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Photo by Kevin Thomas
From the Dean

SSW DONORS INCREASED SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT BY $2 MILLION FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE THE PASSION, INTELLECT AND DRIVE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

In November 2013, the School of Social Work, met the $1 million goal for the Student Support Challenge. With our additional $1 million in matching funds, we have added a total of $2 million dollars to our scholarship funds. The Student Support Challenge launched in 2011 as a special $1 million matching gift program to help increase the amount of scholarship and field placement support available to MSW and PhD students. Your gifts, your support, your passion and your continuing work with SSW have helped shape the future.

Through your generosity, students have a greater opportunity to learn and build their leadership skills, regardless of their financial circumstances. Your financial support ensures a world of promise strengthening our ability to reach out, raise hope and change society.

MICHIGAN CAMPAIGN—EVERYONE A VICTOR

The Student Support Challenge was the first step in our new campaign. Our challenge now is to build upon this success and to fully fund all of SSW’s priorities.

• Provide critical scholarship support to students who have the passion, intellect and drive to change the world
• Transform social work practice through innovative research
• Improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations
• Recruit and mentor faculty and students who represent the diversity of our global community

In doing so, we can advance our vision and commitment to lead the profession in teaching, research, innovation, collaboration and service.

This issue demonstrates in words and images the School’s range of work. From the CASC minor program, to work with cancer survivors, Native American teachings, sexual exploitation, diabetes and gender research our students and faculty are facing challenges and making a difference.

“Scholarship opportunities give students like me from disadvantaged communities, opportunities to attend top ranked and respected programs that would otherwise not be possible. Scholarships build confidence and create a future that is promising.”

—Kayla Mason, MSW’11

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you on the new Michigan campaign (page 2). At the School of Social Work, we want everyone to be a victor. As victors, we will work together to make the world a better place—through research discoveries of our faculty, our students’ achievements and the inspiration you and those who came before you have shared with communities across the country and around the world.

Laura Lein, Dean
Katherine Reebel Collegiate Professor of Social Work
Professor of Anthropology
The Victors Michigan Campaign will unite the University of Michigan community to address the challenges facing our nation and the world. The School of Social Work joins the Michigan Campaign to advance our vision to prepare the next generation of Social Work professionals to change the world.
We ask you to join with us.

The School of Social Work aspires to make the world a better place through the research discoveries of our faculty and the talents and contributions of our students and graduates. Your financial support of the School of Social Work through the Michigan Campaign will help ensure a world of promise, strengthening our ability to Reach Out, Raise Hope and Change Society.

Look for detailed information on the impact of the Michigan Campaign in future issues of Ongoing and on our website. For information on how you can participate and make a difference, contact the School of Social Work Development Office.

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Native American Teachings

Provide Balance to Community
After many years of renovations, AIHFS today uses every square inch of the gifted space to actively pursue its mission to enhance the physical, spiritual, emotional and mental well-being of Native American families and other underserved populations. The primary target population of AIHFS is the American Indian, Alaskan Native, First Nation People and other underserved populations that reside in the southeast Michigan seven-county service area. According to the most recent census report, 45,000 people self-identify as Native American within AIHFS’ service area.

AIHFS provides services based on the needs assessment conducted within the community. The most recent assessment was processed primarily in face-to-face meetings in 2009. A smaller percentage of assessments are collected via phone and Internet.

AIHFS has many strong regional partnerships and alliances, including the University of Michigan School of Social Work. This partnership allows for U-M SSW faculty and intern involvement at AIHFS and has provided for many opportunities for both learning and information sharing on both ends. It also allows for U-M SSW interns to receive rich and meaningful internship experiences that supplement their work in the classroom.

Many U-M SSW students have served the Native American community as interns, administrators and mental health providers at AIHFS. This relationship began in 2007 with enrolled Cheyenne River Sioux tribal member Jerilyn Church, MSW ’06, serving as AIHFS Executive Director. She recognized the key role U-M SSW students could have in learning from and enriching community services. A role that Ashley Tuomi, current AIHFS Executive Director, continues to support.

The U-M SSW has had a longstanding relationship with American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan, Inc. (AIHFS).

Since its inception in 1978, AIHFS has served as a non-profit health center for the Native American community of southeastern Michigan. The agency provided services from several locations throughout the metropolitan Detroit area until arson destroyed their Livernois location, which had become a permanent home, in late summer of 1993. It was around this time that the Archdiocese of Detroit donated a church and rectory building to help AIHFS continue on solid ground.

“As interns, we are encouraged to work with the client as a whole person, including their spiritual beliefs, values and practices.”
The first Native American identified U-M SSW intern to serve AIHFS was Tina Louise, MSW ’10. She now serves as the Director of the Department of Emotional and Spiritual Wellness and is a new member of the U-M SSW Alumni Board of Governors. Also of note is Abigail Eiler, MSW ’06, who is the Clinical Supervisor of the Department of Emotional and Spiritual Wellness. Eiler also serves on the Board of Directors for the NASW-Michigan Chapter (Region 11). She has a special connection to her work through her education at U-M SSW and her personal heritage as a descendant of the Shawnee tribe.

“Working with the American Indian, Alaska Native and First Nation People has always been something that I’ve held close to my heart. I have a great deal of respect for the Native community in Detroit and am honored to be part of such a strong organization and community,” Eiler said. “AIHFS has provided several trainings, in conjunction with UM-SSW. These trainings have provided opportunities for social workers and non-social workers to get involved with AIHFS on both micro and macro levels.”

Eiler has been working with the Detroit-based agency since June 2012. In addition to providing services as a licensed social worker, she also acts as the liaison for AIHFS internship programs. Her clinical work includes providing culturally responsive services to children, youth, adults and elders and their families in both tribal and non-tribal communities.
“UM-SSW faculty Sandra Momper, Kathleen Faller, Robert Ortega, OFI Field Liaison William Vanderwill and a few other UM-SSW faculty and staff have been great supporters of the work being done at AIHFS,” Eiler said. “I look forward to the relationship between AIHFS and UM-SSW continuing to grow over time.”

Nadia Matta, MSW ’13, is a U-M SSW clinical scholar intern for the Department of Emotional and Spiritual Wellness. She has also had opportunities during her internship to work with the Healthy Start Department, where she utilizes evidence-based treatment modalities to enrich home visits with new and expecting mothers.

“I truly enjoy the work that I do at AIHFS. It has been a privilege to work with clients both in the clinic and in clients’ homes,” Matta said. “I have found that home visiting offers a richer understanding for person-centered treatment planning; it supports my social work philosophy of meeting clients where they are at, while assisting them in the development of healthy parent-child relationships.”

“Supervision has been beneficial to my learning experience,” Matta said. “Abigail and the AIHFS field instructors have created a supervision model for interns placed at the agency to feel supported over the course of their field placement.”

U-M SSW faculty is well represented by Assistant Professor Sandra Momper, who is active in the American Indian community at the University of Michigan. As the lead evaluator for several large federal grant projects with AIHFS and service as a former member of the AIHFS Board of Directors, Momper not only brings more than 20 years of professional social work experience to the agency, but she’s also a respected elder within the community.

