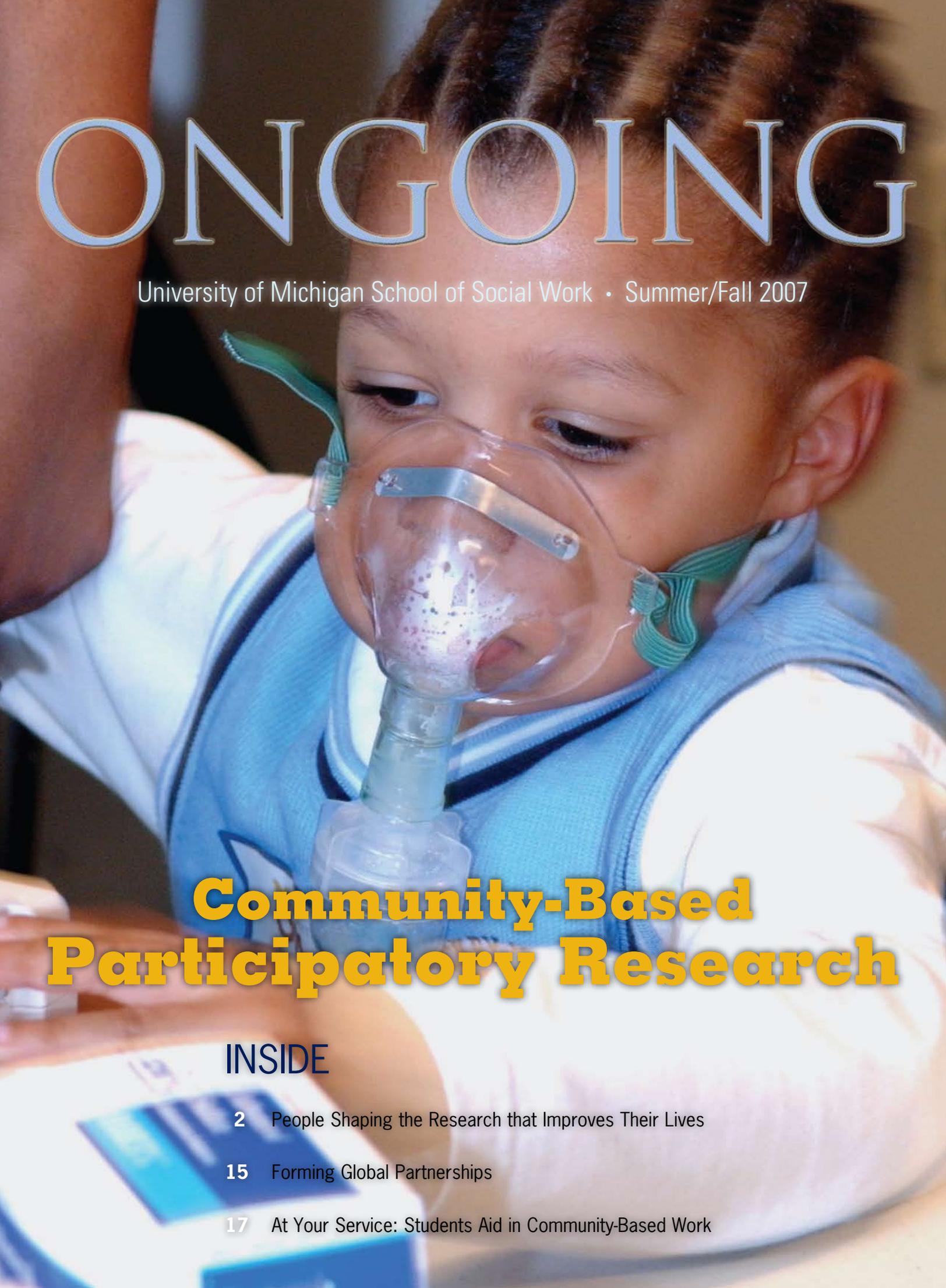


ONGOING



University of Michigan School of Social Work • Summer/Fall 2007

Community-Based Participatory Research

INSIDE

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FEATURES

- 2** People Shaping the Research that Improves Their Lives
- 15** Forming Global Partnerships
- 17** At Your Service: Students Aid in Community-Based Work

Front cover photo: P. A. Rech
A Detroit child demonstrates a breathing device for his asthma, likely caused by air pollution. See story, page 2.

SAVE THE DATE

Joint Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 11, & Friday, October 12, 2007

Homecoming Tailgate

Saturday, October 13, 2007, 9 a.m.
School of Social Work Building

Fauri Lecture

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 3 p.m.
SSW Educational Conference Center
"A Historically Based Thought Experiment: Meeting New Challenges for Children's Health and Well-Being"
Presented by Howard Markel, MD, PhD, professor of pediatrics and communicable diseases at U-M, director of the U-M Center for the History of Medicine

Dean's Lecture Series

Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 3:30 p.m.
Presented by Christine James-Brown, president and CEO,
Child Welfare League of America



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Gregory Fox

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From the Dean

This year we take a look back to 1957. That year, through the insight and work of Dean Fedele Fauri and many faculty members, including Henry Meyer, who spearheaded the effort—and through funding by the Russell Sage Foundation, the U.S. Public Health Service, and other federal government sources—the Joint Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science was born.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Joint Doctoral Program, we are holding a two-day event on October 11 and 12, coinciding with the Homecoming Tailgate on the 13th. Also on October 12 we are organizing a conference on the theme Solving Problems in Society: Ideas and People, showcasing the program's role in shaping social work scholarship, policy, practice, and education over the past fifty years. Our speakers will include Frances Fox Piven, distinguished professor of political science and sociology at City University of New York, as well as president of the American Sociological Association; Patricia Gurin, Nancy Cantor Distinguished University Professor Emerita, Psychology and Women's Studies, U-M; and many notable alumni. We hope to see many of our 350 PhD alumni there!

The Joint Doctoral Program continues to move steadily forward. Thirteen students are joining the program this fall, and each has impressive academic preparation and relevant experience. The incoming students' research interests differ—from trauma to faith-based services to effective cross-cultural practice—and they are diverse in other respects as well. Three come from South Korea, while one is a West Point graduate who served as an army officer and paratrooper in Iraq.

The cohort entering the MSW program is no less impressive. Of the 326 admitted students, 70, or 21%, are students of color, and 11 are international students. Almost a quarter of students have chosen the advanced standing route, in which they are eligible for a lower number of required credit hours. We welcome all our new students with great confidence in their contributions to the future of social work.

We acknowledge with gratitude the gifts toward both doctoral and master's students. On May 5 we

had opportunity to thank Vivian A. Curtis (MSW '48) and her husband Dr. James L. Curtis, who gave \$1 million to fund an endowment to support master's and doctoral students, when we named the School's research and training center in their honor. (See page 21.)

In addition, William Slayman created a student award to support tuition in honor of his late wife, Shirley Falconer Slayman (MSW '50). (See page 24.) We are also grateful to James Minder (MSW '74) and Susan Davis (MSW '74), who have set up a bequest and named the School of Social Work as a beneficiary. (See page 22.)

By following the requirements and guidelines set forth by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), our accrediting agency, we continue to enrich the quality of our programs. After years of implementing an alternative reaccreditation plan, we submitted our reaccreditation report to CSWE in July. We are presently preparing for a site visit by CSWE in December.

In June I flew to China and South Korea to expand the School's global relationships. I visited alumni and also met with representatives from various institutions of higher education to explore possibilities of establishing partnerships. I was part of a U-M delegation of deans and directors that was following up on a visit by U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. (See pages 15 and 22 for more information and photos.)

I speak on behalf of our faculty and staff when I say that the opportunity to meet with present students, incoming students, alumni, and donors—who are all making The Michigan Difference—motivates us to uphold our commitment to working toward a better society through individual and social change. May that continue to be the focus for us all.



—Paula Allen-Meares, Dean
Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work
and Professor of Education



Philip T. Dattilo



COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

People Shaping the Research that Improves Their Lives

When four of Ophelia Owens' six children, one by one, developed respiratory ailments, she accepted the cause as hereditary. She and her mother had asthma themselves.

Then she became involved in Photo-voice, a project that issued disposable cameras to a group of Detroit mothers and asked them to take pictures around their neighborhood. The goal was to raise awareness of their surroundings, as a first step in making positive change.

Through the camera lens, Owens took a new view of her family's illness—framed by the billows of smoke emitting from a nearby municipal waste incinerator.

It suddenly registered that many of her neighbors also used breathing devices, especially elderly persons and children.

"Some days I can 'taste' the air and know it will be a bad day for our asthma," says Owens, one of thirteen parents and community activists who make up the Environmental Justice and Advocacy (EJA) committee created by the Detroit Public Schools.

"My thing now is gaining more knowledge, and then sharing that knowledge with other people so that we can make our neighborhoods safer and healthier," she says. "I plan on being involved in the environmental justice movement for the rest of my life."

Discovering that her family's illness was not the result of bad genes came as a relief at first. But this feeling was followed by anger and a sense of empowerment. Detroit has twelve hazardous waste sites, the second highest concentration of any city; childhood asthma in Detroit is twice the national average. Owens and the other EJA parents are channeling their frustration into action.

A Head Start mother explains her photos at the May community forum on environmental justice.



P. A. Rech

“My thing now is gaining more knowledge, and then sharing that knowledge with other people so that we can make our neighborhoods safer and healthier,” she says. “I plan on being involved in the environmental justice movement for the rest of my life.”

This is exactly the outcome Associate Professor **Michael Spencer** hoped for when he began laying the groundwork for this program in 2004, together with Bunyan Bryant (MSW '65, PhD '70), professor and head of the School of Natural Resources Environmental Justice Initiative. MSW students Joe Donlin and Amanda Garratt were involved in all aspects of the project, from recruitment and research design, to data collection and dissemination.

But it is the group of parents, whose children were enrolled in the Detroit Public Schools Early Childhood Education Prekindergarten Program, who form the nucleus of EJA. Taking photographs, they identified the needs and assets of their neighborhoods. They collected data, documented evidence, and shared their findings in a community forum on environmental justice this May. Building on this foundation, Spencer hopes to obtain grant money to train and pay the volunteers to become educators and activists.

The project is a classic example of community-based participatory research (CBPR), in that it emphasizes the role of community members as active partners in developing knowledge. The parents identified the concerns to be addressed—in this case, illegal dumping and air quality—and are taking action to improve their neighborhoods.

Collaboration is the key word found in the phrases that define CBPR: a collaborative relationship between academia and community groups in order to create new knowledge about a practical community issue and thus bring about social change.

START WHERE PEOPLE ARE

The School of Social Work has a long history of applying CBPR and is involved in a wide range of projects using this research approach. Professor **Barry Checkoway** has employed it as one of his primary methodologies for more than twenty years. “Viewed this way, research is not just a means to develop and disseminate knowledge but is also part of the community development process. You start where people are, with the community as a unit of solution, and research becomes a form of practice.”

Checkoway taught the School's first doctoral seminar on CBPR with an interdisciplinary grant from the Rackham Graduate School in partnership with other faculty from social work, sociology, and public health. He has authored countless journal articles and organized a national conference, which produced national standards for this form of research. He conducts training and workshops with community groups in regions as diverse as the Mississippi Delta, South Bronx, Chicago, and East Oakland, California.

