Influencing Policy and Practice

This issue of *Ongoing* is dedicated to one crucial component of the mission of the School of Social Work—research. Research has always been an integral part of the academic side of social work, but too often other social work professionals have regarded it as the purview only of academicians. Rather than being a perceived divide between those within the academy and those without, research should unite these groups. Research can be an enormously useful means of developing knowledge to advance the multiple objectives of the profession—if researchers can learn about various aspects of contemporary practice first-hand, and if policy makers and practitioners can access and apply research.

Academics are doing more and more research, but, outside the academy, our voices are not being heard by those who set policy nor by society at large. Policy makers need research results to help them in designing and revamping the programs and institutions that affect people's lives. Empirical data and solid research should be the foundation for decision-making rather than myths, rhetoric, and unsubstantiated assumptions. In an article published in the November 1996 issue of the *Journal of the National Association of Social Workers*, Lynn Videka-Sherman and Pamela Viggiani concluded that social work research can only influence public policy and support a sense of social justice if social work researchers develop new dissemination strategies.

Publications in scholarly journals alone will not reach all of our audiences. While we still need to provide fellow scholars with technical details, we also need to articulate and disseminate our findings in ways that will be readily available to, and easily understood by, others. We need to ensure that our research fulfills its potential for applied use and recognize that private foundations have placed increasing weight on funding research that has applicability to pressing problems. To meet our goals, we must present our findings in multiple forms, each targeted to a specific audience, whether it be scholars, policy-makers, community leaders, or the general public.

Modern technology and the mass media can help us reach a wider and more diverse audience through newspapers, radio and television talk shows, special reports, and the Internet. Rather than solely relying on detailed, technical reports to shape public opinion, we should also be offering concise and comprehensible blueprints for action in the mass media. In addition, we should continue to find ways to exploit the emerging electronic information

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Our new building is nearing completion!
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network, especially the World Wide Web. For example, the School's Web site might offer current information, giving community leaders easy access to works in progress.

There are other ways to reach those outside the academy, and we can benefit from the connections formed. In this new research climate, we need more researchers to develop joint projects with community and voluntary organizations. While unfamiliarity may make some scholars reluctant to enter into such partnerships, a research project often gains in relevance and subtility as the partners' multiple viewpoints influence its development. Partnerships also increase the likelihood that community needs and ideas will be heard, that funding will be obtained, and that the findings will perhaps have greater community applications.

Community partnerships are merely one way for us to increase the influence of our research projects. Formulating other strategies can be difficult, but we must do so in order to continue to create knowledge, strengthen education, improve social conditions, and enhance our reputation as a leader. In these unsettled times of devolution, with the federal government surrendering responsibility for social programs to state, local, and community agencies, research findings could have a tremendous impact on policy decisions, public opinion, and community life. Researchers can shape the social policy of the decades—if our research findings reach the appropriate audiences. No matter how ground-breaking the work and no matter how far-reaching its implications, research is of little assistance if it is not shared. We all work too hard on our research projects, and care too much about their outcomes, to want our findings to remain strictly within the academy.

—Dean Paula Allen-Meares

Making Research Count

"If you are just here to take information," the woman in the focus group said, "I'm not going to say anything. I want to know that this will be used to make a difference." Assistant Professor Robert Ortega knew right then that if he wanted to go any further with his research questions, he would have to make a commitment to this woman and to her community. This Latina mother's words drove home for Ortega the realization that when he asked his survey questions, he was talking about peoples' lives—this was not just an academic exercise.

Historically, there has been a degree of tension between the academics who conduct social research and the practitioners and lay people who are relied upon to provide a large portion of the necessary data. This tension arises from a skepticism about the long-term value of the research. Because participants quite often aren't aware of the benefits that come from their participation, they see the data collection process as being an intrusion on their time and their privacy. They think their input will disappear into a black hole, when in actuality that is far from the case.

Carol Mowbray, Associate Professor for Research, thinks that nearly all of the research conducted through the School has a potential for a practical application. To what then does she attribute this gap between perception and reality? One cause is a lack of communication. "Most academics publish their research findings in scholarly books and scientific journals or present at national professional associations. If one doesn't read these journals or attend these meetings, one might never hear of ways in which the research has been applied and has benefited the community."

A good example of an easy-to-understand and visually interesting research report is the recently-published DULUM Report on Youth Tobacco Access in Detroit, Michigan (See Winter/Spring 1997 Ongoing). Professor John Wallace's report of his study on the availability of cigarettes to minors includes recommendations to retailers, parents, and community and law enforcement organizations, as well as policy makers. In this case, a conscious decision was made to disseminate the findings of the research to a wider audience than that typically reached by scholarly publications.

A second cause is the political climate. It is crucial that research findings reach the right people at the right time if the data are to effect changes in social policy. One example of positive timing is a project conducted in the seventies by two of the School's distinguished emeritus faculty.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

From 1971 to 1976, Professors Rosemary Sarri and Robert Vinter acted as co-directors of a multimillion dollar research project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to document the character
and problems of juvenile justice and corrections in all fifty states. Prior to this time, there was very little reliable information available about states’ justice ‘systems,’ courts, and services for young offenders. The National Assessment of Juvenile Corrections (NAJC) project concentrated on four major research areas: judicial, legislative and statutory provisions for juveniles; state agencies conducting and funding services; juvenile courts’ processes; and the varieties and uses of public and private correctional programs. Five major reports on the findings of this project were published.

NAJC’s main accomplishments were the generation and dissemination of critical kinds of information about policies, programs, practices, and problems in the area of juvenile justice. Vinter remembers, “States were able for the first time to make valid comparisons of their efforts in these areas—always a salient concern among them—with peer or reference states, to their satisfaction or dismay.” State executives and program administrators welcomed confidential feedback of their own data in the context of summarized findings about the varieties of services, and were encouraged to move toward less restrictive, community-based programming for this population. Legal advocacy groups, state legislators, the news media, and even the White House also used such information.

For some years during the ’70s and ’80s, at the federal and state levels, there was movement away from committing youths to institutions and toward community-based alternative programs, and moving them out of adult jails and lock-ups. As Sarri notes, “The results of our report on the placement of juveniles in adult jails and detention facilities were utilized by Senator Birch Bayh, Chair of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, to support removal of youth from adult jails, and that provision still remains in federal law 96-415.” “Eventually, however,” Vinter laments, “concern about the rise of violent crime and drug usage among juveniles halted this progress, and led to the repressive state policies and programs that now characterize far too much of juvenile justice.”

**FIGHTING CITY HALL**

A more recent project, instigated by Associate Professor Larry M. Gant, demonstrates how powerful the combination of social research and social action can be in influencing social policy. Armed with findings from numerous reports commissioned by the federal government, Professor Gant began working with a coalition of concerned individuals and the Detroit Health Department’s HIV/AIDS Project Director, Loretta Davis-Satteria, to strike down or amend a Detroit city ordinance regarding the use of drug paraphernalia.

Although it has been documented in these federal reports that needle exchange has been shown to be effective in reducing HIV infection among drug users and does not lead to drug addiction of new users, communities hard hit by HIV and AIDS have been extremely slow to permit needle exchange. Detroit, with its ordinance banning the selling and possession of most types of drug paraphernalia, was no exception. Even though Detroit has a very high incidence rate of HIV among the 35,000 estimated intravenous drug users in the area, this city ordinance prevented the legal possession of needles and syringes by all except identified health care workers and diabetics with prescriptions.

Gant’s group wanted to place needle exchange programs and volunteers working with these programs in the same exception category as the health care workers and diabetics. They convened a series of meetings in October 1995 and March 1996 that helped build community support for legal needle exchanges, and led to a public hearing on the issue by the Detroit City Council. Professor Gant spent hundreds of hours developing, and participating in, presentations for those meetings. All the hard work paid off. The City Council decided to revise the ordinance as suggested, and the new ordinance, that included needle exchange programs as an exception, took effect in June 1996.

