



Brandeis University

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management



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Fall 2009

Dear Friends,

The 2009-10 academic year began with the inauguration of the largest class of Heller students in the school's history. Heller's student body is over 500 strong, with nearly 240 students entering this fall. Students hail from 60 countries and the diversity in our classrooms and halls reflects a microcosm of the global world we find ourselves in today.

This increased student body heralded in Heller's 50th year and we are still basking in the glow of the celebration of this milestone in mid-October. Over 400 alumni and friends of the Heller School attended the weekend-long event. My email has been flooded with comments from those who participated about how much they enjoyed reconnecting with the school and the sense of renewal they felt by the end of the weekend. **Marian Wright Edelman**, our opening keynote speaker on Friday night, shared sobering statistics about the status of children in the U.S. but commended Heller for being on the forefront of finding solutions to these issues. We had a rousing tribute to **David Gil** for his 45 years on the Heller faculty, including accordion music by **Joseph Wronka, PhD '92**. Joe also facilitated the development of a *Festschrift* for David, with essays by past and present students on whose dissertation committees he has served.



On Saturday we began with a Heller Deans panel and breakfast, moderated by Provost Marty Krauss PhD '81, where former deans **Stuart Altman**, **Jack Shonkoff** and I shared our views on Heller's past, present, and future. The remainder of the day was full of panel discussions bringing together Heller scholars, alums and friends to discuss shaping the future of social policy. Our luncheon keynote speaker **Dr. Atul Gawande**, surgeon and author, used his observations of successful treatment clinics for children with cystic fibrosis as a template for how we can achieve a better health-care system. To honor the many contributions of Heller alumni to the school I was delighted to present our annual Alumni Service Award to **Jim Callahan, PhD '68**.

On Saturday night the Heller 50th anniversary video, five years in the making, was a big hit. If you missed it, you can see it at heller.brandeis.edu/50. Blasting away all stereotypes of aging, **Young@Heart**, the octogenarian rock and roll chorus, had the crowd dancing and singing along.

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Many thanks to Heller 50th Anniversary Chair **Stuart Altman, Claudia Jacobs '70, Courtney Lombardo**, and all the members of the Heller 50th anniversary committee for their non-stop hard work in overseeing and planning the celebration.

Sadly, we lost a member of the Heller community earlier this fall. On October 15, **James Sabourin**, director of international admissions, passed away at age 45 after a brief battle with non-Hodgkins' lymphoma. A scholarship has been set up in his memory to help MA students from Africa at Heller. This scholarship will commemorate all that Jim did to bring students here and to make sure they were well cared for once they arrived. Though stung by Jim's loss, we at Heller feel his presence here which reverberates in all the students he helped.

HELLER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

My main fundraising priority continues to be financial aid for students. For the 50th anniversary celebration weekend an anonymous gift by two Heller faculty, supplemented by contributions from the Heller Board of Overseers, established a Heller Challenge fund that matched dollar for dollar any gift to Heller by an alum received before the end of the celebration weekend. I am pleased to report that we raised over \$150,000 in contributions and pledges and these funds will immediately go towards financial aid for Heller students.

In recognition for all their work recruiting and providing support to a record-setting number of Heller students, **Tom Broussard PhD '06** and **Doris Breay** have received promotions. Tom, now Associate Dean for Admissions and Career Services, and Doris, Senior Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Services, also sit on Heller's Senior Management Team.

Joan Kaufman, who so ably served as interim associate director for the MS Program in International Health Policy and Management over the past couple of years, has now assumed that post on a permanent basis.

With the start of this academic year the Heller School will be awarding the MBA in the Tufts MD/MBA program. For over a decade this joint partnership has brought Tufts medical students to the Heller School to share in its MBA program, but both the medical and business degrees were awarded by Tufts. Members of the next graduating class will receive the MBA portion of their joint degrees from Brandeis University.

The **Heller MBA in Nonprofit Management** was recently ranked third out of seven programs in the Boston area and in the top half of the Aspen Institute's Beyond Grey Pinstripes Global 100 listing.

Heller's Executive Education Program continues to grow. Over the summer the program hosted its annual week-long Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management co-sponsored with the American College of Surgeons and the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education. For the first time, the program offered a three-day Nurse Executive Leadership Program, co-sponsored with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Heller faculty members **Stuart Altman; Brenda Anderson; Sarita Bhalotra, PhD '99; Jon Chilingirian; Jody Hoffer Gittell; Jeffrey Prottas; Cindy Thomas, PhD '00; Christopher Tompkins, MMHS '82, PhD '91; and Stanley Wallack** were among the presenters at these intensive and well received programs.

