

Heller Alumni

N e w s a n d V i e w s

A Newsletter for the Alumni of The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University

Fall 2005

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Heller Events

Thank you for attending our Fall Heller Alumni events.

September 20, 2005
New York

"Women's Health, Economic Progress"

Cosponsored with Americans for the U.N. Population Fund

October 25, 2005
Boston

A Night at the Opera

The Consul, performed by Opera Boston, preceded by a networking reception



Spotlight on Larry Atkins, Ph.D. '85 Heller Alumni Association Board president



News & Views: *What early influences led you to a career in social change?*

Atkins: I grew up in a family with a strong sense of social responsibility. The year I spent in Beirut, Lebanon, when I was in college – the year of the June war and the beginnings of the Palestinian movement – really brought home to me the need for radical change. I came back from the Middle East, though, more focused on urban poverty in the U.S.

News & Views: *Describe some of your early job experiences.*

Atkins: I joined the National Teacher Corps out of college and taught for four years in an all-black, inner-city elementary school in Louisville, organized after-school recreation, and chaired the neighborhood Community Action Agency housing rehab committee. Working with poor families on their complex array of income, health, housing, and educational problems, I came to appreciate the need to focus existing resources more effectively on specific social and health problems.

News & Views: *What did you study at The Heller School?*

Atkins: I decided to study aging policy, which had a similar focus on human services integration as the social planning work I had been doing.

News & Views: *After completing two years of coursework at Heller, you accepted a job in Washington, D.C. How did that occur?*

Atkins: Republicans had just taken over the Senate in 1981 and the Senate Aging Committee was looking for a Social Security and pension expert. The Committee asked Bob Binstock, who was my advisor, if they had anyone at Heller and he recommended me. I was hardly an expert. Everything I knew about it came from Jim Schulz's excellent course. But I had nursed a desire to work in Congress since I'd gone to Washington as a teenager, so I took the train down for an interview, doing a crash course with journals that Jim had loaned me. When I got an offer, I gave it 15 seconds of thought before I accepted it. I started work in Washington the Monday after I finished classes.

News & Views: *What was it like working in Congress?*

Atkins: I parachuted into the Senate at the beginning of the Reagan years with the firestorm raging over imminent Social Security "bankruptcy." My second day on the job, I was in HHS Secretary Schweiker's office with Bob Dole, Jake Pickle, and other members I had read about in the paper – being briefed on Reagan's disastrous social security plan. Senator Heinz wanted an analysis and recommendation in half an hour. That was the start of a two-year, roller-coaster ride on Social Security, doing stuff during the day that led the evening news.

News & Views: *How did you have time to complete your dissertation?*

Atkins: Some friends at a research institute had funded a census survey, were sitting on new unreleased data, and wanted someone to do the first study of lump-sum distributions. I negotiated three months leave and

pulled three months of all-nighters – a month of literature search, methodology development, and coding an additional database; a month of analysis; and a month of writing. Later I published a small booklet with the condensed results and even got some tax legislation passed in the 1986 Tax Act based on it. So, all things considered, it was worth it.

News & Views: *How did your eight years working in Congress shape your views about the workings of government?*

Atkins: Working in the Congress gives you a skill set that you can't get any other way. I learned to absorb and retain enough to be able to draw conclusions at the drop of a hat and to trust my instincts. Every resource was at my fingertips to get information and to collect perspectives. But when decisions had to be made, there was never time to start looking for information; I had to be ready.

Congress also taught me a degree of intellectual humility. In government, it's not what you think that counts; it's the balance you can derive from competing interests. Government works when everyone comes away thinking they've won something. It fails when someone has to win everything.

News & Views: *You began your stint in the Senate working on Social Security issues. The debate continues. What has changed and what has stayed the same in the intervening years?*

Atkins: As Yogi Berra said, "it's déjà vu all over again." The fundamental problem is the same, the policy choices are basically the same, and the lack of political will

to solve the problem is the same. What has changed is that we've lost a lot of time to effect a smooth transition in the program. The lesson that we learned in 1981 – don't wait until you have a severe funding crisis to respond, because, if you do, you can only adopt tax-side solutions – has been lost on this generation.

News & Views: *Can you explain your current role as senior director of reimbursement and public policy at Schering-Plough, the global pharmaceutical company?*

Atkins: On the public policy side, my function is to bring people together in the company with specific expertise to work on public policy issues – federal, state, global – that affect our business. We develop positions on issues like importation or Medicare drug benefits or access for the uninsured, think through legislative strategy, and work with the trade association to develop industry-wide positions. Our objective is to get a better fit between what we do and what our customers and key stakeholders expect of us. In an industry that is increasingly shaped by government regulation and government payment programs, this has become a central business function. On the reimbursement side, I work directly with our business units on federal program payments for our products.

News & Views: *How has your Heller education influenced your career choices?*

Atkins: Heller gave me the tools and the connections to come to Washington and to function effectively in a high-level and fast-paced policy environment. My Heller education exposed me to health policy, particularly health economics, and the training in politics and markets helped me develop a greater

“**At the end of the day, your judgments as an analyst and your actions as a change agent have to come from your moral compass. Heller doesn't just teach it – Heller is a community that lives it.**”

appreciation and understanding of markets and market imperfections and greatly raised my level of sophistication as an analyst.

News & Views: *What about The Heller School is compelling enough for you to take an active role on both the Heller Alumni Association Board and the Heller Board of Overseers?*

Atkins: I think it starts with the core values – certainly the commitment to social justice. But I also think Heller has a unique perspective: in order to address social problems you have to combine analytic excellence and objectivity with awareness of values and the role they play in the way others approach problems. Unlike many policy schools, at Heller it's not all number crunching. At the end of the day, your judgments as an analyst and your actions as a change agent have to come from your moral compass. Heller doesn't just teach it – Heller is a community that lives it.

