

**Report of the School of Public Affairs to the Baruch College General Faculty;
March 31, 2016**

ENROLLMENT REPORT

The School of Public Affairs began the Spring 2016 semester with a total of 853 graduate students enrolled. This includes 572 MPA students (combining our traditional and Executive program, the National Urban Fellows partnership cohort, and students in the dual-degree MS/MPA), 123 Advanced Certificate students (SBL & SDL) and 158 MEd students (Higher Education Administration and Educational Leadership).

The aggregate enrollment of SPA graduate programs for Spring 2016 represents a 6.26% decrease from Spring 2015. This decrease is mostly the result of fewer new students enrolling than originally projected, and a decrease in the number of MEd-HEA enrolled who graduated earlier than expected.

We are proud to announce that 12 scholarships were granted to new students in the form of the Dean's Excellence Awards, totaling \$24,000 and 24 Hagedorn Challenge Scholarships were granted to graduate students totaling \$30,000.

SPA ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPEMENTS

New Degree MIA: We received the formal NYSED approval for the Master of International Affairs (MIA). We will begin to advertise the program for our inaugural entering class of fall 2017. There are three MIA specializations: Western Hemisphere Affairs, International Nongovernmental organizations (INGOS), Trade and Global Economic Governance (TGEG).

Office of Global Initiatives: This January we launched our first Short Term Program (STP) in Public Administration and NGO Management with the University of Electronics Science and Technology of China (UESTC). We hosted 20 students from January 16 through January 31. All students were from the public administration program at UESTC. The students were on campus Monday through Friday mornings with various field trips in the afternoons and a trip to Boston over the weekend. We expect multiple cohorts in summer months from Vietnam, Argentina, and China.

This spring School of Public Affairs participated in an intensive two week program on public and private debt at the University of Ghent in March 4-18, 2016. The program targets current undergraduate and graduate students of the School of Public Affairs, Baruch College with a 3.4 GPA and core classes completed at time of application. We have received 14 applications and selected 6 students to participate. Students from four universities participated. Each group of students prepared materials and then worked in joint groups and prepared lessons and presentations on debt from their home country.

We continue our partnership with Universidad Argentina de la Empresa (UADE). We have scheduled total of six seminars in 2016 for Spring and Fall semesters.

Spring Events: Public Affairs Week 2016 March 7-10. This year's discussion topics focus on nonprofit organizations. Our thanks to speakers Lynne Patterson, Co-Founder and Director Emerita, Pro Mujer, Donna Katzin, Executive Director, Shared Interest, David Garza, Executive Director, Henry Street Settlement, Michael Fabricant, Professor, Hunter College, author of *Settlement Houses Under Siege*, H. Conrad Meyer III, Board Member of the American Red Cross-New York Region, Joshua Mills, Chair, Journalism and the Writing Professions, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, Craig Gurian, Executive Director, Anti-Discrimination Center, Margery Turner, Senior Vice President for Program Planning and Management, Urban Institute, Maritza Silva-Farrell, Campaign Director, Alliance for a Greater New York, and Real Affordability for All for outstanding presentations.

SPA Career Services staff led a site visit to the United Nations in January for 25 students including a tour and information session with 4 Baruch alumni. The event was featured on the UN Visitor Centre Facebook page. On February 26th is the annual Social Impact Career Fair which is a consortium fair of partner schools hosted and led by our office. There are 40+ government, nonprofit and private sector employers expected and a pre-information session with the U.S. Department of State. The CIA will also be coming to campus on March 9th for an information session.

Naomi Murakawa, Associate Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University will present the Ackerman Lecture this semester on April 5th. The title of the lecture is "The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America."

Fellowships: Three School of Public Affairs students made it to the semi-finalist round of the Presidential Management Fellows program. Each of them went to the in-person interview day in January. We will know by March finalist awardees. We have one student in the running for the Port Authority Leadership Fellows program who will also know soon if he's moving forward. Our faculty committee will be choosing 4 students for the NYS Excelsior Service Fellowship for Fall 2016.

Alumni News: MPA Alumna, Cristina Jimenez was selected for the Chronicle of Philanthropy's "40 Under 40" List of Young Nonprofit Leaders. She is the co-founder and managing director of United We Dream.

With support from the School of Public Affairs' new alumni relations staff member, we are hosting two alumni enrichment breakfasts this semester featuring alumni guest speakers and moderated by Dean Birdsell. The first is on March 8th and is entitled, "At the Crossroads of the Private & Public Sectors: Exploring Careers in Government and Community Relations". This features John H. Banks III, President-Elect, Real Estate Board of New York (MPA '92), Steven A. Figueiredo, Senior Vice President, Capalino+Company (MPA '07) and Michelle L. Goldstein, Managing Director of State and Local Government,

BNY Mellon (MPA '00).

