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A time for reflection

As the School prepares for re-accreditation, we have begun a series of discussions and examinations of our curriculum, our programs, and the overall organization of the School. In some ways, these times seem to call for action, not contemplation. However, there is value in looking at oneself and being self aware and self critical. These are the very qualities that we would associate with good social work practice. Taking the time to look inward and to question how we do our work provides a thoughtful basis for affirming enduring values, challenging routine practice, identifying and embracing core and creative competencies, and re-engaging with the world. We will continue our teaching and our research, and continue to appreciate and support networking and partnering with community agencies and organizations. But a concurrent season of self examination should leave us better prepared to be an effective and engaged organization.

The process begins with the School's 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.** Our core purpose is educational: no matter what we do, we will not lose sight of the preparation and support of students. Social work ethics will permeate our teaching and practice. Students will increasingly be involved in our research and our outreach. A major research university will value advancing knowledge through research and bringing that knowledge to the classroom and to partnerships in the community. Social justice is a core social work value, and we work with multiple levels and types of systems. Do these words make sense to you? Anything you would add or change? Please let us know: socialwork@ssc.msu.edu.

These values of the School of Social Work are enduring beliefs shared by the faculty and contribute to the character of the MSU School of Social Work. We aim to display these values through all aspects of our program and our interactions inside and outside of the University:

EXCELLENCE: We are committed to excellence in teaching, research, and outreach.

COLLABORATION: We advance our work through respectful and responsive collaborative relationships inside and outside of the University.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: We are committed to social justice and positive social change.

INCLUSION: We promote diversity, equity, and inclusion with regard to our programs and partnerships.

LEADERSHIP: We encourage high standards of professional leadership and achievement by our faculty, students, and graduates.

ACCESS: We foster and support accessibility to our educational programs, research, and faculty resources.

The list could be longer, but these seemed most distinctive and with the highest priority. Are these the values that you experienced at MSU? Are these the values that you would like us to strive for in our teaching, research, and outreach? Please let us know: socialwork@ssc.msu.edu.

This may be a time of reflection, but it isn't a time for introspection in isolation; it is a time for dialogue and engagement with those who know us best and those who wish us well. We are committed to continual improvement and to increasingly and consistently displaying the high values to which we ascribe. *Thank you for your support!* **S**



Gary R. Anderson

So much to celebrate!

As we come to the end of another academic year there is much to celebrate:

- **A great group of students, many of whom are graduating on May 7 and 8.** We will honor them at the School's Recognition Ceremony. They join wonderful and accomplished alumni. Several alumni will be recognized at

graduation time, including **Rosalyn Bliss**, Grand Rapids City Commissioner, and State Representative **Terry Brown**.

Our BASW program, held only on campus, is limited in size but high in quality—1994–1995: 36 students; 2009–2010: 63 students.

Our MSW program, with programs around the state, has grown dramatically in access and quality—1994–1995: 157 students; 2007–2008: 333 students; 2009–2010: 408 students.

Our PhD program doubled in size and now maintains a fixed number of students so we can devote time and attention to these developing and future leaders—1994–1995: 14 students; 2009–2010: 28 students.

- **An increase in research productivity.** Grants provide funding for projects that will address a range of family and social problems. As the number of requests for funding has grown, so has the number of awards. This funding enables us to advance knowledge about needs and challenges facing families and communities and designing effective responses to these problems and opportunities.

- **A strong and growing faculty.** With 91% of tenure system faculty submitting grants and an increasing number of publications, our scholarship and research are on the rise. With academic and continuing education programs around the state, our impact and outreach are growing. With professional advising and the work of field liaisons and mentors, our student supports are growing. And with strong classroom teachers, our commitment to teaching and preparing social work professionals remains strong.

- **New international ventures in development.** In addition to our study abroad program in Ghana, we will be exploring options in Finland, Hong Kong, and Jamaica. This year, we offered our first alternative spring break opportunity in Mexico.

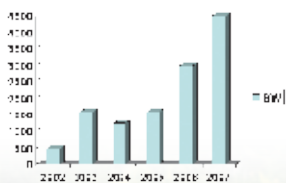
- **An array of innovations and special projects.** Our students and faculty together organize and present Homies Giving Thanksgiving dinner, Michigan Indian Day, Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations, a homelessness simulation, BASW research fairs, visiting faculty and scholar events, and other projects.

With record enrollment, record numbers of applications, the highest level of private giving support in the College of Social Science, strong national rankings, and extensive and valued field agency partnerships, there is indeed much to celebrate and to be grateful for at the School. Many of these stories are told in recent newsletters or those to come.

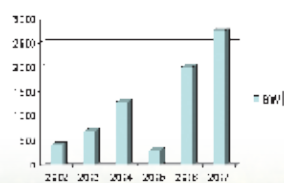
The support of our students, faculty, field agencies, alumni, and friends has been critical to our success. As we begin the re-accreditation process and the re-examination of our purpose and programs, we are reminded that we have much to be thankful for and much to strive for as a School and professional community. I am looking forward to the changes and improvements that are part of our continual effort to advance social work education. We are looking forward to the contributions of our new graduates and to welcoming new students. It is a privilege to be a social worker and a Spartan.

—Dr. Gary Anderson, Director

Funding Requests



Funding Awards



Lilly Fellows advance social work pedagogy

The Michigan State University Lilly Teaching Fellows Program is intended to advance the University's continuing efforts to support excellence in teaching and learning. It provides high-performing, early-career faculty with the opportunity to maximize their teaching abilities through a focus on the scholarship of active learning strategies and innovative teaching methods and encourages them to become future faculty leaders and models for their peers, as well as inspire a broad range of faculty at all ranks to emphasize and support teaching excellence.



Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore

The School's first Lilly Fellow was **Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore**, currently dean of the MSU Honors College. Her project (2000–2001) was titled *Bridging the gap between theory and practice: Addressing real world issues in the classroom*. Much of the work that she did as part of her Lilly Fellowship laid the foundation for changes in the way the School teaches social policy.

This information also led to conference presentations, a presentation on application of Lilly project learning, and workshops for the Provost's Office of Faculty and Organizational Development. Jackson-Elmoore states: "My receipt of an MSU Lilly Endowed Teaching Fellowship allowed me to explore a strategy for engaging students in issues that are timely and relevant. The work has expanded to include a total of five policy courses: one undergraduate, three graduate, and one doctoral." The courses that Jackson-Elmoore studied in her Lilly experience became models for policy teaching, and the syllabi and assignments for the undergraduate course were ultimately published.

Dr. Tina Timm's project *Looking in the mirror: Using transformative learning to promote self reflection on issues of diversity* (2007–2008) investigated the usefulness of student response systems (known as "clickers") in an advanced graduate course. The project was grounded in the philosophy of transformative learning (developed by Jack Mezirow) to help individuals become more reflective, more open to the perspectives of others, less defensive, and more accepting of new ideas. Its primary goal was to see how clickers affected classroom dynamics and self reflection in a small, primarily clinical course. The project illustrated several key points: first, anonymity provides emotional safety around controversial topics; second, the clicker questions themselves must be

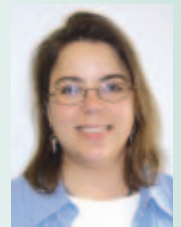


Tina Timm

The Lilly Teaching Fellows Program is intended to support excellence in teaching and learning and recognize high-performing, early-career faculty.

developed with specific teaching goals in mind; and last, the active learning strategies employed in conjunction with clicker use promote change, not merely the use of clickers. Timm expresses her philosophy this way: "I know that in helping students to reflect about issues of diversity, I will be affecting the thousands of clients they will work with over the years. When you [teach] well, it has a powerful ripple effect over time." Her faculty mentor was **Dr. Susan J. Peters**, associate professor of special education.

