

# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK NEWS

Fall 2017/Winter 2018



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# Common humanity and **human community**



Dr. John Mooradian

Dear Friends,

In September 2017, our School bid farewell to **Dr. Steven Anderson**, who served as our director for the past three academic years. Under Dr. Anderson's leadership, our School continued to thrive and achieve our mission to integrate research, education, and community engagement. We are grateful for Steve's contributions, and we wish him well in his new role as dean of the School of Social Work at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Upon Dr. Anderson's departure, I began service as interim director of our School. I am honored to fulfill this role, and I appreciate the support of my outstanding colleagues, the brilliant students in our School, and our field and community partners throughout the state of Michigan and in other countries. Together, we are committed to the values of our profession—service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence—and to advancing initiatives that give these values life.

Since assuming my new responsibilities, “together” is a word that echoes ever more frequently in my thoughts.

Reverberating through my recent conversations with faculty, administrators, and students is recognition of the opportunities facing our profession in a time that is particularly divisive for our country. I believe that these divisions signal real grievances, but also that they are increasingly fomented and exploited by people whose intentions conflict with the social good. This disruption and exploitation exacerbate oppression and undermine efforts to solve real problems that affect a broad spectrum of human beings.

I am convinced—more than ever—in the simple truth that effective solutions to complex human problems are implemented by people who recognize the common humanity and the human community that connect us all across constructed and imposed divisions, while realizing the effects of differential experiences, structures, and contexts. Such solutions are shaped through discourse rather than invective; and are informed by critical thinking and evidence instead of perception bias and obfuscation. These solutions apply individual inputs and mobilize collective resources.

I believe that, acting together as social workers and citizens, we can resist manipulation, exploitation, and oppression in all of their forms and that we can build equitable, inclusive, and just pathways to a better future.

In the following pages, you will read about some of the efforts our students and faculty are making to advance collective solutions to human challenges and to expand opportunities for others to participate.

It would be wonderful if these descriptions touch you and add to your inspiration to improve our world.

Best regards,

Dr. John Mooradian  
Interim Director and Professor, School of Social Work

# Combat Veterans course creators earn award for innovative teaching

**T**ina Blaschke-Thompson and Glenn Stutzky are recipients of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SAGE/CSWE Award for Innovative Teaching in Social Work Education for their Combat Veterans class, Embracing the Stories of War. Using an immersive storytelling approach, students in this 2-credit online class follow post-9/11 and Vietnam combat veterans through the military cycle from enlistment, basic training, the experience of war, to post-war challenges. The objectives of this class are to increase knowledge and deepen empathy for this marginalized and often misunderstood population.

In his introduction at the award ceremony, Josh Perigo with SAGE Publications stated, “I was really touched by what they did. They shed a little light on a subject that oftentimes is pushed into the dark. They took a very personal approach, and they left everybody involved profoundly impacted with their project, Embracing the Stories of War.”

This will be the first of three classes in a Social Work with Combat Veterans Certificate program designed for MSW students who wish to work with this population. The second class, Sharing the Burden of War, will focus on the societal response to war and historical treatment of those returning from war, with an emphasis on improving policies and programs to better meet their needs. The third course, Healing the

“I feel comfortable speaking with veterans now and make sure to thank every veteran I see for their service. This class enabled me to discuss my uncle’s service in Vietnam with him, the first time he has spoken to anyone about it since his return home in March of 1970. SW 491, Combat Veterans, has truly unlocked a piece of family history for me.”

—Bryan Blattert, Fall 2017 student

Wounds of War, will focus on intervention models that have shown to be effective in helping veterans overcome moral injury and the trauma of war.

In addition to taking these three courses, students in the certificate program will complete a specialized field placement related to military social work and participate in a specialized liaison group to support professional networking and address gaps in service provision through sharing of ideas and resources.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (2016), 213 Michigan veterans committed suicide in 2014. The most suicides are among those from the Vietnam era, which is the largest group of veterans. Rates of suicide, however, are highest among post-9/11 veterans; the suicide rate among veterans 30-39 years of age is four times the national average, while the suicide rate among veterans 20-29 years of age is six times the national average. In addition, a recent survey of veterans who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan found that 40 percent of respondents thought about taking their life since joining the military, 54 percent served with someone who has attempted suicide, and 45 percent served with someone who died by suicide (IAVA Member Survey, 2015). With at least 20 veterans committing suicide every day, the need for mental health professionals trained to work with this population has never been greater.

The certificate program will launch in summer 2018 and is open to students across the state. The School also plans to offer a post-graduate certificate option in the near future.

The Combat Veterans team members include Tina Blaschke-Thompson, Glenn Stutzky, Emily Brozovic, Keesa Johnson, and Christopher Irvin. 🌿



Tina Blaschke-Thompson and Glenn Stutzky

## Delanie Pope named **Woman of the Year** by *Michigan Lawyer's Weekly*

**A**s selected by her peers, Delanie P. Pope is the *Michigan Lawyers Weekly (MiLW) 2017 Woman of the Year*. Pope, a staff attorney and clinical assistant professor at the Michigan State University Chance at Childhood Law and Social Work Clinic in East Lansing, received the honor September 7 during MiLW's 8<sup>th</sup> annual Women in the Law luncheon at the Detroit Marriott Troy. The 30 honorees of the class of 2017 voted amongst themselves for the *Woman of the Year* via a secret ballot. "It's a great honor to be here amongst all the many talented women," Pope said upon receiving the award. She thanked the MSU School of Social Work and College of Law, and also all the students she has worked with over the past ten years, for "providing the platform by which I can do the work that I enjoy doing so much."

Pope specializes in children's legal issues and oversees the day-to-day activities of the clinic, which is staffed by MSU law students and MSU social work students. The clinic's interdisciplinary student teams handle a wide variety of matters involving family and children's interests, including custody, guardianship, and adoption matters. In all cases, student teams advocate for the child's best interests. Pope manages over 100 cases per year to ensure that students meet all their statutory requirements and provide to the courts the highest quality work product.

"For me, practicing law means helping families, which in turn builds a stronger and healthier community," Pope explained. "Sometimes we help them in small, unremarkable ways. Some days, we help them in ways that will change their lives forever, like bringing parents and children together, or in some cases getting kids out of bad—even dangerous—situations."

"For me, practicing law means helping families, which in turn builds a stronger and healthier community."

—Delanie Pope

In addition to supervising students' casework, Pope also responds to numerous calls and emails from professionals and laypersons in the community seeking advice regarding children's legal issues. Many parents and kinship caregivers struggle to navigate the legal system without legal representation, and Pope provides them with invaluable assistance.

In 2012, Pope worked to open the Ingham County Self-Help Center in collaboration with the Ingham County Friend of the Court and Ingham County judges. The Self-Help Center is staffed by CAC students and supervised by CAC staff to provide assistance to unrepresented litigants. The Center provides badly needed legal self-help services to the community and increases access to the court system for those unable to afford legal representation. The Center also improves the court's ability to provide timely and efficient court rulings and orders in family court cases.

In February 2017, Pope spoke in San Francisco at the National Conference for the Self-Represented Legal Network. Her presentation regarding the use of interdisciplinary law/social work student teams to provide holistic "wrap-around" services in legal self-help centers was exceptionally well received. 🐦



Left, Delanie Pope. Right, Delanie Pope joined by the **Chance at Childhood team** and other nominated attorneys.


