Weissman Political Science Department Appoints a New Chair

Stephanie Golob has been appointed the new chair of the Weissman Political Science Department. It’s fitting that this announcement should come during Women’s History Month, as Professor Golob is the first woman to lead the department. She is taking on the role of department chair from Professor David Jones, who served as chair of the department for six years.

When asked whether she has any plans for the department to become more involved as media spokesmen for trending news in politics, Professor Golob stated that "members of our department have frequently appeared in the media to comment on current political issues - for example, Professor Viviana Rivera-Burgos has been quoted in the Washington Post and interviewed on Bronxnet.tv, on the 2020 Latino vote. But what is new is our presence on Twitter (@Baruch_PoliSci), thanks to the initiative of Professor Els de Graauw, who is herself very active on Twitter (@edegraauw) and comments frequently on the field of immigration studies." Professor Golob added, "In this screen-focused moment, it is important to raise our profile in the media, but always with an emphasis on applying scholarship, research and expertise in the service of greater understanding of politics and political controversies. In this way, we can best demonstrate to Baruch students the impact and importance of studying political science at this crucial juncture in the history of our country, and our world."

In addition to her numerous other accomplishments, she recently became the Founding Director of ISLA, the Initiative for the Study of Latin America, a brand-new interdisciplinary Weissman project that promotes the study of the languages, literature, arts, culture, history, economies, geographies, and politics of the Latin American and Caribbean region on the Baruch campus.

Golob has a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and a master's degree and a doctorate from Harvard University. She is an associate professor at Baruch and teaches "The United States in an Age of Globalization," "Politics of the Third World," and "Latin American and Caribbean Political Systems."

Read more about Professor Golob’s appointment in Ticker, here.

New WSAS Series "We Are Climate Action"

Climate Change: Resilience and Opportunity - A New Administration in Washington Inspires Bold
Interdisciplinary Engagement
Thursday, March 11, 4:30pm - 6:00pm

The We are Climate Change panel discussion will focus on interdisciplinary climate engagement and the anticipated impact of the new Biden Administration's climate initiatives. Register here.

In April the "We are Climate Change" series will collaborate with the Mishkin Gallery's Critical Ecology on Film virtual series. The Mishkin series features four films scheduled from April 8th through April 29th. The film program will tackle critical questions concerning climate change, inter-species communication, nuclear power, and privatization of the commons. Each film screening will be followed by a conversation. Find more information here on the series, including registration.

Faculty Achievements

Professor Bridgett Davis received a grant to encourage journalism students to take creative writing courses: "Back in December, a Baruch alum and donor, David Shulman, emailed me to say that he loved the book about my mom, so much so that it inspired him to fund a creative-writing contest for our students -- since I teach creative writing. He's offering $3000 in prize money. Per Mr. Shulman's request, the focus will be essays about life amidst Covid; we're launching the contest this semester." View flyer here.

Jim Gatheral, Presidential Professor of Mathematics in the Weissman School, won a 2021 Risk Award and was named "Quant of the Year" by Risk.net, a leading trade publication covering the financial industry. Professor Gatheral was recognized alongside Mathieu Rosenbaum, Professor of Probability and Finance at École Polytechnique in Paris, for their work to develop new and improved methods of modeling volatility, a key metric of financial markets. Read more.

Zhiqing (Albert) Zhou, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was recently awarded a 10-week summer fellowship with the Office of Naval Research. "I applied for and was awarded a 10-week paid summer research fellowship to work with DEOMI (Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute) on research projects involving mistreatment, work-family, leadership, and diversity. It starts on June 1st and lasts for 10 weeks. The program will be completely virtual." Read more about the program here.

Student and Alumni Highlights

Baruch's Master's in Financial Engineering team won first and second place in the 2021 Rotman International Trading Competition – Commemorative Edition. The competition took place virtually for the first time. The schools were allowed to register more than one team. This is the fourth time in six years that a Baruch MFE team has won the RITC and the fifth time overall. Our team’s previous wins were in 2020, 2017, 2016, and 2012. This is an unparalleled winning record, unmatched in the 17 years of RITC. More than 40 teams from Europe, North America, and Asia took part in the competition.
This month, **Leonidas V. Georgiou** (Baruch class of 2020) returned to one of his favorite classes in the Weissman School at the invitation of Professor Mark Rice to introduce his new book, “Conversations with F.D.R. at His AHEPA Initiation.” A first-time author, Leo shared that he was inspired to write the book in his junior year after taking history courses. “My history professors at Baruch gave me the analytical tools necessary to tackle any challenge.”