The research Team at AIHFS and Momper successfully received a SAMHSA grant to build a System of Care that provides culturally and linguistically relevant mental health and substance abuse healing services.

Sara Hughes-Zabawa, MSW ’13, began working with AIHFS as an intern and received her first post-MSW fellowship with the agency. As a mental health provider, she works primarily with adults in individual therapy and also helps facilitate the Women’s Circle.

“The Women’s Circle provides a safe and supportive space for its group members,” Hughes-Zabawa explained. “The Women’s Circle is modeled after traditional talking circles where each group member is given individual time and respect to share their voice. The weekly meetings also provide a discussion regarding Native American teachings including the importance of sweat lodges, naming ceremonies, the seven grandfather teachings and respecting sacred medicines.

“The Women’s Circle aims to meet the goals set by its group members and helps strengthen their connection to spiritual and cultural ties. Group members range in age from young adults in their 20s to Elders in the community where everyone is invited to share their challenges, triumphs, wisdom and cultural teachings.”
Deirdre King, MSW ’13, is working with AIHFS from a perspective of macro social work and management of human services, through grant writing and program planning to promote wellness.

“My projects allow me to engage with the community at different levels throughout the agency,” King said, “and I really appreciate that opportunity…The projects I’ve worked on range from coordinating AIHFS’ annual Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, to co-coordinating AIHFS as a delivery site for Gleaners Community Food Bank’s Fresh Food Share Program.”

The Wellbriety circle is facilitated by Sadiq Patel, MSW ’13, who works primarily with young adult men.

“My work depends on the client and their life circumstances,” Patel said. “I’ve been working with the Wellbriety group since January 2013. This group continues to grow in participant size. The focus on living a sober and well-balanced life is important in the Native community; this group supports the AIHFS mission.”

Rachel Burrage, MSW ’14, is working with AIHFS while completing her PhD in social work and psychology. Her work focuses on trauma and domestic abuse, and she hopes to volunteer with the agency after her internship concludes.

“I really like the environment at AIHFS and the experience and commitment of the people I work with,” Burrage said. “As interns, we are encouraged to work with the client as a whole person, including their spiritual beliefs, values and practices.”

Because of the challenges she has witnessed implementing evidence-based practices designed without communities’ particular strengths and needs in mind, Burrage would like to engage in community-based research in the future. She is also inspired to continue her work by her mother, a teacher and scholar who sought to honor her own Native ancestry through her work as a tribal attorney with the Crow Nation in Montana before her passing last May.

Burrage noted that AIHFS promotes a healthier and more balanced way of living and working than is taught in many academic settings, one that allows her and her U-M SSW colleagues to continue to pursue their commitment to supporting the community, while at the same time learning valuable skills that will support them throughout their social work careers.
Suicide is the second-leading cause of death behind unintentional injuries among Native American children and young adults, and is on the rise, according to the Indian Health Service. The rate of suicide for American Indian/ American Native is 70 percent higher than that of the general population, and youth between age 10 and 24 are the most at risk (Dorgan, 2010). While data is sparse for urban American Indian suicides, and suicide attempts, the risk factors associated with these outcomes predict high incidence.

Manidookewigashkibjigan Sacred Bundle: R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is a collaborative program with American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan and Assistant Professor Sandra Momper. The program utilizes both evidence-based interventions and culturally infused practice methods. Sandra is active in the American Indian community at the University of Michigan and is a board member of American Indian Health and Family Services of Detroit. The students and staff working on the program are members of the community and believe that suicide and suicidal behavior are preventable. “The first step is making the community aware of the startling youth suicide rate in the Native community. Our research will help the community recognize the signs, confront the possible causes and find solutions,” said Assistant Professor Sandra Momper.

“The first step is making the community aware of the startling youth suicide rate in the Native community. Our research will help the community recognize the signs, confront the possible causes and find solutions.”

The collaboration has developed a culturally competent and youth-specific screening tool for suicide risk called the Minobimaadiz Baagosendamaang: Hope & Wellness Screen. This screen includes questions from the Modified Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), demographics, questions on cultural knowledge and wrap-up questions to bring the participant to a more positive state of mind.

Screenings began with youth and young adults aged 10–24 at community events and Powwows in the spring and summer of 2013. “I am looking forward to implementing the Minobimaadiz Baagosendamaang: Hope & Wellness Screen with my team of MSW students and community collaborators,” said Momper.
Associate Professor Brad Zebrack, PhD ’99, is making a significant difference in the treatment of patients with cancer, and is receiving national recognition for the positive outcomes of his diligent work.

Not only is he the recipient of the 2014 American Psychosocial Oncology Society’s (APOS) Outstanding Education and Training Award, but he also was awarded Best Research Poster at the APOS annual meeting last year for his poster “Trajectories of Distress and Psychosocial Support Service Use Among Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Patients.”

Zebrack’s research found that substantial proportions of adolescent and young adult cancer patients...benefit when mental health professionals, specifically oncology social workers, are involved in their care.

Zebrack’s research is in response to the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) 2007 report on the inadequate psychosocial care of patients with cancer in the US. As a non-governmental organization, the IOM’s primary purpose is to provide national advice on issues relating to biomedical science, medicine and health and to serve as adviser to the nation to improve health.

The IOM report identified six specific areas in which cancer care is inadequate and where healthcare providers would benefit from advanced education and training. With colleagues from City of Hope National Medical Center, Zebrack developed the Excellent in Cancer Education and Leadership (ExCEL) program, which focuses specifically on training oncology social workers to be change agents within the cancer treating institutions or agencies where they work. The curriculum is funded by a National Cancer Institute grant entitled “Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: An Oncology Social Work response.”

“Oncology social workers play a significant role in promoting positive outcomes for patients with cancer and their families,” Zebrack said. “Their participation in the ExCEL program is intended to promote their ability to address and change conditions within their institutions and thus enhance the delivery of high quality cancer care.”

Zebrack has delivered the ExCEL curriculum for the past four years to nearly 400 oncology social workers throughout the United States.
Prospective attendees interested in participating in the ExCEL program complete a competitive application process, which includes a personal statement detailing their willingness, interest and commitment to implementing systems change within their institutional environment. The curriculum is offered during preconference institutes that occur prior to the annual meetings for the Association of Oncology Social Work and the Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers.

“The national leaders who make up the ExCEL faculty help the attendees develop goals and strategies for change,” Zebrack said. “We want every attendee to be successful with the implementation of a new approach to the delivery of psychosocial care.”

The curriculum provides ongoing follow-up and guidance for ExCEL participants through blogs, newsletters, websites and one-on-one consultation with ExCEL faculty.

“I am so appreciative of having had the opportunity to develop and deliver the ExCEL program alongside outstanding oncology social work leaders, and it’s very gratifying to be acknowledged for exemplary service to psychosocial oncology,” Zebrack said. “The education and training of new investigators and clinicians is incredibly important to treating the whole patient.”

