Master of Public Administration Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program proudly celebrates its 25-year heritage this year of preparing professionals for managerial careers in public service. Initially created with a focus on government management, the program has grown to offer specialized tracks in health care management, nonprofit management, and environmental science, as well as certificate programs in nonprofit management, health care policy and management, and long-term care management and practice.

Most recently, key initiatives in the MPA program include collaborative partnerships with nonprofit organizations in Westchester County, such as the United Way, to provide community needs assessment, management training, and conferences. A public safety management initiative, in conjunction with the newly established Foundation for Emergency Preparedness, is being developed to provide executive training in this vital area.

Real-world outcomes. With its strong ties to the region’s municipalities and public service organizations, together with policy and management studies conducted through the program’s Michian Institute for Public Policy and Management and the Municipal Law Resource Center, students gain applied research skills and practical experience that have also benefited participating organizations with enhanced capacity.

An international focus. With a strong international perspective, the program conducts training programs for Japanese government officials; hosts delegations from China and Korea; and study public management; has collaborative partnerships with Italian government officials; and offers students a unique study abroad program in Oxford, England. The program has recently become a magnet for international students, who have come from Japan, Nepal, Russia, Portugal, Jordan, China, Bulgaria, Columbia, and the Caribbean. The rich diversity of the student body adds a stimulating dimension to the MPA learning experience.

Successful alumni/ae. The MPA program’s alumni/ae includes those who hold key managerial positions in government, such as deputy commissioners, town supervisors, and an elected local legislator in Cyprus. Moreover, other graduates have established successful management careers in public health, health care management, mental health, and nonprofit administration.

The next 25 years. The health care, government, and the nonprofit sectors have been among the fastest-growing areas of the national economy and are expected to continue growing. By building upon its successful heritage, the MPA program is well positioned to fill the growing need for professionals in these areas by preparing its students with the specialized knowledge and outstanding leadership and management skills essential to meet the challenges of the future.

For more information, please contact Brian Nierson at bnierson@pace.edu or visit www.pace.edu/dyson/mfa.
Students Volunteer in Tibetan Buddhist Monastery Restoration Project

Imagine having to running
water or electricity sleeping
in a Mongolian felt tent, eat-
ing goat or mutton, working
using traditional carpentry
methods, and learning about
Tibetan Buddhism, Mongolian
culture, and community service.
Sound exotic?
That is just what 11 Pace
students did this past summer
as part of an international
service learning history travel
course to Mongolia.
Ron Frank, assistant
professor of history, explains
"This course gave students the
unique opportunity to volunteer
to work on the restoration of a
Tibetan Buddhist monastery at
Baldan Barasan, which is 200
miles east of the Mongolian
capital city of Ulan Bator, and
learn about Inner Asian
history and Tibetan Buddhism
first hand."

Real-world practical
learning experience
Living and working alongside
Mongol workers, Pace students
gained a valuable experience in
cultural restoration work in a
Tibetan Buddhist environment,
and acquired insight into the
Mongolian culture that no class-
room lecture can provide.
According to student
Michelle Daria, who wrote in
her journal, "I am writing by

candlelight in my ger
[Mongolian tent]. The great
part of this job was working
with the serene Mongolians...
Once in a while, a lovely tune or
song would spring from them,
reminding me of what I was
doing and where I was...I real-
ized how awesome this
experience was..."

Destroyed by the
Communist
regime in Mongolia in
1937, the
monastery once
housed more than
6,000 monks. The
restoration project
is closely tied to an
academic focus on
Tibetan Buddhism
in Northeast Asia,
allowing students to
immerse them-
selves in a very unfamiliar
culture and to develop relation-
ships with the local community.
This volunteer experience,
a service-learning component of
the "Cultural Heritage and
Service-Learning in Inner Asia"
course, was organized in

continued on next page
cooperation with the Cultural Restoration/Tourism Project (CRTP), a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization. This new course combines an academic focus on Inner Asian history and Tibetan Buddhism with student volunteerism in a cross-cultural setting.

CRTP combines cultural tourism with historical restoration and community development. A dynamic team of 30 to 40 staff and run a permanent office in the capital of Lhasa. By using the latest environmental-technology techniques in sustainable development, CRTP hopes to rebuild a community that can eventually support itself and take over the management and maintenance of the monastery.

Frank adds, “In this fascinating process of cross-cultural interaction, students gain a first-hand experience of restoration on work in a Tibetan Buddhist environment, acquired insight into the everyday life of a contemporary Mongolian nomadic community, and added a practical dimension to an Inner Asian history course. On a conceptual level, they developed a more sophisticated understanding of the world.”

Frank hopes to organize another trip to the site to help further the restoration of this important historical site and to again provide students with an invaluable educational experience.

For more information, contact Ron Frank at rfrank@pace.edu.

**Around Campus**

**Physician Assistant Graduates Ace National Certification Exam**

Kathleen Roche, director of the Physician Assistant Program, announced that all of the program’s 2004 graduates who took the National Physician Assistant Certification Examination (PANCE) have passed, which gives the program a 100 percent pass rate. Successful completion of an accredited program and passage of the PANCE are required to practice as a physician assistant in most states, including New York.

Congratulations to all our graduates!

