

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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The Fund for Advocacy, Leadership, & Social Justice

Central to social work practice is the ability to be an effective advocate, particularly in times of scarce resources. Creative and skillful leadership is crucial for human service organizations to design and implement programs that address community needs and well-being. Both advocacy and leadership are informed by and inspired by the value of social justice. Each of these qualities—advocacy, leadership, and social justice—will be significantly advanced by a new endowed Fund. This Fund, created by alumna Kate Pew Wolters, will support elective courses on advocacy and leadership, continuing education workshops, specialized field placements, guest lectures for the School and broader professional community, and targeted research projects. All aspects of our program will benefit from this gift and from the focus on these themes that are central to our mission.

Effective **advocacy** is a central skill for all social workers, whether their concentration is in clinical or community and organizational practice. Advocacy is a theme in our MSW social policy classes where students identify an advocacy project. This Fund

will promote advanced educational opportunities, broader training, and the goal of equipping each student to be an effective advocate.

Each graduate of the MSU School of Social Work should have their **leadership** qualities identified, deepened, and expanded. We have a tradition of preparing social workers for a variety of leadership roles—some very visible and some quietly effective. The role of leadership in recruiting and retaining workers and building organizations that can provide ethical and effective services is essential. This Fund will support activities to advance leadership skills for students and, through continuing education, for alumni.

Social Work's commitment to **social justice** attracted some national scrutiny in the past year, resulting in a reaffirmation of the importance of justice as a value for our profession and our democracy. Advocacy is motivated by a commitment to assist vulnerable citizens and communities. Leadership is characterized by responsiveness to human need and a commitment to fairness. Our history celebrates, and this Fund will enable us to significantly affirm, the value of social justice. **S**

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THE FUND FOR
ADVOCACY
LEADERSHIP
& SOCIAL JUSTICE

Empowering. Inspiring & Advancing

Central to social work practice is the ability to be an effective advocate, particularly in times of scarce resources.



Gary R. Anderson

It's my privilege to serve

Dear Alumni and Friends of the MSU School of Social Work:

This summer, I accepted the offer from Dr. Marietta Baba, dean of the College of Social Science, to serve a third five-year term as director of the School. I had the privilege of beginning at MSU in the Fall of 1998; every five years, directors are evaluated and reviewed with the option of continuing or ending one's term, depending on the outcome of that review, the dean's goals and plans, and the director's intentions.

I am grateful and pleased to be able to serve the School and our great extended community of agencies, alumni and friends for five more years. It is a pleasure to work with the faculty and staff, with terrific students, with alumni, and with the network of agencies and organizations that support social work education and human services across the state. It is an exciting and humbling opportunity to continue in this role. The School has been served well by a number of prominent and dedicated leaders.

The first leader of the School of Social Work, as it was being defined and gained initial accreditation and recognition, was **Ernest Harper** (1944-1959). The second director of the School was **Gordon Aldridge** (1960-1966), and his memory is honored through two endowments established by a former student. **Daniel O'Keefe** was director for one year (1966-1967). **Gwen Andrew** served as acting director (1967-1968) and then served as director (1969-1975) before moving on to a series of deanships at MSU. Gwen's generosity to the School continued after her retirement as she created a number of endowed lectureships and research funds. Director Andrew was followed by two

acting directors, **William Padberg** (1975-1976) and **Joseph Miller** (1976-1977). **Fred Cox** served as director from 1976-1981. After Director Cox's term, **Thomas Ruhala** served as acting director for two years (1981-1983). In 1983, **Nancy Humphreys** became director and served one term until 1987. **John Herrick** served as acting director for two years (1987-1988 and 1990-1991) around **Roland Mienert's** service (1988-1990). After John's second stint as acting director, **Diane Levande** served as acting director (1991-1992). Her service was followed by **Marilyn Flynn** (1992-1997). When Director Flynn left MSU, **John Herrick** served as acting director (1997-1998) for the third time. And thanks to John for this historical account!

I want to acknowledge the tremendous dedication and leadership that has built our School over these past decades.

I came to MSU in the Fall of 1998, after fifteen years at Hunter College School of Social Work in New York City. For me, it has in many ways been coming home as I was born in Sparrow Hospital when my father, having returned from World War II, was a student in the MSU College of Social Science!

Living up to the high standards of Social Work ethics and values, and the promise and potential of Michigan State University, is daunting and exciting. I have appreciated the support, encouragement and kindness of so many students, faculty, staff, alumni, other University colleagues, and friends. I am looking forward to the challenging days ahead and am grateful to serve as director of the MSU School of Social Work. Thank you.

—Dr. Gary Anderson, Director

Koehler Endowed Clinical Professor in Children's Services named

Dr. **Victoria Fitton** has been named the first Ruth Koehler Endowed Clinical Professor in Children's Services. This position was established in honor of our esteemed colleague **Ruth Koehler**, who was a master teacher and clinician, and will support the School's mission of advancing knowledge and practice in the area

of clinical work with children through teaching, research, continuing education, and student mentoring. This new faculty position was established shortly before her death by **Dr. Gwen Andrew**, who originally joined the MSU School of Social Work in 1966 as associate professor, ultimately serving as director before going on to serve the University

in many leadership roles. This is a further step along the path to making the MSU School of Social Work the premiere institution for social work education for clinical work with children and their families. **S**



Victoria Fitton

Michigan Child Welfare Resource Center

The MSU School of Social Work is proud to announce the Michigan Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC), established in July to assist the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) in its quest to improve programs, policy, practice, and outcomes for children and families. The CWRC's director is **Jim Hennessey**, whose long career in child welfare includes consultation and policy work, and who most recently served as director of Children's Services for DHS, where he directed Michigan's programs for child protection, home- and community-based services, foster care and residential services, adoption and adoption subsidy.

The CWRC is part of a creative and pioneering relationship among three partners: Michigan DHS, Casey Family Programs and Michigan State University. Its mission is to provide research and planning assistance for development of an expanded service array, child welfare practice framework, implementation of continuous improvement in child welfare systems, decreasing disproportionate representation of children of color in the system, and a number of other program improvements through education and training, research and evaluation, and technical assistance.



Jim Hennessey

During its short period of operation, the CWRC has already begun to coordinate MSU resources to help DHS meet its child welfare improvement needs. Much of this revolves around the settlement agreement DHS entered with Children's Rights that mandates major improvements in training, service array and accessibility, caseload and supervisory ratios, worker and supervisory qualifications, program and agency management, and automation.

Projects to date include a package of in-service training courses that meet immediate needs for expanding training opportunities for its staff, developing draft policies, procedures, forms and training to assist DHS with implementation of a new program that provides permanent legal guardianship and a guardianship subsidy for children needing legal permanency when adoption is not an option, and assisting DHS in developing competency-based evaluation and testing that was implemented for foster care workers on a trial basis in November.

The School anticipates entering into collaborative relationships with other Michigan BSW and MSW programs with regard to child welfare curriculum competencies as well as research and evaluation. **S**

Maximizing Educational Opportunities for Youth in Care (MEOYC)

First annual foster child summer camp program

Eighteen high school students from Albion, Detroit, and Lansing currently being served in Michigan's foster care system attended a three-day camp

last August. Funded by grants from University Outreach and Engagement and Michigan Campus Compact, Associate Professor **John Seita** and Research Specialist **Angelique Day**—



John Seita



Angelique Day

both alumni of the foster care system—developed this program to assist youth in foster care to transition from high school to college. Program support also came from the Department of Human Services, YouthVille Detroit, and several other campus departments.

Former foster care youth achieve high school graduation at a rate that

is significantly below that of young people who have never lived in foster care, and of those who do graduate from high school, fewer than 10% enroll and graduate from college. In spite of low participation in college, over 70% of youth in foster care aspire to go to college.

Students received instruction on budgeting, time management, housing, admission and scholarships, and learned about various campus social life and volunteer opportunities, and other nonacademic campus resources such as health care and counseling. **S**

HIV prevention intervention in Wayne County

Tina Timm is a co-investigator for the MSU Families and Communities Together (FACT) grant entitled *Adapting FIO to Youth at Risk of HIV*. This project will adapt an HIV intervention program (FIO—The Future Is Ours) to make it culturally, psychosexually, and developmentally appropriate and meaningful for high-risk sexual minority adolescent girls. Project FIO is listed by the US Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a “best-evidence intervention.” These interventions are considered to be scientifically rigorous and to provide the strongest evidence of efficacy. FIO uses interactive sessions with small groups of women with the goal of reducing unsafe sexual encounters.

