

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCE

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Zeke the Wonder Dog's owner to be honored at spring ceremony. See story on page 17.

Social Work alumna receives honorary PhD from MSU



Kate Pew Wolters

For the second time in the past three years, an alumna of the MSU School of Social Work has been selected to receive an honorary degree from Michigan State University. On May 4, an *Honorary Doctorate of Humanities* will be awarded to **Kate Pew Wolters**, MSW, Class of 1981.

In their letter of nomination, School of Social Work Director **Gary Anderson** and College of Social Science Dean **Marietta Baba** said, "Ms. Wolters is an outstanding model for our students and graduates. Her passion and commitment to advocate for the greater good are only small indicators of her dedication to social justice....

Ms. Wolters' accomplishments serve as a reminder of the caliber of students and alumni that encompass MSU and, more importantly, the humanity and compassion for others that exist within us all."

In her letter of support for the nomination for this honor, Governor **Jennifer Granholm** noted, "Her lifelong commitment to social justice and the betterment of society has established a profound legacy of human service and activism within our great state.... Ms. Wolters' renowned career in human service began as a social worker.... Ms. Wolters' leadership and vision have been recognized at the state and national levels. She was appointed by President Clinton to the National Council on Disability, where she served for nine years.... Her personal dedication to the state of Michigan and her exemplary work supporting our universities and our citizens are worthy of recognition by her alma mater, Michigan State University."

In another letter of support, United States Senator **Debbie Stabenow** (the other MSU School of Social Work alumna who received an honorary doctorate from MSU in the past three years) stated, "I have great respect for her and the outstanding work she has done since completing her Master's in Social Work at Michigan State University. She is an effective advocate, excellent businesswoman, and a dedicated philanthropist.... Kate is someone who has used her skills and education to make a difference. She is an excellent role model and an outstanding alumna of Michigan State University."

It is a great honor to congratulate Ms. Kate Pew Wolters upon this special University recognition. The leadership and contributions of alumni from the MSU School of Social Work have been on display at the University in recent years, as, in addition to these two honorary doctorates, **Barbara Coulter** (BASW 1960) received the *Alumnus of the Year Service Award* in the Fall of 2006, and **Marcie Schalton** (BASW 1946) was recognized with the *University Alumni Award* in the Fall of 2004. In addition to these who have gained special recognition at MSU, we are proud of our many alumni who make significant contributions to their communities each day! **S**

Diversity enriches, social justice guides



Gary R. Anderson

In the *Fall 2006 News*, I reaffirmed one of the School's values: **collaboration**. I noted that if we want to go fast, we would go alone, but if we want to go far, we will go together. We are aiming to go far by going together with multiple partners. This newsletter, similar to the *Fall 2006 News*, will identify and report on many of those partnerships and collaborative efforts.

I would also like to reaffirm two other values for the School of Social Work: **diversity and social justice**. We believe it is essential to have an educational experience in which students learn in a diverse environment—interacting with faculty, staff, fellow students, and in field settings that reflect a range of backgrounds, experiences, viewpoints, and identities. Our different perspectives and cultures enrich our lives, enliven our dialogues, and deepen our thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving processes. For social workers, the wisdom and humility that come from self knowledge and social dialogue are essential qualities in building relationships, helping individuals and families, and providing organizational and policy leader-

ship. Building a diverse and inclusive learning community and establishing a safe and welcoming learning environment for others and ourselves is something that we value.

In addition to valuing diversity, we are in a profession that is committed to social justice. This means we affirm the ethical principle in the NASW Code of Ethics that states social workers challenge social injustice: *Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people. Social workers' social change efforts are focused primarily on issues of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, and other forms of social injustice. These activities seek to promote sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people.*

Learning how to identify social justice—and injustice—becomes part of the education of a professional social worker whether committed to clinical practice, organizational practice, or both. This knowledge is accompanied by learning the skills of professional advocacy—a response to identified social injustice.

Continued on next page

University-wide march and dinner honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photo credit: Rod Sanford | Lansing State Journal

MSU School of Social Work students listen to speakers following the annual commemorative march during the University-wide celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 15. The School's activities—coordinated by the School's Diversity Committee and Sue Bowden—were in addition to the University-wide march and dinner. They included a diversity potluck luncheon, a diversity poster presentation session, and Mary Ann Bull Ehinger, LMSW, Ingham Regional Medical Center medical social worker, who spoke of her experiences as a Freedom Fighter who marched alongside of Dr. King in Alabama in the early sixties.



Rena Harold

NSF project studies effect of information technology on child development

Guided by Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory perspective on human development, the Children and Technology Project is designed to examine the impact of information technology (IT) use on children's cognitive, social, psychological, and moral development. This project, funded by the National Science Foundation, is led by **Dr. Linda Jackson**, professor of psychology. Co-principal investigators are **Drs. Rena Harold**, professor and associate director of the School of

Social Work, **Alexander von Eye**, **Hiram Fitzgerald**, and **Yong Zhao**, of the Psychology Department.

Of particular interest to the project is determining whether use of IT protects against the adverse effects of disadvantaged environments on child development. Specifically, the project examines whether using IT, particularly the Internet and video games, influences children's cognitive outcomes (e.g., visual skills, grade point averages, scores on standardized achievement tests), social interactions (e.g., relationships with friends and family), psychological well-being (e.g., self-esteem, self-concept) and moral development (e.g., reasoning about "right and wrong" in both the virtual and "real" physical world).

Dr. Harold is working with three social work doctoral students who are also clinical instructors in the School: **Brian Ahmedani**, **Victoria Fitton**, and **Erica Shifflet-Gibson**. She and her team are designing, collecting, and analyzing the data from the project. They have designed and will be implementing conversational interviews with and observations of middle school students focusing on understanding the children's perceptions of IT activities, looking at their likes and dislikes, what they perceive as the purpose and desired outcomes, and their suggestions for improvements. The conversational interview is a "bottom-up" or "audience participation" approach, which puts the interviewer in a position to see the situation from the perspective of the participant and learn from the participant's advice and "expertise."

For more information, check out the web site at <http://www.msu.edu/user/jackso67/CT/children>. **S**

Diversity and social justice — continued from page 2

In addition to our educational activities and our actions as individuals outside of the University, from time to time faculty members may bring attention to actions and issues that are particularly worrisome. For example, in the 2006-2007 academic year, the School's faculty expressed its concerns about Proposal Two (which bans affirmative action programs in state and local government and at colleges and universities) and affirmed the importance of a diverse community. The faculty have recently expressed concerns about the denial of domestic partner benefits at public universities and in state government and affirmed the importance of a fair and supportive work environment that values all members of the University community.

