

update

WURZWEILER

PUBLISHED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Yeshiva University



JONATHAN LEADER, BLOCK GRADUATION

Features

7 PRACTICING WHAT THEY TEACH

Wurzweiler faculty are dedicated to education, research, and service.

DR. ESTHER MELTZER LENTSCHNER



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PRACTICING WHAT THEY TEACH



THE AGING BRAIN



Dean's message

We had another productive academic year at Wurzweiler. The months leading up to our periodic reaccreditation visit from the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation in April were hectic. That visit, which involved faculty, students, field instructors, university administrators, and our Board of Governors, went very well. The site visit team identified more than 20 areas as reflecting program strengths and six areas in which additional clarification was

needed. The four-volume self-study, the site visitors report, and our response will be reviewed by the Accreditation Commission in early November.

The University recently announced its \$400 million capital campaign, of which \$275 million has already been raised. Wurzweiler's share of the campaign goal is \$5 million—half has already been raised—with the majority of these new funds targeted for scholarship assistance.

The job market for social work graduates is strong and enrollment has started to climb following the cyclical national downturn in graduate school enrollment that we experienced from 1997–2000. The faculty has been extremely productive in its scholarship and writing, and publications during 2000 totaled 48 articles and book chapters. While we provided a listing of 2000 faculty publications in our last issue, 13 additional items with a 2000 publication date have appeared and 18 additional publications, including books by Daniel Pollack and David Schnall, have already appeared in 2001.

Faculty have been invited to present papers at professional conferences in Ireland, Israel, Cuba, England, and Finland, as well as at conferences throughout the United States and Canada. Dr. Margaret Gibelman was the keynote speaker at the 15th anniversary celebration of the Okinawa (Japan) Association of Social Workers. Dr. David Schnall was invited for a return visit by The Center for Management in Nicosia, Cyprus, to deliver a bi-communal seminar for leaders of non-governmental organizations from both sides of the politically divided island. Dr. Louis Levitt, professor emeritus, spent part of the spring semester lecturing on social policy at the school of social work of the New Bulgarian University. Dr. Richard Caputo is guest editor for a special issue of *Families in Society* on social justice, and Dr. Gibelman is guest editor for an issue of *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. Dr. Charles Trent has been elected to the board of the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration, and I have been elected to the Board of the Council on Social Work Education.

Daniel Pollack has returned from a year-long sabbatical in Israel. Dr. Charles Auerbach will be on sabbatical during fall 2001 and Dr. Gibelman will be on sabbatical for academic year 2001–02.

On a sad note, Dr. Esther Lentschner, who served on the faculty of the school in the 1960s and 1970s, passed away last spring. A memorial service at the school is planned for October 11. The writing award that Dr. Lentschner established in memory of her husband Walter will now carry both their names.

Other staff and faculty changes:

- Leslie Waltzer Pollak has been appointed director of development for both Wurzweiler and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology.
- Dr. Arthur Frankel, a member of our faculty since 1994, joins the faculty of the University of North Carolina (Wilmington).
- Dr. David Schnall has been appointed Dean of the University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. He will continue as a member of our faculty teaching one course each semester and serving as doctoral student advisor.

In other school news, Wurzweiler students in the field work unit associated with the Fort Washington Geriatric Centers sponsored an outstanding community program on hoarding behavior among the elderly, and this year's HIV & Diversity conference is scheduled for December 10, 2001, at the Main Campus.

Keep in touch.



Dorothy and David I. Schachne Dean, Wurzweiler School of Social Work



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From your Association

Greetings to all and congratulations to our newest alumni—the Wurzweiler Class of 2001.

Since our last column, our organization has experienced significant changes. The Executive Committee has been hard at work fostering relationships with administration, faculty, alumni, and students to ensure quality programming and services to the alumni body. This year, we have had several alumni meetings and dinners, as well as a career networking event and a seminar on aging. We have been updating alumni records and finding “lost alumni,” so please continue sending in email and postal addresses of alumni you are in touch with.

As a Wurzweiler alumnus/a, you interact with former classmates, friends, faculty, and other professional social workers. We pass the torch to you to continue these relationships and help us further develop *your* alumni association. Let’s work together to make both our professional and personal lives respected, celebrated, and distinguished.

For those of you outside the New York metropolitan area, access to YU’s exclusive online community will afford you yet another benefit: a connection to alumni all over the world to exchange ideas, network, and post job opportunities for aspiring new alumni.

To become more involved with your alumni association, contact Annette Prager at (201) 385-1612 or Hoshana3@aol.com, or Joel Katz at (973) 428-9300 or jkatz@ujfmetrowest.org.

L’hatzlchah—To success!

Joel Katz ’81, Annette Prager ’96
Co-Presidents



May 2001 Wurzweiler Commencement

Let’s meet online!

The Office of University Alumni Affairs announces an Online Community for alumni to reconnect, exchange ideas, and access career and networking information. The Community is password-protected and only alumni can register. And, best of all, it’s free!

The Online Community features

- an alumni directory
- a career resource center where you can search for and post jobs, share career advice, create and post resumes, join a mentoring program, and link to other career-related websites

- Business Yellow Pages where you can post an on-line ad for your product/service
 - Free permanent email addresses
 - Bulletin boards for posting messages to other alumni or faculty members
 - An event calendar for upcoming worldwide alumni functions
 - Access to PlanetAll, a worldwide networking tool
 - Hot links to other web resources
 - Tools to build and store a personal web page with up to one megabyte of disk space free of charge.
- To register for the Online Community, go to www.yu.edu/alumni.

From the Alumni Office

It’s been a busy year establishing the Office of Alumni Affairs—from recruiting members to the Alumni Association Executive Committee to the numerous meetings and functions the Association has held. We hope you are pleased with the progress we have made and will continue to make.