A Voice for Children



Since the dawn of the child welfare system, people have been asking, “How do we really know we are helping children?” “We know from kids who come back to visit us how things turned out, but anecdotal evidence is not enough,” says Heller-trained Joan Wallace-Benjamin, Ph.D. '80, CEO of New England’s largest private nonprofit child and family service agency, The Home for Little Wanderers.

Recently, Wallace-Benjamin launched a new department for performance and outcomes to answer more rigorously the questions she feels must be addressed. To that end, she is developing an evaluation process to determine how “her kids” are doing. From a position of knowing what works, The Home can then create programs that will achieve positive outcomes and ensure the healthy development of at-risk children.

Helping communities

Except for a brief foray into the executive search business, which she confesses was “for profit envy,” Wallace-Benjamin has focused her career on helping people and communities, especially children. Her career began as deputy director of Head Start for Action for Boston’s Community Development (ABCD). Following that she accepted a position as director of operations for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, where she helped shift the focus from recreation to youth development.

Wallace-Benjamin has been successful redirecting the focus of organizations to create broader change at a policy level and has used her leadership to improve the lives of children. “Thinking of something happening to a child still keeps me up at night,” she says. “The work we do at The Home can turn a kid around. This is often their last stop.” She won’t give up on kids.

The Home

The Home provides services to over 10,000 children and families annually through 20 programs focusing on prevention, advocacy, research, and direct care. Only months after becoming president and CEO, Wallace-Benjamin completed a merger with Parents’ and Children’s Services, expanding the age of children whom The Home serves to include zero- to five-year-olds and broadening services to include prevention services as well as treatment and residential care.

Today, The Home employs nearly 800 people and has a budget of \$46 million. The Home is listed as number 12 on the *Boston Business Journal’s* list of top 25 nonprofits – “after the arts, birds, and dogs,” comments Wallace-Benjamin. The Home is the only human services agency in the top 15 on that list.

Embracing challenge

Wallace-Benjamin has always been an innovator but, at the same time, has remained committed to research. While completing her dissertation work on the attitudes and expectations of African-American women toward their mentally retarded children, she developed a unique way to measure an individual’s dependence on social services based on social class, a dependency scale that is still used today.

“Except for a brief foray into the executive search business, which she confesses was “for profit envy,” Wallace-Benjamin has focused her career on helping people and communities, especially children.”

American Academy of Pediatrics Awards Top Honors to Shonkoff

At one point in her career, Wallace-Benjamin took over the struggling Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts. Putting into action her understanding that people invest in people, she built networks in the Boston community and was able to raise enough money to grow the budget from \$250,000 to \$3.5 million in her 11 years as president. Wallace-Benjamin also led the effort to purchase and renovate a new building in Dudley Square and transformed the Urban League into a visible and viable presence in Boston.

Wallace-Benjamin has thrived on challenge since her days at The Heller School. A freshly minted graduate from Wellesley College with an interest in community mental health, she gave up pursuing an MPH at Columbia or Yale, and instead followed her high school sweetheart (now, husband) to Boston to study at The Heller School with Professor Gunnar Dybwad. "At 21, I was the youngest student at Heller," recalled Wallace-Benjamin in a speech delivered to students at Heller's 2004 graduation in Spingold Theater. Explaining how she found her place at Heller, she went on to say, "I was surrounded by former commissioners and community leaders, people who had already led impressive careers, but I knew how to be a student. My world had been in the classroom, so I could offer these students with more work experience help with studying if they could help me grow up." Time has proven that her Heller classmates did a great job.

Joan Wallace-Benjamin, Ph.D. '80, is currently a member of the Heller Board of Overseers and the alumni representative on the search committee to find a new dean for The Heller School.

Anna Freud. Erik Erikson. Benjamin Spock. T. Berry Brazelton. And now, our own Jack Shonkoff. In October, Shonkoff received the most prestigious accolade in child development. At a ceremony in Washington, D.C., the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) honored Shonkoff, who chairs the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, with the C. Anderson Aldrich Award "for outstanding contributions to the field of child development."

"Jack's work is outstanding and I am thrilled with the Academy for recognizing him," said 1983 Aldrich Award winner T. Berry Brazelton, whose child development books are consulted by millions of parents around the world.

Shonkoff, the Samuel F. and Rose B. Gingold Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, is not the first recipient from The Heller School to win the award. That distinction belongs to the late Professor Gunnar Dybwad, who received it in 1973 for his pioneering work on children with mental retardation.

The Aldrich Award, established in 1964, recognizes a broad field of contributions, from those of its namesake, who advocated infant

feeding according to the baby's schedule, rather than the parents'; to distinguished psychoanalyst Erik Erikson, who formulated one of the most influential theories of emotional development in the late 20th century; and pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, whose influence among today's parents rivals that of Dr. Benjamin Spock's in previous generations.

"Dr. Shonkoff's work is built on the integration of our growing body of knowledge in the field of early brain development and the environmental factors that foster or inhibit optimal development," said Dr. Julius Richmond, Harvard professor emeritus and 1996 Aldrich Award winner.

Shonkoff is a leading authority on the application of neurobiology to early childhood policy. He is the founding chair of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, a collaboration of leading scientists in child development and neuroscience. The Council grew out of the Institute of Medicine committee that he chaired and which produced a landmark report entitled, "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development." The Council's mission is to bring sound and accurate science to bear on public policy affecting the lives of young children. Shonkoff recently stepped down from the deanship of The Heller School and is now a Heller faculty member enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical.

Letter from Abroad

“Heller contributed to making me a professional by showing me how to engage with the issues I am passionate about in a way that brings about change.”

I blame National Public Radio (NPR) for turning me into a vagabond in my post-graduate years. As I was finishing the Heller-Hornstein program, NPR was running a long series about Eastern Europe ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. My latent sense of nostalgia finally found its outlet, and the journey took me across the Atlantic and back to the land of my birth.

