

A banner year for MSU social work

There is much to celebrate at MSU School of Social Work. As the nation's pioneering Land Grant University, we provide more than an accessible education, we provide *access to a world class education*; not only a commitment to real world, applied research, but opportunities for our students to engage in that research and learn from national experts. Our mission is to prepare competent, ethical, and responsive professionals who have the leadership abilities to help make a difference in their communities, our country, and around the world. In addition to in-class learning, it has been a year of multiple opportunities for students to enrich their professional knowledge and preparation for social work leadership and practice:



Gary R. Anderson

For our **BASW** students, the culmination of diversity projects has provided opportunities to deepen and expand an understanding of different ages, cultures, ethnic traditions, races, religions, and backgrounds. For many BASW students, a research mentorship has provided a special opportunity to explore questions of contemporary interest, contribute to knowledge, work with a faculty member, and gain skills in a range of areas crucial in a field seeking evidence to support practice.

For our **MSW** students, there were special leadership opportunities during a spring break experience in Mexico and opportunities to pursue specialized knowledge in such areas as family practice, work with older adults, child advocacy and child welfare, and trauma. Our MSW programs across the state of Michigan engage students in diverse learning opportunities and the chance to contribute to their home communities as well as their graduate education.

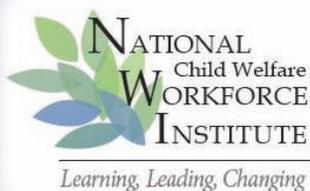
For **PhD** students, classroom mentoring and teaching, research projects, and program leadership have been added to their dedication to interdisciplinary coursework, comprehensive exams, and dissertations.

These learning opportunities for all of our students have been enriched by opportunities for interaction with **national leaders**: (1) through the Dorothy Harper Jones Lecture: therapy with Latino families with Celia Falicov; (2) through Michigan Indian Day: Lois Beardslee, Bill Memberto, and LeAnne Silvey addressing culturally competent practice with American Indian people; (3) through the Ruth Koehler Lectureship: play therapy with Linda Homeyer; (4) at the Flint 10th Anniversary breakfast: ethical decision making with JoAnn McFall; (5) through the School's advocacy endowment: restorative justice with Mark Umbreit; and (6) through the University's inclusion grant: five experts on cultural diversity and research (described in this newsletter). In addition to these national experts, there have been over 50 workshops through continuing education presented by University and community experts and leaders; special guests from community agencies interacting with students in our classrooms; and a range of events at the larger University.

To deepen and support this learning environment, our faculty members are committed to teaching and are actively engaged in **research**. With 95% of our tenure system faculty submitting a grant for funding for a research project in the past two years, joined by approximately one-third of our clinical faculty, the drive to explore social problems and advance knowledge about health and well-being is an active part of our culture and learning environment. This newsletter features projects led by Suzanne Cross and Sheryl Kubiak.

There are many reasons for collective pride—some are described in this newsletter. However, our accomplishments and pride are accompanied by a sense of humility and modesty as we acknowledge the hope to do more in the years ahead, recognize the limits of our ability and knowledge, seek to keep learning, listening, and growing, and maintain an awareness of the magnitude of the challenges facing our world. There is much to do, and I believe that our students, alumni, faculty, and community partners are key leaders in advancing positive values and crafting a better state and world.

—Gary R. Anderson, PhD, LMSW
Director, Michigan State University School of Social Work



The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute partners include social work programs from nine universities:

- ▲ Michigan State University
- ▲ University of Albany–SUNY
- ▲ University of Iowa
- ▲ University of Denver
- ▲ University of Southern Maine
- ▲ University of Michigan
- ▲ Fordham University
- ▲ Portland State University
- ▲ University of Maryland

and the National Indian Child Welfare Association.



Dr. Suzanne Cross has focused her scholarship on study of older adults with a special interest in kinship care. She has done pioneering work with Native American elders, publishing and presenting extensively on the boarding school experience and its impact on older American Indians and subsequent generations.

National Child Welfare Workforce Institute includes support for American Indian traineeship programs for BSW and MSW students

The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Children’s Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. Its purpose is to build the capacity of the nation’s child welfare workforce and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families through activities that support the development of skilled child welfare leaders in public and tribal child welfare systems, and in private agencies that are contracted by the States to provide case management services that are traditionally provided by the public child welfare system.

As part of its scope, NCWWI is implementing BSW and MSW traineeship programs in partnership with 12 universities. MSU School of Social Work is responsible for coordinating and overseeing these traineeship programs.

The Children’s Bureau also awarded supplemental funding to the NCWWI to support its ongoing American Indian traineeship programs for BSW and MSW students. This funding has allowed the NCWWI to hire MSU Social Work Associate Professor **Suzanne Cross**, PhD, LMSW, to provide leadership and ensure additional programmatic and administrative assistance to the traineeship programs to enhance recruitment, support, and retention of American Indian students. Dr. Cross is a Saginaw Chippewa tribal member, elder, and artisan.

American Indian students face challenges that most traditional college students do not. They are frequently the first in their families to enroll in higher education programs and must travel great distances to attend school, leaving them isolated from their tribes and families. They experience considerable financial hardship, and many are managing other responsibilities such as parenting, grandparenting, and other caretaking.

Dr. Cross has been busy meeting with principal investigators of the traineeship programs, as well as providing presentations and webinars on topics such as best practices in recruitment and retention of American Indian social work students, American Indian cultural behaviors as they differ from mainstream American culture, and profiles of successful American Indian social workers. She has begun development of manuscripts and reports on topics of recruitment, retention, job readiness, and collaboration with American Indian and non-tribal communities.

Dr. Cross has involved three MSU students in the project: **Lucas Gogliotti** and **Justin Pung** are BASW seniors, and **Rose Petoskey** is a senior in political science who is doing her American Indian Studies internship under Dr. Cross’s direction. The students have been conducting a literature review on the topic of recruitment and retention of American Indian students, collecting and assessing relevant classroom materials, professional journal articles, books, films, and American Indian course syllabi relevant to issues that may be taught in social work courses. Petoskey will also focus on a literature review for “entry to work” information. **S**



At the MSU School of Social Work, research is an essential element of our work. After all, Michigan State University is a Research Intensive University with a special purpose in relation to developing knowledge across all of its many academic fields and programs. Research and the knowledge construction process are at the core of a great University—and a great School of Social Work.

Paired with this Research Mission is our Land Grant Mission—that our research can be applied to and be responsive to current and emerging challenges. Our research is intended to make a difference in the lives of people and communities in Michigan, throughout the US, and beyond.

Many of our research activities involve partnerships with community agencies and organizations: schools, mental health agencies, health care organizations, and a range of social service and community-based not-for-profits. Together, we address research projects and questions. The knowledge generated benefits all partners, and the process of working together also produces positive results. A great School of Social Work aligns with and enlivens the Research Mission of the University, and this activity produces quality teaching and engaged partnerships.

These projects give you a glimpse into the work of one of our faculty members in the area of promoting social justice and positive social change in an ever-changing world.

Beyond Violence: A Prevention Program for Women *Enhancing programs for incarcerated women*

The goal of this Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) funded project is to develop, implement, and evaluate an intervention for women convicted of violent offenses using the *Beyond Violence* curriculum written by Dr. Stephanie Covington, a pioneer in the field of women's issues, addiction, and recovery. *Beyond Violence* is a trauma-informed and gender-specific intervention built around the World Health Association model of violence prevention. The 40-hour curriculum is designed to increase women's knowledge of their own life events and decrease their use of violence and risk of recidivism, and substance misuse. It is based on a social-ecological model that considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. Michigan is the first state in the country to implement this, an intervention that is likely to become a national model.

Dr. Sheryl Kubiak serves as principal investigator of the MSU evaluation team that includes **Dr. Deborah Bybee** (psychology), **Liz Tillander** (project director), **Gina Fedock** (SW doctoral student), **Woo Jong Kim** (SW doctoral student), **Echo Rivera** (psychology doctoral student), and research assistants **Lee Eshelman** and **Jessica Trudel**. The first year of the project involved research on the intervention model with a survey administered to 600 randomly selected women in Michigan prisons in 2010. Results of this study revealed interesting differences between women who had engaged in more isolated uses of violence (measured as both violence they were arrested for and other violence that they had perpetrated, but they were not arrested for) compared to women who had more frequent patterns of violent behavior.

During the second year (2010–11), a feasibility study of *Beyond Violence* began in the residential treatment unit of the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. The short-term results of the feasibility study were positive, demonstrating statistically significant improvements in mental health symptoms as a result of the *Beyond Violence* intervention and suggesting that the *Beyond Violence* intervention can be feasibly employed by MDOC at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility to effectively enhance treatment services provided to women convicted of assaultive offenses.

This is important, as mental health symptoms of both depression and PTSD have been linked to anger and/or rage in both males and females. In females, particularly, it is common that increased levels of depression are assumed to be internalized anger. Therefore, decreased scores on measures of mental health symptoms are a good indication that repressed anger and/or rage are being addressed during the intervention period.

During the third year of this study (2011–2012), the evaluation team engaged in two primary activities associated with the implementation and outcomes of the *Beyond Violence* program. First, long-term outcomes associated with the pilot groups were assessed to answer: Will women engage in less institutional aggression? Will they be charged with fewer violent crimes? Will they recidivate less? Will they successfully complete parole? Second, a randomized control trial is currently underway to evaluate the outcomes of *Beyond Violence* in an outpatient setting or general population setting, as well as the benefits of the program when compared to existing outpatient treatment programs (e.g., Assaultive Offender Programming). **S**

Female Sex Offender Project *Assessing and Comparing Male and Female Sex Offenders within the Michigan Department of Corrections*

This study was commissioned by the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) in an effort to improve treatment and rehabilitation of sex offenders, thereby decreasing recidivism. The Department's primary interest was in understanding female sex offenders and the differences between male and female sex offenders in an effort to determine how programming needs differ.

Members of the assessment team were School of Social Work Associate Professor **Sheryl Kubiak** and MSU criminal justice PhD student **Kimberly Bender**; **Dr. Poco Kernsmith**, Wayne State University; and **Dr. Roger Kernsmith**, Eastern Michigan University. Two data sources were used: the MDOC Correctional Management Information System and a survey constructed by the research team and disseminated to all of the female sex offenders and a subsample of male sex offenders.

Michigan Open Doors Project *Best Practices Toolkit*

The Michigan Open Doors Project is a national demonstration project that aims to identify and address the many barriers faced by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated domestic and sexual assault survivors in obtaining advocacy and support from domestic violence and sexual assault programs. It was funded through a three-year planning and capacity-building grant awarded to the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) by the US Department of Health and Human Services. MCADSV is a statewide membership association for the more than 70 domestic and sexual violence agencies in Michigan.

Dr. Sheryl Kubiak, along with Dr. Cris Sullivan (psychology) and three doctoral students, Lauren Fries and Gina Fedock from social work and Nkiru Nnawulezi from psychology, created a *Best Practices Toolkit* organized specifically for direct service workers interested in the intersections between the domestic violence and criminal legal sectors. The focus of the toolkit is to provide practical tips to effectively assist any woman charged or convicted of any crime who is also a victim of domestic violence, since the majority of women in prisons and jails have experienced interpersonal violence. While some information is specific to Michigan (and noted as such), the intention of this toolkit is to be useful nationally. The completed toolkit was recently featured in three national webinars.

The overall purpose of this toolkit is to:

- Ensure that criminal legal personnel and domestic violence advocates have quick, accessible information about the needs of domestic violence survivors with criminal histories.
- Inform criminal legal personnel and domestic violence advocates about the multiple stressors and barriers impacting the lives of domestic violence survivors with criminal histories.
- Provide practical tips to both criminal legal personnel and domestic violence advocates to work effectively with survivors charged with crimes.
- Enhance collaboration and understanding between these sectors in an effort to decrease victimization and incarceration.

An important capacity-building goal of the Michigan Open Doors Project is to enhance the community collaboration

Failure to address the needs of survivors with criminal histories is a missed opportunity to reduce recidivism and to increase not only their safety and well-being, but also the families that depend on them.

