Report of the School of Public Affairs to Baruch College General Faculty
April 22, 2010

ENROLLMENT:
The School of Public Affairs (SPA) welcomes 146 new graduate students this spring semester, representing a +15% increase in new graduate students from last spring’s entering class. SPA’s new graduate students include 82 enrolled as traditional MPA students (representing a 0% increase in new MPA students from last spring), 27 are enrolled in the Higher Education Administration program (a +8% increase from spring 2009), and 37 new SAM students.

Total SPA graduate enrollment for spring 2010 is 925 students, or +18.6% spring 2009 enrollment. Ethnicity data for 902/925 SPA graduate students reporting ethnicity is as follows: 41.6% White (-0.6%); 20.4% Black (-2.5%); 15.4% Hispanic/Latino (+0.8%); 9.0% Asian/Pacific Islander (+1.3%); 0.10% American Indian or Native Alaskan, 3.2% Other (-1.0%), and 10.3% (+2 %) choose not to respond. SPA’s graduate student population is comprised of 68.5% women and 31.5% men, (-/+ 2.0%, respectively). Percentages in ( ) represent changes from Spring 2009 enrollment.

The School of Public Affairs enrolled 96 undergraduate majors this spring (+24.7%). To date, SPA has identified 104 undergraduates pursuing the BSPA curriculum who are in the process of declaring an official major; this is up from 71 students so identified last year at this time, or a +46.5% increase. These students are not reflected in the demographic data reported here, but reflect successful outreach and growing interest in the BSPA major. These students are included in total SPA enrollment reported in the last line of this report. Ethnicity data for the 87/96 SPA undergraduate students reporting ethnicity is as follows: 27.6% White (non-Hispanic) (+2.6%); 13.8% Black (-5.6%); 32.2% Hispanic/Latino (+11.4%); 11.5% Asian/Pacific Islander (-3.8%); 9.2% Other (+2.3%), and 5.7% choose not to respond (-6.8%). SPA’s undergraduate student population is comprised of 65.6% women and 34.4% men (+/- 8.6%, respectively).

Total SPA spring 2010 enrollment equals 1125 students, or +21.2% increase from spring 2009.

SPA FACULTY, STUDENT, and ALUMNI NEWS:
Twenty Baruch College juniors and seniors in the Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs program are recipients of the first round of scholarships funded by a $1 million dollar generous gift from Baruch alumna Amy Hagedorn, class of 1958. The recipients are: Yousef Aanab, Caroline Camilo, Jennifer Cid, Katsiaryna Colka, America Erne, Maria Galarza, Jennifer Gonzalez, Caitlin Hannon, Horace Henry, Alexandra Herrera, Philip Kao, Heather Layland, Kaarine Mohammed, Uchenwa Njoku, Chris Parker, Anna Ponomareva, Yelky Ramos, Giovanna Romero-Gil, Jose Luis Sanchez, and Sophia Zardiashvili. Fellows are funded with $2,000 per year fellowship over two years. As noted, the program has been made possible by generous funding from the Hagedorn Foundation, and aims to attract potential leaders in the public and non-profit sectors to the undergraduate study of public affairs.

Danielle Bonaccorso, MPA ’10, was selected as a finalist for the competitive Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program.
Thomas Krever, XMBA ’99, was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg to serve on the New York City Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Runaway and Homeless Youth.

Gregorio Morales, MPA ’09 was hired as Deputy Director of Policy Analysis & Fiscal Management for New York City Department of Parks and Recreation’s Parks Opportunity Program, one of the largest transitional employment programs in the nation.

Michael C. Capobianco, MPA ’06 was recently appointed Executive Director for The Catalog of Giving of New York City. Prior to joining The Catalog, Mike was National Director at New Leaders for New Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:
Professor Casey and Professor Krauskopf received a grant from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation for The Center for Nonprofit Strategy and Management to support the production and dissemination of three case studies on public advocacy campaigns. The goal of the project is to “strengthen individual and organizational capacities for advocacy for the less powerful citizens of New York City.”

Professor Balk received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Award (ARRA), from the NICHD titled “Revitalizing Urban Population Projections: New Data, New Methods.”

