

Heller Alumni

News and Views

A magazine for the alumni of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University

Spring 2009



Special Issue on Community Development

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Hold the Date

The Heller School's 50th Anniversary Celebration
Shaping the Future of Social Policy: The Heller Challenge

Friday evening, October 16, 2009, through Sunday afternoon,
October 18, 2009, with a special event to honor Professor David Gil

Keynote speakers: Robert Reich, Marian Wright Edelman,
and Atul Gawande, MD

Please join us as we celebrate fifty years of knowledge
advancing social justice. For more details, visit
heller.brandeis.edu and click on 50th banner.

On the Cover: Jiway Tung, MA'05, with Learning Farm students
in Indonesia (see story on page 4)

No Place Like Home

For William Traynor, MMHS'84, there's no place like home, even if it's in a tough city. Traynor is the executive director of Lawrence CommunityWorks (LCW), a thriving community center he helped develop in Lawrence, Massachusetts. As he recounts his childhood on a tour of his former elementary school—where LCW is now based—it's clear that human connections can overcome all kinds of obstacles, from lack of money to lack of understanding.

"Families were hard working, hard praying, and hard drinking," he says, referring to his Irish Catholic background growing up in Lawrence. For Traynor and his five siblings, life revolved around the local parish. And when it didn't involve church-related activities, life centered on the family's commercial painting business, which included his brothers, father, and grandfather. Traynor started in the business at age eleven.

By the time Traynor was in high school, Lawrence, historically a mill town, began to deteriorate, its decline hastened by a dying textile industry and vanishing jobs. As Irish Catholics moved out, Latinos moved in, and, like immigrant groups before them, were blamed for the city's downward spiral.

As one of a handful of white kids on the high-school soccer team, Traynor says his experience contradicted the prevailing view that Latinos were causing the deterioration in part because they didn't want to integrate or learn English. Traynor saw firsthand that the families of his Latino teammates were decent, and their parents were eager for the opportunity to test their new English skills with him. It was this disturbing experience that led him to question the authority of conventional wisdom.

Instead of following the family into the painting business—because, as Traynor says, he "just couldn't see [himself] up on a ladder for life"—he decided to go to

the University of Massachusetts–Lowell and major in sociology.

"I went from a family that subscribed to 'evening news politics' to a pack of Marxists and became a rabid radical overnight," Traynor says. "My classmates were reading *Das Kapital*, only a fraction of which I understood, but I started to see myself in a working-class context. It was a rich experience for someone trying to explore class issues."

In his first job after college, as a community organizer, he realized that community organizations were "a sprawling mush, full of passion and vision, but lacking clarity, order, and the ability to solve problems." He recognized a simple truth. "If we were going to run the world," he says, "someone needed to know how to use a calculator!"

Enter the Heller School. Traynor likens his first summer at Heller to boot camp. "I was intimidated and scared, but little by little I gained a sense of mastery. There was a point when I could have ended up living a difficult life in Lawrence, but Heller changed all that."

Traynor credits Heller with giving him the tools to bring performance measures, evaluation, accounting, and business skills to a job. Fresh out of Heller in 1984, Traynor became executive director of the Lowell organization Coalition for a Better Acre, a well-known community development corporation (CDC). After many years leading that organization, Traynor took a ten-year hiatus from community organizing and management and began consulting. His career then turned to helping organizations to integrate community organization, development, and engagement.

But a drive through Lawrence ten years ago provided a new perspective on his old surroundings. The church had been torn down, but the rectory and his elementary school survived. When the remaining board members of a dying CDC proposed that Traynor take over,



he was ready to take on that challenge, and he became its director. But those old buildings beckoned to him.

On September 12, 2001, Traynor inaugurated a \$4 million capital campaign to raise the funds to rehabilitate the buildings where he spent so much time growing up.

Today, Lawrence CommunityWorks houses youth and adult creative and academic programs. With 90 percent of the high-school students in LCW's youth programs going on to college, Traynor has a lot to be proud of.

How does he account for this impressive achievement? It has a lot to do with creating community.

