

FALL 2019/WINTER 2020

# BARUCH

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



## Are We There Yet?

Female Alumni Share Perspectives from the Executive Suite

**+ NEW  
ALUMNI  
NETWORKS**

# Message from the President

**Fall 2019 has been supercharged with celebrations and major institutional endeavors that have brought the Baruch community together to honor the College's past and invest in its future.**

The Zicklin School of Business is celebrating 100 years of delivering superior business education that is both accessible and impactful. To help commemorate this centennial, a museum-quality timeline was created and unveiled by H. Fenwick Huss, PhD, Zicklin's Willem Kooyker Dean, at a small gathering in October.

Told against the backdrop of national and global events, the timeline shows an institution—and generations of individuals—who have continuously served the city's need for talented, ethical, innovative business and civic leaders. We see how staying the course through difficult economic and political times, and looking ahead to anticipate the needs of our students and community, are the essence of the Zicklin School and Baruch College. I encourage you, the next time you attend an event on campus, to view the timeline, which is permanently installed on the 13th floor of the William and Anita Newman Vertical Campus.

The Baruch College Fund (BCF)—which, as many of you know, is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the educational welfare of our students—is also celebrating an important milestone: 50 years of giving

to the College. At this auspicious juncture, the BCF has welcomed a new president, Helen Mills, a leader in real estate and the arts. Ms. Mills—a longtime trustee and the first woman to serve as BCF president—adds her insights to the feature article, “Her Turn,” about women's leadership.

For five decades, the BCF has been our partner in ensuring that Baruch College is able to offer excellence in academics, student services, and access through scholarships and internship opportunities. These achievements will be showcased as we enter the final stages of two critical accreditation processes. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reviews and re-accredits Baruch on a 10-year cycle, and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the Zicklin School on a 5-year cycle.

Preparation for re-accreditation is a monumental undertaking, and it is one way we ensure that your degree—the one you hold now, and others you may return to attain—continues to be valued and esteemed as among the finest in the nation. In getting ready for both agency reviews, we received invaluable input from students, faculty, and staff, identifying areas for improvement, innovation, and growth.

All of this excitement feels particularly meaningful because this fall I have been sharing the news that this will be my final year as Baruch College president. I will wrap up my tenure with the 2020 Commencement exercises and degree conferrals. I will continue at Baruch in my new role as a CUNY University Professor, teaching in the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs.

Since I arrived at the College in August 2010, we have accomplished so much—from designing new academic programs, modernizing campus facilities, and exceeding fundraising goals to expanding scholarships and other student opportunities. It has been an honor and a privilege—indeed, the highlight of my career so far—to serve as president. I am forever grateful that Baruch's amazing alumni community has been with me every step of the way.

Sincerely,  
MITCHEL B. WALLERSTEIN  
President, Baruch College





Cindy Williams ('97)

### 6 | COVER STORY

## Her Turn: Female Graduates Reflect on the Changing Face of Leadership

Six Baruch graduates, trailblazers from different industries and generations, share their perspectives on how the climate is changing for today's and tomorrow's women leaders.

PLUS: Take a by-the-numbers look at how and where women make their presence felt at Baruch.

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## Textbook-Bot: Next-Level Library Service for Students

Thanks to the Newman Library's new Robotic Book-Lending Kiosk, students always have access to high-demand textbooks—even when the Reserve Desk is closed. Think something like a Redbox movie rental kiosk, only with a higher IQ.

SHOWN: One of the kiosk's step-by-step instruction "book covers," student designed and easily visible through the customized display glass.



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## From the Bronx to the Dojo: Taum Dell'Armo ('69)

"The end is nothing; the road is everything," says Taum Dell'Armo, whose well-traveled path encompasses a stint in the Air Force, the senior vice presidency of West Coast operations at Ogilvy & Mather, and a lifetime dedication to Eastern martial arts.



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One of the most memorable features of the Zicklin School's Executive Programs is the international study tour. Ask Executive MBA Cohort 36, which visited South Africa in 2019.

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Communities near and far commission Victor "Ving" Fung ('05) to create local greeting card-style murals. Traveling and living full time in his RV, he has left his artistic mark in 20 states.

### Baruch Alumni Magazine

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## To Stay Out of the Red, Go Baruch Blue, Says Kiplinger

Student loans are the largest sector of nonhousing debt in the U.S., according to Kiplinger, the Washington, DC–based publisher of business forecasts and personal finance advice, which this summer released its analysis of “Colleges with Lowest Average Graduating Debt, 2019.” With Baruch’s reputation for quality and value, the College features prominently in Kiplinger’s rankings, which showcase institutions that “do a better job of keeping debt in check than others.”

Baruch earned two Top 10 slots for lowest average U.S. student debt: #1 among public universities and #4 among public and private universities. In its review of Baruch, Kiplinger added this fact: the number of Baruch students who borrow is “the lowest ratio of any school on this list.” Kudos were also offered for the College’s prime New York City location and the variety of programs available, including 30 majors and 60 minors at the undergraduate level.

“It’s estimated that in 2019 the total student loan debt in the U.S. is \$1.6 trillion and growing,” says Baruch College President Mitchel B. Wallerstein, PhD. “Graduating with low to no debt gives Baruch graduates freedom—to consider graduate school, to start a business, to save for a home or retirement—so many possibilities. This aspect of a Baruch education is key to the College’s growing national reputation as an engine of social and economic mobility for our students.”

This year, among such media outlets as *Forbes*, *Money*, *U.S. News & World Report*, the Princeton Review, *Washington Monthly*, CollegeNET, and CNBC, Baruch has been recognized for academic excellence, value, and return on investment.

## Sibling Revelry at Commencement 2019

The Family Makak had a lot to celebrate at Commencement 2019 as siblings Melissa, Eileen, and Justin earned their Baruch degrees, each representing one of the College’s three schools. Oldest sibling Melissa graduated from the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences with an MA in mental health counseling; Eileen, from the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs with an MEd in higher education administration; and Justin, the youngest, from the Zicklin School of Business with a BBA in computer information systems. Both Melissa and Eileen previously earned an undergraduate degree from Weissman—so as of this June, the three Makak siblings have earned five Baruch degrees among them!



Melissa ('14, MA '19), Justin ('19), and Eileen ('17, MEd '19) Makak at Commencement 2019.

## Investors Beware: PROFESSOR EXPLORES DANGERS OF AUTOMATION BIAS

Algorithms are ubiquitous, helping us navigate an abundance of data to identify movies, compose text messages, and find flattering fashions. However, their

effects on financial decision-making may be far less benign. So warns Zicklin Associate Professor of Law Nizan Geslevich Packin, LL.M., SJD, in her recent *Wall Street Journal* column, “Why Investors Should Be Wary of Automated Advice.”

The article summarizes Dr. Packin’s empirical study on automation bias, or our preference for using algorithmic decisions

over those of human experts, and its impact in the area of consumer finance and beyond.

For this study, 800 U.S. survey takers were presented with a series of hypothetical investment scenarios identified as having been recommended either by a human adviser or an online algorithm. Those who thought they were getting advice from an algorithm consistently reported more confidence than those who believed they were advised by a human. Moreover, when participants were informed that the recommendations yielded disappointing results, those in the supposedly robo-advised group reiterated their confidence.

Packin’s conclusion: Many people view an algorithm like a math equation, assuming that “algorithms must always be objective and rational”—and thus ideal for financial

decision-making. But, she cautions, “There is no absolutely correct algorithm. Algorithms are designed by humans who are just as fallible as human advisers.” Her advice: Do your due diligence and retain a degree of informed skepticism.

The larger societal implications are ultimately what concern Packin the most. “Stepping back from decision-making and outsourcing it to technology could lead to less risk-taking, creativity, and critical thinking in finance and in society overall,” she says.

“Whatever the future of automated investment tools may be,” says H. Fenwick Huss, PhD, Willem Kooyker Dean of the Zicklin School of Business, “we are grateful to have such faculty thought leaders as Dr. Nizan Packin engaging our students.”