This grant is a collaborative partnership between the MSU Department of Psychology (Robin Lin Miller, principal investigator), the School of Social Work, and the Ruth Ellis Center. The Ruth Ellis Center provides short-term and long-term services for gay, lesbian, bi-attractional, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth in Wayne County, MI, which has the highest rate of HIV infection among African American adolescents in the state. The Center serves youth ages 12-25, most of whom are African American. The majority of youth accessing the Center are homeless and runaway youth, making them particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, drug use, and exposure to violence. Poverty, school drop-out and failure, and inadequate health care access are chronic conditions. There have been 25 pregnancies, and 19 live births to Center youth who made routine use of the services in the prior three years, a clear indication that the young women engage in unprotected sexual intercourse.

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Tina Timm

Families & Community Together (FACT) Grants

Research project recognizes community partners

January 2009 marks the third year of a pilot research project to develop and test psychoeducation groups for children of a parent with a psychiatric disability. According to Assistant Professor and Primary Investigator **Joanne Riebschleger**, “The project began with pilot funding from the MSU Families and Community Together (FACT) program, and it really did turn out to be a collaboration among families and communities. But especially, there was a tremendously positive collaboration among MSU researchers and our community partners. They helped in all aspects of the work.”



Joanne Riebschleger

A number of community colleagues and their sponsoring agencies merit special thanks from Riebschleger and her University co-investigators **Betty Tableman** (MSU Outreach), **Esther Onaga** (Family & Child Ecology), and **Peg Whalen** (Social Work). Shiawassee Community Mental Health (CMH) and Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health served as pilot sites for the project. Group leaders included **Brandi Kreisler** and **Jessica Semke** (Shiawassee CMH), as well as **Karen Amon** (Touchstone Services, contract provider for Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health).

Project Advisory Committee members met quarterly to provide technical assistance and support. The members are: **Cathy Adams**, Clinton-Eaton-Ingham CMH; **Ellen Albrecht**, Bay Arenac Behavioral Health; **Mary Leutke**, Michigan Department of Community Health, Children’s Mental Health Services; **Craig Hause**, Shiawassee CMH; **Sandy Kammer**, St. Clair County CMH; **Richard Osburn**, Northern Lakes CMH; and **Amy Winans**, Association for Children’s Mental Health. Community partners continue to contribute to future research and grants that build on the pilot data collected from 2006 to 2009. **S**

The goal of the FACT grant is to adapt and evaluate this innovative HIV prevention intervention for African American adolescent girls who are bisexually active. Although adolescent African American girls are at highest risk of exposure to HIV among all female adolescents, and bisexual girls are at especially high risk, no interventions are currently available for this population. This feasibility and acceptability study will be the first systematic research effort to document risk among these youth and develop an HIV prevention intervention for them. **S**

Social support, technology, and older adults

Computers and technology are well-established in most of our work lives today. In fact in 2005, NASW and the Association of Social Work Boards released *Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice*, essentially stating that quality ethical professional social work practice in the 21st Century requires that practitioners know how to use technology appropriately in serving their clients and work to assist their clients in obtaining relevant technology resources to assist themselves.

Despite these standards, there are no tested service delivery models for combining technology with traditional social work services. A new project in the School is addressing this challenge.

With funding from a FACT (Families and Communities Together) grant,

Paul Freddolino, **Amanda Woodward**, and **Tina Blaschke** from the School and **Frank Komara** from Osteopathic Medicine, in partnership with the Otsego County Commission on Aging (OCCOA) in Gaylord, are assessing how well information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as using computers, e-mail, and web-based resources, can be merged into a coherent intervention, and whether this approach is effective at improving the social networks and quality of life of older adults.

Working closely with **Dona Wishart** at OCCOA, the team has hired **Mary Fox** as the on-site technology program coordinator to direct on-the-ground implementation of the project. **Jack Thompson** (University Center of Gaylord) and **Linda Cronk** (MSU Extension) serve on the core advisory committee, and the project is working closely with the Michigan Communities for a Lifetime Program, a community-based effort to make Gaylord an “aging friendly” community.

The pilot program builds individual plans to improve clients’ computer self-efficacy and ICT knowledge and skills from their current level through: (1) providing a minimum platform for Internet usage, including hardware, software, and ISP as needed; (2) instruction in elementary computer skills and a range of software; and (3) linking with other clients, peers in the community, and family and friends, both nearby and distant.

Drawn from respondents to a survey of all adults over age 60 in Otsego County, 50 older adults have been randomly assigned to the program and another 50 to a control group. A kick-off event for program participants took place in Gaylord on October 9. Measurement of key



Paul Freddolino



Amanda Woodward



Tina Blaschke

Families & Community Together (FACT) Grants

outcomes (loneliness, depression, quality of life, residential independence, perceived social support, and social network structure) will occur every three months to permit ongoing assessment of changes over time within each client, as well as across clients and groups.

This exploratory project will illuminate potential barriers to the implementation of technology-related social work services, and it will provide some initial suggestions as to what types of older adult clients may benefit most from technology-related assistance to build and support networks of families and friends. If the results are promising, funding will be sought to expand the research statewide. **S**

School well-represented at Meeting of the Profession

MSU School of Social Work had many connections to our state’s Meeting of the Profession, the NASW-Michigan Chapter Annual Conference held in Lansing last May:

Keynote speaker: **Dr. Nancy Humphreys**, former director of the MSU School of Social Work

Plenary speaker: **Robert Sheehan**, clinical instructor
Stabenow Political Leadership Award: **Terry Brown** (MSW 1983)
Student Leadership in Diversity Award: **Emily Proctor**

Workshops were presented by members of our School community:

Ama Agyemang, **Brian Ahmedani**, **Gary Anderson**, **Vince Coraci**, **Suzanne Cross**, **Victoria Fitton**, **Ashley Harding**, **Rena Harold**, **Robert Hock**, **James Loree**, **Julia Lyskawa**, **Leona Mickles-Burns**, **Emily Proctor**, **Danielle Rudder**, **Erica Shifflet-Gibson**, **Tina Timm**, and **Peg Whalen**

Erica Shifflet-Gibson is also NASW-MI president and served on the conference committee.

Recruitment & Retention of Child Welfare Workers

Regardless of practice models or evidence-based interventions, human service agencies require a highly skilled, ethical and dedicated workforce. Retaining a high-performing workforce is determined by multiple factors. Chief among them, from the perspective of the front-line worker, is the quality of a supervisor's leadership. A five-year federally-funded project at MSU School of Social Work, which concluded this Fall, worked to answer key questions of recruiting and retaining a competent and dedicated child welfare workforce.

The project had three components:

Assessment: Studies included: (1) an in-depth interview with 23 experienced and highly-regarded front line workers and supervisors, asking what influenced them to stay in child welfare and helped them be resilient and effective; (2) a longitudinal study of several hundred BSW and MSW students, asking what factors encouraged or discouraged a career in child welfare; (3) a survey of over 170 agency middle managers and supervisors to discover the competencies needed in these roles rated in order of importance; and (4) a survey of Department of Human Services (DHS) employees who had gained an MSW through the Title IV-E program. Results will be posted on our website soon—www.socialwork.msu.edu/outreach.

Curriculum: This retention-focused supervisory curriculum included six workbooks: (1) Role of Leaders; (2) Retention-Focused Supervision; (3) Working with Differences; (4) Communication Skills; (5) Focusing on the First Six Months; and (6) Recruiting and Selecting the Right Staff. It was tested at four agencies (Catholic Charities of Shiawasee & Genesee Counties, Judson Center, Spaulding for Children, and St. Vincent Catholic Charities), built into our Continuing Education program, delivered at numerous conferences, used by the Detroit Community Mental Health agencies, and downloaded from our website by administrators from more than 25 states. All workbooks are available on our website. We encourage wide usage, but use must include acknowledgment of the authors, the School, and the federal funding.

Special initiatives: These included studying agency culture and the link between field placements and employment; we partnered with a DHS county to develop retention strategies, consulted with individual agencies, and did much more.

One hallmark of this project was our wonderful partnership—an effective cross-organizational team.

The workbooks created through this five-year grant have received national attention.

Our key partners were Michigan DHS and leaders from the Child Welfare Training Institute, **Cindy Ahmad** and **Chris Durocher**, plus encouragement and support from **Kathyrne O'Grady**, **Carol Siemon**, **Donna Mullins**, **Jim Nye**, **Sue Leahy**, **Dawn Callahan**, and others.

