



## 2007 Public Service Scholars

**Danilda Abreu**  
Herman D. Farrell Fellow

**Yvette Almaquer**  
Herman D. Farrell Fellow

**Diona Ceniza**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Claudia Chan**  
Helena Rubinstein Fellow

**Mardeen Cortorreal**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Richard David**  
Paul Burns Fellow

**Marisol DelValle**  
Ilene Zucker Fellow

**Melanie Dulfo**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Adam Hutton**  
Paul DuBrul Fellow

**Emilia Ptaszynska**  
Helena Rubinstein Fellow

**Melissa Ramirez**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Laura Ramkissoon**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Ines Robles**  
Helena Rubinstein Fellow

**Melissa Rosado**  
Raymond P. Murray Fellow

**Amalia Torrentes**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Joshua Thomas**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow

**Tyrone Thomas**  
Ursula Mahoney Fellow

**Michelle Tulino**  
Ann S. Kheel Fellow



Scholars\*, alumni and friends

\*Not all scholars listed appear in photo above

## IN THE NEWS

### Foundation Mergers and Donor Partnerships

Over a million nonprofit organizations in the United States depend on private dollars to support their services to countless numbers of people. Changes in the flow of giving by institutions and private citizens have a significant impact on charities and others involved in public service. It is therefore worth looking at the frequency of mergers among philanthropies, changes in their collaborations and partnerships and the impact on recipients.

The most conspicuous recent change was the pledge of \$30 billion from the financier Warren Buffett to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This highlights issues raised by the yielding of individual decisions about distributing one's accumulated wealth to a partnership. The benefits of these partnerships can be great: better equipped and more experienced experts and institutions focus funds on shared agendas; more money going toward a shared cause can have an even bigger social impact; and possibly other donors will follow their lead, assuming that their expertise is greater.

Will these donor partnerships increase? Charles Hamilton, executive director of the Clark Foundation, told *News & Views* that he suspects that there will be "more mergers, driven by donors who may have an incentive to do so in a quest for effective and efficient use of their funds." Further, Susan...

*Continued on page 5*

## DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION

The Public Service Scholar Program seeks to improve our cities and the lives of people by preparing talented undergraduates for careers in the public and nonprofit sectors. Housed in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College, the 18-credit, full academic year program gives these students, especially women and minority-group members, an opportunity to explore public service through internships in government agencies, legislative offices and nonprofit organizations. Scholars participate in academic seminars on city government and public policy. The PSSP receives external funds to support the program, including funding for stipends for our scholars. Without this help, our students could not participate.

A view from the

# DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

by Susan Nayowith, Ph.D.



**W**hat an exciting time I have had in the last few months as visiting professor of the Public Service Scholar Program. The opportunity to support the scholars, alumni and friends of this program has been a wonderful experience, and we are only at the halfway mark.

Each year the program gets applications from talented, bright and motivated students, and this year was no exception. Our cohort of 18 scholars consists of altruistic undergraduates eager to make the most of their time in the program. They latch on in their internship placements, learning the inner workings of our city's public service sector. Pages four, five and eight of this newsletter provide brief descriptions of this year's placements and I am confident you will find them interesting. The Scholars are surely gaining the valuable experience that will sustain their career development as leaders.

Providing the essential resources for our Scholars to succeed is of paramount importance. This year, we were able to meet our Scholars' need for individual computers at their placements

and at school. We are also in the midst of developing an exciting new component for our current Scholars and alumni. The Career Networking Initiative will provide valuable exposure to Scholars and will also allow alumni, such as those featured on page six, to reunite, share experiences and support each other's development. The program enhancements are described on page three. They would not have been possible without the support of the new Shirley Kaye Maisel Fund.

Each newsletter we publish focuses on an important issue in public service; our current topic is the potential impact of foundation mergers and donor partnerships. Our Scholars are immersed each year in current policy issues, since today's news will most surely have an impact on practices of the future. Their preparation to meet such challenges is a key element of the program and the distribution of money will always be a factor in any organization in public service. We welcome your comments about this article, featured on the cover.