This May, we celebrate the graduation of one of the largest groups of social work students in the School's history. Approximately 200 women and men will be moving into our society with their BSW and MSW degrees for careers of service. We have been together for a number of months and years, and I believe they will go far! Their ability to work effectively with others, to appreciate and value diversity, and to promote justice will enrich our profession and society.

—Dr. Gary Anderson, Director
School of Social Work



Brian Ahmedani



Victoria Fitton



Erica Shifflet-Gibson

Highlights of the Hartford Practicum Partnership's first year

The MSU School of Social Work was one of 25 schools nationally awarded a three-year John A. Hartford Foundation Practicum Partnership Program grant in Spring 2006 to augment graduate student field education experiences and to support university and community partnerships in the area of services to older adults. (For more background, check out our Spring and Fall 2006 newsletters.)

This first year, two student/faculty field trips enhanced our understanding of multicultural issues involved in working with families and their Elder members. In November, the group traveled to Dearborn, MI, to visit ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services) where services are provided to the predominantly Muslim community. Dr. Adnan Hammad provided us with much information about their methods of service delivery to older adults.

In January, **Dr. Suzanne Cross**, with the support of **Lisa Kennedy**, program director of the Sowmick Senior Center at the Tribe, arranged a visit to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe in Mt. Pleasant for a tour of the Ziiibiwing Cultural Center exhibit of the Anishinabe Cultural and Lifeways, a bus tour of the reservation and lunch. The Tribe is building a state-



of-the-art assisted living facility with 32 apartments for individual or couple Elders, scheduled to open in August 2007. We also observed an Elders Advisory Board Meeting where policy was developed and services outlined for recommendation to the Tribal Council.

In February, our Hartford Faculty Committee presented a paper at the Gero-Ed Forum of CSWE's National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education in Charleston, SC. *Seminars in aging: Infusing gerontological content into the classroom and community* focused on our School's unique model of offering gerontological content. Area experts present to students (for degree credit) and the practice community (for continuing education credit) together in a combined format, which allows for a rich interchange of ideas within the community, student interaction with seasoned practitioners, and an interesting/efficient method of offering elective coursework.

On April 12, 2007, we celebrated Careers in Aging Week with events at the Hannah Community Center, including poster presentations from Dr. Cross's SW 491 class and the Honors Research Seminar; a Hartford Consortium Meeting; and a reception for Hartford Students in honor of their accomplishments and graduation. Faculty, friends, and family attended the poster sessions and reception. **S**



Jo Ann P. McFall
Associate
Director for
Field Education



Suzanne Cross



MSU Hartford students took a field trip to the ACCESS Center in Dearborn, MI. Pictured: Dr. Adnan Hammad (front, third from right), Clinical Instructor and Graduate Advisor Joan Ilardo, LMSW (to right of Dr. Hammad), Hartford students and ACCESS staff.

New federal grant will support adoptive couples

Traditional adoption education has focused primarily on the parenting challenge in responding to the new child introduced into the family. Traditional marriage education has focused on the relationship between the couple. A new federal grant at the MSU School of Social Work will develop resources to support the marriages of adoptive couples and enrich marriage education to include a focus on the special challenges and opportunities for couples who have adopted children, particularly children with special needs. This five-year, federally-funded project will result in: (1) crafting a curriculum supplement to marriage education that will be focused on adoption and used for training; (2) developing a curriculum and providing training for adoption workers so they will more effectively support the relationships of adoptive couples; (3) developing a curriculum and training for community members who will encourage couples; and (4) developing an online resource center. Focus groups, interviews and a survey of adoptive couples will inform these curriculum and training efforts.

MSU's primary partners in this exciting venture are the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, and the Michigan Association for Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents (MAFAK). The principal investigator is **Dr. Gary Anderson**, director of the School of Social Work. The project manager is **Rosemary Jackson**, LMSW, an accomplished adoption specialist. The project evaluator is **Dr. Peg Whalen**, MSU research specialist. A faculty team includes Assistant Professors **Dr. John Mooradian** and **Dr. Tina Timm** of the School of Social Work and **Dr. Ruben Cardona** from MSU's Marriage and Family Therapy Program. Doctoral students **Brian Ahmedani** and **Robert Hock** are assisting the faculty team.

The advisory group and implementation team include **John and Judy McKenzie** of McKenzie Consulting, Inc.; DHS adoption professionals **Duane Wilson**, **Anita Peters**, and Adoption Services Manager **Kate Hanley**; Federation Executive Director **Elizabeth Carey** and Member Services

and Operations Manager **Rose Homa**; MAFK Executive Director **Alma Schmidt** and MAFK President **Mary Wood**; **Barry Kaufman** of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties; **Janice Fonger**, executive director of the Adoptive Family Support Network in Grand Rapids, and **Nancy French** representing the Foster Adoptive Family Resource and Support Center in Battle Creek.

Consulting on issues with regard to domestic violence are experts **Debi Cain** of the Michigan Council on Domestic Violence and **Holly Rosen** from MSU Safe Place.

Additional partners in this project include the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) Director **Kirsta Grapentine** and staffers **Nancy Berger** and **Jennifer Criste**. Other adoption groups will be contributing to this project, and we hope to work with **Natalie Lyons** at the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Adoption at Spaulding for Children, and **Dona Abbott**, **Mark Peterson**, and **Jeremy Moore** of Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids as they progress in implementing a marriage enrichment grant from the federal government.

We have just begun this project, but with a terrific network of adoption resources and experienced partners we are hoping to develop a range of resources to support couples who have adopted children with special needs. When completed, these resources will be posted on our web sites. **S**



Pictured front row, left to right: Peg Whalen, Rosemary Jackson, Tina Timm; back row, left to right: Robert Hock, Brian Ahmedani, and John Mooradian.

Associations between community-based substance abuse treatment and criminal justice: *A national study*



Sheryl Pimlott
Kubiak



Erica Shifflet-
Gibson

The association between substance abuse and misuse and criminal behavior has been well established. Although treatments have been successful in reducing substance use as well as recidivism, the availability of treatment for offenders is a key concern. One availability strategy is for state departments of corrections to fund treatment specifically intended for those under correctional supervision (probation or parole) within the community in a delivery system parallel to other publicly-funded services.

There are at least 21 states with parallel delivery systems. While an interface between publicly-funded substance abuse treatment and the criminal justice system is in the best interest of offenders (in need of recovery) and the larger society (in terms of public safety and fiscal effectiveness), the interfaces in these states are unclear. Although financing for corrections-funded treatment may in part originate from the Single State

Agency (SSA) that oversees federal block grant expenditures, treatment and oversight may be independent of the SSA. This may result in varying and perhaps conflicting expectations for providers.

