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news & views

H E L L E R A L U M N I

Heller Events

May 3, 2005
8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Hassenfeld
Conference Center

Judy's Workshop is an annual program dedicated to the memory of Judith Gardner, a former member of the Heller faculty who focused on child and family policy. This year's topic is *Social Capital and Asset Policy: Strategies to Strengthen Children, Families, and Communities*.

May 26, 2005
12:15 – 2:00 pm
The Heller School
Groundbreaking

Join us to break ground (and bread) for the new state-of-the-art Schneider Building.

For more information, contact Norma DeMattos at ndemat@brandeis.edu or 781-736-4827.

Social Transformation

by Ann Sonz Matranga, M.M.H.S. '80

Alumni Profile

“W

hen I came to The Heller School,

I wanted to learn how to think conceptually about contemporary problems, practice, strategy and theory – about liberation issues, and hence social planning,” says Archie Smith, Jr., M.S.W. '71, Ph. D. '73.



Archie Smith, M.S.W. '71, Ph.D. '73

Smith's publications are on the forefront of critical thinking about social transformation, drawing from his work in the United Kingdom as well as in the U.S. He is an ordained American Baptist minister, a Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. As the James and Clarice Foster Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, Smith explores oppressive practices, empha-

sizes the importance of narrative, and challenges students to relate systemic thinking to pastoral action.

Professor John Scott was the first to tell Smith about The Heller School, along with Harvey Feldman, a Heller doctoral student in urban planning dealing with poverty issues. At the time, Smith already held advanced theological degrees. He was Chair of a local anti-poverty program in Worcester, MA, where he served as Minister to the Community for the First Baptist Church. Smith explains, “I wanted our neighborhood to do something different, and I looked for someone who understood the dynamic of urban poverty. In seminary I learned how to interpret theological texts, but that didn't tell me how to understand and analyze the contemporary world. This is precisely what Heller was doing.”

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FEATURES

Jack Shonkoff to Step Down as Dean



Jack Shonkoff has announced that after he completes his eleventh year

as Dean of The Heller School he will join the Heller faculty where he will focus his energies on the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. (See story on page 7.)

read more inside

Heller Happenings



Heller alumni have been networking at events in Boston, New York

and D.C. (See pages 8-10 for photos.)

read more inside

Also Profiled

Jason Soloway, M.M./M.A. '01
Phyllis Jones, M.M.H.S. '88

read more inside

Putting Pieces Together

I began to see myself as someone who could make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Even the Andrea & Charles Bronfman Philanthropies have not escaped the sting of shrinking endowments these last three years, but Jason Soloway, M.A./M.M. '01, special projects coordinator, has weathered this by focusing on being strategic and leveraging opportunities. "Our focus has been on working smarter and doing more with less," says Soloway. "With every project we get the right people involved and collaborate with

other funders to share costs, ideas and expertise. My job is about putting the right pieces together."

Soloway is no stranger to fitting things together and that is one reason why the Heller/Hornstein program appealed to him. "The framework and skill sets I obtained at Heller enables me to deepen my impact and function more effectively in

a broad social service context," says Soloway.

Interest in community Soloway is a Canadian who was raised by his marriage counselor mother and his father, president of a trust company, in Toronto. After obtaining a degree from the University of Western Ontario with a focus on Western Civilization, literature and philosophy, he decided to postpone graduate school to work in the nonprofit sector and joined Otzma, a ten-month service-based

leadership development program in Israel. Soloway learned about the Israeli economy, politics and complex social issues, while at the same time studying Hebrew. "Otzma offered multiple opportunities for community service work," says Soloway, who taught English to Ethiopian high school students and worked in a soup kitchen. "The community service aspects of Otzma resonated on a very real level and pushed me to grow. I began to see myself as someone who could make a positive difference in the lives of others."

Soloway returned to Canada and enrolled in a comparative literature graduate program at the University of Western Ontario where he focused on questions of identity. Upon completion of his degree, he sought to merge his academic interests with the reality of everyday social issues. While working at Hillel of Greater Toronto, he met Zac Kaye who was the director and a graduate of the Hornstein program at Brandeis. "Once I found out about the joint program with the Heller management program, it clinched the deal," says Soloway. "Heller provided me with a lens to understand the world and the language to articulate the issues. It gave me a framework for looking at problems and questions in a strategic, structured way. I am now hard-wired with that understanding and perspective."

