

FALL 2024/WINTER 2025

BARUCH

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



THE FUTURE OF THE OFFICE

HOW THE WORKPLACE HAS CHANGED, MAYBE FOREVER



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I enter my fifth year as president of Baruch College, my pride in our accomplishments and my resolve to drive positive change have only deepened. Each year, we raise the bar in serving our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and communities. When we chose *Together, We Are Unstoppable* as the theme for our Strategic Plan 2023-28, we knew we were setting our sights high—and Baruch is more than delivering.

National Recognition and a Growing Impact

For the second consecutive year, Baruch has been ranked #1 in the U.S. for best value by the *Wall Street Journal*. This incredible honor, alongside top national rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*, *Forbes*, the Princeton Review, and *Money*, reaffirms our commitment to high-quality education, accessibility, and transformative student outcomes.

Building on this momentum, Baruch recently received a historic \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education—the largest federal grant in our history to support student success. Just two weeks earlier, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences secured a nearly \$2 million grant from the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, providing scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students and establishing a prestigious visiting professorship that will rotate across five disciplines.

Even the White House has taken notice, naming Baruch as one of only 20 partners in the national effort to grow the cyber and tech workforce. We are creating new pathways for nontraditional students, addressing the demand for talent in cybersecurity, AI, and technology, where over half a million positions await skilled Baruchians.

Baruch Connects campus events—such as (left to right) Diwali and Rosh Hashanah celebrations—have been a fun way to grow our community this academic year.

Our Exceptional Community

Our community continues to shine. This fall, eight Baruch professors were named to Stanford University and Elsevier’s “Top 2% Scientists” list for 2024, joining the ranks of the world’s most influential researchers. Our alumni are also making waves—10 were celebrated on CUNY’s inaugural “50 Under 50” list, blazing trails in fields like entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, and public service.

Embracing Diversity and Dialogue

At Baruch, we embrace challenges head-on. In a time of heightened division, we have launched *Baruch Connects*, a yearlong, College-wide initiative that celebrates our incredible diversity and fosters meaningful dialogue. With expanded intercultural festivals and our Respectful Dialogue Series, Baruch Connects is creating a vibrant, inclusive environment where ideas are freely exchanged, and every voice is heard. This is more than a campus initiative; it’s a model for the world we want to build.

Preparing for the Future of Work

The skills our students gain through initiatives like Baruch Connects—openness, flexibility, and cultural sensitivity—will serve them well in the evolving workforce. In this edition’s feature, “The Future of the Office,” we explore how changes in remote and hybrid work are reshaping the professional landscape. For our students, and especially our junior professionals, mentorship from engaged alumni like you has never been more valuable.

Thank You, Alumni!

Thank you for being part of Baruch’s journey—by reading this magazine, attending events, mentoring and hiring our students, and supporting the Baruch College Fund. Your continued partnership propels us forward into an exciting future.

With deep appreciation,

S. DAVID WU
President, Baruch College



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STILL ON TOP



Baruch College continues to top the rankings. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *Forbes*, Baruch leads regionally and nationally in value, social mobility, and academic excellence.

For the second consecutive year, the *Wall Street Journal* named Baruch the #1 Best Value College nationwide. The list recognizes colleges with a high return on investment, in that the degree “[pays] for its cost through the salary boost it provides its students,” reports the publication. From their first day of classes to commencement, Baruch students are taking steps toward fruitful careers. The *Wall Street Journal* states that, on average, it takes Baruch graduates only three months to pay off the net cost of their education.

Not only did Baruch secure the #1 spot with the *Wall Street Journal*, but it ranked #1 in New York and #3 among public institutions in the North by *U.S. News & World Report*.

A long-recognized engine for social mobility (ranked #2 in the category this year by *U.S. News & World Report*), Baruch also earned a spot on *Forbes*’ national Top 25 Colleges for Highest Payoff list. The data says it all: Baruch graduates get a return on their investment the fastest and the College enrolls the highest percentage of low-income students out of all the other 25 public and private institutions on the list.

Forbes notes, “The student body’s diversity is reflective of New York City, with racial and ethnic minorities making up 68% of the undergraduate population. With more than 19,700 students enrolled, the school prides itself on educating one of the most diverse student populations in the United States.”

President S. David Wu echoes these nods, for Baruch “[ensures] 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.”

—ERIN DAVIS

THREE DECADES OF IMPACT

In September, Baruch’s Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs invited alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to celebrate its 30th anniversary and bright future. Guests enjoyed a buffet of international food, while a lively Mariachi band provided musical accompaniment.

Seven Marxe alumni were recognized as “alumni stars” at the event in honor of their exceptional commitment to public service. Honorees included:

- **John H. Banks III** (EMPA '92), who has a long history in public service, serving as chief of staff and deputy director of finance for the New York City Council.
- **Claudia Huerta** (MIA '19), who currently serves as the senior manager of diplomacy and campaigns at C40 Cities, which is a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world’s leading cities united to confront the climate crisis.
- **Allison Sesso** (MPA '04), who has served as president and CEO of Undue Medical Debt since January 2020. Undue Medical Debt is a national nonprofit whose purpose is to strengthen communities by erasing financially burdensome medical debt for individuals and families.
- **Melanie Ho** ('15) started her career at the NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability as an Urban Fellow helping to author the *New York City’s Roadmap to 80x50*, a comprehensive strategy that addresses how New York City can meet its aggressive goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050.
- **Stephen J. Jerome** (MSEd '01) served as president of Monroe University for 39 years. After stepping down, Stephen became

chairman of the board and president of the Monroe Foundation, which provides tuition assistance to qualified students, especially the underserved and veterans.

- **Denise Pease** (MPA '83) currently serves in the Biden Administration as an appointee to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans. The commission’s mission is to work with the Secretary of Education to identify and raise awareness and support for educational initiatives that address disparities faced by Black Americans.
- **Michael Lewan** ('72), founder of the New Democratic Coalition, is considered one of the architects of the moderate, business-oriented wing of the Democratic Party.

Here’s to the next 30 years of impact at the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs! —JASON EPSTEIN



FINDING SOLUTIONS TO SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION



Social media addiction grows more complex each day for average users, companies, and influencers.