Most recently (2008–2009), **Dr. Marya Sosulski** taught a required undergraduate course (social work practice with task groups, organizations, and communities) by having students plan and carry out a community action project with a civic engagement focus, rather than through the traditional lecture/paper/exam model, in *Through the looking glass: Exploring experiential problem-based learning for social action*. Students engaged in real-life situations where they were decision-makers with accountability (situated learning), and these situations required consistent support and connections to trusted collaborators with knowledge of the field, both professionals and community members (communities of practice). This was reinforced by presentations from community practitioners. Projects included: an intergenerational program with activities geared toward mutual education and respect; working with an existing Take Back the Night group to facilitate community engagement and education and work for policy changes regarding sexual assault/relationship violence crime; beginning efforts to increase funding and change state funding policy to meet needs of teenaged girls in foster care too young to age-out; and joining an existing group to help develop community gardens and farmers' markets to address issues such as "food deserts," cultural inequities in food availability, and ways to increase incomes. Her faculty mentors were **Dr. Kristen A. Renn**, associate professor of educational administration, and **Dr. Rena D. Harold**, professor of social work. **S**



Marya Sosulski

MSU School of Social Work team leads evaluation of Bethany Christian Services Project Return Home

Project Return Home is a program of **Bethany Christian Services (BCS)**. With funding from the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative of the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, BCS is providing trauma treatment and services to children, biological parents, and foster parents, with the goal of increasing successful family reunification for children living in foster care in Kent County (MI).

BCS will use the Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model with foster care youth and their biological parents and provide educational services for foster parents to address the sources of complex trauma stemming from child abuse, neglect, and family disruption using three different approaches. Trauma treatment will be provided to children ages 3 through 18 in foster care who have been removed from their homes due to child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment. Trauma treatment will also be delivered to their biological parents, many of whom struggle with their own unresolved sources of childhood trauma. Foster parents will



Paul Freddolino



Gretchen Archer



Tina Blaschke

also receive psycho-educational services to assist them in understanding and supporting the child as s/he learns new ways to cope with the trauma that was experienced.

An evaluation team from the School, comprising Professor **Paul Freddolino**, Research Associate **Gretchen Archer**, and Research Specialist **Tina Blaschke-Thompson**, has partnered with Bethany Christian Services to perform both process and outcome evaluations for Project Return Home to document the impact of the program's activities on program participants. **S**

Project Return Home's evaluation will focus on:

- ▶ BCS strategies for meeting goals and objectives as they oversee the implementation of a trauma-informed model to serve children living in foster homes and their biological parents through the program.
- ▶ Participant satisfaction with components of the program.
- ▶ Changes in trauma symptoms, post-traumatic distress, other mental health symptoms, and behavioral problems of youth in foster care.
- ▶ Traumatic life events experienced and changes in post-traumatic distress and related symptoms for biological parents.
- ▶ Long-term foster care outcomes (such as rate and length of time until reunification with the biological parent, number of placements, and reasons for placement changes) of participants to be assessed and compared with existing data on foster care outcomes in the same county.



MSU School of Social Work PhD Program Alumni in Academic Positions

For a relatively new PhD program, MSU has a growing impact on social work higher education. A number of the alumni of our BASW and MSW programs are also academic leaders and will be featured in a future newsletter.

If you are a social work alumnus/a and currently working in academia, we would love to connect with you. Please email salzman@msu.edu and put "MSU Social Work Alum" in the subject line.

1991

Denise Montcalm, PhD
Associate Professor and
Director of School of Social Work
University of Nevada at Reno

1994

James Henry, PhD
Professor of Social Work and
Director of Child Trauma
Assessment Center
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI

1996

Patricia (Patty) Stow Bolea, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work and
Director of Bachelor Program
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

Julia Guevara, PhD
Professor of Social Work and Assistant
Vice President for
Academic Affairs, Assessment,
Accreditation, and Planning
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

1997

Susan Grettenberger, PhD
Associate Professor of Sociology,
Anthropology, and Social Work and
Director of Bachelor Program
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, MI

Ann Harlan, PhD
Instructor
Behavioral and Social Sciences
Central Piedmont
Community College
Matthews, NC

Stephen Kapp, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work
and Associate Dean for Professional
Programs (begins 2011)
University of Kansas

Elaine Schott, PhD
Professor of Social Work
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

1998

Soo Chan Choi, PhD
Associate Dean and Academic Advisor in
Occupational Social Work
Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea

Shari L. Munch, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work
Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey

Deborah Sturtevant, PhD
Professor and Chair of
Department of Sociology
and Social Work
Hope College, Holland, MI

1999

Lucy R. Mercier, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work
and Coordinator of Field Program
Saginaw Valley State University
Saginaw, MI

2000

Noriko Kubota, PhD
Professor
Department of Psychology
Iwaki (Japan) Meisei University

John Mooradian, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Michigan State University

2001

Cheryl Brandsen, PhD
Professor of Sociology and
Social Work and
Academic Dean of Sociology
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Loretta Brewer, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work
Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

Sally Rypkema, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor
of Social Work and Coordinator of
Statewide MSW Program
Michigan State University

2003

Peter Hovmand, PhD
Director of George Warren Brown
School of Social Work Social System
Design Lab, Washington University
St. Louis, MO

2004

Judy Berglund, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work and
Director of Bachelor Program
Saginaw Valley State University
Saginaw, MI

Linda Causey, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Youngstown (OH) State University

Marcia Lampen, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor
of Social Work and
Coordinator of MSW Programs
Michigan State University

2005

DeBrenna Agbényiga, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work and
College of Social Science Assistant Dean
for Diversity and Inclusive Programs
Michigan State University

Joan Borst, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work and
Director of MSW Program
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

Andrew Greifer, PhD
Faculty and Staff Counselor
Faculty and Staff Assistance Program
University of Michigan

Janet Okagbue-Reaves, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Eastern Michigan University

2006

Cynthia Edmonds-Cady, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Illinois State University

Leona Mickles-Burns, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Marygrove College, Detroit, MI

2007

Scott Berlin, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

2008

Francis (Tohoro) Akakpo, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Victoria Fitton, PhD
Ruth Koehler Clinical Assistant
Professor of Social Work
Michigan State University

E. Jane Hayes, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work
and Coordinator of
Traverse City MSW Program Site
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

Muthoni Imungi, PhD
Coordinator of Field Education
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

Carolyn McAllister, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
and Director of Bachelor Program
California State University-
San Bernardino

Shelley Schuurman, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

Judi Ravenhorst-Meerman, PhD
Associate Professor of Social Work
and Director of
Social Work Field Practicum
Kuyper College
Grand Rapids, MI

2009

James Edwards, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
and Interim Director of
Community Research Institute
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI

Joan Iardo, PhD
Director of Research Training
College of Human Medicine
Michigan State University

Rie Kobayashi, PhD
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Eastern Washington University

We encourage alumni to consider a career in social work education—and returning to MSU to earn a PhD!

School, Spaulding for Children develop CE Adoption Certificate Program

Adoption issues are in the news almost every day: an adoptive mother sends her young son back to Russia, American citizens attempt to transport children out of Haiti, a father seeks to reclaim his son who may have been freed for adoption, and the *Blind Side* movie story, to list just the most recent. In addition to the headlines, countless loving families welcome new children. To increase knowledge about adoption issues and advance the competency of adoption professionals, the MSU School of Social Work is working with a key agency partner—**Spaulding for Children**—to develop a post-graduate certificate program in adoption. Led by **Monaca Eaton** and **Michele Brock**, and assisted by **Delanie Pope**, **Victoria Fitton**, **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**, **Rosemary Jackson**, and **Gary Anderson**, the School and Spaulding are creating a curriculum to be delivered through continuing education to assure ethical and com-

petent adoption practice in Michigan. This curriculum will include a number of required workshops that address such topics as state and federal laws impacting adoption, understanding infant adoption, family and child assessment, and post-adoption services. In addition to required workshops, there will be a range of electives, including responding to grief and trauma, cultural competency, and compassion fatigue. There will be a workshop featuring the *Building a Home with Heart* curriculum developed in a separate MSU adoption project (www.postadopt.msu.edu). There will also be workshops on special topics and best practices, such as how to help children with attachment challenges, attention-deficit disorder, and post traumatic stress disorder.

This curriculum will be particularly attentive to the processes and content prioritized by the international Hague Convention. These standards are designed to reduce the likelihood of trafficking in children and improper adoption procedures between countries. The United States has only recently agreed to participate in these standards, so there is much to learn about the processes needed to assure legal and ethical adoptions between countries. Special attention will be given to such issues as children who have been in orphanages in other countries are adopted by parents in the USA.

The School appreciates the leadership and vision of the professionals at Spaulding, including **Kris Henneman**, **Jean Niemann**, **Julia Swartout**, and **Pat Hannah**. And special thanks to Spaulding for Children President and Chief Executive Officer **Addie Williams**. This project is supported by a federal grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. **S**



Chance at Childhood update



Last fall, Chance at Childhood (CAC) marked its tenth anniversary with a celebration and program at the Kellogg Center attended by social work and law faculty, administrators, alumni, and community supporters. **Kim Steed** gave a brief report on the results of the alumni survey, which provided useful feedback on our past as well as ideas for future directions. It was a wonderful event and left us all feeling grateful for the terrific support we receive.

