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SAVE THE DATE

Children, Youth, and Families Collaboratory
Thursday, May 10, 2007, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Detroit Center, 3663 Woodward Ave.
Professor Sean Joe and the Children’s Center of Detroit will discuss teen suicide and homicide. For more information, see page 13.

Joint Doctoral Program’s 50th Anniversary
Thursday, October 11, & Friday, October 12, 2007
Call to reserve a hotel room: 734-763-6886
For more information, see page 22.

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From the Dean

I am happy to announce that our MSW program reaffirmation proposal was accepted by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). In her column on page 12, Associate Dean for Educational Programs Mary Ruffolo explains the new collaboratives that are a part of our proposal.

As of March 1, the School is 95 percent of the way to our $16.5 million goal as part of The Michigan Difference, the university-wide fundraising campaign. Many thanks to those of you who have contributed; you are making a difference in helping us achieve the goal of a more just, equal, healthy, and productive society.

The most critical need right now is in student support, for which we have raised 71 percent of our goal. Two recent student scholarships—by alumnus Larry Davis (PhD '77), who is now dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh, and by Professor Emerita Kay Reebel—have helped meet needs in this area (see p. 21).

I am thrilled that the alumni Board of Governors has created a Practicum Award to help students participate in out-of-state and international field placements. Please consider giving generously to this amazing opportunity. (See page 20 for more details.)

I am so proud of our students and the initiative they take in working at the state, national, and international levels. The story on pages 18 and 19 gives a glimpse into the experiences of four students, who are only a sample of the many fine individuals we are privileged to know at the School.

Many students are exercising their leadership skills at the School. On December 7, I met with seven students who are heading up special projects, including the following.

Shannon Andrzejewski, a McGregor Geriatric Fellow, leads Sigma Phi Omega, the Gerontological Honor’s Society. The society is dedicated to promoting scholarship, professionalism, and friendship to older persons. Besides participating in the Alzheimer’s Walk (see p. 15), Sigma Phi Omega members organized its second annual gift drive for the residents at Northfield Place Nursing Facility in Whitmore Lake.

Dayna Johnson heads the Association of Black Social Work Students (ABSWS), which provides information to the SSW community about HIV/AIDS to address the epidemic, especially among African Americans. They hosted a movie series during the fall semester and mentor youth in metro Detroit by providing tutoring and assistance in college preparation activities.

Amber Moore, an active member of Social Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA), organized an informational session for Proposal 2. On November 7, Michigan voters adopted this proposal, banning affirmative action programs. Diversity, however, remains a central objective for both higher education and social work. The spirit of fairness, inclusiveness, and equal opportunity are inherent in the missions of the School and the University.

Amber also helped organize a trip to Washington, D.C., when the Supreme Court heard a challenge to the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation case. Just under forty of our students drove through the night to rally with thousands of other students on December 4 to voice support for civil rights in America’s classrooms.

Scott Tharp leads the Men in Social Work Discussion Group (MSWDG), which provides a space for male students, faculty, and staff to support one another and discuss issues of masculinity in a safe, inquisitive environment. The MSWDG also engages in outreach and education. They have collaborated with the Feminist Toolshed to raise awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The vision and exuberance of these students are motivating for all of us.

We are gratified to reach 50 years of our unique and highly cultivating Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science (see p. 22) and hope that many of you will make plans to join us at the anniversary celebrations on October 11 and 12.

—Paula Allen-Meares, Dean
Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work and Professor of Education
SSW Collaborates with U-M Depression Center

Laura Nitzberg is cofounder of the Family Education Workshop. Ed.

Socially conscious Reggi Marder entered the field of social work with an interest in helping victims of domestic violence. Eventually she worked in AIDS intervention and prevention, training those working with AIDS patients, including in the areas of mental health and strain.

When this vibrant, socially active woman developed severe depression, she eventually told her friends and got treatment. But in August 2005, at the age of 50, Reggi committed suicide, leaving behind a husband and three children.

“The stigma associated with depression perhaps kept her from accepting and being able to deal with how severe the problem was,” said Professor Richard Tolman, a close friend of Reggi, who had admitted that she did not take her antidepressant medication regularly due to the stigma of depression. Tolman is involved in setting up a foundation in her memory that will work to decrease the stigma associated with depression.

One of those working hard to confront the stigma related to depression is the executive director of the U-M Depression Center, John Greden, MD, Rachel Upjohn Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, and chair in the Department of Psychiatry at U-M.

“The Depression Center is helping move the world toward a growing recognition that treatments without stigma are available and is helping construct a national network of depression centers,” Dr. Greden envisions. “As these gains are made, we will look back at these formative days and recognize that leadership from the School of Social Work helped make them possible.”

Members of the School of Social Work have been involved with the Depression Center from the beginning. The late Carol Mowbray took part in early planning meetings, and Professors Leslie Hollingsworth, Matthew Howard, Sean Joe, Mary Ruffolo, Kathleen Wade, and others are involved in research and other collaborative initiatives (see story on page 4). In addition to research, the School provides collaboration through the social work postgraduate fellowship program and MSW student field placements.

THE MISSION

In October U-M opened the new Rachel Upjohn Building, located at the East Ann Arbor Health Center site on the corner of Plymouth and Earhart Roads. This elegant building houses both the

The Depression Center’s university advisory board is comprised of faculty members from many schools, including Dean Paula Allen-Meares. In addition, the center’s national advisory board is composed of people from various walks of life, many of whom have struggled with depression.

Depression Center and the Department of Psychiatry. The U-M Depression Center is unique in focusing on mood disorders and promoting research, prevention, treatment, education, and political advocacy in one setting.

“The mission of the Depression Center,” says Executive Director John Greden, “is to detect depression and bipolar disorders earlier, treat more effectively,
There is a clear connection between depression and diabetes, cancer, heart disease, substance use, and anxiety disorders. Considerable evidence indicates that genetic and biological factors play a major etiologic role in mood disorders; however, stress, oppression, poverty, trauma, and marital problems also interact with the disease. Pharmacological, biological, and evidence-based psychotherapies have been highly effective in treating the illness.

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK

Social workers who work in the Depression Center actively collaborate with other team members—such as psychiatrists, psychologists, and nurses—to provide comprehensive depression assessment and evidence-based intervention/psychotherapy services to adults and children experiencing depression and bipolar illness, as well as their families. Social workers lead cognitive–behavioral therapy and interpersonal therapy groups for adults and children.

Dr. Greden testifies that “the world-class, evidenced-based psychosocial research and treatments and the Center’s recognized education groups for families of patients” would not exist without the partnership between the Depression Center and the School of Social Work.

Several years ago, social workers at the Depression Center noted a common need of patients and their family members: information to make decisions about seeking mental health care and about ways to cope with the illness.

Kathy Schoof, a clinical social worker, and I took the lead to develop and implement psychoeducational programs for consumers and families living with depression or bipolar illness. We started the Family Education Workshop, which meets on a monthly basis. We also developed biweekly facilitated support groups for families and people with mood disorders, including a separate group for adolescents.

Because these programs are offered to people in the community free of charge, fundraising efforts have been crucial in helping to develop and maintain them. Development staff helped to raise money from organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, individual donors, and other community groups.