**A SCHOOL/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

As Associate Dean for Research, Associate Professor Carol Mowbray has had a large number of research proposals cross her desk. But she is not content to just help others achieve their goals; she, too, seeks to put research findings to work. Mowbray counts among her own successes an innovative community-based program in Detroit that helps people with psychiatric disabilities restart their educations and their lives. The Michigan Supported Education Program (MSEP), funded by the Community Support Program of the Center for Mental Health Services, provides assistance, counseling, information on school entry and financing, and sup-
port to people with mental illnesses who want to attend college or receive vocational training.

Contrary to popular mythology, many individuals with a severe mental illness have graduated from high school and attended some college. "Epidemiological research indicates that the onset of mental illness often comes at the end of high school or college, a result of biological and social stress. Needs assessments show that people with psychiatric disorders would like to have decent jobs and a career path, and that low-level work options produce additional stress."

Since its inception in 1993, nearly 400 students have enrolled in the free, twenty-eight-week program conducted at Wayne County Community College in Detroit and Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. MSEP staff help prepare participants for college and vocational training by providing information on career planning, vocational self-assessment, stress management, special student services, college enrollment procedures, and financial aid.

Research results from a short twelve-month follow-up indicated the program's effectiveness: for those who participated, educational enrollments rose from less than 10% to over 30%. But probably the greatest achievement is the fact that with the advocacy support of the participants and their families, MSEP has continued in its entirety as an ongoing service program of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Board and is now serving 200 adults each year.

**SERVING LATINO CHILDREN**

Professor Robert Ortega agrees with Mowbray that partnerships with action groups are an excellent way to break down the barriers between academics and community. He recently served as research consultant to the National Latino Child Welfare Advocacy Group (NLCWAG) which undertook the task of conducting a national assessment of the child welfare service needs of Latino children.

U.S. Census Bureau statistics show that Latino children are now the largest racial/ethnic minority child population in the country, and nearly 40% of these children live in poverty. A growing number of these children are finding their way into the child welfare system, which has historically responded to children of color in ways that compound their disadvantaged status. According to Ortega, "The evidence to date indicates that Latino children stay longer in out-of-home care, are less likely to achieve permanency, and have unequal access to services when compared to Caucasian children."

Funded by the Kellogg Foundation, the study arose from a desire to explore ways to achieve a stable, permanent living environment for these children and to provide the necessary support services. The study consisted of an analysis of national and state-level data, a survey administered to Latino service providers, and focus groups conducted within Latino communities. The results are summarized in a bilingual report, titled "Latinos and Child Welfare/Latinos y el bienestar del niño: Voces de la comunidad."

Ortega believes this study illustrates the value of a "town and gown" partnership approach to social work scholarly activity. "By linking community participants, NLCWAG, and the University of Michigan in a collaborative manner, greater access was given to communities, key participants, and key social change agents in local, state, and federal governments."

This access has led to successes at many levels. At the federal level, the Children's Bureau is now tracking and monitoring outcomes of Latino children, greater effort is being made to contact Latino professionals for federal RFP notification and proposal review, and other human service branches, such as the National Institute for Mental Health, are showing interest in the study. Several states, such as New Hampshire, New York, Illinois, and North Carolina have proposed conducting their own studies to better understand the status of Latino children in child welfare in their states. As a result of a recommendation included in the NLCWAG report to use the expertise of Latino grassroots organizations, a growing number of states are making an effort to give Latino communities a voice in plans for change, and in Texas and California, specially-formed focus groups have decided to continue to meet for on-going support.

When Professor Ortega commenced work on this project, he knew how expensive it was going to be in terms of time and personal commitment. He knew that he was going to share in the laughter, the tears, and the anger of the people who participated in the focus groups. He also knew that he would have the responsibility, and the privilege, to use their words as a powerful weapon in the fight to make their community a better place to live. Knowing all this, he made that commitment, just as Professors Vinter, Sarri, Gant, and Mowbray have done before him. In doing so, they have touched the lives of countless numbers of people.
In this issue, the Office of Research Support Services is pleased to feature three relatively recent faculty grantees whose research may not be well-known outside the UM-SSW community. These projects reflect the efforts of Dean Paula Allen-Meares in providing generous support to faculty to increase their research potential, encouragement from Research Deans Kristine Sievert and Carol Mowbray, and the good work of research support staff Barbara Tietjen and Karen Berwald.

Beth Reed is the principal investigator on a twenty-month study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Substance Abuse Policy Research Program. Titled "Federal and State-level Policies and Women: Impact on Services for Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs," the project will be assessing the impact of federal policies (such as "set-asides" for women-focused services in federal substance abuse block grant requirements) on the availability of prevention and treatment services for women.

A four-stage iterative methodology is being used, starting with state-by-state estimates from several relevant national data sets of prevalence of substance use problems, needs, service use, and helpseeking by gender. Based on information obtained from key informants in each state, the project will then describe different approaches used vis-a-vis the proportion of women reached, the mix of services offered, etc. Other data sets and primary data collection will identify factors influencing the pattern of results. Particularly beneficial approaches will be examined through more intensive study in a limited number of states.

The project will produce state and federal policy and programmatic recommendations, disseminating results broadly. This grant has the potential to have substantial impact as Congress re-evaluates set-asides and other federal initiatives, particularly given the lack of systematic evaluation of their impact to date.

Funded somewhat more recently through a grant from the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is a study directed by Candycce Berger and Larry Gant which examines the "Relationship Between Child Sexual Abuse and Involvement in High Risk Medical and Social Behaviors Among HIV-Infected Clients."

The focus of the study is to conduct an implementation evaluation of a recently-funded specialized treatment program at the facility. Funding is included for a pilot follow-up study of the outcomes on these youth in the community. The philosophy underlying the project is that evaluation should become a natural part of any new program, thus the design maximizes the involvement of permanent personnel on site and uses easy-to-administer instruments. It is hoped that program evaluation will remain after academic investigators disseminate findings on an ongoing basis to Maxey administrators and share the findings with the practice community through written products and a dissemination conference.

If you would like more information on any of these projects, please feel free to contact the Office of Research Support Services at (313) 936-0805 or the researchers listed above.

— Carol T. Mowbray
News from the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science

**SIMS MEDAL**

This year’s Sims Medal recipient is Debra Marguerite Hernandez Jozefowicz, a student in social work and developmental psychology. She received the medal for her social work preliminary paper titled “Dropout Prevention in the Middle Grades: The Role of the School Social Worker.” This paper, which integrates developmental research and theory, dropout literature, and a historical perspective of the role of school social workers, highlights ways social workers should be involved in dropout prevention efforts at multiple levels in the middle grades. Debra’s preliminary exam committee, comprised of Professors Ron Astor (chair), Kristine Siefert, and John Wallace, found the synthesis to be highly original and important to the field of school social work.

The Sims Medal was established by Judith and Howard Sims, both graduates of UM. The medal, which comes with a monetary award of $5,000, is awarded to an outstanding paper or project, by a graduate student, which illuminates or improves the interactive effects of three environments—home/neighborhood, school, and workplace—on the functioning of the family.

**AMY AI RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD**

The Distinguished Dissertation Awards are a prestigious recognition of doctoral dissertations that are exceptional, both for the high quality of their scholarship and for the significance and interest of their findings. They are sponsored by University Microfilms International—publishers of 35,000 dissertations annually, with 600 coming from UM.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that one of this year’s recipients was Amy Ai (MSW ’93, PhD ’96). Dr. Ai’s dissertation was entitled “Psychosocial Adjustment and Health Care Practices Following Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery.” Her dissertation asked whether surviving a heart attack was merely the function of the expertise of the surgeon, what the quality of life of the survivor would be, and whether there ought to be something more to treatment than “fixing the internal plumbing” of the patient and then releasing him or her.

