

## My Junior Year at Baruch *by Semyon Toybis*

As the summer of 2013 was coming to a close, I was looking forward to the school year and ways to make it my best year at Baruch so far. A few weeks before school started, I saw an email encouraging juniors to apply for the Executives-On-Campus Year Long Mentoring Program. The title piqued my interest and as I read about the program, I knew this was something I had to participate in. To be paired up with an executive who can offer constructive career and life advice is an incredible opportunity.

*With the school year winding down to a close, I can honestly say that this was my best year at Baruch and the EOC Year-Long Mentoring Program was a huge part of it.*

The first big step of my junior year was meeting my mentor, Frank Tarulli. Frank is an Executive Director at JP Morgan in FX Sales and Trading. Our meetings went well and we developed a connection. Later on in October I was offered a summer internship as an actuarial intern at Sun Life Financial. I am very glad that I had Frank there to help me dissect the offer and the pros and cons. To have someone with years of professional experience to run your ideas by was a great help and ultimately lead me to accept the offer at Sun Life.

An interesting step in my relationship with Frank was my study abroad trip to China. During the winter semester, I went on the *Study In China* program through Brooklyn College. Frank has been to Hong Kong, one of the places I went to, and gave me advice on traveling in a foreign place before I left. I took a class called Asian Business, which was a study of how the Chinese economy developed into the second largest economy in the world. During my time in China I visited a total of eight cities and was immersed in Chinese culture. Discussing my journey with Frank once I returned was very rewarding. Frank's travel experience and his deep understanding of business provided for a great conversation about my trip as well as the Chinese economy and its future. These conversations and our shared experiences have made our relationship one that will last beyond the scope of the Year Long Mentorship program.

In addition to Frank's mentorship and my study abroad experience, I learned a lot from the two guest speaker events that EOC held this year, *Risk to Succeed* with Ricky Cohen and *Six Steps to Overcoming Adversity* with Jack Doueck. I attended both of these events with Frank and we both picked up valuable lessons: learning from mistakes, overcoming adversity, and making the best out of all situations. It was inspiring to see how these men were able to tackle problems head on and make the best out of tough situations. Every so often I try to recall the things that were taught at these events and check to see that I am following this advice in my life.

This year has been a year of tremendous growth for me as an individual and a professional. My mentor Frank, as well as the Executives-On-Campus community, has been there the whole way. Due to Frank's mentorship, my abroad experience, and the various events hosted by EOC, I am a more rounded person than I was at the start of the year. Even though the Year long mentoring program is over, I plan on staying in touch with Frank and getting his advice as I continue with my career. I look forward to participating in the EOC community in the future and have already recommended the program to some of my younger friends.



Semyon at the Great Wall in China

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*Semyon Toybis is a junior at Baruch, he majors in Statistics and Quantitative Modeling. This summer, he will be working as an actuarial intern at Sun Life in Boston. This past year, Semyon spent his winter semester studying in China and participated in EOC's Academic Year-Long Mentoring Program.*