## FACULTY RESEARCH

## Jaclynn Hawkins involved in research effort to inform **physical and mental health interventions for black men**

Assistant Professor **Jaclynn Hawkins**, PhD, Michigan State University School of Social Work, was part of a research project led by Daphne C. Watkins, PhD, University of Michigan School of Social Work titled “Physical and Mental Health Interventions for Black Men in the United States.”

The authors reviewed the physical and mental health interventions for black men in the United States, with an aim to inform and provide the knowledge needed to develop culturally sensitive and gender-specific health interventions for those individuals. This field scan also provides an important basis for policy decisions regarding physical and mental health services and in designing interventions that will be most effective for subgroups of black men.

The project is part of RISE for Boys and Men of Color, which is a field advancement effort that aims to better understand and strategically improve the lives, experiences, and outcomes of boys and men of color in the United States. The program is supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and members of the Executives’ Alliance to Expand Opportunities for Boys and Men of Color.

Dr. Hawkins stated, “These field scans are very important in the men’s health field and were written by national/international leaders in the field of men’s health and mental health research.” 



Dr. Jaclynn Hawkins



**This field scan also provides an important basis for policy decisions regarding physical and mental health services and in designing interventions that will be most effective for subgroups of black men.**

## FACULTY RESEARCH

# Head Start may protect against foster care placement



Dr. Sacha Klein

**“Head Start may protect against foster care because of its focus on the entire family. Services go beyond providing preschool education to include supporting parental goals such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security.”**

Participating in Head Start may help prevent young children from being placed in foster care, finds a national study led by a Michigan State University researcher.

“Kids up to age 5 in the federal government’s preschool program were 93 percent less likely to end up in foster care than kids in the child welfare system who had no type of early care and education,” said **Sacha Klein**, MSU assistant professor of social work.

Klein and colleagues examined multiple forms of early care and education—from daycare with a family member to more structured programs—and found Head Start was the only one to guard against foster care placement.

“The findings seem to add to what we already know about the benefits of Head Start,” Klein said. “This new evidence suggests Head Start not only helps kids develop and allows parents to go to work, but it may also help at-risk kids from ending up in the foster care system.”

Klein and colleagues studied the national survey data of nearly 2,000 families in which a child had entered the child welfare system for suspicion of abuse or neglect. Those children were either pulled from the home or were being overseen by a caseworker.

Klein said Head Start may protect against foster care because of its focus on the entire family. Services go beyond providing preschool education to include supporting parental goals such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security.

There are more than 400,000 children in foster care in the United States, about a third of them under age 5, according to the most recent report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. All children in foster care automatically qualify for free Head Start services, regardless of income level.

Klein said the findings suggest policymakers should consider making all children in the child welfare system, including those living at home, automatically eligible for Head Start. That could help prevent more kids from ending up in foster care.

While foster care can be a vital resource for protecting children from abusive and neglectful parents, it is rarely a panacea for young kids, the study notes.

“Indeed, young children who are placed in foster care often have compromised socio-emotional, language, and cognitive development and poor early academic and health outcomes,” the authors write. “Trauma and deprivation experienced before removal may largely drive these developmental deficits, but foster care often fails to alleviate them and sometimes can worsen them.”

Klein’s co-authors are **Lauren Fries** of MSU and **Mary Emmons** of the Children’s Institute Inc. in Los Angeles.

The study is published online in the journal, *Children and Youth Services Review*.

—Story by MSU Today

## FACULTY RESEARCH

## Deirdre Shires to co-lead project addressing cancer disparities among sexual and gender minorities



Dr. Deirdre Shires

**Cancer-related patient-centered outcomes research has the potential to more fully describe SGM experiences across the cancer care continuum and identify promising points of intervention.**

**M**SU School of Social Work faculty member Dr. Deirdre Shires will co-lead a project selected for Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award funding to help develop a skilled community of patients and other stakeholders from across the entire healthcare enterprise and involve them meaningfully in every aspect of PCORI's work. The project will be led by Hayley Thompson (Karmanos Cancer Institute/Wayne State University) and Curtis Lipscomb (LGBT Detroit–Community Lead). The award will fund the “Partnering with Sexual and Gender Minority Communities to Address Cancer Disparities in Detroit” project with \$250,000 over two years.

Approximately one million sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) live with cancer in the U.S. today. There is evidence that SGM cancer disparities exist, yet little is known about SGM experiences across the cancer care continuum. This is particularly true for African American SGMs who may experience greater disadvantage and cancer burden due to the intersection of SGM identity and race. Cancer-related patient-centered outcomes research has the potential to more fully describe SGM experiences across the cancer care continuum and identify promising points of intervention.

This project will be a collaboration between Karmanos Cancer Institute/Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and community partners to expand Detroit HealthLink for Equity in Cancer Care (an ongoing PCORI project). The goal of the project is to establish two Cancer Action Councils with community stakeholders in the metro Detroit SGM community. Cancer Action Council members will be trained in research methods and ultimately assist with conducting a series of focus groups in the community to identify cancer-specific patient-centered outcomes research needs among racially and socioeconomically diverse SGM individuals.

Dr. Shires stated, “We are starting to understand that cancer disparities exist for sexual and gender minorities—in screening rates, age of diagnosis, and quality of life for survivors, for example. But, we know so little about the specific healthcare needs of this community related to cancer. This study is exciting because local SGM community members who have been affected by cancer in some way will be involved in every step of the process.” 🌱



## Continuing Education: What we do

**M**SU School of Social Work's Continuing Education Program is one of the leading statewide training providers, coordinating and hosting a wide variety of continuing education opportunities. Established in 2004, the Continuing Education Program has grown from a single coordinator to a team of six individuals, who work closely together to offer attendees the most up-to-date, current workshops for professional skill development in both clinical and macro settings. A wide variety of topics and locations are offered across the state of Michigan for ease of access for all our attendees to earn Continuing Education Credit Hours (CECHs).

### In-person workshops

On average, we provide over 100 uniquely designed in-person learning opportunities for professionals each year. Each workshop is developed in response to the needs outlined by our customer base through an annual survey and workshop evaluations. We seek the most qualified, experienced instructors from our faculty and the community. We recently implemented a "Request for Proposals" system to continue to expand and solicit the most up-to-date, current workshops for professional skill development in both clinical and macro settings.

### Live, synchronous webinars

Individuals from around the world can earn CECHs from the convenience of their home, office, or on the go. We offer interactive live presentations on various topics. Our live, synchronous webinars mean that you are online with an instructor in real-time. You can interact and ask questions throughout. In Michigan, social workers can earn one-half of the required CECHs in-person using live, synchronous contact. Webinars allow us to be accessible and to collaborate globally on issues that affect individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the world, while helping social workers meet their continuing education licensure requirements.



Continuing Education Program staff (L-R): **Mary Aymor, Amanda Dubey-Zerka, Gina Van Horn, Kelley Blanck, Amanda Morgan, Lexi Michalski**

Last year, the Continuing Education Program:

- Offered **235** programs, including in-person, live webinar, and online courses
- Served **6,000+** attendees
- Distributed nearly **40,000** catalogs
- Earned a **93%** satisfaction rate
- Hosted workshops in **10** counties in Michigan

### Online courses

The Continuing Education Program now offers more opportunities for learning to better meet the needs of busy professionals. Our online, on-demand courses can be accessed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. We seek to be as accessible as possible. You can receive social work continuing education credit at your leisure—when it is convenient for you, saving time and cost.