One principal partner was the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, with consistent support from former director **Elizabeth Carey** and present director **Janet Reynolds Snyder**. We give special thanks to **Rose Homa** and acknowledge the assistance of **Jenny Crichton**.

Essential to our success were three leaders and trainers: **Jeff Roley** (Eagle Village), **Vito Lentini** (Wedgwood) and **Sean de Four** (Judson Center). Other key personnel included **Margaret Frausto** and **Marn Myers** (Judson Center), **Deb McCormack** (Catholic Charities West Michigan), **Addie Williams** and **Kris Henneman** (Spaulding for Children), **Fran Cook** and **Andrea Seyka** (St. Vincent Catholic Charities), and **Margaret Warner**, **Ken Visser**, **Dorothy Butler** and others at Oakland County DHS. We would also like to thank **Ann Segall** (Wayne County CMH) and acknowledge **Jake Terpstra**.

The principal curriculum writers, workbook authors, lead trainers and consultants were **Judy McKenzie**, **John McKenzie** and **Rosemary Jackson**. Their energy, knowledge, dedication, skill and passion were central to the project's work and success.

A strong School team was engaged in this project: **Peg Whalen**, **Monaca Eaton**, **Danielle Rudder**, **DeBrenna Agbenyiga**, **John Mooradian**, **Michele Brock**, **Kim Steed**, **Joe Kozakiewicz**, **Delanie Pope** and other faculty; and staff members **Nancy Fair**, **Jacqueline Humphrey** and **Carole Abel**. Principal investigator and leader for the project was **Gary Anderson**.

Learn more about results, lessons learned, projects, and the people who contributed so much to this success in future newsletters and on our website.

We would like to acknowledge our deep appreciation to the US Children's Bureau; without their financial and programmatic support this would not have been possible. **S**

RELATIVES
RAISING
RELATIVES'
CHILDREN

Kinship Care Resource Center reports good news

Passage of SB 170

After six years of working with the Kinship Legislative Task Force as a graduate student and as coordinator of the Kinship Care Resource Center, **Ama Agyemang** witnessed the August 4, 2008, ceremonial signing of the Subsidized Guardianship Bill (SB 170) for relative caregivers for children. The signing of the bill was a significant move towards helping to alleviate the financial stresses many grandparents and other caregivers for children experience when raising children in need.

The goal of the bill is to reduce the number of children in out-of-home placements and increase the number of children placed with relatives. Grandparents and other relatives who choose to file for guardianship on behalf of a relative's child in the foster care system will be able to receive a monthly stipend equal to the current rate of foster care stipends.

State Appropriation

The Center was also recently awarded a \$200,000 appropriation from the State of Michigan through the Department of Human Services. These funds will allow the center to provide tangible funds to a limited number of caregivers in need, develop kinship workshops, create and print kinship resource publications, and support the operational needs of the Center.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michigan

A one-year grant from Ronald McDonald House will provide funds for two support groups for children

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and their relative caregivers from Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton counties. The grant will allow members of the support group to borrow books related

to kinship care and gain access to presenters on various topics, gift cards to Meijer or Wal-Mart for families in need, and exciting activities for the children. The goal of the support groups is to provide an environment that will allow kinship families to meet, share concerns and needs, and receive information about resources and important kinship topics. Please contact the Center for more information at (517) 355-9600 or e-mail kinship@msu.edu. **S**



Ama Agyemang



The signing of the Subsidized Guardianship Bill was witnessed by (from the left) **Mary Mehren**, manager of the DHS Federal Compliance Office; **Terri Gilbert**, director of Children's Services at DHS; **Ron Hicks**, DHS legislative liaison; **Paul Bridgewater**, Detroit Area Agency on Aging president and CEO; **Governor Jennifer Granholm**; **Anita Peters**, Casey Foundation consultant; **Senator Irma Clark-Coleman**; **Juanita Bridgewater**, Detroit Area Agency on Aging chair of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; **Crystal White**, Detroit Neighborhood Services Organization; and **Ama Agyemang**, MSU SSW Kinship Care Resource Center coordinator.



Oakland Advanced Standing MSW Program begins in Summer 2009

As a result of a partnership that began in 2006, the School of Social Work is now offering an Advanced Standing MSW Program in the Oakland County area, located on the beautiful Oakland University (OU) campus. Courses will begin in Summer 2009, and applications—available on the school website at www.socialwork.msu.edu/degrees—are now being accepted.

Actually, this could be considered a “return,” because the Oakland campus was originally founded as an extension of Michigan State University in 1959, when Alfred and Matilda Wilson donated their 1,500-acre estate to MSU for a new college in Oakland County. The name changed to Oakland University in 1963, and in 1970, the Michigan Legislature granted it autonomy from MSU. Throughout the subsequent years, Oakland University has



Marcia Lampen



Julie Farman



Linda Campbell



Erica Shifflet-Gibson

established itself as a growing university and significant community presence.

The social work department at OU is in its final stages of candidacy with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) for their BSW program, receiving a visit from their commissioners at the end of November. Graduate Student Services Coordinator **Marcia Lampen** has played a significant role, assisting OU’s social work faculty and staff with this initial accreditation process.

Enthusiasm and interest has been building the past year and a half since the announcement about our Advanced Standing MSW Program. Surrounding BSW programs in the area have also been excited about the opportunity to have such a recognized MSW program so conveniently available to them.

The Oakland Advanced Standing MSW Program will be coordinated by **Julie Farman**, with **Linda Campbell** serving as academic advisor and **Erica Shifflet-Gibson** as the program’s field coordinator. This team has had excellent success with the ongoing Flint part-time MSW program and is looking forward to establishing yet another excellent MSW offering through the School of Social Work. **S**

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Registration will be available March 2009.

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Relax and learn in beautiful Traverse City, Michigan this summer.

Chance at Childhood

The Chance at Childhood (CAC) staff welcomed 19 students from the School of Social Work and College of Law for the 2008-2009 school year. Staff and students continue to be involved in a wide variety of exciting projects.

Mandated Reporter Guides are now available for school personnel, physicians, social workers, clergy and nurses, providing job-specific information to help professionals properly follow the Child Protection Act. Pamphlets may be downloaded free of charge from www.chanceatchildhood.msu.edu. Copies may also be requested by calling the CAC clinic at (517) 432-8406. CAC staff are currently developing an evaluation tool to measure the impact of the pamphlets on Michigan's mandated reporters.

CAC staff, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), developed a community-based workshop focusing on fathers' legal rights and responsibilities, presented in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Southfield. The large turnout for these events demonstrates the tremendous demand for affordable legal services throughout our state.

CAC staff also presented a number of continuing education and training programs during the past year, including: *Mandated reporting of child maltreatment*, *Legal issues surrounding kinship care families*, and *Psychosocial effects of domestic relations disputes on families and children*. Future workshops will cover basic legal issues for social workers as well as an overview of children's legal rights in Michigan.

Staff also served on a number of community-based committees and workgroups over the past year, including the statewide Court Improvement Program and the statewide Substance Abuse/Child Welfare Team, and have also been involved with Oakland County in a project designed to improve their delivery of child welfare services.

Finally, we have published two articles regarding education and practice on the realm of children's legal issues in the *Family Court Review* and the upcoming 20th edition of the *NASW Encyclopedia of Social Work*.

CAC continues to be an exciting place for staff and students to work. We look forward to completing our current projects and moving on to additional challenges in the ever-changing field of child welfare. **S**



Joe Kozakiewicz
CAC Program
Director



Field Education

The Field Education office has experienced a variety of personnel transitions as people have moved on and our programs have expanded. When you have the opportunity, please welcome **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel** as coordinator of the Statewide Blended MSW Field Program and **Erica Shifflet-Gibson** as the new Flint Field Education coordinator with future responsibility for the Advanced Standing Program at Oakland University to begin Summer 2009 (see page 8). **Julie Navarre** is now the lead field coordinator, and we welcome **Sheryl Groden** as the new doctoral graduate assistant this semester. As a team, we are excited about the new ideas and energy that come with growth and change.

Our field program is only as good as its connection to the practice community. This year, we have more than 325 students placed in 250 agencies in 70 cities and towns across Michigan. Our highly successful field instructor orientation in September offered two free Continuing Education Credit Hours on *Teaching ethics in supervision*. Next year, the topic will be *Reflective supervision*.