Although LCW can boast of a long list of accomplishments, including \$25 million spent in redevelopment over the past six years and prestigious awards from the Fannie Mae Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it is the commitment to helping people in Lawrence pursue value in their lives and create networks of connectivity that Traynor considers the highlight.

"When people don't know their neighbors and don't watch out for each other, when they are frightened about their children playing outside, or they won't venture out to take a nursing class in the evening, that isolation prevents connection and economic stability," he says.

While it is hard to predict the next step for Traynor on his career path, each community in which he has invested thus far has benefited from his Heller School background.

Self-Reliant Communities

If Sokoni Karanja, PhD'80, had another thirty-seven years to lead the community organization on the South Side of Chicago he has steered for the past thirty-seven, he'd most likely be there, working to develop self-reliance among residents and building strong neighborhoods.

By his own account, his contagious passion and lifelong activism are rooted in his Brandeis experience in the turbulent '60s. The son of a butcher and a practical nurse from Topeka, Kansas, Karanja is a self-described aficionado of the student life. By the time he landed at Heller in 1967, he already possessed three master's degrees and had studied experimental psychology, social work, and community planning at the graduate level.

So he was primed when then-dean Charles Schottland called personally to let Karanja know that he not only was admitted, he also was being offered a full scholarship to the Heller School.

"I can still hear Schottland saying, 'You don't have to do anything but come.' I nearly jumped out of my chair," Karanja remembers.

At Brandeis he landed a job as a houseparent in the signature building on the campus, Usen Castle. He soon became involved with campus political life in addition to pursuing his doctoral course work at Heller. Brandeis was an activist campus, and Karanja found himself in the midst of protests, playing a role in the January 1969 takeover of Ford Hall by members of the Brandeis Afro-American Society, as well as other activities that promoted social justice for African American students.

Karanja also worked closely with the Brandeis administration to establish the Transitional Year Program (TYP),

which allows students from the inner city to have an extra year of preparation on the Brandeis campus before enrolling in college. Karanja recruited students for TYP from Boston's Roxbury neighborhood as well as from many other communities of color around the country. Now celebrating its fortieth anniversary, TYP is one of the most successful programs of its kind, outlasting similar programs on other campuses that came into being in the '60s but soon disappeared.

Roland Warren, a famous Heller faculty member who was considered the father of community social work, most influenced Karanja. Warren also became his first dissertation adviser.

"Warren taught me about 'tinkering' with communities," says Karanja, who took those lessons to empower people to create sustainable change.

When Karanja completed his doctoral course work, he took the first of nearly thirty trips to Africa. Collecting data in Tanzania for his dissertation, he examined the differences and similarities between urban and small rural community development.

"As an African American traveling to Africa, it's like going home—I see so much potential, and I think every young person should go."

Karanja founded Centers for New Horizons shortly after he arrived back in the United States from Africa, and he directs the organization to this day. Centers for New Horizons is located on King Drive in the Bronzeville section of Chicago—a historically significant African American community that has in recent decades struggled with the effects of poverty and racism. Over the past four decades, Karanja has battled entrenched political forces and has



worked with political heavyweights, including President Barack Obama and Harold Washington, Chicago's late mayor.

But Karanja is no politician. He prefers to focus on empowering communities by developing programs to increase life opportunities and civic engagement of disenfranchised residents. Whether it's operating community schools, helping people get into the work force, running child-care centers, overseeing foster care or health and wellness programs, or organizing community participation, Centers for New Horizons is at the heart of enabling self-reliance among South Side residents.

Karanja, of course, has weathered many setbacks in his years at the helm. The biggest disappointment occurred when the city scrapped a huge South Side redevelopment plan years in the making in favor of a city-sponsored gentrification plan. But there also have been many joys along the way. Karanja received the surprise of his life in 1994 when the MacArthur Foundation awarded him its "genius" award. With the no-strings-attached grant, he brought his organization into the computer age.

When asked whether retirement is near, Karanja, now nearing seventy, says, "I don't see it in the cards." Given his track record, it probably isn't. When he founded Centers for New Horizons, he agreed to lead the organization for one year and subsequently signed on for additional segments in five-year increments. As Karanja puts it, "I've been on the five-year plan for the past thirty-seven years."

