

NYU WAGNER HOSTS ARTS CONFERENCE

Wagner doctoral students and faculty were active participants in several significant academic conferences during the fall semester. In October, the **Social Theory, Politics, and the Arts** (STP&A) conference was held in New York City for the first time in more than a decade. About 200 scholars, artists, and cultural-organization leaders from 26 countries and 22 states throughout the U.S. attended the conference and shared their professional experience and research findings through papers and panels. Wagner hosted the three-day event and Wagner faculty member **Ruth Ann Stewart** served as the program's chair. Doctoral student **Jason Franklin** served as conference director and moderated a panel entitled "Cultural Districts: What They Are and Understanding Their Success/Failure." Also at the conference, doctoral students **Angela Beard** and **Carmen Rogers** participated on a panel entitled "Measuring Success in Cultural Industries." Angela presented a paper, "Scylla or Charybdis? The Single/Dual Leadership Structure in Arts Organizations," which explores the leadership structure of arts organizations. Carmen's paper, "Can the Arts Be a Part of the Social Entrepreneurship Movement?" discusses why arts organizations are less likely than other nonprofit organizations to develop entrepreneurial programs. Her findings are based on a survey from 2006 of over 100 nonprofit organizations.

Wagner students and faculty also actively participated in the November conference of the **Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management** (APPAM), held in Washington D.C. The theme of the conference was "What Else Shapes Public Policy Analysis and Management?" Professor **Ingrid Ellen** served on this year's program committee and also presented some of



Ruth Ann Stewart, Wagner faculty and STP&A Conference Chair, welcomes attendees in the Opening Plenary Session. Seated from left to right are: David McLaughlin, NYU Provost; Kate Levin, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and conference Opening Speaker; and, Jason Franklin, Wagner doctoral student and STP&A Conference Director.

her work. Doctoral student **Martha Galvez** took part in a poster session presenting preliminary findings from her research regarding Section 8 voucher recipients. **Dylan Conger**, Wagner doctoral alumna, presented a paper co-authored with Professors **Amy Schwartz** and **Leanna Stiefel** concerning immigrants and education. Beyond these significant papers and presentations, members of the Wagner community, past and present, had the opportunity to socialize and catch up at the school's well-attended reception. And, for the first time, APPAM hosted a special networking event for all current doctoral students and recent doctoral alumni.

This spring, the American Planning Association (APA) will hold its annual conference in Las Vegas from April 27 to March 1. The American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) will hold its annual conference from March 7 – 11 in Dallas. As always, we hope to see Wagner faculty, doctoral students, and alumni sharing their work at these events.

SPOTLIGHT ON

PROFESSOR JAN BLUSTEIN



Jan Blustein describes Wagner as the ideal environment in which to pursue her multiple and varied research interests, "Like its peer professional schools, Wagner's faculty includes experts in areas as diverse as housing, education, medical care, and employment training. This variety has stimulated and informed my work." Indeed, throughout her career, Professor Blustein has produced a significant body of scholarship around an array of topics including research ethics, medical care for vulnerable populations, the Medicare program, the well-being of older people, and performance measurement in health care. The theme running throughout this work is equity and distributive justice. Reflecting on her work, Professor Blustein explains, "Much of my research describes prevailing allocational arrangements. My best work—or at least, the work that I am most proud of—calls on the reader to re-think his or her assumptions about the fairness or the desirability of those arrangements."

Professor Blustein has graduate training in medicine, philosophy and public policy, and uses methods and approaches from these fields to engage a diverse audience. Much of her work on racial disparities in medical care uses epidemiologic methods. These empirical pieces attempt to elucidate the dynamics underlying disparities in treatment, rather than just documenting that disparities occur. For example, in an early paper from her disserta-

MESSAGE FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR, BETH WEITZMAN



Dear Doctoral Students, Doctoral Alumni, and Faculty Colleagues,

Happy new year! After a busy and productive fall, I know that many of you reveled in the relative quiet of the winter break. As I write this letter, spring semester is still weeks away and I, like many of you, am trying to use this

time for reading, writing, and preparation. Soon, the days will be filled with teaching, advisement, faculty meetings, and so forth.

