



17 SOCIETY
LEX

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2022

17 SOCIETY
LEX

Baruch COLLEGE
CUNY

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL 17 LEX SOCIETY NEWSLETTER!

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

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



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

PIVOTING FOR PURPOSE

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

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

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

“

HAVING THE SUPPORT OF A SCHOLARSHIP GAVE ME THE FLEXIBILITY TO PURSUE DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES.”



Baruch,” says Solomowitz, who recently started a new role as a Sustainability Advisory Fellow at AccountAbility, a sustainability consulting firm. “The Washington Semester gave me an incredible opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the public sector, while taking thought-provoking classes with esteemed professors and being a part of an amazing cohort of Marxe students. It’s all thanks to Baruch.”

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

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

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

MEET A 17 LEX SOCIETY MEMBER

NOGIOMWAN “NOGIE” UDEVBULU '01

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

REINFORCING THE POWER OF RESEARCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pictured above: Professor Katherine Pence (right) and Renee Cotsis '15 (left) at the first ICUR Baruch participated in 2014.

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

BARUCH NEWS CENTER

17 LEX SOCIETY RECEPTION RETURNS TO CAMPUS!

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

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

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



PRESIDENT WU ON ABC NEWS

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



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

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



BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND BARUCH COLLEGE LAUNCH BUSINESS ACADEMY

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





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THE POWER OF
COMMUNITY
ENSURING
STUDENT SUCCESS

BARUCH COLLEGE FUND
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Baruch COLLEGE



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the 2021-2022 fiscal year, my role as president of the Baruch College Fund has once again provided a unique vantage point, one that has allowed me to witness the power of Baruch's dynamic community firsthand. As donors, partners, and mentors, this year, you prioritized the needs of our students, invested in critical campus spaces, and furthered transformative initiatives that continue to benefit our diverse community of learners.

Above all else, you proved just what it is that makes Baruch such a special place: the students, faculty, alumni, and friends who remain invested in our progress and inspired by our potential. Thank you for your support of the Baruch College Fund this year.

Among the year's greatest highlights was the return of the 2022 Bernard Baruch Dinner, held in person for the first time since 2019. While the opportunity to come together was cause for celebration enough, this year's event produced our largest fundraising totals to date, resulting in **more than \$1.7 million in life-changing funds for today's students**. This wide-ranging support supplemented the financial aid and emergency grants that make a Baruch education possible for so many, while enhancing critical resources like technology assistance, career services, and support for our faculty.

Across our campus, this same investment in community is evident. In the pages that follow, you will see it in the faculty who consider Baruch more than just a workplace; in the students who are lending their time, and talents, to ensure the success of their peers; and in our generous alumni, who believe that the future is brighter because of Baruch. In each instance, these investments are rooted in an unrivaled commitment to create an environment for all students to learn, grow, and thrive.

The unwavering generosity, steadfast dedication, and immense gratitude shown by generations of Baruchians makes it a community unlike any other. I am proud to serve this exceptional group of donors, alumni, and friends alongside President David Wu, whose leadership demonstrates an incredible understanding of the diverse and evolving needs of our students. Together, we have, and will continue to accomplish so much.

On behalf of the Baruch College Fund, I thank you for your partnership.

Warm regards,

HELEN MILLS

President, Baruch College Fund

A smiling man in a patterned shirt is the central focus, overlaid with a teal and orange color scheme. The background shows a blurred image of a person's face and some framed pictures on a wall.

**BUILDING
A BETTER
FUTURE,
TOGETHER**



NYLA WALBROOK '26

From the passion and dedication of its faculty and staff to the programs and initiatives specifically designed to inspire and empower its students, Baruch is, without a doubt, a community committed to one another's success. And if you ask students like **Nyla Walbrook '26** and **Jean Piere Piedra Palacios '25**, nowhere is that more evident than in Baruch's continuing commitment to peer mentorship.

Nyla and Jean Piere are just two of the countless Baruch students who have been positively impacted by peer mentorship. As part of the Success Amplified program, which promotes degree completion and career preparedness among Black and Latinx students, Nyla and Jean Piere have benefitted from the diverse community of students who are lending their support in this critical way, supporting one another in their shared Baruch experience.

"My mentor checked in on me constantly, making sure that I was familiarizing myself with the resources on campus," says Nyla. "She helped me build a list of things that I would like to accomplish in my first year, and overall, helped me adjust to life at Baruch."

The program, which is generously supported by a grant from Bank of America, was created to address the distinct needs of the Baruch undergraduate community at different stages of their academic progression. Through co-curricular programming,



JEAN PIERE PIEDRA PALACIOS '25

Success Amplified ensures students are prepared with the skills for navigating the transition to Baruch, identity and leadership development, career readiness competencies, and networking with faculty and industry professionals, all in the interest of increasing student success.

As students enter Baruch they are eligible to participate in Success in Your First Year, an introduction to Success Amplified that is specifically designed to bridge the transition from high school or a previous institution to life at Baruch. That support continues throughout the student lifecycle through Success in Your Career, which focuses on preparing second, third, or fourth year students with a portfolio of skills to ensure career readiness by building a resume, preparing for interviews and networking, and a host of other experiential learning opportunities.

Through every step of the program, Baruch students are supported with one-on-one, personalized guidance—not just from faculty, staff, and industry professionals—but from their own peers. Peer mentors play a fundamental role in helping the program deliver on its ultimate mission, says Success Amplified Assistant Director Rene Hernandez, helping more students transition into college, persist through challenges, and move towards graduation to be career ready.



