Special Issue on Disabilities

SAVE THE DATE

The Heller School’s 50th Anniversary Celebration

Shaping the Future of Social Justice: The Heller Challenge

Friday evening, October 16, 2009, through Sunday afternoon, October 18, 2009

With a special event to honor Professor David Gil

Please join us as we celebrate fifty years of knowledge advancing social justice.
The Heller community is excited to welcome Lisa M. Lynch as dean of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management beginning July 1, 2008.

Lynch most recently was the William L. Clayton Professor of International Economic Affairs at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She is also chair of the board of directors of the Boston Federal Reserve Bank, chair of the American Economic Association’s Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, a member of the executive board of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, the Economic Policy Institute, and IZA in Bonn, Germany. Lynch was recently named to the Council of Economic Advisers, a nonpartisan group advising Governor Deval Patrick on matters related to economic development in Massachusetts.

At Tufts, Lynch served as academic dean from 2001 to 2004. From 1995 to 1997, she was the chief economist at the U.S. Department of Labor. Lynch has held faculty positions at MIT, Ohio State University, and the University of Bristol. A graduate of Wellesley College, Lynch completed her master’s and doctoral work at the London School of Economics.

Our sincere thanks to the following alumni, faculty, and friends who answered the call when Provost Marty Krauss, PhD’81, led the effort to name the elevator in the new Schneider building in honor of Gunnar and Rosemary Dybwad. Having a fully accessible home for the Heller School would have meant so much to Gunnar and Rosemary. This is a wonderful tribute to the Dybwads, who are true Heller icons and were champions for the rights of people with disabilities.

Stuart Altman*
G. Lawrence Atkins, PhD’85
Lawrence N. Ballis*
Susan and William J. Bell
Christine E. Bishop*
Jerry F. Boren
Jon A. Chilingerian*
Susan P. Curnan*
Peter J. Dybwad
Donald N. ’69 and Ruth Israelite Freedman ’69, PhD’82
Barry L. Friedman*
Deborah W. Garnick*
David G. Gil*
Jody Hoffer Gittell*
Thomas P. Glynn, MSW’72, PhD’77
Andrew Barry Hahn, PhD’78*
Evelyn Bullitt Hausslein, MMHS’84
Constance Kane, PhD’85 and Thomas Higgins
Constance M. Horgan*
Lorraine V. Kierman*
Marty Wyngaarden Krauss, PhD’81
Walter N. Leutz, PhD’81*
Phyllis Halevy Mutschler, PhD’85
Susan and John Nadworny
Sun Sook Park, PhD’01
Donald S. Shepard*
Jack P. Shonkoff
Patricia and David F. Squire
Deborah A. Stone

* Faculty
As with many things in life, timing was everything for Jean McGuire, PhD’96.

“I was too late for the second wave of feminism, and I missed the earlier mobilization around race,” McGuire says. “Disabilities became my civil rights movement.”

McGuire, assistant secretary for disability, policy, and programs in Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick’s administration, is a lifelong advocate for people who are disenfranchised. Even as a young girl she became a reader for a blind lawyer and earned a Girl Scout badge by volunteering in a chronic-illness clinic. In her wide-ranging career, she has taught adolescents with moderate to severe mental retardation; lobbied on behalf of people with AIDS; consulted in the fields of substance abuse and geriatric care; and taught health services and public policy at several universities. In all of these jobs, her tireless advocacy for better treatment and services for those who often need it the most.

In the highest state position in the country focusing on disabilities, McGuire manages more than $2 billion in services and programs that cover disabled people from “womb to tomb.” McGuire is committed to improving health, housing, education, and employment for people with disabilities by tackling issues such as preventing disability and providing long-term care.

McGuire operates at the top of a huge organization, directly overseeing the Department of Mental Retardation, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Chelsea Soldiers’ Home, and the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home. She is also responsible for guiding all disability policy development with other departments within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the departments of Public Health and Mental Health.

Ending a five-year stint as an assistant commissioner for the Department of Public Health’s HIV/AIDS bureau in 2003, McGuire did not plan to return to state government. But while teaching at Northeastern University’s Bouvé College of Health Sciences, she worked on Patrick’s 2007 gubernatorial campaign and became very excited about his candidacy. That enthusiasm, coupled with her admiration for Secretary of Health and Human Services JudyAnn Bigby, lured her back to public service.

