

# ONGOING

University of Michigan School of Social Work

Summer 2016

## LAURA LEIN:

Helping Others Do Their Best

SOCIAL WORK + ATHLETICS:  
**A Winning Combination**

Olivia Maynard's Mindset — Social Justice

**M** | SOCIAL WORK

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**A Winning Combination**



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### Summer 2016

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# FROM THE DEAN

## Thank You



Our School of Social Work is in the middle of a series of transitions, including the welcoming of a new dean in August. Furthermore, a cohort of our faculty are entering retirement. Professors Letha Chadiha, Diane Kaplan Vinokur and Leslie Hollingsworth retired this spring. These three scholars provided years of outstanding vision, dedication and commitment to social work education and research. As we celebrate their achievements and wish them well in their next ventures, we know we will continue to learn and grow from their efforts, and that they will continue to contribute to the new communities and groups they join. As Dr. Hollingsworth remarked, "I don't feel like I'm leaving something, I feel like I'm going to something, and for me that is the best kind of retirement."

In the context of these and other upcoming retirements, we hired seven new faculty members in 2015. In this issue we introduce *Ongoing* readers to three of our new faculty. The work of our faculty is one of our greatest strengths. We are at the forefront of social work practice, research and teaching because of their dedication to teaching and research. I invite you to browse this issue and learn more about our new faculty and their impressive accomplishments and aspirations. We will introduce the other four hires in the next print issue of *Ongoing*.

Our students and our faculty are the School of Social Work's priority, and a priority of the School's Everyone's a Victor campaign. With this campaign, we strive to make it possible for bright and passionate students to attend our #1 school, with its committed faculty, and graduate with the background, skills and inspiration required for social work leaders. Your generosity will enable us to continue to lead the profession in teaching, research, innovation, collaboration and service. To participate in our campaign, contact the development office at 734-763-6886 or [ssw.development@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.development@umich.edu).

This is my last column as Dean, and I want to take the opportunity to introduce you to Professor Lynn Videka, who will be arriving on August 15 from New York University. She brings to our School a deep experience in social work education, and research interests in families served by the child welfare system and in people with serious mental health disabilities. I have worked with Lynn in national organizations and on committees. She is a creative, thoughtful and committed colleague and I look forward to the continued growth of our School under her leadership.

And, finally, I want to thank our alumni, our community partners, our University colleagues, our students and our faculty for the strong and committed social work community we have together. The work we do can indeed change the world, and, speaking more personally, it has been a privilege and an inspiration to serve this community as Dean, and watch our students, our faculty, our work and our facilities develop in new and exciting ways. Thank you. **M**

Laura Lein, Dean  
Katherine Reebel Collegiate Professor  
of Social Work  
Professor of Anthropology



L A U R A L E I N :

# Helping Others Do Their

# BEST

**A** few days before the official end of her time as Dean, her office slowly emptying and memories resurfacing, Laura Lein sat down with *Ongoing* to talk about some of the achievements of her seven-and-a-half years leading the School of Social Work.

Written by David Pratt

**At the time you were hired, what made you a good match with U-M SSW?**

I was originally trained as an anthropologist, but I always worked on problems related to poverty in the United States. Then, in 1985, I entered social work education, and social work became my academic and social action home. I came to know and admire the power of the interdisciplinary work being done by many of the faculty here at Michigan. At the same time, in my own research and writing, I found I was increasingly a facilitator for other people's work—doctoral students, MSW students and faculty colleagues. That's how I conceptualized the dean position—helping other people do their best work.

**In your time here, the School has built many new programs. Tell us about the creation of Community Action and Social Change (CASC) minor offered through the School of Social Work.**

We needed a way to introduce social work to University of Michigan undergraduates and increase our visibility to the student body. We wanted U-M students to understand what social work is and does. Our founding program director, Katie Richards-Schuster, worked with a group of faculty from across the campus to develop what is now an accepted social work minor in half of the colleges, including the College of Engineering, the School of Music, Theater & Dance and the Ross School of Business. It is currently among the most popular minors on campus, with more than 800 students declaring it since its inception.

**You also initiated Learning Communities. Talk about those.**

Learning communities are really the work of faculty members. I asked faculty members to develop new work around a social work area or theme. Learning communities had to involve students as well as faculty, draw on interdisciplinary approaches, link research and practice and augment the quality of the MSW educational experience. Learning community activities built on the multiple strengths of the school. We ended up with seven of them, going in very different directions! We have communities focused on gerontology, integrated health, child welfare, community organization, the globalization of social work, poverty and inequality and theories of intersectionality.

**Both faculty hires and enrollment have increased in your time as dean.**

We have hired one-third of our current faculty in the past seven-and-a-half years. The presence of these inspired and committed new faculty is one of our major achievements. We seek faculty in areas where we are strong or want to be strong, who bring new theoretical approaches and new ways of being interdisciplinary and who are motivated by a passion for and commitment to their work and a vision of how it could change the world. And with our exciting faculty, our ranking as the #1 school of social work in the country and the innovative work being done by our Office of Student Services, we have increased our MSW enrollment by 44 percent since 2008.



**And that requires a lot of space.**

Yes! We have made two major improvements in our facilities in the last seven years. On the lower level of the building we had a lending library of books and journals, and the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center, which was a maze of cubicles. We folded our library collection into the graduate library (across the street from us). We then launched two construction efforts—one for the atrium and educational space in the lower story of the building, and the other for a completely reconfigured Curtis Center. We are scheduled to expand into new space in 2017–2018.

**What about scholarships for all those students?**

Scholarships for our students represent 50 percent of our Victors for Michigan campaign goal. Everybody has helped with this. Our alumni have been committed donors. Faculty members and staff, our alumni board

of governors and our dean’s advisory board have all been involved, and our development office has done a great job.

**There’s a theme of outreach here. What other outreach has benefited the school?**

When I first arrived on campus, many area social work agencies commented on ways they could have a more robust relationship with our School. They discussed their need for third-party evaluations and assessments, so we started an evaluation and assessment unit at the Curtis Center; this has been valuable to students, faculty and the community. They discussed their ongoing need for continuing education, and so our Continuing Education Program developed new programming and now offers interdisciplinary distance education certificates in five areas.

**There has been outreach and interdisciplinary work on campus, too.**

Our PhD program is unique for its five interdisciplinary degree options, with anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology. We also have joint degree master’s programs with six other U-M schools, and the CASC minor for undergraduates is strongly interdisciplinary. Our newest partnership is the interprofessional program in the health sciences. Two hundred and fifty students from five of the U-M health science schools are doing some of their coursework together.

**It also seems you like to work collaboratively.**

I do. And I arrived at a very strong school with collaborative research and teaching across campus. Over the last seven years we have consolidated efforts in our areas of strength, working with partners across campus, developing new areas of inquiry and education and continuing our strong collaborations.





# WELCOME LYNN VIDEKA

## DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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Lynn Videka, dean and professor in the Silver School of Social Work at New York University, begins her new position as dean of the School of Social Work on August 15. She is recognized for her leadership in social work education and her research on families served by the child welfare system and people with serious mental health disabilities.

“Dr. Videka has an inspiring vision for social work; one that encompasses robust research, innovative cross-disciplinary collaborations and rigorous engaged education for the next generation of practitioners,” says Provost Martha E. Pollack. “We welcome her ideas and energy and are eager for the contributions she will make to the school, the university and the wider community.”

Videka discussed four opportunities for the social work profession and the School of Social Work:

**Increased integrated healthcare strategies.** Increasing innovative and evidence-based integrated health strategies can improve healthcare and lead to broad gains in the health of our entire society. Videka is excited to see the work being done by the Michigan Center for Interprofessional Education and says she is eager to learn about and contribute to the SSW’s interdisciplinary programs and collaborate with health science schools on- and off-campus.

“It’s important for the U-M School of Social Work to be on the forefront of preparing students to work in primary care settings as behavioral and mental healthcare specialists and for leadership roles in public health social work.”

**Poverty and reducing inequalities.** Poverty and health inequalities exist by race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status and income—and the gap continues

to widen. Income inequality is widening in the U.S. The new lack of access to health insurance and health services contributes to poor health outcomes. The School of Social Work can develop new ideas and efforts to reduce health disparities and improve mental and physical health outcomes, particularly among society’s most vulnerable populations. The School’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion will be a source of momentum and energy to scholarship and leadership to advance our society and the world in reducing racism and inequality.

**Geriatric social work.** Serving older adults is the fastest-growing field of employment for social workers. Social workers are uniquely qualified to work with older populations because their education and training provides a holistic perspective that prepares them to meet older adults’ biological, psychological and physical needs.

“The School has developed a foundation for geriatric social work leadership, research and practice innovation. It is essential for us to continue to support and expand this program so that more social work professionals can provide crucial services for elders and their families.”

