

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK NEWS

Spring/Summer 2016



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Anderson

The importance of social work

Dear friends,

May is a time of great excitement in the MSU School of Social Work, especially for our students. It is the time when many students graduate and move on to the next chapters of their social work careers. In the academic year ending in May

2016, the School expects 67 BASW, 271 MSW, and four PhD graduates.

These graduates come from all over Michigan and beyond, and represent all of the School's program sites: East Lansing, Flint, Saginaw, Oakland County, and our Statewide Blended and Weekend programs. The School's Graduate Recognition Ceremony held on May 8 this year continues the tradition of celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates, of whom we are very proud. Best wishes to the graduating class of 2016—we know that you will do very well!

On a more somber note, we are constantly reminded of the great need for well-trained social workers to respond to the problems facing the most vulnerable members of our society. These reminders have been particularly stark in Michigan recently, with major crises with the water in Flint and in the Detroit Public Schools.

Our School operates an onsite MSW Program in cooperation with Mott Community College in Flint, and also has students from Flint enrolled at our other program sites. We thus have had many students and faculty members directly affected by this great tragedy. Students and faculty members in the School have responded in diverse ways, including engagement in water collection and delivery, social service provision, and advocacy. In addition, the School has added a page to our website that identifies resources available to help those affected by the crisis and those seeking opportunities to help (<http://socialwork.msu.edu/Flint-Water-Crisis-Response>). We continue to welcome any ideas you may have regarding how the School can be helpful to our neighbors in Flint.

In a rapidly changing world in which communications technologies are evolving at a dizzying pace, the School is continually striving to upgrade our capabilities to reach out to our students, alumni, and community members. Toward this end, the School hired our first communications director (Tony Beyers) this year, and we have been working hard to update our website and improve the range of information it provides. Please visit our website at <http://socialwork.msu.edu/> and feel free to forward any ideas for improvements you may have to Tony at akb@msu.edu.

We also have placed greater emphasis on developing our social media presence and, in particular, have enhanced our Facebook page. We are posting information about our students, faculty members, and School activities on a regular basis, as well as broader articles and stories on social issues that we think will be of interest to social workers and other community members. It is a great way to keep up with the School and social issues more generally. If you have information you would like to have posted, please contact Tony Beyers at akb@msu.edu.

As we close the 2015–16 academic year, I also want to recognize the ongoing contributions of our faculty members and staff. This dedicated and talented group works throughout the year to provide the best education possible for our students and to conduct new research that will help move our field forward and address the issues facing the most vulnerable.

I also would like to thank all of those outside the School whose efforts enhance what we do in many ways. Our field agency partners, including field supervisors and field liaisons, are central to the provision of high quality field placements, and our financial contributors are increasingly allowing us to provide scholarships that reward student accomplishments while at the same time reducing their debts (see page 27).

The School could not be in the place it is without the great contributions of these groups and others, and I am extremely grateful for all you are doing to enhance the experiences of our students and improve the social work field more generally.

Best regards,

Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson, PhD
Director and Professor, School of Social Work



Place matters

Over the course of a rich academic career, Dr. Anna Maria Santiago has been engaged in research fostering social change. Informed by her childhood living in poverty and by her practice experience working with immigrant families, the research agenda she has cultivated reflects her strong commitment to public policy research affecting vulnerable families and children.

The focus of her research is on *how place matters*, especially in the lives of low-income and minority families and their children. She is particularly concerned with identifying ways contemporary social welfare and anti-poverty policies can be used to reduce the social and economic disparities experienced by vulnerable families and children residing in US urban areas.

Dr. Santiago grew up in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee, WI, a city that was—and still is—highly segregated by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The effects of neighborhood disadvantage, however, were partially mitigated by an array of community services.

Unfortunately, today—more than 50 years after the implementation of federal anti-poverty policies directed toward leveling the playing field for all people—residential segregation and concentrated poverty continue to be two of the most entrenched social problems affecting low-income and minority families not only in Milwaukee where she grew up, or Detroit or Cleveland where she has lived, but most of urban America as well. We are witnessing the continued unraveling of these programs and the erosion of the social safety net for millions of poor families in the United States and elsewhere.

Dr. Santiago's field of community practice recognizes that residents have the capacity within themselves and their communities to envision and accomplish their goals. While this recognition does not eliminate our communal

responsibility toward the most vulnerable members of our society, it does underscore the importance of inclusive problem solving.

Dr. Santiago's practice experience as a bilingual social worker serving Latino immigrant families whose needs were poorly documented also led her to recognize how social research could be used to influence both public policy and social service delivery systems.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Santiago has worked with hundreds of low-income families in Denver, CO, to discover what works to promote economic security. Moving beyond the shortsighted perception of poor people as needy and undeserving, she and her research team have uncovered narratives that reveal resourcefulness, capability, and initiative.

Throughout her professional career, Dr. Santiago has utilized a participatory action approach to her research and practice. This involves continually listening to, integrating, and respecting the “voices” of the people being studied or served. In the process, members of the community help shape the research questions, instruments, and interpretations of study findings, and suggest programmatic responses. This continuous dialog with community members is often missing in research or program and policy changes affecting low-income and minority communities.

In support of these topics, her research also focuses on assessing the multi-dimensional value of homeownership—the single largest if not sole asset for most American families—and neighborhood effects on child outcomes. Since coming to MSU, she has begun work on an international and interdisciplinary research team that will look at the effects of social inequalities in housing over the life course in Norway. Her work will focus on the effects of housing careers (the series of dwellings occupied by a household during the course of life) on young adult outcomes and the costs associated with being a child of immigrants. **S**



“My personal experience with poverty led me to dedicate my career to identifying effective programmatic and policy solutions.”

At MSU, Dr. Anna Maria Santiago is a professor of social work, a core faculty member for the Center for Gender in Global Context, and an affiliate with the Global Urban Studies Program and the Julian Samora Research Institute. She is a senior editor of the *Journal of Community Practice*. She has held academic appointments at the Universidad de Puerto Rico en Mayaguez, Universidad del Sagrado Corazon, Seton Hall University, Indiana University, Wayne State University, and Case Western Reserve University, where she was the inaugural Leona Bevis and Marguerite Haynam Professor of Community Development.

Dr. Santiago earned her interdisciplinary PhD degree in urban social institutions from the University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee, where she also obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees in geography. In addition, she completed postdoctoral research training in demography, poverty, and public policy at the University of Michigan.

Since 1997, Dr. Santiago has garnered more than \$3 million in research funding from sources including the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Her publications include numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and several books and monographs. **S**

School continues leadership in **child welfare training**

The Michigan State University School of Social Work has been awarded a three-year continuation and expansion grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for coordinating and evaluating provision of geographically accessible in-service training for child welfare workers and others involved with the child welfare system. Dr. Gary Anderson is principal investigator, assisted by Kadi Prout, LMSW; Dr. Sacha Klein is the evaluator, assisted by Gretchen Archer, MSW.

The seeds for this work were planted in 2009 when the MSU School of Social Work spearheaded a collaborative effort (see below) to help DHHS meet its in-service training requirements for state child welfare workers and supervisors. The initiative was developed to promote professional competence and development, better serve children and families, and respond to a federal consent order resulting from civil action against the state.

Between January and June 2009, the seven schools offered training free to DHHS workers and at a discounted price to workers in private agencies. Programming was implemented statewide, supported by funding from Casey Family Programs and the MSU School of Social Work. More than 460 trainees attended 19 trainings on a range of topics provided in 13 different locations.

In 2010–11, DHHS provided funding. Free trainings were now offered to private agency employees in addition to DHHS workers; programs were open to the public on a space-available basis.

Based on these experiences, DHHS provided funding to support continuation of this initiative for three years (2012–2015). Dr. Gary Anderson served as principal investigator. In the most recent year (September 2014 through August 2015), more than 1,283 individuals participated in 45 trainings conducted in 15 cities around the state. Additionally, five trainings were available, also free of charge, through online course offerings.

Funds were included in this grant for annual evaluation, which sought to answer key questions regarding the success of the statewide model, the value of the trainings in terms

“Gaining this knowledge and skill requires an initial professional education and training. Growing this knowledge and skill requires an ongoing commitment to learning and improving.

This is important work as child welfare professionals have the opportunity to save and transform lives by significantly helping children and families.”

—*Evaluation report*

Thank you for offering this particular training. I was so hungry for this information to use in my work.

—*Clinical social worker from Ingham County*

of participant satisfaction and long-term learning, and the factors that influence participation.

Key findings of the entire 2015 cohort evaluation included:

- Participants served clients in at least 64 (77%) of the 83 counties in Michigan.
- The majority of trainees indicated that the training(s) they participated in increased their knowledge and was relevant to their current work; they would recommend the training to coworkers.
- Trainees reported increased competency in the learning objectives, which was largely sustained during the two months following training completion.

Those who attended the training events provided by MSU also completed an objective knowledge assessment designed for each specific training; analysis showed a positive increase in trainees’ knowledge post-training. In addition, both in-person and online trainees expressed a high level of satisfaction with the trainings.

With the new three-year continuation grant, the collaborative expands from seven schools to nine, and free training is now also being provided for caregivers (adoptive, foster, kinship, and biological parents) and supervisors. In addition, 20 webinars are being held annually, which will be recorded and available on our website.

Beyond the value of high quality training for those who engage in child welfare services in Michigan, a significant infrastructure of communication, mutual respect, and collaboration has been built between university graduate social work programs—and between MSU and Michigan’s DHHS leadership—to channel the energy of the state’s higher education resources into addressing child welfare in-service training needs.

The training collaborative would like to thank DHHS for providing continued funding of the project. Special appreciation goes to DHHS Director Nick Lyon; Steve Yager, director of DHHS Children’s Services Administration; Stacie Gibson, director of DHHS Child Welfare Training Institute, and Laura Schneider and Sarah Goad, managers in the Child Welfare Training Institute, for their support and encouragement of this program. Other MSU contributors include Michele Brock, Amanda Dubey-Zerka, Rosemary Jackson, Lynn Nee, and numerous students and staff. **S**

The initial project was a collaboration of the seven accredited graduate social work programs in Michigan universities:

- Andrews University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Grand Valley State University
- University of Michigan
- Wayne State University
- Western Michigan University
- Michigan State University

MSU coordinated the initiative and evaluated the training activities. Each workshop is provided by one of the schools of social work in the collaborative. In 2016, two newly accredited programs joined the collaborative: Ferris State University and Spring Arbor University.

