



PSSP Alumna Kimber Bogard

Kimber Bogard considers it her civic duty to make a difference and effect change. Right now, she has her sights on the poorest children in Haiti. Kimber, an expert in early childhood development, is imbued with a determination to use her experience to make a large long-lasting impact.

Working through a partnership she created with a Haitian-born physician, which works with a team of extraordinary professionals, she is seeking a better life for Haiti's children. This undertaking, which involves frequent trips to Haiti, is of course, in addition to her regular job and life with her own family.

In an interview, Kimber said that a defining moment was meeting Dr. Mila Gauvin, medical Director of Preferred Health Partners in Brooklyn. They met through their daughters, who attended the same school in New York. When they found they shared similar beliefs and had complementary expertise, in 2009 they formed a partnership to help children in Haiti, one of the world's

From New York City to Haiti: A PSSP Alumna changing the lives of children

poorest and least developed countries. They identified the critical needs as health care, nutrition and education and decided upon an integrated model of high quality schooling and health service delivery that is sustainable and replicable. Through their nonprofit organization, called Partners for a Bright and Healthy Haiti, they seek to work across borders and sectors to enable currently underserved Haitian children to become bright and healthy citizens of the world.

The organization works on a simple concept – children cannot learn if they are hungry or unhealthy. Kimber envisions a new generation of Haitians who think globally and act locally, something that the current educational system cannot foster.

Kimber has made many visits to Haiti in the last year, visiting schools, health clinics and hospitals and meeting with people and organizations that

can support the operation of their partnership. Fluent in French, Kimber has been able to speak with children and parents to learn first-hand about their needs. With the strong input of Mila, they are adapting their model of a school/health clinic to the culture and practices of Haiti's people.

The January earthquake increased the urgency of the work. Fifty percent of Haiti's schools were rendered useless and health care needs have risen significantly. While Kimber and Mila at first were hurrying to develop schools and open operation in a tent if need be, they realized time was needed to create

Continued on page three

During her March visit to Haiti, Kimber Bogard photographed children and families from an orphanage in Jacmel, a city highly impacted by the January earthquake. Partners for a Bright and Healthy Haiti intend to replicate their school/health clinic model in Jacmel. (more photos on page three)



A view from the

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

by Elaine M. Walsh, Ph.D.



In every issue of *News & Views*, we highlight the career and public service achievements of alumni. In this issue, we chose to capture more detail from alumni to better illustrate their successes and give justice to their public service work. We applaud their efforts and commitment to the field.

Our alumna Kimber Bogard, featured on the cover, defines public service. She has had an unwavering focus on making an impact in the early childhood development field to help all children thrive. Her motivation to give back and use her years of education and training to improve the lives of Haitian children makes me proud to call her an alumnae. I am thrilled to feature her on our cover as an exemplary public servant, doing her civic duty, as you will read in the article.

We also highlight alumnae Susan Chin, Sophia Clark and Amarilys Estrella on pages four and five. These women have

found their niche in the public sector and are making a difference professionally and through service efforts. Kimber, Susan, Sophia and Amarilys are examples of why our program continues to be important and relevant to the future of our communities. Our society is better off because of these women.

On page seven, I am happy to share with you key findings from our recent alumni survey. This tool is yet another way to see the success of the program model as alumni report the influence we had on their career achievements in the public sector. It is my hope that more alumni will reinvest their time in the program and volunteer as mentors, guest speakers or join our advisory board. Their shared experiences are invaluable to our current class of scholars.

As this newsletter goes to print and the program year ends, the public service careers of our 2010 scholars are

beginning to flourish. Five scholars have been hired by their placement agencies and will begin contributing as employees this summer. Six scholars will pursue graduate degrees in law, social work, education, urban planning and anthropology in the fall. This past year's cohort is leaving the program with a stronger work ethic, self-confidence and assurance of their career path and goals.

I remain very thankful to all of our donors, many of whom are alumnae. On page six, I am honored to acknowledge every individual, organization and foundation that made a donation to support our scholars since June 2009. Your contribution is an investment in a generation determined to find a new way serving the community. Our program prospers due to our supporters, mentors, agency partners and dedicated faculty. Thank you.

DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION

The Public Service Scholar Program, a leadership program, seeks to improve our cities and the lives of people by preparing talented undergraduates for careers in the public and nonprofit sectors. Housed in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College, the 18-credit, full academic year program gives these students, especially women and minority-group members, an opportunity to explore public service through internships in government agencies, legislative offices and nonprofit organizations. Scholars participate in academic seminars on city government and public policy. The PSSP receives external funds to support the program, including funding for stipends for our scholars. Without this help, our students could not participate. Major funding for the PSSP is provided through the generosity of the Ann S. Kheel Charitable Fund, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, the Estate of Dorothy Epstein, and the United Way of New York City, along with generous support from New York Assembly Members Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Micah Z. Kellner, Deborah Glick, Richard N. Gottfried, and Brian P. Kavanagh, New York State Senator Liz Krueger, and New York State Senator Eric Schneiderman.