HELLER FACULTY AND RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

I am truly impressed by the productivity of our faculty and researchers. **Jody Hoffer Gittell**, Associate Professor and director of the Heller MBA program, Professor Emerita **Janet Giele**, and Professor **Donald Shepard** were all authors or editors of books that were published over the summer. Many Heller faculty, researchers, and alumni contributed to Prof. Shepard's book, including **Sarita Bhalotra, PhD '99; Clare Hurley, MM '05; Andrew Ryan, PhD '08; William Stason; Gail Strickler, MMHS '94, PhD '07; and Jose Suaya, PhD '06.**

Jody Hoffer Gittell also won the Douglas McGregor Memorial Award for Best Paper of the Year from the

Journal of Applied Behavioral Science, for her paper “Relationships and Resilience: Care Provider Responses to Pressures from Managed Care.”

In keeping with our new doctoral concentration in global health and development, several Heller faculty and researchers were presenters at the International Health Economics Association 7th Biennial World Congress, held in Beijing, China in July, including **Jon Chilingirian; Dominic Hodgkin; Donald Shepard; Jose Suaya, PhD '06;** and **Wu Zeng, MS '05, PhD '09.**

Tatjana Meschede and **Thomas Shapiro** of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP), with Jennifer Wheary of Demos, released a report entitled “The Downslide before the Downturn: Declining Economic Security among Middle Class African-Americans and Latinos, 2000-2006.” The report was cited in a *New York Times* editorial by Barbara Ehrenreich and Dedrick Muhammad in September, and Jennifer Wheary discussed the report’s findings on the Huffington Post in May.

Heller research remains on the cutting edge in a variety of areas, including policy and program evaluation for children, youth, and families. Heller’s **Center for Youth and Communities (CYC)**, under the leadership of director **Susan P. Curnan**, is involved in community change projects in Detroit that will promote children being safe, healthy, well-educated and prepared for adulthood. Over the summer, CYC also conducted a special documentation project of summer youth employment programs provided by the Federal stimulus bill in Detroit; Chicago; Phoenix and Maricopa County, AZ; and Indianapolis.

Behavioral health research, another of Heller’s strengths, continues to grow. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) has recently funded several grants to researchers from the **Institute for Behavioral Health** of the **Schneider Institutes for Health Policy**. Studies funded by these grants will examine such areas as screening for unhealthy alcohol use among older adults; the effect of specific substance abuse treatment protocols on clients’ employment status and involvement in the criminal justice system; and how behavioral health services are provided in private health plans. I extend my appreciation to **Constance Horgan**, director of the Institute for Behavioral Health, and her staff for all the grant proposals they have prepared in the past months.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) also awarded the competitive renewal of the **NIAAA Doctoral Training Program** at the Heller School. This fall marks the 16th year of the program which prepares students to become alcohol-related health services research scholars for teaching and research careers in universities, government agencies, research organizations and major service delivery systems. The program in alcohol-related health services research specifically focuses on how organization, management, financing and payment make a difference in effective prevention and treatment.

The **Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy** is sponsoring a philanthropy competition which will culminate in the awarding of \$5,000 for the winning business plan submitted by a mixed graduate/undergraduate team. The plan must detail how to increase philanthropy and philanthropic values on college campuses nationwide.

HELLER IN THE MEDIA

Stuart Altman continues to be consulted and quoted on national health care reform efforts in a variety of media outlets, including New England Cable News, WBUR radio, the Worcester (MA) Business Journal, USA Today, the LA Times, and the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. He also presented testimony on “Financing Comprehensive Health Care Reform,” to the United States Senate Committee on Finance in May. Following the death of Senator Edward M. Kennedy on August 25, 2009, he spoke about Sen. Kennedy’s devotion to the cause of health care on NPR and in the Huffington Post. Senator Kennedy was long a friend of the Heller School and was instrumental in obtaining funds for Heller’s Schneider Building.

New England Cable News featured Heller and its 50th anniversary in its cover story, which was broadcast on October 16, the opening of the 50th anniversary weekend celebration. Visit heller.brandeis.edu to watch the video.

Anita Hill wrote about the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in an opinion piece for the *Boston Globe*.

Jody Hoffer Gittel appeared on a FOX Business News panel on trends in the airline industry in July.

I discussed the latest grim unemployment figures on the Lehrer NewsHour in June and September and on Fox Business News in August.

