Message to Segal Program Founders and Friends

It seems like just yesterday that the Segal Program was only an idea, but in three short years the “poetry” had been translated into “prose.” A strong network of committed new citizen leaders is emerging. The growing roster of Fellows are developing their skills, supporting each other, and being mentored by an expanding universe of Founders and friends. The reflections and stories in this report echo Eli’s confidence in the power of young people to change the world, and show how the Program has continued his lifelong commitment to helping them succeed. Highlights from this year include:

- **Welcoming 10 new Segal Fellows**, raising the total number to 36;
- **Hosting the 3rd Annual Fellows Retreat**, outside Baltimore, MD, where Segal Founders Charlie Rose and Milano Harden guided 26 Fellows through team building and leadership development activities;
- **Completing six policy and management summer internships** for new Brandeis Segal Fellows, who carried out high impact projects, expanded their skills and built new relationships;
- **Segal Fellows taking the lead in designing and executing program activities** and community service projects;
- **Creating opportunities to support Segal Fellows**, including Founders acting as mentors, setting up private tours of the West Wing and hosting network receptions in Washington, D.C. and Boston;
- **Engaging Fellows and Founders** in a variety of projects and events to improve communication and leadership development activities and the overall effectiveness of the Program.

Perhaps even more importantly, we have strengthened the role of Fellows and Founders in the continuing evolution of the Program. Two Fellows now serve as full members of the Program advisory committee and Fellows are leading plans for future activities including the 2011 Segal Program Lecture, service projects, and Fellows retreats. Founders and Fellows are also helping to shape the upcoming selection process for 2011 Brandeis Segal Fellows.

Thank you to all who have helped make this year so successful. We hope you enjoy this report and welcome your ideas, questions and feedback.

Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program Director and Founder, Larry Bailis and Program Manager and Fellow, Toni Schwarzenbach

Reflections on Coaching a Segal Fellow

I place my experience as a Segal Fellow Coach this past summer in the category of things I feel guilty about. Why? Not because I didn’t show up on time or give it my all, but because I got so much out of the experience. I can almost hear Eli knowingly chuckling about the power of service to help transform those who serve.

I am grateful to my Segal Fellow Alan Ratliff who gave me a window into his dynamic and highly complex work informing GBLT (gay, bi-sexual, lesbian, and transgender) policy developments on the state-wide level. Over fancy salads, Japanese noodle soups, and something Thai that I am still not sure about, I learned about the disconnects between public officials and a new generation of youth leaders and activists in this arena. Alan is bravely in the process of positioning himself as a bridge. He is learning to speak the languages of multiple stakeholders and help them find new ways to first “hear” one another and then, hopefully, work together. Like most Fellows, he is a pioneer.

Not being immersed in LGBT issues or day-to-day politics, I was able to put my consulting skills to work and help Alan take a fresh look. Together, we talked about models from other disciplines and alternative ways to re-frame processes and assignments. Out of mutual respect we asked tough questions and pushed each other to think differently. It was such a great experience and I’m so glad I did it!

Mark Feldman, Segal Founder and President of Cause Consulting, coached Segal Fellow Alan Ratliff

“I learned a great deal from Mark [Feldman]. His commitment reassured me that this network was created to go beyond professional development purposes, it was created to act as an extended family.”

―Alan Ratliff, Brandeis Segal Fellow (Brandeis ’10)
Reflections from Segal Fellow Gabi Sanchez-Stern (Brandeis ’10)

This summer I had the opportunity to work at Demos, a non-partisan progressive policy research and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. My primary research focus was on immigrant civic inclusion, including: worker center programs, immigrant integration, and the role of immigrant women in civic inclusion. My supervisors were Tova Wang and Brenda Wright. With their support, I observed coalition meetings concerning voting rights, conference calls with the Department of Justice about the Arizona lawsuit over SB1070, a Demos conference on Democracy, and attended the Immigration Law and Policy Conference at Georgetown Law School.

My summer experience was also supported by my Segal Coach, Nicky Goren, President of the Washington Area Women’s Foundation and Former Acting CEO at CNCS. Nicky and I had a lot in common, making our meetings together insightful and vibrant. Our discussions reinforced the importance of working for something I believe in. Her support and guidance added another important educational element to my leadership development experience this summer.

I also had the opportunity to meet with many Founders including, Miles and Nancy Rubin, Susan and Sandy Berger, Mora Segal, Eve Brooks, Michael Camuñez, Judy Lichtman, and many more, at receptions, over coffee and lunch. Connecting with them added a special inspiring component to the summer. Not only did I learn from their experiences, I began to understand the meaning of belonging to this Network. Taking a tour of the West Wing with Michael Camuñez in July drove this point home.

Having the assurance of a shared goal and common bond in making change with Segal Founders and Fellows is inspiring and motivating. I look forward to the day when I can give back to the Network all I have gained from this summer’s experience.

Segal Fellow was “Instrumental” at Jobs for the Future

On behalf of Jobs for the Future, I would like to thank the Segal Fellowship for providing us with the opportunity to mentor Michael Perloff (Brandeis ’10) and advance his knowledge of state policy and its impact on low-skilled adults, postsecondary educational attainment, and family-sustaining wage opportunities for these adults through our work on the Breaking Through initiative.

Michael was instrumental in one of our major proposals to the Lumina Foundation for Education this past summer. With Michael’s excellent research, teamwork, and his ability to work under unusual conditions, JFF was able to secure a four-year grant from the Lumina Foundation to add a state policy component to Breaking Through in Kentucky, Michigan, and North Carolina. This extension of our current work will have national implications for the retraining of dislocated and underemployed workers and building bridges between and among the community college and workforce development systems.