As always, a special thank-you to all our supporters and friends.

## Thank You...

*News & Views* is supported by generous grants from the legislative office of Assembly member Alexander B. "Pete" Grannis. The Program also thanks Assembly member Denny Farrell, Senate members Liz Kruger and Marcus Serrano, Council members Jessica S. Lappin and Daniel R. Garodnick and the Manhattan Delegation of the Assembly and the City Council for securing funding for our services. The Program is also thankful for contributions received from individuals, foundations and corporations. A complete list of these contributions will be included in our spring newsletter.

Support from these sources and from friends and alumni is essential since over 90% of the program's expenses must be secured through private funding. Please consider supporting our important work by using the enclosed envelope to donate. Please know that your contribution will make an impact in our program.



## Sabbatical Update

Elaine M. Walsh, Ph.D., director of the Public Service Scholar Program, has taken a two-semester sabbatical from her full-time role in the program as well as from her position as associate professor in the Department of Urban Affairs at Hunter College. Dr. Walsh is spending this time writing a book about the impact of the Public Service Scholar Program on the lives of the women and men who have participated since it began. She continues to administer

the program, including the admissions process, coordinating student placements with agencies and fund-raising. Dr. Susan Nayowith, director of advocacy in the city's Department of Homeless Services, is managing day-to-day activities, leading the workshops and assisting scholars with their placements. Dr. Walsh looks forward to returning to the program full-time in the spring of 2007. Announcements will be made about her exciting book, which she expects to complete in 2008.

# PROGRAM UPDATE:

What's new with the Public Service Scholar Program?



## More muscle for the program

**T**he Public Service Scholar Program will launch a Career Networking Initiative in 2007 to give Scholars a further boost toward their goal of leadership in our city's public service sector. The project will be designed to meet the workforce development and career-advancement needs of Scholars and alumni. The planning phase of the Career Networking Initiative was recently completed, thanks to a generous gift from the Shirley Kaye Maisel Fund.

Through this project, scholars and alumni will be exposed to influential leaders in the city via panels, forums and workshops. Events that stimulate networking will be offered, as well as

individual career advice and guidance from professionals already in public service. Scholars and alumni will also receive notification of volunteer appointments and learn how such positions are filled. Additionally, they will receive counseling on résumé writing, salary negotiation and job interviews for their first positions, as well as at later points in their careers.

The Public Service Scholar Program looks forward to getting funding to ensure the carrying forward of the initiative. This new initiative will strengthen the Public Service Scholar Program's services and help scholars come closer to achieving their personal and professional goals.

## The reality of getting hands on

**I**t is no secret that computer skills are indispensable for good jobs. For Public Service Scholars, the challenge has been not only to learn the skills but also to get access to computers at their internship sites so as to manage work tasks as efficiently as possible.

*More and more agencies are now making sure that Scholars are provided with individual computers on the job. Never before have agencies responded to this need at such a level.*

The Public Service Scholar Program recently rose to this challenge, acquiring laptop computers for use by scholars who lacked easy access

to them. A large part of this project was underwritten by the Shirley Kaye Maisel Fund. Scholars responded with enthusiasm. "I never needed to wait for others to be finished with their work before starting mine," one said. "I became more efficient with the work I had to do," another said. "I was able to search for information without the hassle of frozen screens and having to shut down multiple times throughout the day," a third said.

An unforeseen, but welcome response by internship agencies followed. More and more agencies are now making sure that Scholars are provided with individual computers on the job. Never before have agencies responded to this need at such a level. The Public Service Scholar Program believes this response is a testament to the value of the Scholars and their abilities in the work world.

## HONORING Shirley Kaye Maisel

Family and friends of the late Shirley Kaye Maisel have established a fund in her honor in the Public Service Scholar Program to memorialize her dedication to New York City and to philanthropy.

