

## WELCOME—PROFESSOR PAUL SMOKE, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dear Doctoral Students, Alumni, Faculty and Friends of the NYU/Wagner Doctoral Program,

As the end of the fall semester approaches, we are sending out the latest edition of the doctoral program newsletter to update you on recent developments with the program, current students

and alumni.

On behalf of the entire NYU/Wagner faculty and administration, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the diverse and interesting group of doctoral students who joined us in September. I have had the opportunity to meet all of you and to talk with some of you in greater depth. We are very pleased to have you with us and we look forward to working with you during your time at NYU/Wagner.

I would also like to welcome back returning doctoral students. Many of you are making good progress—moving forward with courses, taking comprehensive exams, developing and defending dissertation proposals, conducting research and doing field work, writing dissertations, and even preparing for dissertation defenses. Whatever stage of the program you are at, you should always feel free to come to me or Assistant Director **Diana Beck** with any questions or issues you may have.

As the new director of doctoral studies, I am struck by how much the doctoral program has developed since I joined the NYU/Wagner faculty in 2000. Previous directors, most recently **Beth Weitzman**, have put a great deal of time and effort into improving the program on many levels. I feel fortunate to have benefited from Beth's hard work and I want to thank her on behalf of the Wagner community for all that she has done. I look forward to building on this solid foundation in partnership with all of you.

I will close by expressing my appreciation to the many NYU/Wagner faculty members who generously support the doctoral program and the doctoral students. I would particularly like to thank the doctoral board—**Ingrid Ellen, Erica Foldy, Joe Magee, and Victor Rodwin**—and the faculty colleagues who have been working on the Fall 2008 doctoral comprehensive exams. We will be calling on other colleagues to assist with upcoming activities, including the Spring 2009 exams and the Fall 2009 admissions process.

The doctoral board will be considering a number of possible program improvements in the coming months. If you have any ideas for us to consider, please bring them to me or any member of the board.

Best wishes for a great year and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Paul Smoke

### SPOTLIGHT ON

## WAGNER DOCTORAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM



*Jennifer Dodge, Wagner Doctoral Student*

A tradition at Wagner, this speaker series is currently led by Assistant Professor of Management, **Joe Magee**. The doctoral research colloquium is a forum in which prominent and up and coming researchers present their work on pressing topics related to public policy, urban planning, and management. It

offers doctoral students and faculty a chance to hear from their colleagues, while engaging in a dialogue about current research.

Wagner has hosted a series of talks as part of the colloquium this semester, all investigating issues in ur-

ban locations. These talks included New York University Professor **Doug Guthrie's** research on corporate investment in low-income housing and University of Wisconsin Professor **Marcus Britton's** research on the relationship between neighborhood integration and interethnic friendship.



*Thad Calabrese, Wagner Doctoral Student*

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, Wagner doctoral students **Thad Calabrese** and **Jennifer Dodge** spoke at the colloquium about their current research. "We are thrilled to have such a vibrant doctoral program and to have the students participate in the colloquium as the audience in their

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## SPOTLIGHT ON

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early years and as speakers when they are nearly done with their dissertations,” says Professor **Joe Magee**.

The focus of Thad’s talk was a paper from his dissertation titled: “*Examining the Determinants of Nonprofit Accounting Basis Choice*.” In his dissertation he analyzes the determinants of retained earnings within the context of distinct nonprofit financial reporting requirements. When describing his research, Thad observes that, “[u]nlike in the for-profit sector, nonprofit organizations cannot distribute any operating profits generated during a fiscal year. Rather, it is expected that these ‘retained earnings’ (or change in net assets) will be used by the nonprofit to provide future services. Operating profits, however, may actually be a goal of nonprofit organizations for a variety of reasons.”

Presenting with Thad was fellow doctoral student, **Jennifer Dodge**. Jennifer’s research looks at the efforts of two nonprofits to develop policy narratives

that are grounded in the experience of their members and to promote these narratives throughout a “deliberative system.” Her study challenges the conventional view of deliberative democracy by suggesting that language matters. She posits that the work of deliberative democracy is about making agreements on meaning.

On December 11th, Jennifer elaborated on her findings, which “...suggest that both organizations adopt a ‘dual strategy’ where they promote their narratives at different levels of the deliberative system: face-to-face deliberative forums sponsored by state agencies and ‘the macro discursive sphere’ (which includes, for example, policy debates that take place in a wide array of media outlets).”

We hope you can join us for similarly enriching discussions at the presentations in the Spring Colloquium series.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO WAGNER’S MOST RECENT PH.D.’S

Congratulations to the six Doctor of Philosophy candidates who graduated in the last academic year. A tremendous investment of talent, thought and energy has produced a dynamic and stimulating collection of work. The contribution of these individuals to their fields is invaluable, and we are proud to have them as representatives of the Wagner community.

