

ONGOING

University of Michigan School of Social Work • Winter/Spring 2004



Professor Ruth Dunkle has been named the Wilbur J. Cohen Collegiate Professor of Social Work. See pg. 12.



U-M Photo Services, Paul Jaronski

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- Deborah Cherrin, *ex-officio*
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Save the Date!

Winkelman Lecture presented by Professor Robert Kahn "Successful Aging: Myth or Reality?"

March 30, 2004
3:30 p.m.
SSWB Educational Conference Center

School of Social Work Homecoming Open House and Reception
October 8, 2004
SSWB

Cover photo: Olivia P. Maynard ('71), Dean Paula Allen-Meares and Olof Karlstrom. See pg. 2. Photo by U-M Photo Services, Paul Jaronski.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings from the U-M School of Social Work!

I'm pleased to have so much good news to share with you in this issue. I know that much of the media coverage of the University recently has been about budget constraints due to state funding reductions—and while those issues are still uppermost in our minds and continue to challenge us to find more efficient, less expensive ways to operate, I'm thrilled to share some excellent news with you.

First and foremost, a very generous gift from Regent Olivia P. Maynard ('71) and her husband Olof Karlstrom will establish the Olivia P. Maynard Professorship in Social Justice at the School (details on p. 2). In addition to establishing the professorship, the endowment also serves as an excellent beginning to the University's campaign, set to kick off in May. Watch your mail for details about events and activities related to the campaign.

December 10, 2003, marked the date that the School of Social Work celebrated a unique University community collaboration with The Guidance Center, located in Southgate, Michigan. The partnership will provide opportunities for

agency and community-based research, teaching and field placement opportunities. For more information about the goals of the relationship see the article on p. 9.

I'm also pleased to announce that we have hired a Director of Development, Deborah Cherrin. You can read more about her in Development News on page 18. Her extensive experience with successful fundraising efforts combined with her commitment to the University makes her an excellent choice for this position. I'm sure you'll be hearing from her in the near future—and if you meet her at an event, please introduce yourself and welcome her to the School of Social Work community.

Last fall, the School co-sponsored a conference called "The Food Page: The Press and Public Policy." The conference highlighted the media's impact on how Americans eat, as well as the media's responsibility to inform the public about their food and nutrition choices.

As we know, access to food is a major obstacle for many people in our communities. Several researchers at the School are focusing on various aspects of food insecurity and insufficiency. Nutrition and its role in reducing risks related to diseases such as diabetes, the



impact of technology on food distribution and the impact of household food insufficiency on major depression are all areas being explored by our faculty that are covered in the article "Nutrition, Food Access and Food Distribution: Recent Research."

One of the priorities of the faculty is preparing our students to be excellent practitioners. To that end, our focus on research as a foundation for practice is key. You can read more about the connections between research and practice in the article "Building Bridges: Translating Research into the Practical Realm."

Also included in this issue are profiles on Janet Olszewski ('75), who was recently named Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, and retired faculty member Howard Brabson.

I hope you enjoy this issue—as always, if you have story suggestions, please contact us at ssw.editor@umich.edu.

Paula Allen-Meares

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

Dean Allen-Meares addresses attendees of "The Food Page: The Press and Public Policy."





Olivia P. Maynard ('71), Dean Paula Allen-Meares and Olof Karlstrom.

SCHOOL RECEIVES \$2.25 MILLION GIFT

UU-M Regent Olivia P. Maynard ('71) and her husband, Olof Karlstrom, have given a \$2.25 million gift to the U-M School of Social Work to benefit the Detroit and Flint communities. Their gift will provide momentum for the University's upcoming fundraising campaign, scheduled to kick off in May 2004.

"This wonderful and thoughtful gift reflects the care and concern both Libby and Olle have always demonstrated for their community and for the most vulnerable among us," said U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. "I am deeply touched by their generosity in creating a mechanism within Social Work to expand

education and research on some of the most important social problems of our time."

The gift will establish an endowment for the Olivia P. Maynard Professorship in Social Justice. The faculty member who holds this named professorship will teach and conduct research in the field of social justice, poverty, diversity or social welfare policy. In addition, he or she will teach and work with students in community-based research at both the Ann Arbor and Flint campuses.

The gift will also support the involvement of faculty and students in the community with the creation

of the Olivia P. Maynard and S. Olof Karlstrom Faculty Award Fund for Community-Based Research. This fund will promote the work of an outstanding faculty member and students in communities in need throughout Michigan, including Detroit and Flint.

"Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote, 'Generosity is the flower of justice.' Two generous donors have taken this quote to heart," Dean Paula Allen-Meares says. "This endowed chair will create an opportunity for the School of Social Work, the Flint campus and community, and the Detroit community to work together to solve pressing social and economic problems for vulnerable populations. This gift will allow faculty and students to engage in community-based research and development, as co-benefactors in the learning endeavor."

"Social justice has been, remains and will continue to be a major factor in our nation's public policy life. It is appropriate that our gift be given a special place in the School of Social Work," Maynard said. "We have always been involved with our home community. We welcomed the opportunity to assist in fostering research and teaching that directly involves the two places that have figured so prominently in our lives, the University of Michigan and the Flint community."

—from U-M News Service



The Food Page: The Press and Public Policy

In September 2003, journalists, U-M faculty and experts from across the country and Canada gathered to discuss everything from journalistic excesses about food writing to technical issues of food distribution, the sociology of food and why celebrity chefs typically are men.

In her welcoming remarks, Dean Paula Allen-Meares reminded those attending that each culture has its own relationship with food.



Lynne Rosetto Kasper, host of the Minnesota Public Radio show "The Splendid Table," discusses how the relatively short history of American towns and cities impacts our culinary heritage, making America a perfect home for "fast food."

Kellogg Foundation, and was presented by the Knight-Wallace Fellows, the U-M School of Social Work and Office of the Vice President for Communications.

—Joanne Nesbit, U-M News Service

Harvey Levenstein, McMaster University and author of Revolution at the Table: The Transformation of the American Diet, and Larry Gant, U-M School of Social Work, who discussed the role technology can play in food distribution (see pg. 4).

She quoted James Beard as finding food to be the common ground of all cultures and a universal experience. Expanding beyond cooking and presentation, she told of research programs being conducted by her school, including "Food Insufficiency and the Physical and Mental Health of Low-Income Women" and "Promoting Healthy Eating in Detroit."

The event was sponsored by the W.K.



Mimi Sheraton

▲ R.W. (Johnny) Apple, The New York Times, served as the keynote speaker for the journalists' panel.



▲ Kim Severson (left) of the San Francisco Chronicle and author of *The Trans Fat Solution: Cooking and Shopping to Eliminate the Deadliest Fat from Your Diet*, and Mimi Sheraton, well-known restaurant critic and writer, formerly of The New York Times.



▲ Marion Nestle, Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health at New York University, is the author of the award-winning book *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health* (2002).



Harvey Levenstein

Larry Gant



NUTRITION, FOOD ACCESS AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION: RECENT RESEARCH

The narrower conceptual space may be termed *food insufficiency* and is distinguished by restricted household food stores, too little food intake among adults or children in the household, and direct reports or perceptions of hunger among household members. The broader conceptual space may be termed *food insecurity*. This term subsumes food insufficiency and extends to include resource insufficiency, the inability to acquire enough nutritious food through culturally normalized means, and anxiety about this inability, along with various attempts to augment or stretch the food supply.” (Scott & Wehler, 1998)

Hunger, food insufficiency and food insecurity are serious problems in the United States, the effects of which reach beyond obvious concerns such as basic nutrition.

Issues related to food access, nutrition and food distribution are cornerstones of research currently being conducted by several U-M SSW

faculty members. Researchers at the School have been working to address many food access issues faced by members of society, as well as complications that result, at least in part, from food insufficiency, food instability and hunger.

Professor Larry Gant ('81, PhD '86) is tackling the complex issue of food distribution. “Collecting the food is the easy part,” he says. “It’s getting the proper nutritional elements to public and private sites that operate food pantries and kitchens that is the difficult part of the job.” To aid in the distribution of nutritious meals, the School of Social Work has begun a pilot program called “SouperTech” to provide meal sites with computer systems, software, internet access and training that will allow staff to determine what’s available and how to order nutritionally balanced goods for their clients.

