An Energizing and Empowering Segal Annual Retreat

Each year, Segal Fellows gather for a weekend of leadership development and community building. This year, more than 15 founders and friends joined them in Little Rock.

Far from our usual East Coast hubs, the 2013 Annual Retreat took place in Little Rock, Ark. It gave us a palpable sense of adventure as we reflected on social justice issues of the past and looked to navigate the new waters of the future of our program.

Our weekend kicked off with a celebratory dinner hosted by Segal Founders Mack and Donna McLarty at the Old State House in Little Rock, where we were joined by the governor of Arkansas, the mayor of Little Rock and other prominent political figures, many of whom were members of the Clinton administration. During a conversation moderated by Skip Rutherford, Dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, Segal Fellows enjoyed learning more about Segal Founder and Advisory Board Member Sandy Berger’s work as President Clinton’s National Security Adviser and Mack McLarty’s work as President Clinton’s Chief of Staff.

Buzzing with excitement, we began Saturday morning with a visit to Central High School, where we spoke with two of the Little Rock Nine. Minnijean Brown-Trickey and Carlotta Walls LaNier recalled how they both elected on their own to apply to Central High as the first African American students in an all-white school. It was a powerful reminder of how simple true citizen leadership can be.

We continued the day by completing a service project during National Make a Difference Day with our friends from City Year Little Rock/North Little Rock, students from the Clinton School and staff from the Clinton Foundation. During the welcoming, we heard from Stephanie Streett, Executive Director of the Clinton Foundation, and also from one of our newest Segal Fellows, Megan Andrews, who most recently served in Little Rock as a City Year senior corps member. On Saturday night, we explored the Clinton Library and enjoyed an intimate reception with Segal Fellows, Founders and Friends.

This weekend reminded me that, as Segal Citizen Leaders, we must constantly elect to lead our communities to justice. Yet that looks different for each of us. No matter how we choose to lead, Segal Founder and Advisory Board Member Arnie Miller said something this weekend that I propose as a guiding principal for our work. He said, “Eli was all about giving — giving back to his friends, co-workers and community.”

Every time I gather with the Segal Network, I forge new friendships, learn more about Eli and renew my sense of passion for our work as Citizen Leaders. This year’s Segal Annual Retreat exceeded those expectations.

By Emily Bishop, 2011 Segal Fellow
(Brandeis MPP)
As we came up with different strategies for the fire-ant nest in the middle of our landscaping project, it wasn’t the problem-solving that was most memorable. It was watching my 10-year-old daughter discuss the fire ant issue with a current City Year corps member, a Segal Fellow who teaches in Washington, D.C., and Segal Founder Mike Oberman, who was Eli’s roommate from Brandeis. Talk about ripples from just one person — Eli.

Many hours after the service event was over, my daughter was asking me questions about why City Year exists, why some schools need service projects more than others and how the government decides how much money to give a school. All good questions for a young person in this country to think about. And she, of course, wanted to know where we could find some of that delectable Whole Hog Café Sweet Tea back home.

By 2009 Segal Fellow (City Year) Jimmy Duong
SHARED DEDICATION TO DISABILITY RIGHTS

SEGAL FELLOWS ARE MENTORED BY A COACH DURING THEIR FIRST SUMMER. FOUNDER AND COACH SARAH LICHTMAN SPECTOR REFLECTS ON HER SUMMER WITH SEGAL FELLOW LEAH IGDALSKY.

It was a pleasure to coach Leah Igdalsky and an honor to participate as a coach to a Segal Fellow for the second time.

There were many things that made this experience special. One, it was wonderful to meet a committed young person who is eager to contribute to our national and local communities and play a small role in helping her determine how best to utilize her skills. Two, because Leah and I both share a passion for disability rights, and because I worked on disability rights issues for a number of years, I was able to connect her with colleagues who share her interests. Three, I love that the Segal program encourages coaches to spend time in person during the summer with Segal Fellows. The in-person component was important for developing the relationship, having productive conversations and having fun getting to know each other.

Lastly, Eli would have loved this Segal Program! It was almost like Eli was sitting with us. He was so good at encouraging people’s ideas and plans to make important contributions to our communities. Eli would gently direct or give options — offering new ideas or opportunities that didn’t exist prior to the conversation. Many of the Segal Program Founders relay that very same story.

Thank you, Leah, for a great summer, and thank you to the Segal Program for providing me the opportunity to participate in a wonderful way in the program. Here’s to Eli!

By Segal Founder and Coach Sarah Lichtman Spector

SEGAL FELLOWS GIVING BACK TO ONE ANOTHER

SEGAL FELLOW ALAN RATLIFF, NATIONAL NETWORK MANAGER FOR THE GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA) NETWORK IN SAN FRANCISCO, SUPERVISED SEGAL FELLOW JENN RECINOS FOR HER EIGHT-WEEK SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AS A NEW SEGAL FELLOW.

ALAN: What was your favorite part of your summer experience as a Segal Fellow?