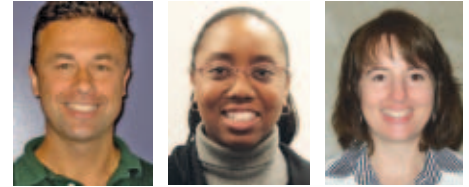
This spring, staff and students began work on a new project to evaluate the Genesee County (MI) Problem Solving Child Support Court (often referred to as PACT, or Parents and Children Together). This new court was created to assist parents in breaking down barriers that impair their ability to financially support their children. The model for this court is based on other “problem solving” courts that address substance abuse, domestic violence, prostitution, and other unique challenges to traditional approaches in our court system.

Historically, the courts’ response to a parent’s failure to pay child support has been punitive, including threats leading up to incarceration. Through PACT processes, families are referred

for psychological services, anger management, mental health services, transportation, housing, job training, and job placement.

CAC, with social work faculty members **Paul Freddolino** and **Gretchen Archer**, received the contract to evaluate this new program through the Michigan Office of Child Support, with funding from the federal Administration for Children and Families; it will enable us to determine how traditional social work services may impact the functioning of one of our most challenging court systems.

CAC staff also recently completed work on a grant to update the state’s training protocol for Michigan’s child advocates. Staff will next develop an interdisciplinary social work / law training to present these updated materials statewide next summer. These efforts are part of CAC’s contribution to the larger ongoing statewide effort to improve the quality of representation and advocacy provided to children and families in Michigan’s child welfare system. **S**



Chance at Childhood staff, L-R: Director Joe Kozakiewicz, Program Coordinator Kim Steed-Page, and Staff Attorney Delanie Pope

Kinship Care Resource Center update



If your relative could not safely care for your grandchild or niece or nephew, would you allow these children—your family—to enter foster care? While family members have cared for family members for generations, this kinship care is becoming more often formalized, often preferred by the child welfare system to keep children in familiar environments with loving extended family. Understanding kinship care and supporting these adults who may suddenly find themselves in a parenting role are the goals of the MSU Kinship Care Resource Center.

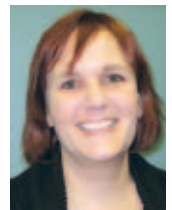
Ten years ago, the Center was inspired and initially led by **Robert Little**, a clinical instructor in the School. He was followed by Associate Professor **Teresa Jones**, whose research identified the medical challenges facing older adults who have become the primary caregivers for their grandchildren and highlighted their sacrifice, commitment,

and compassion, as well as their need for support services. **Ama Agyemang** (MSW 2004), following Dr. Jones, expanded the Center’s outreach with continuing education, support for kinship care providers, and legal (assisted by CAC) and social service support for families. When Ama accepted a position with the Michigan Department of Human Services in the summer of 2009, **Kadi Janssen** (MSW 2009) ably served as interim coordinator. We are now welcoming **Lynn Nee** (MSW 1997) as the new Center coordinator. Nee has led efforts on behalf of child welfare and homeless and runaway youth in Michigan for a number of years. We are grateful to have her talented leadership, assisted by students **Ashleigh Moro** and by **Emily Schmid**.

Thousands of grandparents and other relatives in Michigan are caring for vulnerable children, many of whom have experienced a range of traumas; they are called on to serve as formal and informal supports, providing a safety net even as they face their own challenges. The push to have kinship families licensed as

foster care homes is, at least in part, intended to increase access to financial and service support.

The Center, with funding from the State of Michigan, will sponsor a series of workshops to help professionals understand the needs of kinship families. It will assist support groups across the state and create educational materials to directly help and inform families. Carefully assessing and strongly supporting relatives as caregivers is an increasingly important part of the child welfare system in Michigan. MSU seeks to advance understanding about kinship care and use that knowledge to improve services and supports for families. The Kinship Care Resource Center is described on our website at www.kinship.msu.edu. **S**



Lynn Nee

Contact information:

kinship@msu.edu

517-355-9600 or 800-535-1218

Facebook:

Michigan Kinship Care Resource Center

BASW students active locally and abroad

The first **Undergraduate Research Festival** was held on March 25 at Baker Hall. College of Social Science Associate Dean **Thomas Summerhill** gave a keynote address. The following students participated (their faculty sponsors are in parentheses): junior **Claire Thams (Joanne Riebschleger)**; senior **Ashley Ryerse (Suzanne Cross)**; junior **Linda Venema** and senior **Dominique Carter (Angelique Day)**; junior **Elizabeth White** and seniors **Jessica Jensen** and **Caitlin O'Neill (Marya Sosulski)**; junior **Lindsay Rothwell** and senior **Katelyn Brookshire (Sheryl Kubiak)**; junior **Caitlin Tupper (Paul Freddolino and Amanda Woodward)**; junior **Valentina Djelaj (DeBrenna Agbényiga)**; seniors **Olivia Miller** and **Jessica Hutta (Kyunghee Lee)**. Thams, White, Jensen, O'Neill, Rothwell, Brookshire, and Tupper

also participated in the all-University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum.

Social work senior **Ashley Ryerse**, along with psychology senior **Lloyd Weathers**, Research Specialist **Angelique Day**, and Professor **Suzanne Cross** presented *Analysis of an unethical historical policy and its impact on the American Indian population* at the NASW–Michigan conference in April.

This semester, three juniors have been studying abroad: **Ellen Moscov** (India), **Natalie Sernick** (Ecuador), and **Claire McGinn** (London); they completed their required social

work classes for this semester in the fall and are doing their diversity projects in their host countries.

Students for Social Work (SFSW), our undergraduate student group, has forged a caring, regular relationship with students at Riddle Elementary School in Lansing, visiting several times this semester to help in the classrooms and donate school supplies.

MSU Students for Peace and Justice and *SFSW*, under the leadership of co-leaders **Jessica Jensen** (senior) and **Elizabeth White** (junior), organized a Homelessness Awareness Simulation the weekend of April 16. This ambitious 24-hour project involved speakers and the gathering of supplies for homeless shelters, along with one night spent outside without cell phones or other modern comforts, all with the objective to educate the community about the plight of the homeless. Thirty students participated.

Phi Alpha, our social work honor society, made cash donations to NASW's Haitian relief fund and purchased two ovens to benefit the women of Darfur, who face great danger every time they leave their villages to gather firewood. Phi Alpha also made centerpiece baskets for the NASW–Michigan Annual Conference, which were then donated to local agencies. **S**



Sue Bowden
BASW Program
Coordinator



Photo © 2010 Rose Homa

MSW student news

MSW students **LaQuetta Walker** and **Liliana Salas** joined Graduate Advisor **Karen Newman**, LMSW, to represent the School at the MSU Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions (OCAT) 17th Annual Día de la Mujer Conference on March 20. Also, **Maria Jacome** facilitated a panel discussion, and **Patricia Carmona** represented Migrant Student Services. The 2010 conference, celebrating the lives of Latina women, had *Cuenta nuestra historia...Cuenta nuestro futuro (Our history counts...Our future matters)* as its theme. OCAT Student Affairs Coordinator **Juan Antonio Flores-Soto** (MSW 2008) was instrumental in organizing this event, which also involved many others of our MSW students and alumni on organizing committees and presenting sessions.

MSW student **Leslie Pertz**, a certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, and BSW junior **Kim Sanderson**, fluent in ASL, are members of Signing Spartans, a group that—together with the MSU ASL Living/Learning Options and the MSU Deaf/HOH Steering Committee—sponsored an evening of free entertainment in April by the renowned deaf comedian **CJ Jones**. Jones has traveled with the National Theatre of the Deaf and toured with “Children of a Lesser God” on Broadway and has also made many television appearances. The program was sponsored by MSU's Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, the Adam Miller Memorial Fund of the University of Michigan, and the University of Michigan Hearing Impaired Student Organization. Pertz and Sanderson also provide free tutoring to ASL majors. **S**

Levande Program in Gerontology nurtures those called to serve older adults

On April 12, in conjunction with Careers in Aging Week, nine Levande students celebrated their MSW graduation with their field supervisors and other members of the Levande consortium. The **Levande Program in Gerontology** is a combination field and certificate program, admission by application only, for those interested in social work careers with older adults. The Levande Program, previously the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education, continues under the generous financial support from MSU social work Professor Emerita **Dr. Diane Levande**.