FELLOWSHIPS AND FIELD PLACEMENTS

Another aspect of the collaboration between the SSW and the Depression Center is the social work postgraduate fellowship program, which has provided important clinical staffing for the Depression Center. Sponsored by the U-M Department of Psychiatry, postgraduate social work fellows help provide treatment and facilitate support groups and therapy groups.

Martin Heggestad (MSW ’05), a second-year fellow in adult psychiatry, has been a mainstay of the monthly didactic family education workshop. Natalie Kiff (MSW ’03), who completed her two-year fellowship in December, was a key participant in the biweekly support groups for people with depression and bipolar disorder. Sunshine Mills (MSW ’05) assists Kathy Schoof in providing leadership for a support group for loved ones of those who have committed suicide. The talent and commitment of these fellows have helped launch these valuable programs.

The SSW also collaborates with the Depression Center by setting up MSW student field placements. The social workers train MSW social work interns, as well as those in other disciplines, how to intervene therapeutically with patients and their families. By completing field placements at the Depression Center, several MSW students have learned how to deliver evidence-based treatments with fidelity. This year, eight MSW students are working at the Depression Center.

EVALUATION OF THE FAMILY EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Ms. Schoof and I have received enormous support from Professor Kathleen Wade, assistant dean of hospital social work services at the SSW and director of social work in the University Health System. Professor Mary Ruffolo has provided regular consultation about evaluation instruments and helped develop a plan for measuring outcomes. We presented these results at the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care Conference last spring.

Our initial evaluation of over 100 participants in the Family Education Workshop indicates that the groups assist them in addressing challenges of living with depression or bipolar disorder.

The materialization of Dr. Greden’s vision for a network of depression centers will help to decrease the stigma of depression and thus better serve those struggling with depression. Foundations such as the one being formed in memory of Reggi Marder also will help people more easily find hope.

—Laura Nitzberg is a lecturer at the School and social work manager in Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Hospitals Health System.
Faculty Research Findings:
Depression Across Ages and Races

After a knowledge drought about depression, the 1980s and 1990s brought increased medical and psychological understanding. According to John Greden, MD, Rachel Upjohn Professor of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, chair in the Department of Psychiatry, and executive director of the U-M Depression Center, doctors now understand that a combination of genetic vulnerabilities and trauma produce alterations in the brain. With further stress—including alcohol, drugs, and poor sleep—depression can occur.

With depression affecting one out of every seven people, according to the U-M Depression Center, and with suicide the eighth leading cause of death among Americans in 2005, according to the Surgeon General, many faculty at the School are building on past research to work toward finding solutions.

DEPRESSION ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN

From infants and mothers to elementary-school children and adolescents to the elderly, faculty are studying depression across the life span.

Professor Mary Ruffolo is one faculty member studying depression among adolescents. In the Mental Health Outreach Project funded by the State of Michigan Department of Community Health, she and Lecturer Dan Fischer have modified and evaluated evidence-based cognitive behavioral interventions (CBT) delivered in group formats for youth living with depression.

Preliminary findings from the first two years of the evaluation indicate that the group intervention is effective in decreasing significantly the levels of depressive symptoms reported by the youth. Delivering the intervention in school-based health clinics has decreased the level of stigma associated with youth seeking mental health treatment and increased their access to mental health services.

Studying the other end of the life span is Associate Professor Lydia Li. With a pilot grant from the U-M Geriatrics Center, she and colleagues are studying the prevalence and correlates of depression and suicidal behavior among frail elderly persons living in the community.

Preliminary findings suggest that depression is quite prevalent in this population, with 35 percent of the sample having recognized depression and 28 percent taking antidepressants. About 2.5 percent of the sample have considered or tried injuring themselves. While women are more likely to have recognized depression, men are more likely to have self-injury thoughts and attempts.

Contrary to popular belief, “depression is not a consequence of aging,” says Dr. Greden. Rather, with little or no intervention, depression worsens over time.

DEPRESSION ACROSS CULTURES AND RACES

Professors Matthew Howard, Briggett Ford, and Sean Joe are taking another approach to depression: the effect of culture and race. Professor Matthew Howard recently reviewed self-reports of psychiatric symptoms among incarcerated African American and White youth. Depression was found to be higher and suicide ideation significantly higher among White juvenile offenders.

In October, Assistant Professor Briggett Ford spoke at a U-M Depression Center panel presentation, “Depression at Work.” Ford has found that culture, race, and ethnicity affect gender differences, symptoms, diagnosis, and acceptance of depression. While men tend to express their depression in anger and White women in sadness, depressed Black women tend to be irritable. Thus, Whites with depression are more likely to be diagnosed correctly, while Blacks with depression tend to be diagnosed with schizophrenia.

“What cultural norms and stigmas must people go past before they are willing to say they are sad?” asks Ford. She asserts that although it is more common for women than men to be allowed to be depressed, this has been changing. In addition, faced with the multiple demands and priorities of their daily lives, often people of color see the need for permission to be ill. Thus, if close friends and family members overlook symptoms, an African American with depression may be less willing to seek treatment.

Assistant Professor Sean Joe has recently focused on interventions for African American males in a common consequence of depression—self-destructive behaviors, including suicidal behavior. Among those with mood disorders, he has discovered a fourfold increase in risk of attempts of suicide.

In an article published in the November 1 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, Joe reported the first nationally representative study for...
A large number of faculty research depression.


Depression Across Ages and Races

Faculty Research Findings:

HOPE THROUGH SELF-HELP AND TREATMENT

Dr. Greden emphasizes that depression can be treated and reversed. Individuals have tools at hand to help control depression: exercise and regular sleep increase the production of neurotrophins for antidepressant action in the brain, while cessation of substance abuse halts negative input. Research shows that a combination of medication and psychotherapy works better for most individuals than either method alone.

Professor Thomas Powell has focused on self-help for individuals with mood disorders. In a study of hospitalized patients with unipolar and bipolar disorders, Powell and colleagues reported that the illnesses were managed by two factors. Education both before and after the development of the illness influenced outcome, and those who felt involved in a self-help group for people with mood disorders reportedly managed their illness more effectively.

“Self-help is not a solitary activity, it is a mutual activity,” Powell wrote. “It is not a helping of ‘others’ activity, it is a ‘helping ourselves’ activity.” He has found that self-help groups for those with unipolar depression and bipolar disorder are a complement to professional treatment. Powell is writing a book that further explores the role of self-help in mood disorders.

Treatment, however, tends to be less available to those with lower income. In a study of low-income women in an urban Michigan county, Professor Richard Tolman found that fewer than one in five respondents had a current mental health problem (including depression) and/or substance dependence problem received treatment in the past year. In comparison, women of comparable age and race ratio (Black or White) in a nationally representative sample were significantly more likely to receive treatment for major depression (31.8% versus 20.2%). Reasons women gave for not receiving treatment included cost, structural barriers, and perceptions of treatment.

Associate Professor Brett Seabury has created two interactive video tutorials to teach students how to apply the classroom concepts of crisis intervention and suicide assessment. He has used these tutorials for the past four years in his teaching and has also made them available on the SSW website for the benefit of other instructors and students, knowing of many colleges in the United States and one in Scotland that use them. Seabury evaluated the two programs, reporting that students using the programs were able to effectively apply crisis and suicide concepts in simulated video examples.