Isaac Vaghefi, PhD—an assistant professor of information systems at Baruch’s Zicklin School of Business—is tackling the issue. Through his research, he explores why people develop addictions, potential policy solutions such as phone bans in schools, and exceptions to the rules.

Vaghefi’s interest in social media addiction began as a graduate student at McGill University.

“I started looking at what makes people want to check their smartphones,” Vaghefi notes. “My most recent research shows how social media addiction can develop over time, and how it evolves into compulsion, and the role of social media companies in that.”

Vaghefi delves into what makes some individuals more susceptible to social media addiction than others.

“If people are not careful, anybody can develop and go through some sort of addiction to technology,” he says.

His recent research investigates solutions to how people can self-regulate their social media addictions. In one experiment, he interviewed 700 students and then showed them the extent of their social media

addiction compared to others. With recent debates on whether phones should be banned in schools, Vaghefi believes that awareness of social media harms is key to fighting the crisis.

“I’m down for banning social media in schools,” he says. “[Social media] is kind of like how smoking was considered healthy and prestigious 40 to 50 years ago before we knew the harms. The more people talk about social media harms, the more we can work with governments to change policy.”

He admits, however, that social media has benefits for businesses and influencers.

“It’s one of the very few positive uses of social media,” he says. “If a company or person or influencers whose business is on social media, sales depend on it. But it’s not the average use of social media.”

Vaghefi adds, “I’m more focused on mental health and the well-being of society. Social media use [can cause] depression and anxiety.”

Looking ahead, he hopes that through awareness, research, and policy, society can collectively mitigate the harms of social media. —ERIN DAVIS



Aces the Competition

Ava Deguzman, a senior Bearcat originally from California, will be graduating with a record-breaking career—she currently has 56 singles victories in tennis, a Baruch record. In recognition of her performance both on and off the tennis court, Deguzman was voted this past summer as a Division III Women’s Tennis Academic All-American.

CELEBRATING IO PSYCH'S 45TH

Baruch's Industrial/Organizational Psychology programs celebrated their 45th anniversary in October. I/O Psychology alumni, faculty, students, and guests networked over drinks and delicious food while enjoying updates and speeches from faculty and staff. The event also honored outstanding alumni who have made major impacts on the industry. —MOLLY TURNER



BUILDING CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Baruch College is showing students that business growth and sustainability are not mutually exclusive.

As part of their coursework in the Susan Locke Interdisciplinary Capstone in Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, co-taught by Professor Ling Peng, PhD and Associate Professor Jean Gaffney, PhD, students explored 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge, a certified sustainable luxury get-away for travelers.

"These field trips provide practical, real-world examples of how businesses can implement sustainable practices while remaining profitable," says Peng. "For Zicklin students, it demonstrates how sustainability integrates with finance, marketing, and operations. For Weissman

students, it shows how scientific principles of sustainability are applied in real-world scenarios."

On their visit, students discovered how buildings could be crafted from recycled materials without sacrificing luxury. They studied carafes crafted from recycled wine bottles, lush green spaces, and locally sourced, reclaimed furniture.

The now-alumni carried what they learned about sustainability beyond graduation.

"At Baruch, I learned about climate change and the importance of caring for our environment," says Gabriela Aguilar Castillo ('24). "Now I implement sustainable practices, such as using reusable glass bottles and educating others about reducing meat consumption. I'm a business

technology solutions analyst, but I aspire to become an ESG consultant to help companies find effective ways to measure their carbon emissions and develop sustainability policies."

Baruch shows a steadfast commitment to improving sustainability and climate change, such as with the Baruch College Annual Conference on Climate Research, Teaching, and Collaboration; the Climate Studies Faculty Cluster; and the Climate Scholars Program that started at Baruch and later expanded to include other CUNY colleges.

"Under the guidance of Provost Essig and President Wu, the current Baruch College strategic plan includes goals focused on sustainability," says Professor Mindy Engle-Friedman, PhD, who teaches courses in environmental psychology and spearheaded the Climate Scholars Program. "The program is thriving and growing. Dozens of undergraduate students are involved as researchers in climate change research labs across Baruch's three colleges."

Through experiential education, coursework, and campus initiatives, Baruch is tackling climate change by fostering a sustainable mindset in its campus community. —ERIN DAVIS



Baruch students enjoyed an educational visit to 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge, a business that implements sustainable practices without impacting its profits.



Scan to watch Baruch students tackle climate change!

A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT

Baruch's Weissman School of Arts and Sciences received a grant of nearly \$2 million—the largest gift since its naming—thanks to the generosity of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation. The grant will support the housing and digitization of the newly acquired Edmond J. Safra Republic National Bank of New York (RNBNY) Archives, provide scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, and establish a prestigious visiting professorship rotating between five academic disciplines.

Weissman Dean Jessica Lang, PhD, expressed her gratitude for the Edmond J. Safra Foundation's support. "This grant is a monumental achievement for our school and a testament to the strength and dedication of our entire community," she says. "The opportunities it will create for our students and faculty to engage in archival research and scholarship are unparalleled."

Dov Schlein ('70, MBA '75), former CEO of Edmond J. Safra's Republic National Bank, underscored the significance of the new partnership. "This collection offers enduring lessons of success and ethics in business for current and future generations, and they need to be housed in an institution of higher learning with a mission that is

aligned with Edmond J. Safra's values," he says. "As a top-ranking institution in New York, and a part of CUNY, the country's first free public institution, Baruch offers academic excellence and access to qualified, underserved students—low income, first generation, and immigrants—all values that resonate deeply with Edmond J. Safra's commitment to empower individuals from diverse backgrounds."

The EJS RNBNY Archives, which will now be housed at Baruch College's William and Anita Newman Library, chronicle the banker's remarkable legacy. He founded Republic National Bank of NY and guided it from its inception in 1966 to its sale to HSBC in 1999. The archives encompass extensive documentation of the bank's growth, including a complete set of all Republic Annual Reports and Capital Transactions and Acquisitions, business ethics, institutional leadership, and Edmond J. Safra's support of immigrant communities.

The grant will also fund the creation of the Edmond J. Safra Visiting Professorship, a rotating position designed to bring distinguished scholars and practitioners from various disciplines to Baruch College. These visiting professors will utilize the



A photo of the late Edmond J. Safra, who was one of the twentieth century's most accomplished bankers and a generous philanthropist.