## Broadening Horizons: EMBA Cohort in South Africa

“Confident and engaged” is how Raquel Benbunan-Fich, PhD, associate

professor of information systems and academic director of the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) program at the Zicklin School of Business, describes the 26 students of EMBA Cohort 36. Last spring, these students traveled to two cities in South Africa, Cape Town and Johannesburg, for the international tour so essential to their degree that it is a requirement.

“These tours broaden students’ horizons—expose them to a different culture, a different history, different challenges, and different ways of doing business,” explains EMBA faculty member Andreas Grein, PhD, professor of international business. The South African trip was part of his BUS 9601 Business Consulting class. Other recent EMBA international study tour destinations have included Vietnam, Singapore, and China.

So why South Africa in 2019? Cape Town and Johannesburg provide a wide range of business experiences: Johannesburg is the country’s business and financial hub; Cape Town, its legislative capital. Dr. Benbunan-Fich also noted important similarities: “South Africa speaks to the diversity of Zicklin’s students. And South Africans’ focus on self-improvement and social mobility through business parallels our students’ aspirations.”

The Baruch team visited companies and factories and met with a range

## Book Bot

### Baruch Unveils Automated Textbook-Lending Kiosk

What’s 6½ feet high, 6½ feet wide, 3½ feet deep, and 1,700 pounds on its lightest day? It’s the College’s new Robotic Book-Lending Kiosk, which made its debut at the start of the 2019–20 academic year.

Now, with a swipe of their ID card and verification of their network login credentials, Baruch students can borrow from among more than 200 high-demand textbooks. Think something like a Redbox movie rental kiosk, only with a higher IQ.

Located near the student lounge on the first floor of the Information and Technology Building—home base of the William and Anita Newman Library—the innovative kiosk is the brainchild of Arthur Downing, PhD, vice president for information services and dean of the library. “Its purpose is to give students access to high-use textbooks when the library’s Reserve Desk is closed,” explains Dr. Downing, “especially during midterms and finals, when the building is open 24 hours and students need these textbooks the most.”

The kiosk also enables students to be served in a less-restrictive environment. Food and beverages are not permitted within the library itself.

Early feedback has been extremely positive, says Downing, who demonstrated the kiosk for Undergraduate Student Government leaders before the fall semester began. “It was an easy sell,” he laughs. “They loved the experience.”

Attention to detail is a hallmark of the kiosk, which features customized glass doors that enable borrowers to view the machine’s inner workings and eye-catching, step-by-step instruction “book covers” designed by students in the New Media Arts program.

But don’t let its pretty face fool you; this kiosk is a workhorse, designed for constant, heavy use. Baruch students lead the CUNY system—all 26 campuses—in the number of textbook loans per annum, according to University-wide data.

Looking down the road, Downing predicts that the Robotic Book-Lending Kiosk will offer insight into the ongoing conversation of how best to embrace technology to improve the student experience.

**Attention robot lovers:** Always wanted to name your own bot? Now’s your chance. Contact the Office of College Advancement to learn about naming Baruch’s new Robotic Book-Lending Kiosk.



of businesspeople, from executives to entrepreneurs. The cohort also bonded on visits to the Apartheid Museum in Soweto Township (Johannesburg) and Table Mountain (Cape Town), according to Alison Lund, deputy director of student services for Zicklin’s Executive Programs.

At a reception organized by the College’s

Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement, the Baruchians networked with alumni living and working in South Africa.

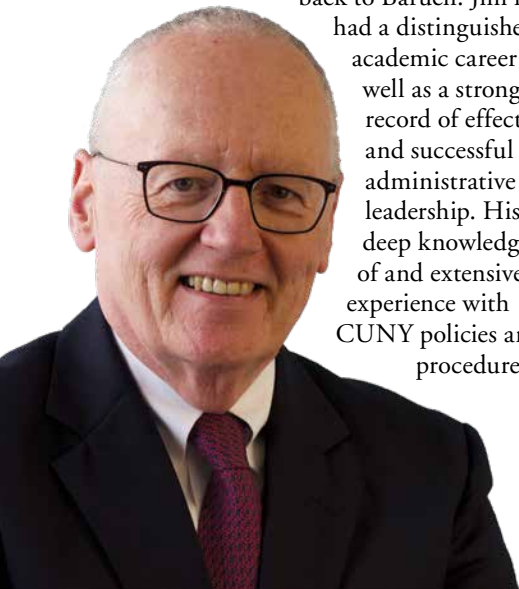
Most rewarding for Benbunan-Fich was watching the Zicklin students engage with local entrepreneurs—mentoring and consulting, offering actionable advice for burgeoning businesses. “It was our mission in motion.”

## The Return of Jim McCarthy

In August the College hailed the return of James McCarthy, PhD, who began a two-year term as interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Says Baruch College President Mitchel B. Wallerstein, PhD, “I am personally delighted to welcome Dr. McCarthy

back to Baruch. Jim has had a distinguished academic career as well as a strong record of effective and successful administrative leadership. His deep knowledge of and extensive experience with CUNY policies and procedures



will help Baruch move forward with various programmatic initiatives.”

Dr. McCarthy previously served in the role of Baruch provost from 2007 through 2012, before leaving to become president of Suffolk University in Boston.

McCarthy began his career at Princeton and has held leadership roles at Johns Hopkins, Columbia University, and the University of New Hampshire. In recent years, he has served as a consultant to colleges, universities, and university systems throughout the U.S. and abroad.

The new provost had in fact re-established his ties with Baruch in 2014 as an adjunct faculty member in the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs, where last year he became director of its master’s program in higher education administration.

McCarthy takes over for David Christy, PhD, Baruch’s former provost, who retired in June. President Wallerstein praised Provost Christy’s legacy: “During Provost Christy’s six-year tenure, he worked tirelessly to promote and advance the interests of Baruch. Jim McCarthy and I, as well as

the entire Baruch community, continue to benefit from his efforts.”

Provost McCarthy has hit the ground running, saying, “I couldn’t be prouder to be a part of this thriving, essential institution. Baruch’s mission of ‘education for all’ is as relevant today as it was when our precursor institution, the Free Academy, was founded on the site of the College’s Field Building in 1847.”

McCarthy has nothing but praise for Baruch students, faculty, and staff. “Our students represent the full mosaic that is New York City, the U.S., and the world, and our faculty and staff are committed to students’ academic and personal success. It’s no wonder that Baruch is widely recognized as one of the most powerful engines of social mobility in the country. And our faculty are highly regarded, nationally and internationally, for their outstanding scholarship and contributions to fundamental knowledge, professional practice, and public policy.”

McCarthy concludes by saying, “This combination is why I am thrilled to be back at Baruch. There’s no place I’d rather be.”

## Data-Ready Professionals: Zicklin Answers Growing Demand

Baruch’s mission, to prepare tomorrow’s leaders and professionals, has always required the College to be market responsive. So it’s no surprise that, with companies from just about every industry clamoring for students with data science skills and savvy, the Zicklin School of Business is answering this growing demand.

“This is a field that’s changing every single industry,” says Marios Koufaris, PhD, professor and chair of the Zicklin School’s Paul H. Chook Department of Information Systems and Statistics, which is at the forefront of the data science and data analytics initiatives. “Zicklin’s vision is to be a prime source of data science/analytics talent for the New York market and beyond.”

A bit of decoding is required to comprehend the scope of this vision. The terms “data science,” “data analytics,” and “business analytics” are related but not interchangeable, explains Dr. Koufaris. “*Data science* is the overarching field that focuses on how large sets of data can be used and analyzed in order to drive decision-making through actionable insights. *Data analytics* is the application of everything we know from data science to a specific context in order to solve specific problems, and *business analytics* is the application of data analytics in a business context to solve business problems.”