The second breakfast, taking place on April 20th, will be “The Ins and Outs of Running for Political Office” featuring Ronald T. Kim, New York State Assembly Member, Assembly District 40 (MPA '06), Dennis G. Pilla, Mayor, Village of Port Chester, NY (EMPA '16) and Diana C. Richardson, New York State Assembly Member, Assembly District 43 (MPA '10).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Learning Assessment: The Learning Assessment Committee is working diligently to determine effective assessment method(s) and implementation processes to test our program goals. While this work is being conducted, we have also implemented the case study method, with the implementation in our end of the program courses including the fall and spring capstone for the traditional MPA program, as well as program evaluation for the XMPA and policy analysis in NUF this summer. Doing so will allow us to complete our first assessment cycle. We want to highlight our appreciation to the faculty implementing the assignment into their courses and committing to this process - Tom Main, Sonia Jarvis, Jack Krauskopf, Carla Robbins, Iris Geva-May, Shoba Nair, and Tom Bonnett.

Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs (BSPA) program

The BSPA program welcomes a new academic advisor, Cesar Garrido. Cesar was a BSPA graduate and also has prior experience working for the College in the Baruch Admissions Office. He has an interest in higher education and is passionate about the program. Cesar focus' on a holistic style of advisement, working closely on the students' overall academic record as well as the individual variables that may have an effect on the students' success.

The program will also be starting the BSPA Liaison Initiative with two CUNY Community Colleges - Hostos and Guttman - where the BSPA advisor will provide on-location advisement sessions to their students interested in public affairs on a designated day each month of the semester. In addition to our articulation agreements, this is aimed to develop stronger pipelines from community colleges to our BSPA program.

The FDNY-BSPA program has launched its pilot cohort. SPA assists each of these firefighters and FDNY employees in support of their pursuit to further their education in public service. We have just completed recruitment for the fall 2016 and are awaiting decisions from Admissions regarding our next cohort.

The State Legislature Internship is a prestigious program that requires students to move to Albany for the spring semester and work with either a senator or assemblymember. This semester, the five BSPA students that applied were awarded the opportunity. There are eight students in total from Baruch, representing the largest number participating from any CUNY campus. The following BSPA students were selected: Senate - Christine Lee, Saadia Santos, Hui Shan Yin; Assembly -Tatiana Castillo, Karla Rangel.

The NYC Urban Fellows program is a highly selective, nine-month fellowship, which combines work in Mayoral offices and City agencies with an intensive seminar series that explores current urban issues impacting public policy. We currently have two graduates in the program - Melanie Ho and Anabel Perez. Four of our current BSPA seniors -Eyerusalem Zewdie, Sebastian Franco, Emelyn Fernandez, and Martin Schmid - have applied for next year's class and all four have made it to the finalist round. Final interviews will be held in March.

Academic Advisement

Under the leadership of Sandra Fajardo, Director of Academic Advisement, SPA's Academic Advisement Team conducted small New Student Advisement sessions for the Spring 2016 incoming class where new students had one-on-one time with Advisors to discuss class selections, credit loads, academic integrity expectations, registration plans, etc. A larger New Student Reception took place right before the start of the semester for all new incoming students to learn about College-wide resources and to meet the rest of the incoming class, staff and faculty.

Advisors are available every day for in-person sessions via appointments, or for phone or email conversations- whichever is most convenient for the students. As well, One-on-One Speed-Advisement sessions are held for continuing students during registration time every semester.

Specialization Nights are held every Fall semester for students to hear from a faculty panel who represents their options for specializing in one area over another. In the Spring semester, SPA Advisement will be introducing a "Breakfast with the Dean" series which we hope will give students a chance to spend some quality time with Dean Birdsell and for both parties to learn more about each other and discuss relevant issues affecting the School.

SPA's Graduate Academic Support Coordinator continues to offer quantitative skills workshops for traditional, NUF, and XMPA students. The Graduate Academic Support Specialist maintains constant contact with our Quantitative Faculty to develop specialized programs to help students struggling in their classes. Tutoring is also available to SPA's Graduate Students 6 days a week (including Saturdays) and we offer evening hours.

With our newest addition in November 2015, the office is now fully-staffed and we are able to meet student demands in a timely and productive fashion. This Spring 2016, we will welcome an Assistant Director for Writing in Public Affairs who will be supporting faculty and students at SPA with necessary skills in our Writing Intensive courses, including our Capstones.