Getting at the Roots of Education

Jiway Tung, MA'05, literally has toiled in community development. He is currently program manager at the Learning Farm in Indonesia.



HAN&V: Can you share your early and influential experiences?

Tung: My father was born in mainland China, and his family fled to Taiwan after the communists took over. He immigrated to the United States in his twenties. My mother was born in the United States to parents who came here from Hong Kong. I was born in Queens, New York.

I was inspired and profoundly affected by the guiding principles of the American Revolution—democracy and equality. As I grew older and encountered events where America did not live up to its stated democratic ideals, I was disturbed. I remember watching a documentary about the civil rights movement—I saw peaceful African Americans trying to get equal access to places like Woolworth's and to schools and getting knocked down by fire hoses, attacked by police dogs, and beaten by mobs. Growing up as a minority, I also faced racism on a daily basis. All these experiences instilled in me a passion for social justice.

Why did you choose to attend the Heller School?

It was Heller's reputation for pragmatism and idealism that attracted me. I knew that a master's degree would not only help me synthesize my previous experience but also provide a "pedigree." I researched the top schools in social policy and was impressed at how social justice was central to Heller's mission.

What is the Learning Farm?

It is an educational program in Indonesia typically serving sixteen- to twenty-four-year-old boys who come from a wide range of backgrounds. They come from rural and urban areas. We have orphans and we have youth who have never been away from

their parents—the rough boys and the mama's boys. We have had boys who were illiterate and never attended school, and we have had high-school graduates. Most of our youth have not completed elementary school; some have dropped out of junior high school.

How does the Learning Farm work?

The Learning Farm uses organic farming to educate youth. We emphasize attitudinal change and reaching one's own goals. We are seeing more youth interested in exploring organic farming as a career—either working for a farm or starting their own.

How did the Learning Farm become established?

World Education (an organization dedicated to providing training to those who are educationally disadvantaged) and a private donor initially sponsored the Learning Farm. Early on, it was very difficult, as no one else was doing what we were trying to do, and skeptics were plentiful. What we proved was that kids are interested in farming despite a social stigma and that they are willing and able to work hard, take responsibility, and be accountable.

What is your role at the Learning Farm?

Formally my title is project manager. Staff members have called me the "mother hen." I see my role as an evolving one; initially I put together the concept, lined up organizational and logistical support, and worked to make the program a reality—finding staff, youth, networks, markets, and so on. Now I see my role as developing new facets of the program, as well as working on longer-term sustainability.

What is your biggest challenge?

We are at an unusual crossroads in that we also have a production farm in addition to the Learning Farm that



Jiway Tung (rear) with some of his students

supplies individual customers and two supermarkets. We are about to move to a much larger piece of land where we can significantly expand food production activity. This will help us generate income to cover a greater percentage of our costs. The challenge is to do so without sacrificing our educational mission.

What does community development mean to you?

For me, community development is growing people's capacity to make their own decisions, set their own goals, and see those goals implemented. We work with youth in the cultural context of the communities and organizations they come from. We expect them to become change agents and acquire new knowledge that will enrich their lives.

What was your goal when you entered Heller, and do you feel you've accomplished it?

The idea of the Learning Farm is what brought me to Heller. I used it in much of my course work as a case study to apply whatever skills we were learning. In terms of accomplishing my goals—as soon as we get close, the goalposts keep moving, and that is the exciting thing.

Miriam (Lipson) Hodesh, MBA'07

Be the Change

Miriam Hodesh, MBA'07, is a passionate entrepreneur and a member of the Heller Alumni Association Board.

HAN&V: Please tell us about your background and your early inspirations.

At the age of five I was tested for a learning disability. I spent three years at the Springer School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and learned to be a better organizer with the help of my peers and teachers. There I also met people who believed in never giving up. This instilled in me a belief that I could and would succeed in anything and everything I undertook. There I was, growing up and learning surrounded by people labeled “handicapped” and “learning disabled,” but I only saw people with learning abilities. Because of this early life lesson, I am motivated to be a catalyst for change and to provide resources for others to grow and learn.