For our first-year doctoral students, the transition to the Wagner Doctoral Program is now yesterday's news. In this issue of the newsletter, you will see the rich array of research experiences that this impressive group of students has undertaken. You will also have

the opportunity to read about two recent academic conferences in which Wagner faculty, students, and alumni played key roles. And, as always, we are using the newsletter as an opportunity to boast about the publications, presentations, and appointments that have accrued to our current doctoral students and those who have preceded them.

In this newsletter, we shine the light on Professor Jan Blustein and her approach to research. Jan and I have been friends for many years and share the distinction of being the only two members of the faculty who received PhDs from Wagner. I am delighted to be in the same "club" with someone who has so much to offer.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to say how pleased I am to have Diana Beck in her new position with the Doctoral Program. I am sure you all join me in saying, "welcome!"

Here's to a great 2008!

Beth C. Weitzman

THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM WELCOMES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIANA BECK

The Doctoral Program is delighted to announce that Diana Beck has joined our team! During the fall semester, Diana was appointed Assistant Director for the Health and Doctoral Programs at the Wagner School. Diana brings to the job a great deal of knowledge about the Wagner School and its students. A graduate of Wagner's MPA program, Diana has been an Associate Research Scientist at Wagner's Center for Health and Public Service Research (CHPSR) since 2003. In addition, Diana has been serving as an adjunct professor and teaches Microeconomics and Math Review. Diana has twice been named Adjunct Professor of the Year at Wagner and was the recipient of the 2007 Arnold

L. Steigman Excellence in Teaching Public Administration Award from the New York State Academy for Public Administration. With this background, Diana has been able to "hit the ground running" and is already working with the Doctoral Board and with doctoral students to make the program run more smoothly.

If you haven't already done so, stop by and introduce yourself to Diana. Her office is located on the 2nd floor of the Puck Building. She looks forward to getting to know all of the students. Also, many of the doctoral alumni may remember Diana from years past. Be sure to send her a note and reconnect. We hope Diana enjoys her new role working with the doctoral program.

SPOTLIGHT ON

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tion (co-authored with Professor **Beth Weitzman**) she tested the hypothesis that racial disparities in cardiac care emanate from differing propensities of racial groups to travel to hospitals offering high-technology services. In contrast, a more recent project uses analytic approaches to explore the tension between racial equity and performance measurement in health care. This draws on her training in analytic philosophy.

In addition to exploring her own research interests, Professor Blustein mentors junior researchers and considers this role to be one of the most satisfying aspects of her job. When asked what advice she would give doctoral students as they hone their research skills and clarify their interests, Professor Blustein offered these suggestions:

- *Start small.* "Junior researchers are apt to approach their work as a monumental endeavor. Many believe that they must find a terribly important topic, and the perfect methodology, for their first effort. I counsel beginners to begin with something very modest – ideally, during the pre-dissertation phase. Find a small, circumscribed piece of work that is

highly likely to win publication in a humble journal (a faculty member may be able to help with finding the appropriate journal.). Take this work through the research and publication process."

- *Imitate the masters.* "Art students learn to draw by copying the work of the masters. Doctoral students can profitably use a similar approach. When reading journals, look for topics, data sources, methods and styles that you find appealing. Imitate them. Of course you need to find your own angle, but there is no need for you to invent social science anew."
- *Be opportunistic.* "Sometimes work that doesn't pan out in one direction can be recycled. For example, in a study with Professors **John Billings**, **Sue Kaplan** and **Carolyn Berry**, we struggled to get Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval at a number of different sites. So we wrote a paper on the difficulties of getting IRB approval in multi-site studies. We sent it to a top journal, and they were pleased to accept a piece on this slightly off the beaten track topic. The life-gives-you-lemons-make-lemonade adage applies well to research."