Soloway's Heller connection played a role in landing him where he is today. The President



Jason Soloway, M.M./M.A. '01

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management Alumni Newsletter

MS 035
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA
02454-9110

Jack P. Shonkoff,
Dean

G. Lawrence Atkins,
Ph.D. '85,
President
Heller Alumni Association

Claudia J. Jacobs '70,
Editor,
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Norma De Mattos,
Assistant Editor,
Coordinator of Alumni Relations

of the Bronfman Philanthropies called Joe Reimer, associate professor in the Hornstein program, when he was looking to add staff. Joe recommended Soloway because he had the advantage of Heller management training as well as the Jewish communal skills. Convinced the organization represented smart, creative, and strategic approaches to social issues, and looking to expand his professional scope, Soloway left his job with the UJA Federation Metrowest in New Jersey to join Bronfman. "Now, after three years I am still learning," says Soloway.

Bringing art to America

The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies is a family of charitable foundations operating in Israel, the U.S. and Canada, whose mission is to develop, implement and support initiatives that help strengthen the unity of the Jewish people. Soloway splits his time between managing special projects, grants, and internal operations in what he describes as a "dream job." His duties run the gamut from managing long-term grants, to developing and building new programs, to leading research projects, to working with a team of architects, contractors and trades people to build a new office.

One of the programs Soloway currently manages is the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts (AIDA), whose goal is to raise awareness about Israel's decorative artists and introduce them to galleries,

museum curators and collectors. The group recently exhibited their work at COLLECT, an art fair at the Victoria and Albert museum in London, and has exhibited twice at the Sculpture Objects and Functional Art (SOFA) show in Chicago. AIDA also provides fellowships to artists. "Since the Intifada, tourism in Israel has decreased significantly and the arts market is experiencing economic difficulties. Artists can't afford to purchase materials for their work. The London and Chicago shows gave artists exposure to art collectors and galleries. Our goal was to connect them to professional art galleries." Soloway also introduced the artists to galleries in New York. "It provides a positive human connection – gallery owners come face to face with talented Israeli artists and deal with them as creative human beings," says Soloway.

The foundation's work with AIDA is a microcosm of how the Bronfman Philanthropies function which is as more of an operating foundation than a grant-making foundation. "We function as an incubator. We develop ideas, provide seed funding and expertise, get the right partners, and leverage our networks to create long-term sustainability," says Soloway. Bronfman obtained nonprofit 501c3 status for AIDA and was able to raise \$350,000 to assist their work. Soloway was able to use position, credibility, and energy to generate excitement and once again, put the pieces together.

Stay Connected Through Heller's Online Directory of Alumni

The best way to assure that you receive all the latest news about The Heller School and invitations to our many events - including our groundbreaking ceremony in May - is to let us know when you move or change jobs.

This can be done easily by visiting www.heller.brandeis.edu and following links to the alumni page and the online directory. Once you've registered on Brandeis Louis-Net, you will be able to log on to the Heller online directory to make address corrections, enter your new promotion, choose what information you want other directory users to see, and look up old friends and classmates. You can also set up a forwarding email so that news will continue to find your preferred email address.

If you need help accessing the online database, call Norma DeMattos, Alumni Relations Coordinator, at (781) 736-4827.

Building Better Neighborhoods

Alumni Profile



Phyllis Jones, M.M.H.S. '88

“T

here are neighborhoods in D.C. that haven't changed since the Johnson administration and are still fighting the war on poverty,” says Phyllis Jones, M.M.H.S. '88. Teen pregnancy, crime, poor health care and unemployment still plague these neighborhoods. Gentrification limits even the small supply of affordable housing. With Section 8 subsidies about to expire in 15,000 units in the city and landlords wanting to cash in on that real estate, the outlook seems dismal. But this challenge is worth tackling for Jones, a program officer for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a national group dedicated to helping nonprofit community development corporations transform distressed neighborhoods into affordable communities that are good places to live, work, and raise families.

A desire to make a difference

Jones' desire to make a difference took root at an early age. Her father, an African American, and her Caucasian mother married at a time when interracial marriages were rare. This exposed Jones to inequalities and injustice, though she was somewhat sheltered from the full force because her father, Sam Jones, a Boston Celtics basketball player, was a well known figure. When she was ten, in 1969, her family moved from Massachusetts to Silver Spring, Maryland.