“It’s our hope that better communication between organizations that are focused on providing food to hungry

people will result in better nutrition and more satisfying meals, which will in turn result in better outcomes, in general, for children and adults than we were seeing before more complete nutrition was available to them,” says Gant.

One obstacle that is linked clearly to food insecurity and insufficiency is poverty; and according to researchers at the School’s NIMH Center for Research on Poverty, Risk and Mental Health, preliminary findings support further research regarding the relationship between household food insufficiency and major depression. Research is underway to learn more about “the relationship between epidemiologically assessed household food insufficiency and major depression in low-income women” (www.ssw.umich.edu/nimhcenter).

According to Ribar and Hamrick: “Food insufficiency among U.S. households varies along social and demographic lines. Female-headed households are

more likely to experience food insufficiency and are more likely to remain food insufficient than are other households. Disability status and changes in household composition, such as a change in the number of household members, are both associated with entry into food insufficiency. Completing high school increases the likelihood of exiting food insufficiency...research found that food insufficiency depends on more than just poverty status, indicating that poverty and food insufficiency capture fundamentally different dimensions of economic hardship." (p. 2, 2003)

Professor Kristine Siefert ('75) has been exploring the connections between poverty and outcomes for women and children for much of her career. Through her research, she seeks to identify specific and modifiable social and environmental risk factors for poor health and mental health among low-income women and children in diverse racial/ethnic populations. "The links we're finding between food insecurity and major depression could affect practice and future research in profound ways. Additionally, these findings could inform policies to reduce the public health burden of major depression in food-insufficient households," she says.

Professor Edie Kieffer conducts community-based participatory research related to prevalence, risk factors and interventions to reduce ethnic and geographic disparities in health, including obesity and diabetes. "Studies have demonstrated that risk for diabetes, other chronic diseases and their severe complications can be reduced by moderate levels of physical activity, healthy eating—including vegetables, fruits and high fiber foods—and, for overweight people, modest weight loss." Within three projects, she works with community residents and organizations to develop and implement practical family, social and community interventions to reduce the risk of dia-

betes and its complications among Latino and African American residents of east-side and southwest Detroit.

One project, Healthy Mothers on the Move (Healthy MOMs), aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of a healthy lifestyle intervention tailored to the needs of pregnant and postpartum African American and Latina women. Planned by community women and organizations, the program provides pregnancy education, knowledge, skills and practice related to healthy eating, exercise and stress management in a support group format. "In addition to behavioral changes, we believe that Healthy MOMs participants will be more likely to have appropriate weight gains during, and decreased weight retention after, pregnancy. I'm hopeful that this project will contribute to improved child and family health, both through healthy pregnancies and knowledge and skills they model," Kieffer says.

The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Detroit Partnership's linked community, social support, health system and family interventions aim to develop the capacity and resources needed by community residents and organizations to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and its complications. Kieffer and Professor Michael Spencer direct the research, collaborating with REACH grantee Community Health and Social Services (CHASS). Kieffer states that "trained community resident REACH staff increase community awareness of diabetes risk factors and develop resources such as recreation programs, community gardens and diabetes support groups. They work with people with diabetes, their families and doctors to increase health-related knowledge, behaviors and resources needed for diabetes self-management."

A related project, Promoting Healthy Eating in Detroit (PHED), is conducted in collaboration with the School of Public Health, the Detroit Department of

Health & Wellness Promotion and the REACH Detroit Partnership. It focuses on developing and sustaining supportive community environments and policies aimed at increasing access to, and demand for, healthy foods. PHED assists community organizations to host mini-markets where high-quality fresh produce is sold at wholesale prices. PHED conducts healthy food demonstrations, allowing people to taste new and traditional recipes prepared with healthy cooking techniques and foods. PHED works with restaurants, stores and organizations to create healthy food options on their menus, shelves and meetings.

"One of the obstacles to healthy eating in Detroit is lack of access to healthy foods in many neighborhoods," says Kieffer. "Our work through PHED will empower residents to make healthier food decisions for themselves and their children because they will know how to find and use other options."

—Terri D. Torkko is editor of *Ongoing*

For more information on research in the School, visit www.ssw.umich.edu.

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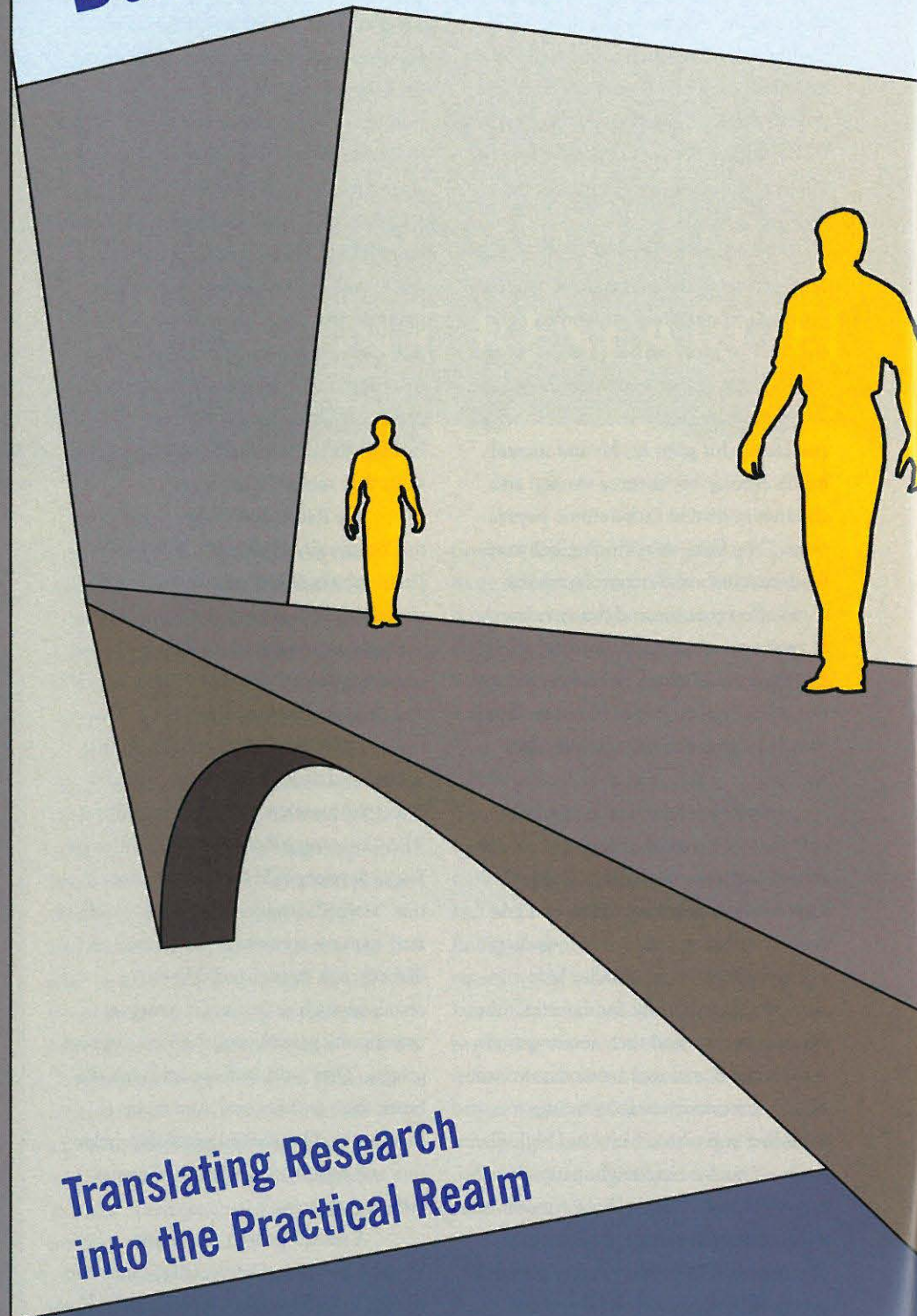
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In July 1940, after years of research and design, the State of Washington proudly opened The Tacoma Narrows Bridge, creating a valuable link between the Olympic Peninsula and the Washington mainland. Four months later, the bridge, subject to swaying rhythmically in even minor winds, began violent undulations. By 11 a.m. on the morning of November 7, 1940, most of the span lay on the floor of Tacoma Narrows, its side spans, with no support, sagged dependently in the wake of the disaster.

