



Division of Student Affairs

General Faculty Report Fall 2015

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) exists to complement and support the academic mission of Baruch College. To that end, the division creates innovative and engaging initiatives to connect students to real world experiences, as well as to promote their interpersonal, social, cultural, and emotional growth. The DSA is made up of more than 250 full- and part-time student-centered practitioners and student employees committed to student advocacy, building of respectful and inclusive communities, promoting responsible citizenship, and advancing student learning and holistic development. DSA houses the following programs and services: Athletics & Recreation; Counseling Center; Early Learning Center; Starr Career Development Center; Office of the Dean of Students; Student Conduct; Academic Integrity; Services for Students with Disabilities; and Student Life (including Greek Life, Student Health Center, Health & Wellness, Veteran Affairs, Residence Life, and New Student Programs).

This period, the Student Affairs Leadership Team (SALT) (consisting of 17 directors and associate directors) participated in a goal-setting all-day retreat to chart a course for the upcoming year and increase collaboration across college lines. The retreat provided an opportunity for the leadership team to reflect on the year's successes and challenges and ways to enhance the college experience for students. Also this period, team members assisted in welcoming new students and their families to Baruch College during Convocation Day. Team members also assisted with Move-in Day, where 275 student residents were welcomed to the residence hall on 97th St and 3rd Ave. Also during Convocation, over 1,400 incoming freshmen collectively made their promise to uphold the *Bearcat Commitment*. The newly introduced pledge emphasizes the college's values of integrity, respect, excellence, and engagement, and attempts to inculcate these values in each new freshman entering the college.

In partnership with the Divisions of Enrollment Management; College Advancement; Academic Affairs; and Communications, External Relations and Economic Development, DSA hosted the Student Achievement 2015 Awards Ceremony. A sold-out audience, made up of approximately 375 donors, parents, students, special guests, faculty, and staff, witnessed President Wallerstein present scholarship awards and recognition for academic excellence, leadership, and engagement to 225 graduating student recipients. The 2015 Valedictorian (Abhinaya Swaminathan) and Salutatorian (Sonia Kostich) were also honored at the May 26th awards celebration. This annual event is made possible through the generosity of alumni and friends of the college.

Following are additional highlights of the co-curricular activities, designed to enhance the student experience at Baruch College, offered during this period.

Athletics & Recreation

The Baruch College athletic program has been the most successful department from among the nine senior colleges that compete in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC). Baruch has won CUNYAC titles in 11 of their 13 sport and has claimed eight Commissioner Cup Awards—awarded each May to the college with the most championship success across all sports during the academic year—including the last six years in a row.

During AY 2014-15, the Bearcats repeated as champions in men's soccer, women's basketball, and men's volleyball, while men's basketball won their first title since 2000. The men's volleyball team has been consistently ranked in the NCAA Division III Top 15 nationally every single week since 2009, and the team has played in the prestigious *Final Four* twice in the past five years. This gives student-athletes exposure and brings national recognition to the college.

During this period, 199 student-athletes participated in 13 sports. One hundred twenty-one were males and 78 were females; 33% of the student-athletes were recognized as CUNYAC Scholar-Athletes (with cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher). Baruch's student-athletes as a group had a higher average GPA than our student body as a whole during that period and in six of the past seven years our student-athletes have had a higher retention rate than our overall freshman population. As of spring 2015, student-athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.02, also higher than the overall student body.

Outside of sports, Athletics & Recreation increased the number of intramural offerings with a focus not only on competitive sports, but also on fun and competitive activities that included chess, table-tennis, weight lifting, a wiffle ball derby, and a computer console with the popular FIFA soccer game. Additionally, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), which is made up of team leaders from each of the 13 sports teams, worked together on a community relations project to raise over \$2,000 during the past two years for the Annual Breast Cancer Walk at Central Park.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center has established a two-year outreach expansion program to increase the accessibility of its clinical services through the generous support of \$90,000 per year from the van Amerigen Foundation. This financial support allowed the Counseling Center to hire two full-time clinical staff, Dr. Miriam Korn and Dr. Logan Persons Jones, who have contributed to the Center's existing outreach programs as well as developing and coordinating new initiatives for students.

Additionally, the Counseling Center has begun the process of enhancing activities to increase its on-campus presence. To that end, the Center will be using data collection tools to design a more proactive approach to identifying “at-risk” students and creating outreach programs (e.g., group sessions, seminars, and workshops) that address some of the pressing issues that are affecting some of the most vulnerable students (e.g., veterans, LGBTQ, single parents, low-income students, international students, and so forth).

