

Heller

A MAGAZINE FOR THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

REACHING EQUITY
OF ACCESS AND
OPPORTUNITY
THE HELLER WAY





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Heller

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Dear Friends,

For 55 years, Heller School faculty, researchers, students, staff and alumni have been involved in the research, education, practice and public engagement that drive positive social change. At a time of growing national debate about inequality, we celebrated Heller's 55th anniversary reunion in September with a conference examining the best strategies to advance equity of access and opportunity. It was inspiring to welcome back hundreds of alumni for three days of lively keynote speeches, panel discussions, tributes to retiring faculty and lots of time to reconnect with the Heller community.

We are also celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of the Sustainable International Development (SID) program. SID was founded at Brandeis with the goal of understanding the root causes of inequity and disparities around the world, and to develop policy solutions from a comparative perspective. Geopolitically, the world has changed dramatically since the program began in 1994, but many of the challenges — poverty, ethnic conflict and natural catastrophes — remain as relevant today as ever.

I write this letter with mixed emotions as I move to a new position at Brandeis as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. It has been a privilege to serve as dean of the Heller School for more than six years. I have always found hope and inspiration in our students and colleagues, even in the most challenging times. Heller has grown in many ways, from our physical space and student population to the number of research centers and institutes. Even as we have grown, the Heller School has remained true to its historical mission to fuel positive social change through research, education and public engagement. I look forward to continuing to support Heller's growth and development in my new role.

I am delighted to share with you that Emerita Professor Marty Wyngaarden Krauss, PhD'81, will become interim dean until my successor is chosen. Marty joined the faculty in 1984, focusing her research on the family, social service and public policy impacts of having a family member with intellectual disabilities. She directed the Starr Center for Mental Retardation and served as associate dean for faculty and academic programs at Heller. In 2003, she was appointed provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Brandeis, a position she held until retiring in 2012.

I am happy that Marty is willing to come out of retirement and take on this role, and I'm confident she will provide a smooth transition at this time of change for the Heller School.

Warm Regards,



Lisa M. Lynch,
Dean and Maurice B. Hexter Professor
of Social and Economic Policy





“Over the past 30 years I have been able to hold on to my personal values. I brought a lot of those passions and values to Heller and Heller helped me to put a framework around them. ... I have seen peoples’ lives get better in the work I do.”

Joan Wallace-Benjamin, PhD’80
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Home for Little Wanderers





HELLER AT

55

CONFERENCE
AND REUNION



For additional photos and videos of Heller's 55th anniversary celebration, go to heller.brandeis.edu/55.

Heller's 55th Celebrates School's Social Justice Mission

By Jarret Bencks

The Heller School marked its 55th anniversary in September with a weekend of lively celebration and serious discussion, a gala dinner, tributes to retiring faculty, and music. Social justice themes permeated the celebration, as nearly 300 alumni, friends and faculty led or participated in workshops and panel discussions.

In line with the anniversary theme — “Achieving Equity of Access and Opportunity” — the weekend was abuzz with discussion on a range of issues, from climate change and the health and wellbeing of military vets to socially responsible business innovation, vulnerable youth and health care for people with disabilities. During Saturday’s luncheon and Deans’ Panel, Dean Lisa Lynch, along with former deans Stuart Altman and Jack Shonkoff, shared their views on the legacy of the Great Society and the War on Poverty.

Three retiring Heller faculty were honored: professor Andrew Hahn, PhD’78; professor Susan Holcombe; and professor Barry Friedman, a faculty member for almost 45 years.

Sabina Alkire, director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, and Robert Reich, a former Heller professor and former U.S. secretary of labor, gave keynote speeches.

Reich told a packed audience in Levin Ballroom that a “perfect storm” — caused by concentrated wealth, money in politics and secrecy regarding the sources of that money — is gathering in America.

“Any one of these alone would be a potential problem, but they are all problems simultaneously, and they are all acting in ways that are making the challenge cumulatively so much larger,” said Reich, who taught at the Heller School after a term as secretary of labor in Bill Clinton’s first administration. But, he added, “We will inevitably overcome these challenges.”

Reich received the first-ever Heller School Dean’s Medal.

In honoring Reich, Lynch said, “This medal is given in recognition of an individual who has contributed both to the scholarship and practice of social policy, and the individual who receives this award should epitomize our motto: ‘Knowledge advancing social justice.’ I’m thrilled he decided to accept this.”

Reich urged listeners to seek out conversations and debates with individuals who hold different ideologies. “My experience has been that Americans across this country very much understand the value of decency and common sense. And that is why I am optimistic,” he said.

During the gala dinner, attended by hundreds of Heller alumni and faculty, Lynch remarked on the critical support alumni provide to the Heller School.

“You have mentored our students, you have helped them find jobs in areas they want to work in, you’ve spoken to our prospective students about all that Heller has to offer, and you’ve worked with our faculty and researchers to support some of the most critical research on some of the most pressing social-policy issues of the day,” Lynch said.

Alkire kicked off the weekend with a talk Friday night celebrating Heller’s ambitions and its graduates’ accomplishments.

“In confronting injustice, the Heller School blends teaching and awareness-raising with rigorous and realistic policy analysis,” said Alkire. “It seeks to unleash among its students the courage and wisdom they will need later in life, whether they go on to build insightful academic presentations or lead incisive activist policies.” 🌱

“In confronting injustice, the Heller School blends teaching and awareness-raising with rigorous and realistic policy analysis.”

Sabina Alkire



Bridging the Doctor-Patient Disconnect

By Laurie Covens

The first step toward improving health care for people with disabilities is listening to the patient's own lived experience.

After years of experience as a medical educator, Linda Long-Bellil, PhD'07, a disability expert at University of Massachusetts Medical School, is not surprised when her nursing and medical students are uncertain about how to interact with patients who have disabilities.

When a lack of understanding occurs in a medical setting, it compromises quality of care, says Long-Bellil, an assistant professor at the medical school's Center for Health Policy and Research, where she focuses on the health care and long-term service and support needs of people with disabilities.

"Cultural competence," an idea long applied to ethnic and racial disparities, can enable medical professionals to learn from and partner with their patients to improve care. "It puts you on notice that understanding another person's reality may require thinking in a way that's different from how you naturally think," explains Long-Bellil, who, in addition to teaching at the center, conducts research, policy analysis and program evaluation and provides technical assistance. She also teaches health policy in the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) fellowship program.

She and her fellow educators with the Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education recently wrote that "the lived experience and perspective of a person with a disability can seem quite foreign and difficult to conceptualize for people without disabilities."

That disconnect can diminish a physician's expectations for a patient, says Long-Bellil, who has spina bifida. Without fully grasping the details of a patient's daily life, it's difficult to know what is typical or even necessary.

That was the problem when a friend with cerebral palsy began to lose function in her hands and lost her ability to

pivot while standing. "No one understood that this wasn't typical for her," recalls Long-Bellil, who became her friend's advocate. She pushed her friend's primary-care doctor to intervene, and surgical treatment eventually halted the neurological damage. "No one would have done anything if I hadn't spoken up," she says.

Such situations are not unusual. Women with physical and intellectual disabilities are less likely to get Pap smears and mammograms than other women. Research studies suggest it may result from staff uncertainty about how to properly accommodate a woman with disabilities who needs an exam, or mistaken assumptions about her sexuality.

Long-Bellil began working to better educate medical professionals about disability while she was a doctoral candidate. She had developed a disability policy curriculum for her Tufts University undergraduate students. Once fellow Heller alumna and Tufts Medical School

professor Paula Minihan, PhD'03, saw the curriculum, she was convinced her medical students needed something similar. Having met through Marty Krauss, PhD'81 (then-provost of Brandeis and John Stein Professor of Disability Research at Heller), the two women teamed up to produce a new curriculum for medical students that is still in use today.

Heller was an incubator for good work, Long-Bellil says. "Surrounded by people who shared my values and interests, there was terrific synergy at Heller — with lots of opportunities to collaborate."

Orienting to the needs of patients with disabilities requires a new mindset, says Long-Bellil. "It is important to understand how people with disabilities function in the world, managing family, work and the daily drive home," she says. "Really understanding how your patient lives with his or her disability is the first step toward better health care." 🌱

"No one would have done anything if I hadn't spoken up."

Linda Long-Bellil, PhD'07



Ruderman Scholars Delve into Disability Challenges

By Laurie Covens



Women with intellectual or developmental disabilities are less likely to get adequate health care than other women. But a new Heller initiative aims to change that.

Earlier this year, Ruth Zeilicovich '14 and Danielle Sackstein '14, both majoring in health: science, society and policy, teamed up with Susan Parish, director of the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy and associate dean for research, to work on an online health education program, *Women Be Healthy*. This evolving project will provide online training for family caregivers of women with intellectual disabilities, who often have responsibility for negotiating health care access for their daughters, sisters and aunts with intellectual disabilities.

Zeilicovich and Sackstein, selected as Brandeis' inaugural participants in the Ruderman Social Justice in Disability Scholars Program in January, learned about the myriad challenges women with disabilities face in accessing health care.

"Working with Dr. Parish on *Women Be Healthy* was incredible," Zeilicovich says. "We saw up close how hard it is for women with disabilities to get crucial health care screenings."