I was born and raised in a seaside town, notorious for its humor and cosmopolitanism, in the now former Soviet Republic of Ukraine. Though marked at birth as an undesirable due to my ethnicity, my parents tried their best to offer me a sense of normalcy and belonging in the country of my birth. In the late 1980s they accepted the inevitable and chose to abandon all their earthly possessions and a degree of certainty for the promise of freedom. I will be forever indebted to them for their courage, which instilled in me the freedom and determination to take risks.

Freedom and determination

Almost a decade after I was stripped of my Soviet citizenship, on May 6, 1997, I proudly accepted the rights and responsibilities accorded to citizens of the United States of America. By accepting the privileges of American citizenship, I took it upon myself to live in accordance with the best principles and ideals this country has to offer. Most of the personal and professional choices I have made since are a direct result of the overarching narrative of my personal circumstances – those of an immigrant who has been given the opportunity to make the best of her life with nothing but freedom and determination. I have chosen to live

and work, both in the United States and abroad, with a personal mission of helping shape and develop healthy, productive, and open communities that reflect the values that first brought my family to the United States.

While my family's only hope for a better life was to come to the United States, I still hold the belief that, whenever possible, people should receive the necessary support to make a better life for themselves in their homeland.

I signed up for the Peace Corps after graduation, determined to go back to Eastern Europe. Given the choice between Haiti and Macedonia, I pronounced: "I am not going to any country with political instability; I am not going to Haiti." I arrived in Macedonia in 2001 – a month after the start of the Albanian rebellion. Three months later we were evacuated.

Falling in love

In the meantime I had fallen in love with Macedonia. A year later I returned as a Fulbright Fellow. I was able to help people adjusting to a new social order make small but tangible differences in their communities. As a Fulbrighter looking at the relationship between international donors and local women and child-focused organizations, I worked on some of the most salient issues facing Macedonia, such as interethnic relations, women's equality, youth development, and an issue that has become very dear to my heart – the rights of Roma, nomadic people in Central and Eastern Europe.

I learned how international donors function and how political agendas get implemented in real-life situations.



Following the Fulbright experience, I became a consultant to a USAID Civil Society Program on ways to promote community development in impoverished Roma communities. One of my proudest memories is working with a remote community of Roma scavengers on ways to improve their income and living conditions. I became acquainted with the 252 people in that community in a way I've never gotten to know a community before.

Caring for the vulnerable

Again, I am far from the United States in my current position of community services officer for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees mission in the North Caucasus. I work with two distinct refugee groups: Ossetian refugees who fled in 1991–92 from Georgia and South Ossetia into North Ossetia; and internally displaced

persons (IDPs) who fled Chechnya during the 2000 conflict. Our work involves caring for vulnerable families, selecting beneficiaries for our various shelter projects, and implementing a small grants program targeting the integration of refugees and IDPs into their host communities. On any given day I may be designing training for those who work with elderly refugees, visiting a refugee settlement to interview a survivor of sexual or gender-based violence, or working with a school that wants to create an employment program for refugee teens.

The Heller School gave me the theoretical background and tools I need to do my job well. I often call upon the skills I acquired in my strategic management and organizational behavior courses.

Heller contributed to making me a professional by showing me how to engage with the issues I am passionate about in a way that brings about change.

Fairness, corruption, and human kindness

My work forces me to confront questions of fairness, corruption, human kindness, the aftermath of war, and the role of the U.N. in the world. I am blessed to work with dedicated individuals who come together out of commitment to make the world a better place for people who have lost everything. Our constant challenge is that what we can offer in return does not make up for the enormity of what has been lost. Regardless, I count success in baby steps and survive by reframing and by listening to NPR on the Web.

Thank You, Heller Alumni Donors



Claudia Jacobs '70, director of development, communications, and alumni relations, and Norma DeMattos, assistant director of alumni relations

We are thrilled to announce that we surpassed our goal of raising \$150,000 for a student study lounge in the new Schneider Building that will be called The Heller Alumni Lounge. We are so appreciative of Heller alumni who not only helped us meet this goal, but who also provide critical student support through their generous donations to the Heller Alumni Annual Fund.

For more information about making a gift, please contact the Heller Development Office at 781-736-3808 or visit www.heller.brandeis.edu.

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- * Heller Alumni Association Board Member or Regional Chair
- + Heller Board of Overseers Member

Welcome to Our Newest Alumni

Lead with Your Heart, Graduate Urges

Professor Janet Giele, Stacey Ellender, Ph.D. '05, and Associate Professor Jon Chilingirian



Cara Fuller, 2005 M.B.A. Graduate



Diane Purvin
2005 Ph.D. Graduate

Recently, a group of M.B.A. students and I went to Savannah, Georgia, to do some consulting work for the Mayor, Dr. Otis Johnson, Ph.D. '80, who is an alumnus of Heller. Our trip was the latest in what is known as *The Alternative Spring Break*, student community service projects funded by the Heller Alumni Association. Mayor Johnson is a straight shooter, a “keep-it-real” type of brother, who is highly respected by most.

On the first night of our trip, we had an opportunity to sit in on a town meeting at a local church. The church was packed full of community members, elected officials, and the local news media. The meeting was in response to a recent hike in youth crime in the neighborhood and was organized to answer questions from community members. The Mayor, with the poise of a politician but the sincerity and ability of a Heller graduate, answered every question lobbed his way including one from a brother who challenged the city's response to problems in the community.

The Mayor, who had obviously heard this criticism before, launched into a passionate speech about the need to mitigate structural barriers and improve individual decision-making. The Mayor then said that the most critical challenge for the city of Savannah is despair.