The SPIRIT Trial for suicide prevention

Dr. Sheryl Kubiak is serving as co-investigator on a new major four-year grant collaboratively funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Suicide Prevention Intervention for at-Risk Individuals in Transition (SPIRIT) will be the first randomized evaluation of the Safety Planning Intervention (SPI) prevention tool, a written, prioritized list of coping strategies and resources for reducing suicide risk among those released from jail. This is NIMH's first major investment in suicide prevention research within the justice system.



There are nearly 12 million admissions per year in US jails, and more than half of people detained have mental health and substance use problems, including high risk for suicide. Roughly ten percent of all suicides in the US occur in the context of recent criminal legal stressors. The standard level of care offered now in the justice system only provides assistance to those actually in jail, with little available after release, even though the adjustments required in the year following jail detention also provide a high level of stress. In fact, recently released inmates are four times more likely to attempt suicide than those in jail. Use of prevention strategies following release could have a noticeable impact on national suicide rates.

The project is being led by **Dr. Jennifer Johnson**, associate professor in the MSU College of Human Medicine and C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health, and **Dr. Lauren Weinstock**, associate professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University

and psychologist at Butler Hospital. In the Flint area, **Danis Russell**, CEO of the Genesee Health System, and Genesee County Undersheriff **Chris Swanson** are also involved in the study. This is a project of MSU's new Public Health Research Group in Flint.

According to Dr. Johnson, "Suicide prevention efforts need to find those at risk and intervene where they are. Right now, there's a critical gap for those who are transitioning back into the community from jail, and we're looking to fill that void."

SPIRIT will focus on suicidal patients who enter urgent care settings and will evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of SPI for reducing suicide events (attempts, suicide behaviors, suicide-related hospitalizations, and emergency department visits).

The study will follow 800 recently released detainees from the Genesee County Jail in Flint, MI, and the Department of Corrections in Cranston, RI. Each participant will be randomly assigned to standard care or to the Safety Planning Intervention method for one year after release. Researchers will then track the mental health of all participants—including any improvements in suicidal behaviors, psychiatric symptoms, hospitalizations, and overall functioning—and compare the results between the two intervention strategies.

Much of Dr. Kubiak's work has focused on diverting individuals with mental health issues from jail and prison, because incarceration can exacerbate mental health symptoms. She is "...thrilled to be involved in the project and working with such a great team. This effort will address those stressors as well as the stigma associated with incarceration when someone is transitioning back into community." **S**

NIMH

National Institute
of Mental Health

NIJ National Institute
of Justice



Engaging communities in collaborative problem-solving and mutual support:

One of the School's major strategic directions

In 2015, the School's Office of Community Engagement was created to manage, direct, and oversee community programs and continuing education. Additionally, the Office serves as an access point through which the School can explore options for constructive engagement with communities and agencies as they work to solve complex and rapidly changing social problems.

Possibilities for partnership are abundant. Some specific past collaborations include: personalized supervi-

sion training for a large governmental system of supervisors, personalized in-house training for agencies, curriculum development on specific topics, and program evaluation services.

In this reciprocal relationship, communities are fundamental to our research on social issues, and partnerships are essential for developing promising social work interventions. Community agencies also are the most important sites for field placement training for our students. All of these activities require the thoughtful

development and nurturing of collaborations with diverse community partners.

This allows the School to expand and continue using the expertise of our faculty members—as social work researchers, educators, and practitioners—in the fulfillment of MSU's land-grant mission as we answer the question: *How can the School bring about the greatest good for our students, our ongoing research, and the community around us with the resources we have available?* **S**

School offers unique **community programs**

It is rare for schools of social work—primarily research and teaching institutions—to operate direct service programs. But the MSU School of Social Work has created a unique niche in this way to help serve our communities. Over the last 15 years, the School has established four community programs and continues to consider the development of innovative new programs.

Community programs must meet three key criteria. First, they must offer an innovative service solution to a community need that is not being adequately addressed. Second, they must fulfill an educational role consistent with the School's central mission of educating social workers. Finally, they must create service models that can be assessed and evaluated, with the intent of establishing effective service approaches that can be replicated.

Although the School's current community programs—FAME, Chance at Childhood, Kinship Care Resource Center, and Veterinary Social Work Services—are diverse in terms of service populations and approaches, all of them meet these criteria. Each of these programs provides field placements for our students; this allows our students to work under the guidance of strong social work supervisors while learning about service provision in an innovative program.

These service programs and the philosophy underlying them allow the School to be a leader in terms of advancing MSU's land grant mission—integrating service, education, and research. These programs bring tangible and intellectual resources to bear on important community problems, and in so doing provide unique opportunities for our faculty and students to serve as community-engaged scholars and practitioners. **S**

Fostering Academics, Mentoring Excellence (FAME)

FAME was invited to participate in the first meeting of the National Youth Thrive™ Learning Community, held in April. This is a direct result of FAME being named one of 15 *Exemplary Youth Programs* in the nation by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) for its Youth Thrive™ program. FAME was recognized as a program that is achieving outcomes, improving the well-being of vulnerable youth by understanding their unique challenges, creating opportunities, and sticking with them “no matter what.”

Representatives of the 15 programs were joined by those from child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and other public intervention systems serving youth to form a Youth Thrive™ Learning Community. Together, they looked at policy and practice implementation strategies and worked to establish peer working relationships; identify common goals,



The FAME Program is a resource center for foster youth alumni attending MSU as well as for youth who were in kinship care, have experienced homelessness, or are otherwise independent.

interests, tasks, and activities; and share practices, tools, and strategies to improve well-being outcomes for involved youth.

The goal of the Youth Thrive™ program is to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors to achieve dynamic outcomes of healthy development and well-being for youth, built around the research-informed factors of youth resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of adolescent development, and cognitive and social-emotional competence. **S**

Chance at Childhood



The Chance at Childhood (CAC) Program is partnering with Peckham Inc. this spring under a *Face Forward* grant awarded by the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. *Face Forward* conveys the idea of youth leaving their past transgressions behind and looking forward toward a promising future.

The grant is aimed at youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with the goal of improving the long-term labor market prospects of court-involved youth prior to adjudication and of juvenile offenders by helping them develop the skills and opportunities they need to move forward successfully in the workforce.

CAC will provide legal services through diversion and/or record expungement strategies that will give youth a chance to succeed in the workplace and avoid the stigma of a juvenile record.

Diversion is the legal process by which arrested youth are permitted to avoid formal processing in the juvenile justice system. Instead of adjudication and possibly detention, they are required to follow through with court-ordered community-based services.

Expungement deals with youth who already have delinquency adjudications and focuses on the elimination of information about them held by courts or law enforcement agencies.

CAC's *Face Forward* grant work provides an outstanding opportunity for its interdisciplinary teams of social work and law students to help youth avoid negative consequences that stem from court involvement. CAC's work under this grant also furthers its commitment to community outreach as advocates of children's interests. **S**

Chance at Childhood is a collaboration between the MSU School of Social Work and the College of Law, designed to meet the needs of children, youth, families, and communities.



The nonprofit Peckham Inc. is one of the largest vocational community rehabilitation programs in Michigan. It provides a wide range of opportunities to maximize human potential for persons with barriers to employment. For this grant, Peckham will provide services in the areas of education and job training to further the potential of these youth to become productive contributors in our communities.



Kinship Care Resource Center

The Kinship Care Resource Center was established to address needs identified by the analysis of data from a series of research projects on the policies and programs affecting kinship families in Michigan. All of the Center's services are based on a foundation of research from MSU and other research institutions and entities.

Currently, the Center is looking at the similarities and differences in the needs of all family caregivers, including not only those raising children, but also those caring for veterans, the elderly, and family members with a range of disabilities, acute and chronic illnesses, and other needs.

Luyao Shen, a second-year MSW student at MSU from China, spent her field placement year working on this project. She conducted a literature review about family caregiver stressors as well as a review of curricula available for all types of family caregiving.

In April, the Center met with Ingham County organizations that train family caregivers as an initial step toward developing a network for support and training. The Center hopes to expand its services based on identified needs. **S**

"Doing this research is a wonderful learning experience for me [and] opportunity to improve my research, leadership skills, and knowledge about family caregiving."

—Luyao Shen



Veterinary Social Work Services



Veterinary Social Work Services (VSWS) is a collaboration of the School of Social Work and the College of Veterinary Medicine. In partnership with the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), the School is expanding what previously has been a part-time position leading the program to a full-time position on a trial basis. This will allow for enhanced opportunities, such as exploring development of a Certificate Program in the Human-Animal Bond, daily program coordination, and most importantly, an increase in the provision of services providing emotional support and referrals for all clients, veterinarians, medical staff, and support staff. VSWS exists largely because of the passion and commitment of Linda Lawrence, LMSW, who represented the School at the meetings that resulted in this relationship with the VMC and the creation of the School's VSWS Program. Because of the success of this program, VMC Director Christopher Gray and School of Social Work Director Steve Anderson are equally invested in extending the services offered through the program. **S**

"As veterinary social workers, we support and advocate for pet owners while allowing the medical team to care for their patient."

—Linda Lawrence, LMSW

Continuing education programming, community building

As the largest Michigan School of Social Work Continuing Education provider, the Continuing Education (CE) Program utilizes the knowledge and talents of faculty, field instructors, field liaisons, alumni, state and organizational leaders, and national and international scholars and experts. The strong and positive relationships developed by the School community provide a rich pool of instructors.

When social work licensure became law in 2004 and the mandate of continuing education was enacted, the School dedicated staff, time, and resources to develop and administer a formal continuing education program. Grounded in the mission and values of the School and the profession, the CE Program demonstrates in practical ways how MSU is a leader in lifelong social work education that engages in

The Continuing Education Program's mission is to help people thrive in service to their communities by offering innovative, valuable, and accessible professional development opportunities throughout the state of Michigan and beyond.

collaborative efforts to include and promote diversity and to foster access to high quality social work education.

In 2004, the first year of our formal CE Program, four programs equaling eight hours of continuing education were delivered to 63 people. In comparison, in 2015 the CE Program offered 131 programs equaling 584 hours of continuing education to 3,331 people. Since 2004, we have benefitted from the expertise shared by more than 300 program instructors. **S**

New and seasoned professionals learning together

The CE Program has been using an innovative model that blends continuing education and for-credit programming in the same class. These two-day presentations provide an opportunity for seasoned professionals and emerging professionals to participate together in a place of learning.