**Technology.** Technology is changing the face of higher education and has impacted virtually every profession as well as social work practice. Social workers must thoughtfully assess the best uses of information and communication technology in social work education and practice. The School should be a national leader in this disruptive historical reality.

Videka began her clinical career as a nurse health-educator in Chicago after earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with honors from the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois. She earned a Master of Arts

degree in social work and a doctorate from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

She has held numerous national leadership positions including president of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work, the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research and Council of Community Services of New York; vice president and conference chair of the Society for Social Work and Research; and commissioner of accreditation and treasurer of the Council on Social Work Education.

Her funded research totals more than \$11 million and focuses on peer-helping models for people managing life crises or disabilities; the effectiveness of social work practice; and the intersection of family life and mental health, especially among vulnerable populations. More recently she has focused her research efforts on integrated healthcare models.

Videka says she looks forward to living in Ann Arbor and enjoying all that an active, progressive community offers. She will especially enjoy being closer to city parks, lakes, the Huron River, and is eager to explore the state of Michigan.

“I am thrilled to begin working at the School of Social Work. I have long admired the School and I am excited to be a part of the University of Michigan,” says Videka. “I am impressed with the impact that the School’s alumni have made in this country and across the globe. I look forward to meeting our accomplished alumni and working together to further our goals.” Videka is already part Wolverine — she is the proud parent of two U-M alumni: her son earned an economics and organizational studies degree and her daughter is a medical school graduate. **M**

# A Winning Combination

**F**or more than 25 years, Greg Harden, MSW '81 and associate athletic director at the University of Michigan, has been a pioneer in the field of social work and college sports. Harden is responsible for embedding mental health services for student-athletes at U-M. He is credited with helping thousands of student-athletes—including Desmond Howard, Tom Brady, Michael Phelps and Fox Sports TV reporter Michelle McMahon—overcome hurdles to achieve success in sports, academics, relationships and life.



Howard Brabson, a School of Social Work professor and a mentor to Harden, encouraged him to pursue an MSW to advance his career. According to Harden, the School's curriculum enthralled him. "I learned how to assess needs, listen to others and create programs that would change individuals' lives for the better," he says. By attending the MSW program, Harden realized he had the personality and passion to be a change agent.

## **WHY SOCIAL WORK IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS?**

"Student-athletes are under immense pressure to perform for their coaches, fans, professors, family and friends," says Harden. Social work provides college athletes with an array of integrated behavioral health services to address their physical, emotional, mental and educational needs.

"As a social worker, I'm less concerned about the next big game and more concerned about the game of life."

The combination of social work and sports is firmly rooted at U-M thanks to Harden.

"U-M is committed to seeing the whole person, not just the athletic performer," says Harden.

## **HOW DID HARDEN CHAMPION SOCIAL WORK IN U-M ATHLETICS?**

It all began when Harden was a social worker at Beyer Memorial Hospital and turned down Bo Schembechler's request to do a 60-minute drug and alcohol presentation for the football team. Harden told Schembechler the program would be ineffective. The result: Harden was hired to do a series of presentations, which ultimately led to his being hired full-time by the University of Michigan Athletic Department.

Harden soon convinced administrators and coaches they were missing a big opportunity to build their athletes' mental strength if they only focused on drug and alcohol issues. He advocated for athletes to be able to talk to a social worker who is not obsessed with their athletic performance but is interested in how their life is working.

"Student-athletes need someone to talk to about daily life problems, money concerns, self-defeating attitudes, drugs and alcohol and academics," says Harden.

## **WHY IS SPORTS AND SOCIAL WORK A WINNING COMBINATION?**

Harden's perspective is straightforward.

"There are many people who want to help student-athletes be better athletes," said Harden. "The social

work perspective is that if you're a better person, you'll be a better athlete. If you can evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, your values and behavior, you will increase the chances that you will become not only a superior athlete, but be able to use your athletic experience as a training ground to take on the world that is awaiting you."

### WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

As more is understood about the pressures student-athletes are under and the toll such pressures can inflict, social workers are an asset to enhancing athletic performance at every level — professional, college and high school. Social workers' skills in seeing the whole person and focusing on their strengths, supporting change in them and their environment and being a change-agent in their lives help student-athletes personally and professionally.

For Harden, the future is a soon-to-be-published book, *Control the Controllables*.

"The book contains core lessons and helps to examine and conquer self-defeating behaviors, so that individuals can become committed to becoming happy and healthy. The goal of the book is to make people experts on themselves."

**M**



# FAMILIES, RELIGION AND AGING: RESULTS FROM A 35-YEAR STUDY

## 2016 Leon and Josephine Winkelman Memorial Lecture

### How different are millennials from their grandparents in religion? How are religious values passed down across generations in America today, if at all?

The 2016 Leon and Josephine Winkelman Memorial Lecture keynote speaker, Professor Vern L. Bengtson, PhD, addressed these questions and much more in his 35-year study of 400 multi-generation families. His most recent book based on this project, *Families and Faith: How Religion Is (and Isn't) Passed Down Across Generations* (with Norella Putney and Susan C. Harris), won book-of-the-year awards from the Gerontological Society of America and the American Sociological Association's Section on Religion.

During his keynote speech, Bengtson focused on nearly four decades of research, as he and his colleagues have been conducting the largest-ever study of religion and family across generations. Through war and social upheaval, depression and technological revolution, they have followed more than 350 families composed of more than 3,500 individuals whose lives span more than a century—the oldest was born in 1881, the youngest in 1988—to find out how religion is, or is not, passed down from one generation to the next.

What they found may come as a surprise. Despite enormous changes in American society, a child is actually more likely to remain within the fold than leave it, and even the non-religious are more likely to follow their parents' example than to rebel. And while outside forces do play a role, according to Bengtson's research, the crucial factor in whether a child keeps the faith is the presence of a strong fatherly bond. Bengtson led the audience through an exploration of what allows a family to pass on its faith. **M**



Professor Robert J. Taylor (left) with Harold R. Johnson, Dean Emeritus, SSW

## HAROLD R. JOHNSON PROFESSORSHIP

Highlighting the School of Social Work's commitment to healthcare delivery systems for older adults, and Professor Robert J. Taylor's work, Taylor was formally installed as the Harold R. Johnson Professor of Social Work on March 8, 2016 at a special ceremony at the U-M School of Social Work.

The Harold R. Johnson Professorship was established in 1994 by the Regents of the University of Michigan. It was established in recognition of Harold R. Johnson's many contributions during his tenure as dean of the School of Social Work from 1981 to 1993 as well as the School of Social Work's role in education, research and service at the U-M Health System.

"I am thrilled by Professor Taylor's appointment to the endowed chair in my name. His pioneering explorations of the black elderly and Black churches have already resulted in significant improvements in the organization and delivery of services across the United States," says Harold R. Johnson, Dean Emeritus of Social Work.

Taylor is a leading scholar on informal social support networks (e.g., family, friends, and church members) of adult and elderly Black Americans. He served as principal investigator for several grants from the National Institute on Aging that examined the role of religion in the lives of elderly adults. He is the founding editor of the African American Research Perspectives Report from the Program for Research on Black Americans and is currently on the editorial boards for both the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* and *Race and Social Problems*.

"I am grateful to Harold for his years of visionary leadership at SSW," said Laura Lein, Dean, U-M School of Social Work. "This endowed professorship supports a scholar whose teaching and research crosses the boundaries of multiple disciplines and addresses healthcare delivery in urban communities. Professor Taylor's research on informal social support networks for adult and elderly Black Americans reflects the ideals of the Harold R. Johnson Professorship."



The School of Social Work welcomed seven new faculty members for the 2015–2016 academic year. These scholars bring innovative research expertise and direct practice work experience to our SSW community. Their work—on its own and in collaboration with other researchers, nonprofits and government—will help revolutionize the ways in which we address many of the challenges in our world today.

In this issue of *Ongoing*, we catch up with three of these new faculty. **Cristina Bares** studies identical and fraternal twins to assess and account for interweaving biological, psychological and environmental factors that lead to smoking in adolescence and young adulthood. **Mat Despard's** research is aimed at helping low-income families build financial safety nets to deal with the unexpected. And **Barb Hiltz** is passionate about empowering her students to visualize themselves as leaders at every step of their careers.

# BARES STUDIES TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Cristina B. Bares, assistant professor

Written by Anne Farris

**Cristina Bares, PhD '07, is a storyteller of sorts. Through her research into the biological, psychological and environmental factors contributing to substance use—cigarettes in particular—among children and adolescents, Bares seeks to provide stories as complex as the individuals and groups she studies.**

"I'm motivated by the desire to understand the person as a whole," Bares said. "It's fascinating to me that we start out as tiny little clusters of cells and grow into fully realized human beings with thoughts and feelings and plans for the future. I'm curious about what happens to children as they grow and have experiences in the world that leads them to pick up that first cigarette."