The Mayor did **not** say that the greatest challenge was a lack of revenue, a drug problem, teenage pregnancy, or an inadequate education system, even though these challenges exist in Savannah, but, rather, people in despair. The single mother kicked off of welfare



and forced to find a job is in despair, brothers and sisters returning from prison to find nothing when they get home are in despair, black and brown students who want to go to college but can't get the bullets out of their heads long enough to dream about college are in despair.

The Mayor reminded me, and I am here to remind you, that we must use our heads to find solutions to these problems, but we must lead with our hearts to be healers of despair.

As we leave the familiar for the unfamiliar, it is imperative that we remember that a degree alone means nothing. Schools down the street and throughout the country give out these same three letters – M.B.A. Our job is to transform these letters to mean a Master's in Battling Apathy, a Master's in Building Assets, a Master's in Broadening Access. As leaders, organizers, consultants, grant writers, and healers in this world, we are called to lead with our hearts.

—Excerpted from the 2005 M.B.A. graduation speech by Cara Fuller

Translating Ideas into Persuasive Arguments

Like many students, I came to Heller after working in human services, in my case at a domestic violence shelter. Although I found my work with victims and survivors rewarding, I felt frustrated by my limited ability to influence the policies that affected their lives. I realized that I didn't have all the tools I needed. I believed that social systems could be made much more responsive, and I had what I thought were good ideas, but I didn't know how to choose among competing ideas, or how to translate those ideas into effective and persuasive arguments.

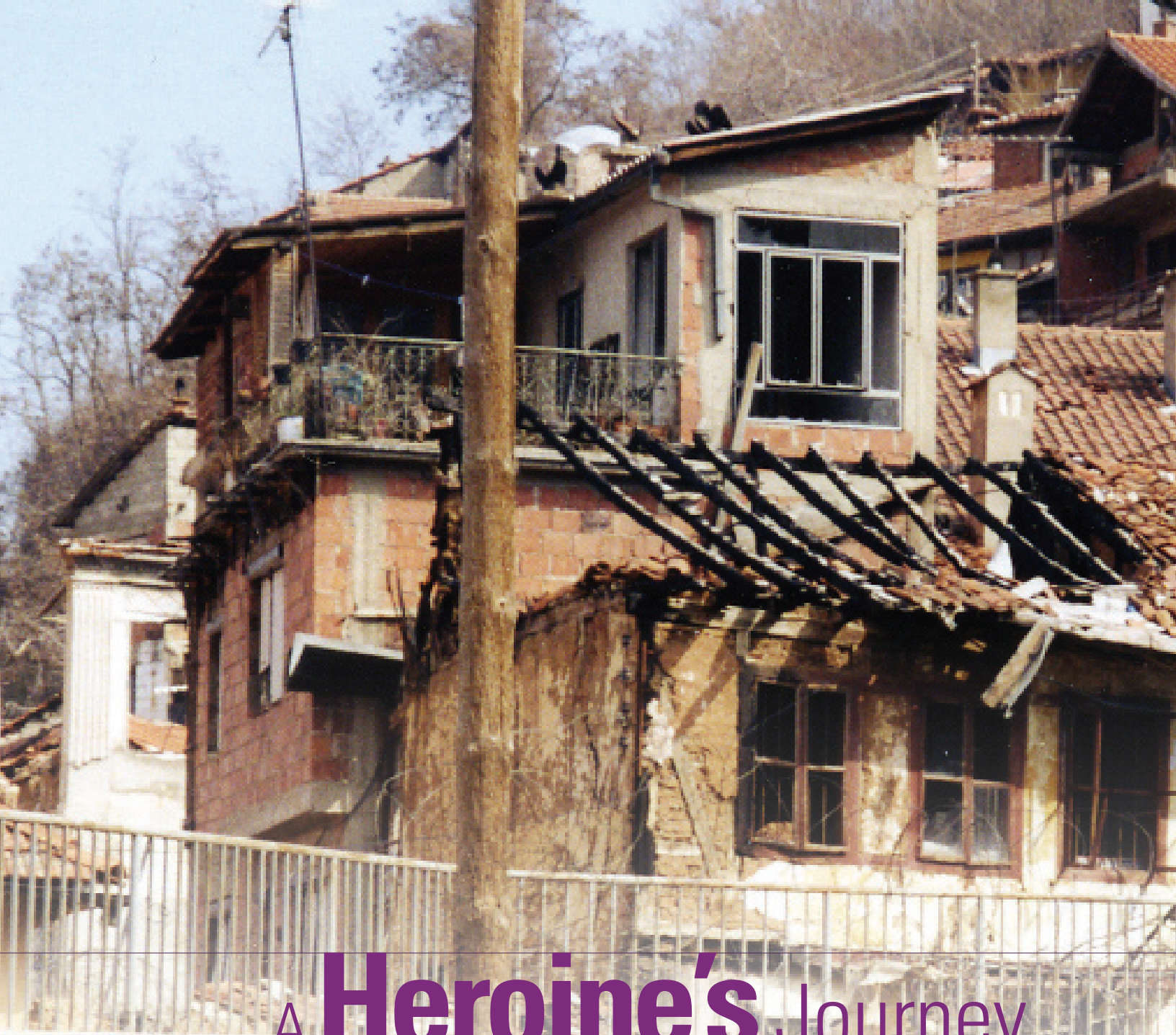
Most doctoral students come to Heller with significant real-world experience, and many bring passionate commitment to social issues and histories of work as activists and advocates. We're attracted to Heller because of its dedication to social justice, its alumni, who are leaders in diverse fields, and its scholarly and professional reputation. We arrive seeking the intellectual space to think theoretically about our work, and to gain the research and policy skills we will need to make greater contributions in our chosen fields. Although we share many values and goals, our specific interests cover the entire spectrum of social policy. This diverse peer community is an incredible source of intellectual, social, and personal support – social capital, if you will.