What, if anything, could have saved the bridge that was lovingly called "Galloping Gertie?" The simple answer is research. The man who initially designed the bridge wanted to create an elegant strand, gracefully reaching between land masses. Unfortunately, it was this design that caught the wind like a large cement wing instead of shrugging it off. The builders simply did not understand the aerodynamics or design principles that would allow a light, airy structure to stand strong in a breeze. Researching those scientific principles would have produced useful evidence about how (or how not) to build a bridge. A new Tacoma Narrows bridge opened approximately 10 years after Gertie collapsed. The new bridge, now called "Sturdy Gertie" stands today, due in no small part to the premier instance of a research program implemented to investigate the aerodynamic effects of wind acting upon a bridge.

Building Bridges:



Translating Research
into the Practical Realm

So what does a bridge in Washington State have to do with the profession of social work? If we view the bridge in its reality, it means nothing; if we see it as metaphor, it means everything. In the absence of evidence-based research to undergird social work practice and policy, we, too, could be contributing in negative and harmful ways to those we desire to help.

Like other schools of social work, we aspire to generate scientific/empirical evidence to promote the well-being of individuals, families, communities and organizations. Our charge is to generate research and translate it into practical application for consumption by students and other relevant groups/readerships. The very same thing that led to a more enduring Tacoma Narrows bridge—research—will provide the link between academia and practice.

The movement toward evidence-based practice is an evolution of the field of social work. During the early years of social work and social work research, examining practice meant looking “outward at social conditions” rather than looking “inward at the profession’s own interventions” (Mullen, 2002). As both the world and the role of the social worker expanded, particularly in the politically charged 1960s and 1970s, an emerging research field started providing more answers about the effectiveness of traditional social work interventions (Mullen, 2002). The scope of social work research has continued to expand. We now find ourselves playing more roles, assisting more diverse popula-

tions and organizations and working in countries that had not previously been on America’s radar, creating a need for research.

After years of moving towards evidence-based research, social work’s time has finally come. This evidence-based movement is gaining support and recognition among important external organizations. In May 2003, the National Institutes for Health published the NIH Plan for Social Work Research. As requested by Congress, the plan, the first for NIH, “...outlines research priorities, as well as a research agenda, across NIH Institutes and Centers...” (Senate Report 107-216, p. 155). According to the published report the plan calls for:

1. Establishment of a social work research committee, convened to monitor the state of affairs in the field of social work research as it relates to health and the NIH research agenda.
2. Expanded outreach activities to encourage the submission of investigator initiated research projects focused on studies of social work practice and concepts relevant to missions of each of the NIH Institutes.
3. Proposal of a new Program Announcement entitled “Developmental Research on Social Work Practice and Concepts in Health” to provide the impetus and resources to fully incorporate social work’s unique concepts and perspectives into the NIH research portfolio and to build the scientific base to be used by allied health professionals.

4. Implementation of a competitive supplement for current Research Project (R01) grantees patterned after the minority supplement mechanism. Social work researchers would be added to existing research projects to increase mentoring, research training and improve competitiveness for NIH funding.

5. Development and implementation of an NIH Summer Institute of Social Work Research offering new researchers intensive exposure to issues and challenges in the field of social work research.

6. Planning a meeting at NIH, involving all interested ICs and an invited group of deans from schools of social work with doctoral programs to explore the needs of the social work research community and share information about the NIH grant process, areas of research appropriate for social work researchers, and the kind of faculty support needed in order to successfully apply for and conduct NIH funded research.

7. Exploration of the possibility of a joint effort between NIH and social work research organizations to host a conference on the topic of advancing the social work research agenda.

8. Planning a trans-NIH conference highlighting social work research results relevant to health.

9. Development and implementation of coordinated outreach efforts to universities that would include training on writing grants and provide information about research opportunities.

Although considerable details are needed to launch this plan fully,

the push by NIH to include social work research comes as no surprise. Research has shown that social conditions, poverty, the environment and other factors affect the mental and physical state of the individual, as well as community health. Formally calling for collaboration demonstrates that NIH recognizes the significant role of the profession of social work. This support will facilitate the movement



toward more evidence-based research in our field, which will mirror the emphasis on evidence-based research in the medical, nursing and public health fields. As consumers, we rely on the evidence from medical research, knowing that it shapes not only best practice in medical care, but medical education and health care policy.

Our challenge is to develop a milieu within our School that leads to an appreciation and true interest in research among our students. Opportunities to engage our students in the research enterprise as a critical part of their educational preparation is vital.

The School has converted internal and external funding dollars into research

opportunities for students. In the fall of 2003, 91 M.S.W. students were involved directly in research projects, the benefits of which often create unique opportunities for increasing the students' appreciation for research as well as building an undergirding for their practice.

Professor Michael Spencer, Co-Investigator of the SSW Family Development Project, states, "... [F]or many of the students who work with me, it's an opportunity to be exposed to the research process. Many of them don't really know what research entails and don't think about a career in this area, but then consider [it] once being exposed."

In addition to prompting interest in professional research paths, Spencer thinks that research experience opens up the possibilities of different interest and practice areas. "I think in the area of health and child development, students who come to me are typically interested in these areas. Other students have come to me with interests in other areas, but then start to develop interests in [health and child development]. It also provides them with additional knowledge of the literature that they might not get in classes, assessment tools and some knowledge of evaluation all in the context of real life settings [such as community-based research]."

Adjunct lecturer Sallie Foley ('78) has taught Grief and Loss for 23 years, in addition to her work as a Senior Clinical Social Worker (ACSW) at the U-M Medical Center, where she is responsible for the provision of outpatient psychotherapy services, and her

private practice in psychotherapy and consultation. "The practice of social work, either as clinician or teacher, is based upon an understanding of theory and research," she says.

Foley is also an AASECT certified sex therapist and sex educator and writes and speaks frequently on the subject of human sexuality. "The teaching of and treatments for sexual difficulties are excellent examples of the need for research-based practice. Sexual problems have a biopsychosocial basis that requires a strong understanding of research both in physiologic and pharmacologic developments and in advances in clinical practice."

She observes that clinical practice has changed dramatically over the last quarter century, in large part due to ongoing research and its practical application. "In the 1970s, we believed and taught that autism was caused by cold, unfeeling parents. We now know, based on brain research and clinical study, that autism is a communication disorder and is biologically based."

During her time as an instructor of Grief and Loss, she has seen "tremendous shifts in our understanding based on research related especially to trauma, family systems, poverty and social injustice.

"Direct clinical practice is continually in dialogue with research, both on clinical methods and on biologic and sociologic underpinnings for many problems seen in practice. Without a grasp of what research is telling us, I would not be effective either as a clinician or teacher."

—Paula Allen-Meares is Dean and Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work. Melissa Wiersema is special projects coordinator for the School of Social Work.



Michael Lott, CEO of The Guidance Center, Dean Paula Allen-Meares, and Robert Ficano, CEO of Wayne County, at the partnership kick-off event.

THE GUIDANCE CENTER/U-M SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

Dean Paula Allen-Meares and Michael Lott, CEO of The Guidance Center, announce a new collaborative partnership designed to initiate, promote and support training, research, fieldwork and practice. The announcement comes after extensive discussions, review and approval of The Guidance Center Board of Directors and the SSW Executive Committee. The partnership will be for a specific, limited period, after which time the collaboration will be reviewed.

The partnership will allow each organization to expand or enhance their missions in the specific practice and research areas of mental health and children and families. The collaboration will provide opportunities for each entity to pursue partnerships leading to competitive funding, and present a vehicle for the dissemination and utilization of research through training opportunities facilitated by The Guidance Center staff, publications and public forums. Students from the SSW can gain field experience working in all areas of social work practice—administration, policy development, research and clinical practice in placements within The Guidance Center and its related programs.

The new partnership represents “a bridge between academia and practice,” said Dean Paula Allen-Meares. Its evidence-based research will create a knowl-

edge base that not only will strengthen The Guidance Center’s programs but will create best practices for all children’s and family services, she said. “For me, as the Dean of the School, this is a dream that has finally been realized—a formal agreement between the U-M SSW and a vibrant community agency. The Guidance Center is a unique human service agency, in that it views itself as a learning community and seeks to evaluate its practices and to undergird them with evidence.”

