



## FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE ALUMNI CONNECTION

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**FELPS Happy Hour**  
**@ Botanica 47 E Houston**  
**Sept. 17, 6:00pm**

**Application Readings**  
**@ Wagner (Puck Bldg)**  
**Sept. 22, 8:00am\***  
**Sept. 23, 5:30pm\***  
**Sept. 24, 7:00pm\***  
 \*light meals will be served.

RSVP to [wagner.felps@nyu.edu](mailto:wagner.felps@nyu.edu)

### 2009-2010 ALUMNI BOARD

**Mark Liu** ('08), President  
*Practice Leader, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center*

**Carey Greenberg-Berger** ('07)  
*Weekend Editor, The Consumerist*

**Jason Labate** ('06)  
*Director of Program Support & Development, NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene*

**Meghan McCormick** ('09)  
*Research Assistant, MDRC*

**Deborah Morris** ('06)  
*Urban Planner, Office of the Manhattan Borough President*

**Miriam Solis** ('09)  
*Assistant Director for Communications, NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development*

**Jeremy Tibbetts** ('09)  
*Spanish and ESL Teacher, MS260 The Clinton School for Writers and Artists*

### WELCOME FROM THE NEW ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Fellowship Alumni,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As the summer winds to a close, the fellowship alumni board is preparing for another great year! During the board's inaugural year we held two successful social events, collected updated contact information for 76 percent of FELPS alumni and produced the first issue of this newsletter.

We're excited to have a successful second year, and the Altman Foundation is once again assisting our efforts. The 2009-2010 alumni board consists of eight members, representing every FELPS class. Three of us are continuing our second year of board service: Claire Gershon ('08), Jason Labate ('06) and myself. In addition, we are joined by Carey Greenberg-Berger ('07), Meghan McCormick

('09), Deborah Morris ('06), Miriam Solis ('09), and Jeremy Tibbetts ('09). We are inspired by the enthusiasm you have expressed throughout the last year, and hope you will assist us as we continue building a strong FELPS Alumni Network.

On behalf of the board, I want to welcome the 2009 FELPS class to the alumni association. Participating in the Alumni Network will help you to continue benefitting from FELPS now that

your fellowship has ended. I invite you to join the board and other alums on September 17 for a FELPS happy hour.

Additionally, I hope you will help the program grow in prestige by attending an application reading on September 22, 23 or 24. You'll get the opportunity to read through this year's applications and help determine the next class of fellows. You'll also have the opportunity to give feedback on the curriculum and enjoy some delicious food.

Finally, as the deadline for the 2010 FELPS class approaches, I encourage you to spread the word about the fellowship to any young professionals in your network.

I look forward to seeing you soon!  
 All the best,  
 Mark Liu



### FELLOWSHIP UPDATE: PROGRAM EVOLUTION

I'm excited to inform you that this year is looking to be the strongest fellowship yet. Applications have been available since August and the feedback has been wonderful, but we still need your help! Please continue to share your fellowship story with those who might benefit from FELPS!

In other news, we've have some significant changes to the fellowship structure. Due in large part to your feedback, this year's fellowship will begin in November

2009 and go through May 2010. This added time allows for more in-depth career development sessions to further explore personal interests, roles and types of public service organizations.

I'm also pleased to announce that I'm staying on for another year and now serve as the FELPS program manager. Also, as FELPS becomes more integrated into NYU Wagner's distinguished Research Center for Leadership in Action, RCLA Communications Manager

Colleen Coffey is now serving as the program director.

As the Alumni Board works to bring you more social and networking events, I encourage you to attend. Until then, please continue spreading the word about FELPS! Applications are due September 16.

Sincerely,  
 Mo Coffey  
 Program Manager





## 2009 FELLOWS SUPPORT BROTHERHOOD-SISTER SOL

The class of 2009 hosted a fundraiser on July 1 to benefit the Brotherhood-Sister Sol of Harlem, an organization whose executive director, Khary Lazerre-White, had given a dynamic and inspiring presentation to the class in March 2009.



*2009 Fellows socialize during the fundraiser for Brotherhood-Sister Sol.*

Mr. Lazerre-White and a college classmate founded the Brotherhood-Sister Sol shortly after graduating from Brown University with the goal of

addressing the dire need for supportive programs for Black and Latino youth in Harlem. The presentation he gave left an indelible mark on the fellows, providing them with further inspiration to do the public service work about which they are passionate.

Led by Rhiannon O'Leary, Jessica Rivkin, and Smita Ghosh, the host committee for the fundraiser hoped to thank the Brotherhood-

Sister Sol for their involvement in the FELPS program by raising funds needed for programming. Attendees participated in a happy hour event and heard speeches from Mr. Lazerre-White and FELPS Program Manager Mo Coffey. Overall, 78 people attended the event and we raised \$1,069 for the Brotherhood-Sister Sol. The 2009 FELPS host committee thanks all who attended the benefit.

- By Meghan McCormick

## FYI: NEW REPAYMENT OPTION MAKES GRAD LOANS MORE BEARABLE

“After 10 years, the debt is fully discharged for anyone working in public service...”

Financing your education just got a little bit easier thanks to a new federal loan repayment option called Income-Based Repayment (IBR). IBR caps the amount of loan repayments at 15 percent of your annual income, but the payments are determined using a sliding scale and could be far less. If the payments don't cover the interest on your debt, the federal government picks up the difference for the first

three years. After 10 years, the debt is fully discharged for anyone working in public service; for everyone else, the debt disappears after 25 years.

IBR isn't for everyone. The option is only available to students with Direct Loans issued by the Department of Education, not loans issued by private lenders. If you are not eligible to have your debts canceled after 10

years, the standard repayment plans will still be the cheapest option, since extending your repayment period increases the amount of interest owed. But for anyone worried about choosing between loan payments and rent, IBR is an option worth considering.

To find out more, visit the Department of Education site at: <http://studentaid.ed.gov>  
- By Carey Greenberg-Berger

## FELPS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MAREN HILL ('09)

This summer, Maren Hill ('09) spent two weeks in Salta, Argentina interviewing a baker, a potter and a hairdresser. All are members of Pro Mujer, a microfinance and women's development organization in Latin America. As the organization's communications associate, Maren was tasked with documenting the entrepreneurial ventures of these and other members. Using film, photography and formal and



*Maren Hill is a communications associate at development NGO Pro Mujer.*

casual interviews, she will use the testimonies to broadcast Pro Mujer's impact via marketing and communications campaigns. Maren's experience in Salta did more than inform Pro Mujer's strategic development plans; it was also personally rejuvenating. Central to the first-hand accounts of the organization's impact were chronicles of staff combating utter poverty with sheer enthusiasm and diligence. In the

member-organized meetings and trainings, Maren was reintroduced to a collective, forward-thinking spirit. These sources of inspiration can feel distant when working out of her NYC office. Salta reconnected Maren with that inspiration and reaffirmed her work for a mission-driven organization like Pro Mujer.

- By Miriam Solis

*Have a story to share? Email us: [wagner.felps@nyu.edu](mailto:wagner.felps@nyu.edu)*

Stay in touch! Visit the FELPS Web site and click on the alumni connection link to update your information and see what the alumni network has to offer: <http://wagner.nyu.edu/FELPS>