—Excerpted from the 2005 Ph.D. graduation speech by Diane Purvin



Fellow SID graduates Cynthia Valdes-Galicia, Nubia Perez, and Gustavo Payan

Margaret Cassie, M.A. '05, Agne Kurutyte, M.A. '05, former dean Jack Shonkoff, Xiaoqing Lu, M.A. '05, Ervin Mella, M.A. '05, and Junsuke Suzuki, M.A. '05 enjoy a moment after graduation in May.



A Heroine's Journey



Above: Bombed-out buildings were a common sight when Harriet arrived in Pristina, Kosovo, to counsel school children.

Left: Epstein with one of the children from the children's home in Albania

Right: Modern-day Albania

One thing I've learned is that communities do the best job of raising children. Institutions are lousy places for children. ☺

Harriet Epstein, Ph.D. '95, is on a quest that has taken her to all corners of the world, from teaching juvenile delinquents in Boston's inner city to finding homes for abandoned children in Albania. Epstein has had a clear mission all her life – to work with children and families on education and public and mental health. "One thing I've learned is that communities do the best job of raising children," says Epstein. "Institutions are lousy places for children."

The seeds of Epstein's desire to help vulnerable populations were planted during a childhood spent in Caracas, Venezuela, where she witnessed extreme poverty and where even as a teenager she spent her weekends working with street children. "Growing up seeing children with bellies distended from hunger, sitting bare-bottomed in the street, I realized that I was privileged," says Epstein. At the same time, as the child of parents who lost members of their extended family in the Holocaust, she recognized that, in some ways, she was just as vulnerable. "I'm not at all surprised that I ended up working with survivors of crises."

Working with troubled youth

After graduating from Suffolk University in Boston, Epstein embarked on a 25-year career in the public sector, working with troubled youth on the front line, both managing and developing programs in Boston. Along the way, she encountered new challenges and interests that motivated her to earn more credentials, including a master's degree in special education from Northeastern University and a master's degree in public health from Harvard.

Epstein's work with delinquent girls at the Department of Youth Services reinforced her belief that large institutions are not equipped to meet children's needs and that services should support entire communities. In Mission Hill's Hispanic community, while working at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Epstein addressed people's hesitancy about coming to the mental health center by bringing services directly to the schools. This practice served as a model for school-based mental health services and paved the way for the state-funded School Consultation and Training Program, which delivers clinical services to students in the Boston public schools.

Wanting to understand these issues in a larger social and economic context and drawn by Brandeis professors David Gil, Irv Zola, and Gunnar Dybwad, Epstein enrolled part time at The Heller School in 1980 while still working for state government. "The Heller School had a real commitment to social justice," says Epstein. "The faculty looked at how society could be framed to offer everyone a share."

Helping around the world

Since graduating from Heller, Epstein has worked on public health and child welfare internationally, often in very

challenging environments. She has taught public health to mid-career professionals from the ministry of health in Ghana and worked with Chechen refugee women and land mine survivors in Mozambique. She traveled to Kosovo on three separate occasions, first with the International Rescue Committee the winter after the NATO bombings, when she counseled school children traumatized by the war.

She returned a second time, under the auspices of Doctors of the World, to move children out of a state hospital and into group homes and community residences. Her third stay was as a consultant for World Vision to set up a university-affiliated resource center providing services for families with children with disabilities. "Our goal was to keep children out of the institution and train the families to cope with their health issues so they could remain together," says Epstein.

Epstein's most recent international assignment was in Albania, where she found homes in the community for children in institutionalized care, reuniting a majority with their families of origin or placing them in adoptive families.

"Working internationally can be physically hard," says Epstein. "Often there is no heat or running water. But," she adds, "my childhood in Venezuela prepared me for this. I remember my father boiling water for us to drink. The smells of diesel and kerosene I encountered in Ghana brought back my memories of childhood."

Epstein is on another journey, this time to Azerbaijan. "My whole life so far has been an adventure," says Epstein.



Viewpoints is a regular column in Heller Alumni News and Views featuring alumni responses to current policy and management issues.

Do you think the government should play a bigger role to ensure that safe, effective, and affordable drugs are introduced?

Brooke Harrow, Ph.D. '92
Assistant Professor, U. Mass College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Boston, MA

There is no question that the government role in the pharmaceutical industry is important. We can expect the pharmaceutical industry to behave in its own self interests. This does not necessarily preclude altruistic motives to produce drugs that are safe, effective, and affordable. However, the peculiarities of the market for pharmaceuticals, including the obvious market imperfections and consumer safety issues, require a greater government role. Nevertheless, the government has its own imperfections and with the current administration in particular, its own set of motivating factors that may not necessarily reflect the best interests of consumers.

Jessica Raider, M.M. '98
Clinical Project Manager, Harvard Clinical Research Institute
Boston, MA

I don't think the government needs to play a bigger role per se, but rather a better role. More than safety, I am concerned about the industry's wasted resources spent on "me-too" drugs and the quest for "blockbusters." What concerns me is the amount of money, and relative percentage of operating budgets, spent on pharmaceutical marketing – to consumers, doctors, and policymakers.

Cindy Thomas, Ph.D. '00
Senior Scientist, Schneider Institute for Health Policy, The Heller School, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Pharmaceuticals play a huge role in today's medical care, and have been responsible for improvements in quality of life. We do want to encourage the industry to continue to generate new and more effective medications to further advance treatment options. However, more information is coming out daily that strongly suggests the industry is not always working in the best interests of the public. We should strengthen oversight of the industry through a stronger and more independent FDA, and provide more funding for independent studies that examine the effectiveness of drugs compared to older treatments (not just compared to no drugs) and also independent studies that examine the effectiveness of drugs and how they are used once they are available in the market.