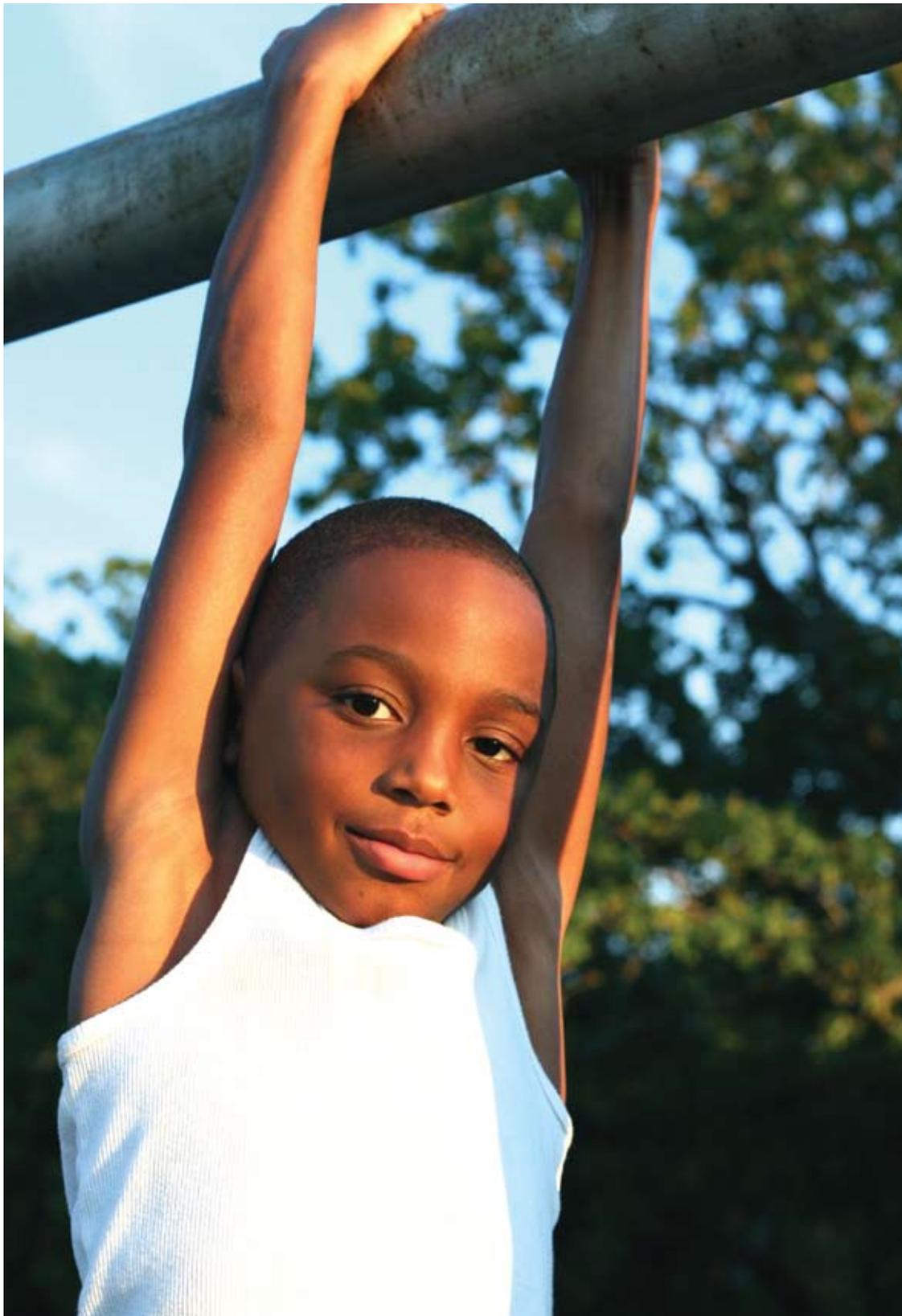
While he works with people of all ages, he is particularly excited by the potential of young people creating community change through research:

- In East Oakland, young people documented the effects of gentrification on low-income neighborhoods and brought the information to city officials.
- In the South Bronx, students raised concern about stereotyping of youth of color by newspapers. Conducting a *New York Times* content analysis, they showed that White youth were portrayed as high achievers, while youth of color were portrayed in negative contexts. Although the *Times* editors rejected the data they collected, Checkoway notes that the participants gained skills and confidence from the experience.



P. A. Rech

Associate Professor Michael Spencer and Professor of Natural Resources Bunyan Bryant (MSW '65, PhD '70) initiated the Environmental Justice and Advocacy program.



- In Detroit, Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity brings together neighborhood and suburban youth, and research produced information that formed the basis for a Mosaic Youth Theater performance called “Speak for Yourself!” Young people created the interactive performance that they are now bringing to school assemblies and community centers. It is another example, Checkoway says, of participants developing and disseminating knowledge.

“We especially focus on youth of color in racially segregated and economically disinvested areas, because we believe it will strengthen personal, organization, and community capacity.”

Powered by volunteers, CBPR is not costly and the payoff is huge, he concludes. “Communities benefit from research that increases their participation in solving problems. It builds bridges across generations.”



At a recent alumni event, Professor Larry Gant holds up a mesh router used in providing Internet access to a Detroit neighborhood.

UM Photo Services: Scott Galvin



Project coordinator Kristin McGee, principal investigator Dean Paula Allen-Meares, project manager Kara Ziedins, co-principal investigator Professor Larry Gant, Professor Leslie Hollingsworth, and co-investigator Assistant Professor Trina Shanks form the core of the Technical Assistance Center for the Good Neighborhoods Initiative.

MOVING FROM THE IVORY TOWER

The School is also building bridges between academia and the real world, as faculty lend their skills to a number of projects in urban Detroit.

One of the most ambitious is the Skillman Foundation Good Neighborhoods Initiative (GNI), a ten-year program in six selected Detroit neighborhoods aimed at enabling “all of the children and youth in those neighborhoods to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and prepared.” The neighborhoods were chosen based on their high concentration of children, multiple needs, and community commitment to addressing the problems, according to Foundation President and CEO Carol Goss (MSW '72).

“Some will argue that computers are available in schools and libraries, but in Detroit, schools and libraries are closing.”

GNI was launched with a highly collaborative planning process involving the foundation, U-M SSW faculty, community organizations, and community members. Faculty members are helping the residents shape their priorities through focus groups, small meetings, and large community forums. They also provide training, mentoring, and grant-writing help. The School’s Technical Assistance Center supplies data retrieval and analysis, along with research expertise.

“We were looking for an organization that would bring not only academic support, including data interpretation, but a deep knowledge of Detroit neighborhoods,” Goss says.

“We are moving our research, classroom, and service activities from the ivory tower and positioning ourselves in the community,” says Dean Paula Allen-Meares, principal investigator for the School’s work on the project. She emphasizes that it is very much a

group effort; she, co-principal investigator Professor Larry Gant, Associate Professor Leslie Hollingsworth, and co-investigator Assistant Professor Trina Shanks work closely as a team. They recently submitted a proposal to extend the initial three-year, \$900,000 grant.

In addition to many other faculty and technical staff, the project has also enlisted more than fifty students enrolled in a class Gant teaches in the U-M Detroit Center. “The students have been extremely well-received in the Good Neighborhoods Initiative and look forward to being involved throughout the life of the project,” he reports.

Professor Gant’s research interests range widely, from food distribution to public health. Another of his current projects is deploying and evaluating public use of wireless Internet access in two Detroit neighborhoods.

“There’s lots of talk about the omnipresence of wi-fi, but this is rarely true in low-income communities,” Gant asserts. “If present at all, it is usually limited to businesses, not neighborhoods. Some will argue that computers are available in schools and libraries, but in Detroit, schools and libraries are closing.”

So he set out to test whether it is possible to install Internet access in a city with lots of trees, where houses are old, with thick walls. And, would people use it? The answer is an emphatic “yes,” according to Denise Wellons-Glover, project manager for the Child Care Coordination Council of Detroit/Wayne County.

“With unemployment so high, access to technology is paramount. Employers require resumes to be submitted on-line, so you can’t even apply for a job without the Internet.” Children are using computers for schoolwork, and senior citizens are taking classes to learn software and discover the Internet. People received free computers after completing training, Wellons-Glover says, and the interest continues to grow.



The experiment is intentionally small, sending strong signals across a one-third mile radius. The two sites are in close proximity and, together, reach about 60 families. The researchers would like to see the project expanded to reach other agencies and households.

With the two-year grant from the Knight Foundation ending in September, Wellons-Glover is aggressively seeking new funding. “But we can also transfer costs to the users. It would be about \$10 per month,” she estimates, “equivalent to one can of soda and a bag of chips per week. I know we can convince people that the benefits are worth it.”

ORGANIZING TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

It’s one thing to convince community members to rally behind Internet access, safe neighborhoods, and environmental justice. Associate Professor **Mieko Yoshihama** has chosen a more controversial cause in *New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian and Asian-American Communities*.

“Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is widespread, but many people deny its existence or downplay its seriousness in their communities,” Yoshihama says.

The Asian population in southeast Michigan is vast and diverse, spanning many ethnicities and languages. Established in 2002, *New Visions* initially focused its efforts within the South Asian and Korean communities and is now expanding to reach other Asian groups.

“We strongly believe that community members themselves know best which strategies will meet with resistance and which will be effective. But we realize how volatile the subject matter is. Mass organizing could be counterproductive. We have been careful to involve our volunteers without jeopardizing their standing in the community,” Yoshihama says.

The project’s founders chose not to take a traditional reactionary approach like creating a crisis hotline or a shelter. “Responding to survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence is important. But we wanted to address the root causes—to prevent domestic violence from happening in the first place.

“One major approach we’ve identified together is the use of art, and especially theater,” she continues. “So after conducting a series of community assessments and in an effort to share the results in an interactive way, we’ve developed a skit. The volunteers have learned to be actors. They have created two 20-minute plays about domestic violence aimed at Korean and Southeast Asian audiences, as well as a third skit depicting the experience of an Asian woman who stays at a local shelter.”

At the formal launch event for the Shanti Project, Community Action Team members talk about the project and their role.

“As social workers and social scientists, we are trained to use theories and data. But the reality is, once we develop a plan, we need to continuously reassess, revise, and learn more.”

The plays depict the way abusers, victims, and onlookers often fail to address the problem. “They may make excuses like ‘he’s not such a bad guy; he’s under stress; she probably deserved it,’” Yoshihama explains. “In some later versions of the skits, the audience is invited to ‘stop’ the action on stage and improvise a new script. The goal is not only to raise awareness and promote dialogue, but to change attitudes that condone violence against women.”

Yoshihama does not suggest that domestic violence is more or less prevalent among Asians than other ethnic groups, but it may be less visible. Asian and other marginalized women face more barriers such as language and immigration status, she contends.

New Visions has a more recent spin-off called the Shanti Project, a word that means “peace and harmony” in Hindi. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Gujarati community in southeast Michigan (originally from India) has been refining an intensive communications campaign against domestic violence. Using posters, public service announcements, seminars, film showings, and other events, the Shanti Project promotes open communication and mutual respect for all.

“Once again, community members have played a key role in developing the message and have continuously modified it based on interviews and focus groups,” she emphasizes.

“As social workers and social scientists, we are trained to use theories and data. But the reality is, once we develop a plan, we need to continuously reassess, revise, and learn more. This process is what makes community-based research effective.”

The volunteers in the two projects come from all walks of life—a retired teacher, a homemaker, a student, an engineer. “They haven’t had any experience in community-based research, which is challenging for them and us,” Yoshihama remarks. “But they are excited and committed. They are eager to make a difference.”



The New Visions Arts and Activism Community Action Team, made up of U-M students, performs a skit entitled “A Night Out” to address domestic violence.

CBPR—THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE?

The projects described here only begin to convey the scope of community-based participatory research at the School. The partnerships between SSW faculty and community organizations also include Professor **Lorraine Gutiérrez’s** collaborations with Detroit’s MOSAIC Youth Theater and People’s Community Service to expand their arts programming (see story on page 17). Further examples are Associate Professor **Edie Kieffer’s** Healthy Mothers on the Move (Healthy MOMs) and Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), healthy lifestyle interventions aimed at reducing obesity and diabetes.