What did you do right after college?

After receiving my BA from Tulane University, I stayed in New Orleans to work for a museum, Longue Vue House and Gardens. I organized adult programming to engage the community in the learning institute. In 2006 I moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the international NGO Ashoka. As part of their marketing department, I helped showcase the work of social entrepreneurs from all over the world.

Why did you choose to attend the Heller School?

I chose the Heller School because I wanted to define my skill set in the same manner that Heller defines its mission—knowledge advancing social justice. It was only at Heller that I found an MBA degree that was completely rooted in the nonprofit sector.

What defined your time as a Heller student?

I remember feeling that I was finally completely surrounded by people as interested in advancing social justice

as I was. For fifteen months I focused on gaining the skill set that is essential in the nonprofit sector to make a difference socially, environmentally, and financially.

How did your experience at Heller shape your career path?

I remember talking to Claudia Jacobs, who mentioned a Heller alumnus, Otis Johnson [PhD'80], who lived in Savannah, Georgia, and was the mayor there. I was planning to visit this southern city as a potential home and told her I could hand-deliver a Heller T-shirt to Johnson. But we did not have Heller T-shirts—so I created a design competition to make them. Truth be told, it took about thirty phone calls to get a meeting with Mayor Johnson, but I did, and that meeting led to connections with many other Savannah leaders. These encounters influenced my post-graduate life completely. Upon graduation, I moved to Savannah to start Refuel Savannah [a supplier of alternative fuel] and New Moon of Savannah with my husband.

Tell us about New Moon of Savannah.

New Moon of Savannah is a social venture that combines profit making with social change. To that end, we are focused on promoting social and environmental awareness through art. We seek to make a positive impact on the community by designing programs that lead to social change. For example, we are working on a project that transforms discarded blueprints from local architecture firms into usable notebooks. Our sustainability model calls for retail profits to fund the distribution of notebooks to public-school students, free of charge. Another project that we have recently created focuses on “upcycling” discarded street signs into works of art that are sold to the public.



Proceeds from these sales fund the installation of new, much-needed street signs.

What is the biggest challenge facing you in your job?

Time management.

What gives you the most satisfaction in your job?

Creative problem solving.

Many people who attend Heller hope to make a difference in the world. Did you have that as a goal when you entered Heller?

What unites Heller students and alumni is our passion and drive to be positive change-makers in the world. My life goal and mantra are based on the words of India's most famous nonviolent change agent, Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

What inspires you now?

I am inspired by the possibilities in this world. I am inspired because the United States has voted Barack Obama as president. I am inspired because Muhammad Yunus has developed a model of microfinancing that works. I am inspired by those who live peacefully. I am inspired by those who fight for social justice and who believe that positive change is possible.

Heller's New MPP Program Doubles in Size in Its Second Year

Drawing on the strength of its fifty years of leadership in the field of social policy, the Heller School introduced a two-year master of public policy (MPP) program in 2007. The inaugural class of twelve students will graduate this May. In its second year, the MPP program more than doubled its enrollment, with twenty-seven students entering the program this past fall. The Heller MPP prepares students committed to social change for careers in government, foundations, and nonprofits applying policy analysis to solve problems.

We encourage you to visit the newly designed MPP Web page at heller.brandeis.edu to learn more about the program (just click on MPP at the top of the page). This interactive Web site includes short videos of second-year MPP students talking about their summer internships. Help us spread the word about this great program among your networks. Heller alumni are also in a good position to host MPP students for internships. Michael Doonan, PhD'02, director of the program, welcomes your feedback, questions, or proposals for internship opportunities. Feel free to contact him at doonan@brandeis.edu.

Thank You, to Heller Alumni Donors

The Heller School appreciates all alumni donations. This honor roll specifically recognizes gifts of \$100 or more made by Heller alumni between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008. Annual fund gifts support master's and doctoral students through scholarships; provide special grants to help them complete dissertations, defray the cost of required texts, and attend professional meetings; and help to finance student projects such as the Heller Alternative Spring Break.

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For more information, please contact the Heller Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 781-736-3808 or visit www.heller.brandeis.edu, where you can also make a gift online.