We plan to reorganize our field advisory groups and, as always, are interested in individuals willing to serve as field instructors and liaisons in sites across the state. If you are interested in a role as field instructor, liaison, or advisory committee member, please e-mail **JoAnn McFall**, associate director for Field Education, at mcfallj@msu.edu. For those of you already involved, we thank you for your time, energy, and expertise. **S**



Cheryl Williams-Hecksel



Erica Shifflet-Gibson



Julie Navarre



Sheryl Groden

School receives award

The School of Social Work was awarded the *2008 Ballentine Award for Extraordinary Service to Children and Families* by St. Vincent Catholic Charities on December 5th at the agency's annual Radio Breakfast Show. This award was based on the collaboration developed eight years ago between St. Vincent Catholic Charities, MSU Outreach and the School. Hundreds of students, clinicians, administrators and faculty have participated in this effort to serve the children and families of St. Vincent Home. It is with great pride that the School accepts this honor.

ASL floor opens at Snyder/Phillips

The MSU Deaf/HOH Committee hosted a celebration of the new American Sign Language Living/Learning option floor in the Snyder/Phillips dormitory in September. It was attended by 190 people, including the 11 residents of the ASL floor. Highlights included remarks from Provost **Kim Wilcox** and the singing/signing of the Spartan Fight Song by students from **Marta Belsky's** ASL class.



Sue Bowden

DID YOU KNOW?

American Sign Language is the third most commonly used language in the United States.

The Committee, an interdisciplinary group consisting of faculty and students from MSU's School of Social Work, Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities, and departments of Deaf Education, Communicative Disorders, and Rehabilitation Counseling, along with community members from Lansing Community College and state agencies, also received a grant from the MSU Office of Inclusion to hire a student assistant to plan Deaf/HOH culturally friendly events there, beginning with *Spooky stories in ASL* and a panel on cochlear implants.

BSW alum **Ann Marie Christman** and MSW student **Leslie Pertz** have formed a student group, the Signing Spartans, to provide tutoring for students taking ASL, among other activities. Also involved with the committee are BSW alums **Jennifer Sanderson** and **Melissa Blevins** (current

MSW students) and **Jennifer Solitro**. The Committee is chaired by Undergraduate Coordinator **Sue Bowden**, with the cost of interpreters funded by the School.

Dr. Ellen Whipple of the School of Social Work and **Dr. Harold Johnson** of the Department of Deaf Education continue their joint research on child welfare issues affecting young Deaf/HOH students.

There are plans to work on developing a minor in Deaf Studies and a recruitment plan. The Committee, whose chief aim is to recruit more Deaf/HOH students to MSU, believes that the dorm floor is part of an overall effort to make MSU more culturally friendly to Deaf/HOH students. This Fall, six students from the Michigan School for the Deaf met with Social Work Undergraduate Advisor **Linda Lawrence**; we hope many more Deaf/HOH students will become interested in the School of Social Work. **S**

Undergraduates travel for social justice education

State Poverty Summit

The Michigan Department of Human Services, under the leadership of Governor Jennifer Granholm, hosted the first-ever Poverty Summit in Detroit on November 13, 2008, to examine the current state of poverty in Michigan and strategize ways to eradicate it. Thanks to the cooperation of faculty, we were able to send over 100 of our juniors and seniors to Detroit to attend. Classroom assignments in the policy classes will reflect students' participation in the event.

We were fortunate that the School was able to pay for the buses and for all of the student registration fees. Thanks also to the BASW program's graduate assistant, MSW student **Shamidah Wyden**, for her help with the logistics of this event.

According to Undergraduate Coordinator **Sue Bowden**, the summit provided students with a unique opportunity to hear from prominent keynote speakers, including Governor Granholm and Martin Luther King III, about efforts at the state and national levels to solve the problem of poverty in Michigan. **S**



Chicago Field Trip

BASW students also traveled to Chicago on the annual diversity-themed field trip. They visited the Howard Brown LGBT Health Center, the DuSable African American History Museum, the Mexican Fine Arts Museum, and Hull House. Excellent guides and speakers at each facility helped convey each site's unique mission. **S**



Hartford Partnership Program expands in its 3rd and final year of grant funding; future looks bright



The Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) at MSU is off to a great start this Fall. This program, which focuses on the development of a rotational model in field education, is in its third and final year. Although we had planned for eight students, due to an enthusiastic response, we admitted 13 highly-qualified students. This wonderful problem led us to identify new field sites and instructors, which has enriched the entire program and also enlarged the Hartford Consortium of agencies providing services to older adults.

Agencies new to the Hartford Program include: Sparrow Gero-Psych Unit, Jackson Prison, Jackson Hospice, Battle Creek VA, Angela Hospice,

Marek Family Counseling, and Alpha Day Care. Additionally, an exciting new partnership is being developed with **Dr. Frank Komera** of the MSU Family and Community Medicine Department, who has supported the idea of incorporating social work services into his gerontology practice by including two of our Hartford interns to assist with the assessment and referral needs of his patients.

The Fall meeting of the Hartford Consortium was held October 24. Members met to discuss the current program and to anticipate the future when the program will be sustained without external funding.

One major step in that direction is the support coming from a former professor at our School, **Dr. Diane Levande**, who championed the needs of older adults throughout her career. Through the endowment she established, the focus on older adult education will be enhanced as field programs in aging will be maintained. The Hartford faculty advising group is naming the current program in her honor as the *Levande Program for Aging Education: Hartford Partnership Model*. This tribute is a fitting gesture to Dr. Levande and an important step to a permanent commitment to aging field education. **S**



Diane Levande

Distinguished BASW students

Stephanie Cheetham and **Salena Little** have been chosen as *College of Social Science Distinguished Scholars*, a competitive award with applicants from the entire college.

Salihah Copedge has been awarded the *Ernest G. & Phyllis C. Green MSU Black Alumni Scholarship in Social Science*, a competitive award for students in the College of Social Science, requiring a written essay and references, along with a GPA above 3.0.

Alicia Diebolt has received a Dean's Assistantship, which carries the expectation that winners will engage in ten hours per week in research with a faculty member; Alicia will be working with Dr. John Seita on his child welfare research projects.

Brooke Hall is serving an internship at the National Association of Social Workers-Michigan Chapter. She hopes to serve as a link between student needs and the association's services. Brooke also serves as student assistant for the School's chapter of Phi Alpha, the social work honor society. **S**

Blended Program in 3rd year

Our Blended Statewide Clinical Program began its third year this past May with Cohort '08. All three cohorts attended the Summer Institute in June, when we launched our clinical lecture series with a talk by **Laura L. Sanders**, an expert in attachment disorders in children. New students spent the week in team-building activities and completing course work. Cohort '06 and '07 students enjoyed reuniting with each other and attending the face-to-face component of two courses. Although the focus of the Summer Institute is on academics, there is always time for students to reconnect and enjoy social activities together.

One of the greatest strengths of the Blended Program is its learning community model, comprising groups of students and faculty mentors across the state. While the purpose of the learning communities is to develop cooperative learning, the incredible social bonds and support that have developed among the students is just as important for academic development.

To date, we have learning communities in **Marquette, Gaylord, Saginaw, Battle Creek, and Rochester**, and have just added **Grand Rapids** using interactive video facilities at Calvin College. We are exploring options for a new learning community in the western portion of the Upper Peninsula next Fall. Truly a statewide program!

Fall is recruiting time, and we have scheduled numerous open houses across the state, getting the word out about this unique program and answering questions of potential applicants. Check the School's web page for the schedule and application. The deadline for completed applications is January 10, 2009. E-mail questions about the Blended Program to swdisted@msu.edu. **S**

MSW Program in FLINT

For students who want to earn the fully-accredited MSW degree, all required courses are offered at the Mott Community College Campus. This program has been enrolling students since Fall 2001, experiencing substantial student growth and community recognition. Special features include:

- ◀ Classes begin August 2009, taught by MSU faculty
- ◀ Concentration (major) in Clinical Social Work and initial Organization & Community Practice courses
- ◀ PART-TIME 3-year program with evening courses designed for non-traditional and working students
- ◀ Required field education can be arranged close to where you live or work
- ◀ Our successful experience with off-campus MSW programs

Early submission review begins mid-December 2008. Final deadline for completed applications is February 1, 2009. For further information, contact Flint Program Coordinator Julie Farman at (810) 762-5127 or farmanju@msu.edu or go to www.socialwork.msu.edu and follow DEGREE PROGRAMS to the FLINT CAMPUS link under MSW programs.