These and other faculty members continue to look toward future research in depression. For example, Associate Professor Leslie Hollingsworth is principal investigator, with Professor Matthew Howard as co-investigator, on a new study funded by the U-M Rachel Upjohn Depression Center. They are collecting data in a pilot study of an uninsured, urban population in Detroit to assess perceived barriers to depression care and to test a depression screening and intervention innovation.

In another study funded by the Depression Center, Richard Tolman presently is examining whether the relationship between trauma and major depression among low-income women is direct or occurs through posttraumatic stress disorder.

As faculty work to understand depressive symptoms, factors, and treatment, they are helping to build a knowledge base that can bring hope and freedom to millions affected by this brain disease.

—Tanya C. Hart is editor of Ongoing.

Notes:
Julie Ribaudo

Julie Ribaudo is a clinical assistant professor of social work who joined the School in fall 2006. In her private practice in metropolitan Detroit, she has focused her clinical work on parent–infant relationships; support to teachers and caregivers of challenging infants, toddlers, and children; assessment and treatment of abused and/or neglected infants, toddlers, and young children; and infants, toddlers, and young children in foster care and post-adoption. Her practice also includes working with adults to resolve issues of depression, anxiety, and childhood trauma. She earned her MSW in children and youth from the University of Georgia and has a postgraduate certificate and endorsement as an infant mental health therapist and mentor. She provides local, state, and national training on infants and toddlers, and she has provided clinical consultation to numerous school districts and agencies in Michigan.

Michael Woodford

Michael Woodford is an assistant professor of social work who joined the SSW faculty in fall 2006. He received his MSW in social policy and administration in 1996 from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, and his PhD in social work in 2006 from the University of Toronto, Canada. Professor Woodford’s primary area of scholarship concerns the use of participatory policy analysis to advance social policies that meet the needs of marginalized communities. He is also interested in the inclusion of vulnerable communities in HIV/AIDS prevention. He is co-investigator on an interdisciplinary, community-based study, funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, that explores the engagement of marginalized communities in HIV vaccine trials.

Carlos Zometa

Carlos Zometa joined the SSW faculty in fall 2006 as an assistant research scientist to work with Professor Edith Kieffer on the Healthy Lifestyles project. He is involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating interventions that focus on health disparities among Latinos and African Americans. In particular, his research focuses on reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with diabetes, promoting healthy behaviors among pregnant women in Detroit, Michigan (Healthy Mothers on the Move), and furthering school-based HIV/AIDS prevention programs. He had been working as a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Public Health in the W.K. Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program. He completed his PhD in Curriculum and Instruction-Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Florida, College of Education.
Recent Faculty Publications

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES


COMMUNITY AND GROUPS


HEALTH


MENTAL HEALTH


RESEARCH AND EVALUATION


Recent Faculty Honors and Awards


On September 27, Dean Paula Allen-Meares received the NASW Foundation’s 2006 Knee/Wittman Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Health and Mental Health Award.

Letha Chadiha was invited to serve on the editorial board of *Social Work Research*, a journal of the NASW. She has also accepted an invitation to serve on the program committee of the John A. Hartford Geriatric Faculty Scholar’s Program, which is co-sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America.


As a result of Jorge Delva’s research on drug use in Latin America, he was invited by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) program to have lunch with Mr. Miguel Insulza, secretary general of the Organization of American States, who visited the University of Michigan on October 30.

With financial support from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Jorge Delva was invited to teach a course in January by the Organization of American States at the 9th International Summer Program on Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, University of Chile, Santiago. The purpose of the one-week course was to provide Latin American researchers with research training on drug epidemiology.

Lorraine Gutiérrez was the keynote speaker at the Latino Behavioral Health Summit in Indiana on November 9 and 10, speaking on empowerment and Latinos in the 21st century. She also was elected to the board of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE) for a two-year term.

Leslie Hollingsworth spoke on international adoptions in the University of Michigan’s first School of Social Work podcast on November 13. In addition, *Newsday* printed her comments on Madonna’s adoption in a November 2 article.

Edith Lewis has been selected to be a distinguished fellow by the National Council on Family Relations. This status honors her “outstanding and enduring contributions that have broad impact on the field of family science.”

Lydia Li traveled to China for two weeks in September to forge relationships and explore opportunities for collaboration and exchange activities. She met with directors and faculty of social work at three universities in Beijing and three in Hong Kong, and she gave lectures to students at the three Beijing universities.

Robert Ortega and Micko Yoshihama are members of the recently convened U-M Diversity Blueprints Task Force charged with developing innovative approaches to uphold and enhance diversity at the University.

While on sabbatical, Michael Reisch is the Zellerbach Visiting Professor at the School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley. He was appointed to a second term on the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice, State of Michigan.

Professor Emerita Rosemary Sarri’s editorial “End of welfare as we know it deserves another examination” was printed in The Ann Arbor News on September 12.

The November issue of El Viejo Topo, a Spanish magazine, includes a lengthy interview with Jose Tapia Granados. He discusses how mortality rates can be used to gauge social progress and how periods of “strong economy” have been harmful for health.

John Tropman and his family received the National Association of Social Workers—Southwest Pennsylvania Division’s first Social Work Legacy Award on November 17 for the work of his late father Elmer J. Tropman and his family in advancing social work practice and in establishing the Forbes Fund (now Copeland Fund) in 1982 to provide emergency financial assistance to nonprofit organizations. Tropman gave the keynote address, “Past, Present, and Future Challenges for Social Work,” at the NASW Southwest Pennsylvania Division conference.

The Stanford Social Innovation Review (Fall 2006) reviewed an article by Professor David Tucker and David Sommerfeld, PhD candidate in social work and sociology, that was published in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly.


Michael Woolley and Joseph Himle taught social work practice at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, during the summer. Professor Woolley returned to South Korea in the fall to present at both the International Social Welfare Conference at Yonsei and at the International School Social Work Conference in Pusan.

In Memoriam

Robert Vinter, 85, professor emeritus of social work, died on December 25, 2006.

Vinter helped to develop the theory and practice of group work and furthered the field of study of juvenile justice. “His work in the area of juvenile justice has had a lasting impact on programs and policies in the United States,” said Rosemary Sarri, professor emerita of social work.

Vinter earned his 1948 MSW degree and his 1957 PhD degree in social psychology from Columbia University. He joined the University of Michigan School of Social Work in 1954, teaching masters-and doctoral-level courses and conducting research studies of national importance.

His efforts shaped the School of Social Work’s curriculum during the mid-1960s. He also was recognized as a superior teacher and mentor with extraordinary dedication to his students. “Bob Vinter was a provocative and challenging teacher and colleague, always pushing people to perform at their best,” Sarri said.

Vinter served as associate dean from 1964 to 1970 and as acting dean for 1970-71. He was appointed the Arthur Dunham Professor of Social Work by the Regents of the University of Michigan.

Vinter retired in 1985 after 31 years of service. The Regents saluted him as a distinguished educator who “has made a singular contribution to the body of social welfare knowledge and has applied his research findings to the enhancement of graduate education as well as social service policies and programs.”

