Girls Group
Celebrating 11 Years

International Community Organizing Course: Human Trafficking/Prostitution

Inaugural Recipient of Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship Motivated Toward Success
FEATURES

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Our social work faculty, students and graduates excel at examining issues from different perspectives to achieve new responses to ongoing problems.

Our faculty and students are developing new collaborations with other U-M units, schools, hospitals, and organizations to confront the tough challenges facing our communities. In this issue, we describe how one group of students and faculty from across campus came together to encourage critical thinking on global issues and study new approaches to problems including human trafficking, prostitution, juvenile justice and abandoned urban spaces. The group participated in a U-M class and travelled to Berlin and Amsterdam to gain global perspectives. The program has received funding from the U-M International Institute to extend its work on important global challenges to a new cohort in 2015.

Another effort, the Girls Group, is celebrating 11 years of mentoring in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti schools and so far, 100 percent of the girls in the group have graduated from high school and attended college. SSW is proud to have an alumnus serving as program director, current MSW students working in field placement with the organization, and several Girls Group graduates enrolled at SSW. These efforts exemplify the numerous projects underway at our School.

We are also more than two-thirds of the way toward our campaign goal of $16.5 million. Your financial support provides our students and faculty with the education and tools they need to respond to the needs of our communities and confront tough challenges. Together we can continue to build partnerships and work towards new solutions. To learn more about the campaign see the back cover.

Last, I write to let you know that I will be stepping down as dean of SSW at the end of the 2015–16 academic year. It was a difficult decision to make but family issues have emerged that need my time and energy. Working at SSW has been and continues to be a pleasure and a privilege. The provost will open a search this semester for my successor, and I will keep you posted on the process. Meanwhile, I will be working hard with the entire SSW community for the next eighteen months to continue our new research, innovative curriculum and on-going efforts with the individuals, families, communities and agencies we serve.

With great appreciation to all of you,

Laura Lein, Dean
Katherine Reebel Collegiate Professor of Social Work
Professor of Anthropology
The Girls Group, a program to develop self-sufficiency in young women in grades 6 though 12 who have the potential to become first-generation college students, celebrated its 11th anniversary with a brunch for more than 300 supporters on November 15.

Girls Group provides year-round programming and mentoring to develop character, leadership, self-confidence and social consciousness, including the desire and ability to mentor others. Since its inception, 100 percent of Girls Group high school students have graduated and gone on to attend college.

Program Director Alissa Little, MSW ’11, had her field placement with Girls Group under the direction of Executive Director Sue Schooner in 2010–11. She felt such a strong commitment to the Girls Group mission and joined the staff immediately after graduation in 2011.

“Girls Group started 11 years ago with 6 girls, and today we have 250 girls with programming in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti schools,” Little said. “Currently we have interns from the University of Michigan School of Social Work, Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University.”

During the anniversary celebration a panel discussion included young women who are participating in the program, a graduate of the program, a high school principal and a parent. Each panelist shared their experiences with attendees.

Clague Middle School Principal Che Carter has had the program in his school since Fall 2013. “The Girls Group participants show an improvement in academics and behavior, and as a result they have an eye on the future,” Carter said. “We have a limit to how many girls we can take into the program, and we hope it continues to grow because we love the success that comes with it.”

The program includes individual mentoring and counseling including homework and organization support for high school and middle school girls. Each month they participate in community service projects, art and cultural activities and youth-led leadership council. Girls Group also provides mother-daughter workshops and college prep assistance.
Alexia Burton is a graduate of the Girls Group program, completed her undergraduate degree at Tuskegee University and is currently working on her MSW with the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

“The Girls Group was an amazing support system for me and gave me the confidence to express myself,” Burton said. “The world is yours if you envision it!”

Burton met with First Lady Michelle Obama not once, but twice, during Girls Group opportunities.

“Girls Group helped me become the woman I am today,” Burton said. “They gave me confidence and helped me realize that I have limitless potential.”

Alecia Girma, a Girls Group graduate who is now attending Washtenaw Community College, said, “I wouldn’t be here today without the Girls Group... they held my hand and gave me the support I needed during a very tough time in my life.”

Azira Azzizudin-McCloud, a senior at Skyline High School, said her best memory of Girls Group is her college tour of historically black universities.

“I wouldn’t have been able to do a college tour without the help of Girls Group,” Azzizudin-McCloud said. “They taught me how to follow my passion.”

For more information about Girls Group and the year-round programming and mentoring they provide, please go to GIRLSGROUP.ORG
Jake Heller combines a biomedical engineering major with a Community Action and Social Change (CASC) minor, a program for students interested in developing knowledge, skills, and experiences in community action and social change. Some might consider this an unlikely combination, bringing together right brain and left brain thinking, and yet Heller discovered this is exactly what he wanted as he searched for a program with a leadership focus.

“I like the opportunity to explore identity based learning and better understand how people are integral in developing technology,” Heller said.

“The purpose of science is to make life better for people, but if we don’t understand the people we’re creating for, then we really miss a big piece of a potentially successful outcome.”

Through the CASC program, Heller has learned to appreciate the importance of thinking about the work, how people treat one another based on privilege and circumstances, and how all of that feeds into the process of developing technology.

Heller grew up in a family of low socioeconomic status in Indiana where he attended a self-described inner city, low-income high school in an underprivileged area. He chose his biomedical engineering major based on his interest and on the potential income he would earn after graduation.

His experience with the CASC program gave him a better understanding of how others perceive him based on his social identities.

“Not only did the CASC program help me understand myself, but it also taught me how other people see me,” Heller said.

A component of Heller’s CASC program was working with the Summer Youth Dialogues program in metro Detroit, where he facilitated dialogues with high school students in the city and suburbs.

“At the beginning of the program, I didn’t fully appreciate why we were working with students of the same race/ethnicity as ourselves, and then I realized that I wouldn’t have been ready to work with another group of students with a different racial/ethnic identity, until I understood myself and where I came from...and that was powerful,” Heller said.

Heller has learned that he is often perceived differently based on his living and working situation.

“I’m more than the sum of my identities and U-M has helped me head into the right direction for whatever that path might be.”
In social justice work, I’m sometimes viewed as just a white man, ignoring my other identities,” Heller said. “One of my mentors taught me to try to be my whole self all of the time, instead of silencing parts of myself.”

He attributes CASC to helping him contextualize his background, and to managing all of the elements of his life.

“CASC has a big focus on ‘now what’ and how to help other people have a better quality of life,” Heller said, “and how to be sensitive to other people’s issues.”

Heller says his next challenge to is put all of his learning into place as he approaches graduation this year.

Since finding a social justice community at the University of Michigan, Jake is rethinking his career path and considering an MSW after he completes his engineering degree.