In its early stages is a new project that can improve job opportunities for persons with social anxiety disorder (SAD). Assistant Professor **Joe Himle** is developing an intervention for SAD using cognitive behavioral therapy. He found an ideal research population in JVS, a large vocational rehabilitation service in urban Detroit reaching some 27,000 clients per year in its counseling, career development, and employment workshops.

“A growing number of studies have identified SAD as a significant mental health problem for the chronically unemployed,” he reports. “You might call it a form of extreme shyness, a fear of situations in which you’ll be exposed to scrutiny, like going out on a date or giving a speech—or having a job interview.”

Twelve to 15 percent of the population experiences this disorder at some point in their lives, but JVS has noted a higher-than-average rate among its clients. Social anxiety is a particular disadvantage since many job opportunities are in the service industry, where all employees are expected to engage in customer relations.

Himle is shaping the intervention, drawing upon interviews with JVS administrators, clinical staff, support staff, and clients. “The idea is to train existing vocational rehabilitation professionals at JVS to conduct workshops that fit within the agency’s culture. They are closely involved with developing the treatment design that they will be delivering, which will be given a user-friendly title like ‘working with people on the job.’”

It is anticipated that the newly formed intervention will reduce stress during job interviews and improve chances of both finding work and staying employed. “If proven successful, this design can sustain itself for years,” Himle says, “and be duplicated around the country.”

Long utilized by the field of social work, CBPR is gaining favor in medicine and public health, where the concept of actively involving a community in the research process seems logical and advantageous. But it is still an uphill battle, Barry Checkoway attests.

“The primary culture in academia holds that scientists must remain neutral in order to retain their objectivity,” he explains. “Researchers are conditioned to believe that community participation is the antithesis of scientific research. It is more prevalent than ever, but it still represents more of a trickle than a wave.

“But the benefits are hard to ignore. Community participation in research is a way to actively involve people, to build their organizational capacity, to empower them and change society for the better. Knowledge development should be a democratic process,” Checkoway declares. “People have a basic right to participate in the research that affects their lives.” **M**

—Pat Materka, a former U-M staff member, is a freelance writer who owns and operates the Ann Arbor Bed and Breakfast.

In June University of Michigan News Service released a video on the Head Start environmental justice project. See www.ns.umich.edu/hdocs/releases/story.php?id=5918. Ed.

Recent Faculty Publications

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Delva, J., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Steinhoff, E., Shin, D.-E., & Siefert, K. (2007). Using tobit regression analysis to further understand the association of youth alcohol problems with depression and parental factors among Korean adolescent females. *Journal of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, 40*(2), 145–149.

Faller, K. C. (2007). *Interviewing Children about Sexual Abuse: Controversies and Best Practice*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Gershoff, E. T., Aber, J. L., Raver, C. C., & Lennon, M. C. (2007). Income is not enough: Incorporating material hardship into models of income associations with parenting and child development. *Child Development, 78*(1), 70–95.

Grogan-Kaylor, A., & Otis, M. D. (2007). The predictors of parental use of corporal punishment. *Family Relations, 56*, 80–91.

Nam, Y., Meezan, W., & Danziger, S. K. (2006). Welfare recipients' involvement with child protective services after welfare reform. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 30*, 1181–1199.

Raver, C. C., Gershoff, E. T., & Aber, J. L. (2007). Testing equivalence of mediating models of income, parenting, and school readiness for White, Black, and Hispanic children in a national sample. *Child Development, 78*(1), 96–115.

COMMUNITY AND GROUPS

Abe-Kim, J., Takeuchi, D. T., Hong, S., Zane, N., Sue, S., Spencer, M. S., Appel, H., Nicdao, E. G., & Alegria, M. (2007). Twelve-month use of services among Asian Americans: Results from the National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS). *American Journal of Public Health, 97*, 91–98.

Buch, E. E., & Staller, K. M. (2007). The feminist practice of ethnography. In S. N. Hesse-Biber & P. L. Leavy (Eds.), *Feminist Research Practice*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

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Grogan-Kaylor, A., Woolley, M. E., Mowbray, C. T., Reischl, T., Gilster, M. E., Karb, R. A., MacFarlane, P., Gant, L., & Alaimo, K. (2006). Predictors of neighborhood satisfaction. *Journal of Community Practice, 14*(4), 27–50.

Li, L. W., & Liang, J. (2007). Social exchanges and subjective well-being among older Chinese: Does age make a difference? *Psychology and Aging, 22*(2), 386–391.

Mattis, J. S., Mitchell, N., Zapata, A., Grayman, N. A., Taylor, R. J., Chatters, L. M., & Neighbors, H. W. (2007). Uses of ministerial support by African Americans: A focus group study. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 77*(2), 249–258.

Oyserman, D. (2007). Social identity and self-regulation. In A. Kruglanski & T. Higgins (Eds.), *Handbook of Social Psychology, 2nd ed.* (pp. 432–453). New York: Guilford Press.

Oyserman, D., Uskul, A., Yoder, N., Nesse, R., & Williams, D. (2007). Unfair treatment and self-regulatory focus. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 43*, 505–512.

Reisch, M. (2006). Welfare reform and the transformation of the U.S. welfare state. In K. M. Kilty & E. A. Segal (Eds.), *The Promise of Welfare Reform: Political Rhetoric and the Reality of Poverty in the Twenty-First Century* (pp. 69–80). Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, Inc.

Reisch, M., & Guyet, D. (2006). Communities as “big small groups”: Culture and social capital. In R. Cnaan & C. Milofsky (Eds.), *Handbook of Communities and Organizations* (pp. 163–178). New York: Springer.

HEALTH

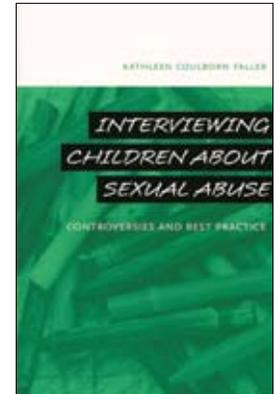
Gee, G. C., Spencer, M. S., Chen, J., & Takeuchi, D. T. (2007). A nationwide study of discrimination and chronic health conditions among Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. *American Journal of Public Health, 97*(7), 1275–1282.

MENTAL HEALTH

Himle, J., Van Etten, M. L., Janeck, A. S., & Fischer, D. J. (2006). Insight as a predictor of treatment outcome in behavioral group treatment for obsessive-compulsive disorder. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 30*(5), 661–666.

Joe, S., Marcus, S. C., & Kaplan, M. S. (2007). Racial differences in the characteristics of firearm suicide decedents in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 77*(1), 124–130.

Ruffolo, M., Kuhn, M. T., & Evans, M. E. (2006). Developing a parent-professional team leadership model in group work: Work with families with children experiencing behavioral and emotional problems. *Social Work, 51*(1), 39–47.



Siefert, K., Finlayson, T. L., Williams, D. R., Delva, J., & Ismail, A. I. (2007). Modifiable risk and protective factors for depressive symptoms in low-income African American mothers. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77(1), 113–123.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Allen-Meares, P. (2006). Reflections of a dean: Opportunities and challenges of providing higher education in a research institution. [Special Issue: The Beleaguered Administrator]. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*, 12(2), 16–25.

Fitch, D. (2007). Designing information systems around decision making. In M. Cortés & K. M. Rafter, *Nonprofits & Technology: Emerging Research for Usable Knowledge* (pp. 135–147). Chicago: Lyceum Books.

Staller, K. M. (2007). Metalogue as methodology: Inquiries into conversations among authors, editors, and referees. *Qualitative Social Work: Research and Practice*, 6(2), 137–157.

Zometa, C. S., Dedrick, R., Knox, M. D., Westhoff, W., Siri, R. S., & Debaldo, A. (2007). Translation, cross-cultural adaptation and validation of an HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudinal instrument. *Journal of AIDS Education and Prevention*, 19(3), 231–44.

Recent Faculty Honors and Awards

Harvey Fineberg, MD, PhD, president of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, has invited Dean **Paula Allen-Meares** to serve on the membership committee of the IOM. She has been appointed vice-chair of section 10, Other Health Professions (including nursing, dentistry, social work, veterinary medicine, dietetics, and pharmacy), and is a member of the health disparities interest group.

Jorge Delva has been awarded a \$2.8 million grant by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study Chilean teens' substance abuse. He will be conducting a five-year international longitudinal study on the increasing use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs in Latin America.

Ruth Dunkle received this year's Distinguished Faculty Award from the School. The award recognizes her national recognition in scholarship, demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentoring, outstanding service to the School and the University, and significant contribution to the professional community.



Gregory Fox

Lorraine Gutiérrez

Larry Gant has been promoted from associate professor with tenure to professor.

Lorraine Gutiérrez was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research.

Berit Ingersoll-Dayton attended a conference in Singapore on cultural issues in gerontology sponsored by the National University of Singapore. She presented a paper on developing culturally sensitive measures in which she focused on her experiences with developing a measure of psychological well-being for older people in Thailand.

Robert Ortega received the Circle Award by the U-M 2007 La Celebracin Latina planning committee and the Latina/o U-M graduates. This award acknowledges that Ortega has made "a significant impact on the quality of student life at the University of Michigan by contributing knowledge and guidance to Latino students."



Daphna Oyserman spoke on "Priming Independence and Interdependence: What Have We Learned and What Does it Tell Us About Culture?" at the December 2006 International Conference on Cultural

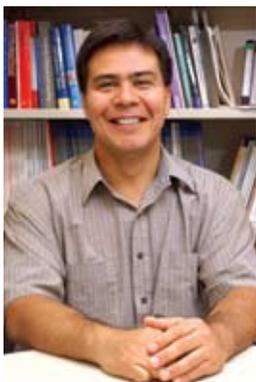
Influences on Behavior in Hong Kong. She also gave several departmental colloquia and talks in Hong Kong and Singapore in March and April.

UM Photo Services: Paul Jaroniski



Paula Allen-Meares

UM Photo Services: Marcia L. Ledford



Jorge Delva

Far right: Professor Michael Bond of the Chinese University of Hong Kong presents Professor Daphna Oyserman with a heart-shaped box after her talk about psycho-social processes.

Sophie Rasul



Janice Paul

Janice Paul has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of social work.

Janice Paul and **Beth Glover Reed** received Outstanding Faculty Member awards from the U-M Ginsberg Center. These awards recognize their excellence in providing, developing, and sustaining opportunities for engaging students in community service/social action and learning.

In April **Michael Reisch** was invited to present a paper at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Korean Association of Social Welfare, Seoul, Republic of Korea. He entitled his presentation “Constructing a Socially Just System of Social Welfare in a Multicultural Society: The U.S. Experience.”



Beth Glover Reed

U-M Photo Services: Martin Vloet

Trina Shanks was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Department of Labor for its Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking 2007 Grantee Workshop in June. Before an audience of funded representatives from various nations, she shared about her work with asset-building programs to show the impact that grassroots programs can have on child outcomes and policy.

In June **Kristine Siefert** gave an invited presentation at the second annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities in Fort Worth, Texas, on “Poverty, Discrimination, and African American Women’s Mental Health.”

At the January Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) in San Francisco, **David Tucker’s** oral paper presentation abstract received nearly the highest rating from among more than 800 submissions in that category.



U-M Photo Services: Marcia L. Ledford

In Memoriam

Leonard Eron, who conducted four decades of research about the development of aggression and violence in children—including early studies on television’s influence on these behaviors—died May 3.