ELENA YU XU '24

“We spend a lot of time matching students and making sure that we learn what their hobbies are, what their aspirations are, what their likes and dislikes are, so that we can pair them with a mentor who can help them achieve their goals,” Rene says. “Peer mentors are there from day one and they help establish this community and network of support from the beginning.”

For Jean Piere, the guidance and support from his mentor, **Elena Yu Xu '24**, proved invaluable.

“As a first-generation college student, it can be hard to navigate college with limited knowledge about the experience,” he says. “It’s great to have another person guiding you along the way. They’re not necessarily giving you a full map, but they’re giving you the extra support you need to keep going.”

Similarly, as a mentor, the chance to better prepare the next generation of Baruch students is one that has been incredibly rewarding, says Elena.

“Success Amplified prepared me both professionally and personally, and once I finished, I felt like I could be a resource to other students,” she says. “I am passionate about supporting other students, and I am so happy that I can help others simply by sharing my own experiences.”



CHRISTOPHER BIVONA-MALDONADO '23

In fact, across Baruch’s campus, a growing number of organizations and campus centers have placed an increased emphasis on the crucial role that peer mentors play in shaping the academic and social experience for today’s students. From the Starr Career Development Center’s Peers for Careers program to the Counseling Center’s Peers Advocating Wellness Services (PAWS) to Baruch’s Honors program, the student-to-student relationship is one that cannot be duplicated elsewhere, says **Christopher Bivona-Maldonado '23**, a current mentor who himself benefitted from peer mentorship as a first-year student.



“I have a wealth of information when it comes to Baruch, so why not share it with people who need it?” he says. “Being able to relate as a fellow student, as someone from a similar

Student Helping Students: All-Day, In Every Day

Success Amplified is just one of many programs committed to the success of today's students. In fact, there are countless ways that Baruch students play a vital role in the helping their peers learn, grow, and thrive. Here are a just a few of the areas where our students are lending their support as peer mentors:

The Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) Peer Mentoring Program provides upperclassmen the opportunity to influence and inspire incoming first-year students during the SEEK Summer Academy and the academic year by serving as mentors who support the development and transition of their mentees into college.

Starr Career Development Center Peers for Careers are student leaders who assist Baruch students with resume and cover letter reviews, interview preparation, and career advisement, as well as facilitate career-related workshops, co-sponsor career programs, and represent the Center at College events.

T.E.A.M. Baruch Peer Mentors play a vital role in acclimating incoming first-year students to the rigors of college life, often helping these students

explore areas like adjusting to college culture, planning a course of study, and selecting a career.

Baruch Counseling Center PAWS: Peers Advocating Wellness Services partners with the Office of Health & Wellness to provide opportunities to increase the knowledge, skills, and confidence of students to create an environment that supports making healthy and responsible choices consistent with personal values. These mentors are trained on basic health topics, such as emotional, physical, social, sexual, environmental and mental health, and refer students to on-campus and off-campus resources.

Baruch Honors Program Peer Mentors serve as a valuable resource both inside and outside the classroom, creating an inclusive community where students can thrive. By sharing their distinctive experiences, Honors Peer Mentors play a key role in fostering a comfortable and intellectually productive learning environment for their peers.

Student Academic Consulting Center (SAAC) Peer Tutors work in a number of ways to support their fellow students, including small group or one-on-one tutoring sessions, peer-led team learning, and facilitating weekly workshops in areas like accounting, economics, finance, and more. ■

background, those things are at the heart of a great mentorship relationship—the relatability is the connection.”

Through Success Amplified, and peer mentorship opportunities throughout the College, this cycle of giving back by paying forward has become one of Baruch's defining features, says Erika Teran, program coordinator for Success Amplified.

“Peer mentors are building relationships with fellow students because they want to,” says Erika. “They want to see others succeed, just as they did. Many of these mentors have had people who have served as a mentor to them, and now, this is their opportunity to give back.” ■



EDUCATION without exception

Today, Charlie Dreifus '66, MBA '73, has many accomplishments attached to his name—distinguished financier, managing director at Royce Investment Partners, and longtime Baruch College Fund Trustee, among others. But perhaps, the role he takes greatest pride in is one that is inextricably linked to these successes: grateful scholarship donor.

In 2022, Charlie and his wife, Madeline, established the Charles and Madeline Dreifus Scholarship at Baruch College, the College's largest-ever one-time scholarship gift. Both first-generation college graduates, and products of the CUNY system, Charlie and Madeline understand firsthand the struggles that so many college students face today. Their commitment to support the next generation of Baruch students was an opportunity to pay forward the same opportunity they were afforded more than 50 years ago, says Charlie.

“Had it not been for free tuition within the CUNY system, we wouldn't have gotten a college education,” says Charlie. “The struggles that families face is evident,



The Power of Scholarships

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS 2021-22

These figures are just a snapshot of how your generosity is making a Baruch education more accessible and increasing the number of opportunities readily available for students to thrive at the College. Your support is empowering the next generation of Baruchians and I hope you take pride in that lasting impact you have already made.

\$4.03M
Raised in support of student scholarships

\$3.98M
Awarded in scholarships

1,576
Students received scholarships

21
New scholarship funds created

\$6,930
Current annual undergraduate tuition for NY residents

\$18,738
Full cost for an academic year, including other costs, fees, books, and transportation

and we are acutely aware of the difficulties those kinds of families have in times like this. Much of the Baruch population is first-generation American, first-generation college student, just like we were.”

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dreifuses saw those challenges exacerbated as families across the country struggled to put food on their tables and pay for transportation and basic needs, let alone college tuition. Together, Charlie and Madeline felt there was no better time to try, in whatever way they could, to abate those situations.