JENN: My favorite part of the summer was challenging myself in ways I wouldn’t normally. I helped organize the GSA’s National Gathering. At this meeting, I led a workshop focused on undocumented queers. It was intimidating at first, but I felt proud to lead the workshop on a subject I am passionate about.

I also benefitted greatly by having you as my supervisor. You made me feel comfortable about my own professional development as a queer person of color.

JENN: What was it like to be a Segal Fellow supervising another Segal Fellow?

ALAN: When I joined the Segal Network, I wanted to give back to the program by mentoring another Segal Fellow. As a supervisor, I knew that we were united in our shared goal to better society.

I also learned that we have had similar experiences as queer people of color and appreciated being able to mentor and supervise someone with a shared identity in a professional setting.

JENN: Did you learn anything about yourself while working with me?

ALAN: The Segal Program provided me with a coach, Segal Founder Maureen Curley, President of Campus Compact, to support me in my first time supervising a Segal Fellow. We discussed what I needed to work on as a supervisor and how it was important for me to gain experience in supervising others. I learned that I can always improve and become a better communicator. Most of all, I realized the importance of being true to who I am and being a resource for the other Segal Fellows and other young people.

By Alan Ratliff, 2010 Segal Fellow (Brandeis) and Jennifer Recinos, 2013 Segal Fellow (Brandeis)
GUIDED BY ELI: A JOURNEY FROM BOSTON TO D.C. TO UKRAINE

SEGAL FELLOW BRIAN SCHON GRADUATED FROM THE HELLER SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT IN 2011 AND IS CURRENTLY A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER.

“HELLO, MY AMERICAN FRIEND!”
“ПРИВІТ МІЙ УКРАЇНСЬКІЙ ДРУГ!”
(HELLO, MY UKRAINIAN FRIEND!)

I hadn’t imagined a life where these two sentences would epitomize my favorite moments each week. Yet, every time I see my friend Viktor, they do. We’re two adults, born into different worlds with different languages connected by an auspicious moment in time.

Two years ago, I lived a different life as a director at a Boston nonprofit. I had completed my MBA and MPP degrees at the Heller School and felt motivated to study America’s medical system with welcome encouragement from my Segal coach, Founder Nick Ross. I thought about Eli Segal’s life and career: He spearheaded Americorps, supported City Year and led the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Reflecting on my own career path, I wanted to do more. Suddenly, an old interest in the Peace Corps was piqued and the idea stuck. Yet, I was unsure if I should quit my career and leave everything behind.

The Segal Program gave me guidance. I called Segal Founder and Advisory Board Chair Phyllis Segal, who was frank and encouraging — as she always has been to me over the years. I met with Segal Founder and Advisory Board Member Sandy Berger, who barely let me finish my sentence before telling me to join. He gave me a piece of sage advice: “It’s OK to have goals in life, to have a point A and point B. But life is more interesting when the path between is winding.” I spoke with novelist Founder Brad Meltzer, whom I met through a Segal Program interview project, and he encouraged me to take more “calculated risks.” It was the advice I wanted and needed.

I have a different life now. I’m a Peace Corps Volunteer in Pyriatyn, Ukraine, and I have been indelibly marked by Eli Segal’s legacy. One day I teach English to teenagers, the next I deliver seminars to the mayor about finance and management. But every day I make new friends, and there is nowhere else in the world I’d rather be. For that I have the Segal Program to thank.

Brian Schon, 2009 Segal Fellow (Brandeis MPP)

A COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SERVICE

SEGAL FELLOW DIANA EPSTEIN WAS GRANDFATHERED INTO THE SEGAL PROGRAM AND IS COMMITTED TO SERVICE BOTH IN HER PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

I joined the Segal Program in 2006 as an AmeriCorps Alums Fellow. Attending the annual retreats, D.C.-area receptions and other Segal events has strengthened my connection to an inspiring group of people who are all working to make a difference through our shared belief in the importance of active citizenship and service.

I believe in the Segal Program, and that has motivated me to give back by serving on the Fellows Advisory Council and Fellow Development Committee and helping design the semi-annual survey. I’ve also been actively involved with AmeriCorps Alums through local chapters, marching in the inauguration parade and serving as a member of the National Advisory Council.

This summer, I started a new position at the Corporation for National and Community Service. As a senior research analyst, I’m helping to generate and disseminate evidence of the impact of national service programs in communities across the country. Recently, I presented a session at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service on how AmeriCorps alumni continue to serve. I feel I’ve come full circle, and I am thankful to be part of the Segal Network, surrounded by people who reenergize my passion for service day after day.

