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22 Alumni Profile: Edmund Lewis

12 FACULTY
12 Recent Faculty Publications
13 Social Work Innovates with Business
14 Accolades: Faculty Honors & Awards

15 HAPPENINGS
15 Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, October 12–13, 2012

16 STUDENTS
16 Student Profile: Abigail Williams, PhD Student
17 Student Profile: Kerry Rastigue, MSW Candidate
18 Dissertation Defense

19 DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI
19 Donor Profile: Larry Metzger, MSW ’70
20 Donor Profile: C. Aaron McNeece, MSW ’71, PhD ’76
22 Alumni Profile: Edmund Lewis, MSW ’09
23 Class Notes
24 In Memoriam

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Laura Lein
EDITOR
Marc Raver Lash
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Michigan Creative: MP/Philippe Badin
Jim Netz
Hilary Robison
For information regarding this publication, class notes, and address changes, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 734-763-6886 or sswdevelopment@umich.edu

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Interdisciplinary Learning at SSW
Advances in research, lifelong education, and the demands on service professions require social workers in our increasingly complex and technological society to work in multidisciplinary teams. They need to understand both the contributions of other professions and disciplines and their own unique contributions.

Team-based efforts support a social worker’s development of comprehensive treatment/intervention plans, new approaches to community-based work, management strategies for multi-professional organizations, and policy innovations. Collaborative decision-making and information sharing among the helping professions ensure that consideration is given to all of the factors affecting intervention and outcome. These skills are most effectively learned through an interdisciplinary curriculum and approach.

Since 1957, U-M SSW has offered a Joint Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Social Work. The MSW program also currently offers dual degrees with public health, law, business, information, urban planning and public policy. In this issue, we are highlighting new relationships with the art and dental schools and collaborations that are continuing to grow with U-M faculty and researchers in other areas. These campus collaborations bring our students in contact with internationally recognized scholars in a wide variety of research and professional domains. They push our students far beyond the evaluation and memorization of information related to a topic. Our SSW students become critical thinkers who have the ability to make comparisons that bridge disciplines and encourage participative decision-making.

This approach is why our graduates quickly advance to leadership positions in clinical practice, nonprofit agencies, community development organizations, higher education, foundations and more. Our students graduate prepared to make significant contributions in the social services.

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

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Cover photos courtesy of Michael H. Hodges/‘The Detroit News: Social work students, and art and design students are working within the southwest Detroit community using art as a medium to address gang violence. Murals and graffiti are used as a form of communication. Legal murals in the area are used to tell the story of migration from Mexico to America.

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Ongoing · Spring/Summer 2012 · 1

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As a professional school, the University of Michigan School of Social Work has a dual responsibility—knowledge generation and knowledge application. We’ve practiced this interdisciplinary approach for the past seven decades through our vision of social work and the resulting curriculum. This vision emerges in interprofessional collaboration with more emphasis on knowledge application, rather than exclusive focus on knowledge development.

This issue of Ongoing demonstrates how UM-SSW prepares students to be critical thinkers, change makers and leaders in a multidisciplinary, cross-professional environment. As you read about students engaging in curriculum shared with business, public health, medicine, public policy, dental health and even art and design, you’ll read again and again about the clarity and new approaches these students gain when working with people who don’t think like them.

Increasingly, social work and human service professionals require knowledge from other disciplines to develop and implement successful outcomes for the societal problems of the 21st century. Our students are leading the way with collective best practices for successful solutions.
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COLLABORATION FEATURE

Collaboration with the Ross School of Business and the Ford School of Public Policy

Nonprofit Management Center

Participation in the Nonprofit and Public Management Center (NPM) and its activities are open to University of Michigan students from the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, School of Social Work, and Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, each of which is regularly among the top-ranked schools in its field. NPM’s mission is to equip future leaders in the private, public and nonprofit sectors with interdisciplinary insight, which can help them operate more effectively when working for or collaborating with nonprofit and public institutions.

The NPM provides student programs, internship grants, general services and a rigorous academic curriculum. The process to participate in the program is competitive at best.

“The converging of schools creates great conversation,” said Rishi Mandagall, Managing Director of the U-M Nonprofit and Public Management Center. “NPM is a bridge between the three schools and brings together the different perspectives each school offers. Our Student Advisory Board members say it’s the best part of the program, because it helps them break out of the silos of thinking.”

The Student Advisory Board (SAB) supports a number of activities across the three graduate schools, including assisting NPM staff with designing programs, services and key activities. The SAB also identifies and collaborates on additional programs to enhance the educational experience, including special topic panels, faculty-coordinated planning, and student mixers.

During the year-end NPM ceremony, Mike Davis MSW ’12 who was a member of the Student Advisory Board was honored as the first recipient of the NPM Outstanding Student Leader Award.

“When I think about leadership, I think about people who go above and beyond … and Mike Davis is one of those people,” Moudagall said. “Mike is the one who would work overtime to get people together.”

According to SWF Professor John Tropman, this collaboration came about through the initial work of SWF Associate Professor Diane Kaplan Vinskoz and Dean of Rackham Graduate School Janet Weiss. After Ross Business School Dean Alison Davis-Blake was appointed in 2011, the collaboration was reinvigorated and the program flourished.