Dissertations that were successfully defended are as follows:

**Stephen Camp-Landis**, “*Redistributing Policy in an Individualistic Culture: Welfare Reform in Pennsylvania, 1996–2002*.” Dissertation Committee Chair, Professor **Beth Weitzman**

**Colin C. Chellman**, “*State Education Aid in the United States*.” Dissertation Committee Chair, Professor **Leanna Stiefel**

**Jenny Knowles**, “*From Global Paradigm to Grounded*

*Policy: The Socio-Cognitive Construction of Participatory Development in Cambodia*.” Dissertation Committee Chair, Professor **Sonia Ospina**

**Tod Mijanovich**, “*The Influence of Place-Based Characteristics on the Health and Well-Being of Children*.” Dissertation Committee Chair, Professor **Beth Weitzman**

**Meryle G. Weinstein**, “*Out-Of-School Time Programs, Nonprofits, Title I and the Distribution of Education Resources in New York City*.” Dissertation Committee Chair, Professor **Amy Ellen Schwartz**

**Teodoro Ariel Zaltsman**, “*The role of monitoring and evaluation in the budgetary process: insights from a study of Chile’s performance-based budgeting system*.” Dissertation Committee Chair, Professor **Sonia Ospina**

## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

### Jessica Boccardo

Jessica is part of the research team at the **Institute for Education and Social Policy (IESP)**, a joint initiative of New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at NYU. In her research at IESP, Jessica is examining the relationship between finance and education in **New York Public Schools**. She is particularly interested in combining her current and past research interests to understand the links between education, innovation and the role of industrial policy, particularly in developing countries.



Delighted to have the opportunity to be in the doctoral program at Wagner, she says, “I have chosen the doctoral program at Wagner because I believe that the department is an excellent place to develop not only the technical and analytic skills necessary for rigorous and innovative research, but also the necessary tools for generating relevant policy analysis on these topics.”

Jessica most recently worked at the **World Bank** as part of the **Poverty Reduction Unit (PREM)**. While there, her main focus was Sub-Saharan African trade diversification and growth. Prior to her time at PREM, Jessica was a master’s student in public policy with a concentration in International Development at Georgetown University. While studying there, she was a research assistant at the **School Choice Demonstration Project (SCDP)**, a federally funded education voucher program for low-income families.

# NYU Wagner

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

Ellen Schall  
Dean

Rogan Kersh  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Paul Smoke  
Doctoral Program Director

Diana Beck  
Doctoral Program Assistant Director

Galin Brooks  
Graduate Assistant

### Doctoral Board

#### Faculty Members:

Ingrid Gould Ellen  
Erica Foldy  
Joe Magee  
Paul Smoke  
Victor G. Rodwin

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 Galin Brooks, Doctoral Graduate Assistant, at [galin.brooks@nyu.edu](mailto:galin.brooks@nyu.edu).



### Jackie Begley

As a doctoral student at Wagner, Jackie is working with Professor **Ingrid Ellen** at the **Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy**. Her research projects there are focused on housing policy and educational outcomes as well as subprime lending and segregation.

Before entering the Wagner program, Jackie was a master's student in city planning at the University of California, Berkeley. She worked there as a graduate student researcher at the **Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics**, where she looked at the effects of globalization on real estate and the California economy.

### Johanna Lacoce

Johanna's research is on the impact of contact with justice systems (juvenile and criminal) on neighborhoods and the intersection of race and the justice system. She is currently working at the **Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy** conducting research on the relationship between racial segregation and subprime lending, and the impact of mortgage foreclosures, crime, and other factors on New York City's neighborhoods.



Johanna first became interested in criminal justice as an undergraduate at Brown University, where she taught a debate course in a juvenile prison. After her time at Brown, she worked as a policy analyst at **Social Policy Research Associates** in Oakland, CA, conducting research for federal agencies and national foundations on youth and workforce development, access to education, youth organizing, and racial and ethnic diversity. She gained direct experience with New York City's juvenile justice system as a program analyst at **Esperanza/Hope**, an alternative-to-incarceration for juvenile delinquents developed by the Vera Institute of Justice.

Johanna earned her Master's of Public Administration from Wagner in 2008.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Neil R. Dworkin (Ph.D. '89)**, was named as a consultant to **Charter Oak State College's** undergraduate health administration concentration. Neil's fulltime role is Associate Professor of Management at **Western Connecticut State University**.

**Amal El-Farhan (Ph.D. '79)**, who is a tenured faculty member at the **University of Jordan** and has served as Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Jordanian government, visited the Puck building last summer and spoke with the Wagner community in a talk titled, "*A Jordanian Woman's View of the World: A Conversation with Distinguished Wagner Alumna, Dr. Amal El Farhan.*"

**Karla Hanson (Ph.D. '95)**, published an article in a 2007 edition *The Journal of Nutrition* titled, "*Gender and Marital Status Clarify Associations Between Food Insecurity and Body Weight.*" The article is co-authored by Jeffery Sobal and Edward Frongillo, Jr.