**DSO NEWS**

The Doctoral Student Organization (DSO) continues to be instrumental in advocating for doctoral student interests in programmatic and administrative aspects of the PhD program. Issues of advising, mentoring, and funding have been the primary focus of recent discussions involving students, Dean Allen-Meares, program director Ruth Dunkle, and the Doctoral Committee.

Last winter, the DSO coordinated a forum which offered students an opportunity to be informed of school policies and strategies for funding doctoral students. The forum also allowed for students to voice their concerns about how policies, and changes in funding policies, have been affecting them and will affect them in the future. The DSO will continue to monitor funding issues, and anticipates holding an annual funding forum.

DSO representatives are currently involved in discussions of changes to the curriculum at both the MSW and PhD levels. The DSO wants more School faculty to offer new, timely, and relevant doctoral level courses, as well as increased opportunities for collaboration in research and teaching.

The DSO would like to congratulate newly-elected officer-representatives Peter Newman (Doctoral Committee), Izumi Sakamoto (Curriculum Committee) and Chyrell Bellamy (Faculty Search Committee), and to thank the following outgoing officer-representatives for their contributions and commitment to student interests: Bill Dethlefs, Melnee McPherson, Chantel Follett, and Jenny Kellman. As always, the DSO welcomes student input so that it truly represents a range and diversity of student interests at the policy and decision-making levels of the program.

Please turn to p. 14 for a list of our recent PhD recipients.

— Ruth Dunkle, Christine Lark, and Brad Zebrack
Professor Edwin Thomas has spent his 40-year career at the cutting edge—introducing new ideas, extending the boundaries of what is normative in research and practice, and challenging his peers and students to re-examine closely-held concepts and methodologies. As Siri Jayaratne, Associate Dean of the School, wrote in a special Festschrift issue of Research on Social Work Practice published in honor of Thomas, "Dr. Thomas has, by any definition, been one of the most productive, innovative, and influential scholars in the social work profession."

After receiving his MSW from Wayne State and PhD in Social Psychology from UM, Thomas began his work at the School in 1956 as an Assistant Professor (with a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology). He immediately became involved in collaborative research and worked actively with Professor Henry Meyer in setting up the interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science.

As a founding faculty member, Thomas had a chance to help shape the joint program and its curriculum. For many years, he was Chair of the interdepartmental committee that supervised the program and, on two separate occasions, served as head of the Doctoral Program. Thomas is understandably proud of his involvement in the development and nurturing of this program. "Some people were initially turned off by the social science aspects of the Doctoral Program, but it soon became an exemplar in the field of how to integrate social work and social science, and produced many talented, influential graduates."

The application of social science research and theory to social work practice was a central theme in Thomas's work. He edited an early, major work on the subject, Behavioral Science for Social Workers. According to Jayaratne, this book and Thomas's related work "redefined the content of human behavior and social environment curriculum in schools of social work." As head of the "Human Growth and Human Behavior" segment of the MSW program, Thomas introduced content areas that continue to be part of the curriculum today.

Hired by the School to do research at a time when little research was being done by faculty, Thomas has since published over 150 articles and books in areas of social work and social science, and gives credit to the abundant financial and administrative support he received and the collaborative contributions of many students and colleagues.

Professor Charles Garvin describes Thomas as being "a major force in utilizing research to improve the practice of social work." For example, in the face of considerable opposition and misunderstanding, he introduced the themes of behavior therapy and behavior modification to the field of social work. "There was essentially no behavioral modification in social work when I began work in this area," says Thomas. "Behavioral and cognitive-behavioral interventions, which are now widely used, were radical ideas at the time."

An extremely important approach introduced by Thomas was that of developmental research, in which the emphasis is on the methodology of intervention design and development in human service. Thomas was the first to teach Design and Development at the master's and doctoral levels. He believed, wrote, and taught that "it is not enough for social work researchers to be competent in studying human behavior; they should also be able to generate new human service interventions." His article "Mousetraps, Developmental Research, and Social Work Education" and his book Designing Interventions for the Helping Professions broke new ground in showing the way for practice researchers to conduct their research.

Since retiring in 1994, Professor Thomas has had more time to pursue his interest in ballroom dancing, antiques, art, and classical music. However, he has not lost his dedication to research, carrying on the unfinished work of his last project on unilateral family therapy.

The purpose of this project was to evaluate his unilateral treatment model whereby spouses of uncooperative alcohol abusers could be assisted to help their partners enter treatment and reduce drinking. Not only have he and his associates developed a unilateral treatment program, the project also produced assessment instruments now being used by others. Thomas is currently writing scientific reports on the outcomes of the evaluation experiment. This project weaves together many of the threads of Thomas's innovative thinking; it is a textbook example of the application of Design and Development methods, including behavioral/social science and clinical knowledge, to create new treatment and intervention methods. In short, he has built a new mousetrap.

Thomas is still breaking new ground—he believes that with further research, unilateral family therapy will take its place as an accepted mode of family therapy. "Although I am no longer an Assistant Professor," he says somewhat wistfully, "I will continue to do what I can to make this happen!" Spoken like a true pioneer.

— by Suzan Alexander
Curriculum Makeover: Setting a New Course

The School of Social Work is getting a whole new look. As the School prepares to move into a new state-of-the-art facility, its curriculum has undergone a major reconstruction as well. This new curriculum was recently introduced to staff, faculty, and students at a public forum, and is being offered to incoming and returning students this fall.

Nearly four years of effort have gone into developing the changes to the curriculum. Associate Professor Brett Seabury, who served as Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the first three years, points out that after using the same curriculum for ten years, a large majority of the faculty agreed that, given the way the social work profession has changed, the curriculum now had large gaps in its content. "Faculty were asked to vote on doing a major overhaul of the entire curriculum structure, making substantial changes to the existing structure, or tinkering with various components. The vast majority voted for a major overhaul."

When asked why there was a need for change, Siri Jayaratne, Associate Dean for Curriculum, responded, "The world is changing, becoming more complex, and one needs to have a broader perspective of what it is like to be practicing in the real world. We ought to be producing students who will go out there with some knowledge of what it is like to work in the world of mental health, health, or any other area of social service."

Seabury recollected that to gather input to guide the process, "We conducted open houses, attended alumni meetings, interviewed students and faculty on central campus, and reviewed 'two-years-out studies' from the last six years which asked alumni 'What do you wish you'd had more of?' The committee consulted with other schools and colleagues who were experts in curriculum revision, gathered advice from various other experts, and began to develop models for ways to change an entire curriculum.

The starting point for revision was to develop the themes that would undergird the philosophy and values needed for present and future challenges. Five themes emerged that were deemed to be essential in all the courses offered: multiculturalism and social diversity; social justice and social change; social-behavioral science and research; promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation; and ethics.

When asked how she thought this new curriculum would better prepare students, Associate Professor Diane Kaplan Vinokur, current Chair of the Curriculum Committee, responded "Students will have a better understanding of the complex world they are entering. This curriculum will offer more concentration in specialized areas, and students will get a more focused, contextualized education. They will learn to think critically and problem-solve at a different level. They'll have a more critical perspective on the global arena, and employers will get a student who is more advanced and better prepared to serve the under-served and oppressed populations of the world."

—Suzan Alexander

WHAT'S NEW?

- Students will now choose two areas of concentration. Students will continue concentrating in a practice method—Interpersonal Practice, Management of Human Services, Community, and Social Policy and Evaluation—but in the new curriculum, they will also major in a social work practice area: Health, Mental Health, Children/Youth, Adults/Elderly, and Community/Social Systems. This dual concentration will allow students to develop both breadth and depth in a particular level of intervention and graduate with more specialized knowledge of how to conduct social work in a particular setting or population.

- Foundation Field Instruction now includes a bi-weekly seminar intended to integrate class and field learning and give students more opportunity to share their ideas about social professional roles and practice.