—Anne Menard, Director
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

among domestic violence and substance abuse advocates, community service providers, and those working in the criminal justice and corrections systems in order to facilitate a shared objective of keeping women safe and out of jails and prisons.

The Michigan Open Doors project brought together community organizations, university researchers, survivors, and state and national organizations to form a dynamic, collaborative partnership. Three domestic violence organizations which specifically serve culturally and ethnically diverse abuse survivors in the Detroit area provided case examples and practical knowledge to enhance community readiness and capacity. Researchers from Michigan State University's Violence Against Women Research and Outreach Initiative collaborated with designing and evaluating trainings, as well as overall project evaluation. The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women and the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community provided expert technical assistance to the project. **S**



Photo by <http://www.irvs.org/>

Primary research results showed that there are important differences to be taken into account when considering treatment and rehabilitation:

► There was a much smaller proportion of females in Michigan's state prison population, as well as a smaller proportion of female inmates involved in sex offenses when compared to the proportion of males. (Females comprise 1% of all sex offenders within MDOC.)

► Females were more likely victims of childhood sexual assault and emotional neglect, and males were more likely to have experienced emotional abuse and parental divorce.

► A majority of female sexual offenders had experienced extreme physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, and these women were also likely to have experienced intimidation and coercion by abusive partners.

► The majority of offenses by females involved physical contact with a child victim, a higher proportion than found

among males.

► Males were much more likely to have used force or violence—categorized with aggravated circumstances and/or homicide—in association with a sexual assault.

► Females were more likely than males—55% compared to 16%—to have reported another person as an additional perpetrator in their sex offense.

► Male and female sex offenders were similar on measures of cognitive distortions, but were dissimilar on measures of sexual deviance, with men having experienced greater levels of sexual compulsion and preoccupation with sexually deviant acts than women.

Based on the data within, as well as previous published research, it is recommended that treatment programs for female sex offenders focus on childhood histories of childhood sexual assault, intimate partner violence, relationship dynamics/coercion, and parenting. **S**



Associate Professor **Sheryl Kubiak**, PhD, LMSW, ACSW, has spent her academic career looking at the intersections of mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice at individual and systems levels. The main focus of her work is enhancing treatment options and increasing access to services for individuals with substance abuse and / or mental health disorders who interface with the criminal justice system. The current projects described on pages 4–6 reflect her career trajectory and social work mission.

Michigan Mental Health Court evaluations demonstrate savings

Recognizing a gap in services for individuals with serious mental illness transitioning in and out of jail, a plan for increasing Mental Health Courts (MHC) within Michigan was developed through a joint funding initiative by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO, which provides administrative oversight for the Michigan Supreme Court). A total of eight MHCs were established in the following counties across Michigan: Berrien, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Jackson, Livingston, Oakland, Otsego, St. Clair, and Wayne. The intention of these MHCs is to decrease criminal justice involvement and improve the mental health functioning of individuals through the provision of coordinated supports, including case managers, community treatment, and judicial supervision.

Dr. Sheryl Kubiak's early involvement in the development of the MHC in Wayne County led to her evaluation efforts beginning in 2009. In addition to funding from SCAO and MDCH, the Wayne County MHC and the evaluation were funded by the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency (CMH). Ongoing evaluation of this court has been funded by the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation and the National Institute of Justice. The research team led by Dr. Kubiak also includes Project Director **Liz Tillander**, LMSW, **Erin Comartin**, LMSW, and **Jessica Trudel**.

As a result of the evaluation in Wayne County, the MDCH engaged Dr. Kubiak's research team to conduct the statewide outcome evaluation of all MHC courts. Because state funding for Mental Health Courts will cease in 2012, it is critical to perform an evaluation to ascertain if the Mental Health Courts were successful in reducing recidivism and increasing access to and engagement in mental health services. Questions to be considered for the statewide evaluation include:

- ◆ What are the processes for referral, assessment, and admission into MHC in each site?
- ◆ What are stakeholders' current perceptions of processes, and how did they change over time?
- ◆ Did participants enter and remain in mental health treatment?
- ◆ Did utilization of high cost mental health services such as psychiatric hospitalizations and crisis intervention decrease as a result of mental health court involvement?
- ◆ Did participants experience new arrests or incarcerations?
- ◆ Did the number of jail bed days utilized by MHC participants decrease after MHC involvement?

Similar to the reports generated for Wayne County over the last three years, eight site-specific reports will be prepared at the conclusion of the statewide data analysis, as well as one comprehensive statewide report that assesses the aggregate data. Individual reports will be distributed to court administrators at each of the MHC courts. The comprehensive statewide report will be distributed to MDCH and SCAO. Kubiak's evaluation team for the statewide evaluation includes Project Director **Liz Tillander**, **Erin Comartin**, **Brad Ray**, **Jessica Trudel**, and **Lee Eshelman**.

Kubiak's research team is confident in the benefit of MHC use statewide based on the recent findings in Wayne County. Over the course of the 29 months the court had been in operation in Wayne, the Mental Health Court saved more than 4,806 jail bed days—a significant cost savings as well as a decrease in what could be considered a traumatic and disruptive experience for someone with a serious mental illness. Using a jail bed day cost of \$90 per day, the savings would equate to more than \$432,000. It should be noted that this figure does not include savings post-MHC, only savings realized during MHC involvement. Long-term outcome data has suggested that compared with the year prior to MHC, participants decreased their involvement in the jail by 112 days—adding an additional \$10,080 savings *per MHC participant in the year after MHC discharge*. In addition, Mental Health Court treatment team members provided nearly 8,959 service contacts during that period. Another success indicator of the MHC presence in Wayne County has been the increase in referrals to MHCs. **S**



Earl Nelson Singers with event emcee Shani Saxon (MSW 2011)



Lana Talbot and Charlotte Watkins of the Sandwich First Baptist Church-Windsor sharing stories of the Underground Railroad



Pastor Ruby Brown

School leads the annual MLK commemoration



MLK Memorial centerpiece, *Stone of Hope*, in Washington, DC. The relief of King is intended to give the impression that he is looking over the Tidal Basin toward the horizon.

Many years ago, the School of Social Work took an active leadership role in establishing the annual commemoration and celebration of Martin Luther King Jr Day at MSU. This year, the School's celebration, *The Role of the Black Church in the Civil Rights Movement: A Celebration of Song and Reflection*, included entertainment and presentations followed by participation in the University's MLK Commemorative March across campus.

The program opened with selections by the Earl Nelson Singers of Lansing, under the direction of **Verna Holley**. The Singers are an integrated ensemble dedicated to collecting and performing only those arrangements that tend to capture the original mood, style, and character of the sacred song of the slave and songs representative of the early "gospel" style that typified the urbanized church songs of descendants of ex-slaves after the Civil War in America's history.

Additional entertainment was provided by **Lana Talbot** and **Charlotte Watkins** of the Sandwich First Baptist Church-Windsor, the oldest active Black church in Canada, that served as a station on the Underground Railroad. Sandwich First Baptist Church was the first stop for hundreds of fugitive slaves who crossed the Detroit River into Windsor.

Local pastor **Ruby Brown**, of Dave Star Community Outreach Church, spoke about her personal experiences during the civil rights movement and what she has learned through ministry as the faith-based outreach coordinator for Greater Lansing African American Health Institute.

BASW senior **Justin Pung** presented slides taken by **Dr. Suzanne Cross** of the new MLK Memorial in Washington, DC. **S**

Special thanks to:

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School of Social Work in the University's MLK Commemorative March across campus

BASW Program repeats top ranking in post-graduation progress

Congratulations to our BASW Program! Each year, the MSU Career Services Network administers a survey to all spring and summer bachelor's degree graduates in an attempt to document post-graduate outcomes, offering a snapshot of progress during the initial six-month transition out of college. The results are reported to MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and shared with the University community.

The School of Social Work ranked first in the College of Social Science for the second consecutive year. This is a tribute to the quality of our students and the advising (formal and informal), mentoring, teaching, and leading by the faculty and staff. *Congratulations, everyone!* **S**

Partial Outcomes Survey Results

2009			
College of Social Science		School of Social Work	
Response rate	71%	Response rate	74%
Unplaced	8%	Unplaced	5%
Unresolved	19%	Unresolved	7%
Total placed	73%	Total placed	88%
2010			
College of Social Science		School of Social Work	
Response rate	63%	Response rate	67%
Unplaced	6%	Unplaced	0%
Unresolved	10%	Unresolved	3%
Total placed	84%	Total placed	97%

Flint MSW Program celebrates 10 years

The tenth anniversary of the Flint MSW Program was celebrated on March 23 at the **Mary B. Barron Memorial Breakfast** sponsored by the Social Work Alumni Association. In addition to the special continuing education program (**JoAnn McFall** presenting on Ethical Decision Making: The Role of the NASW Code of Ethics, Personal Values & World Views), three alumnae were recognized for outstanding service to the community, and the first three *Mary Barron Scholarship Recipients*, selected for their academic excellence and leadership, were introduced.

In addition, a proclamation from Dayne Walling, mayor of the City of Flint, declared March 23, 2012, as *Michigan State University–Flint MSW Program Day in the City of Flint* in recognition of the 225 MSW practitioners added to the Flint area service community, the more than 215,000 hours of service to agencies in the Flint area, and the commitment of the MSU School of Social Work.

In 2001, the Flint MSW Program was introduced with these words:

“A new master’s degree program offered by the



Pamela Diment-Flores, LMSW (MSW 2004), holds up a sweatshirt honoring her cohort from the Flint MSW Program.

MSU School of Social Work is helping Flint-area social workers take the next step in their education. It offers classes toward the Master

of Social Work degree to students without the commute to the university’s East Lansing campus. Through our partnership with the MSU Extension office in Flint, we are able to bring the degree program right to the students. This will ultimately benefit the agencies where they work and the clients they serve because of the increased knowledge and skills they will gain from the program.”

Since 2001, the Flint MSW Program has moved to the Mott Community College campus, with dedicated office space and use of a conference room in the University Center area. As enrollment has expanded, the program is now able to offer two sections for each class. Today, the program continues to benefit students, agencies, and the community. **S**

Mary Barron Scholarship Recipients

Jamie Reinke (class of 2012) – Mental health case manager at Training and Treatment Innovations
Kimberly Reese (class of 2013) – Quality assurance analyst at Michigan DHS
Amanda Southern (class of 2014) – Foster care supervisor at St. Clair County DHS

Flint Alumni Recognition

Amy Hundley (2005) – Director of the Michigan DHS Department of Central Processing/Bureau of Cash Assistance
Cecelia Williams (2005) – Director of social work for Flint Heartland Home Health & Hospice
Lynda Yeotis (2007) – Executive director of Flint Jewish Community Services

MSW spring break program in Mexico

The School of Social Work held its second International Experience in Mexico during spring break 2012, although this year followed a new model. The program was designed with collaborative support from the MSU Migrant Student Services office and child welfare contacts in the National System for the Full Development of the



Family (Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia/DIF) which coordinates national policy for child and family welfare. As a part of this experience, students enrolled in an on-line advanced policy course and participated in a week-long study abroad experience in Puebla, Mexico. **S**

Participants in the Puebla, Mexico, experience

Nine master's students (eight from social work and one from public health) attended: **Tiffany Akeo, Chandra Bolander, Sarah Campbell, Jazmyn Holley, Josue Melendez-Rodriguez, Matt Seager, Candice Uyttendale, and Eva Palma-Ramirez (MSW); and Javar Jackson (MPH).**

Impressions ...