The collaboration was announced in conjunction with the November opening of The Guidance Center’s latest endeavor, The Center for Excellence, which will serve as the central location of The Guidance Center/U-M SSW association. The Center for Excellence is a state-of-the-art research and training facility. The Center for Excellence houses an 80-seat training room with an audio-visual link to an additional 30-seat classroom, and a library that will allow collaborators to keep abreast of the latest research in their fields. Collaboratory projects will include U-M SSW faculty and students, personnel from The Guidance Center and two Center for Excellence liaisons who will facilitate and further joint efforts. Approximately ten master’s and doctoral students will work with the program each year.

Deborah Willis (’89) assumed the position of Director of the Center for Excellence in November. She will act as primary liaison between the SSW faculty and students and The Guidance Center staff concerning research proposals, field placements, federal grant requests and other collaborative efforts in the areas of mental health, juvenile justice, early childhood development, vocational rehabilitation, developmental disabilities and family support. For the past 12 years, Willis has conducted program evaluations of human services and juvenile justice programs throughout the country.

The Guidance Center was founded in 1958 in the down-river area of Southeastern Michigan, and has evolved into a behavioral health and human services organization, which operates more than 40 different programs, annually serving over 11,000 families. Early intervention services for children, early childhood education services, juvenile justice prevention and intervention programming, parenting skills training, substance abuse and mental health counseling for children and adults, and literacy and job training are among a wide array of services provided.

—Melissa Wiersema is special projects coordinator for the School of Social Work.

Child welfare grant aims to 'help the system work better'

In a state with a high turnover of child welfare workers and a far higher percentage of children of color than case workers of color in the system, dramatic changes are necessary, says Kathleen Coulborn Faller ('71, Ph.D. '81), professor of social work.



U-M Photo Services, Paul Jaronski

Kathleen Coulborn Faller

Faller says there must be greater emphasis on recruitment and retention, particularly of African American, Latino and Native American professionals. To that end, she and colleagues applied for and recently received a \$1 million grant from the federal Children's Bureau—part of the Department of Health and Human Services—to address these issues.

Children of color "are over-represented in the child welfare system," Faller says. "My feeling is, one way to try to impact that is to have more persons of color in the child welfare field."

Over the next five years, Faller and colleagues will develop curriculum materials designed for use by supervisors and

managers in the child welfare field. The information will help them learn how to recruit and retain well-trained workers, she says. Both MSW students and doctoral students will be involved in the work, assisting with focus groups and literature reviews. Additionally, students will assist with the development of the curriculum and will participate in the training itself, as well as playing a major role in project evaluation.

One objective of the project is to work closely with the child welfare training staff at the state's Child Welfare Institute so the curriculum materials can integrate with existing training and initiatives, the grant proposal says. The project also will go toward creating technical assistance to the state, such as gathering statistics about the rates at which people leave child welfare jobs and conducting exit interviews with workers who depart.

"We're trying to do what we can to help the system work better," Faller says.

The curricula will go on a website so people nationwide can access it, Faller says.

Faller and her colleagues will collaborate with the Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA), the state's department of social services, on the development of the curricula. The training will be delivered seven times in various Michigan sites to staff members from the public and private sectors.

The need for qualified child welfare workers in Michigan is particularly acute now because many employees took an early retirement package last year, and currently the state is requiring all departments to trim their budgets. The former resulted in a 20% reduction in the number of staff in FIA because of the retirement of some workers and the promotion of others into the slots of retiring supervisors, the grant proposal says.

Faller says it's important for faculty at U-M to remember that they work for a public institution. "As such," she says, "we need to be mindful of the needs of the people in the state."

The gap needs to be reduced between the number of case workers and the number of children in the child welfare system who are Latinos, says Robert Ortega ('83, Ph.D. '91), associate professor of social work. He points out that the state's Latino population is increasing rapidly, but, he says, "there are not enough workers who are Spanish-speaking and who are familiar with these communities."

"Because we don't have enough workers to enter these communities, we don't know very much," he says. "By becoming familiar with these communities, you gain access to indigenous concerns. Training then becomes relevant because it allows us to incorporate the unique aspects of culture and the experience of being culturally different."

The implications of not having enough well-trained child welfare workers are potentially devastating, says Frank Vandervort, manager of the Michigan Child Welfare Law Resource Center in the Law School, legal consultant for the development of the curricula.

"When you don't have good workers, the legal system can't adequately protect children," he says. "Child welfare workers need to understand what options are available to them, legal and otherwise."

Faller is the principal investigator. Co-principal investigators are John Tropman (Ph.D. '67), professor of non-profit management and social policy in the School of Social Work and adjunct professor of organizational behavior and human resources in the Business School; Mieko Yoshihama, associate professor of social work; and Ortega.

Others working on this effort are from the University of Oklahoma and the Children's Bureau.

—Katie Gazella is the editor of the U-M faculty and staff publication *The University Record*. A version of this piece was published originally in the November 17, 2003, issue of *The University Record*.

FACULTY NEWS

NEW FACULTY PROFILES

Linda Chatters

Linda M. Chatters is an Associate Professor in the U-M SSW and the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the School



Linda M. Chatters

U-M Photo Services, Martin Vloet

of Public Health. She is a Faculty Associate with the Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research and the Center for Afro-American and African Studies.

The major focus of her research concerns the study of adult development and aging as it relates to the mental and physical health status and functioning of older persons in various social contexts (i.e., the family, church and community). A particular focus of this work investigates religious involvement among the African American population and assessment of the independent effects of relevant religious, personal and social status factors on personal well-being.

She is also interested in family social support networks and intergenerational family relationships. Dr. Chatters's research on religion in the lives of elderly African Americans is supported by grants from the National Institute on Aging. She has edited two books, *Family Life in Black America* (1997) and *Aging in Black America* (1993) with Robert Joseph Taylor and James S. Jackson. She has served on the editorial boards of the *Journals of Gerontology*

(Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences) and is a reviewer for *The Gerontologist*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Journal of Aging and Health*, *Research on Aging*, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *Family Relations* and *Review of Religious Research*.

Professor Chatters joined the SSW faculty in Fall 2003.

Trina Williams

Assistant Professor Trina Williams earned her B.S. in Business Administration from John M. Olin School of Business, in St. Louis, MO; her master's in Comparative Social

Research from the University of Oxford, Oxford, England; and her Ph.D. in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. Professor Williams's research interests include poverty, wealth and child well-being; intergenerational economic inequality, particularly the impact of poverty and wealth inequality on children and youth; and family policies and programs. She joined the SSW faculty in Fall 2003.

Michael Woolley

Assistant Professor Michael Woolley earned his B.S. in Psychology and M.S.W. from Virginia Commonwealth University, after which he worked with children in mental health settings for several years, followed by work with social services in a hospice setting for cancer patients. In 2003, he earned his Ph.D. in social work

from the University of North Carolina. His research interests focus on school social work, interpersonal practice with children and families, development of assessment instruments for practice (particularly with elementary-school-aged chil-



Michael Woolley

U-M Photo Services, Marcia L. Ledford

dren) and the cognitive processes of instrument item response. He joined the faculty in Fall 2003, and holds a joint appointment in the U-M School of Education.

Joseph Himle

Assistant Professor Joseph Himle ('84, PhD '95) researches mental health

interventions with adults and youth. His current projects include randomized trials of group cognitive-behavioral therapy for adults and youth with obsessive-compulsive disorder and telemedicine cognitive-behavioral therapy for adults with depression and diabetes. His research interests also include the association between social anxiety and welfare and the relationship between psychosocial interventions and neurobiological factors. His teaching

interests focus on mental disorders and social work practice in mental health. Dr. Himle holds a



Trina Williams

U-M Photo Services, Paul Jaronski



Joseph Himle

U-M Photo Services, Paul Jaronski

joint appointment with the U-M Department of Psychiatry; he joined the SSW faculty in Fall 2003.

Jose Tapia

Jose Tapia is an Adjunct Assistant Professor and Assistant Research Scientist with the Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations (ILIR). He earned his bachelor's degrees from the School of Medicine at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain, his M.P.H. in Biostatistics from Johns

Hopkins University and his Ph.D. in Economics from New School University in New York City.

In addition to his background as a physician, he has worked with the World Health Organization in Geneva and the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, DC. He has published in the areas of epidemiology, public health and economics, and has taught classes and conducted workshops in scientific publishing, community health and economics. His present research focuses on the impact of economic fluctuations on mortality. Other research interests include the intersections between demography, economic history, economic theory and epidemiology. He has studied the impact of economic fluctuations on mortality in Spain, Sweden and the United States, and is interested in the pathways leading from working and living conditions to changes in mortality.