Originally from San Francisco, Leo spent much of his childhood in Greece. He currently works as an investigator for a consumer advocacy law firm and spends his free time researching the lives and experiences of 20th Century immigrants in the United States. Following his recent campus event, Leo shared his insights in response to a variety of questions in an interview, which can be read here.

**Tayler Montague in conversation with Professor Bridgett M. Davis**

Film critic and curator Tayler Montague will present her debut short film, *In Sudden Darkness*, an intimate and loving portrait of a Black working-class family set in the Bronx amidst a city-wide blackout in 2003. *In Sudden Darkness* was screened at AFI Fest, BlackStar Film Festival, New York Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival in 2020. Montague, a 2021 Baruch Harman Fellow, will be in conversation with Bridgett M. Davis, author, filmmaker, curator, and Professor of Journalism and the Writing Professions at Baruch College, CUNY. Register here.

**Alumni in the Arts (AITA)** recently celebrated their first anniversary. To mark this milestone, they announced a Logo Design contest, open to all Baruch students across the three schools: the Zicklin School of Business, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. On February 26th, Zicklin MBA student, Alessia De Francesco, was announced the winner. Her smart design perfectly reflects the AITA mission, as the letters represent people holding hands in collaboration, community, and peer-to-peer support. View her design here.

**Upcoming Events**

**February 23 to May 7** - The New Media Artspace opens *Prajakta Potnis: The Slow Burn*: Interactive online exhibition includes X-ray images that appear to be infected lungs, eerily prescient parallels to the COVID-19 pandemic. View here.

**March 10, 6:00pm** - Poetry Reading: Grace Schulman, member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and Frost Medalist for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement in American Poetry, will read selections from *The Marble Bed*.

**March 10, 6:00pm to 7:30pm** - "Making It Work in Mexico: The Land of Opportunity?" Join Baruch Professor Stephanie Golob and Baruch alumni currently living and working in Mexico for a discussion on entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainability that will address the question of whether Mexico is truly a land of
opportunity. This will be the seventh in a series of events open to the Baruch community focused on the economic health of a specific country. Register here.

**March 11, 1:00pm to 2:00pm** - Tayler Montague's *In Sudden Darkness* In collaboration with Baruch's Black & Latinx Studies and the Harman Program. Register here.

**March 11, 1:00pm to 2:30pm** - “Black and Indigenous Resistance to Racist Backlash Across the Americas.” presented by the Black Studies Colloquium will feature a discussion with Dr. Juliet Hooker, Professor of Political Science at Brown University. Register here.

**March 11, 4:30pm to 6:00pm** - "Climate Change: Resilience and Opportunity A New Administration in Washington Inspires Bold Interdisciplinary Engagement." Register here.

**March 19, 6:00pm - 7:30pm** - "Masking Up Resilience, Traveling into Greatness." The National Association of Black Accountants Baruch Chapter is excited to invite you to commemorate the legacy of those before us at our 2021 NABA Baruch Annual Alumni Gala! Our theme this year is "Masking up Resilience, Traveling Into Greatness" to represent the obstacles we have overcome this past year in the face of a global pandemic. Register here.

**March 23, 11:00pm to 12:00pm** - "The Role of the Arts in the 21st Century" with Lauren Yee. Lauren will present a public talk in which she will discuss her playwriting process, followed by a Q&A.

**March 31, 6:00pm** - Book Launch: *Off the Derech: Leaving Orthodox Judaism*, edited by Ezra Cappell and Jessica Lang

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### Opportunities for Faculty

- [National Geographic Society Invites Applications for COVID-19 Science Fund](#)
  **Deadline:** March 31, 2021
- [Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts Invites Applications for Artists-in-Residence](#)
  **Deadline:** April 1, 2021
- [Franklin Furnace Fund Invites Applications for Avant-Garde Art Performances](#)
  **Deadline:** April 1, 2021

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