Students taking these courses for academic credit have additional readings and assignments beyond the presentation. Each course taught in this manner involves collaboration, communication, shared goals, and flexibility between the MSW and CE Programs. Upcoming courses include:

Substance Abuse Assessment and Intervention 101
Rochester: June 10-11
Dr. Brian Ahmedani

Adoption Practice in the 21st Century
East Lansing: June 17-18
Rosemary Jackson

Grief and Loss Across the Lifespan
Flint: June 24-25
Julie Farman

Supervision in Child and Family Services Certificate Growing and nurturing supervisors

Through its Supervision in Child and Family Services Certificate, initiated in 2007, the MSU School of Social Work has been training social workers who are or hope to become task and program supervisors and agency leaders. This curriculum was developed with the support of a five-year grant from the US Children's Bureau and in partnership with the Michigan Federation for Children and Families.

The Certificate Program is designed to teach social workers how to develop and retain staff members using information from research and best retention practices regarding topics such as: creating a positive workplace culture; supervisory competencies, tools, and methods of supervision; and how to orient, support, and train new staff during their first six months on the job.

The certificate format combines one face-to-face course and five online self-study courses:

- The Role of Leaders in Staff Retention (face-to-face)
- The Practice of Retention-focused Supervision
- Working with Differences
- Communications Skills
- The First Six Months
- Recruiting and Selecting the Right Staff

Completion of the full certificate earns 16 CECHs. All courses can also be taken independently by those who do not wish to earn the certificate. **S**

School partners with Center for Rural Health

In an effort to meet the needs of social workers and other professionals practicing in rural areas throughout Michigan, the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program and the Michigan Center for Rural Health developed a partnership in 2006 to co-sponsor programs on a broad range of topics.

During this academic year, a series of three live webinars was offered:

- Addressing Boundaries: Ethics in Rural Social Work Practice—**Julie Navarre, LMSW**
- Advance Care Planning: Make Your Wishes Known—**Erica Holman, LMSW**
- Compassion Fatigue in End-of-life Social Work—**Sally Pelon, PhD, LMSW**



During this academic year, a series of three live webinars was offered:



Dr. Eliana Gil
 Ruth T. Koehler
 Endowed Fund Lecturer
**Post-traumatic Play:
 Children's Natural
 Reparation**

Elianna Gil, PhD, RPT-S, ATR, is a well-known lecturer, author, and clinician who has worked in the child abuse prevention and treatment field for the last 40 years. She is a founding partner and senior clinical consultant with the Gil Institute for Trauma Recovery & Education (GITRE) in Fairfax, VA, and director of Starbright Training Institute for Child and Family Play Therapy, where she provides trainings on family play therapy and specialized therapy with youth (and their families) who experience childhood trauma.

In *Post-traumatic Play: Children's Natural Reparation*, Dr. Gil defined post-traumatic play and offered clinical examples of how children access and utilize this type of play to address their traumatic memories. Too often, young children are not able to perceive events correctly, make appropriate meaning, or verbalize their traumatic experiences. Clinicians are often challenged, because children often participate in therapy with great ambivalence.



Post-traumatic play has very positive intent, yet it also has the potential to become problematic, even dangerous, when children fail to achieve mastery because their play has become stuck. Dr. Gil highlighted several methods of facilitating positive post-traumatic play. The presentation was followed by a discussion on the continuum between directive and non-directive approaches in treatment as well as how to find ways to shift from one to the other when appropriate.

In 2012, Dr. Gil received the Association for Play Therapy's *Lifetime Achievement Award* and has received honors from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children as well as the American Academy of Family Therapy.

Both seasoned practitioners and emerging professionals were able to hear Dr. Gil speak on this topic. Semi-retired now, she came to MSU as she concludes her international speaking career this spring. **S**



Dr. Mona Fishbane
 Dorothy Harper Jones
 Endowed Fund Lecturer
**Loving with the
 Brain in Mind:
 Neurobiology and
 Couple Therapy**

Mona Fishbane, PhD, presented *Loving with the Brain in Mind: Neurobiology and Couple Therapy* as part of the endowment-supported Dorothy Harper Jones Lectureship in Family Therapy. Dr. Fishbane identified the interpersonal, intrapsychic, intergenerational, cultural, and neurobiological factors that fuel the cycles of emotional reactivity often experienced by couples who come to therapy. She presented interventions informed by the latest research in interpersonal neurobiology and systems theory to reduce couple reactivity and facilitate the couple's empathy, intimacy, and relational empowerment.

Dr. Fishbane is the director of the Couple Therapy Training Program at the Chicago Center for Family Health. Her particular focus is on integrating "news from neuroscience" with a systemic approach to therapy. She specializes in treating couples and adult individuals, as well as conducting intergenerational work with adults and their siblings and parents.



A nationally and internationally recognized presenter, she has also authored numerous articles and book chapters on couple therapy, intergenerational relationships, and interpersonal neurobiology. Her book that formed the basis for this lecture was published in 2013 as part of the Norton Series on Interpersonal Neurobiology.

As part of the Jones Lectureship, Dr. Fishbane engaged in informal conversation with a group of students, most of whom are in the School's Certificate Program in Clinical Social Work with Families. She also made a special presentation in the SW871-Advanced Clinical Social Work with Families class for MSW students. **S**

Social work licensure rules revisions proposed

The Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Bureau of Professional Licensing and the Attorney General's office recently opened the social work general rules for revision for the first time since licensure was implemented in 2005. The proposed changes reorganize the entire licensure law, clarify the requirements for obtaining a license at each designation level, and expand continuing education opportunities. A few highlighted changes include: required pain management CECHs would increase from one to two, half of all required CECHs may be earned online or by electronic media, and all Michigan schools of social work accredited by CSWE will be approved providers. Finally, in each renewal cycle, social workers would be required to engage in training on identification of victims of human trafficking.

NOTE: These are only proposals. Watch for the announcement of the actual rule changes. **S**

Spring/Summer 2016 SSW NEWS

SAVE THESE DATES!

July 13, 14, and 15, 2016

**GREAT LAKES
 Summer Institute**

Intensive professional development
 courses in scenic Traverse City, MI



New scholarship program prepares students to become leaders in social work advocacy

The MSU School of Social Work Advocacy Scholars Program welcomes its first cohort of five MSW students in August 2016. Advocacy Scholars are chosen through a competitive selection process from a pool of interested students who want to develop their policy advocacy and systems change leadership skills. Advocacy Scholars will receive a \$5,000 scholarship that may be renewable for a second year.

This program was developed to provide cutting-edge training for the next generation of change agents dedicated to helping society solve difficult social problems. Students will be trained to better understand the field of social welfare policy in order to be strong leaders for advocacy and social change at local, regional, federal, and international levels. Advocacy Scholars will benefit from specialized mentoring, networking, exposure to local and federal government practices, skill development, and direct practice.

In addition to the standard MSW curriculum, these students will receive special programmatic resources such as:

- Field placement in an agency with a policy advocacy focus
- Interaction with social program and governmental officials
- Participation in a special seminar series on advocacy and systems change presented by community policy advocacy leaders from diverse backgrounds
- Mentoring on education and career development from faculty members with related experience
- The chance to enroll in a newly developed MSW course on Advanced Advocacy Skills for Changing Systems and Promoting Social Justice

MSU School of Social Work faculty members possess a wealth of expertise in policy advocacy. With our close access to the state capital, ongoing relationships with more than 500 social service agencies (including both government and non-profit advocacy organizations), access to emerging technology, and small class sizes, the School is uniquely positioned to prepare students to become leaders in effective advocacy practice.

Thank you to Drs. Sacha Klein and Pilar Horner for their hard work developing this program. The program is made possible by generous donations to the School. **S**

ADVOCACY SCHOLARS

School offers bi-national webinar

Elder Care: What Can We Learn from Finland and What Can They Learn from Us?

On March 28, the School held a live webinar co-led from two different countries at the same time: the US and Finland. The webinar presented information about the structure of elder care in the United States and Finland, some health and social welfare outcomes from each country, and strengths and weaknesses of each approach to care; it also explored ways each approach might realistically integrate aspects of the other.

Associate Professor **Amanda Woodward** has been recognized as a Doctoral Fellow and a Faculty Scholar by the Hartford Foundation for Geriatric Social Work. She recently spent seven weeks doing research in Tampere, Finland, supported by a travel grant from the American Scandinavian Foundation for her current project, *Comparing Elder Care in the United States, Finland, Estonia, and Romania*. Dr. Woodward also serves on the board of the Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW).

Ulla-Maija Koivula works as a principal lecturer at Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) in Finland. She specializes in welfare policy, social services, and management, and holds post-graduate degrees in social policy and management. Koivula is currently doing evaluation research on inter-professional entrepreneurship pilot education in TAMK. She has been engaged in international collaboration in higher education for more than 20 years and has also worked as an independent consultant in EuropeAid, TACIS, and World Bank projects in transition countries.

Woodward and Koivula are collaborating on a comparative study related to elder care in the US and Finland, and they have collaborated on the School's study abroad program International Social Policy and Social Service Delivery in Finland. **S**

In keeping with MSU's land-grant mission of widely accessible education, the School has been offering continuing education through webinars since early 2015. Webinars offer interactive live presentations on various topics. In addition to accessibility, webinars allow us to collaborate globally on issues that affect individuals, organizations, and communities throughout the world. Most webinars, once held, are transformed into on-demand online courses.

Exploring partnerships: **Russia**



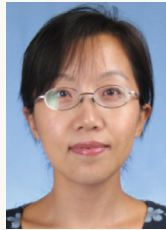
Pictured left to right: **Anna Tikhomirova**, **Tatiana Poduschkina**, and **Daria Shamrova**

Anna Tikhomirova and Tatiana Poduschkina, certified psychologists from Russia, visited the East Lansing campus in November 2015. They both represent the Center for Evidence-Based Programming at Moscow State University of Psychology and Education and the Culture of Childhood Foundation. Tikhomirova is director of the Center and president of the Foundation; Poduschkina holds the position of program director in both institutions. They work to create the bridge between research and practice for child-serving organizations.

The primary goal of their visit was to explore potential areas for partnership that might lead to opportunities for bi-national research projects and help increase the capacity of Russian professionals in research methodologies and production of evidence.

They met with School Director **Steve Anderson**, Associate Director **John Mooradian**, MSW Program Director **Victoria Fitton**, and PhD student **Daria Shamrova**. Previously, Shamrova—who also holds degrees from Tomsk (Russia) Polytechnic University—was awarded an MSU Research Scholars Fellowship that allowed her to travel to Russia last summer to partner with the Center on capacity- and relationship-building events for nonprofit organizations. **S**

International visiting scholars



Dr. Yue Feng, associate professor of anthropology in the Sociology and Social Work Department of Capital Normal University in Beijing, China, came to MSU as a visiting scholar through the Global Professional Research Program (GPRP). GPRP offers established academics an opportunity to work on enhancing their research capacity and further develop research ideas and directions through connecting and working with MSU scholars, professionals, and scientists. The School agreed to serve as her host, and **Dr. Steve Anderson** was her supervisor.