The Executive Committee and this office have strived to provide seminars and social events that will give you value beyond your degree—and to provide a reason for you to stay in touch. If there is a program or event that you would like to see, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We would be remiss not to mention the co-presidents and vice presidents on the Executive Committee who have been such an integral part of this inaugural year:

- Joel Katz ’81, Alumni Association co-president
- Annette Prager ’96, Alumni Association co-president
- Jeanne Atkatz ’94, Alumni Association vice president
- Rosa Perla Resnick ’76DSW, Alumni Association vice president

While the work of these alumni is greatly appreciated, our initial goal remains—for all alumni to become more involved with Wurzweiler School of Social Work and its Alumni Association. Feel free to attend a meeting to discuss how your commitment can benefit both you and the Association.

Lastly, we are grateful to all who have contributed to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The participation rate increased nearly 60 percent this year alone and it’s because “WSSW Alumni are creating the future together.” Your generosity has allowed many bright and talented students to attend graduate school who would not have the financial means to do so. For those who have not contributed to the fund yet, what better investment could you make then to ensure that your school continues to turn out the high caliber graduates and social workers it is known for nationally?

Watch your mail for the many opportunities that await you from your Association, including—for the first time ever—reunions! Best regards. ■

Meet Leslie Waltzer Pollak

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Leslie Waltzer Pollak is the new director of development for Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Pollak, who has nearly a decade of experience in educational fundraising, comes to YU from the Horace Mann School in Riverdale, NY, where, as alumni director, she was responsible for alumni relations, the annual fund, and major gifts over an eight year period, and played an integral part in their \$35 million capital campaign.



Leslie Waltzer Pollak

"My new position at Yeshiva University affords me the wonderful opportunity to utilize my professional skills to support programs and professions I truly believe in," says Pollak, who is familiar with the vital ongoing contributions made by social workers and psychologists.

"During the nine years I lived in Manhattan, I volunteered as a rape crisis and domestic violence counselor at eight New York City hospitals, so I have seen first-hand how mental health and social work professionals make a difference in critical situations."

With the \$5 million dollar capital campaign goal set by the University to support academic programs, financial aid, facilities, and technology at Wurzweiler, and another \$5 million targeted for Ferkauf, Pollak will have the opportunity to raise donor awareness of the school's vital role in professional training and research in the field. ■

HOLD THE DATE

HIV and Diversity V
Changes in the HIV/AIDS Epidemic:
Social Work Responses

December 10, 2001

Weissberg Commons, Belfer Hall
Main Campus, Yeshiva University

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 212 960-0820

In memoriam

ESTHER MELTZER LENTSCHNER

Dr. Esther Meltzer Lentschner, a long-time faculty member and specialist in gerontology and family and foster care services, died in April at the age of 87.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Radcliffe College, Dr. Lentschner received her MSS from Case Western Reserve University School of Applied Social Sciences and her DSW from Columbia University. She joined Wurzweiler in



Dr. Esther Meltzer Lentschner

1964 as a lecturer and was promoted to assistant professor in 1967. During her years at the school, Dr. Lentschner served as chairman of the school's admissions committee and directed an advanced leadership training institute for senior citizen club leaders in cooperation with the Central Bureau for the Jewish Aged. Her published works included "Group Approaches to the Aged," written for the Central Bureau for the Jewish Agencies, and papers on the "Role of the Social Worker in Homes for the Aged" for the Associated Jewish Homes for the Aged and "Foster Parent Training" for the Children's Bureau. In recent years, she served on the board of the New York Service Program for Older People, Inc., a non-profit, community-based mental health center for older adults.

Dr. Lentschner always stressed the importance of language and social action to her social work students.

"Esther was somebody who had high standards for students in terms of their ability to use language to express how they were thinking and working," recalls Dr. Aaron Beckerman, professor emeritus. "This ability to use language would be helpful to clients and workers themselves in understanding what they were doing and how to express that to other people. She was ready to offer students readings in literature—not limited to social work—which she believed would give them a better understanding of what clients were dealing with. She wanted them to understand the clients beyond the psychological component—race, class, and social factors."

"She had a very deep devotion to the school," he adds. "Even after retirement and when she was ill, she found a way to get to functions."

At an alumni dinner on the occasion of Wurzweiler's 40th anniversary in 1997, New York State Assemblyman Vito Lopez '71 presented two Assembly proclamations: one honoring his alma mater, the other his favorite teacher.

"I wish my husband was here to see this," said a visibly moved Dr. Lentschner.

In 1999, she established The Walter S. Lentschner Award for Excellence in Writing at Wurzweiler in memory of her husband, who was an editor. In time for this year's commencement, her family announced the prize will be renamed the Esther and Walter S. Lentschner Award.

A memorial service will be held at Wurzweiler this fall on October 11th. ■

Coming home to YU

The idea of pursuing a master's degree after being out of school for eight years was both exciting and overwhelming for Sari Feldman '99. She was also unwilling to give up her career as a Jewish communal professional working with children and families. After looking into many social work programs in New York City, she found only one that could accommodate her needs—the master's program at Wurzweiler.



Sari Feldman

"Wurzweiler was the only program that allowed me the opportunity to continue working full time at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA and complete a graduate degree in social work and a certificate in Jewish Communal Service," Ms. Feldman says. "As a PEP student, I was able to fulfill my field work requirements at the 92nd Street Y, which encouraged me to broaden my horizons and practice more formally what I had been doing for so long."

Two years and not much sleep later, she graduated. "Those two years were the most challenging, but, in the same vein, the most fulfilling. I left Yeshiva University a more developed individual both personally and professionally. Wurzweiler gave me the chance to prove that earning a special-

ized degree in a program that provides options, support, and excellence can only be in the best interest of the professional and his or her constituents."