RNBNY Archives in their research, teach courses related to the archival themes, and contribute to the academic and cultural life of the departments of Communication Studies, Philosophy, History, Psychology, and Law.

Additionally, the grant will provide much needed scholarship opportunities for students, facilitating their involvement in research projects tied to the archives. These scholarships will be available at both the undergraduate and graduate level, fostering a new generation of scholars, leaders, and financiers who will explore and expand upon Safra's singular legacy that changed the face of banking forever. —DANIEL JACOBSON

MEET THE 2024 BARUCH ALUMNI CHANGEMAKERS

In September, Baruch College's Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement hosted its third annual Alumni Changemakers Awards celebrating Baruch graduates who have made a positive impact on their communities and industries.

Honorees

ANGELO CABRERA
('06, MPA '13)
Deputy Director of Education
& Career Pathways, Roads
to Success



DIPIKA SHRESTHA (MIA '19)
Director of Impact & Evaluation,
Arab-American Family Support
Center



GLENN C. DAVIS ('70)
Principal Emeritus and Director,
Kaufman Rossin & Company



JACLYNN TANNEY (MPA '12)
Co-Founder and President,
Jabber Dorado Enterprises

Anthony Hernandez ('08)
Product Management Leader,
Amazon



STEFANIE TRICE GILL
(MBA '06)
Founder and President, IntWork





WHO MOVED MY WATERCOOLER?

BARUCH ALUMNI CONTEMPLATE MODERN OFFICE CULTURE

BY SALLY FAY

Over the past five years, the knowledge and service-based employment sectors in which many Baruch graduates have built their careers have faced uncharted waters. With the emergence of Covid-19 as a global health threat in 2020, companies and employees alike were challenged to adapt to new ways of conducting business, shifting to remote and hybrid work arrangements out of necessity. The novel office environment that has emerged has surfaced an alphabet's worth of work-related issues, from accountability to burnout to Zoom etiquette. Post-pandemic, buzzwords like "quiet quitting," "the Great Resignation," "RTO" [return to office], and "job crafting" hint at underlying circumstances that continue to roil the professional landscape.

How will this latest period of upheaval play out—and how will it shape tomorrow's workforce? Here, three multigenerational Baruch alumni describe their career trajectories amidst the changing business environment and share thoughts on what work might look like in the future, both for them and for the next generation of Baruch graduates.


STAYING CONNECTED

A young Baruch accounting graduate, Julia Coto ('04), began her career on a traditional path. She joined Deloitte as an auditor and passed the CPA exam the following year.



“What excited me about audit was the variety,” she says. “I got to interact with different people, companies, and industries... I never wanted a job where I’m sitting in my cubicle and not talking to anybody.”

After five years in public accounting, three of them at Deloitte, Coto temporarily relocated to Boston while her husband earned a business degree and joined a search engine optimization company that had been one of her Deloitte clients. The position was her gateway into private accounting, where she’s spent the past 15 years, primarily in executive roles in the healthcare technology field.

Until the pandemic, all of Coto’s positions had been full-time on site. Yet she found the Covid-driven transition to remote work fairly smooth.

“The company I was with when Covid hit had a couple of offices, so Zoom was something we had already gotten used to using,” she explains. “And there was a really good team culture, so our Zoom meetings included team-building games to keep people feeling connected.”

In two subsequent executive roles, Coto worked remotely from day one, including when she was the executive VP of finance for a wellness company with personnel throughout the United States and Dublin.

“Working remotely allowed me to connect with everyone on the same level, no matter where they were located. In my prior position, I’d felt a huge difference in my relationships with people I was physically with in the office versus those located in other offices,” Coto notes.

Most recently, Coto has been CFO at a chronic care management company that went remote well before the pandemic.

“The bulk of the client work is phone-based, and we employ a lot of clinicians in the South and Midwest,” she explains. “At higher levels, being fully remote enables us to attract executive talent based throughout the country. From New Jersey, I work with a Colorado-based CEO, a CTO in Wyoming, a head of operations in Kentucky, a chief revenue officer in South Carolina, and a general counsel in Texas. Never would you be able to have that pool of employees and executives if we were in-person, or even hybrid.”

Coto finds remote workers’ accountability a non-issue.

“People balance different needs throughout their careers; you might have kids to drop off, other personal demands, so maybe you work before school or some evening hours. As long as the necessary work gets done, to me it doesn’t matter.”

She sees advantages to remote mentoring when teaching her team.

“Screen sharing lets me see exactly what they’re doing and where they might need more guidance.”

Originally from Belarus, Coto views sensitivity to cultural differences as essential in a remote workplace.

“It’s not only international differences, but even within the U.S.,” she says. “If you’re working with people from another region of the country, taking the time to understand something about their world and their communication style is important for fostering connections that will help you all better accomplish your work.”

Coto feels that the current RTO trend will continue at large companies, but regardless of whether employees are on-site, remote, or somewhere in between, comfort with business communication technology will remain a vital career skill, she says.

“Basic things like how to present yourself on camera, how to operate the technology,

general Zoom etiquette—these should all be part of basic business education.”


STRUCTURING WORK FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT

Although remote and hybrid positions became common during the pandemic, they’ve been feasible ever since the introduction of internet-driven office technology, says John Richards ('88), an attorney specializing in mortgage finance technology regulatory issues. Richards has worked in hybrid and remote roles for over 30 years.



Richards’ early experience navigating work outside of the office stemmed from a family tragedy. After graduating from Baruch with a BA in economics and international business and earning his JD in 1992 from Georgetown University Law Center, the Kingston, Jamaica, native had joined the Washington, D.C. headquarters of mortgage finance giant Fannie Mae, ultimately becoming associate general counsel. His sibling’s unexpected passing necessitated his spending lengthy periods in Florida assisting her family.

“Management was fine with my basing myself there, particularly as I was presenting at industry conferences at the time and often worked from the road,” he says.

After taking a buyout from Fannie Mae and briefly pursuing other law ventures, Richards joined government-sponsored mortgage enterprise Freddie Mac in 2012 as associate general counsel. His hybrid position there became fully remote in 2017 when he negotiated what at first had been a temporary relocation to Scotland, where his family has deep roots, both his wife and his mother having been born there. The unique arrangement worked well for both Freddie Mac and Richards, but as the pandemic drove other employees

continued on next page

Baruch Fosters Discourse on Workplace Challenges

Baruch College, situated in the world's business capital, is at the forefront of research, analysis, and discourse on subjects related to the modern world of corporate and professional work. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Baruch faculty have led the conversation on the multifaceted business, education, and societal implications of recent workplace trends and developments.