From NYC to Haiti

Continued from front cover

a full-service school providing health, nutrition, and education services. They plan to create the first of their projected three schools in Port-au-Prince in the summer of 2011. They will work to improve the model in terms of quality and cost effectiveness and then replicate it twice. A research project will be part of the model and the results should encourage replication throughout Haiti and in other countries.

It is a vast project and Kimber is thankful to the more than 50 professionals from various disciplines – they live in the United States and elsewhere – who are contributing to the organization and making suggestions about the model. Everyone involved is a volunteer, including Kimber and Mila. They will soon strategically approach foundations identified as prospective partners in the development and growth of the organization.

When asked why she is undertaking such a monumental project, Kimber says it is her civic duty. “I have trained much of my life to do just this,” she says. “It is the duty of anyone with the educational and career experience such as mine to inform policy.” It is not a choice, Kimber believes, but her responsibility.

When Kimber began her undergraduate education at Hunter College in 1995, she

knew her career path would be in early childhood development. It was not until her time in the Public Service Scholar Program and through her internship at Child Care, Inc. (this later became Center for Children's Initiatives) that she realized her ability to influence policy and affect the lives of many children would depend on working at the intersection of research, policy and practice.

Kimber pursued this track with vigor, acquiring the education and experience to get closer to her goal of changing risk trajectories for underserved children. She obtained multiple degrees in psychology, most recently a Ph.D. in applied developmental psychology from Fordham University. She has won such esteemed awards such as a fellowship from the Clark Foundation to work full-time in a nonprofit organization while completing a master of arts degree. She was a graduate fellow and Putting Children First Fellow, awards given by the Foundation for Child Development while she was at the Teachers College at Columbia University. She was honored with the Presidential Scholarship at Fordham, which covers all tuition costs for her Ph.D.

Now working as the associate director of the Institute of Human Development and Social Change at New York University, Kimber facilitates grant proposals for faculty affiliates concerning the community, and generates research proposals involving early childhood

education and race and ethnicity. She is also a consultant to organizations, such as Yale University Schools of the 21st Century and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, that seek assistance with program development or research strategies to improve education for children. She somehow finds time to lend her support and expertise as an advisory board member for the nonprofit organization Homes for the Homeless, in addition to serving as a board member at the Center for Children's Initiatives.

Kimber is a mother of two young children. Her family is her priority, thus she is challenged with balancing work, service efforts and family. She explains that the key to her juggling act is staying organized on a daily basis and carving out uninterrupted time adequate for the different tasks outside the home. Her family takes precedence. Through her other activities, she says, she hopes to instill values of philanthropy in her children so that they grow up to be global citizens.

In her interview, Kimber made it a point to explain that her experience as a Public Service Scholar first showed her how policy could influence many children and have a large-scale impact on lives. This realization helped define her dual career path and has led to her work in Haiti and vision of offering the PBHH model to the world.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Making an impact in public service



Amarilys Estrella '06

Amarilys Estrella says her defining moment came when she was a Public Service Scholar working as an intern at the American Jewish World Service. She had the opportunity to work with a woman who had faced threats in her home country because she had publicly challenged a multi-national corporation on the ground it was exploiting her community's natural resources. She was forced to seek asylum in the United States. Amarilys spent many days discussing how to raise awareness of the issues faced by her community. Amarilys says she remembers wondering how this woman had "the will and strength to continue to fight for her community's rights under such adversity." At that moment, she knew she would devote her life to the field of human rights.



PSSP Alumna Amarilys Estrella presenting at a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) intergenerational youth forum

Amarilys is thrilled to continue working with the American Jewish World Service; she has been promoted three times since her experience as a scholar four years ago. She is dedicated to the organization because, she says, it "truly believes that marginalized communities can be powerful agents of change and development when mobilized from within." Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, her organization fosters civil societies, sustainable development and human rights for all

people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship in the Jewish community.

After graduating from Hunter College, she accepted a grants-administrator position at her organization, becoming responsible for managing international grants and the transferring of money to 36 countries. In 2008, she was promoted to manager of the grants department, with a budget of over \$15 million. In March 2010, Amarilys became the program officer overseeing grants in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Her work includes coordinating technical assistance opportunities for grantees, helping to establish grant-making policies in the region, and collaborating with other programs, including advocacy, volunteer service programs and communications.

With a job in hand after graduating from Hunter, Amarilys had to determine the direction of her career. She wanted to pursue international issues and enrolled in a graduate program for a master of arts in Latin America and Caribbean studies. She expects to earn this degree this year. Working full-time and pursuing a graduate degree has presented challenges, but Amarilys says the graduate program "has made a clear difference in my ability to take on my new position" in her job.

