The beginning of the new academic year also marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Weissman School. This semester we welcome the single largest group of incoming junior faculty members the school has ever seen, and we are currently putting the finishing touches on a Strategic Plan whose purpose is to establish priorities and goals for the next half decade. It is a source of considerable satisfaction that we will soon have a clear statement of what we hope to achieve in the coming years, along with an extraordinarily promising group of junior colleagues to help us realize the accomplishments we envision.

New Positions, Projects, and Events

Twenty-four new fulltime faculty members joined the Weissman School this fall. They are Tshombe Miles (Assistant Professor, BLS), Elizabeth M. Minei (Assistant Professor, COM), Jayson P. Harsin (Assistant Professor, COM), Matthew Eatough (Assistant Professor, ENG), Stephanie Hershinow (Assistant Professor, ENG), Rick Rodriguez (Assistant Professor, ENG), Matthew Eatough (Assistant Professor, ENG), Debra Caplan (Assistant Professor, FPA), Abby Anderton (Assistant Professor, FPA), Martina T. Nguyen (Assistant Professor, HIS), Elizabeth Heath (Assistant Professor, HIS), Andrew J. Sloin (Assistant Professor, HIS), Anna L. Boozer (Assistant Professor, HIS), Andrew Lesniewski (Professor, MTH), Anja Richter (Assistant Professor, MTH), Ivan Matic (Assistant Professor, MTH), Timothy Ridenour (Lecturer, MTH), Evan Fink (Lecturer, MTH), Pablo M. Peixoto (Assistant Professor, NAS), Rebecca Spokony (Assistant Professor, NAS), Eric Mandelbaum (Assistant Professor, PHI), Till Weber (Assistant Professor, POL), Erin M. Eatough (Assistant Professor, PSY), and Tatiana Aloi Emmanouil (Assistant Professor, PSY). The school enters the new academic year with a total of 240 fulltime faculty members.

In recognition of the growing importance of graduate education in Weissman, the school has appointed a full-time Executive Director of Graduate Programs, Michael Lovaglio. In addition to developing new programs, his responsibilities include creating and implementing marketing strategies, organizing recruitment activities, supervising the graduate application process, and overseeing the conversion to the CUNY First application system.

Continuing work begun last semester, a faculty committee chaired by Professor Joshua Mills of the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions has submitted a draft of the Weissman School’s new five-year Strategic Plan, which is currently under discussion by the faculty. The plan will give prominence to our goal of becoming a “destination school”—that is, a school that draws a large number of its majors from among students who have come to Baruch specifically to study the arts and sciences. The document will also emphasize faculty development, global studies, civic engagement, and strategies for the communication of the Weissman identity.

Dean Peck has inaugurated a series of brown bag lunches, at each of which two or three of our new faculty members are being invited to make presentations drawn from their research. The first took place on September 26th, when the group heard presentations from Professors Matthew Eatough and Rick Rodriguez, both of the Department of English.
The Dean’s Office is offering a new opportunity for research support in the form of collaborative research grants of up to $5000. These grants are meant to encourage collaboration among new and current WSAS faculty. To be eligible, a group must be composed of at least three WSAS faculty from at least two different departments, at least one and preferably two of whom have been hired in the last two years. By November 1, 2013, prospective groups should submit one-page proposals, single spaced and accompanied by an estimated budget.

On May 15th, the Addison Gayle Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Dennis Looney, Jr., Professor of Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Looney’s talk was entitled “The Poetics of Lynching and the Flight from Racism: Dante, Allen Tate, and other Freedom Readers.”

An all-day conference entitled “Civic Engagement in Action” took place on May 14th. The conference celebrated the work of Weissman faculty who have introduced their students to civic engagement projects. The keynote speaker was Amy Koritz, Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Drew University, who spoke on the topic “Connecting Knowledge with Action.”

This year’s Paul Andre Feit Memorial Lecture was given on October 8th by Professor Marcy Schwartz of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Rutgers University. Her talk was entitled “Public Pages: Reading and Convivencia along the Latin American Streetscape.”