Bares joined U-M as assistant professor of social work in September of 2015. She is a graduate of the U-M Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Developmental Psychology and is the first Curtis Center Postdoctoral Fellow.

Bares contends that factors such as anxiety and depression interact with biology and the social environment and lead to the use of cigarettes and other unhealthy behaviors as a means of coping.

To learn more about how and when coping behaviors are triggered, Bares designed a diary study that prompts adolescents and young adults ages 16–21 to document their moods and habits via texts on their smartphones.

Text 4 Thoughts (T4T) follows sets of identical and fraternal twins for 10 days, sending three texts per day asking participants about what they're doing, how they're feeling, who they are with and whether or not they've smoked (tobacco or electronic cigarettes).

"One day they might be feeling great and as a result be more health-minded," Bares said. "But on a stressful day, they may forgo healthy thoughts and

intentions. We look at how daily experiences affect mood and interact with genetic vulnerabilities to influence behavior."

Bares says the immediacy of daily texting will yield more accurate data than large national surveys asking about behaviors engaged in over a period of a month or more.

"Our memories are flawed," Bares said. "Those data sources aren't accurate enough to tell the real story."

T4T could help researchers predict who is vulnerable and when, and possible ways in which they'll cope.

"Using twins can help us tease out how much of a behavior is genetic and what is environmental," Bares explained. "If a certain behavior is under genetic control, identical twins would behave very similarly."

Ultimately, Bares hopes her findings will lead to better approaches to help reduce rates of substance use.

"This is the place where social work can have real power in effecting change."

Bares was born in Uruguay and raised in southeast Michigan. Most recently she was assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work in Richmond, Virginia from 2011 to 2015. **M**



# DESPARD DEVELOPS STUDENTS' ANALYTICAL SKILLS

**Mathieu (Mat) Despard, assistant professor**

Written by Anne Farris

**Mathieu (Mat) Despard, PhD, focuses his social work practice, teaching and research on the well-being of low-income individuals and families with special attention to accessibility to healthcare, financial services, social policies and the capacity of nonprofit organizations serving these families.**

At U-M, Despard encourages his students to think critically and creatively about new ways to solve community problems.

"I want to help my students develop new and better ideas for leadership," Despard said. "Leadership comes in many different forms; it is often a shared enterprise, and should be especially valued and supported when coming from marginalized groups and communities."

In his classroom, Despard helps his students develop the analytical skills needed to understand and solve community problems, and the ability to facilitate change through personal relationships.

"It's not enough to come up with good ideas. Change doesn't happen unless we can build positive relationships and work constructively with conflict."

Drawing on more than 12 years working with nonprofit organizations serving low-income individuals and families, Despard is now involved in research aimed at finding ways to help low-income households become more financially secure. He's particularly interested in the financial security of families with children.

"When a family is financially unstable, children bear the brunt," Despard said. "We see the effects play out in poor health outcomes and school failure. These families are struggling with other sources of stress too, including predatory lending practices, growing credit card debt and not enough savings to cope with emergencies."

One project in particular, Refund to Savings (R2S), could make it easier for families to build financial

security by encouraging them to save more of their tax refunds when filing taxes online.

Despard analyzes data from the study, which looks at the effects of behavioral economics on financial decision-making.

"People of all income levels are prone to make financial mistakes, yet low-income households have almost no room for error," Despard said. "If we provide people with guideposts that nudge them in the direction of saving some of their refund, we hope this makes it easier to cope with financial emergencies and setbacks."

Prior to U-M, Despard was clinical associate professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, where he taught courses in nonprofit management, community practice and social policy.

Despard joined U-M as assistant professor of social work in September of 2015.

"I'm excited to be teaching and advising students here at U-M," Despard said. "They're intelligent, creative, compassionate and committed to social justice. That's a very powerful combination of skills and abilities." **M**



# HILTZ PREPARES STUDENTS TO LEAD NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

**Barb Hiltz, clinical assistant professor**

Written by Anne Farris

**Barb Hiltz joined the U-M SSW faculty in September 2015 after spending 17 years working in direct practice social work and as executive director for several nonprofits.**

"My students are hungry to know what it's like out there. I think they appreciate the years I've spent in the trenches," Hiltz said.

Despite being on the other side, as Hiltz puts it, she has always sought opportunities to work with students. She's been field advising at U-M since 2003, and in 2011 became an adjunct faculty member.

"I've always enjoyed working directly with students and the new ideas they share," Hiltz said. "I always learn something from them that pushes me to think differently. The move into teaching meant that I would be around that all the time, and that was really exciting."

Hiltz made the move into teaching in part because she feels strongly about preparing the next generation of social workers to manage and lead nonprofit organizations from a social work value-based position.

"Social workers bring values of social justice, dignity, empowerment, compassion and the worth of people into their decision-making process with regard to managing the business side of an organization," Hiltz said. "They have to make decisions about where to spend money and what services to provide. The inclusion of social work values is critically important because these decisions are impacting people's lives."

Hiltz is also interested in innovation around fundraising and nonprofit sustainability.

"So many organizations have no sustainable sources of revenue," Hiltz said. "Every year they start at zero

and have to raise 100 percent of their operating budgets. We talk about new ideas that will generate sales and provide funding that enables organizations to continue doing social good."

A prime example is The Brides Project, a social enterprise co-founded by Hiltz in 2011 when she was executive director of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) of Greater Ann Arbor.

The Brides Project collects once-worn wedding gowns donated from across the country. The dresses are cleaned, mended and then sold at roughly half the cost of new. All sales go to CSC programs and services that support cancer patients through treatment and recovery.

"Last year we raised about 25 percent of our budget with Brides," Hiltz said. "That's money we don't have to raise through grant writing or soliciting donations. And people feel really good about what the dress represents. The Brides Project is building a community and helping people."

Hiltz was named the School of Social Work Student Union 2016 Teacher of the Year.

"I'm so glad that students seem to love being in my classes because this is what I love doing," Hiltz said. "I was nervous about leaving community work to teach, but I'm so happy here at U-M, and this award tells me that I made the right choice." **M**



## CHADIHA COMES FULL CIRCLE WITH **FAMILY AND EDUCATION** AS FOCAL POINT

Professor Letha Chadiha, PhD '89, MSW '85, didn't have an action plan for her life, but she did have a focal point and a purpose, which allowed her professional life to unfold exactly as it was meant to be.



"My parents were sharecroppers, and by all measures, I shouldn't be sitting here today," Chadiha said. "But I transcended my parents' livelihood, and there was only one thing I set out to accomplish: to become educated. I always knew that education was the route out of poverty."

Chadiha makes reference to a

quote by novelist James Baldwin: "Know whence you came. If you know whence you came, there is really no limit to where you can go."

"If we as a nation could find a way to provide a good education to every child," Chadiha said, "we would see a huge drop in the number of people living in poverty. I believe education is the key to moving people out of poverty, because it provides people with the assets they need and removes the veil of ignorance."

Chadiha began her education at Tuskegee University, continued with a master's of anthropology at Washington State University and later her MSW '85 and PhD '89 in social work and anthropology from the University of Michigan.

Chadiha attributes much of her success to those who supported and mentored her throughout her life.

Looking back on her career, she's quick to add that her pre-academic career can't be isolated from her academic years.

"I was a mother and wife before my academic career... there was continuity and interconnectedness throughout my life," Chadiha said. "I became connected with people who supported and mentored me, as a result of being in the right place at the right time."

Chadiha has made a notable mark at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. As co-director, Community Liaison Core in the Michigan Center on Urban African American Aging Research, she specialized in caregiving by African American women to older African Americans. She also focused her research on recruitment and retention of ethnically diverse elders in research, and is principal investigator on an NIH/NIGMS/ NCMHD Bridges to the Doctorate research training grant titled "U-M Social Work/ Nursing Bridges to the Doctoral Program," the first grant of its kind to be awarded to a social work school. In 2014, Chadiha was named the University of Michigan School of Social Work 2014 Distinguished Faculty.

Chadiha's accolades are many, but when asked about the highlight of her career, she says she's really proud of having a wonderful career while having her children and grandchildren see that career.

"My youngest son attended my retirement celebration, which was very special, because he was there from the time I started my graduate studies, through the time I did my dissertation and took my first academic appointment." Chadiha smiled. "My three sons are very important to me, and I was always there in their lives."

Retirement celebrations with all of her family members will continue in the months to come. Chadiha plans to transition into her retirement with a move to the San Francisco area to be closer to family.

"I've come full circle," Chadiha said. "This is the circle of life and now I'm going back to where I began, being a mother, being surrounded by my family and if I have any goal in life, it's returning to being a family member." **M**



## HOLLINGSWORTH'S LOVE OF LEARNING EVIDENT WITH CREATION OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Associate Professor Leslie Doty Hollingsworth, PhD, ACSW, LMSW has always been a scholar, but she hasn't always worked in an academic environment.