Women Be Healthy was created because research, including Parish's, has shown that many of these women do not receive Pap smears or mammograms according to clinical guidelines. The program provides basic information about women's bodies and explains why these preventive health screenings are so important. It offers straightforward language and answers to help women with disabilities and their caregivers understand their own health care needs and advocate for themselves.

Zeilicovich, who is interested in global health disparities, was raised in Colombia, where she saw the strong link between poverty and disability. "We lived in Medellín, where every day I saw kids my own age — including many with disabilities — begging for money or living on the streets."

Poverty is just one of the barriers that can lead to denial of preventive health care screenings for women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "These women often just get pushed under the rug in our health care system," notes Sackstein. Health care providers' misinformation about women with intellectual disabilities, and women's lack of knowledge and fears about preventive screenings conspire to hinder many women with intellectual disabilities in getting adequate health care, says Parish.

Sackstein, who is interested in how health providers use technology to engage with patients, says the way health care providers think about people with disabilities must change. Working on *Women Be Healthy* as a Ruderman Scholar had a "huge impact" on how she thinks about this challenge.

"I learned that if you specifically design technology for a particular population, like parents of women with intellectual and developmental disabilities, it can empower them — because if the tool is properly customized, it meets them where their needs are."

During a hospital internship, Sackstein began thinking about how families living with disability use health information technology when she saw the devastating impact that a one-size-fits-all patient-privacy policy had on the family of a teenager with disabilities.

"A woman whose son had multiple disabilities came in utterly distraught after she got locked out of the online portal she relied on to manage his care," she explains. "The hospital privacy policy restricted parental access to a child's online file once the child turned 13. As a result, this mother lost online access to her son's test results, prescriptions, appointments — all because the hospital developed its patient portal policies without considering the needs of individuals with disabilities."

Today, Sackstein works with Partners Healthcare at its Center for Connected Health, helping to design mobile apps and other tools that connect patients with their doctors and health information. She brings her Ruderman perspective with her. "It's wrong that so many health care policies and procedures overlook the needs of people with disabilities. Thanks to my Ruderman experience, I'm always asking, 'How can we make this work for people with disabilities?'"

Zeilicovich says being a Ruderman Scholar also emboldened her to push for change. "It gave me a much clearer sense of the obstacles facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some people see their disability first. We need to see them as people first." 🌱

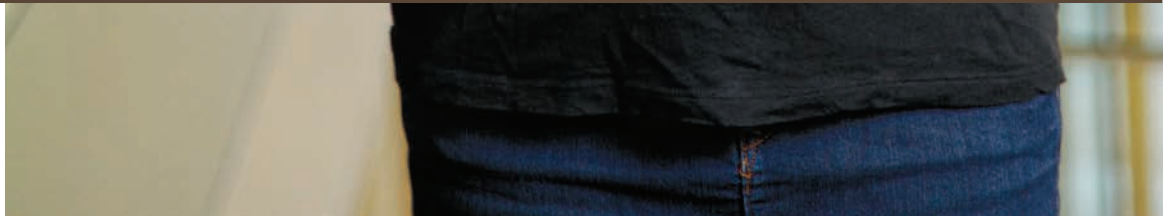
"Thanks to my Ruderman experience, I'm always asking, 'How can we make this work for people with disabilities?'"

Danielle Sackstein '14



Real Lives, Real Dreams

By Laurie Covens



With the right state and community support, people with developmental disabilities can shape their own future.

A 21-year-old man with autism lives with his parents in a quiet suburb. But since he needs help crossing the street, and gets into trouble when he's alone, constant supervision is essential. When his parents apply for adult services from Massachusetts, the state Department of Developmental Services (DDS) agrees their son is unable to function on his own, but deny him services because his IQ is over 70. Like many families of the nearly 60,000 adults in Massachusetts with autism, these parents are left to manage on their own.

Autism and developmental-disability advocates have implored the state to give these families more support. Children with autism are entitled to early intervention and a free and appropriate education. But after a child graduates or reaches age 22, that entitlement ends.

"There are a lot of cliffs in disability services where crucial support suddenly vanishes," says Faith Behum, MPP'10, a disability policy specialist at the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council and a former support aide and case manager for people with developmental disabilities. "Dropping entitlement after high school makes no sense. Do people really think a young adult won't need services once the school bus stops coming?"

Teens transitioning to adulthood need support to socialize, learn new skills and stay safe, says Behum. "Without that support, the 24-hour-a-day need to care for an adult child with disabilities makes it almost impossible for many parents to keep a job — or do anything else," she adds.

This is just the kind of social-policy dilemma Behum studied at Heller with professor Michael Doonan, PhD'02. Consider sheltered workshops, she says, which arose because of deinstitutionalization. They were considered a safe alternative since many people feared having adults with developmental disabilities work in the community.

"But today we realize they're just another form of institutionalization," says Behum. "So you have to go back to that question: 'Can people with developmental disabilities work in the community?' Of course they can, with accommodation and support."

That kind of policy thinking made Behum a perfect fit for the federally funded council, where she and her colleagues are charged with promoting system change for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

"Heller definitely helped shape my thinking about disability policy," she notes. "And it introduced me to some of the leading voices in the field." In fact, it was through Heller class meetings with disability advocates that she met her current boss, Dan Shannon, the council's executive director.

As the council's disability policy specialist, Behum staffed the Massachusetts Autism Commission. She helped develop its 2013 annual report, which called for better support of people with autism-related disorders throughout the lifespan.

Last summer, Gov. Deval Patrick signed comprehensive autism legislation that Behum and her commission colleagues also helped develop. The law should improve access to services for adults with developmental disabilities, Behum says, since it requires DDS to switch to the federal eligibility standard for adult services, which is based on an individual's functional needs, not IQ.

"That's a huge victory," she adds.

With an unemployment rate exceeding 70 percent for adults with developmental disabilities, Behum

also participates in an employment task force seeking to upgrade skills training, boost state hiring of people with developmental disabilities, and secure other employment supports.

In addition, she helped win a key improvement this year — a new law requiring national background checks to be performed on anyone providing DDS-funded services. Behum and her fellow advocates have helped legislators advance another important policy shift. Under the recently signed "Real Lives" law, DDS requires all service plans for its clients to focus on individual needs — and desires. Clients will be asked to describe how they envision their lives, which will drive how their service dollars are spent.

For those who hope to move from a sheltered workshop to working in the community, a detailed plan will be developed and implemented to help them achieve their dream. Individuals will truly be able to shape their own lives with the support of state-funded services, says Behum. 🌱

"There are a lot of cliffs in disability services where crucial support suddenly vanishes."

Faith Behum, MPP'10



A Necessary Hero

By Claire Pavlik Purgus and Susan Piland

Van Ta, MA SID'12, reaches into darkness to rescue lost children and young women in Vietnam and China.

Twenty-five-year-old Chi needed a job, and jobs are hard to find in Dien Bien, the poorest province in Vietnam, located about seven hours by car to the northwest of Hanoi. So when a neighbor introduced her to a friendly woman who knew of a well-paying job planting mushrooms in China, Chi jumped. But after she got to China, Chi (not her real name) learned a devastating truth: She'd been duped by a human trafficker. Quickly sold to a father-son team, Chi was forced to marry the younger man and enter the sex trade.

Back in Vietnam, Chi's relatives were desperate to get her back. Her mother knew her cellphone number but not much else — Chi didn't speak Chinese and had no idea where she was.

Fortunately, Van Ta, Heller MA SID'12, a 31-year-old Vietnamese lawyer (this story does not include his full name or photo, to protect his anonymity and safety), heard about the family's predicament. Van Ta works with Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, an Australian charity headquartered in Hanoi that reaches out to disadvantaged children and young people — including those who fall prey to traffickers — and brings human-rights violators to justice.

Van Ta's work isn't confined to a courtroom. Last year alone, he went to China on seven rescue missions, freeing 13 girls and women who had been sold into prostitution. Chi was one of them.

To locate the disappeared, Blue Dragon investigators mix old-fashioned gumshoe techniques with GPS tracking and other advanced technologies. Chi was finally found more than 4,300 miles into China from the Vietnamese border. She agreed to meet Van Ta's team near the brothel where she'd been living for six months.

"She was worth at least \$6,000 a month to [her captors]," Van Ta says. If they caught me, they would kill me.

"But the stress of the rescue is forgotten as soon as we reunite the girl with her family. Then there is much joy and crying. There is relief."

So I was very afraid of walking into a trap."

On the appointed day, about four months after they first learned about Chi, Van Ta and his team sat in a car outside the brothel. When he saw Chi walk out of the building alone, he texted her, asking her to come to the car. "And then we were off as fast as we could, heading for the Vietnam border," he says.

It took them five days to get there. "We were always worried we might be followed by the traffickers and caught," Van Ta says. He sighs softly, remembering the journey. "But the stress of the rescue is forgotten as soon as we reunite the girl with her family. Then there is much joy and crying. There is relief."

Once she was home, Chi revealed something she hadn't yet told her family: She was pregnant.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING'S LONG SHADOW

Blue Dragon, which has a staff of 65, provides a variety of services — not just rescue operations, but education, health care and counseling — to approximately 1,500 Vietnamese children and women every year.