This fall the Zicklin School launched two graduate-level programs,

the multidisciplinary MS in Business Analytics degree program and an Executive MS in Information Systems with a concentration in data analytics—part of a growing roster of initiatives that includes courses, a minor, tracks, and concentrations at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Koufaris credits the school’s Data Analytics Advisory Board, created a few years ago, as instrumental in helping the faculty develop curricula.

Current students are extremely enthusiastic about data science and data analytics offerings, says Koufaris, who describes data-ready graduates’ career paths as “limitless.” Companies ranging from Amazon, to JPMorgan Chase, to IBM, to Prudential, to Pitney Bowes recruit at Baruch’s Tech Career Expo.

And what excites Koufaris most about data science from a scholarly perspective? “The potential to uncover knowledge—or ‘truth’—that has so far been hidden from us because of computational limitations,” he smiles. “As our ability to deal with large sets improves, it could lead to exciting discoveries.”





## Bearcats Look to Repeat Winning Year



From viral buzzer beaters to record-setting championships, Baruch athletics enjoyed a historic 2018–19 season.

Seven teams won CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) championships, and five of those teams went on to play in their respective NCAA tournaments.

Baseball, men's soccer, men's volleyball, and men's basketball each ended long droughts to win a championship, while men's tennis along with men's and women's swimming repeated as champions.

Baseball had the toughest road to winning the championship. The Bearcats defeated the College of Staten Island for the CUNYAC trophy and followed that up by traveling to Bangor, Maine, to play a special NCAA three-game play-in series against Husson University. The Bearcats' victory made

### BEARCAT STATS 2018–19 Season Highlights

**7 teams win CUNY Athletic Conference Championships**

**46th Annual Athletics Award Banquet Honors**

- Men's Swimming  
*Team of the Year*
- 44 Individual Student-Athletes
- R. Michael Shiwnath ('11) gives inaugural Alumni Inspiration Speech

school history and earned them the right to play in the NCAA for the first time.

Men's basketball made the most noise nationally in winning their CUNYAC championship thanks to a last-second basket by junior Benjamin Boateng. The winning shot went viral on Twitter and garnered nearly a million pageviews.

Women's swimming won their title by the

slimmest of margins—two points—against rival Hunter College. This team has the longest championship streak among all Baruch teams, with three consecutive years of CUNYAC titles.

Amid the year's trophies and triumphs, Coach of the Year awards went to Jose Torres (baseball), John Alesi ('04) (men's basketball), Gregory Wyzkowski (men's tennis), and Charles Lampasso (men's swimming and diving teams).

## Powering Ahead: Marxer Contingent at Conference

On the weekend of September 20–22, Suzanne Grossman, deputy director of career services and alumni relations at Baruch's Austin W. Marxer School of Public and International Affairs, led a 10-woman CUNY contingent to the biennial Women & Power Conference run by the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY. The attendees—all on scholarships from the institute—included three current Master of International Affairs (MIA) degree candidates, one Master of Public Affairs (MPA) candidate, and one recent MPA alumna. Three other CUNY colleges were also represented. Civil rights activist Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement, was among the speakers for the 2019 conference, its theme “Gathering Our Strength.”



“We are very proud of all our hardworking student-athletes, coaches, and staff for such a terrific year,” says Heather MacCulloch, Baruch's director of athletics and recreation. “Our teams showed grit and the proud Bearcat spirit every day, whether it be in practice or on the field of competition. We look forward to defending our titles in 2019–20.”

—JOHN NEVES

**CHEER YOUR BEARCATS TO VICTORY.** Schedules available at [athletics.baruch.cuny.edu](http://athletics.baruch.cuny.edu).

# Her Turn

## Six Alumni Share Perspectives from the Executive Suite

BY SALLY FAY

**W**omen who aspire to lead have been pushing boundaries for centuries, staking a claim to positions of power in corporate, government, and nonprofit arenas. And, no doubt, they've made gains. Optimistic observers point to the increasingly common presence of women in the C-suite and the recent election of an unprecedented number of women to public office as signs that the culture is shifting toward acceptance of women's desire for leadership roles.

But those less sanguine about women's strides point to the *actual* proportion of women in leadership positions, which remains low, and the long-standing prejudices that impede their progress. "The feminist movement gradually eroded the idea of separate spheres, making it possible today for women to participate in politics and pursue almost any profession," says Katherine Pence, PhD, associate professor of history and director of the Women's and Gender Studies program at Baruch College's Weissman School of Arts and Sciences. "However, often women are still paid less and hold lower-ranked positions across the workforce, and they are subject to particular scrutiny when they assume leadership roles."

So where do women leaders stand today? Six Baruch alumni, trailblazers from different industries and generations, go on the record with lessons learned from their own career journeys and their thoughts on the current climate women in and aspiring to leadership positions face.



### POSITIVE SIGNS... ON A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

"Are we there yet? Not quite—but the trends are going in the right direction," says Cathy Avgiris ('80), who held a series of executive roles at Comcast Cable before retiring from the position of CFO, the first woman in that role. Now a senior advisor with Boston Consulting Group and an executive coach, Ms. Avgiris celebrates the record-high numbers of female Fortune 500 CEOs and women presidential candidates

and cites the composition of the 116th U.S. Congress, where "about 25 percent of the Senate and House are female."

Cindy Williams ('97), Chief Audit Executive and head of internal controls at Technicolor, a worldwide technology leader in the media and entertainment industry, says that the diversity of the current crop of political newcomers is particularly inspiring to her as a Latina: "The number of women actually elected was incredible, and their diversity is history-making. For the first time, I felt represented."



Joan Lavin ('99), managing director and Chief Talent Officer at global investment firm KKR & Co., believes that today's companies are incentivized to court and support women. "In the last decade, there's been a growing body of evidence pointing to the benefits of a more diverse workforce generally," she says. Not only is diversity the right thing to do, "smarter companies are seeing diversity as a real commercial imperative."

## YOU SAY YOU WANT AN EVOLUTION

Amidst a climate of growing societal and global pressures, shifting demographics, and the expectations of younger professionals, organizations across all sectors have gradually changed in their approach to women in leadership positions.

Professional services and accounting giant Deloitte & Touche LLP is one such company, says Lara Abrash (MBA '94), CEO and head of the company's U.S. Audit & Assurance services business. Recently selected as one of *Crain's New York Business's* Notable Women in Accounting & Consulting, Ms. Abrash highlights her organization's "shift to a more inclusive culture" and its concerted efforts to advance and retain female professionals, including a supportive family leave policy. Ms. Williams of Technicolor also sees attention to these issues but from a different lens. "In the entertainment industry, a lot of the discussion revolves around the landscape for women actors: How do you empower women to get equal pay and recognition and promote more visible roles across all demographics, cultures, and backgrounds?" In her estimation, those concerns have resulted in greater "consciousness about those issues on the corporate side."

## A SEAT AT THE TABLE

The growing inclusion of women on corporate and nonprofit boards is one manifestation of evolving gender dynamics

in leadership, says Paulette Garafalo ('78, MBA '80), president of high-end clothing and accessories brand Paul Stuart and chair of the compensation committee and board member for Hooker Furniture. "The balance on boards is changing because companies are seeking out different voices, and that's because the shareholders are demanding it," Ms. Garafalo says. And, as Ms. Avgiris notes, there is a direct link between inclusivity and corporate success: "More than half the companies that fall out of the Fortune 1000 have little or no board diversity."

Cristina Jiménez (MPA '11), executive director of United We Dream, a national nonprofit organization she and six other advocates co-founded in 2008 to promote the dignity of immigrants and communities of color in the U.S., sees an imbalance between the leadership of her sector and the boards with which they interact: "There are differences that are reflective of class and gender experience, and also race experience, that come along with that," says the alumna, a MacArthur Fellow and Freedom From Fear Award winner.

