

# ~ Field Notes ~

University of Michigan School of Social Work  
Office of Field Instruction  
Winter 2008

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## From the Director's Desk

By Elizabeth Harbeck Voshel (Betsy), MSW, LMSW, ACSW  
Assistant Clinical Professor - Director of Field Instruction



In this, our third edition of the UM School Social Work Office of Field Instruction Newsletter, I am excited to extend "BEST WISHES" from all of us on the OFI team to our Dean, Dr. Paula Allen-Meares, who is stepping down after 15 years as our leader. I also want to send our graduating class positive thoughts and continued success on the next leg of their journey. I continue to recognize and appreciate what an incredible opportunity we have been given to be able to work with and be involved in the lives of the graduate students who attend our great School of Social Work. We hope that all graduates stay connected to the school and particularly to the Field Office because about two years from now I plan to recruit new field instructors from your group!

We also extend our congratulations to the OFI undergraduate work study students who graduate this term: Reno Rovito, a economics major who has been with OFI since he was a freshman, as well as Hannah Briolat, who majored in biology. We thank Hannah for her flexibility as she temporarily joins our administrative team in OFI for the summer months.

I also need to thank Sara Gold, MSW (in a few short days!) who has worked in OFI as a work-study student for many months, taking on many roles including the Editor of this newsletter and convener of a Student Dialogue Feedback Group that met last month. She has worked diligently to keep the student perspective alive and well in OFI, and has also functioned as a Student Peer Facilitator for the foundation field seminar. Her contributions are significant and appreciated. I also need to mention and thank the Freud Fellows, Cerese Carrington, Ashley Purnell, and Victoria Smith. They have been instrumental in the development of this edition of the newsletter. In addition, without our Student Peer Facilitators, our Winter Term Foundation Field Seminar would not have had such a positive response, nor would it have been as much fun! Many of our student peers are graduating, so we send them good wishes as well. Those graduating include: Sara Gold, Shannon Johnson, Liz Kreick, and Darcie Thomsen.

We hope that you find this edition of the newsletter interesting and informative. We are excited to share our Winter Term Agency Spotlights, and we extend our appreciation for the time and energy all of the

field instructors have devoted to field training. We are also excited to spotlight Mr. Sean DeFour, LMSW, a current field instructor and member of the SSW Alumni Board of Governors.

I have been told that Spring is *really* on the way, so please take time to smell the flowers and to enjoy some of the good weather that has to get here soon!

## Name the Newsletter Contest Winners!

We are very excited to announce the winners (there was a tie!) of the "Name the OFI Newsletter Contest": Samantha Stevens and Missy Orge! We appreciate their creative thoughts, and thank those who contributed to the Espresso Royale gift cards they received as thank you gifts. Our new name is "**FIELD NOTES.**" We would love to include an article about something that is making a significant difference in the lives of those we work with in field instruction, so please send us any and all of your ideas and "notes".



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## Alumnus Profile: Sean DeFour

By Cerise Carrington, MSW Candidate

Ever wonder where alumni from the School of Social Work are now? Sean DeFour is one alumnus who continues to excel in the field while still contributing and giving back to the school.

Mr. DeFour currently serves as the Wayne County Regional Director for Judson Center, a multi-county non-profit human service agency serving south-east Michigan. In his current position, he serves as chief administrator for approximately 60 full-time staff and nine programs which include foster care, specialized foster care for medically fragile children, adoption, three family preservation programs, outpatient mental health counseling, a 12 bed respite home for children and adults, and a supported employment program for developmentally disabled adults.

Upon graduating from the University of

Michigan with a Bachelors degree in Political Science, Mr. DeFour contributed three years to the field before returning to SSW, where he received a Master of Social Work with a concentration in Community Organization/Children, Youth, and Families. His experience includes work as a case manager for a juvenile justice diversion program, a chemical dependency therapist, and a family and crisis counselor.

When asked about how the SSW has contributed to his professional career, Mr. DeFour shared, "The MSW program gave me the skills, experience, and knowledge to take my practice to the next level. It also gave me the theoretical and practical foundation that made it possible to translate my existing and newly honed skills to a variety of practice settings and contexts." In regards to taking skills learned in the classroom into the field he stated, "Seeing how classroom lessons transfer to the real world and learning how to apply them properly

through trial and error is really where the field experience had its impact on my career."