Incredibly, not one of Van Ta's rescue attempts has failed. "Forty percent of my time is dedicated to rescue work," he says. "Sometimes I know just the city where the parents think the child was taken. Sometimes I don't even know that."

Van Ta receives official hero status

In June, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry named Van Ta a "Trafficking in Persons Hero" at a Washington, D.C., ceremony. Nine other individuals fighting human trafficking were also recognized.

"For years, we have known that this crime affects every country in the world, including ours," Kerry reminded the dignitaries in attendance. "More than 20 million people, a conservative estimate, are victims of human trafficking."

Prostitution is illegal but widespread in China. Observers estimate there are as many as 10 million prostituted persons in the country, a number some think is kept high by the country's one-child policy, which translates into 45.4 million more men than women between the ages of 15 and 64. Women, in other words, are in high demand.

"Organized criminal networks in both China and Vietnam cooperate to kidnap young women and some boys into China," says Phillip Martin, a senior reporter at WGBH Boston Public Radio and an adjunct lecturer in Heller's Sustainable International Development (SID) program. He says he's been told the brothels in southern China are filled with Vietnamese girls.

"At 2 or 3 o'clock in the middle of the night, you see groups of men hanging out outside, almost as if they were monitoring the buildings..."

Phillip Martin, WGBH reporter and adjunct lecturer, SID

Broadly speaking, human trafficking is the movement of people — usually through coercion, trickery or abduction — into circumstances they cannot easily escape, in which they are exploited for others' economic gain. Kidnapping to feed the sex trade is one form of trafficking.

Forced labor is another, affecting girls and boys, women and men alike. To supply cheap labor to garment factory owners, traffickers often trick, trap or kidnap street kids and runaways.

Martin recalls a night of driving around Ho Chi Minh City with Van Ta, who pointed out the garment factories from which he had rescued children. "At 2 or 3 o'clock in the middle of the night, you see groups of men hanging out outside, almost as if they were monitoring the buildings," says Martin. "The factories look more like apartments, with heavy gated barriers in front. Through the gates, you can see kids sewing garments.

The children, he says, "work 16-hour days and get paid less than a dollar a day, and that's only after they've put in two years of service."

In 2013, Blue Dragon freed 70 children from garment factories and returned them to their families. With the

overwhelming numbers of children trapped in exploitative working conditions in Vietnam, Van Ta and his colleagues know that's just a drop in the bucket.

So Blue Dragon also uses the court system to go after human traffickers, and holds policy discussions related to trafficking and child labor with government and law enforcement officials.

RECLAIMING HUMAN DIGNITY

Laurence Simon, professor in and former director of Heller's SID program, calls Van Ta one of the program's most extraordinary alumni.

Growing up in a poor farming family inspired his drive to help others, Van Ta says. In 2005 — after attending the Hanoi University of Law, where he earned a Bachelor of Law — he took a job at Blue Dragon. Through mutual connections, Van Ta was introduced to Simon, who encouraged him to study at Brandeis.

The SID program is an ideal laboratory for tackling problems like human trafficking, Simon says, because it "helps students realize that many of the situations they deal with in their own countries are common and need global solutions." Van Ta says he learned both "advanced knowledge and practical skills" at Heller.

The proof is in the numbers. Before coming to Brandeis, Van Ta rescued 90 victims of trafficking between 2005-10. Since he earned his master's two years ago, he says, his team has rescued more than 200 victims. He attributes much of that success to two new anti-trafficking programs his SID training helped him develop.

His dedication to his work never wavers. "There is no part of my work that I don't like," he says. "It is all meaningful. The best part of a rescue mission is the moment when the girls come home and are held in their parents' arms."

"They have trauma and tons of difficulties ahead," he says. "However, we will supply them with ongoing help, so they can reintegrate with the community and have a brighter life.

"Because the most important thing is that they have returned home." 🌱

Claire Pavlik Purgus is managing editor at Brandeis' Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism. Susan Piland is the managing editor of *Brandeis Magazine*. An expanded version of this story appeared in the Winter 2014 issue of *Brandeis Magazine*. www.brandeis.edu/magazine



Vietnamese police testified in court against Chi's trafficker, who received an 11-year prison sentence.

Protagonists of Change

By Leah Burrows



Heller's sustainable international development program prepares students to solve global problems in a world fractured by inequality in income, education, opportunity and health care.

The Heller School isn't the only institution celebrating an impressive anniversary this year. Twenty years ago in September, a brand-new master's program in sustainable international development (SID) welcomed its first class to Brandeis.

Founded by professor Laurence Simon, SID brought six students to campus in its inaugural class. In May 2014, the program graduated 79 students from 36 countries, a few months before Simon passed the torch to veteran international-development leader Joan Dassin '69. Before she became SID director, Dassin was the founding executive director of the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program, a social-justice scholarship program that operated from 2000 to 2013.

Simon and Dassin sat down to talk about trends and changes in international development, and SID's opportunities as a leading program in the field.

Q: What were the emerging trends in international development when SID was founded?

Laurence Simon: Development has always been about building local capacity to analyze and reduce problems of poverty, ill health and environmental degradation. These last 20 years have seen the democratization of much of Latin America, the rise of China and Brazil as very different models for poverty reduction, agreement on the world's first set of development goals, and the expansion of civil society organizations. The economies of sub-Saharan Africa are

achieving record growth, and some formerly poor nations now have their own international-development assistance programs. But with all this progress, the central task is still building local capacity and advocating for inclusive policies to distribute the benefits of development to all. This is why I designed the program to serve students from the poorest sectors of poor and middle-income countries.

Q: What trends are we seeing today?

Joan Dassin: There are several trends reshaping how we think about development. Seventy percent of the world's poor are living in middle-income countries. If you are a development professional and you're only targeting the poorest countries, you may be leaving out hundreds of millions of people who live in middle-income countries like India. So the traditional classifications of who's developed and who's not have changed.

Another global trend is growing inequality, in income, opportunity, education and health services. This inequality divides the world in very different ways than may have been the case during the Cold War, or even in the post-1989 period.

The geopolitical landscape is also changing. The BRICS nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — have started a new development bank, and there is discussion about whether traditional development agencies, such as the World Bank, will remain relevant. There are so many new factors and long-term trends impacting not only development but also the way people live. It's a new ballgame.



Q: How is SID educating students for this new ballgame?

JD: The challenges are global, whether it's climate change, food security, disease prevention, or war and conflict. These forces have no concern for national borders — in fact, they are re-drawing them. Development workers today need to have global mobility and engage in a global dialogue. Increasingly, nationality, or the color of your passport, is irrelevant. Because our program is so international — 70 percent of the students in this year's entering class hail from outside the U.S. — they are well positioned to enter a global field. There is real value in an international education, particularly for students from developing countries. They learn here that they can be the drivers, the protagonists of change. I think there is something about the international setting that allows our students to feel empowered and to take on this leadership role.

Q: You say the SID program maintains its leadership by adapting to change in the field. How so?

JD: Our mission is to train students who will in turn train others and become leaders in the field. We're not the World Bank, we're not a social agency; we're a training institution and our leadership is intellectual. We make our mark through the students we train.

LS: We do keep current with the theory and practice of development, but we are also interested in shaping the future of development — not just responding to changes. Ten years ago I introduced the concept of core competencies that shape our curriculum, and each year we revisit them as new issues emerge. For instance, we pioneered an interdisciplinary approach to climate change that is crucial for development practitioners in order to understand climate change impacts on the livelihoods of the poor.

JD: We always need to keep thinking about the balance between our liberal arts framework and the kind of technical

and management skills students need to have. Increasingly, students are concerned about their career options and acquiring the skills to get hired. That's why we have a practicum that enables students to get a longer-term field experience.

Q: Have you observed a generational shift in student attitudes toward development over the last 20 years?

LS: From the very beginning, we've attracted students who consider themselves world citizens and who believe in universal human rights. I don't see a shift in that respect. People who choose a career in development are concerned about things other than making money. Now we hope they will make a decent living — we certainly want them to — but their lives have another meaning. That's been true from the very beginning.

JD: We are seeing more understanding that development is driven increasingly by the private sector, and a lot of our students are interested in that crossover.

I see many students who are interested in social investing, corporate social responsibility, and earning a dual degree with the MBA program in nonprofit management, or working with the Brandeis International Business School. The idea that poor people represent a whole new market for the private sector could be just as powerful a development force as our traditional notions. That's an area we really should explore.

Q: Professor Simon, you've stepped down from your role as founding director. Was the decision difficult?

LS: Professor Dassin is the ideal person to succeed me. It's always a little bittersweet when you founded something and spent two decades of your life building it — though one never builds anything alone — but 20 years is a nice round number. 🌱

"There is real value in an international education, particularly for students from developing countries. They learn here that they can be the drivers of change."

Professor Joan Dassin

Helping, in Just the Right Way

By Susan Piland

Sara Plachta Elliott, PhD'13, encourages youth-development experts to focus on what young people say they need.

A sixth-grader in Florida takes care of her single mother, who can't work because of complications caused by hypertension. Twelve-year-old Madison cooks, shops, cleans, remembers when her mom needs her pills and keeps her younger siblings in line. Typically a good student, she's started bringing home C's and never has time to hang out with friends.