NYUWagner

Doctoral Program

<http://wagner.nyu.edu/doctoral>

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Do you want your information to be included in the next issue of the newsletter? If so, please submit career updates, publications or presentation information to Claire McKenna, Doctoral Graduate Assistant, at claire.mckenna@nyu.edu.

FIRST-YEAR DOCTORAL STUDENTS, FULL SPEED AHEAD

The transition to life as a Ph.D. student – not to mention life as a New York City resident – can be a difficult one. The rigor of coursework and the reality of returning to school after several years in the workplace can wear quickly on the most committed student. But conversations with members of this year's entering doctoral class suggest that, overall, the transition has been smooth. As they report, the exposure to sophisticated research and the thoughtful, steady feedback of their Wagner peers and advisors has been invaluable. They have been afforded the opportunity to continue to gain experience and skill conducting research in their area of interest through Wagner's many research centers and initiatives.

Emily Anthony is currently working as a research assistant to Wagner professors **Amy Schwartz** and **Leanna Stiefel** at **NYU's Institute for Education and Social Policy** (ISEP). In her role as research assistant, Emily has had the chance to participate in a study of immigrant students in NYC high schools. Emily, who previously worked at the Education Policy Center of the **Urban Institute**, says that her interest in educational research has expanded since coming to Wagner. "Now, I'm constantly thinking about urban school reform and issues around immigrant education. NYC is a fascinating place to do education policy research because virtually every education reform and student subgroup is present in this city."

Like Emily, **Jonathan Bauchet** has had the opportunity to build on his prior research experience since joining Wagner's doctoral program. Jonathan had previously worked as a research assistant for **Innovations for Poverty Action**, a position which took him to Peru, South Africa, and the Philippines. Now he is working with Wagner Professor **Jonathan Morduch** on the **Financial Access Initiative** (FAI), exploring issues surrounding access to financial services for citizens in developing countries.

Michael Gedal is working with Professor **Ingrid Ellen** as a Doctoral Fellow

for **NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy**. Michael is participating in a study of the impact of supportive housing on property values in NYC. As he describes it, his current research is a continuation of the "good fight" that his parents began in the 1970s as housing activists. "My approach may be more institutionalized than theirs was, but the ultimate goal is the same – taking policy to the streets," Gedal said. Previously, he worked as an analyst at **Abt Associates** and **National Economic Research Associates**.

Andres Munoz plans to use his doctoral studies as an opportunity to explore the relationship between local public finance and institutional reform in developing countries. He is particularly interested in the role civil society plays in revenue generation and resource allocation. Currently working as a research assistant to Wagner professor **Sonia Ospina** at the **Research Center for Leadership in Action**, he is participating in a study examining the nature and impact of inter-sector collaboration in Latin America. Andres came to Wagner with experience working as a **UNDP** researcher and consultant for the **Department of Finance** in Bogota, Colombia.

Unlike the others, **Evan Michelson** is pursuing his research interests outside of NYU. During the fall semester, Evan was employed as a Research Associate at the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** in Washington, D.C. This spring, he will begin work as a Senior Research Associate at **The Rockefeller Foundation** in New York City. As he describes his role, his responsibilities will be to search "for new ideas for the foundation in a broad range of science and technology topics."

We hope the coming years will bring each of our doctoral students many more opportunities to explore their passion for research.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Lisa Duchon (PhD '97) and Dennis Andrulis co-authored "The Changing Landscape of Hospital Capacity in Large Cities and Suburbs: Implications for the Safety Net in Metropolitan America," in the New York Academy of Medicine's May-June 2007 issue of *The Journal of Urban Health*.

Neil Dworkin (PhD '88) was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Management at **Western Connecticut State University** in Danbury, CT. He also published "Managerial Socialization in Short-Term Hospitals: Building a Model" in the summer 2006 issue of *Hospital Topics: Research and Perspectives on Healthcare*.