“I’m more than the sum of my identities and the University of Michigan has helped me head into the right direction for whatever that path might be,” Heller said.
Michael Joiner-Hill grew up on Detroit’s west side. As one of six kids raised in a single-parent family, he knows first-hand the difficulties, as well as the dangers, facing vulnerable, at-risk youth.

Joiner-Hill credits his stern, yet loving, mother with being the driving force which kept her kids from the gang activity and violence in their community by steering them toward volunteerism, athletics and most importantly, education. Joiner-Hill excelled in all of those areas, gaining admission into the University of Michigan, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology. Joiner-Hill continued his education and says one of his proudest moments came when he was accepted into U-M School of Social Work.

Joiner-Hill believes his story has a very important message. Since recently completing his MSW, he plans to bring the message of perseverance of education back to the young people who so desperately need to hear it.

“I have a personal success story to share that could be helpful to them, and I am going back to Detroit to proudly represent that message.”

Joiner-Hill attributes some of his success to the scholarships he received during his MSW program.

“My Clinical Scholars Program scholarship allows me the invaluable opportunity to work with others who share my passion for helping under-represented people and communities.”

“I applied to the Clinical Scholars Program because it’s the one that I felt would be most beneficial to me for helping people with the same barriers that I faced growing up. And I can’t emphasize enough the importance of the relationships I’ve formed through this program. The other clinical scholars and our faculty have been incredibly supportive. It would be so easy to get lost in the shuffle here, but being part of the CSP, I haven’t experienced that. We’re more than just colleagues...we’re friends.”
Amy Krings, MSW ’03, a doctoral candidate in the Social Work and Political Science Joint Doctoral Program, conducts research focused on the ways in which poor communities leverage their resources to make economic development equitable and accountable.

“I wanted to study marginalized groups working toward improving their health and quality of life, despite being confronted with environmental injustices,” Krings said. “Without protection, residents living near hazardous developments such as interstates, garbage incinerators, and waste water treatment plants experience negative health impacts, while the broader community benefits,” Krings said.

She is interested in exploring policies which reduce or alleviate environmental impacts, as well as the politics within community-based campaigns seeking to make large-scale development accountable to local concerns.

Krings dissertation, Building Bridges Where There is Nothing Left to Burn: The Campaign for Environmental Justice within a Southwest Detroit Border Community, is an ethnographic study of a community’s efforts to secure protections and investments in exchange for hosting a new international bridge crossing.

She has been following the Delray Southwest Development Community Benefits Coalition and its campaign to secure a policy known as a community benefits agreement, which if successful, will provide legal protections to community members, some of whom will be relocated and others of whom will have a new international border crossing in the neighborhoods, including thousands of diesel trucks each day.

“The Community Benefits Coalition believes that the new bridge has the potential to bring new
economic development to the region,” Krings said. “At the same time, it will bring noise and pollution to their residents. Rather than asking this community to bear the burdens associated with hosting the new crossing, it is advocating for a number of policies and programs which will protect the health of residents, especially their efforts to reduce health impacts like asthma and cancer.”

Krings’ research draws from more than three years of participant observation (2010–2014), including seventy in-depth interviews and an analysis of media coverage, and it examines why and how power dynamics influence this neighborhood group’s goal and tactical selection, ability to build alliances, and campaign outcomes. She concludes by demonstrating why environmental injustices are reproduced at a local level, often in invisible ways.

Ultimately, it is her plan to publish her dissertation as a book. It is her hope that by carefully demonstrating the nature of ethical and strategic dilemmas confronted in communities like Delray, her audience will have greater empathy for people living in environmental sacrifice zones. She believes that by exposing difficult decisions that community groups in environmental sacrifice zones confront, it will catalyze political reforms which will systematically protect and benefit the nation’s most vulnerable neighborhoods, rather than leaving them to make the best of unfair and unjust situations.

She will defend her dissertation in the spring of 2015.

Awards Amy Krings has received:

• Irene and William Gambrill Fellowship
• Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship
• Regents Merit Fellowship
• Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant
• Association for Community Organization and Social Administration Emerging Scholar Award
• Gerald R. Ford Fellowship
• UROP Outstanding Research Mentor Award

Dissertations Defended

CLAUDETTE GRINNELL-DAVIS
Social Work and Psychology
Toward an Etiology of Child Maltreatment: An Ecological Study of Primary Caregivers At Risk of Child Welfare System Involvement
Assistant Professor of Child Welfare and Social Work, University of Nebraska Omaha, Omaha, NE

SOJUNG PARK
Social Work and Psychology
Differential Aging In Place
Assistant Professor, Washington University of Saint Louis, MO

GUILLERMO SANHUEZA
Social Work and Sociology
Exploring correlates of Prison Violence in Chilean Prisons: examining nationwide, administrative data
Assistant Professor of Social Work, Pontifical Catholic University, Santiago, Chile

JONAH SIEGEL
Social Work and Sociology
Prisoner Reentry, Parole Violations, and the Persistence of the Surveillance State
Social Work Resident with the Learning Community on Poverty and Inequality, University of Michigan
STUDY ABROAD PROVIDES PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

HUMAN TRAFFICKING/PROSTITUTION, JUVENILE JUSTICE/DELINQUENCY, TRANSFORMATION OF ABANDONED SPACES INTO Viable COMMUNITY USE
The University of Michigan School of Social Work believes students should not only need to be highly competitive professionals within the United States, but with the age of globalization, be able to either apply global principles on a national level or be prepared to work internationally post-graduation.

Professor of Social Work Larry M. Gant received funding from U-M Global Course Connections and the International Institute’s Experiential Learning Fund for the Winter 2014 and subsequent study abroad component during May 2014. For the first time, faculty led an integrative group of MSW’s, who received partial scholarships, and undergraduate students on a study abroad program that is funded again in 2015.

“One of our goals is to encourage critical thinking on different approaches and strategies about similar issues that face us nationally and globally, including human trafficking/prostitution, juvenile justice/delinquency, and transforming abandoned spaces into viable community use,” Gant said. “We hope that as students enter new employment opportunities after graduating from post-secondary education, they are highly competitive in shaping new policies, advanced strategies and diverse modes of approaching issues that face entire nations.”

The study abroad program took place in Amsterdam and Berlin where students focused on topics including human trafficking and juvenile justice, which also affect US cities including Detroit.

“Detroit is one of the top ten cities in the United States with the highest prevalence rates in human trafficking,” Gant said. “We are interested to know how other advanced western democracies address the same problems.”

Students and host city partners provided each other with detailed presentations about prevention, intervention and treatment strategies.

“We learned for example that in Amsterdam, despite the legalization of prostitution, Human Trafficking has not significantly decreased,” Christiane Edwards, project coordinator said. “Both, Amsterdam and Berlin partners wanted to learn more about our approaches and strategies in Detroit and Michigan overall.”

