February 2021

Celebrating Black History at Baruch

BLS Open House: Celebrating 50 Years of BLS@Baruch

Please join the Department of Black and Latino Studies on February 18 at 1:00pm to celebrate their 50-year anniversary at Baruch. Learn more about their future plans, including a new major. Visit our Black History at Baruch Events page to sign-up for the various activities and special events planned for this month. The Open House will also be available to view later on YouTube. Register here.

President Wu Speaks on Robert C. Weaver

Robert C. Weaver, the first President of Baruch College, was an economist with a longstanding commitment to racial justice. He was the first African-American to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which he helped to launch. In this tribute President WU shares the rich legacy Weaver left both at Baruch and in the nation.

SEEK Program

Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge, SEEK is a higher education opportunity program that supports more equitable access for all New Yorkers. The program is named for Percy E. Sutton, the first African-American Borough President of New York and one of the 20th century’s most prominent civil rights and business leaders. As the connection with its namesake implies, the SEEK program has its origins in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the grassroots fights for racial justice at CUNY. Read more.

Experiencing Black Culture
**Professor Jamel Hudson**, sings "Lift Every Voice and Sing," also known as the "Black National Anthem." It is a hymn written by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954).

**Professor Karanja Carrol**, covers the historical development of Black History Month and links it to the development of Black Studies, which came into institutions of higher education in 1968.

"**Black and Indigenous Resistance to Racist Backlash Across the Americas,**" a Talk by Juliet Hooker
Thursday, March 11, 1:00pm

The Black Studies Colloquium (BSC) and the Black and Latino Studies (BLS) Department at Baruch College will host a talk entitled "Black and Indigenous Resistance to Racist Backlash Across the Americas" by Juliet Hooker, an agenda-setting scholar-activist of Blackness, Indigeneity, and gender in the Americas. [Register here.]

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### News and Announcements

**International Collaboration Leads to Rough Volatility Models**

*Risk.net* "2021 Quant of the Year" - Jim Gatheral and Mathieu Rosenbaum

The two pioneers of rough volatility modeling, **Jim Gatheral**, Presidential Professor of Mathematics at Baruch College Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and **Mathieu Rosenbaum**, Professor of Probability and Finance at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris were named Risk.net “2021 Quant of the Year” in recognition of their work. Professor Gatheral explained, “rough volatility models are the first models to realistically capture empirical features of the historical price series and at the same time reproduce key features of the market pricing of options, as captured by the implied volatility surface.”

*Rough volatility* has grown into a very active and flourishing branch of research, with well over a hundred new papers appearing since Jim’s initial paper with Thibault Jaisson and Mathieu Rosenbaum. “We are looking forward to the next chapters of Jim’s work, both in research and with our Baruch MFE students,” commented Dan Stefanica, Co-Director of the Weissman Master of Financial Engineering Program (MFE). [Read more.]

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**Sandra K. Wasserman Jewish Studies Center**

"A Conversation with Masha Gessen and Dr. John Brenkman"

**Zoom Webinar** February 22, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

**Masha Gessen** began contributing to The New Yorker in 2014 and became a staff writer in 2017.
Gessen is the author of eleven books, including Surviving Autocracy and The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia, which won the National Book Award in 2017. Gessen is a visiting professor at Bard College and the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, a Nieman Fellowship, the Hitchens Prize, and the Overseas Press Club Award for Best Commentary. **Dr. John Brenkman**, Distinguished Professor, teaches American literature and the novel at Baruch College. He also teaches in the Ph.D. Programs in English and Comparative Literature at the CUNY Graduate Center and directs the U.S.-Europe Seminar. Brenkman is the author of more than fifty articles. His latest book is Mood and Trope: The Rhetoric and Poetics of Affect (U of Chicago Press, 2020). Register here.

**Krista C. Dobi**, Professor of Natural Science speaks on Pyrosomes with **Jean Gaffney** on CUNY TV's February Urban U episode. Watch here.

**Andrea Gabor**, Professor of Journalism, article contribution: *Bloomberg*. "**Amanda Gorman Showed Why Schools Should Teach Poetry.**"

**Catherine Good**, Professor of Psychology, featured in *Gothamist* article: "**The Return Of Indoor Dining Is Anxiety-Inducing. Here's What Could Help**"

**Laura Kolb**, Assistant Professor of English, has recently had her book: "Fictions of Credit in the Age of Shakespeare," published by *Oxford University Press*, 2021.

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**Student Highlights**

**Spring 2021 Harman Creative Writing Fellow: Daphne Palasi Andreades**

Daphne Palasi Andreades graduated from Baruch in 2015. As an undergraduate here, she took two Harman Writer-in-Residence courses (with Gish Jen and Katherine Vaz) and three times won the Harman Student Writing Prize. She submitted a collection of short stories as an Honors Thesis and won the award for outstanding honors thesis of her year. After graduating, she went on to receive an MFA in creative writing at Columbia University, and in 2019 a novella of hers titled *Brown Girls*, won the Kenyon Review Short Fiction contest. In December 2020, *Brown Girls* was picked up for publication by *Random house*, in a widely publicized two-book deal.

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**Dollars & Sense Magazine Students Remember Special Photojournalist**

Current Journalism student, **Yasmeen Persaud**, published an article featured in Dollars & Sense on the recent passing of Corky Lee due to COVID-19. Lee's death touched members of the Baruch College community, including professors and former editors of Dollars & Sense. Read Persaud's article here.

Photo Credit: Photo by Corky Lee, courtesy of Angel Velasco Shaw, seen in photo at far right

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**Lamin Fofana**, former student at Baruch, has just won a prestigious award from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. Mishkin Gallery gave him his first NY solo exhibition.
Upcoming Events

Climate Change: Resilience and Opportunity
A New Administration in Washington Inspires Bold Interdisciplinary Engagement

Zoom Webinar - Thursday, March 11, 2021, 4:30pm - 6:00pm
A distinguished panel of experts will focus on interdisciplinary climate engagement and the anticipated impact of the new Biden Administration's climate initiatives. Register here.

Alumni Affairs: 100 Days Kickoff - February 16

The Office of Alumni Relations and several partner departments across campus are working together to help you get the most out of your last 100 Days as a student and educate you about the vast community of alumni you will soon be part of. 100 Days will feature a variety of activities (fun events, giveaways, professional development, and more). Read more.

Opportunities for Faculty

- Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation Invites Applications for New ERA Women Writers Program- Deadline: Rolling
- National Geographic Invites Applications for COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Journalists- Deadline: Rolling

Visit our website for past editions of the newsletter. Be sure to share your news with us at baruchwsas@baruch.cuny.edu.