Dr. Feng's career research interests include youth and adolescent social work, family resilience, and educational anthropology. During her year here (from February 2015 to

February 2016), she worked on her own scholarship, which includes authoring a book on family resilience. She also observed classes, attended faculty meetings and continuing education programs, interacted with social work faculty members, and had the opportunity to attend the 2015 Council on Social Work Education annual program meeting where she explored possibilities for future collaboration with other scholars.

Dr. Feng was interested in learning about social work and social policy in Michigan, particularly through the lens of a public university. While she was here, a delegation from her home university visited, and there were discussions about possible student and faculty exchanges in the future. In Beijing, Dr. Feng plans to enhance her teaching by pursuing such methods as online classes, academic meetings, and student exchanges. **S**



Dr. Heuijin Kim arrived at the School of Social Work in January, and will stay with us for one year as a Visiting Scholar on her sabbatical leave from the National Youth Policy Institute (NYPI) in South Korea. Dr. Kim currently serves as a research fellow at this important national research and policy center, where she has fulfilled several roles over the past 15 years. She earned BA and MA degrees in South Korea, and then obtained her PhD in Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010.

At NYPI, Dr. Kim works on research projects designed to build evidence-based policies to support South Korean children and youth. Her sabbatical project at the School will focus on the development of a paper on how family capital affects the transition of disadvantaged youth into adulthood. Her goal is to identify policy and program mechanisms that can assist in the accumulation of family capital, or in compensating for deficiencies in this respect. She will be working with School of Social Work Director **Steve Anderson**, and also hopes to gain US perspectives on these issues from faculty members both in the School and in other units at MSU. **S**



Ulla-Maija Koivula arrived in April to spend a month visiting the School. Koivula, a principal lecturer at Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) in Finland, is a frequent collaborator with the School.

Koivula holds post-graduate degrees in social policy and management. She specializes in welfare policy, social services, and management and is currently doing evaluation research on inter-professional entrepreneurship pilot education in TAMK through its Proacademy in Social and Health Care Program. Entrepreneurship, creativity, and business skills are studied through project-based learning at Proacademy, which also offers unique international and networking possibilities.

Koivula has been engaged in international collaboration in higher education for more than 20 years and has also worked as an independent consultant in EuropeAid, TACIS, and World Bank projects in transition countries.

She has collaborated with **Dr. Amanda Toler Woodward** and **Karen Newman** on our study abroad program, International Social Policy and Social Service Delivery in Finland. In addition, Dr. Woodward and Koivula are collaborating on a comparative study related to elder care in the US and Finland. On March 28, she and Dr. Woodward co-presented our first bi-national webinar (see page 11). **S**



Dr. Sang-Il Yi is a professor of social welfare at the University of Seoul. Before joining the University of Seoul in 2003, Dr. Yi served as a senior research fellow at the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. He holds a BA in sociology from Yonsei University and MSc and PhD degrees in development planning from the University College London. Dr. Yi's current research interests focus on poverty and social planning for health, with a particular emphasis on the effect of the welfare state on poverty and public health.

Dr. Yi is spending his sabbatical here at the School, January–August 2016. Because this is his first visit to the US, one of his priorities was to connect with Korean American faculty members at MSU as well as other scholars in his area of interest. During his stay, he has been conducting research on poverty and welfare policy, comparing Korea and the US. He has also been looking for opportunities to build collaborative scholarly relationships with School of Social Work faculty at MSU that he expects to continue beyond his sabbatical when he returns to Korea. Dr. Yi is being hosted at the School by **Dr. Hyunkag Cho**. **S**

MasterCard Foundation Scholars

The MasterCard Foundation has partnered with Michigan State University to provide full tuition scholarships to undergraduate and master's degree students from Sub-Saharan Africa. Students who have demonstrated academic talent, are economically disadvantaged, and have a personal commitment to give back to their countries are invited to apply for these scholarships. Through financial, academic, social, and post-graduation support, the Scholars Program ensures that young people are equipped with the skills and competencies needed to spur economic growth and social development in their respective countries of origin.

This year, there were 12 students in the University's graduate cohort; three of those students are in our MSW Program. One additional student from Africa is also in this year's cohort. All four students have chosen the concentration in Organization and Community Leadership (macro practice), and three of them hope to be able to continue their studies after graduation to earn a PhD.

Anissa Chitwanga, from Malawi, hopes to help improve the livelihoods of people in rural Malawi and make Malawi a better place for children. She believes children are the future, and their childhood and upbringing determines who they become in life. Chitwanga's dream is to use this opportunity to make sure children are protected and taken care of, to make a difference, and to bring positive change in their lives. Chitwanga completed a field placement this year in the School's Kinship Care Resource Center and will be placed at Chance at Childhood next year.



Roselyn Kaihula, from Tanzania, earned her bachelor's degree in social work in Tanzania. Before coming to MSU she was a leader of the Department of Children's Civil Rights in a nonprofit organization. Her primary interests are human rights advocacy, social development, and economic growth. Her goal is to use her education to protect children's lives in Tanzania and on the continent through policy changes. Kaihula was invited to attend the Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum in



November, where she was able to hear the keynote speech given by former President Bill Clinton, the first recipient of the *Spartan Statesmanship Award for Distinguished Public Service*.

Auguste Shikongo holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Namibia. Before coming to MSU, Shikongo volunteered with Catholic Aids Action, Namibia's first faith-based NGO responding to the country's HIV/AIDS crisis. The NGO provided home-based family care and counseling, youth education and prevention, and care and support for orphans and vulnerable children. After graduation, Shikongo plans to return to Namibia and improve the living conditions for marginalized, disadvantaged, and vulnerable communities across Africa.



Michaela Tucker is from Freetown, Sierra Leone. After she was selected as an alternate in the MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, her family helped her achieve her dream of earning an MSW, and she joined the School. Her social work interests are with women and children in domestic violence, education, and poverty. Currently, Tucker works for World Vision International (WVI), an organization with just one goal: the sustained well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable. WVI implements community-based area development programs, and Tucker is manager of the one for the Jaiama Bongor Bo District of southern Sierra Leone.



The students' reactions to being in graduate school in Michigan shared many themes, including adapting to our winter weather! They remarked on the challenges of homesickness, and some are grappling with the obstacle of living with a different language. But they have been very happy about the rich learning environment—different learning approaches, contact with faculty and dedicated advisors, and the sense that everyone in the School wanted them to succeed. Meeting many strangers led to making new friends. They are pleased with their first year as MSW students and look forward to learning more about macro social work theory and practice in their second year. **S**



Welcome to Puebla, Mexico!

Pictured are students from the International Social Policy & Social Service Delivery spring break experience in Mexico, a collaborative project of the MSU School of Social Work and Migrant Student Services, with support from the Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF) of Mexico. This faculty-led program blends semester-long, online coursework with a nine-day study abroad experience in Puebla and Mexico City.

The MSU School of Social Work **Diversity Committee**

is a group of faculty and students committed to promoting diversity in all aspects of the life of the School. Each year, the Committee selects a signature theme for activities and programs. This year Human Trafficking was selected, a theme also included in the University's Project 60/50 by the University Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives. The theme was used to frame content for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration (see story on page 15), a program on human trafficking (read below), the BASW diversity poster project and competition, and class projects during the school year. **S**

Human trafficking: A call to action

On March 29, the School of Social Work, in conjunction with the MSU Office of Inclusion, Women's Resource Center, and College of Music, presented a free event designed to educate people about human trafficking and encourage them to be involved in action to stop it. More than 300 were in attendance.



According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women, and children fall into the hands of traffickers in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims.

This event presented the topic of human trafficking through discussion, music, and film. The keynote speaker was **Jane White**, chair of the Michigan Human Trafficking Coalition. The MSU Women's Chorale, conducted by **Elizabeth Hermanson**, provided the music, and filmmaker **Laura E. Swanson** presented the trailer for *Breaking the Chain*, her feature-length documentary film focusing on human trafficking in the Michigan area.

This event was organized by the Diversity Committee. Special thanks to MSW student **Adriana Flores** and BASW senior **Haley Hildebrand** for their inspiration and help in planning this event, along with faculty members **Drs. Marya Sosulski, Hyunkag Cho, Sacha Klein**, and **Pilar Horner** for allowing their students to use class assignments to help with planning and promotion. **S**

Margaret Nielsen Awards for **Diversity Achievement** announced

Since the retirement several years ago of long-time Diversity Committee chair and associate professor **Dr. Margaret Nielsen**, the Diversity Committee has awarded certificates of recognition to students, faculty, and community members who have made outstanding contributions to promoting diversity during the academic year.



Dr. Margaret Nielsen

Recipients were recognized March 25 at Baker Hall; Dr. Nielsen was in attendance. This year's winners are:

- **Dr. Sheryl Kubiak** for the development of her Inside/Outside class in Jackson Prison, where inmates and social work students learn more about mental health issues by taking classes together in the prison
- **Dr. Pilar Horner** for her persistence in ensuring that the needs of human trafficking victims, undocumented residents in the US, and immigrants are not forgotten in our social work curriculum
- **Adriana Flores** (MSW student) for her tireless efforts in planning and promoting our signature theme of Human Trafficking this year
- **Haley Hildebrand** (BASW senior) also for her efforts in promoting our signature theme. **S**



Pictured from left: **Lauren Holzman** (first place) and **Emily Sheridan-Fulton** (second place) with their winning posters

BASW poster competition

Diversity with a special emphasis on strengthening families and communities and advancing social justice for oppressed populations is a signature theme of the BASW Program, with content integrated into all social work courses.

This year, the diversity theme of Human Trafficking provided the lens for our annual student poster competition; winning posters were announced and awarded scholarship prizes at our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. Posters remain on display in Baker Hall. This year's winners are:

First place: Lauren Holzman, Beekman Riding Center

Second place: Emily Sheridan-Fulton, Adolescent Diversion Project

Third place: Hillary Hengesbach, Amy Schaafsma, Christina Mariani, Paige Moore, Brittany King, Haley Hildebrand, Kelsey Jones, Alec DeNuccio, Gillian Dawson, Katelynn Moffatt, Shelby Timm, and Sara Haggerty

MLK Jr. Day celebration The Fight Against Hate Crimes

The School's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration took *The Fight Against Hate Crimes* as its theme for 2016. The program included a keynote address by **Jocelyn Benson, JD**, a performance by the Earl Nelson Singers, and a student panel.