“We’ve never forgotten where we came from,” says Charlie. “For today’s first-generation students, the origin of where they came from may have changed over the years, but the obstacles they face have not. There are differences, of course, but Madeline and I can certainly identify and understand their struggles.”

Prior to their unparalleled commitment, the Dreifuses were already generous supporters of Baruch and its students, most notably through the Abraham Briloff Prizes in Ethics, honoring the legendary Baruch accounting professor who became Charlie’s mentor as he pursued a PhD at the College.

As the Dreifuses reflect on their generosity, their hope is that this gift does more than inspire students to realize their potential as productive, responsible contributors to society, but also, that it serves as a powerful reminder to others in the Baruch alumni and friends community of the importance in giving back.

“Baruch’s campus itself is a fabulous metaphor,” says Charlie. “As a vertical campus, it’s filled with escalators to help students get from one destination to another. In the same way, scholarships help them on that ride up the escalator towards a higher standard of living for them and their families.” ■



more than a workplace

Each day, in Baruch's classrooms, labs, and in the offices that foster growth and development among today's students, Baruch faculty and staff are making an impact. Their desire to share their knowledge and expertise with today's students is evident, and their unifying commitment to prepare the next generation of leaders has laid a strong foundation for our accomplished students and alumni. In their careers, they lend their time and talents—but some have chosen to give more.

As a growing number of Baruch faculty and staff choose to reinvest in our college, it's clear that Baruch is more than just a workplace. Whether they wish to create life-changing experiences for our students; to invest in the research that is moving society forward; or to sustain the vibrant and diverse community of thought that is central to Baruch's mission, their gifts are advancing Baruch now, and will ensure its success for years to come.



EUGENE MARLOW

BETTER BECAUSE OF BARUCH

In 1988, Professor **Eugene Marlow** arrived at Baruch ready to pioneer the Department of Journalism’s next era in electronic journalism. But, over the course of the last 35 years, he has advanced studies in several departments, leading courses ranging from first-year writing to management communications for accountants to an honors seminar on jazz—a personal passion of his.

In fact, it was his affinity for the arts that led to the establishment of the Marlow Prize in Arts Leadership, awarded annually to a student in the Graduate Program in Arts Administration for the best consultant report prepared for an arts organization. Throughout his career, Marlow identified an underlying weakness across the arts: management training. His decision to establish the Marlow Prize created an opportunity to ensure the longevity and success of arts organizations by helping its managers and executives acquire the skills to seek, secure, and manage funding, according to



SUSAN LOCKE

Marlow, a tremendous benefit to the arts community and the artists it serves.

As a longstanding faculty member and mentor to generations of Baruch students, the idea of contributing to its progress was one that resonated with Marlow.

“I wouldn’t call it giving back as much as I would say, it’s helping move something forward,” he says. “Baruch has given me new opportunities to grow professionally, intellectually, and creatively. It’s an environment that, if you take advantage of it, you can become a fuller human being.”

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Professor Emerita **Susan Locke** never intended to be a college professor. A trained psychologist, she joined Baruch’s Department of Psychology as a professor in 1971, later serving as a faculty advisor to Baruch and Macaulay Scholars and eventually assuming the role of director of the Baruch/Macaulay Honors Program. Perhaps more surprising than her pivot into academia was

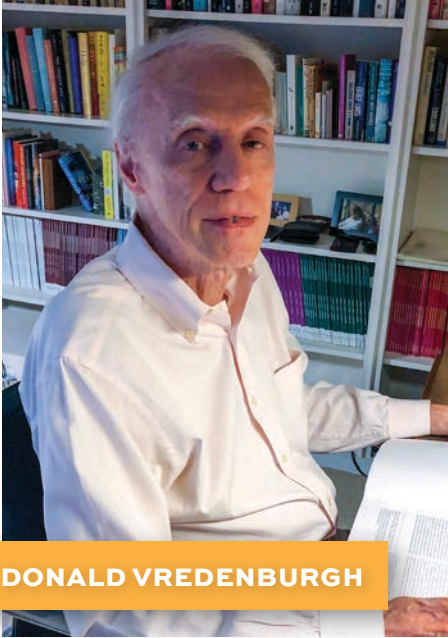
the lasting impression Baruch would leave on her.

“I did not anticipate how much I would love teaching and working with the remarkable students of Baruch,” she says. “Looking back, working at the College for almost 50 years was as much a gift to me as any impact I had made on the intellectual and personal growth of students.”

Knowing that she wanted to give back to the institution upon her retirement in 2019, she established and endowed The Locke Interdisciplinary Capstone in Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, bringing together faculty representing two different disciplines and a small group of students who have some academic background in environmental science. The capstone focuses on the timely and critically important challenge of understanding the state and fate of the Earth. Specifically, it looks at the science of climate change, its impact on environmental sustainability, society, health and well-being, marrying her lifelong love of nature with an area she felt would have a lasting impact on the greatest number of students.

In addition to the Seminar, there are annual prizes for outstanding research projects pertaining to climate change and environmental issues, as well as awards for creative works that convey an appreciation for the natural world.