"This was the experience of a lifetime!...getting the opportunity to connect with another country's national and state-level policy making bodies, learn from their systems, and really see that we all have very similar missions and goals is really rejuvenating as a social worker. This definitely magnified my interest for international social work, and allowed me to de-bunk some of my preconceived notions...we are all people striving to help as many others as possible, in the best ways possible, and the collaboration of two cultures to achieve the same goals and learn from each other is, well, fantastic! While the schedule was a bit crazy, I would not trade those experiences for anything." —Tiffany Akeo

"The experience I had in Mexico was reaffirming. My drive to be involved in the field of social work in general and my desire to become more involved in international social work specifically were reignited. After only a day or two in Mexico, I went from feeling like an exhausted and stressed-out student to feeling like an energized and motivated force for social change. Even now, just reminiscing, I feel that energy! It was worth every penny we paid, every second we spent preparing, and every ounce of energy we put into it." —Josue Melendez-Rodriguez

Photos courtesy of Karen Newman



Front row (left to right): Matt Seager & Chanda Bolander. Middle row: Sarah Campbell, Candice Uyttendale, Tiffany Akeo & Javar Jackson. Back row: Karen Newman, Karl Swinehart, Jorge Meruvia, Patty Joly, Lorena Migoya Mastretta, Jazmyn Holley, Julie Farman, and Josue Melendez (behind Javar).



City market on the streets of Puebla



High school auditorium

PhD Program

We currently have 28 students in the PhD Program, with four completing during this academic year. Students have been successful in gaining financial support (external as well as University fellowships); presenting to local, state, national, and international professional audiences; being published in scholarly journals as well as other publications; and engaging with local, national, and international communities.

The PhD Program will undergo a curriculum revision during the 2012–13 academic year. We have been piloting courses for the last few years as a mechanism for moving toward these faculty-supported changes. Without increasing the credits required for the degree, we will augment and increase courses housed within the School of Social Work. The goal of this curricular revision is to enhance the research, teaching, and leadership skills of our graduates to keep them competitive in the field of their peers.

Numerous highly qualified applicants were interested in starting Fall 2012. This year, we held a *Campus Visit Day* for applicants we are interested in admitting to the doctoral program. Applicants met with the doctoral committee, current PhD students, and then attended a Research Brown Bag presentation. We are in the process of finalizing our offers to prospective students and look forward to strong and successful student-faculty partnerships. For information on the MSU PhD Program in Social Work, contact **Dr. Sheryl Kubiak**, PhD Program coordinator, at spk@msu.edu. **S**



L-R: MSU Social Work senior Natalie Kyles stands next to her mentor, Cheryl Williams-Hecksel; both are part of MSU's Foster Youth Alumni Services FAME program. Williams-Hecksel serves as clinical instructor and field education coordinator for the School. Kyles is involved in many aspects of the FAME program, including the foster youth summer camp, where she serves as a camp counselor.



L-R: Dr. Angelique Day (first Foster Youth Alumni Services program coordinator) and Saba Gebrai, program director of the Park West Foundation, were honored for their hard work and commitment to Foster Youth Alumni Services at MSU. Organized in 2007-2008, Foster Youth Alumni Services is part of the School of Social Work.

January was National Mentor Month!

Through the FAME mentoring program, student and mentor meet a couple of times per month and talk regularly. **Natalie Kyles** and **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel** have been matched for three years. Natalie says she has enjoyed the mentoring relationship because it offers her a sense of support and a feeling like someone is in her corner. While Cheryl does not serve as a counselor or therapist, she does offer neutral, unbiased advice. Natalie says she appreciates that Cheryl has helped her establish boundaries, and has given her advice on how to be a mentor herself. Cheryl says she has enjoyed having Natalie as a mentee, giving her personal and professional guidance. She states while mentors are designed to give mentees advice and direction, Natalie has certainly taught her a lot about life as well. Though their mentoring relationship will formally end when Natalie graduates from MSU in May, they both intend to keep in touch. Thank you to Cheryl and all mentors for your commitment and time.

Do you have a mentor? Thank them today! **S**



Corrections Fall 2011/Winter 2012: Page 9

- Foster Youth Alumni Services was established through the support of the School of Social Work and its director, Gary Anderson, with Dr. Joanne Riebschleger as primary investigator. James Hennessey is project director, and Sarah Shortt Williams is currently project coordinator, replacing the original project coordinator, Angelique Day. In addition, many university and community volunteers, agency professionals, and foster care alumni have contributed valuable time and resources to the program.
- The first Foster Care Youth Camp was held in 2008.

Chance at Childhood expands programs

In partnership with the Ingham County Family Court, Chance at Childhood (CAC) is now operating the CAC Legal Self-Help Center, a new legal resource help center located in the Ingham County Court building. The CAC Legal Self-Help Center currently operates one day per week for four hours and is staffed by MSW and JD students. Services include assistance in completing paperwork in domestic relations matters (divorce, custody and visitation, child support) and in understanding court processes. Additionally, the Clinic serves as a resource referral for non-legal issues patrons may have. Long-term goals include obtaining stable funding to operate the center, securing a permanent location, and employing a center coordinator. Grants have been applied for, and donations are welcome! An evaluation of the program is being done; results will be published.

Chance at Childhood was awarded a contract by the State Court Administrative Office to evaluate the Genesee County Problem Solving Child Court and is currently completing a draft report. This court, under the family division of Genesee County Circuit Court, was established for child support payers who have failed to make court-ordered child support payments and to assist nonresident parents in breaking barriers that impair their abilities to support their children. The purpose of the evaluation is to look at the recent grant-funded expansion of existing problem-solving services to families who have had a financial change in circumstances and to assist "at risk" families earlier in the court process and determine what court processes were successful in the expanded services.

Chance at Childhood staff presented *Based on a True Story: Best Practices for Child Welfare Professionals* to the Child Welfare Services Division of the State Court Administration Office. This training is designed for judges, referees, attorneys for children and parents, and caseworkers for the Michigan Department of Human Services, tribes, and private agencies. In addition, *Helping the Judge Make the Right Decision: Effective Courtroom Testimony* was presented through the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program.

Jonathan Litt, a joint MSW/JD degree candidate has founded the Spartan Youth Advocacy Society (SYAS). This is a new graduate student organization at MSU that promotes social justice for children and adolescents through interdisciplinary education and action. SYAS provides members and practitioners a forum to discuss issues and advocate for solutions in child welfare, juvenile justice, and education. CAC Director **Joe Kozakiewicz**, JD, LMSW serves as the group's advisor. **S**

UNDERGRADUATE
ELECTIVES
ONLINE
Summer 2012

For Summer 2012, the School established a new venture: the Summer Online Electives Initiative in Social Work. Faculty developed nine courses meant to appeal to a broad pool of undergraduate students beyond those self-identified as interested in social work, as well as provide more accessibility to social work courses for both current MSU students, guest students from other universities, and members of the general public. The project was coordinated by **Dr. Paul Freddolino**, professor of social work, with support from **Patti Banyas** from MSU Virtual University Design and Technology (vuDAT), who helped develop and deliver the course to prepare instructors to teach online, and **Leigh Graves Wolf** from the College of Education, who assisted in developing the social media and marketing strategy. **S**

The nine undergraduate level elective courses offered Summer 2012 to undergraduate students at MSU and beyond are:

- **SW200 Introduction to Social Work**
Lynn Nee, LMSW
- **SW290 Poverty & the American Family: A Multimedia Exploration**
Natalie Kasiborski, ABD, LMSW
- **SW290 Surviving the Coming Zombie Apocalypse: Catastrophes & Human Behavior**
Glenn Stutzky, LMSW
- **SW471 Child Welfare**
Leisa Fuller, LMSW
- **SW474 Substance Abuse & the Human Services**
Al Platt, JD, LMSW, CAADC
- **SW475 School Violence: Causes & Interventions**
Glenn Stutzky, LMSW
- **SW491 Building Adult Relationships from Early Childhood Interactions**
Terry Keller, LMSW, MBA
- **SW491 Families at Risk**
Tina Timm, PhD, LMSW, LMFT
- **SW491 Trauma across the Lifespan**
Nola Carew, LMSW

School attracts worldwide attention through social media marketing experiment

As we looked at implementing the Summer Online Electives Initiative in Social Work, we realized that even though we had a high quality product (elective classes), we needed to make these classes stand out from the competition and capture the attention of our intended audience (undergraduate students and lifelong learners at MSU and beyond). One challenge was that no one is required to take electives; another was that not everyone wants to take courses over the summer. Working once again with MSU Virtual University Design and Technology (vuDAT), the School initiated MSU's first focused course-related social media marketing campaign with the goal of developing a template for promoting future courses to this generation's students.

One class developed for the Summer Online Electives Initiative in Social Work was on the topic of catastrophe and human behavior, taught by clinical instructor **Glenn Stutzky**. As Stutzky began researching content and materials for the course, one of the first sources he found was the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has been using the metaphor of a "zombie apocalypse" (the breakdown of society as a result of zombie infestation) for its Emergency Preparedness and Response program. Result:



SW290: Surviving the Coming Zombie Apocalypse: Catastrophes and Human Behavior. This seemed an ideal choice for our social media marketing experiment.

With the help of vuDAT filmmaker **Christopher Irvin**, a video designed as a movie trailer was created and posted on YouTube to publicize the course. Facebook and Twitter were also used. But how do you draw attention? It turned out that University Relations (UR) was also interested in a social media marketing experiment. **Jennifer Orlando** from UR began with press releases to the traditional university outlets. A few newspapers, mostly from Michigan, contacted us after this traditional media launch. At the same time, Stutzky had located a variety of blogs focused on an interest in the zombie notion and began posting information about the course.

Our first national attention came from *Yahoo! News*; then the links began going viral. Requests for interviews came from radio stations across the US and as far away as London and Melbourne; then coverage in *Time*, *USA Today*, French news, a major education newspaper in Brazil, and so on. An independent group that heard about the class posted its own video which at last count had more than a quarter million hits. E-mail came in from scientists and other educators around the country.

We know we have a student at the University of China enrolled; another in the class is a current MSU student who will be taking the class from his home in China. The course is enrolled to capacity at 300 students. **S**

The School has long been an innovator in the use of technology at MSU, from piloting online course evaluations to developing our Statewide Blended MSW Program, and now to social media marketing. We would like to thank **Keesa Muhammad**, **Emily Brozovic**, and **David Goodrich**, all from vuDAT. **Hailey Mooney**, the MSU librarian for Social Work, will also be participating with the class, linking class members to resources and information and promoting library use among this generation of students.

Spring 2012 special School-sponsored CE programs

Thanks to generous donors, the School has established several endowments to support practice-focused education and training. In addition, our Alumni Association has been active in providing a series of breakfast programs each year, and we have a variety of strong partnerships that help us expand our offerings to broader audiences.

Endowment-supported programs	
	<p>Mary Barron Memorial Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ethical Decision Making: The Role of the NASW Code of Ethics, Personal Values & World Views – Jo Ann McFall, LMSW, ACSW, RN
	<p>Fund for Advocacy, Leadership, and Social Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identifying & Leading Change within Your Organization – Kevin Roach, MSW ■ Developing Collaborations: Building Relationships Is As Important As Creating Agendas – Kathryne O’Grady, JD ■ Ensuring an Effective Partnership between the Executive Director & the Board of Directors: Advice to the Executive Director – Robert Sheehan, LMSW, MBA ■ Helping the Judge Make the Right Decision: Effective Courtroom Testimony – Joe Kozakiewicz, JD, LMSW, & Delanie Pope, JD
	<p>Ruth Koehler Lectureship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Sandtray Therapy 101: Beginning Sandtray Therapy for Students & Mental Health Professionals – Linda Homeyer, PhD ▲ Using Sandtray Therapy for Advance Treatment Issues – Linda Homeyer, PhD
	<p>Levande Program in Gerontology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Sexual Health, Sexuality, & Aging – Anne K. Hughes, PhD, LMSW ▲ Surrogate Decision Making in Michigan – Doug Chalgian, JD ▲ End-of-Life Decision Making with Chronically Ill Older Adults – Debra Mattison, BCD, LMSW, ACSW
	<p>Mruk Memorial Lectureship on Schizophrenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Individuals Suffering from Schizophrenia – Philip J. Lanzisera, PhD, ABPP
Inclusion grant-supported programs (read more about this grant in <i>School News</i> , page 25)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Families: The Missing Link in Reducing Risk & Promoting Well-being for LGBT Children & Youth – Caitlin Ryan, PhD, ACSW ▲ Reclaiming the Promise of the Indian Child Welfare Act: Understanding the History & Current Implementation & Compliance Challenges – Thalia Gonzalez, JD, BA
School-supported programs	
	<p>MSU Social Work Alumni Board Breakfasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ “Real Life Heroes”: An Introduction to a Promising Practice – Connie Black-Pond, LMSW, MA, LPC ▲ Ethical Decision Making: The Role of the NASW Code of Ethics, Personal Values & World Views – Jo Ann McFall, LMSW, ACSW, RN ▲ Recovery: It’s Not Just a Buzzword – Maureen Maloney, LMSW, ACSW, CAADC, and Mark Phillips, BA, CPSS
	<p>Programs co-sponsored by the School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties Annual Community Breakfast Meeting, featuring keynote speaker Kathy Cronkite (daughter of famed television newscaster Walter Cronkite) speaking on <i>Erasing the Stigma of Mental Illness</i> ◆ MSU’s 2012 Restorative Justice Symposium, featuring keynote speaker Mark Umbreit, PhD, MPA, professor and founding director of the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work, speaking on <i>Restorative Practices in Higher Education</i>

Summer 2012

Register early and save money!

