February 2019 Edition

Dear Colleagues,

February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of African Americans’ contributions to our history and our future. As chief diversity officer, I’d like to share a recent *New York Times* article titled “The Other Talk: This Is How My Father Prepared Me for Being Black in America” by Shaquille Heath, an African American communications professional and writer. Ms. Heath shares her story and her father’s advice that she needed to work “10 times harder than white people.”

While Heath does not use the word “microaggression,” it aptly describes the frequent dismissiveness and insults that were (and are) part of her life and the lives of other Black Americans whose stories she shares in this article. Using the word “microaggression,” I suspect, would have caused many of us who consider ourselves fair-minded to engage in self-denial.

Heath writes about everyday experiences and does not use a fancy word when a less-pretentious one will do. To honor Black history, let’s not only extol the achievements of the famous but also reflect upon the daily endeavors of all African Americans. As we celebrate Carver, King, Chisholm, and the achievements of the many other African American trailblazers during the month of February, let us continue to acknowledge and celebrate the stories of all African Americans every day.
In recognition of this month, please join us for upcoming diversity and inclusion events around campus.

**Black History Month Events at Baruch**

**Black History Month 2019 Opening Ceremony**  
*When:* Thursday, Feb. 7, 12:40–2:20 pm  
*Where:* NVC, 2nd Floor Lobby  
Join us for the kick-off event of our Black History Month as we celebrate this year’s theme “Roots of Royalty” with a taste of savory delicacies and greetings from our student clubs.

**What’s Color Got to Do with It? A Commemoration of Black Love**  
*When:* Monday, Feb. 11, 6–8 pm  
*Where:* NVC 2–125  
Engage in a discussion of Black love between Africans, Caribbeans, and Black Americans. We will explore if and how our upbringing affects the way we seek love and who we seek it from. Light refreshments provided.

**Cultural Identity and Work Ethics Panel**  
*When:* Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6–9 pm  
*Where:* NVC 1–107  
Baruch alumni and notable professionals will speak candidly about their cultural upbringing and how it influenced their professional identity and work ethic. Refreshments provided.

**For the Cause Film Screening and Discussion with Director**  
*When:* Thursday, Feb. 21, 6–9 pm  
*Where:* NVC 2-125  
Join us for a screening of the independent film *For the Cause* followed by a discussion with the film’s director, Katherine Nero. Ms. Nero will address the film’s highlights as we examine the legacy of the civil rights movement and its impact on us today. Light refreshments provided.

**Trip to the African Burial Ground National Monument**  
*When:* Friday, Feb. 22, 11 am–3 pm  
Join us for a visit to the oldest and largest known excavated burial grounds in North America for both free and enslaved Africans. Limited spots available. Visit the Office of Student Life (NVC, Room 2-210) for more information.

**Black Male Initiative (BMI) Meet and Greet**  
*When:* Thursday, Feb. 28, 12:40–2:20 pm  
*Where:* NVC 2–125
The Black Male Initiative (BMI) is hosting its annual meet and greet for faculty, staff, and students. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the BMI community and the exciting opportunities offered.

**Black History Month Events Around CUNY**
More than two dozen events celebrating African American cultural, artistic, political, and scientific heritage are happening around CUNY campuses this month. [View the complete list.](#)

**More Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Around Campus**

**Learn Chinese for Free at Baruch**
The Confucius Institute for Global Finance at Baruch College offers free beginning Chinese language courses to Baruch students, faculty, and staff. These are noncredit, extracurricular courses that are not part of any degree-bearing program. Classes start the week of Monday, Feb. 11. [Learn more and register online here.](#) Additional questions may be directed to [Matthew.LePere@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:Matthew.LePere@baruch.cuny.edu).

**Save the Dates! D&I Events This Spring**

**CUNY Faculty Diversity & Inclusion Conference**
**When:** Friday, Mar. 29  
**Where:** CUNY Graduate Center  
This year’s conference is themed “Minding the Gap: Retaining and Sustaining the Academic Community.” [More information here.](#)

**Sex Discrimination at Work: Then and Now**
**When:** Tuesday, Apr. 2, 12 noon–2 pm  
**Where:** NVC 14-250  
Join Gillian Thomas, senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union’s Women’s Rights Project, for a discussion of her book *Because of Sex*, which chronicles the Supreme Court’s landmark sex discrimination cases.

**The Inaugural Robert C. Weaver President Lecture Series**
**When:** Thursday, Apr. 18, 12:30–2 pm  
**Where:** Information and Technology Building, Rackow Conference Room 750  
This inaugural lecture series will focus on diversity and leadership in honor of Baruch College’s first president Robert C. Weaver. While Weaver’s tenure was brief, he left a legacy as the first African American to be appointed to a United States cabinet-level position when he served as the first U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from 1966 through 1968.

**Baruch Community D&I News**
Baruch College earned two recognitions for its efforts in serving military and veteran students. Baruch ranked in the top 15 percent nationwide in the Best Colleges for Veterans list by College Factual. Shortly following that ranking, Viqtory Media designated Baruch a 2019–20 Military Friendly School.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Christopher Stults, PhD, LMHC, published a study in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships on the relationship quality of young gay and bisexual men in consensual non-monogamous relationships. Based upon his research, he recommends that mental health practitioners avoid pathologizing these relationships.

Baruch student Debbi Li enlisted her teammates from the swimming and diving team to launch Baruch’s chapter of She’s the First, a not-for-profit that supports girls’ education in low-income countries and trains girls to be leaders, in 2017. Majoring in economics, Ms. Li put into practice her belief that poverty and crime are attributable to educational deficiencies. Read the full interview here.

Congratulations to Ms. Li, Dr. Stults, and the College community for their work and recognition in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Mona Jha, Esq.
Chief Diversity Officer