A former School of Social Work associate dean for research and adjunct research scientist at the Institute for Social Research (ISR), Eron, 87, died of congestive heart failure at his home in Lindenhurst, Illinois, the *New York Times* reported.

Eron was known for his distinguished work on child violence, including the longitudinal Columbia County Study. For the study that began in 1960, 856 subjects living in the New York county were tracked, beginning at age 8, then at age 18, and again as they approached age 50. The findings indicated that the amount of violence children watch on television when they are young predicts how violently they behaved in adulthood.

Eron started at U-M in 1992 as an adjunct research scientist at ISR and as adjunct professor of psychology. He served as associate dean for research at the School of Social Work from 2002 to 2003.

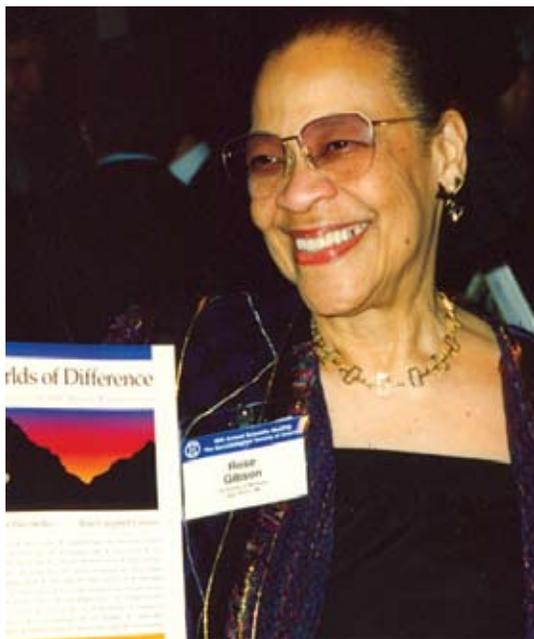
“Len Eron was a very special friend of mine and a dear colleague to many here and around the world. He will be deeply missed,” said Paula Allen-Meares, dean and the Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work and professor of education.

Eron received numerous commendations for outstanding performance throughout his career. He advised and served on key review panels and as principal reviewer on major research committees.

He was the chief psychologist and director of research at the Rip Van Winkle Clinic and Foundation in New York from 1955 to 1962 and was a professor at the University of Iowa from 1962 to 1969. He transferred to the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1969 as a professor of psychology and research professor of the social sciences, retiring in 1990 as a professor emeritus.

—*Excerpted from U-M News Service, Jared Wadley. Published originally in the May 21, 2007, issue of the University Record.*

Pioneer Profile: Rose Gibson



Rose Campbell Gibson's contributions to the field of gerontology remain as relevant today as they were in the 1980s and 1990s, when she conducted her pioneering research on minority aging. Her colleagues remember her for the strong, rigorous methodological skills that informed every aspect of her innovative research. Gibson came to the School to build a program in aging, and the program's strength is part of her legacy.

Gibson's parents raised her in Detroit with her three older sisters (all of whom became school teachers or principals), who not only spoiled but also encouraged her. Math and science were her favorite subjects in school, and she began her studies at the University of Michigan preparing for a career in medicine. She met and married Ralph Gibson, himself a pioneer as a clinical psychologist, who later became an assistant dean in the U-M Medical School.

Gibson postponed her medical studies for nearly twenty years in order to raise two sons. When she returned to U-M, she decided to pursue graduate studies in the School of Education, taking courses in statistics and research with Professor Betty Morrison, who, Gibson recalls, "kindled in me a love of quantitative research methods." She received a Distinguished Dissertation Award in 1977 and went on to become a lecturer there.

Her interest in research in minority aging was sparked in 1978 by collaborations with **Harold Johnson**, then director of the Institute of Gerontology and later dean of the School of Social Work, and James Jackson at

the Institute for Social Research (now director). Two postdoctoral fellowships in aging research methods followed. Her research explored the relationships between age and health and various socioeconomic factors over the lifespan, comparing White and Black populations.

When Johnson became dean of the School in 1981, he made it a goal to build a program in aging. Looking for a distinguished academician whose focus was on the minority elderly, he naturally turned to Gibson and persuaded her to join the faculty in 1985. Gibson taught courses in research methods and the sociology of aging. She remarks that her work was enriched by the interdisciplinary collaborations of the School of Social Work faculty.

Gibson's contributions to aging research are extensive. She authored *Blacks in an Aging Society* (1986) and co-authored *Worlds of Difference: Inequality in the Aging Experience* (1994; now in its third edition) with Eleanor Stoller. She served as editor-in-chief of *The Gerontologist*, the largest multidisciplinary research journal on aging, from 1992 to 1996. Gibson was also a frequent consultant on minority aging research at local, state, national, and international levels, as well as a visiting professor at several universities.

According to James Jackson, Gibson "made seminal contributions to the study of aging-related processes. Her work on multiple points of mortality crossover opened an entirely new way of thinking about the minority mortality advantage in older age. Her work on self-rated health and the ways that Blacks and Whites may construct different meaning systems is very important and is being paid more attention today than ever before. She is a truly gifted theorist and researcher in the field whose work will remain significant over many decades."

Gibson retired in 1997 and she and her husband moved to East Hampton, New York, to be near their son Ralph, a physician. It was hard to leave their roots in Ann Arbor, but she "came to the realization that it's another life change." Sadly, Gibson's husband died a year later. But she remains active and engaged as a grandmother of four, a community volunteer, an avid reader, a computer buff, and a traveler, often visiting her son John, a lawyer in Southern California.

Although Gibson has truly retired from her professional interests, remarking, "If you say 'no' enough times, no one asks you any more," she is justifiably proud of her accomplishments, as is the School of Social Work. **M**

—Robin Adelson Little works at the U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History. She is also a freelance writer and past editor of *Ongoing*.

Frieze Building razed: Plan for student dormitory

The razing of the Frieze Building, which so many former SSW students loved to complain about, has brought much discussion among alumni. Alumna April Fenton (MSW '79) commented, "The razing of the Frieze Building is a sign of the times but even in its absence, it will always be remembered fondly as the School of Social Work for me."

Built in 1907 and originally home to Ann Arbor High School, the building was razed this spring in order to make room for North Quad Residence Hall and Academic Complex. Expected to be opened in 2010, North Quad will be the first new residence hall since Bursley Hall was built in 1968.

The new complex is expected to rise 7 and 10 stories tall and house 500 suites, dining facilities, and approximately 190,000 square feet of academic and support space, including room for the School of Information and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

The 102-year-old Carnegie Library near the northwest corner of the site, now again a free-standing building, has been preserved and gutted. Ann Arbor's first official, free-standing public library, it was built from a fund established by industrialist Andrew Carnegie.



The Frieze Building is razed to make room for a student dormitory.

New technology in the School

As technology advances, so has the School's audiovisual services department. In the past few months, the department acquired the ability to broadcast over the Ethernet to all the classrooms simultaneously. Therefore, if a presentation is being made in the School's Educational Conference Center (ECC), all classroom computers have the software to show what the camera broadcasts.

Additionally, a roving laptop allows for broadcasting to any point in the building, including McGregor Commons, the typical overflow room for the ECC. The software uses the VBrick system, also used in traffic observation or security methods.

"Before, we could broadcast to only a single point," explains Terry Bennett, facilities manager. "Now we can reach multiple points."

A second technological advancement is in the School's clinical suite, made up of an interviewing room, observation room with mounted cameras and a one-way mirror, and control room. The suite was recently reconfigured to allow for 36 seats in the viewing area, up from 24. Flat panel screens ensure that there are no blind areas.

Cameras that move vertically and pivot back and forth allow for scene changes. They live stream to the adjacent control room, which presently records in DVD or VHS.

Faculty members use the room for simulations, as well as interviews with actual families. "During simulations, we try

to approximate a live clinical situation as much as possible," says Associate Professor **Leslie Hollingsworth**, who presented a workshop at CSWE's February 2006 annual program meeting, describing the use of role play.

"Students have repeatedly said they learn as much from observing the role-played interview as they do participating themselves," says Hollingsworth. "They consistently refer to the usefulness of the role-playing in developing clinical skills and providing hands-on experience."

The renovation of the clinical suite was led by a task group made up of Hollingsworth (chair), Facilities Manager Terry Bennett, Audiovisual Facilities Assistant Mike Duvendeck, Professor Emeritus **Frank Maple**, and Associate Professors **Robert Ortega** and **Brett Seabury**.



As students leave the clinical suite's interviewing room, fellow students in the observation room applaud their role play.

Roundtable explores issues facing local nonprofit social service agencies

On a sunny April day, seven executive leaders of nonprofit organizations in Washtenaw County gathered at the School with an equal number of SSW members. The organizations represented varied in size, populations served, and range of programs offered. The collective intent was to explore potential collaboration between local human service organizations and SSW faculty.

Having formed in the fall of 2006, the School's Human Service Organizations Studies Group (HSOSG) organized the event as part of its planning efforts. Members include faculty and



Faculty members and executive leaders of local nonprofits gather for discussion.

instructors with interests in human service organizations, as well as the managing director of U-M's Nonprofit and Public Management Center.

HSOSG aims to promote research, instruction, and service activities related to improving both the understanding and functioning of human service organizations.

Using a roundtable format, participants discussed many topics, including the structure of the local human services economy, the varying effects of different public funding mechanisms, the costs and benefits of interagency collaboration, and the frustrations of dealing with such seemingly intractable problems as competing for resources in hostile environments when serving socially unpopular populations.

Other topics were managing and competing under conditions of uncertainty, data requirements for effective evaluation and decision-making, and the nature and consequences of organizational growth.

The discussion was both informative and constructive, resulting in the identification of a range of topics appropriate for future collaborative research and service efforts.

A second, similar roundtable is being organized for September, and additional roundtables are planned with representatives from other sectors, including the public sector and the for-profit sector.

—Professor David Tucker heads the HSOSG, and Assistant Professor Michael Woodford initiated the roundtable discussions.

Community addresses Black suicide

How can suicide be prevented? This was the subject of the second "collaboratory" sponsored by the U-M SSW Children, Youth, and Families Interest Group, which was held at the Detroit Center on May 10.

Assistant Professor Sean Joe spoke on the rise of black youth suicide in the late 1980s, which narrowed the gap between Black and White suicide rates. An increase in firearm-related suicides accounts for this rise. Dr. Joe provided possible explanations for the new trends, including the weakening of community institutions.

Two suicide survivors gave their unique perspective on how they found difficulties in navigating the mental health community and receiving the support they needed.

Next, Margaret Keyes-Howard of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency facilitated a panel with Roberta Sanders, CEO of New Center Community Mental Health Services, and George Winn, COO of the Children's Center of Detroit. They discussed the need to start prevention efforts at an earlier age and to educate adults whom youth trust and will come in contact with.



The SSW visiting committee is deep into discussion at the School on May 1. Clockwise: Professor Lorraine Gutiérrez; Professor James House of the U-M Institute for Social Research; Dean Larry Davis (PhD '77) of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work; Dean Paula Allen-Meares; Vice-President Cecelia Munoz of the Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation at the National Council of La Raza; Associate Dean for Research David Takeuchi of the University of Washington School of Social Work; and Sally Schmall (MSW '94), Alumni Society Board of Governors' liaison. Those unable to attend were Mark Courtney of the University of Chicago and Mark Rank of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University.

UM Photo Services: Paul Jaronski



Assistant Professor Sean Joe, Roberta Sanders, and George Winn answer questions from the audience.

Staying Informed in Your Practice Area

Why do we teach social work students to conduct scholarly searches of the literature in library proprietary databases?