Dunkle named to Cohen Professorship

Professor Ruth Dunkle has been named the Wilbur J. Cohen Collegiate Professor of Social Work.

Cohen retired from the U-M in 1983, having served as Dean of the School of Education, Professor of Education

and Professor of Public Welfare Administration in the SSW. Before joining the University, Cohen helped draft the Social Security Act of 1935 and served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Johnson.

Professor Dunkle's research, teaching and clinical practice focus on gerontology. Since 1988, she has been a project co-director of a National Institute on Aging training program and serves as co-director of a Hartford Foundation Implementation Grant, "Strengthening Geriatric Social Work."

Lockery Retires

After serving the U-M SSW for 15 years, Shirley Lockery was named Associate Professor Emerita of Social Work in Summer 2003.

Maple Retires

Frank Maple was named Professor Emeritus of Social Work in December, after a career at the School of Social Work that spanned over 40 years.



Ruth Dunkle



Shirley Lockery



Frank Maple

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Community and Groups

Lincoln, K.D., Chatters, L.M., & Taylor, R.J. (2003). Psychological distress among Black and White Americans: Differential effects of social support, negative interaction and personal control. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 44(3), 390-407.

Mowbray, C.T., Gutierrez, L.M., Bellamy, C.D., Szilvagy, S., & Strauss, S. (2003). Replication of a psychosocial rehabilitation program: A case study analysis of supported education. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 31(5), 437-457.

Taylor, R.J., Chatters, L.M. & Levin, J. (2004). *Religion in the lives of African Americans*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Health

Chadiha, L.A., & Adams, P. (2003). Physical health and economic well-being of older African American women: Toward strategies of empowerment. In B. Berkman & L. Harootyan (Eds.), *Social work and health care in an aging world* (pp. 149-176). New York: Springer.

van Olphen, J., Schulz, A., Israel, B., Chatters, L., Klem, L., Parker, E., & Williams, D. (2003). Religious involvement, social support, and health among African American women on the east side of Detroit. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 18 (7), 549-557.



Jose Tapia

Mental Health

Chadiha, L.A., Adams, P., Phorano, O., Ong, S.L., & Byers, L. (2003). Cases from the field: Stories told and lessons learned from Black female caregivers' vignettes for empowerment practice. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 40 (1/2), 135-144.

Chadiha, L.A., Rafferty, J., & Pickard, J. (2003). The influence of stressors, satisfaction and social support on African American wife caregivers' marital functioning. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 29 (4), 479-490.

Megivern, D., Pellerito, S., & Mowbray, C.T. (2003). Barriers to higher education for individuals with psychiatric disabilities. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 26(3), 217-231.

Oyserman, D. (2003). Depression during the school-aged years. In P. Allen-Meares & M. Fraser (Eds.), *Intervention with children and adolescents: An interdisciplinary perspective* (pp. 264-281). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Rosen, D., Spencer, M. S., Tolman, R., Williams, D. R., & Jackson, J. S. (2003). The prevalence of psychiatric disorders among low-income women. *Health and Social Work*, 28, 157-165.

Research and Evaluation

Mowbray, C.T., Holter, M.C., Teague, G.B., & Bybee, D. (2003). Fidelity criteria: Development, measurement and validation. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 24(3), 315-340.

Recent Faculty Honors, Awards and Presentations

Linda M. Chatters presented work on complementary and alternative medicine use among male urology patients at the 131st Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in November.

Linda M. Chatters and Robert Joseph Taylor presented the poster "Church Support Networks of Older Blacks at the 56th Annual Scientific Meetings of the Gerontological Society of America in San Diego in November.

Jorge Delva has joined the Survey Research Center at the U-M Institute for Social Research. He will work on the Bridging the Gap Initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Monitoring the Future project, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, where he will study individual and contextual-level factors associated with substance abuse, nutrition and the intersection of both among national representative samples of youth.

William Meezan and Bowen McBeath presented "Managed Care in Michigan's Child Welfare System: Examining the Effects on Service Delivery and Child Outcomes" at the National Conference on Child Welfare Research and Tools that Work, Child Welfare League of America, in Miami in November. Meezan and McBeath (along with members of the Agency Evaluation Advisory Committee) also hosted a day-long dissemination conference, funded by the U-M Office of the Vice

President for Research, "Wayne County Foster Care Pilot Initiative—First Research Results" in October. For more information, visit gpy.ssw.umich.edu/projects/foster/firstConference.htm.

Meezan was also invited to present "Staff Turnover and Issues of Retention in Public Child Welfare" at the Second Annual Conference sponsored by the National Association of Deans and Directors (NADD)/National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) Task Force on Child Welfare—Developing Strategies to Re-professionalize Child Welfare in America: An Invitational Working Conference in October.

Robert Joseph Taylor has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Social Psychology, Personality and Interpersonal Processes Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, for a term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2007.

Michael Spencer presented the plenary "The Role of Discrimination and Cultural Competence in Treating Children of Color" at the conference Counseling and Treating People of Colour: An International Perspective Conference in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico in November. He also presented a paper entitled "The REACH Detroit Partnership: Success and Challenges" (with G. Palmisano) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Diabetes Translation Conference.

PROFESSOR HOWARD BRABSON

Howard Brabson still calls them his “kids,” never mind that some are now in their 50s and grandparents themselves. Their framed photos line every shelf and surround the maize and blue tiled fireplace in the Michigan Room downstairs. “I designed it for the kids, when they come back and visit,” he explains.

And they do come back, not just the 74 Michigan athletes he mentored, but students he taught during his 22 years at the School of Social Work. He can tell you their life stories and the names of their children. Brabson counts them all as extended family.



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Professor Howard Brabson

In a distinguished career that spanned teaching, consulting, curriculum development and international leadership, the kids—his kids—are his gauge of success.

Raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, Brabson began working with youth when he was only 16 himself, as a program director for the YMCA. Math and law were his interests until his wife pointed out the opportunities in social work. He finished a B.S. while serving as an Army officer, the first African American graduate of Arkansas' College of the Ozarks. On scholarship, he earned an M.S.W.

and later a D.S.W. from the National Catholic School of Social Service.

He worked as a caseworker, school superintendent and administrator with VISTA before joining the School of Social Work in 1969, part of the School's growing commitment to recruit, serve and retain minority students.

“Several of us were particularly concerned about the difficulties facing student athletes. Many of the Black athletes had never been at a large integrated institution. They tended to isolate themselves. I wanted them to really experience the University and all it had to offer.”

The group formed a mentorship program which matched individual faculty and staff members with first-year athletes. For Brabson, the relationships usually continued through graduation and beyond.

He told the students, “I know you are glad to be admitted to the University of Michigan; now you have to do the University of Michigan work! We emphasized academics, helped them form study groups and learn to manage their time. They appreciated the support,” he adds. “We did not have to win them over.”

Brabson was building other bridges as well. He developed new courses such as “Social Work in the Black Community” and “Afro-American Life and Culture,” and helped bring more minority-related content into the existing curriculum. Other universities sought his input on curriculum development. As his reputation grew, so did his involvement on the state, regional and national levels, including the White House Conference on Families, the National Symposium on

Social Security and several Health and Human Services task forces.

He is perhaps best known as a founder of the National Association of Black Social Workers, which now has 113 chapters and over 3,000 members. Brabson is a past president of NABSW and convener of its international conferences, which bring hundreds of social workers each year to Africa and the Caribbean. He served as a national consultant to NABSW after retiring from U-M in 1991, and in 2000 received the group's Lifetime Achievement Award.

He has been honored around the country for humanitarianism and community service, and by the University with its prestigious Faculty Recognition Award.

Yet nothing else matches the satisfaction he has gained from teaching and mentoring. By the mid-'80s, the mentoring program was so successful it was officially adopted by the Athletics Department. Former Head Football Coach Bo Schembechler called Brabson, “one of the great teachers of this institution. He has great interest in these young people—more than any other man I've met here.”

More broadly, he simply has a great interest in all people. Brabson still attends his Army battalion reunions. A genealogist, he maintains records of some 1,700 descendants of his great, great grandmother. And his active travel and consulting activities create more opportunities to visit the kids.

“I enjoyed every one of them,” he declares. “And I still do. Every person is very special to me.”