### Customized training

We recently launched an initiative to offer customized trainings unique to the needs of human service agencies. Through individual development and one-on-one collaboration, we work with organizations to address specific professional development needs and desires for their employees. This year, we offered training to:

- The Children's Center in Detroit, MI
- The Right Door in Ionia, MI
- York County Office of Children, Youth and Families in York, PA

### Co-sponsorships

We welcome the opportunity to partner and develop interdisciplinary learning opportunities with fellow university departments and community organizations. We jointly planned and offered innovative training in partnership with:

- Michigan Center for Rural Health—*3 live webinars for rural social workers*
- MSU College of Nursing—*16<sup>th</sup> Annual Case Management Conference; Interdisciplinary Workshop on Human Trafficking*
- MSU Institute for Health Policy—*Case Management Conference for Children with Special Healthcare Needs and Pediatric Behavior Health and Developmental Delays*

### Community outreach

This year, we continued to take our program on the road, exhibiting our work at conferences. We attended and exhibited at the Michigan Association for Community Mental Health Boards Fall Conference, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference, the NASW–Michigan 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Business of Social Work Conference, and the Michigan Fed-



CE customers **express high praise**

**“MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education makes it easy for me as a MSU field instructor to attend quality programs at reasonable prices.**

I trust the Continuing Education Program to select skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced speakers for their trainings. I appreciate that the programs are held in convenient locations, with printed materials available, and comfortable accommodations. Having access to programs specific to my professional needs that provide continuing education units is so critical for me. Furthermore, attending these programs has offered me crucial opportunities to network and expand my professional circle. I regularly recommend these programs to my colleagues, especially the yearly Great Lakes Summer Institute. Overall, I appreciate that the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program is responsive to the professional needs of social workers. The Continuing Education Program has offered me many great opportunities to gather knowledge and expand my expertise.”

—Allison Revels, LMSW

**“I have always been committed to continuing education and professional development; both before and since such became required.**

I am very proud that my University has provided the leadership for the provision of multiple types of educational choices for our profession. I have participated in opportunities provided by other venues but consistently find those provided by MSU to be most pertinent, affordable, accommodating and challenging. In addition to the progressive topics offered I am able to maintain connections with colleagues in our community and in our state. I have been in our field since the late 60s. Much has changed and evolved. It is critical every social worker keep themselves “aware” of the changes, needs, opportunities, and new studies related to the work we do and/or believe in. MSU’s Social Work Continuing Educational Program does this.”

—Paula L. Clark, LMSW



Amanda Dubey-Zerka (left) and Kelley Blanck

eration for Children and Families 2017 Senior Management Conference. We expanded our reach and built connections with over 600 social workers and human service professionals.

Additionally this year, we facilitated two focus groups and started an external Advisory Committee to develop our Trauma Certificate. We also engaged community experts to assist in planning our Annual Michigan Indian Day workshop.



Kathleen Miller, JD (left), and Officer Jessica Martin, LMSW



**Trauma Certificate**

We have launched our newly developed Trauma Certificate! This certificate is designed to help human service professionals learn techniques to improve their work with children, adolescents, adults, and families who have experienced trauma. To learn more, visit [socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Certificates](http://socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Certificates).

The GLSI celebrates its **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018!**

The **Great Lakes Summer Institute (GLSI)** is one of the leading statewide annual training events in Michigan, providing a wide variety of Continuing Education opportunities for social workers and other human service professionals. The goal of GLSI is to offer attendees the most up-to-date, current

workshops for professional skill development in both clinical and macro settings.

**Sponsorship opportunities**

The MSU School of Social Work is excited to announce sponsorship opportunities for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual GLSI, which will take place in beautiful Traverse City, MI, at Great Wolf Lodge Resort on July 24–27, 2018. Your organization can reach over 250 professionals from across the state that include a variety of social workers, clinical directors, supervisors, and caseworkers from across Michigan, as well as public mental health and child welfare organizations.

We invite you to sponsor this event! Please contact Events Specialist **Amanda Dubey-Zerka** at [dubeyama@msu.edu](mailto:dubeyama@msu.edu).



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

# Veterinary Social Work Services grows its hours and resources for greater self-care

This year has been one of evolution, growth, and a focused awareness campaign for Veterinary Social Work Services (VSWS) within the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC). VSWS expanded its vision and identified increased access to services as one of the primary goals this year. With a full-time Veterinary Social Work Services coordinator on board since January, a part-time social worker, and multiple MSW interns, services have increased significantly. The VMC now has VSWS coverage most days and evenings of the work week as well as some weekend coverage.

An additional goal for this year has been normalizing the need for regular self-care and wellness within the high-stress occupation of veterinary medicine. Wellness sessions have occurred occasionally over the years, but with increased



"I think you guys are **doing a tremendous job!** I really like these sessions!"

"Thank you! **For taking care of us all!**"

coverage, we are now hosting monthly self-care events for anyone working within the VMC. Activities have included creating DIY stress balls and other make-and-take relaxation tools, massage therapy, coloring sessions, a build-your-own-trail mix bar for nutritional self-care, as well as DIY aromatherapy rice packs.

Each MSW intern was tasked with identifying an aspect of self-care, researching effective interventions, and planning and executing an event within their intern team. Feedback has been excellent, with most participants asking that events occur more often. Event attendance has ranged from 41 to over 207, and the trend of participation has increased the more events we host, which is exciting!

The VSWS coordinator is Megan Spedoske, [spedosk6@msu.edu](mailto:spedosk6@msu.edu).



# FAME expands financial support through new summer scholarships

Over the past year, FAME has been working to strengthen and expand the supportive network on campus for MSU students who have experienced foster care, kinship care, or homelessness. To that end, FAME staffers have been working to increase campus knowledge about the needs of FAME students and services provided by FAME as well as inviting new campus champions to join its network.

After conducting a Campus Champion network meeting and individual follow-up meetings, FAME was successful in recruiting 17 new campus champions, who are excited about leveraging their roles as MSU faculty and staff in order to contribute to the mission to support some of MSU's most



PHOTO CREDIT: JACKIE BELDEN HAWTHORNE

vulnerable students in achieving Spartan success.

Thanks to generous gifts of supportive alumni, FAME has developed a summer scholarship fund for active FAME students. While, many FAME students have received financial aid and grants from the University, those funds

have been time-limited and not available during the summer session. The availability of summer financial aid allows FAME students to remain on track toward degree attainment and continue progressing without interruption in their program. Through this newly established fund, FAME was able to provide \$35,000 in scholarships in 2017.

The FAME coordinator is Andrea Martineau, [mart1525@msu.edu](mailto:mart1525@msu.edu).



INTRODUCING THE MSU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

# MID-MICHIGAN ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAM

CLINICAL OR ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (OCL)

**Beginning in summer 2018:**

Michigan State University School of Social Work

## MID-MICHIGAN ADVANCED STANDING MSW PROGRAM

Conveniently located at **Mott Northern Tier Center**

4082 W. Vienna Road, Clio, MI, exit 131 off I-75

**Fellowship opportunities are available for up to 25 students** accepted to the Mid-Michigan Advanced Standing MSW Program. Awardees will receive the **\$1,500 School of Social Work Emerging Practitioner Fellowship** award after successfully completing their first semester.