“I wanted to do something that would be a gift to all Baruch students,” she says. “They are about to be the stewards of the natural world and they deserve to be prepared for the increasingly challenging responsibility of



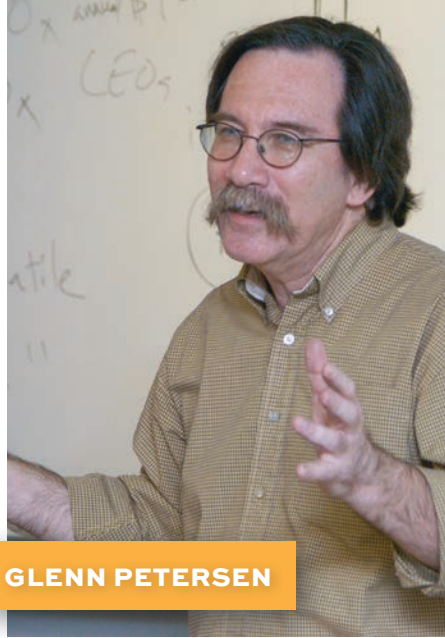
DONALD VREDENBURGH

enduring its wellbeing, whether that’s through their vocation, or as responsible citizens of the world.”

INSPIRED BY INTELLECT

As an educator for more than 40 years, Professor **Donald Vredenburg** understands firsthand the role that faculty play in building, and sustaining, a thriving institution. In fact, it was the basis for his decision to support Baruch’s exceptional faculty and their evolving research interests by establishing the Donald Vredenburg Doctoral Research Award, the Donald Vredenburg Doctoral Student Research Grant, and the Donald Vredenburg Fellowships to inspire the exploration of new knowledge among Baruch’s doctoral students and fellows.

“I wanted to help Baruch sustain itself as a quality institution,” he says. “Baruch is a social institution, and it serves that purpose well; it’s an economic institution too in that it prepares our students for



GLENN PETERSEN

employment. But it also needs to be an intellectual institution, and in my view, that means supporting faculty research.”

Professor Vredenburg, who serves as a professor within the Zicklin School of Business, believes that these awards will do more than advance the work of the individual recipients, but instead, will enhance a community of exploration and raise Baruch’s profile among its students, alumni, and even future employers.

“Investing in Baruch’s intellectual mission will do more than strengthen it today,” he says. “It will define its reputation for years to come.”

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Exploring new places and discovering new cultures is nothing new for **Glenn Petersen**, a professor in Baruch’s Sociology and Anthology department for the last 45 years. In addition to his academic training as an

anthropologist, Petersen’s own personal experiences undoubtedly shaped his understanding of the world around him, namely, the time he spent fighting in the Vietnam War at just 19 years old.

Reflecting on this life-changing event today, Petersen recognizes how this experience influenced his own self-discovery and preparedness for adulthood, something he believes many of the undergraduates he teaches have little opportunity to explore in meaningful ways throughout early adulthood. That was until he visited his daughter studying abroad.

“Seeing what living in Paris did for my own daughter—the confidence it instilled in her, and what it taught her—I wanted as many of my students at Baruch to have that experience as possible,” he says. “It’s great to learn somewhere else and to think about how to participate in another culture.”

Since then, Petersen’s generous support of the Glenn Petersen Study Abroad Award has enabled even more Baruch students to pursue immersive experiences that can place them at the center of new cultures by learning, and living, abroad. Petersen’s generosity reaffirms both his personal belief in learning about new cultures, places, and communities, but also pays homage to Baruch, a place that has meant so much to him.

“My goal is to try to help people become thoughtful citizens, and in my day-to-day teaching, I can see that I have an impact,” he says. “It seems clear to me that the more you give, the more you get back. This is my opportunity to put my money where my mouth is.” ■

In fiscal year 2022, more than 200 Baruch faculty, staff, and retirees joined together to contribute gifts exceeding \$495,000 to Baruch College.



Baruch BMCC Academy: Creating a clear path to Baruch, and Beyond

The Baruch BMCC Academy, designed to create a more seamless transition for students from Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)'s Business Administration program to Baruch's Zicklin School of Business, is about more than easing students into life at Baruch—it's about making sure they know they belong.

“It's important that these students can see themselves here at Baruch, both in terms of academics and their careers, but also by establishing peer-to-peer relationships early on,” says Kannan Mohan, associate dean for academic initiatives and innovation at the Zicklin School. “Students at community college don't always see a path to Baruch as viable. We want to break that cycle and foster a sense of belonging so that they feel connected to Baruch even before they arrive.”

The Academy, made possible through leadership donations from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation and Dennis Gilbert, targets first and second semester BMCC students with an interest in transferring to Baruch. The program is further enhanced by a network of peer mentors, current Baruch business students who provide mentorship, guidance, and encouragement for community college students as they take the necessary steps to matriculate at Baruch.

As the Zicklin School evaluated its programs, it became clear that there was a disparity between high populations of Black and Latinx students at BMCC, rates that weren't matched at Baruch's business school. This new initiative is an effort to bridge that gap, says Mohan, providing enhanced support for historically underrepresented groups.

“Our efforts are geared towards supporting students to get them to a level playing field,” he says. “If we set the stage right, all of these students can succeed at the same rate.” ■

