

Report of the School of Public Affairs to Baruch College General Faculty Tuesday, April 15, 2003

The **School of Public Affairs** houses interdisciplinary and professional degree programs that prepare students for careers in the public and nonprofit sectors. The School offers undergraduate, graduate and executive programs in Public Administration and Education Administration. At the November 21, 2002 faculty meeting the School adopted a modified mission statement in response to recommendations from the NASPAA reaccreditation site visit and the College' proposed revised mission statement:

The mission of the School of Public Affairs is to enhance the performance of governmental and nonprofit institutions in New York and the nation in the interest of effective and equitable public service and public policy in a diverse society. Using insights from theory, research, and practice, we are a multidisciplinary community of scholars engaged in teaching, research, and outreach to achieve this mission.

We place special emphasis on educating responsive and accountable leaders who combine managerial expertise, creative and critical thinking, and rigorous analysis in the formation and execution of public policy. The School also serves as a site for debate and reflection on issues of public importance to New York and the world beyond.

Enrollment growth

The School of Public Affairs enrolled 58 new graduate students in the spring 2003 semester, for a total of 564 graduate students. Fifty-six percent of the incoming class are minority students, sixty percent female and one percent international. The number of full-time students continues to increase. A waitlist for admission to the MPA program was used for the first time this Spring, as the School has reached enrollment capacity and did not want to close the door to well qualified students. Many of these students will be joining the school in September 2003. The School continues to host one off-site Executive MPA program and is the host school of the national *New Leaders New Schools* program for preparing educational leaders. SPA also enrolls 250 undergraduate majors.

SPA Centers & Special Programs

Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government

Policy Breakfast Series: This year the School of Public Affairs' policy breakfasts have addressed issues related to the city's budget crisis, reflecting the severe financial constraints which the public sector is now experiencing, and also marking the establishment of the Archive on Municipal Finance and Leadership at Baruch College (see below). The first of a series of four forums on ways to address the City's fiscal crisis was held last December; it was titled *Past and Present: Lessons from NYC's 1975 Fiscal Crisis*. Speakers included Richard Ravitch, former MTA chair, Howard Rubenstein, who had been an advisor to Mayor Beame, Baruch College president Ned Regan, Comptroller William Thompson and City Council Speaker Gifford Miller. Former Representative Herman Badillo served as the forum's moderator. The second policy breakfast, in January, featured nine former and current New York City Budget Directors. Alair Townsend, David Grossman, Adam Barsky and Mark Page joined panelists from as far back as 1971 to discuss past and present budget crises. Former State Budget Director, Dall Forsythe was the forum's moderator. In February the third forum was held on the city, state and federal legislatures' role in helping the City resolve its fiscal crisis. It had as panelists Congressman Jerrold Nadler, State Senator Martin Golden, Assemblymember Catherine Nolan, and Councilmember David Weprin, Chair of the City Council Finance Committee. The fourth and final forum in this series will occur on April 2 and is titled *Government Budgets in Crisis: Is the Solution Privatization?* Speakers will include Stephen Goldsmith, former mayor of Indianapolis; Kathryn Wylde, president of the New York City Partnership, Baruch professor E.S. (Steve) Savas, and Columbia professor Elliott Sclar. Baruch President Ned Regan will moderate the discussion on this challenging topic.

Archive on Municipal Finance and Leadership: In December SPA announced the establishment of the Archive on Municipal Finance and Leadership at the William and Anita Newman Library. The Archive, which focuses on the NYC fiscal crisis of the 1970s, was launched with documents and records released to SPA by the Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC), along with a donation of the personal collections of the late Jack Bigel, a key advisor during the City's fiscal crisis. These archived records will be available for research, as well as for general public interest. They are housed in the Baruch Library's Archive Section and will also be accessible through the School of Public Affairs' website. The records feature personal notes, congressional reports, oral histories on video, newspaper articles, internal New York City documents, press releases and statements prepared for Mayor Beame, and letters to law-makers and financial institutions. They further SPA's mission as the resource and learning center for New York City's current and future leaders and are invaluable assets to our institution and to our city in training the next wave of New York's leaders with the knowledge and experiences of some of New York's best known public servants.

Center for Educational Leadership

Sandra Stein named Dean of Department of Education's Leadership Academy: In early January, Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein named Sandra Stein, a leader in developing the School's Aspiring Leaders Program for training educational leaders for the City's schools, as Academic Dean of the City Department of Education's innovative Leadership Academy. This appointment reflects Stein's pioneering achievements creating a training program for school administrators known for its rigorous, meaningful, and relevant approach that focuses on strong instructional leadership. Chancellor Klein made the appointment as part of his major overhaul of the City's schools, and his new priorities empower principals, instilling true accountability, and rewarding success. Professor Stein will take a leave of absence from Baruch while she fulfills this new role. In addition to helping create the Center for Educational Leadership and the Aspiring Leaders Program, Stein taught courses in Urban School, Community Leadership, Research Seminars for Administrators, and facilitated principal internships.