Baruch faculty have conducted research and authored manuscripts on topical business-related issues such as remote work, flexible work, quiet quitting, telehealth, and automation. Assistant Professor Andrea Bazzoli, PhD, and Assistant Professor Anna Godollei, PhD, who both teach psychology courses in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, co-authored papers on, respectively, the employee-perceived backlash against flexible work arrangements and how employees' appraisals of automation affect their job attitude. Assistant Professor Isaac Vaghefi, PhD, of the Paul H. Chook Department of Information Systems and Statistics in the Zicklin School of Business, co-authored a manuscript examining antecedents and outcomes in the IT-enabled remote working context.

Several professors from the Zicklin School's Narendra Paul Loomba Department of Management have authored or co-authored papers published in or submitted to management and behavioral science journals. Assistant Professor Matthew Perrigino, PhD, delved into management issues related to remote workers and technology use. Professor Alex Mills, PhD, examined pay parity and patient access in telehealth and combining in-person and virtual channels in service operations. Associate Professor Ruth Beer, PhD, explored the behavioral externalities of process automation, while Associate Professor Stephan Dilchert, PhD, explored the quiet quitting phenomenon.

Professor Dilchert's article is part of a longitudinal study among technology and biotech workers to investigate how remote and hybrid work relate to employee mood, satisfaction, performance, and turnover intentions. Through this research, the project team aims to provide critical insights into the evolving work landscape and its implications for employee success and health.

In September, Dilchert joined Dan Clivner ('85), Esq., managing partner LA and global co-head of private equity at Sidley Austin LLP, to discuss the future of work as part of the Zicklin Talks Business webinar series. Their wide-ranging discussion, moderated by Zicklin School benefactor and Baruch alumnus Larry Zicklin ('57), touched upon the challenges of navigating the post-pandemic work landscape from both a business management and an HR management standpoint, as well as on what managers, workers, and graduates entering the workforce need to succeed in this rapidly evolving environment.

to scatter across the globe, the company faced HR and compliance challenges in accommodating workers in multiple non-U.S. locations. Post-pandemic, a blanket policy was implemented that required all personnel to return to the office.

He left Freddie Mac and remained in Scotland. In 2022, he established his law firm there. Richards notes, however, that he trained his replacements remotely.

"That speaks to the robustness and reliability of electronic communications, which makes not only remote office work but also remote mentoring feasible," he says. "The technology to support it is there; what needs to be brought along—just as we've seen with respect to resistance to certain industry implementations of electronic signatures and records—is the mindset of 'that's not how these things are done.'"

Richards, whose major at Baruch reflects his affinity for the humanities, takes a holistic view of the forces that shape the modern office. He ponders the nuances of defining and discussing hybrid work, suggesting that "custom-fit" or "intentional" work—terms coined by journalist and author Brigid Schulte in her writings on the U.S. labor force—better reflect the ideal of structuring work to foster both bottom-line productivity and employee well-being.

He suggests that business-oriented course curricula should be designed "both for aspiring managers and for those comfortable staying in a nonmanagement track to better understand the issues surrounding business and employee rights and interests in the workplace of the 21st century."

Richards urges those who aspire to attain management roles to recognize that "people in your organization should be appreciated as valuable assets to be nurtured, not only for their own sake but also for the company's sake. It costs money—especially in today's knowledge economy—to train up workers in

substantive subject matter expertise only to have them poached by the competition because they're unhappy."

His advice?

"Companies that want to attract and retain talent need to revisit their experiential biases against change and flexibility."



NEW DEFINITIONS OF SUCCESS

Flexibility and adaptability, combined with a personal growth mindset, have served Stephanie Nuesi ('21) well in her career. A proud Latina who



emigrated from the Dominican Republic eight years ago with limited English proficiency has since mastered the language, earned a BBA in accounting, obtained her CPA designation, launched a corporate career as a financial analyst, and built a six-figure content creation platform with a following of more than 400,000 across social media.

While at Baruch, Nuesi founded Max Up, a career coaching enterprise whose mission is to maximize the potential of future business leaders. An in-demand Fortune 500 keynote speaker, she has been recognized as a LinkedIn Top Voice, Silicon Valley 40 Under 40, and Forbes 30 Under 30 Scholar with an impact extending to a global community of more than 20,000 members. Her work as a content creator and career influencer focuses on helping others access opportunities and mentorship that drive meaningful career growth.

Nuesi sees her unusual career path as an example of how generational differences are changing the conventional understanding of the business environment.

"Gen Z professionals view careers as nonlinear and more fluid—success isn't just tied to a title or salary but also to

work-life balance, personal fulfillment, and impact," she says. "Many of us want to pursue multiple interests, whether through side projects or remote work, and we prioritize flexibility and mental well-being over the traditional '9-to-5 until retirement' mindset."

Besides delivering practical tips and advice about job seeking and self-promotion for a Gen Z workforce, Nuesi's online content focuses on career issues that increasingly resonate with professionals of all generations, including burnout and mental health, work-life balance, career transitions and pivots, pay transparency, and diversity, equity, and inclusion—topics that reflect shifts in both societal and business expectations.

"There's a growing demand for workplaces that prioritize mental health, well-being, and inclusivity as more employees seek careers that align with personal values and offer flexibility," says Nuesi. "The conversation has shifted from 'How can I fit into the workplace?' to 'How does the workplace support my growth and expectations?'"

Nuesi suggests that business programs also need to adjust to reflect the realities of modern work, including coursework on digital literacy and emerging technologies, remote work strategies, and mental health.

"The future of work is changing rapidly, and students need more than the existing teaching methods and information to thrive," she says. "Many graduates

juggle multiple careers or freelance roles, which isn't fully addressed in traditional curricula; and critical skills like adaptability, emotional intelligence, and virtual networking should be integrated into business education as well."

Nuesi offers advice for those currently navigating or embarking on business careers.

"With industries evolving faster than ever, Baruch graduates need to develop a growth mindset and the ability to pivot, upskill, and manage change in uncertain environments."