The program begins in summer 2018, and applications will be accepted September 1, 2017 – January 10, 2018. Applications are completed online: [socialwork.msu.edu/Programs/MSW/Admissions/Apply](http://socialwork.msu.edu/Programs/MSW/Admissions/Apply)

As a **Mid-Michigan Advanced Standing student** you will:

- Receive the same MSW Advanced Standing Program offered at our main East Lansing campus with both clinical and macro practice specializations
- Have access to fully online specialized certificate opportunities such as:
  - **Addiction Studies**
  - **Levande Program in Gerontology**
  - **School Social Work**
  - **Combat Veterans Certificate** [NEW in summer 2018]
- Learn from MSU's leading social work educators and researchers and an unsurpassed field network to facilitate high quality, specialized placements

The MSU School of Social Work has been providing off-campus MSW degree programs in Flint, Oakland, Saginaw, and the northern tier areas of Michigan for nearly 20 years. We are excited to continue our commitment to training high-quality social workers throughout the state with our new Mid-Michigan Advanced Standing Program.

**We hope you will join us!**

**Questions?** Contact the MSW Graduate Office at [swgradoffice@ssc.msu.edu](mailto:swgradoffice@ssc.msu.edu), ph: 517-355-7519.



Learn more about this exciting opportunity:

[socialwork.msu.edu/Programs/MSW/Program-Options](http://socialwork.msu.edu/Programs/MSW/Program-Options)



## Daniel Cavanaugh climbed mountains to **experience adventure therapy**

**D**aniel Cavanaugh is a third-year social work PhD student who spent the summer climbing mountains in the Cascade Range of northern Washington and southern British Columbia with the


National Outdoor Leadership School's (NOLS) Outdoor Educator Leadership Mountaineering and Rock Climbing program. Daniel took this course to prepare for his planned dissertation research utilizing techniques from adventure and wilderness therapy in mental illness prevention work with adolescents.

Adventure therapists incorporate facilitated adventure experiences such as hiking, rock climbing, and other activities into mental health therapy. NOLS is nationally recognized as the premier organization offering training in outdoor education and expedition risk management. Daniel pursued education with NOLS to learn how to integrate best practices and risk management in adventure-based therapies with youth.

At NOLS, Daniel and a group of outdoor educators learned a myriad of skills, including advanced rock climbing techniques, Leave No Trace conservation ethics, mountaineering skills, glacier travel, crevasse rescue, and wilderness first aid. This was done over 30 days living in remote wilderness locations in North Cascades National

Park, Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and Squamish, British Columbia. During this time, the educators traveled on rope teams across rocky and frozen landscapes, camping on snow and ice.

They climbed to the summit of two technical mountains in the Cascade Range, Mt. Baker (the snowiest place on Earth) and Eldorado Peak. To reach these summits safely, the educators learned to become proficient in the use of ice axes, rope teams, and crampons (metal boot spikes for climbing frozen slopes). After summiting these prominent peaks, the educators completed multi-pitch rock climbs on the sheer granite cliffs that raise hundreds of feet above Squamish, British Columbia. During these expeditions, the group of outdoor educators learned the skills to safely guide students in complex alpine zones and to experientially integrate education into adventure.

NOLS was founded in 1965 in Wyoming by wilderness education pioneer **Paul Petzoldt**. The organization started teaching safety and outdoor living skills to a select few students. As the organization has grown, they have expanded their course offerings and are now a world leader in outdoor and experiential education. Outdoor educators take NOLS courses to learn wilderness medicine, outdoor living skills, outdoor education modalities, Leave No Trace environmental preservation, and more. NOLS now maintains campuses across the world in locations that include the Pacific Northwest, Patagonia, The Yukon, and more. To learn more about NOLS, visit [www.nols.edu](http://www.nols.edu). 



## Roselyn Kaihula: Social aspects of environmental justice



**R**oselyn Kaihula is from Tanzania and earned her Bachelor in Social Work degree from the Institute of Social Work in Tanzania. After graduating, she was employed as Child Rights Specialist at Ekama Development Foundation where her work involved conducting research, advocacy, and policy analysis for human rights and child rights-related activities.

In 2015, Kaihula won a prestigious MasterCard Fellowship to study in the Master of Social Work, Organization, and Community Leadership concentration at Michigan State University. During this time, Kaihula worked with Tanzania Partnership Project-MSU to develop girls mentoring clubs in Tanzania. The model is aimed at empowering girls to realize their potential. Moreover, she also worked with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assess community participation in educational issues as well as elements associated with variation in school attendance among groups of children.

Additionally, Kaihula worked with Dr. Steven Anderson in understanding marginalized and low-income families' perspectives toward access to water in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Kaihula's PhD research interests involve social aspects of environmental justice, particularly finding ways to help communities conserve their environment and at the same time ensure access to fundamental human rights. She is currently a research assistant to Dr. Hyunkag Cho, investigating intimate partner violence among college students and their help-seeking behaviors. 🌱

## Elizabeth Meier: Organizational effectiveness



**E**lizabeth (Betsy) Meier earned her Master of Social Work degree from Grand Valley State University. For the past seven years, she has provided mental health counseling to individuals, families, and groups, with a

focus on survivors of trauma, including but not limited to child sexual abuse, sexual assault/rape, domestic violence, and community violence. Meier has worked in multiple nonprofit outpatient settings and a maximum-security men's prison, and is currently a board member for a Grand Rapids harm reduction organization that seeks to address HIV, hepatitis C, and overdose.

Meier is interested in researching social movement organization effectiveness, the de-radicalization of social justice movements/organizations over time, and the phenomenon of systematized perpetuation of trauma by helping professions/institutions. Meier is currently working with Dr. Sacha Klein on a national evaluation study of the effectiveness of an attachment-based program for caregivers of teenagers. 🌱

## Lucas Prieto: Mental health of LGBT populations



**L**ucas Prieto earned his Bachelor of Science in Sociology with a concentration in criminal justice from Central Michigan University. Upon graduation from CMU, Prieto worked as a mental health worker

in a behavioral health hospital. He then received his Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan. While working on his MSW degree, Prieto interned at Wayne State University as a mental health counselor. His research interests are sexual health, sexuality, and LGBT aging. He is especially interested in the comorbidity between sexual dysfunction and mental health problems in LGBT populations. Prieto is currently working with Dr. Deirdre Shires researching health providers' willingness to treat transgender patients. 🌱

### Have you ever considered earning your PhD in social work?

- Does it sound exciting to become an expert on a topic that's important to you?
- Are you interested in research that can be used to address practice issues or social problems?
- Do you think you might enjoy teaching and mentoring students?

If you would like to learn more about a PhD in social work, including coursework, financial support, and working with a faculty mentor, please contact **Dr. Angie Kennedy** at [kenne258@msu.edu](mailto:kenne258@msu.edu).

## Interview with Jameca Patrick-Singleton

**Jameca Patrick-Singleton** received her Master of Social Work degree from MSU with a concentration in Organization and Community Leadership. Recently, she was hired by the City of Flint to be the chief recovery officer following the Flint Water Crisis.

### What are the responsibilities of the chief recovery officer and what has motivated you to take on such an enormous responsibility?

The main goal of this position is to maximize the involvement of Flint residents in the recovery and rebuilding of the Flint water infrastructure and recovery support services. Also, I will ensure that community residents are well informed and engaged in community dialogue, visioning, and collective action that advance the city's recovery and restores the health and well-being of its residents.

I was motivated to apply for this position because, being a lifelong resident of Flint, I understand the frustration that the water crisis caused. I also understand the need of the residents to have their voices heard at every level of the recovery process. I was excited about the possibility of being that liaison. I felt that I could really make a difference in the lives of my fellow Flint residents by ensuring that they have not only a voice but access to information and resources to help them through the process.