**Laura Peck (PhD '02)**, Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs and Associate Dean, Barrett, The Honors College, **Arizona State University** received



### Jacob Leos-Urbel

Jake's research focuses on education, child well-being, and youth development policy. Jake is a fellow in **NYU's Institute for Education Sciences-funded Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training (IES-PIRT)** program. Until this fall, Jake was the Director of Policy Research at **The After-School Corporation (TASC)**, a nonprofit organization that funds, monitors, evaluates and supports after-school programs based in New York City public schools.

Jake's professional experience also includes work in child welfare policy research at the **Urban Institute**, education evaluation at **Abt Associates**, and two years in Namibia as a **Peace Corps** volunteer.

Jake holds a Master of Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton.

### Jose Zubizarreta

At Wagner, Jose is focusing on questions that can make a social difference and is employing new empirical methods in his analysis. In the past, Jose's research has focused on the methodology of longitudinal surveys (statistical adjustment procedures) and on the dynamic analysis of well-being (income mobility and child poverty). He has worked as a Lecturer and a researcher at the **Department of Industrial Engineering and Systems** at the Catholic University and at the **Social Observatory** at University Alberto Hurtado, Chile.



Jose points out that he is at Wagner because, "[The doctoral program at Wagner] offers me great opportunities and flexibility to develop my research interests [through] courses both at Wagner and other departments at NYU." He adds, "Besides, the possibility of learning from professors like Jonathan Murdoch is amazing!"

tenure from the university. Her daughter has been announcing this achievement as "mama ga tooncha." We are excited, too. Congratulations Laura!

**Ross Rubenstein (PhD '97)**, Associate Professor of Public Administration, Maxwell School, Syracuse University, was awarded the **Birkhead-Burkhead Teaching Excellence Award** by the Department of Public Administration in the **Maxwell School, Syracuse University**.

Ross's forthcoming publication "*Examining the Nature and Magnitude of Intra-District Resource Disparities in Mid-size School Districts*" was co-authored with Larry Miller, and will appear in **Public Budgeting and Finance**. He also co-authored "*Equity and Accountability: The Impact of State Accountability Systems on School Finance*," in conjunction with Sonali Ballal and Wagner Professors **Leanna Stiefel**, and **Amy Ellen Schwartz**. This article appeared in volume 28, number 3 (Fall 2008) of **Public Budgeting and Finance**.

## STUDENT UPDATE

**Thad Calabrese** has been chosen by the **Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Volunteer Action** as one of their Emerging Scholars, 2008.

**Richard Cho** co-authored a paper titled “*Incarceration and Homelessness*” as part of the **HUD/HHS National Symposium on Homelessness Research** in 2007. Richard Cho now also lectures on Public Administration at Wagner.

**Jennifer Dodge** organized a panel at the **Interpretive Policy Analysis** conference in Essex, England this June, called “*Accounting for Politics in Applications of Deliberative Democracy Theory*.” She also presented a paper entitled “*Deliberative Democracy and Strategic Action: The Case of Environmental Justice*.” She is now working with co-panelists to write a journal edition proposal on power in deliberative democracy for the ***Policy & Society Journal***.

In addition, last March, Jennifer presented a paper called “*Discur-sive Democracy and the Civil Society Organization: The Challenge of Transmitting Environmental Justice to State Policy*” at the **Western Political Science Association**, in San Diego, CA. This semester, she presented her dissertation research at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Doctoral Research Colloquium.

**Martha M. Galvez and Rachel Meltzer** both received competitive, one-time Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants from the **Office of University Partnerships of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development**. Their dissertations are titled “*Defining*

*‘Choice’ in the Housing Choice Voucher Program: The Role of Market Constraints and Household Resources in Location Outcomes*” and “*The Private Provision of Public Services: Essays on Private Associations and the Communities They Serve*,” respectively.

**Rachel Meltzer** was also awarded a prestigious fellowship from the **Lincoln Institute** to support her dissertation.

**Evan Michelson** was promoted to the position of Senior Research Associate at **The Rockefeller Foundation**. He has had a number of publications in the last year. These include a chapter in a collection published by Springer press on nanotechnology policy, titled “*Trans-national Nanotechnology Governance: A Comparison of the U.S. and China*” and “*Globalization at the NanoFrontier: The Future of Nanotechnology Policy in the United States, China, and India*,” which was published in the last ***Technology in Society*** issue of 2008.

Evan was also the second author on an article in ***Ecotoxicology*** titled, “*Categorization Framework to Aid Exposure Assessment of Nanomaterials in Consumer Products*.” The other authors are Steffen Foss Hansen, Anaj Kamper, Pernille Borling, Frank Stuer-Lauridsen, and Anders Baun.

**Sanjiv Roa** is currently the Director of the **New York State Afterschool Network**. This partnership between public agencies and nonprofit organizations is dedicated to promoting the safety, learning, and healthy development of children and youth outside of traditional classrooms. Sanjiv’s dissertation will use an organizational learning perspective to look at the implementation of integrated social services in school settings and the influence that these type of school models have on social service providers across disciplines.

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
New York University  
The Puck Building  
295 Lafayette Street, 2nd Fl  
New York, NY 10012-9604