Additional information may be found at cityofhope.org/excel.

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**Service Need Satisfaction by 12 months following diagnosis (Figures 1a-1d).**

- **1a. Cancer Information**
  - Resilient
  - Recovery
  - Delayed
  - Chronic
  - Unsatisfied Traj
  - Satisfied Traj
  - Never Needed

- **1b. Mental Health Counseling**
  - Resilient
  - Recovery
  - Delayed
  - Chronic
  - Unsatisfied Traj
  - Satisfied Traj
  - Never Needed

- **1c. AYA Camps, Retreats, Social Activities**
  - Resilient
  - Recovery
  - Delayed
  - Chronic
  - Unsatisfied Traj
  - Satisfied Traj
  - Never Needed

- **1d. Internet Information and Support for AYAs**
  - Resilient
  - Recovery
  - Delayed
  - Chronic
  - Unsatisfied Traj
  - Satisfied Traj
  - Never Needed

- **Differences in need satisfaction for 1b. Mental Health Counseling** were statistically significant ($\chi^2=21.31; p=0.002$).

- **Differences in need satisfaction across trajectories for 1a. Cancer Information ($\chi^2=2.86; p=0.08$), 1c. AYA Camps, Retreats, Social Activities ($\chi^2=4.73; p=0.03$), and 1d. Internet Information and Support for AYAs ($\chi^2=8.36; p=0.01$) were not statistically significant.**
Sex trafficking of children is underreported and poorly understood, according to presenters at the 2013 Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Conference on “Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Child Welfare.” The conference was held on October 18, 2013. All presenters stressed that there is an urgent need for a more coordinated approach to this form of child exploitation.
In the keynote address, Celia Williamson, PhD, of the University of Toledo, pointed out that trafficking is the second largest illegal enterprise in the world, involving an estimated 12.3 million victims. Most United States victims are domestic children, who are often treated as prostitutes rather than victimized minors, while those who purchase services go unprosecuted. Both law enforcement and existing child welfare systems fail to address the complex problems involved in developing prevention strategies and in helping victims to survive and thrive.

Rowena Fong, PhD, professor of social work at the University of Texas at Austin, encouraged cooperation among law enforcement, child welfare agencies, researchers and health and mental health agencies to develop effective state- and national-level responses based on best practices. The Director of the Human Trafficking Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School, Bridgette Carr, next discussed legal issues, noting that there is no common definition of “domestic trafficking” nor of “minor,” and that in Michigan the Department of Human Services does not define trafficked minors as sexual abuse victims.

Williamson and Fong then participated in a panel discussion chaired by Associate Professor Robert Ortega from the University of Michigan School of Social Work, agreeing that prevention and rehabilitation efforts should focus on developing healthy self-esteem and healthy homes for children and adolescents. A panel from Alternative for Girls, introduced by Professor Emerita Rosemary Sarri of the University of Michigan School of Social Work, followed, discussing this agency’s work in providing shelter, peer education and mentorship programs to homeless and at-risk young women.

A panel of local providers—including Director of Outreach and Education for Alternatives for Girls Deena Policicchio, Second Chance Program Director Mary Schmidbauer and Bethany Christian Services Program Manager Dana Anderson—next provided their perspectives. Anderson discussed her work with children who have been freed after law enforcement raids, noting that training in safety is critical for foster parents, teachers and therapists, since traffickers want their “product” back. Schmidbauer said that her agency provides victim-centered, trauma-informed services that utilize survivors as peer leaders. Policicchio described her agency’s work providing harm reduction outreach to sex workers on the street, noting that these workers often began as trafficked minors.

The conference concluded with international perspectives on trafficking provided by University of Michigan School of Social Work Office of Global Activities Director Lawrence Root and Beyond Borders/ECPAT Canada Senior Legal Counsel Mark Erik Hecht, who also is legal advisor to the Children’s Aid Society. Hecht presented the international standards regarding trafficking and noted that the United States is currently negotiating its trafficking standards with the United Nations in order to become fully compliant with the trafficking provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Written by Amanda Tillotson, MSW, a PhD candidate in Social Work and Political Science.
Professor Sandra Danziger will be acting director of the SSW doctoral program while Professor Berit Ingersoll-Dayton, director of the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science, is taking a six-month sabbatical in Thailand to conduct research and continue her work with gerontology issues during fall 2013.

“Fall semester is an exciting time in the joint doctoral program for providing information and outreach for prospective applicants,” Danziger said.

Danziger has worked with Ingersoll-Dayton in the past as chair of the supervising committee for the doctoral program. She will continue her teaching responsibilities at the School of Social Work, in addition to leading the Learning Community on Poverty and Equality. As if that isn’t enough, she’ll also continue to conduct her extensive research at the School of Public Policy, where she is a co-principal investigator of the Michigan Recession and Recovery Survey.

Danziger modestly explains her role as acting director for the doctoral program is “like being the substitute teacher.”

One of the gratifying opportunities of administering the program is due to alumni contributions. “We’ve had some very generous donations from joint PhD program alums who have designated their gifts to enhance or expand our doctoral scholarship awards,” explains Danziger. “That’s very supportive and exciting for our current students, and I’ll be managing the application and selection process for the distribution of those awards during this term.”

Ingersoll-Dayton will return as director of the joint doctoral program for the winter 2014 term.

“We’ve had some very generous donations from joint Ph.D. program alums who have designated their gifts to enhance or expand our doctoral scholarship awards.”
Scholarships and Fellowships Awarded by the Joint Doctoral Program

Eligibility for these awards is based on student’s merit and previous award history.

The Henry J. Meyer Scholarship: The Henry J. Meyer scholarship award was established in 1987 to honor the original and longtime director of the Doctoral Program, Henry J. Meyer, under whose leadership the program was the first doctoral program in social work to integrate fully the intensive study of social work and a social science discipline. The major purposes of this award are (a) to help support and honor students in the Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science whose written work exemplifies the goals of the Program in relation to the integration of social work and social science, and (b) to encourage students to prepare such work for possible publication or conference presentation.

W. K. Kellogg Family Endowed Fellowship: This award was established by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation along with matching funds provided by the Ann and Robert Lurie Family Foundation. It is awarded to students in the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science with a research interest in advancing the understanding of issues relevant to improving the well-being of children, youth and their families.

Vivian A. and James L. Curtis Endowed Scholarship for Doctoral Student Research: This Scholarship was established by James L. and Vivian A. Curtis. It supports doctoral students whose research focuses on minority populations with low income and education, with a preference for research on issues faced by African American males.

The Rosemary Sarri Scholarship Fund: The Rosemary Sarri Endowed Scholarship provides two scholarships, one for students in the MSW program and one for students in the Doctoral program, who have an interest in social policy or community organization. Financial need is the primary selection criteria.

The Clara P. and Larry E. Davis Scholarship Fund: This Fund was established by Larry E. Davis in memory of his mother Clara P. Davis. This annual award is given to one or more PhD students whose research focuses on poverty and social justice.