FUTURE-READY

In work and life, change is constant. It remains to be seen what global, national, and regional forces affect Baruch graduates' workforce experience and what roles they, themselves, might play in shaping how business does business going forward.

By equipping students with a foundation of relevant skills and knowledge and the tools to persevere amidst uncertainty, Baruch plays a critical role.

As President S. David Wu states in the College's Strategic Plan, "In an era that is increasingly turbulent and unstable... now is the time for us to accentuate the essence of what we [are]—an institution that creates opportunities, demands excellence, and delivers outcomes."



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Dear Alumni:

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that earlier this year, I was named the director of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement here at Baruch, after serving in the role in an interim capacity for nearly a year prior.

Many of you may already know me, as I'm no stranger to Baruch or the office—in fact, I've worked here for nearly a decade, largely handling our communications, editing *Baruch Alumni Magazine*, and hosting career development and financial literacy workshops.

In May, I had the honor of speaking at Commencement 2024 to officially welcome 5,419 new graduates to our alumni community—and I can't wait to get to know more of you in the coming months and years.

Please reach out to me or the office if you have ideas and suggestions—this is your network, after all, and we are here to help you get the most out of it. You can email me at gregory.leporati@baruch.cuny.edu. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Best,



Gregory M. Leporati



50s | **Donald Gabay** ('56), a former first deputy of the New York Insurance Department and former chairman of the insurance practice group at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, has joined his daughter's firm Gabay & Bowler as "of counsel." **Jay Berman** ('59) spoke at Purdue University's Constitution Day event on September 17. Berman is the former chief of staff for U.S. Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana, who transformed presidential elections through the drafting and ratification of the 25th and 26th Amendments.

60s | After a lifetime in local government management, **Peter Korn** ('61) is a hearing officer for the County Attorney of Westchester County, NY and oversees the employee disciplinary and related hearings under the Civil Service Law.

70s | Fordham University awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters to **Robert D. Daleo** (MBA '76) at their 2024 commencement ceremony. **Martin Baumann** (MBA '79) was inducted into the *Marquis Who's Who* biographical registry for a distinct reputation in the financial services industry.

80s | **Morris Weisenberg** (MBA '81) retired in 2014 after 30 years as senior property manager. Weisenberg teaches courses for stationary engineers at Local 94 while enjoying his life as a husband, father, and grandfather. **Robin Gottlieb** ('83) recently celebrated 11 years in business with her company, Robin Gottlieb Career Consulting. **Raymond J. Passero** ('84) was recognized in *Marquis Who's Who* as one of the best CPAs in America. The National Organization for Women's New York City chapter honored

Helene Banks ('85) as a notable leader in law and philanthropy at its 2024 Women of Power & Influence Awards. **Arlene Klein** ('86) was named head of global compliance at T. Rowe Price. **Linda Lyons** ('86, MBA '91) reached out to the Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement to say how grateful she is for the flexibility and course programming that allowed her to earn her Baruch degrees while working full-time. **Jacky Wright** ('86) received a South Florida ORBIE Leadership Award. **Gwendolyn Franklin** (EMBA '87) was honored by The Living Legends Foundation, Inc. at its 2024 Annual Awards Dinner and Gala on October 4. **Steve Lipiner** (MBA '87) has been appointed to the PIMCO Mutual Fund Board. **Paris M. Brown** ('88) is publisher of *The Baltimore Times*. *Our Time Press* profiled **Louise Dente** ('88) about her career hosting the award-

winning public affairs show, *Cultural Caravan*. *Marquis Who's Who* recognized **Mario DiPaola** (MBA '88) for expertise in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. **Cenceria P. Edwards** ('88) is president of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association.

90s | **Robert Carteris** (MBA '90) is director of utilities for the City of Norfolk. **Abby Prince** (MBA '90) is the science department chair at Bruria High School in New Jersey. **Tarveen Singh Thadani** ('91) reached out to the Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement to ask about meeting fellow alumni who graduated from the class of 1991. If any alumni from that era would like to get in touch with Thadani, please email her at tarveenthadani@gmail.com or connect with her on LinkedIn. **Susan Zemser Israel** ('91) was inducted into the International Association of Top Professionals' Hall of Fame for her extraordinary talents in the retail industry



A FAMILIAR FACE NAMED BCF PRESIDENT

After serving as a trustee since 2000, Luz D. Liebeskind ('85, EMS '08) was named the president of the Baruch College Fund board on July 1. Her financial expertise and long ties to the College provide an exciting opportunity for future growth. "I've always said I wouldn't be where I am without a Baruch College education," says Liebeskind. Outside of her volunteerism, Liebeskind is the chief financial officer at UJA-Federation of New York where she oversees an annual budget of approximately \$225 million and an endowment of more than \$1 billion.

as the owner and founder of 3 Lovebugs. Synchrony named **Rachana Bahadur** ('92) senior vice president, country head – India. **Becky Li** ('95) has been named president of WAC Lighting. **Richard Erdey** ('96) retired as an FDNY EMS lieutenant after 25 years of service on August 3, with a total of 30 years of service. **Howard Fero** (MS '99) published his second book,

Leadership in 5G: Practical Strategies for Individual, Team, and Organizational Success. **Alison Scott-Williams** (MSEd '99) is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Lawrence University.

00s | **Elisabeth d'Arvieu** (MBA '00) was featured in *Variety* for *continued on next page*

WITH ETHICS IN MIND

For Kimberly Bloomston ('05), technology and ethics go hand in hand. The former philosophy major, now chief product officer at the San Francisco-based tech company LiveRamp, keeps ethics at the forefront of her work.

Bloomston always had a curiosity for learning. An avid chess player, she has always been fascinated by how people think, and she set herself on an unlikely career path when she enrolled in an intro-level philosophy course. Two decades later, that same curiosity drives her work in the tech world.

"I love to think," she says. "I love to problem solve. From the intro-level to higher-level philosophy classes, Baruch changed how I treated the world and how I think about things. Philosophy was never something I was going to walk away from."

Beyond examining the big questions, she broadened her worldview outside of the classroom.

"I was born and raised in Florida, and there wasn't a lot of diversity where I lived, by any stretch of the imagination," she explains. "I remember on my first day at Baruch, I was standing outside and there were pods of people around all speaking different languages. I had the opportunity to diversify my perspective and knowledge of people."