- Another new course, Foundation Practice Methods, will offer greater integration of micro and macro methods. It will teach core skills one needs to know to be a social worker, such as critical thinking, assessment and decision making, and problem solving. It is expected that this course will evolve in response to ongoing changes in the practice environment.

- The total number of credit hours for the MSW degree will increase from 56 to 60 hours.

For further information, contact Siri Jayaratne at 763-2345 or send e-mail to sirijay@umich.edu
Michael Spencer Joins Faculty

In July 1996, Michael Spencer joined the School as a postdoctoral research fellow at the NIMH-funded Social Work Research Development Center on Poverty, Risk, and Mental Health. He turned down several tenure-track offers from other universities to come to UM to work with the outstanding faculty at the Center. However, a faculty position became available shortly after his arrival and Michael now joins the School as an assistant professor on September 1. He will teach “Human Differences, Social Relationships, Well-Being, and Change Through the Life” in the Fall Term and “Advanced Practice with Children and Adolescents” in the Winter Term.

Spencer is a native Hawaiian who grew up in Honolulu. He attended the Kamehameha School, a private K-12 school endowed for native Hawaiians by one of the last monarchs of Hawaii. He received a BA in Psychology from the University of Hawaii, an MSW from the University of Texas (Austin), and a PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Washington (Seattle).

Spencer's research interests involve children's issues. As a doctoral student at the University of Washington, his core research was on drug use among adolescent mothers and its effect on their children. He learned that interventions during pregnancy led to a decline in drug use, but that drug use often returned after the baby was born. He recommends that education and intervention programs continue with this high-risk group of mothers even after the baby is born to ensure the well-being of both the mother and her child. Other research projects include a five-state study of anti-bigotry curricula in public schools and an evaluation of gang-prevention programs. Spencer's current research agenda is to integrate studies of children's mental health with issues of race, social injustice, and oppression. He is very grateful to the faculty at the Center for their support and mentorship, particularly Sheldon Danziger and David Williams.

Spencer and his family are adapting to life in a colder climate than that to which they were accustomed. His wife, Debbie, and children, Everett (age 8), Hannah (age 5), and Ethan-Luke (age 2), are exploring Ann Arbor and its environs. Despite the demands on his time as a researcher and junior faculty member, Spencer places a top priority on his family, knowing the importance of a parent's love and involvement to every child's mental health.

— Robin Adelson Little

NIMH Director Visits Poverty Center

Steven Hyman, M.D., Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, was on campus on April 7. In the morning he attended a symposium organized by Professor Sheldon Danziger, Director of the UM Center on Poverty, Risk, and Mental Health. Dr. Hyman heard opening remarks from Dean Paula Allen-Meares, followed by presentations on current research projects being conducted by faculty at the Center. In the afternoon, Dr. Hyman gave a public lecture on the topic "Children and Mental Illness: New Directions for NIMH."

Dr. Steven Hyman

Take a Sneak Preview Tour of the New Building!

Join us on a “hard hat” tour of the new building at our open house to be held during Campaign Weekend on Saturday, September 27, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We will meet in the lobby at the corner of South and East University Avenues. For more information, contact the Development Office at (313) 763-5959.

Assistant Professor David Burton, in collaboration with Post-Doctoral Fellow Michael Fleming, have been awarded an internal grant from OVPR titled "The Trauma Project." Burton has also been awarded a grant from the Center for Research on Learning and Training (CRLT) to fund a teaching seminar.

Professor Mary Corcoran was quoted in the Flint Journal about a study that revealed that family background is at least as important as unwed teen-age motherhood when it comes to determining adult poverty and welfare use.

Facilities Manager Kathy Astor has been awarded a Fulbright Advanced Scholar Award. She will study peer and family violence from July 1997 - April 1998 at Hebrew University in Israel. The title of the project is "Children's Reasoning about Different Types of Violence within a Cultural Context." This project is also being funded by a seed grant from the International Institute. Astor was also awarded a Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship through the National Academy of Education for the project "Children's, Parents', and Teachers' Reasoning about Poverty and Violence in School and Neighborhood Contexts," as well as a Faculty Recognition Award from Rackham and OVPR (Office of the Vice President for Research). A feature article on his research appeared in the Winter 1997 edition of Innovator, the UM School of Education's alumni publication.

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result of the merger of Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceutical Corporations. It funds rigorous clinical and health services research. Gibson also delivered a research paper in May at the American Psychiatric Association's 150th Annual Meeting on "Statistical Models for Analyzing the Health, Retirement, and Mental Health of Older African Americans."

Associate Professor Lorraine Gutierrez was selected as the "Class of 1954" lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work. She also received a grant from the MULTI Fund of CRLT to look at the impact of community service learning on students' attitudes towards race and ethnicity. Along with Assistant Professor Robert Ortega, Gutierrez was awarded a CRLT Faculty Development Fund Teaching Grant for the project "Social Work and Latinos in the U.S."

Assistant Professor Leslie Hollingsworth presented a paper titled "Using Africentric Theory to Predict Adoption Among African Americans" at CSWE's Annual Program Meeting in March. Her article "Same Race Adoption Among African Americans: A Ten Year Empirical Review" was published in the Spring 1997 issue of African American Research Perspectives, an occasional report of the UM's Program for Research on Black Americans. Hollingsworth was recently awarded a grant from UM's Rackham Grant and Fellowship Program for her study "The Effect of Recent Federal Legislation on Adoption in Michigan: A Pilot Study."

Assistant Professor Berit Ingersoll-Dayton has been awarded a Faculty Award for Research and Creative Projects through the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic and Multicultural Affairs. The title of the project is "Aging and Culture: Respect for the Elderly in Asia." She was also awarded an internal grant from the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center for the project "Reducing Problem Behaviors of Patients with Dementia: A Solution-Focused Intervention."

Director of Field Instruction Lily Jarman-Rohde gave the keynote speech at the Joint Symposium of the schools of social work at UCLA, USC, and CSU (Long Beach) on April 4. In March, she also gave an invited presentation on the topic "Navigating the Winds of Change" at the Annual Program Meeting of CSWE for a joint session of the Councils on Practice and Field Education. Jarman-Rohde served as Millennium Project Liaison for the CSWE Council on Educational Policy and, with three other field directors, published an article for the Millennium issue of the Journal of Social Work Education.

Associate Professor Sherrie Kossoudji has been awarded a grant from the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. The title of the project is "Dilemmas of the Welfare to Work Transition: The View From the City."

Professor Armand Lauffer's new book, Grants, Etc., was published by Sage in April. The book describes current changes in the funding environment that nonprofit organizations must take into account if they are to thrive in the next decade. He has also created a Web site that provides hot links to a wide variety of funding sources (government, foundation, voluntary, and private sector), guidelines on proposal writing, legal and tax information, and access to dozens of libraries and databases. The address is http://www.umich.edu/~socwk/alauffer/grantsetc.html

Associate Professor Edith Lewis was awarded five Individual-Developed Overseas Internships from the UM International Institute. These internships provided funding for five MSW students to participate in summer projects in Ghana. She also received an award from OVPR for the project "Linking Multicultural and International Professional Practice: A Collaborative Intervention Research Project."

Assistant Professor Susan McDonough presented the 10th Annual Edith Harris Memorial Lecture on April 3 at Wayne State University School of Social Work. The title of her talk was "In the Eye of the Beholder: Alternative Interpretations of Infant Mental Health."

Assistant Professor Robert Ortega and Associate Professor Beth Reed received the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the development of a more culturally and ethnically diverse campus community. Ortega also received the Faculty Award from the UM Latino/a Task Force. He presented on issues relevant to Latinos and child welfare at the 74th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Orthopsychiatry in Toronto in March, the Child Welfare League of America Training Conference (Mid-Atlantic
Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Lecture Presented by Alumnus

A. Sidney Johnson, MSW '67, presented the annual Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Lecture on Child Welfare on April 14. His topic was “Child Welfare: Challenges and Opportunities.” Mr. Johnson is the Executive Director of the American Public Welfare Association in Washington, D.C.