The Harold T. and Vivian B. Shapiro Prize: The purpose of this award is to recognize the distinguished achievement of a student in the MSW or PhD program.

The Irene & William Gambrill Fellowship: This award was established by Eileen Gambrill in honor of her parents, Irene and William Gambrill. This award is given to one or more doctoral students whose research focuses on integrating practice, research, and ethical issues.

Doctoral Program Grant: This is an award to support outstanding doctoral students.

The Carol Thiessen Mowbray Research Fund: Carol Thiessen Mowbray was a pioneer in community-based mental health services research and program evaluation. The Carol Thiessen Mowbray Research Fund supports Carol’s passion to provide support for the next generation of mental health service researchers. This fund is to provide support for research expenses for doctoral students. Preference is given to students whose research addresses an area of community-based care with a focus on psychosocial education, rehabilitation, and social integration for those dealing with chronic mental illness. Research projects should expand opportunities, build strengths and promote social inclusion of individuals with mental health concerns.

The John F. Longres Award: This award is to be used to provide an annual scholarship to one or more School of Social Work doctoral students who are joint with Psychology or Sociology whose research focuses on social psychological issues as they relate to social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations or policy.

OGA/Global Social Work Doctoral Grants for International Research: This grant is intended to support international research initiatives and may be either pre-dissertation or dissertation related.

Joanne Yaffe Doctoral Fellowship: This fellowship is to provide support for a PhD student with a preference for students from underrepresented groups working on translational research on improving the quality of social work interventions.
Accolades

David Cordova’s article, “The Role of Intrapersonal Factors on Alcohol and Drug Use Among Latinos With Physical Disabilities” was published in the Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions.

David Cordova, Jorge Delva and Jose Bauermeister received an award from the U-M Office for Research and the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center for their project, which aims to develop an e-health adolescent substance use and sexual risk preventive intervention to be delivered in a community primary healthcare clinic.


Sandra Danziger spoke on efforts to reduce poverty at the Rockefeller Center’s Centennial Series panel.

Sandra Danziger, Jessica Wiederspan and J.A. Siegel published an article entitled “We’re Not All Deadbeat Parents: Welfare Recipient Voices on Unmet Service Needs,” in the Journal of Poverty.

Jorge Delva has been appointed member of the Council on Social Work Education Commission on Membership and Professional Development. The Commission supports the Council on Conferences and Faculty Development, Council on Leadership Development and Council on Publications, as well as facilitates and integrates the development of innovative programs, methods and materials that enhance and strengthen the delivery of social work education.

Jorge Delva received an award from the New York Community Trust via the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare to provide financial support to students in an expansion of the IHSWC project sponsored by SAMHSA/HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions and the Council on Social Work Education.

Jorge Delva was a panelist for the screening of the documentary “The Harvest/La Cosecha” hosted by the U-M Hatcher Graduate Library. The panel discussed justice issues affecting migrant workers and child labor in the United States.

Jorge Delva, Tom Powell, Larry Root and Micko Yoshihama presented papers at the Global Health and Well-Being Conference. Through presentation of strong international research and examinations of social programs designed to understand and ameliorate the world’s most pressing health and social problems, the conference will contribute to a better understanding of the social work profession’s contributions to human well-being around the world.

Larry Gant had an article entitled “The Intersection of Gender and Ethnicity in HIV Risk, Interventions and Prevention” published in American Psychologist’s HIV/AIDS: Social Determinants and Health Disparities special issue.

Charles Gavin has been placed on the Leadership Legacy Tree by the Council on Social Work Education, for his selection as the Significant Lifetime Achievement Awardee in 2012.

Andy Grogan-Kaylor had an article entitled “Asociación de la posición socioeconómica y la percepción del ambiente con la autopercepción del estado de salud en mujeres de Bogotá, Colombia (Association of Socio-Economic Position and the Perception of the Environment with Self Reported Health in Women of Bogota, Colombia)” published in Rev Panam Salud Publica.

Lorraine Gutiérrez received the Richard Lodge Prize for her contributions to the social work profession, and is featured in the Adelphi University School of Social Work Newsletter.

Charity Hoffman, PhD student, along with mentor Mary Ruffolo, received an award from the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School for their project exploring the social construction of mothering in the United States, particularly the disconnect between mothering as it is portrayed in the media and how it is actually experienced by first-time mothers.
Berit Ingersoll-Dayton received an award from the SSW Office of Global Social Work Learning Community for her project examining intergenerational relationships among “skipped generation” Thai households in which older grandparents live only with their grandchildren due to the migration of their adult children.


Minyoung Kwak, joint doctoral graduate, and Brad Zebrack’s research on post-traumatic stress symptoms in young adults diagnosed with cancer was published in the August issue of Psycho-Oncology. Their research also was highlighted in an article entitled “Work, school buffer post-traumatic stress for young cancer patients” posted by the University of Michigan News Service.

LaVaughn Palma-Davis, Senior Director of Health and Well-Being Services, presented Dean Lein with an award of recognition for SSW being an MHealthy high-participation school, a total of 67 percent participation in 2013.

Laura Lein, along with Sue Ann Savas, received an award from the Administration for Children and Families Children’s Bureau via the Michigan Department of Human Services for conducting additional meetings for rettooling child support.

Lydia Li has been named a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, Social Research, Policy and Practice Section. A fellowship acknowledges outstanding work in the field of gerontology.

Reuben Miller is lecturing at the University of Glasgow on “Devolving the Carceral State: Race, Reentry and the Micro-politics of Urban Poverty Management.” He also presented at the Desistance Research Work Group in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Emily Nicklett received an award from the National Institute on Aging for her project to identify dietary, physical and geographic predictors of health trajectories and mortality.

Emily Nicklett received an award from the National Institutes of Health via the University of Michigan Center on Integrative Approaches to Health Disparities for the NIH Heart, Lung and Blood Institute workshop to learn to work with data from the Jackson Heart Study and the Strong Heart Study.

Robert Ortega wrote a “Faculty Perspective: Examining Diversity and Inclusion at U-M,” which was published in the University Record. He is also serving as Chair of the Senate Assembly Committee for an Inclusive University. The efforts of the Committee are aimed to the development of a more inclusive research university.

Daphna Oyserman had a study, “One Without the Other—Seeing Relationships in Everyday Objects,” published in the July issue of Psychological Science.

Desmond Patton was quoted in an article entitled “First-of-its-kind sentencing hearing held for Flint teen convicted of murder” on MLive.

Julie Ribaudo discussed infant toxic stress with the Salem Leader.

Katherine Richards-Schuster, along with colleague Barry Checkoway, received an award from the Henry Ford Health System for their project training High School Youth Wellness Ambassadors.

Larry Root, along with colleague Jinyun Liu, received an award from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor for their project with workers, management, and NGOs developing their capacity to engage in collective bargaining that leads to mutually-acceptable agreements and contracts.

Joseph Ryan has been appointed by Governor Snyder to the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice.

