



Spring Commencement

May 2, 2026



SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Our Vision

A Better Society Through Individual and Social Change

Our Mission

Advancing the social work profession's vision and values, the University of Michigan School of Social Work seeks to develop a more equitable, caring and socially just society. Such a society meets basic human needs, eliminates social and economic inequities and empowers individuals, their communities and institutions to reach their aspirations and potential. Drawing on an interdisciplinary faculty within a public university seated in a region of enormous need and promise, the School is dedicated to education, research and service that fosters progressive change at local, national and global levels.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the University of Michigan, named for Michigami, the world's largest freshwater system and located in the Huron River watershed, was formed and has grown through connections with the land stewarded by Niswi Ishkodewan Anishinaabeg — the Three Fires People, who are the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi — along with their neighbors, the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations.



Order of Exercises

Processional

Jordan Schug Quartet

Marshals

Sue Ann Savas

Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work

Barbara Hiltz

Director of MSW Programs and Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work

Erin Khang

Director of Field Education and Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work

Welcome and Introductions

Beth Angell

Dean and Professor of Social Work

Land Acknowledgment

Beth Angell

Dean and Professor of Social Work

Keynote Speaker

Lydia Crafts, LCSW

Maine State Representative

Student Speaker

Nicole Portmann Muñoz

MSW Degree Candidate

Tania Bermejo

MSW Degree Candidate

Presentation of PhD Graduates

William Elliott

Director of Doctoral Programs & Professor of Social Work

Hooders

Fatma Müge Göçek

Professor of Sociology

Kristin Seefeldt

Associate Professor of Social Work

Matthew Smith

Associate Dean of Research and Professor of Social Work

Presentation of MSW Graduates

Readers

Zaynab Boussi

Field Faculty and LEO Lecturer

Justin Hodge

Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work

Hooders

Gina Ambriogio

LEO Lecturer

Daicia Price

Flourish Director & Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work

Closing Remarks

Beth Angell

Dean and Professor of Social Work

Recessional

Jordan Schug Quartet



*Remember
the past, live
in the present
and look forward
to the future!*



Commencement ceremonies have been the site of free expression and peaceful protest for decades at the University of Michigan. The University does not attempt to prevent peaceful protests or other speech protected under the First Amendment.

Today's ceremony is a way to honor our graduates' accomplishments and celebrate their hard work. The School uplifts the values of social work, which includes holding space for different opinions and the opportunity for dialogue. Today and every day, we advocate for a safe and peaceful exchange of ideas and we encourage empathy, compassion and respect.



Cover Art

The Real Blue, 1998

Sam Gilliam b. 1933

Sam Gilliam is one of the great innovators in postwar American painting. He emerged from the Washington, D.C. scene in the mid 1960s with works that elaborated upon and disrupted the ethos of Color School painting. Gilliam abandoned the traditional frames and stretchers used in painting. Instead he chose to loosely drape and suspend his paint stained canvases from the walls and ceiling.

Gilliam's The Real Blue is a four-piece ceiling installation commissioned for the School of Social Work's lower level and is a centerpiece of its art collection.



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! We are thrilled to celebrate your hard work and dedication together with your friends, families and loved ones.

In pursuit of your PhD and MSW, you have gained the skills, knowledge and training to make a difference in the lives of others. You are effective, practiced facilitators and leaders who know how to take a stand, address injustice and engage the community. As you begin the next chapter of your lives, remember that education is a lifelong process. Keep in touch with your faculty and classmates and keep listening and learning from your clients and colleagues.

University of Michigan social work graduates have a reputation for their expertise, dedication and achievement. Today you join 18,000+ alumni who lead the field as policymakers, agency directors and foundation leaders, who improve lives as accomplished and effective social workers. We look forward to hearing how you apply your talents for the good of people and communities.

You have earned the term “the leaders and best.” On behalf of the Michigan Social Work community, I wish you every success as you reach out, raise hope and change society.

Go Blue,

Beth Angell
Dean and Professor of Social Work

About Our Keynote Speaker

Lydia Crafts, LCSW Maine House of Representatives

Representative Lydia Crafts is in her third term in the Maine House of Representatives, where she serves as the chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. Crafts grew up in the small midcoast town of Belfast, where she learned that being from Maine meant needing to be a thoughtful problem solver, a strong collaborator and a champion for justice. She also learned the importance of hard work, dedication and commitment to community. These beliefs informed how she chose her profession as a clinical social worker, how she's raising her children and her approach to public service. Crafts earned her bachelor's degree from Smith College and her master's in social work from the University of Maine. In addition to her work in the legislature, she is a clinical social worker with a private practice and works for a foundation supporting fishing families.