The BFP places graduate students from NPM’s three participating schools as non-voting board members of nonprofits in Southeast Michigan for an academic year. It provides students with firsthand insight into the workings and procedures of an actual board, as well as opportunities to contribute to the board’s governance and success.

“Students love the collaboration,” Tropman said. “They especially like and value meeting students from other professional schools.”

Yasmin Mazloomdoost, a dual degree student working on her MSW and her MPH, is participating with the Board Fellowship Program as a non-voting board member for the HIV/AIDS Resource Center. She is working on the marketing and development committee to help identify key messages and target audiences.

“Art brings people together,” said Professor Larry Gant, who has a dual appointment with the University of Michigan’s School of Social Work, and the School of Art & Design. “Art engages a community and helps create social change by giving a voice to the voiceless.”

Social work students, and art and design students are working within the southwest Detroit community using art as a medium to address gang violence. Murals and graffiti are used as a form of communication. Legal murals in the area are used to tell the story of migration from Mexico to America, or to honor sacred figures ranging from the Chilean folk singer Violeta Parra to Frieda Kahlo or the Virgin Mary. Other murals, with aggressive tagging (illegal graffiti) are used by gang bangers to indicate territory wars are ahead. The aggressive tagging is done in the fall and winter, and the territory wars take place in the summer. This pattern of behavior has been going on for decades.

“Art is used as a disrupter in southwest Detroit,” Gant said, “which is good if you know how to read it. Our students discuss the status quo to promote social change by engaging the community to create legal murals.”

The legal murals are a community project with a role for everyone, whether they’re an artist, or they know how to mix paint. And while this project may be art based, which is a concept that art is helpful because it exposes you to new approaches to tackling an issue, and it leads us to thinking critically from a variety of perspectives for the best solutions.”

Dan Kelly MSW ’12 also has been placed by the BFP with Neighborhood Service Organization where he is developing policies and procedures to restore the Historic Michigan Bell Building in Detroit, re-dedicating it to permanent supportive housing.

“The Bell Building Project is based on the housing first philosophy, which is a social justice concept based on empirical research that if you help homeless people with housing first, then they can focus on their other needs,” Kelly explained. “The collaboration with the B-school has helped greatly with the process of re-opening this structure; it has helped us understand cost benefit analysis and taught us how to apply ethical principles to a 21st century business.”

“Our students follow their passions and carve out their opportunities,” Moudagall said. “We develop change makers.”

“Art is a normalizer. The finished product is more than the mural, it’s really about getting people together to work on a common project.”

This idea space and office space will be used by artists and social workers to create a museum. The collaboration of the social work students and the art students is learning a lasting effect on the southwest Detroit community. As Museo del Norte moves forward, art and social work students will have another venue to learn and make positive change.

“Civility breaks out in neighborhoods where the murals are located… that’s disruptive … and that’s good,” Gant smiles.

“Students are Disrupters

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The legal murals are a community project with a role for everyone, whether they’re an artist, or they know how to mix paint. And while this project may be art based, which is a concept that art students certainly understand, the social work students provide the outreach component, which helps bring people together to create the murals. Social work students know how to organize and mobilize people, and art students know how to create art. Working together, these students begin to see possible approaches through the eyes of a different type of training.

“Since working with art students, I’ve learned how to be creative and find solutions to problems in the community,” said Sarah Cohen, MSW ’12. “There’s a big difference working with an art student, because they see through a different lens, just like social work students see issues based on their training. With art students, there’s less linear thinking when approaching a problem and more fluid thinking… more a circle, than a line.”

U-M Adjunct Lecturer Sioux Trujillo has been working with art and social work students in Detroit.

“Community change takes time, patience, community organizing, authentic engagement, careful listening, and hope,” Trujillo said.

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**COLLABORATION WITH THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY**

**Step By Step, Exploring the Options**

Professor Luke Shaefer is delighted to collaborate with the University of Michigan (UM SOD) and the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM SOD) schools of dentistry to examine the possibility of creating a pilot program at each school to train registered dental hygienists to provide an expanded scope of practice that includes limited restorative care (teeth fillings) and apply the social work skills needed to work with vulnerable populations.

Working with SSW, each dental school has assembled a feasibility committee that is focusing on defining the scope of practice, determining curricular needs, clinical skills, costs and capacity (the number of students that each program can accommodate); and evaluating outcomes and the impact on access to care. This marks an uncommon collaboration between social work and dentistry.

“Oral disease affects millions, disproportionately impacting those in poverty, the elderly, and children,” Shaefer explained. “Collaboration isn’t always totally comfortable, but it’s the responsibility of social workers to push the interests of vulnerable and underserved populations and try to move them higher up on the agendas of all professional communities.”

“My role has been to try to be a catalyst that brings people together. My only agenda is to explore what can be done to improve access to care for vulnerable populations in a rigorous way,” Shaefer said.

“Building understanding across diverse stakeholders is critical for any collaboration. It’s important to understand that everyone has different perspectives, interests, and priorities, so helping stakeholders communicate with each other and finding the common ground across them is the key,” Shaefer said.