JPMorganChase Lincoln Douglas Debates: The JPMorganChase Foundation has again asked the School of Public Affairs to continue its administration of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, a city-wide program for students in New York's public high schools. More than 50 high schools participated in this year's qualifying tournament. Elimination rounds will be held at Baruch on April 9th and 10th, with the final round in each of two tiers scheduled at the College on May 21st. The JPMC Lincoln-Douglas Debates are now in their twentieth year. Over 4,000 students have received a basic debate education through the program. Michelle Yuson coordinates the program for SPA. Anyone interested in observing or serving as a judge in this or next year's competition can contact Michelle at 212-802-2920.

Nonprofit programs: First Fridays: 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. SPA's First Fridays program is a monthly symposium for the NYC nonprofit community where participants come together for problem solving, policy development discussions, reflection and inspiration. Discussion groups during the current academic year cover *Critical Issues in Philanthropy*, *Providing and Coordinating Nonprofit Social Services*, *Professional Coaching*, *Surviving the Economic Storm: Nonprofit Management in Uncertain Times*, *Can Environmental and Business Goals be Aligned?* *Donors, Thinkers, Doers*, and a Consulting Day. New discussion groups planned include *New Frameworks for Society* and a series for program managers in a variety of issues (e.g., homelessness, housing) focusing on the *Mathematics of Compassion*.

Highlights of External Support

Between Fall 2002 and March 2003 SPA faculty were awarded \$2.6 million to support research and service projects. Included in this were a grant to Shoshanna Sofaer (\$199,700 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) to develop criteria to assess the likelihood that information materials provided to health care consumers will be useful in making health insurance and health care utilization decisions; to Lynne Weikart (\$84,326.00 via the Health Resources and Services Administration) for an evaluation

study of a Community Access Program grant to develop an infrastructure that supports access to health care in Far Rockaway; to the Baruch Survey Unit, Stephen Immerwahr, Director (\$445,000 contract with the New York City Department of Health) to conduct a survey of community-level health risk behaviors in relation to chronic disease; and to Harold Wenglinsky (\$25,000 seed funding from New Vision for Public Schools for a multi-year Department of Education project) to develop the first phase of the Department's Children First Initiative for safe schools. Other highlights include:

Durst Family Real Estate Collection at Baruch College Library: Professor John Goering secured a generous gift from the Durst Organization and the Old York Foundation to establish in the Baruch College Library the Durst Family Real Estate Collection on history of New York real estate, housing, metropolitan development, architecture, politics and demographics. The collection includes books, maps, published diaries, pictures and other documents. In addition to this in-kind donation, the donation includes a four-year financial commitment of \$100,000 to support the Collection.

Developing Diverse Leadership in Engineering: Professor Carroll Seron has been awarded a six-year grant by the National Science Foundation for a longitudinal study of the persistence and departure of women and minorities in the engineering profession. Professor Seron is Co-Principal Investigator along with Professor Susan Sibley of MIT, Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Total project budget is \$1,569,231, the SPA portion is \$976,590.

SPA's Aspiring Leaders Program: Dean Stan Altman and Professor David Birdsell secured a matching grant from JP Morgan Chase Foundation to support SPA's Aspiring Leaders Program (ALPS) - a unique, collaborative principal preparation program with NYC School Districts 2, 3, 6, 15, and 79. ALPS uses problem-based learning and a curriculum that is co-constructed by district practitioner/instructors and university professors. Until now the school districts have borne the full cost of the ALPS program, linking their investment in professional development of teachers to their long-term needs for instructional leaders. To assist the districts to maintain their investment in ALPS during the current City fiscal crisis, and thus allow SPA to maintain ALPS, JP Morgan Chase Foundation awarded the program an \$88,000 grant to be matched by the participating school districts.

Nonprofit Technology Program: The Nonprofit Technology program, now moving into its eighth year, has provided organizations receiving grants from the Clark Foundation with unbiased, leading-edge information about improving institutional management through the use of technology. This year's grant of \$70,000 will support ten organizations working on website design and other elements of institutional communication in SPA's Nonprofit Computer Lab. It will also fund a survey of Clark grant recipients and other nonprofit organizations to determine how effectively nonprofits are making use of technological resources. The Principal Investigator for this grant is Professor David Birdsell.

Upcoming Programs

Lillie & Nathan Ackerman Lecture Series on Equality and Justice in America: On April 30, 2002 SPA will hold its 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 *Why and How Does the U.S. Census Count Races?*, will be presented by Kenneth Prewitt, former Director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

School of Public Affairs' 10/50 Anniversary Celebration: During 2004 the School of Public Affairs will mark its 10th Anniversary and the MPA degree at Baruch will mark its 50th Anniversary. SPA is planning a series of events to commemorate these milestones. Under consideration are: a conference or symposium, commissioned papers, a banquet with awards for high-achieving alumni, a special pin or ribbon, and/or creating an award or annual lecture. The goal is to include alumni, current students, current and former faculty, and academic community peers. Events will emphasize SPA's educational themes: nonprofit, government, health and education. Details will be announced as they are finalized.