Aside from his position at Judson Center, Mr. DeFour also serves as the vice president of the Alumni Board of Governors of the School of Social Work, and as Chair of the Professional Development Committee. Mr. DeFour believes, "One of the greatest assets graduates of the SSW have is each other. Whether through donations to the school or the BOG scholarship fund, being a field instructor, presenting at a workshop, or partnering with the faculty to evaluate a program or develop best practice, I believe the alumni play a crucial role in shaping the field, even through small actions such as these."

"Staying a part of the school is a way to stay connected to a place and people who played an important role in shaping who I am" says Mr. DeFour.

**"One of the greatest assets graduates of the SSW have is each other."**

## Thank You Winter 2008 Peer Facilitators!

By Sara Gold, MSW Candidate

Another successful term of foundation field seminars has come to an end. Our co-facilitated model – where MSW student peer facilitators partner with the OFI staff members – has been receiving positive feedback from the OFI team, the peer facilitators, and the seminar participants themselves. The foundation field seminar has come a long way in the past few months and continues to evolve to meet students' needs.

This term our peer facilitators were: Christopher Joseph, a dual degree student with Public Health concentrating in Interpersonal practice and Health, Emily Farber, a Community Organizing and Aging student and also a Geriatric Fel-

low, Liz Kreick, a Community Organizing and Community and Social Systems Student who will be graduating this term, Darcie Thomsen, a Social Policy and Evaluation and Community and Social Systems Student who is graduating this term, Sara Gold, a Social Policy and Evaluation and Community and Social Systems student who will be graduating this term, and Shannon Johnson a dual degree student with Public Policy and a Community Organizing and Community and Social Systems student who also graduates this term.

A big "thank you" also goes out to the OFI team for being such great "co's" and for letting us be a part of the process.



Pictured from top left: Chris Joseph, Emily Farber, Liz Kreick, Darcie Thomsen. Pictured from Bottom Left: Sara Gold and Shannon Johnson.

## International Field Placement: Costa Rica

By Victoria Smith, MSW Candidate



Students traveling to Costa Rica from Left to Right: Abigail Konyndyk, Jerusha Haasenritter, Carey Wiese, Jenn Sanders, Nellie Kim, and Ann Notier

OFI would like to acknowledge and congratulate our students who will be traveling abroad to participate in a field placement in Costa Rica during the Spring/Summer term 2008. Jerusha Haasenritter, Nellie Kim, Abigail Konyndyk, Ann Notier, Jenn Sanders, and Carey Wiese will soon be on their way to Costa Rica with faculty member Robert Miller.

Each student will have the opportunity to integrate their classroom knowledge and stateside field practicum while enhancing their skills as culturally competent social workers.

## Agency Spotlight: Jewish Family Services

By Cerise Carrington, MSW Candidate

Jewish Family Services of Metropolitan Detroit (JFS) has collaborated with the School of Social Work in order to provide field placement opportunities to both clinical and management students. JFS is a nonprofit organization located in West Bloomfield, MI, with another location in Oak Park, MI. Services provided by the agency include counseling, case management, hospice services, mentoring, financial counseling, and adoption services to those in the community.

Students placed at Jewish Family Services have the opportunity to work with a range of populations, including children and adolescents, families, and the elderly. Students work with these individuals by helping to strengthen family life and independence.

The students will be partnering with the Costa Rican Government, Reto Juvenil Internacional, and the United Nations. The students will focus on a community development project in two rural communities in the Guanacaste region, which is just south of Costa Rica's border with Nicaragua. Major emphasis will be placed on sustainable organic farming and pulperia businesses. In addition to responding requests from the community, students will use their evaluation, strategic planning, policy development and advocacy skills.

As an added benefit of this field placement experience, the students will take Spanish lessons in San Pedro, the home of the School of Social Work at the University of Costa Rica. In their free time, students will be able to travel and explore the country. They can enjoy recreational activities such as white water rafting, hiking, exploring the rainforest, and visiting scenic beaches.

Upon their return to the United States in August, the students will debrief with Professor Miller, Dr. Zinn, and the Office of Field Instruction to discuss their field-based experiences in Costa Rica.