The process of finding common ground has been in motion for some time, and a major milestone was reached in August 2011, when SSW hosted a conference “Increasing Access to Oral Health Care in Michigan: A Discussion of Three Possible Solutions.” The purpose of the conference was to discuss potential solutions for increasing access to oral health care for disadvantaged residents of Michigan. The solutions discussed included: 1) alternative workforce models, 2) increased utilization of existing nodes of practice, and 3) collaborations across health care professions. “Because alternative workforce models are the most controversial, they took the lion’s share of the discussion time. But what I really liked about the conference was that it prompted vigorous, but civil debate,” Shaefer said.

Out of this conference came the idea for a pilot project and numerous conversations with the dean and faculty from both schools of dentistry have followed. The collaboration with the schools of dentistry is in the early stages, but the process to make the pilot a reality has been slow and steady.

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**COLLABORATION WITH THE SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MEDICINE AND NURSING**

**Bridges to the Doctoral Program**

Professor Edith (Edie) Kieffer is no newcomer to School of Social Work collaborations. Kieffer is a longstanding member of the Detroit Community Academic Urban Research (URC) Center Board, representing the School of Social Work. This collaborative partnership of 11 community and academic organizations is housed in the U-M School of Public Health (Barbara Israel, PI). Its mission is to provide economic and public health benefits focused on disparities in Detroit.

Healthy Mothers on the Move and the REACH Detroit Partnership are two URC-affiliated projects in which School of Social Work faculty members, Professor Michael Spencer and Kieffer are collaborating with faculty from the Schools of Public Health, Medicine and Nursing and community organization partners to successfully reduce diabetes-related disparities in Detroit.

Kieffer is also a member of the URC’s Expanding Infrastructure for Community-Academic Research Partnerships project, which is building the capacity of new community and academic partners to conduct and disseminate health disparities research using CBPR principles.
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In an exciting development, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry has announced they plan to pursue the pilot itself, conditional on funding. They hope to bring in their first class of students in the spring of 2013. Shaefer says, “If we are able to move this project from feasibility testing to a pilot program at either school, the coming years of collaboration will result in relationships that will change lives and offer an innovative model for providing oral health care based on a sound curriculum and data to support the impact on access-to-care. Funding for this study is made possible by a generous grant from the Nokomis Foundation.

The U-M Social Work/Nursing Bridges to the Doctoral Program provides 10 master’s level students from California State University-Los Angeles and Eastern Michigan University with academic preparation and research skills that will facilitate their transition to, and successful completion of, PhD programs that support behavioral sciences and health disparities research.

While completing their master’s degree, Bridges scholars participate in a Summer Research Program at the University of Michigan, mentored research projects at their home institution, and preparation for the GRE. Bridges students submit applications for admission into a nursing or social work PhD program, and are tracked for 10 years post master’s degree. Successful implementation of this Bridges program enhances the pool of individuals from diverse and underrepresented groups earning doctorates in behavioral sciences and health-related fields.

The mission of the U-M Social Work/Nursing Bridges to the Doctoral Program is to facilitate the transition of diverse and underrepresented students in master’s degree programs in Social Work and Nursing into PhD programs for doctoral training in health disparities research.

The program is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences grant R25-GM-089637 and also generously supported by the U-M School of Social Work, the Rackham Graduate School and the ICPSR. It is a collaboration among the University of Michigan’s Schools of Social Work and Nursing, California State University-Los Angeles’ (CSULA) Schools of Social Work and Nursing, and Eastern Michigan University’s (EMU) Schools of Social Work and Nursing.

Two Bridges students completing master’s degrees in social work at California State University-LA will enter the PhD program in social welfare at the University of California-LA Luskin School of Public Affairs in fall 2012; one student completing her master’s degree in nursing from Eastern Michigan University will enter a PhD program at Wayne State University; one student completing her master’s degree in social work at Eastern Michigan University will enter the PhD program in social work at Michigan State University Lancing. All four students will receive support from their PhD programs to defray the costs of their doctoral degrees and will focus their doctoral research on health disparities.

Building Partnerships for Healthy Communities

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The Leon and Josephine Winkelman Lecture Series was established at the University of Michigan School of Social Work by the Winkelman brothers; Stanley J., John, Frederick R., and Henry R.; as a memorial to their parents. The lecture series provides a forum for the presentation of new and emerging knowledge from the social sciences and the helping professions in the field of gerontology, and for the discussion of the application of such knowledge to the development of social policy, the organization and management of social welfare services, and the delivery of social work services.

"I don’t agree with the concept that when we do get around to getting the Medicare problem fixed it will happen in the still of the night…baby boomers aren’t going to sit well for that. We live in a viral world, and information travels much faster."

Jim McGuire, Director of Research, Policy Development and Advocacy Area Agency on Aging 1-B

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On Sunday, April 1, 2012, more than 90 people, most of them members of the regional Jewish community, convened at the University of Michigan School of Social Work to discuss an evasive topic rooted in history—"What does Detroit mean to you?"

The inspiration for this day has been the result of our collective experiences. As part of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) cohort, we’ve taken part in a wide variety of site visits and day trips. We learned how the Jewish community grew and found strength in Detroit. We heard of the complexities of city life and the disparate views on suburbanization. We saw large communal structures and grassroots activism.