## BALANCING ACT

A certain gender dynamic is usually implicit in the subject of work/life balance, but changing expectations are driving new conversations around this topic, says Ms. Garafalo. "There's more emphasis from the workforce overall on how work fits into life; it's a very big consideration for women and men, especially if they're parenting as they come into the job market." Ms. Lavin concurs, "Nowadays men want to share in

the parenting of newborns and children. So not only do workplaces have to offer a value proposition where *women* can accommodate careers and family, but that same pressure is coming from *men*. And that's good for women, because that pressure negates the inference that you need to adapt your workplace only for women."

For Ms. Abrash, modeling balance is vital. "It's important for all leaders—especially women—to be vocal about their purpose and mindful of their wellbeing," she says, adding, "My role at Deloitte is a huge responsibility that I don't take lightly. However, I am also a mom, a wife, a daughter, a friend, and a teammate [she plays on and manages a local women's softball team]."

Ms. Avgiris sees successful career pathing as broader and less linear than in the past: "There really is no such thing as climbing the corporate ladder; it is much more like a jungle gym—one step forward, two to the side."

## DIFFERENCE AS STRENGTH

For Ms. Jiménez, her persona as a woman leader is inextricably intertwined with race, class, ethnicity, and other components of her identity. She credits women leaders of color with inspiring her and inspiring far-reaching change: "They are the reason we have vibrant social justice movements right now."

Indeed, rather than trying to mask or deny their "otherness," women leaders seem eager to embrace new paradigms. "In decades past, women felt the necessity



FROM LEFT: Cathy Avgiris ('80), Cindy Williams ('97), Joan Lavin ('99)

to compete in a ‘man’s world’ on a man’s terms,” says Ms. Garafalo. “Nowadays women don’t overcompensate for their gender.” For her, “gender is becoming less and less relevant and diversity more.” Ms. Jiménez agrees and speaks of “a different style of leadership, which is a lot more collective, inclusive, transparent, and intentional about building relationships and communities and honoring each other.” Ms. Abrash touts the big-picture value of “fostering a culture that empowers every professional to bring their unique thoughts, perspectives, and ideas to the table to help our business, our firm, our clients, and our people thrive.” Ms. Williams speaks of a holistic leadership style: “I care about each person on my team as a person. But when it comes to work expectations, I may still be tough. I feel I need to combine those two elements.”

## ALLIES AROUND

The stereotype of the woman executive jealously guarding her hard-won position of power is becoming a thing of the past. These days, observes Ms. Avgiris, there’s an impetus “for women to support and push other women.” Such support can come in the form of serving as a role model for women leaders yet to come. Says Ms. Lavin, “The more that women assert themselves and continue to evolve in their careers, then the more they are demonstrating to the next generation of women what is possible.” Ms. Jiménez agrees, “For me, it’s about what doors I can help to open for others.”

Ms. Garafalo sees women mentoring more and more and says that helping the next generation is her favorite part of being a leader. “The longer you stay in a career the more information you have to share. I’m very flattered that younger executives come to me. They don’t always listen to me, but they value my perspective.”

Neither does mentorship always have to mean women helping women. Says Ms. Abrash, “Some of the best mentors in my career have been men who share a passion



FROM LEFT: Lara Abrash (MBA '94), Paulette Garafalo ('78, MBA '80), Cristina Jiménez (MPA '11)

for inclusion and the advancement of women.” Indeed, many of these alumni say that male bosses and colleagues have been among their biggest champions and best sounding boards.

## THE NEXT FRONTIER

Dynamic, inclusive, transformative, and ongoing are the words used by this group of women leaders to describe the prospects for the future. For Ms. Jiménez, the current landscape for women leaders is an opportunity to “lay out a bold vision for this country that speaks to values of equity and justice for everyone, not just for the few.”

Ms. Lavin urges women not just to “lean in” but to stretch for new leadership roles. “If you know deep down you’ve got the capabilities and/or potential to learn quickly, even if it’s a stretch—and ideally it’s a stretch!—then don’t shy away from taking on a new challenge. Seek out a mentor, seek out some counsel, and demonstrate your capability to succeed.”

Ms. Avgiris, though acknowledging the value of women-specific groups where women leaders can share their distinct issues and experiences, emphasizes the importance of engaging men “in ways that are holistic and integrated into a company’s main agenda. Women have to be comfortable positioning the conversation within that context to advance mutual understanding.”

Ms. Williams notes that male leaders need to examine their own preconceptions

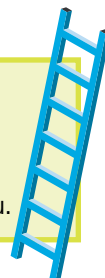
as well. “Men need to be challenged to think and work differently because now there are women leaders who may think and process differently,” she says.

In matters of leadership, “it’s a constant learning curve,” sums up Ms. Garafalo. “You can’t address the workforce the way you did 20 or 10 or 5 years ago. Everything is changing, and so *we* have to change and learn to understand and respect other groups’ worldview if we want to be current and productive and relevant.”

One thing unlikely to change is the determination of female students at Baruch College to equip themselves to succeed in whatever field or endeavor they choose to pursue.

“Of course, higher education will continue to have an essential role in gender equity and therefore so will Baruch College,” says President Mitchel B. Wallerstein, PhD. “Baruch has had a long tradition of championing women’s higher education and professional opportunities, and these Baruch trailblazers are part of that history. They are playing an important role in reshaping the conversation about the face of leadership. Their successes help broaden the path for 21st-century leaders who represent gender, racial, and cultural diversity.”

**ALUMNI:** What’s your take on workplace dynamics past, present, and future? We invite you to share with us at [alumni@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@baruch.cuny.edu).



## Celebrating Women@Baruch

On July 1, Helen Mills became the 18th president of the Baruch College Fund (BCF), the fundraising arm of the College. She is the first woman to lead the BCF, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. A BCF trustee since 2012, Ms. Mills brings to the board more than 30 years' experience investing in and managing real estate in New York and the surrounding area. She is the founder of the Helen Mills Event Space and Theater in New York.

Asked how she feels to be the first woman in this important role, Ms. Mills notes her “deep gratitude to my incredibly supportive and talented fellow trustees for choosing me to be the BCF president,” adding, “I am also learning the symbolic importance to women of my being in the position as they tell me how personally happy they are to see a woman as president. For these women, my fellow trustees, and Baruch students, I feel great responsibility to contribute to the ongoing success of the BCF.”

Married to Baruch alumnus Gary Tannenbaum ('70), Ms. Mills completed postgraduate work at Baruch in the 1970s.



### A SNAPSHOT OF WOMEN'S IMPACT AROUND CAMPUS

#### Faculty\*

**497**

**Female Faculty**  
207 full time;  
290 part time



**40%**

Of the faculty  
are female



**20**

**Books Published**  
by Female Full-time  
Faculty in 2018–19

#### Senior Leadership

**43%**

of President Wallerstein's  
Cabinet Members  
Are Women

**16**

Women Lead On-Campus  
Centers, Institutes, and  
Special Programs



#### Scholarships

**35+**

**Scholarships**  
Created for and/or  
Named in Honor  
of Women

Also Notable

**65+**

**Scholarships**  
Created by and/or  
Named Jointly for  
a Woman and a Man

#### Places on Campus

**10**

**Baruch Places**  
(Classrooms, Theatre,  
Lab) Named for Women

Also Notable

**25+**

**Places**  
Named Jointly for  
a Woman and a Man

#### Student Life: In and Out of the Classroom

**49%** **Women  
Enrolled**

Of 18,029 total students  
in Fall 2018

**7** **Student Groups  
and Clubs Dedicated  
to Women**

Including the Financial Women's  
Association (FWA)\*\* with **100+  
Mentors; 250+ Program  
Alumni'** in its 17-year history



**#3** **Focus on  
Women in Tech**

Best for Female Undergrads Earning  
Degrees in Computer Science and  
Related Disciplines  
*The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2019*

**6** **Women's  
Sports**

basketball, cross-country, softball,  
swimming, tennis, and volleyball

\*Faculty statistics for those with instructional titles only, according to CUNYfirst, as of Fall 2019 \*\*Sponsored by a BMO Equity Through Education grant.  
\*Five program alumni, with the requisite minimum 10 years' business experience, have returned as mentors.