Diane Levande

life experiences with her professional goals and “be part of a bigger movement and to work to improve services for part of society that is often ignored.” **Liz Schwartz** shares, “I want to work with older adults because there is not enough attention given to them—it’s a group whose voice is often not heard.”

Unique to the Levande Program is the chance to learn field placement skills at two agencies instead of one, connect with more professionals in the community, and be exposed to a greater number of practice and advocacy methods. In addition, students have an opportunity to meet and share monthly with other students who are interested in gerontological social work. According to Niyonsenga, being part of a liaison group where everybody has the same passion to advocate and work for older adults is great: “It’s not just your own fight—it’s great to know others are fighting for the same cause.” **S**



Levande students pursue careers with older adults for various reasons: **Tim Niyonsenga** states: “From the culture I come from, older adults are respected, but there... are no services in Rwanda that cater to older adults. If something was ever started in my home country, I want to have the skills and want to be involved.” **Barb Mannino** wanted to tie together her

Field Education serves 375 students

More than 375 students from our BASW and MSW programs were hosted by 215 agencies in 75 Michigan cities and towns during the 2009–2010 academic year. Under the close supervision of field instructors and liaisons, these students have provided more than 175,000 hours of generalist, micro, and macro service throughout the state. Thank you to all field faculty members who so graciously help our students learn and grow into social work professionals.

This year saw the smooth implementation of our competency-based curriculum, focusing on consistent measurements of student mastery of the ten professional competencies specified by our accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education.

We have also just “gone live” with a new database that will decrease costs and increase efficiency. Our previous system was instituted in 1994, so you can imagine our excitement! Currently, we are updating information for the 2010–2011 agency pool.

The Field Office is always interested in developing new placements, and occasionally there are openings for the field liaison position in rural areas. If you are interested or have ideas, contact Associate Director for Field Education Jo Ann McFall (mcfallj@msu.edu).



Jo Ann McFall



Save the dates!

Fall 2010 Field Instructor Orientation and Enrichment Sessions

- **Interactive Video Services across the state:** August 18
- **East Lansing:** September 10
- **Flint:** September 14

Attendees will earn 2 free CECHs!



Flint & Oakland program graduates ready for the social work profession

The Oakland advanced standing and the Flint three-year part-time MSW programs both have students graduating in May 2010, eager to move into their professional careers!

The first cohort of full-time students has completed our new Oakland advanced standing program. The coordinated efforts of students, faculty, and program administrators brought about a successful first academic year. The Oakland University campus provides a great setting for the students, and representatives from OU have continued to provide valuable assistance over this time period. The School has received many qualified applicants, dedicated and diverse, hoping to be admitted to next year's program, which begins in Summer 2010. The Oakland program administrative team continues to promote community awareness about the program throughout the greater Detroit area.

The Flint MSW program continues its growth as an opportunity for human service professionals to enhance their education and careers, and to provide service within their own communities. The program has maintained a strong community presence since its inception in 2001 and is excitedly anticipating its 10-year anniversary in 2011! Interested alumni are welcome and encouraged to contact the Flint program administration team to participate in the planning. Check us out on Facebook (*Michigan State University Flint MSW Program Alums*)—we hope all past alums of our Flint MSW Program will reestablish connections with cohort members and build a social and professional network. **S**

New endowment fund honors Blended Statewide Program cohort member

Congratulations to Cohort '07, the second group of students admitted to the Blended Statewide Clinical MSW Program, who graduate this May. They will come from all over the state to join the other graduates at the School's recognition ceremony on May 7. They have worked hard and have accomplished a great deal over the past three years. However, their joy and sense of accomplishment are tempered by the passing of one of their cohort: Roberta Stone, who died February 10, 2009.

Last year, at Summer Institute on campus, Cohort '07 students expressed their desire to remember Roberta with a scholarship set up in her name. Thus, the **Roberta C. Stone Endowed Fund** has been launched by the School of Social Work with help from the University Development Office to provide scholarships to Blended Statewide Program students pursuing their Master of Social Work degrees. We invite you to join us in honoring Roberta by making a contribution to this very important initiative. To make a cash gift, simply complete your check, made payable to Michigan State University (please note in the memo area—Roberta C. Stone Endowed Fund) and send to University Advancement, 306 Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824. If you would like more information about the Roberta C. Stone Endowed Fund, please contact Sarah Blom directly at (517) 432-1802 or via email at sblom@msu.edu. **S**



Roberta Stone

Exploring couple relationships in challenging co-parenting contexts

By Robert Hock, PhD (MSU 2010), LMSW



Robert Hock

This is a dissertation comprising three manuscripts. I was interested in the ways that challenging parenting contexts affect couple relationships and wanted to gain skills in both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The three papers are:

- Predicting co-parenting quality among adoptive parents;
- Parenting children with autism: A crucible for couple relationships; and
- Understanding and applying co-parenting in social work practice.

Co-parenting is a construct that refers to the degree to which parents coordinate their parenting efforts and support each other in their parenting roles. My first study uses a statewide survey to explore the factors that predict co-parenting quality among adoptive couples. In particular, the study findings suggest that marital quality, the degree to which partners cope with stress together, and conflict resolution skills are important predictors of adoptive parents' co-parenting quality.

In my second study, I worked with Dr. Tina Timm (social work) and doctoral candidate Julie Ramisch (marriage and family therapy). We conducted in-depth interviews with the parents of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The study findings revealed that autism creates intense stressors and emotional reactions that force changes in relationship processes. Strategies such as communication, clarifying priorities, and creatively finding time together can help couples build relationships that are stable and, in some cases, stronger than ever. I intend to build upon this work by developing and evaluating interventions for adoptive families and families who have a child with an ASD.

The third paper synthesizes the existing research about co-parenting and considers its implications for social work practice with diverse families. Findings suggest that co-parenting has significant implications for both child and parent well-being and may serve as an ideal intervention target for distressed families. **S**

Dr. Hock has been hired by the University of South Carolina.

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

Determinants of stigma: A comparison of health, mental health & drug use conditions

By Brian K. Ahmedani, PhD (MSU 2010), MSW, and NIH/NIDA pre-doctoral fellow



Brian Ahmedani

Psychiatric conditions are among the leading causes of the global burden of disease, but stigma has been cited as one important barrier to engaging this population in treatment. My dissertation research aims to assess stigma on three levels in relation to individuals with health, mental health, and drug use conditions. One level, social stigma, is evident in society, while self-stigma reflects a person's internalization of social stigma. Health professionals can also stigmatize individuals with health conditions.

My work uses a combination of samples, including the World Mental Health Surveys administered to over 123,000 participants in 24 countries, and a smaller survey of 222 social work and medical students. Interestingly, my research showed that families were

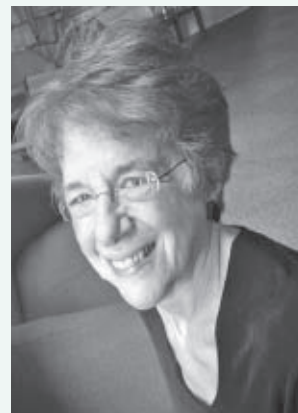
most embarrassed by their relatives with psychiatric conditions as compared to general physical health conditions. Also, individuals with mood disorders experienced more self-stigma compared to those without mood or drug use disorders. Finally, I found that health professional students were less willing to treat individuals with nicotine or alcohol dependence than depression. In future work, I plan to further assess these "levels" of stigma and the ways they impact the lives of individuals, particularly those with psychiatric conditions. Health professionals, including social workers, must consider ways they can work to reduce stigma through future research, education, policy, and practice. **S**

Dr. Ahmedani has been hired by Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI.

VISITING LECTURER **Mimi Abramovitz**

Mimi Abramovitz, DSW, MSW, presented *What is a good woman to do: The decline of marriage, the market and the state* for our continuing education program in March. While on campus, she also made time to meet with students and faculty. Abramovitz earned her degrees from Columbia University School of Social Work. Currently, she is Bertha Capen Reynolds Professor of Social Policy in the School of Social Work at Hunter College (the City University of New York) as well as a nationally and internationally recognized expert on issues of gender, race, and social welfare policy. She is author of several influential books and is currently writing a new book titled *Gendered obligations: The history of activism among poor and working class women in the US since 1900*. Her books are widely used in social work, women's studies, sociology, and history programs. Both a scholar and an activist, she co-founded the Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College and works on research and advocacy with various grassroots and community-based organizations.