- “To determine what is known from what is not known about a topic.”
- “To update their knowledge as well as to research the practice problem areas with which they are not familiar.”
- To provide tools “to evaluate the outcomes of their own practice” when they graduate. (Plionis, Thompson, & Eisenhower, 2005, p. 104)

Databases produced by professional associations like the American Psychological Association and the NASW, which comprehensively organize the literature of a discipline, are typically available only in libraries. Exceptions are the National Library of Medicine’s Medline and AARP’s AgeLine.

In the best of all possible worlds, many social work practitioners would come to the Social Work Library to conduct scholarly searches of literature across multiple disciplines for evidence-based interventions in their practice area, but alas, this is not very convenient or efficient.

For those of you who can visit us, you will always be welcome in the Social Work Library. We will be happy to assist you in your research.

But *all of you* will want to learn strategies for staying informed *without* leaving your office. Now there is a web page designed to help you do just that! In addition to explaining library privileges you retain as an alum, this website also suggests ways to compensate for lack of access to licensed databases that are available to you only from a campus workstation.

After viewing the home page, please check out the tab labeled “Library Services” to understand library privileges available to alumni. Then explore the more extensive tutorial by clicking on the “Staying Informed” tab. Here there are instructions and examples for obtaining social work news updates via blogs, table of content alerts from publishers, and automated literature searches. Technology is pushing journal publishers into giving away more information than ever before.

In addition, the Library of Michigan has purchased over thirty commercial databases, including InfoTrac, a general interest, full-text database available free-of-charge to Michigan residents through all types of Michigan libraries. If you are searching from home or office, you need a Michigan driver’s license to log in.

To explore websites presented in terms of evidence-based practice, click on “Critical Issues” and review the sections “Aging, Children, & Youth,” “Community & Social Systems,” and “Mental Health.”

The objectives of these modules are (1) to define evidence-based social work and distinguish it from evidence-based medicine, (2) to become familiar with key concepts in evidence-based social work, (3) to apply key concepts to searching and evaluating the social work literature, (4) to learn strategies for effective retrieval of evidence-based social work resources, (5) to identify web-based resources that support best evidence research and practice.

To navigate the tutorial, I recommend using the “previous” and “next” buttons at the top and bottom of each page. This method will give you a fairly quick overview of the tutorial. **M**

—Sally Haines Lawler, public services librarian at the Social Work Library, can be reached at slawler@umich.edu.

Reference: Plionis, E. M., Thompson, M. A., & Eisenhower, C. (2005). The scholarship crash on the Internet highway: Implications for faculty-librarian collaboration. *Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work*, 11(1), 101–114.



Sally Haines Lawler

Philip Dattilo

The screenshot shows the Social Work Library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Home, Library Services, Staying Informed (highlighted), and Critical Issues. Below the navigation bar, the page title reads "Information Literacy Competencies for Social Workers". The main content area is titled "Introduction" and contains the following text:

Information Literacy Competencies for Social Workers is a tutorial providing instruction for members of the social work workforce on issues related to information access and management.

In this tutorial you will learn about:

- 1) University of Michigan library privileges available to alumni
- 2) Strategies for staying informed of developments and events related to Social Work
- 3) Reliable and authoritative Web sites, blogs, table of content alerts from publishers, and automated literature searches for continuing education in your practice area
- 4) Concepts in best evidence, distinctions between evidence-based medicine and evidence-based Social Work, resources that provide evidence-based practice information, and techniques for searching and finding research to support best practice

The tutorial, Information Literacy Competencies for Social Workers, begins at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/socwork/rescue/msw.html>.

Forming Global Partnerships

In January the School formally established an Office of Global Activities (OGA) and hired **Frank Zinn, PhD**, as director.

The purposes of the new office are to promote the School's leadership role in global social work education and research, increase students' competencies in global social work practice, and foster an environment conducive to global social work education and research.

The establishment of OGA is an outcome of a process started in 2003, when the School constituted an International Task Force consisting of faculty, students, and staff. In developing a vision and an agenda for "internationalizing" the School's activities, the group recommended promoting social work in a global context and emphasizing principles of co-learning and partnership—not a Western-centered, top-down approach.

The Office of Global Activities is coordinating the implementation of this agenda and is presently focusing on global partnerships, curriculum review, and expansion of global opportunities for students.

Faculty members also have continued their work toward the goal of strengthening and developing global partnerships.

CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA

In June Dean **Paula Allen-Meares** and the School's Director of Development **Lindsey Rossow-Rood** traveled with a U-M delegation to Asia. This trip was part of a five-year commitment that President **Mary Sue Coleman** made to China during her visit in 2005.

The goals that the president laid out during her initial visit were to begin establishing and strengthening partnerships with universities across China. This year's delegation visited Beijing and Shanghai and also took the president's message to Hong Kong and Seoul, South Korea.

Dean Allen-Meares visited with representatives from the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Peking University, East China University of Science and Technology, and Yonsei University.

In each meeting, Allen-Meares expressed the School's desire to establish partnerships with institutions of higher education across the globe so that more collaborative research among the schools could be undertaken. They also discussed the possibility of increasing faculty and student exchanges.

Allen-Meares met with several alumni and incoming MSW students during receptions held in each of the four cities. Fellow U-M delegation members included Vice President for Research **Stephen Forrest**, Alumni Association President **Steve Grafton**, and LSA Dean **Terry McDonald**.

EGYPT

Professor **Siri Jayaratne**, associate dean for faculty affairs, represented Dean Paula Allen-Meares when he traveled to Cairo, Egypt, in March. He followed up on a memorandum of understanding that Dean Allen-Meares signed with Helwan University School of Social Work in 2006. This agreement—to work toward collaboration and student exchanges—followed a two-year visit to the U-M SSW by visiting scholar **Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Awad**, who studied social factors associated with elder abuse.

Jayaratne attended an international conference at Helwan University. At the School of Social Work dean's request, he presented at a plenary session a broad picture of the U-M SSW curriculum to help them revise their MSW program. Jayaratne also met with the dean and faculty to explore opportunities for collaboration between the two schools. **M**



Photos, from top to bottom:

Dr. Frank Zinn (right) speaks with doctoral student Juan Chen at the opening celebration of the SSW Office of Global Activities.

Lecturer Penny Tropman (third from left) and Professor John Tropman (right) meet with staff from the Vietnamese Women's Welfare Association in Melbourne, Australia.

Professor Angelina Yuen-Tsang, head of the Department of Applied Social Sciences at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, shows Dean Allen-Meares around the school's Social Work Professional Practice Centre.

Dean Allen-Meares (fifth from left) and SSW Director of Development Lindsey Rossow-Rood (far right) with the rest of the U-M Asia delegation in downtown Seoul.

AUSTRALIA

Professor **John Tropman** was selected for a Fulbright Senior Specialist Award to visit the School of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, Australia, for six weeks in May and June. He followed in the footsteps of several other U-M SSW faculty members who have made connections with the university.

Besides providing an intensive course in executive leadership and two workshops for human service managers, he made presentations at four major social service agencies and gave two public lectures. His wife Penny, who is a lecturer at the School, also gave class and agency presentations.

John Tropman provided consultation to the head and faculty of the School of Social Work, which is undergoing a major transition, on models of organizational structure and on the MSW curriculum. He met regularly with the head to develop plans for a more structured connection between the two schools. Tropman also met with the deputy vice chancellor of the university, which is looking toward the University of Michigan for a model, on issues of managing change.

Alumnus Ulester Douglas works to curb domestic violence

The solutions to men's violence against women lie not with attempting to "fix" batterers, but with changing the cultural instructions, norms, and practices that encourage and reward men's violence against women, insists Ulester Douglas (MSW '92).

Douglas returned to the School on February 12 to share how he has been working toward this end as director of training for Men Stopping Violence, an Atlanta-based social change organization.

Men Stopping Violence works off the premise that in order for this cultural shift to take place, all men must become part of the solution. Thus, one program assists men in seeing the world through the eyes of their daughters and other females in their lives, while the Internship Program prepares young men to organize in their own communities.

Douglas acknowledged the solid preparation that the School provided for the work he does and gave special appreciation to Professor **Kathleen Coulborn Faller** for setting the bar for academic excellence and for being a great mentor to him.

Alumna Eileen Heisman shares fundraising methods

In the United States, philanthropy is an essential source of support for nonprofit organizations, whose existences require effective fundraising campaigns.

On March 19, Eileen R. Heisman (MSW '78), president and CEO of the National Philanthropic Trust, returned to the School of Social Work to share her nationally recognized work in philanthropy and estate planning.

In her presentation entitled "Philanthropy: Understanding Fundraising in Nonprofits," Heisman explained the culture of planned giving, including the various sources and recipients of gifts. She described methods for successfully finding donors, motivating those donors to lend their support, and maintaining relationships with previous donors.

Her visit was co-sponsored by the U-M Nonprofit and Public Management Center (NPM) and the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

Sacred matters

Kenneth Pargament, "arguably the foremost authority on religious coping," according to Professor **Robert Joseph Taylor**, associate dean for research, presented at the School on March 23. A professor of clinical psychology at Bowling Green State University, Pargament entitled his lecture "Sacred Matters: A Model for Understanding and Evaluating Spirituality."

Beginning with the premise that humans are spiritual beings searching for the sacred (which he defined as a higher, divine power), Pargament discussed the spiritual struggles that individuals experience and that lead them either to spiritual transformation or disengagement. In the end, people become either spiritually integrated or spiritually disintegrated (e.g., having "small gods" or having "false gods" such as drug abuse).

Pargament is the author of *The Psychology of Religion and Coping: Theory, Research, Practice* (2001) and co-editor of *Forgiveness: Theory, Research, Practice* (2001).

Workshop held on American Indian violence

A half-day workshop entitled "Effects of Violence and Trauma on Children in Indian Country" took place at the School on April 5. The presenter was Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD, an enrolled member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and an assistant professor of research in the Department of Pediatrics, Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center.

Dr. BigFoot provided a historical perspective on violence and trauma in Indian Country. The workshop focused on forms of historical violence and trauma that Indian people have experienced, the effects of federal policies on Indian communities, and their relationship to current interpersonal violence and substance use among Indian people.

The audience consisted of public and private child welfare workers, university faculty and students, and other community professionals.



Ulester Douglas



Eileen Heisman



Kenneth Pargament



Dolores Subia BigFoot

At Your Service: Students Aid in Community-Based Work

Lauren Davis entered the School of Social Work as an MSW student through the door of the Detroit Initiative in Psychology. It was upon “seeing the resiliency and hidden talents of the youth I encountered despite disparities in their neighborhoods” that Lauren decided to pursue a social work degree.



Gregory Fox

Lauren, who is doing her field work with the Detroit Initiative, began participating as an undergraduate in 2005. “My commitment to working with populations of color is what propelled me to take a course through the Detroit Initiative. I have been hooked ever since!” she exclaims.

The School’s partnership with the community to engage in research, education, and service (see story, p. 2) easily extends to its students. Through the Detroit Initiative in Psychology, a community service learning project established in 1995 by Professor **Lorraine Gutiérrez** and now-Profeesor Emeritus **Oscar Barbarin** (both with joint appointments in social work and psychology), students have received meaningful opportunities for learning and professional development.

Other students working with the Detroit Initiative are Elizabeth Meier, PhD student; Sara Crider, MSW/PhD student; and MSW students Soo Yeon Ko and BoRin Kim, all who are conducting evaluations of the program.

Through the Detroit Initiative, U-M faculty and students are committed to working on the needs identified by the organizations they partner with. The five current organizations are the MOSAIC Youth Theater, People’s Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, Latino Family Services, New St. Paul Tabernacle Head Start, and Omankane: The Collective, an after-school program at Bagley Elementary School.

Lauren’s present role in the Detroit Initiative is as community liaison, keeping open lines of communication between the Detroit sites and the staff and students of the program. She also helps to facilitate the class component of the program, which offers a service-learning experience for undergraduate students.