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The historical overview was followed by a panel of eight speakers, each of whom shared their personal narratives of "Jewish Detroit," in response to the question, "What does Detroit mean to you?" Kate Bush, Jerry Cook, Sarah Crane, Scott Kaufman, Eli Newman, Marcie Orley, Harry Reisig and Harriet Saperstein comprised the panel, representing an array of perspectives on the relationship between the Jewish community and Detroit. The speakers provided compelling accounts of their own highly varied experiences as residents, students, professionals and advocates.

After lunch, the event moved into a series of conversations around "Jewish Detroit." This part of the day encouraged difficult conversations between individuals who may not ordinarily have had the opportunity to engage. Four questions, with conversations modeled by David Carroll; Ben Falik; Oren Goldenberg; Austin, Jerry, Jason and Josh Kanter; Miryam Rosensweig; Rabbi Ariana Silverman; Eitan Sussman and Melissa Morof served to formally represent the wide reach of various community stakeholders incorporated in the event.

The event closed with an open forum discussion led by the Detroit Area Leadership Initiative (DACLI), in which participants offered reflections and general thoughts about where the day’s conversations had taken them and shared visions for future conversations. With this event, we hoped to initiate important conversations rather than provide definitive answers to the question "What Is Jewish Detroit?" and are pleased to pass the torch to the DACLI cohort who will be continuing these conversations with more community programming in the near future.
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Dr. Beryl Satter (Rutgers University) and Dr. Lila Corwin Berman (Temple University) then kicked off the day’s program, discussing the history of Jews in cities, their influence on urban real estate, and the underlying dynamics occurring between Jews, corporate interest, and the Federal Housing Association during the early to mid-20th century. Both authors reflected on the intra-communal conflicts that resulted due to the various roles Jews played in the housing scandals of the time.

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Ariel Pearl-Jacobvitz and Ilana Schuman-Stoler are students in the JCLP class of 2012. Both Ilana and Ariel are management concentration students at the U-M School of Social Work and Ariel also is a minor in Interpersonal Practice.

We were fortunate to receive support from the following sponsors: Bend the Arc, Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Honest Tea, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Repair the World, School of Social Work Community Organization Learning Community, and University of Michigan Hillel/Ask Big Questions.

By Ariel Pearl-Jacobvitz and Ilana Schuman-Stoler
Recent Faculty Publications


Yoosun Han and Andrew Googan-Kaylor had an article entitled “Parenting and youth psychosocial well-being in South Korea using fixed-effects models” published in the Journal of Family Issues.

Yoosun Han, Andrew Googan-Kaylor, Jorge Delva and Marcela Castilho had an article entitled “The role of peers and parents in predicting alcohol consumption among Chilean youth” published in Children and Youth Services Review.

Leslie Hollingsworth and Danielle Swick had an article entitled “The role of positive and negative social interactions in child custody outcomes: Voices of US women with serious mental illness” published in Qualitative Social Work.


Emily Nicklett, Richard Semba, Qian-Li Xue, Jing Tian, Ann Cappola, Eleanor Simonick, Luigi Ferrucci and Linda Fried had an article entitled “Fruit and vegetable intake, physical activity and mortality among older community-dwelling women” published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

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Social Work Innovates with Business

JOE HIMLE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Associate Professor Joseph Himle’s research interests focus on mental health intervention research with adults and youth, and now he’s taken his research one step further with a Small Business Innovations grant through the National Institutes of Health. Himle’s grant allows for faculty members to join with a business to conduct research for a health innovation, which, if successful, results in a useful product to address a specific health need.

Himle’s grant addresses trichotillomania, an impulse control disorder, such as hair pulling and skin picking, which is classified as a mental health disorder. Within the past decade, doctors considered this condition rare, but that thinking is changing as experts gain a better understanding and more people come forward for help.

Himle and Hamtec, LLC have developed a watch-style bracelet to detect and intervene with those struggling with trichotillomania. The device alerts people when their hands move to the affected area, to help them break the habit of pulling or picking. The alarm built into the device helps the afflicted person by reminding them to resist the urge. The device also monitors the frequency and duration of trichotillomania behaviors for use by the therapist and client.

The next step is to test this bracelet prototype and then move on to a more refined prototype.

“Would like to use this device in the standard course of treating people with hair pulling and skin picking problems,” Himle said. “And we hope to have our testing stage completed the end of 2012.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klD25_GmHqJ&feature=plcp
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Letha Chadiha was elected a fellow in the New York Academy of Medicine.

Barry Checkoway, has been awarded the 2012 Michigan Campus Compact Lifetime Achievement Award. This is the highest award bestowed on faculty from the Michigan Campus Compact. Checkoway was selected for his decades of contributions in community service learning and his impact on student education at the University of Michigan. Barry will be featured in the University Record.

Susan Crabb has an article in the December issue of Field Educator.

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Sallie Foley was accepted into the Advanced Research Institute in Geriatric Mental Health.


Karen Stuller has been elected Vice-Chair of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs—the nine-member executive arm of the Senate Assembly and the University Senate.

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Michael Woodford was named School of Social Work Professor of the Year. The award was presented by the Student Union executive members at the student awards ceremony on March 13. He also spoke with SiriusXM’s “OutQ News” about his study that showed a higher rate of drinking problems among gay, lesbian and bisexual college students who experienced harassment.

