He was an artist who straddled both the East and the West. He was half Japanese, half American," she says. "There's a timelessness to his work that comes from marrying different design ideas and challenges."

The Noguchi Museum celebrates its 40th anniversary next year with a reimagined permanent collection of his work, spearheaded by Hau. "The intention when he created the museum was to take you through a very personal journey of his work. To be able to have that on view again will be exciting."

-MOLLY TURNER



College. Viavi Solutions Inc. appointed **Ilan Daskal** (EMS '99) as executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Cleopatra Charles ('00, MPA '03) has cowritten the book Financial Leadership for the Arts: Sustainable Strategies for Creative Organizations (2024, University of North Carolina Press). Charles is currently associate professor at Rutgers University in the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Alex David ('00) joined Raymond James Financial Services as the director of its northeast division. Harlem School of the Arts welcomed Vanessa Clark ('02) as the organization's first chief people and culture officer. John Hui ('02) was honored with the Entrepreneur Award by the New Jersey Chinese-American Chamber of Commerce for cofounding Twiage, a New York Digital Health 100 company, and Rendr, a large physician group dedicated to serving the underserved Asian community in New York City. Kerry Archer ('03) is the public administrator for Kings County in Brooklyn, NY. NC State University named Allison Mitchall (MSEd '04) the College of Education's assistant dean for student success. Adeola Akinrinade ('05) was honored at the Macaulay Honors College Foundation's annual gala in May 2024. Akinrinade also serves on the foundation's board and is the first Macaulay graduate to receive this honor. Daniel Creighton (MBA '05) was sworn in as Long Beach, NY's new city manager. Julian Nemirovsky ('06) was appointed to serve on the audit committee and nominating committee of the Slam Corp. board of directors. Anita Pierce ('06) founded a business consultancy, Eleven3Seven5, to facilitate sustainable business opportunities and foster social impact by bridging connections between businesses and communities. Christopher Hundley (MS '07, MBA '13) was named to the Education and Workforce Committee for the Shapiro-Davis gubernatorial administration in Pennsylvania. Hundley

also completed a Marshall Memorial Fellowship to explore labor issues around the world over the summer of 2023. Angelica Crisi (EMBA '08) is a founding member of Coston Consulting LLC, a certified minority-owned business advisory firm, which recently launched the innovative eLearning platform The Coston Elevate Curriculum. Anna De Santis Villani (EMPA '08) was named chief operating officer at Catholic Charities of Orange, Sullivan, & Ulster. Darren Smith ('08) was honored at the inaugural Keiser University Choice Awards ceremony.

Miranda Reiter (MPA '09) published an audiobook, Six Steps to Manage Your Money.

Garen Marshall ('11) has joined international law firm McGuireWoods as counsel. Gabrijela Peic ('11) joined ATL Partners as head of marketing and investor relations. IQM Corporation appointed Jaiyu Kris Qiu ('12) to the role of chief executive officer. Elizabeth Rodriguez-Perez (MPA '12) launched the podcast Civil Conversations. Kevin Rucker ('12) and Donnell Culver ('13) opened their new business, Casaroma café, in New Rochelle, NY. The Arc Westchester Foundation appointed **Barry** Clark (MBA '13) as executive director. **Ralph Labaton** ('13) is partner at Haug Partners LLP. Viktor Bunin ('14) spoke at a recent Baruch College Mitsui Lunch-Time Forum on the topic of "A Non-Traditional Path to Career Success...in the Crypto Industry." Mike Bauer ('15) is the chief executive officer and founder of a craft cold brew and specialty coffee company, Bauer's Brew Co. Bauer credits

continued on next page

The ABCs of Slang

Edgar Henry ('78) explores the origins of his country's unique words and phrases

Growing up in his native Guyana-the only country in South America where English is the official language-Edgar Henry ('78) heard more than his fair share of street slang when going out to the local markets.

"They certainly weren't speaking the Queen's English," he recalls with a laugh. For example: a thousand-dollar Guyanese bill was condensed to "towel"; chatting informally was called a unique slang word, "gyaffing"; and "How are you?" was often shortened to "Wha' appenin' deh?'