Ms. Maisel graduated from Hunter College in 1945 and for the majority of her life was a working professional in New York City. She believed in empowering women and minority group members with opportunities to achieve professional and personal success.

The Public Service Scholar Program is gratified that Ms. Maisel's admirers chose to honor her through the program and support the development of our city's future leaders in public service. Ms. Maisel's daughter, Karen Blumenthal, is confident that her mother would have held the program in high regard and is pleased that the fund is making an impact in the program.



# 2007 SCHOLAR PLACEMENTS:

Students that are making differences in our city



**E**ach year, the Public Service Scholar Program is approached by ever more agencies requesting a Scholar placement. The interest in the program and demand for Scholars attests their talents, capabilities and value in the workplace. The 2007 Scholars are actively engaged in exciting positions in public service around our city. Here are some details.

**Danilda Abreu** is placed with the United Way of New York City and is working in the area that seeks to strengthen nonprofits. She works most closely with the linkages board training and placement program and the fellowship program, both part of the Nonprofit Leadership Development Institute. Danilda's projects for the spring include: coordinating the annual awards ceremony, carrying out marketing and recruitment strategies for prospective board members, managing the portal system of the institute's senior and junior fellowship programs, and networking with leaders in the nonprofit sector.

**Yvette Almaquer** is placed with Citizens Committee for Children of New York where she is supporting the Youth Action program and a select group of its members to partner with youth development programs. She coordinates site visits, collates field notes for group training, assists with group supervision, analyzes data from youth surveys and organizes research. This spring, Yvette will help coordinate and do follow-up projects for Advocacy Day in Albany.

**Diona Ceniza** is interning at the Goddard Riverside Settlement House in the West Side Single Room Occupancy Law Project (SRO Law) where she is dealing with tenant and housing issues on the West Side, Harlem and elsewhere in the city. Diona's responsibilities include forming tenant associations, counseling tenants, and working on tenant campaigns. Diona will also attend workshops on housing issues, and will sit in on meetings between the SRO Law Project's senior staff and elected officials.

**Claudia Chan** is working with Assembly Member Catherine Nolan of District 37 in Queens. Having become familiar with the district's problems and constituent needs through attending community and business meetings, Claudia is now focused on her main project, creating an informative report on the schools in the district to assist Ms. Nolan's decisions on allocation of educational funds.

**Mardeen Cortorreal** is placed with the city's Department of Small Business Services, Division of Financial and Economic Development. His role in their external affairs department is to educate and inform businesses owned by minorities and women of the department's Minority and

Women Owned Businesses Program and encourage them to become certified so they can be eligible for contracts with city agencies.

**Richard David** is interning with the New York Industrial Retention Network as a junior client manager where he is helping to create strategies for program and business development, in addition to undertaking advocacy, agency representation and internal administrative work. Richard will play a key role in the initiation of the Ethnic Entrepreneurship Project, which will provide support services to business, including real estate assistance, mentoring, employee training and other services for new Americans.

**Marisol DelValle** is working at the city's Administration for Children's Services in the Head Start and Child Care Division, where her main project is putting into effect the Rethinking Child Care Strategic Plan. Marisol is working with a group of directors and consultants to determine whether infant/toddler programs at schools are eligible for funding through a proposed submission process. Marisol escorted 30 executives from Hong Kong on a visit to the Chinatown Head Start program.

**Melanie Dulfo** is placed at the Council of Senior Centers and Services of the city, where she has been assisting a campaign to mobilize senior centers to advocate for continued federal aid, and attend press conferences and meetings on senior support issues. She is now helping draft a proposal to meet the neglected crisis of HIV/AIDS among seniors. Her final project will be to collate and analyze a rent survey distributed to senior centers to learn about housing problems.