McGuire faces unique challenges in her role, in part due to the success of medicine and technology in keeping people with disabilities alive. “While it’s great that people are living longer and “preemies” are surviving at lower and lower birth weights, the health- and care-giving challenges are enormous,” says McGuire. “We now regularly see people with Down syndrome who have early onset Alzheimer’s in their forties, and premature infants who have lifelong major health issues.”

Her goals are no less ambitious than her challenges are formidable. Long an advocate for deinstitutionalization and community-based services, McGuire is focused on ways to empower people with disabilities through self-determination and choice. “We need a better answer for the plumber for whom the state is paying $80,000 to keep his wife with MS in a nursing home, when for $25,000 he could hire someone to take care of her at home,” she says.

McGuire talks proudly of attending an award ceremony for an eighty-nine-year-old man who spent seventy years in an institution and now lives on his own.

McGuire also wants to help underserved populations, particularly the two thousand severely impaired young adults a year who are no longer served by the education system once they turn twenty-two. Drawing on skills she developed at Heller, McGuire is spearheading an initiative to share data between her office and the Department of Education, measuring the long-term outcomes for children who receive early intervention.

McGuire would also like to focus her energies on work-force development for personal-care attendants, whose numbers have quadrupled in recent years. “This is a great profession; it is life-enhancing and rewarding to help people with disabilities, but people are discouraged from becoming direct-care providers because the work is so underpaid and undervalued,” says McGuire.

McGuire foresees a revolution coming in the area of disabilities, in part fueled by parents with greater expectations for their children. “The entire nature of care-giving is changing,” she says. “Aging demographics are shifting, people will no longer be warehoused in nursing homes, and they will work longer.” And McGuire is ready to help make it all happen.
If you Google the name Gerben DeJong, PhD’81, you will find countless references to a groundbreaking paper DeJong wrote as a Heller student three decades ago. Although he came to Heller with two master’s degrees and an interest in public finance, DeJong took a decidedly different path once he arrived at Brandeis.

Chalk it up to intellectual curiosity and a vibrant academic community. “Heller gave me the intellectual freedom and latitude to explore areas I otherwise wouldn’t have,” says DeJong.

The new direction was forged when Heller faculty member Alan Sager invited DeJong to work on a project for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission on personal assistance services. DeJong’s research culminated in a published paper on the movement for independent living and laid the foundation for him to become the leading academic voice for this movement during its adolescence in the 1970s and early ’80s, both here and abroad. His paper has been published in seven languages and remains seminal: as recently as February 2007, DeJong was invited to speak in New Zealand on the strength of the article he wrote thirty years ago.

“The paper gave the independent living movement the academic voice it had been missing,” says DeJong. And so began a long and illustrious career in disability and health services research.

The independent living movement resonated with DeJong for reasons he did not fully understand at the time, he says. In hindsight, DeJong attributes it to his own personal history as an immigrant from postwar Holland before ethnic pride and multiculturalism came in vogue in the 1960s. He sensed how it felt to be devalued because of personal differences.

“I saw a similar situation in disability rights,” says DeJong. “People with disabilities were fed up with their second-class status. They wanted validation. They wanted affirmation of their full citizenship in American life.” In a way, says DeJong, “providing an academic voice gave the movement in its early years a source of academic legitimacy that individuals with disabilities felt had been missing.”

These days, thirty years later, DeJong is turning his research skills toward the field of post–acute care. He is a senior fellow at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Washington, D.C., where he was a founding director of NRH’s Center for Health & Disability Research. He now directs the Center for Post-Acute Studies, established in 2006 to respond to the rapid growth and changes in post–acute care.

“During the last twenty years, post–acute care has been one of the fastest growing segments of American health care, but research capacity in this area has not kept pace,” says DeJong.

DeJong serves as principal investigator on six of the center’s research projects. One study is examining outcomes for patients who have had hip or knee replacement, identifying the types of patients who are best served in various types of post-acute facilities. With the number of joint replacements doubling to 800,000 from 1993 to 2005, research in this area is critical.

Other research at the center is evaluating disparities in stroke care and best practices for stroke survivors. “We are finding that the old adage, ‘You have to crawl before you can walk’ is not a good model for adults recovering from strokes,” says DeJong. The study’s findings have shown that low-functioning patients who spend more time doing higher-level therapy activities right at the start of their rehabilitation are more likely to get back on their feet sooner and back into the community.

