

Field Instruction Newsletter

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From the Field Director's Desk by Betsy Voshel

I am excited to launch Volume 1 of the University of Michigan School of Social Work's Field Instruction newsletter off the ground! Our goal is to keep our field instruction community connected via a newsletter that will be sent electronically once per term. We hope to highlight events that are happening in the Office of Field Instruction and in our field instruction community. We would like to share experiences that our students and field instructors have had, pose questions for discussion, and generate interest in networking. Please email

ssw.ofi@umich.edu with any additional ideas that will help our newsletter further develop.

In this edition, I am excited to highlight field placements with the U-M Quito Project, Forest Avenue School, and Communities in Schools in Detroit. I am pleased to introduce **Ms. Julie Ribaud, MSW**, who joined our faculty in the fall of 2006 and has a partial appointment as a field liaison. In addition, I want to update you on our restructuring effort in the office, which includes an innovation in the Foundation Field Semi-

nar. The school is also in the midst of preparing for our re-accreditation. We have also highlighted new agency partners in field placement, field instructor training sessions, and our Agency Fair/Luncheon that we hosted this past year.

In closing, we encourage you to share information about your agency's student training experiences for future editions. Thank you on behalf of the School of Social Work for your interest in our students and your support of the field instruction program.



Above: Map of Ecuador

The Quito Project by Joseph Donlin

Four students will pioneer the School of Social Work's new global practicum initiatives as they spend the spring/summer 2007 term in Quito, Ecuador.

Valerie Varela, Viridiana Romero, Amanda Garratt, and Joseph Donlin will be traveling with the Quito Project (QP), U-M-based student organization, to spend the months of May, June, July, and August working with a non-profit foundation, La Fundacion San Martin.

Two other social work students will be joining the group for one month: **Amy Auletto** in June and **Isabella Stackl** in August. The Quito Project is in its third year of operation this summer and is expanding its social work and public health components as

well as continuing its existing tutoring program and medical clinic.

The social work team will begin their work by completing an assessment of the strengths and needs of the San Martin community. The group will then work within the interdisciplinary Quito Project team to implement sustainable community interventions in the areas of health, education, community organizing, and social support. The team will use multiple methods of intervention, such as health education, youth development (including a *Photovoice* project), and community group organizing efforts.

Julie Maslowsky, MSW, alumna of the U-M School of Social

Work (class of 2005), is the social work director and field instructor. Maslowsky is currently a doctoral student in the U-M Developmental Psychology Department, and this summer will be her second year with the Quito Project. Maslowsky coordinates the project's social programming division and has been leading the social work team in weekly meetings and trainings since December. As part of its pre-travel preparations, the team will also develop and facilitate a training on cultural competency to the entire Quito Project family, including over 70 undergraduate and graduate students, as well as staff.

To learn more about the Quito Project, please visit www.thequitoproject.org.



Above: Joseph Donlin, Viridiana Romero, OFI Director Betsy Voshel, Amanda Garratt, Field Instructor Julie Maslowsky, and Valerie Varela.

Dawn Farms Substance Abuse Treatment

by Paulette Walker

Dawn Farm Substance Abuse Treatment Services supports clients to engage with the recovering community and sustain long-term sobriety by offering a continuum of comprehensive substance abuse treatment services.

As part of the outpatient team, I provided group and individual sessions over a ten-week period and substance abuse assessments. To share examples of bio-social assessments, I recently worked with a young female, 25 years old, who has one to two years of minor consequences due to her drinking. She had moved beyond the contemplation stage of change into the action stage and has voluntarily sought treatment. The assessment went quickly, and although somewhat embarrassed, she spoke freely and was receptive to treatment.

Other assessments were not so easy. A 42-year-old male client, who had been drinking regularly since his early 20s, had consistently abused a host of other drugs and met the DSM-IV criteria for poly-substance abuse. He was court ordered to treatment for his third driving under the

influence. It became apparent that he presented co-occurring mental disorders. He was resistant to treatment and has an extremely difficult time staying focused.

In a relatively short period of time, I had to gain the trust of each of these clients and engage them in a therapeutic relationship. My motivational interviewing skills were challenged. Weeks later, I engaged these two clients in a group session. I facilitated a discussion on the differences of a culture of addiction and a culture of recovery.

My experiences were intensive, and I felt like an integral part of the team. My field supervisor, **Brenda Bolzman, MSW**, not only empowered and challenged me, but also assessed my biases, limitations, and expectations, as well as discussing self-care. My field liaison, **Oliva Kuester**, has been very helpful and ensured that the placement was a good fit. Dawn Farm's approach to engaging student interns in the real world of substance abuse treatment was amazing. I would hope that all my fellow peers would be fortunate enough to be placed in such a rewarding practicum.