Copies of the lecture are available by contacting the Dean’s Office at (313) 764-3340.
Doctoral Degrees Conferred

The Joint Doctoral Program has recently conferred the PhD on the following students:

- Kip Coggins (Social Work and Anthropology) “Life in a Southwest Prison: A Study of the Culture of the Penitentiary of New Mexico”
- Ellen DeVoe (Social Work and Psychology) “Interviewing Children Who May Have Been Sexually Abused”
- Ratnesh Nagda (Social Work and Psychology) “A Social Relations Approach to Worker Empowerment.” Dr. Nagda is now an assistant professor at the University of Washington School of Social Work.
- Stephanie Robert (Social Work and Sociology) “The Effects of Individual, Family, and Community-Level Socioeconomic Status on Health over the Life-Course” Dr. Robert is now completing a post-doctorate at UC Berkeley.
- James Rollin (Social Work and Social Psychology) “Sociology of Crime” Dr. Rollin will be an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Fall.

MICHIGAN HUMAN SERVICES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

As reported in the Winter/Spring 1997 edition of Ongoing, the School was awarded $274,000 by the UM Provost for an outreach project to establish new professional practicum sites across the state. This internship program provides support for student stipends that will be matched by participating agencies. The goal of this program is to develop sites in communities, agencies, and fields of practice that are currently under-represented in our program, and to have the School/agency relationships become sustained over time. Western Michigan is specifically being targeted, as are Flint and Detroit. Judy Lodish, MSW ’90, has been hired as the program coordinator. She will work closely with the School’s faculty and alumni to develop new sites and with the Office of Field Instruction in making appropriate student placements. For more information about this program, please contact her at 313-647-8416, or send email to lodish@umich.edu

SOCIAL WORK INTERNATIONAL

In March, five members of Social Work International attended a conference on “A Call to Action: Careers, Activism, and Issues in International Development” hosted by American University in Washington, D.C. After returning to Ann Arbor, SWI members organized a “brown bag” to share their experience and related information with UM students and faculty. More than thirty people attended the event, which once again confirmed the rising interest among the student body in international issues.

Natalya Timoshkina speaks at the “brown bag.”
Bertha Capens Reynolds Society Chapter Formed at School

Spearheaded by members of the 1996 MSW class, and supported by a number of faculty and alumni, the UM School of Social Work’s chapter of the Bertha Capens Reynolds Society launched a statewide campaign to oppose food stamp cuts, sent a delegation to the Twelfth National Conference of the Society in St. Louis in June, designed a Bertha C. Reynolds Social Justice Bulletin Board, established a Bertha C. Reynolds Scholarship Fund, and created a Web site (http://www.umich.edu/-socwklbcrs/).

Bertha Capen Reynolds taught casework and supervision classes at the UM Institute of Public and Social Administration (the School’s predecessor), then located in Detroit. She came to UM in 1942, after thirteen years as Associate Director of the Smith College School for Social Work. Reynolds’ work in Detroit, described in her autobiography Uncharted Journey, addressed a number of issues still relevant today: the relationship between public and private agencies, the role of storefront religious congregations, the need for child care for working parents, the role of volunteers in the social services, the respective roles of social work and psychotherapy, and the need for links between social work and the labor and civil rights movements. She also wrote Learning and Teaching in the Practice of Social Work while she was in Detroit.

During the McCarthy years, Reynolds continued to speak out, presenting a paper “Fear in Our Culture” (1953) and a talk titled “McCarthyism vs. Social Work” (1954), both at meetings of the Council of Arts, Sciences and Professions, held concurrently with the National Conference of Social Work.

The Council on Social Work Education honored her prior to her death in 1979, and the National Association of Social Workers brought her books back into print. Smith College republished many of her articles in a special edition of Smith College Studies in Social Work. In 1983, plans were laid for the founding of the Society at a Bertha Capens Reynolds Centennial Conference at Smith.

There have been many ties between Reynolds, the Society, and the School. Numerous MSW and PhD alumni, faculty, and former faculty of the School were endorsers of the 1985 call to join the Society. They included Steve Burghardt, Ann Hartman, Nancy Hooyman, Cheryl Hyde, Joan Laird, John Longres, Jerry Sachs, Michael Sherraden, and Marilyn Wedenoja. Marti Bombyk, MSW ’76, PhD ’83, served as co-convenor of the founding conference in Chicago in 1985 and as the first Chairperson of the Society. Faculty members affiliated with the Society include Professors Charles Garvin, Lorraine Gutiérrez, Edith Lewis, Brett Seabury, and Emeritus Professor Henry J. Meyer. The Society promotes progressive practice, activism, and research, and develops coalitions between the human service community and peace, labor, civil rights, and other social movements.

During the 1997 Winter Term, the School’s BCRS chapter initiated a statewide “Empty Bowls” drive to protest a decision by Governor John Engler not to apply for a federal waiver that would eliminate work or volunteer requirements for unemployed, able-bodied food stamp recipients living in high-unemployment areas of the state. The drive involved collecting thousands of empty bowls donated by students and concerned citizens, culminating in a rally on May 28 at the State Capitol. The multi-colored bowls, many of which were inscribed with signatures and messages to the Governor, covered the steps of the Capitol. Several elected officials, agency-based social workers and grassroots organizers called for the State to apply for the waiver.

The Bertha C. Reynolds Social Justice Bulletin Board, located in the lobby of the Frieze Building, provides a place within the School where social justice-oriented events and causes can be publicized. The Bertha C. Reynolds Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships each year to entering students who have a history of social action that has contributed to advancing the progressive tradition in social work. Nominations for the scholarships will be made by the Office of Student and Multicultural Affairs, with the final selection made by faculty members affiliated with the Society. The first award will be given to members of the 1998 entering class. To contribute to this fund, please send your check, payable to “University of Michigan” with “Bertha C. Reynolds Scholarship Fund” written on the memo line, to: Development Office, UM School of Social Work, 1065 Frieze, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285.

— Michael Dover
School of Social Work Surpasses Campaign Goal of $12 Million

In 1992, the School of Social Work began its campaign with the theme "Building Leadership for a Changing Society." At that time, the new building was still a dream and the School’s endowment was only $279,000. Today, our endowment stands at a healthy $3.4 million, with two newly-endowed chairs, and anyone walking down South University Avenue is treated to a view of one of the most spectacular buildings on Central Campus.

This campaign marks a turning point for the School of Social Work. We have proven that a social work education is indeed something to invest in, to take part in, to help shape. Our campaign donors all understand the value of what we are trying to do. Our largest donors established endowment funds, contributed to the building, and set up new programs for our most talented students. To these donors, and to the many others who played a role, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

To continue as an outstanding School of Social Work, we will have to build on our success and maintain our momentum, not only in the areas of curriculum revision, research, and the training of students, but also in the area of fundraising. The expenses of higher education continue to rise, and we must cover them so we can remain true to our vision — reinventing social work.

The School of Social Work gratefully acknowledges the following gifts and pledges of $25,000 or more received from alumni, friends, and organizations during the Campaign for Michigan, as of May 31, 1997. The numerous other donors whose contributions were an important part of our campaign will be recognized in a separate Honor Roll publication.