Madison is not alone. At least 1.4 million caregiving youth — kids between the ages of 8 and 18 whose lives are disrupted because they look after critically or chronically ill, aging, addicted or otherwise disabled family members — live in the United States. More than 22 percent of Americans who drop out of high school do so to care for family.

Yet the issue of caregiving youth has been largely hidden from view, says Sara Plachta Elliott, PhD'13. Families, worried that kids might be taken away, keep quiet about the situation. Social workers don't notice it because it rarely presents as neglect or abuse. Teachers don't think to ask distracted students whether they're being overwhelmed by responsibilities at home. "The phenomenon just falls under the radar," Elliott says.

With the help of caregiving youth themselves, Elliott used her doctoral studies at Heller to shed light on the issue. Her dissertation was a participatory case study of the Caregiving Youth Project of Palm Beach County, Fla. This first-of-its-kind program — which eventually launched a national umbrella, the American Association of Caregiving

Youth — works to identify kids burdened by caregiving and help them deal with the stress.

A two-day retreat Elliott organized for eight high-school caregiving youth offered especially rich data. "We talked in depth about their experiences," she says. "What questions would they ask in a study. What methods would they use to collect data."

The teenagers confirmed, for instance, that sixth grade is a critical intervention point. "Kids' caregiving responsibilities are often ramping up then," Elliott says. "Yet they also need to perform well at school and begin to transition, academically and socially, to high school."

For two years, three of the retreat's high-schoolers acted as youth researchers for Elliott's study. "I'd go down to meet with them every couple of months," she says. "They co-facilitated focus groups of middle-schoolers. They also helped review and make sense of the data."

The study's findings underscored the importance of providing peer support to caregiving youth; connecting families with available assistance; and teaching caregivers coping mechanisms, like writing in a journal. In many ways, says Elliott, caregiving kids have to learn to take care of themselves.

"I have a couple of family members who were caregivers for their parents growing up," she says. "One had parents who were alcoholics. My grandmother's father was diabetic and



"In many ways...
caregiving kids have
to learn to take care of
themselves."

also deaf. She couldn't attend college because she had to help care for him. And that's still very reflective of what young people experience today."

Elliott's current job — executive director of the Skillman Foundation's Youth Development Resource Center, in Detroit — was a kind of homecoming. She grew up in Michigan, and her family has roots in Detroit.

To improve the lives of the city's children, the Skillman Foundation annually invests \$17 million of grant money in six neighborhoods where 30 percent of Detroit's children live. The Youth Development Resource Center, which opened in September 2013, helps ensure that Skillman's grantees and partners provide high-quality, life-changing programs for kids.

In the resource center's first year, Elliott says, "the big push was establishing a set of policy standards for grantees and partners, and a common definition of what quality looks like." The ideas and the language had to be geared specifically to Detroit.

At least 1.4 million caregiving youth — kids between the ages of 8 and 18 whose lives are disrupted because they look after critically or chronically ill, aging, addicted or otherwise disabled family members — live in the United States.

So Elliott went straight to Detroit's kids. She says, "We asked young people what programs that offer diversity, access and inclusion, for instance, look like. They said that having their cultural and ethnic background reflected by staff members is really important, but they also wanted exposure to people from other backgrounds, to expand their view of the world and their skill sets. We learned quite a bit from that."

Once the full policy standards — one version will be presented entirely in young people's voices — are adopted this fall, the resource center will create an assessment tool the various youth-development programs can use to know whether they're making a difference in children's lives.

Elliott's studies at Heller prepared her for the Skillman Foundation's reach. "Even though I concentrated on children and families, I was aware of the high-quality research and policy work my colleagues were doing in health, behavioral health, sustainable international development, and access and inequality," she says. "So when I came to this work in Detroit, I had that broad context and understanding.

"With all of Detroit's political and economic upheaval, many of its public systems have been eroded," Elliott continues. "In the long term, the Skillman Foundation hopes to move from a neighborhood approach to citywide system building.

"So we're slowly trying to build data from the ground up, to help us attract the funds we need." 🌱

BIG Data, BIG Insights

Online community profiles help towns and cities in Massachusetts figure out if they're in the pink of health – or not.

Do you know your community's walk score? The rate of cancer, diabetes and smoking among seniors in your town? Or how your town compares to neighboring communities in measures of healthy aging like availability of flu shots and exercise opportunities?

Five years ago, an idea was born at the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Forum and nurtured by healthy-aging advocates throughout the state to give local policymakers, service providers and citizens in the Commonwealth access to online data on demographic, health and social indicators for their own local communities.

The Tufts Health Plan Foundation commissioned the project, a healthy-aging data report, and the Gerontology Institute in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston conducted the research. The project's principal investigator, Elizabeth Dugan, is an associate professor of gerontology at UMass Boston.

As part of a statewide healthy-aging initiative, the Healthy Aging Data Report includes 367 community profiles — one for each town and city in the state and 16 Boston neighborhoods — listing more than 100 indicators of both self-reported behaviors and treatment data for individuals with

chronic conditions like stroke, COPD, cancer and diabetes, as well as indicators of wellness, exercise rates, preventive screenings, vaccinations and diet. The community profiles also layer data about the environment, such as walk scores, crime rates and economic security indexes.

The thinking behind the Healthy Aging Data Report is simple but effective: Armed with local data, Massachusetts health professionals, policymakers and activists are better able to implement healthy-aging initiatives at the community level.

"I love data and I love for people to use data," says Ruth Palombo, PhD'03, senior health policy officer at the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, which provides ongoing support for this effort. "But data alone aren't enough," adds Palombo. "When people come together to understand the stories behind the data, magical things happen."

"The community-profiles data are an invaluable tool in determining local long-term program and service needs," explains Ann Hartstein, MMHS'83, secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. "The community profiles offer a comprehensive, objective picture of demographics and trends, which is essential in addressing the rapidly increasing senior population."

The profiles were compiled with existing data from four



Into Healthy Aging

primary sources: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the U.S. Census Bureau, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

"The data help highlight issues related to achieving livable, age-friendly communities and the need to embrace smart-growth policies," says Nina Silverstein, PhD'80, professor and program director of UMass Boston's undergraduate gerontology program. "The profiles are eye-openers. It's very exciting when we can show legislators and policymakers data from their own districts and communities."

The Watertown Community Foundation used their community data to convene a healthy-aging forum last spring to rethink the town's youth-oriented recreation program to encompass activities across the life span.

Service and health care providers know that the population is aging. But the general demographic reality can be quite different at the local level, making blanket policy recommendations and services for healthy aging problematic.

"People are using these new insights for legislative policy work, grant writing and local fundraising to get money to support healthy aging," says Palombo. "The local data strengthen their funding mandate and help serve their communities better."

While these data have been available at the county level, that's not necessarily where policy is made or where

service providers focus, notes Frank Porell, a quantitative gerontologist at UMass Boston (also a former Heller research associate professor), who developed the analytic approach to create the healthy-aging community profiles.

Heller advisers, including professor Walter Leutz, PhD'81, associate dean for academic personnel, and associate professor Michael Doonan, PhD'02, executive director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, helped define the indicators included in the initial community profiles.

"These factors directly impact quality of life," says Silverstein, who researches transportation and aging, with a particular focus on Alzheimer's disease.

Porell is working on further analyses that add factors like asthma rates and dig deeper into the relationship between many variables. He is also researching how gender, race and ethnicity intersect with chronic disease; how living alone may be a risk factor for illness; and how community safety and the built environment influence exercise patterns.

"This work helps us look at age-friendly communities, where active, healthy aging is encouraged and quality of life is enhanced as people age," Palombo explains. "This is good for everyone across the life span." 🌱

"The data help highlight issues related to achieving livable, age-friendly communities and the need to embrace smart-growth policies."

Nina Silverstein, PhD'80

The community profiles can be found at mahealthyagingcollaborative.org/data-report/explore-the-profiles.

Partners for Healthy Aging

By Jarret Bencks

Can practicing tai chi reduce falls among seniors? Are psychotropic drugs over-prescribed in nursing homes? Can post-hospitalization-care costs for seniors be cut?



The HSL-Heller Center to Inform Health Care Policy and Practice in Aging aims to answer such questions. Established in October 2013, the center is a partnership between the Heller School and Hebrew SeniorLife, a Harvard Medical School affiliate that provides senior housing and health care, and conducts medical research.

Co-directed by Heller professor Walter Leutz, PhD'81, and Lewis Lipsitz, director of Hebrew SeniorLife's Institute for Aging Research, the center develops studies and programs that fuse Heller's expertise in health care policy analysis with Hebrew SeniorLife's skill in medical research. "We're good at analyzing, and they're good at the clinical work," says Leutz. "This is a marriage of two like-minded organizations bringing different skills to the table," Lipsitz says.

Along with ongoing research, the center is developing new studies. One will evaluate who benefits most from institutional post-acute care. Another aims to expand on studies showing tai chi can improve balance and physical function among seniors. A third, funded by the Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation, will test whether video consultations with specialists at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center can reduce the use of antipsychotic medications in patients with dementia and behavior disorders.