Michael was a wonderful fit for our organization and we would certainly welcome him and other Segal Fellows at JFF in the future.

Meet the Newest Fellows

Arianne McGinnis and Elliott McGann of Hope Grows, a pasture-based farm in Sylvania, GA have been selected as the 2010 Americorps Alums Eli J. Segal Entrepreneurship Award winners. On their farm they raise truly free range eggs, chicken, turkey, and pork as well as organic vegetables. They both served as Americorps VISTAs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina with environmental goals.

With the award, they will construct an on-farm poultry processing facility - the first of its kind in the region. According to McGinnis processing on-farm will have major benefits, “We view farming as activism for restoring healthy communities, and this facility will be a powerful tool for growing a population of educated and empowered eaters. For our interns, service learners, and community members, we will be teaching invaluable food production skills and lifting the veil on meat production.” McGann adds, “The environmental impact is huge, too. We won’t have to drive 6,500 miles to an out-of-state processor and will be able to compost all waste products on-farm.”

You can follow Hope Grows at their blog freshfarming.blogspot.com, on Facebook, and at their website www.hopegrowsfarm.com.
John Enterline (CNCS ‘06) Says the Fellows Retreat was “Just Like a Family Reunion”

The 2010 Segal Fellows Retreat was held in mid-October in a relaxed setting outside of Baltimore, MD. Segal Founders, Charlie Rose and Milano Harden, developed the agenda and facilitated activities for the weekend. Twenty-six Fellows came together and shared personal stories, histories, and their visions for the future. Intense internal discussions were paired with examples from the real world and support from other Fellows. When we weren’t working, we were building relationships with one another over campfires and s’mores, pick-up basketball, long walks, and laughing and talking over shared meals, just like a family reunion.

Eli never contained his vision for change in just one area; he crossed lines and built bridges with people from all sectors. This retreat and the diversity of the Fellows is a tribute to his legacy, because as the Fellows from the AmeriCorps Programs and Brandeis University grow in number so will the Network. Synergy is forming as Fellows from different years collaborate and goals abound.

This retreat reaffirmed my commitment to the Program and also my belief that together we will provide each other with advice, access to resources, and frequent encouragement that our lofty goals aren’t so crazy. Additionally, seeing the reality of the Segal forming as Fellows from different years collaborate and goals abound.

Founders Give Fellow “A New Vision” for the Future

Over the past few months, a group of 21 Fellows participated in the inaugural Founders Interview project. The project has been spearheaded by Segal Fellow Matthew Schmidt (Brandeis ‘10). Its goal is to connect Fellows and Founders. Thirty-two interviews were conducted in the first phase of the project, and the information we gained was invaluable. Founders talked about their personal and professional histories, gave advice to Fellows, and shared memories of Eli. Here is a snapshot of what we have heard so far:

“Fellows should know some of Eli’s characteristics because they are life-impacting. He had a positive attitude, he radiated can-doism, and there was nothing, especially service-related, that he felt could not be accomplished. He inspired us by sheer force of personality. He never gave up, but the notion of giving up was never on the table.”

–Maggie Williams

“Collect people who inspire you, whether it’s a brilliant business person, creative artist, or someone committed to a cause. Learn from them, listen to what drives and motivates them, allow them to connect with you on a deeper level.”

–Laura Gassner Otting

I had the privilege of interviewing Founders Laurie Kohn and John Gomperts. I never had the opportunity to meet Eli, but Laurie and John painted a warm and vivid picture of a remarkable man, someone so special to each of them. The interviews helped me understand that the kind of mentorship Eli provided to so many is both valuable and rare. This left me with a new vision for the Segal Network. What better way for us to carry on Eli’s legacy than for me and other Fellows to one day mentor the next generation of Fellows as Eli would have done. The second round of Founder Interviews will be starting in late-January. If you would like to participate, please contact us at segalnetwork@brandeis.edu.

Diana Epstein, Segal Fellow (AmeriCorps Alum ‘06) and Senior Analyst, Abt Associates

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Thank You Segal Founders

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Special appreciation to those who:

Participated as Coaches—Mark Feldman • Nicky Goren • Josh Gottheimer • Jim Lapenn • Chris Murphy • Nick Ross;

Hosted receptions — Nancy and Miles Rubin (Washington, D.C.), and Charlie Rose (Boston);

And contributed time and expertise over the last year — Joel Abrams • Rick Allen • Sandy Berger • Eve Brooks • Michael Camuñez • AnnMaura Connolly • Garen Corbett • Maureen Curley • Lisa Dawe • Debra DeLee • Peter Edelman • Al From • Carol Brown Goldberg • Gary Goldberg • John Comperts • Don Green • Melissa Green • Milano Harden • Ben Heineman • Robert P. Jones • Arnie Kanter • Ellen Kaplan • Jay Kaufman • Lester Kershbaum • Laurie Kohn • Richard Laphchick • Jim Lapenn • Joyce Lapenn • Elliot Lichtman • Judy Lichtman • Mike McCurry • Sarah McGinley-Smith • Arnie Miller • MaryAnn Miller • Peter Murray • Susan Osnos • Laura Gassner Otting • Joan Pollitt • Fran Rodgers • Charlie Rose • Michael Schaffer • Alan Segal • Jonathan Segal • Mora Segal • Phyllis Segal • Richie Smith • Gene Sofer • David Squire • Debbie Vowles • Maggie Williams.