"The program in Flint allowed me to complete my MSW, continue to work full-time and still spend time with my kids. Now that I've graduated, they are so proud of me."

—Flint MSW Program 2008 graduate



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WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

Michigan State University brings its

BLENDED STATEWIDE CLINICAL MSW PROGRAM

to your area—supporting professional goals while acknowledging personal lives

- ▶ Advance your career by completing an MSW degree in a part-time program—without a long commute—while keeping your job
- ▶ Fit learning into your own schedule, when it's convenient, rather than on rushed evenings after a busy workday
- ▶ Develop a community of student colleagues in your region for collaboration and support during the MSW Program and beyond

The MSU School of Social Work is accepting applications for the accredited, blended statewide Clinical MSW Program with a concentration in clinical practice. Available to qualified students throughout Michigan, this program combines the best features of face-to-face, videoconferencing, and online instruction. A unique learning community structure brings quality, clinically-focused graduate social work education and regional MSW faculty mentors close to you.

FIND OUT MORE! Call (800) 306-2249 or e-mail swdisted@msu.edu

Application deadline is January 10

New PhD class with us this Fall

This Fall we welcomed another talented cohort of doctoral students with varied and extensive social work experience and research interests from as far away as Korea and the state of Virginia.

Mary Banghart Therrien received her BA (1976) from MSU, double majoring in Psychology and Sociology, and her MSW (2000) from Grand Valley State University (GVSU) (Grand Rapids). Her experience includes child abuse and neglect prevention, program evaluation, consultation to nonprofit agencies, and teaching in GVSU's BSW and MSW programs. She begins her doctoral studies as a University Fellow and will be studying LGBT youth who are aging out of the foster care system and the question of whether there are sufficient programs and services available to help youth transition to adulthood.

Nola Carew graduated from GVSU with a BSW (1988) and MSW (1992). She has extensive experience in child welfare and mental health in Newaygo and Kent counties, including work in adoption and trauma. During her doctoral studies, she hopes to focus on the impact of child neglect and interventions that might ameliorate these effects. Nola is currently on faculty at Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids), where she is also field director for their BSW program.

Sheryl Groden received her MSW (1994) from UC Berkeley (CA), with a concentration in gerontology. Her extensive practice experience includes directing the San Francisco Holocaust Survivor Project at Jewish Family and Children's Services, supervising the social work department at Oakland's Hong Fook Adult Day Health Care, medical social work with Davita

Dialysis, dementia care research with UCSF Medical School, and as a consultant for a national home care agency. During her doctoral work, she plans to focus on mental health and aging.

Lisa Hosack majored in International Studies at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago (BA 1989). Her MSW (1993) was awarded by the Jane Addams School of Social Work at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She has worked in outpatient mental health clinics and with adolescent girls, adults, and couples. Part of her current work is providing counseling services to undergraduate students at Kuyper College (Grand Rapids) through Christian Counseling Center. This work informs her doctoral research interests, as one possible topic of study is academic anxiety in college students.

Woo Jong Kim majored in social welfare at Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea (BA 2003). In her 2005 MSW degree, also from Yonsei University, she focused on social welfare policy. She worked for two years as a research assistant at the Korea Development Institute, a national research institute in Korea that produces economic forecasts and evaluates the social welfare policy effectiveness. At MSU, she plans to focus on child care policy as it relates to gender equity and income in the labor market.

After receiving her BS in psychology and child development (2003) from Central Michigan University, **Trisha Thrush** received her MSW from MSU in 2006. Her social work practice experience has been with developmentally delayed children and adults, including her current work as a case manager for Community Mental Health. This work spurred her interests to return to MSU for her doctorate where she plans to study co-morbid mental health issues and effective treatment options. **S**



Pictured from left to right: Trisha Thrush, Sheryl Groden, Mary Banghart Therrien, Nola Carew, Woo Jong Kim, Lisa Hosack.

School CE program expands, assists the state DHS

Michigan State University School of Social Work Continuing Education has been growing by leaps and bounds. From June 2007 to July 2008, we have offered nearly 100 programs, equaling 410.5 continuing education hours and serving over 3,350 participants. As a point of comparison, in 2004, the program offered approximately 10 programs to approximately 300 participants. This Spring, we are offering more programs than ever before as we prepare for the first cohort of licensed social workers preparing to renew their licenses by April of 2009. You may already have received your catalog from us. As you

get ready to renew your license, we encourage you to attend any one or more of six ethics workshops or any of three pain management workshops to meet the five hours of ethics and one hour of pain management continuing education requirement for Michigan social workers. To learn the status of your license, visit www.dleg.state.mi.us/free/.

In an effort to support the State of Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) child welfare system training mandate, MSU School of Social Work is coordinating a state-wide effort, in collaboration with all of the graduate schools of social work

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



CONTINUING EDUCATION

in the state, to provide training at no cost to DHS child welfare employees and reduced cost to child welfare private agency employees. This project is being coordinated by the Continuing Education team's newest member, **Mary Banghart Therrien**, who in addition to being a doctoral student, has a wealth of experience in various roles in child welfare. **S**

Visiting scholar's expertise includes play therapy



Monit Cheung

The School was pleased to welcome **Monit Cheung**, PhD, MA, MSW, LCSW, as a Visiting Scholar this past Fall. Cheung is a professor at the Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston. She is principal investigator of the Child Welfare Education Project, a state partnership program funded federally by Title IV-E for training child welfare social workers. She has been a social worker for 33 years and

is currently a licensed clinical social worker specializing in play therapy, family counseling, child/adolescent counseling, child protection, sexual and domestic violence, and incest survivor treatment.

Cheung presented two programs:

Child abuse interview protocol & treatment focused on hands-on interviewing skills aimed at advancing competencies in assessing child sexual abuse cases in order to eliminate false allegations and create treatment strategies through the application of play therapy techniques.



Play therapy applications in mental health settings: Assessment & interventions provided experiential content on play therapy and its applications in work with children and families in a mental health setting; the first part focused on utilization of assessment tools to create a safe environment for clients and suggested the use of measures that accurately identify posttraumatic stress symptoms and other differential responses exhibited by children in crisis, and the second part provided hands-on experiences with an array of therapeutic techniques that are creative and interactive to encourage clinicians to help traumatized children and their families resolve feelings of grief, loss, and fear. **S**

Did you know:

- In addition to being an ASWB Approved Continuing Education (ACE) Provider #1136, we are an Association for Play Therapy (APT) Provider, #08-229, offering APT credit for programs specifically identified in our catalog.
- In the summer of 2009, we will launch the first annual Great Lakes Summer Institute, a three-day series of intensive half-day, full-day and two-day continuing education classes with both clinical and macro tracks in beautiful Traverse City, MI.
- We are the only university/association offering a Social Work Licensure Examination Preparation Course. We offer programs in East Lansing and Livonia twice a year. People travel from throughout the Midwest to attend this course.
- 36 people have completed our exclusive Supervision in Child and Family Services Certificate series, whose curriculum is receiving national attention.
- Harry Aponte, renowned family therapist and author, is returning in March to talk about Ethical Clinical Practice and Ethical Clinical Supervision.
- Michigan State University School of Social Work serves in a leadership role for the State of Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative. Michele Brock, coordinator of the program, currently serves as the School's representative and co-chair. To learn more about the Collaborative's responsibilities, visit www.socialworkcec.com.

CE classes scheduled for January – May 2009

Practice

January 30	Enhancing Emotional Wellness & Managing Stress: A Social Work Perspective
February 3	Pain Management: Evidence-Based Complementary & Alternative Medicine (CAM) & the Mind-Body Connection
February 13	Pet Loss Support Group Facilitator Training
February 28	Social Work Ethics: Boundary Management for Clinical Practice
March 6	Dream World
March 12	Chronic Pain: A Primer for Social Workers
March 13	Helpful Theoretical Lenses that Bring Eating Disorder Treatment into Focus
March 20	Social Work Ethics: Boundary Management for Clinical Practice
March 27	Preparing the Person & the Professional: Ethical Training & Clinical Supervision Using the Person-of-the-Therapist Approach
March 28	Ethical Clinical Practice: Using the Person-of-the-Therapist Approach with Diverse Clients
April 3	Social Work Ethics: Boundary Management for Clinical Practice
April 3	Taking the Mystery Out of Evidence-Based Practice: Using Outcome-Based Practices as Interventions with Adults in a Behavioral Health Setting
May 1	Psycho-Social Intervention in Schizophrenia

Social Justice

February 6	Defining & Advancing Social Justice: An Ethical Challenge for Social Work Practice
March 13	Current Trends in Juvenile Justice: Implications for Social Work Practice

Social Work Leadership

February 21	Wiki Up! Technology in Social Work Macro Practice
March 21	An Insider's Guide to Effective Political Organizing & Advocacy
April 18	Tools for Social Work Leaders When Things Get Tough

Contemporary Issues in Aging

February 21	Pain, Perseveration & Panic: Chronic Disease in the Elderly & How Social Workers Can Help
March 21	A Wellness Perspective for Elders & Their Caregivers
April 18	Older Adults & Substance Use Problems: How Can We Help?