Anonymous
Anne E. Casey Foundation
Avi Chai
Civitas Initiative
Gerald and Barbara Cook
Benedita K. Ebert Estate
Ford Foundation
Ford Motor Company Foundation
Grand Rapids Foundation
William T. Grant Foundation
Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan
Hewlett-Packard Company
Jeffrey D. Jacobs
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Clarice C. Jones
Joyce Foundation
W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Ann Lurie
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Joanne and Jack Martin
Regent Olivia P. Maynard and Mr. S. Olof Karlstrom
McGregor Fund
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
N. Y. Council on Adoptable Children, Inc.
Pew Charitable Trusts
William and Vivian Pickard
Regal Plastics Company
Clinton E. and Dorothy D. Purdy Estate
Research Corporation
Rockefeller Foundation
Richard and Susan Rogel
Howard E. Sims, F.A.L.A.
Skillman Foundation
Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust
In Memory of Ronald O. Warner
Weinberger Foundation

MAYNARD AND KARLSTROM HELP COMPLETE BUILDING PROJECT

Regent Olivia P. Maynard (MSW ’71) and her husband, S. Olof Karlstrom (BA ’58, Ed. Cert. ’59, JD ’64), have made a gift of $201,000 to the Building Fund. This gift will be used to purchase furniture for the new building. In recognition of Regent Maynard and Mr. Karlstrom’s generosity, the Dean’s Executive Suite will be named according to their wishes.

Libby Maynard was recently elected to the UM Board of Regents and will serve an eight-year term. She is President and Founder of the Michigan Prospects for Renewed Citizenship. She has also been an instructor at C. S. Mott Community College and Lansing Community College, and has taught courses on aging as an adjunct faculty member at the School. Libby is a former member of the School’s Alumni Society Board of Governors, and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1988. She is also active in the University’s Campaign for Michigan, and is co-chair of the Social Work National Campaign Committee.

Olof Karlstrom is an attorney in private practice in Flint, MI.

PARENTS OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNA GIVE GENEROUSLY THROUGH THEIR ESTATES

The School has received a bequest from the estates of Dorothy Deile Purdy and Clinton Edward Purdy. This gift will be used to support the Rosemary Sarri Scholarship Fund, the Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Fund, and the Building Fund. In recognition of this gift, the classroom on the second floor overlooking the Martha Cook garden will be named in honor of Dorothy Deile Purdy and Clinton Edward Purdy.

Clinton Purdy graduated from the UM College of LS&A in 1927,
and was a life member of the Alumni Association. Dorothy Purdy was an early elementary school teacher for many years. Both were active in community organizations in Ann Arbor and elsewhere. Their daughter, Martha Purdy Stein, received her BBA from UM in 1964 and her MSW from the School in 1980. Martha lives in San Francisco and is Program Director of Milestones Human Services, Inc., a community-based residential treatment program for ex-offenders.

CIVITAS SCHOLARS

Five for 1997-98

CIVITAS Initiative has renewed its support to UM and will provide additional support for the 1997-98 CIVITAS scholars. These students will be the fourth cohort to receive interdisciplinary training in child abuse and neglect.

PAID STIPENDS FOR STUDENTS

Rare is the Social Work student without financial need. Although we provide partial aid to over 80% of our students, we would like to do more. To this end, many agencies have responded to our suggestion to provide stipends for field instruction. Unfortunately, some agencies cannot do this because of extremely tight budgets. This can put them at a disadvantage, as many needy students prefer placements with stipends.

Your gift to the Annual Fund can alleviate this situation. This year, $5,000 from that fund will provide a stipend for a student at the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti, MI. This agency provides medical care and health education to low-income 12 - 21 year olds and their children. It is a highly-regarded agency that offers excellent field instruction for our students. Please watch your mail for information on how your gift to the Annual Fund will support this student stipend.

Lurie Family Endows Chair in Children and Families

We are honored to announce that Ann Lurie and her children have given the School of Social Work $1.2 million to endow a chair in “Children and Families.” Mrs. Lurie is among the University of Michigan’s most generous supporters, having given funds for the Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center and the Lurie Tower Carillon on North Campus in memory of her late husband. Mrs. Lurie has supported the School in the past with her gifts to the CIVITAS Initiative.

Issues surrounding children and families are integral to the field of social work and to the work of the faculty at the School. These issues are receiving special focus right now given the radical changes being proposed to the federal welfare system. We do not know what impact welfare reform will have on children and families, but social workers must stand ready to assess and address the needs of this critical group. In addition to welfare reform, challenges such as child abuse and neglect, violent crime among youthful offenders, poverty, racism, and family violence are affecting our children and families. Now, more than ever, we need social workers to help our children and families through clinical intervention and knowledge development that results in improved clinical practices and systemic changes.

Children and families are central to the field of social work, and having an endowed chair will greatly enhance our position as a leader in education and research in this area.

CHAMPION OF SOCIAL WORK MEMORIALIZED WITH GIFT FROM MRS. MARGARET WARNER

Mrs. Margaret Warner has made a gift of $50,000 to the Social Work Building Fund in memory of her husband, Ronald O. Warner. The seminar room on the third floor of the new building will be named in his honor.

Ron Warner (BS ’29) left Ann Arbor as a young mechanical engineer destined to play a key role in Michigan’s automobile industry. Joining the Chevrolet Division of General Motors Corporation in 1934, he became Manager of the Chevrolet Flint Manufacturing Division in 1955 and held that position until his retirement in 1970. As a dedicated community servant, he rendered extraordinary service to the City of Flint, the State of Michigan, and the nation. Representing the social conscience of American industry at its best, Ron Warner displayed continuing concern for problems of community health care, human and social services, urban development, and human resources. For many years, he served as a fundraising volunteer to the School of Social Work, and received the School of Social Work’s Community Service Award in 1988.

Ron Warner’s dedication to the School of Social Work will be memorialized through Mrs. Margaret Warner’s gift. A seminar room will be named in his honor.

— Heather Snow Kingsbury
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION ON THE INTERNET

As part of our commitment to offer outreach education, the School of Social Work is offering four Continuing Professional Development workshops over the Internet. We will also offer a non-credit, semester-long course, taught by Assistant Professor David Burton, on Interpersonal Practice for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgenderal Issues. Our Internet courses are designed to use some of the latest technologies to accommodate the off-site learner. Discussions are intended to be carried out over the Internet. Additional resources located on the Internet and the World Wide Web, such as lectures, notes, and articles, will be utilized.

CLINICAL APPROACHES TO TRAUMA RESOLUTION FOR ADOLESCENT SEXUAL OFFENDERS: A ROAD TO EMPATHY FOR VICTIMS

Assistant Professor David Burton

Participants will explore a cognitive behavioral model of trauma that offers an explanation of how trauma affects youths’ behaviors; how trauma relates to the youthful offender’s behaviors; techniques for trauma resolution based on this model; and how to use this trauma resolution model as a road to empathy. This model incorporates family, cultural, and gender concerns, and is rooted in an environmental perspective.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FORENSIC INTERVIEWING OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

Professor Kathleen Coulborn Faller

Participants will learn practical information about the assessment of children where sexual abuse is suspected. Relevant research will be reviewed. Current issues in forensic interviewing of children, the interpersonal theory, and conflict management skills needed to make collaboration work. Feedback about how these skills apply in individual cases will be available. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to create a training tool that can be used in their work and shared with others in the class.

ENDING MEN’S VIOLENCE AGAINST THEIR PARTNERS: PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Associate Professor Daniel Saunders

New developments in prevention programs for teens and intervention programs for adults will be presented. Participants will learn about research that can guide differential assessment and intervention planning for men who batter. The major dilemmas in the field will be discussed, along with possible solutions. A model for applying different levels of criminal justice sanctions will be covered.

BUILDING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS: INTERPERSONAL SKILLS FOR MOVING FROM COOPERATION THROUGH CONFLICT TO COLLABORATION

Associate Professor Helen Weingarten

Too frequently, cooperative ventures are undermined by the inevitable conflicts that arise over time. This course is designed for professionals in the human services who wish to form effective working partnerships, both within and across organizations. Various forms of partnerships will be considered, and the pragmatics of creating and maintaining partnerships will be discussed. Persons taking this class will have the opportunity to learn about the problem solving, decision making, negotiation, and conflict management skills needed to make collaboration work. Feedback about how these skills apply in individual cases will be available. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to create a training tool that can be used in their work and shared with others in the class.