"It is difficult to imagine my career path having turned out this way without the support of the Public Service Scholar Program," Amarilys says. "Coming from a low-income home, I had to work and go to school. The program offered me an opportunity to get hands-on experience while being financially supportive. I would not have been able to participate in such a program without this support."

Sophia Clark '96

Sophia Clark's public service work took off when she was an undergraduate at Hunter College. She viewed the Public Service Scholar Program as an opportunity to mesh her desire to pursue a law career with public service work and was not disappointed. She is now a lawyer and has not stopped volunteering since her time in the program.



PSSP Alumna Sophia Clark

Sophia says she often jokes that she is "too poor to save the world." She wants to do more service work, but carving out time is a constant challenge in her hectic schedule as Assistant General Counsel for the Atlanta public school system. She provides legal services that the schools need, such as assistance with contracts, real estate, employment and lawsuits.

Sophia wishes she had realized earlier in her life the opportunities available to her. "Unfortunately," she says, "I did not realize that I, a little black girl from the South Bronx housing projects, could be a lawyer. I was in my twenties, a college drop-out, when I decided to return to school for my bachelors degree with the intent of going straight to law school. Before that time, I was working as a bookkeeping clerk for a law firm when I realized I did not have to be the clerk - I could be the lawyer."

Continued on page five

Alumni Spotlight

Continued from previous page

PSSP mentor, the late Florence Belsky, was especially influential during Sophia's time in the program. Florence was an attorney and encouraged Sophia's law career. Sophia says of Florence: "It was very inspiring to have such a successful lawyer as a mentor just as I was starting my law school journey." Sophia remembers Florence championing the importance of public service work and says "she was never too busy to do some good."

Sophia loves her service work in Georgia. She sits on the board of directors of Georgia CASA, which represents indigent children in legal proceedings. She has also served as a guardian ad litem, which provides opportunities to work directly with kids in need. Before moving to Georgia with her husband, Sophia was heavily involved in volunteer work while she was in school. In New York City, she was an ombudsperson for the NYC Public Advocate, helping citizens resolve legal issues and maneuver through bureaucratic mazes. She has served as a mentor for high school students, a clerk intern for the New York City civil court, a campaign fellow for United Way and a college recruiter for Hunter.

When she moved to Washington State in 1997 to attend Seattle University Law School, her public service work grew. She became president of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Women's Caucus and helped organize clothing and food drives for the homeless and women's shelters. She moved back to New York City in 2003 and pursued a master of arts in corporate communication. She landed in Georgia, her husband's home state.

Sophia is committed to public service work and believes that "while hands-on work is always an excellent option, there is a lot of good work to be done behind the scenes." "For instance," she says, "while I am no longer making home visits

to my CASA clients, I perform a ton of pro bono legal work for the organization." She offers advice to current and future scholars, and anyone interested in public service: "When considering performing charitable work, take on small projects. If you can't commit to a time-consuming position on the executive board, perhaps you can commit to a one-day event. Every little bit helps."

Susan Chin '94

In 15 years of lobbying, Susan Chin has learned the importance of relationships. To current scholars, she offers this advice: "Public service is all about relationship building." Susan experienced this firsthand during her time as a PSSP scholar. She continues: "Never give up on your work. Someone will notice." This has served her well as she fights for the rights of New York City workers in her job as assistant director of the Political Action Committee of District Council 37, New York City's largest public employee union.



PSSP Alumna Susan Chin

Susan wanted to be a lawyer when she began her undergraduate education at Hunter College. She switched her goal after an experience interning in Washington. Susan was one of 12 CUNY students accepted by the university's internship program, a summer placement in the office of an elected official. In her post, she researched federal legislation for constituents and learned about

Supreme Court decisions and bills that affect New York City. She left Washington determined on a career in politics.

After graduating from Hunter with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Susan accepted a position in a small private lobbying organization focused on legal services and labor unions. She remained there less than two years before starting as a political and legislative analyst for District Council 37. Seven years later, she took her present position, where she has remained for eight years. She is a lobbyist at City Hall, representing such city employees as school nurses, librarians, clerical workers and 911 operators. Her concerns, on behalf of these workers, are workplace safety, employee benefits and worker compensation and fair treatment. Susan fights city proposals for layoffs to balance budgets and maintains a strong focus on budget cuts that would affect job security.

Despite what many believe, lobbying isn't all glamour, according to Susan. She says: "My first experience lobbying at City Hall was anything but glamorous. That day, the doors were only open to elected representatives. I was stuck outside on the steps of City Hall, waiting on representatives in rainy, cold weather."