Child Welfare

February 6	Substance Abuse & Child Welfare: Advances in Research & Practice
February 13	Relationship-Based Assessment, Referral, & Intervention for the Families of Infants & Toddlers At-Risk for Neglect
February 20	Explorations in Sand Tray 101: A Tool for Assessment & Intervention in Play Therapy
March 5	Private Logic of Youth in Foster Care
March 6	The Effects of Sexual Abuse on Adolescent Sexuality
April 24	Successful Strategies for Working with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, & Questioning Youth in Out-of-Home Placement
April 24	Mastering Sand Tray in Play Therapy: An Advanced Perspective
May 14	Cultural Competence in the New Millennium: Addressing the Changing Demographics of Southeast Michigan's Child Welfare System
May 15	Trauma Sensitive Intervention with Children & Families

Supervision in Child and Family Services Certificate

February 27	Certificate 1: The Role of Leaders in Staff Retention
March 27	Certificate 6: Recruiting and Selecting the Right Staff
March 27	Certificate 5: Working with Differences

Social Work Exam Preparation Course

May 15-16 • Livonia June 5-6 • East Lansing

With the exception of the Social Work License Exam Preparation courses, programs offered by the MSU School of Social Work meet State of Michigan social work continuing education requirements. Michigan State University School of Social Work is approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE), Provider No. 1136.

To register or to view workshop descriptions, completion requirements, and accommodation needs policy, please visit www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu. Contact us at (517) 353-3060 or e-mail swkce@msu.edu if you have questions or concerns. **Schedule is subject to change.**

Michigan Indian Day

Michigan Indian Day was established in 1984 by former Michigan Governor William Milliken to acknowledge the contributions American Indians in Michigan have made to the state.

MSU's annual event, titled *Collaboration with tribal nations and communities: The importance of inclusion in university education, research and programming to enhance the lives of the Anishinaabe* was held in September and attended by nearly 200 people, including 30 Michigan tribal elders. The focus of the event is to broaden the knowledge base of the participants to the 13 tribal nations within the state, their history, culture, accomplishments, issues of concern, and challenges for the future.

The morning keynote, *Promoting healthy relationships in fragile families for urban American Indian fathers*, was presented by Visiting Scholar **Gordon Limb**, PhD, MSW (Winnebago/Ho-Chunk), associate professor and undergraduate director, Brigham Young University School of Social Work. The afternoon keynote was a panel discussion featuring **Jessica V. Barnes**, PhD, associate director, University-Community Partnerships; **Ann Belleau** (Bay Mills Indian Community), Head Start director, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan; **Patricia Farrell**, MSW, PhD (Taos Pueblo), senior director, University Outreach and Engagement; and **Hiram E. Fitzgerald**, PhD, associate provost, University Outreach and Engagement. Their topic was *Wiba Anung (Early Stars): Promoting academic & social success in American Indian Head Start programs*.

Participants were treated to a richness of University and tribal representatives presenting on topics including:

- Tribal-based community intervention to promote a healthy lifestyle
- Creating a tribal village for Native American students in Michigan
- Status of Native Americans in social work higher education
- MSU Extension's collaborative efforts with tribal nations in Michigan
- Collaborations between MSU College of Law & Michigan Indians
- Honors College Research Seminar Project: Bullying in high school—Victims, bullies and bystanders
- Youth panel: Pre-college programs—Effectiveness in preparation for the future



Suzanne Cross (at right) and **Autumn Mitchell** (both Saginaw Chippewa) present Community Elder **George Martin** (Lac Courte Orielles Ojibwa) with a blanket commemorating his service in the Korean War after he presents the opening prayer.

- American Indian social work students share their research projects
- Native American 101: Everything you always wanted to know, but were afraid to ask
- Elder discussants: Native Americans celebrating traditions (video)
- Academics & Indians: Interdisciplinary collaborations with native communities
- Ojibwe language courses & programming events at MSU

Support was received from:

- Michigan State University
- University of Melbourne School of Nursing and Social Work
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University
- Lansing Community College
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa and Chippewa Indians
- Grand Traverse Bay Band of Odawa and Chippewa Indians
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- White Earth Band of Ojibwe
- and numerous community agencies, associations, businesses, and individual contributors

Thanks go to **Dr. Suzanne Cross** and **Emily Proctor** (MSW 2008) for their leadership in organizing this event. **S**

School faculty involvements span the globe

DeBrenna Agbenyiga, who also serves as assistant dean for diversity and inclusive programs, is heading up the College's new Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Affairs. Agbenyiga has also been appointed as a member of the CSWE Council on External Relations to work with the Commission on Global Social Work Education and other global organizations. She presented at three conferences this past year.

Gary Anderson has been elected to a national post with the Council on Social Work Education, representing graduate deans on the Nominating Committee for the Council for a three-year term.

Louanne Bakk received a *Hartford Doctoral Fellows Pre-Dissertation Award*, one of 20 awarded nationally, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, administered by the Gerontological Society of America, and co-sponsored by the Association for Gerontological Education and Social Work (AGE-SW).

The School is pleased to welcome **Tina Blaschke** as assistant coordinator of our Distance Education program. She is also a research specialist, working on projects concerning older adults and technology, and evaluation of course outcomes.

Sue Bowden has been appointed conference chair for the 26th Annual Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) Conference in Phoenix, AZ, March 2009. BPD represents the program directors of the 400+ accredited undergraduate social work programs in the US.

Hyunkag Cho presented on the topic of partner violence against men at the SWRR Conference in Washington, DC.

Suzanne Cross has been awarded one of the twenty Cycle 1 Hartford BSW Experiential Learning grants to implement hands-on opportunities

for students with older adults. This past year, she presented at six conferences and has produced a new journal article. In addition, she was a mentor in the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum.

Angelique Day's research with **John Seita** on identifying and ultimately meeting the needs of foster care children while they are in the system and in the years following their release was featured in the February *MSU News*. Day and Seita are both alumni of Michigan's foster care system.

Julie Farman is now serving as coordinator of both our Flint and Oakland MSW programs.

Paul Freddolino is on a research sabbatical this academic year. This term he is at the London School of Economics, where he is working in the Health and Social Care unit. In the spring he will be at the Center on Aging at the University of Hong Kong. He is working on research projects related to using information and communication technology in social work and health care services for older adults.

Ron Hall was featured in *Time* magazine in an interview about race and its impact on the current presidential campaign.

Rena Harold presented two papers in October at the Annual Pro-

CSWE presenters at Philadelphia Annual Program Meeting

The following School faculty and students went to Philadelphia at the end of October to present at and participate in the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education:



DeBrenna Agbenyiga
 Brian Ahmedani • Sue Bowden
 Hyunkag Cho • Lihua Huang
 Suzanne Cross • Victoria Fitton
 Kyunghye Lee • Emily Proctor
 Erica Shifflet-Gibson • Rita Walters

gram Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) held in Philadelphia, with **Erica Shifflet Gibson**, **Brian Ahmedani**, and **Victoria Fitton**, on their work funded by the National Science Foundation on the impact of information technology on middle schoolers' development. Harold also coordinated a series session at the APM for CSWE's Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression on LGBT Scholarship in the Global Arena

Continued on page 18

THE NEXT GENERATION OF SW FACULTY

We are pleased to welcome four new members of our social work family! Born to our faculty, pictured from left to right:

- ▶ **Alexis Suzanne**, born to Angelique Day and Benjamin Holochwost
- ▶ **Oliver**, born to Tina Timm and Adrian Blow
- ▶ **Lucy**, born to Michele Brock and Randy Sly
- ▶ **Charles Alexander**, born to Abigail and John Waller



Continued from page 17

and served on the University Fellowship Faculty Advisory Committee.