The HSL-Heller center also uses Hebrew SeniorLife's research and health care systems to educate Heller students. "We hope to expose students to a health care system in action, to work with leadership, and to get a taste of the career opportunities that await in the field of aging," Lipsitz says.

Donations from Stephen B. Kay, H'08, vice chair of the Brandeis Board of Trustees, and Stuart Altman, the Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy, have helped sustain the center; it is dependent on future fundraising efforts.

"At a time when more people than ever are surviving into old age, we desperately need to generate knowledge and prepare leaders to manage the enormous medical, social and financial challenges this aging population will bring," Lipsitz says.

Another initiative at Brandeis aims to help minimize some of these challenges. Using a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute on Aging, Brandeis will research and promote healthy aging strategies through the new Boston Roybal Center for Translational Research on Aging. Led by Margie Lachman, the Minnie and Harold Fierman Professor of Psychology at Brandeis, the center is a consortium of Brandeis, Boston University, Boston College, Hebrew Senior Life/Harvard Medical School and Northeastern University. 🌱



A Nation Addicted

By Laura Gardner

Heller research is helping to understand and rein in an epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

Since 1999, overdose deaths from prescription painkillers have more than tripled. In fact, more people die of prescription drug overdoses each year than from heroin and cocaine combined. For each person whose death is linked to opioid pain relievers like OxyContin and Vicodin, hundreds more abuse or misuse these drugs, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This alarming scenario recently brought five New England governors to Brandeis, where the Heller School operates the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Center of Excellence, the nation's leading clearinghouse for prescription drug monitoring and research. In a private roundtable discussion with Heller researchers, the governors discussed strategies to handle the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in New England.

Established in 2009 and supported, with related projects, by almost \$9 million in federal funding, the PDMP Center of Excellence collaborates with federal and state governments, health departments, and medical and pharmacy boards to combat prescription drug abuse. "Heller is at the forefront nationally to help identify the best and most promising practices to prevent prescription drug abuse," says Peter Kreiner, senior scientist at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and

principal investigator at the PDMP Center of Excellence.

Almost every state has established a prescription drug monitoring program since the epidemic took off in the mid-1990s, when OxyContin came on the market. But the quality of programs varies widely from state to state, says Kreiner, whose primary role is to help states identify best practices and move toward greater consistency across all the state programs.

Doctor shopping, paying cash for prescriptions, going to different pharmacies and assuming different identities are all strategies abusers employ, often with lethal consequences. Prescription drug monitoring programs can help physicians and pharmacists provide better care, and help law enforcement and insurers like Medicare and Medicaid track emerging trends in abuse.

Through research on best practices, mini case studies and evaluations of the effectiveness of different state programs, the PDMP Center of Excellence is providing data that can help state monitoring programs, including those in New England, become more proactive, says Kreiner.

"The United States consumes 80 percent of the world's prescription opioids, but represents 5 percent of the world's population," says Kreiner. "Does the U.S. have so much more pain than the rest of the world?" 🌱



Healing Invisible Scars

By Laurie Covens

Two Heller students join forces to help children in war-torn Lebanon let go of hatred.

Hanadi Mehdi, MA COEX'15, grew up during Lebanon's civil war. She worries about the invisible scars years of conflict are leaving on Lebanon's children. A veteran primary-school teacher, Mehdi knows firsthand how traumatic events can resurface in ugly ways years later.

"When the bombs drop and children see someone die on the street, who asks them what they saw, and what it meant?" Mehdi says. "Children often have to make sense of things on their own. But such memories can become seeds of hatred when a child grows up."

Mehdi's own family "lost everything in a glimpse" in 2006, she says. When she enrolled in the master's program in coexistence and conflict (COEX) in 2013, she was driven by a need to intervene in this traumatic cycle of war and hatred. Last summer, as the focus of their practicum, she and fellow student Iman Abdul-Musawwir, MA COEX'15/MBA'15,

devised a storytelling project to help Lebanon's traumatized schoolchildren talk about the terrors they keep buried inside.

They drew on the Boston-based Max Warburg Courage Curriculum, which Abdul-Musawwir first encountered as a Roxbury sixth-grader. Used by 80 schools in the U.S. and overseas, the curriculum helps students share stories about difficulties in their lives.

Sectarian violence has long affected Lebanon, but in recent years the spillover from Syria's civil war has added new tension, with some Lebanese supporting the Assad government and others supporting the Syrian opposition. School classrooms are not immune, and teachers continually struggle to ease tensions among their students. Before leaving, Mehdi and Abdul-Musawwir conducted a conflict analysis to clarify Lebanon's history, politics, and the religious and ethnic barriers to coexistence.



With Mehdi's background as an educator, they adapted the storytelling for Lebanese classrooms, selecting sixth-graders in two schools, both in conflict areas. "They were the children who needed intervention most," Mehdi says. "We hoped our project would bring the students together, turning their stories into essays and building a sense of community."

In June, with support from Brandeis' Crown Center for Middle East Studies, they arrived in Lebanon. When they introduced the Courage Curriculum, Mehdi explained that her American colleague had come from Boston. "Iman is courageous," she told the students. "She came here to Lebanon, even though it's dangerous. Now, tell me, what's your story?"

Abdul-Musawwir says the children spoke simply, without hatred or anger. "The war happened," she recalls one child saying quietly, explaining, "Then our neighbor's house was bombed. We had to leave our house. And it was really hard for me to move because I loved my house."

At summer's end, she and Mehdi left Lebanon, hopeful their intervention can help build bridges among the children. They wish to bring one or two students and teachers to Boston for the Warburg essay awards ceremony in March.

What originally brought Mehdi to Brandeis? Her colleague, conflict negotiator Philip Gamaghelyan, MA COEX'06, said Heller would be ideal for her. And when she spoke with COEX program director Alain Lempereur,

he promised that she would feel at home in the COEX community. Both were right.

Mehdi, now in Geneva writing her thesis on the humanitarian role of the International Red Cross, says Brandeis has changed her. "When I returned to Lebanon last summer, for the first time in my life I was optimistic, perhaps because of the skills COEX gave me. But I also felt inspired by my Heller colleagues and professors, who are deeply, pragmatically committed to peace," she explains. "Do you know how good it feels to cross that bridge and really connect on a human level?"

For Abdul-Musawwir, "Conflict resolution is just the beginning. What comes after — rebuilding, coexistence and inclusivity — that's how you create lasting peace. And COEX gave me the tools to do that work," she says.

"Ironically, we talk about war all the time at COEX, yet I felt so much at peace there," says Mehdi, who plans to continue humanitarian work dedicated to bridging divides among people separated by the politics of hate.

"Heller renewed my belief in people," she says. "There's a saying in Arabic, 'Without hope, life is like a desert.'" 🌿

"Without hope, life is like a desert."

Hanadi Mehdi, MA COEX'15

The Reality of the American Dream

By Leah Burrows

Closing the wealth gap requires getting out – and staying out – of poverty.

In the fight for racial wealth equity, statistics tell only half the story. Numbers can tell you that the median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households, and that African-American and Latino families were disproportionately affected by the subprime mortgage crisis.

But statistics can't tell you what it feels like to lose your home, your savings and your child's college fund. Statistics can't tell you what happens to individuals, families and communities caught in a cycle of poverty. Statistics alone can't tell you how to fix these problems.

That's why Hannah Thomas, PhD'12, and Alexandra Bastien, MPP'12, spend a lot of time thinking about the human toll of the racial wealth gap, and promoting policy solutions for individuals, families and communities that strengthen financial security through asset building and homeownership.

"By helping families build assets and savings, we are giving them the ability to withstand a crisis," says Bastien, a program associate at PolicyLink, a national research and policy institute in Oakland, Calif. "Assets are the difference between getting out of poverty and staying out."

"A lot of research on wealth and inequality has focused on the household level, but we need to take a broader look at the web of wealth," says Thomas, who worked as a senior research associate at Heller's Institute on Assets and Social Policy before becoming a senior analyst in assets and

homeownership at Abt Associates earlier this year. "Families with a network of wealthy aunts, uncles or cousins deplete their assets less often than families without such networks."

British-born Thomas became fascinated by the concept of the American dream as an undergraduate at Cambridge University. When she came to the United States for a research project, she was shocked by the vast inequality in wealth. "It became a driving goal to understand why the most wealthy country in the world has so many people living in poverty," Thomas says.

For Bastien, the realities of American inequality were a nine-minute drive from her home in Brockton, Mass., a majority-people-of-color city, to the neighboring towns of Stoughton and Easton, majority-white towns, where income levels were 11 times higher. After graduating from Boston College in 2008, Bastien returned home to see house after house in foreclosure.

"The foreclosure crisis decimated Brockton," Bastien recalls. "I had a strong feeling it had to do with the relationship between race and money, but I didn't have the framework or terminology to describe it."