**Environmental Center Hosts “Conversations on Conservation” Conference**

In an effort to encourage collaboration and cooperation among environmental nonprofit and citizen groups and governmental agencies, Pace’s Environmental Center in Pleasantville hosted the “Conversations on Conservation” conference.

Ferry Stoops, exhibitor

Eighty representatives from various private and public entities participated in roundtable discussions on critical land and water issues, and storm water management of great concern to residents of the lower Hudson River Valley region. The conference was sponsored by Faillim, Westchester Community Foundation, Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc., and Westchester County Parks.

On the following day, Pace hosted a Conservation Expo that showcased the work of 20 Westchester nonprofit organizations as well as companies that offer environmentally responsible products and services. Exhibitors included the New York City Department of Environmental Protection; Central Westchester, Hudson River, and Bedford Chapters of the National Audubon Society; and Riverkeeper, and was covered by Westchester News 12.

**Janetta Rebold Benton Named Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts**

Janetta Rebold Benton, Ph.D., a fine arts professor known for her fresh and insightful view of art of the Renaissance and Middle Ages, was recognized as a distinguished professor of Pace University at a ceremony at the Pleasantville campus.

Seated, Janetta Benton, with Provost Caputo, Provost Monroe, Fine Arts Chair John Mulgrew, and fine arts faculty and students.

The designation of distinguished professor recognizes a faculty member who has attained the rank of professor and has clearly demonstrated “continuous, extraordinary and widely recognized” contributions as a scholar and teacher, and service to the academic community. It requires independent recommendations from nationally and internationally known scholars in the candidate’s field.

An internationally known and highly respected scholar on the art of the Renaissance and Middle Ages, Benton is a regular lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, The Cloisters, the National Gallery of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and elsewhere in America and abroad. Widely published, Benton’s most recent book is Medieval Mischief—Wit and Humor in the Art of the Middle Ages, Sutton Publishing Limited. At Pace, Benton is director of the Pforzheimer Honors College on the Pleasantville Campus. Through great leadership and innovation, she was instrumental in bringing the honors program to its status as a college this past fall.
Distinguished Professor Emerita Jean Fagan Yellin Receives Prestigious Award

The Gilder Lehman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University awarded Jean Fagan Yellin its most prestigious award, the $25,000 Frederick Douglass Prize, for the best nonfiction book on slavery, resistance or abolition for 2004. Yellin received this honor in February at a gala dinner at the Yale Club of New York City.

Yellin’s award-winning biography, Harriet Jacobs: A Life (Basic Books), goes beyond Jacobs’s account of her years as a slave in Incidents of the Life of a Slave Girl, recounting her seven years in hiding from a sexually predatory master, her escape to the North, her harassment by her former owner, and her return to the South during the Civil War to establish a school for black refugees behind Union lines.

Yellin and her staff, including Pace student interns, are completing a two-volume edition of Harriet Jacobs’s Papers, which the University of North Carolina Press has contracted to publish. For more information, visit www.harrrietjacobspapers.org.

Dean’s Message

Dyson College’s Unique Learning Opportunities

Harvard’s president Lawrence Summers recently made comments about the innate ability of women to become high-achieving in science and engineering fields. These comments have created an uproar as people debate the effects of socialization and opportunity versus the notion of the limitations of innate ability.

At Pace, we believe in providing all students with opportunity, as embodied in our motto: Opportunities. As the campus leader in liberal education, Dyson College takes this mission seriously, offering all of our students a diversity of opportunity and experience to enable each and every one to reach their goals and go beyond.

As evidenced in this issue of Dyson News, our students have the opportunity to work with distinguished professors, such as Jean Fagan Yellin, on projects such as the Harriet Jacobs Paper Project. Those interested in the environment may become involved in the many activities of the Environmental Center, or attend conferences such as the one recently sponsored by the Criminal Justice and Sociology Department. For many of our students, gaining an international perspective is important. They may choose a unique travel course that incorporates a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience, such as the trip to Mongolia (cover story) or travel to Britain as part of the Master of Public Administration Program.

To paraphrase Robert Browning, a person’s reach must exceed his/her grasp, and that is an education is for. We encourage our students to enrich their studies with one of the many unique learning opportunities Dyson College has to offer, and we hope they will leave Dyson with a sense of themselves and what they have to offer that will enrich and positively impact their lives and the lives of the people around them.

— Niza Hermann, PhD

Pace Publishing Program: Building Connections in China

Sylvan Raskin, professor and director of the Pace Publishing Program, was invited by Wuhu University’s School of Information Management’s Publishing Department to visit China and learn about the culture and history of the country. Faculty and administration at Wuhu University are interested in developing deeper ties with the Pace Publishing Program, including advice on how to incorporate the more practical aspects of publishing into their program curriculum and to examine how Pace’s program could globally serve the industry. Professor Fang, chair of the Publishing Department at Wuhu, and Xu, a professor of book publishing, spent the academic year 2003–2004 as visiting research scholars at Pace. Raskin also addressed 200 students on “Publishing in the U.S.A. Today.”

For more information about the Publishing Program, visit www.pace.edu/dyson/mpub.

Are You Missing Out on News and Invitations?

If you are a Pace alumna/us, make sure that the alumni office and the Online Community have your e-mail address and that it is correct. You can use the Online Community at www.pace.edu/alumni to add or correct it yourself or you can e-mail it to pacealum@pace.edu. Be sure to include your name, when you were a student, and your graduation year.