John Herrick was invited to participate in the International Symposium on Governance Reform in the Progressive Era of USA: Implications for China at Sun Yat-sen University in Guandzhou, China.

Rob Hock presented *Autism and the impact on the family* at the MSU Family Resource Center's Autism Awareness Event last March.

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, along with **Ric Hula** and **Laura Reese**, was invited to present *The emerging role of faith-based organizations in the low-income housing market* at a White House Conference on Research Related to the Faith-Based and Community Initiative in late June.

Angie Kennedy presented at two conferences this past year.

Sheryl Kubiak has been awarded tenure at MSU. She was interviewed about her research appearing in the current edition of *Crime & Delinquency* by radio and print media; Kubiak presented the findings recently to the Michigan House Judiciary Committee. She has also received a grant from

the Robert Wood Johnson Substance Abuse Policy Research Program to continue researching implications of funding source on treatment delivery; has received a grant from the MSU Office of Outreach and Engagement to hire an outreach coordinator to facilitate her ongoing work with female offenders in Wayne County; and has received, with **Cris Sullivan**, an award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services focused on building capacity for the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence to serve women who are or have been involved in the criminal justice system.

Marcia Lampen was recognized by the Social Work Leadership Institute at the New York Academy of Medicine and the John A. Hartford Foundation for her leadership and work establishing the Levande Program for Aging Education: Hartford Partnership Model at the School.

Kyunghee Lee presented on the effect of early entry to Head Start at the SWRR conference in Washington, DC.

John Mooradian presented a continuing education program on conducting clinical supervision this summer.

Julie Navarre spent two weeks in Costa Rica exploring international educational opportunities for social work students. In partnership with Cross Cultural Solutions, a leader in the field of international volunteering, she volunteered and visited human service agencies in the cities of San Carlos and Puriscal.

Margaret Nielsen had an op-ed piece published in the *Lansing State Journal* comparing the presidential candidates' health insurance proposals.

The School is pleased to welcome **Danielle Rudder** as a research specialist. She is working on projects related to child welfare, veterinary social work, and children in families with parental mental illness.

Sally Rypkema has been promoted to clinical associate professor and now is responsible for coordinating our Blended Statewide MSW Program.

Western Michigan University has honored **John Seita** by naming a scholarship program in his honor to cover full tuition for about 40 students who come out of foster care. Seita himself was removed from an abusive home and then moved through 15 different foster homes during his childhood, and specializes in issues of foster care alumni. Students from foster care were involved in designing the program, which includes year-round residential housing, a common residence hall, and some common classes. More than 500 youth age out of the system in Michigan each year.

Marya Sosulski has been selected as one of seven Lilly Fellows at MSU for the 2008-09 year. Her topic is *Through the looking glass: Exploring experiential problem-based learning for social action*, and she is being mentored by **Kristen Renn** and **Rena Harold**. She also served as a co-facilitator of the MSU Faculty Learning Community initiative titled *Experimental approaches to teaching writing across the curriculum*. **S**

Outstanding Doctoral Student Scholarship awarded

At the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention held in Boston last August, **John Sougstad**, LMSW, who coordinates the School's Social Worker Certificate Program, was selected as recipient of the 2008 Award for Outstanding Doctoral Student Scholarship by the school psychology division of APA. A team of more than 50 scholars from around the country served as blind reviewers to evaluate and rate more than 250 presentation proposals. Sougstad's presentation of his research project, *Meta-Analysis of the Incredible Years Parent Training Intervention Program (IYPTIP)*, was one of three selected as outstanding examples of student scholarship. He also received an honorarium from Pearson Education. His project synthesized and contrasted the results from more than 25 years of research on IYPTIP, finding considerable support for its use as a clinic-based intervention for families of young children exhibiting conduct problems, as well as a promising method for preventing conduct problems in preschools. He intends to do further research related to this intervention. **S**



John Sougstad

A sample of recent faculty publications

Books/edited journals

R.D. Harold, L.G. Colarossi, & L.R. Mercier. 2007. Smooth sailing or stormy waters? Family transitions through adolescence and their implications for practice and policy. Matwah, NJ. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

L.R. Mercier & **R.D. Harold** (eds.) 2007. Lesbian parent families at the intersection: An ecological perspective on social, family and individual identities. West Hazelton, PA. The Haworth Press: J. of Gay and Lesbian Social Services, 19(2).

C. Edmonds-Cady & **M.R. Sosulski** (eds.) Challenging teaching: Anti-oppressive teaching practice across the curriculum. Thirteen chapters submitted by social work educators across the country; organized around the methods and effectiveness of teaching anti-oppression content in a laboratory context for students, teachers, and institutions of higher education.

Book chapters

M. Fletcher, J. Tompkins, A. Maldonado, **S. Cross**, T. Cross, B.J. Jones, C. Tebben, W. Singel. (In press). The Indian Child Welfare Act at 30: Facing the future. Michigan State University Press.

J.M. Herrick. Social policy. In T. Mizrahi and L.E. Davis (eds.), 2008. Encyclopedia of Social Work, Twentieth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press

J. McFall & P. Freddolino. Integrating technology into social work clinical practice curriculum. In Regan and Freddolino (eds.), 2008.

P. Freddolino. Integrating technology into the social work research curriculum. In Regan and Freddolino (eds.), 2008.

R.E. Hall. The Bleaching Syndrome: Manifestations of a post-colonial pathology among African women.

J.M. Herrick. (2008). Social policy in the Progressive Era. In J. Midgley and M. Livermore (eds.), The Handbook of Social Policy (Second Edition), pp. 114-132. Los Angeles: Sage.

J. M. Herrick. The Progressive Era in the United States of America: Innovations in a changing society. International Symposium on Governance Reform in the Progressive Era of USA: Implications for China. Proceedings. Guandzhou, China: Center for Public Administration Research, School of Government, Sun Yat-sen University, June 7-8, 2008, pp. 1-15.

S.P. Kubiak and C.L. Arfken. 2007. Beyond gender responsibility: Considering differences between community dwelling women involved in the criminal justice systems and those involved in treatment. In J.A. Swartz, P. O'Brien, and A.J. Lurigio (eds.), Drugs, Women and Justice. Binghamton, NY. Haworth Press.

S.P. Kubiak. (In press) Health consequences of incarceration. In Clair Renzetti and Jeffrey Edleson (eds.), Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence. Sage Publications, Inc.

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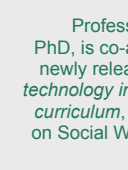
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Associate Professor **Ronald E. Hall**, PhD, is co-author and editor of a newly released book *Racism in the 21st century: An empirical analysis of skin color*, published by Springer/Verlag, New York.



Professor **Paul Freddolino**, PhD, is co-author and editor of a newly released book *Integrating technology in the social work core curriculum*, published by Council on Social Work Education Press, Washington, DC.



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Here's what you're up to!

Amelia Brumm, BASW 1989, is retired and living in East Lansing, MI. She writes that people might be surprised to learn that she served nearly four years in the US Navy in communications during the Korean Conflict; at 55, enrolled at LCC and graduated Magna Cum Laude; at 61, earned her BASW and became a clinical studies intern instructor; worked as a caseworker for the Salvation Army; at 78, became a first-time author with *The Voice of the Healer*; and was inducted into her hometown's Hall of Fame in 2006. She was a member of NACSW and integrated her faith with her values of social work.

Dwayne Buckingham, MSW 1997, founded R.E.A.L. Horizons Consulting in 2006 in response to his personal and professional commitment to help individuals understand and learn to cope with personal, interpersonal and environmental hardships, after having served in the US Air Force, leaving with the rank of captain. He also serves as a lieutenant in the US Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps.

Rene (Caan) Drumm, MSW 1982, presented an audio conference for NACSW, examining survey and interview data regarding pastoral responses to domestic violence victims/survivors within a conservative Christian denomination; Drumm is professor and chair of the social work and family studies department at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN.

In memory...

Anne K. DeRose, BASW 1951, lived in East Lansing. She was a retired social worker from St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing.

Susan (Harney) Haist, MSW 2003, passed away in May after a brief illness. At the time of her death, Susan was planning to pursue her PhD in social work at MSU.

Paula Clark, BASW 1969, retired as director of the Clinton & Shiawassee County (MI) Family Independence Agency. She is a member of the Bath Township (MI) Housing Commission and was elected as Bath Township Trustee in November.



