



Brandeis University

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management



Lisa M. Lynch, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of Economics

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Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share my first update on the many activities and accomplishments at the Heller School. We live, as the expression goes, in “interesting times,” with the dramatic downturn in our economy, an historic presidential election and the ongoing struggle to meet the Millennium Development Goals of slashing poverty, hunger and disease around the world by 2015. While the economic news has affected us all, it has affected those already most vulnerable in our society to an even greater degree. The need for new ideas in social policy and management has never been greater and this is a challenge that Heller is well positioned to take on. Thus the work of our faculty and the education that our students receive assume an even greater importance in these times. I am extremely proud to be at a school whose mission is knowledge advancing social justice.

I am grateful for the incredibly warm welcome that I have received from the entire Heller community since I started in July. In addition, I appreciate the vision of former dean Jack Shonkoff that resulted in the marvelous physical space that we now inhabit, the many pearls of wisdom that I have received from former dean Stuart Altman, and the support for our mission provided by Provost Marty Krauss and President Jehuda Reinhartz. I look forward to meeting more of you over the next months but in the meantime I am delighted to share with you some of our many recent achievements:

HELLER STUDENT BODY GROWS

One hundred and eighty new master’s and doctoral students from over 40 countries began their education with us this past August. **Tom Broussard, PhD ’06**, assistant dean for Admissions, Recruitment and Career Services, deserves special praise for leading Heller’s admissions team efforts in bringing together this wonderful new class. We anticipate continued growth in the coming year given early indications from prospective students.

The Heller School initiated a two-year **Master of Public Policy (MPP)** program this academic year and has greatly increased MPP enrollment for the upcoming academic year. Our current MPP students have all secured paid summer internships or jobs, one of the recommended experiential learning opportunities in the program. The MPP has recently added a dual MPP/MA degree program with Hornstein: the Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis.

Two newly created endowments, the **Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program** and the **Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy**, each provide several paid summer internships for MPP students in the summer between their two academic years. These funded practical work opportunities offer a valuable experience that provides students with new networks that serve them as they choose post-graduation careers in these fields.

Mailstop 035
P.O. Box 549110
Waltham, Massachusetts
02454-9110

781-736-3800
781-736-3881 FAX
<http://heller.brandeis.edu>



At left, Heller MPP summer interns pose after their internship presentations with MPP program director Michael Doonan, PhD '02, dean Lisa Lynch, and board members David Squire and Laura Oskowitz.

The Heller MBA is now referred to as the **Heller MBA in Nonprofit Management**. This more aptly reflects the preparation that is offered to our MBA students and the career paths our MBA graduates most often follow.

For over ten years we have been providing courses, but not the formal degree, for students

at Tufts University in its MD/MBA program. This October the Brandeis Board of Trustees approved a new dual-degree **MD/MBA program** so that Tufts MD students will now be official Brandeis students and will receive a Heller MBA degree. This dual degree program is the largest of its type in the United States and is designed to produce physicians who master management in a values context.

As our student body grows our need to raise new resources to support our students' financial needs increases as well. As we approach our 50th anniversary my top fund-raising priority will be to increase the amount of financial aid and support available to our master's and PhD students and I urge all those who are in a financial position to help us achieve this goal to consider making a gift, no matter how modest, to support fellowships at the Heller School.

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Building on our successful annual Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management for surgeons, our upcoming expanded executive education programs will offer advanced policy and management courses to a wider range of executives and professionals. These courses include a new Nursing Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management specifically designed for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation; a course in Leadership for the Brandeis University Office of Human Resources; a Leadership Development Program for the Massachusetts Medical Society; and a Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management for the St. Petersburg (Russia) Regional Association of Managers of Medical Services, with a similar program on the drawing board for medical professionals in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates). Special thanks go to program director and professor **Jon Chilingirian** and to **Laura Lorenz, PhD '08**, for their work on developing and expanding Heller's Executive Education program.