Dr. Abramovitz also spent the morning in discussion with students and faculty from the School of Social Work, Department of History, Women's Studies Program, and the Center for Gender in Global Context. **S**



VISITING FACULTY **Dr. Myungsuk Lee**



Dr. Myungsuk Lee, associate professor in the Graduate School of Governance Department of Public Administration at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea, joined the School in January as Visiting Faculty. His research interest, "network governance," refers to the social coordination mechanism for solving social problems by a collaboration of partners without central/hierarchical control. In particular, he is looking at collaboration among nonprofit organizations in social service delivery and the role of government in promoting collaborations among them. A recent publication deals with the Korean government's role in managing social enterprises from this perspective. He intends to use Social Network Analysis to develop a new social service delivery performance index to study when, how, and why collaboration succeeds and fails, and how government can promote collaboration. He is also interested in comparison between Korean and US social service delivery systems using this performance index. **S**

VISITING SCHOLAR **Betty Tableman**

The School welcomes **Betty Tableman**, MPA, as a Visiting Scholar. Tableman was director of prevention services at the Michigan Department of Mental Health/Community Health (1970s–1998) where she initiated development of infant mental health services and child care expulsion prevention, as well as projects providing stress management for low income women, services to children of parents with mental illness, and to children of incarcerated parents. She joins us from University Outreach and Engagement where she wrote and edited *36 Best Practice Briefs* (www.outreach/msu.edu/bpb) on various human services topics. As a statewide expert in mental health, infant mental health, and a leading advocate of reflective supervision, through consultation and referral, she brings areas of expertise to our faculty that can enrich our teaching and research and facilitate relationships with mental health professionals across the state. She currently is a consultant to the Genesee County Steering Committee for Maltreated Infant/Toddler Treatment Court and board member of Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health and Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, and was recently inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. **S**





Photo © 2010 Erick Williams

Faculty and students proudly march with School banner at the University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative March across campus on January 18.

Diversity Project Poster Contest Winners

First place

Liz VanOeveren
Girls Group, E.L. High School

Second place

Ashley Ryerse
Girls Group, E.L. High School

Third place (shared by 10 projects)

Audrey Kuhn, Lauren McCullough,
Joyce Kochanowski, Teresa Barabe
One Day at a Time

Carly Jacques
Young at Heart Gardening

Cristina Chavez
Community Mental Health

Sara Noe
Cooking for Health

Cecelia Wasylewski, Sara Dundon,
Molly Bigger, Allison Leemaster
*Denying there is any abuse
taking place*

Katelyn Brookshire
Lansing City Rescue Mission

Sloane Montgomery
Bingham Elementary

Jessica Jensen, Emily Lauri, Caitlin
O'Neill, Amanda Pacionek
H.O.M.E.

Gayle Barris
*Great Lakes Home Health and
Hospice*

Dominique Carter
*Medical Facility Rehabilitation
Care and Services*

Thanks go to the College of Social
Science for providing cash prizes
for the contest winners!

Celebration marks MLK Day

Our Students for Multi-ethnic Community Action (SMCA) organized and hosted *Nations of the world living the dream: A commemorative of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, the School's Martin Luther King Day event this past January, to celebrate Dr. King's global legacy.

The celebration began with a welcome from SMCA President **Emily Goldberg** and a light lunch provided courtesy of the Lansing Association of Black Social Workers, followed by Dr. King's 1964 Nobel Prize acceptance speech. The speech, introduced by **Dywayne Betts, Jr.**, was followed by a panel discussion moderated by **Anna Donaldson** and **Amanda Garza**. Panelists included **Fadel Ibrahim**, Muslim Students Association; **Nicholas Kerr**, Caribbean Student Association; **Geoff Levin**, Hillel Jewish Center; and **Liliana Salas**, Organization for Latino Social Workers.

Then participants played an MLK Trivia Game, complete with prizes, run by students **Ben Hawkins** and **Sara VanSickle**. Announcement of the Diversity Project Poster Contest winners came next (see sidebar). **Maxine Thome**, National Association of Social Workers–Michigan Chapter executive director, and **Rita Walters**, SMCA faculty advisor, offered closing remarks, followed by a stirring performance from the North American Indigenous Student Organization drummers: **Andrew Wildbill**, **Frank Bartley**, and **Lee Blackbear**.

Additional appreciation goes to: students **Ashley Ryerse** and **Shamida Wyden**; **George Davis** from the Lansing Association of Black Social Workers; social work Professor Emerita **Dorothy Harper Jones**; **Kay McDuffie** of the Michigan Campaign for Justice; BASW Program Coordinator **Sue Bowden**; and Diversity Committee Chair **Margaret Nielsen**. **S**

Research Brown Bag Sessions, Spring 2010

Faculty members have been sharing their research in regular, informal lunch-time meetings to further build connections within the School.

January 25 • Joanne Riebschleger "How to write better manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals: Tips, pointers, and lessons learned in the practice of academic writing"

February 1 • Rob Hock "Exploring couple relationships in challenging co-parenting contexts"

February 8 • Suzanne Cross "Infusion of gerontology into the baccalaureate social work curriculum: A qualitative research study at MSU"

February 15 • Louanne Bakk "The impact of the Medicare prescription drug benefit cost-containment strategies on medication adherence"

February 22 • Natalie Kasiborski "Factors affecting reunification after foster care: An exploratory case study of children born during maternal incarceration"

March 1 • Mary Banghart Therrien "LGBTQ youth aging out of care: What's a social worker to do?"

March 15 • Lihua Huang "Reliability of social network measurement"

March 22 • Daniela Wittmann "Toward an assessment of gay men's sexual recovery after prostate cancer surgery: An exploratory case study"

March 29 • Paul Freddolino, Amanda Toler Woodward, Christina Blaschke "Improving social support for older adults through technology: Early results from a randomized clinical trial"

April 12 • Gretchen Archer "Teaching statistics online: Strategies to maximize student success"

Ruth T. Koehler Endowed Lecture

Play therapy in a bag



A standard playroom has been miniaturized and packed into a carrying bag! This program was presented by **Victoria Fitton**, PhD, LMSW, RPT, who holds the Ruth Koehler

Endowed Clinical Professorship in Children Services for the School; she is also a clinical social worker and play therapist, with a specialization in childhood sexual abuse. Attendees investigated the uses of the play material, by category, for assessment, intervention, termination and evaluation in play therapy. **S**

Mruk Memorial Workshop on Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia: A family perspective



Schizophrenia affects one in one hundred people. **Joanne Riebschleger**, PhD, LMSW, ACSW, an assistant professor at the School with two decades of social work practice experience, presented this interactive workshop. Participants discussed emerging techniques, promising programs, and evidence-based programs designed to support families of people with schizophrenia. This included role-related responses, stages of adjustment, communication processes, and information needs. The Mruk program will alternate an annual workshop and a major lecture in future years. **S**

SAVE THE DATES



JULY 14 – 16, 2010

Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City, MI

Another fantastic line up Great Lakes Summer Institute

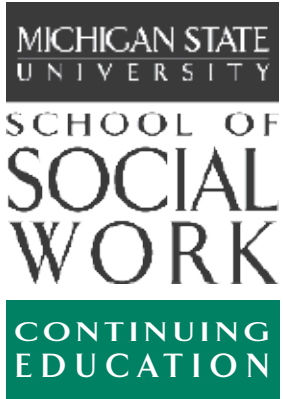
Back by popular demand, Michigan State University School of Social Work is holding the second annual **Great Lakes Summer Institute (GLSI)**, a professional development experience comprised of two-day, one-day, and half-day intensive courses on a variety of current topics taught by experts in their fields.

Designed to blend meaningful learning with maximum relaxation, the GLSI is held in beautiful Traverse City. Minutes from the famous Grand Traverse Bay, the Institute will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge where you can be treated at the premiere Elements Spa, play in Fort Mackenzie, a four-story interactive waterpark, and enjoy any or all of three dining experiences on site.

A special room rate is available to GLSI attendees until June 15, 2010, so register today! *Come, relax and learn!* Find all the details at www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu.