About Our Student Speaker

Nicole Portmann Muñoz
MSW '26

Before coming to the School of Social Work, Muñoz (she/her) earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, where she began her work in human services by leading the Latinx and Migrant Aid Program, supporting Spanish-speaking refugee communities in Charlottesville. During her time as a Master of Social Work student, she served on the behavioral health team at Hope Medical Clinic, a free medical and dental clinic providing integrated care to uninsured patients. While there, she developed a strong interest in medical social work and interdisciplinary, patient-centered care. After graduation, she plans to pursue a hospital-based social work position in Detroit. She is excited to continue growing as a social worker and to support individuals and families as they navigate complex health systems with dignity and care.



About Our Student Speaker

Tania Bermejo
MSW '26

Tania Bermejo (she/her) is a proud immigrant from Mexico whose journey has been shaped by resilience, healing and a deep commitment to community. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from U-M and is graduating with a Master of Social Work. She is also a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, one of the nation's most selective academic honor societies.

With over 15 years of experience in healthcare, Bermejo has served the Grand Rapids community in roles ranging from community health worker to community program supervisor. She completed her clinical internship at Arbor Circle and will continue serving the community there as a psychotherapist, providing individual and group therapy to individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges.

Her work and passion is grounded in advancing equitable and culturally responsive mental health care, particularly for Spanish-speaking communities. Her future plan is to build her private practice, La Luna LLC, where she will integrate traditional clinical approaches with somatic and holistic practices to support healing, transformation and collective empowerment. La Luna is rooted in the belief that individual healing can lead to collective transformation — because even in darkness, there is always the possibility of light.

School of Social Work PhD Graduates

The School of Social Work offers two distinct PhD programs.

The Joint PhD in Social Work and Social Science is the only one of its kind in the United States and has a long and illustrious history of trailblazing and producing extraordinary scholars. It pairs education and training in social work with disciplinary training in anthropology, psychology, or sociology.

The PhD in Social Work and Social Welfare provides a transdisciplinary approach to identifying and studying societal problems, with the aim of proposing and developing solutions. The focus on societal interventions and solving problems is core to the new PhD in Social Work and Social Welfare at the University of Michigan.

The School is thrilled to welcome our two latest PhD graduates in the Joint PhD program!



Brittani Parham

Dissertation title: "Compounded Disadvantage: Exploring the Intersection of Race, Sex, and Child Welfare in Juvenile Justice"

Joint PhD in Social Work and
Developmental Psychology



Charles E. Williams II

Dissertation title: "Healing Balm: Black Women, Black Churches, and Du Boisian Pathways to Health Equity"

Joint PhD in Social Work and Sociology

School of Social Work

MSW Graduates

Sebastián Abbate
Molly St. Clair Aber
Natalie Marie Allen-Riley
Opal Louise Pursley Andrews
Tessa May Ballard
Mariella Battley
Sophia Marchella Bazzett
Paige Beckley
Tania Bermejo
Kallie Bernas
Kayla Bertrand
Anna Elise Bingham Fowler
Jaymie Binik
Jacob Birecki
Jamilyn Elizabeth Blaine-Snyder
Kira Narisse Linda Borum
Samantha Brenz
Beatriz Brockey
Megan Bulova
Krista Cain
Caroline Campbell
Kristy Lynn Carmichael
Yuliana Castrejon
Erna Chiu
Samantha Cho
Rylee Clairday
Jamison Clark
Paige Marie Coldwell
Kelz Cousins
Celia Noelle Crompton
Jessica Elizabeth del Puerto
Julia DeMarco
Sarah Grace Densham
Asha Dimoji
Yiran Vivian Du
Destany Joy Dymond
Allison Economou
Bailey Kathleen Eddington
Ashleigh Egerton
Jason Engle
Amanda Engwis
Brianna Louise Evans
Shelby Everson
Natalie Fenwick
Alan Fields
Jessica Ailza Figueroa
Mylo Florencia
Bevan Forrest
Coreena Forstner
Megan Alisha Galvin
Sadie Gardner
Eleanor Garnett
Esli Gaytan
Andrea Gbotoe-Talbott
Shannon Eileen Gielow
Julie Gilbertsen
Madison Grace Gillespie Abbott
Laila Irma Gislason
Leo Goldblatt
Angela Gonyon
Julie Ann Gowda
Allan Greig
Zhinan Guo
Airiana Shardaé' Hamilton
Rebecca Ann Hamm-Martin
Heba Harajly