Heller to Grant MBA for Joint Program with Tufts

Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) and the Heller School for Social Policy and Management have had a successful ten years jointly sponsoring a combined MD/MBA degree granted by TUSM. Now, beginning this year, the Heller School/Brandeis University will grant the MBA portion of this popular four-year program.

New Jobs/Degrees/Directions

Hak Soon Ahn, PhD'09, accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland's School of Social Work (haksoonahn@hotmail.com).

Teresa Anderson, PhD'98, is associate director of evaluation and measurement within the Center for Health Policy and Research of the Commonwealth Medicine Division at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (terri.anderson@umassmed.edu).

Mahbatsho Bahromov, MS'05, was awarded a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) INVEST fellowship. Bahromov is the project director of the NIDA-funded HIV Prevention with Heroin-Using Female Sex Workers project in Tajikistan and is the Tajikistan representative of the Global Health Research Center of Central Asia at Columbia University. INVEST fellowships prepare international researchers to be independent. Bahromov will spend six months developing a pilot project at Columbia University and then will implement the project in his home country of Tajikistan.

Roshan Bhandary, MA'01, recently migrated to Melbourne, Australia, after spending seven years in Boston and a year and a half in Nepal. Bhandary is a program manager at a domestic violence prevention organization and has two children, ages three and sixteen. She would love to connect with her former classmates (roshanbhandary07@gmail.com).

Leslie Blanton, MA'05, started a new position as a knowledge management program specialist for education and peace-building with Catholic Relief Services in its new monitoring, evaluation, and learning group (essiam@yahoo.com).

Anne Brisson, PhD'99, is the principal investigator of a NIDA-funded project called SHIELD Central Asia: HIV Prevention with Injection Drug Users in Kyrgyzstan. The one-year project will adapt an existing HIV prevention program to be culturally and contextually appropriate for Southern Kyrgyzstan, which is located along a major heroin-trafficking route and where access to HIV prevention and substance-abuse treatment is limited. A joint U.S.–Central Asia research team will implement the study through Columbia University's Global Health Research Center, where Brisson is the director of operations (ab2677@columbia.edu).

Katharine Byers, MSW'71, is the national chair at Influencing State Policy (www.statepolicy.org), a national organization of social work educators committed to teaching students how to advocate and influence the policymaking process at the state level. Byers is director of the bachelor of social work program at the Indiana University School of Social Work in Bloomington (kvbyers@indiana.edu).

Steven Byler, MBA'08, is vice president of research operations at Sustainability Roundtable Inc. (SRI) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. SRI delivers shared-cost best practices research to the commercial green-building industry. SRI serves companies seeking to implement strategies in their facilities that save costs and improve their environmental impact (stevenbyler@sustainround.com).

Paul Caldwell, PhD'95, was appointed director of the master of social work program at Syracuse University's School of Social Work (pecaldwe@syr.edu).

Steve Coan '84, MMHS'90, PhD'97, is president and CEO of Sea Research Foundation, the parent organization of Mystic Aquarium, Institute for Exploration, and Immersion Presents,



Tom Broussard, PhD'06, organized a mini-reunion of past and future Heller PhDs. Pictured with their families are Humberto Reynoso, PhD'04; Alexandra Pineros-Shields, PhD'07; Dan Finkelstein, PhD'05; Kathy Savage Mills, PhD'06; Will Lusenhop; and Tom Broussard.

a national science-learning program that works with Boys and Girls Clubs of America. He serves on the board of trustees of the Cal Ripken Foundation and the Pine Point School and on the Board of Police Commissioners in Stonington, Connecticut (scoan@mysticaquarium.org).

Betty Farbman, MMHS'81, is the associate director of the Office of Sponsored Programs at New York University (bettyaf@optonline.net).

Brian Gibbs, PhD'95, has joined the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine as the associate dean for diversity and cultural competence. In his new role, Gibbs will serve as the chief diversity officer for Johns Hopkins Medicine, including Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins Medical School. Previously, Gibbs was the director of the Program to Eliminate Health Disparities and a senior research scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health. He also directed the Cherishing Our Hearts and Souls Coalition, a community-based collaborative effort to improve the health and wellness of African-Americans and underserved residents in Roxbury, Massachusetts, neighborhoods (bkgibbs@hsph.harvard.edu).