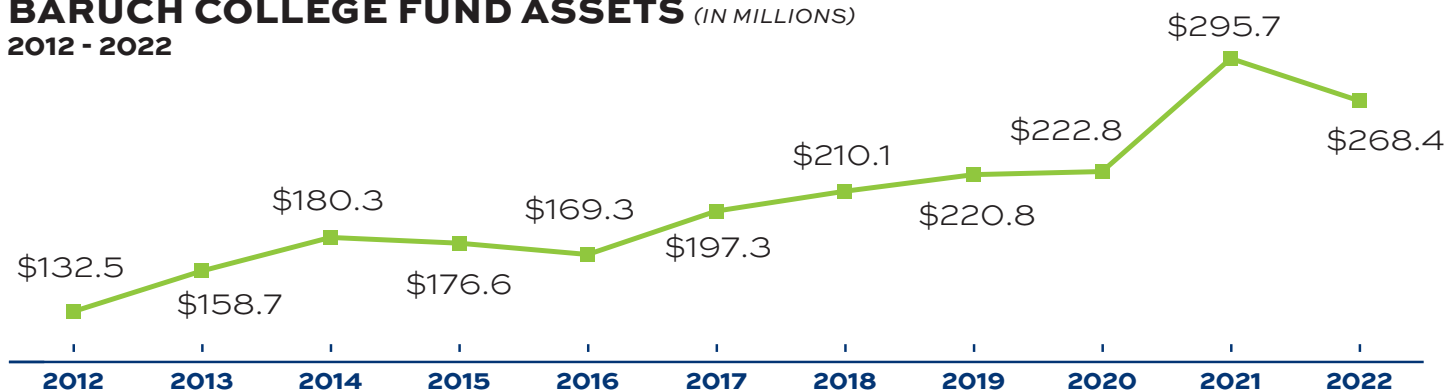
The Baruch College Business Academy is expanding with the addition of a second school from The City University of New York (CUNY) system: Queensborough Community College (QCC).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL	
			Twelve months June 30, 2022	Twelve months June 30, 2021
Cash	\$ 1,610,997	-	\$ 1,610,997	\$ 1,507,778
Investments	22,496,128	226,031,728	248,527,856	273,832,677
Investments held under split-interest agreements	-	2,996,634	2,996,634	3,658,826
Beneficial interest in trust held by others	-	-	-	-
Contributions receivable, net	848,581	13,703,131	14,551,712	16,101,127
Prepaid expenses and other assets	689,067	-	689,067	590,204
Totals	25,644,773	242,731,493	268,376,266	295,690,612
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,217,177	-	1,217,177	995,927
Liability for split-interest agreements	-	1,427,581	1,427,581	1,614,169
Total liabilities	1,217,177	1,427,581	2,644,758	2,610,096
Net assets:				
Without donor restrictions:				
Operating	14,124,151	-	14,124,151	13,166,360
Board-designated	10,303,445	-	10,303,445	11,220,039
Net Assets with donor restrictions	-	241,303,912	241,303,912	268,694,117
Permanently restricted	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	24,427,596	241,303,912	265,731,508	293,080,516
TOTALS	\$ 25,644,773	\$ 242,731,493	\$ 268,376,266	\$ 295,690,612

BARUCH COLLEGE FUND ASSETS (IN MILLIONS) 2012 - 2022

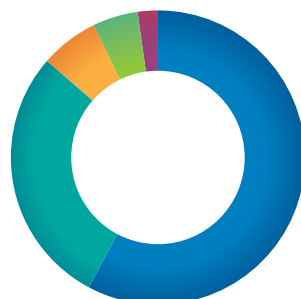


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

JUNE 30, 2022

REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	TOTAL	
			Twelve months June 30, 2022	Twelve months June 30, 2021
Contributions:				
Individuals, corporations, foundations	\$ 2,073,514	\$ 6,900,157	\$ 8,973,671	\$ 28,968,980
In-kind contributions	-	285,986	285,986	-
Annual fund raising dinner	1,616,763	-	1,616,763	1,113,589
Total	3,690,277	7,186,143	10,876,420	30,082,569
Net investment income	7,384,411	(28,245,857)	(20,861,446)	58,184,538
Change in value of split-interest agreements		(481,513)	(481,513)	656,240
Net assets released from restrictions	5,848,978	(5,848,978)	-	-
Total revenue, gains and other support	16,923,666	(27,390,205)	(10,466,539)	88,923,347
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Scholarships and awards	3,985,444	-	3,985,444	3,975,353
Payments to and for Baruch College of the City University of New York	9,504,427	-	9,504,427	8,233,862
Total program services	13,489,871	-	13,489,871	12,209,215
Supporting services:				
Management and general	1,150,361	-	1,150,361	1,040,251
Fundraising	2,242,237	-	2,242,237	2,037,372
Total supporting services	3,392,598	-	3,392,598	3,077,623
Total expenses	16,882,469	-	16,882,469	15,286,838
Change in net assets	41,197	(27,390,205)	(27,349,008)	73,636,509
Reclassifications based on changes in donor intent	-	-	-	-
Net assets, beginning of year	24,386,399	268,694,117	293,080,516	219,444,007
NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 24,427,596	\$ 241,303,912	\$ 265,731,508	\$ 293,080,516

HOW IS THE COLLEGE FUNDED?



Tuition & Fees	57.8%
State Appropriations	28.7%
Philanthropy	6.4%
Ancillary Activities	5%
Scholarly Research Grants	2.1%

THE BARUCH COLLEGE FUND BOARD MEMBERS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

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17 SOCIETY LEX

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

BARUCH IN BLOOM

Here at Baruch, the end of the academic year proved to be as busy as ever, bustling with activity as our students prepared for new experiences, new opportunities--and even new careers. As 17 Lex Society members, you represent our most loyal and generous donors, and your contributions to life at Baruch are felt all year long.

The stories that follow are just a snapshot of what life has looked like lately, a reminder of the ongoing impact of your partnership. From all of us at Baruch, we wish you a happy summer and look forward to reconnecting with our alumni and friends this Fall!

BEYOND BARUCH LIFE AND LEARNING ABROAD

MARY ABDELMASSIH '24
REFLECTS ON HER
TRANSFORMATIVE
EXPERIENCE ABROAD,
MADE POSSIBLE BY
GENEROUS BARUCH
DONORS.