Her activities have included organizing a volleyball tournament to raise money for the sites, assisting People’s Community Services in an arts and crafts program that introduces students to various art media, and helping elementary school children hone their reading skills.

But what struck her most was seeing the enthusiasm and curiosity of youth, ages 6 to 16, from the Delray neighborhood, when she helped organize a visit to the University of Michigan campus. The youth took a tour of the campus and listened to a panel telling of the life of a successful minority college student and addressing their concerns.

Many had never before been on a college campus or known people who have attended college. One youth commented, “I used to hate the idea of going to college, but now it seems like I would really like it.”

“The entire day was a reciprocal learning process for both the youth and myself,” reflects Lauren. “Growing up, there was an expectation that I would go to college, and I lived in an environment that was conducive to going to college (schools, neighborhood, mentors, etc.), which is not necessarily the case for many of these youth.

“The visit intensified my desire to convey that college is not only for the affluent, and that it is a place for these youth as well.” **M**

—Tanya C. Hart Emley is editor of *Ongoing*.

Dissertations defended



JUAN CHEN
SOCIAL WORK AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

“Who is faring better? Who is feeling better? Gender differences in labor market outcomes and perceived social mobility among Asian immigrants in the U.S.”
FINDINGS: “Using data from the National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS), I find

that reasons for immigration and their associated consequences differ greatly by gender and ethnicity (Vietnamese, Filipino, Chinese). The associations between one reason for immigration (i.e., migrating to join other family members) and economic well-being also vary by level of education. Support from a family network provides a strong explanation for the positive association of migrating to join other family members with labor market outcomes for less-educated Asian immigrant men, as well as for the positive association of migrating for family reunification with perceived social mobility for less-educated Asian immigrant women.”

LOURDES GUTIÉRREZ NÁJERA
SOCIAL WORK AND ANTHROPOLOGY

“Yalalag is no longer Yalalag: Circulating conflict and contesting community in a Zapotec transnational circuit”

FINDINGS: “I consider in detail an episode of community conflict in 1998, tracing the roots of the conflict and the subsequent turmoil. My research

suggests that transnational migration, which began in the 1940s and now involves more than half of Yalalag’s population, reconfigures the basis of inter-village conflict by relocating it outside systems of local power; that is, away from political bosses and towards competing visions of ‘progress.’ Similarly, notions of ‘identity’ (e.g., what it means to be Yalaltecan), ‘pueblo’ (community), gender, and ‘labor’ are also being negotiated through the migration process, as evinced in people’s narratives, participation, and engagement with gossip in the midst of conflict.”

ALEXANDRA LEE CRAMPTON
SOCIAL WORK AND ANTHROPOLOGY

“Studies in the social life of helping: Merging mediation and old age through elder advocacy in the U.S. and Ghana”



Julia R. Hufnar Bailey

AMANDA TOLER
SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIOLOGY

“Help-seeking for a mental disorder: Understanding the use of professional services and informal support using the National Survey of American Life”

FINDINGS: “The results suggest that adults with a lifetime mood

or anxiety disorder tend to use professional services and informal support as complements to rather than substitutes for one another. African Americans and Caribbean Blacks are less likely than Whites to receive help from either source; however, differences between African Americans and Whites appear to be driven by differences in socioeconomic status. There appears to be no difference in help-seeking between African Americans and Caribbean Blacks. Older adults tend to use both professional services and informal support while younger adults are more likely to rely exclusively on informal support.”

Doctoral student awards

ELANA BUCH has been selected as a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Fellow and will receive two years of funding for dissertation support.

MEGAN GILSTER and **REBECCA KARB** contributed to the article “Predictors of neighborhood satisfaction,” by Professor Andrew Grogan-Kaylor et al., published in the *Journal of Community Practice*.

AMY HAMMOCK is the recipient of a 2007-08 Mary Malcomson Rafael Fellowship.

Two joint doctoral students have been awarded scholarships from the U-M Center for the Education of Women (CEW):

AMY HAMMOCK (Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellow) and **LAURA HEINEMANN** (Cecilia Anne Stiborik Drewfuss Scholar).

LEAH JAMES was accorded an Honorable Mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

BECKY KARB and **HEATHER TIDRICK** were this year’s recipients of the Kellogg Award.

KATHERINE LUKE received an Institute for Research on Women and Gender Community of Scholars award.

ELIZABETH MEIER is the recipient of a Pillsbury Graduate Research Award and

also received additional summer funding through the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

KRISTIN SCHERRER is this year’s winner of the U-M Shapiro Award. She also received an Institute for Research on Women and Gender Community of Scholars award, and she was selected as a pre-dissertation awardee by the John A. Hartford Doctoral Fellows Program.

BARBARA THOMAS was awarded the Hartford Fellowship.

Right: After meeting with SSW alumni, SSW students meet with Kurt Weigle (middle back), U-M School of Public Policy alumnus and director of Downtown New Orleans Economic Development Corporation.

Visiting the Gulf Region 18 months after the storm

Since its inception in September 2005, the School of Social Work Disaster Response Group (SSWDRG) has sustained its commitment to growing the role of social workers in disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery. As a part of this mission, the group has committed to providing opportunities for the SSW community to take action in response to human tragedy.

Our capstone event of the year was a spring break trip to New Orleans. The SSWDRG planned and raised money for a second trip to the impacted area. Without the financial assistance of the SSW community, especially the faculty and dean, this incredible



service and learning opportunity would not have been possible.

Eight of us assisted a coordinated effort of multiple service agencies in St. Bernard's Parish to conduct a community needs assessment. We were often alarmed at the lack of basic services and resources available in the area. Many of the residents spoke of driving hours away to receive health care services such as treatment and medication for diabetes. Despite an obvious need for mental health services, few related resources were available.

Housing has also continued to be a major issue for many residents. Those still residing in FEMA trailers, many whose homes were completely destroyed, were greatly concerned about losing their trailers in August without having secured alternate housing.

Despite these obstacles, residents who had returned to the parish impressed us with their resiliency, optimism, and sense of community. They welcomed us into their homes to showcase their rebuilding efforts and described how families were working and living together. Many spoke of their history in the neighborhood, the strong ties they had to the community, and their commitment to staying in St. Bernard.

To find out how to get involved with the SSWDRG, contact sswdrginfo@umich.edu.

—Submitted by the SSWDRG.

Senator Liz Brater delivers SSW commencement address



Senator Liz Brater

The April and August 2007 School of Social Work graduates who gathered in celebration at the Power Center on April 28 welcomed Senator Liz Brater as their commencement speaker.

Senator Brater commended them for the "honorable profession" they had chosen, "a life of service to others." She spoke about her special concern for the treatment of people with mental illness and declared that "at no time has your nation, your state, your community, needed you more."

Former President Clinton's U-M commencement address targets social work

At this year's University of Michigan commencement on April 28, speech after speech emphasized the resounding theme of social work. In his commencement speech, former president Clinton focused on an interdependent world of people working to help one another.

Clinton highlighted some of the world's major problems, from famine to global warming, and challenged this year's graduates to be a part of ending inequality.

"It is not enough to vote and pay your taxes," he declared. "It is not enough, because private citizens have more power to do public good today than ever before."

U-M President Mary Sue Coleman echoed Clinton's sentiments, describing some of the voluntary acts performed by U-M students this year. She explained to graduates that their life's most important work would be achieved not in an office, but rather as a parent or mentor, or through the good deeds done in their local or global communities.



U-M Photo Services: Martin Voet

President Clinton addresses U-M graduates as Professor Siri Jayaratne, associate dean for faculty affairs, and U-M President Mary Sue Coleman look on.

Spring open house culminates with agency fair



Each year the School of Social Work holds a two-day spring open house, organized by the Office of Student Services and the Office of Field Instruction, with the support of faculty and students. The event is an opportunity for prospective students (admitted students as well as applicants) to visit the School.

This year's open house kicked off with an opportunity for prospective students to meet current MSW

students over dinner at a local restaurant. The next morning, after a presentation about the curriculum, prospective students heard from a panel of second-year students about their experiences in the School. Workshops by faculty members followed lunch, and the day ended with a student organization fair highlighting student-led activity in the School.

On the final day, an agency fair gave prospective students the opportunity to network with over fifty agencies. Through breakfast, a slide show, and live music from a harpist, the Office of Field Instruction created a welcoming environment that was conducive to exploring the field of social work.

Afterward, field instructors enjoyed a catered luncheon. During lunch, a panel of field instructors who were fairly fresh to the role spoke about their supervision experience as past MSW students and as current field instructors. On the panel were Alex Bailey of Community Action Network, Sean DeFour (MSW '01) of Judson Center, Julie Maslowsky (MSW '05) of the Quito Project, Carrie Ross of U-M Health System, and Richetta Van Sickle (MSW '03) of Judson Center.

—Submitted by Michelle Woods, career services director, and Ziehyun Huh, administrative coordinator of the Office of Field Instruction.

Left: Graduate Shoshana Hurand (right) promotes Agrarian Adventure to a prospective student at the spring agency fair.

MSW student awards

SHOSHANA HURAND received a Rosalie Ginsberg award, Community Service and Social Action Outstanding Ginsberg Community Impact Award, acknowledging that she has made service or social action an integral part of her college experience by her significant contribution to the community and by her efforts to build partnerships between our campus and communities to initiate social change.

GRACE KOTRE, AMBER MOORE, and KAREN TABB received a Rosalie Ginsberg award, Community Service and Social Action Outstanding Campus Impact Award, acknowledging their excellence in creating, developing, or sustaining opportunities for community service/social action and learning.

NATALIE ZAPPELLA was named NASW Region IV student of the year. She was selected based on her demonstrated leadership qualities, contribution to the positive image of our social work program, commitment to political and community service, and success in academic performance.

Several MSW students have been awarded scholarships from the U-M Center for the Education of Women (CEW): **HAZELETTE CROSBY-ROBINSON** (Louise Cain Scholar), **MADELYNN NUELS** (Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar), **JENNIFER SANDERS** (Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar), and **BARBARA SHOOLTZ** (Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar).

Renamed Research Center Recognizes Gift by U-M Alumni James L. and Vivian A. Curtis



Dr. James L. and Vivian A. Curtis on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

University of Michigan alumna Vivian A. Curtis (MSW '48) and her husband Dr. James L. Curtis (MD '46) recently gave \$1 million to the School of Social Work to fund an endowment to support master's and doctoral students.

To recognize the gift, the school's research center has been renamed as the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center. A dedication ceremony, which included participants from the School's faculty as well as family and friends of Dr. and Mrs. Curtis, was held on May 5.

Although unable to attend, Provost Teresa A. Sullivan sent a letter on behalf of the University expressing appreciation for the Curtises' generous gift. She noted that the donation provided "critical resources for the pioneering research of our faculty and for the broad and deep education that is the hallmark of Michigan graduates."

Dean **Paula Allen-Meares** also reflected on the Curtises' donation to the School, stating, "The generosity shown by the Curtises in endowing a student scholarship fund here at the School of Social Work will impact not only the lives of the student recipients but also the communities, organizations, and people that these students will eventually go on to serve. We are deeply appreciative of this most meaningful and heartfelt gift."

The goal of the center—which builds on the experience of the School's Research Center on Poverty, Risk, and Mental Health—is to foster interdisciplinary, externally funded research in mental health, substance abuse, and health that impacts vulnerable populations.

Dean **Paula Allen-Meares** and Associate Professor **Jorge Delva** will work together to fulfill the objectives of the center, which began in 1995 through a federal grant and is located in the building's lower level.

