

Report of the School of Public Affairs to Baruch College General Faculty

Enrollment:

Total SPA enrollment for fall 2008 is 969 students.

The School of Public Affairs welcomes 327 new graduate students this fall semester, representing a +16% increase in new graduate students from last fall's entering class. This fall the School of Public Affairs had a 16.5% overall increase in number of applications from fall 2007. The MEd in Higher Education, XMPA, and Baruch Cohort of the Educational Leadership program experienced application changes of +14.9%, -22% and +9%, respectively. Traditional MPA applications were up +20.5%. The School was able to exceed enrollment targets for 3 of 3 of its traditional programs. SPA enrolled 327/304, or 107.6% of its target for entering first time graduate students. 498 continuing graduate students registered at SPA this fall, bringing the total graduate student population at SPA to 825 students, or +15.4%.

Women make up 71.9% of the graduate student body, representing an increase of +2.3% from fall 2006. Of 769 students reporting ethnicity data, 43.2% (+2.3%) identify as White, 22.6% Black, 15.5% (+2%) Hispanic, 7.4% (+2.9%) Asian, 0.1% Native American, 5.7%, Other, and 5.5% (-9.1%) Choose not to Respond. The entering class reflects the growing diversity of an already highly diverse graduate student population. The ethnicity data for new students is 38.3% White, 25.3% Black, 15.8% Hispanic, 8.2% Asian, 5.0% Other, and 7.3% not available or Choose not to Respond. Notable changes from fall 2007 entering class ethnicity reporting are +4.2% Asian and -3.1% not available or Choose not to Respond. SPA's first-time graduate student population is comprised of 68.4% women and 31.6% men, or a -3.5% and +3.5% change from fall 2007, respectively.

Traditional MPA Enrollment Report – Fall 2008

- MPA applications up 25% from fall 2006, 20.5% from fall 2007
- MPA Accept rate = 82%, steady for third year
- MPA Yield rate = 69%, drop from 71% in fall 2007

MPA Incoming class of **127** (+30% F06)

36 (+70% F06) Full-time, 133.3% of target

91 (+21% F06) Part-time, 107% of target

MPA Incoming class 84F, 43M (or 66% (-3% F07) women, 34% (+3% F07) male

Academic Programs and SPA News

SPA Welcomes Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Dr. Jonathan Engel:

This spring, Dean Birdsell announced the appointment of Jonathan Engel to the newly created position of Associate Dean of Academic Programs. He joins us from Seton Hall University where he was Professor of Public and Healthcare Administration.

New Faculty: SPA is proud to announce the addition of two new FT faculty members. Na Yin joins our faculty as an Assistant Professor and cluster hire for the CUNY Institute for

Demographic Research. Maharukh Bhildawalla joins us from Columbia University where she was a Lecturer.

A redesign of the School's website was initiated in November 2007, with its official launch on July 15, 2008: During the fall, we will continue to refine the navigation and content on the site with input from Baruch faculty, staff and students. We encourage you to visit the site and provide feedback.

In the fall of 2007, staff at SPA began the work of the redesign with the firm BBMG. We established a range of goals as we began the process. We set out to improve organization and navigation, while bringing a livelier look and feel to the site. We were looking for more visual consistency with other SPA printed materials, and also to provide additional multi-media and interactive functionality.

We are grateful for the development work from the steering committee: Yvette Kelley, Barbara Fife, Patrick Ackerman, Carol Abrams, Gregorio Morales, Corrine Kohlmeyer-Hyman, and Valerie Lisyansky. In the process of developing the concept for this website, we consulted with members of our faculty and staff, and particularly appreciate the strong support and advice of Dean David Birdsell.

Former three-term New York State governor Mario Cuomo and Douglas Muzzio: professor of Public Affairs and political commentator will co-teach a Seminar in Public Affairs during the fall 2008 semester. Titled "The 2008 Presidential Election: Where We Are as a Nation, Where We Want to Be, How to Get There," the course will provide students with an inside look at the race for the presidency from one of America's elder statesmen and a political scientist, who has also served as a campaign strategist. Cuomo and Muzzio will occasionally be joined by political, polling, media, and academic practitioners and analysts.

The curriculum focuses on three basic themes: The basic principles of Democracy on which our nation was founded; The nature of American political discourse and debate; and The current "state of the nation", including major public concerns and how political parties, interest groups and the media frame political issues and policy development and adoption

Our Upcoming Events

"Diversity and America's Future: A Complex Assessment"

Part of the Lillie and Nathan Ackerman Lecture Series
Wednesday, September 24, from 6-8 pm

"Coming to Terms: New York City and Term Limits"

Part of the Peter F. Vallone Sr. Lecture Series
Thursday, October 16, from 8 -10:30 am

"Politics, Pundits and Polls: Election 2008"

Presented by the Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government at SPA
Tuesday, October 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

“Can Church and State be Separate: The Future of Religious Freedom in America”

Part of the Lillie and Nathan Ackerman Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 28, from 6-8 pm

“Watch the Debates with CILG”: The Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government in the School of Public Affairs will host viewing and commentary sessions for the three upcoming presidential debates as well as the vice presidential debate. All members of the Baruch community are welcome and we are of course particularly interested in having students attend. The schedule is the same every night. We’ll open the doors at 8:30. The debates run from 9:00-10:30 EDT, after which we will turn off the television and have a discussion among all those present about each event. Dean Birdsall will be at every event and will be joined by Professor Doug Muzzio and other colleagues each night.

Executive Programs

This is the 25th anniversary of the XMPA program and the school is honored to welcome its 25th cohort, also known as the silver cohort. Some of this cohort’s students include a New York State Supreme Court Judge, a Senior Vice President from the Century Foundation, an attorney from a city agency, and a financial journalist. Cohort 24 is also going strong and will graduate this June, 2009. Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the CUNY School of Professional Studies (SPS), have partnered with the School of Public Affairs to create the Change Management Leadership Program for mid-to-senior level managers who work for the Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY).

SPA Faculty and Student Awards

Faculty Awards: Professor David Hoffman has been awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship this academic year. This year’s theme with the Center for the Humanities at the Graduate Center is “The Sacred and the Secular.”

Sylvia Mlynarska, ’08, Cheryl Szczepkowski, and Constance Bowens: Sylvia, Cheryl, and Constance have received entrance into the New York State Public Management Institute. The two year program gives full-time paid traineeships within a New York State agency to people holding master’s degrees. Trainees learn what’s needed to have management roles in the New York State government.

Diane Arneth: Executive MPA alumna Diane Arneth received a New York Times Nonprofit Excellence Award for her work as Executive Director of Community Health Action of Staten Island. The award for Overall Management Excellence is the highest an organization can receive.

In late spring 2007, American Humanics (AH) has awarded six Next Gen internships in the amount of \$4500 and two AH Academic Scholarships. Five of these were awarded to SPA students.