Following the program, students, faculty, and friends gathered around the School of Social Work banner, joining other campus groups at the MSU Union for the 30th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March, part of the University's focus on civil and human rights. **S**



A student panel moderated by MSW student **Jennifer Onwenu** addressed questions on issues of voting rights, police brutality, education, and the media's treatment of issues. Participants were recent MSU alumnus **Elliott Jackson, JD**, BASW juniors **Tanesha Anderson** and **Jessica Gray**, and MSW students **Anissa Chitwanga** (one of our MasterCard Foundation Scholars) and **Kanarina Shehu**. Pictured from left: **Onwenu, Chitwanga, Jackson, Anderson, Gray, and Shehu**.

This program was coordinated by the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) and supported by donations from the School, the College of Social Science, and the Lansing Area Association of Black Social Workers.

The theme was chosen to honor victims of the June 2015 Charleston, SC, shooter, who was a hate crime group member.

Thanks to **Jennifer Onwenu** and faculty advisor **Shani Saxon** of the National Association of Black Social Workers student group for their help in planning the event.



Entries for the student poster competition contest were on display during the event. Posters reflected the diversity signature theme for 2015-16, Human Trafficking.



The program's keynote speaker was **Jocelyn Benson, JD**, dean of Wayne State University Law. Benson created the Michigan Allies Project to track hate incidents throughout Michigan and provide legal support for victims while she was an associate professor of law and associate director of Wayne Law's Keith Center for Civil Rights. Benson also serves on the Southern Poverty Law Center Board of Directors, where she has investigated hate groups and hate crimes.

The Earl Nelson Singers—a Lansing-area integrated choir—shared selections from its large repertoire of civil rights songs.





Sheryl Groden

The Intersection of Geriatric Social Work and Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Chronic health problems affect millions of older adults each year, and the numbers of people living with chronic illness is expected to grow. Meeting the complex needs of individuals with chronic illness and a growing aging population is a huge challenge for the medical system. Ongoing and open patient-provider communication is essential for chronic illness management.

While many older adults are choosing Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) to treat chronic illnesses such as depression, heart disease, back pain, and diabetes, few are discussing their use of these treatments with their health care providers. Social workers play a key role in chronic illness management by considering relevant biomedical, psychosocial, and spiritual factors and the needs of the individual patient and the patient's family or caregiving network. Based on the literature, it is not clear whether social workers are communicating with older adults regarding CAM use.

This dissertation examined social worker-patient communication regarding CAM and how well social workers are equipped to play this role, looking at four geographical regions: Michigan, San Francisco, Boston, and Honolulu.

The research indicated that social workers in the study did not routinely assess for CAM use, including use of herbs or supplements, nor were they likely to affirmatively recommend CAM modalities. The research also identified a number of institutional barriers that inhibit communications about CAM, and Dr. Groden made specific recommendations to improve CAM-related social work education and training and better accommodate CAM modalities at multiple system levels.

In addition, the study revealed cultural competency deficiencies; specifically, social workers are reluctant to ask about CAM use out of fear that they will appear to be stereotyping based on the patient's cultural background. Social worker respondents also indicated a lack of knowledge about CAM use prevalent in particular patient communities.

Dr. Groden is a geriatric social worker and social work educator. She is interested in further exploring how CAM can appropriately be used to enhance the quality of older adults' lives and how to disseminate this information to social work students as well as practicing social workers. Her future career goals include teaching, staying connected to older adults in the community, and weaving both together with her interest in CAM. **S**



Terry Keller

Examining the Relationship Strategies of Fathers with Their Young Children

In the literature, more attention has been paid to the behavior of fathers rather than to the essence of their interactional relationships with their children.

The quality of the early father-child relationship is a potential determinant of the quality of their later attachment. Such information can be used to help social workers formulate questions and hypotheses to target family interventions. This dissertation comprised three related studies.

The first study used in-depth interviews with fathers to look at how fathers describe their own experiences with their children.

The second study examined how fathers reciprocally share affection with their child. Researchers and clinicians have recognized the importance of affection in human social interaction; its presence or absence has a significant impact on the development, maintenance, and satisfaction of paternal relationships.

In the third study, Dr. Keller used the Child-Adult Relationship Experimental (CARE)-Index, which looks at external observable characteristics to evaluate the quality of father-child interaction. This instrument has not been

used with fathers on a regular basis and presents a potential opportunity for future research.

Goals of this dissertation included: (1) adding to the literature highlighting the importance of understanding the experience of fathers as actively engaged in responsive, relational, and interactional activities with their children; (2) shedding light on how fathers use relationship strategies and the strategies children use with their fathers, thereby providing useful information regarding how the father and child may improve or enhance their future interactions; and (3) demonstrating a movement away from the negative nature of earlier father research to highlight instead the engaged father-child relationship with all the potential benefits that may result. This knowledge may be helpful not only for social workers, but also for the entire family unit.

Dr. Keller currently serves as chair and program director of the Lourdes University Department of Social Work in Ohio. He continues to work with Ireland's Rural Economic Development organization in designing international learning, research, and field experiences for social work students in Ireland. He will also join the Family Relations Institute in May as a trainer and educator on the CARE-Index. **S**

about their dissertation research.



Joseph Kuilema
Motivations for International Collaborations in Social Work Education

The number of international collaborations in social work education is increasing, but research on the motivations behind this growth and the outcomes that result from it has been limited. In addition, the previous research has often focused only on program collaborations in Europe and North America.

For this study, in-depth qualitative interviews were completed with a sample of 25 individuals representing students, faculty, and administrators at two case study pairs of social work institutions. In each case study, one of the institutions is located in the Midwestern United States and the other in West Africa. This provided a rich data set for examining the impact of cultural differences.

This dissertation used an integrated theoretical framework including elements of critical theory and social network analysis—which has relevance for looking at an issue through the lens of systems, relationships, and situations of uneven power rather than individuals—and the theory of

collaborative advantage—which looks at how collaborations work, how they fail, and how much effort is required for success.

Results show significant differences in motivations for the pursuit of international collaborations between individuals at various levels within institutions, as well as by the type and location of institutions. Institutions use international collaboration in order to compete both locally and globally for students, faculty, and resources. Students are motivated to pursue international collaborations in order to develop themselves and their professional opportunities.

The results suggest that more attention needs to be paid to potential differences in motivations for collaboration, and to the models social workers use to pursue them.

Dr. Kuilema is currently an assistant professor in the Calvin College (Grand Rapids) Department of Sociology and Social Work. In addition to social work fundamentals, he teaches courses on global issues and international development. **S**



Trisha M. Thrush
The Community Service Needs of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness from the Perspective of the Mental Health Professional

This dissertation is intended to help fill a gap in knowledge for the developmentally disabled (DD) population, as there is very little research on individuals with DD that have a dual diagnosis of mental illness (MI) or serious mental illness (SMI).

This study utilized interviews and focus groups to obtain rich information regarding the community service needs of individuals with DD/MI from the mental health professionals' perspective, which has resulted in identification of six primary themes with associated subthemes, some of which have not been reported in previous research (see chart).

The implications of these findings can help inform future practice, policy, and research regarding the community service format and delivery systems that can best meet the needs of the DD/SMI population.

Dr. Thrush (MSW 2006) plans to continue as a program coordinator for Life Consultation & Family Support

with Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled at Community Mental Health of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties as well as teach in the social work program at Central Michigan University (CMU). She hopes to share her passion for social work with the individuals she supports in her work and with her students at CMU. **S**

Main Themes	Subthemes
Staffing supports and other supportive services	1.1 Staffing supports 1.2 Concerns about hiring and maintaining consistent staffing 1.3 Other supportive services
Having access to services or service provision	1.1 Not having services; don't know what is available 1.2 Outpatient model of service delivery 1.3 Attention to DD services recently due to political influences
Suggesting new structure for services	1.1 Streamline services to one location 1.2 Inclusive of all community members, not just DD/SMI 1.3 Specialty supports for DD/SMI included
Having a support person who knows them well	1.1 Case manager/support coordinator 1.2 Family or other natural supports 1.3 Functions of the support person
Identified barriers to accessing services	1.1 Funding and insurance issues 1.2 Issues with accessing services 1.3 Lack of transportation 1.4 Person with DD/SMI engaging and maintaining services
Understanding of DD/SMI	1.1 Perspective of professionals 1.2 Perspective of community

Social work in the wake of the Flint water crisis

The Reverend Monica M. Villarreal is pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Flint. She has a degree in anthropology from MSU (2007) and graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2011. Now she is studying for her MSW degree through the MSU School of Social Work's Flint program. This broad background of values-based education is only part of the context for her life of service. Currently, she is very involved in helping the residents of Flint during this time of crisis. This is what she says:



Tragedy is not new or even “news” to the people of Flint, MI. Thrust into the national media spotlight after residents unknowingly drank lead-tainted water for over two years while the city was under Emergency Management by the State of Michigan, this crisis represents a failure of government at all levels.

In the shadows

As a resident of Flint, born and raised, the Flint Water Crisis affects me personally and professionally. When national media first arrived in Flint, I remember watching a CNN reporter express complete shock and irony that Flint was already a community devastated by deteriorating neighborhoods. In some neighborhoods, entire city blocks of homes are boarded up. Known as the Vehicle City and birthplace of General Motors, Flint once boasted over 80,000 automotive jobs which largely created the middle class



of America. Today, fewer than 8,000 of these jobs exist. Flint is the image of a once industrious American city now devastated by poverty and yet hoping for rebirth.

The Flint Water Crisis has shown that when you are poor and without socio-political capital, anything can happen to you. You can be poisoned and told by people in power that everything is fine. As an ordained pastor, I serve a congregation located on the north side of Flint where 45 percent of residents live in poverty. I find myself working in the back alleys of the community with people who are often confined to the shadows of society. I meet the lost; the forgotten; the forsaken.

Resilience, change, and hope

Access to clean, affordable water is a human right. Water is life! The people of Flint are resilient, but we need help. We need social work students and

faculty to visit Flint to meet families affected by this tragedy and to support social workers who are working to bring change and hope. We need donations of water as well as volunteers to help distribute water and lead-mitigating foods in the community. We need financial assistance that will support social services and health care over the long term.

I enrolled in the MSW Program because I want to make a transformational difference in my community that brings together the gifts of clinical and macro social work practice. My educational experience and the relationships I have developed in the Flint program have enhanced my professional work.

Our common mission is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. For the people of Flint, our hope is inescapably tied to living out this mission. **S**

School helps link volunteers to needs in Flint

More than 60,000 people have read our posts about the Flint Water Crisis, and many of them have clicked through to the Flint Water Crisis page on our website. We established this page as an information source for people interested in learning about the crisis, those needing services, and those interested in opportunities for engagement. Section headings include: Crisis Intervention and Emergency Services—Services, Donations, and Volunteers; Health and Mental Health; and Educational Initiatives and Background Information. We have been updating this page regularly, and have used posts to social media, listservs, and other contacts to make people aware of this reference page.