Now, she brings cultural awareness to her professional field.

"I'm the executive sponsor of our AI initiatives," Bloomston says. "When tech companies are so reliant on AI, discrimination can get into products. So we need to monitor, be aware of, and close gaps when discrimination could be happening, even when it's unintended."

With a tech career focused on data ethics, AI, and privacy, her philosophy degree always comes in handy.

"Everything is going through a transformation," she says. "As a philosophy student, I found transformation interesting because perspectives change over time depending on what's going on in the world. For me, it's really fun to be a part of how you can help businesses manage transformation."

Decades later, the passion for ethics that began in her college years doesn't just guide her work but also her leadership style.

"My ability to empathize with individuals is super, super high. Maybe *too high*," she jokes. "I'm interested in philosophy because of the emotional elements, so I use that in how I show up as a leader."

—ERIN DAVIS



PLAYING WELL WITH OTHERS

For Kristi Zhang ('14), every day at work involves a healthy dose of fun.

Zhang is global marketing manager of LEGO Friends, a franchise within the multinational toy company the LEGO Group. Based in Billund, Denmark, she collaborates with marketing executives to develop and implement strategies to bring children joy with LEGO sets.

The girls-oriented LEGO Friends product line was introduced in 2012 with five female characters and interaction-based play sets. Since then, the franchise has steered toward more inclusive representation of physical characteristics, cultures, and interests.

"LEGO Friends is unique in that it's relationship based," says Zhang. "It reflects real-life friendship experiences and differing passions that kids have."

Zhang credits Baruch with providing the foundation to discover her career passions. Originally an accounting major, she says that her aspirations came into focus when she took Advertising 101 elective.

"It drew me into the world of advertising and marketing—kind of like *Mad Men* style," she laughs. "I realized how much I enjoy the creative side of things."

After earning a marketing management degree, Zhang joined Hearst Magazines' digital advertising division, where she promoted beauty and lifestyle brands across the company's 22-magazine portfolio. Working closely with marketing and brand managers—many with MBA degrees—motivated her to pursue an MBA in marketing management at Northeastern University. Through a corporate residency program, she worked for the toy giant Hasbro, which started her path in the toy industry.

After completing her MBA, she became the associate brand manager at the LEGO Group.

"Growing up in Brooklyn, my brother and I built LEGO sets and created worlds together. Of all the toy brands, they've always been a leader in fostering creative play," she says, adding that the company's name is an abbreviation of two Danish words, *leg godt*, which means 'play well.' A former competitive swimmer, Zhang sees parallels between the LEGO Group's corporate values and the lessons she learned on Baruch's women's swimming and diving team.

"To bring something to life, teamwork is critical," she notes. "It may sound cheesy, but success really takes everyone coming together, supporting each other, and celebrating the unique strengths and differences we bring to the team." —SALLY FAY



her career success as managing director of Mediawan Pictures. **Nancy Manigat** (MBA '00) was featured as a top business leader in *TheIsland360.com*. Pinnacle Treatment Centers named **Chris Dennis** (MBA '02) chief medical officer. **John Gomes** (MBA '02) was honored and featured at the Zicklin Dean's Honors and Recognition Ceremony on May 31. *TechBullion* featured a profile with **Iftekhhar Hossain** ('02) discussing his career success. The Weingart Foundation appointed **Joanna S. Jackson** (MPA '02) as president and CEO. **Lukeman Ogunyinka** ('02) was named one of *Crain's New York Business* 2024 Notable Leaders in Finance. The South Orange Performing Arts Center named **Lana Rogachevskaya** ('02) as its new executive director. **Jesus Romero** ('02) retired from the NYPD as a lieutenant before becoming a certified financial planner. Mohave Community College named **Julio Galindo** (MPA '03) executive director of college advancement. Brown Gibbons Lang & Company named **Dan Gardella** (MS '03) managing director within financial sponsor coverage. **Rui Goncalves** (MBA '04) has been promoted to chief legal officer of C1, a global technology company. Bergen Volunteers appointed **Shara Nadler** (MPA '04) as chief executive officer. **Anson Loi** ('05, MS '06) has joined PKF O'Connor Davies as partner. After nearly twenty years at Goldman Sachs, **Salome Makharadze** ('05) joined the Carlyle Group as a managing director. MGP Ingredients, Inc. named **Amit Sharma** (MBA '06) vice president of investor relations. **Stacie Sottile** ('06) published her debut children's picture book, *Guess Who? Mama Pooh!* The Immokalee Foundation appointed **Diego Zambrano** ('06, MBA '12) to its board of directors. **Christopher Contti** ('07) was promoted to vice president Branch Manager at First National Bank of Long Island. **Erica Ezold** (MBA '07) is the executive director of Quintessence Theatre. **Mourad M. Shehebar** ('07) was promoted recently to program director for the pain medicine fellowship at Icahn

School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. He is an anesthesiologist and interventional pain management physician. **Victor Chu** ('08) is the owner of Victor Chu Photography LLC which recently completed an extensive FPV drone fly through video for the Museum of Nostalgia. **Cristina Contreras** (EMPA '08) was appointed CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln. Contreras was also named on *City & State New York's* 2024 Manhattan Power 100 list. **Martial Combari** ('09) was recently profiled about his education and career for the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. **Jeffrey Navarro** ('09) has joined AvaTrade as regional manager for LATAM. **Rennie Parris** ('09, MS '15) is the author of the weekly column, "Talking Dollars and Making Sense" for *News Source Guyana*.