Adrienna Perales, MSW ’14, along with other students with the Global Course Connections spent time with the Prostitution Information Center (PIC) in Amsterdam to learn more about the business of being a sex worker. PIC was established in 1994 by Mariska Majoer, who began working as a prostitute at the age of 16. The non-profit organization played an important role in the change of Dutch laws regarding prostitution and the protection of sex workers in Amsterdam.

“Amsterdam considers sex workers normalized and provides grass roots outreach with sex workers to offer sex education, healthcare information and condom distribution,” Perales said.

“The information we gained during our study abroad was directly supported by our U-M SSW Theories of Change course and the focus on harm reduction,” explained Emily Whitley, MSW ’14. “Harm reduction has been used in nursing and drug and alcohol treatment with the approach of what is the safest, healthiest way to do it. People are going to engage in sex work... so it’s important to understand how to make this safe.”

“While juvenile justice and delinquency is not only a Detroit issue, we know that incarceration rates are staggering,” Whitley said. “We wanted to understand better what our partners are doing differently in keeping juvenile justice and delinquency rates lower. While overall immigrant youth is targeted more than white youth in either city, there is huge emphasis placed on prevention, diversion and reintegration programs.”

Lorenzo Shaw-Graham, an LSA student studying sociology, also participated in the study abroad program.

“I didn’t know too much about sex trafficking, but I have been involved with NAACP and youth incarceration, and after attending this program, I’d like to see more training for youth who are incarcerated... similar to what we saw in Berlin where prisoners receive a certificate for the skilled trade they learn while they’re incarcerated,” Shaw-Graham said.

Both Amsterdam and Berlin offer interesting approaches to transforming abandoned spaces into viable community use through gardening, graffiti arts and high jacking of abandoned spaces. A few examples exist in Detroit, such as the Brightmoor Community, Heidelberg project or Springwells Village in Southwest Detroit.

“While we certainly can’t transplant every interesting policy approach from our European partners to our own communities or work places here in Detroit, students are now more thoughtful and flexible in shaping and/or implementing creative strategies and policies around these or other areas of social justice concerns,” Gant said.

Lorenzo Shaw-Graham, an LSA student studying sociology, also participated in the study abroad program.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes School of Social Work alumni whose achievements exemplify the values of the School of Social Work and who have made an exceptional impact on the profession, the community and/or Social Work education. The award is presented annually during the university-wide reunion weekend each fall.

This year, we honor an inspiring list of alumni who were recognized by Dean Laura Lein at the School of Social Work All Class Reunion Lunch on Friday, October 31, 2014.

A volunteer committee of three to five members of the SSW Alumni Board of Governors was charged with overseeing the nomination and selection process for this prestigious ward. The committee reviews all nominations and provides a recommendation to the dean of the U-M School of Social Work.

Larry Davis, MSW ’73, PhD ’77
Larry Davis was honored for his perpetual dedication to the impact of race, gender and class issues on society. He is the founder and director of the Center on Race and Social Problems, and is currently dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh. Davis has received research funding from the National Science foundation, the National Institute of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health.

“Social work has changed a lot over the years...the elevator goes all the way to the ground. Social workers study the problem, and we have the license to do what we study...most other professions don’t. The joint degree doctoral program at the University of Michigan was a godsend...it satisfied my intellectual curiosity and it was useful...practical. I was well grounded in theory and had a license to practice. I still think social work is a wonderful profession.”

Robert Steger, MSW ’68
Robert Steger was commended for his continuous efforts to promote the health and well-being of United States service members, veterans and military families, and as a result, guided thousands of active and retired military members toward gaining control over their lives. During his distinguished 43-year Army career as an officer and a social worker, he has fought for improved services for the military community.

“I’m just one of the guys...and surprised by this honor. When I was selected back in ’75 to go to the University of Michigan School of Social Work, it didn’t bother them that I was a veteran, and I was grateful for that because in ’75 it was still Vietnam and the Army were not well liked. After receiving my degree, I re-joined the Army and served as a social worker to service members. At the time, social workers in the military sounded like an oxymoron, but it was a great career for me.”
Amy Good, MSW ’80

Amanda (Amy) Good was selected as a recipient for her commitment to community involvement as a model for overcoming obstacles and achieving success, in particular targeting homeless and high-risk girls and young women. She was part of the founding of Alternatives for Girls in Detroit and served as CEO since 1988, transforming the once volunteer-led project to a full-service agency, serving homeless and vulnerable girls and young women. In 2012, she was an adjunct course instructor at the U-M SSW during her Eugene Miller Fellowship.

“It’s a pleasure to have my work lifted up. My education as an undergrad and graduate student at U of M was important and valuable, but just as critical have been the connections, networking and the ongoing mentoring. The conversations shared among many of us throughout the state about strategies have been critical to making progress in social justice for our youth. We all want to have the greatest impact we can have...and one of the best ways is to pave a pathway for youth to find their voice, their power, and their roles as community members and leaders.”

Milton J. Robinson, MSW ’66

Milton Robinson was honored for his prominent career as a researcher, educator and practitioner in the civil rights, juvenile justice and international education sectors. In 2011, Robinson was inducted into the World Association for Cooperative Education Hall of Fame and in 2012, he was honored with the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship Award. He continues to create a more equitable society for youth in emerging nations of the Caribbean, in particular developing engineering-related competitions for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as generating scholarships for those students to matriculate in colleges and universities in the United States.

“The more things change...the more they seem to stay the same. I specialized in group work, which is no longer a discipline and is now woven into other programs. In the 1960s and 1970s when I was employed as president and CEO of the Flint Urban League, Battle Creek Area Urban League and Executive Director (CEO) of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, my career emphasis was on civil rights and seeking changes that positively impact minorities in Michigan. Recent events in places like Ferguson, MO and New York City appear to be a throw back to what was happening in the 60s and 70s. We’re making progress...but it’s taking us a long time to get there.”

Rosemary Sarri, PhD ’62

Rosemary Sarri was honored for her work with public policy issues on gender studies, deviant behavior, executive leadership, social policy and families and children in poverty. She has a remarkable history with SSW, from a junior faculty member in the 60s to her current position as a professor emerita, which has helped her become the world-renowned expert in areas of child/family welfare policy and juvenile/criminal justice systems. Sarri is a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, and has received numerous awards including the Council on Social Work Education’s Significant Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Association of Social Workers’ Presidential Award for Research, and the U-M Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award.

"The great teachers I had at U-M were a tremendous influence in my career as a social worker. Social Work has grown throughout the world and throughout my career, I worked in developing countries...watching social work blossom was a wonderful experience. Social work and education is what made a difference in South Korean after the war. South Korea is now one of the most successful countries in Asia. I’m very honored to receive this award...and it’s been a privilege to have been a social worker.”
The 2014 Fedele F. Fauri and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Conference “Disarming Youth Violence: Strategies that Work” was held November 19, to address the pressing social dilemma of youth violence.