Policy theory and research suggest that funding sources influence treatment delivery; this can be important when considering adoption of evidence-based practices. While study of the influence of funding sources has mostly focused on private insurers or public systems of care, public criminal justice money is also substantial and potentially influential.

Assistant Professor **Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak**, PhD, has received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Substance Abuse Policy Research Program to investigate this phenomenon nationally. In previous studies with her collaborator, **Dr. Cynthia Arfken** from Wayne State University, Dr. Kubiak has found differences among treatment providers based on their primary source of funding, particularly when that funding source is a criminal justice entity. This study seeks to create a national dialogue on systems interface between the substance abuse treatment and criminal justice systems in an effort to improve treatment delivery and efficacy.

Joining Drs. Kubiak and Arfken will be consultants from the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Department of Community Health, as well as the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors. **Erica Shifflet-Gibson**, a doctoral student in social work at MSU, will be the project director. **S**

This study seeks to create a national dialogue on systems interface between the substance abuse treatment and criminal justice systems in an effort to improve treatment delivery and efficacy.

Sexuality and aging education tested online vs. in-person training

School of Social Work Assistant Professor **Tina Timm**, PhD, was awarded a *Pearl J. Aldrich Faculty Research Award* for a project entitled, *Sexuality training in long-term care facilities*. The *Aldrich Faculty Research Award* is a competitive award intended to encourage and support MSU faculty who are committed to research with an aging focus. Dr. Pearl Aldrich, who died in 1997, was a faculty member who devoted nearly 36 years to MSU's Department of Family Ecology before retiring in 1978. During her lifetime, Dr. Aldrich was especially committed to encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to discovering new knowledge in the field of gerontology and/or applying such knowledge to improve the lives of older adults.

The long-term goal of this project is to help social workers who work in nursing homes to advocate for the sexual rights of their residents, which will ultimately

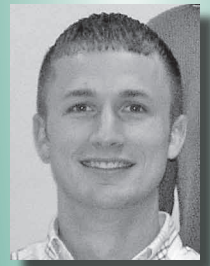
improve their physical and emotional health. The first step toward this goal is to increase the social worker's knowledge of sexuality and aging.

This pilot study will design an online training program to educate social workers about issues of sexuality and aging in long-term care facilities and test it against an in-person training model. Although there is a lot of excellent information available related to sexuality and aging, there is no specific online training program designed for this purpose. Online availability provides long-term sustainability and easy access for social workers.

Dr. Timm will also conduct focus groups with social workers who completed each of the trainings. The feedback from these focus groups will help to guide revisions to the online training program and provide valuable insights into future research in this area. **Robert Hock**, social work doctoral student, is assisting on this project. **S**



Tina Timm



Robert Hock

MSU represented at social work forum in China

In November 2006, Dr. Paul Freddolino (right), professor and coordinator of distance education, participated in the first US-China Social Work Forum, co-sponsored by the US National Association of Social Workers and the China Association of Social Workers. In addition to giving a presentation and visiting local programs, he also met with faculty from nine social work programs in Beijing and Hong Kong.



MSU BASW program launches new initiative to recruit Deaf/HOH undergraduate social work students



Sue Bowden

Two years ago, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), which had the largest cohort of Deaf/HOH undergraduate social work students in a school not specifically for the Deaf/HOH, closed its undergraduate social work program. This unfortunate closure, combined with MSU's historic commitment to access, provided an opportunity for MSU to consider recruiting Deaf/HOH students.

Last year, the School launched a steering committee, convened by BASW Coordinator **Sue Bowden**, to explore recruiting Deaf/HOH students to MSU's social work program. Original committee members included **Chris Hunter**, director of the Michigan Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; **Marta Belsky**, MSU Disabilities Office; **Brenda Cartwright**, director of Lansing Community College's Sign Language Program; **Roy DelVile**, Michigan Rehabilitation Services; and **John Miller**, MSU Department of Deaf Education.

MSU BASW social work alumnae **Janet Goldberg Evans**, **Jennifer Solitro**, **Ann Marie Christman**, and **Kristen Schlicker** also served on the committee, along with current seniors **Melissa Yelland** and **Jennifer Sanderson**. Former RIT School of Social Work faculty members **Marshall Smith** and **Dominique Lepoutre** agreed to serve as consultants to the group.

The committee has been joined by **Dr. Gary Anderson** and **Dr. Ellen Whipple**, an expert on infant mental health and child abuse, as well as Michigan Department of Human Services Special Project Coordinator **Jocelyn Vanda** and her assistant **Jim Davis**. Another key addition was **Dr. Harold Johnson**, the new director of MSU's Deaf Education Department.

The committee's actions have resulted in the College of Social Science and the University both approving sign language courses for a student's language requirement; undergraduate students who take sign language can now count it toward graduation requirements.

Currently, the committee is looking into making our online materials more deaf-friendly and is planning to meet with University officials to establish a sign language floor in one of the dorms. There is also interest in establishing a Deaf/HOH specialization for our undergraduates.

If you know of Deaf/HOH graduates from the School who would like to be profiled on our web page, or if you have any questions or ideas you would like to offer about this initiative, please contact Sue Bowden at susan.bowden@ssc.msu.edu. We hope to begin enrolling Deaf/HOH students in our program by Fall 2008. **S**

Veterinary Social Work Services: 1-year-old



We have completed our first year providing veterinary social work services in a joint program of the School of Social Work and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. It has been an amazing experience getting to know the doctors, technicians, and support staff as well as the administrative staff. Everyone has been welcoming, accepting, and helpful as we felt our way along in this unique area for the MSU School of Social Work. We learn more every day about the human-animal bond from our clients, and we learn a whole new language from the medical staff.

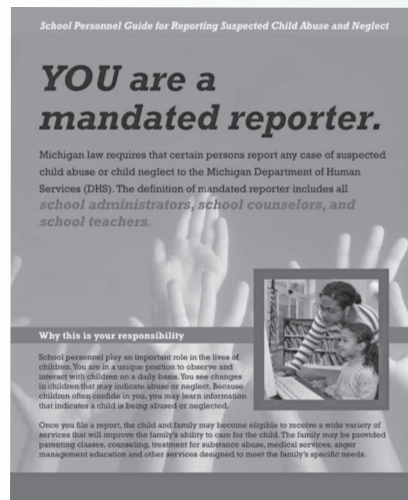
Two second-year MSW students, **Amanda Morgan** and **Marilyn Somoza**, are breaking new ground in the first graduate student practicum placement here, gaining experience as grief and loss counselors and providing support for medical staff, clients (owners), and other support staff personnel.