### Do you have specific goals that you would like to accomplish as the chief recovery officer? What timeframe? What are the biggest obstacles in accomplishing your goals?

Yes. One of the first things that I did when I came aboard was to create a 90-day plan. That plan includes meeting with residents and key community partners to discuss the needs of the community as well as the water recovery efforts that are already taking place. The plan also includes working with a team of people to ensure that the logistics of the water PODS (Points of Distribution Sites) are worked out so that there are no issues with keeping four PODS open for the foreseeable future.



Also working with the ReCast (Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma) project will make sure that the community has access to programs that promote trauma-informed care. The last thing on my 90-day plan is to work on the Flint Lead Exposure Registry (FLExR) team. This is the team that is starting the process of developing and implementing a Flint Lead Exposure Registry to ensure that residents who were exposed have information regarding how to be added to the list as well as continued access to services.

I think that the only major obstacle that I'll face in achieving my goals is that there is so much information out there right now. People aren't sure what and whom to trust. However, I must admit that so far, I've received a really warm

welcome from the community.

### How has your MSW helped to prepare you for the position?

Oh, my goodness! My MSW has been key to helping prepare me in this position. In grad school, my concentration was Organization and Community Practice, so I gained a unique combination of skills.

I'm able to meet people where they are regardless of educational and social economic backgrounds. I also have the ability to understand systems and process, and I'm able to relate how those systems and processes impact people's everyday lives.

It is these skills that are helping me to help the citizens of Flint to move from crisis to recovery. It is these skills that allow me to be able to work with everyone from a citizen who may need to know where the closest water pod is located, to local, state, and federal administrators who may need information regarding the local impact of a new policy. 🌱



## Adriana Flores pays it forward, provides personal care items for those in need

**B**ASW and MSW graduate **Adriana Flores** wanted to make a difference in her community. Initially, she wanted to install a Little Free Pantry, which is a variation of the Little Free Library created by **Jessica McClard** of Arkansas. The goal is to alleviate local food insecurities in high poverty neighborhoods.

After some research, Flores learned that people who qualify for public assistance are not allowed to purchase hygiene products with the assistance funds. This includes tampons, pads, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. This led to Flores' pantry version called the E<sup>2</sup> | Empathy and Equity | Box, which instead of books or food, stocks these personal care items. "It provides anonymity to those who need products," she said, "And my hope is it will be a way to unify the community residents, outside community members, organizations, and institutions."

According to Flores, the name E<sup>2</sup> | Empathy and Equity | Box was chosen because: "Equality is giving the same of something to benefit everyone, yet this is done with the assumption that everyone is at the same place. Equity is giving people what they need to be at the same starting point. Sympathy is feeling *for* someone. Empathy is feeling *with* someone. This does not mean that the experiences are the same, rather there is an understanding of the feeling the person notes."

Flores began contacting various organizations, and a low-income apartment complex thought this met a need and chose to pilot the first box. **Craig Hiner** created the box, and Adriana's husband, **Hector Fajardo**, installed the first box on August 12 at Edgewood Village in Meridian Township. A second box was recently installed at the East Lansing Capital Area District Library.

Flores said, "My hope is it will make a difference in someone's life, so they know they are OK and people do care."

To learn more about the E<sup>2</sup> | Empathy and Equity | Box project, visit [esquaredbox.weebly.com](http://esquaredbox.weebly.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/esquaredbox/](http://www.facebook.com/esquaredbox/).



## School of Social Work news **when, where, and how you want it**

**T**he MSU School of Social Work is expanding its social media presence in order to reach more people with more relevant information in less time. We are expanding not just our content, but the places where you can be connected to that content. More of our faculty will be involved in posting content as our online presence grows.

The School will be posting upcoming events, such as continuing education offerings, guest lectures, and special advocacy opportunities. When there is a need to widely disseminate information, such as with responses to the Flint water crisis or announcing a new program, social media is the most effective way to keep people up to date or steer them to pertinent information on our website. Currently, our Facebook fans exceed 2,500, Twitter followers are over 1,600, and both are growing every month.

Our Facebook content has been reorganized onto one main School site, and Continuing Education and the Community Programs (see pp. 8–10) also have their own Facebook sites. The School and the FAME Program also have Instagram and Twitter accounts. It is our intent to expand content on all of these media sites. We hope to "see" you all online! 🌱



### On Facebook look for:

MSUSocialWork  
MSUVSW  
MIKinship  
MSUSocialWorkContinuingEducation  
MSUChanceatChildhood  
MSUFAME



### On Instagram look for:

MSU\_SocialWork  
MSU\_FAME



### On LinkedIn look in "groups" for:

MSU School of Social Work



### On Twitter look for:

MSUSocialWork  
MSUFAME

## Dr. Steven Anderson returns to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



**Dr. Steve Anderson**

**M**SU School of Social Work Director **Dr. Steven Anderson** recently accepted the position of dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Anderson has returned to the school where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and was an assistant professor and an associate professor from 1997 to 2010.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve as director of the MSU School of Social Work. It is a great place, and I am very appreciative of the consistent, high quality work and efforts of so many people here. I likewise am thankful for the strong support I have received from the School and MSU during my directorship and for the many kindnesses extended to my family and me. While I am looking forward to my new position at UIUC, I will miss this place very much," said Dr. Anderson.

It is clear that he will be missed as well. At the final school meeting of Dr. Anderson's tenure, several faculty



Associate Professor **Dr. Pilar Horner** and Executive Secretary **Pat Talbot** present **Dr. Steve Anderson** with parting gifts at the School's annual meeting.

members came to the podium to recount stories of how he led the School in positive ways, encouraged their work, or advised on a difficult situation. Executive Secretary Pat Talbot presented parting gifts and told of her appreciation of her time working with Dr. Anderson.

**Dr. John Mooradian**, who joined the School of Social Work faculty in 2005 and has served as associate director of the School since 2015, is serving as the interim director. 🌱



**Dr. John Mooradian**

## Mooradian, Woodward, Eaton to serve as interim directors

**D**r. **John Mooradian** has been named interim director of the School of Social Work upon the departure of **Dr. Steven Anderson**. College of Social Science Dean **Rachel Croson** stated, "Dr. Mooradian joined the School of Social Work faculty in 2005, and he has served as associate director of the School since 2015. He is a highly skilled administrator who understands all aspects of the School's operations, and I especially appreciate his leadership as the School enters its cycle of reaffirmation."

Upon this appointment, Dr. Anderson said, "I was pleased with Dean's Croson's selection of John



**Monaca Eaton**

Mooradian as interim director. I have worked closely with John during my entire time here, most prominently over the past two years as he has served as associate director. I admire his strong leadership and administrative skills, as well as his long-standing commitment to the School, and I am confident that he will work collectively with all to keep the School on a positive path."

**Dr. Amanda Woodward** will act as the interim associate director for academic affairs while also performing her duties as director of the MSW Program.

**BASW Program Director Monaca Eaton** will also take on the responsibilities of the interim associate director for instruction. 🌱



**Dr. Amanda Woodward**

**A Mission of Social Justice and Positive Change:** The MSU School of Social Work is dedicated to educating students for ethical, competent, responsive, and innovative social work practice, and to conducting and disseminating high quality research that improves the well-being of the most vulnerable in society. Our teaching, research, and outreach synergistically promote social justice, positive change, and solutions to the problems facing diverse individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.



NEW FACULTY



Erin Cavanaugh hired as **MSW academic advisor**

**E**rin Cavanaugh joined the School of Social Work as the MSW academic advisor for Flint, Saginaw, Oakland, and Mid-Michigan programs in May 2017. She is excited to be joining such a prestigious institution and leader in the field of social work.