The Fauri Memorial Conference is held annually to acknowledge former University of Michigan School of Social Work Dean and Vice President Fauri’s leadership and accomplishments in the field of child welfare. This year’s conference presented the work of professors, community activists and political leaders. Young people from Detroit also spoke about the complexities of youth violence in the country.

Keynote speakers James Garbarino, PhD, (the Maude C. Clarke Chair in Humanistic Psychology and founding Director of the Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University Chicago) and Andrew Papachristos, PhD (Associate Professor of Sociology, Public Health, and Law [adjunct] at Yale University) highlighted important perspectives through their research on understanding the origins and risks associated with youth violence and trauma in the United States. While approaching the topic with vastly different methodological frameworks, they both made clear that their ultimate goal is to find solutions to this social dilemma on both an individual and a societal level.

Garbarino’s talk focused on the importance of an ecological understanding of violence and the multiple contributors to youth violence. He highlighted how violence and trauma impacts developmental trajectories and accompanying traumas of young offenders of violence. He identified these areas as primary mechanisms to engage in prevention, and to consider their relevance in treatment and recovery. Papachristos approached the issue from a macro-perspective, speaking to the application of network science to understand social networks, neighborhoods, and interpersonal and gang violence. His work focuses on violence reduction strategies, most notably evident in his involvement with the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative and the Group Violence Reduction Strategy in Chicago.

U-M SSW Assistant Professor Desmond Patton, PhD, presented his qualitative research on the Digital Contagion of Youth Violence on Twitter, studying the widely known homicide of Gakirah Barnes, the alleged teenage queen of Chicago’s gangland, which he used to explore how and when gang-involved youth communicate aggression on Twitter. His findings illuminated the ways in which social media has become an important space for coping and expressing raw emotion by young people living in violent, urban neighborhoods, and therefore concludes that online interventions that target this population could be very beneficial. He indicated that the development of online interventions for youth is an important next line of research to explore.
In the afternoon, young members of Youth Power Movement led by Director Kayla Mason, MSW ’11, spoke about the reality of adolescence and youth violence in Detroit. These impressive young leaders spoke about the importance of peer mediation and restorative practices as mechanisms of change in adolescent relationships in schools. City of Detroit Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López, MSW ’07 followed this conversation with a discussion of the City’s Youth Development Task Force and the political paradigm shift to developing solutions to social problems.

The day ended with a panel on youth violence intervention approaches with Stacie Bowens, MSW ’00 (Wayne County Department of Human Services-Child and Family Services), Patrick Carter, MD (University of Michigan Injury Center) and Cheryl Myhand (Wish Ministries Inc.). Robert Ortega, MSW ’83, PhD ’91, Rosemary Sarri, PhD ’62, [Emerita], Shawna Lee, MSW ’01, PhD ’05, and Joseph Ryan, MSW ’96, PhD, University of Michigan School of Social Work faculty and members of the conference planning committee, facilitated lively conversations throughout the day between the presenters and the audience, paving the way for serious thought and critical perspectives in the School’s long-time commitment to child welfare and child well-being.
PUBLICATIONS

CHANG, EDWARD C.


CÓRDOVA, DAVID


DELVA, JORGE


GOLDMAN, KARLA


HIMLE, JOSEPH A.


HIMLE, JOSEPH A.; TAYLOR, ROBERT J.


HIMLE, JOSEPH A.; WEAVER, ADDIE


LEE, SHAWNA J.


LI, LYDIA W.


MILLER, REUBEN J.


NICKLETT, EMILY J.


NICKLETT, EMILY J.; TAYLOR, ROBERT J.


PATTON, DESMOND U.


PATTON, DESMOND U.; MILLER, REUBEN J.


RICHARDS-SCHUSTER, KATHERINE E.


RICHARDS-SCHUSTER, KATHERINE E.; RUFFOLO, MARY C.


RYAN, JOSEPH P.


TAYLOR, ROBERT J.; CHATTERS, LINDA M.


VONKUR-KAPLAN, DIANE


VOSHEL, ELIZABETH


WATKINS JACOBS, DAPHNE C.


WATKINS JACOBS, DAPHNE C.; KIEFFER, EDITH C.; SPENCER, MICHAEL


WEAVER, ADDIE; HIMLE, JOSEPH A.; TAYLOR, ROBERT J.


WITTMANN, DANIELA A.


ZEBRACK, BRADLEY J.


ACCOLADES


DAVID CORDOVA and JORGE DELVA presented their research, “A Community-Engaged Approach to Developing a Primary Care Substance Abuse Prevention and Sexual Health Promotion App,” at the annual conference of the Society for Prevention Research in Washington, DC.

LAURA LEIN was part of the Achieving Racial Equity Symposium, which produced its final report; she presented one of the examples featured in it — the curriculum on behavioral health disparities.


DAVID CORDOVA’S paper, “The Role of Intrapersonal and Ecodevelopmental Factors in the Lives of Latino Alternative High School Youth,” was published in the Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work. Co-authors include Amanda Ciofu (MSW ’13) and Kune Park (MSW ’13).

LUKE SHAEFER was cited in a New York Times op-ed about poverty and welfare.

KRISTIN SEEFELDT, along with the Urban Institute, wrote a report about jobless single mothers without financial assistance, which was published in The Atlantic.

DANIEL SAUNDERS was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to do research comparing intimate partner violence intervention practices and policies in New Zealand and the United States.

ROBERT TAYLOR organized the Summer Workshop on African American Aging Research held at the Institute for Social Research on June 4–6. This workshop was funded by the NIA funded center, Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research. Junior professors and post-docs from around the country attended the event. Former joint program doctoral students, KHARI BROWN and AMANDA TOLER WOODWARD were co-facilitators of this workshop. LAURA LEIN, TRINA SHANKS, LINDA CHATTERS, SEAN JOE and BRIAN PERRON spoke at this workshop.

ROBERT TAYLOR organized the Council on Social Work Education Minority Doctoral Fellows Summer Workshop held at the School of Social Work and Institute for Social Research on June 11–13. CSWE Doctoral Fellows and UM-SSW Joint Program doctoral students and other doctoral students from around the country attended the event.

DAPHNE WATKINS and DESMOND PATTON were co-facilitators of the event. LAURA LEIN, LINDA CHATTERS, BRIAN PERRON, and DAVID CORDOVA spoke at the event.

MICHAEL SPENCER was selected as the 2014 Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecturer at the Council on Social Work Education’s 60th Annual Program Meeting.

REUBEN MILLER’S article, “Devolving the carceral state: Race, prisoner reentry, and the micro-politics of urban poverty management” was published in the journal Punishment and Society.

