Welcome to the 2019-20 academic year.

As we begin the year, we are reminded of Baruch College’s longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion and recognize that we stand on the shoulders of giants. One of these individuals is Donald Hugh Smith, PhD, whose passing we learned of last week and whose enormous impact and accomplishments are detailed here.

In addition to various key positions that Dr. Smith held at Baruch, including associate provost and chair of the committee for the creation of the School of Public Affairs (now the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs), he served as chair of the College’s Black and Hispanic Faculty Association and founding chair of the CUNY African American Faculty and Staff Network. Additionally, he oversaw Baruch’s SEEK Program in its incipient days.

Dr. Smith was a pioneer and true champion of diverse and inclusive environments. As we remember him and celebrate his life and work, the Office of Diversity, Compliance, and Equity Initiatives (ODCEI) is pleased to offer a full schedule of events, including a calendar of celebrations for Latinx Heritage Month (below).

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in the events organized for September.

*True Justice: Screening and Discussion*
*True Justice* is an HBO documentary that features the work of Bryan Stevenson, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative, an organization committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment. This is a fitting sequel to Netflix’s *13th* documentary, which we featured last year. Join us for a short discussion afterward moderated by Anna D’Souza, PhD, associate professor in the Marxe School; Natalie Velasquez, assistant director for divisional operations, Enrollment Management; and Ronni Umles, assistant director, Student and Volunteer Relations, Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement.

**When:** Tuesday, Sept. 10, 12:30–2 pm  
**Where:** NVC 3-210  
**RSVP:** [DiversityEventsRSVP@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:DiversityEventsRSVP@baruch.cuny.edu)

**Black Male Initiative “Mix and Mingle”**
Black Male Initiative (BMI) staff invite all faculty and staff to a “Mix and Mingle.” This is an opportunity to connect with the BMI team to explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration. Co-sponsored with ODCEI. Refreshments will be served.

**When:** Tuesday, Sept. 17, 4–6 pm  
**Where:** NVC 14-270  
**RSVP** (confirmations only) [here](mailto:here).

**Author Discussion: Slavery’s Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation**
Dionne Ford, co-editor of *Slavery’s Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation*, discusses the vision of [Coming to the Table](https://www.comingtothetable.com), a national racial reconciliation organization. The book’s contributors tell their stories of dealing with America’s racial past through their experiences and their family histories. Some are descendants of slaveholders, others are descendants of the enslaved, and many are descendants of both slaveholders and the enslaved. They share a commitment to critical discussion and thinking about our nation’s history of oppression and its impact, as well as their quest to achieve a just and truthful society that acknowledges its past and seeks to heal.

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 1, noon–2 pm  
**Where:** Simon Conference Room, NVC 14-220  
**RSVP:** [DiversityEventsRSVP@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:DiversityEventsRSVP@baruch.cuny.edu)

**September Is Latinx Heritage Month**
The Office of Student Life* (OSL) invites the entire Baruch community to celebrate the richness and diversity of the Latinx community with the following Latinx Heritage Month (LHM) events.

**Opening Ceremony**
Kick-off LHM with an immersion into the culture. Enjoy delicious refreshments, music, games, giveaways, a photo booth, and more! ¡Nos veremos allí!  
**When:** Tuesday, Sept. 3, 12:40–2:20 pm
Where: NVC Second Floor Lobby

**Challenging Historical Adversities Today**
Join an educational dialogue about anti-blackness and anti-indigenous ideologies in the Latinx community.
  **When:** Tuesday, Sept. 10, 12:40–2:20 pm
  **Where:** NVC 2-125

**¡Baila!**
Want to learn how to dance Bachata like a pro? Join us for this fun Latinx dance.
  **When:** Thursday, Sept. 12, 6–8 pm
  **Where:** NVC 1-107

**Family Feud: Latinx Style**
Teams go head-to-head in a game of *Family Feud* with a twist. Brush up on your Latinx culture, and cheer for your favorite team.
  **When:** Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6–8 pm
  **Where:** NVC 3-215

**Mocktails and Paint**
Grab a mocktail, and join us for an adventure into Latinx art with renowned artist Miguel Trelles, who is also an adjunct professor of Black and Latino studies at Baruch. Become an artist, and create a painting you can be proud of!
  **When:** Thursday, Sept. 19, 12:40–2:20 pm
  **Where:** Bearcat Den, NVC Second Floor (behind the escalator)

**Latinos Profesionales**
Latinx professionals from various fields will discuss what it is like to be Latinx in the work environment. Co-sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement and the Starr Career Development Center.
  **When:** Thursday, Sept. 19, 6–8 pm
  **Where:** NVC 2-125

**Café con Tía**
Join us for our Latinx hot topics workshop series, where we talk about controversial issues not discussed in the community. This month’s topic: Immigration.
  **When:** Tuesday, Sept. 24, 12:40–2:20 pm
  **Where:** NVC 2-125

**La Fiesta de las Mañanitas**
To close out LHM, we will demonstrate that no one parties quite like the Latinx community. Join us for music, games, contests, cake, and more!
  **When:** Thursday, Sept. 26, 6–9 pm
Where: NVC 1-107

*Event co-sponsors include the Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Assembly, Office of Alumni Relations and Volunteer Engagement, Starr Career Development Center, SEEK, Health & Wellness, Latin American Student Organization, ASEDOM (Dominican Student Association), Ecuadorian Club, and the Association of Latino Professionals for America.