After earning her Master's of Social Work degree from Syracuse University in 1965, Hollingsworth worked in group practices for a number of years before developing a thriving private practice. Her love of learning and interest in family studies led her to the



completion of a doctoral degree in Child Development and Family Studies from Purdue University.

"Families are systems, just like an organization or a corporation, and they all have ways of doing things," Hollingsworth said. "Families are very complex. I wanted the skills to address the problems they experience and to support their growth. The

completion of a two-year post-master's certificate and the completion of my PhD in 1995 added to my practice experience."

Hollingsworth joined the University of Michigan School of Social Work faculty in 1996, and for the next 20 years focused her research on circumstances surrounding the lives of vulnerable children and families across the child welfare and mental health systems and their implications for social work practice and policy. Her adoption-related research examines the multiple perspectives and experiences of members of the adoption triad: adopted individuals, adoptive parents and families and birth parents and families.

Hollingsworth also evaluates the effects of African-centered curricular content on students' knowledge, values and skills in advanced practice with African American families.

"The most satisfying time in my career was the founding of the New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work scholars program, which we piloted during the 2015-2016 academic year," Hollingsworth said. "So much has emerged from this program, which was initiated during a forum hosted by the Association of Black Social Work Students to address climate issues of black students."

The forum resulted in a recommendation to create a "speak up" campaign encouraging students to openly discuss racial issues. An additional recommendation was the creation of a leadership program to help prepare students to work in a racially sensitive approach to practice.

"We want the leadership program to be supportive of all students," Hollingsworth said, "and it's incredibly satisfying to know that the 2016-17 academic year will be the first official year of the New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work program."

Hollingsworth has always loved learning and producing knowledge, the hallmark of a scholar. She has surrounded herself with colleagues who will continue to follow the pursuits of the leadership program.

"I would have loved to have seen the New Leaders in African-Centered Social Work program through its first official year," Hollingsworth said, "but I'm hopeful that the program will move forward campuswide and that it will serve as a model for other schools of social work. I'm ready to retire."

Hollingsworth wasn't always clear on when retirement would be right for her, but her friends told her that she would know when the time was right, and that's exactly what happened.



"I took a vacation two years ago, the first vacation in a very long time...and I realized after spending the first few days working on a grant submission before settling into a more relaxed pace, that I really enjoyed that time," Hollingsworth said. "Before long, I took another vacation and with a little guidance from friends and some research about how to buy a vacation home and eventually retire to it, I made an offer on a home down south and it was accepted! The rest is history!"

Hollingsworth looks forward to having the time to write about the transracial adoption research she's conducted for the last two decades, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

"I don't feel like I'm leaving something, I feel like I'm going to something, and that is the best kind of retirement." **M**



## DIANE KAPLAN VINOKUR: RETIREMENT IS **NOT** ABOUT SLOWING DOWN

Diane Kaplan Vinokur, MSW '72, PhD '75, didn't come from an academic family. In fact, she wasn't sure what to expect with an academic life, but she did know she wanted to earn her MSW because she thought the types of jobs with her BA in sociology would be limited.



"I wanted to be in a stimulating environment," Vinokur explained, "and find ways of looking at important social issues and to ultimately find answers to tough social questions."

Vinokur wanted something intellectually strong and pursued her MSW and PhD at the University of Michigan's Interdisciplinary

Program in Social Work and Sociology. Her intellectual pursuits resulted in an admirable academic career of more than 35 years with the University of Michigan School of Social Work.

Vinokur's research focuses on the application of social psychological and organizational theories to human service organizations and their personnel. She studies the implication of such findings for nonprofit management and social work practice.

In 1997, Vinokur co-founded and directed the University of Michigan Nonprofit and Public Management Center, a collaboration of the schools of Social Work, Business and Public Policy.

She co-edited a book in 2015, *Cases in Innovative Nonprofits: Organizations that Make a Difference*, which was published by Sage.

In addition to her 2015 publication, Vinokur has been prolific with journal publications and presentations, and has received several prominent grants and awards including the Founders Award from the Nonprofit Centers Network, the premier learning community on nonprofit shared space and services.

Vinokur sees her retirement as more of a transition than an ending, and there's no indication that she'll be slowing down on her research anytime soon. She's completing her second book, working with colleagues on the east and west coasts. The topic is nonprofit shared space buildings: co-location, collaboration and shared services.

"This is a book for people who are interested in nonprofit organizations and communities dedicated to establishing such nonprofit centers," Vinokur said. "By co-locating nonprofit organizations under one roof with shared services, they can benefit from lower rent, operational cost savings, stability, modern office space, social support and opportunities for collaboration."

Vinokur has conducted research that focused on tenant satisfaction and retention within nonprofit centers, and its positive results were published in the journal *Nonprofit Management & Leadership* in 2014.

Her hope for the soon-to-be completed book is to bring attention to the crucial role nonprofits play in American society, including educating the public about the need for critical services as well as providing many of those services.

Throughout her career she witnessed examples of the power of nonprofits to help change society for the better. They include the efforts of the gay community in originally establishing nonprofit services for people with AIDS, civil rights organizations educating the

public about social justice, environmental groups sustaining nature, as well as nonprofits providing many services in communities to enhance their quality of life.

Retirement holds continued intellectual interests for Vinokur as she works toward completing her second book, and looks forward to traveling to Israel, Iceland and Finland within the next year. And the life-long learner is planning to sit in on various classes once she's returned from her travels. Vinokur is true to an academic life.

"I don't feel like my career in social work is ending with my retirement, because I still have to finish our book, and I was just voted in to the board of NEW, Inc., which is a local nonprofit," Vinokur said. "Retirement really gives me more time to broaden my horizons in ways that I've always wanted." **M**



# MAYNARD BELIEVES SOCIAL WORK IS THE MINDSET, SOCIAL JUSTICE IS THE ISSUE

Olivia (Libby) Maynard, MSW '71, has had considerable achievements throughout her career, particularly in education and politics, and has consistently helped the underserved and overlooked, especially children, women, minorities and older adults.

During the 1990s, Maynard was a U-M adjunct professor at the School of Social Work. She volunteered for SSW for many years and most recently served as a member of the Dean's Advisory Board.

“The great thing about social work is that it's similar to law, you can really work anywhere,” Maynard explained. “Social work opens us up to the view of what life should be, if it could be. Social justice is the issue, and social work is the mindset.”

Her notable accomplishments range from her nomination as the first woman for the office of Michigan's lieutenant governor, in 1978, to being the first woman to chair the Michigan Democratic Party (1979–1983). She ran for Lieutenant Governor for a second time in 1990.

After her tenure as chairperson of the Michigan Democratic Party, Maynard became the head of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, where she worked to keep senior citizens in their homes, to provide prescription drug reimbursement for low-income residents ineligible for Medicaid, and to develop a national model for guardianship standards.

Maynard's career has had great depth and breadth, and she attributes much of that to her MSW degree, with a policy and administration concentration, from the University of Michigan.

“The great thing about social work is that it's similar to law, you can really work anywhere,” Maynard explained. “Social work opens us up to the view of what life should be, if it could be. Social justice is the issue, and social work is the mindset.”

Maynard values her graduate school years, even though she juggled a family and a job while she commuted between her home in Flint and U-M's main campus in Ann Arbor. “I learned quickly that education is the answer and where you choose to get your education is important,” Maynard said.

In Maynard's graduate school days, the School of Social Work was located in the Frieze Building.

“We didn't have cell phones back then, and when we were in between classes, we would run out to the hall find a phone booth to make a call, and then scramble back to class,” Maynard said. “Today I find new technology so interesting, not just for personal convenience, but it opens up so many possibilities to teaching and learning. It's just amazing how new technology can be used.”



Education has been a life focus for Maynard and her husband Olof, who have been very generous to the SSW, supporting both faculty and students. Not only has Maynard served as a volunteer for the U-M Flint campus, she has been a champion for U-M Flint and the Flint community for many years.

"Most of the money we've given has been to support student scholarships, which allow students to focus on their studies and ultimately do better once they've graduated from their MSW program," Maynard said. "Many of our students who come from the Flint community are non-traditional students and we wanted to help those students obtain their MSWs," Maynard said. "The more we can get our three campuses to work together, the better."

"I'm proud of what the University does, and the MSW program was really good for me," Maynard said. "Supporting the School of Social Work scholarship program is another way to demonstrate my pride." **M**



## “THE MAYNARD FELLOWSHIP CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR ME”

### Maynard Fellowship Supports a Promising Student

An invitation to meet Olivia P. Maynard and her husband, S. Olof Karlstrom, was a welcome surprise for Hollie Bellamy-Rodgers. A senior in the BSW program at UM-Flint at the time, she was invited by Department Chair Dr. Otrude Moyo to talk about her experience at the 2014 NASW's Legislative Education & Advocacy Day (LEAD) conference at the state capital in Lansing.