Susan works long hours, especially during campaigns, and often works through weekends. She loves what she does, emphasizing that anyone who does what she does has to love the job. "You don't get immediate pay-offs and legislation can take years to pass," Susan continues. "The job is rewarding, though. I know that the union members appreciate my efforts to make sure their benefits are intact or that they can look forward to a comfortable retirement. At the end of the day, my work positively affects our members and their families."

THANK YOU

Our program thrives because of you



Thank you for helping us open doors and create opportunities for our next generation of public service leaders. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the following friends of the Public Service Scholar Program during June 1, 2009 - May 1, 2010.

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*We sincerely apologize for anyone we may not
have included. Please contact our Program
Office if you were not acknowledged.vv*



**Public Service
Scholar Program**

2010 Program Scholars celebrate a year of accomplishments

Friends, family members, significant others, supervisors, alumni, mentors and city representatives gathered on May 10th in the New York City Hall Council Chambers to commend the 2010 Public Service Scholars for their fellowship year in public service. Twenty-three scholars leave the Public Service Scholar Program focused on a meaningful career path and empowered to make a difference.



2010 Public Service Scholars

New York City Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz, keynote speaker, gave appreciation for the Public Service Scholar Program's influence in developing leaders for the city. Addressing the Scholars, he emphasized the importance of finding work that is rewarding and intentionally

designed to create positive change. Scholars also received accolades from long time supporter of the program, New York City Council Member Gale Brewer, who invited members of the City Council Committee on Higher Education to share their experiences serving the community. City Council Members Charles Barron,

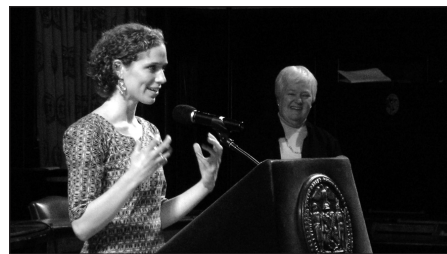
Ydanis Rodriguez and Jumaane D. Williams spoke about their shared background in community organizing and the importance of staying connected to the people you represent.

A most deserving alumnae, Alicia Noel, received the Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award. This recognition honored Alicia's many years of dedication and commitment to scholars. For the past two years, Alicia communicated regularly with her mentees via Skye, an internet phone service, while living in Beijing.

Congratulations to this year's cohort of talented individuals for a year of hard work and unwavering commitment to succeeding in the program.



New York City Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz



PSSP Scholar Martha Demos, accepting the Outstanding Mentor of the Year Award for Alicia Noel



New York City Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

Alumni survey shows strong public service commitment

The Public Service Scholar Program continues to be a vigorous source of people entering jobs in the public sector. In January 2010, the program surveyed approximately 500 alumni in a continuing effort to gauge their career and educational achievements. Nearly 25 percent of alumni have so far responded, and this group includes members from the first cohort, in 1982, up to the most recent graduating class of scholars.

The results show a strong alumni presence entering and remaining in the public sector. Since graduating from Hunter College, 91.4 percent of respondents have been or are currently working in a public or nonprofit

organization. Nearly 100 percent indicated some form of civic engagement such as board membership, activity in political campaigns, volunteer work with vulnerable populations and mentoring.

The Public Service Scholar Program received high approval ratings in all areas surveyed, including career development, preparation for responsible citizenship and personal growth. Eighty-two percent responded that the program motivated them to seek a career in public service and 72.5 percent credited the program with helping their entrance into a chosen profession. The program was interested to learn that 75.6 percent of respondents would not have participated in the program without the stipend. This

information highlights once again the financial challenges scholars face and reinforces the importance of the program's design, which enables students to pursue a public service leadership development program while meeting their financial obligations.

We want to hear from all PSSP alumni! The survey remains open and all alumni are encouraged to share their career and educational information. Please email our program office at pssp07@hunter.cuny.edu to receive the email link and survey instructions.

Where are Public Service Scholar Program Alumni?

Ronald W. Schulman • '85

Principal, Best Development Group, LLC

Christina Nida • '90

Attorney, Nida Law LLC, New Jersey

Agnieszka Borecka • '00

Graduate Student (Sept. '10), University of Westminster in London

Eleanor Velasquez • '02

First Year Law Student,
Fordham Law School

Christina Yan • '05

Director, Alumni Relations for K-12,
San Francisco

Luisiana Baez • '06

Program Associate,
National Urban Fellows

Leandro Delgado • '09

Graduate Student (Sept. '10),
Harvard Law School

Jean Fischman • '10

Community Liaison, Office of
Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner
(beginning June 2010)

We aim to highlight and include information about all Public Service Scholar alumni in our newsletters. Please email PSSP07@hunter.cuny.edu with your current address, work and educational status and any other information you want us to know.

Thank you!



Public Service Scholar Program

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