New Jobs, Degrees, Directions

Judy Abbate, Ph.D. '04, is teaching at the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Nursing in Worcester in the graduate entry program for the RN/MS degree as well as the traditional master's program. (Judith.abbate@umassmed.edu)

Medani Bhandari, M.A. '04, is a doctoral student at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Bhandari is also working at the school's environment finance center researching the impact of tourism and off-road driving on national parks in Kenya. He and his wife recently published their second collection of poetry (published in Nepal). (mbhandar@syr.edu)

Malick Ceesay, M.A. '04, is on assignment with the United Nations Human Rights Commission in East Africa.

Denise Comstock, M.M.H.S. '84, is sole proprietor of Strategic Funding Solutions in Indianola, Washington. She provides government grant writing and project development services. (comstockgrants@aol.com)

E. Belle Evans, M.S.W. '73, Ph.D. '76, was promoted to full professor at Rhode Island College and also received the Social Worker of the Year Award in the field of aging from the Rhode Island chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. (eevans@ric.edu)

Rick Goren, M.M.H.S. '96, is general manager of Independence Village, a senior independent living facility in Plymouth, Michigan. (RNG1999@aol.com)

Evan Hochberg, M.M.H.S. '96, has joined Deloitte & Touche to lead their community involvement efforts nationwide. He will work with the partnership to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the firm's philanthropy, volunteerism, pro-bono work, and partnerships/sponsorships.

Richard Isralowitz, Ph.D. '78, has been tapped by U.S. government agencies to help identify drug and alcohol problems faced by immigrants to the United States from the former Soviet Union. Isralowitz, a professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, has spent the last decade promoting research on substance abuse, with a focus on immigrant populations in Israel, and was the first Israeli to receive the Distinguished International Scientist Award from the U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (Richard@bgumail.bgu.ac.il)



Chinelo Ezenduka, M.A. '05, and Professor David Gil cut a rug at the SID graduation dinner.

Armand Lauffer, Ph.D. '69, consults with a number of Israeli foundations on issues pertaining to training and community development. He is also working on his 21st book, scheduled for publication in 2006, about applying social theory to understanding nonprofit organizations. Lauffer is professor emeritus of the University of Michigan School of Social work. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and recently became a great-grandfather. (alauffer@umich.edu)

Suchitra Mumford, M.A. '02, is a project manager for the WorldTies Foundation, a sister organization of TheTies Program, a travel program for adoptive families visiting their child's country of birth. The Foundation provides assistance to orphanages, maternity homes, and child care agencies around the world, and Mumford helps identify and fulfill needs in the ten countries where families in the program travel. (suchitrab30@hotmail.com)

Deb Mutschler, M.B.A. '05, is executive director of the Massachusetts Workforce Alliance (MWA). (Deborah@massworkforcealliance.com)

Matt Neuman, M.S. '05, is a research associate with the Schneider Institute at The Heller School. (neuman@brandeis.edu)

Assel Nussupova, M.A. '05, is director of corporate development at the National Innovation Fund of Kazakhstan, which seeks to drive sustainable economic growth in Kazakhstan through innovation.

Emilie Parry, M.A. '03, is deputy director for humanitarian response at Oxfam America.

Gustavo Payan, M.A. '05, is working for the Education Development Center in Newton, an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing learning, promoting health, and fostering a deeper understanding of the world. (gpayan@edc.org)

Amy Penfold, M.A. '05, is an advocacy assistant at Pathfinder International, a nonprofit that supports high quality family planning and reproductive health services to improve the lives of women, men, and children

throughout the developing world. (apenfold@pathfind.org)

Deborah Kaplan Polivy, M.S.W. '72, Ph.D. '78, is an independent fundraising consultant and is currently raising funds for a documentary film, "The First Basket," that explores the interconnections between the growth of professional basketball and the American Jewish experience. The title of the film refers to the first basket of the first game in what would become the NBA, scored by Ossie Schectman, a Jewish player on the New York Knickerbockers. (debpol@aol.com)

Michael Tauber, M.M.H.S. '94, was named a partner at the law firm Hinkley, Allen & Snyder LLP, where he practices health law in its Boston and Providence offices. (mtauber@haslaw.com)

Lisa Wang, Ph.D. '91, was promoted to full professor at National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan. (sowkyw@ccunix.ccu.edu.tw)

Publications

Larry Brown, Ph.D. '71, co-authored with Tom Shapiro and Robert Kuttner "How to Build a Real Ownership Society." The monograph assesses how specific federal policies transformed the nation from a land of

largely poor people into a thriving middle class today and maintains that the way to end poverty and promote widespread financial security is by expanding these policies rather than focusing on greater privatization and individual risk.

Awards, Honors, Fellowships, Boards, Grants

Katharine Gustafson Byers, M.S.W. '71, along with two colleagues, received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Social Workers (Indiana Chapter) for her leadership in initiating and organizing Social Workers LEAD (Legislative Education and Advocacy Day) for the past six years. This spring's LEAD event brought 550 students, faculty, and practitioners together at the State House to speak out on a variety of issues, including child welfare legislation to increase the number of caseworkers and a proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Byers is the program director for the B.S.W. program at Indiana University at Bloomington. (kvbyers@indiana.edu)

Betty Jane Cleckley, Ph.D. '74, received the Distinguished Alumna Award from Marquette University for her outstanding professional achievement and service. Cleckley is vice president for multicultural affairs at Marshall University. (cleckley@marshall.edu)



A group of M.B.A. students (now alumni) traveled to Savannah, Georgia, to work with Heller alumna, Mayor Otis Johnson, Ph.D. '80, on several community service projects. The third annual Alternative Spring Break undertaken by Heller students during their spring vacation is funded by a grant from the Heller Alumni Annual Fund.