School of Social Work

MSW Graduates

Corrine Grace Hays

Qiqi He

Johnny Hepinstall

Lauren Hernandez

Ryan Hires

Caleb Hinton Hoereth

Brittani Hoffer

Yang Hu

Erin Shelby-Louise Jackson

Shengyi Jing

Lexy June

Gizem Kestly

Daisy Kielty

Samira Ahmed Kimo

Brianna Paige Klunder

Edward Komph

Robert Kraft

Joshua Scott Kreiter

Lauren Lachowski

Angela Marie Laginess

Jordyn Lash

Shelby Layne

Erin Moira Lemrow

Maggie Li

Yimin Li

Ashley Logan

Magdalena Lopez

Jordan Lummus

Jacob Lydick

Hind Makarem

Jane Isabelle Martin

Melanie Martinez

Eleanor Grace McConkey

Margaret McCoy

Genesis McWhorter

Shayla Melanson

Donald Allen Michael

Chloe Mitchell

McKenna Monette

Gabrielle Montroy

Claire Mooney

Gisell Mora

Haley Nicole Mozen

Abigail Murray

Alicia Marie Newberry

Kamlin Alana Nisch Quan

Avery Northrop

Rachael Orlando

Caroline Jean Paige

Leo Tobias Parikshak

KateLyn Perry

Samantha Peters

Nicole Portmann Muñoz

Renee Price

Russell Qin

Kayla Ann Ramos

Rebecca Rich

Jeanette Caroline Ringer

Allison Ringold

Nicole Francesca Roberts

Azalea L Roman

Illyana Runnels

Sarah Samosiuk

Rachel Schaefer

Randi Schafer

Isaiah Schuham-Anders

School of Social Work

MSW Graduates

Mia Grace Schuman

Claire Seelig

Cortney Ellen Sera

Apara Sharma

Sarya Shehadeh

Isabel Slesnick

Kyungeun Song

Jonathan Weiming Song

Jasmine Ayanna Stanton

Olivia Rose Sulisz

Bethanie Swier

Eve Natalie Szumlanski

Katherine Scott Taylor

Charles Taylor-Fulton

Samuel Tick-Raker

Isabelle Tsang

Ryan Veit

Lauren Verardi

Jaron Ilan Vesely

Benjamin Villareal

Carolyn Marie Ward

Delaney Joy Weedmark

Nicole Westphal

Hailey Wildenhaus

Sam Wolf

Danyu Xing

Shaoyou Xu

Peiting Yu

Jen Zamarron

Zhining Zhang

Ngun Zi



School of Social Work

Dual Degree MSW Graduates

Master of Social Work and Master of Public Policy

Shannon Eileen Gielow

Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health

Johnny Hepinstall

Master of Social Work and Master of Public Policy

Samira Ahmed Kimo

Master of Social Work and Master of Science in Information

Yimin Yi

Master of Social Work and Master of Arts in Educational Studies

Azalea L Roman



School of Social Work Leadership

Dean

Beth Angell
Dean and Professor of Social Work

Associate Deans

Shawna Lee
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
and Professor of Social Work

Robert Ortega
Associate Dean for Educational
Programs and Professor of Social Work

Katie Richards-Schuster
Associate Dean for Undergraduate
Programs and Strategic Initiatives and
Associate Professor of Social Work

Matthew Smith
Associate Dean of Research
and Professor of Social Work

Assistant Dean

Timothy Colenback
Assistant Dean for
Enrollment Management

School of Social Work Leadership

Directors

Abigail Eiler
Director, Undergraduate Minor
Programs and Clinical Associate
Professor of Social Work

William Elliott III
Director, Doctoral Programs and Social
Science and Professor of Social Work

Karla Goldman
Director, Jewish Communal Leadership
Program and Sol Drachler Professor of
Social Work

Barbara Hiltz
Director, MSW Programs and Clinical
Associate Professor of Social Work

Erin Khang
Director, Field Education and Clinical
Assistant Professor of Social Work