“Moving to D.C. soon after Martin Luther King's assassination and the ensuing riots was a rude awakening,” recalls Jones. “My desire to work with low-income people comes from witnessing the results of seeing so many disenfranchised people in our nation's capital.”

Jones was always an involved student. In high school she was editor of the school paper, served in student government and was active in American Field Service and the Model UN Club. In college she volunteered in health clinics, counseling teenagers about sexually transmitted diseases. “My participation in the local food coop gave me the desire to live in a more egalitarian society,” says Jones. “It was a

fertile ground for figuring out where you fit on the political spectrum. It made me realize you're either part of the problem or part of the solution.”

Heller lays the foundation

After earning a degree in Family Studies from the University of Maryland, Jones fed a passion for the outdoors with a two-year stint as a seasonal park ranger in Yellowstone National Park and Kings Canyon National Park. Two years later she worked as a clinic coordinator for Planned Parenthood, training volunteer counselors to work with patients. When the time came for Jones to consider graduate school, The Heller School appealed to her because of the overlap of her interests in health care and social justice with Heller's curriculum and faculty. “The variety of offerings at Heller meant that I could get the basics and then work for a variety of community-based organizations or organizations with a political agenda. The Heller School was flexible and diverse and opened lots of avenues to me. I also liked how accessible the faculty was. Each professor wanted to get to know me personally,” says Jones.

For her management lab (or team consulting project as it is now called) Jones and her classmate Deb De Bare, M.M.H.S. '88, performed a volunteer needs assessment of AIDS Action in Boston. This project led to her first post-Heller job as volunteer coordinator at the Whitman Walker Clinic, the first gay and lesbian clinic in Washington, D.C. After four years, Jones took some time off to start her own family. When she returned to work she went in a new direction, accepting a position as a program officer in the grants department at Share Our Strength (SOS), an organization addressing hunger. “Because of what I learned at The Heller School, I could look at a grant proposal and assess an organization,” says Jones.

For the past seven years, Jones has worked at LISC as a program officer helping to increase the capacity of community development cor-

What do the following people have in common?

Robin Adair, M.M.H.S. '95
Laura Altman, Ph.D. '88
Larry Atkins, Ph.D. '85
Laurie Ansoorge Ball, M.M.H.S. '83
Rosina Becerra, Ph.D. '76
Joan Wallace Benjamin, Ph.D. '80
Neil Bermas, Ph.D. '81
Sarita Bhalotra, Ph.D. '99
William Bloomfield, Ph.D. '02
Ruth Brandwein, Ph.D. '78
Anne Spink Brisson, Ph.D. '99
Phyllis Busansky, M.M.H.S. '78
Eric Cahow, Ph.D. '04
Stuart Carter, Ph.D. '91
Eunyoung Choi, Ph.D. '03
Joyce Clifford, Ph.D. '97
Steve Coan '84, M.M.H.S. '90,
Ph.D. '97
Jennifer Coplon, Ph.D. '94
Amelia Marquez de Perez,
Ph.D. '96
Keith Duclos, M.M.H.S. '95
Gerald Eggert, M.S.W. '71,
Ph.D. '73
Charles Foster, Ph.D. '91
May Futrell, Ph.D. '76
Raymond Glazier, Ph.D. '99
Thomas Glynn, M.S.W. '72,
Ph.D. '77
Elaine Gould, M.S.W. '71
Andrew Hahn, Ph.D. '78
Jack Hansan, Ph.D. '80
Joan Danziger Hechtman,
M.M.H.S. '83
Michael Hunter, M.M.H.S. '82
Herbert Hyman, Ph.D. '67
Mareasa Isaacs, Ph.D. '84
Claudia Jacobs '70
Phyllis Jones, M.M.H.S. '88
Jonathan Katz, Ph.D. '81
Amy Klotz, M.M. '00, M.A. '01
Marty Wyngaarden Krauss,
Ph.D. '81
Sanford Kravitz, Ph.D. '63
Michelle Lackie, M.B.A. '03
Valerie Leiter, Ph.D. '01
Carole Levy, M.M.H.S. '92
John Lippitt, M.M.H.S. '96,
Ph.D. '03
Nancy Lohman, Ph.D. '77
Roger Lohman, Ph.D. '75
Marica Mabee, Ph.D. '83
Diane Mahoney, Ph.D. '89
Eva Marx, M.M.H.S. '80
Jane Mattson, Ph.D. '94
Danna Mauch, Ph.D. '90
Ricardo Millett '68, M.S.W. '70,
Ph.D. '74
Vincent Mor, Ph.D. '79
John Morris, M.S.W. '70,
Ph.D. '74
Katherine Murphy, Ph.D. '98
Sylvia Perlman, Ph.D. '85
Deborah Polivy, M.S.W. '72,
Ph.D. '78
David Portowicz, Ph.D. '80
Gail Robinson, Ph.D. '80
Margo Rosenbach '78, Ph.D. '85
Sarah Kroloff Segal '86,
M.M.H.S. '89
Audrey Shelto, M.M.H.S. '82
Windsor Westbrook Sherrill,
Ph.D. '00
Jason Soloway, M.M. '01
Barbara Souder, Ph.D. '89
William Spector '67, Ph.D. '81
Neil Stuart, Ph.D. '83
Yvonne Thraen, Ph.D. '77
Fernando Torres-Gil, M.S.W. '72,
Ph.D. '76
Michael Trisolini, Ph.D. '00
Julio Urbina, Ph.D. '01
Nancy Valentine, Ph.D. '91
Roberta Walsh, Ph.D. '89
Nancy Winship
Robert Wooler, M.M.H.S. '80
Assunta Young, Ph.D. '79
Dinah Zeltser, M.M./M.A. '01
Valerie Zimmer, M.M.H.S. '80