DeJong has earned high accolades, including the Gold Key Award, which is the highest honor given by the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, an eighty-four-year-old organization devoted to research and evidence-based practice. This past year he served as its president and continues to serve on its board of governors. DeJong also has a quarter-inch thick curriculum vitae, listing more than two hundred papers he has published, hundreds of presentations, and dozens of committees on which he has served and chaired.

But DeJong is not one to rest on his laurels. “People with disabilities still lag behind in employment and access to health care,” he says. “The preeminent professional society for health-services researchers and health-policy analysts doesn’t view individuals with disabilities as distinct users of health care, but at 12 to 14 percent of the population, they account for 48 percent of all health-care expenditures. If you can make the health-care system work for those with the highest risk, it’s a good bet that it will work better for everyone else as well.”
Some people choose careers for material rewards, others for the recognition or power they hope to gain. Susan Foley, PhD’99, chose her life’s work in disability policy—or perhaps it chose her—to help remedy deep injustice.

Powerful Personal Experience
Several personal experiences made an impression on Foley that encouraged her interest in advocating for people with disabilities.

The oldest of four growing up in Latham, New York, Foley first became aware of conditions in state hospitals and institutions through her father, a state-employed structural engineer. His safety inspections of state mental hospitals revealed troubling conditions, such as unsupervised people wandering naked through the halls. She was not aware of his work until he spoke about it while she was an undergrad at Bates College. His descriptions moved Foley, who took such stories to heart.

Also while at Bates, as a member of the college’s modern-dance team, Foley volunteered to teach dance at a Lewiston, Maine, group home, unaware of what would follow. When she arrived at the level-three skilled nursing home, nurses brought in twenty people—of all ages, many without limbs, and all with significant disabilities—and left her alone with her class. She turned on her boom box not knowing what to expect. When a disabled patient named Henry was wheeled into the room in his hospital bed, his head and torso of similar size, his enjoyment of the music and the class was immediate and genuine. Foley was hooked, staying for two years as the “dance” teacher.

Interest Fueled
Foley finished her junior year at Bates with a live-in internship at a large state hospital that dated back to the 1800s.

“Imagine One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” she recounts, referring to the famous novel by Ken Kesey that depicts deplorable conditions at a mental hospital. Foley says she was deeply affected by the plight of the patients in the hospital as she saw it through their eyes.

After graduation, Foley was hired as the recreational coordinator in a group home in Portland, Maine. She began her job at a time when the philosophy of normalization for people with disabilities was gaining a wide following. At the group home, the blunt impact of this philosophy was reflected in one case she can’t forget.

A twenty-two-year-old resident named Grace, whose mother visited only occasionally, cherished the stuffed animals her mother brought her on these visits, proudly displaying the toys on her bed. But the director, an advocate of normalization, took away Grace’s treasured animals, deeming them not age appropriate. Foley was deeply affected by Grace’s broken heart.

Meeting Gunnar Dybwad
Ultimately, a trip to a Madison, Wisconsin, conference three years later distilled and crystallized Foley’s ambitions. She met the late Gunnar Dybwad, a Heller professor and champion for the rights of people with disabilities, who spoke at the conference. She connected with his words because they illustrated what she had been trying to articulate for years. Says Foley, recounting Dybwad’s talk that day: “It’s about a person, not a philosophy; throw doctrine out and look at what the person is telling you. If it helps someone, fight for it; if it doesn’t help, fight against it.”

Three years later, inspired by Dybwad, Foley entered the doctoral program at Heller. “The academic leaders in disability motivated me and altered how I thought about things,” she says, emphasizing that important lessons came from Professor Marty Krauss, PhD’81, “who always asked me to ‘write the New York Times headline’ for any given issue. It is a brilliant way of forcing a clear focus on what is the most critical element.”

Building Capacity
Foley has now worked for ten years with the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), based at the University of Massachusetts–Boston and Children’s Hospital Boston as a research director in an extremely competitive grant environment. She is a principal investigator on multiple projects and is involved in the work of about fifteen other ICI projects herself. She is most proud of her role in building the capacity of people, organizations, and groups to manage their own issues in a way that empowers people to reach their community. Two recent projects focus on disability issues in immigrant populations.

Recently, she began work on the Twa Zanmi project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Benton Foundation as part of their New Routes to Community Health initiative. The Twa Zanmi project includes ICI, the Haitian American Public Health Initiative, and Camera Mosaique to develop a six-episode telenovela (soap opera) for the Haitian community aimed at destigmatizing depression and anxiety. Foley relishes the fact that the series will involve local community members, who will also write the script in Haitian Creole.