You may register by fax, online, or by mail.

Visit www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Advocacy/Leadership/Social Justice		Online Programs
June 26–27	Community Organizing: Putting the “Social Work” Back in Social Change Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Substance Abuse: Motivational Strategies & the Stages of Change ▶ Supporting People Affected by Pain through Pain Management Advocacy ▶ Sex Therapy 101 ▶ Reflective Supervision ▶ Grief & Loss ▶ Adolescent Self Harm & Suicide Ideation ▶ Understanding the Psychopharmacology of ADHD for Mental Health Professionals
July 18–19	Social Work Practice in the Legal Arena	
Aging		
May 31– June 1	Creative Interventions with Older Adults	
Children, Youth, & Families		
May 17–18	Creating a Playroom: Play Therapy Assessment & Intervention for Traumatized Children	
July 20–21	An Introduction to Internal Family Systems Therapy	
July 18–19	Rethinking Delivery of Children’s Mental Health Services: The Next Evolution toward Improved Outcomes for Youth & Their Families	
May 11	Social Work Practice with LGBT Parent Families: Issues & Interventions	
Clinical Practice		
June 22–23	Grief & Loss across the Life Span	<p><i>Available by the end of July 2012:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Aging, Sexuality, & Sexual Health: What Social Workers Need to Know ▶ Depression in the Elderly <p>School Social Work Competency Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Social Work in Educational Settings ▶ School Social Work Assessment: Integrating Psychological & Educational Testing ▶ School Social Work Intervention: Children with Special Needs <p><i>Available June 1, 2012:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ School Social Workers—Continuing Professional Development Seminar (Refresher Course)
June 7–8	Adventure Therapy: An Experiential Approach to Social Work Practice	
June 20–21	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills Training	
July 27–28	Health Centered Social Work Practice: Serving Clients More Effectively with Less Stress	
Supervision in Child & Family Services Certificate		
June 7	Supervision Certificate #1: The Role of Leaders in Supervision	
Master’s Level Social Work Licensure Exam Preparation Course		
May 18–19 in East Lansing • June 1–2 in Grand Rapids • June 15–16 in Livonia		
		
July 11–12	Substance Abuse Assessment & Intervention 101	
July 11	Understanding Cultural Differences & the Experience of Pain in the American Indian & Alaskan Native Population	
July 11	Creating Balance between Child Welfare Work & Life	
July 11	Sensory Integration: Theoretical Foundations & Applications for Social Work Practitioners	
July 11	Identifying & Treating Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	
July 12	Self-Esteem, Competence & Worthiness Therapy, & Positive Psychology	
July 12	Understanding the Psychiatric Admission Process in Michigan	
July 12	Rethinking Personality Pathology in the DSM-5	
July 12	Advance Directives: The What, the How, & the Legal Requirements	
July 12	From the Trenches: Social Work Practice in Alzheimer’s Disease	
July 13	Transformative Leadership: Creating & Managing Change in an Organization, in a Community, across an Organization	
July 13	Understanding Shame & Building Shame Resilience	
July 13	Ethical Challenges in End-of-Life Care	
July 13	Motivational Interviewing with At-Risk Youth & Families & Substance Abuse	
July 13	Where & When to Draw the Line? Boundaries & Ethical Social Work Practice	
July 13	Seeing Your Way through Pain: Guided Imagery as a Pain/ Anxiety Management Strategy	

Coming this fall 2012...

Alumni Breakfast Series:

- Ethics
- Pain Management

Michigan Indian Day Celebration,
September 21

Contemporary Issues in Aging:

- Mental Health Issues
- Dementia
- Psychopharmacology

Advocacy, Leadership, & Social Justice:

- Hunger Games: Defining & Advancing Social Justice

Supervision in Child & Family Services Certificate:

- The First Six Months
- Working with Differences

Ruth Koehler Lecture:

- Mentalizing in Play Therapy

Adoption Certificate:

- Building a Home with a Heart
- Effectively Responding to the Emotional Aspects of Trauma, Loss, & Grief

FIND DETAILS AND REGISTER AT WWW.SOCIALWORK.MSU.EDU/CEU ◆ PH. (517) 353-3060

Veterinary Social Work Services



The MSU Veterinary Social Work Services program (VSWS) is a collaboration between the School of Social Work and the College of Veterinary Medicine. VSWS provides emotional support and educational and referral services for clients, veterinarians, medical staff, and support staff of the MSU Small Animal Clinic, Oncology Center, and Large Animal Clinics specializing in equine, bovine, and exotic animal treatment. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital provides treatment in the same fields as human medicine, including internal medicine, ophthalmology, cardiology, orthopedics, oncology, general medicine, surgery, physical therapy, rehabilitation.

According to Barbara Kitchell, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, professor and director of the College of Veterinary Medicine Center for Comparative Oncology, “Everyone thinks about veterinary medicine as being about animals, but animals don’t bring themselves to the hospital, people do. A large part of what we do is help people with therapeutic decision making.”

That being said, students in the four-year veterinary medicine program receive only one hour of training in how to relate to people. Their education is intensely scientific with very little time to add the human element. VSWS is working with members of the CVM faculty to bring experiential role play into their education. Many students feel unprepared to deal with the human emotions stirred up when dealing with people’s injured, ill, or dying animals. **S**

Key features of VSWS

■ Grief and loss support for clients

VSWS provides grief and loss support for clients who are making difficult decisions for their animal companions, advocacy for clients to facilitate communication, and grief counseling for clients overwhelmed with issues facing them concerning care and treatment of their companion animals. The Support Group for the Loss of a Companion Animal serves people from all over Michigan who have lost a pet and are experiencing intense feelings ranging through the stages of grief—what anyone might feel who has lost a close family member. Attendees do not have to be MSU clients.

■ Veterinary Hospice Care

VSWS provides owners with ongoing support and assistance with the process that begins with a terminal diagnosis. Veterinary Hospice Care provides in-home, veterinary-supported palliative care to pets so they can maintain a good quality of life and live comfortably until natural death or euthanasia occurs.

■ Consultation with medical and support staff

In addition to client contacts, VSWS consults with medical and support staff on issues of compassion fatigue, interpersonal concerns, workplace morale, and referrals to University and community resources for staff and their families.

■ Community outreach

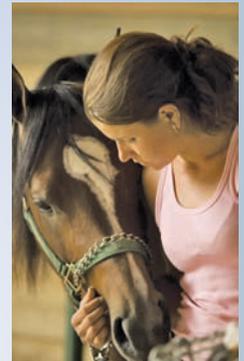
VSWS is also committed to outreach by the extension of these services to the community at large. VSWS Coordinator **Linda Lawrence**, LMSW, has been invited by other Michigan veterinary clinics to provide support services for their doctors, technicians, assistants, and staff. For more information about the Veterinary Social Work Service in the VTH or about setting up a pet loss support group in your area, contact Linda Lawrence at (517) 432-5967.

■ MSW student field placement

Since 2006, MSW students from the MSU School of Social Work have been able to gain experience providing VSWS. Students gain a broader experience of the human-animal bond, including grief and bereavement issues, through rotations in the oncology center and the emergency room. They work with issues from compassion fatigue (secondary post-traumatic stress) and end-of-life decisions. In addition, their work here translates directly to work in human medical settings as well as providing valuable experience working with the organizational and environmental issues experienced in any large organization.

■ Research

In 2008, the MSU School of Social Work and the College of Veterinary Medicine designed a survey to explore the attitudes of veterinary professionals regarding the VSW specialization. The Veterinary Social Work Services Faculty Research Initiative was designed to provide evidence to support the development and recognition of veterinary social work services as a viable, appropriate field of practice, to evaluate interest in the need for access to professional social workers by community-based veterinarians and veterinary practices, and to evaluate the delivery of on-site social work services to clients served at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine teaching hospitals.





DeBrenna Agbényiga, PhD, MSW

Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Inclusion, College of Social Science

Dr. DeBrenna Agbényiga, assistant dean for the College of Social Science since August 2005, has been promoted to associate dean for graduate studies and inclusion. In her new role,

Dr. Agbényiga will continue to lead the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Academic Affairs and assume the additional responsibilities for graduate studies.

As associate professor in the School of Social Work, Dr. Agbényiga has taught advanced graduate courses in community practice, essential theories for organization and community development, human behavior and the social environment, and social development and education; she also has led study abroad courses on perspectives from Ghana and Jamaica. She is a core faculty member of the African Studies Center (ASC), Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen), and African American and African Studies Program (AAAS). Her research interests are focused in organizational culture, international social and economic development, women's rights, children's rights, cross-cultural learning, and diversity.

During the first week in December 2011, Agbényiga accompanied **Jeffrey Riedinger**, dean for International Stud-

ies and Programs, Senior Associate Provost **June Youatt**, and **Michelle McNabb**, president of the Partnership to Cut Poverty and Hunger in Africa, to Ghana for a meeting with John A. Kufuor (president of Ghana 2001–2008). The meeting included a discussion to finalize MSU's participation in the John A. Kufuor Foundation, created following Kufuor's acceptance of the World Food Prize. The Kufuor Foundation will facilitate programs in leadership development, organizational infrastructure, health, education, and agriculture. The delegation also attended meetings with USAID, key NGO partners, and several ministries, and had an opportunity to celebrate President Kufuor's 73rd birthday with him.

In January 2012, European publication of Dr. Agbényiga's co-edited book *Child Rights in Ghana: Reality or Rhetoric* was distributed at a book launch in Accra, Ghana, introduced by Chief Justice Georgina Woods of the Ghana Supreme Court. The book was originally published by Lexington Books (USA) in January 2011 in hardcover. Mot Juste Limited received the rights to publish a paperback version for distribution in the European and African market.

In addition, Agbényiga has been nominated to serve on the Council on Social Work Education national nominating committee. *Congratulations, Associate Dean Agbényiga!* **S**

Linda Campbell, LMSW

Clinical Instructor; Flint/Oakland/Saginaw Graduate Advisor

In 2001, the same year our Flint MSW Program began, **Linda Campbell** joined the School of Social Work as field coordinator for Flint. In 2007, she became graduate advisor for our Flint and Oakland, and now Saginaw MSW Programs. As a clinical instructor, she teaches classes in policy practice, advocacy, and administrative skills.

Campbell had the honor of being selected by the Walter and Pauline Adams Academy for Instructional Excellence and Innovation to be part of the 2011–2012 cross-disciplinary cohort given the opportunity to further their development as excellent teachers, with instructional decisions rooted in research literature on effective teaching and learning.

In her own words:

"The Adams Academy experience has been challenging, and remarkably rewarding. I think most of us enjoy teaching, but many of us have never been taught how to teach. While student course evaluations tell me I do a fairly good job, I was very interested in how I could improve. Some of the questions I've had to ask myself during the past year were:

- ▲ How do I create opportunities for students to learn to think critically?
- ▲ How do I create assignments to really focus on what I want my students to learn?
- ▲ What do I know about adult learners?
- ▲ How do I assess what students are learning, and is that the same thing I am teaching?

- ▲ How can I use group learning experiences more effectively in the classroom?
- ▲ How resistant am I really to using technology to connect more effectively with students?
- ▲ Do I need to learn to tweet, and is it totally out of the question to use Facebook to communicate with students?

