

## Report of the School of Public Affairs to Baruch College General Faculty Thursday, March 8, 2007

### **ENROLLMENT**

The School of Public Affairs (SPA) welcomes 100 new graduate students this spring semester. There was an overall increase in enrollment in all the programs this spring over last spring with the exception of our Scaffolded Apprenticeship Model (SAM) School Building Leadership cohort, which is moving to a fall-only admission cycle. Of the 100 new graduate students, 53 are enrolled as traditional MPA students (representing a +29.3% increase in new MPA students from last spring), 18 are in a new cohort of United Way Senior Fellows, 18 are enrolled in the Higher Education Administration program (a +38.5% increase from spring 2006), and 3 are registered as non-degree students. These students are also 7 participants in the joint MS/MPA program with Hunter College, who will start their studies registered at Hunter School of Nursing this spring.

Total SPA graduate enrollment for spring 2007 is 677 students. Ethnicity data for the 677 SPA graduate students reporting ethnicity is as follows: 41.7% White (non-Hispanic); 21.2% Black; 12.2% Hispanic/Latino; 5.4% Asian/Pacific Islander; 6.6% Other, and 12.8% choose not to respond. SPA's graduate student population is comprised of 69.7% women and 30.3% men.

The School of Public Affairs enrolled 107 undergraduate majors this spring, a smaller number than last year given the closure of the BS in Real Estate and Metropolitan Development to new students. The BS-REMD enrolled 68 students, and the BS Public Affairs program enrolled 39 students. Ethnicity data for the 107 SPA undergraduate students reporting ethnicity is as follows: 32.7% White (non-Hispanic); 19.6% Black; 15.9% Hispanic/Latino; 9.3% Asian/Pacific Islander; 7.5% Other, and 15% choose not to respond. SPA's undergraduate student population is comprised of 44.9% women and 55.1% men.

### **SPA CENTERS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government coordinates a series of events that draw audiences from the city's civic, legal, business, and nonprofit sectors, as well as from the Baruch community. At his first public talk following the November election, Congressman Charles Rangel, newly named as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, drew a large press contingent as he spoke of his opposition to the Iraq war, his advocacy for a re-instituted draft, and his priorities for his committee's agenda.

Other policy forums dealt with school financing, campaign finance issues, the role of the media in influencing election outcomes, and the possibility for improvement in New York City/New York State relations. Among the speakers which this series have brought to the Baruch campus are: City Council Member Robert Jackson, Diana Fortuna, President of the Citizens Budget Commission, CUNY Trustee and former Deputy Mayor Marc Shaw, former Bloomberg Communications Director Bill Cunningham, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, New York Post reporter David Seifman, Dominic Carter and Rita Nissan of NY1 News, former U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato and former State Comptroller H. Carl McCall. Several of these events were part of the Peter F. Vallone, Sr. Seminars in Government: a program funded and coordinated through the efforts of the former City Council Speaker.

SPA also holds two public events each year under the sponsorship of the Lillie and Nathan Ackerman Lecture Series on Equality and Justice in America. This fall's lecture, *Race in America: Advancing Equality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, featured Alexander Polikoff, director of Chicago's Public Housing Transformation Initiative, and J. Phillip Thompson, Associate Professor of Urban Politics at MIT. An additional program is being organized for the spring, planned by Ackerman Chair Professor Sonia Jarvis.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS WEEK 2007**

Public Affairs Week is a unique opportunity for SPA students to hear policy analysts and policy makers address critical issues confronting today's society. Our fourth annual event is planned for **March 19-22, 2007**. The full list of topics include: Keeping New York City Affordable, Closing the Education Achievement Gap, The Immigration Debate: The Dream Act and Amnesty as Policy Questions, and The 2008 Elections: Can the Winning Strategy include "Real" Debate?

### **EXECUTIVE PROGRAMS**

#### Executive MPA Programs

The Executive MPA program welcomed back its twenty-second cohort this fall, and greeted for the first time its twenty-third cohort. Students come from organizations such as Health and Human Resources Administration, the City Council, DC-37, Health and Hospitals Corporation, Cornell University, New York City Opera, Salvation Army, Madison Square Boy's and Girl's Club, and the Korean Consulate. Both programs meet on Saturdays.

#### Partnership with United Way of New York City

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, SPA hosted a reception for both the Senior and Junior Fellows who participated in the United Way of New York City's Emerging Leaders Program. These two leadership programs are delivered by SPA faculty to prepare for leadership succession in nonprofit organizations affiliated with United Way. Over 200 attendees took part in the event including senior executives from the UWNYC and Baruch College. The keynote speaker for the event was Ms. Elba Montalvo. She is the founder and Executive Director of The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc..

#### New York City Housing Authority

In partnership with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the School of Public Affairs and NYCHA created a Leadership Academy that provides participants with an in-depth experience of best practices in leadership, management, communication, strategic planning, government relations, and housing policy. Offered over a sixteen-week period that began in January 2007, the program focuses training NYCHAs next group of senior-level executives. This program model involves both SPA's faculty and the senior management from NYCHA including the Chairman, General Manager, and General Counsel.

#### Children's Aid Society

Baruch's School of Public Affairs has partnered with the Children's Aid Society in creating a 6-session model of leadership training. This program not only frames the theoretical foundations of leadership and management, but specifically examines best practices in business management for this group of mid-level managers. This program begins on February 21, 2007.

## **PUBLICATION HONOR**

SPAs Professor Dahlia Remler's article, "How Much Cost Sharing Will Health Savings Accounts Bring?" was ranked among the journal of *Health Affairs* top 25 articles of 2006. The article covered proponents of health savings accounts (HSAs) and how they contend that they will reduce medical expenditures. Dahlia K. Remler and Sherry A. Glied, *Health Affairs* 25, no. 4 (July/August 2006).

## **NEW-HIRES AND SEARCHES**

Professor Marcellus Andrews will be returning to SPA spring 07 as a Substitute Professor. Professor Andrews was a Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation. Prior to that he was a member of the SPA faculty.

Another addition to the spring 2007 semester is Paul Firstenberg who joins the faculty as a Substitute Professor. He is teaching courses in MSED in Higher Education Program. Firstenberg was the chancellor at Tulane University and served as the CFO at Princeton University.

SPA has four faculty searches underway for the 2007-2008 academic year. This includes two cluster lines in nonprofit management, a position in housing and community development, and a search for a new Ackerman Chair.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

SPA adopted its new strategic plan at the December 14, 2007 faculty meeting. Highlights of the plan address seven overall goals centered on SPA's academic programs, its research activities, and its community partners. Special thanks to the members of SPA's Executive Committee and Professor Aries for their efforts and contributions.

## **SPA VIEWBOOK**

A new "View Book", presenting a dynamic portrait of the school, which is directed at prospective students. Featuring the theme "This is the Place" and filled with lively photographs of faculty members, students and alumni, this book provides an overview of the school and its programs in public affairs. It will be ready for distribution by the end of February. A round of thanks is due to all those who participated in its development.

## **UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM**

For the past year, SPA has been working to re-establish its undergraduate curriculum to target the public affairs major. The changes to the BS will focus on preparing students for careers in public service in addition to graduate and professional education in the field. The new BS will allow students to use NYC and other urban areas as laboratories to better understand institutions and processes of American government, the process of making and implementing policy, and the ability to think critically and communicate effectively about these issues. These changes are expected to be implemented by the spring 2008 semester. SPA's Curriculum Committee thanks WSAS Associate Dean Gary Hentzi, and Professor Jerry Bornstein of the Newman Library for their assistance and expertise.