10s **Meiqing Chen** ('10, MS '20) has spent her time after graduation volunteering as a mentor for Baruch's Executives on Campus program, buying a new apartment in the city with a great view she loves, and volunteering for the NYSSCPA Manhattan/Bronx Chapter as a Board of Director. **BB Huff** (EMBA '10) is now a teaching kitchen chef at Bon Appetit @ Google. **Carlos Acevedo** ('11) is the head women's basketball coach at Pratt Institute. The Brooklyn Children's Museum appointed **Marvalee Bascus Leslie** (MBA '11) to its board of trustees. *Marquis Who's Who* honored **Gabe Cocinescu** ('11) for his expertise in wealth management and financial planning. **Kiran Mander** (MBA '11) is head of

marketing for BCA Research. **Saul Stein** (MS '11) was inducted as a justice of the Kings County Supreme Court on April 1. **Antonio Alfonso** ('12) and **Mathias Ask** ('13) attended the Democratic National Convention in August. **Patrik Fetahaj** ('12) was interviewed about his career for *The Recursive*. **Orlando Gonzales** (MPA '12) was profiled about his life and career for *Equality Magazine*. **Veronica Karas** ('12) was inducted into the *Marquis Who's*

Who biographical registry for a distinct reputation in the finance industry. **Aya Kikimova** (MBA '12) and her small business marketing firm, LeapEngine, were featured in *TechBullion*. **Minhaj Choudhury** ('13) has been appointed vice president, capital markets at Realterm. **Alex Schukin** ('13) was the keynote speaker at the 169th Mitsui Lunch Time Forum on September 17 and gave a lecture

continued on next page

BEARCATS IN LOVE

Right: Samantha Pardo (née Bruno) (MSEd '21), graduate career services at Baruch's Marx School of Public and International Affairs, found love in higher education—both as a career and in her personal life. Twelve years after meeting as undergraduates, Samantha married John Pardo, a firefighter, in September 2024 in Mamaroneck, NY.



Left: Erin Davis (née McLaughlin) (MA '23), communications specialist in the Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement, never expected to find love at Baruch College. After graduating, she reconnected with Professor Stuart Davis of Baruch's Department of Communications Studies. They married in September 2024 in Scarsdale, NY, surrounded by loved ones, including their Baruch College family.

HALL-OF-FAMER

In October, Herbert Simon ('56) was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, a worthy recognition of his outstanding contributions to the game. He and his brother, Melvin Simon ('49), bought the Indiana Pacers 41 years ago—in 1983—and later acquired the WNBA's Indiana Fever. In his induction speech, Simon noted: "Even after 41 years, I'm still as excited as ever."

—MOLLY TURNER



GRATEFUL TO GIVE BACK

Jonathan Prevost (MPA '16) feels lucky to be alive. He had no idea that he was born with a rare heart condition—which he later learned is called an “anomalous coronary artery” and an “enlarged aortic root”—and required sudden open-heart surgery in 2020. “On average, when you wake up, you have a 50% chance of sudden death,” Prevost explains.

When he awoke from anesthesia, he realized that he needed to dedicate his life to public service. “When I was recovering, I was like, ‘I want to do more for my community,’” he says. “I want to leave a legacy of paying forward to the next generation.”

Even before his life-changing experience, he always saw himself working with communities in need. After completing his MPA at Baruch College, he worked for the Nassau County Legislature improving local roads to keep citizens safe.

“It was the perfect role for me because I was working with elected officials and the public,” Prevost says. “There was a bad road near where I grew up, so I got the ball rolling. I saw how much I enjoyed looking for issues and getting them addressed. I was hooked from there.”

For his work, he received a local community service award.

“I was honored to be recognized for all the hard work that goes into it,” Prevost says. “Staying up late, writing letters, going out to sites, taking pictures in the rain. I used my voice to be a change agent.”

In 2024, Prevost was featured on CUNY’s prestigious ‘50 Under 50’ list, which recognizes alumni under the age of 50.

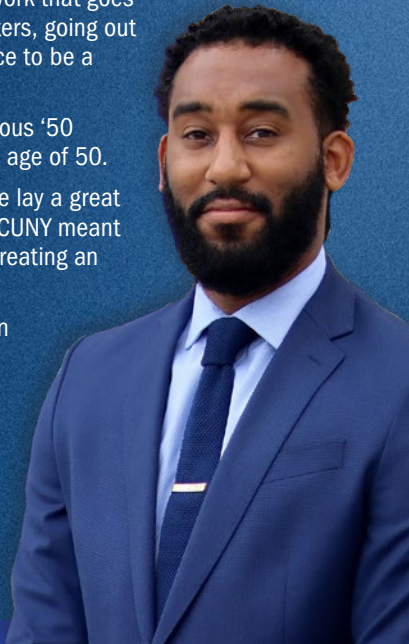
“Baruch College was vital,” he adds. “It helped me lay a great foundation for my career, so to be recognized by CUNY meant a lot. It showed me that I’m on the right path to creating an impact on a bigger scale.”

Prevost is thankful for the connections he made in the MPA program.

“My teachers and classmates made it worthwhile because you’re around subject-matter experts.”

Outside of work, Prevost spends ample time with his family and says that no matter where he is or who he’s with, he’s always thinking about others.

—ERIN DAVIS



titled “From Classroom to Board Room: Navigating to a Career in Private Equity.” **Carl Belizaire** ('14) is an insurance advisor for Lawley. **Rita Dai**'s ('14) paintings have been featured at the 2023 and 2024 BPCA Annual Art Exhibitions, the 2023 Macaulay Honors College Alumni Fall Fete Silent Auction, and the 2024 Opportunities Gala. The EQT Exeter Real Estate Income Trust, Inc. board of directors appointed **Yangyang Li Nezin** ('14, MS '16) as controller and treasurer. After working for Bridgewater Associates, **William LoCascio** ('14) has transitioned to a senior program manager role leading new product development efforts for aerospace/orbital systems development. *Poets & Quants* featured **Jeff S. McClellan** ('14) as a 2024 Best & Brightest MBA. **Joaquin Castillo** (MPA '16) is the inaugural veterans affairs officer of Fort Worth, Texas. **Adam Ganuza** (MPA '16) was appointed executive director of the cultural nonprofit Rhythm Foundation. *Furniture Today* featured **Max Klaben** (MPA '16) on their 40 Under 40 list. **Clinton McNair** (MPA '17) is assistant professor, public policy and administration at Rutgers University – Camden. **Marisa Rizzuti** (MPA '17) was promoted to assistant director of planned giving at UNICEF USA. Community Medical Center named **Jessica Ruzow** (MBA '17) as their AVP for business development. **Anika Hossain** ('18) is the marketing and communications manager at Queens Botanical Garden in addition to serving as editor in chief of *Bengalis of New York*, a digital platform founded



OLYMPIC GAMES

It was a memorable summer for Lara Abrash (MBA '94), chair of Deloitte US (pictured left, with Joe Ucuozglu, CEO of Deloitte Global). She served as the keynote speaker at Baruch’s 2024 Commencement in May and later attended the Paris Summer Olympics through a partnership between Deloitte and the International Olympic Committee.