**Student and Faculty Awards, Achievements, and Gifts**

The 2013 Berlfein Prize for Best Undergraduate Nonfiction Writing has been awarded to Whitney Porter, who won first place for her essay “Deadly Damsels: Examining the Threat of Beauty in Edgar Allen Poe’s ‘Ligeia’ and Washington Irving’s ‘The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.’” This is the second year in a row that Ms. Porter has placed first in this competition. Second and third places went, respectively, to Rachel Jespersen and Premie Koziarski.

Weissman Mathematics majors won the top two prizes at the CUNY Math Challenge. First place went to Lam Cheuk Hong, who was awarded a $2,500 prize, while Lee Jerry placed second and was awarded a $2,000 prize. Another Weissman Mathematics major, Zheng Xiao, came in sixth in the field of approximately thirty finalists and collected a $500 prize.

Twenty-one Weissman graduate students received a total of $42,000 in assistance from the CUNY Central Office this semester. The grants came in the form of need-based awards of $2,000 each and went to students in the Corporate Communication, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and Mental Health Counseling programs.

Three Weissman junior faculty members were awarded Eugene M. Lang Foundation Faculty Research Fellowships for 2013-14. They are Assistant Professor of Psychology Catherine Good, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Edyta Greer, and Assistant Professor of English Sean O’Toole.

On the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday and thirty-fifth year of teaching at Baruch College, Professor Michael Plekon of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has been honored by the publication of a Festschrift. Entitled *Church and World: Essays in Honor of Michael*
Plekon, the volume is edited by Rev. William C. Mills and contains essays by contributors from a variety of academic and ecclesiastical backgrounds.

With the assistance of a gift from Bruce Ratner and the Forrest City Ratner Companies, the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions has created the Ratner Distinguished Visiting Business Journalism Program. The Senior Editor of Fortune magazine, Allan Sloan, is the first journalist-in-residence this fall.

**Weissman as a Center of Cultural Life**

The Baruch Performing Arts Center has two major productions nominated for Drama Desk Awards this year. Tamar of the River, which is inspired by the biblical story of Tamar and Judah, is a musical that runs through Sunday, Oct 20th; and Lies My Father Told Me, which is based on the Academy Award-nominated film, runs from November 10th through December 15th.

This year the Milt Hinton Jazz Series celebrates the Great Cities of Jazz with a schedule of concerts and related events. On October 17th, Kathy Kosins’ West Coast Ladies of Cool appeared, and on November 14th jazz writer Ted Gioia will talk about jazz in Paris following a screening of the film ’Round Midnight, starring Dexter Gordon. The Hot Club of Detroit will celebrate Django Reinhardt in Paris on December 5th, and New York Voices will perform on December 11th. More events will follow in the spring.

The Aaron Silberman Concert Series presented the Tempest Trio on Oct 22nd. The Alexander String Quartet will appear from Nov 18th through 22nd to celebrate the centennial of Benjamin Britten, who was also honored at the Five Boroughs Music Festival on October 20th, during Alumni Weekend.

The Great Works Reading Series will present Jean Anouilh’s version of Antigone from October 28th through October 30th.

The Mishkin Gallery offered the exhibition Global Perspectives: Photography as History, Sociology, and Art, with photographs from the collection of Baruch College. Featured in this show are two photographs by Professor of Art Leonard Sussman, who donated his work to the college’s collection. Professor Sussman’s photographs will be installed in the WSAS Dean’s Office after the exhibition.

In November and December, Gail Levin, Distinguished Professor of Art History at Baruch and the Graduate Center, will be the curator of Theresa Bernstein: A Century in Art at the Mishkin Gallery. This exhibition will include a major publication, a seminar at the College, and a show of Bernstein’s work at the Graduate Center. After the New York shows, the exhibition will travel.

A short play about censorship by Baruch Professor Walter Corwin was presented at the Mishkin Gallery on October 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

Mishkin Gallery programs continue to be integrated into the curriculum, including talks and workshops for the Honors Program, Freshman Seminars, and other Baruch classes. This fall ten Freshman Seminar classes, as well as other classes, are scheduled.