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

AROUND THE SCHOOL

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Ruth McRoy

Fauri Lecture

In November, Professor Ruth McRoy delivered the Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Lecture, "Improving Outcomes for Children and Families: An Intersystemic Approach to Child Welfare Service Delivery." McRoy is the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor in Services to Children and Families, Associate Dean for Research and Director of the Center for Social Work Research at the

University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work.

All-School Event

On October 22, 2003, the SSW hosted an event designed to bring all students, faculty and staff together, in order to create a stronger sense of community in the SSW and teach some skills related to dealing with conflict. A focus of the event was to celebrate, reflect on, and enhance the new curriculum change—the focus on PODS (Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice).

The event included presentations by Professors Michael Spencer, Larry Gant (MSW '81, PhD '86), and Debbie Gioia, Adjunct Lecturer David Martineau ('00), and Foula Dimopoulos ('03). Speakers addressed issues of diversity and social justice in the classroom, conflict in the classroom and in field, how to accept conflict and turn it into something productive, etc.

Graduate Students at the All-School Event in October



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Student Honors and Awards

Michael Mackenzie, doctoral candidate in social work and psychology, has won the Division 37 (Child, Youth and Family Services) American Psychological Association Student Poster Award, for his poster "Child Minority Status and Child Protective Services Case Decisions." The poster was presented by Mackenzie and Elizabeth Johnson (doctoral candidate in social work and psychology).

Doctoral candidates Abbie Lawrence (social work and sociology) and Hae Sook Jeon (social work and psychology) have been awarded Hartford Pre-Doctoral Fellowships.

Elana Buch (doctoral candidate in social work and anthropology) has won the Henry J. Meyer Award for her paper *Giving Care: Personhood, Morality and Exchange in the Constitution of Relatedness*. The award honors the original and long-time director of the Doctoral Program, Henry J. Meyer. Its major purpose is to support and honor students in the Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science whose written work exemplifies the goals of integrating social work and social science. All submissions to this competition are adjudicated by blind review by a full committee of faculty and graduate students representing all disciplines allied with the Joint Program.

International Students Host Event

In October 2003, the International Social Work Student Association hosted an international night, giving faculty, staff and students the opportunity to learn about different cultural values and traditions, as well as differences between Asian countries. The event included an introduction to traditional Asian clothing; a panel presentation on social work in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China and India; and poster displays about the various cultures currently represented in the School.



Students in traditional costume pose with staff and faculty. (Left to right) Bum Jung Kim, Korea; Jun Hoe Kim, Korea; Yi-Lung Yang, Taiwan; Oliva Kuester, Field Instruction Office, Philippines; Dean Paula Allen-Mearns; Jaehee Yi, Korea; Haijing Dai, China; Pei-Yu Su, Taiwan; Keng Fan Chan (Marinda), Macao; and Chiung-Hsuan Huang (Ellen), Taiwan.

Graduation

Graduation was held on December 13 in the Power Center on the University of Michigan campus. Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje delivered the commencement address; 150 students were awarded M.S.W. degrees, and two were awarded Ph.D. degrees. Congratulations to our new alumni!



Lily Jarman-Reisch

Jarman-Reisch Retirement

In October, Lily Jarman-Reisch ('82) retired after 20 years on the SSW staff. She served as the Director of Field Instruction.

Denzin Presents Workshop

In October, Norman Denzin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented a qualitative workshop for faculty and students.



Norman Denzin

Ronald Kessler Visits SSW

Ronald C. Kessler presented the talk "How many people are mentally ill in America? A review of the controversy" at the School of Social Work in October. Professor Kessler is an often-cited researcher and teaches health care policy at Harvard Medical School.

Doctoral Candidates Present Research

In January, 21 of the 79 active candidates in the Joint Doctoral Social Work and Social Sciences presented their work at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research in New Orleans.

Inna Altschul (Social Work and Sociology). *Utilizing social science evidence to ascertain cultural appropriateness of school-to-jobs for a Mexican American population.*

Chyrell Bellamy (Social Work and Psychology) with Orion Mowbray, Carol T. Mowbray, Mark Holter and Peter MacFarlane. *Relevance of spirituality for people recovering from a serious mental illness.*

Chyrell Bellamy (Social Work and Psychology) with Mark Holter and Carol Mowbray. *Assessing consumer-centered mental health services.* In the symposium "Beyond mental health treatment: Research on psychosocial rehabilitation services."

Luke Bergman (Social Work and Anthropology). *Conflicting claims to credibility and credulity: Participant observation with drug dealers?*

Elana Buch (Social Work and Anthropology) with Karen Staller. *Qualitative methods: Creating depth through case study.* In symposium with Karen Staller, Kathleen Faller, Bill Birdsall, Frank Vandervort and Jim Henry, *Using diverse methods to understand successful child sexual abuse prosecutions.*

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Summerson Carr (Social Work and Anthropology). Organized symposium, *Anthropological methods for social work research: Problems and possibilities*. Kim Clum (Social Work and Anthropology), discussant.

Jenell Clarke (Social Work and Psychology) with Michael Spencer. *Conceptualizations of racism among African Americans and White Americans*.

Amelia Gavin (Social Work and Political Science). Organized symposium, "African American women and depression: New findings on a neglected topic."

Amelia Gavin (Social Work and Political Science) with David R. Williams, Kristine Siefert, Julia F. Hastings and Jorge Delva. *Obesity and depression in African American women*.

Sara Goodkind (Social Work and Sociology) with Mary Ruffolo and Rosemary Sarri. *Community-based programs for high-risk adolescent girls: A longitudinal study*.

Lourdes Gutierrez-Najera (Social Work and Anthropology). *Harnessing globalization's dynamic for social work: Perspectives from anthropology*.

Amy Hammock (Social Work and Sociology) with Mieko Yoshihama. *Does domestic violence lead to receipt of welfare or are women on welfare at a higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence: A lifecourse analysis*.

Elizabeth Johnson (Social Work and Psychology) and Mike Mackenzie (Social Work and Psychology).

Overrepresentation of minority children in the foster care system: Is there bias on the part of minority caseworkers?

Sang Khang (Social Work and Psychology) with Carol Mowbray. *Factors influencing self-esteem among individuals with severe mental illness: Implications for social work practice*.

Sang Khang (Social Work and Psychology) with Carol Mowbray, Daphna Oyserman and Deborah I. Bybee. *Changes in parenting among mothers with SMI: Latent growth curve analyses*.

Shawna Lee (Social Work and Psychology) with Daphna Oyserman. Organized symposium "Theory-guided prevention research," and paper *Theory-guided prevention research*.

Shawna Lee (Social Work and Psychology) with Amiram Vinokur. *Modeling psychological change among welfare recipients and Structural model analysis of a welfare-to-work intervention; and Intervening to address work barriers among welfare recipients*.

Anthony Mallon (Social Work and Political Science). *Implementing a workforce development program for welfare recipients in Detroit: Maintaining goal congruence among myriad stakeholders*.

Mike Mackenzie (Social Work and Psychology) with David J. Tucker. *Attachment theory and change processes in foster care*.

Bowen McBeath (Social Work and Political Science) with Bill Meezan. Organized symposium, "Managed

care in child welfare: An overview, process and outcome study of an incentive based contracting model in Wayne County, Michigan."

Bowen McBeath (Social Work and Political Science) with Bill Meezan. *Managed care in child welfare: An emerging phenomena?; Moving toward managed care in child welfare: A qualitative study; The impact of performance based contracting on service delivery in child welfare?; and The impact of performance based contracting on child outcomes in child welfare*.

Melnee McPherson (Social Work and Sociology) with Carol T. Mowbray, Deborah I. Bybee, Peter McFarlane and Daphna R. Oyserman. *Substance misuse and interpersonal violence in a community sample of mothers with severe mental illness*.

Ann P. Rall (Social Work and Anthropology). *Anthropology, social work and the study of trauma counseling in "post-war" Rwanda*.

David Sommerfeld (Social Work and Sociology). *Social services for hire: Assessing the causes and consequences of increased business activity within social service industries*.

Jeffrey Shook (Social Work and Sociology). *The designation provision: An alternative to criminal court processing for juveniles?*

Amanda Toler (Social Work and Sociology) with Carol Mowbray, Mark Holte and Deborah I. Bybee. *Racial differences in perceptions of social support in consumer-centered services*.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Deborah Cherrin

SSW Announces New Development Director

In January, the School welcomed a new Director of Development and Alumni Relations to the staff. Deborah B. Cherrin has an extensive, successful track record in corporate, foundation and individual giving. Most recently, she was Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving at the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Cherrin is a 1980 U-M alumna. You can contact her at ssw.development@umich.edu.