**Adam Hutton** is interning at the office of City Council Member Rosie Mendez of Manhattan where his weekly responsibility is to research local news for articles about the councilwoman's district. This information allows staff members to refer to news clips as they work on issues of interest to the people in the district. An intensive project of Adam's has been an investigation, involving research and interviews, into the owners of residential buildings in the district who have been accused of disregarding housing codes, harassing tenants and violating rent control laws. The councilwoman's office will use this information to encourage the owners to make restitution and to bring about public exposure.

**Emilia Ptaszynska** is placed at the city's Department of Administration for Children's Services, Division of Family Court Legal Services. After attending comprehensive training and meetings about the division, Emilia began...

*Continued on next page*

...designing an internship program for New York Law School students. Another project of particular interest to Emilia involves collecting data and analyzing the results to determine the accuracy of certain caseworker forms.

**Melissa Ramirez** is interning with the city Department of Youth and Community Development, where her focus is supporting Youth-line, a crisis intervention and resource line. She organizes workshops and updates resource packets for staff members. Melissa has been attending conferences and City Hall hearings and helped plan the annual conference on runaway and homeless youth last November.

**Laura Ramkissoon** is working at the city's Department of Homeless Services, where she is concentrating on several projects such as streamlining program for the Homeless Management Information System, which will track agencies working with the homeless. Laura has designed a logo for the Coalition on the Continuum of Care that will be used on the website and database. Laura is working on the fifth annual HOPE Count 2007, a survey of all individuals living on city streets. She has recruited the scholars to volunteer for the Count.

**Ines Robles** is working with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City in their outreach and technical assistance departments.

She has been involved in agency board and staff meetings, researching potential mentor organizations, recruiting corporate sponsors and attending training sessions on topics such as empowering girls and effective volunteer recruitment strategies. Ines's main project involves writing reports for the mentoring supervisor certificate program.

**Melissa Rosado** is placed with VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Melissa's responsibilities include assisting the intergenerational volunteer program and the state's Intergenerational Network public policy committee. She attends their meetings and presents the views of Visions at city conferences and hearings. She has also been working with the Blindline Advisory Committee to promote its toll-free call center and internet database.

**Joshua Thomas** is placed at the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project, where he has been working on many HIV prevention and awareness projects. Josh helped draft a statement in support of HIV legislation. He'll be reporting on national conference plans that focus on HIV in correctional settings; working on a national campaign for annual Human Papillomavirus screening; and the Find the Condom campaign.

*Continued on back cover*

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## **Foundation Mergers and Donor Partnerships**

*Continued from cover*

...Berresford, president of Ford Foundation, was recently quoted in Forbes.com about the Buffett gift as saying: "The scale of generosity is inspiring. We are likely to see other significant transfers of personal wealth into philanthropy for the common good."

Foundation mergers are certainly not new. Michael Seltzer, president of the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers (NYRAG), said to *News & Views* that community and public foundations represented merged foundations and have been around for decades. How would philanthropy be affected if such mergers increased? Pablo Eisenberg, a writer for the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, envisions a world of "mega-foundations." A merged foundation could enjoy a myriad of benefits, such as the flexibility to alter increase or withhold gifts on the basis of experience. Mr. Hamilton of the Clark Foundation noted: "Potentially, the benefits could be much greater and more focused grant-making. Depending on what a merge partner might bring to a merger, greater expertise might come too." Conversely, he commented: "Mergers could make it easier for these larger foundations to ignore the real world and grantees. They may seek to impose more of their own views of what should be done and how."

What if this practice continues? For public servants, fewer jobs and increased competition for foundation positions

could result: Inevitably mergers mean that executives want to eliminate redundancies. For individual donors, new ways to have a greater impact are possible. For nonprofit organizations, an even more challenging fund-raising environment can be created, especially for smaller organizations that do not show up on the radar of the "mega-foundations." And for the social service sector in general, an increase in the pace of larger foundations replacing smaller ones could leave the setting of priorities in the hands of a select few.