Joseph Ryan with Kune Park (MSW ’13) have received funding to estimate the impact of evidence-based practices on key child welfare outcomes including child safety and well-being.

Joseph Ryan and Brian Perron have received an award from the Michigan Department of Technology Management and Budget via the McGregor Fund for their research on the services needed for juvenile detainees.
Accolades, cont.

Joseph Ryan and Brian Perron received an award from the State of Michigan to study mental health and substance abuse in juvenile justice facilities.

Sue Ann Savas received an award from the College of Creative Studies for her case study approach to provide evaluation for the Community+Public Arts: Detroit.

Kristin Seefeldt discussed the U.S. child poverty rate on NPR’s radio program On Point with Tom Ashbrook.


Luke Shafer’s research on poverty and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program was cited in an article entitled “The Weekly Standard Accidentally Makes the Case for Food Stamps” in The New Republic.

Luke Shafer’s research on poverty rates and the economy was cited in several major media outlets this week including The New Republic, Chicago Tribune, and the New York Times.

Trina Shanks was interviewed by Florine Mark on her show “Remarkable Woman.”

Laura Sundstrom and Nick Yankey, MSW student, presented on a panel titled “Creating Infrastructure for Experiential Learning and Practical Skill Development for Novice Evaluators” on the implementation of and experience with the Curtis Center Program Evaluation Group.

Diane Vinokur-Kaplan has co-authored an article, “Nonprofit Tenants’ Attraction and Satisfaction,” for Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

Elizabeth Voshel was reappointed to a three-year term as a member of the Council on Social Work Education, Council on Conferences and Faculty Development.


Daphne Watkins has received an award from the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center. The award funds a project that involves developing and pilot testing a six-week, internet-based education and social support program called Young Black Men, Masculinities and Mental Health.

Daphne Watkins was quoted in a Social Work Today article entitled “College mental health initiatives: Outreach to at-risk students.”

Daphne Watkins, along with colleagues Jamie Abelson and S. Olivia Jefferson, have an article entitled “Their depression is something different… it would have to be: Findings from a qualitative study of black women’s perceptions of black men’s depression,” published in the American Journal of Men’s Health.

Michael Woodford’s research concerning LGBT civil rights perceptions was featured on the U-M homepage.

Michael Woodford’s research regarding heterosexism on college campuses was featured in the magazine Between the Lines.

Li Xu, visiting scholar, and Jorge Delva received funding from the International Association of Schools of Social Work to engage in collaborative and exchange activities on MSW curricula, content and teaching innovations between U-M and schools of social work in China.

Brad Zebrack and the City of Hope’s ExCEL in Social Work: Excellence in Cancer Education and Leadership program has earned the Outstanding Education and Training Award from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

Brad Zebrack discusses the importance of communication between patients and their doctors in Oncology Times.
Thank You!

U-M SSW raised $2 million in donor funds and matching funds during the Student Support Challenge.

Thanks to you, more students will receive scholarship dollars and field placement grants.
CHADIHA, LETHA A.

CÓRDOVA, DAVID


DANZIGER, SANDRA K.

DELVA, JORGE
GROGAN-KAYLOR, ANDREW C.


DELVA, JORGE


DUNKLE, RUTH E.


**FALLER, KATHLEEN COULBORN**
**SAUNDERS, DANIEL G.**
**TOLMAN, RICHARD M.**


**GANT, LARRY M.**

**GARROW, EVE E.**
**PERRON, BRIAN E.**
**POWELL, THOMAS J.**
**WOODFORD, MICHAEL R.**

**GUTIERREZ, LORRAINE M.**

**GUTIERREZ, LORRAINE M.**
**WOODFORD, MICHAEL R.**

**HIMLE, JOSEPH A.**


**KIEFFER, EDITH C.**
**SPENCER, MICHAEL**

**LEE, SHAWNA J.**


**NICKLETT, EMILY**
**WOODFORD, MICHAEL R.**

**NICKLETT, EMILY**
**SPENCER, MICHAEL**
OSYERMAN, DAPHNA R.


RICHARDS-SCHUSTER, KATHERINE E.


SHANKS, TRINA R.

TAYLOR, ROBERT JOSEPH

WOODFORD, MICHAEL R.

YOSHIHAMA, MIEKO
The School of Social Work joins the Victors Michigan Campaign to advance our vision to prepare the next generation of social work professionals to change the world.

Our priorities for the next decade:

**PROVIDE**
critical scholarship support to students who have the passion, intellect and drive to change the world

**IMPROVE**
the quality of life for vulnerable populations

**TRANSFORM**
social work practice through innovative research

**RECRUIT & MENTOR**
faculty and students who represent the diversity of our global community

**We ask you to join with us.**

Your financial support will help ensure a world of promise, strengthening our ability to Reach Out, Raise Hope and Change Society.

For information on how you can participate and make a difference, contact the School of Social Work Development Office.

ssw.development@umich.edu
734-763-6886
ssw.umich.edu/give
University of Michigan senior Mary Naoum is completing her Bachelor of Theatre Arts degree with a twist. Not only has she added a concentration in performing arts management, she’s also enhancing her education with the U-M School of Social Work’s undergraduate CASC minor.

Four years ago, the Community Action and Social Change (CASC) minor was created by the U-M School of Social Work for students interested in developing knowledge, skills and experiences in community action and social change. Since then, CASC has graduated nearly 200 students from the program. There are currently more than 250 students enrolled in the minor from nine schools and colleges across the university.

The CASC minor led Naoum to the Semester in Detroit program last spring where she attended classes and interned with the Matrix Theater Company in southwest Detroit.

“Semester in Detroit was hands-down, the best thing I’ve ever done at the University of Michigan. It was the perfect way to not just be a guest in the city, but really become a part of a community.”

Naoum’s love of theater arts combined with community outreach extends to her extracurricular activities too. As co-president of the Michigan Performance Outreach Workshop (MPOW), Naoum works with fifth- and sixth-grade students from Detroit Public Schools.

“I manage MPOW’s outreach puppet troupe that goes into Detroit elementary schools to educate kids about Shakespeare. We also just added our first weekly theatre workshop with high school students at Detroit School of the Arts.”

What’s next for this high-achieving senior?

“I’m thrilled I was accepted into the U-M MSW program,” Naoum smiled, “but I’m deferring my enrollment for a year to live and work in Detroit. It’s important to me that I have real CASC experience before diving into grad school.”

Naom couldn’t stress enough how the CASC minor strengthened her ability to do work in Detroit.