“I was invited to share with them the impact the LEAD workshops had on my education and how useful the networking and training experiences had been for me. I was so honored to meet and spend time with Olivia Maynard and Olof Karlstrom. They're amazing people who have done so much for the children of Flint and for the field of social work advocacy. That's exactly what I want to do.”

Maynard and Karlstrom are the couple behind generous tuition and training funding for students in the UM-Flint Department of Social Work programs, including training and transportation funds for students wishing to attend LEAD.

Maynard is also the woman behind the Olivia P. Maynard Children and Family Fellowship for MSW students on the Ann Arbor campus who are committed to working with low-income children and families.

Bellamy-Rodgers applied to the MSW program in Ann Arbor, but was unsure if she could afford the costs of full-time tuition and the lengthy commute. For a single parent of a school-aged child, relocating to Ann Arbor was not an option. In fact, the initial financial aid package offered to her with her acceptance wasn't enough to cover expenses and Bellamy-Rodgers almost declined. But after being reevaluated, she received

another welcome surprise: the Maynard Fellowship.

“The Maynard Fellowship changed everything for me. It meant that I could focus on my education and my son could remain in his school. The fellowship has made an impact on my son, too. He's seen how hard I'm working and the success I've had. He understands that education is important. I'm able to be in school because of the Maynard Fellowship and my son knows I'm in school for our future.”

Bellamy-Rodgers is studying Interpersonal Practice/Mental Health. Her field placement is with the Genesee Health System, where she is a clinical therapist working with children and their families. She provides therapy services to children with serious emotional disturbances and/or developmental disabilities and their families from the comfort of their home or from a school setting.

“As a clinical therapist it is especially important for me to have a presence in the child's school. This way I can offer support to school personnel and make sure the child's educational needs are being met.”

In addition to her MSW, Bellamy-Rodgers will graduate with a Social Work in School Settings certificate. She plans to stay in Flint and work with the city's most vulnerable populations, including children and families affected by the water crisis.

**M**

## “MY HEART IS IN THIS COMMUNITY”

### Maynard Fellowship Supports a Flint Native

At the age of 36, Aaron Cheek decided to go back to school to become a clinical therapist for low-income children and youth. Married and the father of three children ages 8, 7 and 4, Cheek wrestled with whether the sacrifice would be worth it for his family. Aside from the significant time commitment, a graduate degree meant financial sacrifices as well. But the scales tipped in his favor when Cheek was awarded the Olivia P Maynard Children and Family Fellowship.

“My education and the kind of work I want to do is so important to me. I’m committing myself to a life in social work and taking on some of the burdens of society. The Maynard Fellowship represents a lifelong partnership with me that will enable me to fulfill that commitment.”

Cheek graduated from UM-Flint with a BSW and spent eight years working with inmates at the Genesee County Jail. Seeing so many young men facing long incarcerations motivated him to work on the preventive side, where he could make an impact on a young person’s life before they get into trouble.

He now commutes from his home in Genesee County to Ann Arbor for classes twice a week. His field placement is with the Genesee Health System (GHS), where he provides home-based trauma therapy, including trauma-focused CBT and motivational interviewing, to children and their families. Cheek also spends 20 hours a week doing research and emergency room therapy at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, as part of a partnership with the UMHS Injury Center of Ann Arbor.

Opportunities for social workers in Flint and surrounding areas are expanding exponentially with the water crisis unfolding. Cheek and his coworkers have already begun dealing with the fallout.

“We’re just now seeing glimpses of how this will affect city residents and continue to do so for decades to come. The future impact is a generational crisis in an area that struggles with high rates of unemployment, poverty, drugs and violent crime. Getting my degree gives me that ability to take an active role addressing this issue and its collateral damage in Genesee County.”

“The Maynard Fellowship eliminates so much of the background noise and allows me to focus on what’s most important: my family and my education.”

Juggling school and work with a busy home life is challenging, but Cheek says his commitment to doing the best work he can for Genesee County is what keeps him from easing up on his schedule.

“My wife and I knew it would be a tough year, but my heart is in this community. The Maynard Fellowship allows me to focus on what’s most important: my family and my education. I’m grateful for the opportunity to become the most effective agent for change I can be.” **M**





## CASC STUDENT EMILY CLOCH COMBINES HER LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS WITH SOCIAL WORK

Emily Cloch knew she wanted a career in social work when she was in high school, and soon after she began her undergraduate program in cultural anthropology at the University of Michigan, she put her plan into action.

Cloch's advisor suggested she consider the Community Action and Social Change (CASC) undergraduate minor, located within the U-M School of Social Work. The CASC minor is for students interested in developing knowledge, skills and experiences in community action and social change. Since its launch in Winter 2010, more than 500 students have declared the CASC minor.

Not only did Cloch declare the CASC minor, but she became a CASC Student Board member during her sophomore year.

"Being on the board kept me intimately involved with the School of Social Work," Cloch said. "The board developed different events to increase cultural awareness and gain more knowledge about current events, and we also created an event where students could come de-stress during finals in addition to receiving advice for class registration for the following semester."

The CASC program also led Cloch to Tony Alvarez, who serves as SSW's point person for the use of experiential, adventure and wilderness approaches to social work practice. Alvarez's research focuses on the design of effective experiential and adventure-based programs for social workers in multiple settings and with diverse populations.

"Tony and I talked about various wilderness therapy programs and different ways I can incorporate adventure and wilderness into social work," Cloch said. "I've been going to

camp in the north woods of Wisconsin since I was nine years old, and the older I get, the more I realize how important the outdoors are to me."

**The CASC classes helped improve my communication skills in understanding how to be in a community space and confidently talk about privilege and oppression in a productive way.**

Through the CASC program she took a class in intergroup dialogue which she said opened up her ability to talk about all types of issues including social injustice.

"The classes I took with the CASC program gave me the space I needed to be productive in a social justice environment," Cloch said. "The CASC classes helped improve my communication skills in understanding how to be in a community space and confidently talk about privilege and oppression in a productive way." **M**

# HERNANDEZ HELPS CLARIFY LATINA/O FAMILY NEEDS

Elise Hernandez, PhD candidate

Elise Hernandez, MSW '14, left Miami to begin her education at U-M in 2011. She came to Ann Arbor to better understand intergenerational family relationships, social support and well-being among marginalized older adults. As with many researchers, she has a personal connection to her area of study.

"I was drawn to this topic while visiting my great-grandmother in the hospital," Hernandez explained. "We would pack three generations of family into the hospital to visit her and would often get kicked out because there were too many of us, but I noticed so many other patients were alone."

Hernandez has focused her research on how values and circumstances shape social support for older adults, and how the quality of that support impacts formal social service seeking patterns.

Hernandez's grandparents didn't want to be in an institution and her family wasn't sure how to manage both older parents who were ill. The family wanted to honor the wishes of the grandparents, but the caregivers also had jobs and families of their own to manage. A large extended family could help with the ailing parents, but eventually the grandparents moved into their children's homes.

"There was no way to honor all of my grandparents' wishes, but my family kept them in their home for as long as they could, and moved them in with family rather than into a facility for older adults," Hernandez said.

Hernandez's dissertation: "Social Support and the Paradox of Familismo among Older Latina/os: Profiles, Quality, and Social Service Use across Sociocultural Characteristics" is intended to better understand the ambivalence and evaluation of family and how it relates

to the prediction of their use of social services.

"The overall concept is that Latina/o families are happy and that they take care of themselves, but not everyone has that, or even a variation of that," Hernandez said. "We want to see what predicts that variation."

Initial research shows differences among elderly born outside the U.S. versus those born in the country, which involve contradictions about the reliability and sympathy of family support. According to Hernandez, the Latina/o mindset of older adult care is more collectivist and yet it can also be challenging for the family members who provide the care.

"I hope this leads to more research on Latina/o older adults," Hernandez said. The more I find, the more questions I have. I'd like this to lead to some sort of intervention with older adults and their families. It would be great if this research could lead to policy evaluation and reform to address the needs of this underserved group with some cultural specificity."

Hernandez suggests a solution to the challenges of older adult care involve increased social services and programs to meet Latina/o needs.

"Many Latina/os are hesitant to use social services because they think it is the family's responsibility," Hernandez explained. "The point of my research is to get families talking about what they can do for one another, and then cater social services to that need."