porations and other community based non-profits working in low-income communities. The Rockefeller Foundation originally funded LISC in 1982 as a pilot program to provide money and technical assistance in five cities. Twenty two years later, LISC has forty offices across the country. Jones' seven years at LISC have given her the opportunity to get out into the community and see first hand the changes being made. "It's so satisfying to see how building a health clinic, community center or after-school program can help turn a distressed neighborhood into a community of greater choice and opportunity," says Jones.

Since this interview, Phyllis Jones has left LISC to pursue a career in conflict analysis and mediation. She is currently taking courses at George Mason University.

Moving to D.C. soon after Martin Luther King's assassination and the ensuing riots was a rude awakening.

They have all demonstrated their commitment to future Heller students by pledging at least \$1,000 to name the Heller Alumni Lounge, some in smaller amounts over a four to five year span of time. Their generosity has brought us two thirds of the way to raising \$150,000 so that a student study lounge in the new Schneider building can be named the Heller Alumni Lounge. Join your colleagues in getting your name on the wall, but hurry, because only 21 more naming opportunities are available. For information on how you can join this list of dedicated Heller alumni and friends, call Claudia Jacobs '70 at (781) 736-3806.

What impact will privatization have on the American middle class?

The Bush Administration proposes to create an “ownership society” in which Americans may divert some of their own money from the Social Security payroll tax to private investment accounts. They also have proposed greater reliance on personal investments such as health care accounts and school vouchers. Does this privatization model stand in conflict with the traditional model of social investments such as the G.I. Bill, Social Security and home ownership tax breaks, in terms of broadening ownership and building the middle class? If greater privatization were adopted as social policy, what impact do you think this would have on America?

Larry Brown, Ph.D. '71
Executive Director, Institute on Assets and Social Policy
Director, Center on Hunger and Poverty
The Heller School
Waltham, MA

Most of us don't want to own our own health plan if that means greater costs when we are old and sick, and we don't want to own our retirement if that means undermining the guaranteed, life-long benefits that now exist. We want to be part of social insurance programs in health and retirement that protect all of us by amortizing life's unavoidable risks across society. We built a strong middle class nation not by “everyone for himself” but through social investments like the G.I. Bill, Social Security and tax-subsidized home ownership programs.



Ending such policies through privatization would increase individual risks and diminish true ownership and security for our people. The President set a good goal, but then marched off in the opposite direction.

John Hansan, Ph.D. '80
Vice President, Capitol Advantage
Washington, DC

The term “ownership society” is simply a code word for classical



liberalism: the view that individuals should be free to pursue their own interests without government interference. Left

unchecked, the Administration's policies will result in more tax cuts for the rich while aggressively reducing or eliminating federal support for job training, public health care, education, and other social welfare programs that have helped grow our society. Every day the Bush Administration and its conservative allies are in control our nation sinks lower on every indices of what makes a “great society.”

Wendy Gray, Ph.D. '85
President, Gray Matters
Cleveland, OH

The concept of an “ownership society” is symbolic politics at best. At worst, it is an advertising slogan for the Republicans who want to reduce and/or eliminate “social entitlement” programs. Since the early 1980s, many neo-conservatives have wanted to change the historical model of social entitlements. These individuals argue that the United States is a “welfare state.”