“He was one of those who helped lay the intellectual foundation on which this School now stands,” commented Professor David Tucker.

Vinter was a founding member of the National Association of Social Workers. He was a consultant to the President’s Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as a member of national mental health committees and several Michigan advisory boards.

A memorial service was held on January 5, 2007, in Ann Arbor. Vinter is survived by his two sons and four grandchildren.
It would be hard to find a better fit for the word “pioneering” than the career of Armand Lauffer. In the fields of community organizing, continuing education, integrating new tools in teaching, and preparing students for careers in nonprofit management, his accomplishments have been ground-breaking and of international significance.

Lauffer attributes his choice of social work as a profession and his propensity to try to do things a bit differently to his family’s emigration from Belgium just prior to Nazi Germany’s invasion. The sense of being an outsider, when compounded by his awareness of the Holocaust, led to a strong identification with both his Jewish heritage and American liberalism, as well as with other outsiders in American society.

By the time Lauffer graduated from Roosevelt University in Chicago, he had logged in thousands of hours of paid and volunteer work in social agencies. His first full-time job was as a campus organizer for the American Zionist Council. After receiving his MSW from Wayne State University in Detroit, he worked in Jewish community centers in California, where he first started applying gaming as a tool for interactive learning.

While in the PhD program in social planning at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, he co-authored a casebook that included interviews with Caesar Chavez, Jesse Jackson, VISTA volunteers, and social planners. This was to be the first of more than twenty books, many of which pioneered such areas that had been only scantily addressed in the social work literature (e.g., nonprofit marketing, fundraising, and locality-based planning).

“All of us want to feel that what we do counts, that we can make a difference for others. For me, that sometimes requires doing things a bit differently, building from that part of me that relishes being outside the box,” Lauffer notes. The University of Michigan offered him what he was seeking—an academic position where he could keep his hand in practice, while also teaching, writing, and doing research.

In 1968 Dean Fedele Fauri invited him to join the faculty at the School of Social Work and start a continuing education program. Lauffer worked with state and national agencies on projects ranging from training the first directors of Area Agencies on Aging to promoting innovations in child care and adoption.

Lauffer published a book on game design in the 1970s and brought gaming into the mainstream of social work education through workshops on campuses throughout the United States and abroad. The School’s GRANTS ETC site (www.ssw.umich.edu/grantsetc), designed by students as a class assignment, is one of several class projects that contributed to Lauffer’s receiving a Computerworld Smithsonian designation as a technology laureate in education.

In 1980 Lauffer convened a national conference of macro faculty, which was the catalyst for the establishment of the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA), and the Journal of Social Work Practice. In 2000 he received ACOSA’s Lifetime Achievement Award. When he identified the need for short, well-targeted books for niche markets in social work, he created the SAGE Human Services Guide series that has produced more than 200 publications. He continues to serve as a coeditor with Professor Emeritus Charles Garvin.

Most fittingly, Lauffer’s retirement was celebrated, in 2000, at an event that also commemorated the tenth anniversary of the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership (formerly Project STaR). Community leaders, SSW colleagues, and STaR alumni gathered to pay tribute to Lauffer, the program’s founder. He, in turn, described his pride in the alumni, many of whom are the current “stars” of Jewish federations, community centers, and family service agencies in both the United States and Israel.

Lauffer and his wife Rickie now live in Jerusalem, near their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He dabbles in furniture making and photography and serves as a board member and consultant to a number of Israeli foundations and nonprofit organizations.

His colleague, Professor Michael Reisch, aptly sums up Lauffer’s pioneering career: “He is widely regarded in the field of community practice for his wisdom, his warmth, his humor, and his commitment to social work values. He is innovative without being trendy, steeped in tradition without being conservative, and able to integrate technological and conceptual changes into a consistently ethical practice framework.”

—Robin Adelson 
Little works at the U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History. She is also a freelance writer and past editor of Ongoing.
Joycelyn Elders, MD, former United States surgeon general, presented the School of Social Work’s 2006 Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Lecture. She spoke on “How Ideologies of Health and Health Care Can Stand in the Way of Good Living” at Rackham Auditorium on October 12.

“Health,” she declared, “is more than the absence of disease; it is about schools, jobs, community, friends, churches, family, economic status.”

She deplored how the United States—which has spent the most money on health care and has the best doctors, nurses, and hospitals—does not have the best health in the world. Why not? The answer: “our so-called health care system is not coherent, not comprehensive, not cost-effective.” In addition, she said, it does not provide choice and is not equitable or universal.

Our young people—our country’s most valuable resource—are “in an ocean surrounded by sharks,” Dr. Elders said, naming drugs, alcohol, homicide, suicide, STIs, and HIV. One way to protect our children, she said, is through sex education.

Dr. Elders outlined several strategies for solving our health care problem. First, the nation needs a comprehensive health education for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. We can work together towards health, she encouraged, by advocating for “universal access to basic health care” and by taking responsibility to be healthy.

Another strategy is leadership. “There are three parts necessary to commitment: time, talent, and treasure. If you don’t invest these, you are only concerned, not committed,” she closed.

The lecture was part of the U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender’s Against Health conference.

To request a copy of the monograph, please contact the Alumni Office at ssw.alumnioffice@umich.edu or 734-763-6886.
While the School of Social Work continues to offer four method concentrations and five practice area concentrations, we have also begun several new projects that will provide continuing education opportunities for alumni, enhance our curriculum, and foster increased partnerships with field work instructors.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

One new initiative focuses on building our continuing education programs for our alumni. The State of Michigan, like many other states, requires that all licensed social workers earn continuing education credits in order to maintain their license. The goal of our continuing education programs will be to provide opportunities for alumni and current students to complete intensive advanced skill development courses.

These courses are designed using a mini-course (15 hours) format. The courses may be offered in the evening over five weeks, or as two-day workshops. We are beginning to offer the advanced skill development courses in the winter term. Alumni who participate in the continuing education courses will earn 15 CEUs for each course.

The topics for the advanced skill mini courses will address emerging evidence-based interventions, special topics related to management in behavioral health settings, and other topics based on alumni needs. For more information, please check the School of Social Work website (www.ssw.umich.edu).

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES STRENGTHEN STUDENT SKILLS

Over the past year, the faculty has been developing curricular competencies for the foundation and advanced curriculum areas. The competency development process involved assessing the critical knowledge, values, and advanced skills that our students must acquire to continue to be leaders in the social work field.

Consistent with our School’s focus on issues of privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice (PODS), the competencies focus on developing skills to promote and sustain effective social work practice with diverse constituents. The competencies also foster the use of critical self-reflection grounded in social work ethics, as well as increased use of evidence-based practice interventions.

During the past few months, the faculty has been reviewing all courses to ensure that the competency development goals identified by each curriculum method and practice area concentration are met.

REAFFIRMATION PROPOSAL INITIATES COLLABORATIVES

In addition to the work on curricular competencies, the School of Social Work submitted an Alternative Reaffirmation Plan (ARP) proposal to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) as part of our reaffirmation process that focuses on building socially just practices. The ARP proposal was accepted by CSWE and we are currently implementing this proposal.

