

Report of the School of Public Affairs to Baruch College General Faculty Thursday, October 30, 2003

The academic year 2003-2004 promises to be a significant year for the School of Public Affairs, as 2004 marks the 10th Anniversary of the School's establishment, as well as the 50th Anniversary of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree being awarded at Baruch College.

Enrollment growth

Enrollment growth in the School of Public Affairs has been carefully controlled to allow the School to expand modestly while improving selectivity. The School is gaining substantially in both exposure and recognition. The number of applications for SPA masters programs soared this past year, increasing by 25%. The fall 2003 entering class includes 220 new graduate students (the School's admissions target), and an additional 39 new full-time students. The additional enrollment was the direct result of SPA's effort to help the College meet its enrollment targets at the eleventh hour. The 39 full-time students are a part of the newly-established partnership with the NYC Leadership Academy's *Aspiring Principals Program* (see below). The total number of graduate students enrolled at the School for fall 2003 is 655. The number of undergraduates is 110. The demographic profile for the incoming graduate class is: 42% White (Non-Hispanic), 31% Black, 18% Hispanic, 6% Asian and 3% other minority. Only 3% of our graduate students are international students. The Full-time/Part-time ratio is 42%/58%, continuing the shift away from predominantly part-time enrollments.

New Faculty

Greg Chen, most recently Manager of Finance for the Premier's Office in British Columbia, has joined the SPA faculty as an Associate Professor. He will be teaching the core budgeting courses. Dr. Chen holds a Ph.D. from the University of Victoria, BC, Canada; he has served as an Associate Dean at the College of WISCO in China; his career has also included stints as a policy advisor, evaluation specialist, and an educational consultant.

Jennifer Goldstein, who has been appointed as an Assistant Professor, recently completed her Ph.D. at Stanford University. Professor Goldstein will be teaching in the MS Ed program. Her background includes a period as an associate research scientist with the Educational Testing Service and as a consultant to the San Francisco Unified School District; she has also been a classroom teacher.

David C. Hoffman, who earned his Ph.D. in Communication Studies and Rhetoric at the University of Iowa, has also been appointed as an Assistant Professor. He will be teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses in public communication. Dr. Hoffman has most recently been an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. He also taught at Temple University and the University of Iowa. His dissertation won "Best Dissertation" award from the American Society for the History of Rhetoric.

SPA Centers & Special Programs

Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government

Peter F. Vallone Lectureship on Government and Politics in NYC:

The inaugural year of the Peter F. Vallone Lectureship on Government features former NYC Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone presenting a series of lectures that explore important questions related to the proper balance between government and politics. The first lecture, was October 8, 2003 and addressed the *Balance of Powers and Principles* tracing the evolution of government as it strives to achieve the principle of “do the right thing.” Future lectures will be entitled *Politics vs Good Government: The Albany Question*, *The Power of the Media in the Legislative Process*, and *The Making of Laws and the Shaping of the City (The Budget)*.

Policy Breakfast Series:

This year SPA’s first Policy Breakfast on October 24 addressed issues related to recycling and solid waste management. Subsequent sessions will include a program on what it means for the U.S to have so many residents who lack health insurance.

Archive on Municipal Finance and Leadership:

SPA’s newly-establishment Archive on Municipal Finance and Leadership focuses on the NYC fiscal crisis of the 1970s. SPA announced a two-tiered competition for research papers based, in whole or part, on this material.

- Up to three papers will be selected written by Ph.D. candidates, faculty members, or senior researchers, and will each be awarded \$5,000. (Tier I)
- Up to three papers written by undergraduate or graduate students will be selected, and will each be awarded \$1,500. (Tier II)

The Municipal Archives materials are housed in the Newman Library Archives and can also be accessed electronically. The URL address is:

<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/spa/archives/MFL/index.jsp> .

The deadline for submission of research proposal for entries in the Tier I is January 31, 2004, for submission of papers in the Tier II competition (is April 1, 2004

Go to <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/spa/archives/MFL/index3.jsp> for additional details on the competition. SPA encourages Baruch faculty to let students and colleagues know of this competition.

Center for Educational Leadership

Partnership with NYC Leadership Academy:

The NYC Leadership Academy, a training entity created by the City’s Department of Education, selected SPA as one of the Academy’s university partners. The Academy’s purpose, according to its President, Robert Knowling, is to “build a new cadre of exceptional instructional leaders and to support existing leaders so they can increase student learning in their schools.” Baruch, along with Teachers College at Columbia University, will partner with the Leadership Academy in developing and implementing the *Aspiring Principals Program*. This designation affirms SPA’s ground-breaking role in redefining the leadership development for new school principals through its Aspiring Leaders Program.

Forum *Children First: Promises and Prospects*:

In anticipation of the September launch of the totally revamped New York City public schools run by a new Department of Education (DOE) under mayoral control for the first time, last June SPA hosted a preview of the new system at *Children First: Promises and Prospects*. Presenters included Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, who keynoted the conference; Diana Lam, the new Deputy Chancellor for Instruction; Jill Levy, President of the

Council of Supervisors and Administrators; Helen Santiago, Superintendent of District 1; and Council Member Eva Moskowitz, Chair of the Education Committee.