Through a series of water drives, the School collected more than 1,500 bottles of water for Flint. Participating groups included Chance at Childhood, Students for Social Work, Student Organization for Latino Social Workers, Phi Alpha Honor Society, and the Diversity Committee; many students, faculty, and staff were seen carrying water into and out of Baker Hall.

Flint resident Julie Farman, director of our Flint, Oakland, and Saginaw MSW Programs, is participating as a member of the Flint Resiliency Community Group addressing behavioral health and a sub-group on stress management, which is addressing stress responses by way of assessments

Water, mental health, social work and **social justice**

Kenyetta Dotson, a life-long Flint resident who graduated from the School's Flint MSW Program in 2010, wears many hats. She was recently elected to the Flint School Board. She is a founding member of the citizen-led WOW Outreach non-profit organization, founded "to create a community with a ZERO tolerance for violence by strengthening youth and families living in the Greater Flint Community." And she holds down a full-time job as a community liaison with Genesee Health Systems, all while being mom to her three children.

Most recently, she has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Flint Child Health and Development Fund, founded by **Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha** in response to the Flint water crisis. Through this and her other outreach work, she is part of the multitude of nonprofit organizations and volunteers helping Flint families during this most unsettling time.

While the greater part of Dotson's work has been against direct violence, what has happened to the city of Flint through the contamination of its water supply has important implications for violence at the community level. As violence has ripple effects in a community, so does crisis in a community have ripple effects, affecting issues of safety and violence. Every additional trauma or stressor takes its toll on community peace and stability.

and tools to assist community agency employees who are providing assistance to community members.

BASW senior **Haley Hildebrand**, through her liaison function on the student leadership and advocacy group U-Link, has been coordinating communications between NASW-Michigan and our students regarding the Flint water crisis to help coordinate outreach and assistance efforts. **S**

As violence has ripple effects in a community, so does crisis in a community have ripple effects, affecting issues of safety and violence. Every additional trauma or stressor takes its toll on community peace and stability.



collaboration, community development, and empowerment. And she works diligently to promote awareness, improve living conditions, and create opportunities and access to the most needed services for families with barriers and immense needs.

Dotson believes her social work education was one key to her becoming an effective transforma-

Dotson has had a lifetime of service, both formal and informal. She remembers as a child, standing up for others who were not being treated well, regardless of the reason; she thought of herself as a protector and true friend. She believes in influencing change from a systemic standpoint by engaging the community in social action, collective

tional leader in the community—one who gives back and plays a vital role in developing solution-driven processes under a sustainable system of equality, hope, and freedom. Dotson provides a clear example of using social work skills to find creative ways to engage folks in change using relationships to reach people. **S**

Group class policy analysis: Flint water crisis

Dr. **Marcia Lampen's** SW 822-Topics in Policy, Practice, and Advocacy class chose to focus its group class policy analysis project on an in-depth study of the Flint water situation.

The analysis was organized around the following steps: understanding the issue (problem identification); who is affected and how; the primary causes of the problem; possible short- and long-term solutions to the issue; and a plan to evaluate and advocate for the solutions they generate. Students took into account such information as Flint demographics, geography, and history; key players and political concerns; available evidence about what actually happened; and available information about the effects of the situation.

This was accomplished within a theoretical framework and through the dual lenses of emotional implications and the social justice issues of inequality and health.

In addition, the class met with State Representative Adam Zemki (D-Ann Arbor), who is introducing a proposal that would protect Michigan's school children by requiring regular water quality testing. Students also wrote to elected officials to encourage taking up the Water Accountability Act, introduced by Rep. Julie Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights). **S**

SW students respond to Flint water crisis

MSW student Robert Powell said, “As a human being (and a social worker), I felt the moral duty to go...to do something.” He has been volunteering with Crossing Water, a small nonprofit organization founded in response to the Flint Water Crisis to serve Flint’s most vulnerable residents. The founding directors are both social workers: Michael Hood and Laurie Carpenter. Hood has put his regular work on hold; Carpenter is a senior research associate at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Rounding out the core team is Stephanie Kenner, who has a master’s degree in international human rights and has worked on international humanitarian projects, and Jenny Bishop, a current BASW student at MSU (see below).

Powell is studying for the Certificate in Evidence Based Trauma (EBT) Treatment. After volunteering with Crossing Water, he brought stories back to his EBT field liaison group and persuaded five other students to return with him to work in Flint. They found this work so meaningful, they brought their experience back to the group as a learning activity to support their MSW field education.

Crossing Water has designed, developed, and implemented a new Rapid Response Service Team (RRST) model comprising interdisciplinary units, aimed at the most vulnerable individuals and families in the hardest hit and most underserved neighborhoods in Flint. In an interview with Democracy Now, Carpenter described it this way: “If somebody asks for water, we always give everybody water. If they need water, if they ask for water, we don’t ask any questions, we don’t ask for any ID, we don’t ask for any names. It’s yes.” Their model includes a feedback loop that allows them to revise their strategies based on the information they collect as they carry out their work. **S**



Above L-R: Volunteer **Bob Pratt**, **Michael Hood**, **Nazleen Bharmal**, director of Science and Policy in the US Office of the Surgeon General, Lieutenant **Laura Annetta**, US Public Health Service special assistant to the Surgeon General, and **Laurie Carpenter**.

More from Rob Powell:

“What I found was shocking. There is sadness and frustration there. At the same time, there is human connection, laughter, and rays of hope. There is also pride to work beside literally scores of social workers. We are in the field, providing education, water, and purifiers to the most needy and marginalized in Flint. Social work is literally at the very front lines of this humanitarian disaster.”

From Joshua Swab:

“My experience volunteering with Crossing Water was a revealing look at grass roots social work. Seeing firsthand needs going unmet by government and large agencies was a good reminder of why advocacy and activism are such important ways for social workers to contribute their skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved and recommend the eye-opening experience to anyone in the social work program.”

School student helps guide major volunteer effort in Flint

BASW senior Jenny Bishop is the program director at Crossing Water. She has been volunteering every weekend since January 30. “I remember sitting there in St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church going through the RRST training and just every part of me was inspired and instantly felt a connection to what the people at Crossing Water were doing. I also was deeply troubled over what was happening. As social work students, we always talk about taking action. This was not only the perfect chance to take action, but to be heavily involved in a new organization in position to do great things. Over time, my role has expanded.

“I am very interested in trauma and trauma-informed care. Flint is a city going through a traumatic experience. Using what I have learned mixed with my own continued learning about trauma has seemed to serve me well. Every home we go into, we do not know what we are going to see. The homes most often are not in good condition. However, that does not matter.

“What matters is that the people who are underserved have access to the same information possessed by middle and upper class people. I have found that not many helpers are asking the most basic question, ‘How are you holding up through this?’ People’s feelings matter. [This is about] more than just cases of water, more than just statistics on lead exposure. These people are dealing with this crisis as best as they can. Each person has a story, and the best thing that social workers offer in these situations is our training in empathy, diversity, and mindfulness.” **S**

News **when, where,** and **how** you want it

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

The School will be posting upcoming events, such as continuing education offerings, guest lectures, and special advocacy opportunities. When there is a need to immediately disseminate information, such as with responses to the Flint Water Crisis, social media is the most effective way to keep people up to date or steer them to pertinent information on our website. For example, at press time more than 60,000 people have read our Facebook posts about the Flint Water Crisis.

Social media allows for an immediacy of message and response between the School and the social work community previously unavailable. Our followers also can post comments and/or images that may be relevant and helpful to the broader social work community.

Our Facebook content has been reorganized onto one main School site, and Continuing Education and the Community Programs (see pages 6–7) also have their own Facebook sites. The School and the FAME Program also have Instagram and Twitter accounts. It is our intent to expand content on all of these media sites.

We hope to “see” you all online! **S**



On Facebook look for:

MSUSocialWork
MSUVSW
MIKinship
MSUSocialWorkContinuingEducation
MSUChanceatChildhood
MSUFAME



On Instagram look for:

MSU_SocialWork
MSU_FAME



On LinkedIn look in “groups” for:

MSU School of Social Work



On Twitter look for:

MSUSocialWork
MSUFAME

Welcome new **School staff**

Amanda Morgan, LMSW

Amanda Morgan is the School's new coordinator of professional distance education in our Continuing Education Program. Previously, Morgan served as supervisor of the Adult and Family Learning programs at ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services), where she managed a five-year, federally funded research and evaluation project on a two-generation school readiness program in the Southwest Detroit Yemeni community. While at ACCESS, Morgan led efforts to develop and implement vital programming for the community, build bridges with various community agencies and key stakeholders to maximize impact, and secure over a million dollars in funding for these programs. Morgan's past work experience includes program management and evaluation, capacity building, and organizational development, both locally and nationally. She has served as a field instructor for MSW/BSW students at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. Morgan received her Bachelor of Science in behavioral psychology from Western Michigan University and her MSW from the University of Michigan, where she specialized in program evaluation and community organizing.



Stephanie McCann, LMSW

Stephanie McCann (MSW 2009) has returned to the School to serve her alma mater as the recruitment coordinator for our BASW and MSW programs. Most recently, she worked for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Children's Services Agency as the statewide community liaison for community and faith-based programs and recruitment and retention programs. In this role, she collaborated with ecumenical faith-based and community-based partners to promote safe, healthy, and stable foster and adoptive families for children affected by child welfare issues.



Prior to working for DHHS, McCann served as the program manager for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan—Children and Family Services in Lansing, where she supervised foster care, clinical, and unaccompanied refugee minor programs.

McCann possesses an energy and enthusiasm for building a culture of recruitment for the School of Social Work, seeing everyone—from alumni to faculty—as having a role. She looks forward to engaging the MSU social work community in a shared understanding that we are all recruiting the future of our social work programs together.

Kim Battjes, LMSW

Welcome to our new Chance at Childhood (CAC) Program coordinator, Kim Battjes (MSW 1999). Battjes has been a social worker since 1992, mainly working with children and families. She became a school social worker in 1999, leaving only to begin working at CAC. Battjes is very happy to work at Chance at Childhood, seeing it as an opportunity to have a greater impact on teaching social work students and make an impact on child welfare policy. After working in K-12 education for more than 16 years, she was ready for a change of pace and an opportunity to influence the child welfare system. She will be supervising MSW and BASW students along with law students who are interning at CAC. As part of her responsibilities, she also coordinates the supervised parenting time program. In addition, Battjes serves as the MSU school social work consultant and inter-university representative for the MSU School of Social Work non-credit School Social Work Competency Series courses, and she teaches one of those courses. **S**



Faculty, PhD students present at **SSWR** annual event

The School was once again well represented at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) 20th Annual Conference, *Grand Challenges for Social Work: Setting a Research Agenda for the Future*, held in January in Washington, DC. The SSWR annual conference offers a scientific program that reflects a broad range of research interests, and this 20th conference anniversary was used to introduce the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative, spearheaded by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW).