Left: MSW student Paulette Walker writes of her experiences at Dawn Farms.

“In a relatively short period of time I had to gain the trust of each of these clients and engage them in a therapeutic relationship.” - Walker

Forest Avenue Schools

by Nicole Ploehn

Forest Avenue School is a day treatment program that receives referrals for emotionally impaired students living in Washtenaw County. The program is administered by Ypsilanti Public Schools and is referred by 10 school districts within the county.

The goal for all students is to return to their home school district as soon as they are able to succeed in a less restrictive environment. Forest Avenue School has five classrooms with a limit of ten students in each room. Each classroom is supported by one teacher, one to three program assistants, and one school social worker designated to each school level.

As an intern, I had the opportunity to work with a very knowledgeable and supportive field instructor. My field instructor, **Cindy Evoy, MSW**, is the elementary school social worker. In my first year, I was involved in interventions both in and outside of the classroom. I assisted Cindy in co-facilitating the Life Skills group. I was also

involved in parent meetings, individualized education plans, as well as multidisciplinary education team meetings.

During my second year, I planned and facilitated weekly social awareness groups in high school and middle school classrooms with social workers **Charlotte Yu, MSW** (high school), and **Jaime Woudstra, MSW** (middle school). I managed student cases, served as the contact person, and became more involved in crisis intervention.

Overall, I had so many amazing opportunities. Even in situations in which I felt unsure of myself, I was given the guidance and support by not only my field instructor and the other school social workers but the entire staff. I do not think I could have asked for a better field placement. I know from the experiences and skills I have gained that I will be better prepared for what lies ahead in my future in the field of social work.

“Even in situations in which I felt unsure of myself, I was given the guidance and support by not only my field instructor and the other school social workers but the entire staff.” - Ploehn

Communities in Schools

by William L. Vanderwill

As the nation's fifth largest youth-serving organization, Communities in Schools (CIS) champions a unique community-building model that helps students stay in school.

As one of the Office of Field Instruction's placement sites, CIS has trained over 45 U-M SSW students over the last eight years to work within Detroit public and charter schools in the areas of community organization, management, and program evaluation. Currently, there are four students placed with

the agency. **Jodie Neale** is working with **Janet Ray, MSW**, in the area of program evaluation. **Lauren Davis**, placed at the Detroit Enterprise Academy with **Captoria Snipes**, is developing school-based programs for the charter school. **Cherise Mattheson** is working with **Roger Williams** at Van Zile Elementary School and has designed and implemented a social skills curriculum for girls. Doctoral student **Shayla Griffin** is placed with **Kevin Bolden** at Osborn High School and is coordinating a college-bound program. The

organization has also hired two of our recent graduates, **Katy Weiks, MSW**, and **Adisa Chaney, MSW**, to work in the areas of program administration and development.

CIS has consistently demonstrated a commitment to the U-M SSW and has been actively involved in our agency fairs, field instructor training, and class speaking engagements. Their tremendous efforts complete the educational experience for their student interns.



Above: **Roger Williams (field instructor)**, **Elisabette Mack (field instructor)**, **Katy Weiks**, **Kevin Bolden (field instructor)**, **Adisa Chaney**, **Janet Ray (Director of Program Management and Evaluation)**, **Jodie Neale**, and **Cherise Mattheson**.

Agency Fair

by Ziehyun Huh

During the Annual Spring Open House sponsored by the Office of Student Services, OFI hosted a Spring Agency Fair on March 23, 2007, to give prospective students the opportunity to network with over 50 agencies. After an orientation session, students chatted with agency representatives and enjoyed a breakfast, festive snacks such as ice cream bars and popcorn, a slideshow, and live music from a harpist. OFI wanted to create a warm and welcoming environment that would be more conducive to exploration of the field of social work.

Afterward, field instructors enjoyed a catered luncheon. During lunch, a panel of field instructors who were fairly fresh to the field instructor role spoke about their supervision experience as past MSW students and as current field instructors. The panelists were **Julie Maslowsky, MSW** (The Quito Project), **Sean DeFour, MSW** (Judson Center), **Carrie Ross, MSW** (U-M Health System), **Richetta Van Sickle, MSW** (Judson Center), and **Alex Bailey, MSW** (Community Action Network). OFI thanks all the agencies who volunteered their time and made this annual event a resounding success.



Left to right: **Stacy Peterson (OFI Field Liaison)**, **Harriet R. Bakalar (Field Instructor at U-M Housing Bureau for Seniors)**, **Oliva A. Kuester (OFI Field Liaison)**, and **Betsy Voshel (OFI Director)** at the Spring Agency Fair.