2003 Homecoming Open House and Reception

Alumni from near and far gathered at the School of Social Work on Friday, October 17, 2003, and filled the School of Social Work's halls touring the building, dropping in on the video lectures in the Educational Conference Center and visiting with faculty in their offices. Professor Emeritus Jesse Gordon led tours of the art collection and building. Edward Gramlich's lecture on Social Security Reform in the 21st Century (Winkelman Lecture, 2000) and James Jackson's lecture on "A

Megan Furman

National Study on Black Americans and other Racial and Ethnic Groups in the Diversifying America in the 21st Century" (part of the 2001 SSW Research Office Lecture Series) were delivered by videotape in the Educational Conference Center.

It was the first visit to our new location for many alumni, who exchanged memories of the Frieze Building during the Dean's Reception. Alumni were delighted to return and are looking forward to next year's Homecoming Open House. Please save Friday, October 8, 2004, and join us for the 2004 Homecoming Open House and Reception.

University of Michigan Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Service Award

The School is honored to report that Martha Purdy Stein ('64, MSW '80)



Martha Purdy Stein

received the U-M 2003 Distinguished Alumni Service Award, given by the Alumni Association to alumni who

have "distinguished themselves by reason of services performed on behalf of the University of Michigan or in connection with its organized alumni activities." Purdy Stein was nominated and received the award for her service to the University of Michigan and her fellow human beings. Her work since graduation has included developing programs for at-risk populations, training and supervising social work interns and a Peace Corps assignment in Ecuador.

On the Road...

Professor John Tropman (PhD, '67), Dean Paula Allen-Meares and Development Officer Karin Roberts organized alumni group gatherings in Chicago and Grand Rapids during Fall 2003. In September, the first alumni group met in Chicago. December brought together an alumni group in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After an informal reception, Professor Tropman gave a short talk on "Effective Meetings: Getting as Little Done as You Do Now in Half the Time." During 2004, we hope to visit other locations and gather alumni to meet each other, learn about their experiences, share their experiences with us and let us know ways we may assist them.

As always, we welcome your feedback on ways that we can improve the School based upon the experiences that you have had since graduation. We hope that these meetings will facilitate graduates communicating, sharing and helping one another.

—Karin Roberts is the Development Officer in the School of Social Work

Gregory Fox



How one
little letter
changed
your life.

Michigan may
be a long way
from where you
are today, but
it's a very short
distance from
who you are.



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ALUMNI NEWS

Pioneers

JANET OLSZEWSKI

As Janet Olszewski describes it, she's doing "work that's good for the soul."

Olszewski, Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), earned her M.S.W. in 1975, focusing on administration and policy, with a specialty in gerontology. "In the early 1970s, there weren't many schools that offered both. The University of Michigan did."

Olszewski says she became interested in working with the elderly after graduating from Boston University. She spent a year at the Women's Educational and Industrial Union in Boston, working on the senior companion program, where she matched volunteers with older citizens. "I helped with the USDA surplus food program—this was before food

stamps—and drove people to medical appointments. From the time I was in early high school, I knew I wanted to work in a profession that helped people. I am intrigued by the interaction of people with their environment, with society."

Created in 1996, MDCH is a consolidation of parts of the former Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, the Medical Services Administration, the Office of Drug Control Policy, Office of Services to the Aging and the Crime Victims Services Commission. Appointed by Gov.

Jennifer Granholm, Olszewski began her position January 1, 2003.

From 2000 to 2003, Olszewski was vice president for government programs and regulation at M-CARE, a nonprofit managed care organization owned by the University of Michigan. Before that, she spent 23 years working for the State of Michigan.

Like most state departments, the MDCH is battling a tight budget. "Since we took office, we had to issue an executive order to reduce the fiscal 2003 budget," Olszewski says. "We're in the process of reducing the '04 budget and we're preparing an '05 budget for a fiscal climate that doesn't get any better. That's our backdrop—we're helping the governor preserve programs for children, the elderly and disabled in a difficult fiscal climate."

With a lean budget and burgeoning responsibilities, some might shy away from the job. But Olszewski seems to relish it as she lists the MDCH's highest priorities.

Olszewski stresses public health. "It's our first line of prevention," she says. "We're emphasizing prevention. Chronic diseases represent 70% of health care costs. We have to stress healthy lifestyles, healthy behavior, exercise, eating properly. That's a major focus."

Mental health is another area for focus and study. "How mental health care is provided is an issue in Michigan. Where it is provided is an issue—the remaining state hospitals are all in the southern part of the

state. We need to figure out how to provide care and security for folks in the community appropriately."

Finally, child services and long-term care are priorities, as well.

It's an overwhelming prospect, and it's not a comprehensive list. But Olszewski says she's pleased with the progress made in the time she's been in the position.

Olszewski has a strong background in Medicare and Medicaid administration, and says she worries that the recent changes in Medicare might be confusing to the people it could help. "It's very important that we provide prescription drug coverage for seniors," she says. "I sincerely hope that this will be a benefit. But I think it's complex and may be confusing and could lead to people not using the benefit appropriately."

Is there time for anything besides work? Olszewski laughs. "I'm a backpacker, although I don't have enough free time for that. I love to go out in the woods and camp for a week. I have a good friend and she and I have been going out camping for a week for 18 or 19 years." She also enjoys gardening and running.

If her job seems overwhelming, she says she was ready for it. "I really believe that my time in Ann Arbor prepared me well. I received good training and counsel, and I appreciate the background it gave me. It also made me rabid Wolverine fan."

—Catherine Conlan is a freelance writer who lives near Lindstrom, Minnesota.



Janet Olszewski

UFW President Visits School of Social Work

As part of the University's Martin Luther King, Jr., 2004 Symposium, Arturo S. Rodriguez ('73), President of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), presented *Still Separate? Still Unequal?: Mobilizing Communities for Social Action Responses* in January.

In 1966, Cesar Chavez and Dolores C. Huerta founded the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. Rodriguez took over as president of the organization in May 1993, after the death of Chavez in April of the same year.

Presenting to a room full of students, faculty, alumni and community members, Rodriguez talked about his time in the School and how it impacted his career path. "I came from a small town in Texas. I didn't have opportunities to experience a lot of things. Coming to the University of Michigan exposed me to other cultures and other opportunities without the fear of what others might think. Students, professors and other people were always encouraging me to participate in new experiences, both in class and outside of class."

As a U-M graduate student in the early 1970s, Rodriguez organized people in support of farm worker boycotts. One of Chavez' beliefs was in the power of consumers, both nationally and globally. Because agribusiness controlled all of life in the rural areas that employed farm workers, Chavez took the fight for workers' rights outside of the immediate area, asking people across the nation to boycott table grapes until labor conditions improved for workers. At the height

of the boycott, 17 million Americans were boycotting grapes.

According to Rodriguez, "Boycotts are one way to force change in the agribusiness industry. Each individual can have an impact and bring about social change if they are willing to do that. Sacrifices must be made, but one individual really can make a difference."

Today, UFW is the flagship organization of the farm workers movement. They practice what Chavez taught—*si se puede* (It can be done!). UFW's current projects focus on securing representation for farm workers both in the workplace and beyond. They also emphasize involvement in politics and passing legislation—coupling those efforts with that of organizing workers is, in the words of Rodriguez, "critical to our success. Over the years, the demographics of agribusiness workers have changed dramatically. When Cesar began his work, African Americans, Hispanics and Caucasians all worked in the fields. Today, it's mostly Hispanics, and 90–95% of the workers are undocumented. They're coming to the United States to do jobs that no one else wants to do."

Recent UFW victories include achieving binding arbitration for California farm workers and negotiating bipartisan legislation to allow undocumented farm workers to achieve legal status by working in agriculture.

"The San Joaquin Valley is the largest agricultural area in the United States," said Rodriguez. "Hundreds of thousands of farm workers work there,



U-M Photo Services, Marcia L. Ledford

Arturo S. Rodriguez

and they're ready to elect people who will really represent them. Four years ago when UFW started working with politicians there, they'd meet with us, but they asked us not to wear our t-shirts and buttons with the Eagle (the UFW logo) on them. They didn't want to be seen as allies. Today, they want that alliance with us—they seek us out because we have political power."