The ARP proposal links students, field work instructors, and faculty as partners in collaborative meetings to dialogue about ways to increase socially just practices and improve the link between the classroom and the field learning experiences. The first collaborative began this fall, involving students in the geriatric fellowship program, field work instructors from the Geriatric Consortium, and faculty. Three additional collaboratives with students, field instructors, and faculty in the Children and Youth, Health and Mental Health, and Community and Social Systems concentrations began in the winter term.

Another component of the ARP proposal is engaging students in integration seminars that focus on portfolio-based learning methods that assist students in identifying critical skills they are learning in field work and the classroom.

These are just a few of the key initiatives that the School of Social Work is involved with this year. We encourage you to contact us with any thoughts you have that can help us continue to build a school of social work that leads through partnership building and cutting-edge practice innovations.

—Mary Ruffolo is associate dean for educational programs and associate professor of social work.
Kathleen Coulborn Faller installed as Blue Endowed Professor

On October 19, the School witnessed the installation of Kathleen Coulborn Faller as the Marion Elizabeth Blue Endowed Professor in Children and Families. This chair is a gift of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Family Foundation and is named after Lurie’s mother, Marion Elizabeth Blue.


In her address, Faller spoke of her vision for the professorship, particularly through the School’s Center of Excellence in Children, Youth, and Families. Faculty in the School’s Children, Youth, and Families area collaborate with the community, professionals, clients, the Guidance Center, and professional schools on cutting-edge issues. These collaborations are funded by NIH grants and include fellowships for Joint Doctoral Program students and doctoral students in post-MSW practice.

Faller announced the launching of two MSW child welfare fellowship programs: one for those who spent their childhood in the child welfare system and another for those committed to implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act and other federal child welfare statutes.

She hopes to enhance faculty involvement in the University’s Family Assessment Clinic (FAC), of which she is director. Through collaboration between the Law School, Medical School, and SSW, the FAC evaluates complex child maltreatment cases, conducts case record reviews, and provides treatment.

Two newsletters launched

The first Children, Youth, and Families (CY&F) Interest Group newsletter, which was mailed in May, introduced a new “collaboratory” series in which faculty and doctoral students converse with community practitioners, policymakers, and clients. The first collaboratory featured Professor Karen Staller on runaways.

Professor Susan McDonough will conduct the second collaboratory with staff from the Guidance Center’s Infant Mental Health Program. McDonough will describe the Special Mothers–Special Babies Program, which is an intervention for depressed mothers with irritable babies. Professor Sean Joe will lead the third collaboratory on teen suicide and homicide with the Children’s Center of Detroit.

The Gerontology Interest Group put out their first newsletter in the fall. The Gerontology Newsletter introduced the six Aging Practice Area faculty: Letha Chadiha, Linda Chatters, Ruth Dunkle, Berit Ingersoll-Dayton, Lydia Li, and Robert Joseph Taylor. The newsletter described four training programs in aging, as well as student, post-doc, and alumni activities.

The Children, Youth, and Families Interest Group includes (front) Paula Allen-Meares, Andy Grogan-Kaylor, Susan McDonough, as well as (back) Dale Fitch, Mike Spencer, Liz Gershoff, Trina Shanks, Mary Buffalo, and Robert Ortega. (Not pictured are Sandy Danziger, Kathleen Faller, Leslie Hollingworth, Sean Joe, Michael Reisch, Karen Staller, and Mike Woolley.)
School displays billboards

Over the past few years, the U-M SSW has been implementing a strategic and comprehensive communications plan, which includes multiple forums and media, to educate the public about the profession. The School has increased its national presence via a sponsorship partnership with National Public Radio and also has sponsored targeted, local spots on Michigan Radio.

Our current projects include a partnership with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to support a public education campaign detailing how social workers create positive change in countless ways. Building on these opportunities, the School secured space on two billboards in Michigan in order to communicate its mission and the value both the School and social workers provide to society. The ads were displayed near the Lansing capitol building and in Grand Rapids on US 131 for eight weeks beginning mid-January.

Faculty help bring 2-1-1 to Southeast Michigan

The 2-1-1 social services assistance line became available to Livingston, Monroe, and Washtenaw counties beginning November 1. This free, 24-hour assistance line provides non-emergency health and social service agency referrals. Bob Miller, a lecturer at the School and program manager for the Washtenaw United Way, was responsible for the development of all aspects of the 2-1-1 project in this area. Assistant Professor Dale Fitch serves on the implementation committee, and Lecturer John Martin did the feasibility study that recommended Huron Valley Ambulance as the three-county operating agent. For more information, go to http://www.washtenaw211.org.

Talk on spirituality and health draws interest

Jeff Levin, PhD, MPH, who coined the phrase “epidemiology of religion,” came to the School as a guest speaker in September. With over 150 people in attendance, he spoke on the positive association between religion and well-being, of which by 2001 there were 1200 empirical studies. Levin is coauthor of a book and several journal articles with Professors Robert Joseph Taylor and Linda Chatters, who also study the correlates of religious participation and the impact of religion on health.

School hosts lecture with Business School on urban retail markets

Mark Goodman, Executive Vice President of Marketing, Membership, and E-Commerce for Sam’s Club, addressed the School on November 9. Goodman spoke on “Creating a Sustainable Economic Base in the Inner City.” The lecture was hosted by the School of Social Work, the Ross School of Business, and the Nonprofit and Public Management Center.

Harvard professor lectures on immigrants

On September 14, the doctoral student-led Conversations Across Social Disciplines hosted Dr. Mary Waters, M. E. Zukerman Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. Waters discussed “Second Generation Immigrants in Young Adulthood: Race, Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Outcomes.” The talk was well attended by faculty and students across the U-M campus.
Students participate in Alzheimer’s memory walk

On a sunny, warm day early in October, a team of twenty-two MSW students and one doctoral student, most with an aging concentration, participated in the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk. Several walked in honor of particular individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. The students raised $5,125 for the Michigan Great Lakes Chapter.

Students raise money for Gulf organizations

Mindful of the continued need in the South following the 2005 hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, students held a house party fundraiser on December 3, raising over $3,500 for a just rebuilding of the South. Donations were allocated to Gulf South organizations by the Twenty-First Century Foundation, the leading Black foundation active in the region. The fundraiser host committee included the SSW Disaster Response Group and Dean Paula Allen-Meares.

Collages express social justice ideas

The School of Social Work welcomes over 300 new students each year during its orientation week. Each year, students participate in activities related to issues of privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice as a way to introduce them to the importance of these issues in the school’s curriculum.

The Social Justice Orientation Planning Committee’s theme for the activities this year was “Sparking the Flame,” and they designed activities that explored the importance and possibilities of using the arts in expressing and organizing around social justice issues. In addition to listening to spoken word and musical artists, new students and many faculty and staff participated by creating collages to express what social justice means to them and how it relates to their own identities.

The collages were exhibited at the Michigan Union for several weeks in late November. They also were photographed and are available on the School’s website at http://www.ssw.umich.edu/collagePhotos.

—Submitted by the Social Justice Orientation Planning Committee.

All-school picnic welcomes new students

As a finale to the new student orientation, the School held a picnic on September 1 for all students, faculty, and staff at nearby Burns Park.