“My world opened up with the CASC minor, and there are so many great things ahead!”
Dissertation Defense

MARCY SAFYER
Social Work and Psychology
“When is Good Enough Mothering Not Good Enough”
Director, Institute for Parenting, Adelphi University

TOVA NEUGUT
Social Work and Psychology
“Three Studies of Fathers’ Adaptation to Pregnancy and Parenthood”
Postdoctoral Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program and Assistant Professor of Social Work (2015), University of Wisconsin-Madison

HYUN JEE KIM
Social Work and Economics
“Healthcare Provider’s Behaviors Responding to Payment Incentives: Evidence from Medicare Home Healthcare”
Senior Research Economist, Center for Health Systems Effectiveness, Oregon Health & Science University

ELIZABETH THOMASON
Social Work and Psychology
“Maternal Cognitions and Depression during Pregnancy and Postpartum”
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Curtis Center, University of Michigan School of Social Work

KRISTINA LOPEZ
Social Work and Psychology
“Sociocultural Perspectives of Latino Children with Autism and their Families”
Assistant Professor of Social Work, California State University, Long Beach

The CASC Minor

The multidisciplinary 16-credit CASC minor prepares students to:

• Examine community action and social change using a multidisciplinary framework
• Address community action and social change in multilingual and multicultural communities
• Integrate social justice values into the community action and social change processes
• Engage in service learning to promote community action and social change.

CASC Students come from nine schools and colleges across the university:

• College of LSA
• College of Engineering
• Ford School of Public Policy
• Ross School of Business
• Stamps School of Art & Design
• School of Information
• School of Kinesiology
• School of Music, Theatre & Dance
• School of Nursing
First-year MSW student Allie Gasiorowski has never been one to shy away from a challenge. As she puts it, “It’s how you deal with those challenges that define you, not the challenges themselves.”

Gasiorowski knows all about dealing with a challenge. Born with Shone’s Complex, a rare congenital heart disease, she has undergone four open-heart surgeries since birth. The last one—for mitral valve replacement—was performed at U-M’s C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital when she was 12 years old. Incredibly, just one year later, she traveled all the way to central Minnesota to attend a week-long residential summer camp.

Camp Odayin, which takes its name from the Ojibwa word meaning “heart,” specializes in outdoor adventure and activities for kids aged 8–17 years of age who struggle with heart disease. Because activities are structured to accommodate varying levels of physical ability, every camper can participate in some way—or choose not to participate—without feeling pressure to keep up.

“It’s a place where everyone has been through many of the same things that you have, so you don’t have to feel ‘different,’” she said. “You can focus on making friends and having fun.”

Gasiorowski returned to Odayin every summer for the next five years and in 2009 took the leap from camper to counselor-in-training. She now spends part of every summer working as a counselor and, because of her experiences at Odayin, has set her sights on opening her own specialized heart camp some day.

“Several of my directors at Odayin have their masters’ in social work,” said Gasioroski. “I realized that pursuing my own MSW would be most beneficial to me in reaching my professional goals.”

In addition to opening her own heart camp, Gasiorowski’s professional goals include working in a hospital setting where she can interact with patients on an individual basis. She cites her own experiences as a young patient at Mott/UMHS as a primary reason for choosing Health and Interpersonal Practice.

“I’ve been given so much in life as a result of my own condition,” she said. “The doctors and hospital staff saved my life and gave me the opportunity to live my life to the fullest. I want to give back by showing others that they have all these opportunities too. For young people in particular, it’s so important to know that they have a future.”

Gasiorowski appreciates the diversity in course offerings in the SSW/MSW program, as well as the flexibility she’s encountered within the department when it comes to exemptions and electives. This semester she’s taking an elective called “Death, Grief and Loss,” taught by Sallie Foley.

“If you work in a hospital, you will inevitably work with patients who experience loss,” she said. “And there are many different types of loss. Obviously, death is one. Being diagnosed with a life-threatening disease is a loss too, and so is having a debilitating, chronic or progressive disease. You have to know how to help patients and families deal with these types of losses.

“This class is fantastic and I recommend it to everyone in the MSW program, whether or not they want to work in a hospital setting.”

Gasiorowski cites the class, and Foley, as two examples of why she chose U-M for her postgraduate work.

“I like the opportunities here, the hospital placement choices and the health concentration. I researched quite a few programs at other schools and found that only U-M allowed me to tailor my program to my interests and needs. Everything else I was seeing was more broad. U-M offered me everything I wanted.”

Gasiorowski will graduate in December 2014.

Written by Anne Farris
Jaclynn Hawkins is devoted to diabetes and gender research, and has been since she began her MSW at the University of California-Berkeley. That devotion continued when she came to the U-M School of Social Work doctoral program in 2009.

“The University of Michigan is an ideal match for me,” Hawkins explained.

She was courted by five doctoral programs, including some Ivy League schools, but the research and mentoring at the University of Michigan was an ideal combination for Hawkins.

“I wanted to do community-based diabetes research because I can be a resource to the community and the School of Social Work wanted a doctoral student who had expertise in this escalating area of chronic illness.”

Nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes, which is more than 8 percent of the population. That number continues to grow with approximately 2 million new diagnoses each year.

Not only is diabetes a national health concern, but it’s also for Hawkins, a very personal cause.

“My mom and several cousins have diabetes, this is a disease that runs in my family, and I want to understand how to create the very best program to deal with this health issue.”

When Hawkins came to the U-M SSW program, she was conducting research on women with diabetes and their access to care. During this research, she realized men in particular were struggling with diabetes. This evaluation led to a successful grant application which provided funds to work with African American and Latino men with diabetes to better understand how Community Health Workers (CHW) could best develop a program that would be helpful to men with diabetes.

Hawkins applied for a larger REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) grant to conduct additional qualitative research to determine cause of intervention withdraw among the African American and Latino male cohort. Her analysis was published in *Diabetes Educator* in September/October Vol. 39, no. 5 (http://tde.sagepub.com/content/39/5/647.short) Hawkins also conducted three focus groups with cohorts of African American and Latino men; it was determined that they wanted to have access to CHWs during extended hours, and they wanted their program to include spouses. Additional conclusions are still being determined, and positive program development is moving forward.

Hawkins’ advisor and dissertation co-chair is U-M SSW Assistant Professor Daphne C. Watkins. In addition to serving as a mentor, Hawkins works with Watkins on research and practice issues related to African American men’s physical and mental health.

“Jaclynn clearly demonstrates stellar qualities and will one day change the way we think about gender, community-based health and targeted diabetes interventions,” said Watkins. “Also noteworthy is Jaclynn’s work ethic, quality of writing, and focus, which raises the bar of excellence for our students.”

Her dedication is evident as she is currently completing three papers related to her research, completing her doctoral work in spring 2014 and applying for postdoctoral work in hopes of continuing her research on gender and chronic illness.

She looks forward to doing hands-on work and collaboration with African American and Latino men, and at some point, she imagines having some impact on the policy level. She says those are the necessary components of what she’ll be doing in the future, she’s just not sure where all of that will happen.

“I would like to be more familiar with the physical aspects and the medical side of diabetes,” Hawkins said. “I want to know more about genetics…starting intervention earlier…I’m not closed off to any options.”
Dr. James Curtis’ life is a microcosm of America’s own history in addressing issues of race, class and social justice for more than 75 years.