NEW AND VISITING FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS

Dr. Cristina Espinosa joined Heller this fall as assistant professor of gender and development and as the new associate director of academics in the MA program in Sustainable International Development. Dr. Espinosa has worked on issues as diverse as: gender, migration and livelihoods; gender, livelihoods and decision making; education in population; and sustainable development in the Peruvian highlands, coast, and Amazon.

Dr. Benjamin Gidron joined Heller and the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program as a visiting professor for the fall 2008 semester. He is on leave from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva where he is Director of the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research, Professor and Director of the Nonprofit Organization Management program at the Guilford Glazer School of Business and Management, and the David and Dorothy Schwartzman Chair for Community Development. Dr. Gidron is an expert in nonprofit/third sector organizations management and policy.

Dr. Peter Kemper was appointed a Visiting Scholar at the Heller School for the fall semester. He is studying long-term care workforce issues, including implementation of innovations in human resources management. Dr. Kemper comes to Heller from Pennsylvania State University, where he is Professor of Health Policy and Administration and Demography. He was formerly Commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and leader of the Long Term Care Insurance Options Work Group for the Clinton Health Care Reform Task Force.

Mary Jo Larson, PhD '92, Heller alumna and former employee, returned to the school last August as a senior scientist. Her presence here has expanded Heller's ability to study military health issues with the award of a new grant on the Effects of Deployment on the Health of Military Dependents. She is also leading the evaluation of a new initiative by the Open Society Institute that aims to close the gap between those who need treatment and those who receive it.

HELLER FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS SHARE THEIR EXPERTISE

Heller faculty and researchers continue to share their expertise and influence policy initiatives both in the U.S. and overseas.

In September, International Business School dean Bruce Magid and I appeared at the kickoff event of Brandeis' 2008-2009 Spotlight series at the Old State House, speaking on "Financial Crisis at Home and Abroad: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward."

As the financial crisis unfolded, media have looked to Heller experts to explain the root causes and consequences of our current problems. **Thomas Shapiro**, Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy and director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy, co-authored a piece for the *American Prospect*, focusing on predatory lending practices and how these are disproportionately applied to African-Americans. In a similar vein, professor **Anita Hill** was tapped by **MSN.com** to discuss how women were targeted by subprime lenders, and I discussed the rapidly deteriorating labor market conditions and possible policy response on the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.

Former dean **Stuart Altman** was once again named to *Modern Healthcare's* list of the "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare." Altman improved his ranking to number 21 on the list, which also included President George W. Bush, President-elect Barack Obama, and Republican presidential nominee John McCain.



Professor Christopher Tompkins, MMHS '82, PhD '91, was named director of the Institute on Healthcare Systems at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy. He has worked as director of program evaluation at the Schneider Institutes, specializing in health care financing and strategic approaches to managing health care utilization patterns, and teaches courses on research methodology at the Heller School.

The *Boston Globe* magazine featured adjunct lecturer **Sajed Kamal** as one of six "Earth Angels" in the Boston area who are helping to improve the state of the environment and combat climate change.



Adjunct professor **Brenda McSweeney** received Germany's Order of Merit First Class, with a special citation from the Lord Mayor of Bonn, where she was involved in service to the United Nations as the Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Volunteers. At left, Barbel Dieckmann, Lady Mayor of Bonn, confers the award on Professor McSweeney on October 23, 2008. Photo by Michael Sondermann, City of Bonn.

Provost Marty Krauss, PhD '81, gave a historical perspective on how the government deals with disabilities on NPR's *Here and Now* and called for the

White House to show leadership on disabilities in an opinion piece in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Austin American-Statesman*, and the *Houston Chronicle*.

Writing in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, professors **Constance Horgan** and **Dominic Hodgkin** of the Institute for Behavioral Health at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy praised new legislation prohibiting insurers from discriminating against people with mental illness and addictive disorders.

Claudia Jacobs '70 (who has agreed to become director of communications initiatives in addition to her role as director of capacity building at the Sillerman Center) and **Constance Horgan**, Associate Dean of Research, will be developing a series of issue briefs in the upcoming year to increase the accessibility and influence of our research work in the public policy arena.