Eric Olson's discovery of vegetarian behavior in a jumping spider from Central America was covered around the world and closer to home by the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times*. Eric is still recovering from all the attention!

The **Institute on Assets and Social Policy's** (IASP) work with the Massachusetts Asset Development Commission was referenced in an article and an editorial in the *Boston Globe* in June. **Thomas Shapiro**, IASP's director, offered commentary, "Close the Racial Wealth Gap," which was featured in CNN's Race in America series in June.

New England Cable News featured the reactions of Heller MPP and PhD students to President Obama's health care speech in September.

HELLER EVENTS

The **Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy (ICYFP)** cosponsored **Judy's Workshop** with the Brandeis Education Program in May. The theme of the program was "The Intersection of Health and Education." Judy's Workshop is dedicated to the memory of Judith Krieger Gardner, a former Heller faculty member who played a key role in family and child policy research here. We are fortunate to be able to continue her legacy through the work being done at ICYFP.

Paul Willen, Senior Economist and Policy Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston was featured at the Heller School speaking about "Why Don't Lenders Renegotiate More Home Mortgages?" at a special luncheon hosted by Heller's **Institute on Assets and Social Policy** on October 22.

The **Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy** hosted a conference titled "Teaching Philanthropy with a Giving Component," in June at the Heller School. Representatives attended from over 20 colleges and universities that offer philanthropy courses where students allocate actual funds to local non-profits. *The Boston Globe* covered the conference and Sillerman Center director **Andrew Hahn, PhD '78**, was quoted in *New York Times* and *Washington Post* articles about philanthropy.

The Sillerman Center also featured Aaron Dorfman from the National Center for Responsive Philanthropy speaking about "Criteria for Philanthropy at its Best." Dorfman was joined by Henry Allen from the Discount Foundation and Dr. Susan Ostrander from Tufts University as respondents in a discussion about promoting best practices for foundations.

Heller's **Health Industry Forum** sponsored "Enhancing Competition for Biologic Therapies" and "Options for a National Health Insurance Exchange." The **Massachusetts Health Policy Forum** held a forum entitled "Putting the Mouth Back in the Body: Improving Oral Health Across the Commonwealth." The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum has also received a grant that will enable it to hold two forums on the timely topic of healthy aging.

As part of our 50th Anniversary Speaker Series, **Anita Hill** organized a group of talks on the theme of “Social Justice in the Age of Obama.” The presentations in this series were “Race, Gender and Religion in the Age of Obama,” with Harvard Law School professor Charles Ogletree; “Report from Guantanamo: Has President Obama Really Redefined the War on Terror?” with Heller Overseer and attorney Leonard Goodman; and “The Biology of Social Justice: New Approaches to Childhood Obesity,” with Dr. Elizabeth Goodman, pediatrician and former Heller faculty member.

HELLER STUDENTS AND ALUMNI



The Boston Center for Community and Justice (BCCJ) named its first BCCJ Heller Leadership Scholar, **Johnny Charles**, who entered the MBA program in September. Heller is providing one full-tuition scholarship per year to an alumnus or staff member of BCCJ, which provides youth and leadership programs to individuals and organizations throughout greater Boston. Heller also has similar partnerships in development with City Year and AmeriCorps. At left, Johnny Charles with Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Brenda Anderson, Associate MBA Program Director, upon receiving his award.

Heller MBA students participated in Team Consulting Projects over the summer, helping organizations such as Waltham Partnership for Youth, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the Greenlight Fund, and ACCION USA tackle management challenges.

A Heller student was again awarded a Child Care Research Scholar fellowship by the federal Administration for Children and Families. This year’s awardee, **Susan Butler**, and the awardee from the prior year, **Anne Douglas**, both had posters on display at the meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium in October.

Congratulations to Heller alumna **Ann Hartstein, MMHS ’83**, who was appointed Massachusetts Secretary of Elder Affairs on July 1. Ann is not the first Heller alumna in that role. **Lillian Glickman, PhD’ 81**, is a former Secretary of Elder Affairs.

Paula Paris, MMHS ’79, has recently taken the helm of the Heller Alumni Association Board as president. Many thanks to **Gail Robinson, PhD ’80**, the outgoing president.

HELLER’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES

During the 2009-2010 academic year, a special series of talks will continue to highlight Heller’s 50th anniversary. Check heller.brandeis.edu/50 to learn about future events, to watch the Heller 50th anniversary video and to see photos from the celebration weekend.

Warm regards,

Lisa M. Lynch
Dean