Ellen Yashinsky Chute was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence.

Mieko Yoshihama’s PhotoVoice project has just been published by the U-M News Service.

Brad Zebrack discussed new guidelines for adolescent and young adult cancer patients in The Oncology Report.

For more information, contact Laurie Bueche at 734-763-6886 or at lbueche@umich.edu.
FACULTY

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ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12


SAVE THE DATE!

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend

OCTOBER 12–13, 2012

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Attend the annual SSW homecoming tailgate party. Enjoy refreshments while catching up with School of Social Work alumni.

For more information, contact Laurie Bueche at 734-763-6886 or at lbueche@umich.edu.
ABIGAIL WILLIAMS, PhD STUDENT SOCIAL WORK/DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Abigail Williams’ field placement with the Children’s Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., is the motivating factor that led her to doctoral work at U-M’s School of Social Work.

“During my MSW field placement, I saw policy formed at a very high level by anecdotal accounts, not by research,” Williams explained. “Sub-committee meetings asked for research to validate policy decisions, but the research didn’t exist.” And that’s when Williams realized that she would do the research that’s needed to create effective policy. She has an ongoing relationship with the Children’s Defense Fund, as she pursues her research with the University of Illinois. Williams counseled adolescents involved with the child welfare system. It was here that she realized many troubled youth are oftentimes caught between multiple systems.

“As a counselor you can make a difference with one child at a time, but there are still many policies in place that cause hurdles in addressing the needs of all children. We need to have a better understanding of adolescents development based on empirical evidence, so that we can provide the best intervention efforts with a broader group of young people.”

Williams’ current research focuses on youth in the juvenile justice system. She wants to understand what’s happening through adolescent development to inform the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and also influence mental health reform.

“I’m still early in my program, and I’m working closely with Professor Joseph P. Ryan, who has been a great mentor. Williams said. “My current research focus is looking at a child’s social support system, and I specifically want to understand the determiners of resilience among those youth who are able to overcome trying circumstances against all odds.”

Although Williams is a relatively new doctoral student, she’s already giving talks at national conferences and writing manuscripts for publication. According to Professor Joseph Ryan, she is developing a set of skills that allow her to apply rigorous scientific methods in hopes of answering important questions for policymakers and practitioners in the field.

“Abby’s passion is fueled by her direct practice experiences in the field—working in a clinical setting with youth—and from her policy and advocacy experiences with the Children’s Defense Fund,” Ryan said. “Without a doubt, Abby will make significant contributions to the knowledge base, and in turn help shape the policy discourse that directs social services for adolescents. She’s the ideal doctoral student.”

Policy change must be based on research, and research must inform policy.”

Her dedication to research was confirmed when she was accepted into the doctoral program at U-M’s School of Social Work.

“We’ve realized that the data for youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems look different in different states...therefore a cookie cutter approach is not sufficient in identifying the needs of all youth.”

In the process of completing her MSW at the University of Illinois, Williams counseled adolescents with mental health issues at the Pavilion Behavioral Health System in Champaign, Illinois, who were often involved with the child welfare system. It was here that she realized that many troubled youth are oftentimes caught between multiple systems.

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KERRY RASTIGUE MSW CANDIDATE, MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING IN FAMILIES AND SOCIETY, GERIATRIC SCHOLAR

For more than 20 years, Kerry Rastigue had an admirable career as a benefits attorney for a Fortune 500 corporation.

“I had a birds-eye view of just how complex the world becomes for the elderly who lose their benefits, and I was beginning to feel uncomfortable with the role I was playing in all of that.”

Kerry felt she had a lot of experience to share with retirees thrust into a world that’s difficult for the elderly to navigate.

“The elderly don’t know where to begin to go for help understanding health benefits, and I saw a growing need…and an opportunity to help.”

“...I knew this was the right place for me.”

Colleagues were envious of Kerry’s leaving the corporate world to pursue a new career. As a University of Michigan undergrad, Kerry reached out to her alma mater to learn more about an MSW.

“My SSW professors are so approachable, and after sitting in on some classes, I knew this was the right place for me.”

The collegial sense of family at the U-M MSW program makes Kerry feel like she’s part of something special.

After graduation, Kerry wants to run a non-profit organization focused on issues for aging adults to remain independent.

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Bridging the Gap between Social Work Research and System Reform

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Change Supports the Elderly

KERRY RASTIGUE
MSW CANDIDATE, MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND AGING IN FAMILIES AND SOCIETY, GERIATRIC SCHOLAR

For more than 20 years, Kerry Rastigue had an admirable career as a benefits attorney for a Fortune 500 corporation.

“I had a birds-eye-view of just how complex the world becomes for the elderly who lose their benefits, and I was beginning to feel uncomfortable with the role I was playing in all of that.”

Kerry felt she had a lot of experience to share with retirees thrust into a world that’s difficult for the elderly to navigate.

“The elderly don’t know where to begin to go for help understanding health benefits, and I saw a growing need…and an opportunity to help.”

Colleagues were envious of Kerry’s leaving the corporate world to pursue a new career. As a University of Michigan undergrad, Kerry reached out to her alma mater to learn more about an MSW.