“Witnessing the best of the best compete, support one another, and make history on the highest international stage was a reminder that we are all united in our relentless pursuit of dreams—no matter how big or small,” Abrash reflects. “I was immensely proud to represent Deloitte and the impact we are making through our partnership with the International Olympic Committee—I truly believe together, we are creating a better world through sport.”

by **Kamrul Kahn** ('06) in 2018. **Maceo Lofton** ('18) is the owner of Aromas de Loft, a luxury candle company focused on sustainability. An *Entrepreneur.com* article featured **Param Patel** (MBA '18) and his venture capital fund, Volt VC. **Fitzgerald Andre** ('19) was appointed as senior technical program manager at Amazon Web Services. *Crain's New York Business* featured **Ben Normatov** ('19) on their list of 20 in Their 20s 2024.

20s | **Andre Beganski** ('20) joined *Decrypt Media* as a staff writer. Throughout the pandemic, **Alicia Mercedes** ('20) served as communications

director for the New York City Council's first Black female Majority Leader, Laurie Cumbo. Mercedes has since moved on to serve as the national press secretary for the NAACP. **Angel Lee** ('21, MS '22) got married in 2023 and has worked her way up the ladder to another high-performing team in her job. **Carrie Ann Trubenstein** (MIA '21) is the director of development for CP Unlimited. **Ari Kimmelfeld** ('22) launched his startup, Trade My Spin, in March. The company buys and sells Peloton exercise equipment at a discounted price. **Joyce Laoagan** (MA '22) produced two plays that premiered at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The Inner Circle

named **Vivian M. Williams** (DBA '22) a Top Pinnacle Professional. OPEN Impact Real Estate named **Eshaan Gandhi** ('23) as an associate to its mission-driven real estate brokerage and advisory team. **Bryan Lin** (MS '23) earned the Elijah Watt Sells Award from AICPA for his extraordinary CPA exam performance.

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CHARTING NEW COURSES

As a world-class competitive sailor, Barbara "Basia" Karpinska Hopkins (MBA '02) is used to adapting to change. That outlook has served her well, both as an athlete and as a business leader.

Born and raised in Kraków, Poland, Karpinska Hopkins earned an MS in physical therapy from Kraków's University School of Physical Education amidst major political and social upheavals in her country. Recruited by an American company, she immigrated to New York in 1994 with \$300 in her pocket and spent years as a physical therapist. Her commitment to lifelong learning and the onset of a sudden health challenge led Karpinska Hopkins to pursue a healthcare administration MBA.

"Baruch enabled me to continue to support myself while preparing to reinvent myself professionally—the program opened doors to opportunity that led me to where I am today," she says. "I embody the social mobility for which Baruch is renowned."

Karpinska Hopkins has become an executive, advisor, and educator in health and technology. She's led business and digital transformation, financial turnarounds, and mergers at major academic medical centers, including Columbia University, NYU Langone, and Rutgers Health. She built a healthcare management start-up that was later acquired by Optum. Now an adjunct professor at Baruch, she teaches a population health course in the EMBA healthcare program.

Karpinska Hopkins always embraces new challenges, even outside of her career.

She competes in multiple-day, marathon-style races on her mixed offshore double-handed racing team.

"Having raced on fully crewed sailing teams, where I was relegated to certain narrow roles, I was ready for something new," she explains. "Besides fostering gender and age equity and sport accessibility, the mixed double-handed format offers the personal challenge of executing all functions with only two people—it's anything but boring!"

She's also a tireless advocate for the discipline's inclusion in Olympic sailing competitions. The Covid-19 pandemic and logistical issues derailed consideration of the event for the 2024 or 2028 Olympic Games, though Karpinska Hopkins remains hopeful about 2032.

Since 2019, Karpinska Hopkins has represented both Poland and the U.S. in global mixed offshore double-handed championships. Recently, she was chosen by the U.S. Sailing Team to compete in the 2024 Offshore Double Handed World Championship, the capital of French short-handed racing, in a newly designed type of sailboat. The race, which took place in gale-like conditions, marked the first time that the U.S. team has competed in this vessel worldwide.

Karpinska Hopkins is preparing for the 2025 World Championship and processing lessons learned—some of which are as applicable on land as on the water.

"Persistence, resilience, teamwork, and humility are key," she says. "The one that wins is the one who keeps on trying." —SALLY FAY



IN MEMORIAM



Lewis Friedman (1946–2024)

The Baruch College community mourns the loss of Lewis Friedman, a retired faculty member, valued trustee of the Baruch College Fund (BCF) Board of Trustees and member of the Marxe Dean’s Advisory Board. An expert in the field of public sector budgeting and financial management, Friedman chaired the Department of Public Administration before becoming Education Director of the National Urban Fellows, a nationwide program housed at Baruch that increased opportunities for women and people of color in public and non-profit organizations.

Throughout his life, he showed a commitment to inclusive and high-quality education. He created an endowed scholarship for graduate students who are pursuing policy careers at the Marxe School.

He remained passionately devoted to students throughout his life and remained a dedicated mentor until his passing. “I was lucky,” said Maria Jesus Alarcon Figueras (MIA ’23), Friedman’s mentee. “He was insightful and had a wonderful sense of humor and shared his time, advice, and experience with me. Lewis walked the journey with me; I will always be grateful.”

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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| Howard Weinberg '59 | Norman Steele '66, MBA '78 | Steven Bocchino '82 | |

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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.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WHEN YOU'RE UNSTOPPABLE

Hailing from India, Vaishnavi Vijayakrishnan '26 arrived in America in 2019 to begin her academic journey, ultimately selecting Baruch for its distinguished finance program. Since then, she's discovered new ways to blend her major in finance with a minor in philosophy, combining analytical acumen with ethical reasoning.

Vaishnavi serves as director of portfolio management as part of Baruch's Investment Management Group, is a mentee for the Financial Women's Association, and is one of the newest members of our Financial Leadership Program. This past summer, she gained even more hands-on experiences as a private equity analyst at Portola Growth Partners—thanks in large part to donors like you. **"As a scholarship recipient, I have the financial flexibility to fully engage in the wealth of opportunities at Baruch, exploring new hobbies that enhance my academic life."**



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