**2011 Annual Report**

**Annual Snapshot**

And just like that, 2011 has come and gone! During this past year the Segal Program has advanced steadily, and I’m proud to share some key examples of our progress. In this report you will read reflections of Segal Fellows from AmeriCorps Alums, Brandeis University, City Year and the Corporation for National and Community Service. You also will hear from founders who are coaches, mentors, supervisors and more, acting on Eli’s belief in the power of young people. Accomplishments this year include:

- Hosting the second Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Lecture by the Honorable Melody Barnes, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.
- Welcoming 9 new fellows, bringing the total number of Segal Fellows to 45.
- Completing successful policy internships in Boston and Washington, D.C. for Brandeis fellows who supported and led special projects at their organizations, built relationships and enhanced their skills.
- Convening leadership development activities, attended by 36 fellows from 12 states. Fellows organized and led these activities and were supported by founders, program staff and other resources.
- Creating fellow-led committees, designed to improve the structure, communication, orientation and activities for all Segal Fellows.
- Initiating a three-year strategic plan to expand successful program activities, assure sustainability, systematize evaluation and build branding.

As we complete our fourth program year, our most prized accomplishment is the emergence of a critical mass of fellows, connected to one another and committed to the Segal Citizen Leader Network. This is highlighted by a culture of ownership among the fellows, as they take on leadership roles to support the growth and sustainability of the Segal Program and its future impact on other fellows, their communities and the world. Their supportive relationships to one another and to founders is inspiring and integral to the success of our program.

Thank you to all who are supporting the Segal Fellows and evolution of a program now in its “toddler” stage of growth. We encourage you to let us know if you have ideas for policy internships, would like to be a coach or involved in other ways, or know others who would like to hear about our work.

*Program Director, Toni Schwarzenbach*

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**Can Sunday Sermons, Food and Passion for Justice Power a Bond?**

She’d done housing advocacy in Waltham, MA, was considering policy-making as a profession, and earned a spectacular internship at HUD’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations where she hoped to obtain an insider’s view of housing policymaking and day to day government operations. I’d been Director of Congressional Relations at the Peace Corps, served as Chief of Staff at a government agency, and done policy work on the Hill. Yet these facts were not even remotely the most important connections between us. As coach and “Other Mother” of Fellow **Stephanie Johnson**, I can report for us both that it was our passion for justice, our love of cities and the people living in them, our embraces after a Sunday sermon, our irrational exuberance over a well-seasoned plate of food, and our shared smirks during chats with my teenage daughter and niece that powered our multi-layered bond.

To be sure, we had extended conversations about the fundamentals of advocacy, community building, racial and gender equity, and values-centered leadership, the heady stuff of intellectually curious people that always matters, for every generation. **The real magic, though – of all things Segal Fellows – is the relationship.** We built it, and I know it will be the surefire guarantee of continued growth for both of us.

The American Theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, said, “Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope.” My coaching experience with Stephanie this summer brought nothing less than hopefulness.

*My coach, Gloria, was like a second mother to me and treated me like family. We talked about everything and because of her I grew as a person and leader. Being a part of the Segal Network has changed my life.*

−Stephanie Johnson, Brandeis Segal Fellow (Brandeis ’11)

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**Gloria Johnson-Cusack, Segal Founder and Executive Director of Leadership 18**

Segal.Brandeis.edu
Segal Lecture Emphasizes Specializing in the “Wholly Impossible”

In March, Melody Barnes, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, challenged 400 students, faculty, and community members to “specialize in the wholly impossible,” in the second Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Lecture at Brandeis University.

Barnes spoke about leadership, challenges, engaged citizens and active citizenship. She described Eli as someone who “believed ordinary citizens could be change agents empowered to strengthen their communities, their country, and the world.” She continued, “At a time when our world is changing so quickly – when some are looking for what divides us rather than what brings us together – it is the best time to honor a person who believed in the humanity that exists in all of us.”

Barnes remembered powerful changemakers, like Nannie Helen Burroughs who said, “We specialize in the wholly impossible.” Barnes said, “Think about that motto: the turn of the last century, we’re talking 1910, female, African American, living in Washington, D.C. She had every single reason to shrink from challenges, to resist challenge, to look for the easy path. But instead, Nannie Burroughs leaned into it. She looked for it. She embraced it. And most of all, she believed that [together we], in fact, could do anything.” Barnes challenged the audience, “Will you accept that motto as your own? What hurdles are you going to jump? What barriers will you break down? How will you take on the ‘wholly impossible’ in your work? Because I guarantee you as service leaders, if you ask yourselves that question every day, your community and your country will be all the better for it.”