Cavanaugh is a graduate of MSU's School of Social Work Flint Program. She completed the program as a non-traditional student, bringing a unique perspective to her work. Cavanaugh's undergraduate degree is in sociology with a gender studies minor. "I was honored to have had amazing and compassionate educators while I was in the program. I am excited to carry on the tradition of inspiring future generations of social workers while also teaching them to be leaders in the field."

Cavanaugh sees the field through a feminist lens, with a passion for working with the LGBTQ population. She has advocated nationally for LGBTQ persons' rights in multiple settings, including local and state government, faith settings, and within the mental health field. Additionally, Cavanaugh has worked to develop LGBTQ trauma-informed interventions.

Cavanaugh has experience working in the mental health field at Lapeer Community Mental Health. She specialized in DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) and trauma work with specialized interventions in Prolonged Exposure and TREM (Trauma and Recovery Empowerment Model). She has also worked with ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) and with Jail Liaison interdisciplinary teams to achieve a diverse work history within the mental health field. 🌿



Passionique Presberry hired to coordinate the **Kinship Care Resource Center**

**P**assionique Presberry, LLMSW, received both her BASW and MSW from MSU. Passionique is no stranger to the School of Social Work; in 2015–2016, she interned at FAME, a community program within the School, where she provided coaching services to MSU students who had experienced foster care, kinship care, adoption, and/or identified as homeless. As a result of working with FAME, Passionique returned in the summer of 2016 as interim coordinator and head coach of the FAME program.

Currently, Passionique is the coordinator of the Kinship Care Resource Center, where she provides resources and advice to kinship families in the following areas: identifying financial resources, answering questions surrounding the guardianship process, working with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, identifying support groups in the area and connecting them to resources in their county.

Additionally, Passionique works in the community as an outpatient therapist to clients voluntarily participating in substance abuse treatment. She also has experience in workshop facilitation and community advocacy. Passionique is excited to continue her connection with the School of Social Work in her current position. She is looking forward to collaborating with staff, building new relationships, and continuing to increase her knowledge on all things social work. 🌿



**Ellen Hayse to retire**

**E**llen Hayse, joined the School of Social Work in October of 2012 as a research administrator. Her primary responsibility has been assisting faculty with pre-award grants and contracts. Ellen will be retiring at the end of 2017. Associate Professor **Joanne Riebschleger** said, "Ellen helped with my proposals, communicated with Contracts and Grants, and engaged in active, team problem solving and support. She will be missed!" 🌿

# MAHP Foundation launches Michigan initiative

At the end of last year, the Michigan Association of Health Plans Foundation (MAHPF) received a two-year grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to support an initiative, “Creating Healing Communities: Addressing Adverse Childhood Experience in Michigan.”

ACEs are serious childhood traumas that result in toxic stress, which can damage the developing brain of a child and affect overall health. This toxic stress may prevent child from learning and from playing in a healthy way with other children and can result in long-term health problems.

From the original research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente Health Plan, 10 ACEs are grouped in the following areas: abuse (physical, sexual, or emotional); neglect (physical or emotional) and household dysfunction (mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, parental separation/divorce, incarceration).

This research studied over 17,000 individuals at the Kaiser Permanente Health Plan in San Diego and the impact of various childhood adverse experiences in the context of each individual’s current health status. This study set into motion hundreds of additional research and related program initiatives continuing to this day.

The 10 adverse childhood experiences are those listed in the illustration below. While the percentages in the chart are from the original study, the recent survey results in Michigan revealed similar percentages.

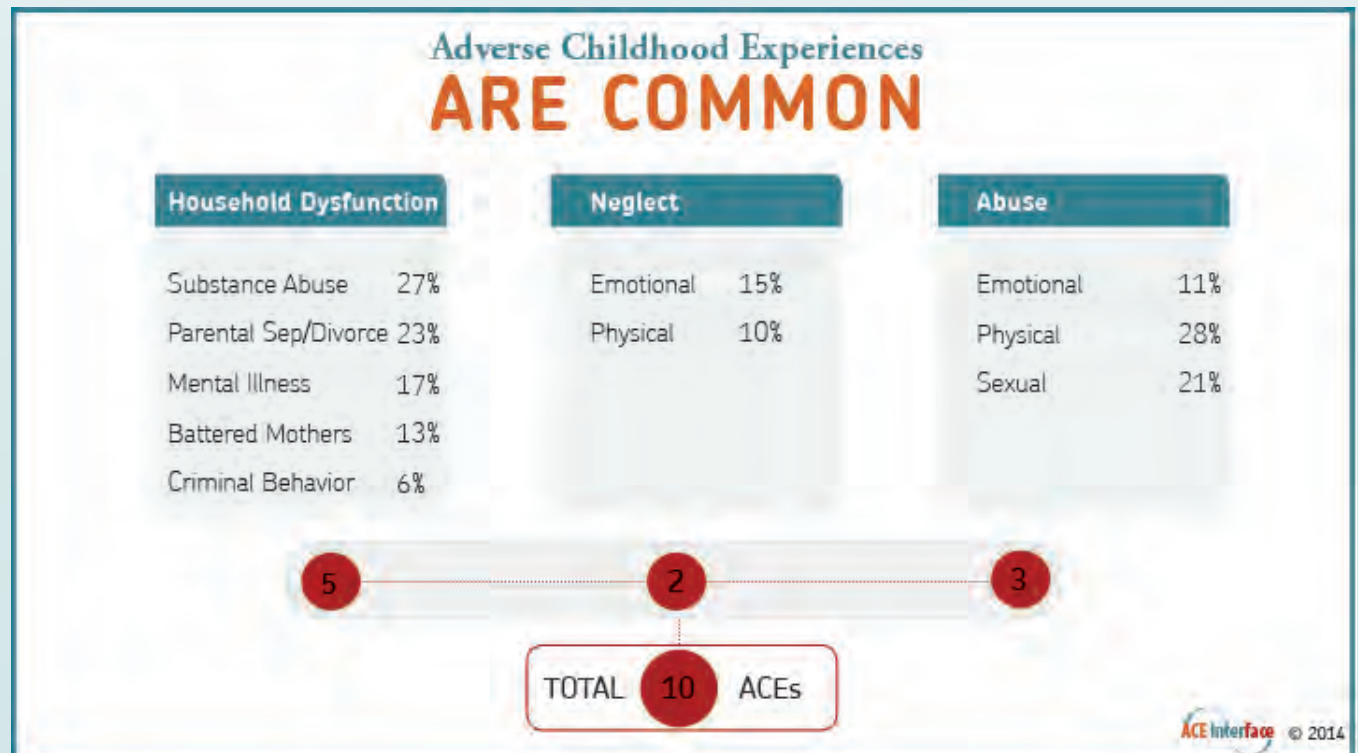
Based on this research and supported by subsequent studies, populations with an ACE score of 4 or more are:

- Twice as likely to smoke
- Seven times more likely to be alcoholics
- Six times more likely to have had sex before age 15
- Twice as likely to have been diagnosed with cancer
- Twice as likely to have heart disease
- Four times as likely to suffer from emphysema or chronic bronchitis
- Twelve times as likely to have attempted suicide
- Five times more likely to be involved in interpersonal violence or get raped
- Ten times more likely to have injected street drugs

An ACE score of 8 reflects four co-occurring problems.