By espousing the concept of the ownership society, Republican strategists devised a new approach to reduce social

entitlement programs that would, in turn, reduce the size of government. Will the concepts of an ownership society and the privatization model expand the middle class? I have my doubts.

In an ownership society, the winners will be large corporations, and other business owners, who will continue to increase their profits. Other winners will be individuals who have high incomes and can afford to lose a lot of money. Unfortunately, the losers will be the middle class – the very group that the ownership society purports to help.

John Lippitt, M.M.H.S. '96, Ph.D. '03
Senior Research Associate, Family and
Child Policy Center
The Heller School
Waltham, MA



The ownership society and Social Security privatization that President Bush has been promoting will exacerbate the widening gap

between the rich and the poor in the U.S. Social Security is designed as a shared, social insurance system that guarantees a minimum standard of support and includes insurance against disability or death of a family's breadwinner. Private savings should be a supplement, not a replacement, for this. A strong society, and particularly a strong democratic society, needs a balance of both private ownership and shared social insurance.

Jack Shonkoff to Step Down as Dean



It was with conflicting feelings that Jack Shonkoff announced that he would step down as Dean of The Heller School on August 31, 2005. He will stay a part of the Heller community by remain-

ing on the faculty and chairing the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, which is based at The Heller School. Although deeply committed to what Heller is all about, Shonkoff felt an irresistible call to direct his energies to advance public understanding about the development of young children and make an impact on national policy.

Throughout his career Shonkoff has focused on early childhood policy, particularly as it relates to vulnerable children and families. Prior to becoming the dean of The Heller School in 1994, he was an academic pediatrician at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he was chief of developmental and behavioral pediatrics. His work as chair of the Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, under the auspices of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, resulted in the publication of *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*.

The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child grew out of that book and seeks to close the gap between what is known about early childhood and brain development and the public policies designed to help children in the first five years of their lives.

"While scientists have generated extensive

new knowledge about child development, relatively little has changed about how we care for our children," says Shonkoff. "And public policies have been slow to respond to the challenges facing early childhood educators, child-care providers, health-care professionals, and parents, among others."

In the two years since the Council's creation, opportunities to have a greater impact in the policy arena and thus on the lives of children, continued to present themselves. Shonkoff found it increasingly difficult to take advantage of all of those opportunities while at the same time fulfilling his responsibilities as Dean.

And, it should be pointed out, an 11-year term as Dean is not a short tenure. Under Shonkoff's leadership The Heller School made great strides, including advancing to the third spot in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the best graduate schools for social policy. During Shonkoff's tenure as Dean, the School changed its name to reflect its new and expanded role in social policy and human service management, introduced two new master's programs, integrated the School's academic centers to achieve greater focus and efficiencies, and raised \$38 million dollars, including \$23 million for a new building whose groundbreaking occurs in May 2005.



Ruth Israelite Freedman '69, Ph.D. '82, and Heller professor David Gil, host of the event



Anne Tumlinson, M.M.H.S. '95, host of the event at Health Strategies Consultancy, with featured speaker Professor Stuart Altman

A Discussion on the Impact of the 2004 Presidential Election – Heller Event in Washington, D.C.



Washington Regional Alumni Chair, William Spector '67, Ph.D. '81, introduced one of the evening's speakers



Jeremy Adelman, M.A./M.B.A. '02, Sandra Silva, M.M. '03, and Michelle Lackie, M.B.A. '03, attended the Altman talk.

New Jobs, Degrees, Directions

Jennifer Coplton, Ph.D. '94, is executive director of Child Care Resource Center in Cambridge, MA. The Center's mission is to promote the care and education of all children through advocacy and programs that serve families, professionals, and communities.

Stefanie Elkins, M.M./M.A. '01, is director of the women's department at the Jewish Federation/Valley Alliance in West Hills, CA. Email: selkins@jewishla.org

Dena Fisher, Ph.D. '91, is executive director of Dos Pueblos: New York – Tipitapa Sister City Project which works with a partner city in Tipitapa, Nicaragua, on public health promotion, including a people's pharmacy, education, nutrition, self-sustainability for women and families, and potable water. For further information about the partnership visit www.tipitapa.org or email Dena at dwf@tipitapa.org.

