This Report is the first of what will be periodic updates to the Founders of the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. Just a year ago, the vision of a program memorializing Eli’s passion and civic involvement was a gleam in the eye of his friends and family. Today, because of the commitment of over 400 Founders, the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program is a reality. Launched with an inspirational inaugural lecture by President William Jefferson Clinton on December 3, 2007, the endowment fund is close to reaching the goal of $4 million, and each of the three key program components is now in place:

- **The Segal Memorial Lecture**: a biennial forum at Brandeis to encourage innovative ideas around leadership, entrepreneurship, service, and citizen leadership.

- **The Segal Citizen Leadership Network**: designed to develop the leadership potential and foster a community of men and women who have received awards and fellowships (including the Brandeis Segal Fellowships) created in Eli’s name, who share the qualities and passion that made him such an effective citizen leader.

- **The Brandeis Segal Fellows**: undergraduate and graduate students from Eli Segal’s alma mater, Brandeis University, selected to serve internships at organizations that will develop their leadership potential. These students and organizations will also participate in the Segal Network.

The speed with which the vision for this initiative has been executed echoes the spirit of the remarkable man after whom it is named. As many Founders will recall, Eli led the lightning-speed effort to translate the idea of national service discussed in Bill Clinton’s 1992 campaign into legislation creating AmeriCorps. Signed by President Clinton just eight months after he was inaugurated, the legislation has created opportunities for over 540,000 AmeriCorps members who have now served in communities throughout the country.
Inaugural Lecture, December 3, 2007

To a packed audience of over 5,000 students, university leadership and Segal Program Founders, President Bill Clinton took the stage in the Brandeis University Gosman Sports and Convocation Center and challenged students to engage in the civic arena in the same way as his long-time friend and tireless worker, Eli Segal. President Clinton enumerated challenges facing the world in the next decade, asserting that they could be solved only by the type of public-private partnerships forged by social entrepreneurs like Eli, who turn good intentions into concrete reality. The affection and admiration that the former President felt for his friend were evident. Students and those whose ideals were shaped by the 1960’s alike were moved by this inspiring memorial tribute. President Clinton suggested how the world might change if each college were to “adopt a country” in need and commit to helping its vulnerable populations. A simple idea, but one with monumental implications.

To view the transcript or watch the speech please go to the website www.segalprogram.org.

This inaugural lecture also served to drive the successful endowment campaign, and created an opportunity to bring Founders and members of the burgeoning Segal Network together. A luncheon prior to the lecture celebrated the Program’s launch and thanked Founders – some of whom traveled across the country to participate in this event. The luncheon program featured a large screen photo montage of Eli’s life, remarks by Phyllis, Jonathan, and Mora Segal, in addition to Sandy Berger, AnnMaura Connolly, Arnie Kanter and Brandeis Provost, Marty Wyngaarden Krauss.

Inaugural Segal Citizen Leadership Network Meeting:

The Segal Citizen Leadership Network will bring together Brandeis Segal Fellows and men and women chosen for awards and fellowships established in Eli’s name by AmeriCorps Alums, the Corporation for National and Community Service, City Year, and the DeVos Sports Management Program at the University of Central Florida. The first meeting of the Network, attended by twenty-five Founders, program staff and Network members, was hosted at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management on December 3, 2007, to coincide with the inaugural lecture.

This meeting affirmed and began plans to implement the three goals of the Network:

- Develop Segal Network members individually as citizen leaders;
- Build a community of citizen leaders able to support one another in their efforts;
- Serve as stewards of the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program going forward.
During the first quarter of 2008, a competitive process produced a unique and select inaugural class of six Brandeis students to serve as the first Brandeis Segal Fellows. These outstanding young people will serve this summer in internships created with the help of Founders Tom Glynn, Ted Kennedy, Sue Lehmann, Peter Murray, and Mora Segal. They will each have the support of a Founder who has volunteered to serve as their “coach.” Founders-Coaches include Melissa Green, Robby Jones, Sarah McGinley-Smith, Chris Murphy, and Laura Gassner Otting. The brief bios that follow introduce these citizen leaders of the future.