Patrice Iatarola (PhD '02) of **Florida State University**, **Dylan Conger** (PhD '04) of **George Washington University**, and Mark Long of the University of Washington were awarded a two-year \$500,000 grant from the **U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences** for their study, "The Implications of High School Course Availability and Course-Taking for Achievement, Graduation and Postsecondary Enrollment." Using data from the Florida Department of Education, the study will examine the effects of course-taking on high school outcomes and college enrollment. **Dylan** also recently co-authored "Immigrant and Native-Born Differences in School Stability and Special Education" with Professors **Amy Schwartz** and **Leanna Stiefel**; the paper was published in *International Migration Review* in June 2007.

Laura Peck (PhD '02), Assistant Professor at **Arizona State University**, pub-

lished "What are the Effects of Welfare Sanction Policies? Or, Using Propensity Scores as a Subgroup Indicator to Learn More From Social Experiments" in the *American Journal of Evaluation* in September 2007.

Joanne Petrini (PhD '02), Director of the **Perinatal Data Center at the March of Dimes**, published "Differences in Mortality between Late-Preterm and Term Singleton Infants in the United States, 1995–2002" in the November 2007 issue of *The Journal of Pediatrics*. She collaborated on the study with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ross Rubenstein (PhD '97), Associate Professor of Public Administration in the **Maxwell School at Syracuse University**, published a co-edited book entitled *Economic Inequality and Higher Education: Access, Persistence and Success* (Russell Sage Foundation: 2007). He also co-authored a paper, "From Districts to Schools: The Distribution of Resources Across Schools in Big City School Districts," with fellow doctoral alum **Hella Bel Hadj Amor** (PhD '05) and Professors **Amy Schwartz** and **Leanna Stiefel**. The article appeared in the October 2007 issue of *Economics of Education Review*.

Richard Saulnier (PhD '95), formerly a Dean for Admissions and Registration, is the Vice President for Enrollment Management at **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**.

Denise Soffel (PhD '91) recently joined the **National Center for Law and Economic Justice** (NCLEJ), a New York City nonprofit organization that advocates for low-income populations, as their Health Policy Coordinator.

STUDENT UPDATE

Jennifer Dodge presented her paper, “Leadership & Local Knowledge in Environmental Policy: Narrative Cases of Four Nonprofits” at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the **Academy of Management (AOM)** held in August. Jennifer helped organize two additional panels for that conference, both of which were chaired by Wagner Professor **Sonia Ospina**. Jennifer also joined Professor Ospina in presenting at November’s Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action (**ARNOVA**) conference in a colloquium entitled, “Can Social Change Organizations Lead the Social Justice Movement? A Conversation About Their Role in Moving the Nonprofit Sector.”

Jason Franklin served as Conference Director of the 33rd Annual Conference on **Social Theory, Politics and the Arts** (see Arts Conference article on page 1). He is also serving as guest editor for a special issue of the **Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society (JAMLS)** focusing on the STP&A 2007.

Michael Gedal co-presented a paper with NYU Law Professor Vicki Been at the Conference on **Empirical Legal Studies** at NYU. The paper uses longitudinal data from New York City to investigate how the development of supportive housing influences surrounding property values.

Robin Jacobowitz wrote “Constituency Building and Policy Work: Three Paradigms” for the spring 2007 issue of **The Evaluation Exchange**, published by the Harvard Family Research Project. Robin also has been working with the Hudson Valley Writing Project and presented on-going research on the processes of literary acquisition at the 2007 annual meeting of the **American Educational Research Association**.

Ariel Zaltsman successfully defended his dissertation, “The Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in the Budgetary Process: Insights from Chile’s Performance-Based Budgeting System,” this past November. Ariel’s committee was chaired by Professor **Sonia Ospina** and also included **Charles Brecher, Dall Forsythe, Dwight Denison** and **Shanna Rose**. Ariel recently accepted a research fellow position at the **Inter-American Development Bank’s** Office of Evaluation and Oversight. Congratulations, Ariel!

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