Erica Saum, Program Director of School Based Services and Computer Training, notes that JFS looks forward to receiving University of Michigan Social Work students as they are able to provide the agency with new and fresh ideas that they are learning in the classroom.

Clinically focused students working at Jewish Family Services have the opportunity to learn a variety of skills. These students take on a full caseload that involves intake, termination, diagnosis, and interaction with the staff psychiatrist.

Management students working within the agency have the opportunity to enhance their skill set as well. These students learn to assess program needs, fundraise, pro-

vide community outreach, and conduct evaluations.

Abby Konyndyk shared, "I am super excited about going to Costa Rica. I think it will be an excellent experience and a great way to determine my interest in international social work."

Some of the students have been interested in doing international social work for some time. Jenn Sanders feels that this experience will allow her to have a better perspective on global social work issues and raise awareness as to how the U.S. impacts Costa Rica.

Abby Konyndyk shares some helpful tips for future students interested in having an international field placement. She advises, "Get a checklist of what you have to get done with dates listed, get to know early who will be traveling abroad with you, and remember to advocate for yourself."

If you want to visit different parts of the country, or integrate your classroom and field experience together, try an international field placement! Please contact Ziehyun Huh, Program Coor. for the Office of Global Affairs: [ziehyun@umich.edu](mailto:ziehyun@umich.edu).

vide community outreach, and conduct evaluations.

Students placed at Jewish Family Services also have the opportunity to participate in monthly didactics and various other seminars and programming provided by the agency.

Interns are encouraged to use their own interests to develop new programs within the agency. Social Work interns have recently helped to create a teen girls workshop, a children's group, and a women's empowerment group.



## Agency Spotlight: Counseling and Psychological Services

By Ashley Purnell, MSW Candidate

"Life without struggle isn't life at all; it's a journey not a destination to arrive at. If we can learn to see life this way then we can enjoy the trip along the way."

**"While this placement is very challenging, it serves as a great stepping-stone in the journey"**

These are the words of Tom Morson, a clinical social worker of 30 years who serves as a supervisor and the coordinator of the Social Work Internship Program at the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) center in the Michigan Union. The staff and Social Work interns at

CAPS provide counseling services for University of Michigan students of all ages and socio-cultural backgrounds.

Clients typically come to CAPS once the imperfections of life begin to surface. Issues clients present usually have to do with family, relationships, cultural and social adjustment, self-identity, and a host of other perceived stressors that seem to throw life into a whirlwind of instability.

As a benefit to the blossoming clinical social worker, CAPS serves as beacon of resources with its multidisciplinary and multicultural staff that will assist the developing social worker in exploring their possible niche in the field of mental and social health services. Based on a traditional strength and empowerment perspective, students placed at CAPS are exposed to frequent skill building seminars and workshops, audiovisual counseling session analysis, collaborative team meetings, and

ample supervision.

Not only does this field placement serve as a great resource for resume building, but more importantly, it helps the future clinician expand their knowledge, skills, and experiential base to be better prepared for entering the world of social work.

While this placement is very challenging, it serves as a great stepping-stone in the journey of exploring one's professional identity in the field of social work. If you are interested in applying for this enriching internship, you must be a 2nd year 20-month Interpersonal Practice in Mental Health student for consideration. Contact Oliva A. Kuester, LMSW, in OFI for more information (oakuster@umich.edu).

## Winter 2008 Field Instructor Training



This term, we hosted a successful field instructor training in January with a great group who received CEUs for their time. At the training, first time field instructors learned the "ins and outs" of the U-M 's Social Work field placement requirements as well as what to expect as they welcome MSW student interns in their agencies.

## 2008 Board of Governors Practicum Award Winners

By Elizabeth Harbeck Voshel (Betsy) , MSW, LMSW, ACSW  
Assistant clinical Professor - Director of Field Instruction



Since we will not have a Spring/Summer edition of this newsletter, we want to take this opportunity to recognize those students who applied and received SSW Board of Governors Practicum Award. They are as follows: Nichole Goetz, Jerusha Haasenritter, Nellie Kim, Abigail Konyndyk, Kathryn McCriskin, Anna Notier, Jennifer Sanders,

MeShon Watkins, William Wiese. They will be sharing their talents as field students around the country and globe in the summer of 2008.

