SEPTEMBER 2018 EDITION

Focus on Ensuring Opportunity for Students with Disabilities
Plus Heritage Months, Classes and Events, Alumni and Faculty News

Dear Colleagues,

As chief diversity officer, I have the privilege to lead discussions and efforts that help ensure diversity, inclusion, and cultural competence throughout the Baruch College community. In this month’s newsletter, I would like to focus the campus community on ways to help ensure that Baruch students with disabilities benefit from the same educational opportunities as their nondisabled peers.

Technology plays a key role in advancing a level playing field, but ironically, if not used correctly, technology can also undermine this objective. The following Baruch and CUNY resources will assist you:

• The CUNY Technology Accessibility Task Force has created an online IT Accessibility guide that identifies resources and information on tech accessibility for CUNY students, faculty, and staff. Faculty resources include support for such system-wide applications as Blackboard. Faculty can learn how to make electronic content accessible by taking the self-paced Blackboard training online (please email accessibility@cuny.edu to enroll). Class material—for example, handouts, notes, and reading assignments—should all be available electronically through Blackboard.

• Baruch’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) provides training and support for faculty members interested in developing online and hybrid courses. Learn more about
CTL initiatives and events.

• Baruch’s Office of Disability Services, located on the second floor of the Newman Vertical Campus (NVC), Room 272, continues to provide support and resources to faculty in the classroom. Learn more here. Contact the office at 646-312-4590.

2018–19 Baruch Heritage Month Calendar: Faculty and Staff Volunteers Needed
Baruch’s Office of Student Life is looking for faculty and staff to participate in the planning and developing of this year’s Heritage Month celebrations. These programs center on celebrating, understanding, and commemorating the rich cultural history and diversity that is Baruch College. Please contact Karl Koeppel for more information. Review the year’s roster here, which includes the upcoming Latinx Heritage Month in September and LGBTQ History Month in October.

Classes & Upcoming Events
NEW: Learn Chinese for Free @ Baruch: Beginner and Intermediate Classes Available
When: Various times; details below and to follow
Where: Registrants notified by email
The Confucius Institute for Global Finance at Baruch College is offering free, non-credit-bearing Chinese language lessons for students, faculty, and staff. Introduction to Chinese 100 (Beginners) will run from Thursday, September 13, through Tuesday, December 4. Introduction to Chinese 101 (Intermediate) will run from Thursday, September 20, through Tuesday, December 4. Both classes meet twice a week. Learn more and register here. Contact Matthew LePere for additional information.

Coalition to Undo Racism at Baruch (CURB) Meetings
When: September 14, October 3, October 12, and October 31, 12 noon to 1 pm
Where: Newman Vertical Campus (NVC), Room 2-290
CURB members—Baruch employees who have participated in the Undoing Racism® Community Organizing Workshop at the College—will share proactive strategies for undoing institutional racism.

Three-Part Film Screening and Discussion of 13th, a Netflix documentary
When: September 25, October 2, and October 9, 12:30 pm
Where: NVC 3-160
Titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, this award-winning 2016 documentary argues that slavery continues to be perpetuated through mass incarceration of people of color and the vested interests of the prison-industrial complex. The documentary will be shown in three-part
installments on the dates noted above. Sponsored by CURB, with discussions to follow after each installment. Please RSVP here.

- **Workshop: Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU)**
  
  **When:** Wednesday, September 26, noon to 3 pm  
  **Where:** NVC 14-250  
  The Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU), based at Queens College/CUNY, will provide a workshop for Baruch staff on building and fostering cultural competency through the use of dialogue and undoing-bias techniques. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Compliance, and Equity Initiatives.

- **13th Annual CUNY Black Male Initiative (BMI) Conference:**
  “Diversifying the STEM Field: Exposing and Promoting Pathways”
  
  **When:** Friday, October 5, 8:30 am to 7 pm  
  **Where:** New Academic Complex Auditorium, AB 108, New York City College of Technology, 300 Jay St., Brooklyn  
  This conference will focus on preparing participants to enter STEM fields and to find helpful STEM resources to enable young people, particularly young men of color, to begin a career in STEM at an earlier age. Learn more. All faculty, staff, and students are invited; registration is required.

**Alumni & Faculty News**

**Notable Alumni**

Alexandra Contreras (‘92) is a senior analyst in Diversity & Inclusion at Colgate-Palmolive. A first-generation college graduate and a powerful change agent for diversity and inclusion, Ms. Contreras was recently recognized with a Women of Excellence Community Connector Award from the National Association of Female Executives.

Debra J. Pérez, PhD (MPA ‘98) has been named senior vice president, Organizational Culture, Inclusion & Equity, at Simmons College in Boston. In addition to her Baruch master’s degree, she holds a master’s in social science and women’s studies from the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, and a doctorate in health policy from Harvard University.

This October Michael I. Roth (‘67), chairman and CEO of Interpublic and a Baruch College Fund trustee, will moderate the opening panel discussion on “The Power of
Privilege” for One Club’s Multicultural Creative Conference & Career Fair. The panel will explore the ways in which diversity advocates can effect change in their organization. A nonprofit organization, the One Club supports industry professionals in the arts. Its leadership team includes Baruch alumna Stefanie A. Smith (MPA ’15), director for inclusion and diversity. Learn more about the conference/career fair here.

Faculty Remembrance

Baruch’s community mourns the passing of longtime faculty member Martia G. Goodson, PhD, a leader in the College’s Department of Black and Latino Studies and in the College’s early efforts at diversity and inclusion. Dr. Goodson began her 33-year career at Baruch in 1974 as an instructor and retired in 2007 as an associate professor. Citing her fondest memories of these decades, she said, “I remain proud of the work that my students did in exploring the African presence in Old New York.” Also among her professional accomplishments was co-authorship of Chronicles of Faith: The Autobiography of Frederick D. Patterson (University of Alabama Press), which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

As we begin the 2018–19 academic year, I look forward to our ongoing conversation, to building our community, and to progressing toward our goals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mona Jha, Esq.
Chief Diversity Officer