"During this adventure into teaching excellence, we struggled with these questions and many more. Beginning September 2011, we met in seminar once a month. We have been fortunate to work under the mentorship of **Dr. Donna Green**, director, and **Dr. Deb DeZure** and **Julie Rojewski** in the Office of Faculty and Organizational Development. Our assignments were reading-intensive (not always a bad thing!) and provided the most current research on each specific teaching focus.

"It has been an incredibly valuable experience for me. I consistently confronted my thinking about teaching and thought about how I could provide a more challenging and rewarding experience for students in my classroom. I reaffirmed some of my skills and decided to make some changes, and I continue to work on making those changes successful."

The School is fortunate to have such a committed and enthusiastic educator as Linda Campbell on our faculty. **S**



Gender and racial disparities in cost-related medication nonadherence: The effect of Medicare Part D and factors impacting compliance among older women and Black Americans

By Louanne Bakk (PhD 2012)



The purpose of this dissertation is to better understand how cost-related medication nonadherence (CRN) has been impacted by the implementation of Medicare Part D. CRN can include not filling, stopping, or skipping doses of a prescription because of cost. While gender and racial disparities in CRN prior to Medicare Part D clearly existed, studies have not examined whether differences in CRN persist since the implementation of Medicare Part D. Longitudinal and cross-sectional analyses were conducted using data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the Prescription Drug Study, a subsample of the HRS, to examine racial and gender differences in CRN before and after Medicare Part D and factors associated with the benefit that can impact adherence.

This study addressed the following questions:

- ▶ To what extent do racial and gender disparities in CRN exist since the implementation of Medicare Part D?
- ▶ Do the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), coverage gap, and restrictions directly and indirectly affect the relationship between race, gender, and CRN?

▶ How do socioeconomic and health status directly and indirectly affect relationships between race, gender, and CRN?

The results suggested that older Black Americans and females are more likely to report CRN before and after Medicare Part D than older Whites and males. Applying for the LIS increased the risk of CRN and mediated gender differences. Racial disparities in CRN appeared to be driven by having a Medicare Part D plan with a gap in coverage. Poorer health, lower annual income, and experiencing the coverage gap and restrictions increased the likelihood of CRN.

The findings provided important insights into Medicare Part D's effectiveness in eliminating racial and gender differentials in CRN. Despite the presence of a drug benefit under Medicare, racial and gender disparities in CRN persisted. Understanding how Medicare Part D has affected adherence can help social work practitioners recognize that clients may need additional resources and assistance in order to avoid CRN. Additionally, findings helped substantiate the need to account for race and gender when evaluating policy alternatives in order to promote more equitable access to medications. **S**

In Knowledge Abstracts, recent PhD graduates from the MSU School of Social Work



The relationship between Borderline Personality Disorder and academic and interpersonal functioning among college students: Does religiosity moderate the effect?

By Lisa L. Hosack (PhD 2012)

The significantly negative effects of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) are widely known among researchers and clinicians. Individuals with BPD struggle in many areas. College students with BPD have been found to particularly struggle in academic and interpersonal ways. Over the last few decades, religiosity has been examined as a moderator of the effects of BPD pathology on multiple outcomes, but at the time of this study the specific relationship of BPD and religiosity had not yet been empirically examined.

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between BPD and academic and interpersonal outcomes in college students, to examine the general relationship between BPD and religiosity, and finally, to determine if religiosity moderated the effects of academic and interpersonal outcomes among college students. MSU undergraduates were asked to complete an online survey comprised of several validated measures of BPD, normal personality, depression, anxiety, religiosity, interpersonal functioning, and academic functioning.

BPD was found to be inversely related to academic functioning, after controlling for Axis I psychopathology (clinical symptoms) and overall academic ability. BPD was also inversely related to interpersonal functioning within this population. Religiosity was defined as religious quest (RQ) and religious engagement (RE), with RQ significantly positively related to BPD. Finally, after controlling for Axis I psychopathology, religiosity was not found to moderate the negative effects of BPD upon interpersonal and academic outcomes.

The findings confirmed the negative effects of BPD, but also suggested a strong internal inclination toward religiosity among college students with BPD. Understanding and describing the particular role of religiosity and its potential in enhancing the lives of individuals with BPD is an important research goal which will require further empirical examination. That said, these findings confirmed the need for social work practitioners to conduct thorough spiritual assessments and to carefully consider religiosity as a potential resource in the lives of the individuals with whom they work. **S**

Effects of social networks on the health of family caregivers in later life: A cross-sectional study

By Lihua Huang (PhD 2011)



The purpose of this study was to better understand the social value of family caregiving in later life by examining the effects of social networks and family caregiving on the health of older adults aged 65 and over. In this study, *family caregiving in later life* was conceptualized as a social event in which community-dwelling older social network members contribute to unpaid, informal caregiving of a kin or a non-kin person with chronic illness, disability, or other dependent characteristics on a regular basis. *Social networks* were defined as older-adult-centered multidimensional social relationships that cut across traditional kinship, residential, and class groups.

Built on prior studies and theory, this study expected to find that family caregivers with stronger social networks would be more likely to have higher levels of self-rated health and physical function, lower risk of disease, and higher levels of mental health after controlling for age, gender, race, and socio-economic status.

This study employed the positive gerontological framework to investigate the social value of family caregivers in later life. A positive psychological framework was used to highlight meaning and values of late family caregiving beyond caregiving burden and stress, with special emphasis

on strengths and capacities of older family caregivers and their social networks. It was a cross-sectional, explanatory survey study using a questionnaire developed specifically for this study. Multiple data collection and data analysis methods were used to enhance the validity of the results.

Results highlighted that family caregivers in later life had significantly lower levels of physical function and mental health, but social networks positively affected their well-being. Also there were significant effects of social networks and family caregiving in later life on the health of the older adults in the study.

The nature of the study limited our ability to generalize from the results. However, several implications were identified regarding methodology, research, and practice, and this study added new knowledge to the family caregiving literature by presenting new empirical evidence on the social realities of family caregivers and their health outcomes, including family caregiving as a valuable event in later life, strengths and resilience of caregivers, and relational aging.

More research is needed to collect qualitative data for an in-depth understanding of health and social networks. **S**

share practical implications of their dissertation research for social work practice.



The coping strategies of Sudanese refugee women in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

By Jessica Gladden (PhD 2012)

Sudan has undergone severe civil disruptions and war for several decades. In the early 1980s, many refugees fled to other countries, especially Ethiopia, due to a particularly brutal period of war. However, in 1991, Ethiopia forced the refugees to leave the country. Kenya opened a new refugee camp, Kakuma, for these refugees. There has been a lot of research conducted with refugees once they have come to the United States or Europe, but not much has been done in the refugee camps where the largest numbers of refugees reside. Also, few studies have focused on the experiences of women refugees. For this study, I traveled to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya and interviewed 30 women on how they cope with all of their experiences.

Most of the women said they did not have enough help and support. The study hoped to focus on emotional needs, but the physical needs of the women were much stronger. Most of the women talked about not having enough food to feed their children. They had some social support from family or neighbors, but not as much as was expected. Many of them talked about being alone, or as they often said, "struggling alone." A large number of the women also relied on religious beliefs, especially beliefs in God, that He knew of their struggles and would help them. Some of the younger

women also hoped that having an education would allow them to eventually find employment. There were also issues of dependency found in the women's stories. They were forced to rely almost entirely on handouts from the United Nations and had no way to support themselves. This can lead to difficulties when they return home or are resettled, as they are often used to being given all they need and do not have education or skills to try to support themselves in their new environment.

This research gave us several ideas for what we can do to continue to assist refugee women. While the women are in the camps, it would be helpful to find a way to provide for more of the basic physical needs, such as food and improved shelter. This would require a large commitment of funds to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Family reunification both between camps and overseas should be a priority. An increase in activities that would assist the women in providing for themselves would also be extremely helpful in limiting the feelings of helplessness and dependency on the camp system. For example, a few programs have provided women with supplies for crafts, which can give the women a form of income to supply some of their needs for themselves and their families. More programs of this kind would be welcomed by the women. **S**

ALUMNI today

Cathy Adams (BASW, MSW) is project director for the NIMH-funded RAISE Early Treatment Program (ETP) at Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health that will compare two different ways of providing treatment for people experiencing the early stages of schizophrenia and related illnesses. Both types of treatment emphasize a comprehensive initial evaluation at the earliest point after symptoms appear. ETP treatments might include medication, psychosocial therapies, and supportive services that address the multiple problems associated with these illnesses.

Brian Ahmedani (MSW, PhD), assistant research scientist at Henry Ford Health System Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research, is principal investigator on two grants: A Technology-Based Screening and Brief Intervention for Depression in Spine Care; and Medication and Visit Adherence in the Treatment of Depression.

Rosalynn Bliss (MSW) is the second ward commissioner for the City of Grand Rapids, MI, first elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2009.

Ada Brosier (MSW), graduate of our Statewide Blended Program, is one of the practicing social workers who volunteer time to help new Statewide Blended MSW students with the team-building Summer Institute.

Robert Carson, PhD, LMS, LISN-S (MSW), retired in 2003 from the US Public Health Services (DHHS) after 26 years of service in active duty military. He is currently director of the Behavioral Health Department of the Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (NEON), a federally recognized community health center which opened in 1967. He is also an adjunct instructor at Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University.

Jerilyn Church, MSW (BASW), Miniconjou Lakota, is executive director of American Indian Health and Family Services, a nonprofit health center serving the Native American community of Southeastern Michigan. Most recently, she was appointed to the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Office of Tribal Affairs Think Tank for the National Indian Health Board.

Paula Clark, MSW (BASW), has been elected to serve as Township Supervisor of the Bath Township (MI) Board. She retired in 2002 as director of the Clinton/Shiawassee County Family Independence Agency.

John E. Davis (BASW, MSW) is mostly retired but still teaches and gives seminars. He is a clinical supervisor of ethics and volunteers in an elderly abuse program, shared housing, memorial society, and NASW. He began his 50+-year career as one of the first private practitioner social workers in the Dallas area, joining a psychologist and psychiatrist to develop a multidisciplinary mental health clinic.

Angelique Day, PhD (MSW), earned her doctorate from Western

Photo © MSU University Relations

Alumnae recognized at Flint MSW Program 10th Anniversary Celebration

Amy Hundley (MSW 2005) is director of the Michigan DHS Department of Central Processing/Bureau of Cash Assistance. Formerly a district manager in Macomb County, she has also served on the Flint Field Advisory Board.

Lynda Yeotis (MSW 2007) was born and raised in Flint, where she currently lives with her husband. She is currently the executive director of Jewish Community Services in Flint where she has been employed for 20 years. Jewish Community Services is a nonprofit agency serving seniors, immigrants, and people with disabilities, helping them access services that can help them maintain their independence and improve their quality of life.

Cecelia Williams (MSW 2005) has been director of social work for Heartland Home Health and Hospice in Flint for nine years. She is also involved with St. John Vianney Community Outreach and has been a field instructor for students from MSU, Spring Arbor University, Wayne State University, and University of Michigan-Flint.

ALUMNI today

Michigan University, receiving a dissertation award from the American Psychological Association Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice division's section on Child Maltreatment. She currently holds the position of assistant professor at Wayne State University.

Cori Denay (MSW) is the new field coordinator for the School's Flint, Oakland, and Saginaw MSW Programs. She was identified as an Outstanding Clinical Social Work Student while in our program.

Brittany (Fila) Anderson (BASW) went on to get an MSW/MPH degree and published two peer-reviewed articles.

Leisa Fuller (BASW, MSW) is the new field coordinator for the School's East Lansing MSW Program. She was identified as an Outstanding Clinical Social Work Student while in our program.

Peter Hovmand (PhD, MSW) is the founding director of the Social System Design Lab at George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. He holds degrees in electrical engineering, mathematics, and social work, and his research focuses on how organizations and communities can successfully implement and sustain innovations to improve outcomes with application areas in mental health services, community responses to domestic violence, health services, obesity prevention, and natural resources.

Amy Hundley-Dantzler (MSW), who graduated from our Flint MSW Program, is currently a manager/supervisor at Michigan Department of Human Services.