This award was established in 2006 in order to assist the growing number of U-M MSW students interested in pursuing out-of-state and international field placements. This

award will help students finance the expenses associated with their travel, room and board, transportation, and professional attire. Students apply and compete for various award amounts.

This award has been created by the SSW Board of Governor's in consultation with the SSW Development Office.

## Surviving the Summer Commute

By Ashley Purnell, MSW Candidate



As the price for gas continues to soar, the balance in some of our accounts takes a nosedive to zero. Those social work students who will commute as far as Detroit, Lansing, and beyond, four days a week this summer will feel the financial sting the most. With prices at the pump predicted to break \$4 for one gallon of regular gas, many students will look into ways to conserve their funds, and cut down on gas usage to help save the environment.

While abstinence is always the number one recommendation, it cannot always be practiced; for those of us who are required to commute, carpooling may be a good option to consider. If you are interested in carpooling you can place an "ad" in the weekly School of Social Work Marketplace email. Send your "ad" to [ssw.marketplace@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.marketplace@umich.edu) no later than 3pm on Wednesdays. Marketplace is sent out to the social work community on Thursday afternoons. Linking up with someone at your site, or

others who are placed in close proximity, may be ideal. For those of us that have no other choice than to drive, here are some tips to increase your fuel efficiency.

### Park & Walk, Bike, or Bus

At times you may have stops that are in close proximity. During those times, park between sites, and get your body in motion. You will burn calories and save gas, thus benefiting your health and the environment.

### Know Where You Are Going & Combine Trips

You will save fuel and time with directions and an itinerary of errands. Also, avoid driving during rush hour, as that will use more time and gas.

### Drive at a Constant Speed

Use cruise control for highway commute, and avoid having to break or stop unnecessarily. Also, don't tailgate, and slow down! Acceleration uses more gas, and speeding (5-15 mph over speed limit) over short highway trips yields no benefit, and brings about aggravation as you catch up to slower traffic.

### Maintain Your Car

- Change Oil every 3 months or 3,000 miles
- Check and Replace Air Filters
- Give Your Engine a Tune-Up

## 2008 Winter Agency Fair

The OFI Agency Fair was held as a part of the annual SSW Spring Open House where over 100 potential students participated. The March 2008 Spring Agency Fair was a great success! This was in large part due to the social work interns who graciously offered to attend the fair on behalf of their field placements and who eagerly shared their knowledge and wisdom with potential and incoming students.

(Left) Elizabeth Mendez, MSW Candidate and intern at the Ginsberg Center, speaks to incoming students about her field placement experience.



# A Student's Perspective: Internship and Supervision at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center— Ann Arbor, MI

By Angela Johnston, MSW

My MSW internship placement was the Veterans' Affairs Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI, in the Hospital-based Intensive Outpatient Treatment (HIOT) program. The HIOT program is positioned within the outpatient psychiatry department. HIOT is a dual diagnosis intensive outpatient treatment program that serves U.S. military veterans with co-occurring mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. The program's goals include avoiding inpatient hospitalization, increasing stabilization of psychiatric symptoms, and helping veterans live more functional and satisfying lives.

Students placed with HIOT are given the opportunity to develop many skills, including intake assessments for HIOT, psychosocial and learning assessments, case management duties, treatment planning, discharge planning, individual therapy, co-facilitation in group treatment, and engaging and interacting with a multidisciplinary staff as well as with other departments in the hospital.

In addition, the VA Medical Center setting allows for numerous opportunities to interact with multidisciplinary teams in outpatient and inpatient psychiatry, which is comprised of the Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Clinics.

There is also an opportunity to gain experience in a broad range of treatment modes, utilizing a variety of evidence-based clinical interventions. For instance, I was able to co-facilitate groups focusing on anxiety disorders by utilizing a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approach with Joe Glass, LLMSW. Students are fortunate to have other social work staff in the Mental Health Clinic willing to teach them and add to their training and experience. This kind of hands-on skill development, such as co-facilitating with an experienced clinician, has offered me a unique and intensive training experience, one that has given me an advantage in preparing for my future work, and adding to my marketability as a candidate for job placement.

My supervisor, Deborah Amaya, LMSW, consistently offers clinical guidance, and

provides a model of professionalism and sound clinical skill representation for her students. As a supervisor, Deborah's modeling of her various clinical, administrative, and supervisory roles offers a solid foundational understanding for how to operate as a social worker functioning in many capacities.