# CLASSNOTES

**50s** After working for 39 years as a psychologist for the NYC Police Department, **Arthur Knour** ('57) retired and is focusing on his private practice, based out of Brooklyn Heights. He would like to reconnect with members of the Lloyd '57 House Plan. Please contact Baruch's Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement if you would like to get in touch. **Edward A. Dreyfus** ('58) authored *The Poker Players*, a psychological drama about a group of poker players who reveal secrets about themselves and their families.

**60s** **Lawrence Balter** ('60) came to campus in August to award the Dr. Lawrence Balter Excellence in Psychology Scholarship to Ianka Fernandez ('21). A professor emeritus at New York University and a renowned psychologist, he hopes his generosity will inspire other alumni to support Baruch students. In July **Edward Mendlowitz** ('63), a partner at WithumSmith+Brown, PC, CPAs, documented a "field trip" he took to the New York State Society of CPAs with his firm's summer interns for *Accounting Today*. An independent journal serving

professional investors, *Welling on Wall Street* featured a wide-ranging Q&A with **Charles Dreifus** ('66, MBA '73) in which he discussed his own social mobility story and the influence of his mentor, the late Abraham J. Briloff ('37, MEd '41). **Irving Erdos** ('68) is a humor columnist for the *San Diego Union Tribune*. In June **Kathy Wallner** ('69) walked in Commencement as part of Reunion Luncheon 2019. During her senior year at Baruch, she was named Miss Mardi Gras '69, news that made the front page of that week's issue of *The Ticker*.



## A Presidential Post: When Harry Met Emil

This past May, Emil Kesselman ('76) served as the grand marshal of Long Island's Oceanside Memorial Day Parade. The 92-year-old U.S. Navy veteran has another claim to fame, though. He worked side by side with President Harry S. Truman in 1951, taking dictation for the commander-in-chief while stationed in Florida.

If Mr. Kesselman ever penned his memoirs, he would undoubtedly also write of his atypical college years. He enrolled in Baruch—then City College “downtown”—in 1948; left to serve in the Korean War; and eventually completed his Baruch degree in 1976, after 12 straight years of evening classes. The alumnus graduated with honors, *magna cum laude*, and was the recipient of the Wollman Memorial Medal in Business Administration. He enjoyed a long and successful career in human resources, working for such companies as Brillo and Eden Toys, LLC, before semiretiring in 1992.

And what was it like to work with President Truman? “He was terrific,” says Kesselman. “Very down-to-earth. He knew what everything was all about.”

**70s** **Thomas Lapinski** ('72) is executive director and founder of Through the Bars, a foundation that supports history, music, and arts programs at San Quentin State Prison. A music industry professional who has organized more than 2,500 concerts and events throughout California, Lapinski has been volunteering at San Quentin for nearly 40 years. The NY chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) presented **Jeffrey Blumengold** ('73, MBA '76) with an HFMA Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his invaluable service to the HFMA chapter. His Royal Highness **Onyema Okorie** (MBA '75) celebrated his 80th birthday this year. After receiving his degree from Baruch, the Nigerian-born alumnus made headlines in the *New York Times* for returning to Africa to represent his ancestral village in Nigeria's national government. **Mark DeNat** ('77) is the owner of Awakening Garden, a retreat getaway in Saugerties, NY, with cabins and communal spaces. The Virgin Islands appointed **Kedrick Malone** ('79, MBA '91) to the role of permanent secretary within the Premier's Office. After reading the cover story "What's Brewing? Alumni Innovate the Coffee Industry" in the Spring/Summer 2019 edition of *Baruch Alumni Magazine*, **Stewart J. Webster** ('79) reached out to Baruch to share his coffee connection. He is CEO and chief quality checker for JamaicanCoffeeClub™ (JamaicanCoffeeClub.com), which prides itself on being responsibly sourced and on giving back to the Jamaican farming community.

**80s** **Michael Indursky** ('83) was named executive chairman of Tikun Olam Skincare. In this role, he is leading the company's efforts to create a line of cannabinoid-infused skincare

*continued on next page*

## Sustainable Success

**Alyssa Alicino** ('13, MBA '19)

Most people view sustainability through a climate-based lens. For Alyssa Alicino, though, the field of view is much wider. "It's an all-encompassing issue," says the Baruch double alumna and former CUNY Macaulay Honors College student. "Sustainability impacts anticorruption measures, human rights support, sustainable finance—you name it."

Ms. Alicino deals with these issues every day in her role as manager of strategic development for the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. The organization works with approximately 10,000 private companies—Unilever, L'Oréal, and Microsoft among them—to provide data and strategies to help them implement sustainable business practices. "It's a great mix of both working within the public sector and impacting private companies," she explains.

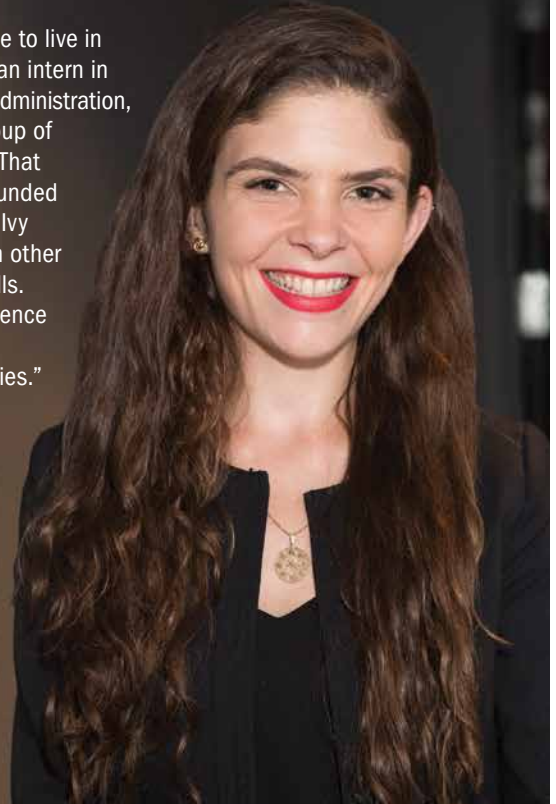
Prior to her position at the UN, Alicino held roles in both the public and private sectors, working for the New York City Department of Small Business Services and within the Estée Lauder Companies.

A Queens native, Alicino enrolled at Baruch thinking she would major in business. "That changed after my first accounting class," she laughs. She soon found her passion in Baruch's Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs, exploring social issues across the globe through study abroad opportunities and internships in Spain, Argentina, Mexico, and Guatemala.

The Marxe grad even had the chance to live in Washington, DC, for a semester as an intern in the White House during the Obama administration, where she joined a highly select group of students from across the country. "That was my first experience being surrounded by people who had graduated from Ivy League schools and who came from other prestigious backgrounds," she recalls. "That internship gave me the confidence to believe that I was ready and well equipped for all types of opportunities."

And when she's not changing the world as part of her day job at the UN, she's exploring it. Alicino has traveled extensively over the past few years with her husband, Latin pop musician Reneco, to promote his music, with destinations that have included Colombia and Ecuador.

—GREGORY M. LEPORATI





## CLASSNOTES

products. **Paul G. Barretta** ('87, MBA '91) accepted a position as associate professor of marketing at Wagner College in Staten Island, NY. He previously served as associate professor and chair of the marketing department at St. Bonaventure

University. ARTWorks Gallery on the Green in Norwalk, CT, hosted *Crazy Town*, a collection of collage and acrylic paintings by **Ellen Gordon** (MBA '87). A mixed-media artist, Gordon also serves on the board of the Greenwich Art Society.

**Donald A. Donahue** (EMBA '89) was elected to the board of directors of the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine. He is a professor and program chair with the University of Maryland Global Campus and University of Maryland, Baltimore.