Jack Hansan, PhD'80, and his youngest son, Bob, recently sold their company, Capitol Advantage, to the Economist Group of London, who are the owners of Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill. Now Hansan, with

another son, Mark, and two colleagues, has founded Senior Nation, LLC (www.silvernation.com), a new venture designed to reduce the incidence of fraud, abuse, and financial exploitation of older persons living at home (jhansan@silvernation.com).

Joyce Hamilton Henry, PhD'07, is the director for the Central Regional Office of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, based in Orlando, Florida (jayham22@yahoo.com).

Xinning Jia, MA'99, has worked with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila since graduating. Her latest post is with the Budget and Management Services Office of ADB. Her nine-year work experience has covered different key operational areas, such as country programming and planning, project preparation and administration, as well as corporate budget planning and strategy formulation (jjaxinning@adb.org).

Anderson Kamwendo, MA'03, is working for UNICEF as a psycho-social officer in Malawi, Africa. Prior to holding this position, he worked as a consultant at the Children's Corner for UNICEF in Malawi for eight months (ankamwendo@unicef.org).

Michael Karangwa, MS'08, works at the World Bank as a consultant attached to the Rwanda Ministry of Health (michael_karangwa@yahoo.co.uk).

Amy Klotz, MM'00, MA'01, is associate director of reunion and volunteer programs at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Massachusetts (amyklotz@earthlink.net).

Everett Lilly, PhD'97, is a part of the music group The Songcatchers, whose purpose includes the promotion and preservation of Appalachian culture and heritage. The group, whose members range in age from nine to sixty-four, performs at professional conferences and folk festivals, including the International Bluegrass Music Association Fanfest in Nashville, Tennessee (evrlilly@mountainstate.edu).

John Lippitt, MMHS'96, PhD'03, is the executive director of Thrive in 5, Boston's new ten-year strategic initiative to get every child in Boston ready for success in school and in life. Thrive in 5 is a joint venture of the City of Boston and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley (jlippitt@verizon.net).

Kathleen Martin, MA'06, recently moved back to the United States from Switzerland, where she was working with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Martin is now a disaster operations specialist with the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance covering West Africa (kjmartin77@gmail.com).

Sharon Neuwald, MMHS'82, retired from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in December 2008



Sy Bluestone with SID students
Charlie Kabanga and Hoa Nghiem



Peter Coleman, MA'03, at the
British House of Commons

and will be consulting in the area of health care (sharon.neuwald@cox.net).

Yungju Oh, MA'06, and Mario Gutierrez, MA'06, are working at the Inter-American Development Bank (yungjucaroh@gmail.com).

Elizabeth Petheo, MA'06, is working with the Agriculture and Rural Development Department of the World Bank (empetheo@yahoo.com).

Laura Scarlett, MBA'05, was promoted to national volunteer director at the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (laura.scarlett@nfte.com).

Rina Shah, MBA'07, is working in the outreach and public education division of the American Bar Association in Chicago (rina178@gmail.com).

Khalil Tian Shahyd, MA'06, is in his third year of a doctoral program focusing on political ecology and economic geography at the University of Delaware's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy. In April 2008, Shahyd returned to his hometown of New Orleans, where he is the director of the New Orleans Citizen Participation Project. The project is an NGO-sponsored program that is creating a formal structure for involving neighborhood and community-based organizations in determining city policies as they relate to local service allocation and delivery, city budgets, and land use (khalil05@aol.com).

Annabel Sheinberg, MM'98, is the education director for Planned Parenthood in Utah. Annabel and her husband have three children and live in Salt Lake City (annabel.sheinberg@ppau.org).

Alexandra Pinos Shields, PhD'07, accepted the position of director of immigrant programs at the Irish Immigration Center in downtown Boston (apinos@iicenter.org).

Laura Stahl, MBA'08, is a senior development associate with Children Now in Oakland, California (stahl_l@hotmail.com).