Henry has compiled these types of words and explored their origins in his latest book, The Guyanese Street Slang Alphabet. "Slang was taboo in the house I grew up in, but in the streets, you'd always shorten the words," he explains. "My book is centered around Guyanese slang, but it exists in every language ... and I explore the roots of it, tracing back to hieroglyphics, before papyrus and paper were even invented."

But authoring books and diving deep into language is just one small aspect of Henry's fascinating and lengthy career. At the age of 21, his father passed away, prompting Henry to resolve to leave Guyana to provide for his mother and four siblings.

"As the eldest son, I was determined to venture into academic fields," he says. "I just needed an opportunity."

That opportunity came in the form of a bookkeeping job in New York City with a Greek shipping company. He simultaneously began studying at Baruch College at night and, after graduating, became the shipping company's chief accountant. In the decades that followed, he would also acquire a real estate license and buy property throughout New York City and Florida.

All the while, he has remained deeply connected to Guyanese culture, serving as the vice president of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York. As part of his involvement with the group—and as an accomplished pianist—he teaches music lessons to Guyanese-American children.



Major-League Impact

Lina Cruz Scores for Communities Through Sports

When it comes to building bridges between sports teams, partners, and communities, Lina Cruz ('15, MA '23) has tackled everything from "America's pastime" to "the beautiful game." She currently works as director of partnership marketing for New York City Football Club (New York City FC) of Major League Soccer—a career she never quite expected to have.

The sports industry wasn't on Cruz's radar when she was an undergraduate studying at Baruch's Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. "I wanted to lead programs that were people-facing and would make a difference," she says. But an unexpected internship with the New York Yankees' Latino Affairs team led to a job offer.

Yet for Cruz—who came to the United States for college in 2008 from her native Colombia—baseball was not in her wheelhouse. What she knew best was track and field, as a former member of Colombia's national women's team, coached by her mother, and as a Bearcats cross-country All-Star. "But," says Cruz, "my boss told me, 'You don't need to know baseball to do the work. There are so many careers in sports."

She learned on the fly and grew to love both the job and the game, spending more than nine years with the team. "We made sure our doors were open to everyone and that we built bridges to the communities the Yankees serve," says Cruz, who led multicultural initiatives and programs with a larger impact in the community.

In 2021, while earning a master's in corporate communications at Baruch, Cruz segued her career to Major League Soccer's New York City FC, where she focuses on the strategy, operations, and management of sponsors. This includes working with Tri-State Ford on a local charity tournament with the NYPD and FDNY, launching free youth clinics sponsored by the Goya company, and partnering with Procter & Gamble on a youth leadership program, among many other initiatives.

In 2022, Cruz was selected as one of New York City's "40 Latinos Under 40" by *Negocios Now*, one of the nation's most widely read Hispanic business publications.

And there's never been a better time to be working in Major League Soccer, especially after global icon Lionel Messi joined the league last year.

"We're gaining global momentum," says Cruz, who notes that New York will serve as one of the host cities for the 2026 World Cup. New York City FC also plans to open its own stadium in 2027, with Cruz playing a key role in that development.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of this team," she says.

-NANETTE MAXIM

his invaluable education at Baruch College with this exciting milestone. Alade McKen (MSEd '15) is the chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer at Columbia University. SL Investment Corp. appointed David Pessah (MBA '16) as chief financial officer. Daniel Dornbaum ('17) has been appointed assistant secretary to the Governor of the State of New York. Ryan **Koncar** ('17) was appointed as the Flotilla Staff Officer-HR and the Flotilla Staff Officer-Secretary of Records for the US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Governors Island Flotilla. Levy Rozman ('17) released his first book, How to Win at Chess: The Ultimate Guide for Beginners and Beyond (2023, Ten Speed Press). Irving Betesh ('19) joined UBS Wealth Management as a financial advisor. Nicholas Smith (MSEd '19) started a new position as the executive assistant to the dean of the Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York.