Ms. Feldman enjoyed her time at Wurzweiler so much that she made Yeshiva University her next career move. "After I graduated with a master's degree in social work, specializing in community organization, I spent a lot of time searching for what should come next in my professional life." She came across a job opportunity for a Special Events Coordinator at Yeshiva University and realized at that moment this was for her.

"The position requires the skills I deem to be my best—organization and communication," Ms. Feldman says. "I feel I am well prepared to work in a large institution like Yeshiva University with its many personalities and the responsibility of orchestrating nearly 100 events, both big and small, each year. I'm fortunate to love what I am doing once again."

Just as she once created structures for children and families to find growth and development in a recreational setting, Ms. Feldman now provides venues for committed individuals to become more connected to the Yeshiva University family. She is proud to be a Wurzweiler School of Social Work alumna and hopes all Yeshiva University graduates find what makes them happy while making a difference in the lives of others. ■

Board focus

Friendship is the best medicine

Everyone has experienced a "bad day" from time to time; but for someone returning into society after recovering from a mental illness, feelings of inadequacy, loneliness, and fear can be exas-



Lilly Tempelman

perated by lack of companionship. For almost a decade, Lilly Tempelman '79 has worked to bring camaraderie back into the lives of the recovering mentally ill as coordinator of the Compeer Program run by the Division of Volunteer Services of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCS) in New York City.

"Friendship is the best medicine," she says, reiterating the phrase she utilizes in her volunteer recruitment material.

The Compeer Program is part of an international, nondenominational support service that matches adult volunteers one-on-one with adult chronic mentally ill clients. There are 120 branches of the 26 year-old program in 33 states, Canada and Australia. It is headquartered in Rochester, NY, and based in different mental health agencies statewide (JBFCS is the designated agency in NYC). As "compeer" connotes, the volunteer offers weekly support and companionship in relationship to the client's needs—a shopping trip, dinner out, or telephone contact. The client's therapist and Ms. Tempelman, who recruits and trains Compeer volunteers, supervise the pair. Applicants are screened, submit three letters of recommendation, and meet with Ms. Tempelman, Compeer Coordinator, for an in-depth psychosocial interview ("Our population is too vulnerable and we have to make sure the volunteers can handle that aspect.").

Matches are made according to geographic location, age, and interests. Selected volunteers meet with the referring therapists and must submit monthly reports to the agency. While there are currently 33 Compeer partnerships throughout the five boroughs, qualified volunteers are

The Aging Brain

More than 40 alumni from Wurzweiler and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology gathered in March at Hyatt Classic Residence, Yonkers, NY for "The Aging Brain: Changes and Effect on Memory"—the first alumni program jointly sponsored



Dr. Carlo Bayrakdarian

by The Wurzweiler School of Social Work and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology Alumni Associations. The dinner buffet and seminar were hosted by Regina Minsky '79, associate executive director, Classic Residence.

The guest speaker was Carlo Bayrakdarian, MD, an expert in geriatric psychology serving as a consultant to nursing homes and assisted living facilities in New York and Florida. In 1999–2000, he was a fellow in geriatric psychiatry the Cornell Institute for Geriatric Psychology in White Plains, New York. Dr. Bayrakdarian tailored his presentation to be of value to both social workers and psychologists.

The Wurzweiler School of Social Work Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges Regina Minsky for her hospitality in offering Hyatt Classic Residence of Yonkers as the venue for this special event. ■

hard to find because of the stigma associated with mental illness, Ms. Tempelsman explains.

She believes her program is serving a vital role.

“The aim of the match is to put the two on an even footing and give the consumer confidence that he or she has a contribution to make. The volunteers are not therapists—they are adjuncts to therapy.”

Social work is a second career for Ms. Tempelsman, who has a degree in chemistry and statistics and worked as a statistician for the New York City Department of Health after college. She was a dedicated volunteer while her three children were at home, and decided during that time to take a social work aide course at the New School for Social Research “to get a feel for the profession.” Field placement was a requirement and Ms. Tempelsman—who is fluent in four languages and has a speaking knowledge of three more—found a spot in a social service program for emigres operated by the National Council for Jewish Women.

“I was interested in the social work field, even if I had to start at the bottom, because it was useful work that I could feel good about,” she recalls. She enrolled in Wurzweiler under the extended option with the support of then Acting Dean Solomon Green, and obtained her degree in four years. While in her fourth year and not yet able to accept a full time social work position, she volunteered at the Jewish Conciliation Board, an organization that mediated family disputes, which then hired her after graduation. In 1983, the Conciliation Board affiliated with the volunteer division of the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services and Volunteer Director Betty Forhman tapped Ms. Tempelsman to run the Compeer Program.

When asked to join the Wurzweiler Board of Governors in 1989, Mrs. Tempelsman agreed. “I liked the School, and it’s important to bring a social worker’s perspective to the board.” (There are now twelve social workers and clinicians on the board of directors.) She served on its academic subcommittee and enjoys working with Dean Sheldon Gelman, whom she finds is “always open to ideas.” She stayed in touch with her favorite instructor Elsbeth Couch, professor emerita, who now serves on the

Compeer Program’s Advisory Board. “Her criticisms are constructive, not critical—as helpful as her analysis of student papers,” laughs Ms. Tempelsman. ■

On campus

Globalization is Block conference theme

by *Roberta Rohdin, MSW*

Assistant director of field instruction

January’s two-day field instructors’ conference, “The Impact of Globalization on Field Education,” drew participants from the metropolitan area as well as from such Block program locales as Texas, Ontario, and Alaska. The conference opened with an afternoon seminar for out-of-town field educators, followed by the Dean’s reception and dinner.