Fortunately, children are resilient if given an opportunity, and that is the objective being pursued by the MAHP Foundation. Our failure to address ACE is being absorbed by the adult health care issues, costs and dysfunctions. By pursuing a comprehensive and long-term initiative to address ACE, Michigan can create change. The Michigan Association of Health Plans Foundation grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund launches that comprehensive effort.

Under the Grant Award, the MAHP Foundation will provide:



Findings from the original Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente Health Plan.

## on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

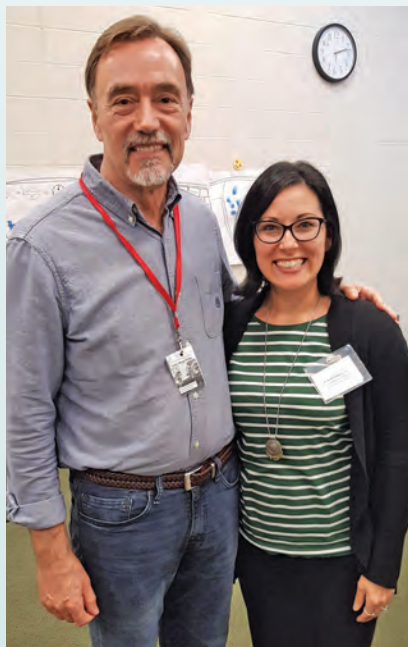
- Increased and Sustained Awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and impact on Michigan's future health care, education, law enforcement.
- Regional Training that will produce a cohort of individuals qualified to link ACE Screening outcomes with community interventions.
- Continuing education opportunities for Michigan's health providers to gain knowledge and skill
- Development and Implementation of State policy that will enable the use of the ACE screening tool as Children receive health screenings and services.

This effort will be guided by a Michigan ACE Initiative Steering Committee composed of representatives from a broad array of health, education, and law enforcement organizations—including **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**, a senior clinical instructor for MSU School of Social Work. Further involvement of the MSU School of Social Work has been the participation of **Amanda Dubey-Zerka** as part of the master training for ACE that took place in late September

at the MSU Biological Station at Gull Lake. Additional master training will take place next March in Plymouth at the Inn at St. John's, and next September in Saginaw at the Central Michigan University Medical School annex adjacent to Covenant Hospital.

The cumulative effects of ACES reflect a powerful opportunity for prevention—no matter if you are working to prevent heart disease or cancer, end homelessness or hopelessness, or improve business profitability—as we align a portion of our work around a common goal of preventing the accumulation of ACES and moderating their effects, we will reduce all of these problems, and many others, all at once!

The ACE Study is unique because it provides the potential to understand how multiple forms of childhood stressors can affect many important public health problems. Challenges to address population health, social determinants of health disparities, as well as the need to create integrated delivery systems are at the core of how ACE must be addressed in Michigan. 🌱



Pictured with **Dr. Robert Anda**, co-principal investigator of the ACE Study, is **Amanda Dubey-Zerka** of MSU School of Social Work.

Cheryl Williams-Hecksel:  
**“Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences and resilience is essential for social work professionals.”**



Cheryl Williams-Hecksel

Amanda Dubey-Zerka:  
**“Understanding the impact of ACEs is essential to prevention, intervention, and resilience building for current and future generations.”**

Ongoing information on the Michigan ACE Initiative can be found at: <http://mahp.org/ace-grant>

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganACE/>

You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7h4KhtA\\_gPa6JyEIRb2UofQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7h4KhtA_gPa6JyEIRb2UofQ)

# Faculty, students present at CSWE annual event

The MSU School of Social Work had a strong presence at the Council on Social Work Education 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Program Meeting—*Educating for the Social Work Grand Challenges*—held in Dallas, TX, October 19–22 2017. The conference, the premier national meeting of the social work education field, provides a showcase for scholarship in social work education through a variety of competitive peer-reviewed presentations.



## FACULTY AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

**Kyunghye Lee**

*Asian Children's Cognitive and Social-Emotional Development in the Context of Head Start*

**Marcia Lampen, Panel**

*Closing the Health Gap Through Social Work Leadership: The HEALS Program*

**Jenny Jones, Pilar Horner, Edward J. Alessi, and Michelle Blake**

*The Executive Order Effect: Understanding Immigration in the Current Political Climate*

**Anna Maria Santiago**

*Participation in Early Childhood Educational Programs: What Role Does Neighborhood Play?*

**Hyunkag Cho and Daria Shamrova**

*Patterns of Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Survivors' Help-Seeking*

**Steve Anderson and Ann Ripberger**

*Kinship Provider Perspectives on Caregiving Related Health Issues*

**Tina Blaschke-Thompson, Glenn Stutzky, and Emily Brozovic**

*Embracing the Stories of War: Using Storytelling and Immersive Course Design to Deepen Empathy for Combat Veterans*

**Sacha Klein, Panel**

*Social Work Is Political: Preparing Students for Careers in Political Settings*

**Ilan Kwon, Jaewon Lee, Edita Milanović, and Catherine A. Macomber**

*Human Rights and Civic Engagement Among University Students in the United States*

**Rena D. Harold, Kristen A. Prock, and Sheryl R. Groden**

*Academic and Personal Identity: Connection vs. Separation*

**Christy Cummings**

*Providers' Perceptions on Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Service Availability and Access*

**Joshua D. Bishop and Kristen A. Prock**  
*Does Trauma Impact Academic Success in Foster Care Alumni? An Exploratory Study*

**Cristy Cummings and Elizabeth Wahler**  
*Gender Differences Among Voluntary Participants of a Capacity-Building Anti-Poverty Program*

**Edita Milanović**

*Inside-Out Prison Exchange Model: Using Experiential Learning to Bring Students Together*

**Cheryl Williams-Hecksel and Sharon Kollar**  
*Preparing Social Work Students as Leaders to Address Social Work's Grand Challenges*

**Roselyn Kaihula and Steve Anderson**

*Poor Residents Perspectives on Water Access Issues in an Urban Tanzanian Neighborhood*

**Daria Shamrova**

*Material Deprivation and Child Well-Being: The Mediating Role of Children's Self-Determination Rights*

**Kristen A. Prock, Jisuk Seon, and Joshua D. Bishop**  
*Social Support and Academic Achievement Among College Students with Unstable Childhood Experiences*

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION THROUGH CSWE

**Dr. Pilar Horner**, commissioner, Commission for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice

**Dr. Anna Maria Santiago**, incoming editor-in-chief, *Journal of Community Practice*

**Dr. Anna Maria Santiago**, board member, Association for Community Organization and Social Administration

**Dr. Anna Maria Santiago**, member/ally, Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice

**Dr. Daniel Velez Ortiz**, co-chair, Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity

**Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**, LMSW, task group member, Title of Commission, Council, etc. Special Task Force on Trauma Competencies



CSWE is the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the U.S.

# Interview with **Emily Young, MSW 2019**

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

—Maya Angelou

## **When did you decide to pursue a degree in social work? Why did you choose social work? MSU?**

A large part of what drives me is my experience as a young person in long-term recovery from addiction. When I entered recovery at age 21, completing my undergraduate degree was a priority; at that time, however, campus did not feel like a safe or supportive place to try to maintain abstinence.

During my senior year, I approached Student Health Services about my experience. In fulfillment of the internship requirement of my Family Community Services degree, I was able to work with the Health Promotion Department to establish MSU’s Collegiate Recovery Community (CRC), a peer support program for students in or seeking recovery from addiction.