LARRY GANT and TRINA SHANKS received an award from the Skillman Foundation to do a project with the Technical Assistance Center, providing technical assistance to the Skillman Foundation and the six neighborhoods which are part of the Skillman Good Neighborhoods program. More than 65,000 children live in these neighborhoods, roughly 30% of the child population in Detroit.

ANDREW GROGAN-KAYLOR and SHAWNA LEE’S article, “Parental spanking of 1-year-old children and subsequent child protective services involvement” published in Child Abuse and Neglect, was mentioned in the most recent newsletter of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across The Lifespan.

EMILY NICKLETT and ROBERT TAYLOR co-authored an article, “Racial/ethnic Predictors of Falls Among Older Adults: The Health and Retirement Study”, which was published in the Journal of Aging and Health.

EMILY NICKLETT, as part of a team led by Arbor Research Collaborative for Health, received a contract from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for the research, measurement, assessment, design, and analysis of innovative health care models.

EMILY NICKLETT’S research, on falling amongst the elderly, was featured in an article in Futurity.

ANDREW GROGAN-KAYLOR’S research on spanking is cited in New York Magazine.
EDIE KIEFFER and KATIE MITCHELL’S project, “The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA),” received a proclamation from Governor Rick Snyder declaring August 2014 as “Community Health Worker Appreciation Month” in the State of Michigan.

LUKE SHAEFER co-authored an article, “The Truth About Food Stamps” for The New Republic.

DESMOND PATTON interviewed with Cleveland Public Radio on street gangs’ online presence.

ROSEMARY SARRI published a paper entitled, “Intergenerational Incarceration: Risk Factors and Social Exclusion”.

LARRY GANT’S grant, “Community Building Partnership for Selected Detroit Communities” was funded by the Skillman Foundation.

ANDREW GROGAN-KAYLOR’S work with collaborators at U-M’s William Davidson Institute received mention in the Summer 2014 issue of the William Davidson Institute Review.

LESLIE HOLLINGSWORTH was awarded the SAGE/CSWE Innovative Teaching Award. Her application achieved the highest ranking among all submissions.

DESMOND PATTON was cited in a MLive article, “From Facebook to the streets: How social media is fueling youth violence in Kalamazoo”; he also interviewed with the Kalamazoo Gazette regarding the shooting.

SANDRA MOMPER was approved for funding by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for a National Institutes of Health Disparities Loan Repayment Program award.

LORRAINE GUTIÉRREZ received the Jane Addams Medallion for her exceptional long-term organizing work with multicultural communities in Detroit at the Fielder, Brown, Duffy Education Social Justice Festival.

REUBEN MILLER was selected as a 2014–15 Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research scholar. His project is a qualitative longitudinal study comparing the experiences of 54 older and younger formerly incarcerated men transitioning from prison back into their home communities in Detroit.

REUBEN MILLER was selected as a Junior Fellow of the Yale Urban Ethnography Project.

TONY ALVAREZ received the 2014 Michael Stratton Practitioners Award from the Association for Experiential Education.

TRINA SHANKS’ article, “Assets and African Americans: Attempting to Capitalize on Hopes for Children Through College Savings Accounts” was published in The Review of Black Political Economy journal.

LARRY ROOT presented at the 10th annual Beijing Forum, organized by Peking University. He was part of the panel session on “Social-Economic Development and State Governance in Comparative Perspective.

JOHN TROPMAN was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

SHAWNA LEE and ANDREW GROGAN-KAYLOR’S research on spanking was cited in the Detroit Free Press, BBC, the Guardian and various sports blogs reporting on the indictment of the Minnesota Viking running back Adrian Peterson on child abuse charges.

DAVID CORDOVA’S research, “A Community Engaged Approach to Working toward the Implementation of Mental Health Best Practices in a Primary Care Setting,” was accepted for presentation at the 7th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation.

MARY RUFFOLO the principal investigator along with colleagues DAVID CÓRDOVA, JORGE DELVA, LARRY GANT, JOE HIMLE, EDIE KIEFFER, SANDRA MOMPER, MIKE SPENCER and BETSY VOSHEL received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase the number of MSW behavioral health workers. This project prepares MSW students to work with impoverished racial and ethnic minority children, adolescents, and transitional age youth living with behavioral health conditions. SSW, in collaboration with the Detroit/Wayne County Mental Health Authority, will provide a specialized inter-professional behavioral health education and training program to 33 MSW students per year (a total of 99 over three years).


DESMOND PATTON’S co-authored manuscript, “Are Community Violence-Exposed Youth at Risk of Engaging in Delinquent Behavior? A Review and Implications for Residential Treatment Research and Practice” was published in Residential Treatment for Children & Youth journal.
ACCOLADES

EDIE KIEFFER and KATIE MITCHELL’S project, The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA), hosted its third Annual Meeting for 170 Community Health Workers and other community stakeholders from across Michigan. Photos and meeting materials are on the MiCHWA website.

DIANE KAPLAN VINOKUR was cited in a Detroit News story, “Top 2 at DIA got boost in compensation after millage” about the Detroit Institute of Arts’ executive compensation.

DESMOND PATTON’S research was highlighted in the October 2014 issue of National Association of Social Workers News.

LUKE SHAFFER was cited in a USA Today article, “States See More Poor Among Children and the Unemployed”.

BRAD ZEBRACK received a grant from the Seventy K to identify factors that affect how young adults with cancer cope with cancer, treatment, and associated life disruptions in order to aid the development of supportive care resources.

SANDRA MOMPER, the principal investigator in collaboration with American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan Inc., received a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to continue work on youth suicide prevention among American Indians aged 10 to 24. This project, entitled “Manidookewigashkibijigan”: Sacred Bundle R.E.S.P.E.C.T., will provide suicide prevention skills training and community-based screenings for suicide risk in Southeast Michigan and on American Indian reservations across Michigan for the next 5 years.


SHERRIE A. KOSSOU DJI’S article, “Viewpoint: Tackling Sexual Assault on Campus” was published in the Michigan Daily.

BRANDY SINCO’S article “Contemporary heterosexism on campus and psychological distress among LGBTQ students: The mediating role of self-acceptance” was published in the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.

JORGE DELVA was selected as President Elect (2014–2016), in addition to his position as Spanish Language Chair, of the Association of Latina and Latino Social Work Educators.

SUE ANN SAVAS received funding from the National Council for Behavioral Health to support the development and implementation of the data management and reporting system for the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment project. She received a second grant award supporting the development and implementation of the Baltimore Integrated Health Study Evaluation.

DESMOND PATTON’S book review, “The Other Wes Moore: One Name Two Fates, Wes Moore” Qualitative Social Work January 2013 12: 93-97, was the most-read article during September 2014.

SHAWNA LEE was featured in The University Record and The University Research Corridor’s November newsletter for creating the Positive Tech Conference which aims to develop technological apps to improve the well-being of tech users.