Professor Laurence R. Simon was recently invited by the University of California at Berkeley to deliver a university lecture and be interviewed in its renowned *Conversations with History* series. The mission of the series, hosted by Harry Kreisler and supported by the Library of Congress and the National Science Foundation, is to present unedited interviews with "distinguished men and women from all over the world talking about their lives and their work...Guests include diplomats, statesmen, and soldiers; economists and political analysts; scientists and historians; writers and foreign correspondents; activists and artists...At the heart of each interview is a focus on individuals and ideas that make a difference."

HELLER EVENTS

The Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy sponsored its second annual Sillerman lecture featuring **Michael Edwards**, author and former director of the Governance and Civil Society Program at the Ford Foundation. His talk, entitled "Business-Inspired Philanthropy: Hope, Hype and Reality," critiqued some of the new business-inspired models of philanthropy. **Joanna Jacobson**, managing partner of Strategic Grant Partners in Boston, and professor **Andrew Hahn, PhD '78**, provided an excellent counterpoint to his presentation.

Heller hosted a forum led by the state task force on youth aging out of Department of Children and Families care. The task force is a multi-agency group formed in 2002 to develop new strategies for improving the lives of youth transitioning from the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families care. The task force is led by director **Della Hughes**, a senior fellow at Heller's Center for Youth and Communities, and co-chairwomen **Joan Wallace-Benjamin, PhD '80**, Heller board of overseers member and president and CEO of the Home for Little Wanderers, and Maria Mossaides, executive director of Cambridge Family & Children's Service.

The Schneider Institutes' Institute for Behavioral Health co-sponsored the highly successful and very well attended 2008 Addiction Health Services Research (AHSR) Conference. The conference was organized by **Constance Horgan** and **Sharon Reif, PhD '02**, and coordinated by **Terri White, MBA '05**.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum (MHPF), led by **Michael Doonan, PhD '02**, and the **Health Industry Forum**, under the direction of **Robert Mechanic**, held successful events focusing on specialty pharmaceuticals and what Massachusetts can learn from the German health care system. Speakers at the MHPF event, which was broadcast on the Web on **kaisernetwork.org's** Healthcast, included **Ulla Schmidt**, Health Minister of Germany.

The Programs in Sustainable International Development sponsored a lecture by **Duncan Green**, director of research at Oxfam UK, on his new book, *From Poverty to Power: How Active Citizens and Effective States Can Change the World*. This major new book argues that ending the scourges of extreme poverty, inequality, and threatened environmental collapse is the greatest global challenge of the twenty-first century.

HELLER ALUMNI AND STUDENTS



Susan Windham-Bannister, PhD '77, became known as “Massachusetts’ \$1 billion woman” for her appointment as director of the state’s new Life Sciences Center. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has dedicated that amount to the continuing development of life sciences over the next 10 years.

John Lippitt, MMHS '96, PhD '03, has been appointed executive director of Thrive in 5, Boston’s 10-year strategic initiative to get every child in Boston ready for school.

Rita Monastersky-Sebastian, MA '09, negotiated an Environmental Justice Small Grant through the Environmental Protection Agency while on her practicum with the Forgotten People Community Development Corporation on the Navajo Native American Reservation in Arizona.

Heller alumna **Sarra Ali, MA '08**, and current student **Panther Alier, MA '09**, one of the Sudan’s “lost boys,” are leading activism efforts in the Boston area in response to the Darfur genocide. They were profiled in a June 2008 *Boston Herald* article.

HELLER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Heller celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2009. We are planning a series of exciting events throughout the next academic year including our gala weekend event, “Shaping the Future of Social Policy—The Heller Challenge,” October 16-18, 2009. I strongly encourage you to visit the newly-redesigned home page of Heller’s web site, heller.brandeis.edu, for more information on these events and other events at Heller.

I am grateful for the opportunity to lead Heller as it marks its 50th anniversary and look forward to working with its innovative faculty and research staff to prepare the next generation of social policy leaders.

Warm regards,



Lisa M. Lynch
Dean