“

THIS EXPERIENCE PLANTED
A SEED TO SEE MYSELF AS
A GLOBAL STUDENT. I'LL BE
TRYING TO FULFILL THAT
THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.”



Mary Abdelmassih '24 can pinpoint the exact moment she knew she wanted to study abroad. It was second semester of her freshman year when Professor Wayne Finke encouraged students in his class to imagine what it might be like to totally immerse themselves in a new culture, studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain.

Abdelmassih, a Spanish major pursuing a double minor in multilingual translation and business law, was bound and determined to meet Professor Finke's challenge. Even two cancelled trips—due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic—couldn't stop her.

"I was very adamant about taking advantage of this opportunity, because I knew that this was going to not only help me perfect my Spanish, but it would add to my cultural reservoir and push my boundaries," she says.

Abdelmassih, a Brooklyn-resident who immigrated with her family from Egypt at six years old, recognized that while she grew up in a diverse environment, there was a difference between exposure and experience.

Thanks to the support of a study abroad scholarship, which alleviated much of the financial burden of the living and travel expenses associated with studying abroad, Abdelmassih had the opportunity to explore her surroundings, traveling to London, Paris, Belgium, and Marrakesh, among other places. She was even able to apply her studies immediately, recalling a trip she took to the EU Parliamentary in Belgium after learning about its significance in one of her classes.

In addition to finding ways to contextualize history through travel, Abdelmassih was equally excited to bring her newfound knowledge home to Baruch. As part of her final project, Abdelmassih studied the Arab and Jewish expulsion from Spain, knowledge she feels will be significantly meaningful to share with the Hillel community at Baruch.

"For me, the most important thing was seeing what life was like outside of our bubble," she says. **"Thanks to my scholarship, I was able to put the things I was learning into perspective, exploring not just Spain, but much of Europe."**

Now, Abdelmassih is one of the loudest champions for Baruch's study abroad programs, sharing her own experience with current students and encouraging them to explore new opportunities. For Abdelmassih, studying abroad provided a wealth of cultural knowledge and experience, but also, it allowed her to see a future where her interests intersect.

"As a polyglot, maybe I want to pursue a career in international law, so going abroad and seeing what that work might look like—that's something I got to experience firsthand," she says. "This experience planted a seed to see myself as a global student. I'll be trying to fulfill that thirst for knowledge for the rest of my life." ●



MEET THE NEW DEAN OF THE MARXE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DR. SHERRY RYAN JOINED BARUCH COLLEGE'S LEADERSHIP TEAM AS DEAN OF THE AUSTIN W. MARXE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.

In addition to her role as former director of San Diego State University's (SDSU) School of Public Affairs, Sherry Ryan spent that last 20 years as a member of the SDSU city planning faculty. While moving across the country may have been an adjustment, for Ryan, landing in New York City was a natural fit.

"For years I've been working on getting communities away from driving and shifting to human powered mobility," she explains. "Given my background in city planning, especially transportation planning, I've always had a strong desire to live in what I would consider a truly bikeable city, like New York."

Since joining Baruch to lead the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs nearly one year ago, Ryan has been equally impressed by her more immediate surroundings: Baruch's community of students and faculty.

"The Marxe School is phenomenal. It's ranked among the top 55 schools of public affairs nationally and brings all the richness of a large urban public university system," says Ryan. "I love coming to work every day and interacting with our excellent faculty, staff, students, and alumni," Ryan says.

Now, as she prepares to head into her second academic year as dean, Ryan is spearheading several important initiatives, including updates to the school's strategic plan. She looks forward to the adoption of a new strategic plan that will shine a light on the areas of greatest importance to Marxe School's students, faculty, staff and alumni.

"I'm a firm believer that the vision, mission and values of an organization should filter up through a broad engagement process," Ryan says. "In my role, I want to focus my attention on lifting up the entire Marxe community—because that's what a dean does. They make the lives of students and faculty better, they make degree programs stronger, and most of all, they ensure that the people who interact with our school are happier in their work and in the learning they're doing." ●



MEET A 17 LEX SOCIETY MEMBER

KEITH KALLEN '90

As a Baruch student, Keith Kallen '90 found himself at the right place, at the right time. Now, as a member of the 17 Lex Society, he's doing his part to ensure Baruch transforms the lives of even more students.

Looking back, timing was everything for him. Kallen, who grew up in Detroit, enrolled at Baruch in the late 1980s at the advice of a co-worker studying at Baruch at the time. After graduating high school in 1979, he took time to pursue a career in acting, eventually deciding to focus his efforts on a business degree. In 1990, he graduated with his bachelor's in business administration, specializing in accounting.

"My experience at Baruch was transformative in the sense that I was able to make a lifelong transition," he says. That shift included an introduction to computers and the role they would play in accounting and business in the years ahead. Kallen, who was working at a CPA firm while he was completing his studies, was a student at the time the microcomputer was introduced. Looking back, it was an opportunity to provide incredible value to his clients looking to use technology to optimize their businesses.

"Baruch prepared me for that," Kallen adds. "They didn't have a pronounced computer information

systems program at the time, but an accounting degree and the experience to learn about computers allowed me to form a career that focused on that."

Now, Kallen serves as chief financial officer at Kraft & Kennedy, Inc., a technology consulting and managed IT services company serving law firms, corporate legal departments, and financial services firms. He credits the quality of a Baruch education—both in terms of academics and instruction, as well as the ability to put knowledge into practice immediately—for shaping the direction, and success, of his career.

A first-generation college student, Kallen benefited directly from scholarship aid to support his studies. Today, he understands the impact that an affordable, high-quality education can have, something he always felt he owed a debt of gratitude for.