Katie Lopez
Director, Office of Global Activities and
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor

Daicia Price
Director, Flourish Program and Clinical
Associate Professor of Social Work

Michelle Woods
Director, MSW Student
Career Services

Erin Zimmer
Director, MSW Student
Services

School of Social Work Faculty

Governing Faculty

Beth Angell
Odessa Gonzalez Benson
Lindsay Bornheimer
Linda Chatters
Candace Christensen
David Cordova
Fernanda Cross
Ashley Cureton
Katie Edwards
Ayesha Ghazi Edwin
Abigail Eiler
Willie Elliot
James Ellis
Katrina Ellis
Lisa Fedina
Terri Friedline
Joseph Gardella
Karla Goldman
Andy Grogan-Kaylor
Greer Hamilton
Jackie Hawkins
Todd Herrenkohl
Barb Hiltz
Justin Hodge
Jennie Jester
Shanna Kattari
Erin Khang
Ashley Lacombe-Duncan
Shawna Lee
Lydia Li
Katie Maguire-Jack
Tara Maudrie
Patrick Meehan
Jamie Mitchell
Robert Ortega

Sunggeun (Ethan) Park
Brian Perron
Rogério Pinto
Daicia Price
Camille Quinn
Leigh Rauk
Julie Ribaud
Katie Richards-Schuster
Joe Ryan
Monica Sampson
Sue Ann Savas
Katie Schultz
Krisitin Seefeldt
Trina Shanks
Beth Sherman
Matt Smith
Rebeccah Sokol
Karen Staller
Connie Sung
Robert Taylor
Rich Tolman
Daphne Watkins
Addie Weaver
Lisa Wexler
Xiaoling Xiang
Nari Yoo
Mieko Yoshihama
Brad Zebrack

Field Faculty

Feyisetan Adunbi
Mona Berry
Zaynab Boussi
Amy Burandt
Miriam Connolly
Christina Dadswell

Rachel Naasko
Rosalva Osorio-Cooksy
Stacy Peterson
Nitesh Singh
Aimée Vantine

Emeritus

Paula Allen-Meares
Oscar Barbarin III
William Birdsall
Letha Chadiha
Barry Checkoway
Tom Croxton
Sandra Danziger
Ruth Dunkle
Kathleen Coulborn Faller
Sheila Feld
Phillip Fellin
Daniel Fischer
Larry Gant
Rose Gibson
Martha Gizynski
Lorraine Gutiérrez
Leslie Hollingsworth
Berit Ingersoll-Dayton
Srinika Jayaratne
Harold Johnson
Edith Kieffer
Sherrie Kossoudji
Laura Lein
Edith Lewis
Shirley Lockery
Susan McDonough
Sandra Momper
Thomas Powell
Beth Glover Reed

Lawrence Root
Mary Ruffolo
Daniel Saunders
Brett Seabury
Vivian Shapiro
Kristine Siefert
John Tropman
David Tucker
Diane Kaplan Vinokur
Elizabeth Voshel
Helen Weingarten

Lecturers

Cilene Adam-Rita
Feyisetan Adunbi
Daniel Alvarez
Gina Ambrogio
Richard Barinbaum
Alethia Battles
Anthony Beasley
Trevor Bechtel
Mona Berry
Zahraa Boussi
Felicia Brabec
Amy Burandt
Brooke Buys
Mary Byrnes
Jessica Camp
Adisa Chaney
Marna Clowney-Robinson
Miriam Connolly
Rosalva Osorio Cooksy
Priscilla Cortez
Colleen Crane
Julie Cushman
Christina Dadswell

School of Social Work Faculty (cont.)

Bonnie Dockham
Kathleen Doyle
Linda Edwards-Brown
Kallie England
Elizabeth Evans
Antuan Featherstone
Beth Feldkamp
Sean de Four
David Fulkerson
Joseph Galura
Karyn Gendreau
Monique Giannetti
Terri Gilbert
Tammie Glenn
Irena Glover
Kathryn Greening
Elizabeth Gumbis
Jennifer Heckendorn
Gregory Hoffman
Kathryn Irish
Vance Jackson Jr
Jennifer Jester
Camille Jones
Grace Helms Kotre
Jax Kynn
Jamie LaLonde
Marlanna Landeros
Katherine (Kat) Layton
Eric Lock
Phillip Thomas Luttrell
Paula Madden
Douglas Manigault III
Kassandra Maple-Jackson
Erin Martinez-Gilliard
Aliyah Masudi