Distinguished Lecturer Lizabeth Gewirtzman has received a grant jointly funded by New York State and the Wallace Foundation to fund “Educational Leadership Program Enhancement.” The three-year program will support clinical internships in educational leadership, with an effort of aligning educational leadership training with academic theory and best practices research.

This year’s Public Affairs Week (7th Annual) met the week of March 8-11. Speakers were Jonathan Zimmerman, Steinhardt School of Education at NYU; Daniel Kikuji Rubenstein, Brooklyn Prospect Charter School; Peter Goldmark, Environmental Defense Fund; Edward Schwartz, Green Living Solutions of New Jersey; Michael Alix, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Jonathan Chanis, New Tide Asset Management; Jennifer Bryant, PhRMA; and Jonathan Oberlander, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

SPA is in the midst of searching four faculty lines, in higher education administration, communications, non-profit management, and public affairs. The new lecturer in public affairs will teach predominantly in SPA’s undergraduate BSPA major. New faculty in the other three disciplines will teach a mixture of both graduate and undergraduate classes. Search committees have scheduled campus visits for 14 candidates over the months of March and April. Dean Birdsell would like to extend thanks to all faculty participating in the searches.

On March 15, 2010, President Altman and Dean Birdsell hosted a morning and lunch gathering for faculty and staff from University of Aberdeen in Scotland. During the morning discussions, they met with senior Administrators from the College and engaged in mini-sessions on issues relating to leadership development in institutions of higher education. Dean Birdsell thanks everyone who was able to take some time to meet with the group.
On April 15, 2010, Dean Birdsell hosted Professor Alex Vanderstraeten and 38 students from University College Gent in Belgium. They met with SPA graduate students for lunch and attended lectures given by Associate Dean Jonathan Engel and Professor Vanderstraeten.

EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS:
The Center for Innovation and Leadership in Government (CILG) forums: November’s program focused on the New York’s loss of jobs. Unemployment Tops 10% -- Where Can We Turn? examined job loss trends, profiled the unemployed, and suggested possible solutions. Speakers were Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert Lieber, Economist James Parrott of the Fiscal Policy Institute, Rae Rosen, assistant vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and David Jones, president of the Community Service Society. The moderator was Sarah Bartlett, director of the Urban Reporting Program at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism.

December’s event featured five journalists who reviewed the recent municipal elections and focused on such issues as the low voter turnout in spite of huge campaign expenditures; the new personalities in city-wide positions; and the impact of the term limits issue. The panel was titled Altered Political Landscape: City Hall 2010. Participants were Errol Louis of the New York Daily News, Clyde Haberman of The New York Times, Erica Gonzalez of El Diario, Tom Robbins of The Village Voice, and Nicole Gelin of the Manhattan Institute. Professor Doug Muzzio moderated the lively discussion, which drew a large number of attendees.

Most recently we partnered with the Citizens Union in hosting a program titled Charting New York City’s Future, which examined the likely agenda for the next Charter Revision Commission, just appointed by Mayor Bloomberg and to be chaired by CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein. An overflow audience heard the charter-related issues debated by Eric Lane, 1989 Charter Commission director; Ester Fuchs and Stephen Fiala, members of the 2005 Charter Commission; and former NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson. A broad range of issues were covered under the guidance of moderator Doug Muzzio; and a very involved audience offered many ideas and posed provocative questions.

All of these panels were taped for airing on CUNY-TV and were also streamed on the SPA web site. On March 25 we held the panel on the 2010 Decennial Census, moderated by Sam Roberts of the New York Times and featuring Tony Farthing, Regional Director of the US Census Bureau; Stacey Cumberbatch, the City’s Census Coordinator; Joseph Salvo, Director of the Population Division of the City Planning Department; and Seema Agnani, who heads an immigrant organization that has been actively organizing to increase census participation. In addition, we are co-hosting an event in April in partnership with the New York Women’s Agenda, that will deal with the issue of Equal Pay.

This spring we say good-bye to Barbara Fife, who has given the Baruch and CUNY communities 16 years of dedicated service. The School of Public Affairs has benefitted enormously from her knowledge and expertise. Please join us in wishing her well in her retirement.