

# BARRY

## The GRANT Seeker

*A quarterly spotlight recognizing excellence in grantsmanship by a Barry University employee*

### Flona Redway, PhD

#### *Developing the Next Generation of Scientists*

Sometimes we don't recognize the most significant moments of our lives while they are happening. For Dr. Flona Redway this moment came during a phone interview with Sister John Karen Frei in 1992. "Do you know what it means to be a mentor, Dr. Redway?" asked Sister John Karen. Little did either of them know how impactful this veiled challenge would prove both to the life and career of the young scientist and in the tapestry of Barry University's history.

Dr. Redway, instructor of biology, oversees the University's two longest-running grant-funded programs: Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) and the Minority Biomedical Research Support - Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (MBRS RISE).

The RISE program was created by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to enhance the research environment at minority-serving institutions. Over a period of 12 years and under the direction of Dr. Redway, Barry University has been awarded more than \$7.8 million from the NIH to support the RISE program. Each year, 10 qualifying sophomore and junior students are awarded paid research positions to prepare them for biomedical research careers. Dr. Stephanie Bingham, a faculty member in the University's biology department, is a former RISE program scholar.

Dr. Redway also serves as program director for the University's highly-competitive MARC program. The program, designed for biomedical and behavioral science juniors seeking PhD degrees, brings faculty mentors together with qualified students to conduct original research. During the summer, MARC students are placed in highly-regarded internship programs throughout the nation.



Pictured from left: Federico Lin (Biology-DARPA), Chony Seng (Clinical Biology-DARPA), Nella Delva (Biology-RISE), Dr. Flona Redway (MARC/RISE Program Director), Andrea Tirado (Psychology-MARC), Nicole Lopez (Biology-RISE), Karla Rivera-Torres (Psychology-MARC), and Joshua Tapia (Biology-RISE)

Participating students receive a 60 percent tuition reimbursement, an annual stipend of more than \$11,000, research supplies and travel allowances. Since its inception in 1982, 147 MARC scholars have successfully completed the program, including Drs. Ana Jimenez, Laura Ferrer-Wreder, Glenda Martinez-Valdes and Joel Rodriguez who later returned to Barry University as faculty members.

Dr. Redway has long believed in the importance of exposing students to science at an early age and, in 1993, launched the Summer Science Research Program (SSRP) for 10th- and 11th-grade students at-risk for not attending college. Each summer, Dr. Redway and Program Co-Director Dr. Teresa Petrino-Lin, associate professor of biology, invite a group of 15-20 students to Barry University's campus for two weeks of hands-on science education. SSRP students interactively engage in science-related

discussions and lessons, and participate in basic laboratory research alongside University research students who serve as role models. This summer, SSRP students conducted a research project to determine whether certain foods were genetically modified.

To ensure the continuation of the SSRP, Dr. Redway is required to seek external sources of support each year. Barry University's SSRP has been funded by annual grants from Publix Super Markets Charities since 1995. Dr. Redway is currently working on a proposal to Miami-Dade County that requests additional resources to expand the reach of the SSRP.

As a young child in Jamaica, Flona Redway, the fourth of seven children, was fascinated by the plants around her. It was this early appreciation for nature that motivated Dr. Redway's pursuit of advanced studies in bioscience. She received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Philosophy degrees from the University of the West Indies and a PhD in botany from the University of Cambridge in the UK. For the past 20 years, Dr. Redway has encouraged her students' inquisitive minds and, through her grant-funded programs, has provided them with the resources to research the answers for themselves.

Dr. Flona Redway is at her desk in SNHS 337 every morning by 7:00 am. The peaceful early-morning hours on campus are her favorite. By the time the first students and faculty trickle into their classrooms, Dr. Redway has been working diligently for several hours – planning, implementing and evaluating two of the longest-running and most prolific grant programs in Barry University's history.

*Barry thanks you*

*It's people like this who move Barry forward. If you are interested in pursuing a grant opportunity or have any questions, please contact the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs at 305-899-3072.*