Both experience and influence brought Foley to Heller, and her education has inspired and enabled her pursuit toward creating a more inclusive world. Says Foley: “When I tell people I studied disability policy at Heller, I immediately earn their respect.”
Both of us enrolled in the doctoral program at the Heller School during the heyday of developmental disabilities policy research. At that time, Professor Gunnar Dybwad and his wife, Rosemary, were the linchpins of a federally funded training grant that supported students and that gave them a platform for bringing to the campus world leaders in disabilities studies. It was a very rich environment for learning about current policy and research issues and about advocacy enterprises domestically and internationally. We were part of a revolution: in the scientific study of developmental disabilities, in the efforts to expand community-based services, and in the focus on families as a dominant provider of care.

For more than twenty years we have been research collaborators as well as close friends. Our Heller roots were expanded after we both finished our doctoral studies and assumed new faculty positions—Marsha first at Boston University and subsequently at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and Marty steadfastly at Brandeis throughout her career. We codirected the longest-running study of older families of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) ever conducted in this country. Funded generously by the National Institute on Aging and by several private foundations, we sought to understand an underresearched phenomenon—namely, that family-based care is the most common form of care for individuals with IDD, and that virtually nothing was known about the impacts on families with respect to their physical, psychological, and social well-being associated with their long-term care-giving responsibilities. Indeed, it is estimated that a full 85 percent of persons with IDD live with their families, many for their entire lives. Most policy studies at the time we began this research were focused on community-based service providers and did not acknowledge that families were, indeed, the more prevalent “providers” of long-term care. Because little was known about the course of intrafamilial change and development over the full life course for families with a child with IDD, there was a need to extend the focus of research on the family impact of such a child through the adulthood and old age of both the parents and the child with the disability. In addition, little was known about how individuals with IDD who lived in noninstitutional settings adapted to their own aging, and thus our research provided new data about the natural course of IDD.

Our Heller education provided us with several important tools in our research. First, we had learned that one should utilize various conceptual frameworks from multiple disciplinary fields in order to fully contextualize the research topic. So, we studied and incorporated conceptual ideas from the fields of gerontology (especially theories about successful aging), family systems (especially theories about family development), social ecology (especially theories about human development within social structures), and developmental psychology (especially theories about individual adaptation to stressful events).

Our research sought to answer the following questions: How well do families adapt to the challenges of lifelong care-giving? Why do some families adapt more positively to the challenges of lifelong care-giving than others? What factors—demographic, social, psychological, economic—explain variations in family well-being? What we learned from our longitudinal study of more than 460 older families of adults with IDD surprised us. We found that, contrary to our initial hypotheses, older mothers of adults with IDD had similar levels of life satisfaction, equally large social support networks, no greater levels of depression, and comparable levels of positive health status than older women who were not caregivers. And, we found that there were three primary factors associated with these aspects of “successful aging”: use of problem-focused coping strategies (as opposed to emotion-focused strategies), maintaining multiple roles, and cultivating a large and diverse social support network.

Because our study spanned a ten-year period and included eight rounds of data collection from this cohort, we also were able to examine changes over time in parental well-being and in the factors associated with the wrenching decision for families to transition their son or daughter with mental retardation to a community-based residence. We found that having a son or daughter who had significant behavior problems or major health issues was associated with poorer outcomes for the parent. These same factors, along with poor health of the mother, were associated with decisions to seek a community-based residence.

The opportunity to investigate the implications of family-based care for adults with IDD, and to translate our findings into implications for policymakers, service providers, and family advocacy organizations, has been deeply gratifying for us. Along with other researchers—many also trained at the Heller School—we have charted new research arenas, debunked commonly held perceptions about the “burden on the family” of having a child with a disability, and reframed public-policy imperatives to support, not supplant, the family.
Marji Erickson Warfield is the interim director of the Starr Center for Mental Retardation at the Heller School. Her research focuses on the development of children with disabilities and the impact of parenting a child with a disability on work and family roles, as well as the evaluation of early childhood programs. Warfield was recently sworn in as a member of the Department of Mental Retardation Statewide Advisory Council.

**Focus: Marji Erickson Warfield, PhD’91**

Marji Erickson Warfield is the interim director of the Starr Center for Mental Retardation at the Heller School. Her research focuses on the development of children with disabilities and the impact of parenting a child with a disability on work and family roles, as well as the evaluation of early childhood programs. Warfield was recently sworn in as a member of the Department of Mental Retardation Statewide Advisory Council.