Alexander Marion (MPA '20) was elected city auditor of Syracuse, NY, in November 2023. Evercore Wealth Management named **Sean Brady** (MBA '21) managing director and wealth and fiduciary advisor. Payal **Dhanda** ('21) is beginning a new career in real estate. Josephine DiMaggio (MSEd '21) published her personal development book, Review, Reflect, Realize: Creating a Customized Life. Dimaggio was also included in the 2023 Marquis Who's Who in America. Karina Chiqui Narvaez ('22) is the communication and content associate manager at Reckitt. Debtwire has hired Ayse Kelce ('22) as a reporter covering distressed debt and restructuring. BestAgents.us recognized Dane Ceniceros ('23) as a 2023 Top Agent.

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Embodying the American Dream

This spring Bruce S. Sherman (MBA '74) (right, in conversation with ABC News' Byron Pitts) received the prestigious Horatio Alger Award at an event at the National Portrait Gallery. The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., is a nonprofit educational organization that bestows its award to civic and philanthropic leaders who exemplify perseverance, integrity, and a commitment to achieving the American dream. In addition to his professional and philanthropic success, Sherman is currently the chairman and primary owner of the Miami Marlins baseball team.



Career Corner: ChatGPT as a Professional Tool

By career coach Nancy Ancowitz, frequent host of Baruch Alumni career programs

Everybody is asking whether ChatGPT is a friend or foe. Yes, it has limitations. But when you use it wisely, it can be a valuable ally in unleashing your writing potential to advance in your career.

Here's why I find collaborating with the uncanny, if spooky, zeitgeist of generative AI so useful:

- Blank Page Terminator: ChatGPT can jumpstart creativity. It can also draft a document you're not experienced with. Sample prompt: Draft a cover letter for this paralegal position. Here's the job posting and my resume.
- Idea Generator: Give a bot clear prompts and you'll get a smorgasbord of ideas you can work with. Sample prompt: Generate three options for my LinkedIn bio.
- Grammarian: ChatGPT swiftly detects and corrects grammatical errors. Sample prompt: Note grammatical errors—and your corrections—in this draft client proposal.

Beware of these caveats:

- Not Trustworthy: Cross-check everything a bot spits out, since it relies on imperfect, sometimes dated data.
- **Instruction Compliance:** ChatGPT (and its competitors) sometimes misinterprets instructions. For example, ChatGPT does poorly when I ask it to write concisely.
- **Not a Substitute for Thinking:** Use ChatGPT as a thinking partner, but not a replacement for your mind.



IN MEMORIAM



Paul M. Koren '55, MBA '66 (1934–2023) Bernard L. Schwartz '48 (1925–2024) Sandra K. Wasserman '55 (1934–2023)



The Baruch College community mourns the loss of three beloved and generous alumni (pictured top to bottom): Paul Koren ('55, MBA '66), Bernard L. Schwartz ('48), and Sandy Wasserman ('55). All three demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to our students, and each left an indelible mark on the College in their own unique ways.

Back in 2002, Koren was one of the five founders of the Executives on Campus (EOC) program, which has since grown to over 500 active mentors, serving more than 1,000 students annually. Paul remained an active mentor, a member of its advisory board, and a Baruch College Fund (BCF) trustee until his passing. The EOC program and every mentee he worked with will miss his warmth and humor.

Schwartz, a BCF trustee for more than a quarter-century and a trustee emeritus at his passing, received many Baruch accolades: an Honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1987; the President's Medal in 1997; the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1999; and the William and Anita Newman Medal for Philanthropy in 2015. He took great pleasure in visiting with students at the Bernard L. Schwartz Communication Institute, which his generosity helped to create. The College will miss his wisdom and wit.



Wasserman remained devoted to Baruch for seven decades, dating back to her freshman year when she was elected class president. Her Baruch love story began on the ninth floor of 17 Lex, where she met Student Council President Bert Wasserman ('54). Partners in philanthropy as in life, together they remained deeply loyal to Baruch, establishing a scholarship for graduate students in accountancy and naming the Bert W. and Sandra Wasserman Trading Floor and the Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, among many other acts of generosity. The Baruch community will forever remember her kindness and passionate commitment to the next generation.

"These proud alumni had such a remarkable impact on Baruch," said BCF President Helen Mills. "Both Sandy and Paul were warm friends and influential mentors of mine and other board members who embodied what it meant to serve our students. Bernard's legacy at Baruch is strong and enduring. We will miss them all dearly."