INTERPERSONAL THEORY FOR ISSUES OF CONCERN TO GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERAL CLIENTS

Assistant Professor David Burton

This course is designed to use up-to-date research and theory as a base for therapy for issues of concern to GLBT clients. Specific interpersonal practice methods of assessment, treatment, and evaluation of treatment will be taught on several issues of concern to GLBT clients, including the invisibility of GLBT groups, discrimination, the process of coming out, legal concerns (e.g., insurance and wills), violence directed at members of these groups, parenting, battering, death, family development, and aging. Materials and exercises will be offered to students to explore their own beliefs about groups to which they do not belong.

For further information, contact:
UM School of Social Work
The Office of External Relations
1065 Frieze Building
Rebeccah Kamp, Distance Learning Program Coordinator
313-763-6921 or email rjkamp@umich.edu

For registration information, contact:
Kitty Foyle, Continuing Professional Education Program Coordinator
313-647-4281 or email kfoyle@umich.edu
Nirmala Kelkar enrolled as an MSW student in 1946, when the School was located in the Rackham Building in Detroit (now on the campus of Wayne State University). Her goal was simple but close to her heart, namely to be useful in some way to the socio-economically underprivileged people in her own country, even if only to an infinitesimal degree.

While a student, Nirmala was interviewed by the Detroit Times. She expressed her view that India was misconstrued abroad as being a county embroiled in religious tangles. In her opinion, the basic problem in India was economic in nature, and could be overcome only with advanced modern technology, especially in the field of agriculture.

Upon her return to India, Nirmala worked at a state hospital where she started the first medical social work department. She spent time in the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, and Sweden as a United Nations Fellow in Rehabilitation. She served as chief of the social service department at the All-India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for twenty years.

Nirmala retired in 1978, but has not stopped working on behalf of the disadvantaged. Nirmala has been a consultant for several organizations that assist socioeconomically underprivileged persons and those who are physically handicapped. Presently, she is working with an educational support project for a hundred underprivileged slum children in a Bombay school.

The School was honored to host Nirmala as a visitor in June when she traveled to Ann Arbor for Emeritus Reunion Weekend. This annual event, sponsored by the UM Alumni Association, honors alumni who graduated fifty years ago or longer. A current MSW student, Chandana Sarkar, graciously hosted Nirmala in her home and accompanied her throughout the visit. The School organized a “brown bag” lunch in her honor, and Nirmala also addressed the audience at the School’s Emeritus Faculty/Emeritus Alumni luncheon (see article below). Nirmala is grateful to the School for her training “which broadened my horizons of thinking, perception and outlook—which has stood me in good stead throughout my life.” The faculty member she remembers most fondly is Arthur Dunham, who taught community organization and was her advisor for her MSW program. The other faculty members whom she remembers well were Eleanor Cranefield, Clarice Freud, and Ralph Fletcher.

Nirmala Kelkar is a shining example of an alumna who set a goal for herself and achieved it. In doing so, she has given back infinitely more than she has received.

— Robin Adelson Little

**EMERITUS FACULTY/EMERITUS ALUMNI LUNCHEON**

Emeritus Alumni were invited to the annual Emeritus Faculty Luncheon on June 7 in the Michigan League. Dean Paula Allen-Meares welcomed the guests and provided an update on the state of the School. The guests were also addressed by new faculty member Michael Spencer (see p. 10), alumna Nirmala Kelkar (see article above), and Jesse Gordon, who reported on the progress of the construction of the new building.
We’re on the Web!

The Alumni Society has its own Web site, linked to the School's home page. This site includes articles from past issues of Ongoing, Class Notes, the "Let Us Hear From You" form, information on continuing education programs, and links to UM Online and the UM Alumni Association. Take a look—visit the site at: http://www.umich.edu/~socwk/alumni/

BYLAWS REVISIONS
The Alumni Society Board of Governors has proposed two changes to the Bylaws. Under Article I - Officers, the Board would like to add the office of Treasurer to the current officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary). Since the Board has a budget and fund raising projects, a treasurer is needed to manage the same. The proposed change reads "The Board of Governors shall elect from its members at the first meeting each year, after the mail ballot, a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, who will hold office from the time of the election until their successors are elected."

The second proposed change, to the same article, reads "The Board may add additional officers on an interim basis until the next annual meeting with a 2/3 majority vote of members present at regularly scheduled Board meetings. Notice of proposals to add officers to the Board must be sent to Board members two weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote will take place. The interim officer will be appointed by the President, subject to majority approval by the Board, immediately following approval of such interim office by the Board. A revision of the Bylaws to include such interim officer must be proposed at the next annual meeting. Interim officers will serve until the next regular election of officers for the Board."

Voting on these proposed changes will take place at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 22, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fauri Room of the Frieze Building. All alumni are invited to attend the meeting and vote. This will be a dinner meeting. Please RSVP to Robin Little (313-763-6339) if you plan to attend.

PATHFINDERS IN ANN ARBOR
Emeritus Professor Sally Churchill will be the featured speaker at a Pathfinders dinner meeting in Ann Arbor on Monday, October 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Pathfinders programs invite alumni to meet distinguished faculty who have helped the School achieve the preeminent status we enjoy today. Professor Churchill is one of our most distinguished and loved faculty members, and we are delighted she agreed to participate in this program. The event will take place at Cottage Inn on William Street. A buffet dinner will be followed by a talk by Professor Churchill. Invitations will be mailed to all Ann Arbor and metropolitan Detroit-area alumni in early September. For more information, please call Robin Little at 313-763-6339.

SAVE THE DATE!
If all goes as planned, our new building will be dedicated on Friday, April 17, 1998. Keep your eyes open for news about this special event!

— Robin Adelson Little

Professors Daniel Saunders and Larry Gant (third and fourth from left) enjoy cross-country skiing with alumni at Michigania last February. The weekend was an enormous success and we plan to repeat it, but not until 1999, as we want to focus on the new building dedication in 1998.
Edwin Simon recently retired as Professor of Human Services at New York City Technical College of the City University of New York. He served for ten years as chairman of the department. His accomplishments included creation of a Bachelor of Science Program in Human Services and a Child Welfare Certificate Program. After ten years, he also retired as Editor of The Jewish Social Work Forum, published by the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University.

Anita Saunders lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Fusako Oi visited the School of Social Work in March. She met with students, staff, and faculty, including Emeritus Professor Rosemary Sarri, and attended lectures on campus. Oi teaches practice methods and case work at Tokai University Department of Social Work in Yokohama, Japan. She was pleased that the numbers of international students are increasing at the School. Miller Staybrook is director of Compeer Programs and Children's Services of the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas in Wichita. He was named the 1997 recipient of the National Mental Health Association's Ruth P. Brudney Social Work Award. This award recognizes significant contributions made to the care and treatment of people with mental illnesses by professionals in the field of social work. Bonnie M. Wheaton works at the 18th Circuit Court in Wheaton, IL, and serves on the board of directors for Metropolitan Family Service of DuPage County.

Sadhu Singh Khalsa is a member of the Sangre de Cristo Monastery in New Mexico. She is part of a small group of spirit-guided, heart-centered people committed to serving humanity by working together to create a sacred healing center.

Thomas Vinca is president and chief executive officer for Family Services in Erie, PA. He manages a staff of ninety-two, with a $3.4 million budget. The agency has family therapy, adoption, credit counseling, and volunteer programs. He was named Social Worker of the Year in 1990. Thomas is married and has four children.

Valerie Shurman Silverman lives in West Palm Beach, FL. She visited Bonnie Stern Miller '72 in Greece, where Bonnie, her husband Tom, and family are posted with the American Embassy. (see photo)

Linda Shain Vanek is President and Principal Consultant for Shain Vanek Associates, P.C. in Ann Arbor, MI. She provides technical assistance to recipients of coalition grants from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. She is also a member of the advisory board for the Developmental Disabilities Council evaluation project at Michigan State University.