Hernandez is interested in pursuing an academic career to teach and train future social workers in working with older adults, and in policy and evaluation work with organizations focused on gerontology issues. **M**



## Dissertations Defended



### LAMIA MOGHNIE

Social Work and Anthropology

Humanitarian Psychology in Lebanon:  
Psychological Aid, Violence and the  
Politics of Suffering



### LISA O'DONNELL

Social Work and Psychology

An Investigation on Predictors of  
Occupational Functioning in Individuals  
with Bipolar Disorder

Postdoctoral Fellowship, UCLA  
Department of Psychiatry, Los  
Angeles, CA

### JESSUINA PEREZ-TERAN

Social Work and Political Science

Partisan Preferences: The Enforcing  
and Crafting of Immigration Policy



### ELIZABETH RHODES

Social Work and Political Science

The Micro-Dynamics of Health and  
Education Provision in the Slums of  
Nairobi

Research Director of the Basic Income  
Study for the Y Combinator Research



### AMANDA TILLOTSON

Social Work and Political Science

Risky Business: Race, Risk and Real  
Estate in the Development of the Home



### MARIA WATHEN

Social Work and Sociology

Civic Culture Frameworks &  
Glocalization; Implications for Social  
Services in Russia

Assistant Professor, Loyola School of  
Social Work, Chicago

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**SEEFELDT, K. S.** (2015). Waiting it out: Time, action, and the process of securing benefits. *Qualitative Social Work*. Sage Journals.

**SHAEFER, H. LUKE**

Kim, J. & **SHAEFER, H. L.** (2015). Are household food expenditures responsive to entry onto the supplemental nutrition assistance program? *Social Science Quarterly*, 96(4), 1,086-1,102.

Phillips, E., **SHAEFER, H. L.** & Gwozdek, A. (2015). Safety Net Care and midlevel dental practitioners: A case study of the portion of care that might be performed under various setting and scope-of-practice assumptions. *American Journal of Public Health*, 105(9), 1770-1776.

**SPENCER, MICHAEL S.**

**SPENCER, M. S.** (2015). Insider-Outsider reflections from a Native Hawaiian researcher and the use of community-based participatory approaches. *Australian Psychiatry*, 23(6).

**TOLMAN, RICHARD M.**

Reed, L., **TOLMAN, R. M.**, & Ward, M. (2016). Snooping and sexting: Digital abuse in a dating context. *Violence Against Women*.

**WATKINS, DAPHNE C. & SPENCER, MICHAEL**

Hawkins, J., **WATKINS, D. C.**, Kieffer, E., **SPENCER, M.**, Espitia, N., & Anderson, M. (2015). Psychosocial factors that influence health care use and self-management for African American and Latino men with type 2 diabetes: An exploratory study. *Journal of Men's Studies*, 23(2), 161-176. Sage Publications.

**WATKINS, DAPHNE C. & MITCHELL, JAMIE**

**WATKINS, D. C.**, Wharton, T., **MITCHELL, J.**, Matusko, N., & Kales, H. (2015). Perceptions and receptivity of non-spousal family support: A mixed methods study of psychological distress among older, church-going African American men. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.

**ZEBRACK, BRADLEY**

Quinn G. P., **ZEBRACK, B.**, Sehovic, I., Bowman, M., & Vadaparampil, S. T. (2015). Adoption and cancer survivors: Findings from a learning activity for Oncology nurses. *Cancer*.

**ZEBRACK, B.**, Santacroce, S. J. Patterson, P., & Gubin, A. (2016). Adolescents and young adults with cancer: A biopsychosocial approach. In A. Abrams, A. Muriel, and L. Weiner (Eds.) *Pediatric Psychosocial Oncology: Textbook for Multi-disciplinary Care*. Springer Publishing.

**JEWISH PHILANTHROPY**

Instructor:

**Robert P. Aronson**

This course will examine the past, present and future of Jewish philanthropy in America. Among other topics, the course explores the values and traditions of Jewish giving and the emergence and impact of Jewish private foundations, and affords students the opportunity to learn about best practices to ask for private support. Social workers, leading agencies and organizations are increasingly required to engage in fundraising activities to be able to develop new programs or support existing ones. This course will benefit students interested in acquiring skills and knowledge regarding philanthropic practices in general and Jewish philanthropy in particular.

**CE hours:**  
15 macro hours

**Course dates:**  
Wednesdays from 1–4 p.m.  
September 14, 21, 28 and October 5, 19

**Location:**  
University of Michigan  
School of Social Work  
1080 South University  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

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**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**LINDA CHATTERS** and **LORRAINE GUTIÉRREZ** were ranked as high-impact female social work scholars in the article "Citation Impact of Women in Social Work: Exploring Gender and Research Culture," which was published in *Research on Social Work Practice*.

**BARRY CHECKOWAY** received a grant from the U-M Associate Provost for Inclusion and Equity to build upon Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity in Metropolitan Detroit with high school students of African, Asian, White European, Middle Eastern and Latin American descent.

**DAVID CÓRDOVA** received a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health via the University of California San Francisco to carry out interventions focused on drug use and HIV risk behaviors in the primary care clinic setting.

- presented "Preventing Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems Among Detroit Hispanic Youth" at the Detroit Urban Research Center 20th Anniversary Symposium.
- presented "Longitudinal Studies of Identity, Culture and Health among Hispanic Adolescents" at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting.

**JORGE DELVA** is a member of a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee involved with developing a global framework for educating health professionals. The committee's model demonstrates ways in which organizations, educational institutions and communities can come together to address health inequalities. The committee is presenting the framework to the World Health Organization.

- appointed as a Faculty Associate, U-M Department of American Culture, Latina/o Studies Program

**JORGE DELVA, BRIAN PERRON** and **MICHAEL SPENCER** were ranked high-impact scholars (SSWR Fellows) in the article, "High-Impact Social Work Scholars: A Bibliometric Examination of Society for Social Work and Research and American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Fellows," which was published in *Research on Social Work Practice*.

**MATHIEU DESPARD** received a grant from Washington University in St. Louis to analyze data from the Refund-to-Savings project of the Center for Social Development. This Initiative studies the effects of experimental interventions informed by behavioral economics to encourage low- and moderate-income tax filers to save part of their tax refunds.

- co-authored article in *The Atlantic*, "Life in a Banking Desert."
- named a Faculty Associate with the Center for Social Development at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

**RUTH DUNKLE** received a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation via the Gerontological Society of America to help advance evidence-based knowledge related to VA practice in aging.

**SALLIE FOLEY** was cited in the *U.S. News & World Report* article, "Seniors and Sexual Health: What Older Adults Should Know."

**LARRY GANT** received a grant for his project, "Amsterdam Berlin Program 2016" from the U-M's International Institute. Funding supports the work of the Transnational Cultural Action Community. A group of U-M SSW students will be trained to compare social problems and solutions in Berlin, Amsterdam and Detroit.

**CHARLES GARVIN'S** and **RICHARD TOLMAN'S** book, *Group Work Research*, was published by Oxford University Press as part of its "Pocket Guide to Social Work Research Methods" series.

- Garvin's book, *Social Work and Social Justice: Concepts, Challenges, and Strategies*, was published by Oxford University Press.

**ANDREW GROGAN-KAYLOR'S** recently published meta-analysis examining the research on spanking and its effects on children has been cited by numerous media outlets. Grogan-Kaylor has been featured by:

- *The Telegraph*
- *The Boston Globe*
- *ScienceDaily*
- *Good Morning America*
- National Public Radio
- *The Atlantic*
- Telemundo
- CNN en Espanol

**BARB HILTZ, MARY RUFFOLO** and **KATIE RICHARDS-SCHUSTER'S** proposal, "Social Work: Meeting the Challenges of a New Era," is now one of four U-M open, online courses to be offered on the edX platform.

**LESLIE HOLLINGSWORTH** received the Distinguished Individual Service Award at the 48th Annual Conference of the National Association of Black Social Workers.

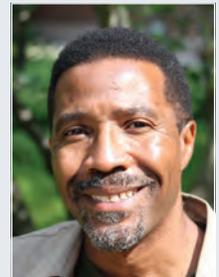
- presented: "Survey Results of Racial Microaggression Encounters and Effects among Black, White, and Other Students of Color in an MSW Program," at the 48th Annual Conference of the National Association of Black Social Workers.



David Córdova



Jorge Delva



Larry Gant



Lorraine Gutiérrez



Edie Kieffer



Shawna Lee

**BERIT INGERSOLL-DAYTON** was cited in *The Wall Street Journal* article, "The Healing Power of Forgiveness."

**EDIE KIEFFER** received a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to continue her initiative, The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance evaluating several components of Linking Clinical Care with Community Supports, a statewide project that integrates Community Health Workers into patient care teams at community health centers.

**SHAWNA LEE** was featured in the web post, "Spanking Children Does Not Make Them 'Nicer', but Hugging Does" on the *Child and Family Blog*.

**LAURA LEIN** received the American Men's Studies Association's Advocate Award.

**LYDIA LI** is the program co-chair of the 2016 meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.

**DEBRA MATTISON** and **DANIEL FISCHER** were selected as members of the inaugural cohort of the U-M Interprofessional Leadership Fellows program.