Avi Friedman, M.B.A./M.A. '03, was promoted to director of the young leadership division at the Cleveland Federation. Email: afriedman@jfcfcleve.org

Fernando Frydman, M.M.H.S. '91, was appointed facilitator of the Global Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, a global initiative undertaken by the World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund), Unilever, Coop (a Swiss retailer), Cordaid (an international relief NGO), Grupo A. Maggi (one of the world's biggest soy producers) and Fetraf-Sul (a union of small producers from South Brazil). Frydman is director of the Centro de Management Social in Buenos Aires, which consults to social organizations in the strategic planning and development areas.

Hollis Gauss, M.M./M.A. '01, was promoted to director of youth and family education at Congregation B'nai Jeshurum in New York. She oversees the Hebrew School and Family Life Activities for the Congregation's 1000+ families.

Amy Jablin, M.B.A./M.A. '01, is associate director of development for BBYO International in Washington, D.C., where her main focus is on creating an alumni association. Email: ajablin@bbyo.org

Gary Milgram, M.B.A. '03, accepted a position as the clinical manager of the ICU at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Anthony Benny Mokaba, Ph.D. '93, was recently appointed chairman and CEO of Shell South Africa. He also serves as the regional vice president for Shell Operation in Southern Africa. Mokaba lives in Cape Town, South Africa, and received the Limpopo Province Morula Award for business leadership.

Elana Paru, M.M.H.S./M.A. '96, is director of development at the Jewish Outreach Institute, a national Jewish nonprofit organization in New York City committed to creating a more inclusive Jewish community. Email: eparu@joi.org

Jeffrey Richard, M.A./M.M.H.S. '96, is the associate dean for development and alumni relations at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. He and partner Marc welcomed son Matan in April 2004. Email: jhr2105@columbia.edu

Phyllis Rolfe Silverman, Ph.D. '69, is again actively affiliated with Brandeis as a scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center focusing on bereavement and end of life care. She recently co-edited *Living with Dying: A Handbook for End of Life Health Care Professionals* published by Columbia University Press. The second edition of her book, *Widow to Widow: How the Bereaved Help Each Other*, was recently published by Bruner-Routledge. Email: silverman@helix.mgh.harvard.edu



Maria Zuniga, Ph.D. '80, John Oliver, Ph.D. '75, Dan Jimenez, Ph.D. '77, and Nancy Mudrick, Ph.D. '76, attended the reception



Gail Robinson, Ph.D. '80, caught up with Allan Borowski, Ph.D. '79, while visiting Australia. Borowski is a professor at La Trobe University in Melbourne.

Heller Reception at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in New York City



Mary Davidson, Ph.D. '75, and Professor David Gil

Chloe Puett, M.A. '06, and Michelle Lackie, M.B.A. '03

Haneen Al-Halwani, M.A. '06, and Gail Robinson, Ph.D. '80, Vice President of the Heller Alumni Association Board



Heller Alumni reception for SID students in Washington, D.C.

Marni Thompson, M.M. '04, is working at Children's Hope International, an international adoption agency in New York City. She is responsible for case and program management.

Elisa Velardo, M.M.H.S. '91, was promoted to vice president at Vinfen CT, a human service agency that provides residential and vocational support to people with disabilities. Email: velardoe@vinfen.com

Dinah Zeltser, M.M./M.A. '00, has taken the post of Community Services Officer with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mission in the North Caucasus. Her office works with refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Ossetian-Georgian conflict of 1992-93 and Chechen IDPs and refugees from the two Chechen wars. Email: dinah_z@yahoo.com

Awards, Honors, Fellowships, Boards, Grants

Ruth Brandwein, Ph.D. '78, will be honored by the Hillel Foundation of Stony Brook University this spring as one of the outstanding Jewish women on campus. Brandwein is a full professor at Stony Brook's School of Social Welfare and the director of their Social Justice Center. Email: rbrandwein@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

May Futrell, Ph.D. '76, received the Francis Cabot Lowell Faculty Award for Distinguished Service at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Email: may_futrell@uml.edu

Sheldon Gelman, Ph.D. '73, recently co-chaired the Council on Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting in New York City. Gelman, associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University, also recently made presentations at the 6th International Conference of the International Society for Third-Sector Research, The National Association of Social Work Deans and Directors, and the ORI Research Conference on Research Integrity. The second edition of his book, *Case Management: An Introduction to Concepts and Skills*, was recently published in both English and Korean. Email: srgelman@yu.edu