Lillie & Nathan Ackerman Lecture Series on Equality and Justice in America:

Thursday October 16, 2003 SPA held the annual Ackerman Lecture, coordinated each year by the School's Ackerman Visiting Professor of Equality and Justice, at the School's Center on Equality, Pluralism and Policy. This year's Visiting Professor is Nancy Foner, whose work currently focuses on immigration to New York City now and in the past. The lecture, titled *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Immigration Policy for a New Era* –was presented by Professor Douglas S. Massey.

Survey Research Unit

During the past two years, the Survey Research Unit (SRU) at SPA has talked to nearly 20,000 New Yorkers about their health condition and behavior. These interviews are for the Community Health Survey (CHS), a project of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This telephone survey of New York City adults uses a stratified design to provide health information for 33 specific neighborhoods, as well as for the city as a whole. Many questions in the survey are taken from the Center for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey, allowing comparison with national and state data.. Among recent findings from the 2002 survey: only 26 percent of New Yorkers between 18 and 64 have had a recent HIV test, and only 36 percent reported using a condom the last time they had sex. (A public-use data set of interviews from the survey is on the DOHMH's website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/survey/survey.html>).

Nonprofit Programs:

As a component of its growing Nonprofit Leadership Development venture, SPA is offering seminars and roundtables that address executive leadership and institutional strategy in the nonprofit sector. This semester the Nonprofit Group continues the Seminar Series with several events including; Creating A Theory of Change for your Nonprofit; Faith-Based Nonprofit Round Table Discussion; Legal and Practical Considerations for Nonprofit Mergers and How to Burn-out Proof Your Nonprofit. The group is launching a new Brown Bag Lunch series and Evenings of Excellence series.

U.S. Census Bureau Research Data Center:

On August 1st, the New York Research Data Center received start-up funds from the National Science Foundation to establish at Baruch northeast regional center that will be a secure site for access to confidential U.S. Census Bureau data. SPA's Neil Bennett A, Executive Director of the RDC, and other individuals from the 14-member Consortium, are now working with the U.S. Census Bureau to obtain the necessary approvals to open the Center on the Baruch campus.

Development of Joint MS/MPA Program with Hunter College School of Nursing

SPA and the School of Nursing at Hunter College are developing dual degree program. The MS/MPA will offer a new opportunity within the graduate nursing program for nurses interested in nursing administration who need to acquire knowledge and skills for today's health care environment. A dual degree would strengthen students' knowledge of health policy making, health administration, health financing. The proposed program represents a combination of the MS in Nursing Administration which is a 42 credit program and the MPA

which is a 42/45 credit program depending on whether a student must fulfill an internship requirement.

Highlights of External Support

Between March 2003 and October 15, 2003 SPA faculty and programs were awarded an additional \$2.5+ million to support research and service projects. Highlights include:

- Stan Altman and Barbara Fife received \$50,000 from the New York Community Trust to support the Archive on Municipal Finance and Leadership.
- Neil Bennett and the Research Data Center consortium received \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation as well as an allocation from the NYC Council for renovation of the Baruch space.
- Diane Gibson and Ted Joyce received a grant for \$33,390 from the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a study entitled, The Use of Twins to Understand the Effect of the Women Infants and Children Program on Birth Outcomes.
- Liz Gewirtzman and the Center for Educational Leadership received a \$460,000 Ford Foundation grant for a study of small high school leadership development in a reform environment.
- John Goering has received multiple grants, including \$100,000 from the Ford Foundation and \$50,000 from Fannie Mae to convene a National Fair Housing Forum and publish a book on new fair housing research and to enhance the capacity of non-profit organizations to address equal housing opportunity.
- Shoshanna Sofaer was awarded a 5-year \$1.35 million grant by the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, of the U.S. Department HHS, to expand the project known as Consumer Assessment of Health Plans Study (CAHP). The project aims to create a set of “gold standard” surveys of consumer/patient experiences with health plans, physicians, hospitals, nursing homes and other health organizations as well as methods to report the results back to the public, providers, health plans, and health insurance purchasers.
- Professor Sofaer has also been awarded \$199,701 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for an 18-month project to develop criteria to assess the likelihood that the information materials and decision support tools provided to consumers who choose Consumer Driven Health Plans will be usable in making key health insurance and health care utilization decisions.
- Gregg Van Ryzin received \$45,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to conduct web-based surveys of citizen satisfaction with municipal government performance. The project -- eTownPanel -- recruits residents of a community interested in participating in online citizen surveys, and makes survey results available on the web for communities to use to influence local media and decision makers.
- Lynn Weikart received \$2,000 from the Children’s Aid Society for work on public housing and public schools in connection with the Downstate Prevention Resource Center.
- The United Way of New York City (UWNYC) will provide \$75,000 in funding for a training program for nonprofit executives in public management, as UWNYC Nonprofit Leadership Institute. Principal investigators are Dean Stan Altman and Professor David Birdsell.