### BCAA: Join the Family

For more than 50 years, the Baruch College Alumni Association (BCAA) has been at the forefront of *Supporting Past, Present & Future Generations of Baruch Alumni*.

With the generous support of our members, the BCAA hosts many enriching events and professional activities each year and has endowed hundreds of scholarships and awards for students, alumni, and faculty.

As a member of the BCAA, you join a growing and well-connected family. In fact, the BCAA takes family commitment to a whole new level. The association was founded in 1968 by Joseph Douglas ('32); his son Paul ('57) has served as a dedicated BCAA director for more than half a century; and for the past nine years, the BCAA Office was managed by Paul's niece, Executive Director Lori Benathen, who is married to Baruch alumnus and current BCAA President Marc Benathen ('02).



Family is at the core of the association's history and philosophy, and we'd love to expand our family connections. So don't be a stranger!





BCAA Life Director Paul Douglas ('57) receives the BCAA Lifetime Achievement Award from then Executive Director Lori Benathen at the association's 50th Anniversary Gala last fall.

Learn more about us at [bcaaalumni.org](http://bcaaalumni.org) and contact us at [BCAAalumni@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:BCAAalumni@baruch.cuny.edu) or 646-660-6080.

Follow BCAA on:

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 @BaruchBCAA  
 Baruch College Alumni Association

**90s** Wellbridge Addiction Treatment and Research named **Elizabeth**

**Moore** (MBA '90) its executive director. She previously served for 15 years as chief operating officer at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, CT. The International Association of Top Professionals named **Susan Zemser-Israel** ('91) the Top Stylist of the Year for her contributions as an entrepreneur and style influencer. She is the owner of 3 Lovebugs and former owner of Entrée Boutique in Port Washington, NY. **Steven Melnik** ('93), director of undergraduate and graduate tax programs at Baruch's Zicklin School of Business, arranged for the president of the Free Republic of Liberland to speak to his class of international tax students. Hearst named **Michael Palmer** ('93) its chief information security officer. Palmer previously served as the first chief information security officer of the National Football League. **Lincoln Finkenberg** ('95) joined Perkins Coie as a partner in its financial transaction practice. He previously served as a senior corporate trust lawyer at BNY Mellon. **Jerry Siegelman** (EMPA '95), a partner at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek P.C., was named co-chair of the firm's real estate department. **Stefan J. Contorno** ('96) was promoted to senior vice president at Touchstone Wealth Partners UBS. He also hosts a live financial segment on CBS-WINK News called "Money Monday." Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown presented **Ruschell Boone** ('99), longtime NY1 reporter, with the William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award, recognizing her 21 years in journalism.



**00s** | *a shaft of light*, a collection of poetry by author and poet **Ann Huang** ('00), was published in August. Three other collections of her poetry have also been published. **Daniel Jason** (MBA '01) was promoted to director of benefits at Virginia Commonwealth University, a public research university in Richmond, VA, comprising 11 schools and three colleges. In July the Cayman Islands Ministry of Commerce, Planning, and Infrastructure appointed **Alethia Lambert** (MA '03) its communications and public affairs manager. She has more than 12 years of experience in corporate communications, public relations, and social media management. **Tiffani Blake** (MS '05) joined New York Institute of Technology as interim dean of students for the institution's two NY campuses. *Forbes* ran a profile of **Brandon Voss** (MBA '05), whose creative agency, Voss Events, rose to prominence when it hosted events as part of the TV show *RuPaul's Drag Race*. National Investor Relations Institute honored **Matthew Abenante** ('06) as part of its inaugural "40 Under 40" recognition class, honoring "the most talented young individuals in the investor relations community." He serves as senior vice president at Porter, LeVay & Rose. **Darnide Cayo** ('06, MA '10), a former Baruch adjunct professor, received Con Edison's 2019 Living Our Values Award, Con Edison's highest honor for employees. She serves as a senior specialist. **Colin Horsford** ('07) developed his third app, CurbGenie, which lets travelers return their rental car at airports curbside. After an accounting career at Ernst & Young, AIG, and Goldman Sachs, Horsford now has his own accounting and advisory firm, Horsford Accounting & Advisory. Actress **Celia Au** ('08) stars in the Netflix action series *Wu Assassins*, which blends martial arts, drama, and supernatural elements. Additionally, Au has had roles in the AMC series *Lodge 49* and the indie film *In a New York Minute*. **Nicole Daignault** (MBA '08) married Jeff Brown in June in

*continued on next page*

## From the Bronx to the Dojo: The Samurai Journey of Taum Dell'Armo

How does a high-powered advertising executive find inner peace? For alumnus Taum Dell'Armo ('69), the answer lies in the way of the samurai.

The Bronx-born Dell'Armo—whose first name, "Taum," is based on a Sanskrit holy word and is pronounced just like his given name, "Tom"—is trained in five martial arts and has been studying *iaido*, an intricate Japanese sword art, for the last 12 years.

Of *iaido*, he says, "You draw the sword, make the cut, and ceremoniously sheath it. It couldn't look simpler, yet it's the most complex and spiritual of all the martial arts." Westerners are rarely trained in *iaido* because it requires experience with other martial arts and, according to Mr. Dell'Armo, demands a lifetime of dedication to searching for spiritual perfection through the samurai sword.

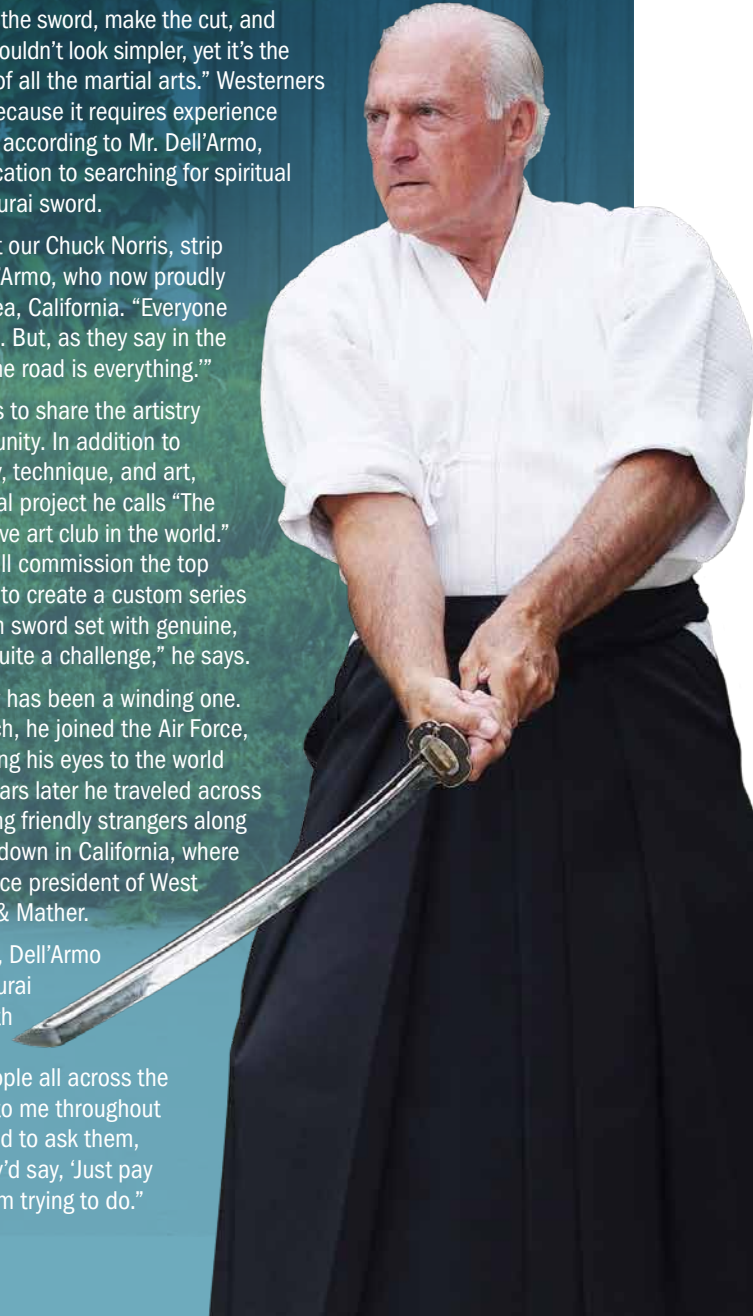
"People in the East laugh at our Chuck Norris, strip mall-style dojos," says Dell'Armo, who now proudly resides in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. "Everyone here just wants a black belt. But, as they say in the East, 'The end is nothing; the road is everything.'"