SHERRIE KOSSOU DJI and LAURA SANDERS led a discussion on U.S. immigration reform, which was hosted by Common Sense Action and Social Work Allies for Immigrant Rights. The panel discussion was highlighted in The Michigan Daily.

ANDREA SIEGEL’S chapter, “Domestic Violence, the ‘Woman Question,’ and the ‘Arab Question’ in Early Zionism” was published in Gender in Judaism and Islam: Common Lives, Uncommon Heritage.

SHERRIE KOSSOU DJI was quoted in Financial Times, NASDAQ, and The Wall Street Journal about unauthorized workers.

EMILY NICKLETT presented, “Research Approaches from Health Policy to Identify Risk and Protective Factors for Aging in Place” at the Gerontological Society of America and was also the session organizer at the American Public Health Association. Her session was “Chronic Disease Management and Self-Care.”

TONY ROTHSCILD’S (alum, lecturer) nonprofit, Common Ground was selected as this year’s Crain’s Best-Managed Nonprofit and was featured in Crain’s Detroit Business.

ANDREW GROGAN-KAYLOR gave a video lecture to a symposium on the 25th Anniversary of the launch of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, at an event hosted by Academics for Equal Protection, part of the Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre in Cardiff, Wales.
JORGE DELVA along with ROBERT ZUCKER (Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology) received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) via the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to train Ukrainian colleagues to examine substance abuse disorders from a lifespan approach.

BRAD ZEBRACK received a grant from the National Cancer Institute via the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group to serve as co-chair for the Adolescent and Young Adult task force.

JOE HIMLE and KATE FITZGERALD (Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Research Assistant Professor of Human Growth and Development) received a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to use functional magnetic resonance imaging to study brain mechanisms of OCD in adolescent and adult patients, examining the change that occurs with cognitive behavioral therapy and correlating that change with network activity in the brain.

EDIE KIEFFER and colleague JOHN AYANIAN (Director, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation) received a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-Subcontracts via the Michigan Department of Community Health to conduct the evaluation of Michigan’s Medicaid expansion, the Healthy Michigan Plan.

EMILY NICKLETT’S article, “Gardening Activities and Physical Health Among Older Adults: A Review of the Evidence” was published in the Southern Gerontological Society’s Journal of Applied Gerontology.

DESMOND PATTON was interviewed by Cleveland Public Radio about finding gang presence online, particularly on social media.

EDIE KIEFFER and colleague JOHN AYANIAN (director, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation) received a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-Subcontracts via the Michigan Department of Community Health to conduct the evaluation of Michigan’s Medicaid expansion, the Healthy Michigan Plan. Their grant is included in a University Record article on Medicaid evaluation as well as in Insurance News Net.

In Memoriam

FACULTY

William C. Lawrence | July 25, 2014

ALUMNI

Catherine T. Ziebell | MSW ’04, January 12, 2014
Ron G. Reed | MSW ’71, February 21, 2014
David M. Franco | MSW ’90, April 4, 2014
Leslie J. Eringard-Poleo | MSW ’87, April 20, 2014
Joyce H. Collins | MSW ‘44, April 24, 2014
George E. Kelly | MSW ’03, April 28, 2014
Dolores M. Hagen | MSW ’82, May 13, 2014
Gerald Fleury | MSW ’92, May 17, 2014
Ronald A. Wolter | MSW ’70, May 25, 2014
Lucille I. Wolgemuth | MSW ’67, June 6, 2014
Thomas E. Manning | MSW ’83, June 15, 2014
Sally E. Candy | MSW ’95, June 19, 2014
Joan C. Anderson | MSW ’76, June 22, 2014
Hilde M. Lehmann | MSW ’69, June 24, 2014
Carl E. Bloom | MSW ’65, July 22, 2014
Robert A. Stebbins | MSW ’72, July 27, 2014
Seta M. Dilanian | MSW ’93, August 5, 2014
Beth H. Brown | MSW ’55, August 11, 2014
Phillip A. Huyck | MSW ’85, August 12, 2014
Elizabeth C. Stone | MSW ’62, September 6, 2014
Elizabeth S. Rowley | MSW ’75, September 29, 2014
James J. Minder | MSW ’74, October 9, 2014
Eugenia T. Kapsanis | MSW ’48, October 14, 2014
Michael R. Sosin | MSW ’73 and PhD ’77, November 25, 2014
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Join our alumni world map
Members of the School of Social Work Alumni Board of Governors work together to develop and implement initiatives that help strengthen the relationship between the School of Social Work and its alumni. Members provide vision, leadership, commitment, expertise, and advice.

Alumni Relations Committee

Members of the Alumni Relations Committee serve as ambassadors for the School of Social Work. Committee members create and host alumni events, provide networking opportunities, foster fellowship, and strengthen ties among alumni.

Professional Development Committee

Members of the Professional Development Committee plan and implement the annual Building Healthy, Strong Communities event. This event provides an opportunity for social workers to earn continuing education units while attending innovative workshops presented by leaders in the field.

SSW Alumni Board of Governors Award

The SSW Alumni Board of Governors Award was created by the School of Social Work Alumni Board of Governors. It provides support to students participating in national and international field and special study experiences.
Attending U-M was a life-changing experience for me. It was a dream that I had most of my childhood. Growing up in Ann Arbor, who doesn’t think about attending U-M at some point? Since graduating from the School of Social Work, I have experienced career opportunities that would not have been possible without my U-M degree.

Serving on the Board of Governors lets me stay in touch and gives me the opportunity to provide feedback on things like curriculum changes. I’ve recently been appointed to the Ypsilanti Township Civil Service Commission and I’m working as a research assistant on Assistant Professor Reuben Miller’s “Detroit Reentry Project.” I look forward to continuing to support the School of Social Work in multiple capacities and hope you consider giving back too.

Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, President, SSW Alumni Board of Governors
ROMANO SCHOLARSHIP
HONORING A BELOVED DAUGHTER, RESPECTED LEADER, INFORMATIVE TEACHER AND DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL

A generous endowed scholarship has been established through an estate gift provided by Ross and Leona DeLue, parents of Mary D. Romano, MSW ’68, to honor their daughter’s work advocating for persons with disabilities and her contribution to the social work profession.

Romano was the ultimate patient advocate, who ensured persons with disabilities were successfully reintegrated into the community. The endowed scholarship provides support for U-M School of Social Work MSW students interested in medical social work.

Romano joined the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Washington, DC in 1985, where she was the founding director of the Social Work Service. Her work focused on leading a team of social workers who specialized in rehabilitating patients with spinal, head, arthritic and neurologic disorders. Romano was known to challenge those with whom she worked to approach patient care in new, creative ways, and responded to questions and concerns, from patients or staff, with keen insight and understanding.

Romano was greatly admired for outstanding leadership abilities, her wit and her commitment to her patients.