The students are also developing and running two support groups. One is for clients who have lost pets or whose pets are going through extensive oncology treatments; the other is for MSU and local veterinary technicians who are experiencing compassion fatigue, a type of secondary traumatic stress

Chance at Childhood Program issues mandated reporter guide for schools

MSU's Chance at Childhood Program (CAC), a joint initiative of the School of Social Work and the College of Law, has developed a pamphlet to help school personnel properly follow the Child Protection Act. Through a special task force, we determined that school personnel have limited knowledge regarding their obligations under this important act. Our pamphlet has been distributed electronically throughout the state to teachers, school administrators, and school board members. We are also distributing printed pamphlets to school districts throughout the state. We are now developing similar pamphlets for other professionals who work with children, including family medical practitioners, nurses, social workers, and mental health professionals.

The pamphlet can be found at <http://chanceatchildhood.msu.edu> under "Publications," and a link will be available on the Michigan Department of Human Services web site. Other requests for pamphlets should be made to the CAC clinic at (517) 432-8406.



CAC is also continuing to implement its second grant from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), *Access to Visitation and Parenting Time Project*. Through this project, students in the CAC Law and Social Work Clinic work with families and children involved in the Ingham County Family Court system. We are currently working on a new federal grant to expand this program.

In addition, CAC has now published two issues of the *Michigan Child Welfare Law Journal*. The first two issues focused on Interdisciplinary Child Welfare Education and Juvenile Justice. The next two issues will cover Child Abuse and Neglect and Special Education topics. The initial issues of the *Journal* have been very well received. Our primary funding source, the Governor's

Task Force on Children's Justice, has asked us to expand the mailing list for the *Journal* to include all Family Court Referees and Department of Human Services department heads. Past *Journals* can be found at <http://chanceatchildhood.msu.edu/pub.html>.

Finally, over the past six years we have had approximately 80 students complete the CAC certificate program. This spring, we will conduct a survey of all our graduates. Among other issues, we will seek to determine what impact CAC has had on our graduates' ability to find and retain jobs in the field of child welfare. Our goal is to obtain qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate the CAC program and to determine future directions and goals. **S**



Joe Kozakiewicz
CAC Director



Delanie Pope
CAC Staff
Attorney



Kim Steed
CAC Program
Coordinator

also known as "burnout." The students daily see the stress in clients who have to make very difficult decisions for treatment, which is compounded by the costs of those treatments.

Research is showing the need for social work professionals in many settings to make the human-animal relationship a standard part of assessment and treatment planning. We know that these veterinary social work services are filling a need in this community. **S**



Peg Whalen
VSW Research
Specialist



Linda Lawrence
VSW Project
Coordinator

The Veterinary Social Work project was featured extensively in the January 2007 issue of *NASW-MI Connections*.

Psychological adjustment to aging among gay men over age 50



Scott Berlin

By Scott Berlin, PhD (MSU expected 2007), LMSW

I have been a social worker for 13 years, working with the LGBT community and with persons living with HIV/AIDS. My dissertation research was done on aging issues among older gay men in the context of HIV/AIDS.

In this study, I examined psychological adjustment to aging in men who identified themselves as gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men. The study investigated five dependent variables that may indicate psychological adjustment to aging (loneliness, hope, depression, life satisfaction, and self-esteem) and their relation to the independent variables of social support, internalized homophobia, perceived health, perceived financial status, and perceptions of ageism. Additionally, the study looked at the relationship between the five dependent variables and the demographic variables of race/ethnicity, income, education, work status, relationship status, and living situation. A specific focus was placed on HIV status among participants, and both HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals participated in the study.

It was considered that there may be differences in the five dependent variables (loneliness, hope, depression, life satisfaction, and self-esteem) between the men who were HIV-positive and those who were HIV-negative. Additionally, it was considered that there may be a relationship between those five variables and internalized homophobia, and social support. Finally, the study assessed whether variables such as perceived health, financial status, and life expectancy also would be related to the five dependent variables.

The results indicated that HIV status, and the demographic variables of race/ethnicity, income, education, work status, relationship status and living situation did not have significant relationship to the dependent variables indicative of psychological adjustment to aging. However, perceptions of health, finances, and ageism were significantly correlated with the dependent variables. Poor perceived health, finances, and social support, as well as high levels of perceived ageism and internalized homophobia, impacted negatively on psychological adjustment to aging.

This study illustrates the importance of perceptions, as opposed to objective measures, of constructs such as health, wealth, and age. Specifically, the results indicated

that respondents' perceptions of their reality generally had a stronger relationship to the variables that measured their psychological adjustment to aging than to objective measures such as HIV status and income. These findings inform services targeting older gay men, in terms of developing interventions that affect individuals' perceptions of, rather than objective indicators of, aging. **S**

In Knowledge Abstracts, recent PhD graduates from the MSU School of Social Work share practical implications of their dissertation research for social work practice.

Use of ministers in times of distress by Black Christians:

A comparison of congregant and clergy responses, and review of clergy referral attitudes and practices

By Carol Burrell-Jackson, PhD (MSU expected 2007), LMSW

Most of the 26 years of my social work practice experience has been in outreach family therapy, clinical supervision, and program and staff development. I became interested in the integration of one's faith and social work practice as I observed the importance of faith in the lives of those clients whom I have served over the years. In my spiritual life, I pres-

An examination of foster parents' and their biological children's perceptions about the biological children's foster care experience: *A qualitative exploratory study*



Stephene Diepstra

By Stephene Diepstra, PhD (MSU expected 2007), LMSW

I used a semi-structured interviewing format with foster parents and their biological children in order to collect qualitative data about the children's experience of being in a foster care household. I intentionally drew my sample from foster families who had been doing foster care for four or more years, in the belief that biological children who had been involved in providing foster care for a longer period of time would be able to provide a broader perspective on their experiences

Through interviews with 22 biological children of foster parents, I was able to discover that although many of the children at times found the foster care experience to be

difficult, most of the children believed it to be a valuable endeavor that made a positive contribution to their personal development. The children were able to articulate that their experiences increased their sense of empathy towards and awareness of different life experiences. Several of the children indicated a desire and willingness to become foster parents themselves.

As there has been very little research exploring the perspectives of the foster parents' biological children on the foster care experience, the knowledge gleaned from this study could be beneficial in the recruitment, training, and support of current and future foster families. **S**



Carol Burrell-Jackson

ently serve in ministry through the church at which I worship, and as the clinical director of POWER Inc., a faith-based community development corporation.

It is the intersection of these facets of my life that led to a curiosity in Black Americans seeking help from their pastors or ministers in times of difficulty. I wanted to explore the types of things which Blacks would be more likely to discuss with their pastors and what areas they would be least likely to discuss. Similarly, I am curious about pastors' views on the types of issues their congregants elect to share (or not share) with them and their views on referring congregants to mental health professionals.