Segal Fellow Represents Program
at Clinton Global Initiative

Participating as a Segal Fellow in the first Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting focused solely on domestic problems, inspired and empowered me to think bigger about what I can do as a problem-solver. The meeting aimed to develop new ideas for economic growth, highlight already existing programs that can be replicated, and turn concrete “Commitments into Action.” I was in the “Service Corps” working group, and am pleased that service was recognized as an important means of increasing jobs and bolstering the economy. I shared my experience and perspective on how both the Segal Program and City Year have prepared me for the workplace and opened doors, especially in the non-profit and public sectors. By the end of our short time together, the working group established commitments, one of which was to help AmeriCorps evaluate and devise a marketing plan for national service, showcasing the power and transformational impact AmeriCorps can bring to communities and the country.

This opportunity helped me understand the big picture: Service Corps is critical to the progress of our nation. I met corps members from a wide variety of programs including Green City Force and Justice Corps. I also heard from some of our own Segal Founders including John Podesta and Kiff Gallagher, who spoke about the importance of national service. In retrospect, I think the take away for us all is that now, more than ever, service can impact local communities and the entire U.S. and help move us all toward much needed change.

Lila Givens, 2010 Segal Fellow (City Year)

Being a Segal Fellow is a “Dream Come True”

I was serving in Jackson with the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service when I received the exciting news that I had been awarded the Eli Segal Fellowship at the Corporation for National and Community Service. Two weeks later, I was on the road to D.C., set on a new path. What began as teaching with AmeriCorps in Greater Boston and St. Louis eventually led to joining the Katrina response team with AmeriCorps VISTA. I remained in the Gulf Coast for 4 years to support the long term recovery efforts, before joining the coordination of Mississippi’s volunteer response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

After serving at the state and local level for over a decade, I was excited to work at the national level alongside the Director of AmeriCorps and Segal Founder, John Gomperts. It was like a dream come true. I had the privilege of contributing to the direction and policy of AmeriCorps at the federal level, everything from an analysis and overhaul of the AmeriCorps member experience, to joining in disaster deployments in response to the spring tornados, to face-to-face discussions with two Governors and a variety of other lawmakers about the impact of national service. Throughout the course of my work, I was introduced to many of AmeriCorps’ founders and friends of Eli, which I found both energizing and grounding.

I will continue with CNCS beyond the fellowship as the Partnerships and Field Operations Officer for Disaster Services, an honor I would not have realized without my service as an Eli Segal Fellow. And I am eager to be an ongoing part of the Segal Citizen Leadership Network, both to shape my own work and to give back to helping others grow as citizen leaders.

Will Chrysanthos, 2010 Segal Fellow (CNCS)

Phyllis N. Segal, with Melody Barnes, and Founders AnnMaura Connolly, Patrick Corvington and Michael Brown

Fellows Lila Givens and Jason Gray at the Fellows Retreat

"Will Chrysanthos embodies everything that Eli Segal was and loved – he has great experience, deep commitment and boundless good spirit."

~John Gomperts,
Segal Founder and Director of AmeriCorps
Segal Retreat Filled with "Priceless Memories" for Fellows

In October, the Segal Fellows came together for our annual three day retreat on a campground nestled in the quiet, wooded town of Ashland, MA. From leadership self-evaluation to strategic planning to campfires and Ultimate Frisbee games, the weekend brought a rejuvenating inspiration, a time to reflect on the values and aspirations that built this remarkable program.

We began with a personal development session, led by Founder and Massachusetts State Representative Jay Kaufman, where we discussed “immunity to change” and how leaders need to find balance in their own lives before helping others. We listened to words of inspiration from Founder and City Year Co-Founder Michael Brown, learning that successful careers in service can take a range of different paths. Kaufman and Brown encouraged us to follow our dreams and resist the initial gratification that might come from traditional definitions of success.

Mora and Phyllis Segal joined us with Founder Charlie Rose to discuss the strategic plan for the program, as we embarked on a new journey of fellow leadership, initiatives and committee planning together. There was a palpable level of energy in the room as fellows stood up and put leadership skills into action.