R. L. McNeely, Ph.D. '75, was listed recently in *Who's Who in the Social Sciences*. McNeely is an attorney and professor at the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee) School of Social Welfare. Email: rlmatty@ticon.net

Joseph Wronka, Ph.D. '92, was invited to give the keynote speech at the Second International Conference on the Right to Self-Determination in Geneva, Switzerland, last summer. The title of his talk was "Creating a Human Rights Culture: Toward a Global Consensus of the Interdependency of Rights." Email: Joseph_wronka@spfld.col.edu

Seeking Career Mentors

As any job hunter knows, the best way to explore a career is by networking with others in the field. Increasingly, both Heller students and alumni have been asking for our help in connecting them with alumni working in a field, job or location that they are interested in exploring. So we can help students and alumni take advantage of our best resource - YOU - we are looking for career mentors. If you are willing to be contacted by Heller students and other alumni, please call Tricia Paolucci, assistant director for career and student services, at (781) 736-3809.

Heller Online Jobs Database

If you are looking to hire qualified Heller students or alumni, take advantage of Heller's searchable online jobs database, accessible to the Heller community. To obtain a password that will enable you to search or add job postings, contact heller-jobs@brandeis.edu.

Visit the Schneider
Institute's New Web Site

To stay abreast of what's happening at Heller's Schneider Institute for Health Policy (SIHP), visit the newly designed web site at <http://sihp.brandeis.edu/>. SIHP researchers examine the health care system from a variety of perspectives, and stay involved in the design and testing of new organizational models and payment systems that are needed for today's growing population, and beyond. The Institute's diverse undertakings reflect a long-standing commitment to actively participating in creating new knowledge and policies locally, nationally, and internationally.

The SIHP website is organized around three major research areas: Acute and Chronic Health Care, Behavioral Health, and International Health.



Heller Alumni Association Board member Diane Mahoney, Ph.D. '89, and Laurie Ansonrg Ball, M.M.H.S. '83



Virginia Fitzhugh, M.M. '03, Kim Libby '05, and Heller Alumni Association Board member Lynne Sullivan, M.B.A. '02



Boston Regional Alumni Chair Roblyn Anderson Brigham, Ph.D. '01, and Len Marcus, Ph.D. '83, the featured speaker



Heller Alumni Association Board member Margo Rosenbach '78, Ph.D. '85, and Lois Camberg, Ph.D. '85

Boston Heller Alumni Event - Leading the National Response to International Terrorism



Cecelia Rivera-Casale, Ph.D. '79, Regina O'Grady-LeShane, Ph.D. '82, Nina Silverstein, Ph.D. '80, and Allan Borowski, Ph.D. '79, had a mini reunion at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, D.C.

Publications

Terrence Gargiulo '90, M.M.H.S. '93, wrote *The Strategic Use of Stories in Organizational Communications*, which was published by M.E. Sharpe in January. More information about the book can be found at www.makingstories.net.

Marriages

Lee Block, M.M.H.S. '85, married Jenna Howell in San Francisco on November 20, 2004. Email: leeblock@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Johnson, M.M. '98, married Max Hibner in October of 2004. Hibner is director of Chicago Workforce Development for the Council for Adult and Experiential Living. Email: ejhibner@cael.org

Births

Sharon Janowitz Rifkind, M.M./M.A. '98, and her husband Michael welcomed a daughter, Avigayil Devorah, in April 2004. Rifkind works at the UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey and has two other children.

Rishona Teres, M.A. '02, gave birth to a son, Zachary Avishai Steinberg, on July 23, 2004. Teres is a women's health care nurse practitioner in Los Angeles. Email: rishona@teres.com

Faculty/Staff Notes

Elizabeth Goodman, M.D., professor and director of Child and Adolescent Health Research, published an article in *Psychosomatic Medicine* entitled "Social Inequalities in Biomarkers of Cardiovascular Risk in Adolescence." Goodman's work on child obesity has garnered attention and her upcoming publications on that topic should highlight that issue.

Jody Hoffer Gittell, assistant professor of management, won an Outstanding Young Scholar Award from the Industrial Relations Research Association.