Deborah supervises a group of MSW students at the VA, and manages to foster a unique cohesiveness among the group. She does this in part by implementing weekly group supervision meetings where we gather to process the demanding areas of our work lives. This has proven essential for us to achieve what we all spend so much time advocating for on behalf of our patients: self care, a support network, and problem-solving skills. Deborah's supervisory style is one that is truly empowering and supportive. She is available, accessible, direct, and clear in her expectations. She expects that students will make mistakes, but pushes us to use our mistakes as problem solving lessons. She balances her spirit of kindness and humor with structure, honest feedback, and good training. She has been an excellent supervisor, one who has taught me more than I can articulate here; she is a teacher and a mentor in the truest sense.

**"This field placement fosters safe learning and encourages intellectual curiosity"**

The HIOT program is an excellent field placement, and is enriching in a variety of ways. The broad range and availability of opportunities makes it appealing to many students. The environment can be intense and unpredictable, but safety is continually evaluated. This field placement fosters safe learning and encourages intellectual curiosity, while also providing opportunities for the development of sound clinical skills. It is a place where students are encouraged to integrate and apply classroom learning to clinical practice. The atmosphere of this placement also strikes an appropriate work-life balance by placing an emphasis on self-care. The clinicians here understand that attention to self-care enables clinicians and staff to facilitate meaningful change in patients' lives.

## 2008 Community Advisory Board

The Office of Field Instruction would like to thank the members of the Community Advisory Board for their continued involvement with the School of Social Work.

This year's members include Faye Askew-King from SOS Community Crisis Center; Carol Burnell-Jackson from POWER; John Carey from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital; Carly Corpolongo from SafeHouse Center; Kimberli

Cumming from Women's Center of America; Deborah Amaya from the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center; Katie Doyle from Ozone House; Doug Plant from United Way for Southeastern MI; Kathleen Russell from Seagway Products; Laurie Ryan from Community Investment Partners; Rob Ryan from Oakwood Heritage Hospital; Beth Spencer from U-M Medical Center Senior Resource Center, Silver Club; Jim Toy from U-M Office of Institu-

tional Equity, U-M Psychological Clinic; Geneva Williams from City Connect Detroit; Tim Wintermute from the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation; and John Yablonky from Christ Child House.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!



## Job Opportunities with the Department of Human Services

Interested in Child Welfare positions in the State of Michigan?

Michigan's Department of Human Services (DHS) provides for public child welfare services that include children's protective services, foster care, juvenile justice, and adoption.

Do you have a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a field related to human services? The State of Michigan is looking for full-time employees in various counties throughout the state.

Apply now!

Child Protection specialists are responsible for investigating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect by a parent, legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the

child's health, and for assuring that children are protected from further physical or emotional harm. They also ensure that families are helped, when possible, to provide care for their children.

Foster Care specialists provide placement and supervision of children who are the responsibility of DHS, and are under the jurisdiction of the Family Court, or children whose parents have voluntarily released their parental rights. The goal of Foster Care is to give the child a home and a family to care for him/her until he/she is either returned to his/her birth parents or adopted.

To Apply:

Go to [www.michigan.gov/mdcs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs)

Click on **Employment Information**

Click on **State Job Postings**

Click on **View Entire List**

Click on **Sort by Job Title**

Click on **Services Specialist 9-11B**

Scroll down to **How to Apply**

Print out the forms, include necessary documents (i.e. resume and transcripts), send to:

DHS  
235 S. Grand Ave., Suite 708  
Lansing, MI 48909

Questions? Call 517-373-8873



## Helpful Links

- University of Michigan School of Social Work [www.ssw.umich.edu](http://www.ssw.umich.edu)
- University of Michigan School of Social Work Office of Field Instruction [www.ssw.umich.edu/ofi](http://www.ssw.umich.edu/ofi)
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW) [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)
- Information about Social Work Licensing in Michigan [Michigan Department of Community Health](http://Michigan Department of Community Health)

*Congratulations, Winter 2008 Graduates!  
The Office of Field Instruction wishes you  
great success as you begin your  
social work career!*



*“Reach Out, Raise Hope, Change Society”*

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