GREAT LAKES SUMMER INSTITUTE • AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010	THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010	FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2010
Full-day programs 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Full-day programs 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Full-day programs 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Sandtray Therapy: Principles, Process & Experience (day 1 of 2 full days)	Sandtray Therapy: Principles, Process & Experience (day 2 of 2 full days)	Nurturing the Hearts & Brains of Parents & Children: Healing Attachment (1 full day)
Supervision Certificate #1: The Role of Leaders in Staff Retention (1 full day)	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills Training (day 1 of 2 full days)	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills Training (day 2 of 2 full days)
Ethical Decision Making: The Role of the NASW Code of Ethics in Monitoring Personal Values & World Views (1 full day ends at 2:30 PM)	Self Care in Effective Social Work Practice: What You Need to Know to Avoid Burnout (1 full day)	
AM programs 8:00 AM – 11:10 AM	AM programs 8:00 AM – 11:10 AM	AM programs 8:00 AM – 11:10 AM
Where Do I Start? Diagnosis & Treatment of Co-Occurring Disorders	Supervision Certificate #2: The Practice of Retention-focused Supervision	Compulsive Gambling by Older Adolescents & Adults: An Introduction for Treatment
		Supervision Certificate #4: Communication Skills
PM programs 12:20 PM – 3:30 PM	PM programs 12:20 PM – 3:30 PM	PM programs 12:20 PM – 3:30 PM
Helpful Theoretical Lenses that Bring Eating Disorder Treatment into Focus	Supervision Certificate #3: The First Six Months	Illicit Drugs & Multi-Drug Abuse: Guidelines for Treatment & Intervention
		Supervision Certificate #5: Working with Differences



Flint event renamed to honor Mary B. Barron

The Flint Breakfast Celebrating Social Work Month, an MSU continuing education event held in March, has been renamed the **Mary B. Barron Memorial Breakfast**. Mary was the first coordinator of the School's Flint area MSW program and was a dedicated and skillful teacher, clinician, and administrator. **S**



Mary B. Barron

CE COURSES SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER 2010

Register early and save money! You may register by fax, online, or by mail.

Adoption Services	
June 17	Building a Home with Heart
June 17	Vicarious Trauma
Advocacy • Leadership • Social Justice	
June 18	Transformative Leadership & Community Organizing: Creating & Managing Change in an Organization, in a Community, across a Society
June 24-25	Community Organizing & Partnerships: Building Coalitions for Social Change
Child Welfare	
May 14	Trauma Sensitive Intervention with Children & Families
May 20	Legal Issues for Kinship Care Providers
May 25	Understanding & Supporting Children with a Parent with a Serious Psychiatric Illness
June 9	Navigating Rough Paths with Kinship Caregivers
June 14	Cultural Competence in the New Millennium: Addressing the Changing Demographics of Southeast Michigan's Child Welfare System
Clinical Practice	
<i>*Courses can each be taken for one University credit; contact Nancy Gray at (517) 353-8632 regarding the enrollment process.</i>	
May 20-21	*Current Issues in Substance Abuse
June 3-4	*Creativity in Aging & Aging Services
June 3-4	*Sexual Orientation & Gender Expression for Social Work Practice: An Understanding of Privilege & Oppression
June 4-5	*Grief & Loss across the Life Span
June 11-12	*Creating a Playroom: Play Therapy Assessment & Intervention for Traumatized Children
June 18-19	*Child & Adolescent Sexuality: What Every Social Worker Should Know
July 8-9	*Health Centered Social Work Practice: Serving Clients More Effectively with Less Stress
July 22-23	*Social Work Practice in the Legal Arena
July 29-30	*An Introduction to Internal Family Systems Therapy
July 30-31	*Human Sexuality & Social Work Practice
August 6	Chronic Pain: A Primer for Social Workers
August 12-13	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills Training

Online CE Courses	
Register for online courses at: www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu	Substance Abuse: Motivational Strategies & the Stages of Change
	Supporting People Affected by Pain through Pain Management Advocacy
	Sex Therapy 101
	Reflective Supervision
School Social Work Competency Series	
Find more information at: www.socialwork.msu.edu/ceu	School Social Work Assessment: Integrating Psychological & Educational Testing
	School Social Work Intervention: Children with Special Needs
	School Social Workers—Continuing Professional Development Seminar (Refresher Course)
	Social Work in Educational Settings

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

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

Programs coming next fall

Michigan Indian Day: September 24

Contemporary Issues for Older Adults:
Dementia • Mental Health • Psychopharmacology

Alumni Breakfast Series:
Ethics • Pain Management

Supervision In Child and Family Services:
The Role of Leaders in Staff Retention
Recruiting and Selecting the Right Staff • The First Six Months

Child Welfare:
Growing Up in the Care of Strangers • Legal Issues for Kinship Care Providers
Ruth Koehler: Cathy Malchiodi

Leadership:
Strategic Planning • Project Management • Strengthening Collaboration

Positive Psychology

WWW.SOCIALWORK.MSU.EDU/CEU ♦ PH. (517) 353-3060

Guevara: Dissertation experience influenced and enriched entire life



Julia A. Guevara, PhD (MSU 1996), LMSW, feels fortunate to have been able to follow her dual passions of international study and social work throughout her career. Currently, Guevara is professor of social work at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI, and serves as assistant vice president for academic affairs, assessment, accreditation, and planning in the GVSU Provost Office.

Julie Guevara feels very fortunate that during her PhD program at MSU, she was able to have her dissertation study take place in El Salvador and Nicaragua, with strong support from both social work and political science members on her committee. She was on faculty at GVSU during her PhD program and feels strongly that her study enriched her teaching and also led to opportunities to develop partnerships in El Salvador that contributed to GVSU's core curriculum and helped foster the importance of international social work and service learning at GVSU.

According to Guevara, her social work training unquestionably prepared her for the administrative work she is doing now. "Being trained as a social worker leaves you in a good position to be in central administration. The profession's unique skills set promotes successful leadership; you become trained to see complex organizations in a holistic way, and you can use your clinical skills without being a clinician." She knows she uses her social work practice skills every day, but believes her administrative role allows her to have a broader impact.

Guevara says her dissertation work was an opportunity to study her passion intensely in a way that influenced and enriched her entire life; she found the skills and knowledge she gained to be both personally and professionally relevant and applicable to her whole life. "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would strongly recommend it to other social workers who have the opportunity." **S**



Hoffpauir: True social work calls for extension



Susan A. Hoffpauir, PhD, LCSW, MSW (MSU 1989), is associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and academic policy at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She serves as the provost's liaison with campus curriculum and policy committees, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC-NCA). She oversees all assessment activities on campus, shepherds new academic programs through internal and external approval processes, and oversees the implementation of special projects initiated by the provost.

Hoffpauir is an active member of the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She served on the Board of Directors from 2003 to 2009, most recently as board president. She also is a member of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and was appointed to the Council on Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression in 2004.

Kapp: Passion has turned to teaching

Stephen A. Kapp, PhD (MSU 1997), MSW, joined the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare in 1997, receiving tenure in 2003. Steve teaches research courses to BSW, MSW, and doctoral students as well as administration and advocacy, and the undergraduate introduction to social work course. His research interests are related to the evaluation of family and children's service programs with an emphasis on the use of that information in practice and making sure consumers have a voice in the process.

Sage Press has just published *Agency-based program evaluation: Lessons from practice*, authored by Kapp (and co-author Gary Anderson, director of the MSU School of Social Work), which was inspired by a colloquium Kapp presented to the MSW SSW faculty in 1997. It aims to help interested students and practitioners articulate the elements of program evaluation, deepen their understanding of the contextual issues that surround and shape an evaluation, and anticipate and make sound decisions in balancing techniques and strategies with the realities of the agency environment.

Kapp relates, "I tell all of our doctoral students during moments of duress to enjoy the experience, as I view it as the good years. Late in life, I discovered a passion for teaching in social work education, and MSU provided a great option for me to build on my career as a practitioner and make a shift to an academic role. It was the perfect program for me." He would like to particularly thank **Dr. Rena Harold** for her "fabulous job of shepherding me into and through the program with minimal casualties."

After a sustained career in practice and teaching, Kapp moves toward administration: as of January, he will become associate dean for professional programs. **S**



Photo © 2010 Rose Homa

beyond self

Hoffpauir has an extensive career in social work education and the profession, but recent noteworthy accomplishments include:

- ◀ Leading UALR through a successful HLC-NCA accreditation self-study process that resulted in the maximum 10-year re-accreditation of the institution.
- ◀ Co-designing a catastrophic-event mental health response protocol that was utilized with over 1,000 survivors of Hurricane Katrina.
- ◀ Receiving the *Excellence Award in Teaching* through the College of Professional Studies at UALR.
- ◀ Designing and implementing the Bachelor of Social Work Program at UALR and securing initial and continuing accreditation through the CSWE.