The second day’s activities for all attendees included a panel discussion on how immigration, mass migration, and secondary trauma shape social work practice and field education in a global context:

■ Dr. Joyce Rosman Brenner ’64, ’83DSW, Israel field coordinator, talked about secondary trauma in a nation immersed in political and social strife, where people faced with ever-present dangers have adopted a business-as-usual attitude. These critical conditions create increased anxiety that is manifested in such sociological and psychological responses as mass denial, rage, increased accidents, arguments, family violence, and self-destruction.

■ Dr. Sue Ellen Mesbur, professor, Ryerson School of Social Work, Toronto, spoke about issues confronting her multicultural city and the impact of its immigration policies on newcomers. She affirmed the necessity for social workers to adopt innovative responses to constricting policies in their work with these diverse populations. As an example, she cited the development of support groups for Rawandan refugees and Holocaust survivors. A poignant outcome of this group program was the Holocaust survivors advising the Rawandans that “they must tell their stories to their children.”

■ May Lai, director, alcohol and substance abuse services, Hamilton-Madison House, NYC, spoke about the Asian experience and the need for professional services that would address, with sensitivity, the bilingual and bicultural needs of new immigrants, foreign students, and clients. She offered that field instructors consider how emigree students’ own issues can reverberate in the client situation.

Following the panel discussion, the school’s Faculty Players reenacted student-field instructor situations as an exercise in examining complex learning issues and teaching techniques.

Luncheon was highlighted by keynote speaker Ruth W. Messinger, president, American Jewish World Service, and a Wurzweiler field instructor. Ms. Messinger pointedly discussed such world issues as poverty, AIDS, and wars, and the implications of meeting the needs of various cultural groups with grounded social programs. She emphasized the importance of cultural competency while working with diverse groups and not making value assumptions when helping to develop responses to critical psychosocial, sociopolitical, and economic issues. ■



Ruth W. Messinger at the Block conference.

Practicing what they teach

The success of a school's program is directly related to the reputation of its faculty, says Dean Sheldon R. Gelman. In that respect, Wurzweiler is fortunate to have individuals who are not only scholars and practitioners in their areas of expertise, but who also are advocates for their profession and the greater community. Following is a cross-section of faculty who truly reflect the school's commitment to education, research, and service.

Engaging the elderly

During an advocacy visit to the New York State Legislature, Elsbeth Couch, now professor emerita, was about to enter a hearing on family and children's services when she was told that the hearing on services for the elderly was at another location. A diplomatic Professor Couch was said to exclaim, "Do you think because I have white hair that I do not have an interest in services for children?"

Associate Professor Susan Bendor, a gerontologist who often relates the story, is all too familiar with prevailing stereotypes about the elderly. In her fourth term as co-chair of the Washington Heights & Inwood Council on Aging, Inc. (WHICOA), she seeks respect not only for clients' needs, but also for their contributions to their community.

"Our goal is to improve and deliver services for the elderly, to plan for the future, and to influence social policy as it affects the elderly in the community," says Dr. Bendor, who came to WHICOA in 1989 upon assuming responsibility for Wurzweiler's gerontology-related courses and activities.

Founded in 1972, WHICOA is an umbrella organization of community and government agencies serving the elderly in the Washington Heights-Inwood area. Nearly 100 agencies cover needs relating to home care, medical services, housing, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and other social services. A volunteer organization offers legal services once a month.

Dr. Bendor was impressed with the vitality of many seniors who visit WHICOA's 11 member centers and saw good field opportunities for Wurzweiler students to work with active elderly. Unfortunately, many sites did not have an MSW-level social worker on staff to supervise students. When Rebecca Prentiss Carel, executive director of Fort Washington Services for the Elderly and then WHICOA co-chair, indicated that several area senior center directors were interested in mentoring students, a new collaborative project was born. Dr. Bendor and Dr. Arthur Frankel, Samuel Hausman Professor of Communal Social Work, worked with Fort Washington Services on a grant to the United Way Strategic Alliance Fund to pay the salary of a roving supervisor. The individual, selected by both Wurzweiler and WHICOA agencies, had to both meet the school's academic criteria and be comfortable working at different agencies. (Vicki Meyer, a Wurzweiler adjunct instructor and doctoral student, was the first supervisor under the grant.)

"One of the things students are learning is the vital importance of collaboration, because they are working with clients who have several agencies in their lives," Dr. Bendor says, referring to the multiple service needs of many elderly. "They have to look at what is in the client's best interest."

One of WHICOA's current goals—and the subject of a recent legislative breakfast—is to turn some neighborhood apartment buildings with large elderly tenancies into NORCS (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Support service program), which would make them eligible for on-premises social services. "One of our goals is to let lawmakers know that legislation may have to be reexamined to broaden the qualifications, so these buildings can apply," Dr. Bendor explains. Fern Herzberg '87, WHICOA co-chair and executive director of Arc Fort Washington, a dynamic inter-agency council on the aging, is taking a leadership role in the development of NORCS in the community.

Dr. Bendor is passionate about engaging the elderly in community life. Many active elderly she knows through WHICOA, like the retired musicians in their 70s and 80s who have formed a jazz ensemble, have much experience and knowledge to offer the younger generation. At a recent meeting of the Association for Gerontologists in Higher Education, Dr. Bendor presented "Universities Can Forge Creative Partnerships Between Young and Old," which

outlined how colleges and universities can actively involve the elderly in social interactions with students on campus.

"I would like to engage Wurzweiler in the lives of the elderly in this community," she says. She recently asked Rita Palter, an 85 year-old Washington Heights resident who has been auditing her classes and would like to attend Wurzweiler, to speak to her gerontology students.

Dr. Bendor also sees the benefit of on or near campus inter-generational housing for retired seniors and intergenerational councils, where seniors and students discuss issues of mutual interest. Her ultimate goal, is "for young and old not to be polarized."