Understanding the impact of any lasting change in philanthropy is essential for all involved in public service, including those in the Public Service Scholar Program. Understanding current trends, preparing for change and learning how to make an impact are the key ingredients in the Program. The Scholars are the next generation of leaders in public service and will undoubtedly be affected by patterns of change. Philanthropy is an enormous force in shaping public policy and the evolving challenge is to find a balance of support for those in need. Collaborations, whether involving citizens or organizations, must continue to focus on support for all of society's disadvantaged and needy populations. This is after all the focus of work in public service. As Mr. Seltzer was quick to note, "Innovation is not measured by dollars." Smaller organizations cannot be neglected because they have traditionally been the innovators.

# ALUMNI IN ACTION:

Working, succeeding, and staying connected



'91

**Darlene Ferguson-Russell, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of the Education Department  
William Paterson College, Wayne, N.J.

**Q. What does the Public Service Scholar Program mean to you?**

**A.** The Program represents an integral period in my life and was important for my growth and development as a young woman. For the first time, I was able to assert myself in different ways—orally and in writing. The greatest gift the Program gave me was the exploration of a myriad of career possibilities. It is the spine to my professional development.

**Q. How did the Public Service Scholar Program prepare you for a career in service?**

**A.** I learned that service work requires diligence and a special kind of allegiance to humanity. My parents, in particular my father, always taught me about the historical injustices that many people faced in the world. The Program propelled me to think more about my parents' teachings and the struggles of the rainbow of people who live in the five boroughs. I knew that my career path would involve serving those people without "voices".

**Q. What advice would you give to current and future scholars?**

**A.** I would encourage them to get the maximum mileage out of their placement experience. It is important to exercise your "voice" and "presence" during every task required at your placement. Take advantage of every opportunity. Above all, every scholar needs to be appreciative of this dynamic, life-changing experience.

'90

**Giovana Montalvo, M.S.**  
Assistant Program Director of Positive Living Case Management Program at Citizens Advice Bureau

**Q. What does the Public Service Scholar Program mean to you?**

**A.** It was a chance for me to obtain experience within the social service field while getting to know a group of Hunter College students who were just as passionate as I about social services.

**Q. How did the Public Service Scholar Program prepare you for a career in public service?**

**A.** It provided me with the experience and exposure to a position while still attending college. It was more than just a basic internship. I was allowed to use my mind and tried to assist my internship placement in ways that could affect them long after my absence.

**Q. What advice would you give to current and future scholars?**

**A.** Have fun and enjoy your year. The students should learn as much as they can from the supervisors and make connections. After all, the graduation date comes right after the PSSP year!

**W**here are Public Service Scholar Program Alumni? They are pursuing positions around our city in public service, representing a cadre of leaders who reflect the changing ethnic, social and gender landscape of society. Below are just a few of our alumni. Our goal is to include information about all of our alumni in our newsletter so that you can reconnect

with each other or seek career support from others in your field. Please email [ewalsh@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:ewalsh@hunter.cuny.edu) with your current address, work and educational status and any other information that you want us to know. Feel free to also email Elaine to request individual contact information.

'83 **Jayne Pierce**  
Librarian  
NYC Dept. of Education

'88 **Christopher Bell**  
Program Officer  
Pinkerton Foundation

'89 **Antoinette D'Orazio**  
Assistant Director  
Office of Development  
& Alumni Relations  
Pace Law School

'90 **Karen Morita**  
Director  
HR-Organizational  
Development  
Greenberg Traurig

'91 **Cecile Yancu**  
Assistant Professor  
Winston-Salem State  
University

'92 **Lorelei Schroeter**  
Executive Director  
Business Women's  
Initiative against HIV/AIDS

'94 **Susan Chin**  
Assistant Director  
Political Action and  
Legislation Department  
District Council 37

'96 **Molly Doherty, Esq.**  
Director  
SRO project, Goddard  
Riverside Settlement House

'97 **Martha Sobhani**  
Business Services Manager  
Asia Americas for Equality

'98 **Zoe Ruiz**  
Social Worker  
NYC Dept. of Education

'99 **Spiredoula Viglis**  
Staff Attorney  
NYC Dept. HRA

'00 **Richard Torres**  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Aid Society

'01 **Tahmina Choudhury Rajib**  
AXA Equitable - Corporate  
Law Dept.