Her personal affiliations included membership in the National Association of Social Workers, the Society of Hospital Social Work Directors, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Academy of Certified Social Workers. In 1989, the Medlantic Center for Humanizing Healthcare established the Mary D. Romano Humanism Award to honor Romano’s memory and commitment to empower her fellow human beings. She also gave numerous presentations and was widely published on such topics as the impact of disability on the family, sexuality and disability and the role of social work in rehabilitation.

Prior to joining NRH, Romano practiced social work at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City for 13 years, including four years as assistant director. She also was a social worker at the University of Michigan for four years.

Romano died July 31, 1989 after a lengthy fight with cancer.
This scholarship allowed me to be able to start paying back my student loans and saving money for the future. I am incredibly grateful for the Mary DeLue Romano Memorial Scholarship because it allowed me to start preparing for life after graduation and my future social work career.

Lauren Hanley, MSW ’14

I am grateful for the opportunities that this scholarship opens up for me personally and professionally. In a time of transition, it will help me bridge the period between my graduation from the MSW program and the beginning of my professional social work career. This scholarship reduces financial burdens and will help me obtain further training and learning opportunities. In true social work fashion, I feel supported and empowered by the generosity of this award and take this feeling going forward into my work.

Trevor Brooks, MSW ’14
INAUGURAL RECIPIENT OF CAROL GOSS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP MOTIVATED TOWARD SUCCESS

Written by Anne Farris

Michael Joiner-Hill, MSW ’14, was named the inaugural recipient of the Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship in December 2013. When he was officially informed of his award, he felt humbled. But more than that, Joiner-Hill says, he was genuinely surprised.

Joiner-Hill grew up on Detroit’s west side in a single-parent household. His mother steered him and his five siblings towards volunteerism, athletics and education. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from U-M, and earned his MSW in December 2014. His one-year field placement was with the Children’s Center in Detroit’s midtown.

“The Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship afforded me tremendous opportunity to enrich my development as a future social worker and community leader far beyond what I was learning in the classroom at U-M,” Joiner-Hill said. “You just can’t put a price on that.”

At The Children’s Center, Joiner-Hill was part of a team working with clients between the ages of 4 and 18 years old who presented a wide range of mental and behavioral health needs such as depression, bi-polar disorder and autism spectrum disorders. His work at the center also was aimed at helping family members gain a deeper understanding of their child’s disorder and develop more effective coping skills for daily living, both at home and in the community. He says it was gratifying to work with other professionals who share his passion for serving an underrepresented population.

“That someone recognized leadership qualities in me was so surprising, because I’m really a very low-key kind of person,” Joiner-Hill said. “I’ve always liked helping others. To be rewarded for that is something I never would have asked for, but I truly appreciate it.”

In fact, it is his low-key demeanor that helped Joiner-Hill deal with the inevitable rejections he’s experienced throughout his life. Those rejections, in turn, motivated him to find the determination to take on leadership roles and serve as a calming influence and role model for others facing similar struggles in school, work and life.

The Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship is given annually to one U-M SSW student who is a resident of the Detroit area and who demonstrates leadership potential with a particular interest in community building, civic engagement, education, and leadership development. The recipient must also hold a field placement within the city of Detroit.

Tonya Allen, MSW ’96, president and CEO of the Skillman Foundation of Detroit, is responsible for the creation of the Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship to honor Carol Goss upon her retirement and celebrate her legacy at the Foundation.

Allen said she loves leadership development programs for students and adults, because it’s possible to see
the transformation of people as they learn to own their personal power.

"I think there's a future generation of Detroiters today who are going to college with a new frame of mind," Allen said. "A decade or so ago, young people saw a college degree as a way out of the city...today, students are going to college with the expectation of coming back to Detroit to make a difference."

Students who want to make a difference in the city are the inspiration for the creation of the U-M scholarship.

"I thought the leadership scholarship was important," Allen said, "and I want to invest in someone who views him or herself as a change agent and wants to contribute to the growth and prosperity of a city in the same vein and legacy of Carol Goss."

Joiner-Hill does indeed view himself as a change agent, and he intends to return to the city of Detroit to share his story... and with it a message of hope.

"When I was growing up, we didn’t have money, but being disadvantaged does not have to be a deterrent to achieving your dreams. The message I want to bring back to the people in Detroit is that no matter what their background, they can change the fortune of this city. That’s something Detroiters just don’t hear enough."

In the future, Joiner-Hill wants to help eradicate the stigma that has long been associated with seeking help for mental health issues. He says the need for more accessible, compassionate mental health care in Detroit is one of the reasons that he hopes to one day open a private clinical practice within the city where he grew up.

"I can relate to the people in Detroit because it’s my home, and I’ve faced many of the same barriers," Joiner-Hill said. "I envision a practice where community members can come knowing they’ll receive consistent, high-quality care with the empathy and acceptance that they need and deserve."

The Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship was established by the Skillman Foundation of Detroit to honor U-M School of Social Work alumnae Carol Goss’, MSW ’72, long and storied career as an advocate for children. Goss was president and CEO of Skillman from 2004 until her retirement in December 2013.

Incorporated in 1960 by Rose Skillman, the Foundation is a grant-making charitable organization dedicated to providing resources to improve the lives of metropolitan Detroit children by improving their homes, schools and neighborhoods.

Goss’ tenure at Skillman was defined by her shepherding of the Foundation from that of a traditional, responsive organization to a visionary, proactive one that took on the toughest issues facing Detroit children while mobilizing stakeholders throughout the city. One example of Goss’ leadership was the establishment of “Excellent Schools Detroit,” a 10-year plan to provide an excellent education to every Detroit child by 2020, no matter where they go to school. Goss’ goal is to see that 90 percent of all high school students graduate; 90 percent go on to college or post-secondary programs; and 90 percent of those graduates do so on the strength of their classroom education, without the need for special teaching methods or additional support.

Goss grew up in Detroit and attended U-M for undergraduate and graduate studies, earning her MSW in 1972. Between degrees, Goss worked for a year as a caseworker at the City of Detroit’s Department of Public Welfare, focusing on children and youth living in communities damaged by poverty, racism, and crime. Later in her social work career, Goss was handpicked by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to lead an innovative youth development program targeting one Detroit neighborhood. She joined the Skillman Foundation as a senior program director in 1998.

What are the benefits of making an endowed scholarship gift?

Establishing an endowed scholarship, such as the Carol Goss Leadership Scholarship, provides support for our students forever. Scholarships can be designed to be awarded to students based upon financial need, academic merit; special interests or qualities, or other criteria defined by you. You designate the purpose of your endowed gift, and earnings from that investment will grow over time to fund your scholarship forever. If you are interested, please contact the SSW Development Office.

**ssw.development@umich.edu**

**734-615-2581**
ILGA SVECHS, MSW ’60, writes poetry that attempts to address the deeper meaning of social and psychological issues in the contexts of universal human experience; contemporary world events; and the arts.