Dr. Bendor sees social workers as key figures in fighting for socially responsible legislation. She is currently chairperson of the Nassau County Division of National Association of Social Workers—the largest in New York State—and is on the executive committee, NYS Chapter's board of directors. She has also testified before the Nassau County Legislature about the human costs of social service cuts. ■



Susan Bendor at a legislative breakfast.

Seeking social justice

In over two decades as a lawyer and social worker, Assistant Professor Vicki Lens '00PhD has championed society's less fortunate in both the courtroom and the classroom.

After receiving her masters in social work from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1977, Dr. Lens opted to pursue a law degree.



Vicki Lens

After graduating from New York Law School, she was a lawyer with Nassau Suffolk Law Services, where she advocated for the poor in the areas of housing, public assistance, Social Security disability benefits, and Medicaid. As the lead attorney in *Koster v. Webb*, she won a landmark federal class action suit on behalf of homeless families in Nassau County resulting in an Emergency Assistance to Families housing provision. She was later an attorney for the Legal Aid Society in New York City, where she was involved in several other class action lawsuits on behalf of homeless families and public assistance recipients. Later, as an assistant state attorney general, Dr. Lens established the Suffolk County Public Advocacy Unit and prosecuted businesses engaged in illegal practices. She also taught poverty law as an adjunct at Touro Law Center.

Eventually, the field of social work beckoned again. "As a lawyer, I was limited to tackling issues based on

legal precedents and law, while social work allows you to deal with problems in a broader, more holistic way." As a faculty member for the last two years, Dr. Lens, who teaches social policy, cultural diversity, and law and social work, enjoys her social work students and cites them as a major motivating factor. "Wurzweiler students are eager to learn and are enthusiastic and sincere in their commitment to their fields. They are also a diverse group, which makes classroom discussions very interesting and challenging."

Dr. Lens' research and writing focuses on the law's impact on social policy. Her most recent article, "The Supreme Court, Federalism, and Social Policy: The New Judicial Activism," which appears in *Social Service Review*, analyzes the effect of recent Supreme Court decisions on civil rights and social welfare legislation. Her analysis of the Supreme Court decision in *Jaffee v. Redmond*—which established that conversations between therapists (including social workers) and clients were privileged conversations not to be disclosed in federal civil actions—appeared in *Social Work*. Scheduled to appear in *Social Work in Education* is an article cowritten with Dr. Beth Grube, assistant professor, on "Student-to-student harassment: Impact of *Davis v. Monroe*." She recently submitted an article on the impact of judicial reforms on managed care and is working on an article about the Supreme Court and social justice and an analysis of a recent Supreme Court sexual harassment decision. ■

From literature to social work

In an earlier career as a screenwriter and novelist, Assistant Professor Jonathan Fast '99 PhD was keeping up with the family. His father, the novelist Howard Fast, has had a long and distinguished career and, at 86,



Jonathan Fast

is still productive. Dr. Fast himself authored seven critically acclaimed novels (four of which have been optioned to movies and television), reviewed for the *New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*, and has also written theatrical and industrial films. Later in his career, Dr. Fast was a contract writer for the feature animation division at Disney Entertainment. He worked on an early version of *Beauty and the Beast*, and created a

screenplay for the yet-to-be produced feature film *Hansel and Gretel*. Dr. Fast also spent several years writing "informational films" for companies such as Xerox, Hewlett Packard, and Occidental Chemical. In the process, he garnered gold and silver medals at the New York and Chicago Film Festivals.

And then he turned 42.

Reflecting on his career, he realized that he disliked the isolation and was growing weary of the self-centered life of the artist.

"It was a midlife transition—a difficult period. You reach a certain age and you begin to realize that your days are numbered, and you wonder what you've really done for your fellow man. It can be an opportunity to recreate yourself."

And that is just what he did. Dr. Fast, who attended Princeton University and earned a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, returned to school and obtained a master

of social work degree from Columbia University. After receiving his MSW, he devoted the next few years to direct clinical practice with children, working at psychiatric hospitals and community-based agencies, and the welfare of children remains among his primary interests. He has published several articles on social work with children and teens, and is currently involved in cite-based research and program evaluation for the Port Chester School System.

Dr. Fast believes that "the spiritual orientation of YU provides an ideology that encourages helping people and intellectual inquiry—the two pillars that the social work profession are built upon. When I first came here, a colleague taught me an expression, *tikkun olam*. It means 'healing the earth,' and reflects an important value of Judaism."

There are other things that he loves about Wurzweiler. "The dean is patient with

my shortcomings, and supportive of my accomplishments. My colleagues are a fascinating bunch, policy mavens, researchers, ethicists, and clinicians. There's even an anthropologist."

Dr. Fast enjoys his class contact with students from varied walks of life. "In the Concurrent Program we have traditional students, while in the PEP program we have older students, people of color, and those who have worked in human services for a number of years. They bring a unique perspective to our classes."

And with a father's pride, he speaks of his daughter Molly Jong-Fast, who is also a writer. Her book, *Normal Girl*, was recently reviewed in the *New York Times*. She currently writes for popular magazines and is working on her second novel.

It has been a long journey from literature to social work education, and listening to Dr. Fast speak, it's clear that the journey is far from over.

"In the future I hope to be able to draw more on my writing experience in the way of text books and extended works—perhaps even multimedia instructional materials and the use of the Internet for content delivery." ■

Wurzweiler remembers Ceil Weisman

Words like "mentor" and "friend" were used throughout Wurzweiler's recent tribute to the late Dr. Celia B. (Ceil) Weisman, professor emerita, who passed away after heart surgery last July at the age of 81. Colleagues past and present joined friends, alumni, and family members in sharing memories of the petite, energetic woman who enjoyed both a local and international reputation as a champion of the elderly and the social work profession (see *Update*, winter 2000).