Speaking engagements were held to introduce the audience to common mental health concerns, an overview of the services at the Counseling Center, and basic tips on coping and self-care. Counseling Center staff presented outreach sessions to undergraduate and graduate international students, the Honors Program, student veterans, GLASS, and SEEK. Thirteen separate engagements were held and approximately 900 students were in attendance.

During this period, Center staff participated on internal and external committees that included: Diversity & Inclusion, ISSC Subgroup, Advisement Alliance, Health Center, Sexual Assault Prevention and Education, Dare to Engage, and the CUNY Counseling Center Director’s Council. Further, paraprofessional level skills training took place that included information about basic mental health concerns, basic counseling interventions, crisis procedures, and making referrals to the Counseling Center. These sessions were provided to Residence Life, Student Life, and PAWS. Approximately 40 campus community members attended.

Four SafeZone events, focused on sexual orientation and gender identity related diversity issues, skills, and theories, were held during the year; these attracted approximately 100 members of the campus community. SafeZone is a psycho-educational workshop presented in conjunction with the Office of Health & Wellness. The Center also participated in two on-campus health events during this period that provided students with information about its services and programs.

As a result of the aforementioned internal and external services, the Counseling Center saw significantly more students over AY 2014-15: Fall 2014, spring 2015, and summer 2015 saw increases of 7%, 16% and 22%, respectively, compared to the same period during AY 2013-14. The Center conducted 18% more individual psychotherapy appointments during 2014-15 than it did the previous year, reaching 13% more students; the majority of the increase occurred in the spring and continued in the summer. The Counseling Center provided 12,276 hours of direct clinical services (individual, group, psychiatric services and intakes) from September 2014 to August 2015. Direct clinical services accounted for 78% of all service time during that period. The Center played a significant role in preventing dozens of students from dropping out of school this past year, while dozens more were given assistance in exercising appropriate extensions, workload reduction, or medical withdrawals from classes.

Starr Career Development Center (SCDC)

Spring on-campus recruiting was launched on February 6, 2015 with the annual Internship Fair, which attracted 930 students and 80 companies. In Fall 2015, Starr Career Development Center

(SCDC) hosted two more career fairs: the CPA Fair on September 11 with 30 accounting firms and 472 undergraduate students and the Career Fair with 81 companies and 1004 students. *Resume Rush* and walk-in services for these fairs counted over 200 résumés reviewed during each week before the Fair, resulting in a record number of such résumé reviews.

As part of the *Professional Volunteer Program*, twelve professionals serviced 143 students during the spring semester through the provision of résumé reviews, mock interviews, and other brief mentoring sessions. Volunteers are vetted professionals, many of whom are alumni; 25 volunteers have provided services to over 150 students so far.

Additionally, 13 students were awarded \$3,000 stipends from Chani Katzen '96, for a minimum of 230 hours of unpaid volunteer/internship work during the spring or summer. These internships must be in areas that contribute toward the common good; they were performed in non-profit and government agencies including Hope for the Warriors, the United Nations, the White House, the Red Cross, and others.

For the third consecutive year, *Peer for Career* alumna Christine Li-Auyeung and her husband Raymond provided a financial award for two outstanding Peers. In addition, they influenced two other former Peers, Jack Kong and Chi Mui, to provide an additional scholarship for a Peer who has demonstrated professional growth and excellent service to the Baruch community. Now each recipient receives a \$500 award. Starr staff made career service presentations through the *Starr Sub* program in 18 classrooms during the spring semester and interacted with over 500 students. The Starr Veterans Liaison continues to visit the Student Veterans club room to conduct résumé reviews on a weekly basis.

Students participating in Starr's special pre-professional programs including *Peers for Careers*, the *Financial Leadership Program*, the *Rising Starr Sophomore Program*, and the *Path to Partnership*, report 70-80% employment in internships and full-time jobs. The intense training students receive in these programs contributes to making them highly employable candidates.

Fifteen students were trained in *Tier 1 Peer Training* to conduct résumé reviews and make presentations, and five students participated in *Tier 2 Training* to conduct mock interviews for their fellow students. 87% of Peers who were graduating already had full-time offers of employment and 88% of Peers had already participated in at least one internship.

The *Financial Leadership Program* is a two-semester training program for finance majors to prepare them for competitive careers in finance. Twenty-eight students were selected for this elite program and participated in both on-campus and off-campus events. 100% of the class has secured internships in the financial industry in companies including Goldman Sachs, BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, Société Générale, Morgan Stanley, among others. Students participated in company site visits, listened to guest speakers from the industry, and participated in case competitions and a trading simulation. As part of the end-of-year celebration for the class, a

networking event was organized and over 150 former FLP members, students, and Baruch alumni attended.