Stacey Ellender, Ph.D. '05, was awarded a fellowship in medial ethics at Harvard Medical School for 2005–06. (ellender@comcast.net)

Kay Glasser, Ph.D. '67, has been very active for the past 20 years with The Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center, which offers rent-free office space for 17 nonprofit organizations providing prevention and treatment services for underserved individuals and families in the Sarasota, Florida, area. Glasser founded the Center by initiating an alliance between public and private philanthropies and a consortium of financial institutions to raise the money to build the 13-building campus. Glasser was recognized for her efforts by the University of South Florida, which awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2004.

Otis Johnson, Ph.D. '80, was named the 2005 Public Elected Official of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. Johnson, the mayor of Savannah, was honored for his dedication to highlighting and remedying social issues important to the City of Savannah. Johnson also received The Heller School Alumni Service Award for his support of the School, including hosting a group of Heller students who completed a week of community service in Savannah this spring and

traveling to Waltham to introduce one of the keynote speakers at Heller's 45th Anniversary.

David Segal '78, M.M.H.S. '83, was elected to the board of Community Health Charities of Massachusetts in May. (dave_segal@harvardpilgrim.org)

Lisa Cacari Stone, Ph.D. '04, received an H. Jack Geiger fellowship in health policy from the Center for the Advancement of Health. This new program, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, places scholars in congressional offices; Stone will work in Senator Kennedy's office.

Joan Wallace-Benjamin, Ph.D. '80, was awarded an honorary degree from Newbury College in Brookline, Massachusetts in May, 2005. She also received a 2005 Pinnacle Award from the Boston Chamber of Commerce for achievement in management (nonprofit). (See the feature article about Joan on page 4.)

Steve Wisensale, Ph.D. '83, professor of public policy in the School of Family Studies at the University of Connecticut, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in the Czech Republic for the spring 2006 term. He will focus on comparative family policy



Jerry Avorn, M.D., professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, and **Kenneth Kaitin, Ph.D.**, director of the Tufts Center of Drug Development, were the speakers at the Zinner Debate, which was moderated by **Stuart Altman, Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy and interim dean of The Heller School**.

and aging societies. In 2003 Wisensale completed a Fulbright in Germany. (steven.wisensale@uconn.edu)

Births/Marriages

Brenna Pradell-Boyd, M.M.H.S. '98, and her husband Jerry welcomed a son, Zachary Nelson, on March 28, 2005.

Nancy Weisberger Schachter, M.M.H.S. '96, and husband Rob welcomed a daughter, Ella Madelyn, on February 23, 2005. Schachter is the director of annual giving and community relations at the Rashi School in Newton, Massachusetts. (nschachter@comcast.net)

David Segal '78, M.M.H.S. '83, married Wendy Jagolinzer in October 2004.

Trilby Smith, M.M. '98, and husband Jay Eidelman welcomed a son, Rafael Hanan Smith-Eidelman, on April 1, 2005. (trilbyds@yahoo.com)

Erin Yale, M.M. '98, welcomed a daughter, Abigail Fayre Horwitz, in March. Erin is the administrative director for the Cardiovascular Institute at Northwestern. (EYale@nmff.org)

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

Faculty/Staff Notes

Stuart Altman, Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy and interim dean of The Heller School, was the subject of an article in *Modern Healthcare* featuring profiles of high-powered board members. Altman serves on the board of Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston and was quoted extensively in the article, which refers to him as “an industry insider who has helped shape America’s healthcare policy for more than three decades” and equates his reputation in health care to that of Jack Welch’s in the world of big business.

Susan Curnan, director of the Center for Youth and Communities, has been appointed to the National Research Council for America’s Promise—the Alliance for Youth, a broad-based alliance whose members work together to ensure that every child has access to the five elements essential to success: caring adults; safe places to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others. The Center of Youth and Communities is also working in partnership with representatives from

the Waltham community to serve the immigrant population in the areas of education, organizational capacity building, and community development.

Mike Doonan, Ph.D. ’02, associate professor, is the new executive director of the Council of Health Care Economics and Policy and continues as the executive director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, both located at The Heller School.

Steve Fournier, assistant professor, received the 2005 Heller Teaching Award. Recipients are nominated by students and chosen by a committee of faculty, staff, and students.

David Gil, professor, published an essay entitled “Perspectives on Social Justice” in the Fall 2004 issue of *Reflections* (and a Spanish translation of the article was published in *Revista De Estudios Fronterizos*). Gil’s book *Confronting Injustice and Oppression* has been translated into German. Gil received the 2005 Heller Mentoring Award and was voted this honor by Heller students, faculty, and staff.

Anita Hill, professor, was one of 12 artists, writers, and scholars awarded a fellowship from the Fletcher Foundation for work that improves race relations and illuminates civil rights issues.

Connie Horgan, professor and director of the Center for Behavioral Health, is the principal investigator for several research projects being undertaken by the Brandeis/Harvard Center on Managed Care and Drug Abuse, a collaboration between the Schneider Institute’s Center for Behavioral Health and Harvard Medical School’s Department of Health Care Policy. The Brandeis/Harvard Center was awarded a \$6.3 million dollar grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to improve drug abuse treatment services for managed care patients.

Robert Morris, professor emeritus at The Heller School, passed away in Baltimore on October 14, 2005. A memorial service will be hosted by The Heller School on the Brandeis campus (for more information, email cjacobs@brandeis.edu). Professor Morris had a profound influence on long-term-care policies and services for the elderly.

Jack Shonkoff, Samuel F. and Rose B. Gingold Professor of Human Development and Social Policy and Chair of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, was elected to the Board of Directors of The Home for Little Wanderers, the oldest child welfare agency in the nation and the largest in New England. (For more on The Home, see profile on Joan Wallace-Benjamin, page 4.)