My dissertation is a secondary analysis from a qualitative study conducted through the University of Michigan's Program for Research on Black Americans. Data was collected from focus groups of religious Black Americans and individual interviews with Black Pastors and Ministers for this study.

The questions for which I sought answers for my secondary analysis were:

- For what problems do congregants report seeking help from clergy?
- For what problems do congregants report avoiding seeking help from clergy?
- What problems do clergy say congregants discuss with them?
- What problems do clergy think congregants avoid discussing with them?
- Would clergy refer to a mental health professional or social service agency? Under what conditions?

I am still analyzing the data. I expect the results to provide important information to social workers regarding some of the thinking behind Black Americans' help-seeking practices. A majority of Black Americans report a belief in God, and close to 80% report affiliation with the Christian faith. This study may help to inform the type of assessment data collected from Black religious clients. Social workers can also have a better sense of the clergy concerns and attitudes related to referral and collaboration with mental health professionals; this can afford an opportunity for social workers to reach out to clergy to collaborate on behalf of clients. **S**

Summer CE opportunities span the state

ANN ARBOR ◆ BATTLE CREEK ◆ EAST LANSING ◆ GRAND BLANC ◆ GRAND RAPIDS ◆ LIVONIA ◆ OKEMOS ◆ SOUTHFIELD

Social Work License Exam Preparation

May 18, 6:00-9:00 PM and May 19, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM • E. Lansing
June 1, 6:00-9:00 PM and June 2, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM • Livonia

Description: This course focuses on helping you pass all levels of the ASWB Master's exams by teaching test-taking skills and offering an extensive review of social work practice, ethics and human behavior. Ninety-two percent of students using the Social Work Exam Services (SWES) lecture and materials pass the exam. To learn more, visit www.swes.net.

Guarantee: If you attend at least 80% of the course and fail a Master's level licensing exam within one year of taking the course, you may retake the review course at no charge (unless you request new workbooks).

Motivational Interviewing: Harnessing the Power of Change

May 10 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • Livonia • *Mike Clark, LMSW*

Psychopharmacology with Older Adults, Deliriums, Dementias and Drugs

May 11 • 9:00 AM-12:15 PM • Southfield • *Dawn Hambly, RN*

Partnering for Change: What the New Buzzwords Mean and How Collaboration Really Works

June 1-2 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • East Lansing • *Elizabeth Carey, LMSW*

Cutting and Other Self-Harming Behaviors: Intervention Strategies

June 8 • 9:00 AM-12:15 PM • Southfield • *Laura Saunders, LMSW*

Transformative Leadership: Creating and Managing Change in an Organization, in a Community, across a Society

June 9 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • East Lansing • *Robert Sheehan, LMSW, MBA*

Presenting Effective Testimony and Court Reports

June 14 • 9:00-11:15 AM • Grand Rapids • *Steve Cotton, BS*

Supervision Certificate: The Role of Leaders in Staff Retention

June 15 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • East Lansing • *Jeff Roley, MS, LBSW*

Enhancing Clinical Practice through the Use of Rituals

June 15 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • Ann Arbor • *Tina Timm, PhD*

Journey in Sand Play: Sandtray as Therapeutic Tool with Applications for Children, Families, Adults, Couples and Groups
June 22-23 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • East Lansing • *Millie Powe-Ericson, LMSW*

The Challenge of Emotional Abuse in Adult Relationships and an Introduction to Divorce Mediation Domestic Violence Screening Protocol

June 28 • 9:00 AM-4:30 PM • Battle Creek • *Anne Smiley, MA*

Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: Evidence-Informed Treatment

July 12 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • Grand Blanc • *Sheryl Pimlott Kubiak, PhD*

Supervision Certificate: The Practice of Retention-Focused Supervision

July 13 • 9:00 AM-12:15 PM • East Lansing • *Jeff Roley, MS, LBSW*

Putting the "Super" in Supervision: How to Conduct Effective Clinical Supervision in Social Work Practice

July 19 • 9:00 AM-4:30 PM • Grand Rapids • *John Mooradian, PhD*

Adventure Therapy: An Experiential Approach to Social Work Practice

July 20-21 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • Okemos • *Lance V. Satterthwaite, LMSW*

Health Centered Social Work Practice: Serving Clients More Effectively with Less Stress

July 26-27 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • East Lansing • *Lisa Davidson, LMSW*

Dialectical Behavior Therapy

August 2-3 • 9:00 AM-4:45 PM • East Lansing • *Josh Smith, LMSW*

Supervision Certificate: The First Six Months

August 3 • 9:00 AM-12:15 PM • East Lansing • *Jeff Roley, MS, LBSW*

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

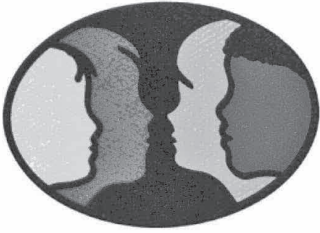
To register or to view workshop descriptions, completion requirements, and accommodation needs policy, please visit www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu. Contact us at (517) 353-8620 or e-mail swkce@msu.edu if you have questions or concerns.

Schedule is subject to change.

MICHIGAN STATE
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SOCIAL WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION

2007 Koehler conference big success



The 2007 Ruth Koehler Conference on Clinical Intervention with Children was held on March 30.

The presenter was **Nancy Boyd Webb**, DSW, who has been on the faculty of the Fordham Graduate School of Social Service since 1979 where she holds the titles of distinguished professor of social work and James R. Dumpson chair in child welfare studies. Dr. Webb, who presents frequently at conferences on topics related to children, trauma, bereavement, and diversity, presented on the topic of *Issues and Challenges in Play Therapy with Multicultural Children*.

Play therapy uses the metaphor of play to communicate with the child client. The conference focused on conducting play therapy with children who come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and diverse families and how those issues may impact play therapy treatment. Although issues stemming from racial diversity were emphasized, attention was also given to diversity issues related to disability, social class, and sexual orientation.

The Ruth Koehler Conference on Clinical Intervention with Children was established in 1993 to honor Ruth T. Koehler for her distinguished contributions as a social work educator, practitioner, and mentor. Professor Koehler retired in June 1987 after 30 years on the School of Social Work faculty.