It is the story of a man who entered University of Michigan’s medical school in 1943 as the only black student in his class, and 74 years later was responsible for the formation of the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center. It is the story of a man who fought the prejudices of his day, stayed true to his belief in the importance of social justice, served his profession and community with honor and devotion and in his tenth decade of life continues to give back to that community. His is a story shared with gratitude and continued promise.

Curtis attended Albion College in the 1940s. A champion debater, he initially saw himself becoming a lawyer. However, he felt that as a black lawyer, his career options would be limited. Medicine held more appeal, but World War II and the draft intervened.

After basic training, Curtis was expected to go on to engineering school, but fate, and U-M, provided a different path. One of Curtis’ biology professors from Albion College contacted a colleague at the University of Michigan Medical School.

U-M, a progressive medical school for its time, held one or two spots for African American students. Since there were none in the incoming class, the medical school reached out to Michigan Senator Arthur Vandenburg, who arranged for Curtis to leave engineering school and enroll in the U-M Medical School as the lone African American student in the class of 1946.

“I am the product of the miracle of intervention of friends in high places,” Curtis said. “Senator Vandenburg was able to spring me at the end of my basic training.”

Three years later, Curtis graduated in the top fifth of his class.

After World War II, psychiatry became a more prominent component of medicine, particularly among patients suffering a stressful, post-war life. As a result, Curtis dedicated his career to psychiatry after completing his residency at a state-run psychiatric hospital in Wayne County, Michigan.

“Dr. Milton Erickson ran our weekly journal club and included nurses and social workers,” Curtis explained. “He believed you couldn't run a hospital then, or now without them. Social workers and nurses were coming into great prominence as integral members of the mental health team in the 1950s.”

It was during those journal club meetings that Curtis met and eventually married one very special social worker, Vivian Curtis, MSW ’48.

Together, they embarked on very successful careers. Vivian was considered an exceptional leader in social work on a national scale from 1946 to 2003.
His career took the Curtis family to New York City, where he served as a clinician, educator and administrator. His first position was in Brooklyn, at the Long Island College of Medicine (which later became SUNY Downstate Medical Center), and from there went to Kings County Hospital in Queens. Curtis spent the next ten years at Cornell as Associate Dean of Student Affairs, where he worked to recruit minority students to the medical school. He then moved to Columbia, and as a professor of psychiatry supervised the psychiatry training program at Harlem Hospital for 20 years.

“My personal ambition, and my wife’s, was to see an increasing opportunity for people regardless of race or sex with poverty conditions in their families,” Curtis said.

As a culmination of their ambitions, and with the assistance of then-School of Social Work Dean Paula Allen Meares, the Curtises provided initial funding for the Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center in 2007. Curtis has provided additional financial support for the Center in recent years to ensure that the Center has the resources to continue its mission.

“An individual desire to bring about change doesn’t amount to anything,” Curtis said, “but you can bring about great change when you work as a larger social group, and that’s why we created the Curtis Center.”

The Curtis Center collaborates with faculty members, community and University partners and students to create social change through research and evaluation excellence.

“We wanted to support faculty engaged in research that creates social change,” Curtis said.

In the past five years, the center has funded 19 pilot projects, provided ongoing support for a postdoctoral fellow and offered program evaluation services to community-based agencies.

Curtis retired in 2003, and returned to Albion with his wife.

Most people would be content to slow down at this point, but Curtis began his retirement by publishing Affirmative Action in Medicine: Improving Healthcare for Everyone (University of Michigan Press, 2003), a follow-up to his 1971 book Blacks, Medical Schools, and Society (University of Michigan Press). Jordan Cohen, former president and CEO of the American Association of Medical Colleges, described Affirmative Action in Medicine as a “rare combination of riveting personal reflections, previously unpublished data and heartfelt philosophical declarations by a man who has not only lived through but has also contributed significantly to one of the most important social transformations in American history.”

Vivian Curtis died in 2007, but James Curtis, now 91 years old, continues their shared goal of serving others. He is currently working to form a home and social service program in Albion for homeless pregnant teenagers and their children. Two buildings have been purchased and are being renovated with the goal of providing these young women and their children with a home and support for a two-year period.

Curtis’ story is inspiring when looked at from any vantage point. He is a Michigander, a Michigan alumnus, a physician, a teacher, a tireless worker for social justice and a philanthropist.

James Curtis, MD ’46, and Vivian Curtis, MSW ’48 shared a lifetime of collaboration blending medicine and social work, and they provide ongoing inspiration to make positive change possible.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MAKING A BEQUEST?

For many donors, a bequest offers the opportunity to make a more substantial gift than would be possible during their lifetime. Other donors view a bequest as an opportunity to round out a lifetime of giving with a lasting legacy. The tax advantages associated with a bequest to a charitable institution ensure that assets from your estate that would go directly to government treasuries can instead be given to support U-M’s School of Social Work.

For more information on bequests and other estate giving opportunities, contact: ssw.development@umich.edu or 734-615-2581
The Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center

The Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center is dedicated to providing support for research that creates social change and helps to improve the lives of underserved populations. The Curtis Center functions as a strong collaborative between U-M faculty, community and university partners and students in their efforts to make a positive impact upon the lives of those most in need.

Joseph Himle, associate professor of Social Work and Psychiatry, is director of the Curtis Center. He explains that the center functions as a central hub for researchers, serving as a research incubator, evaluation training, and research support service resource for the U-M School of Social Work community. There is a particular emphasis on narrowing the gap in mental and physical health disparities.

“The Center is a busy place where faculty, students and staff are aiming their efforts at improving the lives of society’s most vulnerable individuals through research and evaluation excellence.”

“We have a strong focus on mental health and healthcare disparities in the underserved,” he said. “We are very interested in the limited access to best practice mental health and health services that exists in these populations, and we place a priority on addressing those service access inequities.”

The Center provides support to researchers with the help of two multidisciplinary teams who function separately but ultimately blend together to accomplish the Center’s stated mission of furthering society’s understanding and treatment of behavioral and physical health conditions and improving the lives of underserved populations.

The Research Support Services Team provides a wide range of services to help researchers accomplish their research goals, including expert consultations from the early conceptual phase to assisting after initial funding, supporting innovative early-stage projects through the faculty pilot grant program, postdoctoral fellowships, research workgroup support, educational programming (see “Pizza and Pontification” series), community building events and doctoral research and travel awards.

The Program Evaluation Group is the training ground for MSW and postdoctoral students focused on program evaluation science. The team also provides comprehensive evaluation services to outside entities and community-based agencies, collecting and analyzing information that these agencies use to make informed decisions about how to improve effectiveness and efficiency of both new and existing programs.

“In many cases, our program evaluation projects lead to knowledge development opportunities for our faculty and students,” Himle said.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) Division of Community Engagement Evaluation is one example of the many different types of projects currently making its way through the evaluation program.

The Program Evaluation Group is evaluating several projects for the WCSO, including the development of a jail reentry program and the implementation of inmate behavior management (IBM) and problem oriented policing (POP), which are progressive forms of corrections and police work.