My internship supervisor was an MSW who had received her degree from Michigan State University. She encouraged me to look into the program, and after reading up on the profession, I was sold. I knew that social work was a good fit because its mission, philosophies, and values are a direct reflection of my personal and professional goals. I also liked the flexibility of the degree and felt that becoming a social worker would offer me the opportunity to pursue many different career paths. MSU’s part-time program has allowed me to complete my degree requirements while working full time to grow the CRC.

## **Have any instructors had a particularly strong impact on you?**

I entered my first semester of the program with a concentration in clinical social work. However, after taking Dr. Klein’s Social Welfare Policy course, I knew I had to consider a different path. The class opened my eyes to the injustice inherent in so much of our country’s policy and inspired me to get involved and make a difference.

I had pursued a degree in social work because I wanted to improve the lives of those affected by mental health and substance use disorders, and legislative advocacy provided me with a whole new means by which to do so. By the end of the semester, I had made the decision to channel my passion for helping others



into affecting systems-level change, and I switched my concentration to Organization and Community Leadership.

Dr. Klein also encouraged me to apply for the Advocacy Scholars Program, a scholarship program that provides training and mentorship for students interested in careers in professional advocacy. I am honored to be a part of the 2017–2018 Advocacy Scholars cohort and excited to learn from the passionate and distinguished

faculty behind the program.

## **What has been your favorite class? Why?**

After discovering my interest in policy advocacy, I decided to utilize some of my elective credits to participate in the School of Social Work’s Inside/Out Prison Exchange course. The 400-level class takes place in the Cooper Street Correctional Facility and brings together MSU social work students and incarcerated students for a semester-long course on criminal justice policy.

Together, “inside” and “outside” students study the intersection of mental health, substance abuse, immigration, and the criminal justice system, and come up with policy solutions to difficult social problems. I have never felt so connected to my peers as I did in Inside/Out. The class built in me a deep empathy for incarcerated individuals and reaffirmed my career goals of improving mental health and substance abuse programs and policies.

## **Do you have any advice for others considering social work?**

If you are considering social work, I would encourage you to go for it! The decision to further my education has opened so many doors for me personally and professionally, and I have felt so consistently supported and empowered by the School of Social Work faculty and staff. If you have questions or concerns about the program, reach out to someone and ask!

Everyone I have encountered has been so willing to help guide me in the direction of my academic and career goals. 🍀



State Rep. Jewell Jones



MSU School of Social Work students L-R: KaDerrick Robinson, Caroline Croom, Natalie McQueary, and Kat Logan

## MSU students participate in 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual My Brother's Keeper Summit

On October 7, 2017, One Love Global, led by Angela Waters Austin, hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual My Brother's Keeper Summit at Lansing Community College. The My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Scholars, students in social work programs across Michigan, assisted in the planning and outreach that allowed the summit to run smoothly and engaged community members in discussion with breakout sessions aimed at youth advocacy and social justice.

Through our community engagement, the scholars connected the community to continue the work that is part of the initiative and goals of My Brother's Keepers. Among the attendees was Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and State Representative Jewell Jones who was the keynote speaker for that day. Shani Saxon, LMSW, is the field instructor for the scholars.

As MBK Scholars, we participated in the summit to gain experience in community organizing, program development, evaluation, policy, and systems transformation. Our inspiration to participate also involved a desire to support youth to gain strategies and resources through organizing, civic engagement, and political power.

At the Summit, scholars gained better engagement skills by connecting the community together. We also hopefully gained more youth to join us in our initiative to bring them to the table so they can transform policies and systems that influence their life outcomes.

One Love Global and MBK Scholars not only plan to continue to help bring more youth to the My Brother's Keeper initiative, but also help bring and grow the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) process in Lansing. TRHT is a comprehensive process to help plan and

**LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Health & Human Services Bldg.  
10.7.17  
9am-4pm

**MBK MICHIGAN SUMMIT 2017**

**Morning Plenary Speaker**  
Vincent Thurman is the Coordinator for the Centre for Engaged Inclusion at Lansing Community College, where he helps create a more just and equitable world in partnership with the campus and community through a variety of initiatives.

**AGENDA**

9:00	Registration & Breakfast
10:00	Welcome
10:15	Remarks from Mayors Bernero & Weaver
10:30	Plenary Speaker
11:00	State of MBK Michigan Network
11:30	MBK Community Updates
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Keynote
1:15	Breakout 1
2:35	Breakout 2

**Afternoon Keynote Speaker**  
State Rep. Jewell Jones is serving his first term representing the 11th House District, which comprises all of Garden City and Inkster, and portions of Dearborn Heights, Livonia and Westland. Jones is a native and current resident of Inkster.

**young powerful political**

bring about transformational and sustainable change. It also addresses the effects of racism by revealing and ridding deeply held, often unconscious beliefs created by racism. 🌱



# EMPOWER EXTRAORDINARY

THE CAMPAIGN *for* MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Please give to support the **next generation of social work leaders!**

**S**ocial work students enter our field driven by a sense of idealism and commitment to those less fortunate in society. They in turn do many wonderful things across social service venues and often without high financial rewards. Finding the resources to allow students to do the work they love is an endeavor that challenges us all.

It is in this spirit that the School seeks any support that inspires you. The School currently is actively engaged in the MSU Empower Extraordinary Capital Campaign, which is seeking at least \$1.5 billion campus-wide to empower critical initiatives. Thanks to the generous donations of countless alumni and friends, the School has created many different scholarship funds to support students in diverse areas of social work. You can find descriptions of these giving opportunities at:

**[socialwork.msu.edu/Alumni-and-Giving/Endowments](http://socialwork.msu.edu/Alumni-and-Giving/Endowments)**

where you can also donate electronically. It also is possible to make donations for the operation of the School more generally or to support special research and service initiatives. Donations also may be sent by mail to:

Nancy Perkins  
MSU School of Social Work  
Baker Hall  
655 Auditorium Road, Room 254  
East Lansing, MI 48824

If you have ideas for new scholarships or other initiatives you would like to support, please contact School Interim Director **Dr. John Mooradian** at [mooradil@msu.edu](mailto:mooradil@msu.edu) or 517-355-7515.

Thank you so much for your support. Your generosity is essential to our students and to the quality of our School's programs—your gifts truly are helping build the future of social work! 🌱

## WHO WILL? SPARTANS WILL.

Visit the School on the web: **[socialwork.msu.edu](http://socialwork.msu.edu)**



Fall 2017/Winter 2018 SSW NEWS

Writer and editor: **Tony Beyers**  
Graphic design: **Rose Homa Design**  
Printer: **Aldinger, Inc.**

This newsletter is printed on FLO Dull Text, which is 10% post-consumer waste, using 100% vegetable-based inks. All production waste is recycled. Please recycle after reading.

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East Lansing, MI 48824

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STAY ACTIVE IN THE SCHOOL!

## Stay active in the School!

**Join our Social Work Alumni Association**  
[alumni.msu.edu/membership](http://alumni.msu.edu/membership)

**Attend our Continuing Education sessions**  
[socialwork.msu.edu/CE](http://socialwork.msu.edu/CE)

**Prepare for the Social Work Licensure Examination**  
[socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Licensure](http://socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Licensure)

**Qualify for State of Michigan School Social Work certification**  
[socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Competency-Series](http://socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Competency-Series)

**Become a Continuing Education presenter**  
[socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Announcements](http://socialwork.msu.edu/CE/Announcements)

**Become a Field Instructor or Field Faculty Liaison**  
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