Gloria C. (Karmiol) Good '45 Natalie (Lief) Lurie '46 Ruth H. Elton '47 Muriel (Altman) Stendig '47 *Bernard L. Schwartz '48 Manuel C. Zenick '48 Albert D. Fortinsky '49 Charlotte Domeshek '50 Jerry Sklar '50 Harvey Frank '52 Morton Povman '52 Maynard M. Zucker '52 Paul B. Biegel '53 Joel Margolis '53 Gloria F. Tingling '54 *Paul M. Koren '55, MBA '66 Sandra (Kahn) Wasserman '55 Arnold Pomerantz '56 Gerald P. Ravnitzky '57 William Bildner '58, MBA '64

Joseph Di Spigno '58 Sandra S. Marcus '58 *Sydney S. Traum '58 Carol S. Buchalter '59 Stewart J. Schwamm '59 Richard J. Blosveren '61 Robert A. Hanley MBA '61 *Harvey Schulweis '61, MBA '69 *Warren H. Haber '62 George N. Telonis '62 Judith (Horowitz) Kaufman '63 Barnet Sack MBA '63 *Richard A. Samber '63 George A. Barletta MBA '65 Alan S. Bernikow '65 Martin A. Gerber '65 Eugene S. Marks '65 David Gorin '66 Stanley Sheppard '66, MBA '71

Louis J. Cappelli '58, LHD Hon. '12

*Neil V. Terens '67 Barry Weintraub '67, MBA '71 Richard Vanderslice MBA '68 Ellen Grabie '69 John Nalbach MBA '69 Vincent A. Smyth '69, MBA '71 Thomas J. Maccari '71 Joseph F. Cabrera '72 Louis A. Paolillo MBA '72 Douglas W. Watts '72 Myron Yasiejko '72 James N. Cole MPA '73 Mark D. Stein '73 Edwin E. Murphy '74 Joseph A. Rollo '74 Lawrence I. Rosenfeld '74 *Martin J. Liebgott '75 Edward D. Stone III '75

Robert M. Chanda MBA '77

*Karen F. Gens MBA '77

Mary C. Sweeney-Stelmark '77 John L. Flateau MPA '78 June Friedman '78 *Katoko Mori Yamasaki '78 Matthew S. Nadler '84 Paula Marcisak '85 Carolgaye A. Morris '86 Michael Cawley '87 Adrian Puleo '89 Craig E. Eastmond '93 Antonis Spyropoulos '95 Sumithra Raghu MBA '03 Monica E. Marmol Maldonado '05 Lazaro Munoz MBA '05 Connie M. Savage-Frokic MBA '06 Miguel A. Ramirez MPA '21 Steven P. Patterson '23

*Benchmark Society member

ABOUT THE BENCHMARK SOCIETY

The society honors individuals who have included Baruch College in their will or trust, used retirement fund assets or life insurance to make a gift, or established life income gifts that benefit the College. In so doing, members have chosen to support Baruch beyond their lifetimes as Bernard Baruch did himself. Please contact Laura Kotkin at 646-660-6074 or laura.kotkin@baruch.cuny.edu to learn more.



BARUCH ALUMNI CHANGEMAKERS

Join us for the 3rd annual **Baruch Alumni Changemakers Awards**! This signature alumni event will feature dinner, cocktails, remarks from President Wu, and an awards ceremony celebrating alumni who have made a positive impact through leadership, innovation, and excellence.

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's award recipients.

RSVP now to save your seat!

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Baruch College Newman Library Building, Room 750 151 East 25th Street New York, NY 10010

5:30 PM | Check-in & Networking

6:00 PM | Cocktails

6:30 PM | **Dinner & Awards**

RSVP Here











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BCF trustee Dennis Hickey '70 is challenging us to get 500 more alumni to give by June 30th. If successful, Dennis will pay it forward and donate \$25,000 to help Baruch students.

Your participation brings us one alum closer to meeting this challenge! Your donation, of any amount, counts!

GIVE NOW

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to support Baruch students or donate online by visiting baruch.cuny.edu/give.