Today Dell'Armo's mission is to share the artistry of *iaido* with a wider community. In addition to lecturing on samurai history, technique, and art, he has also started a special project he calls "The 8 Samurai, the most exclusive art club in the world." Over the next decade, he will commission the top eight swordsmiths in Japan to create a custom series for eight select clients, each sword set with genuine, antique samurai fittings. "Quite a challenge," he says.

Dell'Armo's samurai journey has been a winding one. After graduating from Baruch, he joined the Air Force, which he credits with opening his eyes to the world outside of New York City. Years later he traveled across the country in a van, meeting friendly strangers along the way, and finally settled down in California, where he landed a job as senior vice president of West Coast operations at Ogilvy & Mather.

Although technically retired, Dell'Armo keeps busy with the 8 Samurai project and volunteering with several nonprofits, working primarily with children. "People all across the country have been so nice to me throughout my life," he says, "and I used to ask them, 'How can I repay you?' They'd say, 'Just pay it forward.' So that's what I'm trying to do."

—GREGORY M. LEPORATI



## Wish You Were Here

### On the Road with Graffiti Artist Victor Fung ('05)

Many a New York City teen has tagged a wall or two, but very few turn it into a career. Victor “Ving” Fung is one of the few, and now he’s on a never-ending road trip to spread graffiti art to communities near and far.

“Street art is my passion,” says the self-taught artist, who rose to prominence after creating greeting card-style murals in Sunnyside, Queens, and Manhattan’s Chinatown. “Those paintings were my first attempts at public art, and I did it for the community... People loved it, we built connections to the neighborhoods, and we decided to take that feeling and run with it.”

In 2015 he and his partner, photographer Lisa Beggs, decided to purchase an RV and live full time on the road, creating sanctioned “Greeting Card” murals all across the country. Mr. Fung primarily designs the murals, while Ms. Beggs documents the process. They have traveled to all 50 states and created paintings in 20 of them.

“It started out as a one-year experiment,” Fung says. “But more than four years later, we are still on the road.”

Fung never expected his career to take this route. After graduating from Baruch, he landed a job at Experian, where he worked for eight years in digital marketing. “I was living a Clark Kent lifestyle,” he recalls. “I’d work my nine-to-five corporate job on weekdays, and then my weekends—or any free time, really—would be dedicated to graffiti.”

As Fung and Beggs journey across the country, they reach out to the communities they’re working in to crowdsource ideas for each mural. Those efforts allow the pair to bring an extra dimension of authenticity to every work. They also learn fun facts about each city. “In Tucson, Arizona,” Fung says, “they suggested we paint a Sonoran Dog, a very popular local hot dog that I never would’ve known about if not for their suggestion.”

In addition to working on the murals, Fung runs Klughaus Gallery, a Queens-based art agency that cultivates talented street artists and connects them with private clients.

What’s the next destination for the Greeting Card tour? “We did our first international mural in Bermuda,” Fung says, “and we’d love to expand this worldwide. We’re ready for any project that comes along—whatever, and *wherever*, it might be.”

—GREGORY M. LEPORATI

San Francisco. **Sonya Rocvil** (MBA '08), principal and founder of Berry Rocvil Enterprises, LLC, was featured in the Diversity in Commercial Real Estate Conference held at Columbia University this summer. *Citywire* named **Chantana Ly Vath-Ward** (EMS '08) to its list of the top 30 women fund managers in the world. **Meredith Gray** (MPA '09) is co-founder and executive director of the Fort Greene Clinton Hill Co-op School in Brooklyn. She founded the school in 2004 and, prior to that, taught in Mexico, East New York, and Harlem. *InvestmentNews* named **Miranda Reiter** (MPA '09) to its “40 Under 40” list, which recognizes leadership, accomplishment, and promise in the field of financial planning. She serves as a financial adviser with USAA. **David Seligman** (MBA '09) was named executive director of Northwell Health Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Hospital. **Nabila Sheikh** (MS '09) is senior manager, organizational development and talent management, at PepsiCo.

**10s** In August **Christopher Alesi** ('10) was introduced as the new men’s basketball coach at Manhattanville College. His brother, John Alesi ('04), is the men’s basketball coach at Baruch. NY1 news reporter **Amanda Farinacci** (MPA '11) was named to *City & State’s* 2019 list of “The Staten Island Power 100,” which recognizes the most powerful and influential people of the borough. **Elaine Montilla** ('11) delivered a TEDx talk in NYC in July focused on the value of mentoring women and minorities in tech. She serves as assistant vice president and CIO of the CUNY Graduate Center.



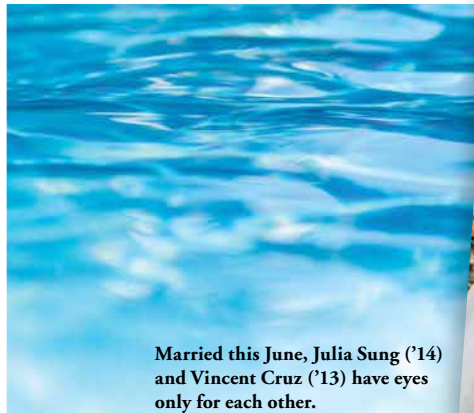


This summer **Phillip Braun** (MPA '12) began working as enrollment services manager at New Jersey Institute of Technology. **Jamie Beth Cohen** (MSEd '12) authored *Wasted Pretty*, a coming-of-age young adult novel. Cohen works as a faculty assistant at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA, and has written for the *Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, and other publications. **Christopher Lopez** ('12) is a plastic and reconstructive surgery resident at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. He studied previously at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and was the 2013 recipient of CUNY's Jonas E. Salk Scholarship. **Minhaj Choudhury** ('13) joined Park Madison Partners, a NYC real estate agency, as real estate capital advisory. He previously served as a relationship manager at Neuberger Berman. **Ehle Shachter** (MPA '14) became the director of special projects at the NYS Department of Financial Services. **Jacqueline Ivy** (MPA '15) is a project manager at the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles. **Barbara Lerman** (MSEd '15) accepted a position as employer relations specialist at Yeshiva University. Lifelong animal lover **Kiera Mejia** ('15) was named the communications manager at the ARK at JFK, the world's first privately owned, 24-hour animal terminal and airport quarantine center. With more than a decade of financial services experience, **Michael Tanney** (MSEd '15) joined Magnus Financial Group as a director. He also finds time to volunteer at Baruch College, speaking at events and serving as a mentor with the Executives on Campus program. **Joanne Hernandez** (MPA '16) was appointed senior policy advisor for transportation by the Office of the Governor of the State of New York. She formerly served as senior safety engineer at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. **Dulamjav Amarsaikhan** ('17), deputy director of marketing and foreign relations at Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum, traveled with Baruch Distinguished Professor Gail Levin, PhD, to Mongolia,

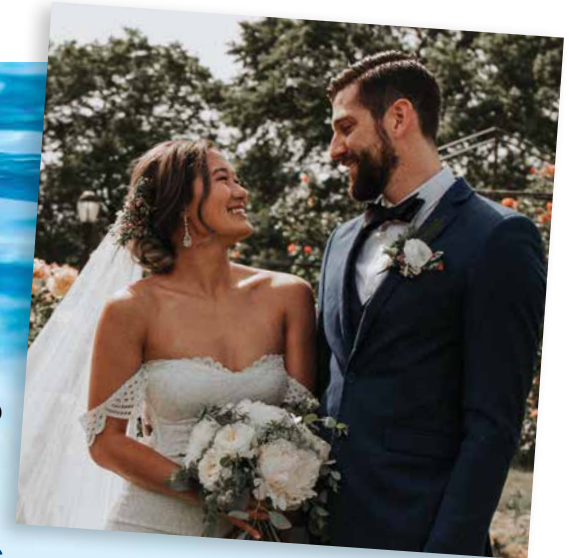
where Dr. Levin taught workshops as a Fulbright Specialist. **Lissette Garcia Arrogante** (MPA '17) became the director of the Savannah Cultural Arts Center in Savannah, GA. She brings a wealth of experience to the position, having work experience in public museums, private

galleries, corporate art, and festival planning. **Majlinda Bacaj** (MSEd '17) is an academic advisor at NYU's School of Professional Studies. She previously held positions at Bard College, Pace University, and New

*continued on next page*



Married this June, **Julia Sung** ('14) and **Vincent Cruz** ('13) have eyes only for each other.