**Were there personal experiences that led you to an interest in social justice?**

Two events from my childhood made me aware that people live dramatically different lives than what I typically saw around me. When I was seven or eight I befriended a girl from New Haven, Connecticut, who had been bussed to my suburban school. At my birthday party, she pulled me aside as she held out her clenched fist. She had no gift for me but she was offering what she did have—a nickel.

Also, I was a tomboy in preschool. I always ran around with a group of boys, one of whom had muscular dystrophy. To our young eyes he simply “ran funny,” but by the time he was in high school he was in a wheelchair. Seeing his decline from being one of the boys roughhousing in the playground to someone confined to a wheelchair had an impact.

**Can you describe some Heller connections that are important to you?**

I worked at a nonprofit research organization evaluating work and training programs, and I kept coming across references to Heller. I decided to apply. As an undergraduate at Brown I had completed a thesis on kids with Down syndrome, and it was this work that caused Professor Marty Krauss, an admissions committee member at the time, to pull my application out of the pile and contact me. I came to Heller on a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) training grant in mental retardation and worked on a project funded by the Development Disabilities Council looking at services for people over age forty with disabilities.

While still a graduate student at Heller, I worked on the Early Intervention Collaborative Study (EICS) that former Heller dean Jack Shonkoff, then at UMass Medical School, started, and wrote my dissertation based on this work. After I graduated, Jack eventually brought me on board at UMass Medical, where, for the next ten years, I continued to work on the EICS project. When Marty Krauss became provost at Brandeis in 2003, she recruited me to take over one of her research projects at Heller, and Jack was dean at the time. I’ve been at Heller ever since, at the Starr Center and as co-principal investigator of EICS.

**Why is the Early Intervention Collaborative Study considered groundbreaking?**

EICS is following a cohort of two hundred children with developmental disabilities who were enrolled in early-intervention programs as infants or toddlers. Now these kids are in their early twenties, making this the longest-running study in the country of children with early special needs and their families. The study is unique in that it looks at developmental disabilities more from a typical child development perspective with a focus on family context and less on the school environment. We have had a family advisory board from the beginning of the study and have recently added a teen/young adult advisory board. They keep us focused on what is important to study from their perspective, which has really enriched our work.

**What are the challenges in the field of disabilities?**

Once children are out of the education system at age twenty-two, then what? Services are no longer provided by mandate and are at the whim of available funding. Transition issues—housing, employment, and education after age twenty-two—loom large for individuals and families.

On another front, more kids with emotional and/or social problems are getting kicked out of child-care centers. Kids are struggling to control their behavior, so mental health-care workers are being brought in to train providers. I am working with the Worcester public schools to evaluate their school-wide system of positive behavior supports.

I am also working on two studies that grew out of Jack Shonkoff’s book, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods*, both of which focus on building stronger links between developmentally vulnerable young children and early intervention (EI) services. One study is a follow-up to the Massachusetts Early Childhood Link-Age Initiative (MECLI) and investigates how well young children in substantiated cases of abuse and neglect, who have connected with EI, fare over the long term. The second project works with substance-exposed newborns and involves a family-support specialist who helps the mothers get treatment and the babies get into EI. Both projects involve working directly with policymakers at the Massachusetts Department of Social Services and Department of Public Health.

**What impact will the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy have at the Heller School?**

There is a long, rich history of disability research at Heller. The Lurie Institute will build better links between research and policy and examine how research can inform policy debates. Having resources to attract and support students with an interest in disabilities and the wherewithal to go after more funding will make Heller a force again in the field of disabilities.
New Jobs/Degrees/Directions

Laura Alpert ‘96, MM’98, was promoted from director of communications to vice president of communications at Northeast Parent and Child Society in Schenectady, New York (lbalpert@yahoo.com).

Reginald Avery, PhD’80, is president of Coppin State University in Baltimore.

Ed Bourque, MA’00, is writing his doctoral thesis at King’s College in London (edbourque@hotmail.com).

Anne Brisson, PhD’99, is director of operations for the Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia and associate research scientist at the Columbia University School of Social Work. The center is funded by the National Institutes of Health to research HIV/sexually transmitted infection prevention in the region (annebrisson@yahoo.com).

Pashupati Chaudhary, MA’04, is a doctoral candidate in environmental biology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston (pashupatic@hotmail.com).