- **Jess Kent’s** scholarship and activities on campus focus on Interfaith Dialogue. She recently appeared on Good Morning America to talk about how faith inspires community. As a freshman, Jess founded a campus-wide interfaith dialogue series that last year sponsored forty events attended by up to 140 students. She also serves as Chair of the University Board of Student Conduct and as a teaching assistant for the Women’s and Gender Studies Department (where Jess mentors her classmates in mini service-learning projects). Jess’s internship is at the Center for Progressive Leadership, in Washington, D.C.

- **Margaret Levy**, who is pursuing a Master of Public Policy at the Heller School, teaches at the Family Learning Center at one of the town of Brookline Housing Authority developments. She works at the Center with grade school children of immigrant families, teaching them about the political process and the importance of civic participation. Margaret has worked in the offices of both a congressman and a state senator – in the latter she identified the need and created a mentor role to college interns. She also serves on the organizing committee of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. Her placement is at Jobs for the Future in Boston, MA.

You know I would have walked over burning coals for Eli. Until today, this enterprise was something I was doing ‘for Eli.’ But now that I see the program, it is truly exciting and something I am enthused about being a part of.

So, like so many of Eli's other enterprises in life, here too Eli was an ‘enabler.’ You joined up because you were attracted by Eli's personality, his enthusiasm, his persuasiveness. But you stayed engaged because you came to believe in the entity or activity itself.

So this captures another one of Eli's characteristics. He was a serial recruiter for good causes -- from the anti-war movement to Hughes and Hart and Clark to paint tubes to School Sports. So Eli has moved on but his magnetism has drawn us all into something that will endure.

- **Founder Sandy Berger after hearing a report on Segal Program activities and meeting the Brandeis Segal Fellows**
Victoria Roomet is a Martin Luther King, Jr. scholar. At Brandeis, she founded the *We Have a Dream Today!* Club, which brings together recipients of this scholarship with residents of the greater Waltham area through public service activities. The club provides leadership training based on the values of Martin Luther King, Jr.; its projects include an initiative for students to learn how to become interfaith peacemakers. Victoria also served on the development committee of Relay for Life, an overnight walk to support the American Cancer Society, helping Brandeis to contribute more than double its fundraising goal in the first year. Her internship is with College Summit, in Washington, D.C.

Jordan Rothman’s seemingly boundless energy and commitment are evident from his active participation in twenty-three clubs on campus (nine of which he serves as an officer), including Varsity Track, the Model United Nations, the debate team and the campus Literary Magazine. He is particularly proud of his recent success in starting a marching band on campus and being the author of the first ever fight song at Brandeis! Jordan spent two summers teaching in inner-city schools as an AmeriCorps volunteer. As a member of his home town’s Environmental Commission, Jordan initiated action to engage youth in the community’s environmental problems. His placement is at Teach For America in New York City, NY.

Jonah Seligman, working closely with alumni from Brandeis’s founding years, has spearheaded the revival of a former university speakers program which matches the ideals of the university and the interests of the student body. Called “Gen Ed Now,” the program hosts renowned leaders who discuss their experiences and leadership. He also serves both as a tutor and Big Brother in Waltham and has organized biweekly participation by Brandeis students in a local soup kitchen. As a Segal Fellow, Jonah is eager to focus on the policy aspects of social change. His placement is in the Office of Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), in Washington, D.C.

Katharine Tull entered the Master of Public Policy program at the Heller School with an interest in policy research. Her particular focus is helping community and advocacy organizations, as well as government offices and private sector interest groups, to achieve practical and meaningful solutions to healthcare issues. She brings to bear extensive experience and skills developed over six years in increasingly responsible positions at the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology. Her placement is at the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum in Waltham, MA.

The Future

The remarkable inaugural activities detailed in this first report would, quite simply, not have been possible without the incredible support of the Founders. Periodic reports to Founders will detail the progress of this initiative to keep Eli Segal’s legacy alive, and provide those who are interested with information about opportunities to participate in various ways as the Program continues to ramp up fully in the years ahead.

*If you would like to make a gift to the Eli Segal Citizen Leadership Program please contact Debbie Katz, the Heller School, at dskatz@brandeis.edu or call (781) 736-3899.*