Also during this period, the SCDC hosted industry panels focusing on Marketing and Advertising, CIS, careers in Arts and Sciences, and careers in Government and Non Profit. Faculty from majors related to these topics served as panel moderators. These panels featured speakers from companies such as Bloomberg, Yelp, Uncubed, BlackRock, Credit Suisse, the Peace Corps, the Rubin Museum, the United Nations, and others. For the sixth year, Baruch College was the campus with the largest number of students selected for the *America Needs You* (formerly *New York Needs You*) Fellowship.

The Max Berger Pre-law Summer Institute, a four-day program, took place on June 1-4 and focused on preparing Baruch College students and alumni for the fall law school application cycle and the world of law school and beyond. Students attended a tour and an admissions and career information session of New York Law School delivered by the Assistant Director of Admissions, Jorge Rodriguez, Baruch '01 and NYLS '11, as well as several career development professionals; they also visited the NYS Appellate Division - First Judicial Department, where students were addressed by one of the justices. The Institute ended with a full-day diagnostic LSAT exam administered by TestMasters and a workshop on creating an effective personal statement. Fifteen students applied and were accepted. In addition, Kaplan Test Prep donated a full LSAT Prep course (valued at \$1,300) to one participating student each of the annual Institutes, thus defraying the cost of law school application requirements.

Office of the Dean of Students

The Office of the Dean of Students (DOS), now relocated to NVC3-175, continues to focus on addressing student requests, adjudicating disciplinary matters through the student conduct process, and responding to reports submitted to the Campus Intervention Team (CIT). This period, CIT managed 130 reported cases, a 10% increase over last period. These cases ranged from behavioral concerns and suicidal ideation to physical and emotional harassment. The office also adjudicated 388 student conduct and academic integrity violations that dealt with such issues as drug and alcohol abuse, disruption to the educational environment, fraud, hazing, cheating, and plagiarism.

The DOS continues to work with students facing medical and other personal challenges requiring financial support. DOS disbursed emergency funds totaling \$100,000 (through a three-year grant provided by the Petri Foundation) to student recipients experiencing financial struggles.

In its effort to address critical operational needs and after conducting a national search this period, the office appointed a Coordinator for Student Advocacy and Support. This newly appointed team member will assist with student conduct cases, emergency funding, and special events programming.

Early Learning Center

In keeping with its mission to provide child care services to students who would otherwise not be able to attend college without such assistance, this semester the Early Learning Center (ELC) enrolled 33 children, with one-third of them under three years of age. On February 19, the ELC welcomed new and returning families with an exciting and well received Lunar New Year lunch party provided by the center's Asian student-parent families. Student-parent families also participated in a Planned Parenthood workshop, while on January 23 staff members attended the annual CUNY Childcare Staff Development Day event held at La Guardia Community College.

As often is the case, families are eager to assist with cultural events and educational trips for children at the center. This period was no exception as they helped with the recently held trip to Paper Bag Players at The Danny Kaye Theatre at Hunter College held on February 10. Additionally, the Center is serving as an observation and training site for two students in the Early Childhood Education program at BMCC.

During this period, the ELC held its end-of-year picnic at Hudson River Park, where graduating student-parents were acknowledged with scrolls and flowers, and their children received memory books full of pictures spanning their time at the ELC. Moreover, it was a bittersweet year for the ELC as staff members said farewell to two long-standing staff members who retired. Monique Viaud, Assistant Teacher, served the ELC for over 20 years with commitment and compassion. Anne Austin, the Center's gracious and talented director, who began and structured the program, hired an educated, caring, and professional staff, and brought the team through the process of three NAEYC national accreditations, retired after 26 years at Baruch College. A farewell reception was held in their honor and attended by current and former student-parents, families, and college personnel.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (OSSD) continued to be strongly affected by personnel issues during this period. After six months our search for an Assistant Director was completed in May 2015 and our LEADS (Linking Employment, Academics and Disability Services) Career Advisor position was filled at the end of March. The CUNY LEADS Program provides students with disabilities with the skills to make realistic academic and career choices that will result in successful career outcomes. Further, the Director has been on medical leave since April 2015.

During this period, the office has had a total of 134 visits (spring and summer), with 40 of these visits dealing with assistive technology training appointments. Ninety-two pieces of assistive technology equipment were loan to students during the spring semester, and 11 pieces of assistive technology were loan during the summer session. Students with disabilities increasingly are relying on assistive technology to achieve academic success. OSSD continues to determine and provide reasonable 504/ADA accommodations for all new intakes; these include students

with physical, mental, and learning disabilities. Over the last few years, the department witnessed an increase in the number of students with especially challenging disabilities that entail more complicated ADA accommodations, such as ADHD and mental health issues. OSSD appreciates the faculty members who are often eager to provide creative approaches and time in these situations. The office continues to receive student referrals for services from faculty. These referrals result in students with disabilities receiving 504/ADA accommodations that often mean the difference between student success and failure in a course or in a college career.