Correction

In the Spring 2005 issue we misquoted Archie Smith, M.S.W. ’71, Ph.D. ’73, referring to Eugene Debs as an African American. Eugene Debs was in fact a white man and Archie Smith had referred to him as “a friend of the black man and all working men.” In the same article, Gunnar and Rosemary Dybwad were erroneously mentioned as being Jewish.

We recently asked Heller faculty member Robert Reich his thoughts on the debate surrounding social security reform. Here is what he had to say.



Robert Reich, Maurice B. Hexter Professor of Social and Economic Policy

News & Views: *Why do you think President Bush continues to try to sell his Social Security plan despite clear opposition from many directions?*

Reich: Social Security needs a bit of fixing but not the draconian remedy Bush is proposing, which would actually weaken the program. The only reason I can imagine for continuing to sell it is to divert public attention from the huge problem of Medicare, which is sinking fast. Part of the reason Medicare is in such trouble, of course, is Bush's Medicare drug benefit, which prohibits Medicare from using its bargaining power over pharmaceutical companies to negotiate low drug prices. In other words, a blatant form of corporate welfare. Rather than expose all this, the White House wants to focus attention on Social Security.

News & Views: *Why won't President Bush's "fix" of diverting funds from government oversight and putting a portion into private investment work for the Social Security System?*

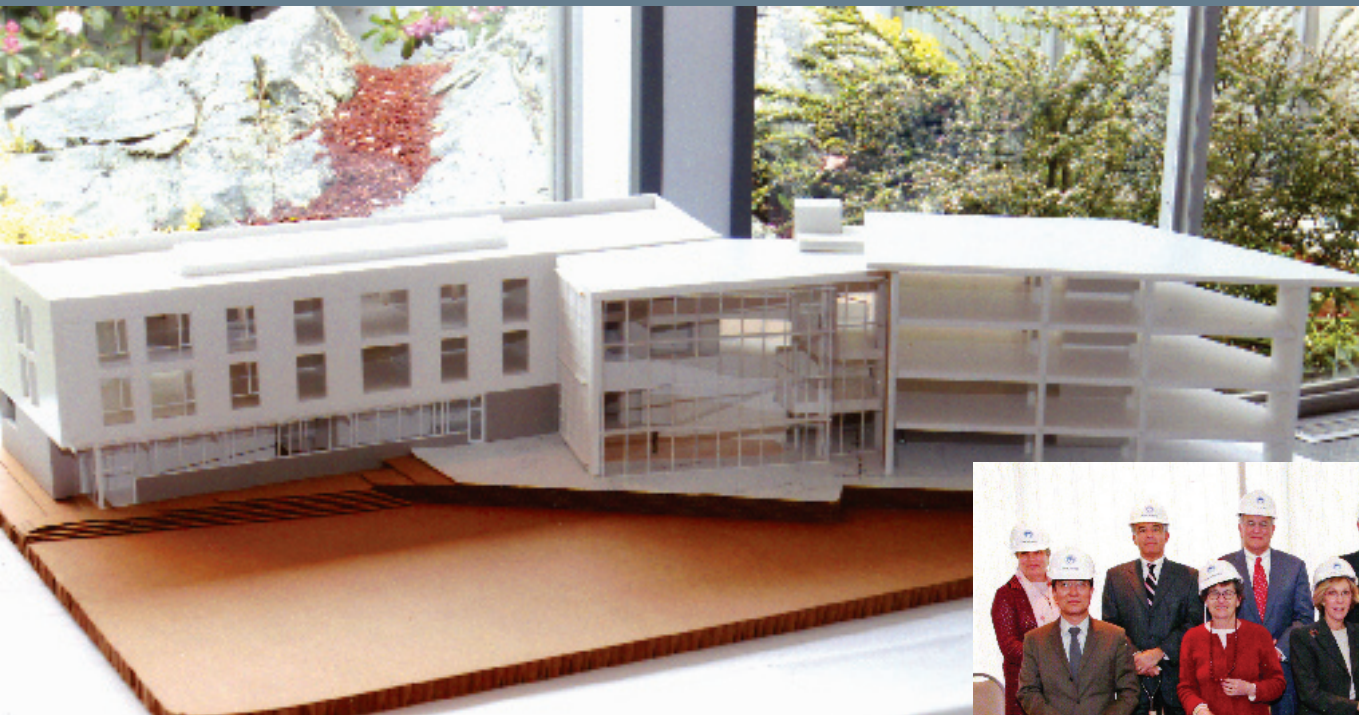
Reich: You can't get more money into the Social Security trust fund by letting younger workers divert hundreds of billions of dollars out of Social Security into private accounts. It's just common sense. Look, it's not even clear that Social Security needs much fixing anyway. If you assume that the American economy grows by 3 percent a year on average over the next 75 years--and that's been the average rate of growth for the last 150 years, even with the great depression thrown in--then we've got enough growth to keep Social Security solvent.

News & Views: *Is Social Security what taxpayers should be worried about or are there more pressing issues?*

Reich: Taxpayers should worry about Medicare, which will be in huge trouble in a relatively short time. They should also worry about how much we're spending on the military, and how little we're getting for it. And while they're at it, they might well worry about the budget deficit, which, when and if the Bush tax cuts become permanent, will only grow larger. But as to Social Security, there's very little reason to worry.

News & Views: *What kind of assistance can retirees, the elderly, and the poor expect from the government in the future? Will Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid be available in the foreseeable future?*

Reich: Social Security will be there. Medicare will be there, too, but probably not in its present form. It's simply too expensive. Medicaid -- the poor stepchild of Medicare -- is already being whittled away, in large part because it has no strong political support. It's a program for the poor, and, as such, is highly vulnerable to state and federal budget cuts.



Architect's model of the rear view of the Schneider Building
At right, lead donors and dignitaries take shovels in hand at the Schneider Building groundbreaking in May

Heller Alumni

News and Views

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