Community Advisory Board

by Betsy Voshel

The SSW revitalized the Community Advisory Board in fall 2006 under the leadership of **Dr. Mary C. Ruffolo, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean for Educational Programs.

The board addressed curriculum initiatives and various opportunities to strengthen the field experience. They focused on revising OFI Foundation and Advanced Educational Agreements. They have also been involved in discussions regarding the school's curriculum and the December 2006 Graduate Exit Survey data.

The board advised the SSW regarding the implementation of the U-M Center for Research, Learning, and Teaching (CRLT) grant on "Integrative Learning and Reflective Practice" and provided input on "Privilege, Oppression, Diversity, and Social Justice (PODS) in Social Work Education: A Field Instruction Resource Guide."

OFI appreciates the board's willingness to volunteer their time and expertise to SSW.

Board Members

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Deb Amaya | Dept. of Veteran's Affairs |
| Faye Askey-King | SOS Community Crisis |
| Carol Burrell-Jackson | P.O.W.E.R., Inc. |
| John Carey | St. Joseph Mercy Hospital |
| Carly Corpolongo | Safe House Center |
| Kimberly Cummings | Women's Center of America |
| Katie Doyle | Ozone House |
| Elese Hairston | University Psychiatric Clinic |
| Doug Plant | United Way for Southeastern Michigan |
| Janet Ray | Communities in Schools |
| Kathleen Russell | Community Member |
| Laurie Ryan | Oakwood Heritage Hospital |
| Beth Spencer | U-M Turner Senior Resource Center |
| Jim Toy | U-M Office of Institutional Equity |
| Susan Watts | U-M Psychological Clinic |
| Geneva Williams | City Connect Detroit |
| Tim Wintermute | Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation |

OFI Transitions

by Stacy L. Peterson

In the last two years, the OFI team has changed in composition and size. We have refined and streamlined our data management system and expanded our roles and responsibilities.

With the addition of **Betsy Voshel** as the new director, the original team of three educators - **G. Warren Clark**, **Oliva A. Kuester** and **Stacy L. Peterson** - has grown to five with the addition of **William L. Vanderwill** and **Leigh A. Robertson**. The office also welcomed new Administrative

Coordinator **Ziehyun Huh**. The seven members of the OFI team are committed to providing a warm, supportive, and caring environment for students and the SSW community.

Another area of transformation and profound change in OFI is the development and implementation of our new database. We are now able to access academic and field-related data in a way that saves time and permits sharing of information with all appropriate parties in a streamlined delivery manner. As our data

management system continues to evolve, be on the lookout for improvements with our web page and agency information system.

The OFI team has expanded their roles from beyond simply placing students. They are now doing much of the liaison work with our placement sites and teaching the foundation field seminar. We believe these three areas of access not only provide continuity of care to students and agencies, but we are better able to problem solve by supporting our students and

agencies more efficiently. With the added bonus of increasing OFI visibility in the community, the office is more streamlined to better match students with field placement. As a result, there has also been a significant reduction in the number of students needing replacement.

OFI believes that the changes and growth have a significant and profound benefit to students and the School of Social Work. OFI looks forward to continued development and improvement in the future.

Peer-Facilitated Field Seminar

by Scott Tharp

Foundation field seminar, a one-credit class all social work students take upon starting their field placements, is a Council for Social Work Education requirement. While the field seminar has been largely unpopular over the years, the Office of Field Instruction has implemented a new field seminar design to make what used to be a one-hour lecture, with a subsequent hour of breakout groups with 30 students, into more intimate groups of approximately 10 - 12 students for professional development and peer support.

This new model of field seminar education has been developed by the Office of Field Instruction with the help and leadership of MSW student **Shoshana Hurand**, who came to OFI with the idea and energy to work on some more student-friendly changes. In addition to making the field seminar conducive to small group discussion, this new format utilizes MSW students as peer-facilitators to guide discussion and role-model professional development skills to enhance students' field experiences. Concerns ranging from supervision negotiation to conflict manage-

ment are topics for exploration where students can harness the expertise already in the room by their peers. As this model continues to be developed and tweaked, the Office of Field Instruction welcomes any and all feedback to improve the model and is open to student involvement in any such recommendations. If you are interested in participating as a peer facilitator or have feedback you want to share, feel free to email us at ssw.ofi@umich.edu.



Above: Stacy Peterson, Scott Tharp, Warren Clark, Diane Cavicchioli, Leigh Robertson, Katherine Slotsema, Bill Vanderwill, and Shoshana Hurand.