"She left many generations of students," said Dean Sheldon Gelman, who announced that the soon-to-be released NASW text on aging, which carries a forward by Dr. Weisman, now is dedicated to her.

One of those early students was Dr. Louis Levitt, professor emeritus. Although he worked under Dr. Weisman's direction at Yeshiva University's Gerontological In-

stitute in the 1970s, Dr. Levitt first knew her as his field work supervisor at the Educational Alliance in the early 1950s.

"She set a magnificent example for all of us," he said.

"Students were her equals. The opportunity was there to learn from her. As a friend and a motivator, I appreciated her a lot," said Debra Shrag '80, who collaborated with Dr. Weisman at the JCC on the Palisades in Tenafly, NJ.

"She was a friend, teacher, and colleague dedicated to world peace and social justice," offered Michael Cronin, United Nations representative, International Federation of Social Workers, and a Wurzweiler doctoral student. He announced that a plaque has been dedicated to her at the Federation's Swiss headquarters and a memorial lecture has been established.

Other speakers included master of ceremonies Dr. Eli Levy; Dr. Norman Linzer '60, who gave a *d'var Torah*; Elaine Myers,



Marc Weisman

executive director, Shelter Our Sisters and former chair, Bergen County Human Service Advisory Committee, where Dr. Weisman served as board chair; Janet Sharma, executive director, Volunteer Center of Bergen County; Dr. Rosa Perla Resnick '76DSW; Dr. Susan Bendor; and UN colleague Helen Hamlin. A letter from Reuben Schindler '73DSW, former dean, Bar-Ilan School of Social Work, was read.

The most affecting moments were offered by tearful doctoral student Jinsheng Qiu '99, who spoke of her close friendship with Dr. Weisman and of spending an afternoon with her a week before her surgery. Son Marc and wife Debbie, who attended with children Ariel and Aaron, were glad the children would now have a fuller understanding of the woman they only knew as "Grandma."

"There was no personal or economic gain in all her work," Marc Weisman said of his mother. "She reached that level of success—she loved what she did." ■

SCHOOL HOSTS ANNUAL STANTON LECTURE



Wurzweiler recently hosted the Ellsworth G. Stanton III Annual Lecture in Gerontological Social Work at the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center, Midtown Campus. The lecture is a joint effort of the New York City Schools of Social Work and is funded by the James N. Jarvie Commonweal Service. Dr. Fernando M. Torres-Gil, associate dean at UCLA School of Public Policy & Social Research, former assistant secretary for aging in the US Department of Health & Human Services, and past president of the American Society on Aging, presented this year's lecture. Dr. Torres-Gil is the author of four books and more than 70 articles in the field. From left: Ellsworth Stanton III, Dean Sheldon Gelman, and Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil.

Graduation 2001



The keynote speaker at Wurzeiler School of Social Work's 42st Diploma and Hooding Ceremony on May 24 was Nicholas Scoppetta, commissioner, NYC Administration for Children's Services. Among the graduating master of social work students were 11 ACS employees

Nicholas Scoppetta who attended Wurzeiler under the school's specialized Plan for Employed Persons to further their professional training. David I. Schachne, chair, Wurzeiler Board of Governors, also received a special recognition award for his service to the school.

Other awardees were: Rochelle A. Bobrow, National Association of Social Workers Award (presented by Alma Carten, DSW, president, NYC Chapter); Lenore Jeanne Shepard, The Outstanding Student Clinician Award (presented by Murray Itzkowitz, board member, Society for Clinical Social Work); Eden Jill Rosen, Dean's Award; Melissa Abate and Riquelma Moreno, Faculty Award; Faith Risa Silberstein, Esther and Walter Lentschner Award for Excellence in Writing; Amy Gross-Kirschenbaum, Edward Grupper Memorial Award; Francis David Ayuso, Advocacy Award, and Ari E. Fisch, Research Award.

Jacquelyn Yvonne Sanders-Cropper and Eden Jill Rosen spoke on behalf of their fellow students.

Communal philanthropist Jonathan Leader received the Distinguished Service Award at Wurzeiler's 24th annual Block Education Plan Commencement. Mr. Leader is chairman of the Leader Family Fund, a charitable fund that focuses on improving the quality of life in New York City. He and wife Dina have launched an initiative to award honoraria to line workers who have direct contact with clients at local Jewish-sponsored social service agencies. The Faculty Award was presented to Yael Amir. Student speakers were Laura Safran and Mordechai Aaron Salzberg.



Faculty promote Wurzeiler locally, nationally, and internationally



Dr. David Schnall, Herbert H. Schiff Professor of Management and Administration—and newly appointed dean of

Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration—returned to Cyprus earlier this year to continue the lecture series he began last summer on issues of interest to local nongovernmental organizations, professionals, and volunteers. Dr. Schnall, who spent last year as a Fulbright Scholar at Hebrew University's Baerwald School of Social Work, visited Cyprus last July at the request of the Nicosia office of the J. William Fulbright Foundation. His two-part presentation, "NGOs—Strategic Planning for the 21st Century," tried to set out 3-5 year projections for local organizations and attracted 50 participants from both the Greek and Turkish communities.

"These are rare opportunities for people from both sides to meet together," Dr. Schnall explains. Residents from one sector are not allowed to travel to the other, but with special approval and "bureaucratic maneuverings" are allowed to participate in programs within the gated, 100-meter UN buffer zone, where both UN and Fulbright headquarters are located.

Due to a limited travel schedule between Cyprus and Israel, Dr. Schnall was only able to offer one session, as opposed to the three he gave last year. This second lecture on leadership development, co-sponsored by the Nicosia Management Association, focused on managerial issues and the NGOs.