Paul Jordan (MSW) retired after a long career at Genesee County Community Mental Health Children and Adolescent Services, is now in charge of the Mott Community College Social Work Technician program and has been a Flint school board member for three years. He is currently working with the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social



MSU PhD Graduates of the 2003 entering cohort. From left: Rie Kobayashi (now on faculty at Eastern Washington University), Carolyn McAllister-Kobayashi (holding her son Keith) (California State University), Muthoni Imungi (Grand Valley State University), Judi Ravenhorst Meerman (Kuyper College), and Francis Akakpo (University of Wisconsin-Green Bay).

Justice in taking legal action against Michigan's Emergency Manager Law.

Diana Rodriguez LaRue (MSW) graduate of our Statwide Blended Program, is one of the practicing social workers who volunteer time to help new Statewide Blended MSW students with the team-building Summer Institute.

Joanne Lucier, LMSW, ACSW (MSW), is currently Impact wrap-around facilitator and wraparound coordinator for Ingham County's System of Care. Impact is a partnership of child and family service agencies working together with youth and families to provide coordinated services for children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) with the goal of building and enhancing home- and community-based services for young people involved with the juvenile justice system and/or Department of Human Services.

Lucy Mercier (PhD) is associate professor of social work at Saginaw Valley State University, past chair of that program, and currently field director. She is active in teaching, research, and publication, and is an advocate and volunteer in the

LGBT community.

Jennifer (Miller) Oertel (BASW) graduated with Highest Honors from the School of Social Work and the Honors College. She went on to law school and has used her social work training, her law degree, and her Spanish fluency to assist El Salvadoran refugees in seeking political asylum, securing restraining orders for victims of domestic violence, and assisting such victims with maintaining custody of their children and empowering low-income elderly people with estate planning and healthcare directives.

Mark A. Nester, LMSW (BASW), has been a practicing social worker for over 30 years and is currently a school social worker in Michigan. His experiences from work in education, foster care, adoption, therapy, juvenile justice, travel, and parenting are woven into *Songs for Kids*, a compilation of over 25 years of song writing for children and the child in each of us. Designed for children, teachers, and parents, songs about family change, problem solving, friendships, manners, and grief and loss are written to help cope with the challenges kids endure.

Continued on next page

ALUMNI today

Bill Paxton (MSW) is director of northern Michigan services for Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, one of the five largest free-standing behavioral health providers in the US, offering a full continuum of services, including addiction treatment and recovery, extensive child and adolescent programs, senior care services, and Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT).

Brian Philson (MSW) is president and CEO of Highfields, a multi-service agency in Michigan with programs for youth, families, and communities.

David Price (BASW) and his wife own and operate Inner Door Center®, an eating disorder treatment center and outpatient therapy clinic in Royal Oak, MI, that is also a licensed substance abuse clinic, where they provide the Reconnect with Food® Program.

Emily Proctor, MSW (BASW), is the tribal extension educator for Emmet County MSU Extension. She works with six tribal nations in northern lower Michigan and eastern Upper Peninsula, focusing on research-based educational programs relevant to individual, family, and community needs. She is also on the board of the Michigan Indian Education Council.

Michael Stratton (MSW) is in private practice in East Lansing, MI; his work on dreams has been published in the *Journal of Arts & Psychotherapy*. He is also a local Jazz deejay, hosting The Vinyl Side of Midnight on WLNZ and the web. He has published his first novel, *Everybody Dreams*.

Debbie Stabenow (BASW, MSW) is the junior US Senator from Michigan, elected in 2000, and currently chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; she also serves on committees on the Budget, Energy and Natural Resources, and Finance. Prior to the Senate, she served in the US House of Representatives, Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives, and Ingham County (MI) Board of Commissioners.

Elaine Thomas (BASW, MSW) is the director of research and evaluation for Detroit-Wayne County (MI) Community Mental Health and co-chair of the Mental Health Court Advisory Board.

Jan Urban-Lurain, MPA (BASW), is president of Spectra Data & Research, Inc., an organizational development consulting firm established in 1981. She is an organizational change consultant and group facilitator with over 30 years of experience in supporting individual and institutional transfor-

mation, innovation, and complex change. Jan's background includes 15 years in Michigan state government, where she served as deputy director for the governor's Office of Job Training and chairperson of the Cabinet Council on Human Investment. Jan has consulted extensively both nationally and locally with schools, universities, task force and planning groups, boards, and advisory groups, plus leaders and teams in a variety of organizations seeking to work collaboratively and successfully experience the challenges of complex change. She is a member of the International Association of Facilitators.

Gary Wozniak (BASW) is chief development officer at SHAR Foundation, an affiliate of the Self Help Addiction Rehabilitation Inc. in Detroit. Currently, he is heading RecoveryPark, a projected ten-year multi-million dollar planned community redevelopment project on the east side of Detroit. Its focus is to re-envision the city through education, agriculture/urban farming, community development, food production, and commercial and housing development and other dimensions in order to help residents who are recovering from addiction, those returning to the community from prison, and others through personal and economic empowerment. **S**

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Connect
with the
School!



Find us by joining the group **MSU School of Social Work**. Are you a Flint MSW program grad? Join the **Michigan State University Flint MSW program alums** group! Or check out the **Michigan Kinship Care Resource Center**



Read the School's "tweets" at www.twitter.com/MSUSocialWork or connect with other Spartan social workers by joining the **MSUSocialWork** group.



Join by searching for **MSU School of Social Work** in the groups or visit the recently launched **College of Social Science** group at MSU College of Social Science.

School welcomes new staff, new roles

After a process that examined applications from internal candidates and external candidates, the School's business manager position was offered to **Nancy Gray**. Nancy has been an MSU employee for 34 years, joining the School of Social Work in June 1979 to work with undergraduates. She transferred to the Graduate Program in 1985. This position is responsible for a number of vital functions in the school, including personnel appointments, fiscal oversight, and staff supervision and teamwork.

Nancy has a bachelor's degree from MSU in employment relations, majoring in political science, psychology, and sociology, and served as the vice president for the Clerical/Technical Union.

Her knowledge of the School and its business systems and her experience with the human resources system are tremendous assets. We have appreciated her leadership in spring semester 2012 and look forward to her leadership as the School advances in the semesters ahead.



The School would like to welcome **Ellen Hayse** to our new pre-award grant specialist position. She will provide support to faculty members in locating appropriate grants, constructing grant applications, assisting with transmittals and budgets, working with the MSU Office of Contract and Grant Administration, developing systems and templates to promote efficiency, and facilitating grant submissions. This is a half-time position.

Ellen fills the other half of her time doing similar grant development work for MSU's Julian Samora Research Institute. Ellen, who has a degree in social work and a master's in library science, originally came to MSU in 1998 as a research and outreach specialist. Prior to joining MSU, she worked in the Battered Women's Movement and then with the Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Ellen's experiences have well-acquainted her with the MSU research

culture and proposal processes, making it possible to assist others in navigating and conquering the challenges facing researchers. She is looking forward to assisting our faculty in obtaining funding for conducting their research, as well as promoting the School's research mission.



Succeeding Nancy Gray as graduate office assistant is **Joan Reid**. Joan has held several positions in her 23 years with Michigan State University, but she most enjoyed the ones where she was working with graduate students. She has worked at various combinations of part-time positions and is delighted to have been offered one full-time post with the School of Social Work. She will be working with faculty, staff, and students in our MSW and PhD programs.



Nancy Perkins, who has been serving as business office assistant, is adding responsibilities to become the School's post-award grants manager. We are grateful for her ability and willingness to work with fac-

ulty principal investigators to track grant spending, comply with budget requirements, and fully spend funds in allowable ways. With the support and efforts of Nancy Perkins and Ellen Hayse, the School will be able to more effectively pursue its research mission.

After many years of successful service and leadership, **Sally Rypkema** will step down from being the coordinator of the Statewide Blended MSW Program after the 2012 Summer Institute. We are very pleased that she has chosen to stay on as graduate advisor for the Statewide Blended and Weekend MSW programs, as well as teach in the Human Behavior and the Social Environment sequence, as she moves to a half-time appointment.

Tina Blaschke-Thompson will become the new coordinator of the Statewide Blended MSW Program. We are grateful for Tina's in-depth work in this program in recent years, and her experience will be an asset to this coordinator role transition. Tina will also coordinate the Weekend MSW program. In the Statewide Blended Program and the Weekend MSW Program, the administrative team includes Tina as coordinator, **Sally Rypkema** as advisor, and **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel** as field coordinator. We thank Cheryl for helping to organize the Weekend MSW Program to this point and are pleased that she will continue her involvement as the field coordinator for both programs.

With our international (study abroad) and study away (in the United States) programming increasing, **Marcia Lampen** has been asked to coordinate and facilitate our international and study away experiences. She has been one of the lead faculty members for the Mexico and Finland experiences, and she developed a hybrid section of SW822 which focuses on international policy and allows students to use their study away experiences to fulfill a required course. Marcia's efforts will help forward our goal of "cultural immersion" experiences for an increasing number of our students. **S**

Research Brown Bag Sessions, Spring 2012

Faculty members and PhD students have been sharing their research in regular, informal lunchtime meetings to further build connections within the School.



- **January 30: Hyunkag Cho:** Dating violence and help-seeking among college students: SurveyMonkey, sampling, and Registrar
- **February 27: Lauren Fries:** The impact of witnessing intimate partner violence and experiencing familial physical abuse on pregnant and parenting adolescent girls' PTSD symptoms: Examining independent, cumulative, and interaction effects
- **March 19: Pilar Horner:** Using Syndemics to examine HIV/AIDS in the Dominican Republic: Results from a pilot qualitative study
- **April 30: Anne Hughes:** Comparing older African American and Caucasian women's views of sexual health

Evidence based trauma treatment

Social workers constitute the largest mental health discipline on the front line, serving potentially traumatized children every day.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the School ran a successful pilot project funded by a grant from the National Center on Social Work Trauma Education and Workforce Development (National Center). The National Center addresses the existing critical shortage of front line social workers able to provide child trauma treatment by building workforce capacity to deliver culturally competent, evidence-based child trauma treatment in our communities through building the capacity of schools of social work, social work students, and community based agencies. This vitally important work has broad impact because social workers constitute the largest mental health discipline on the front line serving potentially traumatized children every day.

Field instructors representing Lansing area child and family serving agencies were trained in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and participated in ongoing consultation around implementing this treatment approach and supporting students. TF-CBT is an evidence-based practice found to have positive outcomes with children, adolescents, and their families who have experienced single or multiple traumas. Family member work together to learn new skills to help process thoughts and feelings related to traumatic life events; manage and resolve distressing thoughts, feelings, and behaviors related traumatic life events; and enhance safety, growth, parenting skills, and family communication.

All participating students take a unique course developed by experts affiliated with the National Center. *Core Concepts in Trauma Treatment for Children and Adolescents* uses problem based learning to teach students about evidence based practice and the developmental impacts of trauma including community violence, interpersonal violence, abuse, neglect, war and national disaster. In addition to taking this course students also complete the training in TF-CBT.

Michigan State University is collaborating with Western Michigan University to provide the TF-CBT training to both field instructors and students. Both participate in the National center's full educational model involving the triad of students, faculty, and community agencies. Based on the successful pilot project, the School has moved to continue and strengthen this special curriculum under the leadership of **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**. In its second year, the program will go statewide with students from our Flint and Blended MSW programs. **S**

School faculty present at national conference

The Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) is a professional society devoted to the involvement of social workers, other social work faculty, and social work students in research and the promotion of human welfare through research and research applications.