Introducing Julie M. Ribaldo, MSW, LMSW, ACSW

by Betsy Voshel

OFI welcomes **Julie M. Ribaldo**, who functions as a field liaison for approximately 30 students each term.

Ribaldo, Clinical Professor of Social Work, joined our faculty in fall 2006. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a MSW degree in 1984 and received a Post-Graduate Certificate and Endorsement as an Infant Mental Health Therapist and Mentor in 2002 from Wayne State University.

cal work on parent-infant relationships; support to teachers and caregivers of challenging infants, toddlers, and children; assessment and treatment of abused and/or neglected infants, toddlers, and young children; and infants, toddlers and young children in foster care and post-adoption.

She has provided local, state, and national training on infants and toddlers. In addition, she has provided clinical consultation to numerous school districts in Michigan. She currently teaches Interpersonal Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups; SW Practice with Children and Youth; Infant and Child Development; and Interpersonal Practice with Children and Youth. Welcome, Julie Ribaldo!

"Working as a liaison has reminded me how diverse and exciting the field is. I've loved hearing how students have grown over the course of a semester and their 'ah-ha' moments!"

Ribaldo has a private practice in metropolitan Detroit where she has focused her clini-

Field Instructor Training

by G. Warren Clark

Each year OFI offers two programs for new field instructors. These are designed to provide first-time field instructors information about U-M SSW curriculum and includes areas such as supervision, the educational agreement and evaluation, and professional development.

The first training was held on September 29, 2006, at the Detroit Center. This new facility was ideal for its location and modern meeting rooms. The keynote speech, "The Walking Project: Community Capacity Development & Rediscovery Through Walking, Talking & Observing a Neighborhood in Transition & Evolution," was given by

Larry Gant, Ph.D. Talks were also given by **Daniel Reid, MPH, MSW** (U-M Health Systems); U-M SSW faculty member **Larry Root, Ph.D.**; U-M Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator **Carol Dubritsky**; and **Donna Mullins** (Department of Human Services).

Field instructors and a U-M faculty member spoke on a panel on supervision. Speakers were **Julie Ribaud, MSW** (U-M SSW Clinical Assistant Professor), **Ed Egnatios, MSW** (Skillman Foundation), **Mary Ortega, MSW** (Family Assessment Clinic), and **Earl Carr, MSW** (Wolverine Human Services).

The second program was on January 10, 2007, and was held at U-M SSW. This half-day session included an overview presentation and small group discussions lead by OFI faculty.

The small groups gave field instructors a chance to get to know one another and problem solve real situations that come about on a daily basis in the world of student field education.

Below: U-M SSW faculty members Beth Glover Reed and Robert M. Ortega provide a presentation on incorporating "privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice" (PODS) at a past field instructor training.



"Most exciting was the discussion to establish a student advisory committee ..."

Student Forum

by Ziehyun Huh

To better address the needs and concerns of students, OFI organized a student forum on November 29, 2006, which was attended by over 30 students. A smaller follow-up session was held on March 28, 2007, to discuss the feedback generated.

During the fall 2006 session, students broke into three groups to list concerns in three categories: placement process, field seminar, and communication/OFI assignments.

Betsy Voshel, OFI Field Director, welcomed students, while Associate Dean **Mary C. Ruffolo, Ph.D.**, attended the conclusion of the event. **Ziehyun Huh** (OFI), student **Shoshana Hurand**, and **Betsy Wagner, MSW** (Office of Student Services), facilitated the discussions.

Feedback included issues such as the web-based placement listing and the need for additional search options, the redundancy of the evaluation, and the desire for

more relationship building with field liaisons.

The feedback was compiled into a list with suggested student and OFI solutions. After additional review, the feedback will be posted on the OFI website. Most exciting was the discussion to establish a student advisory committee to institutionalize a more effective partnership between students and OFI.

Announcements

Congratulations, April Graduates!

A special thank you to the graduating peer facilitators of field seminar (winter 2007). We appreciate your efforts in making the new format happen!

Brooke Deleo Shoshana Hurand Katherine Slotsema Scott Tharp

Congratulations to the Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award Winners!

The Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award was established in 2006 to help meet the growing needs of U-M MSW students who pursue out-of-state and international field placements. The award will assist students with the following: travel to and from location of placement; room and board; transportation while on site; and professional attire.

Recipients:

**Raquel Castaneda-Lopez
Viridiana Romero**

**Joseph Donlin
Joanna Timma**

**Amanda Garratt
Valerie Varela**



Graduate Shoshana Hurand (left) promotes Agrarian Adventure at the Spring Agency Fair and admires her field instructor Carisa Wilder's (right) new baby daughter.