Bastien and Thomas came to Heller to better understand inequality in America, and left with the framework and language to fight it. "Not a lot of people can say that they use their degree in their job every day," Bastien says. "I know I made a good investment." 🌱



"DOWN AT THE
BOTTOM"
"ANY HELP
PLEASE"

HELLER ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

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 MMHS'82 -
 James C. Gorman, MSW'73, PhD'78 -
 Elaine S. Gould, MSW'71
 Christina M. Graf, PhD'01
 Carolyn M. Gray, PhD'92
 Jason E. Gray '10, MA'10
 Katherine Green-Murphy, MBA'06
 Maura J. Griffin, PhD'86
 John W. Guppy, MBA'04
 Andrew B. Hahn, PhD'78
 Gail S. Hanssen, PhD'97 -
 Wayne M. Harding '70, PhD'92 -
 Evelyn B. Hausslein, MMHS'84 -
 Margaret Hobbs, MBA'09
 Charles H. and Linda Z. Hordiner '64
 Lois E. Horton, PhD'77
 Sharon R. Hunt, PhD'01
 Clare L. Hurley, MM'05 -
 David F. Hyman, MBA'01
 Claudia J. Jacobs '70
 Shiney James, MBA'06
 Daniel R. Jimenez, PhD'77
 Otis S. Johnson, PhD'80
 Stephanie N. Johnson '13
 Erika Kates, PhD'84 -

Judith M. Kaye and Bruce A. Phillips
 John C. and Joyce C. Kemp '64
 Margaret Kennedy, MM'01
 Aaron M. Kingson, MBA'09
 Michelle Lackie, MBA'03 -
 Camille Lambert, PhD'62
 Ann C. Lee, MMHS'95
 David R. Leslie, MMHS'84 -
 Musetta Y. Leung, PhD'06
 Margaret Levy, MPP'09
 Katharine K. Lewis, PhD'07
 Nancy E. Lightman, MM'02
 Linda Long-Bellil, MA'00, PhD'07 *
 Christine Lux-Whiting, MMHS'81
 Margaret E. Martin, PhD'90
 Nancy E. McAward, MMHS'84 -
 Dwight N. McNeill, PhD'03
 Elle McPherson, MA SID/MBA'11
 Jacqueline R. Michelove, MMHS'81 -
 William R. Miner, PhD'76 -
 Paula M. Minihan, PhD'03
 Susan E. Moscou, PhD'06 -
 Nancy R. Mudrick, MSW'74, PhD'76
 Jacob A. Murray, MM'98, and Jennifer
 Azzara, MM'98
 Nicolas A. Mutch, MA'05
 Sharon F. Neuwald, MMHS'82
 Edward Newman, PhD'68
 Regina O'Grady-LeShane, PhD'82
 Sharra Owens-Schwartz, MBA'10
 Susan E. Perlik, PhD'84
 Barbara A. Pine, PhD'91
 Margaret A. Post, MA'05, PhD'08
 Maureen E. Power, MSW'71, PhD'79
 Heath J. Prince, MA'10, PhD'13
 Paul J. Provencher, PhD'90 -

Arnold L. Reisman '64 and
 Paula M. Lyons
 Lotay Rinchen, MA'08
 Daniel E. Rodell, PhD'76 -
 Beatrice L. Rogers, PhD'78 -
 Shirah K. Rosin, MA'10, MPP'10
 Richard H. Rowland, PhD'70
 Zick and Carol M. Rubin
 Marian F. Ryan, MA'07, PhD'10
 Andrea S. Salet '64
 Rosielee C. Salinas
 Myrna L. Schultz, MMHS'84
 Alane K. Shanks, MMHS'87
 Arthur H. and Barbara A. Sheer -
 Annabel Sheinberg, MM'98
 Carolynne M. Shinn, PhD'12
 Raelene V. Shippee-Rice, PhD'90
 Trilby D. Smith, MM'98 *
 William D. Spector '67, PhD'81
 Sam D. and Ina F. Starobin
 Mary H. Stevenson '66 -
 Laurie R. Stillman, MMHS'82
 Jeanette C. Takamura, PhD'85
 Mordean Taylor-Archer, PhD'79
 Danielle K. Thompson, MPP'12 *
 Rev. Thomas E. Tobin, PhD'94 -
 Janet B. Wasserstein, MMHS'90 -
 Joel S. Weissman, PhD'87 -
 Jean S. Whitney, MM'01 -
 Judith K. Williams, PhD'83
 Stephen C. and Jacqueline K.
 Winokur '64
 Assunta Young, PhD'79 -
 Jessica Zander, MMHS'94 -
 Wu Zeng, MS'05, MA'07, PhD'09 *
 Maria E. Zuniga, PhD'80 -



Scholar, Activist, Benefactor: Ruth Brandwein, PhD'78

Ruth Brandwein, PhD'78, is still making a difference. Now retired after a remarkable career — as a dean, a social-services commissioner and a scholar — Brandwein volunteers with the Sarasota County (Fla.) Human Services Advisory Council and the Advocacy Committee for Jewish Family and Children's Services. To help educate the next generation of change agents, she established a charitable gift annuity. "Heller gave me so much that I feel an obligation to give back," says Brandwein.

NEW JOBS/DEGREES/DIRECTIONS

Julie Abella, MA SID'09, is the senior project specialist and awards manager for RTI's U.S. Agency for International Development-funded ENVISION project in Ethiopia. (jabella@rti.org)

Athena Bacerra Banza, MA SID'12, was part of a panel in the Sept. 10-12, 2014, WRC2 World Bank conference. Caritas Philippines, where Banza works and helps in the rehabilitation of the Visayas region, was struck by Typhoon Haiyan Nov. 8, 2013. The organization assists survivor communities in rebuilding homes and livelihoods in a better way. Within three months of the disaster, the group facilitated a Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment, and the resulting Risk Map identified the persons most at risk in the communities with respect to their level of capacities and degree of exposure to a specific hazard. The resulting database was used as a baseline for both external rehabilitation aid response and the community's own preparedness and resiliency plans. (nenenabb@gmail.com)

Naomi Bromberg Bar-Yam '79, PhD'97, is serving as president-elect of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA.org). Her first grandchild, Tirsiyah, came into the world June 6. (naomi@necsi.edu)

Jeffrey Brown, PhD'02, was promoted to associate professor, Department of Population Medicine, at Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute. He is also the associate director of the Food and Drug Administration's Mini-Sentinel project (www.mini-sentinel.org). (jeff_brown@alumni.tufts.edu)

Stephanie Bryson, PhD'09, has been assistant professor at the University of British Columbia School of Social



Work since 2012. Before moving to Canada, she was a research associate at the University of Kansas, where she conducted research on the rights and needs of children and families involved in multiple systems of care. She is the recipient of more than \$14 million in National Institute of Mental Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and REACH Healthcare Foundation funding, and has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator of more than 20 studies. Her areas of interest include social theory and social policy, mental health and child welfare service delivery, intercultural social work practice, and health and medical sociology. (stephanie.bryson@ubc.ca)

Katharine Valleen Byers, MSW'71, retired at the end of May 2014 from Indiana University School of Social Work, where she served as the Bloomington BSW program director for the past 22 years. She is most proud of the ongoing social-justice advocacy of current students and graduates of the program. Beginning in 1999, she collaborated with other faculty and social workers to initiate the social work lobby day in Indiana, which continues as an annual NASW-IN event. This spring, she collaborated with four other social work faculty from across the country to organize Policy Conference 2.0, a revival of a conference previously held in South Carolina, which this year took place in Austin, Texas. A policy practice textbook was another collaborative achievement. She continues to be involved with advocacy efforts in Indiana around issues of homelessness and gay rights and with several writing projects. (kvbyers@indiana.edu)

Daniela Chevasco, MA SID'09, received a PhD from the University of Florida. She currently resides in Ecuador. She may also start a small business exporting organic medicinal herbs. (daniela578@gmail.com)

Dena Fisher, PhD'91, and the pope in the same story? The New York Daily News featured her pictured with El Taller Latino Americano founder Bernardo Palombo, who has requested that the Vatican sign a petition on Change.org as the nonprofit fights to secure lower rent in Manhattan. Fisher also continues her retirement and lands in wonderful new places. In 2010-11, she was in the Peace Corps in Central America (Belize) working in rural community development (and talking up the Heller program). She returned from Belize to a new job as director of programs and community outreach at El Taller Latino Americano (tallerlatino.org), responsible for program development and, specifically, for administration, grants and contracts with schools for teaching Spanish of the Americas through music, art and culture. (dena@tallerlatino.org)

Joseph Francis, MMHS'80, has finally done it! He retired in 2008 after 40 years as CEO of a number of mental health programs at both the national and local levels, and relocated from his New England roots to Naples, Fla., as of July 2014. He and his spouse sold their home and most of their furniture in Winchester, Mass., and are starting a new adventure in "Paradise." While he expects he will miss the snow and cold of winter, he's prepared to suffer the endless sunshine in Florida. The most difficult part is leaving so many old friends. (jfrancis6@gmail.com)

Shirley Girouard, PhD'88, returned to Branford, Conn., in July 2013. She is currently a professor and associate dean for research and innovations at SUNY

Downstate in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was recently appointed to the state of Connecticut's Practice Transformation Taskforce. (sgirouard@aol.com)

Thomas Glynn, MSW'72, PhD'77, is serving as the CEO of the Massachusetts Port Authority, which oversees Logan International Airport as well as two other airports and four maritime businesses in the Port of Boston. This appointment required him to step down as a trustee of Brandeis University. (glynnthomas@yahoo.com)

Mary K. Grant, PhD'00, president of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, has been appointed chancellor of the University of North Carolina Asheville beginning in January 2015.