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—Submitted by the Social Justice Orientation Planning Committee.
Brave New (Not-for-Profit) World

The nonprofit sector is a diverse one. From child advocacy clinics to medical research foundations, animal rights groups to after-school literacy programs, faith-based initiatives to downtown redevelopment, the not-for-profit sector encompasses all facets of activism.

Traditionally, social workers have played a large role in the nonprofit world. However, with the growing intersection of public, private, and nonprofit institutions, many nonprofits are adopting newer, “business-centered” models.

Not-for-profit organizations are learning from the business sector and often recruiting professionals from the business world. In this dynamic and swiftly evolving brave new nonprofit world, is there still a need for social workers?

The answer is a resounding yes. The social work imperatives of social justice, empowerment, and enhancing human well-being are paramount, and only by continuing to maintain a strong presence in the nonprofit sector can social workers ensure that these values are brought to the table.

Particularly as nonprofits focus on efficiency, social workers can help ensure that nonprofits don’t lose sight of the heart and soul of the work so vital to each nonprofit’s mission.

SOCIAL WORKERS’ INTERDISCIPLINARY NEED

Clear as the importance of the social work perspective is to social workers within the increasingly business-focused nonprofit realm, how can we convey to other nonprofit professionals the necessity of social workers’ continued involvement in the sector?

While social workers bring important insights to the table, it is increasingly important that they also bring to the table a sophisticated knowledge of the nature of the field and an ability to understand and articulate some of the basic principles of the business world.

Whether their practice is micro or macro in nature, all social workers need a degree of proficiency in navigating the nonprofit world. Gaining exposure beyond the social work sphere and building relationships with professionals from diverse backgrounds will strengthen the credibility and impact of social workers entering the modern not-for-profit world.

THE ROLE OF THE NPM

Building this toolkit may seem daunting, but the University of Michigan’s Nonprofit and Public Management Center (NPM) is in place to support students interested in the nonprofit and public sectors to pursue opportunities for well-rounded development.

The mission of NPM is to equip future leaders in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors with interdisciplinary insight that can help them operate more effectively when working for or collaborating with nonprofit and public institutions.

Since NPM is itself a collaboration among the School of Social Work, the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, NPM offers access to the broad spectrum of nonprofit roles.

PEER CAREER COUNSELING

The Peer Career Counseling Program is one of the NPM’s newest initiatives. NPM’s counselors receive the same training as the Ross School of Business Office of Career Development’s peer career counselors, with an additional focus on the nonprofit and public managements specific to NPM’s constituency.

NPM counselors are available for one-on-one counseling sessions with students interested in careers in the nonprofit sector. Whether students are preparing for an interview, need help creating or revising their resume, or just want to start searching for job opportunities and options, counselors are available along every step of the way. NPM has three peer counselors: a Ford student, a Ross student, and a social work student.

The interdisciplinary emphasis of the peer counselors and the NPM offerings are a direct reflection of the center’s awareness about the interdisciplinary emphasis of the nonprofit field itself.

Social work students can learn from the education and experiences of their colleagues in the business and public policy schools. And other students and nonprofit professionals have plenty to learn from the commitment and social consciousness that social workers infuse into our collective work in the not-for-profit world.

—Beth Kander is the 2006-07 social work peer career counselor for the Nonprofit and Public Management Center. She is a present MSW student with anticipated graduation date of April 2007. Her concentration/practice area is Management of Human Services, Community and Social Systems.
Commencement celebrates students

The December 16 commencement filled much of Hill Auditorium as family and friends gathered to celebrate with the 209 August and December 2006 MSW degree candidates and 5 PhD degree candidates. The graduating class selected as their speaker Brandon Jessup, president of the youth and college division of the NAACP Michigan State Conference. Jessup thanked the School for being an advocate for others, and he challenged the graduates to continue the fight for diversity and equality.

Dissertations defended

INNA ALTSCHL  | Social Work and Sociology

“Establishing an evidence base for policy and program intervention: Testing a combined model of family, school, and individual processes underlying the academic outcomes of Mexican American youth”

MICHAEL J. MACKENZIE | Social Work and Psychology

“Parent-infant relationship disturbances and child maltreatment in the early years: The impact of risk and stress on parental perceptions and behavior”

WILLIAM RUSSELL “SKIP” BARCY | Social Work and Psychology

“Computer self-efficacy and computer anxiety in a hospital social work and nursing case management department”

Doctoral student awards

Bowen McBeath is the recipient of the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Outstanding Social Work Dissertation Award for his dissertation entitled “Shifting Principles in a Sacred Market: Nonprofit Service Provision to Foster Children and Families in a Performance-Based, Managed Care Contracting Environment.”

Dana Levin is the recipient of the Shapiro Award, as well as the Power Fellowship (University Center for the Child and Family). During the summer, she was awarded a student research grant from the Center for the Education of Women.

Two students have been selected for the 2006-07 Henry J. Meyer Award, which is awarded each year to a PhD student whose paper most effectively integrates social work and social science knowledge. Alex Crampton’s paper was entitled “Mediation as intervention to empower older adults and families in caregiving decision-making: A case study and implications for social work practice.” Katherine Luke’s paper was entitled “Toward empowering sexual violence prevention strategies: Interrogating the technologies of gender deployed by and between binge-drinking college women.”

The Network has named Katherine Luke the 2006 winner of the Margaret J. Barr Student Research Award for her entry “Toward prevention of alcohol-related sexual violence among binge drinking college students.”

MSW student earns award

MSW student Rabindar Subbian (pictured far right in the bottom photo) and two students from the Ross School of Business and the School of Education won a Dare to Dream grant from the Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies. Their business idea is a network of outpatient mental health clinics, which they call “Caring Counseling,” that would offer high-quality, low-cost care to underserved or unserved populations.
Emily Carey
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZING
EL PASO, TEXAS

“Working for Border Network for Human Rights in El Paso, Texas, afforded me the opportunity to work in community-based policy, media, and legal advocacy from the local to the international levels at a time when anti-immigrant public and political rhetoric created a border war zone. In conjunction with community members, I coordinated a campaign to end local law enforcement of federal immigration law and organized an authentic community border hearing attended by local, regional, and national elected officials. I witnessed the courage of collective action as immigrant communities struggled against daily indignities and for immigration reform and border enforcement policy that take into account the human dignity of all people.”

Antoinette Saenz
COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN SOCIAL SERVICES
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

“I worked with Families and Communities Together (FaCT), a unique partnership between the Social Services Agency and Orangewood Children’s Foundation to prevent child abuse. During my internship, I felt immersed in a community and had a hands-on experience with all aspects. I worked on various projects with community members of Orange County and Child Protective Services workers, including organizing and attending trainings in community development, youth development, and domestic violence. My greatest enjoyment was putting together an ‘appreciation tea,’ in which eleven family resource centers were honored with a proclamation from the Orange County Board of Supervisors for their continuous service.”

Emily hugs two children in El Paso.