Linda Young Landesman's first name was printed incorrectly as Leslie in the Winter/Spring 1997 edition of Ongoing. Our apologies to her for that error.

Stephen G. Kaplan is the director of the Behavioral Health Services Department for Ventura County, CA, supervising over 500 employees.

Geraldine Scheller-Gilkey works in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Kathryn Birke has worked in health care positions for twenty years. She has been director of quality improvement, information systems, and social work at an innovative, capitated program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (known nationally as PACE). She is currently the director of volunteer services and community outreach for Hill Haven, a non-profit 355 bed nursing home in Webster, NY. She is also involved with the Rotary Club and other volunteer activities.

Eileen R. Heisman has accepted the position of vice president for The National Philanthropic Trust in Jenkintown, PA, a new charity whose mission is to amplify assets dedicated to philanthropy. Prior to joining NPT, Eileen served as director of fund development and planned giving at Abington Memorial Hospital Foundation where, under her leadership, the hospital successfully completed a $28.5 million capital campaign. She is a certified fund-raising executive.

Joseph P. Burns is an attorney and social worker with a private practice in Jackson, MI. He provides evaluations for managed care, and is con-
Class Notes

If you would like to send news for “Class Notes” via email, please use this address: robmal@umich.edu

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cerned with the legal issues of social work practice.

Lorraine Tunis Doo works for Blue Cross Blue Shield in Owings Mills, MD, a state that is about to implement its reform program. She runs a Medicaid program, and she says her work is more related to public health than social work, but that social work is an important component.

Elisabeth Cathy Oppenheim is a certified social worker in Michigan and a licensed clinical social worker in Illinois. She works at Chicago Read Mental Health Center, providing individual and group therapy and discharge planning for adult psychiatric inpatients. She is a member of NASW and AMI, is involved in international social work, and recently traveled to France and Switzerland.

Catherine Easter was a consultant for the Michigan Department of Education until 1991 when she moved to northern, rural Minnesota. Since moving to “Fargoland,” she has started a coffeehouse, a book group, and an investment club. Currently, she is enjoying life with her writer/husband, ten-year-old twins, and two cats. She works as a social worker in a medical setting.

Amy Ellwood was recently promoted to associate professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. She also received the Outstanding Teacher Award for 1996, which was voted on by medical students, residents, and faculty.

Moše Halevi Spero, PhD ’83, is a professor at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel.

Eileen Freedland is trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)—an effective treatment for dealing with childhood and/or recent trauma. She is the first, and only, EMDR facilitator in Michigan.

Aliza Orent works at the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul, MN. She and her partner Pascale Bos gave birth to a son, Eytan Yitzchak Bos Orent, on November 22, 1996.

John DeBruyne is Director of Psychiatry at Flower Hospital (Promedica Health System) in Sylvania, OH. He has an MBA from Bowling Green State University. John is also an associate professor of psychology at Monroe County Community College. He has a private practice with Psychiatric Services of Northwest Ohio.

Angela Deaver Campbell is the new director of the Scholarship Center at UCLA. She and her staff are building a program to help undergraduates apply for scholarship assistance.

Susan Bigari moved to Santa Fe, NM in 1995, after being a long-time Michigan resident. She is the medical social worker for a kidney dialysis clinic, serving Spanish-speaking populations and Native Americans. She was married in 1996 and gave birth to a baby boy this past January.

Mila Guise is currently the director of clinical services at New Life Social Services in Chicago, IL. She is also a licensed clinical social worker. She is in the process of obtaining a license to open a child welfare agency in Chicago.

Andrea Juchartz worked for four years as a discharge planner for a cardiac unit in a hospital near Chicago, IL. She has recently located to the Boston area, where she is at home raising her three-year-old daughter.

Brenda Dater has moved from Maryland to Fanwood, NJ. She is providing part-time consultation for program development in maternal and child health since giving birth to her son in May 1996.

Matthew Lyberg was appointed by Governor Engler to the Michigan Board of Social Work Examiners.

Amalia Tragos married Doug Stachowiak on May 24, and they honeymooned in the Greek Islands. She works for Family Assessment and Intervention Resources in Fort Worth, TX.

Dawn Bistany is employed at the Detroit Area Agency on Aging as an administrative assistant to the Empowerment Zone Care Management Project for the Elderly.

Patricia Gialdini Randall is currently on a leave of absence as a school social worker for Intermediate School District 917 in St. Paul, MN. She is at home with her child.

Karen Gordon Rosenberg works at the Jewish Federation Apartments, Inc. in Oak Park, MI.

Margaret Stakiewicz is a medical social worker at a home health care agency in Grand Haven, MI. She attended the second annual Social Workers in Home Health Care conference in Chicago last June. She is working part-time since the birth of her son Caleb in July 1996.

Marcie Thompson is a full-time inpatient psychiatric social worker at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. She works with eating disorder, substance abuse, and general psychiatric patients. She is also an outpa­tient therapist at a private practice.
Mary Anne Dobson is working for the Accelerated Academics Academy in Flint, MI. She thoroughly enjoys her job.

Daniel Hampton III, a member of the School's Alumni Society Board of Governors, is now employed as a school social worker/academic advisor in the Willow Run School District. He works on "Project Education."

Theresa McArdle and her husband Christian are the proud parents of a baby boy, Liam Christian, born on March 14 in New York City.

Tanya Muse is a school social worker at Holmes Middle School in Flint, MI. She describes her work as challenging and rewarding.

Raviv Schwartz is currently working on a PhD in Social (Community) Work at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, Israel. He is involved professionally in fostering institutional relationships between Israel and the American Jewish community.

Virginia Scott is currently working in the research and social work case management departments at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, MI. She facilitates one four-hour group session per week at Dot Caring Center. Virginia is enrolled in the Health Education Program at UM Flint.

Annette Shaff is working at the Center for Mental Health Services Research at UC Berkeley.

In Memoriam

1948
Dwight S. Adams; March 8, 1997

1960
Mary Alice Smith; December 4, 1996

1963
Perry Ezziel Jones; date not available

1995
Jody Fulton is working full-time at a CMH agency as a home-based therapist, doing intensive, short-term interventions with multi-problem families. She also works part-time for a private practice.

Laura Brauninger Heitman works for the Rio Rancho Public Schools in Albuquerque, NM. In April, she presented on the topic "School Social Work Services: Past, Present, and Future" at the New Mexico Alliance for School Social Workers in Los Cruces, NM.

Rebecca Riseman is a health educator in the Detroit Public Schools. She conducts individual and group counseling, classroom presentations, organizes health fairs, and develops health programs and newsletters.

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Annette Shaff is working at the Center for Mental Health Services Research at UC Berkeley.

1996
Lorre Taylor is living in Fairfax, VA and working part-time for the Council on Social Work Education. Lorre was president of the Association of Black Social Work Students whilst an MSW student at the School.

Mugs for Sale!

You can now drink coffee and support the School's Alumni Society Board of Governors at the same time! The Board has ordered mugs to sell as a fund raiser to support students. The proceeds will be used for a variety of activities, such as sending students to professional conferences and helping with the cost of graduations. The mugs are blue with the School's logo and lettering in maize. They are made of heavy-duty acrylic. The cost is $10 per mug, plus $3 for shipping and handling (1-3 mugs can be mailed for $3). Mugs are also sold in Room 1064F of the Frieze Building. They make great gifts, so order more than one! Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

Name_____________________________
Address_____________________________
City__________________State____Zip____

Please send me ___________ mugs at $10.00 each.

Shipping and handling ____________
($3 for 1-3 mugs, $6 for 4-6 mugs, etc.)

Total enclosed $__________________________

Checks should be made payable to "UM School of Social Work" and mailed to: UM School of Social Work, Office of External Relations 1065 Frieze Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285.