Stacey Stein '99, MBA'05, is a senior planner for business development and strategy for Winchester Hospital, a nonprofit community hospital in Winchester, Massachusetts (staceybeth@hotmail.com).

Tammy Tai, MBA'06, is a program officer at Hyams Foundation (tammytai@alumni.brandeis.edu).

Hajime Takizawa, MA'07, is working with the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command Asian Studies Detachment as a military intelligence analyst in Kanagawa, Japan (takizawahajime@hotmail.com).

Carmela Ulloa, MA'06, is in her first year at Harvard Law School after working in human rights with the Organization of American States for the past three years (carmela.ulloa@gmail.com).

Adrien Uretsky, MBA/MA'08, is a program officer in the coaching department at the Partnership of Excellence in Jewish Education in Boston, Massachusetts (adrien.uretsky@gmail.com).

Agnes Vishnevkin, MBA'05, is program and finance associate at Triangle Community Foundation in Durham, North Carolina (agnes.v@gmail.com).

Susan Windham-Bannister, PhD'77, was named president and CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (swindham-bannister@masslifesciences.com).

Ginger Zielinskie, MBA'03, is vice president at Benefits Data Trust (BDT) in Philadelphia. BDT has been extremely successful over the past three years in helping low-income seniors gain access to and apply for multiple state and federal benefit programs (gingerleez@yahoo.com).

Publications

Susan Moscou, PhD'06, published an article based on her dissertation. Titled "The Conceptualization and Operationalization of Race and Ethnicity by Health Services Researchers," it appeared in *Nursing Inquiry* (smoscou@mercy.edu).

Awards/Honors/Boards/Grants

Laura Alpert '96, MM'98, was elected president of the Women's Press Club of New York State, an association of women who are members of the media or work in the communications profession. Alpert is vice president of communications for the Northeast Parent & Child Society in Schenectady, New York (lbalpert@yahoo.com).

Jim Callahan Jr., PhD'68, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging at its annual meeting in October (callajim@mac.com).

Peter Coleman, MA'03, was hosted at a special reception in the British House of Commons to receive an award for exemplary service and recognition by members of Parliament and the speaker. The award was for his ongoing work with Peace and Hope Trust, an NGO in Nicaragua of which Coleman is the resident country director.

Gerben DeJong, PhD'81, completed his term as the president of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, an eighty-four-year-old organization that focuses on research related to evidence-based practice and policy in

rehabilitative medicine and associated disciplines in the United States and abroad (gerben.dejong@medstar.net).

Alejandro Garcia, PhD'80, received the Andrus Award, the highest honor given by the AARP in New York. He also was honored by the National Hispanic Council on Aging at its conference in November with a Special Recognition Award for his contributions to the Latino elderly (agarcia@syr.com).

Miriam Lipson Hodesh, MBA'07, was elected to the Heller Alumni Association Board; she would love to hear from her former classmates (miriam@newmoonofsavannah.com).

Richard Isralowitz, PhD'78, received a multiyear grant from USAID's Middle East Regional Cooperation Program to address the issue of smoking cessation among high-risk youth in the Middle East. Isralowitz is a professor of social policy and social work at Ben Gurion University in Israel (richard@bgu.ac.il).

James Kelly, PhD'75, was elected president of the National Association of Social Workers (jimkelly@csuhayward.edu).

Karen Devereaux Melillo, PhD'90, has received more than \$1 million as the principal investigator in two three-year grants—one from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and one from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration—to bring diversity to nursing. Melillo is a professor and chair of the department of nursing at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell (karen_melillo@uml.edu).

Windsor Westbrook Sherrill, PhD'00, was presented the 2007–08 Frank A. Burnter Award for Excellence in Advising and the Excellence in Teaching Award from Clemson University, where she is an associate professor. Sherrill works with health-sciences undergraduate and graduate education programs, teaching in the areas of health-services management and health finance and economics. She is involved with funded research projects in medical education, cancer

care, and Hispanic health services (wsherri@exchange.clemson.edu).

Nina Silverstein, PhD'80, received the 2008 Louis Lowy Award for distinguished contributions to the field of aging from the Massachusetts Gerontology Association (nina.silverstein@umb.edu).