Antoinette celebrates at the appreciation tea.
Students spend approximately 25 percent of their MSW graduate education participating in a field placement. They have reported that some of their most memorable and rewarding experiences have been generated from their field-based experiences. Many of our students come to the School of Social Work from numerous places around the country and the world, and they are eager to learn how to make a difference. The Office of Field Instruction is enthusiastic about working in tandem with students to develop and approve a variety of field experiences that match their interests and needs. The following students have taken a leadership role in identifying field-based opportunities.

—Betsy Voshel, LMSW, ACSW, is director of Field Instruction and assistant clinical professor of social work.

**Ben Hayes**

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**ACCRA, GHANA**

“I feel extremely fortunate to have spent the summer in Ghana learning from community-based HIV/AIDS organizations (CBOs). I worked with The AIDS Support Association (TASA), an association of people living with HIV/AIDS in the port city of Tema, and the Center for Popular Education and Human Rights (CEPEHRG), an LGBT group in Accra. Exploring the challenges of community-based organizing in international income-poor settings, I learned two primary lessons: 1) Ghana CBOs could greatly benefit from long-term technical and administrative partnerships and 2) outsiders must critically analyze the impact of their positioning in the local social, economic, cultural, and political contexts.”

*Note: Ben Hayes, MSW/MPH student, did his field placement in Ghana through the University of Michigan/University of Ghana Social Work Professional Practicum Exchange Program, established in 1995 by Professor Edith Lewis and Professor Nana Apt, then department head at the University of Ghana. Ben’s trip was made possible by funding from the School of Social Work, the International Institute, and the Center for African and African-American Studies.*

**Ben tries the Ghanaian dish fufu.**

**Shenaaz Janmohamed**

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:**  
**COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS**  
**GARTHAMA, PAKISTAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR**

“The South Asia earthquake of 2005 devastated much of Northern Pakistan and parts of Kashmir and India, killing over 73,000 souls and displacing millions of smiles. The School of Social Work granted me the opportunity to visit Pakistan and provide disaster relief. During this time, I witnessed endless suffering yet an admirable and necessary resilience within the people. I wanted to capture this strength and saw gaps in participatory-inspired programs as a vehicle to empower communities. The photovoice methodology provided a platform for child survivors to share their knowledge and courage to inspire others. The project asked for children’s input on infrastructural damage and the effects the earthquake had on their lives.”

*Note: Though not a field placement, Shenaaz’s summer experience was funded by a U-M International Institute Individual Fellowship and was hosted by the Aga Khan Development Network.*

**Shenaaz greets two earthquake survivors.**
From the Board of Governors’ President

This fall has been an exciting and busy time for the Board of Governors. The Alumni Relations Committee has been actively exploring creative ways to strengthen the networking opportunities among alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the School of Social Work.

Board members participated in various school events throughout the fall, ranging from alumni outreach efforts in Detroit, alumni/student luncheons, and the SSW Homecoming Tailgate party.

A larger initiative underway is the design of a professional development program for alumni, students, and friends of the School, planned for September 2007. An ad hoc committee charged with planning this intellectually and socially stimulating event is being co-chaired by Liz Danowski ('98) and Sean de Four ('01). Look for more details in May.

**FIRST PRACTICUM AWARD CREATED**

The Scholarship Committee has created the first annual Practicum Award designed to help meet the growing needs of our students who pursue out-of-state and international field placements during the spring and summer terms.

On average, expenses related to such placements cost $5,000 or more. As traditional financial aid does not cover this cost, students must use personal resources and, more commonly, private loans if they wish to participate in this unique learning experience.

Because the Board of Governors recognizes the significant value that out-of-state or international field placements can have on today’s students—tomorrow’s social workers—we believe it is our responsibility to create this award.

With 100% board participation and the generous support of Dean Paula Allen-Meares and many alumni, we are proud to announce that we will be offering several awards this spring.

If you would like to help make a difference in the life of a student, please consider making a donation to the Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award fund.

**BOARD MEMBERS’ ROLES AND REPRESENTATION**

Of course, none of these activities or accomplishments could have happened without our committed board members who donate their time and resources in an effort to give back to the #1 school of social work. Thanks to Jane Dewey, chair of our Nominating Committee.

We are continually diversifying and expanding the representation on our board, bringing together alumni from all walks of life from Michigan to Nevada.

If you would like to become actively involved in our efforts or learn more about the board, please contact the SSW Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-763-6886 or via email at ssw.development@umich.edu.

Together we can reach out, raise hope, and make a difference!

—Sally A. Schmall, ’94, is president of the SSW Alumni Board of Governors.

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**Supporting Student Internships:**

**The Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award**

The Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award was established in 2006 to help meet the growing needs of our MSW students who pursue out-of-state and international field placements during the spring and summer term (see pages 18 and 19).

Members of the board have pledged to personally support this initiative, as well as help raise funds to support this award, to ensure that these opportunities are available to all students.

**The Practicum Award will assist with the following:**

- Travel to and from the location of the placement site
- Room and board
- Transportation while on site
- Professional attire

**How you can help**

If you would like to help support U-M MSW students with their field placement expenses by contributing to the Alumni Board of Governors Practicum Award fund, or if you have questions, please fill out the envelope enclosed in this issue of *Ongoing*, or contact the School’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-763-6886 or via email at ssw.development@umich.edu.
Scholarships Benefit Students

“Michigan gave me the best possible social science education”

Alumnus Larry Davis (PhD ’77) makes a great cheerleader for the School. Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work since 2001, he recognizes that “so much of what I have become is a direct result of receiving my doctorate from Michigan.” By putting his praise into action, he has enabled the School to establish a fully endowed student scholarship fund.

Davis named the Clara P. Davis and Larry E. Davis Scholarship Fund in part after his mother, from whose assets the fund is financed. Clara Davis, who worked in the Grey Iron Foundry in Saginaw, Michigan, for 37½ years, was concerned about social justice and the poor. For this reason, Davis designated the scholarship fund for doctoral students whose research focuses on poverty and social justice.

Davis credits the School’s success to three aspects. First, the curriculum: the students are well-grounded in theory. “Theory tells you why something works and allows you to transcend situations. Michigan has given its graduates a lot of theory. We can think.”

Second, the tremendous faculty. “A host of people looked after my entire time at Michigan,” Davis says, citing the late Norma Radin, as well as Professors Emeriti Charles Garvin and Rosemary Sarri.

Third, the networks. Davis’s professors and studies at U-M built bridges for him.

After graduating from the University of Michigan with a joint doctoral degree in social work and psychology, Davis became professor of social work and psychology at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Davis focused on social psychology—the interaction of race, gender, and class on interpersonal interaction—and wrote two books, Race, Gender, and Class and Black and Single.

Davis keeps in touch with the U-M SSW in many ways, including presently serving on the visiting committee. “I’ll never sign off.”

“I don’t think people realize how much it costs to be a student”

As Professor Emerita Kay Reebel creates the Katherine Reebel Student Scholarship Fund, she recognizes that her interest in public welfare stems from her experience in the Depression. “I was astonished at how my parents’ friends managed to survive in 1933,” says 98-year-old Reebel. “At that time, social services came only from private agencies, churches, and the Jewish communities.”

Reebel first worked in the Public Welfare Department in Pittsburgh and earned masters degrees in psychology and psychiatric social work. She helped to form the department of social work at the University of British Columbia from 1944 to 1946 before teaching social work at The Ohio State University.