Paula Clark

Sarah (Cooper) Johnston, BASW 2005, worked for Green Door (2005-2006) in mental health social work for those with severe mental illness. She moved to Australia (2006-2007) and gave birth to a baby boy. She returned to Grand Rapids, MI, in August 2007, and is currently a stay-at-home mom. She would like to get her MSW.

Rorie Dodge, MSW 2008, has been promoted from shelter manager to director of Angel House children's shelter and assessment center in Lansing.

William Totten ("Tod") Egan, BASW 1954, formerly self-employed, is retired and lives in Illinois. He volunteers his time; just completed five years as a mentor to a boy with no father; recently completed two weeks teaching English in rural China; and plans to pursue work as a mentor to young adults emerging from foster care.

Zareen Hansotia, BASW 2005, received his MSW from the Jane Addams College of Social Work and is working with Social Solutions whose product, ETO (Efforts-to-Outcomes) Software, is designed to help agencies become more outcomes oriented.

Margaret A. (Koppel) Cohen Jackel, BASW 1975, is currently living in Israel. She teaches high school-level English (as a foreign language) to low to medium achievers with learning difficulties. She is also a teacher of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah group class in special education.

Teri V. Krull, BASW 1974, MSW 1978, is currently working in private practice in Mesa, AZ. She teaches and lectures in the field of play therapy. She

served on the national board of the Association for Play Therapy for six years and was national president in 2000.

Ann Forster Lyon, MSW 1973, has been a co-owner of Lyon Counseling Associates, PC in Okemos, MI, for 30 years. She and her husband work as a clinical team with couples in addition to her individual practice.

Cassandra J. Martin-Weiler, MSW 1999, is currently living in beautiful Winneba, Ghana, Africa, working at the University of Education Winneba Counseling Center. Her focus is HIV awareness and prevention with involved University radio station interviews. Also, she conducts workshops for microfinance loan officers so that they can spread information about remaining HIV-free.

Brian Philson, MSW 1991, was recently appointed as president and CEO at Highfields, Inc., in Onondaga, MI. He recently won the *Individual in Excellence* award at the national conference in San Antonio, TX, from the Juvenile Justice Trainees Association.

Adrienne Prentiss, MSW 2002, served on the Williamston (MI) Community Schools Board of Education.

Emily Proctor, MSW 2008, has taken an educator position with MSU Extension.

Erin Roberts, MSW 2004, is employed by the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Charitable Foundation in Madison, WI.

Erin E. (Steele) Reeves, BASW 2006, just moved to Washington State for her husband's job and is getting settled and looking for employment.

Demetria Watson, MSW 1974, worked in mental health in Cincinnati, OH; was a guest speaker to medical students and PhD psychology candidates at MSU; and received a "Demetria Watson Day" certificate from the mayor of Lansing for her past work in sexual abuse. She is now a nephrology social worker in outpatient dialysis at Sparrow Health System—St. Lawrence Campus. She recently presented on ethics to social workers who received CEU credits. **S**

Students support and serve people in need

MSW students from our Flint campus helped support the annual free meals provided to area poor and homeless; they also collected personal care products, hats, gloves, and socks for distribution at the meals.

The MSU student chapter of the **Organization of Latino/a Social Workers (OLASW)** hosted their sixth annual *Homies Giving* dinner on

November 27, an offering of food and fellowship to hundreds of students who might otherwise spend an isolated holiday on campus. Last year, more than 450 students came, clearly identifying a need in the MSU community. This year, *Homies Giving* was not the only service provided. OLASW also sponsored a coat drive.

The School joined the **MSU College of Human Medicine and Michigan**

Victim Alliance as cosponsor of an event to celebrate the collaboration that produced the award-winning *Surviving Trauma and Tragedy* program. Individuals who have endured traumatic events share their stories with medical students; this has been an integral part of the CHM curriculum to help future physicians learn to work more effectively with those who have suffered trauma. **S**

Lyons is Higbee Awardee

MSW student **Don Lyons** was awarded a *Homer Higbee International Education Award*. Named for Dr. Homer Higbee, who served 25 years in the Office of International Studies and Programs at MSU, the student award is made to individuals who have made significant contributions to the enhancement of international communication, understanding, and cooperation through service activities.



Don Lyons
Photo courtesy of the
MSU News Bulletin,
April 10, 2008

Lyons, a member of the Kech Lake Tribe of Minnesota, received this award for his work with the Great Lakes Tribal people and Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways (TKRP) modeled after Australian Aborigines. Based on his own Tribal experience, Don's study abroad experience helped him develop a deep understanding of the importance of Traditional Knowledge for the Aborigine people. He returned to the US with a profound commitment to help Great Lakes Tribal peoples develop their own TKRP projects.

Don was a presenter at last year's Michigan Indian Day, and played a critical role in assisting **Dr. Philip Belfy** in MSU's American Indian Studies Program with the organization of an international conference on indigenous responses to the global environmental crisis. This conference created exciting international connections and lasting relationships between Tribal people from "Down Under" and those in the Great Lakes. **S**



Dr. Judi Ravenhorst Meerman (PhD 2008), at far right, from Kuyper College (Grand Rapids) along with **Drs. Cheryl Brandsen** (PhD 2001) and **Beryl Huguen** from Calvin College (also Grand Rapids) traveled to Monrovia Liberia to assist Mother Patern College develop curriculum for a new BSW program in 2006 and 2008. This is the first program offered in the country to train professional social workers. While there, the group visited a women's group organized by Mother Patern that assists women to develop economic strategies while attending to their emotional recovery.



The School's Students for Multi-Ethnic Community Action, under the supervision of their faculty advisor **Rita Walters** (third from right), sponsored 18 walkers locally to raise money in last September's AIDS Walk.

What social workers have in common with Spiderman

As the year 2008 ends and 2009 begins, our country is faced with multiple challenges, including a troubling economic crisis. There are frequent references to the Great Depression. President-elect Obama's picture is photo-shopped to look like Franklin Roosevelt. There is a sense of uncertainty yet glimpses of hope.

During the Great Depression, social workers and their allies played crucial roles at all levels of American society. Harry Hopkins advised Franklin Roosevelt and worked to design innovative programs to address unemployment. Francis Perkins served in the cabinet in the Department of Labor from where she advised and directed programs to support working families. Eleanor Roosevelt championed the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and worked to improve race relations. In multiple locations, settlement houses, social service and community organizations responded to human need and advanced social policies. In these challenging economic times, again there is a significant role for social workers, ranging from prompting social policies that advance health care and employment, to clinical and casework services that meet emergency needs and reduce human suffering.

The need for well-educated, skillful, ethical and dedicated social workers is high. Michigan State University continues to attract and prepare the future generations of social work practitioners and leaders. But the cost of this education grows as our public University experiences reductions in

state financial support. As state support shrinks, the University increasingly relies on tuition increases to cover expenses. Concurrently, acquiring loans is more difficult. Our students and prospective students are facing increasing costs and relatively modest salaries upon graduation. High costs will make it impossible for some to attend the School; high loan amounts will make it difficult for others to work in the field upon graduation.

The School is establishing an endowed fund called **The School of Social Work Endowed Scholarship Fund**. The interest funds generated by this endowment will be used for scholarships each year for incoming BASW and MSW students with financial need and for students in their final year of study. Peter Parker's (Spiderman) uncle said to him that to whom much is given, much is required. Many of us had support in getting through School; most of us faced more modest tuition costs than today's students. We are preparing the social work leaders of the future, and our financial support can make it possible for them to come to School, stay in school, and dedicate their careers to service.

Donations to this Fund, or an undesignated gift or a gift to other Funds, can be made by sending a check, addressed to Michigan State University and mailed to MSU School of Social Work, 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824. In this newsletter we celebrated a wonderful gift from one alumna; gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated. Again, thank you for your consideration.

—Dr. Gary Anderson



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Nancy Fair

Nancy Fair retires after 30+ years of service at MSU

The MSU School of Social Work held a retirement reception for Nancy Fair, our business manager and office supervisor, who retired from MSU this Fall after almost 35 years of excellent service at Michigan State University. Nancy began her employment at MSU in January 1974 in the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development. She then worked in Agricultural Economics, and then moved to the MSU Animal Health and Diagnostic Laboratory before coming to the School of Social Work in January 1997. Nancy has been a wonderful resource and manager at the School of Social Work, and she will be deeply missed. We wish her a great retirement and are grateful for all of her service to the School and University. **S**



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