Hoffpauir says, "All of my memories of being at Michigan State are wonderful. Friendships I made there have lasted to this day. My advice to new social workers is keep your passion, and fight for social justice. Focusing only on micro-level practice is not true social work. You also have to commit to working for mezzo- and macro-level change in order to ensure a better life for the most vulnerable populations in our society." **S**



Sally Rypkema, PhD, LMSW

Clinical Associate Professor
Coordinator, Blended Statewide Clinical MSW Program

When I decided to go into social work, I was working in an educational setting as head of a graduate program, often counseling students about career and other life decisions. I decided I needed clinical skills to do that more responsibly and with more confidence. I was also influenced by the community work I had been involved with over the years—on boards and planning commissions of social service agencies. Thus, I knew many social workers and appreciated their work and commitment to improving community services

for underserved populations. When I entered the field of social work, I did so thinking I wanted to do clinical work.

However, I have always been an educator, and I think my greatest contributions have been as a social work educator. I love teaching, and I love working with students. One of the most important things I've learned at MSU is how to rethink pedagogy in order to incorporate technologies to enhance learning. I am very proud to be coordinator of the Blended Statewide Clinical MSW Program and involved with such an innovative approach to graduate education. Students sometimes express dissatisfaction with strictly online programs, because they feel out of touch with classmates and professors. What I love about the Blended Program is that it uses the online environment extensively without sacrificing the connections and relationships among students. In fact, we spend a great deal of time building these relationships. I am honored to be a part of a program that uses technology to create access to graduate education that many would not otherwise be able to obtain.

The Blended Program has also provided research opportunities. Since the program's inception, we have been collecting outcome measures, using pre- and post-tests, to see if there are differences in learning between traditional face-to-face classes and blended classes. To date, we have not found any statistically significant differences, and student satisfaction with this learning model remains high. In fact, one of the most rewarding aspects of my job is seeing the loyalty our students have to the program and to each other. **S**

DeBrenna Agbényiga, PhD, LMSW



Congratulations to Assistant Professor **DeBrenna Agbényiga** for being selected as one of five faculty and staff members to be awarded the very prestigious *MSU Excellence in Diversity* award. Winners are recognized as promoting diversity and multiculturalism in their academic and professional careers and doing exemplary work to promote an inclusive

campus community. A program and reception honored her and other awardees at the Kellogg Center on February 19. She also serves as assistant dean in the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Affairs at the College of Social Science. **S**



Angie Kennedy, PhD, LMSW

Assistant Professor

My undergraduate degree is in psychology, with a concentration in women's studies. I went into social work because I like its focus on marginalized populations, its interdisciplinary nature, and our commitment to social justice and advocacy.

At MSU, I teach theory, policy with a focus on child and adolescent issues, and an elective on current research and theory related to different forms of family violence. I have also taught the proseminar for first-year doctoral students. I enjoy teaching about theory and policy, as well as in substantive areas such as adolescents, risk and resilience, youth policy, and violence exposure.

Prior to earning my PhD from Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois–Chicago, I worked



as a family therapist, play therapist, community health educator, and director of a program for adolescent mothers. I also spent a few years working as a policy analyst at an adolescent advocacy organization and, as an undergraduate, I had volunteered as a domestic violence advocate. All my work has been committed to working on violence-related issues, particularly as they affect adolescents. This practice focus influenced, and continues to influence, my areas of research and advocacy.

My research and scholarship examine the lives of adolescents in relation to context, social location, and adaptation/competence. I am especially interested in adolescents who are marginalized and face stigma, such as those who are pregnant or parenting, or who have experienced homelessness. I study co-occurring and cumulative violence exposure, and how these influence mental health and school-related outcomes. Based on my work in the field and my prior research, I believe that experiences with multiple forms of community and family violence are quite common among adolescent mothers. My work has been used to inform policy advocacy efforts; I continue to be interested in using my research findings to influence programmatic and policy changes for young people.

I use a risk and resilience perspective, coupled with an intersectional feminist approach, and employ both qualitative and quantitative methods. I find it gratifying that as a social work professor, I am able to conduct research as a social scientist while always bearing in mind how my research findings can be used to influence practice and policy. **S**

John Mooradian, PhD, LMSW



Assistant Professor **John Mooradian** will be presented with the College of Social Science *Outstanding Teaching Award* at the CSS graduation on May 8. The award, established in 2002, recognizes commitment to and evidence of outstanding teaching. Mooradian will receive the award from the president of

the College Alumni Association at the Social Science Commencement this spring and will be featured in *Ventures*, the College's newsletter for alumni and donors. **S**

Bakk, Wittmann each receive prestigious grant



Doctoral candidate **Louanne Bakk**, MSW, has been selected to receive the prestigious *Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in Geriatric Social Work*. The program, a component of the nationwide Geriatric Social Work Initiative funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by the Gerontological Society of America, provides outstanding doctoral students with substantial financial support, mentorship, and professional development. Bakk's mentor will be **Dr. Amanda Toler Woodward**, herself a Hartford Fellow chosen in 2005. Bakk's dissertation is entitled *Gender and racial disparities in cost-related medication non-adherence: The effect of Medicare Part D and factors impacting compliance among older women and blacks*. Bakk has also been selected for the American Society on Aging *Graduate Student Research Award*, a competitive award which carried with it the opportunity to present work at a poster session during the March 2010 Aging in America Conference. **S**



Louanne Bakk



First-year doctoral candidate **Daniela Wittmann**, MSW, has been awarded a *Doctoral Level Training Grant in Oncology Social Work* from the American Cancer Society. This prestigious national award is a two-year grant with possible renewal for an additional two years, made possible from public funds contributed to the American Cancer Society. Wittmann will study psychosocial aspects of prostate cancer. An interdisciplinary team of mentors at MSU supported her application; one of her principal mentors will be Assistant Professor **Dr. Anne Hughes**, who was a 2007 Hartford Fellow. The award is designed to provide outstanding students in oncology social work with support during all phases of their doctoral program. **S**



Daniela Wittmann

Student awards recognize talent and commitment

Doctoral candidate **Jessica Gladden** was selected to receive a College of Social Science *Dean's Office Research Enrichment Fellowship* to support her dissertation work.

Research Specialist **Angelique Day** has been selected as an *All-University Graduate Research and Creative Scholar* at Western Michigan University, where she is pursuing her doctoral degree. She has also been accepted as a Fellow with the Progressive Leadership and Advocacy Network through the National Women's Law Center, a 12-month program.

Senior **Lauren Haas** has been awarded the *Marcellette Gay Williams Scholarship* by the College of Arts and Letters Department of Philosophy, to be presented at the CAL Annual Award Convocation. This is a competitive award intended to enhance students' academic programs; enrich students' career development; encourage students who have already demonstrated the capacity and motivation to identify and achieve their educational goals; allow students to seek additional opportunities to further their academic, professional, and personal growth; and recognize students who have a demonstrated record of civic, volunteer, and/or community service.

Senior **Jessica Jensen** has been selected by the School faculty as this year's *Outstanding Senior*. She will be presented at our May 7 School Recognition Ceremony and lead the other seniors to the podium the next day at the College of Social Science graduation ceremony at the Breslin Center.

Junior **Lindsay Rothwell** has been awarded a College of Social Science *Dean's Assistantship*, a competitive program that looks at a student's academic record and their potential for academic excellence. Lindsay is a social work major with an additional major in criminal justice and will be working with **Dr. Sheryl Kubiak** and **Natalie Kasiborski**. She has also been selected by the College for an *Undergraduate Distinguished Scholarship*, a highly selective award intended to encourage academic excellence, recruit and retain promising and representative students.

Junior **Elizabeth White**, one of our SFSW co-leaders and a member of the Honors College with a peace and justice specialization, has also been awarded the prestigious *Dean's Assistantship* from the College of Social Science. This competitive award will allow her to continue the research she has been doing this past year with **Dr. Marya Sosulski**.