The theme of SSWR's 16th Annual Conference, held in Washington, DC, in January was *Research That Makes a Difference: Advancing Practice and Shaping Public Policy*. MSU Social Work faculty who participated included:

- ◆ **Pilar Horner:** *Defining Neighborhoods through Residents' Perceptions: A Qualitative Approach*
- ◆ **Louanne Bakk and Amanda Woodward:** *Racial and Gender Disparities in Medication Nonadherence: A Pre/Post Medicare Part D Comparison*
- ◆ **Daniel Vélez-Ortiz, Amanda Woodward, and Anne Hughes:** *Social Ties, Age, and Self-Identification of Mental Health Services Needs Among Latino Older Adults*
- ◆ **Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak and Woo Jong Kim:** *Differentiating Risk of Violence and Treatment Needs among Women in Prison*
- ◆ **Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak:** *The Impact of Multiple Forms of Victimization on Women's Use of Violence In a Random Sample of Incarcerated Women*
- ◆ **Anne Hughes, Rena Harold, and Kristen Admiraal:** *The Michigan Aging Services Network Response to LGBT Aging*
- ◆ **Pilar Horner:** *Neighborhood Characteristics and Adolescents' Outcomes: A Study of the Built Environment in Santiago, Chile*

Participating Field Agencies

Year 1:

Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids
Child and Family Charities, Lansing
EVE (End Violent Encounters), Lansing
Family and Children Services, Kalamazoo
Highfields, Inc., Onondaga
Hillsdale County Juvenile Court, Hillsdale
Lansing School District
MSU Safe Place
St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing

Added in Year 2:

Alternatives for Girls, Detroit
CEI CMH, Children's Services, Lansing
Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale Counties
Childhelp, Inc., Madison Heights
Family Service and Children's Aid, Jackson
Listening Ear, Mt. Pleasant
Great Lakes Recovery, Marquette
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan, Marquette
Turning Point Youth Center, St. Johns
Whaley Children's Center, Flint



The MSU School of Social Work developed this opportunity through a partnership with the National Center for Social Work Trauma Education and Workforce Development (National Center) at Fordham University and Hunter College. The National Center is a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) whose goal is to raise the standard of care and improve access to services throughout the US for children and adolescents and their families, who have experienced trauma. The National Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) through the NCTSN.

Inclusion grants draw on research expertise

[Inclusion means] providing opportunity for learners from all backgrounds—bringing their passion and talent to join a vibrant, intellectual community built on mutual respect—to experience and to multiply the benefits of the power of knowledge throughout their lives.

—President Lou Anna K. Simon, Founder's Day 2005

The MSU Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives facilitates development, research and assessment of university-wide diversity and inclusion efforts through the *Creating Inclusive Excellence at Michigan State University* funding. This is one-time funding for projects intended to create and support an inclusive university.

Through this program, Associate Professor **Joanne Riebschleger** and BASW Coordinator **Sue Bowden** received a grant for a series of four lectures by experts on cultural competency, diversity, and inclusion issues in research and evaluation; Professor **Ron Hall** obtained funding for a fifth lecture from the MSU College of Human Medicine, School of Social Work, and Julian Samora Research Institute, and from AARP. **Monaca Eaton**, Continuing Education assistant coordinator, and students **Caitlin Tupper** and **Jessica Greenfield** make up the evaluation team, conducting focus groups of students to assess what they have learned about conducting research with diverse populations and inform curriculum development.

Riebschleger, Bowden, Eaton, Continuing Education Coordinator **Michele Brock**, and Associate Professor **Suzanne Cross** met to identify speakers, coordinate their schedules, and identify university and community partners to sponsor the events. We successfully involved the broader School (MSW and doctoral programs), campus, and greater practice community (through our Continuing Education program) in the planned events. **S**

Inclusion grant speakers



Research with International Populations

Dr. Jorge Delva

Associate Dean for Research & Professor of Social Work, University of Michigan School of Social Work



Research on the Indian Child Welfare Act

Thalia Gonzalez, JD

Assistant Professor of Politics, Occidental College



Research Methodology with Indigenous Communities

Dr. Jack Menke

Professor, Institute for Graduate Studies and Research, Anton de Komm University of Suriname



Research with LGBT Children and Youth

Dr. Caitlin Ryan

Director, Family Acceptance Project, San Francisco State University



Research with Older African Americans

Dr. Robert Taylor

Sheila Feld Collegiate Professor of Social Work, University of Michigan

PhD news

Louanne Bakk successfully defended her dissertation, *Gender and Racial Disparities in Cost-related Medication Nonadherence: The Effect of Medicare Part D and Factors Impacting Compliance among Older Women and Black Americans*. She presented a paper at the 2012 Annual Conference for the Society for Social Work and Research in Washington, DC. Louanne is a Hartford Doctoral Fellow in Geriatric Social Work.

LaVendee Fulton served as the School's representative to the Restorative Justice (RJ) at MSU Committee and was part of a team that did a poster presentation on the history of RJ at the event. In addition, she is going to be trained to offer RJ trainings for School of Social Work staff and students.

Lisa Hosack successfully de-fended her dissertation, *The Relationship between Borderline Personality Disorder and Academic and Interpersonal Functioning among College Students: Does Religiosity Moderate the Effect?*

Lihua Huang successfully de-fended her dissertation, *Effects of Social Networks on the Health of Family Caregivers in Later Life: A Cross-Sectional Study*.

Terry Keller had a poster "Phenomenology and the father-child relationship" accepted for the Third Biennial Confer-

Daniela Wittmann has been awarded an additional two years on her American Cancer Society Fellowship "Couples' Sexual Recovery after Prostatectomy and the Role of the Partner."

Kristin Admiraal has been awarded a two-year American Cancer Society Fellowship "Quality of Life Outcomes among Older Adults with Colorectal Cancer."

ence of the International Association for the Study of Attachment, Frankfurt am Main, September 2012.

Julie Ma had a paper accepted by the International Journal of Child and Adolescent Health; this paper was supported by the Santiago Longitudinal Study at the U of M SSW Curtis Center: **Ma, J., Horner, P., Han, Y., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Delva, J., & Castillo, M.** (2012). Predictors of discordance among Chilean families. *International Journal of Child and Adolescent Health*, 5(3).

Daniela Wittmann has an article published: Skolarus, T., & **Wittmann, D.**

Cancer Survivorship. *AUA Update Series*; 31(8), 77–87. She has also had abstracts accepted for presentation at the Association of Oncology Social Workers, Boston, MA, May 2012; American Urological Association, Atlanta, GA, May 2012; Cancer Survivorship and Sexual Health Symposium, Washington, DC, June 2011; 17th Annual Oncology Symposium, Saginaw, MI, October 2011; Quality of Life Research Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; Department of Social Work, University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI, May 2012. She also participated in a pre-conference American Cancer Society Institute for funded fellows and faculty involved in doctoral training in social work. As a doctoral fellow, she presented her dissertation research and received feedback from peers and faculty. **S**

BASW student news

Students for Social Work, led by seniors **Molly Ballantyne** and **Jessica Ceh** and juniors **Erin Harned** and **Jenna Fuller**, fielded a team in MSU's Relay for Life fundraiser for cancer research.

This year, the **Undergraduate Diversity Themed Field Trip** went to Canadian Underground Railroad sites in Buxton, Ontario, and also visited Mexicantown in Detroit and the Arab American Museum in Dearborn. Both Canadian Studies and the College of Social Science contributed funding for this trip. Thanks go to the Diversity Themed Events Committee, particularly seniors **Molly Ballantyne**, **Kelsey Crimmins**, **Caelyn Ditz**, and **Sarah Shortt Williams** for their help in contacting the sites, and faculty sponsor **Sue Bowden**.

Congratulations to senior **Bria Berger**, whose entry to the Sarah Lawrence Conference on Women's History was accepted. This conference is a national event with competitive entries, and it is not just for students!

Megan Fritsch, social work junior, has been awarded a College of Social Science Dean's Assistantship, which provides exceptional College of Social Science students with support to conduct advanced mentored research projects. Selection of the final recipients is made by the associate dean for Academic and Student Affairs in consultation with the College Scholarship Committee. Megan is doing gerontology research with **Dr. Amanda Woodward**.

Junior **Jenna Fuller** is serving on the College of Social Science Administrative Hearing Board, the appeals committee that hears student grievances in the College.

Senior **Lucas Gogliotti** has been named NASW-Michigan Chapter Student of the Year. Luke served this past year as the BSW representative to the NASW-Michigan Board of Directors, representing the interests of every BSW student in the state of Michigan.

Lucas Gogliotti and **Justin Pung**, both BASW seniors, began a research project in their junior year with a community agency worker under the direction of **Dr. Suzanne Cross**. The focus of the study was recruitment and retention of American Indian students in social work programs. Their manuscript, "10 Benefits of Participating in Undergraduate Social Work Research," which shares their learning in

Diversity Poster Project Winners

Congratulations to our seniors for the fine work they did on their Diversity Project posters. Our judges (members of our Undergraduate Advisory Board, all practitioners in the community) said the overall quality was very high, but unfortunately they could not give everyone a prize. Winners were announced at our MLK Day Event, and their posters were on display. The following seniors were selected as winners of this year's MLK Day Diversity Project Poster Contest:

<i>Caring for the Caregiver</i>	Hayli Szczechowski
<i>Juvenile Offenders and Group Work</i>	Molly Blackburn
<i>Helping Hand</i>	Crystal Na
<i>Aim Higher</i>	Jeremy Stringer
<i>Inclusion IEP</i>	Carol Buckner
<i>Teal to Heal</i>	Melissa Crosby
<i>Socialite</i>	Jasmine Jones
<i>Women's Secret</i>	Natalie Sernick
<i>Celebrating Diversity with ESL</i>	Carolyn Tobey
<i>International Connection</i>	Amanda Person
<i>MSU Bridges International</i>	Jessica Greenfield

Posters are currently on display in Baker Hall.

experiential field research with a social work professor and a representative of a community agency and describes the benefits of participating in undergraduate social work research, has been accepted for publication by *The New Social Worker* magazine.

Senior **Siobahn O'Laoire** and junior **Mary Kate Halm** are serving on the Dean's Student Advisory Council.

Senior **Siobahn O'Laoire** was selected by the BASW faculty as Outstanding Senior for the Class of 2012. Siobahn is the only student ever to have served on the College of Social Science's Dean's Advisory Council for three consecutive years. She is a member of the Honors College and a recipient of the prestigious Dean's Assistantship Award for her research with **Dr. Kyunghye Lee**. Last year, she received a first-place award at the University Undergraduate Research Forum. She is a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society. **S**



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Undergraduate Research Initiative

We have completed the third year of our **Undergraduate Research Initiative**, a signature theme of our BASW Program! It is succeeding in supplementing and deepening student competency to practice in a research-informed manner and assuring that research activities are informed by practice. All students admitted to our BASW program are given the opportunity to be assigned to interested faculty members upon admission to the program—and the students are really enjoying their work!

Sources of funding for student support have included Provost Undergraduate Research grants, a Dean's Assistantship, other faculty grant resources, and the School of Social Work.

On March 22, the School's Undergraduate Research Fair featured remarks from special guests **Marietta L. Baba**, dean of the College of Social Science; and **Douglas Estray**, associate provost for undergraduate education and dean of undergraduate studies. **Thomas Summerhill**, the College of Social Science associate dean for academic and student affairs, also attended.