Now, as a 17 Lex Society member, Kallen and his wife are paying that same experience forward, hoping their loyal support will strengthen a community that left such an impression on him.

"If something is given to you, much is expected in return," that way of living is how I try to pattern my life," he says. "I am grateful for the path my life has taken, and Baruch was central to my success." ●



BARUCH NEWS CENTER

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

This year's Bernard Baruch Dinner, held on April 26 at New York City's Ziegfeld Ballroom, raised \$1.62 million in support of Baruch's amazing students. This year's fundraising totals included \$128,698 from a special appeal to endow a new scholarship fund. We were thrilled to welcome a record-breaking 500 attendees, including 160 alumni, who were on hand to recognize Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Eric M. Kirsch (BBA '84) and Distinguished Faculty Award recipient Dan Stefanica. Scan the QR code to view photos and videos from the event.

Photo above: Baruch College President David Wu and Baruch College Fund President Helen Mills were proud to recognize Eric Kirsch (far left) and Dan Stefanica (far right) for their outstanding contributions to the Baruch community at the Annual Bernard Baruch Dinner. ●



PAWS AND GIVE THANKS DAY

Thursday, April 20 marked Paw and Give Thanks Day at Baruch, an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to you—our growing community of proud, passionate donors. On this day, more than 500 students gathered to write thank you cards, send video messages, and pose for photos. Scan the QR code to view these thank you messages. ●





ZICKLIN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS NAMES NEW DEAN

Bruce W. Weber, PhD, who currently serves as dean and professor of Business Administration at the Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics at the University of Delaware, has been appointed to the position of Willem Kooyker Dean of the Zicklin School of Business. Dr. Weber, who will join the Zicklin School officially on July 17, brings more than 30 years of academic experience and scholarly research to Baruch and will lead the School's strategic, operational, and financial direction. We look forward to introducing Dr. Weber to the 17 Lex community next academic year. ●



BARUCH LANDS FIRST IN NEW YORK TIMES INTERACTIVE RANKING TOOL

Baruch secured the number one spot nationally and in the Northeast with a new, create-your-own college ranking tool launched by *The New York Times* and business intelligence leader Morning Consult. Build Your Own College Rankings, which draws from a pool of 900 four-year college and universities, empowers prospective students and their families to find the right college for them by selecting 10 key priorities to answer the question: "What matters most to you when choosing a college?" ●

YOUR PRIORITIES

High earnings	11%
Economic mobility	11%
Low sticker price	11%
Low net price	11%
Academic profile	11%
Athletics	11%
Campus safety	11%
Racial diversity	11%
Economic diversity	11%
Party scene	0%

High earnings

Median income 10 years after attendance



Low sticker price

Listed price of tuition, fees and housing

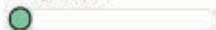


Academic profile

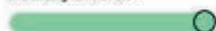
Graduation rate, SAT/ACT scores and student-faculty ratio



Party scene



Racially diverse



Economic mobility

More students start low-income and end up high-income



Low net price

Average price for students with financial aid and grants

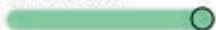


Athletics

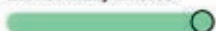
Student surveys, team performance and revenue



Campus safety



Economically diverse



YOUR RANKINGS

Size	Location	Filters	Search
1	CUNY Bernard M Baruch College		
2	CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice		
3	CUNY Hunter College		
4	Stony Brook University		
5	CUNY Brooklyn College		
6	CUNY City College		
7	Farmingdale State College		
8	CUNY Queens College		
9	New Jersey Institute of Technology		
10	SUNY College at Old Westbury		



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**JOIN US FOR
THE ANNUAL
17 LEX SOCIETY
RECEPTION!**

**WE HOPE
TO SEE
YOU THERE!**

**SEP
27
2023**

A YEAR OF REMARKABLE IMPACT!



Power of Scholarships

\$4.47M awarded in student support

1,643 students received scholarships, awards, internship stipends, and study abroad awards

17 new scholarship and awards created

\$5.04M raised in support of student scholarships and awards



Baruch Honors for Top Students

213 students earned **225 Student Achievement Awards**



Starr Facts

Career Consultations	3,562
Resume Reviews	1,488
Mock Interviews	250
Walk-In Sessions	779



Powerful Global Connections

218 students benefited from studying abroad in **24 countries** around the world



Students in Need

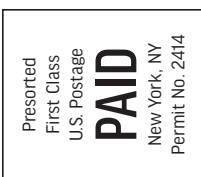
The Bearcat Food Pantry provided **healthy and nutritious food to 508 students** who faced food insecurity this academic year.

More than 200 students received **emergency stipends** to help them stay in school and graduate on time. These funds aid our students as they confront travel expenses, sudden loss of housing, medical emergencies or mental health crises, temporary loss of income, short-term food needs, and much more.



Fueling Faculty Excellence

Baruch attracted **45 new full-time faculty members** and provided salary stipends, professional development, research support, and travel grants to more than 390 faculty members.



One Bernard Baruch Way | Box A-1603 | New York, NY 10010



IMPACT REPORT 2022-23



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thanks to the leadership support of 17 Lex Society members, like you, we are celebrating another truly remarkable year for Baruch students, faculty, and alumni.

Academic Excellence and Social Mobility

This year, Baruch College led a number of nationwide rankings, all of which reinforce the powerful role a Baruch education continues to play in catalyzing social, cultural, and economic mobility for our students. Baruch was named Best Value Public College in the Northeast (*The Princeton Review*) and boasted the Lowest Debt Among Public Institutions Nationwide (*Forbes*), taking the top spot in the Build Your Own College rankings in the Northeast and nationwide (*The New York Times*)!