The Curtises met in 1948 at Wayne County General Hospital, where Vivian conducted her field placement in psychiatric social work and James was in the first year of his psychiatric residency training. They married the following year and moved to New York City, where he pursued his career in academic psychiatry and she began her social work career.

Vivian held faculty appointments at many of New York's major universities. For 46 years she was on the social work staff of Kings County Hospital, the largest unit of the New York City hospital system, and the teaching hospital of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. As director of the department of social work for 25 years, she and her staff supervised social work students from all of

the New York schools of social work doing their field work placements in the medical, surgical, or psychiatric services. Vivian retired in 1995.

James Curtis retired in 2000 after nearly 20 years as director of psychiatry at Harlem Hospital. An emeritus clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, he has written two books printed by the U-M Press: *Blacks, Medical Schools, and Society* (1971) and *Affirmative Action in Medicine: Improving Health Care for Everyone* (2003).

The Curtises moved back to Michigan after Vivian Curtis was diagnosed with progressive Alzheimer's disease. The gift recognizes her career and affection for the School.

"Vivian's great pride in the U-M SSW, from which she graduated, is what convinced me that this would be an appropriate memorial to her career," Curtis said. "The U-M School of Social Work's academic mission and commitment to excellence were also very important in my decision making." **M**

—A revised version of this article, by Jared Wadley, appeared in the University Record on May 21.

In August 2007 the School was informed of the passing of Vivian Curtis. She will be missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Ed.



Dean Allen-Meares presents Dr. Curtis with recognition pins.

UM Photo Services: Scott Galvin

Almost 14,000 SSW alumni and counting!

The School of Social Work is closing in on 14,000 alumni this year, and the School's dean, faculty, and staff have been busy visiting with many of our outstanding graduates during the early part of 2007.

The year started off with dinners and "coffee breaks" held in Los Angeles and Seattle before one of our largest alumni receptions to date took place in San Francisco. Other stops were Tampa, Naples, West Palm Beach, Atlanta, Lansing, and Grand Rapids.

June was a special month for our alumni outings as the dean hosted an evening reception in Chicago to help kick off the School's first-ever alumni club. Alumna Rhea Braslow remarked, "I was gratified by the turnout, and it was nice to see that other people continue to identify themselves closely with the School as much as I do."

Braslow served on the host committee—along with Dana Bright, Jane Dewey, April Fenton, and Jennifer Satorius—which was instrumental in ensuring the success of the Chicago event.

Shortly afterward, the dean made her way to Asia with a U-M delegation, where she had an opportunity to meet with alumni in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Seoul (see p. 15).

The 2007-08 event calendar is no less exciting, with the School's 50th anniversary celebration of the Joint Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program being held in October, as well as the annual Homecoming Tailgate, which is sure to draw a large crowd on October 13. The School is also looking forward to hosting events in Washington, D.C., New York, and Ohio next spring, so watch your mailboxes if you live in those areas.

If you would like more information about the School's alumni activities or if you would like to get involved in hosting an event, please contact the School's Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-763-6886 or ssw.development@umich.edu.

—Lindsey Rossow-Rood is director of Development and Alumni Relations.



Dean Allen-Meares and alumnus Bum Jung Kim (MSW '05) were among a crowd of over 200 participants at the U-M Alumni Association's first alumni event held in Seoul, South Korea.

Alumni James Minder and Susan Davis create bequest

Alumnus James Minder (MSW '74) and his wife Susan Davis (MSW '74) are the newest SSW alumni members of the John Monteith Legacy Society. They have created a bequest, identifying the School of Social Work as a beneficiary. They have included several U-M beneficiaries in their plans, opting to share their generosity with many. Jim and Susan founded Spectrum Human Services, Inc., one of the largest nonprofit agencies in the state of Michigan.

The John Monteith Legacy Society, created in 1990, recognizes donors who generously support the University with an estate plan gift. John Monteith, one of the University's founding fathers, was the first president of the University of Michigan. Along with Detroit civic leaders Gabriel Richard and Judge Augustus B. Woodward, John Monteith drafted the first education law for the Michigan territory, which led to the founding of the University of Michigan in 1817.



James Minder and Susan Davis

Thank you for investing in my future!

I would like to thank the donors of this scholarship and acknowledge my desire to one day, as they have, help students from Detroit by assisting them to pay their way through graduate school.

—Victor D. Harrell

I am extremely grateful to have received this scholarship. Because I am an out-of-state student, this scholarship will help to alleviate some of the financial burden.

—Frances Cassandra Black

I am so grateful for the opportunity that my scholarship has afforded me. It will surely help me to reach my potential and achieve my social work goals.

—Dion L. Beatty

The one piece of advice my mother gave me (being a social worker herself) was “don’t do what I do.” Years later I have found myself wanting to do nothing else.

—Tara Needham

Every year MSW and PhD students receive scholarships that were made possible by alumni and friends of the School of Social Work—people who, like you, understand the vital importance of investing in the future of social work, and who realize that today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders in the nonprofit, government, academic, and business sectors.

Your gift to support scholarships will allow students the opportunity to realize their academic goals, pursue intellectual interests, and engage in research and field work throughout the United States and beyond. You can make your donation today by filling out the enclosed envelope.

For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact Lindsey Rossow-Rood, director of Development, at 734-763-6886 or lrossow@umich.edu.

Students honored and donors recognized

The 2007 Student Awards Ceremony was filled with excitement, pride, and memory-making moments. As students were called to the stage one by one, their awards, interests, and accomplishments were highlighted. Cheered on by friends and family, they joyfully accepted their recognition certificate and had photos taken with Dean Allen-Mearns.

Nearly 100 students were acknowledged for their achievements. Six of these students received a newly created award, the SSW Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award. These monies assist students with expenses incurred during out-of-state and international field placement assignments. This year's recipients studied in Ecuador, India, and Washington, D.C. They are Raquel Castañeda-López, Joseph Donlin, Amanda Garratt, Viridiana Romero, Johana Timá, and Valerie Varela.

After the ceremony, students talked about their upcoming graduation and future plans, hugged loved ones they had not seen since leaving for Ann Arbor, and spent some well-deserved time not focused on their class work.

Donors were also recognized. They make it possible each year for students from all walks of life to receive a Michigan education. Many brought extended family members to share in their philanthropic efforts.

At next year's Student Awards Ceremony, recipients of a new award will be recognized. William Slayman created the Shirley Falconer Slayman Memorial Award in memory of his late wife, an alumna of the School of Social Work. William shared that she often

commented on her debt to the School of Social Work and the enriching experience she received while here. His gift will provide tuition support.

Shirley was a true representative of the generation that came of age during the Great Depression and World War II. Her natural instincts to support efforts to advance social justice and civil rights were honed then. After receiving her bachelor's degree, with honors, in sociology, she went on to obtain her MSW in 1950 and began a career that would span many areas of social work, including mental health, adoption services, disabilities, and case work.

William remembers that, before her passing, "Shirley had expressed a strong desire to establish a fund to enable students who might need financial aid to become professional social workers. She firmly believed that those who receive help would benefit as she had—and hopefully, they too would contribute to advance the cause another step."

—Laurie Bueche is assistant director of Development and Alumni Relations.



Shirley Falconer Slayman in 1944



U-M Photo Services: Paul Jaronski

Recipients of the newly created SSW Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award: Viridiana Romero, Valerie Varela, Raquel Castañeda-López, Amanda Garratt, Johana Timá, and Joseph Donlin.

Alumni Board of Governors holds professional development event

The School of Social Work Alumni Board of Governors is hosting Building Healthy Strong Communities, its first professional development event, on Friday, September 28. The keynote session will be presented by alumna Carol Goss (MSW '72), president and CEO of the Skillman Foundation.

Alumni will have the opportunity to attend workshops on an array of topics, including aging, effective group decision making, advocacy, ethics, clinical supervision, and play therapy. Presenters include Elizabeth Carey of Michigan Federation for Children and Families; Diane Kukulis (MSW '97), private practitioner; Darlene Racz (MSW '77) of Turner Geriatric Clinic; Lynn Sipher (MSW '83), private practitioner; John Tropman (PhD '67),

SSW professor; and Larry Voight of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County.

At the end of the day, a networking session will be held in McGregor Commons, where attendees can forge new friendships, make professional contacts, and reconnect with faculty.



Alumni Profile: Nicole Goldstein Strassman, MSW '97

When she looks out the window of her book-lined office in Israel's government complex at the entrance to Jerusalem, Nicole Goldstein Strassman gains a momentary reprieve from the jangle of the telephone and the stream of visitor requests.

Her window overlooks the peaceful Courtyard of the Arches, a courtyard of quarried stone divided by a channel of water. Architects, drawing on the Book of Psalms, selected stone to represent the solidity of law, along with sky—reflected by the water—to symbolize justice.

Contemplative moments are rare in her busy professional life. As deputy director for the Supreme Court of Israel's Department of Public Affairs, each day is full, and no two days are ever the same.

Normally she coordinates and conducts tours for the public and the State of Israel's official visitors and coordinates the Court's educational programs—among them mock trials and interactive, law-related activities.

But any given day may find her managing administrative requests; organizing lectures given by Supreme Court justices; or guiding tours that encourage people of varied ages and cultural backgrounds to understand the Israeli legal system, engage philosophical questions such as human dignity and violence prevention, and think through the rich symbolism and historical context of the Supreme Court's architecture.

Strassman was no stranger to juggling priorities and communicating across cultures when she stepped into the deputy director role ten years ago. In 1994, Strassman, raised in the United Kingdom, and her husband Israel, together with their three (and later

four) children, relocated from Jerusalem to Detroit's west suburbs while Israel completed an ophthalmology fellowship.

Strassman, whose background in museum educational programming and "informal education" helped her develop a practical understanding of nonprofit administration, sensed a need to "consolidate and unify" her nonprofit management knowledge. She also appreciated the interpersonal aspects of social work. "I was quite excited about the Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership, and I just called up."

Crossing cultures and juggling priorities required focus and commitment. "My first impression of Southfield [Michigan] was the six-lane highway outside our apartment building; I had never seen a highway so large!" Strassman recalls. "Studying in Ann Arbor, living in Detroit, and raising three small children required an amazing balancing act."

She recalls many "helping hands" from members of the U-M SSW community. "My children had a school holiday, but I had a psychology class," she laughs. "I didn't know what to do, so I asked my professor if I could bring them to class. Perhaps he could use them in a demonstration! He agreed, and we had a wonderful time."

Those were hectic times. Has she earned a return on her investment? Absolutely. "Dina Shtull-Leber, who supervised my field placement, taught me that one can be both detail-oriented and creative. I use this skill every day as I manage countless details but creatively adapt programs so that they speak to Bedouins, Jews, Christians, Muslims, and internationals."

Under the mentorship of now-Provost Emeritus **Armand Lauffer**, Strassman also learned to feel "part of a family" and to bridge the gap between theory and the realities encountered in Jewish communal life. "On a day-to-day basis, I use all the interpersonal relationship and nonprofit administrative skills that I learned at SSW."

As Strassman builds on her U-M SSW experience, meets the evolving challenges of administrative leadership, and serves in a cross-cultural environment, she focuses on her foundational commitment to education.

"I work to help people understand Israel's legal system because the legal system—and more fundamentally the rule of law represented by the legal system—safeguards democracy, security, and human rights."

And when this commitment is obscured by a flurry of phone calls, she needs only look out the window to remember her desire to help visitors understand that "truth will spring up from the earth and justice will be reflected from the heavens." **M**

—Elizabeth Leimbach Zambone is a freelance editor and writer living in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Class Notes

1960s

WINNIFRED HERINGTON, MSW '65, is professor emerita of the University of Toronto. She retired in 1989 and currently serves on a number of foundation and agency boards. She also volunteers for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

DAVID DAWLEY, MSW '67, was featured on IvyLeagueSports.com for his work in the 1960s with the Chicago gang Conservative Vice Lords. To read the story, visit www.ivyleaguesports.com/documents/bhm-dawley.asp.