LINDA KATZ, MSW ’66, announces the release of her book, “Sing Me Awake”. It is about two young American women, Linda and Donna, who chose to be involved in making a difference in the fast-changing world of the 1960s and 1970s.

RANDY GOON, MSW ’68, has retired. Following graduation, he embarked upon a career in hospital psychiatric social work in Ontario and B.C. He organized a patient self-government program on a psychiatric ward, a cognitive-behavioral and supportive outpatient treatment program, headed an outpatient clinic, taught social welfare policy, and was the social worker on an interdisciplinary team in a special short stay psychiatric assessment program.

R.L. MCNEELY, MSW ’70, has created a scholarship fund at Marquette University Law School. The R.L. McNeely Endowed Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to male African American students enrolled in Marquette University’s Law School.

BETTY BROWN-CHAPPELL, MSW ’71, retired from Eastern Michigan University on September 1, 2013. She also published Open Secrets: A Poor Person’s Life in Higher Education. In addition, Dr. Brown-Chappell has a chapter review of Marcus Hunter’s Black City Makers in the Spring 2014 SSA Review published by the University of Chicago.

MARC MAUER, MSW ’75, was quoted in The New York Times article “New Rule Permits Early Release for Thousands of Drug Offenders”. He serves as executive director of the Sentencing Project.

NORMA MARIE KEIL SHAW, MSW ’78, is a social worker in a subacute rehabilitation facility. She is also President of The Tuesday Musicale of Detroit, an organization that dates back to 1885. Norma plays clarinet in two orchestras as well as performs chamber music in Detroit.

MAUREEN KELLY, MSW ’79, has been the executive director of Cathedral Counseling Center for 20 years. The non-profit mental health agency has doubled its capacity to 25,000 visits per year to meet the pressing need.

JUDY LEVICK, MSW ’82, has been the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit MSW Parent-to-Parent Partnership Coordinator at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital for 29 years (and a piano teacher for 10 years). She recently published an article in Neonatal Network: The Journal of Neonatal Nursing (March/April, 2014), titled “NICU Parent-to-Parent Partnerships: A Comprehensive Approach”. She also presented at the Institute for Patient-and-Family-Centered Care International Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

AMY ELLWOOD, MSW ’83, was a recent participant at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science Summer Institute at Stony Brook University in NY. The faculty development program teaches faculty from various disciplines in science, social science and journalism to distill information about their research and work so that it is easily understood by the general public. More information is available at centerforcommunicatingscience.org.

JOANNE O’ROURKE, MSW ’86, accepted a new position as the Director of Research for the College of Health and Human Services at Western Michigan University.

MARIANNE YOSHIOKA, MSW ’86, has been named Dean of the School for Social Work at Smith College. She is stepping down from her position as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Columbia University School of Social Work.

ALICIA SIMMONS, MSW ’89, was promoted to Vice President of Research, Planning and Collaboration at Jacksonville State University. She has secured millions of dollars in federal grant funding to enrich and support the campus and local communities.
RICK RITTER, MSW ’95, is retired and enjoys beekeeping and gardening. His workbook, “Coping with Physical Loss and Disability: A Workbook” is now in English, Spanish and Vietnamese (including Vietnamese braille).

KAREN LINCOLN, PHD ’02, MSW ’96, wrote an article that appeared on The Opinion Pages Room for Debate of The New York Times. The article is titled “Minorities Are Forced Into Nursing Homes at Greater Rates”.

JULIE (CROUCH) BAPTISTE, MSW ’03, is working in California as an LCSW in the emergency department of a local hospital.

JORDANA MUROFF, PHD ’04, MSW ’99, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Boston University.

LINDA FAVITTA, MSW ’05, recently established a private practice. She serves youth, parents, co-parents and couples with special-needs children who are experiencing issues of grief and loss, family dynamics, and self-esteem issues. She also provides clinical supervision to licensed social workers.

AUBREY (WILLIAMS) PATINO, MSW ’05, was selected to participate in the Transatlantic Practice Exchange. Aubrey spent two weeks placed at a homeless assistance organization in the exchange country. She developed a research proposal and explored the work of the “Making Every Adult Matter Coalition” which is based out of Cambridge. Aubrey met with providers so that she could bring her findings back to the U.S.

SIOBHAN TAYLOR, MSW ’06, recently accepted a position as the Assistant Principal of the Springer School and Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Previously she served as the College Readiness and Mediation Director at a Montessori high school.

AMANDA BOSWORTH, MSW ’09, has been accepted to the PhD program in history at Cornell University. She will specialize on the impact of American foreign policy.

EDMUND LEWIS, JR., MSW ’09, was named on the Skillman Foundation’s “25 Black Men Making Detroit Stronger” list for 2014. Skillman.org/Knowledge-Center/A-Rose-for-Detroit-Blog/25-black-men-making-Detroit-stronger. He is also a recipient of the Detroit Young Professionals 2014 Vanguard Award.

ERIC CHISHOLM, MSW ’10, has joined The Patterson Law Firm located in Chicago. He is an associate attorney focusing on business litigation matters.

CHRISTINE SAUVE, MSW ’11, attended the first White House National Convening on Immigrant and Refugee Integration in July. She joined leaders from across the country to put forth recommendations for a national immigrant integration plan.

D. ALVAREZ, MSW ’12, is the Student Life program manager for The Program on Intergroup Relations. He works with staff and student volunteers who facilitate workshops and dialogues for various groups on U-M campus through the CommonGround program.

REBECCA KENDERES, MSW ’12, was recognized in the Detroit Free Press for her partnership in “Lots of Love Detroit.” The project aims to beautify neighborhoods and give back to Detroit by lending out lawn equipment and tools such as lawnmowers and weed whackers at no charge. The project has received several grants for addressing this need.

MARSHA DAVIDSON, MSW ’13, and Erik Burris, MSW ’13, had their article, “Transitioning Foster Care Youth and Their Risk for Homelessness: Policy, Program, and Budgeting Shortcomings,” published in Human Welfare: An International Journal of Graduate Research. The article reports the results of a literature review on homelessness and housing solutions for young adults transitioning out of the foster care system.

GWENYTH HAYES, MSW ’13, has been appointed the Resident Commissioner of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission. The Ann Arbor Housing Commission is governed by a board of five city residents, each of whom is appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council.

STEPHANIE CHANG, MSW ’14, ran for State Representative for District 6 (Detroit, River Rouge and Ecorse) and won. She is the first Asian-American woman to serve in the state Legislature.

JUSTIN FLOWERS, MSW ’14, was cited in the Detroit Free Press article, “Scholarship fund for foster kids before House”. The article describes Justin’s journey to becoming a social worker and how his life impacted his career path.

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Laura Lein, Dean

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