Lobsang Dawa, MBA’06, heads the research and policy unit of the Department of Finance for the Central Tibetan Administration based in Dharamsala, India (lobsang@alumni.brandeis.edu).

Veronique Dupont, MA’03, is working at Jhpiego, an international nonprofit health organization affiliated with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (vdupont@alumni.brandeis.edu).

Michelle Dworkin, MA’07, was accepted into USAID’s Junior Officer Program. The three-year program includes one year in Washington, D.C., and two years overseas and puts participants on track for a career as a foreign-services officer with USAID (michelledworkin@gmail.com).

Jessica Frank, MA’04, is a program associate at Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm in Washington, D.C. (jessicalfrank@gmail.com).

Mitch Glavin, PhD’01, is an assistant professor of health-care administration at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts (mglavin@stonehill.edu).

Vicki Grant, PhD’92, earned certification in Lean Six Sigma, a business improvement methodology, from the George Group, now a part of Accenture. Grant is a vice president for process improvement at the Southern Institute on Children and Families in Columbia, South Carolina, and works with state and county governments to increase the quality and efficiency in public benefit programs (vgrant@thesoutherninstitute.org).

Lois Horton, PhD’77, retired from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where she had taught since 1979, first in the sociology department and since 2002 in the history department. She will be professor emerita at George Mason and professor of American studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu, where she will be teaching during the spring semesters (lhorton@gmu.edu).

Erin Yale Horwitz, MM’98, is director of clinical development at Children’s Specialty Group, the largest pediatric specialty group practice in the state of Wisconsin (erinyale@yahoo.com).

James Keough, MA’03, joined Booz Allen Hamilton, a management improvement consulting firm, where he works with the organization and strategy team. He is currently working on a project to improve management performance of a supply-chain system delivering HIV/AIDS drugs to Africa (jakeough@gmail.com).

Amanda Kiessel, MA’03, received a PhD in environmental studies from...
the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is a program director at the Sewalanka Foundation, a development organization in Sri Lanka, where she works with another Heller alumna, Kaushalya Navaratne, MA’03 (amanda@sewalanka.org).

Michael H. Levine, PhD’85, is the founding executive director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop. The center, a nonprofit research and production institute, is named for Sesame Street’s founder and explores children’s literacy development in the new digital media age. Levine is also a senior associate at Yale University’s Zigler Center for Child Development and Social Policy (michael.levine@sesameworkshop.org).

Lynne Man, PhD’08, is a community-outreach coordinator for the Pediatric Clinical Research Center at Tufts Medical Center. She is working on adolescent obesity prevention (lman@net1plus.com).

Barbara Mawn, PhD’93, is the interim director of the PhD in nursing program at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (barbara_mawn@uml.edu).

Rhonda Neuhaus, MA’99, passed the Maryland and Massachusetts bar exams and received a high enough score to waive the requirements for Washington, D.C. Neuhaus received a law degree from the University of Maryland in spring 2007 and is currently working as a legal consultant on matters related to international development, the environment, disability rights, and conflict resolution (rhondaneuhaus@hotmail.com).

Alpana Patel, MA’04, is working toward a master’s degree in social work at Columbia University in New York City. Her field placement is at a domestic-violence shelter in Brooklyn, New York (alpanacpatel@yahoo.com).

Deborah Kaplan Polivy, MSW’72, PhD’78, is working as a consultant in resource development. One of her major assignments is at the Ashdod Emergency Medical Center, a new facility in southern Israel in a port fifteen miles from Gaza, which has absorbed more new immigrants per capita than any other city in Israel and yet has no immediate emergency medical facility (debpol@aol.com).

Diane Purvin, PhD’04, is a senior research associate at Casey Family Services in New Haven, Connecticut. Casey Family Services is the direct service arm of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Prior to this, Purvin completed a three-year National Institute of Child Health and Human Development–funded postdoc at the Wellesley Centers for Women (dpurvin@caseyfamilyservices.org).

Saman Hamid Qureshi, MA’07, is a program analyst in the governance unit of the United Nations Development Programme in Pakistan (saman.hamid@gmail.com).
Jessica Raider, MM’98, is a clinical-trials manager at Massachusetts General Hospital’s Translational Medicine Group (jraider@ccib.mgh.harvard.edu).

Eric J. Sax ’83, MBA’01, has joined the radiology service at Emerson Hospital in Concord, Massachusetts. He is also an assistant professor of radiology at Tufts Medical School (ericsax@alumni.brandeis.edu).

Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD’93, is associate professor and director of the Pharmaceutical Health Service Research Graduate Program at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore (lsimoniw@rx.umaryland.edu).

Carmen M. Torres ’77, MMHS’83, is co-headmaster at the Boston Arts Academy and the administrator of the student-support team (radhy@comcast.net).

Andrew Westbury, MA’07, is a grants specialist at Land O’Lakes International Development in Minnesota (andrew.westbury@gmail.com or ajwestbury@landolakes.com).

Nicole Witherbee, PhD’08, is a federal budget analyst for the Maine Center for Economic Policy (nwitterbee@mecep.org).

Joann Yung, MBA’06, is a development associate at Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses Inc. (FDNH) in Dorchester. FDNH provides educational services to the Dorchester community, including early education, youth development, and alternative and adult education (joluyung@yahoo.com).

**Publications**

Jeremy Adelman, MBA/MA’02, cowrote an article titled “A Match Made in Heaven: Introducing Alumni Donors to Angel Investing,” published in the October 2007 issue of CASE Currents. Adelman recently began working as vice president at Paramount BioCapital Inc., in New York City. Prior to that, he was the associate director of advancement for the school of engineering and applied science at George Washington University (jladelman1@yahoo.com).

Laura Alpert ’96, MM’98, wrote an article titled “Stop Treating Nonprofits Like They Don’t Exist, Says CEO,” published in the fall 2007 issue of Alliance for Children and Families Magazine (lbalpert@yahoo.com).

Sophie Freud, PhD’70, wrote Living in the Shadow of the Freud Family, a compilation of her family’s memoirs and a biography of her mother. Freud is the granddaughter of Sigmund Freud (sophiefr@verizon.net).

Beth Miller, PhD’92, wrote “The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement” for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. It is the second report in the Critical Hours series commissioned by the foundation (beth.miller.mmra@gmail.com).

Joseph Wronka, PhD’92, wrote Human Rights and Social Justice: Social Action and Service for the Helping and Health Professions, which was aptly published on Human Rights Day (December 10, 2007) by Sage Publications. The book includes a forward by Heller professor David Gil. Wronka also gave the keynote at the International Conference to Eradicate Poverty sponsored by the International Fourth World in Paris, and he presented the Joint Statement of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Work before the Human Rights Council’s sixth session in Geneva. Wronka is a professor of social work at Springfield College in Massachusetts (jwronka@spfldcol.edu).

**Awards/Honors/Boards/Grants**

Jim Callahan, PhD’68, received the Hall of Fame award from the American Society on Aging (ASA) at its Aging in America conference in March. The Hall of Fame award is presented annually to an elder ASA member who, through lifetime advocacy and leadership, has made a significant contribution to enhancing the lives of older adults. Callahan also received the Elsie Frank Award for advocacy from the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans (callajim@mac.com).

Joyce Clifford, PhD’97, received the Living Legend in Massachusetts Nursing Award from the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses in April 2007. She was also named a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing in 2005. Clifford is president and CEO of the Institute for Nursing Healthcare Leadership in Boston (jclifford@inhl.org).

King Davis, PhD’72, was appointed to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s advisory council. Davis recently stepped down as executive director of the Hogg...
Foundation for Mental Health and returned to the University of Texas at Austin’s School of Social Work, where he holds an endowed chair in mental health and social policy (kingdavis@mail.utexas.edu).

Ruth Kelley, MM’04, received the Medoff AIDS Housing Award, presented by the AIDS Housing Corporation to individuals who promote housing for families living with HIV/AIDS. Kelley is the chief of behavioral health services at The Dimock Center (rkelley@dimock.org).

Bernard Michels, PhD’87, was named to the Wall of Honor at the San Diego LGBT Community Center for his work in founding the center, his academic research, and his leadership on behalf of lesbians and gay men in San Diego during the 1970s. Michels is an adjunct professor of sociology at the University of Massachusetts–Boston (bernardmichels@yahoo.com).

Joyce Pulcini, PhD’87, received the Health Services Alumni Award from St. Anselm College, where she received her undergraduate degree (pulcinjo@bc.edu).

Births/Marriages

Laura Alpert ’96, MM’98, married Christopher Morano on November 8, 2007, in Negril, Jamaica (lbalpert@yahoo.com).