Nasreen Meah
Aimee Miller
Benjamin Moe
Rachel Naasko
Jennifer Nason
Maureen Okasinski
Ana Catalina Ormsby
Nichole Pangburn
Stacy Peterson
Mari Jan Pitcher
Susan Radzilowski
Kristal Reyes
Sadé Richardson
Osvaldo Rivera
Fatima Salman
Laura Sanders
Diana Seales
Nitesh Singh
Andrea Smith
Relando Thompkins
Jennifer Towns
Abigail Usher
Aimée Vantine
Paige Walker
Carmen Wargel
Lawrielle West
Stephen Wiland
Whitney Williams
Jewel Woods
Laura Yakas
Lacea Zavala
Candace Ziglor

Alumni Board

President

Peggy Bodin, '98

Vice President

Sadé Mulkey, '18

Secretary

Joanne (Jo) Yaffe, MSW '76,
PhD '88

School of Social Work Representatives

Beth Angell, Dean, Ex-officio

Halla Jomaa-Jouney, Executive
Director of Development and
Alumni Relations, Ex-Officio

Sherra Bennett, '17
Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, '11
William (Bill) Cabin, '04
Sabrina Clark '10
Gabrielle (Gabby) D'Angelo '11
Ann Baker Easley, '80
Edward (Ed) Egnatios, '75
Janice (Jan) Fisher, '75
Ashley Hails, '19
Yuri Hernández Osorio, '17
Gregory (Greg) Hoffman, '13
Harry Hunter, '77
Elizabeth Kinney, '10
Deborah (Debby) Mitchell
Covington, '88
Meagan Mitchell, '12

Orion Mowbray MSW '10, PhD
'13

Kathleen (Kathy) Pottick,
MSW '74, PhD '82

Milton Rodriguez, '97

Kelly Taylor, '95

Kyra Weber, '16

Leah Wittenberg '22

Rebecca Wong '23

U-M Board of Regents

Jordan B. Acker

Michael J. Behm

Mark J. Bernstein

Paul W. Brown

Sarah Hubbard

Denise Ilitch

Carl J. Meyers

Katherine E. White

Thank You

Today's beautiful graduation ceremony looks wonderful and effortless. In truth, the Graduation Committee and many additional people devoted a great deal of talent, time and effort to make it a success. This ceremony would not be possible without the creativity, dedication and hard work of the students, faculty and staff listed below.

Graduation Committee

Patrick Meehan
Faculty Chair, Assistant Research
Scientist and LEO Lecturer

Feyi Adunbi
Field Faculty and LEO Lecturer

Amy Burandt
Field Faculty and LEO Lecturer

Grant Clement,
Recruitment, Admissions, and
Student Services Officer
(ex officio)

Beth Feldkamp
Assistant Director of Student
Services
(ex officio)

Michelle Gorton,
OSS Office Manager
(ex officio)

Talia Ingham
Field Faculty and LEO Lecturer

Halla Jomaa-Jouney
Executive Director of
Development and Alumni
Relations

Holly Nelson
MSW Candidate

Emerson Palazzo
MSW Candidate

Renée Tambeau
Director of Marketing &
Communications

Aimée Vantine,
Field Faculty and LEO Lecturer

Erin Zimmer,
Director for Student Services
(ex officio)

Platform Party

Beth Angell
Tim Colenback
Lydia Crafts
William Elliott
Barbara Hiltz
Erin Khang
Shawna Lee
Patrick Meehan
Robert Ortega
Matthew Smith
Charles Tommasulo

Readers

Zaynab Boussi
William Elliott
Justin Hodge

Hooders

Gina Ambrogio
Fatma Müge Göçek
Daicia Price
Kristin Seefeldt
Matthew Smith

Marshals

Sue Ann Savas
Barbara Hiltz
Erin Khang

Sign Language Interpreters

Sabrina Boykin
Teryk Friar

Commencement Reception

Please join us for a reception immediately following commencement in the Power Center Lobby.



Hail to the Victors



Hail! to the victors valiant
Hail! to the conquering heroes
Hail! Hail! to Michigan
The leaders and best
Hail! to the victors valiant
Hail! to the conquering heroes
Hail! Hail! to Michigan
The champions of the West