In Spring 2015, OSSD administered 561 individual exams with accommodations and 120 exams in the summer. This number, an increase over last period, continues to demonstrate that members of the faculty are relying on OSSD to proctor student exams and provide the appropriate accommodations. OSSD accommodates students with disabilities ranging from mobility, visual, hearing, learning, speech, and psychological impairments to substance abuse, traumatic brain injury, general medical conditions, and multiple disabilities.

In collaboration with Vice President for Information Services & Dean of the Library, Arthur Downing, we were able to create a new position – Student Disability Services Manager. This is the first job of its kind in the CUNY. This position serves as the primary resource within the college for technical assistance and project management regarding the impact of disability laws on the acquisition, deployment and utilization of information technology. The Student Disability Services Manager must work closely with all campus departments to maintain compliance with our obligations. The person in this position will collaborate with the college community to ensure that Baruch College can continue to lead efforts in this emerging field.

Student Life

The Office of Student Life (OSL) continues to advance its commitment to the co-curricular development of Baruch students through educational and developmental programming. Departmental areas of focus are student leadership training, civic engagement, multicultural programming, health and wellness programming and services, residence life, new student programs, and student activities.

The spring 2015 semester included a number of leadership development and service learning initiatives. TEAM Baruch Leadership Training in January 2015 involved three days of intensive training for over 80 students at a leadership retreat in Bloomingdale, NJ. In addition, the Lexicon yearbook and WBMB radio station participated in their first 2-day leadership and skills development training aimed at enhancing their presence on campus and developing leadership skills. Additionally, two senior staff members within the unit presented at the CUNY Emerging Leaders Conference in February, 2015 that harnessed the energy and leadership potential of close to 200 students from across CUNY in a day-long series of workshops and presentations designed to empower and develop student confidence and build students' communication skills. OSL also worked collaboratively with the Black & Latino Studies and History departments as well as the

Women & Gender studies program to organize trips to Baltimore for Black History Month and to Seneca Falls for Women's History Month. These cultural trips, facilitated by a faculty member and a student life administrator, enabled approximately 25 students to take advantage of the opportunity. Further this period, OSL commemorated the 50th anniversary of the *March at Selma* through multiple viewings of the film *Selma* during the week of March 16. Dialogue with the community attendees took place in concert with Professor Arthur Lewin from the Black & Latino Studies department that engaged over 250 students across all viewings.

Other important initiatives occurring this period included the Student Government (undergrad and graduate) elections, Baruch College's Commencement Exercises at the Barclays Center and the planning, coordinating, and implementation of educational programming related to Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Additionally, Baruch's 4th Annual Winter Carnival, 38th Annual Spring Fling, and a first-time ever celebration of the Festival *Holi* event all took place on the 25th street Plaza during the spring semester.

New Student Programs coordinated Transfer Seminars for approximately 250 transfer students, who opted to participate in this transitional course geared toward connecting incoming transfer students to campus resources and support.

Student Health Center

The Baruch College Health Center provides a range of free or highly subsidized services to all enrolled Baruch students. These services include care for illnesses (e.g., the flu, coughs, colds), as well as vaccinations, STI/HIV testing, women's health (i.e., gynecological exams, pregnancy testing), contraception, strains and sprains, and other services. These services are contractually administered by Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center and Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

During the spring 2015 semester the Baruch College Health Center saw 1,115 students. However, the unit remains concerned that these services may be underutilized by Baruch students. As such, the unit worked to create increased awareness of services by integrating feedback from last year's health center survey and adjusting the hours the center is open to better fit a typical student schedule (i.e., increased nighttime hours). Further, the Student Health Center actively marketed its services and events through flyers, email notices, promotional giveaways, health fairs, social media postings, and printed advertisements in our student newspaper and will continue to monitor the impact these changes have had on student usage.

Health & Wellness Initiatives

Health & Wellness sponsored 98 events during the spring 2015 semester in collaboration with many different offices and organizations that included the Counseling Center, Freshmen Seminar, Athletics & Recreation, Undergraduate Student Government, G.L.A.S.S., Grad PRIDE, Transfer Student Organization, Colleges Against Cancer, History Month Committees, and the Student Veterans Association. In addition, Health & Wellness launched the Napping Station

pilot program, which allowed students to take half-hour naps during midterms and finals, coupled with a half-hour long mindfulness session conducted by Tashi Chodron from the Rubin Museum. This was all part of the unit's weekly programming. A swipe system was also enacted to better track students attending major Health & Wellness events, specifically at major programming events such as Sex Week and finals activities. These events attracted approximately 1,070 student participants.