Student Success

Baruch students celebrated achievements in nearly every aspect of academic life, including a record-setting victory at the Rotman International Trading Competition, where students from the Master of Financial Engineering program took first place and set a new all-time scoring record. Student athletes won CUNYAC Championships in the men's sports of volleyball, swimming, basketball, and tennis. Baruch College was also named the top producer for Fulbright U.S. Students and Scholars in 2022-23 by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, one of only three institutions to be awarded this dual designation in the master's degree category.

Fundraising Success

Thanks to the support of our growing community of proud Baruch alumni and friends, we exceeded our goal to raise \$3 million in unrestricted funds through the Unlimited Potential campaign, ultimately generating **\$3.37 million!** These astounding results include a record-setting 2023 Bernard Baruch Dinner, which resulted in **\$1.61 million** raised and marked our seventh consecutive year raising more than \$1 million to support the College.

As a 17 Lex Society member, you played a key role in these achievements, laying a strong foundation for our success and inspiring bigger, bolder aspirations. We are truly grateful for your partnership and thank you for all that your support made possible this year!

You MADE THE DIFFERENCE

17 Lex donors, just like you, continue to open doors for students like Manav, Emanuela, and Sarah. They have the drive, the determination, and the passion, but you made the difference.



Manav Tilwani '23

Zicklin School of Business

Manav Tilwani '23 may have graduated with bachelor's in business administration, but his greatest takeaway was more than just his degree—it was a crash course in building connections.

As part of the Zicklin Undergraduate Honors Program, a small cohort of less than 15 students, Manav was challenged to learn, discuss, and collaborate with his classmates on a number of topics, skills that allowed him to excel as an intern at J.P. Morgan and in his full-time role as an investment banking analyst at Truist Securities.

"At such a large organization, it's easy to get lost, but I found those interpersonal skills just as useful as my technical skills," he says.

Manav's desire to pair investment banking with his interest in sustainability challenged him to explore Baruch's diverse offering of experiential learning opportunities. Building on the skills he developed as part of the Honors program, Manav was named a Belle Zeller Awardee, a True Grit Awardee, a Wendy Heyman Public Interest Fellow, a Max Berger Pre-Law Fellow, and a Baruch Entrepreneurial Intern Fellow, all of which provided him with the necessary connections and resources to succeed in his academic and professional pursuits.

For Manav, who is pursuing a full-time career in investment banking as he prepares for graduate school, support from the Baruch College Fund played a vital role in preparing him for the next step after graduation, including studying for the GMAT.

"Baruch is where I realized my passion for sustainability and finance," he says. "With almost 100 percent support from BCF scholarships, I was able to focus on the necessary work to plan for my future."

“With almost 100 percent support from BCF scholarships, I was able to focus on the necessary work to plan for my future.”

Emanuela Gallo '23

Weissman School of Arts and Sciences

Emanuela Gallo '23 has a long list of accomplishments from her undergraduate career. She served as editor-in-chief for Baruch's school newspaper, *The Ticker*, won multiple writing contests and student awards, and was named valedictorian of the Class of 2023, among other achievements. Now, as she prepares to launch a post-graduate career in law, Emanuela knows none of it would be possible without Baruch.

"What attracted me to Baruch wasn't necessarily the type of classes, but the caliber of the students I saw when I was visiting," she says. "There was a drive and an ambition that drew me in."

Emanuela quickly mirrored that same Baruch spirit, showcasing her talent and skills as part of *The Ticker* and as a participant in the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence Program, an intense workshop design where visiting writers encourage students to hone their personal styles and find their own creative voices.

"Beyond the journalistic skills, at *The Ticker*, I learned how to work with a team, how to work alone, how to be a leader, and how to manage all the difficulties and challenges that come along with that," Emanuela says. "You learn how to conduct yourself, and those are all transferable skills—ones that helped develop me."

A journalism and political science double major, Emanuela took advantage of the BCF funded programs like the Max Berger Pre-Law Program to pursue both of her passions, and following a gap year, she will attend law school in 2024.

"Baruch opened up a world of opportunity, but it reinforced that no one is going to hand you anything," she says. "You have to take an active role in creating the future you want for yourself."



Sarah Laga MIA '23

Marxe School of Public and International Affairs

For Sarah Laga MIA '23, having the opportunity to learn and work at the center of national policy making was a defining moment of her Baruch experience.

As a graduate student pursuing a degree in international affairs, Sarah began the Washington Semester in Fall 2022. This immersive learning experience provides students the opportunity to gain unique insight into the public policy process through academic coursework and an intensive internship on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies, or at nonprofit organizations.

"Physically being there in Washington, making those connections in person, walking into government agencies and buildings, those were incredibly valuable experiences," she says.

While at Baruch, Sarah also participated in Executives on Campus (EOC) as a mentee, where she was paired with an alumna mentor who provided guidance on everything from navigating the job application process to what it's like to be a woman in the public policy field. As a Marxe Endowed Faculty Fellow, Sarah worked with Marxe Chair of International Affairs Zachariah Mampilly, which provided a tuition scholarship and stipend to assist with his work on African social research.

Sarah credits both of these experiences, along with the guidance of Baruch's stellar faculty, for helping her design a special concentration in climate and security, drawing on her interests in climate change, economics, and national security.

"Baruch's alumni and faculty have extraordinary connections and have so much to offer just in terms of their advice and life experiences," she says. "My passion is policy work, and I had no idea how robust Baruch's program was, which turned out to be the perfect fit for me."