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“What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.”

~ Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

The Community Connection

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Farewell to one of CSP Program’s Founders: Dr Anne Mulvey

By Elizabeth Looney



Dr. Anne Mulvey

When Dr. Anne Mulvey came to the University of Lowell (as it was known before being integrated into the UMass system) in 1980, she was uprooting from a cherished community in Brooklyn, NY to pursue a career as a university professor teaching community psychology and the psychology of women. She remembers missing her friends and neighborhood dearly while appreciating the unique opportunity to develop a new community psychology graduate program, which would allow her to integrate women’s issues and feminist frameworks and to bridge her areas of passionate concern. Nearly 28 years later, Dr. Mulvey finds herself in a similar situation again, as she prepares to embark on a new journey: retirement. At the end of this semester, she will say good-bye to the UML Psychology Department as a full-time professor. (She has been granted Professor Emerita status and plans to continue some of her campus and community work.)

Dr. Mulvey’s academic life at UMass Lowell has been characterized by her commitment to engaging students and the University in small-scale change projects that deepen students’ learning and support community well-being. As a founding member of the Community Social Psychology Graduate Program, Dr. Mulvey has enabled hundreds of students to build

bridges between the campus and the Lowell community. Doing so, she believes, can be beneficial for everyone. “Projects I’ve developed,” Dr. Mulvey states, “bridge the individual and the collective, the personal and the political. As we create communities based on socially just principles, we grow ourselves; it is a mutual process.” Dr. Mulvey’s work has focused heavily on creating safer, more affirmative communities for women and girls “...because too often,” she says, “communities aren’t.”

As with leaving her previous home in Brooklyn, leaving the University and the Lowell community will be a sad good-bye. Dr. Mulvey will miss the wonderful opportunities that she has

had here to collaborate with students and colleagues around shared passions. “With common passions, people open up in ways that they normally may not,” she states. A rich network of campus and community colleagues, former students, and friends has created a home here for Dr. Mulvey. “I will miss the Lowell community, and the center of that home, Mahoney Hall and our campus. I feel more connected here than to the community where I live.” As a pillar of the Psychology Department and women’s networks in Lowell, that sentiment will be shared by many.

But just as her previous departures from known places opened up new doors in a new career, the realm of retirement promises to be full of opportunities, including one in particular that evades most of us most of the time—rest. Dr. Mulvey is looking forward to “The five R’s of retirement: Rest, relaxation, reflection, r-writing and re-engagement.” “I’ll have time to re-evaluate my life and commitments,” she says, “and I will be able to choose a few in depth projects to dedicate myself to more fully.” Surely, the Lowell community will look forward to these interesting projects. On a more personal note, Dr. Mulvey is definitely looking forward to more time with Donna, her partner of more than 20 years and spouse of almost four. (continued on pg. 2)

Spring semester has been a busy time for all CSP students, especially for our graduating students who will be leaving the program in May. These graduates will be departing for a wide variety of vocations or advanced study. Some have applied to doctoral programs in diverse disciplines, such as clinical psychology, community psychology, and advertising. For example, Ramona Bryan is planning to continue her education in a clinical psychology program, devoting her time and energy to children and domestic violence issues. Likewise, graduating student Ekaterina Konovalova will

CSP Class of 2008! By Kelly Davis



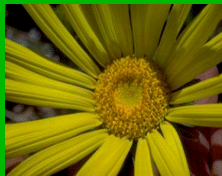
Practicum Class (L-R): Susan Mutua, Sandra Osborne, Aliina Crandell, Shpend Qamili, Sharon Therrien, Kelly McDermott, Duey Kol, Ekatarina Konovalova, Marion deLaubenfels, Professor Meg Bond, Joyce Abelson, Jay Claus Santos. Not pictured: Karishma Shetty, Valerie Cintron-Flores, Ramona Bryan

be going in a new direction, applying to graduate programs in management and advertising. Other graduates, such as Susan Mutua, Karishma Shetty, and Sharon Therrien plan on devoting themselves to a career in the field and are currently beginning their job search. Jay Santos, one of our international students, will be returning to the Philippines to continue his work in his home country. Regardless of the career or life paths our graduates will choose, we are confident that their time with us in CSP and Lowell has given them a broad skill set, as well as the community perspective that will serve them well throughout their lives.



Alumna Spotlight: Paula Alexander By Elizabeth Looney

After graduating from CSP, Ms. Alexander took with her what she called 'the spirit of the program' to her work.