'02 **Moriamo-Lola Odunsi**  
Social Worker  
Mt. Sinai Hospital

'03 **Jenifer Yeaw**  
Special Advisor to the  
Family Services  
Coordinator  
NYC Deputy Mayor for  
Health and Human Services

'04 **Man Yee Leung**  
Senior Service Coordinator  
St. Nicholas Neighborhood  
Preservation Corp.

'05 **Kamila Kiszko**  
Legislative Analyst  
NYS Association for  
Affordable Housing

'06 **Gwendolyn Nieves**  
Caseworker  
Coney Island Hospital



## Congratulations to the 2006 Program Graduates

The program's Annual Awards Ceremony was held on May 1st, 2006 in the City Council Chambers and the Rotunda at City Hall. The 2006 scholars, their families, internship supervisors, alumni mentors and friends of the program gathered to celebrate the completion of a successful program.



Council members Daniel Garodnick and Gale Brewer applauded the achievements of the scholars (center picture) and stressed the need for dynamic and talented leaders in public service.

## Annual Holiday Party

**L**aughter, excitement and merriment filled the air at this year's holiday party in December 2006. Scholars, alumni and friends enjoyed lively conversation and overall celebration of the holiday. Thank you once again to the Visiting Nurse Association for allowing the program use of their space. The holiday party would not have been as wonderful without the generous donations for the annual raffle. Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for your in-kind gifts.

**Barnes & Noble @ Hunter College**  
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**Innovative Vision Care**  
**Jack Rabbit Sports**  
**Lancome at Bergdorf Goodman**  
**Manhattan Brick Oven & Grill**  
**Mike's Pizza**  
**Office of Client Advocacy**  
**Town & Country**

**Rachel and Nick Burton**  
**Nicholas Giampetruzzi**  
**Family of Melanie Dulfo**  
**Teresa Jamiolkowski**  
**Owona Kielbiowski**  
**Martha O'Connor**  
**Family of Laura Ramkissoon**



Assembly member Alexander B. "Pete" Grannis, Elaine M. Walsh and City Council member David I. Weprin



2007 Scholars and Susan Nayowith



Helena Rubinstein Fellows with Leslie Park, Helena Rubinstein Foundation Program Officer and program alumni

## Scholar Placements

Continued from page 5

He represents the mobilization project at meetings at the City Department of Health and The Foundation for AIDS Research-sponsored events; and is supervising volunteers and updating the website.

**Tyrone Thomas** is placed with the office of State Senator Liz Krueger of Manhattan, where his work revolves around housing finance and land use. He organized and helped lead a flu-shot drive and a town hall meeting on Medicare. Tyrone's responsibilities include: attending meetings and press conferences at City Hall, answering constituent phone calls and responding to their letters.

**Amalia Torrentes** is interning in the office of City Council Member Miguel Martinez of Washington Heights, where she works in both the legislative and district offices. Amalia

is using her bilingual skills to assist the chief of staff in translating correspondence, screening calls and attending meetings and hearings. Amalia has been providing support on youth, immigrant and health focused projects such as the Safe Treats Safe Streets event, the Immigrant Opportunity Initiative, and the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act.

**Michelle Tulino** is working with the American Jewish World Service, where she has been assigned to the grants department, which provides relief aid to poor nations in the world. Michelle's assignments include reviewing grant applications, coordinating approved proposals with regional offices, organizing grantee contracts, participating in grant department meetings and writing requests for staff visas. Michelle has been using her language skills to translate materials from Spanish to English for the organization.



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