Thanks to **Sue Bowden**, BASW coordinator, School of Social Work Director **Gary Anderson**, and faculty members **Monaca Eaton** and **Arnie Greenfield** for coordinating the event and promoting undergraduate research in such an active manner. **S**

"The students do great work, and the dedication of the faculty is impressive." —Dean Estray

Research Poster Presentations

Ethnic Differences in Intimate Partner Violence and Help Seeking Strategies in College Student Relationships

Faculty: *Hyunkag Cho*
Students: *Caelyn Ditz* (senior) and Megan Kelly* (junior)*

The Relationship between HIV/AIDS and Stress in the Latino Migrant Population

Faculty: *Pilar Horner*
Student: *Sophia Estrada (junior)*

Stressors Children Experience as a Result of Parental Immigrant Status

Faculty: *Pilar Horner*
Student: *Marilyn DeLorey (junior)*

Self Care Strategies Used by Older Women to Maintain or Promote Sexual Health

Faculty: *Anne Hughes*
Student: *Angela Bedz (junior)*

School Quality for Elementary-Aged Children in Foster Care

Faculty: *Sacha Klein*
Student: *Molly Ballantyne* (senior)*

Dosage Effects of Head Start on Children's Obesity

Faculty: *Kyunghee Lee*
Student: *Siobahn O'laire* (senior)*

Assessing Mental Health Issues among Jailed Persons

Faculty: *Sheryl Pimlatt Kubiak and Gina Fedock*
Students: *Amanda McCormack* (senior) and Amanda Freis* (junior)*

Strengthening Developmental Resiliencies through Serving as Mentors to At-Risk Youth

Faculty: *Joanne Riebschleger*
Students: *Sarah Shortt Williams* (senior) and Courtney Wilson* (junior), with assistance from Heather Gilmore*

The Unholy Trinity: Examining Religiosity and Spirituality in the Lives of African American Women with Severe Mental Illness

Faculty: *Marya Sosulski*
Student: *Bria Berger* (senior)*

Mental Health Recovery: Addressing Gaps in Effective Care

Faculty: *Marya Sosulski*
Students: *Alison Thierbach* (junior) and Heather Foster* (junior)*

Mapping Latino Mental Health in Michigan

Faculty: *Daniel Velez Ortiz*
Student: *Jessica Ceh (senior)*

Bridge to Neuroscience

Faculty: *Daniel Velez Ortiz*
Student: *Isabel Zepeda (junior)*

Non-pharmacological Treatment of Depression in Older Adults: The Current State of Research and Implications for Social Work

Faculty: *Amanda Woodward*
Student: *Megan Fritsch* (junior)*

*These students also participated in the UURAF; see article below.



Showcasing undergraduate scholarship, creativity

The annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) provides Michigan State undergraduate students with an opportunity to showcase their scholarship and creative activity. Undergraduate researchers present their work in the form of a poster or oral presentation. This spring, with the support of the Office of the Provost, Honors College, and the General Electric Company, dozens of MSU students earned cash prizes for their exemplary work.

Held each spring in the historic MSU Union, UURAF ("you-raf") brings together an intellectual community of highly motivated students to share their work with faculty, peers, and external audiences and provides a unique educational opportunity for aspiring researchers. MSU undergraduates gain experience in presenting their research, answering questions about their work from audience members and guests, and receiving constructive feedback from judges.

New for this year, the School of Social Work had its own program category within the larger festival. In the past, our students have been included in one group of students from all of the College of Social Science disciplines. According to the director of undergraduate research, getting our own category is a special recognition of our contribution to the Provost's Undergraduate Research Initiative over the last several years.

Nearly all of the students at the School's Research Fair also participated in UURAF (see *d names in the article inset above).



An aerial view of one of the poster rooms during UURAF.

Congratulations to senior **Siobhan O'Laoire** who won a first-place prize at this year's UURAF competition for her work with **Dr. Kyunghee Lee** entitled "Dosage Effects of Head Start on Children's Obesity." This is the second year in a row that Siobhan has received a first-place prize, and she is the only student in our program to have ever won two prizes in a row! **S**

Phi Alpha news



Phi Alpha is the social work honor society for BASW, MSW, and PhD students. Officers are MSW student and BASW alum **Kyla Vaillancourt** (president) and seniors **Sarah Shortt Williams** (vice president) and **Justin Pung** (secretary/treasurer); the faculty adviser is **Sue Bowden**.

One of their spring semester service projects was a children's book drive; the books were sent to a charitable organization in Ghana and more will be donated to St. Vincent's Catholic Charities in Lansing. Their next service project was a coat, mitten, and hat drive for children affiliated with Child and Family Charities also located in Lansing.

Phi Alpha also collaborated with the LCC Sign Language/Interpreter Program's annual backpack drive to help meet basic school needs of deaf children in third world countries. This

project is in line with Phi Alpha's promotion of educational excellence and serves as a gentle reminder that although MSU dropped its Sign Language Program, we have not forgotten the needs of Deaf/HOH people.

On April 4, Phi Alpha held a fundraising dinner at Mongolian Barbecue in Okemos, MI. Fifteen percent of the meal proceeds were donated to support the Crown Boxing Club of Lansing, which—according to our MSW student Phi Alpha member **Lacretia Davis**—sponsors many worthwhile activities for youth in Lansing.

The induction ceremony for new Phi Alpha members was held in April. This year, MSW alumnus **Felipe Lopez** was selected to become an honorary member. Lopez, now on staff in the Lansing Community College academic advising office, is the founder of Homies Giving, the Thanksgiving Day event the School has been actively participating in for many years during which a meal is served to those in the MSU community who have nowhere to go. Homies Giving was Felipe's idea, and he organized it on his own for many years. **S**

Celebrating well-deserved retirements



Dr. Margaret Nielsen

Although her official retirement was a couple of years ago, **Dr. Margaret Nielsen** has continued to serve students and the School in so many ways. While hoping that our relationship continues, we did not want to miss an opportunity to acknowledge Dr. Nielsen's extraordinary career and leadership in the MSU School of Social Work. Dr. Nielsen came to Michigan State in 1978. During these years at MSU, Dr. Nielsen has served the School in many ways. She has served on the School's Faculty Advisory Committee, as chair of the Social Policy Sequence, and in recent years as chair of the School's Diversity Committee. While administratively skillful, she has also had a dedication to classroom teaching and student advising that has influenced hundreds of lives. Reminding students and colleagues about the impact of diversity and economics, she has been a consistent champion for social justice and advocate for activism and peace. Faithfully connecting the School to justice issues and opportunities across the University and in the community, she has been an important leader and promoter of social work values.

She has been a thoughtful advisor and counselor for the School, providing guidance and support as the School has grown and as new challenges and opportunities have emerged. Her peaceful and thoughtful manner have taught by example and demonstrated the importance of mutual respect while advancing progressive values. Willing to provide formal leadership when needed, she has also encouraged and supported other School leaders, and she has supported colleagues and programs through her faithful attendance and participation in the life of the School, even at times when this required great effort. Her official retirement was hardly noticed because her dedication to students and the School did not change. We hope that she will continue to be connected to the School in the years ahead even as we celebrate her accomplishments and legacy. We also want to express our deep appreciation to her husband, Erik, who has so frequently been supportive and a part of the life of the School. Our thanks to Dr. Margaret Nielsen for a career and life dedicated to justice and peace and social work education. **S**



Jacqueline Humphrey

On this bittersweet occasion, we want to acknowledge **Jacqueline Humphrey** and her retirement this summer. Ms. Humphrey has been an integral part of the MSU School of Social Work since her arrival at the School 19 years ago. She began her service supporting and working with the School's Distance Education programs. She has had a crucial role in each off-campus program in the School. In fact, her final responsibilities will be assisting with the summer institute for the Statewide Blended program in June 2012, just as she has since the program began in 2006. Over the years, her duties with Distance Education expanded to include special events for the School as she was entrusted with the logistics and programming associated with multiple lectures, meetings, forums, and workshops. For example, she has coordinated the School's Recognition Ceremony each year. These responsibilities grew to include dedication to the School's emerging Continuing Education Program. Her skill and work helped to build the program and aided its development into the state's premier continuing education program for social workers in Michigan. Serving thousands of social workers annually, Ms. Humphrey's dedication and skill have been instrumental in this program's growth and service. This commitment to continuing education is one of her lasting legacies at MSU School of Social Work.

In addition to her many official duties, Ms. Humphrey has been a friend to students and faculty members, an advisor to the director, and a splendid ambassador for MSU and the School of Social Work in the broader Lansing community. We know that retirement will bring expanded and new opportunities for service in the community, and this will benefit many mid-Michigan citizens. We know she will enjoy more time with her wonderful husband and family. However, she will be greatly missed at the School of Social Work. She has been a special part of the growth and success of the School, and we want to celebrate her contributions, thank her for her service, and wish her the best as she embarks on this new stage of her life. **S**

How to donate to the MSU School of Social Work online

This is a new feature for the School, but it is very similar to making other payments/contributions online.

- 1 Go to the School's website: www.socialwork.msu.edu.
- 2 At the right hand bottom of the page, click on .
- 3 After a brief narrative, there are two general giving options, under "Make Your Gift," presented in two boxes: online donations "By Credit Card Now" and instructions "By Check," which would be via regular mail.
- 4 In the "By Credit Card Now" option, two funds are identified: the "School of Social Work Endowed Discretionary Fund" (funds are accumulated to generate interest income that is used to support students, student scholarships, and programs) and a "School of Social Work Development Fund" (funds go directly to an intended purpose rather than being held in an endowed account).
- 5 Click on one of these fund names.
- 6 You will be presented with a Michigan State University donation page identifying a number of programs and logos—*ignore* the fancy display and just look at the upper right hand corner under the dark green stripe.
- 7 In the upper right hand corner (it may be blinking) there will be a small box labeled "Gift Cart" listing the fund you selected and a space to enter the amount you would like to donate. The endowed fund will have a red  in the corner; the discretionary fund will not.
- 8 After you enter the amount and select either "donor" or "couple" in the box labeled "Gift Credit," go to the page bottom and click "Continue."
- 9 This next page will look familiar—it asks for your name, address, and e-mail. Not all areas are required, and this will look very similar to shopping online!
- 10 As you scroll down, you will be asked to choose a payment method (which type of credit card), and it will ask for the card number, security code, and expiration date; again this should feel familiar to an online purchaser!
- 11 Once you see the "Thank you for your Donation" notice, you are done! A confirmation will be sent to your e-mail, and it will be identified as "Michigan State University" on your credit card statement.

The School and University will acknowledge your gift and provide a receipt for tax purposes.

Give it a try! Thank you!!

Spring/Summer 2012 NEWS

An ever-increasing need for funding

True or False: As a public university, the citizens of the state of Michigan are obligated to support the University. Therefore, fund raising and development strategies are not a significant enterprise for a publicly supported institution.

These words, or at least this sentiment, were attributed to John Hannah—MSU's President for 28 years (1941–1969), who is given credit for transforming MSU from a modest college to a major world class University. If it were true that the University was strongly financially supported by Michigan's citizens, tuition would be lower and support for faculty research and teaching would be strong. Unfortunately, funds from the State of Michigan have decreased in the past decade in amount and percentage of the University budget, now constituting less than 30% of University funds.

With the reliance on tuition to make up the gap, tuition has increased. Today, tuition for undergraduates is \$406.75 per credit hour for freshman and sophomores; \$444.50 for juniors and seniors; and \$569.00 per credit hour for graduate students (MSW and PhD).

We need to increase the amount of funding available for student support—to help with tuition bills and to provide enriching experiences, such as attendance and participation at professional conferences and study away and study abroad. With an average MSU student loan debt of \$20,000, and jobs with relatively modest salaries awaiting many of our graduates, the need to reduce loan size and debt burden is high.

Many thanks to former faculty members and alumni and friends of the School who have set up scholarships through endowments. A gift of \$30,000 over a five-year period establishes an enduring legacy of support for students. Other gifts that can be given to students with financial need and professional promise are also greatly appreciated.

So let us rephrase President Hannah's observation:

As a public university, MSU has a special role in the state of Michigan and a special commitment to and relationship with our citizens. In addition to state funding, the gifts—of any size—from our alumni and friends provide significant support for our world class students and programs.

Thank you!



Gary Anderson, Director
MSU School of Social Work

Photo © 2012 Rose Homa

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MICHIGAN STATE
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Spring/Summer 2012 News

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Advancing Knowledge. Transforming Lives.

OUR MISSION: We are dedicated to educating students for competent, responsive, and ethical social work practice. Our teaching, research, and outreach seek to promote positive change and social justice for diverse communities, organizations, groups, families, and individuals.

Help us stay connected!

Please e-mail us your e-mail address! Our address is socialwork@ssc.msu.edu — What's yours?

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Current name _____ Circle degree earned: BASW / MSW / PhD

Name when enrolled _____ Year of graduation _____

Current address _____ Home phone _____

City/state/zip _____ Business phone _____

Please check here if this is a new address

Business/employer (optional) _____

Business address _____ City/state/zip _____

Briefly describe your professional activities and other information you want your classmates to know



Notes from Alumni will be featured in the *Fall 2012/Winter 2013 News*.

Please send this form to:

MSU School of Social Work, Baker Hall, 655 Auditorium Road, Room 254, East Lansing MI 48824
or e-mail: socialwork@ssc.msu.edu

School website: www.socialwork.msu.edu