Diana Epstein, 2006 Segal Fellow (AmeriCorps Alums)
ANNUAL SNAPSHOT OF SEGAL FELLOWS

63 SEGAL FELLOWS
600 FOUNDERS

56% WOMEN
44% MEN

17 (27%) SEGAL FELLOWS ARE IN SCHOOL
5 (8%) ARE WORKING IN GOVERNMENT/POLITICS
36 (57%) ARE WORKING AT NONPROFITS
10 (16%) ARE WORKING FOR BUSINESS AND OTHER FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES
24 SEGAL FELLOWS HAVE SERVED WITH AMERICORPS

BY THE STREAMS
8 AMERICORPS ALUM SEGAL FELLOWS
26 BRANDEIS UNDERGRADUATE SEGAL FELLOWS
14 BRANDEIS MASTER’S IN PUBLIC POLICY SEGAL FELLOWS
8 CITY YEAR SEGAL FELLOWS
5 CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE SEGAL FELLOWS

SINCE 2008

THERE HAVE BEEN 37 FRIENDS AND FOUNDERS OF THE SEGAL PROGRAM WHO HAVE ACTED AS SEGAL COACHES FOR THE SEGAL FELLOWS. OF THESE, 7 HAVE COACHED MORE THAN ONE SEGAL FELLOW.

SEGAL FELLOWS SPAN 15 STATES, AND 1 EACH LIVE IN BOLIVIA, SPAIN AND UKRAINE

2013

45.5% OF SEGAL COACHES, SUMMER INTERNSHIP SUPERVISORS, PROGRAM STAFF AND SEGAL FELLOWS IDENTIFY AS PEOPLE OF COLOR

SEGAL FELLOWS ROSTER

MEGAN ANDREWS (CITY YEAR ’13)
EMILY BISHOP (BRANDEIS MPP ’11)
PEM BROWN (BRANDEIS MPP ’10)
TONI S. BURKE (CENTER FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES ’09)
AARON CHALEK (BRANDEIS MPP ’12)
JESSICA CHRISTIAN (BRANDEIS ’12)
WILLIAM CHRYSANTHOS (CNCS ’11)
AUDREY E. COHEN (BRANDEIS MPP ’09)
MARISA DANIEL (BRANDEIS MPP ’12)
BENEVA DAVIES (BRANDEIS ’12)
IRIS DOOLING (CNCS ’09)
P.K. DRAGO (CNCS ’12)
DAVID DUHALDE (BRANDEIS MPP ’12)
JIMMY DUONG (CITY YEAR ’09)
TAM EMERSON (CITY YEAR ’08)
JOHN ENTERLINE (CNCS ’06)
DIANA EPSTEIN (AMERICORPS ALUM ’06)
ANICIA FERNANDES (BRANDEIS ’09)
GABBY FISH (CITY YEAR ’12)
DAMOND FORD (CITY YEAR ’11)
GAURIS FRIAS (BRANDEIS ’12)
LILA GIVENS (CITY YEAR ’10)
MORGAN GOINS (DEVOS ’07)
JASON GRAY (BRANDEIS ’09)
LEAH IGDALESKY (BRANDEIS ’13)
STEPHANIE JOHNSON (BRANDEIS ’11)
LYS JOSEPH (BRANDEIS ’13)
JESSICA KENT (BRANDEIS ’08)
AMBER KORNREICH (BRANDEIS ’11)
STEPHEN LARBI (CITY YEAR ’13)
MARGARET LEVY (BRANDEIS MPP ’08)
QIONG LIN (BRANDEIS ’10)
HELEENA MATHEW (BRANDEIS ’13)
ELLIOTT MCGANN (AMERICORPS ALUM ’10)
ARIOANNE MCGINNIS (AMERICORPS ALUM ’10)
PETER MURRAY (AMERICORPS ALUM ’02)
JON OSTROWSKY (BRANDEIS ’11)
YVONNE PEREZ (BRANDEIS ’11)
MICHAEL PERLOFF (BRANDEIS ’10)
JULIE PROULX (CNCS ’11)
ALAN RATLIFF (BRANDEIS MPP ’10)
JENNIFER RECINOS (BRANDEIS ’13)
VICTORIA ROOMET (BRANDEIS ’08)

NATE ROSENBLUM (BRANDEIS ’09)
MELISSA ROSS (BRANDEIS MPP ’11)
JORDAN ROTHMAN (BRANDEIS ’08)
SHAWN RUBIN (AMERICORPS ALUM ’09)
MANOO SABETY-JAVID (BRANDEIS ’13)
GABI SANCHEZ-STERN (BRANDEIS ’10)
RYAN SARAFOLEAN (AMERICORPS ALUM ’12)
JERRY SAUNDERS II (BRANDEIS ’09)
MATT SCHMIDT (BRANDEIS ’10)
BRIAN SCHON (BRANDEIS MPP ’09)
JONAH SELIGMAN (BRANDEIS ’08)
JESSIE STETTIN (BRANDEIS ’12)
KATHARINE TULL (BRANDEIS MPP ’08)
RHONDA ULMER (AMERICORPS ALUM ’08)
PAUL VANCEA (BRANDEIS ’12)
GRACE VAUGHN (AMERICORPS ALUM ’11)
JAMES WARD (CITY YEAR ’06)
RACHEL WEIKER (BRANDEIS MPP ’13)
ANITA YIP (AMERICORPS ALUM ’12)
JESSIE ZIMMERER (BRANDEIS MPP ’11)
THANK YOU

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