Ruth M. Kelley, MM'04, writes to alumni, "The days are short and the years are fleeting! Graduation 2004! I am grateful to so many professors at Heller who supported me during some very challenging times. I received a promotion to chief of behavioral health at the Dimock Center, where my career has been blessed. Among my accomplishments are establishing creative models of care and a full continuum of substance abuse and mental health services, advocacy at the local and state levels on behalf of our clients, and being 'a voice' for those who cannot speak for themselves. What an incredible journey it has been, balanced by my incredible husband, two sons/families and four grandchildren. Awesome 10 years!" (rkelley@dimock.org)

Elizabeth Robboy Kittrie, MMHS'94, is serving as a senior adviser in the Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary, where she has participated in the development of a new unit called the HHS IDEA Lab. The HHS IDEA Lab equips and empowers HHS

employees and members of the public who have an idea and want to act. (HHS IDEA Lab: hhs.gov/idealab, Elizabeth.Kittrie@hhs.gov)

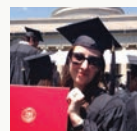
Karen Devereaux Melillo, PhD'90, ANP-C, FAANP, FGSA, professor, has been named the inaugural interim dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. (Karen_Melillo@uml.edu)

Ruslan V. Nikitin, MS'10, has been working as a research associate at the Institute for Behavioral Health within the Schneider Institutes at the Heller School since 2010. He has co-authored articles and contributed to the Department of Defense Conference Report to the U.S. Congress, titled "Study on Incidence of Breast Cancer Among Members of Armed Services Serving on Active Duty." As a recipient of a National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA/NIH) training grant, in fall 2014 he will begin a PhD program in social policy at Heller, focusing on behavioral and mental health. (nikitin@brandeis.edu)

Chhoek Penjor, MA SID'11, is working with the National Commission for Women and Children in Bhutan and has been promoted to the position of deputy chief of the Children's Division. She has taken the lead in establishing a comprehensive child-protection system in Bhutan. Her major achievement has been the drafting of the Rules and Regulations for the Child Care and Protection Act for the Kingdom of Bhutan, which has now been officially endorsed. (chhoekip@gmail.com)

Dawna (Zajac) Perez, MMHS'95, was appointed dean of student success at Northern Essex Community College in March 2014. In addition to co-chairing two of the college's strategic planning

teams focused on improving student learning, retention and graduation rates and improving student career preparation, she will lead coordination of all of the school's student success initiatives, including the rollout of Starfish Early Success, an early alert program; the school's Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) activities; Achieving the Dream strategies; and civic and community engagement work at the college. (dperez@necc.mass.edu)



Elizabeth Petheo, MA SID'06, received her MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management in June 2014. She works at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and recently completed an external assignment in Haiti. (empetheo@yahoo.com)



Margaret A. Post, PhD'08, is a visiting scholar at Dartmouth College's Rockefeller Center for Public Policy. She currently serves as senior researcher with the Innovation Network Inc., conducting a multisite evaluation of the Center for Community Change. Post is a member of the Next Generation Engagement Project at the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (UMASS Boston) and is co-editor of the forthcoming book "Voices of the Next Generation of Engagement" with Elaine Ward, Nicholas Longo and John Saltmarsh (Stylus, 2015). In 2011, she published "Grassroots Coalitions and State Policy Change: Organizing for Immigrant Health Care," an investigation of how statewide health-policy coalitions incorporate immigrant interests in organizing strategies for policy change. (margaretapost@gmail.com)

Matt Saxton, MBA/MS'09, has recently accepted a position with Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in East Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya. Saxton welcomes the opportunity to connect with Heller alums in the region or those passing through. (matthewsaxton@hotmail.com)

Rafael M. Semansky, PhD'10, is the principal analyst specializing in behavioral health at the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), a nonpartisan federal agency in Washington, D.C. (rafael_dc_05@yahoo.com)

Windsor Sherrill, PhD'00, a Clemson University professor, has been named associate vice president for health research at Clemson and chief science officer at Greenville Health System (GHS). (wsherri@clemson.edu)

Elizabeth Stephens, MA SID'12, is the new dean of instruction at Austin Achieve Public Schools (AAPS). AAPS is a startup open-enrollment charter school in Austin, Texas, with a mission to engage the east Austin community in transformation by providing its youth with outstanding free and public education opportunities. Stephens guides a team of 25 teachers with a shared vision of instructional excellence, who together will serve more than 400 students this year. (austinachieve.org, estephens@austinachieve.org)



Emma Stokes, PhD'78, retired after a seven-year gradual transition from a challenging career as an internal consultant in organization development and diversity (within the Office of Human Services, now called Talent Management and Organization Development) at Johns Hopkins University. She previously worked at the Massachusetts

Department of Public Health until the mid-1980s. She notes it was exciting to pioneer this kind of internal consulting role in both of those organizations. Now a “professional volunteer” for a range of organizations, she finds that the theme and issues of Heller’s 55th Anniversary Conference and Reunion recharges and deepens her motivation both to examine and act on some very important personal and professional values. (emma.stokes@verizon.net)

Malka Aliza Travaglini, MPP/MA'10, has moved with her husband, Joseph Travaglini, MSF'11 (IBS), to the beautiful town of Lynnfield, Mass. She recently started a position as associate program officer at the Klarman Family Foundation. (malka.travaglini@gmail.com)

PUBLICATIONS

Marcia B. Cohen, PhD'88, is a full professor at the University of New England School of Social Work and recently published her second book, “Empowering Workers and Clients for Organizational Change” (Lyceum, 2014). She currently teaches courses in social welfare policy and provides academic advising to students in the university’s online MSW program. Cohen lives in Portland, Maine, with her husband, David Wagner. They plan to retire and move to Southern California in the not-too-distant future. (mcohen@une.edu)

Elizabeth Palley, PhD'03, co-authored a book with Corey Shdaimah titled “In Our Hands: The Struggle for U.S. Child Care Policy” (New York University 2014). The book includes data from interviews with 23 prominent child care and early education



advocates and researchers who have spent their careers seeking expansion of child care policy and funding, and examines the legislative debates around key child care bills of the last half century. The characterization of child care as a problem to be solved by individual families has gone largely unchallenged by both the public and policymakers. Palley and Shdaimah analyze the vested interests that have formed around existing child care programs, creating policy feedback, which has limited the possibility for more expansive government involvement in child care. Ultimately, the authors conclude, we do not need to make minor changes to our existing policies; we need a revolution. (palley@adelphi.edu)



Deborah Kaplan Polivy, MSW'72, PhD'78, published a book titled “Donor Cultivation and the Donor Lifecycle Map:

A New Framework for Fundraising” (Wiley, 2014). She has done a lot of traveling, including to Israel, where she taught two classes for master’s students in not-for-profit organizations — one at Beersheba University and the other at Hebrew University. Her indebtedness to the Heller School is well noted in the introduction to the book: “My years at the Florence Heller Graduate School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University taught me to think critically about social policy and about effectively creating ‘change.’ I am particularly indebted to professors Arnold Gurin, Roland Warren and Robert Morris, of blessed memories, who always pushed me to my furthest intellectual capacity.” She continues to consult with organizations on their fund development and board-related issues. (DEBPOL@aol.com)

Joseph Wronka, PhD'92, published a book titled "Human Rights and Social Justice: Social Action and Service for the Helping and Health Professions" (Sage, 2008). It was recently designated as one of 100 great books for social work educators at mswonlineprograms.org/great-social-work-books. In brief, this book sees human rights as the foundation of social justice, and examines multipronged interventions from what it refers to as the meta-macro (global), macro (whole population), mezzo (at-risk), micro (clinical) and meta-micro (everyday life) to promote well-being and eradicate social and individual malaise. A copy of the book can be found at humanrightsculture.org. (rightsdefender1@verizon.net)

AWARDS/HONORS/BOARDS/ GRANTS

Ariella Camera, MA SID'13, presidential management fellow, received the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator's Award for her work on the implementation of the Federal Marketplace with the Exchange Policy and Operations Group at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight. (ariella.camera@gmail.com)

Stephen Coan, MMHS'90, PhD'97, president and chief executive officer of Mystic Aquarium, in Mystic, Conn., received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service from First Lady Michelle Obama. Mystic Aquarium was the only aquarium or zoo chosen this year for the honor, which recognizes a library's or museum's impact on the community.