SSWR, founded in 1993, is a nonprofit, professional membership organization that supports social workers, social welfare professionals, social work students, social work faculty, and researchers in related fields.

Nine faculty members were accepted for 18 presentations this year:

Hyunkag Cho

The effects of cumulative violence exposure on help seeking among survivors of intimate partner violence

Pilar Horner

*The importance of work in HIV/AIDS for health literacy with Spanish-speaking agricultural workers
HIV and substance abuse with migrant populations*

Have you ever considered earning your PhD in social work?

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

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



Anne Hughes

*'I just felt like we fell off the planet'—Patient and caregiver perceptions of transitioning home after an acute stroke
Taking the pulse of the profession—Opportunities and challenges associated with sampling US social workers*

Angie Kennedy

*Symposium organizer: Violence against women and children
Cumulative victimization as a predictor of intimate partner violence over time among young mothers
Examining patterns of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and violence types among IPV survivors, batterers, and couples*

Sacha Klein

*Parenting and proximity to social services: Lessons from Los Angeles County in the community context of child neglect
Maltreatment in early childhood: The role of neighborhood disorganization and parental corporal punishment*

Sheryl Kubiak

*Long-term outcomes of a RCT intervention study for women convicted of a violent offense
Testing a new intervention with incarcerated women with life sentences: Assessing short-term outcomes*

Kyunghee Lee

*Impact of Head Start quality on children's academic outcomes by comparing parental care, home-based care, and center-based care
Ethnic differences in Head Start impact on maternal mental health: Moderating effects of social service use and social capital
Dosage effects of Head Start enrollment on parental involvement: Moderating effects for quality of center-based care*

Anna Maria Santiago

Environmental contexts and the polyvictimization of Latino and African American youth.

Daniel Vélez Ortiz

*Ethnic differences in Head Start impact on maternal mental health: Moderating effects of social service use and social capital
Supporting families in mental health services*

In addition to faculty, 11 of our PhD students (including current students and recent graduates) presented this year, as did BASW student Zachary Bose. The 11 are listed alphabetically by last name below, along with faculty mentors; they presented a total of 15 papers and posters.

Cristy Cummings Faculty: Anne Hughes

Gina Fedock, PhD Faculty: Sheryl Kubiak

Lauren Fries Costello, PhD

Woo Jong Kim, PhD Faculty: Sheryl Kubiak

Ilan Kwon Faculty: Hyunkag Cho

Jaewon Lee Faculty: Kyunghee Lee and Daniel Vélez Ortiz

Julie Ma, PhD Faculty: Sacha Klein

Edita Milanovic Faculty: Pilar Horner

Kristen Prock Faculty: Anne Hughes

Evangelina Palma Ramirez Faculty: Angie Kennedy

Daria Shamrova Faculty: DeBrenna Agbényiga

The School also hosted a reception at the conference. **S**

School plays key role in Social Work Distance Education Conference

The second annual Social Work Distance Education Conference (SWDE) was held April 13–15 in Indianapolis, IN. It was co-sponsored by the University of Indiana School of Social Work and the Council on Social Work Education.

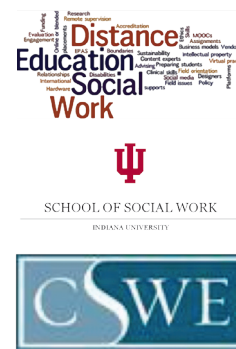
More than 300 social work education administrators and faculty members attended. Presentations addressed distance education issues for schools and programs offering “completely online” distance degree programs as well as programs that are “hybrid” or “blended”—that is, they include live interaction using delivery platforms such as web-based learning management systems or interactive television (ITV). The conference offered programs in five content areas:

- Developing your own online or blended program
- Teaching and learning social work online
- Field issues and distance placements
- Administrative strategies and issues
- Online practice issues

Dr. Paul Freddolino, director of research and distance education in the School, again co-chaired SWDE with Dr. Bob Vernon, director of the University of Indiana MSW Direct (online) Program. The School, a national leader in online and blended (hybrid) social work education, was well represented, including the following presentations:

- *“The best of both worlds”: Why the blend matters in hybrid MSW programs*—Tina Blaschke-Thompson, Crystal Hughes, Melissa Misner, Dana Pendergrass, Marc Smith (Panel)
- *Challenges in teaching an online field seminar*—Raelyn Elliott-Remes, Susan Bowden (Paper)
- *Making the most of face-to-face time in blended and online programs: The Annual Summer Institute*—Paul Freddolino, Tina Blaschke-Thompson, Glenn Stutzky, Kelly Fornwalt (Seminar)
- *The Online Assessment and Orientation Program (OAOP): Ensuring student success in a hybrid MSW program*—Kelly Fornwalt, Paul Freddolino, Tina Blaschke-Thompson (Seminar)
- *Transforming signature theme and generalist practice assignments to an online format*—Kimberly Steed-Page, Susan Bowden, Cristy E. Cummings (Seminar)

In addition, Dr. Freddolino was a panel member for a special four-hour intensive pre-conference workshop, *Everything Old Is New Again: Transitioning Traditional Social Work Teaching to a Blended or Online Format*, aimed at those completely new to distance education. **S**



Faculty news

Michele Brock has been elected by her University peers to a position on the Academic Specialist Advisory Committee, part of the MSU academic governance structure for the academic specialist community. Academic specialists serve in the functional areas of teaching, curriculum development, advising, research, and outreach.

Monaca Eaton is a member of a University group working on the development, implementation, and training for the Education Advisory Board (EAB) initiative. EAB is an international advisory group that provides best practice research, data analytics, technology, and consulting services to colleges and universities. During 2015, Eaton served as part of the University’s EAB development team, and she now has been selected by the College to be part of the training initiative.

Dr. Rena Harold has been elected as a representative from the College of Social Science to the University Council/Faculty Senate, part of MSU’s academic governance structure, that serves as a deliberative, representative, and legislative body for Michigan State University faculty.

Dr. Pilar Horner has been serving on the College of Social Science (CSS) Dean’s Search Committee. The committee is charged to work with the Office of the Provost to find and recommend a successor to Dr. Marietta Baba, who served as dean of CSS for 14 years. Dr. Horner was selected for the committee from the College tenure-system faculty.

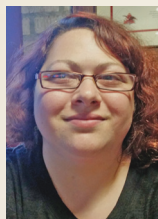
Dr. Angie Kennedy was one of five MSU faculty members who were featured participants in Sharper Focus/Wider Lens: The Nature of Inequality. This program was a collaboration of MSU’s Sharper Focus/Wider Lens series, Project 60/50, and the Honors College. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, who is dean of the Honors College and has her tenure home in the School. **S**

News writer and editor Toby Salzman steps down

After 13 years and 26 issues of the School’s newsletter, Toby Salzman, LMSW, ACSW, will be stepping down from her responsibilities as writer and editor. We have appreciated her hard work and clear communications. She will be missed. **S**

Students contribute to SW profession

The School is one of ten US social work programs selected to participate in the Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (Social Work HEALS) initiative of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Foundation. Senior **KC Austern** is one of two MSU BASW students selected for this prestigious program. As part of this curriculum, all HEALS scholars from around the country gathered together for a policy summit in Washington, DC, in November.



Austern writes: “Day One of the summit was held at the NASW headquarters. Students heard from a variety of speakers on issues relating to social work in healthcare. Lecture topics included Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation, becoming a social work leader, social work advocacy on Capitol Hill, and transforming the landscape for health and mental health care.

“Day Two was spent on Capitol Hill meeting with our senators and representatives to advocate for the continuation of student loan forgiveness and income-driven repayment, and to promote an increase in payment for MSWs to improve Medicare beneficiaries’ access to clinical social work services.

“Overall, the summit was a success. Many students expressed their surprise at how much they enjoyed the chance to advocate for social work issues on Capitol Hill. Meeting social work students from around the country was a wonderful opportunity!” **S**

BASW senior **Allison Osika** received an invitation to attend the Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum in November. The Forum, along with the *Spartan Statesmanship Award for Distinguished Public Service*, were made possible by a generous donation to MSU from former Michigan Governor, US Congressman, and Ambassador to Canada James J. Blanchard and his wife, Janet. Former President Bill Clinton, the first recipient of the award, was keynote speaker at the Forum.



In Osika’s words: “Attending the Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum was a wonderful learning opportunity for me as I progress through my social work journey. Former President Bill Clinton spoke on the importance of public service not only in our own country, but also throughout the world.

“He also touched on some very important social work techniques that should be applied when working with others. For example, he described the importance of listening to others and really hearing what they are saying. He found that just listening to people is one of the best ways to help. Another important topic he discussed was the idea that every person has a story. I immediately connected this to my social work classes at MSU. Everyone comes from a different background and has gone through different life experiences; it is important to keep an open mind and be willing to learn from others.

“Overall, I am very thankful for the opportunity I was given to attend this event, and I really took away some great lessons from President Clinton.” **S**

BASW junior **Katrine Weismantle** represents the CORES & COPS Alliance on campus. CORES is the Council of Racial and Ethnic Students, which represents four cultural communities on campus organized by and for American Indigenous, Black, Asian Pacific American, and Latino students. COPS is the Council of Progressive Students, a group of eight student organizations representing additional student communities on campus.



The Alliance was formed to develop coordinated approaches to foster unity, embrace diversity, promote social and cultural understanding, advocate for social reforms, and in general address minority concerns for and from the MSU community. The alliance organizes campus-wide cross-cultural collaborative events and also meets regularly with MSU President Simon to discuss issues of inclusion and diversity. It also works to promote social and cultural understanding for individuals on our campus.

According to President Simon, these meetings “can be the basis for us moving forward together, and with others, to make Michigan State a better place for all.” **S**

Thank you, students,
for your contributions
to the School and the
social work profession!

A Mission of Social Justice and Positive Change: The MSU School of Social Work is dedicated to educating students for innovative, competent, responsive, and ethical social work practice, and to conducting and disseminating research that contributes to the well-being of the most vulnerable in society. Our teaching, research, and outreach are mutually reinforcing, with the common purpose of promoting positive change, social justice, and solutions to the problems facing diverse communities, organizations, groups, families, and individuals.