**REUBEN MILLER** was a panelist for a conversation on "Poverty in Detroit" for *Ambassador Magazine*.

- selected as a member of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study, one of the world's leading centers for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry.

**EMILY NICKLETT** received a grant from the National Congress of American Indians to conduct research on the barriers adults with type 2 diabetes face while adopting new physical activity regimens.

- cited in the *Medical Xpress* article, "New solutions needed for diabetes management among older Native Americans."

**ROBERT ORTEGA** was elected by the U-M Senate Assembly.

**ROGÉRIO M. PINTO** was appointed to serve as a member of the Community Influences on Health Behavior Study Section, Center for Scientific Review (National Institutes of Health) for the period 2015 to 2019.

- selected as a U-M 2016 Michigan Road Scholar.
- selected as an associate in the Michigan Mixed Methods Research and Scholarship Program at the U-M Department of Family Medicine.

**BETH GLOVER REED** received a grant from the U-M Center for Research on Learning & Teaching to continue implementing a required first term course in the Master's of Social Work program focused on justice and diversity.

**JULIE RIBAUDO** was interviewed for the *HometownLife* article, "Kindness Counts: Keeping the Peace at Family Gatherings Key."

**KATIE RICHARDS-SCHUSTER** and **BARRY CHECKOWAY** were featured in the special "Building Youth Leadership in Southeast Michigan," which aired on Detroit Public Television in January.

**LARRY ROOT** was selected as a Distinguished Alumnus for the centennial celebration of Bryn Mawr's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

**MARY RUFFOLO** and **JOE RYAN** were selected as 2016 Fellows of the Society for Social Work and Research.

**JOE RYAN** and **BRIAN PERRON'S** Child and Adolescent Data Lab:

- awarded a 5-year contract to serve as a third party evaluator of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Performance-Based Child Welfare System project for out-of-home placement of children in foster care.
- received a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to expand the Lab to include education data.

**DANIEL SAUNDERS** was cited in the *Huffington Post* article, "This is Not a Love Story: America's Deadly Domestic Violence Problem."

**SUE ANN SAVAS** received a grant from the Community Health and Social Services program to evaluate the Fresh Prescription program, a community-based fruit-and-vegetable prescription program offered at five health clinics in Detroit.

- received a grant from the National Council for Behavioral Health to evaluate the Geriatric Technical Assistance Center and the Reducing Adolescent Substance Abuse Initiative.

**KRISTIN SEEFELDT'S** response to an article on the shrinking middle class was featured in *The Atlantic*.



Emily Nicklett



Mary Ruffolo



Joe Ryan



Sue Ann Savas

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**LUKE SHAEFER** received the Hillman Prize for Book Journalism for his book, *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. The Hillman Prize honors journalists who pursue investigative reporting and deep storytelling in service of the common good. Shaefer was cited in:

- *The Atlantic*
- *The New York Times*
- *The Washington Post*
- *The Huffington Post*
- Shaefer's book received the 2016 J. Anthony Lukas Prize, which recognizes superb examples of nonfiction writing that exemplify the literary grace, the commitment to serious research and the social concern that characterized the distinguished work of J. Anthony Lukas.
- Shaefer's book was named one of *The New York Times*' "100 Notable Books of 2015."
- Shaefer gave testimony on welfare and poverty at the U.S. Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Welfare and Poverty in America.

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**TRINA SHANKS** was elected as Treasurer of the Society for Social Work and Research.

- cited in the *Huffington Post* article, "Flint Water Crisis: Victims Deserve Compensation Fund."

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**MICHAEL SPENCER** was selected as a 2015 American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Fellow.

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**BETH SPENCER** is participating in Memory, Aging and Expressive Arts, a collaborative program between U-M's Stamps School of Art and Design, the U-M SSW and the Silver Club Memory Programs. The program won a national competition recognizing outstanding programs helping Alzheimer's families and caregivers.

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**THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES TEAM** was selected to receive the Seventh Annual Distinguished Diversity Leaders Award. The Distinguished Diversity Leaders Award was established to shine a light on those staff members who work toward achieving a welcoming, supportive and inclusive working environment.

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**RICHARD TOLMAN'S** project, "The Infant Emotional Brain: An fNIRS Study on Parent-Infant Interaction with Depressed and Nondepressed Mothers" was funded by the U-M Mini Cube.

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**JOHN TROPMAN** was featured in The Network for Social Work Management's weekly blog series, "Monday Morning Manager."

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**DAPHNE WATKINS'** YBMen Project was featured in the latest issue of *Concentrate Ann Arbor* for her Young Black Men, Masculinities and Mental Health Project.

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**DAPHNE WATKINS** and **REUBEN MILLER** are the guest editors of a special issue of *The Journal of Men's Studies* titled, "The intersections of race, gender and class in the wake of a national crisis: The state of Black boys and men post-Ferguson."

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**MIEKO YOSHIHAMA** was interviewed on the U-M Center for Japanese Studies' "Radio Hour."

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**BRADLEY ZEBRACK** was a speaker at the Inaugural Australasian International Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Congress in December.

- selected to receive a Fulbright scholarship to Australia for 2017.

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**BRADLEY ZEBRACK** and **MICHAEL SPENCER** were co-authors on the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare Grand Challenge Working Paper on Health Equity.



Trina Shanks



Michael Spencer



John Tropman



Daphne Watkins



Bradley Zebrack

**WILLIAM CABIN**, MSW '04, published a paper, "Who Rules Home Care? The Impact of Privatization on Profitability, Cost, and Quality," in the *Home Health Care Management & Practice Journal*. The paper can be found here: [hhc.sagepub.com/content/28/1/28](http://hhc.sagepub.com/content/28/1/28).

**LAURIE CARPENTER**, MSW '05, received NASW-Michigan's 2016 Public Citizen of the Year award for her work in Flint, during the Flint Water Crisis. She helped found Crossing Water, a volunteer-run NGO, in response to the crisis, and as the lead social worker she led the Rapid Response Service Teams in providing resources and education to the most vulnerable residents in Flint.

**JENNIFER CERVI**, MSW '12, is Coordinator of the Collegiate Recovery Community at UNCW. She works with students in recovery, advocating campuswide and nationally to erase the stigma of addiction.

**GRACE CHEE**, MSW '09, successfully defended her dissertation, "Chinese grandparents' ethnic and racial socialization of their Chinese-White biracial grandchildren in the San Francisco Bay Area," in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University on March 25, 2016.

**MARY KATHLEEN CLAUSER**, MSW '85, is a private contractor at Advanced Counseling Services, providing services to seniors, family and children. Her licenses are Social Work and Family Therapy with the state of Michigan.

**IVEY COOLEY**, MSW '75, has worked in an intensive outpatient program for the last 16 years running groups, working with families and individuals, and doing per diem work at Catholic Family Services. She has also supervised social work

students. She plans to retire and visit as many countries as possible.

**SUZANNE L. CROSS**, MSW '84, recently co-authored and published the following articles: "Tribal Traineeship Programs: Promoting Diversity in the Child Welfare Workforce," *Journal of Social Work Education*; and "American Indians' Response to Physical Pain: Functional Limitations and Help-Seeking Behaviors," *Journal of Social Work in Disability and Rehabilitation*. She also created Healing through Culture & Art Shawl Collection, an artistic exhibit which consists of 13 traditional American Indian shawls reflecting cultural and healing aspects for Women's Health Awareness.

**LARRY DAVIS**, MSW '73, PhD '77, authored the book, *Why Are They Angry With Us? Essays on Race*. Davis is Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, where he is the Donald M. Henderson Professor. He is also the director and founder of the Center on Race and Social Problems, which conducts applied social science research on race, ethnicity and color.

**ROBERT "BOB" FOGEL**, MSW '73, retired from the National Association of Counties as a Senior Legislative Advisor after 28 years. He consults for the National Association of Regional Councils and is Vice Chair of the Riders' Advising Council, Washington Metro System.

**MELISSA MENDEZ**, MSW '01 was promoted to Director of Early Childhood Services at Wheeler Clinic in north central Connecticut in April 2015 and elected President of the Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health in June 2015. Mendez oversees early childhood clinical services

that include Birth to Three Early Intervention, Child First home visiting and two Project LAUNCH/SAMHSA grants at Wheeler. Mendez also serves as a member of the state's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Advisory Committee and worked as an advisory committee member with the development of the Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan in 2014.