Dr. Schnall was invited to present a paper at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem this August and plans to keep in touch with his Nicosia contacts. ■



Joan Beder
'93DSW has been awarded a National Kidney Foundation grant through its Council of Nephrology

Social Workers to conduct a study on the "Effectiveness of a Social Work Psychoeducational Program in Improving Adherence Behavior Associated with Risk of Cardiovascular Disease in Dialysis Patients." Dr. Beder, who designed the one-year study, and Wurzeiler professor and co-principal investigator Dr. Susan Mason are working with data coordinators and patients at 12 dialysis centers in Dallas and 12 in San Diego. The researchers will determine the usefulness of support services together with an educational video and study guide in affecting the behaviors of dialysis patients, who must adhere to a restricted diet and other precautions to prevent such secondary symptoms as fluid retention. The patients view the video and read the guide, created by social workers in the field, during a dialysis session and are monitored afterward for behavioral changes. The 12 sites in each city are divided into control and intervention groups and comparisons will be made between related groups in each city.

"We hope to show that social workers are a critical component in behavioral change," says Dr. Beder. Follow-up is done through self- and computer-generated reports and checks on such data as weight gains to see if patients are in compliance with their regimen.

"So far the preliminary results have been promising and we are seeing changes in the intervention groups," she adds. "Analysis has to show that the intervention is significant and we are banking on that being the case." Dr. Beder expects to present her findings at the National Kidney Foundation's October conference in San Francisco. ■



Dr. Arthur Frankel, Samuel Hausman Professor of Communal Social Work, is currently in the third year

of a five-year, \$350,000 NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation grant to evaluate the effectiveness of four programs devoted to drug treatment, case management, and job training for women, as well as adolescent drug prevention. He serves as the grant's primary investigator and designer with coinvestigators Dr. Charles Auerbach, professor, doing data analysis and Dr. Heidi Heft LaPorte '92DSW working on case management.

In recent years, NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani has mandated the development of drug treatment programs for women utilizing what Dr. Frankel refers to as a "one stop shop" approach, i.e., including services relating to treatment, healthcare, case management and job training at one site. Each site has a different emphasis. The first site, set up two years ago at Brooklyn's Cumberland Hospital, is run in conjunction with NYC's Administration for Children's Services for mothers and children under their program. Bronx Hospital's ASPIRE works with NYC's Human Resources Administration to locate jobs. Jacobi Hospital's Growth and Recovery Center focuses on psychological treatment both with groups and individual psychotherapy. In addition, Harlem Hospital's Adolescent Plus program has a drug prevention program and soon expects to start a drug treatment program for 25 teenagers and their families.

"[Mayor] Giuliani had the foresight to provide the funds to start these programs—there are few treatment programs focused just on women and the idea of the 'one stop shop' has never before been done on such a wide scale," Dr. Frankel explains. He also believes the investigators' reports

to HHC management will yield much material for publication. "There will be significant information coming out from this study that will set the benchmark for drug treatment programs for women." ■



Dr. Margaret Gibelman, professor and director of the doctoral program, was the keynote speaker

at the 15th anniversary celebration of the Okinawa Association of Social Workers in March. She lectured to about 300 Japanese social workers on "Social Work in the New Millennium: An International Perspective." The Japanese Association of Social Workers in Tokyo and the Okinawa Association of Social Workers arranged for Dr. Gibelman to meet with officials of the Health and Welfare Departments and the Director of the Council of Social Welfare, as well as tour several social service agencies during her visit. Dr. Gibelman's book *What Social Workers Do* (NASW Press, 1995) has been translated into Japanese and is widely used in Japan. ■

Patricia Rose-Attia '83, adjunct instructor, is encouraged by the response to her seminar series at Our Place, a Brooklyn drop-in facility serving Orthodox boys and girls (in separate facilities) age 15–19 with concerns ranging from substance abuse and homelessness to family issues and eating disorders (see "A program grows in Brooklyn," *Update*, winter 2000). The series began last summer and continues to be in great demand by the community's adults who volunteer their time to work with these at-risk children.

"Great progress has been made over the past months," says Ms. Rose-Attia, who has taught a section of the substance abuse elective for the past seven years. One of the biggest strides, she notes, is how adult volunteers

at the facility have familiarized themselves with the referral process and are now able to detect when to refer a teen to a professional. "They use their volunteer status to network with other volunteers and professionals, broadening their experience."

The seminars are coordinated by Norman Linzer, PhD, '60, Samuel J. and Jean Sable Chair in Jewish Family Social Work and Alan Sirote '84, director, Family Crisis Intervention Program, at Bikur Cholim of Boro Park, the agency supervising Our Place.

Recently, one of the volun-

teers announced his application to Wurzweiler's Plan for Employed Persons, which allows human services employees to attend classes on evenings and Sundays. "This is a very pleasing result," she adds.

Underway is an initiative from Ms. Rose-Attia's agency Arms Acres—a private health care system for individuals suffering from alcoholism and chemical dependency—to establish a satellite office near the facility so its professionals can collaborate with Our Place volunteers. ■

YES, I would like to get involved with the following Wurzweiler School of Social Work Alumni Association activities:

■ Executive Committee

Alumni Association governing body (membership subject to nomination and vote)

Subcommittees:

■ Special Events

Meet and plan reunions; plan and co-host dinners honoring both current and retiring faculty

■ Jewish Communal Service

Design and implement programming specifically targeted towards the Jewish community at large

■ Communications

Assist WSSW and the Office of Alumni Affairs on the Update; assist in constructing an alumni web page

■ Student-Alumni Relations

Initiate student mentoring programs (career networking events, open forums for students, etc.); work with Office of Career Development

■ Career Networking

Coordinate and implement career networking "wine and cheese" parties and other events; assist in posting job opportunities on YU's Online Community

■ Continuing Education

Coordinate and implement continuing education programs, seminars, symposia, etc., in conjunction with WSSW faculty and Office of Alumni Affairs.