Nicole Witherbee, PhD'08, was chosen as one of ten Mainers who are shaping the future of Maine's economy by MaineBiz. Witherbee is a federal budget analyst for the Maine Center for Economic Policy in Augusta, Maine (withnicole@gmail.com).

Births/Marriages

Joanne Bunuan Biag, MBA'08, missed graduation in May because her daughter, Allyn Lily, was born on May 15, 2008, and her mom was a little too busy to attend.

Brenda Bond, PhD'06, and her significant other, Mark, welcomed a son, Ethan, born on June 7, 2008 (bbond@suffolk.edu).

Leusia Goncalves-Mahoney, MA'07, and her husband, Jamie, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Electra, born on March 26, 2008 (leusia@hotmail.com).

Rick Goren, MMHS'96, welcomed a daughter, Shayna Noa, born in March 2008. Goren is an administrator at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan (rng1999@aol.com).

Teri Normand, MM/MA'01, and her husband, Neil, welcomed twins Shira and Naftali in December 2007. They joined their big brother, Shalom. Normand is the business manager at Beit Rabban Day School in Manhattan.

Leusia Goncalves-Mahoney, MA'07, with baby Electra



Allyn Buan Biag



Diana Marginean Schor, MA'03, and her husband, Saul, welcomed a daughter, Maia Ernestina, on April 29, 2008.

Laura Marina Perez, MMHS'91, and her partner, Dean Royer, became the proud parents of their first child, Romero Silverio Royer Perez, on October 28, 2006 (chalaca_buena@hotmail.com).

Rob Seidner '98, MBA'03, and his wife, **Debbie Schmidt '98**, welcomed their new son, Wesley Stephen, on September 9, 2008. According to the proud new parents, Wesley "is healthy, stunningly handsome, and will save the world" (seidner@alumni.brandeis.edu).

Faculty/Staff Notes

Stuart Altman, Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy, was listed as number twenty-one on *Modern Healthcare's* 2008 list of the one hundred most powerful people in health care. Last year he was number forty-six, so he has moved up considerably.

Professor Brenda McSweeney was awarded the Verdienstorden der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Order of Merit First Class) by the Federal Republic of Germany for her service to the United Nations.

In Memoriam

David Austin, PhD'69, passed away on May 29, 2008, at the age of eighty-four. Austin was a well-known leader in the field of social welfare. He taught at the Heller School and most recently at the University of Texas at Austin.

Fern Marx, MMHS'81, passed away on May 19, 2008.

Maia Schor



Farewell But Not Goodbye

The Heller Development and Alumni Relations Office has seen some changes recently with the departure of staff to other areas within Heller. Both Claudia Jacobs '70, longtime director of the office and of Heller communications, and Norma DeMattos, assistant director for alumni relations, have accepted new roles at the school.

The pair hasn't gone far—DeMattos is serving as the program administrator for Heller's MBA and MPP programs, and Jacobs is one of the directors of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, working with Andrew Hahn, PhD'78, who directs the newly endowed center. Jacobs maintains her role as director of communications initiatives for the Heller School as well.

After almost twelve years building an alumni relations and development program, Jacobs misses the excitement and activity that office provided, but she is enjoying helping to develop the new Sillerman Center, assisting foundations, co-teaching a Practicing Philanthropy course, orchestrating events, and developing the Sillerman Web site and collateral materials. "I feel privileged to have a new position and to remain in philanthropy and at the Heller School," she says. "It is an extraordinary opportunity to be able to play another role at the place that feels so much like home."

DeMattos, who had worked for the past five years with alumni, enjoys her new role working with students. In essence, she has



traded one time period on the developmental spectrum of a Heller professional for another—getting to know future alumni. "It is great fun to get to know students while they are living through their Heller experience," says DeMattos. "By the time they become alumni, I will have a shared history with them, and I can say, 'I knew you when.'"

Both women remain connected to their past roles and are available in multiple ways to the Heller community. They continue to have an enduring fondness for the mission, values, and people that give Heller its distinctive quality.

Heller Alumni

News and Views

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