## A Wave of Weddings

The Bearcat alumni-athlete community is tightknit, and some of its bonds are even stronger than lifelong friendship. Ask Director of Aquatics and Head Coach of Men's and Women's Swimming Charles Lampasso. Beginning his 16th year as Baruch's swimming coach, Mr. Lampasso frequently hears from former team members—and news of engagements and marriages is not uncommon.

Is there something in the water? "No," smiles the coach. "Unlike almost every other sport, the men's and women's swim teams train together. They are always with each other; they see each other at their best and worst. Bonds are formed." He and his fellow coaching staff often witness student romances.

So he wasn't particularly surprised by the recent wave of weddings. Two couples, former swimmers Dénisse Durán Llano ('13) and R. Michael Shiwnath ('11) and Elizavetta Glotova ('16) and Miguel Meza ('16), wed this year. "Mikey is family," says Mr. Lampasso of Groom Shiwnath. "I've known him since he was three."

To date Lampasso has attended six weddings of swim-team alumni, four for which he traveled outside the country, to the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, and Sweden.

This June the coach didn't have to travel far to attend the NYC wedding of former women's swimming captain Julia Sung ('14) and Vincent Cruz ('13). The groom wasn't on the men's swimming team, though. He was the captain of his volleyball and soccer teams. So how did Julia and Vinnie meet? In the weight room, in the athletics trainers' room, and studying late in the athletics lounge, recalls Ms. Sung. "Baruch sports meant so much to us," says Sung, "and we're grateful for everything it's given us personally and professionally."

—DIANE HARRIGAN

**Alumni-Athlete Couples:** Share your wedding photos with us at [alumni@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@baruch.cuny.edu).



## CLASSNOTES

York City College of Technology. **Joel Shuherk** (MBA '17) serves as activation coordinator, content partnerships—news, at Turner Broadcasting System, working on such networks as CNN and Headline News. *The Argentinian Prostitute Play*, written by **Zeynep Akca** ('18) and **Reuven Glezer** ('18), was selected for a full production at Broadway Bound Theatre Festival, a highly competitive professional theater showcase on Theatre Row this summer. **Ilyia Aronskyy** ('18) was awarded the 2019 Jonas E. Salk Scholarship in recognition of his outstanding academic success and scientific research. The scholarship enabled Aronskyy to enroll in the Icahn School of Medicine at

Mount Sinai in NYC. **Carmela Beck** (MPA '18) accepted a position as cannabis compliance officer at Busy Bee's Organics, Inc., a cannabis and organic family farm based in Santa Barbara, CA. **Daryl Hornick-Becker** (MPA '18) joined the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York as a policy and advocacy associate. He previously served as an analyst on the education task force of the NYC Mayor's Office of Management and Budget. The *Queens Daily Eagle* profiled **Md Kamruzzaman** ('18), a streetwear designer who established a fashion brand, Divinus, which blends nostalgia and skateboard culture. **Damelvy Rodriguez** (MA '18) was named to the Global Kids 30 Under 30

Series. She currently works as a project manager, community impact, at Charter Communications, a telecommunications company based in Stamford, CT. She previously served as assistant director of strategic partnerships at Global Kids. **Dewin Vasquez** ('19) joined the Baruch College Fund as a recent graduate trustee. He is an investment banking analyst at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Aaron Blecker '36  
Robert B. Solow '36  
\*Elias Schonberger '42  
Isidore Weiser '42  
Samuel J. Prussak '43  
Marion (Goldensher) Silton '45, MS '65  
Stanley B. Grey '47  
Milton Seitman '47  
Norman A. Eliot '48  
\*Sandra H. Scharff '48  
Irving P. Sulzer '48  
Wilbur N. Nussbaum '49  
Gloria R. Simon '49  
William J. Haggerty '50  
\*Seymour Krasner '50  
\*Gerald R. Loren '50  
Michael Sotirhos '50, LLD-Hon. '90  
Joseph W. Mallia '51

Martin H. Bodian '52  
Stanley Checkla '53  
Ira S. Gottfried '53  
Stuart Kessler MBA '53  
Joseph C. Ardizzone '54  
Theodore Levine '55  
Lewis Silver '55  
Salvatore Colletti '56  
Arthur S. Dresner '56  
\*Joseph P. Brinton III '57  
Hana Dubovy Kovanic '59, MBA '68  
Janet (Rothenberg) Pack '59  
Louis Rose '60  
Walter S. Milen '61  
Robert Siegal '61  
Joseph M. Fielding MBA '63  
Stuart B. Ross MBA '66  
Richard T. Buonato MBA '69

Irwin Granville MBA '69  
Jack J. Brennan '70  
John F. Kelly MBA '70  
Louis R. Slaby MBA '70  
Francis J. Milon MBA '72  
Joseph Farley '75  
Bruce D. Greenberger '78  
Forrest Old MBA '78  
Timothy P. O'Neill '81  
Christine Das '84  
Patricia Dey MEd '91  
Allison G. Hickey '92  
Rubenia I. Santos '99  
Sharon R. Hoppie '14

*\*Benchmark Society member*

## ABOUT THE BENCHMARK SOCIETY

**The society honors individuals who have included Baruch College in their will or trust, used retirement fund assets or life insurance to make a gift, or established life income gifts that benefit the College. In so doing, members have chosen to support Baruch beyond their lifetimes as Bernard Baruch did himself.**

**Please contact David Shanton at 646-660-6065 or [david.shanton@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:david.shanton@baruch.cuny.edu) to learn more.**



# In Good Company

## Tap into New Alumni Networks

The Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement has launched new affinity groups—spearheaded by active and energetic alumni—that offer expanded opportunities for the College’s 150,000-plus graduates to bond over interests, industries, and local activities.

### **Somos: Latinx Alumni Network**

Baruch’s network for Latinx/Hispanic-identifying alumni. Join their group on Facebook to learn more.

### **LGBTQ: Alumni and Allies Network**

This group, celebrating pride and diversity, has hosted such events as a gallery outing, a networking reception, and a picnic in Central Park. Join their group on Facebook to learn more.

### **Corporate Alumni Networks**

Is there a fellow Bearcat working right beside you? Recent events have taken place at EY, Grant Thornton, Goldman Sachs, KPMG, CohnReznick, BDO, and Citi.

### **Industry-Based Networks**

Groups exist for graduates in real estate, operations management, and entrepreneurship—with more industry networks in the coming year.

### **Regional and International Alumni Networks**

Recent events were held in Albany, Atlanta, Charlotte, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Networks exist across the country and throughout the world. Find yours at [alumni.baruch.cuny.edu/region](http://alumni.baruch.cuny.edu/region).

**Want to start  
an alumni network?  
[alumni@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@baruch.cuny.edu)**

And don’t forget to share news about promotions, job changes, and job postings. We look forward to seeing you online, as well as in person, soon!

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