NAME _____

CLASS YEAR _____

DEGREE(S) EARNED _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

I am interested in:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SPECIAL EVENTS

JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CAREER NETWORKING

COMMUNICATIONS

STUDENT-ALUMNI RELATIONS

MAIL OR FAX COUPON TO: Director of Alumni Affairs, Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Yeshiva University, 500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033
Phone: (212) 960-0084 Fax: (212) 960-5336

WSSW Alumni Notes

1960'S

Janice '69, and **Joseph '77 Greenfarb** are proud to announce the wedding of their son, Daniel Doron Levy to Ruthie Anteby on December 10, 2000. Janice recently celebrated her 28th anniversary as a school social worker for the NYC Board of Education and Joseph was part of a professional delegation to Yemen.

Norman Linzer '60, professor and Samuel J. and Jean Sable Chair in Jewish Family Social Work, and wife Diane proudly announce the marriage of son Menachem to Devora Cohen. *Mazel tov!*

1970'S

Jerome A. Chanes '74 is associate executive director of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, and on the adjunct faculty of Barnard College. He most recently authored a widely-used monograph, *A Profile of the American Jewish Community*, and book, *A Dark Side of History: Antisemitism through the Ages*. Chanes is also the recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "Image and Identity: Jewish Self-Representation," a series of public programs around the country in 2001.

Richard Corman '76 received the Saul Schwartz Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Association of Jewish Communal Service. He serves as the executive director of the JCC of Central New Jersey.

Simon S. Kaminetsky '79 was appointed regional director, Long Island, for UJA-Federation of New York.

Vicki Horowitz Rashbaum '72 has spent the last decade working as a bilingual school social worker at the Barnard School, part of the City School District of New Rochelle, NY. She works with

300 four-year-olds and their families and runs parent workshops in Spanish for the Hispanic community. Additionally, Vicki is a field instructor for BSW students from Iona College. She and her husband reside in Larchmont, NY.

Meir Wikler '72, '83 authored the book, *Partners with Hashem: From Tots through Teens and Beyond, Effective Guidelines for Successful Parenting*. The first printing sold out in just one month's time. Dr. Wikler resides in Brooklyn, NY.

1980'S

Debbie Estrin '83 is director of marketing and communications at the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas. She is married to Dr. Timothy Jackson and has a five-year-old daughter, Serena Chani. The family resides in Dallas.

Phil Feldman '86 was recently promoted to coordinator of adult outpatient services at Barnert Hospital Counseling Center in Paterson, NJ. He is also director of advanced clinical seminars, which provides continuing education workshops for clinical social workers in Clifton, NJ.

Toni Levi Goldrich '84 has been a social worker in the Philadelphia public schools for 15 years. She is married and has two children, Marissa, 11 and Steven, 6. She lives in Philadelphia.

James E. Lark '88 won the 1997 "Outstanding Social Worker Award" in recognition of his exceptional professional service. The award was presented to him by Ruth Messinger for the NYC Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, and NYC Schools of Social Work. He currently resides in Bronx, NY.

Barry S. Mael '82 is currently executive director of the Marlboro Jewish Center in Marlboro, NJ. He resides in Highland Park, NJ.

Susan Silverman Mintz '81 is currently employed as director of patient services with the Kidney Foundation of Canada-Central Ontario Branch. She has worked in direct practice and as a field practice supervisor for most of her career. Her practice interests have included work with individuals suffering from chronic illnesses and the elderly. Mintz has also enjoyed teaching Service Methods courses in the Gerontology program at Seneca College, Toronto. She has been married to Howard Mintz for the past 19 years. The couple resides in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Laurence C. Segall '84 is currently an elder care consultant for Atria Assisted Living, Sunrise Assisted Living, and Brighton Gardens Assisted Living. He specializes in issues regarding transition, separation, loss, anger management, and chronic/terminal illness. He resides in Stamford, CT.

1990'S

Ann Burke '95 was promoted to project manager for the Homeless Women Veterans and Manhattan VA Medical Center in New York City. She is also sad to report that her father, Harry, 83, passed away in September 2000 after a long illness.

Gary Golio '97 reports that after working for two and a half years in substance treatment programs in both the Bronx and Westchester, NY, he has opened his own private practice. Gary is very gratified by the work he is doing and wishes all of his classmates well.

Adeena Davis Haber '95 and her husband Marc are proud to announce the birth of their children, Yonatan Zvi and Daniel Menachem. The twins were born on September 15, 2000. The Haber family resides in Efrat, Israel, where Adeena works as a geri-

atric social worker in a nursing home in Jerusalem.

Jennifer Jordan Hirsh '96 was married to husband Larry on November 5, 2000 in East Syracuse, NY. She is currently employed as a CSW at a skilled nursing facility in Queens.

Barry Nove '92 is the financial resource development director for the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ellen R. Shurak '95 and her husband are currently enjoying time with their eight-month-old daughter, Carly Lilly. Ellen is a clinical social worker at Four Winds Hospital in Katonah, NY. The family resides in South Salem, NY.

2000'S

Namomie Denard '00 is working as a social worker in the preventive program at the Flatbush Haitian Center, Inc. She is proud to report that, since her graduation, she has received a substantial pay increase and more respect at work, and has a newfound pride in her work helping and assisting her clientele.

We mourn the loss of...

Carol Brod '78, who passed away this May at age 57, from complications for treatment of a brain tumor. Our condolences to her family.

Mildred (Mickey) Teicher, wife of former Wurzweiler Dean Morton Teicher, in Miami in June. A Jewish art historian with degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Barry University, she served as director of the Beck Museum of Judaica, Beth David Congregation, Miami. Our condolences to the Teicher family.