Flores and Hildebrand receive multiple awards

Haley Hildebrand is a BASW senior graduating this spring. Hildebrand has been selected by the faculty as the School of Social Work's *Outstanding Senior* for the class of 2016. She was recognized for her outstanding commitment to social action and advocacy and keen sense of social activism, which led the BASW Program to adopt Human Trafficking as its diversity theme for this year. Haley has also had a strong presence on NASW-Michigan's U-Link Board, a student leadership and advocacy group. She has worked on raising money for agencies that assist human trafficking survivors.



As part of the "duties" of being selected *Outstanding Senior*, Hildebrand will lead her fellow social work graduates to the podium of the Breslin Center at the College of Social Science graduation in May.

She has also been recognized with an NASW-Michigan *Student of the Year Award* and a *Nielsen Award for Diversity Achievement*.

Adriana Flores has been selected by the Graduate Office as the *MSW Student of the Year*. She received recognition for this honor at a ceremony hosted by NASW-Michigan. In recognition of her time, effort, and personal commitment through community engagement, she also has been named a recipient of the *2016 Heart and Soul Award* from MSU and the Michigan Campus Compact—an organization that promotes community service, service-learning, and civic engagement among students. Flores has also served as president of Phi Alpha and has provided outstanding leadership overall. *Congratulations!* **S**



Student groups

Phi Alpha, the social work honor society, collected water for Flint this semester and is working with MSW student **Monica Villarreal**, pastor of a Flint church that serves underserved (and undocumented) populations. Phi Alpha leadership roles are filled by president **Adriana Flores**, vice president **Allison Osika**, and secretary/treasurer **Lindsey Michalik**. The induction ceremony for current juniors who were invited to join was held on April 22 at the Hannah Center in East Lansing. **Sue Bowden** is the faculty advisor.

The **Student Organization for Latino Social Workers (SOLASW)** members were an active part of the Flint water drive. Members visited Flint to meet with Rev. Villarreal, where they arranged to deliver the water collected by the School; **Quenton Lerma**, SOLASW president, drove to Flint to do the actual delivery. SOLASW also had a presence at MSU's 23rd Dia de la Mujer Conference, held in April. At press time, SOLASW students were hoping to have raised enough funds to attend the national OLASW conference in New York City. **Adriana Carreon** has served as vice president; **Dr. Pilar Horner** serves as faculty advisor.

This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program was coordinated by the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSWS) and supported by donations from the School, the College of Social Science, and the Lansing Area Association of Black Social Workers. The theme was chosen to honor victims of the June 2015 Charleston, SC, shooter who was a hate crime group member. Thanks to MSW student and BASW alumna **Jennifer Onwenu** for her leadership. The faculty advisor is **Shani Saxon**.

Students For Social Work (SFSW) held a special meeting February 29 with **Rev. Peter Dougherty**, co-founder and outreach coordinator of Meta Peace Team (MPT). He talked about the work MPT is doing using advocacy and third-party nonviolent intervention in order to reduce and prevent violence in places of ongoing violence around the world. Students also participated in nonviolence and de-escalation training exercises. SFSW senior co-leaders are **Kate Moffatt**, **Alec DeNuccio**, and **KC Austern**. **Monaca Eaton** is the faculty advisor. SFSW was also active in the Flint water drive. **S**

Human trafficking: Theme of events and presentations

Dr. **Pilar Horner's** SW 822-Topics in Policy, Practice, and Advocacy class chose to focus its group class policy analysis project on the School's diversity theme of Human Trafficking. As in previous years, this took the form of several public events and presentations:

- *Educate, Advocate, and Act Against Human Sex Trafficking*. Screening of a documentary film on human sex trafficking in Michigan, and discussion with State Senator Judy Emmons (R-33rd District).
- *The Voice: Perspectives on Immigration Reform*. Discussion of current issues faced by immigrants in the US.
- *Trafficked: A Telling Talk on Labor Trafficking*. A labor trafficking survivor shared her story and answered questions.

- *Immigration Education Panel*. Discussion of the barriers and opportunities that immigrants face in our educational system.
- *Immigrant Children: Health and Mental Health*. Panel discussion on the mental health needs of children who have crossed borders, from wrap-around services to mental health resources.
- *HIV/AIDS and Immigration*. A special invitation-only hands-on one-hour simulation.

The students did the work, but the public programs were made possible by support from the MSU Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, Migrant Student Services, and the School. **S**

Undergrads become experienced researchers

In 2010, research became one of the signature themes of our BASW Program, joining our BASW emphasis on diversity.

Fast forward to today: most of our BASW students have the opportunity to be assigned to research projects with interested faculty members—and the students are really enjoying their work! Increasingly, BASW students are choosing to acquire two years' experience working with faculty mentors to learn practical research skills. They participate in a faculty member's own project, becoming an active part of an authentic "real world" research team.

As a result, our BASW students view research as an exciting, useful, and appropriate activity for professional social workers, and they increase their competency and comprehension for practicing in a research-informed manner.

The School's seventh annual Undergraduate Research Fair was held on March 17 in space provided by the MSU Federal Credit Union. Each year, this event gives our junior and senior undergraduate researchers an opportunity to exhibit posters describing and summarizing their research work with their faculty mentors. Thanks to Sue Bowden, BASW coordinator, and faculty members Monaca Eaton and Annie Greenfield for helping organize the event.



Social Science Scholar

Freshman Annie Brandicourt comes to social work research as a Social Science Scholar, through an innovative program sponsored by the College of Social Science that includes special seminars, research projects, and mentors for specially selected talented freshman students. Her social work mentor is Dr. Gary Anderson, and her first project addresses trauma within the child welfare system; it will result in a report to the Governor's Statewide Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. She is also engaged in a research project examining mental health services at MSU. Her goals after graduation include working with the education system on creating ways to provide equal opportunities to a wider range of children. The Scholar Program provides Brandicourt professional and research opportunities as a student scholar, and we value her contribution to our work. **S**

Our undergraduate research program is held in high regard by the University and the College, as evidenced by our special guests: **Korine Wawrzynski** (Assistant Dean for Academic Initiatives and Director for Undergraduate Research in the Office of the Provost) and **Steve Kautz** (Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs in the College of Social Science).

In addition, many of these same students entered their posters in the University-wide Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF), held on April 8 in the MSU Union.

This year's undergraduate researchers (with their faculty/doctoral student mentors) are:

*These students also participated in the UURAF.
†UURAF section winners.

Seniors:

- *Daniel Carreon-Camberos *Faculty:* Steve Anderson
- *Sage Casselman *Faculty:* Anna Maria Santiago
- *Brittany Compton *Faculty:* Sheryl Kubiak
- *Alec Denuccio *Faculty:* Anne Hughes
- *Haley Hildebrand *Faculty:* Sheryl Kubiak
- *Kailey Hindes *Faculty:* Anne Hughes
- *Carolyn Mirretti *Faculty:* Sheryl Kubiak
- Allison Osika *Faculty:* Steve Anderson
- *†Amy Schaafsma *Faculty:* Anna Maria Santiago
- *†Carolina Vazquez *Faculty:* Daniel Vélez Ortiz

Juniors:

- *†Sierra Baker *Faculty:* Sheryl Kubiak
- *Christina Callton *Faculty:* Cristy Cummings, Dasha Shamrova, Edita Milanovic
- *Rosa Castanon *Faculty:* Kyunghye Lee
- *Sadie Crunk *Faculty:* Cheryl Williams-Hecksel
- Emily Dimperio *Faculty:* Steve Anderson
- *†Carmen Elias *Faculty:* Daniel Vélez Ortiz
- *Margaret Hannaford *Faculty:* Cheryl Williams-Hecksel and Julie Navarre
- *David Havens *Faculty:* Pilar Horner
- *Chloe Hiner *Faculty:* Jackie Hawkins
- Justice Jones *Faculty:* Kyunghye Lee
- *Ryan Kunz *Faculty:* Hyunkag Cho
- *Lakota Laferty *Faculty:* Joe Kozakiewicz
- *Isaac Orr *Faculty:* Anna Maria Santiago
- *Maria Perkins *Faculty:* Joanne Riebschleger
- Rachel Schwartz *Faculty:* Cristy Cummings, Dasha Shamrova, Edita Milanovic
- *†Angela Terranova *Faculty:* Joanne Riebschleger
- *Aleya Williams *Faculty:* Hyunkag Cho

Freshmen:

- Annie Brandicourt *Faculty:* Gary Anderson (see story at left)
- *Emily Mayer *Faculty:* Joanne Riebschleger

†Terranova, Riebschleger, and PhD student Daniel Cavanaugh will be presenting their research at an international conference on transgenerational mental health in Switzerland this summer.

All of these students have received scholarships or payment supporting their work from the College of Social Science, the School of Social Work, and/or faculty grant money. **S**

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

Social work students enter our programs driven by altruism and a commitment to the most vulnerable in society. They often are not well-financed, and upon graduation will enter positions rich in contributions and fulfillment but not high in financial compensation. Scholarships thus are fundamentally important in recognizing student accomplishments, helping students do their best academic work without being overly burdened with debt as they graduate from our programs.

With the generous support of donors, the School has built many scholarship programs to help our students. These range from general scholarship support to specific funds that target educational engagement related to the particular interests of donors. For example, in the current year, we are establishing a new Advocacy Scholars Program through the generous support of a donor, as well as many new scholarships for our FAME Program students who have been involved in foster care. The School also received a grant to create a HEALS Scholars Program to provide scholarships to our students interested in interdisciplinary health care provision, and we have enhanced this scholarship program with donor contributions.

You can learn about these and many other giving opportunities by visiting our website at <http://socialwork.msu.edu/Alumni-and-Giving/Charitable-Giving>. If you would like to discuss these opportunities, or if you have ideas for new scholarships or other initiatives, please contact Director Steve Anderson (stevea@msu.edu or 517-355-7515). Michigan State University alumni may be interested to know that our scholarship activities are part of the broader MSU Empower Extraordinary Capital Program, which is seeking at least \$1.5 billion campus wide to empower critical initiatives across MSU.

Donations can be made using the School's website or by sending donations to:

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

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



Visit the School on the web: socialwork.msu.edu

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Spring/Summer 2016 SSW NEWS

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STAY ACTIVE IN THE SCHOOL!

Stay active in the School!

Join our Social Work Alumni Association

alumni.msu.edu/account/join.cfm

Attend our Continuing Education sessions

socialwork.msu.edu/ceu

Prepare for the Social Work Licensure Examination

socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/licensure.php

Qualify for State of Michigan School Social Work certification

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