But most importantly, the retreat allowed close relationships to form, and fellows to pause from their hectic schedules to reunite, embracing old friendships and beginning new ones. Above all, the priceless memories – the conversations in the lodge after midnight, the Segal trivia questions, the s’mores around a camp fire and the cabin storytelling – made the weekend.

In the end, we were reminded about the power of relationships in building a community to conquer the challenges that lie ahead. It was his belief in the power and value of friendship that made Eli Segal an extraordinary human being. And at the retreat, we discovered how to carry his legacy into our own personal and professional experiences I’ve ever had.

Jon Ostowsky, 2011 Segal Fellow (Brandeis ‘13)

Segal Fellow an "Invaluable Team Member" at the Department of Commerce

Jon Ostrowsky contributed this past summer as a Segal Fellow to the work of the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration. It was a genuine pleasure to work with and mentor Jon, and help advance his understanding of U.S. trade policy and its real impact on jobs and the economy.

As Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance, I help create, expand and defend U.S. market share overseas, while simultaneously growing exports and eliminating key trade barriers. Jon played a key role this summer with our strategic communication effort. With his proactive attitude, meticulous research, and impressive writing skills, Jon helped us communicate the benefits of free trade across a wide range of stakeholder groups. Jon was instrumental in drafting speeches, compiling company success stories for circulation on Capitol Hill, and drafting Op-eds for the general public. Jon was an invaluable team member, always volunteering a fresh perspective. He made a significant contribution to our office, and we would certainly welcome Jon and other Segal Fellows in the future.

My involvement in the Segal Program is especially rewarding because it allows me to “pay forward” the very special gift of mentorship that I personally received from Eli. When I was a recent college graduate, I had the great privilege of working as Eli’s Senior Policy Advisor when we launched the Corporation for National Service and AmeriCorps. Working directly with Eli was one of the most memorable personal and professional experiences I’ve ever had. My participation in this Program helps me to keep a direct link to Eli’s values and legacy, and I am proud to pass along the lessons he taught and the example he set for us all.

Michael Camuñez, Segal Founder and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

Special thanks to the many founders who contributed their time and energy this past year to support Segal Fellows—serving as coaches, hosting internships and receptions and sharing expertise:

Larry Bailis • Jennifer Bastress Tahmassebi • Sandy and Susan Berger • Eve Brooks • Michael Brown • Michael Camuñez • AnnMaura Connolly • Lisa Dawe • Tom Friedman • Laura Gassner Otting • John Gomperts • Don and Judy Green • Marcia Greenberger • Gloria Johnson-Cusack • Arnie Kanter • Jay Kaufman • Jim and Joyce Lapenn • Judy Lichtman • Sarah Lichtman-Spector • Kristen Mannion and H.P. Goldfield • Sarah McGinley-Smith • Arnie Miller • Rosabeth Moss Kanter and Barry Stein • Chris Murphy • Peter Murray • Mike Oberman • Susan Osnos • Charlie Rose • Michael Schaffer • Mora Segal and Jeff Lemberg • Jon Segal • Maggie Williams • Ethan Zindler

“IT was an honor being a part of the Points of Light Tribute, to celebrate the power of volunteerism and its essential role in making a difference in our nation. Additionally, with the support of the Segal Program, I received the opportunity to be mentored by Founder Susan Osnos. These wonderful experiences are extending the extraordinary contributions of Eli J. Segal and I am so thankful and excited at what our amazing program has to offer!”

Rhonda Ulmer, 2008 Segal Fellow (AmeriCorps Alums), on her national television appearance at the Points of Light Tribute to President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush.

Pictured: Rhonda Ulmer with Segal Founder, President Clinton
Thank You to all Segal Founders for making this program possible, and for your continued support. With the completion of close to 90% of the generous multi-year pledges made four years ago, and the many generous one-time contributions, we are on track to reach our $4 million endowment goal, creating a solid platform for growth and sustainability.

Annual gifts from founders and friends are critical to our innovation. They enable us to respond to new opportunities and initiatives, are central to strengthening the Segal Program and expanding our efforts to touch many more emerging leaders lives. We hope you’ll use the enclosed envelope or go online to show your continued support.

“My experience as a Segal Fellow has been absolutely perfect. I am a better person and professional for being part of this Network and I cannot thank the Segal Founders enough for this opportunity.”

~Grace Vaughn, 2011 Segal Fellow (Brandeis MPP)