Barbara Nobles Crawford, PhD'84, assistant secretary of human resources in Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick's administration, received the Eugene H. Rooney Public Service Award for

Excellence in Human Resources. "The award recognizes and highlights outstanding performance and creativity which enlighten the minds and enhance the quality of the workforce." (bncnp@aol.com)

Oscar Harrell, PhD'95, received the Lifetime of Discipleship Award in 2012 from the Preacher's Aid Society in recognition of many years of dedicated service by a layperson for the ministries, missions and prophetic callings of the United Methodist Church. He served in many positions on the local church, conference, jurisdiction and general conference levels. He was conference lay leader for eight years and president of the jurisdiction lay leaders for five years. He also received an award from the bishop that year. In completion of his 10th year as a member of the board of directors for the Deaconess Abundant Life Communities, he received an award for recognition of service. (owhtwo@msn.com)

Karen Devereaux Melillo, PhD'90, and **Marji Erickson Warfield, PhD'91**, were awarded a planning grant from the Special Hope Foundation. Titled "A Nurse Practitioner Model for Delivering Primary and Coordinated Care to Adults with Disabilities," the grant will design and evaluate the development of a nurse practitioner model for delivering primary and coordinated care to adults with disabilities. The project is a collaborative effort between the Heller School's Starr Center on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, directed by Erickson Warfield, and the School of Nursing at UMass Lowell, where Devereaux Melillo is dean. Project partners also include CLASS Inc., a provider agency in Lawrence, Mass., and the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Executive Office of Health and

Human Services. (Karen_Melillo@uml.edu, mew@brandeis.edu)



Debra Rahmin Silberstein, PhD'09, was recognized by the YWCA in its annual "Tribute to Women"

celebration, in recognition of her long-standing history of public service in the Merrimack Valley. Currently serving as a trustee of Lawrence General Hospital, Silberstein maintains a vibrant estate planning, probate and elder law practice in Andover, Mass. (Debra@debrasilberstein.com)

Fernando Torres-Gil, MSW'72, PhD'76, is the 2014 winner of the American Sociological Association Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award is presented to an individual age 65 or older who has, through a lifetime of advocacy and leadership, enhanced the lives of elders through demonstrated leadership on the national level. Torres-Gil is professor of social welfare and public policy at the University of California, Los Angeles' Luskin School of Public Affairs, and director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging.

BIRTHS/MARRIAGES

Lauren Fredman, MBA/MA'14, married Joshua Rogoff in Morristown, N.J., on Sept. 7, 2014. They now live in Salt Lake City, Utah. (LRFredman@gmail.com)

Jane Mattson Shapiro, PhD'94, married her high school/college sweetheart, Steve Shapiro, on April 19, 2014. After nine years of growing up together, and a hiatus of 44 years, they fell back in even greater love. Steve retired, moved to Connecticut, and now has six "instant" grandchildren. (jm@janemattsonassociates.com)

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

Jeffrey Ashe, adjunct professor, published a new book titled “In Their Own Hands: How Savings Groups Are Revolutionizing Development,” which addresses how savings groups are a socially responsible alternative to traditional microfinance models. In



savings groups, members save what they can in a communal pot and loan their growing fund to each other for their short-term needs. Savings groups are effective, low-cost, mass-scale, locally controlled and virally self-replicating approaches to reduce hunger, as they build assets and social capital for marginalized populations. This book describes how he developed “Saving for Change,” which leveraged the wisdom and strength of group members to train and establish new savings groups. Today, saving groups have 10 million members around the globe and replicate without continued outside support. Ashe has received endorsements from the founder of FINCA International, John Hatch, and from the former president of Accion International and of Oxfam America, John Hammock. The book is published by Berrett Koehler and will be available in late October 2014. (jashe65@brandeis.edu)

The Foundation Review, the first peer-reviewed journal of philanthropy, featured an article by the Center for Youth and Communities (CYC), including lead author CYC senior fellow **Della M. Hughes** and **Sara Plachta Elliott, PhD’13**. Citation: Hughes, Della M., Colombo, Marie, Hughes, Laura A., Plachta Elliott, Sara., and Schneider-Munoz, Andrew. (2014) From Citywide to Neighborhood-Based: Two Decades of Learning,

Prioritization and Strategic Action to Build the Skillman Foundation’s Youth-Development Systems, The Foundation Review, Vol. 6: Issue 2, Article 9. Available at scholarworks.gvsu.edu/tfr/vol6/iss2/9 (dhughes@brandeis.edu, spellriott@gmail.com)

Isabella Jean, MA COEX’06, adjunct faculty (COEX), co-authored and published a research study and guidance on effective feedback loops in humanitarian contexts. The research project was jointly conducted by CDA in Cambridge, Mass., where she is the director of evaluation and learning, and the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), which is based in London. The research study and practical guidance are based on extensive literature review and field visits to Darfur, Pakistan and Haiti to document effective feedback practices at the operational level in emergency settings. The following publications are available for download online: Bonino F., with Jean, I. and Knox Clarke, P. (2014) “Closing the Loop: Effective Feedback in Humanitarian Contexts.” (alnap.org/resource/10676.aspx) ALNAP-CDA Practitioner Guidance. London: ALNAP/ODI. (2014). Bonino, F., with Jean, I. and Knox Clarke, P. “Humanitarian Feedback Mechanisms: Research, Evidence and Guidance.” (alnap.org/resource/9944) ALNAP Study. London: ALNAP/ODI. (2014). Jean, I., with Bonino, F. “‘Investing in Listening’: International Organization for Migration’s Experience with Humanitarian Feedback Mechanisms in Sindh Province, Pakistan.” (alnap.org/resource/10675) ALNAP/CDA Case Study. London: ODI/ALNAP. (2014). Jean, I., with Bonino, F. “‘We Are Committed to Listen to You’: World Vision’s Experience with Humanitarian Feedback Mechanisms in Darfur.” (alnap.org/

resource/8851) ALNAP/CDA Case Study. London: ODI/ALNAP. (2013). (ijean@brandeis.edu)

Susan L. Parish, Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Disability Policy and director of the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, presented “A National Profile of Deliveries by U.S. Women with Intellectual Disabilities: Maternal Characteristics and Pregnancy Outcomes” at the July 2014 International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Europe Regional Congress, in Vienna. Parish’s team identified 340 women with IDD in the 2010 Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Nationwide Inpatient Sample and compared deliveries among women with IDD to the general obstetric population. They found that women with IDD had longer hospital stays; were more likely to have cesarean deliveries; and had higher rates of early labor, preterm birth, pre-eclampsia and other hypertensive conditions. Their infants were more likely to have low birth weight and late fetal death or stillbirth. Targeted interventions for this vulnerable population are urgently needed. (slp@brandeis.edu)

Sara Shostak, associate professor of sociology and chair of the Health: Science, Society and Policy (HSSP) Program, is thrilled to report that her book “Exposed Science: Genes, the Environment and the Politics of Population Health” has received the Robert K. Merton Book Award from the American Sociological Association (ASA), Section on Science, Knowledge and Technology, and the Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award from the ASA’s Medical Sociology Section. (sshostak@brandeis.edu)

Financial Overview

HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FISCAL FACTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 (IN MILLIONS)

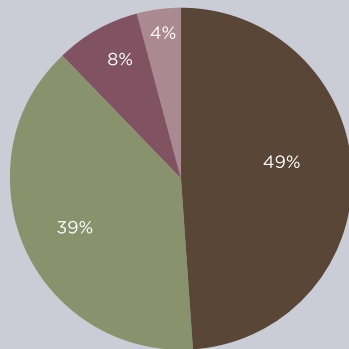
REVENUES

Sponsored Research Revenue	18.6
Gross Tuition & Fees	15.1
Endowment Support	3.1
Current Use Gifts	1.6
Total Revenue	38.4

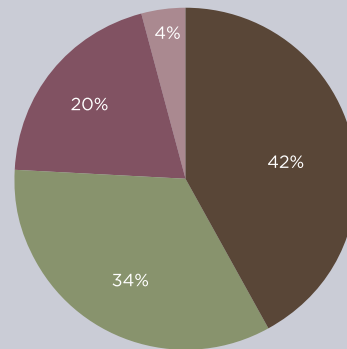
EXPENSES

Sponsored Research Expenses	15.2
Salaries, Wages & Fringe	12.6
Financial Aid	7.3
Operating Expenses	1.6
Total Expenses	36.7

Contribution to Brandeis University
for Overhead Cost 1.7

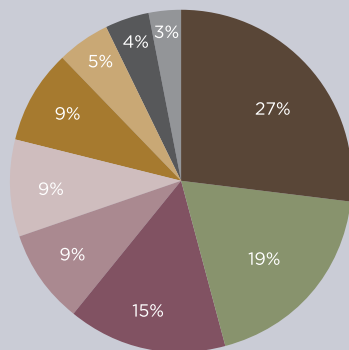


- Sponsored Research Revenue
- Gross Tuition and Fees
- Endowment Support
- Current Use Gifts



- Sponsored Research Expenses
- Salaries, Wages and Fringe
- Financial Aid
- Operating Expenses

SOURCES OF SPONSORED RESEARCH REVENUE FY'14 TOTAL \$18.6M



- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Foundation
- National Institute of Health
- Department of Justice
- Private
- Other
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Heller School Total Enrollment Fall 2013

Degree Program	Total # Students	Male	Female	U.S. Citizens	Non-U.S. Citizens
All Students	526	188	338	364	162
PhD	131	24	107	114	17
MBA	100	53	47	89	11
MPP	39	14	25	34	5
MBA/MPP	17	4	13	17	0
SID	140	53	87	72	68
COEX	28	15	13	9	19
SID/COEX	34	10	24	23	11
IHPM	37	15	22	6	31

Number of countries represented:	51
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BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

The Heller School

FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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