**BRAD PALMERTREE**, MSW '14, was selected as a Policy Fellow with the Network for Social Work Management. He presented a poster in June at the Network's annual conference in Los Angeles about a policy advocacy framework for the treatment, mitigation, and prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

**CHARLES RICHMOND**, MSW '59, served for 15 years as the first Executive Director of Caminar, a nonprofit psychosocial rehabilitation agency based in San Mateo. He developed it into a highly regarded national model with nine innovative therapeutic community-based psychosocial rehabilitation programs in California and Nevada. He then became the first psychiatric social worker to conduct group therapy at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA. He was assistant to the director at Miramonte Mental Health Services in Palo Alto, where he ran a psychiatric treatment center and supervised Harvey House, a halfway house. He is the author of several professional journal articles and two book chapters on therapeutic communities and milieu therapy in the field of psychosocial rehabilitation.

**ANDREA ROBINSON**, MSW '05, began the role of Program Director at Camp Blodgett, which provides

children and youth in Kent and Ottawa counties with high quality, financially accessible summer camp experiences, after-school programs and youth leadership initiatives.

**SUSAN SEFANSKY**, MSW '76, started a new social work program at the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office in Detroit and had a paper accepted to the journal *Health and Social Work* entitled "Involved in the Business of Death: Social Work's Role in Post-Mortem Care" for an upcoming issue.

**CHRISTINE HERNANDEZ STRUKEL**, MSW '00, was appointed Regional Director for Region 8-11 of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services Regulatory Services Division. This department regulates nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, assisted living facilities, home health agencies and hospice.

**JAMES "JIM" TOY**, MSW '81, was honored by NASW-Michigan with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding social work practice and his continued commitment to the principles of social justice.

**JENNIFER WAKENELL**, MSW '12, created an interactive display, "Turner Town," to raise awareness, attention and education about Turner Syndrome and Nonverbal Learning Disabilities. The exhibit was on display at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

**RALPH YOUNG**, MSW '65, retired from his position as Division Manager, Office of Adult Services from the state of Michigan. The client and staff memories will last him a lifetime. He still helps poor people to this very day at age 75.

## FACULTY

**Douglas D. Davies** | MSW, '79, June 4, 2015

## ALUMNI

**John H. Roche** | MSW, '71, October 20, 2014  
**Adelina de Hill** | MSW, '72, October 29, 2014  
**Mary R. Kuhn** | MSW, '45, October 31, 2014  
**Katherine F. Howe** | MSW, '84, November 1, 2014  
**Barbara S. Gray** | MSW, '97, November 3, 2014  
**Carol K. Hartsock** | MSW, '68, November 6, 2014  
**Celeste S. Reed** | MSW, '70, November 6, 2014  
**Darrell L. Moilanen** | MSW, '92, November 25, 2014  
**Michael R. Sosin** | MSW, '73, November 25, 2014  
**John C. Kent** | MSW, '70, December 2, 2014  
**Susanne K. Bartlett** | MSW, '82, December 21, 2014  
**Lucille J. Doorn** | MSW, '61, December 27, 2014  
**Mary E. Hill** | MSW, '78, January 16, 2015  
**George W. Downs** | MSW, '72, January 21, 2015  
**Marilyn M. Nadler** | MSW, '56, January 28, 2015  
**Natalie R. Peterson** | MSW, '67, January 30, 2015  
**Verne H. Robbert** | MSW, '60, February 2, 2015  
**Loretta M. Bodette** | MSW, '59, February 6, 2015  
**Barbara A. Lininger** | MSW, '55, February 7, 2015  
**Diann O. Solomon** | MSW, '95, February 11, 2015  
**Borah Bender** | MSW, '70, February 16, 2015  
**Carol S. Clinton** | MSW, '78, February 20, 2015  
**Cheryl L. Hanson** | MSW, '68, February 20, 2015  
**Gladys J. Becker** | MSW, '78, February 21, 2015  
**Barbara R. Graves** | MSW, '87, February 24, 2015  
**Sandra A. Awood** | MSW, '70, March 1, 2015  
**Howard S. Ebright** | MSW, '73, March 7, 2015  
**Sally W. Russo** | MSW, '78, March 13, 2015  
**Lucille G. Walls** | MSW, '88, March 19, 2015  
**Ivan G. Wassink** | MSW, '66, March 28, 2015  
**Donald L. Horsley** | MSW, '72, March 29, 2015  
**Ronald W. Neff** | MSW, '67, March 31, 2015  
**Kathryn H. Mahlin** | MSW, '64, April 1, 2015  
**William D. Martin** | MSW, '90, April 4, 2015  
**Robert A. Simpson** | MSW, '89, April 5, 2015  
**Arthur C. Barbati** | MSW, '86, April 10, 2015  
**Harvey A. Abrams** | MSW, '70, April 26, 2015  
**Gertrude S. Coleman** | MSW, '55, May 2, 2015  
**Louis J. Cantoni** | MSW, '49, May 3, 2015  
**Daniel J. Ureche** | MSW, '10, May 6, 2015  
**Mary C. Kelley** | MSW, '58, May 9, 2015  
**Joanna R. Gutmann** | MSW, '68, May 13, 2015  
**Richard R. Brazus** | MSW, '68, May 16, 2015  
**Alice P. Lin** | MSW, '66, May 21, 2015  
**Nita J. Chapman** | MSW, '85, May 21, 2015  
**Robert I. Hiller** | MSW, '48, May 27, 2015  
**John Gelski** | MSW, '74, June 3, 2015  
**Margaret L. Evans** | MSW, '78, June 15, 2015  
**Maryellen Halstead-Leppink** | MSW, '51, June 16, 2015

**Ralph A. Eaton** | MSW, '67, June 25, 2015  
**Patricia S. Edsall** | MSW, '76, June 28, 2015  
**Phyllis J. Whelan** | MSW, '78, July 25, 2015  
**Rita J. Charron** | MSW, '74, July 26, 2015  
**Rilma O. Buckman** | MSW, '55, July 28, 2015  
**Lois C. Lowe** | MSW, '54, July 31, 2015  
**Alexandra A. Bowers** | MSW, '99, July 31, 2015  
**Fred A. Langille** | MSW, '71, August 6, 2015  
**Bernetta A. Miller-Shaw** | MSW, '74, August 14, 2015  
**Kimbra M. Estelle** | MSW, '13, August 17, 2015  
**Betty H. Pope** | MSW, '48, August 24, 2015  
**Lela M. Paris** | MSW, '89, August 27, 2015  
**Jane P. Lyons** | MSW, '97, September 1, 2015  
**Sarah L. Nicklaus** | MSW, '07, September 2, 2015  
**Curtis W. Poole** | MSW, '58, September 7, 2015  
**Jacqueline A. Stuart** | MSW, '53, September 18, 2015  
**Lucinda B. Campbell** | MSW, '74, September 28, 2015  
**Margaret C. Stewart** | MSW, '81, September 30, 2015  
**Susan A. Finley** | MSW, '86, October 4, 2015  
**Ralph W. Hartshorn** | MSW, '68, October 7, 2015  
**Sherrie A. Joseph** | MSW, '70, October 11, 2015  
**Joyce L. Hancock** | MSW, '82, October 13, 2015  
**Gayle M. Powell** | MSW, '93, October 29, 2015  
**Elmer M. Arnesen** | MSW, '55, November 6, 2015  
**Julius R. Drotos** | MSW, '72, November 10, 2015  
**Sandra L. Kim** | MSW, '69, November 14, 2015  
**Dennis B. Heikka** | MSW, '74, November 22, 2015  
**Sylvia H. Williams** | MSW, '80, November 23, 2015  
**Amber M. Daniels** | MSW, '96, November 28, 2015  
**Neenah Sabir** | MSW, '84, December 5, 2015  
**Marjorie E. Meador** | MSW, '53, December 9, 2015  
**George L. Ridenour** | MSW, '94, December 11, 2015  
**Constance R. Nelson** | MSW, '83, December 29, 2015  
**Josephine A. Warner** | MSW, '53, January 1, 2016  
**Marilyn E. Sauer** | MSW, '62, January 5, 2016  
**Elizabeth A. Gilker** | MSW, '86, January 6, 2016  
**Stephen J. McMorrow** | MSW, '81, January 24, 2016  
**Renuka Nagaraju** | MSW, '94, January 25, 2016  
**Marion M. Bovee** | MSW, '67, January 28, 2016  
**Allyson M. Ishaug** | MSW, '13, February 4, 2016  
**Sally S. Mack** | MSW, '57, March 1, 2016  
**Elizabeth A. Frisbey** | MSW, '67, March 3, 2016  
**Paullette V. Coble** | MSW, '73, March 10, 2016  
**Cynthia C. Cook** | MSW, '84, March 24, 2016  
**David C. VanZytveld** | MSW, '62, April 17, 2016  
**Mary L. Lindeman** | MSW, '65, April 20, 2016  
**Doris G. Griffith** | MSW, '81, May 3, 2016  
**Marilyn O. Winner** | MSW, '71, May 15, 2016  
**Patricia A. O'Donnell** | MSW, '71, May 24, 2016

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