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IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Alum Spotlight:**
Danielle Bergeron
- **Faculty Focus:**
Stephanie Block
- **Welcome to New Students!**
- **New PGSO Officers**
- **Dates to Remember**

"We must remember that one determined person can make a difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history."

-Sonia Johnson



The Community Connection

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Recognizing a Career of Excellence: Danielle Bergeron

By Maria McDuffie

This fall's spotlight alumna is Danielle Bergeron. She is a Lowell native who moved back after completing her undergraduate degree. The Community Social Psychology Master's program was a natural fit. She worked as a research assistant to Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities, Nina Coppens, who was then the head of the Psychology Department. Danielle Bergeron is now the President and CEO of the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, a position that involves helping members of the Lowell business community work collaboratively to produce initiatives that serve their shared interests.

Bergeron did her practicum at Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL). "We use [CSP principles] everyday." Practicing and learning the skills of building community partnerships helps her immensely in her career. Today, she still works closely with individuals she worked with during her practicum at COOL. "Lowell is known for its partnerships! You'll hear that throughout the program!" Currently, she is working and planning



Danielle Bergeron
CSP Class of 2007

with members of COOL on Lowell's Annual City of Lights Parade and Art Stroll to be held in November. "So, knowing that all the partnerships exist in Lowell, [CSP] has really helped me with that." Bergeron hopes "to grow the Chamber, and for people to see the Chamber as a resource." She has encouraged the business community to work together and sustain

their business using the CSP principles learned through the Master's program "People are amazed by how well people get along here."

"Never feel intimidated! Always know that you a lot of knowledge and experience to bring to the table." Right after she graduated she got involved with the Chamber of Commerce and sat on several boards, always speaking her mind and sharing insights gleaned, in part, from CSP. It is inspiring for current and prospective students to see CSP alumna making a difference and succeeding at work and in the community. Thank you Danielle for sharing your experience with us.

CSP Warmly Welcomes Stephanie Block

By Susie Paterson

Professor Stephanie Block didn't always know she wanted to teach. After graduating from Union College with a Bachelor's degree in psychology, she saw her life unfolding in a number of different ways. Dr. Block considered law school, becoming an expert witness in child maltreatment trials and working for the FBI before deciding that teaching at the university level would be her career choice. Right after graduation she applied, was accepted, and enrolled in the Developmental Psychology PhD program at the University of California at Davis.

After Stephanie completed her PhD, she spent three years at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill completing a post-doctoral fellowship. She concentrated her studies on interdisciplinary training, child maltreatment prevention, and children's memories. UMass Lowell is Stephanie's first teaching/research job after her post-doctoral training. She picked Lowell because

she feels there is a good balance between teaching and excellent research. This is a place Stephanie believes she can be truly productive. Since coming to the university, Dr. Block has been impressed with her students' willingness to participate in class and share their opinions. While Stephanie isn't currently teaching a class in CSP, she will be teaching a course in child maltreatment in the spring.

Stephanie has offered several pieces of advice to current and prospective CSP students. She encourages students to find a good mentor within the program, someone who matches their interests and can help guide them in their studies and career. Also, students should make connections in the community and reach out to alumnae. Networking is extremely important in finding resources and creating relationships. Most importantly, she advises students to expose themselves to a

Faculty Focus (continued from page 1)



Dr. Stephanie Block

variety of different options because a lot of careers aren't what people think they are. If students are looking to continue their education in psychology, they should also seek out research experience. Professor Block speaks from experience in all of these matters and encourages students to come talk to her, because she has lots of advice to share.

Stephanie currently lives in Wilmington with her husband, who is also a psychology professor. While she's not looking forward to the Massachusetts winters, she is excited about all that Lowell has to offer. We would like to give a warm welcome to Dr. Stephanie Block and look forward to her first Community Social Psychology class in the spring!

"I am passionate about Multicultural education and CSP can take me there."

-Pascale Jean-Jacques

"Community gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights."

-Pauline R. Kezer

Welcome to the New CSP Students

By Susie Paterson

The Psychology department is excited to welcome the incoming Community Social Psychology class of 2013. In this class, eighteen students are pursuing the CSP Master's and two are enrolled in the Family Studies Certificate program. The current cohort comes to UMass Lowell from all over the world, making it one of the biggest and most diverse in a long time.

Some of the countries represented by the current cohort are Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Haiti. One student, Gabi Silva Pinto, moved to Massachusetts three years ago to be an au pair after completing her undergraduate degree in psychology in Brazil. She decided to attend the program because, "it is very unique." She says that "there are no CSP-specific programs in Brazil," so she is excited to take the next step for her education in the United States.

There are also many students that come with an academic background in a field other than psychology. Pascale Jean-Jacques majored in Community Health here at UMass Lowell. She was attracted to the CSP Master's program because she is interested in multicultural

education and believes that this entails a strong focus on communities. She feels that this program "can take [her] there". Mirakel Mayoral majored in Communications at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is passionate about "the way people interact." Along the same lines, she is "interested in how community relates to the individual and vice-versa".

This CSP cohort has already begun to fit in well within the program. Hopefully, this sense of community will continue and be extended to the whole Lowell area.

Dates to Remember

Women's Works:

A Celebration of UML Women's Creativity
December 1st, 2011; 2pm-7pm
Contact cww@uml.edu

PGSO Collaborative Film Screening: Miss Representation

March, 2012
Location TBA

Lowell Women's Week

March 4th-March 12th, 2012
Throughout Lowell

Research and Community Research Symposium

April 24th, 2012;
University Inn and Conference Center (ICC)

Society for Prevention Research 20th Annual Meeting

May 29th-June 1st, 2012
Washington, D.C.

SCRA IV International Conference of Community Psychology

June 21st-June 23rd, 2012
Second call deadline; January 30th, 2012



Front Row, L-R: Pascale Jean-Jacques, Hemali Patel, Susie Paterson, Kristy Shockley, Hayley Armstrong, Hannah Johnson
Middle Row, L-R: Tracey Jackson, Mirakel Mayoral, Aysha Mirie, Kristen Viveiros, Marlene Abreu, Gineaud Louis
Back Row, L-R: Talita Pacheco, Jennifer Lindsay, Gloria Laboy, Gabi Silva Pinto, Alessandra Cecala, Nadine Sacco **Not Pictured:** David LeMay, Sheila Bober, Brian Bishop, Anne Velysia Henry

Meet the New Officers of the Psychology Graduate Student Organization

L-R:
Hannah Johnson, Senator
Marlene Abreu, Alt. Senator
Susie Paterson, President
Nadine Sacco, Treasurer
Kristi Shockley, Secretary
Hayley Armstrong, Vice President



Congratulations!!

Danielle Maria Carkin, as the First Female President
Maria McDuffie, as the Vice President,
Dan Bach as the Treasurer, and
Gabi Silva Pinto as the Secretary of the Graduate Student Association !!!