

# Danielle Bero wins Pepper Prize



PHOTO BY BRIAN MASON

Danielle Bero '07 was chosen by her peers and professors as the student who most represents the Lafayette ideal.

BY ADRIANE MARCELLUS

For Danielle Bero '07, a native of Queens, New York, coming to Lafayette was a culture shock. Although she had been informed by the Posse Scholar program that life at Lafayette would be very different from her

city environment, it was not until she arrived at

Lafayette that a lack of cross-cultural interaction hit her.

Bero said she recognized this divide and quickly began working to build a greater community both on and off campus — efforts that led to her recognition as this year's George Wharton Pepper Prize winner. She said she has tried to make Lafayette a more accepting, open, and well-in-

formed place.

Taking her quest for openness into her own hands — and mouth, for that matter — Bero co-founded Writing Organization Reaching Dynamic Students, better known as W.O.R.D.S., an open microphone forum for student expression. She said the regu-

larly occurring event has drawn increasing in-

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*- Danielle Bero '07*

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terest from students who use the space to recite poetry and speak out about controversial topics.

Bero also took advantage of already established activist groups, becoming a member in the organizations Questioning Established Sexual Taboos and the Multicultural Women's Support Group.

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# Bero sees improvement, room to grow for diversity

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Recognizing a need for the college's resources in the Easton community, Bero began working with the Landis Community Outreach Center to help start programs such as Teens In the Community and Teen Moms, both organizations that cater to the specific needs of teens living in the area.

She said her most rewarding time at Lafayette has been work-

willing to engage in dialogue and show up for organized and important events."

Although Bero said Lafayette has come a long way in the time she has been here, she still believes there are many changes that still need to happen. Bero did not take responsibility for the transformation, stating, "I don't think one person can do it, I think a big group needs to make change."

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She recommends that underclassmen and future students who want to make change get involved in outreach orga-

nizations. In particular, one of her favorite experiences was when she brought the teens to perform in a talent show in the Farinon Student Center last month. She said the event was memorable not only because she could see how much fun the kids were having, but also because it was a way to introduce them to a positive college atmosphere. "It helps them see [college] can be a reality," she said.

She said she is grateful Lafayette has provided her with so many opportunities. She said she appreciates Lafayette's small size because it is easier to impact change. "Whatever you want to happen here, the resources are there for you to do it," she said.

Although Bero was initially struck by the lack of diversity and community outreach at Lafayette, in her four years here, she said she has seen change. Bero said she believes just by looking at the Farinon atrium during lunch, she can see that the college has become more culturally diverse. Now, she said, "people are more

She explained one of the problems the college has faced is that the same students are the only ones who come to events.

Bero plans to continue her service by teaching high school English in Indonesia on a Fulbright Scholarship. Later on, she said she hopes to make W.O.R.D.S. an international association.

## Corrections

In the April 27 issue, in the article *Standout art show and tell*, Senior Terese Brown's thesis was incorrectly quoted as studying black faces in Japanese sub-cultures. She is actually studying "Blackfacers [within] the Japanese hip-hop subculture."

*The Lafayette regrets this error.*