“My SSW professors are so approachable, and after sitting in on some classes, I knew this was the right place for me.”

The collegial sense of family at the U-M MSW program makes Kerry feel like she’s part of something special.

After graduation, Kerry wants to run a non-profit organization focused on issues for aging adults to remain independent.

“I want to tap into the needs of the elderly that haven’t been met, and I’m ready to find out exactly what that might be.”
Larry Metzger, MSW ’70

During the early ’60s, Larry Metzger was a reporter and editor for *Home Furnishings Daily.* His fascinating career led to interviews with some of the most prominent artists, gallery owners, and designers in the country including Andy Warhol, Karel Appel, and Leo Castelli.

However, in 1965, during the New York City financial crisis, Metzger decided to leave NYC to head west to continue to develop as a writer of both fiction and non-fiction. Little did he know that this move was the beginning of a career change into social work.

During his trip to Los Angeles, he discovered he could support his writing by working as a welfare caseworker in East Los Angeles.

“The job gave me an opportunity to encounter people in a helping situation for the first time, and I discovered that I liked the interaction,” Metzger said. “Following that stint, I became an investigative probation officer. Because both the casework and probation jobs required extensive reports, I was able to make use of the writing skills I had gained earlier. My co-workers encouraged me to apply for an MSW.”

Metzger was admitted to the School of Social Work at the age of 35, and completed his MSW in 1970. During his field placement, he was intrigued by the multiple aspects of addiction and its treatment.

Metzger continued his education with the completion of a PhD in psychology in 1976 from the Saybrook Institute in San Francisco.

For more than 20 years he had a successful private practice in psychotherapy, and for more than ten years, Metzger also was on faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, where he had the opportunity to train several thousand caregivers in their work with addicted individuals. He taught courses on counseling, diagnosis and treatment, addictive disorders and life transition. For several years, Metzger also worked with the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley, researching anxiety experienced during major life transitions.

Charitable Gift Annuities A way to give and receive

Michigan alumni and friends can take advantage of this popular charitable giving opportunity that provides donors with lifetime income. With an irrevocable gift of $10,000 or more, you and/or another person will receive a specified payment each year for life from the University. The amount of payment is determined by the age of the beneficiaries.

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“I’ve had an interest in juvenile justice ever since my field placement, McNeece said. Massachusetts led the way to reform juvenile justice in the 1970s, and I wanted Michigan to be right behind them to make improvements in their system.”

His second field experience led to a dramatic improvement in the treatment of the students.

“Our study certainly improved the situation in 1972 when Michigan became the first state to distribute food stamps through the U.S. Postal Service.”

“Strong social work presence increasingly leads to more rational social policy, because social workers are at the frontline and know what’s happening with people.”

Throughout his career, McNeece focused on public policy and justice system issues. For the past 20 years, he’s been very interested in addiction, and chemical dependency, and more specifically the role substance abuse plays in crime and the justice system.

He was the director of the Institute for Health and Human Services Research at Florida State University from 1992 to 2001. He also served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice on substance abuse issues, and to the Irish National Council on Alcoholism. For 30 years he provided research-based policy advice to both adult and juvenile justice agencies in Florida. In 2007 he was appointed to a Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform by the governor of Texas.

“More than 75 percent of the men incarcerated in Florid prisons were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their crime,” McNeece said.

“During my research while working in the justice system, there wasn’t a day that went by that we didn’t find drugs or alcohol inside a federal correctional institution,” McNeece said.

He reminisced that the biggest haul they found was six cases of Budweiser in an inmate’s cell. He admits that “when we moved in, many of the inmates were treated in the exercise yard where they fermented moonshine” with the compostable scraps from the dining hall… “We sent guys to the garbage getting carried out of the kitchen.”

In-depth research into addiction issues resulted in more than 100 articles and books, and his latest publications have focused on the connection among drugs, crime, and public policy. Since 1989, he has conducted evaluations of approximately 130 criminal justice system programs.

The most gratifying time of his career was teaching graduate students at Florida State University. McNeece taught classes on subjects ranging from social welfare policy and administration to substance abuse and treatment, and criminal justice system issues.

“I never got as much pleasure out of anything else in my career as teaching graduate students.”

Throughout his career, McNeece has established a scholarship to support students in professional positions all over the South. McNeece has been actively volunteering since he retired in 2008 as the dean of the College of Social Work at Florida State University.

When asked about his greatest challenge as dean, there was no hesitation with a response.

“Tackling the problem of substance abuse in the criminal justice system, there wasn’t a day that went by that we didn’t find drugs or alcohol inside a federal corrections institution.”

McNeece says it’s always gratifying to run into former students in professional positions all over the South. McNeece’s study certainly improved the situation in 1972 when Michigan became the first state to distribute food stamps through the U.S. Postal Service.

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“I’d like this scholarship to go to someone who is in financial need and who has additional expenses for field placement,” McNeece said.

Aaron McNeece loved his time at the University of Michigan where he spent five years while earning his MSW (1971), and completing his PhD (1976).