According to Evaluation Associate Desiree Liwosz, U-M MSW, current Washtenaw County prison recidivism rates are estimated to be 76 percent, more than double the State of Michigan’s at approximately 30 percent. And the rate of jail recidivism, while much more difficult to assess, is believed to reflect a percentage similar to prison rates.

The Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work Research and Training Center
“IBM allows corrections officers to assess the needs of incarcerated individuals to provide needed and impactful services, while POP helps deputies to understand and examine root causes of crime while still enforcing the law,” said Liwosz.

Derrick Jackson, a graduate of U-M SSW, is the director of community engagement for the WCSO and the direct U-M contact for the project. He and Liwosz have worked closely with new U-M faculty member Reuben Miller, who also collaborates with the Curtis Center on other criminal justice projects. Principal investigator on the project is Clinical Assistant Professor Sue Ann Savas.

In addition to its Program Evaluation and Research Support Services, the Curtis Center places a strong emphasis on education for MSW students and post-doctoral fellows. MSW students get lab experience by participating in current program evaluation projects and also are able to take advantage of a range of workshops and training events.

The postdoctoral fellowship program helps doctoral fellows prepare for future leadership as academics in social work. Current fellows, Addie Weaver, PhD and Elizabeth Thomason, PhD are both pursuing careers as mental health intervention researchers with a special emphasis on underserved populations.

“The Center is a busy place where faculty, students and staff are aiming their efforts at improving the lives of society’s most vulnerable individuals through research and evaluation excellence,” said Himle.

The Curtis Center is supported by internal funds from the U-M SSW, revenue from program evaluation and other research projects and from philanthropic support.

The Curtis Center is named in honor and recognition of the generous support of Dr. James L. Curtis and his wife Vivian A. Curtis. James Curtis is a 1946 graduate of the U-M Medical School. Vivian Curtis is a 1948 graduate of the U-M School of Social Work.

Written by Anne Farris

The U-M School of Social Work Continuing Education programs are designed to provide knowledge and skills for social workers and allied health professionals. Interdisciplinary distance education certificates in:
- Integrated behavioral health and primary care
- Addictions
- Sexual health
- Mixed methods research
- DSM-5 updates for professionals

CE faculty are national experts and leaders in their respective fields. Our goal is to meet your professional development and career advancement needs through high quality continuing education programs.

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Written by Anne Farris
Class Notes

IN MEMORIAM

William R. McCarthy, MSW, '47, June 25, 2009
Patricia J. Modlin, MSW, '86, May 31, 2011
Mary L. Holls, MSW, '90, November 15, 2012
Ronald L. Riggs, MSW, '03, March 1, 2013
Haskell Rothstein, MSW, '54, March 8, 2013
Everett J. Blakely, MSW, '75, April 9, 2013
Andrew Zelho, MSW, '97, April 15, 2013
Mary E. Shulls, MSW, '50, May 26, 2013
Vicki V. Smith, MSW, '72, May 26, 2013
James M. Medchill, MSW, '69, June 23, 2013
Betty L. Rusnack, MSW, '46, July 22, 2013
Andrew J. Vanyo, MSW, '68, August 15, 2013
Judith M. Monroe, MSW, '64, August 17, 2013
Lyle E. Richard, MSW, '63, August 28, 2013
Marian L. Corey, MSW, '51, September 4, 2013
Elizabeth W. Kaufman, MSW, '64, September 19, 2013

‘50s

EUGENE TALSMA, MSW '55, has retired as Executive Director for the Family Service Agency in Flint, MI. Eugene began his MSW program after a tour in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

‘60s

LAWRENCE GREEN, MSW '68, has spent much of his time, since retiring after 42 years as a psychiatric social worker, writing a memoir of his childhood. It is told primarily through the eyes of a young child. It is entitled *Once Upon a Wounded Heart*.

ROBERT MACDONALD, MSW '68, retired from Dearborn Public Schools after 30 years of service.

‘70s


LINDA BOWMAN, MSW ’75, has returned to serving as a renal social worker. She is working at DaVita, the second largest provider of dialysis in the US.

‘80s

JULIE NAGEL, MSW ’82, PhD ’87, author of *Melodies of the Mind*, had a book signing on October 4, 2013 at The Juilliard School. She also presented at the William Alanson White Conference in New York in October.

‘90s

LINWOOD COUSINS, PhD ’94, was named an American Council on Education fellow for the 2013–2014 academic year. Fifty senior faculty members and administrators in the US are selected to be Fellows.

KRISTIN MEEKHOF, MSW ’98, is a writer for the Huffington Post. She is also co-writing a book entitled *Just Widowed*.

JENA CONNER, MSW ’99, was promoted to Deputy Director for Child Protective Services, a division of the Mendocino County (California) Health and Human Services Agency.

‘00s

JENNIFER M. ACREE, MSW ’05, joined the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation as an associate program officer for the Flint Area grantmaking team. She will be responsible for a variety of grantmaking strategies within the Flint program, with particular focus on the local non-profit community.

CHRISTOPHER HODSHIRE, MSW ’05, was invited to serve as the keynote speaker for the Malaysian Association of Social Work ‘first’ national convention of social workers in conjunction with MASW’s 40th anniversary. Hodshire is working as a Senior Visiting Lecturer at University Science of Malaysia (USM).

DONNA WANSHON, MSW ’05, continues to serve as an active duty clinical social worker in the US Air Force. In the hopes of becoming a professor of social work, she is pursuing a doctoral degree in Human Services.

ANNIE DUNSKY, MSW ’06, works for Chrysler Group, LLC. She is responsible for the employment function and employee assistance program.

JUN SUNG HONG, MSW ’06, recently received his PhD from University of Illinois. He is working as an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Wayne State University in Detroit.

CASSANDRA ST. VIL, MSW ’06, joined Teach for America in 2012 as a special education teacher in Harlem and the South Bronx. She is applying to the Peace Corps as a volunteer in education.

LOURDES GUTIERREZ NAJERA, MSW ’98, PhD ’07, is co-editor of *Comparative Indigeneities of the Américas: Toward a Hemispheric Approach* (University of Arizona 2012).

SEKAI K. WARD, MSW ’07, is a case manager at SOS Community Services in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where she helps homeless families become self-sufficient. She received the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence 2011 Promise Award for outstanding advocacy on behalf of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Ward also provides supervision to LLMSWs who are pursuing their clinical licenses.
What’s New With You?

Name__________________________________________________________
(include student/maiden name if applicable)

Year of Graduation_________________________ Place of Business_________________________

Home Address_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Home Telephone (______)____________________

Email Address_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Work Telephone (______)____________________

May we also publish this on the SSW website at www.ssw.umich.edu/alumni/alumninews.html?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Briefly describe your professional activities and other information you want your classmates to know:
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School of Social Work
Ongoing
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Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

To inquire about submitting a photo with your class note, please email ssw.development@umich.edu.
Visit our website at ssw.umich.edu and enroll in our online alumni volunteer directory and database.

Or email ssw.development@umich.edu.
Thank You!

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Thanks to you, more students will receive scholarship dollars and field placement grants.