Miriam Lipson Hodesh, MBA’07, married Jake Hodesh in November and is now living in Savannah, Georgia, where she is starting a business. In lieu of gifts, Hodesh and her husband asked guests to donate to the Save Darfur Coalition and took a few minutes at their wedding reception to talk about why Darfur is important to them; the newlyweds raised $20,000, and the Save Darfur Coalition named Miriam and Jake Heroes of the Month (miriamlipson@gmail.com).

Sarah Larson, MBA’04, and her husband, Todd, welcomed a girl, Eliza Joy, on August 27, 2007 (sarah.r.larson@gmail.com).

Lauren Hickey Magoun, MBA’05, had a son, Jack Robertson, on June 14, 2007 (limagoun@gmail.com).

Josie Welty Mangxaba, MA’01, and her husband welcomed their second child, a boy named Amir Welty Mangxaba, on September 28, 2007 (josiewelty@yahoo.com).

Scott Provost, MM’98, and his wife, Lori, welcomed a son, Ethan Matthew, on April 18, 2008 (sprovost@mclean.harvard.edu).

Jessica Raider, MM’98, and her husband, David, welcomed a daughter, Becca, last spring (jraider@ccib.mgh.harvard.edu).

Diana Marginean Schor, MA’03, and her husband, Saul, welcomed a girl, Maia Ernestina, on April 29, 2008 (dianam@brandeis.edu).

Amy Seeherman, PhD’78, married Leslie G. Brody on October 14, 2007.

Nina Silverstein, PhD’80, attended the celebration (aseeherman@msn.com).

Tammy Tai, MBA’06, and her husband welcomed their third child, a boy named Jivan, on November 15, 2007 (tammyvtai@gmail.com).

Faculty/Staff Notes

Stuart Altman, Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy, was listed at number forty-six in the 2007 Modern Healthcare’s One Hundred Most Powerful People in Health Care.

Professor David Gil’s book Confronting Injustice and Oppression was translated into Korean by Sun Sook Park, PhD’01. Gil also was invited to present at a conference on Media Concentration and Democracy at Harvard University and was selected by the Justice Studies Association to receive the 2008 Noam Chomsky Award at its annual meeting in June. Gil was also appointed to the board of advisers of the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Social Development and is contributing an essay, “Social Development in the Context of Sustainable Global Justice,” to the encyclopedia. Gil was chosen as the honoree for his lifetime service to the Heller School. This honor will be bestowed at the Heller School’s Fiftieth Anniversary Conference and Alumni Reunion, “Shaping the Future of Social Justice–The Heller Challenge,” taking place October 16–18, 2009.

Anita Hill, professor, received the Louis P. and Evelyn Smith First Amendment Award from the Ford Hall Forum, which gives this annual award to an individual or organization that has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to promoting and facilitating the thoughtful exercise of our rights of freedom of expression.

Connie Horgan, professor and director of the Institute of Behavioral Health, was appointed associate dean for research at Heller.
Nancy Lurie Marks Family Makes $5 Million Gift to Brandeis for Disability Policy Institute at Heller

The number of people diagnosed with autism in the United States has grown exponentially in recent years. While about one in 2,500 people was diagnosed with the condition in the 1960s, now one in 166 Americans is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. The Heller School is poised to help improve the lives of the increasing number of people living with this condition and other disabilities, thanks to a $5 million gift from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation. This gift will go toward creating the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, as well as an endowed professorship at Heller.

This contribution builds on another generous gift made to Brandeis a quarter century ago by Nancy Lurie Marks to establish an endowed faculty chair at Brandeis to study the neurological basis for autism and related disorders. Through research, policy development, education, and public engagement, the new Lurie Institute will help people with disabilities, particularly autism, successfully integrate into mainstream society.

“My family is dedicated to helping people with disabilities, particularly autism, lead fulfilling and rewarding lives,” says Nancy Lurie Marks, who established her foundation thirty years ago. “With our mutual commitment to progressive policies for people with disabilities, the Heller School at Brandeis is a natural home for the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, which will be able to draw on Heller’s renowned faculty and expertise.”

Marks is the mother of Cathy Lurie ‘77 and Jeff Lurie, PhD’87, a Heller graduate who now owns the Philadelphia Eagles football team. Nicole Adams ’01 is her granddaughter.

“We are thrilled about this partnership and anticipate that the Lurie Institute will fuel the development of innovative social policies at this critical time for people with disabilities, especially as they and their families seek a greater voice in decision making related to their lifelong needs,” says Marty Krauss, PhD’81, Brandeis’s provost, senior vice president for academic affairs, and the John Stein Professor of Disability Research.