This semester's alumna spotlight is on Paula Alexander, a CSP '93 graduate, and the recipient of this year's CSP Distinguished Alumna award. For the past thirty-five years, Ms. Alexander has worked to promote diversity and equity in the workplace. She recently retired from her position as the Human Resource Director of Global Functions at the Eastman Kodak. As a CSP graduate, Ms. Alexander shares here some of the ways her experiences in the program influenced her professional career.

Ms. Alexander recalls that one of her richest experiences in CSP came from her practicum opportunity, where she worked at the Rotenburg School, a locked school for girls in the juvenile detention system. Working at this school gave her "the confidence to work with anyone." Through her practicum experience, she was able to fortify her skills in working with groups, as well as organizations and individuals. Her advice to current students on getting the most out of their education? "Take advan-

tage of all the knowledge here – recognize how many resources are available to you through the faculty, their centers, and tap into those resources."

After graduating from CSP, Ms. Alexander took with her what she called "the spirit of the program" to her work at Kodak. She worked in Human Resources on issues of equity and focused on work systems redesign to help the entire company reorganize to better bring out the talents of each individual employee. She developed an ongoing collaboration with UMass Lowell to address issues of diversity in the workplace. When asked what she remembered as one of her major accomplishments, Ms. Alexander recalled "putting strategies in place to help people throughout the downsizing process, relocating over 500 employees to other locations within the company who would have otherwise lost their jobs, and generally help bring healing to the organization in a way that respected individual dignity."



Paula Alexander, CSP Alum '93

Ms. Alexander's invaluable work within her company and the greater community has earned her much recognition, including the Mary Upton Ferrin Award by the Peabody Chamber of Commerce for the outstanding woman of the year, the Woman of Courage and Conviction Award from the National Council of Negro Women, the Jane Lamphear Award from Eastman Kodak Corporation, and was a CEO Diversity Award Finalist, Eastman Kodak Company. She also received the Pastor and Deacon Awards at St. John's Baptist Church. Ms. Alexander is in the process of being ordained for ministry.

Ms. Alexander's perspectives on CSP highlights some of the more subtle nuances of our specialization. "It is our job to help recognize the power of people. People who graduate from CSP have a lot to offer both the private and public industry, and can bring a special perspective – hope and caring – to an organization. Be able to sell what it is you have to offer – you are in the People Resource Industry."

Congratulations, Ms. Alexander, on all of your accomplishments, and we look forward to presenting you with your award in person at the Psychology Department's Recognition Ceremony on May 5th, 2008. Thank you for sharing your words of wisdom with our students and faculty!

(continued from pg. 1)

Towards the end of our interview, Dr. Mulvey remembered a gift that she had received during her first year of teaching. A friend had scripted the following quote for her: "I know that it's time to dream strong dreams and then abandon them for the ones to come." Pausing to reflect, she stated thoughtfully, "I came here with strong dreams," she said, "and now I know it is time to dream, and then to follow, new ones."

Thank you for your service to UML, Dr. Mulvey, and let the dreaming begin again!

Dates to Remember:

4/7/2008 (Noon-1pm): CSP Brown Bag: Feminism and Community Psychology; Mahoney Hall Rm. 103

4/24/2008 (5:30-7:30pm): CSP Social Hour at the Dubliner (197 Market Street, Lowell, MA)

5/5/2008 (5:30-7:30pm): Psychology Department's Recognition Ceremony; O'Leary 222.

5/31/2000: University Commencement; Tsongas Arena, Lowell, MA

6/4-6/2008: Second International Community Psychology Conference; Lisbon, Portugal

CSP OUTREACH

This semester, the CSP program reached across international boundaries with a donation drive to assist women and girls in Kenya. As the country erupted into political violence earlier this year, thousands of families found themselves temporarily displaced

from their homes. An acute need for items such as sanitary napkins for women and girls was identified. With the help of our entire CSP community of



faculty, staff and students, three large boxes of feminine products were collected and shipped to Kenya through the University of Nairobi.

Thesis: Another Plate to Keep Spinning

By Kelly Davis



Aliina Crandell
CSP '08

While most second year students are struggling to balance the immense demands of practicum, classes, and a job, Aliina Crandell has also been juggling the demands of her thesis work. Writing a Master's thesis is optional for students, and generally takes at least two full semesters to complete. Aliina has been collaborating with Professor Ivy Ho on a research study titled: *Lifetime Victimization among University of Massachusetts Lowell Undergraduate Students: Associations between Forgiveness, Physical Functioning and Depression*. This research study was presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference on March 14th, 2008, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA. CSP students and faculty interested in this research may also attend Aliina's thesis defense on April 7th, 2008, from 2:30pm in O'Leary, room 331, UML South Campus.

Have a great summer!