“Once I completed a draft of my dissertation, we headed south as soon as we could,” McNeece explained. “We’re from the South and we were ready to return to our roots. We never got used to those long Michigan winters, and we were ready to return to our south as soon as we could,” McNeece explained. “We’re from the South and we were ready to return to our roots. We never got used to those long Michigan winters, and we were ready to return to our south as soon as we could,” McNeece explained.

Even though he and his family promptly returned to Arkansas (then Kentucky, and later Florida), McNeece has always had a special place in his heart for Michigan.

“I have two degrees from the University of Michigan that have opened doors for me throughout my career; those opportunities wouldn’t have been available to me otherwise.”

During his field placement, McNeece traveled to Lansing three times each week, and yet he didn’t need to work or take out loans because he had a scholarship that helped him with the additional expenses of having a long commute.

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His second field experience led to a dramatic improvement with the distribution of food stamps.

“We did a study with the Michigan Food Stamp Program, which uncovered the humiliation recipients experienced while standing in long lines at the distribution centers located in banks. Women holding babies would stand for hours while passersby would shout out, ‘Get a job.’ There’s just no dignity in that.”

McNeece’s study certainly improved the situation in 1972 when Michigan became the first state to distribute food stamps through the U.S. Postal Service.

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“I want to create a sense of hope.”

Edmund Lewis, Jr. had been an athlete during his high school years, but his mentor, who also happened to be his barber, was the man who encouraged him to focus on his grades, stay away from bad influences and get into college.

“He gave me the right amount of tough love, and he had high expectations of me…I didn’t want to let him down.”

Edmund had decided that in order for him to have a real impact, he needed to pursue an MSW. He was courted by universities throughout the country and he was flattered by the interest several by League schools took in him.

“I looked at several schools, but after I talked with Tim Coleenbeck, assistant dean for student services, I knew there wasn’t anything I couldn’t get at U-M…this was the school for me!”

Within one year, he graduated with an MSW from North Carolina Central University in 2008.

“It was exciting and humbling, and I wouldn’t have been able to do it without the love and support of my mentor who taught me the importance of servant leadership…doing the work without feeling the need to be recognized.”

And he certainly made his friends and family proud!

“During my undergrad years, I worked with black males in Durham to help them get into college. So much of my work was built on relationship building and I was inspired to help other young men the same way I had been helped.”

Edmund’s field placement was with the Max M. & Marian J. Fisher Foundation, which is dedicated to providing service to others and creating opportunities for those who lack them.

“This field placement cultivated my experience with philanthropy and from there, I made my way into my first job as a community support specialist with Brightmoor Alliance in northwest Detroit.”

Edmund explained: “It takes time to build relationships with the students, with the principals and visiting colleges and universities.”

Edmund exposes high school students to what they can do by encouraging them to attend college visits. He even provides haircuts and established a clothing closet, which supplies the young men with professional attire for mock interviews, college visits and career day.

“It’s my job to help eliminate those barriers that stop many young males from attending college, from lack of motivation to financial support for the ACT test. While small, these obstacles can be the determining factor between defining your dreams and never achieving your dreams,” said Edmund. “If they haven’t thought about college, I find out why I want to create a sense of hope.”

The Minority Males for Higher Education is well on its way to becoming a full-fledged non-profit. A diverse board of directors has been cultivated, 501 (c) (3) status has been submitted, partnerships with universities are in the making, and the program outreach is going beyond city limits into the metropolitan suburbs.

“My inspiration came from my hometown in Thomasville, North Carolina, and my knowledge came from the University of Michigan…now the rest is up to me.”

During his MSW, Edmund’s field placement was with the Eastern Michigan University’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award on January 16. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify the values and ideals of Dr. King, such as leadership and service. Brown-Chappell has more than thirty years of experience both as a faculty member at Eastern Michigan University and as an administrator in higher education.

Betty Brown-Chappell, MSW ’71, was presented with the Eastern Michigan University’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award on January 16. The award recognizes individuals who exemplify the values and ideals of Dr. King, such as leadership and service. Brown-Chappell has more than thirty years of experience both as a faculty member at Eastern Michigan University and as an administrator in higher education.

John Barth, MSW ’95, was elected to the Indianapolis City/County Council At-Large in November 2011, where he chairs the Council’s Community Affairs Committee. John and his wife Jessica welcomed their third child, Beatrice, in September 2011.

Suzanne Pirok, MSW ’98, is Lead Social Worker for Spectrum Health-Kent Community Campus. She was recognized as the 2011 Outstanding Employee and was awarded second place for the 2011 Caring Spirit Award.

Carlos Protzel, MSW ’99, completed his post-doctoral work at Cal State University, Fullerton. Carlos is currently working as a primary psychotherapist at Passages Malibu (www.passagesmalibu.com) a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in Malibu, California. He also has a private practice providing individual, couples and family therapy.

Ellen R. Yashinsky Chute, MSW ’93, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence.
ALUMNI PROFILE

Edmund Lewis, MSW ’09

Edmund Lewis, Jr., had been an athlete during his high school years, but his mentor, who also happened to be his barber, was the man who encouraged him to focus on his grades, stay away from bad influences and get into college.

“He gave me the right amount of tough love, and he had high expectations of me...I didn’t want to let him down.”