—Terri D. Torkko is editor of *Ongoing*.

Rodriguez' visit was sponsored by the U-M School of Social Work, Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations, Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning and the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs.

Sources:

www.ufw.org

www.freethechildren.org

Ortega, R.M. (2004). Introduction of Arturo Rodriguez. Delivered January 21, 2004, at the University of Michigan.

Class Notes

1964

Richard English, Dean of the School of Social Work at Howard University, has been appointed Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Howard as of July 1, 2003.

1969

Lilliana Belardo served 18 years as a senator in the Virgin Islands' Legislature, 12 years as a social worker, and is now retired. She manages her own business, Sun Lilly Gifts and Souvenir Shop. She would like to hear from some of her classmates, especially her roommates.

1970

James (Jim) Lein retired September 30 after 33 years in mental health work, mainly public sector direct service, though with some private work and some administration, consultation, teaching and writing. As for his retirement, he says, "Enough psychotherapy—as a therapist. Probably time for some as a client." He plans more reading and writing though no more 'rithmetic—those three basic skills that SSW helped him transform into the complex intellectual and interpersonal skills of social work. He appreciates *Ongoing* keeping him up to date with SSW, including about professors he studied under, such as those noted in the Summer/Fall 2003 issue: the quintessential, complete prof, Ed Thomas; the then young prof with the 1930s radical look, John Tropman, and the ever-patient, ever-instructive Harvey Bertcher.

1971

Michael Cortes has been named Director, Institute for Nonprofit Organization Management at the University of San Francisco, College of Professional Studies.

1972

Rebecca Flores presented "Fighting for Justice in the Workplace, from 1975 to Now: The Journeys of a Chicana Organizer" in October in the McGregor Commons at the SSWB. In the interactive session, she discussed issues in the workplace facing workers and strategies for surfacing and addressing these, with examples of what it is like to work as a Chicana organizer in multiple contexts and using many different types of strategies. Currently, Flores is employed by the AFL-CIO.

1973

Douglas Fraser recently retired after 30 years of service with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary.

1977

Peter Bleby is on the Executive Team of Anglicare South Australia, one of the largest non-government human service organizations in that state. His responsibilities include advocacy on behalf of client groups, including lobbying government, media liaison, public relations, promotion of the organization and internal communications.

1981

Bonnie Anderson, chair of the Program, Budget and Finance Joint Standing Committee for two terms, was elected vice president of the House of Deputies for the Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA). Anderson brings a depth of General Convention experience to her new positions. She has been a deputy for five terms, has served on the deputies' President's Council of Advice, and has helped lead anti-racism training. A retired instructor at the University of Michigan, her areas of specialization include

Rebecca Flores ('72) speaks in the SSW McGregor Commons.



women's studies, natural resources and organizational development.

1983

Amy Ellwood was re-appointed for a second term to the Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers, for which she is the Vice-President.

1985

Karen Fein received her Ph.D. in Social Welfare this spring from State University of New York at Albany. Her research addresses the service needs of female offenders, as well as the relationship between the social welfare and criminal justice systems. She weaves both practice and policy into her work. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor.

Marlene Larkins has worked for over 30 years with mentally ill, developmentally disabled and substance abusers. She retired as Liaison at Michigan Rehabilitation, now known as MOCD. In her two years of retirement, she has been volunteering for the American Red Cross utilizing her skills in crisis counseling to aid victims of the following disaster areas: 9-11 in NYC, flooding in Illinois, typhoon Chaatan in Guam, Hurricanes Lilly and Isodore in Louisiana and Hurricane Claudette in Texas. She is doing disaster relief for fire victims in her community.

1988

David Fisher worked in Child Welfare for many years, including being a supervisor and a few years as a therapist in Community Mental Health. He helped implement wrap-around services, worked in development,

training and troubleshooting for the State of Michigan Services Worker Support system for Child Welfare. He is proud of his accomplishments in Wayne County in that regard.

1989

Laurie Lytel has started a part-time psychotherapy practice, focusing on troubled adolescents and children. She also works part-time at the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, with children 0-6 and their families. She loves her work and has found her niche with children. She and her partner of 22 years continue to live in Las Vegas.

1995

David Contorer, director of Donor Development for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, has been selected by the United Jewish Communities (UJC) to become a National Recruitment Corps member. Corps members will be trained to attract young professionals to begin careers in the federation system throughout the United States.

James Gangwisch earned his Ph.D. Spring 2003 from Columbia University's School of Social Work and is currently doing a post-doctoral fellowship in Psychiatric Epidemiology at Columbia University's School of Public Health.

Raviv Schwartz is a doctoral student in the Social Work Department of Ben-Gurion University. His main areas of research are peace organizations and Israel-Diaspora relations.

1996

Karen Lincoln (Ph.D., '02) has been selected as a 2003 Hartford Faculty Scholar. Funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by the Gerontological Society of America, the program provides professional development opportunities and \$100,000 in funding over two years. Lincoln is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington School of Social Work.

Alisa Lundy Peterson, L.I.C.S.W., has worked as an oncology social worker since 1998. In 2001, she created a school counseling program at the Hutch School, which serves siblings, children of adult patients and pediatric bone marrow transplant patients. She and her husband live in Seattle.

Samuel Sokolove is the 2003 Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel (AJCOP) recipient of the Bernard Rodkin Israel Experience Award.

Amy Bess Wachtel has worked for the past three years at the New York headquarters of the International Rescue Committee in the Children Affected by Armed Conflict Unit, providing long-distance and on-site technical support to field programs in over 20 countries. In November, she began a new position with the IRC in Liberia as Child Protection Coordinator. She will oversee the development and operation of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration program for former child soldiers and formal and non-formal education programs for war-affected children and youth.

1997

Andrew Zelno received the North Carolina Council of Community Mental Health Programs award for excellence in mental health services to children. This award highlights his work with sexually aggressive youth, childhood sexual abuse victims and their families.

1998

Jau-Yu Lin wrote to say hello to everyone.

Kristin Meekhof is working for Oakland County, Michigan Court-Family Division as a Clinic Service Coordinator for the Psychological Clinic.

2000

Kevin Asp has worked in Connecticut at St. Francis Hospital adult psychiatric and dual diagnosis unit for three years. He works within a traditional mental health environment, as well as within a recovery-based model of treating substance abuse.

Blair Barton-Percival and Rachel Cannon married in June of 2001. They purchased a home in Greensboro, NC in 2002. Barton-Percival is employed in his chosen areas of community organizing and gerontology, and Cannon is working for Hospice of Greensboro.

Lorin Kummer began a therapeutic art program for grieving and transitional children at a nonprofit arts center in Chelsea, MI, utilizing her M.S.W. as well as her undergraduate work in fine arts and psychology.

2001

Stacie Hopkins-Schrumpf worked with adolescents at a non-profit agency in

Muskegon for two years after graduation. In August 2003, she accepted a position as a middle school social worker for Holton Public Schools in Muskegon County. She loves her new job! Since graduating, she got married and bought their first home in June 2003.

Sarah Firmin Osborn has been working with adolescent boys in the Bronx who have Axis I diagnosis. She finds her work exciting and challenging. With her upcoming relocation to New Jersey (due to her marriage!), she will soon have another job.

2002

Wendy Ascione is an Americorps member working for a volunteer center in Tucson, AZ, developing and facilitating service learning projects for youth.

William Dethlefs received the Social Worker of the Year Award from the Suffolk Division of the New York State Chapter of NASW in September 2003.

Julia Dodge is working as a social worker in New York City. She is attending New York University's psychotherapy program part-time.

2003

Princess Currence has founded KuumbaWorks, a nonprofit, community-based human service agency that provides a full range of social work services, community renewal and building initiatives, and culturally sensitive educational programming to empower at-risk youth and families who live in urban areas.

Leslie M. Matos has been accepted into the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society.

IN MEMORIAM

Melva Y. Addison ('02), Ypsilanti, MI, died on October 12, 2003.

Julie C. Railey ('86), East Lansing, MI, died in September 2003 due to complications following a brain aneurysm. She was employed at Child and Family Services, Capitol Area, and maintained a private practice. She is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

William J. Reid ('52), Albany, NY, died in November 2003 after a short illness. He was a leading figure in the movement to develop empirically tested interpersonal practice, largely through his creative development of task-centered work. He was a faculty member at SUNY Albany's School of Social Welfare and chair of their doctoral program.

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