Tom McLaughlin, adjunct lecturer, has signed a contract for his fifth book, *The Art of Strategic Positioning*, with John Wiley & Sons. The book, to be published this year, offers a dramatically new framework for nonprofit strategy development. McLaughlin also recently led a webcast on "Simple Steps to Achieving Greater Accountability and Stewardship" for Blackbaud, a major software company for nonprofits, that drew 1,000 attendees (via computer).

If you have some news to share with Heller Alumni, contact Norma DeMattos at ndemat@brandeis.edu or 781-736-4827.

Social Transformation

continued from front cover

Smith continues, “ John Scott was the lone black faculty member at Heller at the time, and he was an advisor for my street ministry in Worcester. He became my role model and mentor. He introduced me to social-psychology, a theoretical thread in my academic work ever since. John (Jack) Scott deserves major recognition in my journey through The Heller School. I am indebted to him.”

Smith described his first impressions of Heller. “The doctoral program was a world with a vocabulary I hadn’t thought much about. Norm Kurtz, a former Lutheran pastor, showed me the value of my theological training. Wyatt Jones, a Methodist pastor with two Ph.D.s, was my advisor and chaired my dissertation committee. I met people including Bob Binstock and the Dybwads. It was important to me that they were Jewish because of my connection with Old Testament and biblical texts. Roland Warren was interested in my writing and he helped me understand community analysis. Even more important, his doctoral assistant, Stephen Rose, introduced me to two books, *Ideology and Utopia*, and *The Social Construction of Reality*. In them I recognized a link to the radical Jewish prophets of the 6th and 8th Centuries, BCE. This is when my work really took off.”

Dealing with discrimination Smith’s parents were from Natchez, Mississippi. His father thought of leaving the U.S. and going to Russia. He was a follower of Marcus Garvey and saw communism as offering more hope for black people than American democracy. Instead, the family moved to Seattle where Smith’s upbringing was influenced by racism. He recalls, “There were cross burnings in the predominantly white area where we lived. We

received phone calls warning us to leave. My parents believed that white people would carry out their threats, so we moved to central Seattle where our neighbors were racially mixed, including Anglos of the white working class and people of various descents – Jewish, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Eskimo. I lived in a racially mixed and diverse society alongside an intolerant society. I remember a black baby who died of crib death and couldn’t be buried in the nearby cemetery. This told me that the issue of race was deeper than life itself. It extended to death.”

“The black church was my first experience of black power in a solidarity community,” Smith explained. “People cared about each other. When there was discrimination, the minister brought it up and asked the congregation to help him confront the situation and fight to change practices.”

“While I was a Heller student,” he says, “I commuted to school from Worcester and I worked to keep theory and practice together. We introduced kids to successful black adults and created structures for them to participate in social activism, positioning young people for college. Theory without practice is doomed. There needs to be a continual conversation and mutual correction. For example, in recent years I created a course to think about issues in ministry and offered it to inmates at Vacaville State prison.”

Learning from the past Smith values the idea that things do change, and things evolve. “It’s my task to connect the present with the past. I try to discover forgotten struggles and

voices. For example, Eugene Debs, a black man, ran for vice president. When people say ‘this never happened before,’ I try to find an example,” says Smith.

Smith advises leaders and activists to remain hopeful, in part by finding anchors in the past. “When we learn about our predecessors, our ancestors,” he says, “we can figure out how to sink roots in enduring values.”

Friendships inspire Smith. “I value connection with people around the world. The vision of only knowing people who look like oneself needs to change and become inclusive. Then we can be hopeful. I need to know people who see things differently than I do, and who can see what I can’t. That has to be hopeful.”

Ann Sonz Matranga, M.M.H.S. ‘80, lives on a house boat in Berkeley, CA. She is working on a collection of short stories and fundraising for a documentary film about water and salmon and the traditions of Kalamath tribes on the north coast of California.

In seminary I learned how to interpret theological texts, but that didn't tell me how to understand and analyze the contemporary world. That is precisely what Heller was doing.



The Forum, one of the signature design elements of the new Schneider building, will help create a vibrant and unified Heller community. The Heller Alumni Lounge will be located just off this impressive space (see page 5 for how your name can be on a special plaque on the wall). The Schneider building and the renovated Heller-Brown building will accommodate all of Heller's students, education programs and research institutes under one roof and will include state-of-the-art classroom facilities, ample student space for study and social interaction, and a café to promote informal faculty and student interaction. Watch your mail for an invitation to the groundbreaking ceremony on the afternoon of Thursday, May 26, 2005.

*The Heller School
for Social Policy and Management*

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