Koehler Advisory Board members are: **Susan Bowden**, ACSW, BCD; **Nancy Boyd Webb**, DSW; **Jerrold R. Brandell**, PhD; **Denise Coelho**, ACSW; **Kevin J. O'Connor**, PhD; **Evelyn Oka**, PhD; **Nancy Press**, ACSW; **Charles Schaefer**, PhD; **Gary Stollak**, PhD; **Sarabjit Tokhie**, MD; and **Donald Trap**, ACSW. **S**

Mark your calendar for these upcoming courses

Contemporary Issues in Aging

September 29: Abuse in Older Adulthood

October 27: Healthcare Disparities

December 1: Spirituality, Faith and Aging

Leadership Institute

September 29: Strategic Planning

October 27: Performance Evaluation

December 1: Financial Management in Human Services

Alumni Breakfast

September 21: Ethics

November 2: Pain Management

Michigan Indian Day

Seven Generations (Niizhwaaswi):

Planning for the Future of Anishinaabe in the 21st Century

September 28

Social Work License Exam Preparation

October 19 & 20

Dorothy Harper Jones Lectureship

November 16

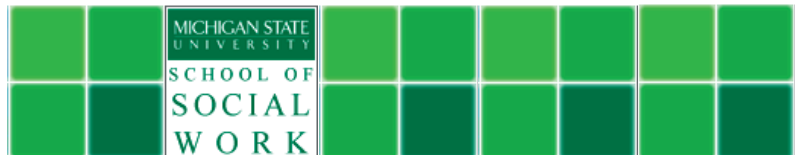
Supervision in Child and Family Services Certificate

- Working with Differences
- Communication Skills
- Recruiting and Selecting the Right Staff

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Dates are subject to change.

For more information, please e-mail [swkce@msu.edu](mailto:swkce@msu.edu) or visit [www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu](http://www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu) or call (517) 353-8620.



### School announces new URL!

For many years, the School's web pages could be found at <http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~sw>, an address no one could remember. Now we have moved to a new server where you can find us:

<http://socialwork.msu.edu>

Check out our *Faculty Directory* to see photos of faculty and read about their current professional activities and research interests. If you go to *Research and Outreach Projects*, you can link to some of our signature programs; you can also read or download research results from some of our grant-funded projects or useful information we have collected to meet special needs. You can find past issues of the *News* there also.

It's so easy now, we hope you will visit often! Check us out as we continue to expand the information and begin our update of the design.

## Students making their marks already

Congratulations to senior **Lindsay Bacon**, who submitted a grant to a national foundation to promote intergenerational programming at her field placement and received it! Lindsay is employed at the Prime Time Senior Center, East Lansing's Recreational and Arts Center for seniors, where she also does her practicum. She received a grant from a national foundation to promote intergenerational programming between seniors and a group of teens who attend the Hannah (East Lansing) Center for after school activities. Bacon is also this year's recipient of NASW-Michigan Chapter's third annual *Student Leadership in Diversity Award*. This \$500 cash award supports a student's ongoing project with an organization dedicated to diversity. Last year's winner was our MSW student **Ann Craine**, who will be presenting her project at this year's NASW-Michigan statewide conference in May. Recent MSU SW grad **Paul Brown** was the first recipient of this award.

Check out Youtube.com: *Michigan State University Road Trip* by Olson-pau. This is an interesting six-minute clip on a visit to MSU by a student from Ishpeming in the Upper Peninsula!

[http://youtube.com/watch?v=oEVK4Y3Zx\\_w](http://youtube.com/watch?v=oEVK4Y3Zx_w)

Students from Organization of Latino/a American Social Workers (OLASW) organized the annual on-campus Thanksgiving dinner, held on Thanksgiving Day. Food was served in Brody Hall for students on campus who could not be with their families. This event, now in its fifth year, was originally organized by social work student **Felipe Lopez** while he was an undergraduate. This year's dinner was organized by **Danielle Flores**. The School's Diversity Committee supports and endorses the OLASW Campus Thanksgiving Dinner project.

The College of Social Science dean's office provided prize money for the BASW seniors' diversity project poster contest, judged by the Undergraduate Advisory

Board (minus the senior student members), faculty, staff, and doctoral students who have not taught seniors this past semester, and the evening custodial crew chief. First place went to **Lindsay Bacon** (topic: elders and grief). **Janna Vugteveen** won second place (topic: international adoption). Third prizes went to **Karen Smith; Tabitha Blake** and **Meara Macwilliams**; and **Erin Mullen, Laura Lentz**, and **Becky Hellwig**.

**Katrina Humphreys**, social work senior, won both first and third place in the student category of MSU's International Scholars & Programs Global Focus photo contest. Find her photos—and other 2006 student winners at <http://www.isp.msu.edu/photocontest/2006/stu.php>. **S**

## School holds first annual Career Development Day

On February 22, MSU School of Social Work faculty and staff presented a half-day event, providing a broad variety of programming for BASW and MSW

students preparing for their transition from student to professional social worker. More than 80 students attended in anticipation of their upcoming graduation. Topics selected to provide them with information and tools included:

- ◀ Licensure and continuing education
- ◀ Staying connected through their alumni association or by becoming field instructors
- ◀ Self-care
- ◀ Use of supervision
- ◀ Writing resumes and cover letters, and
- ◀ Interviewing tips

Presenters included: **Michele Brock**, LMSW, continuing education coordinator; **Lynn Nee**, MSW, of the MSU School of Social Work Alumni Association; **Jo Ann McFall**, LMSW, associate director for field education; **Anne Lange**, LMSW; Assistant Professor **John Mooradian**, PhD, LMSW; **Linda Gross**, from MSU Career Services and Placement; and social work doctoral student **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**, LMSW.

Students felt it was an effective use of their time and found the information both practical and valuable. **S**



Michele Brock tells students about State of Michigan licensure and continuing education requirements.



Assistant Professor **Joanne Riebschleger** (left) and social work doctoral student **Rita Walters** at the Ninth World Congress of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, which attracted more than 900 international mental health experts and providers. Dr. Riebschleger presented *What do community mental health professionals really think of families of people with mental illness*, research with 37 community mental health professionals in rural Michigan; Walters discussed her ongoing analysis of materials designed specifically to explain mental health issues to children in *Content analysis of resources for children of a parent with a serious mental illness*.

## Jason Cross honored with Udall Scholarship



Jason Cross

The Udall Foundation has announced that **Jason Cross**, social work junior, is one of two MSU students to be selected as 2007 Udall Scholars. Udall Scholarships go to sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to the environment or to Native American and Alaska Native students who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to tribal public policy or Native health care.

The Udall Foundation was established by Congress in 1992 to honor Morris K. Udall's 30 years of service in the House of Representatives, where he championed the rights of Native Americans and Alaska Natives and used his leadership to strengthen tribal self-governance. The foundation is dedicated to educating a new generation of Americans to preserve and protect their national heritage through studies in the environment and Native American health and tribal public policy.