A first generation college graduate, he earned his undergraduate degree in social work from North Carolina Central University in 2008.

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Within one year, he graduated with an MSW from the University of Michigan School of Social Work with a practice method concentration in Social Policy and Evaluation. Not only did Edmund embrace his studies and his field placement, but he also was the president of the Association for Black Students in Social Work.

“There are so many great things happening on campus and I wanted to do as much as I could!”

During his MSW, Edmund’s field placement was with the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation, which is dedicated to providing service to others and creating opportunities for those who lack them.

“This field placement cultivated my experience with philanthropy and from there, I made my way into my first job as a community support specialist with Brightmoor Alliance in northwest Detroit.” Edmund said. My field placement gave me another look at how to empower individuals in self-sufficiency. I had firsthand experience with an amazing mentor in high school, and my field placement helped define the aspirations I had to create my own program.”

It isn’t surprising that Edmund is already fine-tuning his program, Minority Males for Higher Education, which is based in the metropolitan Detroit area. He’s learning that not everything moves as fast as he’d like it to, but he has had several success stories among the students he’s been mentoring for the past two years at Detroit Community High School.

“Only four percent of black males are college students, and I’m proud to say that I have five students attending four-year universities,” Edmund explained. “It takes time to build relationships with the students, with the principals and visiting colleges and universities.”

Edmund exposes high school students to what they can do by encouraging them to attend college. He even provides haircuts and established a clothing closet, which supplies the young men with professional attire for mock interviews, college visits and career day.

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Class Notes

‘70s

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ELLEN R. YASHINSKY CHUTE, MSW ’93, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence.
The article details Lewis's volunteer work in mentor-feeding young men and encouraging them to see their potential and the opportunities available to them.

'S00s

SEBASTIAN COLON-OTERO, MSW '07, and FAREEN RAMJI, MSW '07, were married on September 18, 2011, in Brooklyn, New York. The couple met at a “Culture Bus” tour of Detroit organized by the School of Social Work for CBI students in August 2005. They currently reside in New York City. Fareen works at the ACLU national office, and Sebastian is a psychotherapist at the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center. Several SSW alumni attended the event; pictured above are (left to right, back row) JOANNE WASZCZAK, MSW ’07, CHAULA NEGANDHI, MSW ’06, STEPHANIE PERRON, MSW ’07, RUKMINI VASUPURUM, MSW ’08, JONI RECHER, MSW ’08, HUSSAIN YUSEF, MSW ’07, SHENAAR JANNMOHAMAD, MSW ’07, SATIEN SHETH, MSW ’07 (front row) Fareen and Sebastian. Also in attendance was FAZEELA SIDDQUI, MSW ’07 (not pictured).

EDMUND LEWIS, Jr., MSW ’09, was recently featured on the front page of the Detroit Free Press for his work with Minority Males for Higher Education. The article details Lewis's volunteer work in mentoring and encouraging young men to see their potential and the opportunities available to them.

LAURE L. SMITH, MSW ’04, earned her certification in diabetes education. She is now the only LMSW, CDE in the State of Michigan and is able to provide Diabetes Self-Management Education, in addition to her career in social work.

STEPHANIE STEINERT, MSW ’07, and her husband Kenneth Paul Faulk, III welcomed their daughter, Averie Michelle Faulk, into the world in September 2011.

VANESSA VADNAL, MSW ’07, is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator with the VA San Diego Healthcare System. Vanessa was recently featured on KPBS San Diego Evening Edition to discuss suicide prevention and awareness among veterans.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da9RdMAbftA
The article details Lewis’s volunteer work in mentoring and encouraging young men to see their potential.

SEBASTIAN COLON-OTERO, MSW ’07, and FAREEN RAMJI, MSW ’07, were married on September 18, 2011, in Brooklyn, New York. The couple met at a “Culture Bus” tour of Detroit organized by the School of Social Work for CBI students in August 2005. They currently reside in New York City. Fareen works at the ACLU national office, and Sebastian is a psychotherapist at the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center.

Several SSW alumni attended the event; pictured above are (left to right, back row) JOANNE WASZCZAK, MSW ’07, CHAULA NEGANDHI, MSW ’06, STEPHANIE PERRON, MSW ’07, RUKMINI VASUPURUM, MSW ’08, JOI RENCHER, MSW ’08, HUSSEIN YUSEF, MSW ’07, SHENAAJ JANMOHAMAD, MSW ’07, SATEEN SHETH, MSW ’07 and (front row) Fareen and Sebastian. Also in attendance was FAZEELA SIDIQUI, MSW ’07 (not pictured).

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IN MEMORIAM

Dolores R. Baroway, MSW ’81, December 25, 2011
Jane R. Fifer, MSW ’79, February 7, 2012
Sharon K. Jablonski, MSW ’81, December 18, 2011
Mary E. Krauss, MSW ’86, February 29, 2012
John L. LaFarge, MSW ’83, December 31, 2011
Jane M. Lahr, MSW ’68, January 27, 2012
Natalie L. Lyons, MSW ’98, March 8, 2012
Mary A. Lyson, MSW ’96, April 5, 2012

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Mary Sue Coleman, ex officio

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Mary A. Lyson, MSW ’96, April 5, 2012

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