Alternative spring break finds social work students volunteering in Mexico

Consistent with the School's goal to promote study abroad experiences, social work students were encouraged to participate in MSU's International Engagement in Mexico (IEM) in March. IEM offers a short-term, intense opportunity for a volunteer experience with vulnerable populations in three Mexican cities, and also a 3-credit on-campus course that examines theories of civic engagement, volunteerism, and community building. **Dr. Rick Paulsen**, the lead instructor from Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies (CARRS), and **Luis Garcia**, director of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), welcomed our participation and met with us on several occasions to share information about this program and the options for our involvement. The themes of civic engagement, volunteerism, and community building complement those of social justice and advocacy that we emphasize in social work education. In addition to these credit options, doctoral candidate **Natalie Kasiborski** and MSW Program Coordinator **Marcia Lampen** offered a 1-credit course on campus that focused on aspects of international social work in a Latin American setting.

Nine BASW students participated, volunteering in social welfare agencies that provide services to homeless children and those with physical and mental limitations, and also in community programs supplying resources for entire families. Additionally, the students, accompanied by **Marcia Lampen** and doctoral candidate **Rita Walters** had opportunities to visit local cultural sites and museums to increase their appreciation of the roles Mexico has played in American history and their awareness of some



cultural characteristics that define US and Mexican societies.

In discussing their experience, the social work students described the impact of a diversity experience that left them feeling overwhelmed at times by their limitations in language skills. However, the support and encouragement of the CAMP students more than made up for these struggles and also provided an opportunity for friendship that crossed both cultural and ethnic boundaries. **S**



Participating students

- ▲ Ashley Marie Bair
- ▲ Elizabeth Jean Fox Barnard
- ▲ Mallori Louise Fogler
- ▲ Emily Marie Goldberg
- ▲ Leslie Kim Jaquette
- ▲ Kristine Renae Patterson
- ▲ Erin Marie Russo
- ▲ Laura Ann Rush
- ▲ Jeanette Marie Saint-Ongé

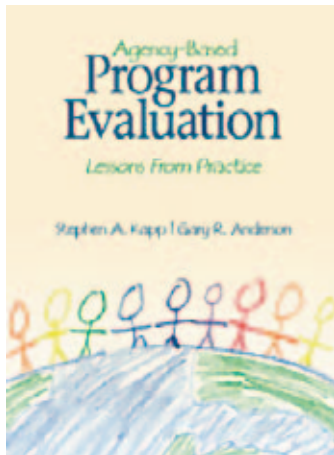
Special recognitions

The Children and Technology Project was selected to receive the *2010 Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship* from the MSU Chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. **Dr. Rena Harold** was co-principal investigator, along with **Drs. Jackson, Von Eye, Zhao, and Fitzgerald**. The selection committee and members of the Chapter recognized the project's scope, vision, scientific rigor, and promise for practical impact on children's lives as representing the highest qualities of interdisciplinary scholarship.

The School of Social Work has received a *Rising Star Award* in the MSU Community Charitable Campaign for 2009–2010. The Rising Star recognition is for the accomplishment of meeting 90–100% of our Charitable Giving goals for 2009–2010 (one of the highest ratings in the College of Social Science). We want to recognize the generosity and participation of our faculty members in this important way to support charitable organizations in our community.

Pioneering spirit reflected in written works and personal connections

Sage Press has recently published *Agency-based program evaluation: Lessons from practice*, co-authored by **Stephen A. Kapp** (PhD 1997) and **Gary Anderson**, director of the MSU School of Social Work, which aims to help interested students and practitioners articulate the elements of program evaluation, deepen their understanding of the contextual issues that surround and shape an evaluation, and anticipate and make sound decisions in balancing techniques and strategies with the realities of the agency environment.



Professors Yomei Nakatani and **Satoko Oyama** (an MSU alumna) from Japan Women's University in Kawasaki visited campus to learn about our Blended Statewide MSW Program, as they had heard that MSU is "a pioneer school providing distance [social work] education." JWU is seriously considering offering distance education programs to increase enrollment. They began their visit with **Paul Freddolino**, **Sally Rypkema**, and **Tina**



Blaschke-Thompson, and also met with Director **Gary Anderson**, **Jo Ann McFall**, **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**, **Rie Kobayashi**, and **Kim Keilen**. With help from ITV's **Dave Collins**, they had the opportunity to link with **Mary Adams**, a student in Marquette.

Harvard-trained neuroanatomist **Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor** came to MSU as part of the University's World View Lecture Series. Dr. Taylor is author of *My stroke of insight: A brain scientist's personal journey*, which documents her experience of a severe brain hemorrhage and the eight years it took for her to successfully rebuild her brain; it discusses her recommendations for recovery and the insight she gained into the unique functions of the right and left halves of her brain. The School was a sponsor of this event. **S**

Career Development Day *Transition from student to professional*

The School's Fourth Annual Career Development Day was held at the MSU Union on February 25. This program was developed specifically for students as they prepare to take on their roles as professional social workers after graduation, providing students with sessions designed to help them with their next steps as they move into the post-graduation world.

SESSIONS HELD

Writing the Resume, Getting the Job & Planning Your Career

Linda Gross, MSU Career Services & Placement associate director
Kristy Coleman, MSU College of Social Science field career consultant

Transitioning into the Profession Panel of Practitioners

Maureen Moloney, Deborah Moor, Ann Marie Lesniak

Life after Your Degree Licensure & Continuing Education

Michele Brock, MSU School of Social Work continuing education coordinator

Looking to connect with the School? *Here's your chance...*



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



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



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

Even though these sites are still under development, check us out and share this information with others.

See you there!

Endowments grow opportunities

Programs and intervention strategies will flounder without a highly talented social work professional leading the way. It is MSU School of Social Work's mission to prepare and support **competent professionals** who have the theoretical knowledge and the intervention knowledge and experience to be helpful. Our mission is to educate **responsive professionals** who will see an opportunity, a problem, a challenge to justice, and will appreciate the effects of discrimination and stigma and actively engage with families and communities to promote a better environment and life. And we aim to educate **ethical professionals** who will respect autonomy and self determination, promote social justice, work to minimize harm, and strive to advance the best interests of the communities, families, and individuals being served.

Increasingly, access to this educational experience and then the ability to concentrate on and invest in one's education is challenged and compromised due to economic hardship. How do we attract and then support the intelligent and caring persons who will be committed to competent, responsive, and ethical social work practice? As a School, we need to increase the financial aid that we make available to students so that eventually each social work student receives some form of assistance and financial support. The University has recently generated very modest amounts of financial aid to distribute to the schools and other academic units for student support. Our ability to help students is largely reliant on the generosity of our alumni and friends whose gifts to School endowments and funds make it possible to give scholarships to students.

The School has four new opportunities to provide needed financial support for students:

Mary B. Barron Fund. Honoring the memory of Clinical Assistant Professor Mary Barron, this fund provides financial support for students from the Flint area and in our Flint MSW Program. Flint is one of the most economically challenged regions in the state. Mary had a heart for students, particularly those who returned to School while employed and while raising families; this fund will provide help for these nontraditional students.



Roberta C. Stone Fund. Honoring the memory of a student in our Blended program, this fund assists working students from all across the state of Michigan who are in our Statewide Blended MSW Program. Roberta was an engaged and talented student, and this fund will help students who, like Roberta, had a passion for serving persons facing multiple life challenges.

Mary Lou Jenks Fund. Established by the faculty and staff of the School to honor the memory of this special staff member, these funds will be used to assist students in our BASW and MSW programs who are facing financial crises and need a little help to continue their studies and get through a particularly difficult time.



School of Social Work Endowment. This general endowment provides financial support for students in any of our programs based on merit and need.

We have terrific students at MSU. Our alumni have had an extraordinary, positive impact on numerous people and communities in Michigan and beyond. We appreciate the financial assistance provided by friends and alumni that allows us to help many of these talented students. We would like to do more. The competent and caring skill of our graduates is supported by your gifts. Thank you so much.

*Donations to any of these funds can be made by addressing one's check to "Michigan State University" and noting any special designation in the memo line. **S***

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Advancing Knowledge. Transforming Lives.

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

KEEP in touch

Help us stay connected!

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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

Name when enrolled _____ Year of graduation _____

I would like to receive paperless email delivery of the *News* and other communications from the School.

Current address _____ Home phone _____

City/state/zip _____ Business phone _____

Please check here if this is a new address

Business/employer (optional) _____

Business address _____ City/state/zip _____

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

Notes from Alumni will be featured in the *Fall/Winter 2010 News*.

Please send this form to: School of Social Work, Michigan State University, 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing MI 48824
or e-mail: socialwork@ssc.msu.edu

School website: www.socialwork.msu.edu