In addition to pursuing his undergraduate degree in social work, Cross has participated annually in the Michigan Indian Day event on campus. He works full-time for the Little River Casino Resort, where he implements and supports food and beverage performance and training initiatives and is developing an employee assistance program to meet employees' social and health needs. He will complete an internship next year with the Family Services Department of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. **S**

"Politics and issues come and go, but in the end, we'll all be remembered for the way we treated other people."

—Morris K. Udall



## Remembering...

MSU School of Social Work doctoral student and Clinical Instructor **Michelle Ventour**, LMSW, died suddenly this past December. Ventour was on the social work faculty at Marygrove College in Detroit, where she held many responsible positions during her 17 years there. She also served as adjunct faculty at the University of Michigan, University of Detroit Mercy, and Oakland Community College. Her fields of interest included diversity, multiculturalism, dementia and minorities, deafness and minorities, and organizational cultural competency. Her friends and family knew her as a poet, writer, singer, dancer, and performer.



Michelle Ventour

## Here's what you're up to!

**Judy Ashley**, BASW 1971 & MSW 1975, serves as president of the Ashley Consulting Group, a health care consulting firm specializing in quality improvement and accreditation activities, whose major clients include managed care organizations, hospitals, and nonprofit agencies.

**Rodney Brauher**, MSW 1988, went back to school in 1995 and became a certified physician's assistant. He is currently working for CGS in Warren, MI, doing psychology exclusively and is a member of the American Association of Psychiatric Physician Assistants. He is still in a private psychotherapy practice and has a business as a psychiatric PA, Rod Brauher, PLLC.

**Inez J. Cook**, MSW 1965, is retired.

**John E. Davis**, BASW 1953 & MSW 1955, is mostly retired. He still teaches and gives seminars. He is a clinical supervisor of ethics and volunteers in an elderly abuse program, shared housing, memorial society, and NASW.

**Suzette (Molina) Flores**, BASW 1980, is employed at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She is currently working as a nurse practitioner in cardiology and is a clinical instructor at Jefferson in the area of neurosurgery. She established a chapter of Delta Gamma at the University of Delaware and volunteers in many community health areas.

**John A. Gadola**, BASW 1988, is a family court judge for the Genesee County Circuit Court (State of Michigan—7th Judicial Circuit Court). He was elected to serve in November 2002. He received his law degree from the University of Toledo in May 1991.

**Lisa Kolberg**, MSW 1990, owns her own company, "Sage In-Home Counseling" in Santa Fe, NM. Her company provides counseling and psychotherapy to older adults in their homes/retirement communities in Santa Fe.

**Ann Forster Lyon**, MSW 1973. Since 1979, she and her husband, Keith Lyon, PhD (MSU 1975), have operated Lyon Counseling Associates, PC, in East Lansing, MI. They offer services to children, families, and adults, with a specialty in couples counseling and relationship coaching. For more information, see their web site: lyoncounseling.com.

**Samuel Marano**, BASW 1978 & MSW 1983, is employed by Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) in Detroit, MI. He is supervisor of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for older adults with severe mental illness.

**Colleen Milligan**, MSW 1993, is self-employed at Flexible Health & Wellness, LLC, in Mt. Pleasant, MI. She offers holistic wellness counseling, classes, and products. She also offers ayurvedic healing, yoga and tai chi programs for adjudicated youth (court day treatment), along with yoga and social skills integration. She has two publications and has presented at a national conference.

**Alvin H. Richmond**, MSW 1953, has a private practice and is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Einstein College of Medicine. He keeps busy with his wife, children, and grandchildren, and enjoys dog walking and traveling. He asks, "Is there anybody still out there?"

**Bethany Anne Roberts**, 1962, won first place in the alumni category of ISP's Global Focus international photography contest. Follow this link to see her photo and other MSU alumni winners: <http://www.isp.msu.edu/photocontest/2006/alu.php>.

**Alison Mayer Sachs**, MSW 1978, is employed by the Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. She is the coordinator of cancer support services for Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center and Eisenhower Medical Center. She is the co-chair of the Association of Oncology Social Workers (AOSW) 2007 International Meeting to be held in Portland, OR.

**Jennifer Simon Snyder**, MSW 2003, is currently the chief operating officer for Turning Point Youth Center, a 40-bed juvenile justice program, in St. Johns, MI. She supervises over 60 staff members, develops programming for residents, and co-facilitates a DBT group. She also makes presentations around the state on the Center's Rational Behavior Training Program.

The Shiawassee Health and Human Services Council recognizes individuals in the community who have demonstrated a positive impact on the children in Shiawassee County with the *Donald J. Trap Human Service Award*. **Donald Trap** is an alumnus of our program.

**Glenn A. Visbeen**, MSW 1979. Following completion of his MSW, he completed his MBA at MSU in 1981. He has been a hospital administrator since then. He was recently appointed to a position of chief operating officer of St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN. St. Thomas Health Services is a faith-based ministry with more than 7,500 associates serving Middle Tennessee at Baptist Hospital and St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro and Hickman Community Hospital in Centerville. **S**



## Zeke the Wonder Dog's owner to be honored at spring ceremony

**T**erri Carlson Foley, LMSW, CRC, CCM (MSW 1986) is a committed professional social worker. In addition to her Michigan social work license, she also holds Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Certified Case Manager credentials, currently working as a vocational rehabilitation case manager for a private company. But some MSU alumni might recognize her as the owner, with her husband Jim, of Zeke the Wonder Dog, the Frisbee-catching dog that entertains crowds at Spartan Stadium.

Foley came to Michigan from Iowa with a new BSW degree from the University of Northern Iowa in order to enroll in the MSW program at the MSU School of Social Work. She fell in love with Michigan and has lived here ever since. "When I went to football games while I was in graduate school here in the 1980s, my friends told me I couldn't leave at half-time, that I had to watch Zeke the Wonder Dog. If anyone had told me then that I would own the next Zeke, I would have thought they were crazy!"

According to Foley, working with Zeke is every bit as much about social work practice as her work in vocational rehabilitation or any other professional position she has held. She and Zeke, who is also a trained therapy dog, do programs for regular and special education classrooms in schools and at summer camps for disabled children, and generally spread the Spartan spirit as goodwill ambassadors for MSU. When Zeke was in physical therapy at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine because of an injury received "on the job" with the MSU Spartan Marching Band, he spent part of his time in town visiting children in the pediatric rehabilitation department at local Sparrow Hospital, which, according to Foley, has an extensive therapy dog program. (She also particularly wants to thank Zeke's surgeon, Dr. Loic DeJardin, and the wonderful staff who helped Zeke recover fully from his injury.)