MILDRED KNAPP, MSW '67, is currently listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Medicine and Health Care, and Who's Who of American Women. She is retired from her position as school social worker with the Detroit Public School system.

1970s

JANE L. BARNEY, MSW '70, is a founding member and supporter of Avalon Housing, Inc., an organization committed to developing and maintaining supportive housing in Ann Arbor. Jane is also a member of the Ann Arbor Bob Gillett City Involvement Group and is retired.

JOAN HAMMOND BRAME, MSW '70, is owner and manager of Slim and Tone, an express fitness and weight loss studio for women. She serves on the board of Social Services of Mercer County, the board of Eggerts Crossing Village, and the executive committee of League of Women Voters. She is married to her husband of thirty-three years and has three children.

ANN JOHNSON FRISCH, MSW '71, is professor emerita of education and human services at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She is an advocate for Voter Action and serves on the Nonviolent Peace Force advocate team. She is also a member of the Fox Valley Peace Coalition of Wisconsin.

JACK (JOHN) H. ROCHE, MSW '71, is working as a recruiter, job developer, and promoter for the National Able Network. The organization administers the Department of Labor Senior Community Services Employment Program in New Hampshire, assisting individuals aged 55 and up with locating work.

JAY (JOHN) STROTKAMP, MSW '72, has retired to his hometown of Laguna Beach. His retirement follows a 23-year career, during which he developed programs for Washtenaw Community Mental Health Center while also providing individual psychotherapy.

G. VICTORIA CAMPBELL-JACKSON, MSW '72, is a third-year doctoral student at La Sierra University, California, specializing in curriculum and instruction through the School of Education. She is due to graduate in 2008-09.

ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, MSW '73, was honored during a ceremony acknowledging the achievements of Latino

professionals and entrepreneurs. Arturo is president of United Farm Workers of America (UFW) and has worked to continue the legacy of its legendary founder, César Chávez.

AMY RYBERG, MSW '73, is a private practitioner in a psychotherapy clinic in Southfield, Michigan. She sees women experiencing eating disorders, infertility and pregnancy loss, and other issues; provides family and marital counseling; and facilitates an aging support group. Amy also speaks in various venues about mental health issues.

CAROLYN BEAUVAIS, MSW '75, is a family therapist in private practice. She speaks in the community on topics within the mental health field. She travels and is interested in international social work as well. She is married with four children.

1980s

JUDITH MATZ, MSW '80, has recently published two books: *Beyond a Shadow of a Diet: The Therapist's Guide to Treating Compulsive Eating* (Brunner/Routledge, 2004) and *The Diet Survivor's Handbook: 60 Lessons in Eating, Acceptance and Self-Care* (Sourcebooks, 2006). She is director of the Chicago Center for Overcoming Overeating, Inc., an organization devoted to helping people end their preoccupation with food and weight. She works with people both individually and in groups, and she speaks at national conferences on the topics of eating, dieting, weight, and body image. Judith lives in a suburb of Chicago with her husband and three children.

RAMI BENBENISHTY, PHD '81, was recently awarded the Outstanding Book Award 2007 from the American Educational Research Association for a book that he co-authored, *School Violence in Context* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

PATRICIA SAGER, MSW '81, was featured on Comcast Newsmakers CNN Headline News in March. She spoke about the fields of practice in which social workers may be found; training, licensure, and education requirements; and goals of the social work profession, including empowerment and bridging the gap between people and services.

AMY ELLWOOD, MSW '83, was selected by the Association of Social Work Boards to be one of twelve LCSWs on the ASWB Supervision Task Force. The goal of this project is to provide reliable information as to what should be included in the ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.

SANDRA ALEXANDER, MSW '84, is founder and principal of Gerontology Concepts in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Agency services include planning and program development, communications, and training. Sandra is a member of the American Society on Aging, the Journalists Exchange on Aging, and the Association of Senior Service Providers DuPage.



Judith Matz



Jay (John) Strotkamp

JOAN ABBEY, MSW '87, a research scientist with Eastern Michigan University's College of Health and Human Services, has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to continue a statewide study, started in 2005, related to Michigan's infant mental health model. The study is designed to determine the efficacy of the model with two at-risk populations: families experiencing first time births/adoptions, and families with second/subsequent births or adoptions.

Laurie Lytel, MSW '89, was offered a visiting faculty position with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Social Work. She began teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in January. She also maintains a private psychotherapy practice, working with families and adolescents. Laurie lives in Las Vegas with her partner of 25 years.

1990s

LYDIA M. RAPPAPORT, MSW '91, has served as pastor of Newtown Square Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania since January 2005. In May she received her doctor of ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Her doctoral project focused on "Rapid Assessment of Congregational Culture: Discovering a Congregation's Unique Reality Through Descriptions of Worship and Ritual Experience."

JEFF LEVIN, MSW '93, began his new position as chief planning officer of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation on August 1. Jeff has been the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County since 2000. During his tenure there, annual revenue doubled and the donor base grew more than 40 percent. In his new role, Jeff will oversee the development of community priorities and the distribution of \$25 million in annual funds.

DAWN DETGEN, MSW '97, is a clinical social worker and coordinator for the Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Program at the Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina.

ANDREA SCHNEIDER, MSW '97, is a clinical social worker in the state of California. She specializes in treating perinatal mood disorders in her private practice. She is also a volunteer co-coordinator for Postpartum Support International and supervises pre-licensed therapists part-time at Foothill Family Service, a nonprofit agency in L.A. County.

CARLIN (JOHNSON) POLITZER, MSW '98, and her husband welcomed their new son to the family in April. Carlin is the community school coordinator for Taft Community School, a public elementary school in Redwood City, California. She oversees all non-academic services and programs, including mental health counseling for students and families, and supervises service providers as well as graduate students.

MELISSA PEET, MSW '99, was awarded both the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education Dissertation of the Year Award and the School of Education Dimond Best Dissertation Award. She

also was awarded the Bobby Wright Dissertation of the Year Award from the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

2000s

EMILEE COULTER-THOMPSON, MSW '01, provides training and technical assistance to family planning clinics with the Reproductive Health Program of the State of Oregon Public Health Division. Recently certified as a Kripalu yoga instructor, she teaches at a women's prison and local yoga studios in Portland, Oregon.

HILLEL HIRSHBEIN, MSW '01, works for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services—a non-sectarian mental health and human service provider. The agency has released a book *Racism and Racial Identity: Reflections on Urban Practice in Mental Health and Social Services*, for which Hillel contributed to the forward. The book describes how a large community agency effects systems change at a macro level through all manner of micro- and mezzo-level interventions.

WILLIAM CABIN, MSW '04, has accepted the position of vice president for QA, IS, research, and evaluation at the Fortune Society. He has also written an article, "Ending Welfare and Poverty As We Knew Them: TANF at Ten," that appears in the spring 2007 issue of *Perspectives on Social Work*. It can be found at www.sw.uh.edu/ourcollege/doctoraljournal.php. In addition, he presented his paper on "The Phantoms of Home Care: Home Care Nurses' Care Decisions for Medicare Home Health Alzheimer's Disease Patients" at the Growing Older with a Disability Conference in June in Toronto.

APRIL LASKER, MSW '04, was recently named manager of the Rental Housing Support Program at the Illinois Housing Development Authority. This is the largest state-funded affordable housing program in the nation. It was created to serve severely low-income households by providing subsidies for rental housing units.

LINH (LAM) SONG, MSW '04, was appointed executive director of Ethica, Inc., a national organization committed to ethical adoptions. Her career has been dedicated to social justice issues such as equal access to health care for underprivileged Asian-Americans, humanitarian work, research on the experiences of Vietnamese birthmothers, and the fostering of positive racial identities and cultural awareness within the transracial adoption community.

JASON CHASTAIN, MSW '05, works in a community-based nonprofit providing individual and group therapy, as well as conducting intakes.

SHAWN DRIEMEIER, MSW '05, is working in a community mental health outpatient clinic. She is a clinical social worker providing psychotherapy to individuals, families, groups, and couples.

AMY DUNN, MSW '05, is an outpatient therapist in a community mental health center working with both children and adults.



Jeff Levin

In Memoriam

William D. Bechill, MSW '52
March 23, 2007

Norman T. Brokaw, MSW '75
June 11, 2006

Kathleen I. Carlen, MSW '75
December 16, 2006

Vivian A. Curtis, MSW '48
August 5, 2007

Betty J. Deshler, MSW '60
May 4, 2007

Robert F. Drew, MSW '52
May 18, 2007

Judith Duboff, MSW '68
February 20, 2007

Richard F. Dutton, MSW '91
March 6, 2007

Nancy Goldshlack, MSW '80
June 2, 2007

Anthony J. Grasso, MSW '78
December 15, 2006

Sr. Margaret Groh, MSW '71
January 21, 2007

Betty R. Harte, MSW '86
December 14, 2006

Louis R. Hooper, MSW '59
November 29, 2006

Nathaniel Jones, MSW '98
June 1, 2007

Vera Larson, MSW '56
September 14, 2006

Mary Lou Marsh, MSW '55
April 4, 2007

Robert L. Melton, MSW '68
April 30, 2006

Helen E. Naimark, MSW '86
November 26, 2006

Katherine M. Olsen, MSW '65
January 12, 2007

Maureen S. Phenix, MSW '97
May 22, 2007

Dorothy Ann Ray, MSW '45
December 7, 2006

Linda Shain, MSW '73
March 7, 2007

Bernith L. Stanton, MSW '86
December 29, 2006

Michelle Marie Ventour, MSW '79
December 25, 2006

Raymond H. Warren, MSW '50
February 26, 2007

Darlene Ann Weyburne, MSW '81
February 4, 2007

MORGAN GABLE, MSW '05, is assistant director of grassroots advocacy for B'nai B'rith International. The organization provides educational programs to older adults across the country and advocates for legislation that benefits and adequately assists older adults everywhere.

NICOLAS GISHOLT, MSW '05, works in academic advising at Michigan State University's College of Communication. He interacts with students; participates in new student orientations, hiring committees, and study abroad-related activities; and provides presentations about the college.



CHRISTOPHER HODSHIRE, MSW '05, participated in a panel session entitled "Citizen Diplomacy: One Hand Shake at a Time." The session was part of a conference (China: Closer Than You Think) that took place in November and was hosted by the Michigan and the World Coalition.

ANDREA ROBINSON, MSW '05, recently began her position as a school resource connector with the Kent School Services Network. Her role is to help connect students and their families with necessary resources, as well as to develop new and innovative programs for the schools. Andrea and her husband are expecting their first child in December.

ANDY ERICKSON, MSW '06, works in the Wisconsin Partnership Program, a case management program providing in-home care to medically frail adults, ages 55 and up. The program is designed around an interdisciplinary team model.



CARRIE HENNING, MSW '06, has been selected as one of five new Wisconsin Population Health Fellows for the 2007-2009 class. She began the program, which is run by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, in July.

JUN SUNG HONG, MSW '06, is currently pursuing a PhD in social work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was awarded the Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) and will study and conduct research in Seoul, South Korea. His goal is to contribute to the knowledge base for cross-cultural social work research.

ANDREA LAYMAN, MSW '06, is a community education manager at Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit. She works to create awareness around prevention and early detection of all the major cancers. She helps to educate people of all ages through presentations and health fairs.

BRENDA ROMANCHIK, MSW '06, is a child and family therapist with Catholic Social Services of Oakland County in Michigan. She is also executive director of Insight: Open Adoption Resources and Support.

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