"When I was looking at Bachelor's programs, I realized it was the "people" part of the helping professions that really attracted me, and social work seemed an obvious choice. My social work training at the undergraduate and graduate levels definitely provided a foundation that has allowed me to accomplish diverse things because of my understanding of the big picture and how systems interact." Foley wants students to understand how valuable a social work degree is. "Lots of opportunities can develop; social work grads are



Terri Carlson Foley (right) with her husband, Jim, and Zeke, shown with his Spartan bandage during his recovery from his injury.

able to be successful in many related fields. Social work is truly what you make it. A social work degree allows you to go many places and accomplish many things—even becoming the owner of Zeke the Wonder Dog!! After all, I wouldn't have known Zeke the Wonder Dog if I had not been attending the MSU graduate program in social work!"

Terri Foley and Zeke will be attending the School's annual graduate recognition ceremony on May 4 where, according to Director Gary Anderson, "We will honor Zeke for all of the spirit and pleasure and loyalty to MSU that he has engendered and recognize Terri as his owner, a person with the vision and desire to have Zeke play these wonderful roles in our community." **S**

## Kimberly Keilen: My work with the School has opened many doors for me



Kimberly Keilen

Meet **Kimberly Keilen**, LMSW (MSU 2001). Keilen currently serves as a social service program manager for the Clinton-Gratiot County Department of Human Services. She is the Children's Services supervisor, Adult Services supervisor, and contract administrator for DHS-funded programs and projects. Keilen began her DHS career with a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, but she soon realized that an MSW degree would help her with her job and possible advance in the department. She came to the MSU School of Social Work to get that degree.

Keilen has played many roles in the School beyond that of student. When she graduated, she became involved in the School's alumni association as a member and as an officer. As soon as she had two years' practice experience with her MSW degree, she became a field instructor for the program, helping educate students as they worked at DHS. She has also served as a liaison to other field instructors in settings as diverse as hospitals, courts, domestic violence agencies, and schools. Always eager for new professional experiences, she has also become involved in the first year of our new blended program, serving as a professional mentor for one student group.

Keilen says working with students is a way to give back to her profession; she feels she gains as much as she gives. Her work as a field liaison for the School has allowed her to become familiar with many agencies providing diverse services, and she is able to bring this information back to enrich her work at DHS.

According to Keilen, "It is so important to continue building resources and learning after you are out of school; it is your responsibility to the field and to your clients. I have been able to do that by staying connected to the MSU School of Social Work and working with so many wonderful people. I think of it as continuing education that I have been able to gain without having to take classes. I often wonder who learns more—me or the students."

Keilen says her social work training has given her many tools useful for working at all levels of problem-solving, both personally and professionally.

"It was a real challenge, to work full-time, go to school, and raise a family, but finishing gave me a tremendous sense of accomplishment. At first, all I could think about was 'Hooray! I'm done!' But I soon realized the value of my social work education. My work with the School has opened many doors for me. It has been a wonderful adventure." **S**



### MSU Alumna Debbie

**Stabenow (MSW 1975)** was re-elected in November 2006 to a second term in the United States Senate. Stabenow was the first woman from the state of Michigan elected to the US Senate. Her public service career began as an Ingham County (Michigan) commissioner in 1974. Five years later, she was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, where she served from 1979-1990. She served in the State Senate from 1991-1994 and served two terms in the US Congress before being elected to the US Senate in 2000. In 2004, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Michigan State University.

For information on how to contact Senator Stabenow, go to <http://stabenow.senate.gov/contact.htm>.

## New endowment established

Dear Alumni and Friends:

**W**e are nearing the end of the admissions process at MSU School of Social Work for Fall 2007. The great news is that there are record numbers of applicants for our programs. There are two difficult aspects to this good news: we cannot accept all of the qualified applicants because we would need to have a higher number of faculty members to do so; and secondly, the terrific students we do admit will face even higher tuition costs. Both of these factors are distressing to those of us at the State of Michigan's Land Grant University. This "Land Grant" heritage values having a world class University education that is accessible to the citizens of the state and beyond. When we have to limit our enrollment and when the University has to raise tuition, this affects the ability of good students to come to the School and afford higher education.

MSU is financially more affordable than many comparable graduate programs in social work across the country. However, our students will still face tuition costs that are much higher than most of us experienced when we had the privilege of getting a Bachelor's degree, and, for many of us, going to graduate school. We would like to be able to increase the financial aid that the School can directly give to our students so that they can concentrate on their studies and professional growth and graduate with minimal debt and loan repayment expenses.

We would also like to be able to increase the number of students we are involved with and the communities that we serve. To add students and to multiply our community partnerships, we need funding for faculty research and clinical faculty positions. The traditional funds that supported these activities were general fund dollars provided by the citizens of the state of Michigan. These funds have been decreasing each year. It is now recognized that the economy and the well-being of the citizens of the state of Michigan require persons with a higher education. We hope this investment in higher education in Michigan will materialize. However, the School is dependent upon and will need the financial support of our alumni and friends. We know that many of you have already supported MSU through your tuition! And many through your service as field instructors and mentors and employers. Many have already made thoughtful and generous donations to the School. We would appreciate your continuing support and the addition of new supporters, as well.

We would like to establish the **MSU School of Social Work Fund**. This will be an endowment that will ensure financial support for years to come. This Fund will be dedicated to student financial support and support for faculty research and teaching. Our other endowed funds have primarily resulted from gifts from a dedicated person—such as a former faculty member—or a small group of people to honor someone associated with the School (such as the Robert Little Fund). Such gifts have had a wonderful impact on the lives of students and the outreach of the School and are greatly appreciated. There continues to be a need for such endowments. This new endowment will combine the gifts of many friends and alumni to create a new resource for our students and faculty. No gift is too small. Gifts to MSU School of Social Work typically qualify for both a credit with regard to one's State of Michigan Income Tax and a deduction for federal tax purposes. Our combined generosity can establish this new endowment—the MSU School of Social Work Fund.

Thank you so much for your past and future support!

—Dr. Gary Anderson, Director, School of Social Work



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# Tell us what you're doing today!

Notes from Alumni will be featured in the *Fall 2007 News*.

Name when enrolled \_\_\_\_\_ Circle degree earned: BA / MSW / PhD  
Current name \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_  
Current address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Please check here  if this is a new address E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Business/employer \_\_\_\_\_  
Business address \_\_\_\_\_ City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Please send this form to: School of Social Work, Michigan State University, 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing MI 48824  
E-mail: [socialwork@ssc.msu.edu](mailto:socialwork@ssc.msu.edu)

Web site: <http://www.socialwork.msu.edu> Alumni web site: <http://www.msu.edu/~sswalum/>

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

**Michigan State University is an equal opportunity educational institution.**

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