Recruited to the U-M School of Social Work in 1952, Reebel eventually became a full professor. Her accomplishments included leading the development of a specialization in medical social work, contributing to the casework program, and teaching classes in practice methods, health and rehabilitation, alcoholism, and gerontology.

In 1974 the Regents recognized Reebel’s accomplishments at the School by appointing her professor emerita, noting, “As a dedicated teacher she has been a source of inspiration, guidance, and encouragement for her many students. Her colleagues attest to her high standards of quality and excellence in the practice of social work and her willingness to share her special areas of knowledge in a supportive and helpful way.”

Reebel finds that this is not the first time that she has looked out for student needs. While a professor at the School, she raised money for student scholarships from the Veterans Administration and other agencies.

“I want money to go to students,” Reebel declares. “I don’t think people realize until they are students themselves how much it costs to be a student. Tuition is not the only expense. There are living costs, students have to travel to agencies all over the state, and books alone are $80 a copy. It’s quite an investment.”

—Tanya C. Hart is editor of Ongoing.
Reaching Out & Making Connections

From Detroit to Austin and New York to Los Angeles, social work alumni are reaching out and making connections with prospective students, current students, and fellow alumni.

ALUMNI CONNECT WITH PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

This fall alumni from across the country volunteered to meet with prospective students who wanted to learn more about the field of social work and what it means to receive an education from the #1 school of social work.

Cara (Winters) Alexander (MSW ‘96), who attended a lunch in Georgia, enjoyed the experience, thinking that this was a “good twist to the recruitment process.” After attending a lunch in New York, Renanit Levy (MSW ‘99) exclaimed, “I wish I had something like this [to attend] when I was applying! It also gave me a chance to reflect back on my experiences and time spent [at the School] and where it has led me to today.”

ALUMNI CONNECT WITH CURRENT MSW STUDENTS

In October, alumni participated in informational lunch sessions with current MSW students, discussing topics such as the benefits of networking, how to utilize a social work degree in various practice settings, and how to make the most out of a student’s field placement. The alumni presenters—whose backgrounds included nonprofit management, geriatric social work, child welfare, school social work, and fundraising—also related stories about their experiences in the field.

Jesse Bernstein (MSW ‘70), who took some time out of his day as president and CEO of the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce to speak with a group of students, said, “I was surprised that the students who attended my session were so experienced and had an informed view of societal dynamics that took me many years to develop. They understood the challenges of serving unmet needs and did not have any ideological barriers to finding solutions. I was impressed that several of them were looking to combine their social work studies and experiences with other disciplines such as public policy, public health, law, and business.”

ALUMNI CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

A variety of events took place during the fall in which alumni got together and shared memories of their time at the School of Social Work, or networked with newly found friends in their area. These events included a special dinner at the home of Professor John Tropman and his wife Penny, a reception in Detroit featuring a presentation by Professor Larry Gant, and the School’s annual Homecoming Tailgate.

If you would like to know more about how you can become involved as a volunteer for the School, or if you would like more information on upcoming events, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-763-6886 or via email at ssw.development@umich.edu. 

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

Far Left: Clarita Mays (‘86), Amin Sabur (‘93), and Professor Susan McDonough were among the many guests who came out for the alumni reception that was held in the new U-M Detroit Center this past fall. Left: Martha Purdy-Stein (‘80), Victoria Phanthai (‘03), and Oliva Kuester (‘85) enjoy some refreshments and good conversation before heading to the Big House at this year’s Homecoming Tailgate.

For more event photos, please visit our website, www.ssw.umich.edu, and click on the Alumni & Supporters tab.

50th anniversary of the Joint Doctoral Program

Mark your calendars for October 11–12 as we make plans to celebrate the Joint Doctoral Program’s 50th anniversary!

On Thursday we will have a lunch with a panel presentation and events that recognize the contributions of our doctoral alumni. On Friday a conference on the theme of “solving problems in society—people and ideas” will take place, along with a reception.

The Alumni Office is holding hotel room blocks for our PhD alumni during that weekend. Please call if you would like to reserve a room: 734-763-6886.
I would like to thank the donors of this scholarship and acknowledge my desire to one day, as they have, help students from Detroit by assisting them to pay their way through graduate school.

—Victor D. Harrell

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

—Frances Cassandra Black

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

—Dion L. Beatty

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

—Tara Needham

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

Your gift to support scholarships will allow students the opportunity to realize their academic goals, pursue intellectual interests, and engage in research and field work throughout the United States and beyond.

For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact Lindsey Rossow-Rood, director of Development, at 734-763-6886 or lrossow@umich.edu.
1950s

KESHARI GANGRADE, MSW ’59, retired from her position as pro-vice-chancellor of the University of Delhi–India. Previously she served as dean, faculty of social sciences; dean, School of Social Work; and professor of social work.

1960s

DAVID KREHBIEL, MSW ’68, served as a Presbyterian minister for seven years before coming to the U-M School of Social Work. He worked for the Michigan Department of Social Services in protective services, foster care, and adoption for twenty-three years. Later, David made a move to administration as manager of the Ann Arbor district for the Michigan Department of Social Services before retiring in the early 1990s. He returned to the church to work for a few more years and is now fully retired. He presented to MSW students at an October luncheon hosted by the U-M School of Social Work’s Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Office of Student Services.

1970s

JESSE BERNSTEIN, MSW ’70, was recently selected as president and CEO of the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. Jesse previously served as president of Strategic Performance Planners, LLC. He says that even though he has spent most of his career in the private sector, he was always guided by his social work foundation. Jesse finds that social work values and practices are core to his everyday work life. He presented to MSW students during an October luncheon hosted by the School of Social Work’s Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Office of Student Services.

BUNYAN BRYANT, JR., MSW ’65, PHD ’70, received the Danu Smith Power of One Environmental Justice Award from the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. He has written books about environmental justice and helped organize the first national academic conference on it. Bunyan founded and directs the U-M Environmental Justice Initiative and is a professor at the U-M School of Natural Resources and Environment. To help fund research, he recently pledged $100,000 to U-M over five years.

TERRY (GOLDBERG) AXELROD, MSW ’71, has more than thirty years of experience in the nonprofit field, including founding three nonprofit organizations in health care and affordable housing. She is founder and CEO of Benevon and currently serves as a director of the American Association of Fundraising Counsel, a trustee of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and Life Trustee of the Swedish Medical Center. She presented to MSW students during an October luncheon hosted by the School of Social Work’s Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Office of Student Services.

LINDA (TOEPFER) BOWMAN, MSW ’75, is a resource advocate at Neighborhood Senior Services. She provides services that enable seniors to remain in their own homes. Servicing clients over sixty years of age who reside in Washtenaw County, NSS provides chore services, home repair, medical transportation, resource advocacy, in-home social work assessments, volunteer services, and information and referral. Linda recently built the database for Washtenaw 2-1-1.

STEVE KATZ, MSW ’76, runs support groups for at-risk high school students, as well as for children whose families are involved with the American Cancer Society. He integrates photography with his clinical work and also utilizes succulent and cacti gardening techniques. In addition, Steve works as a volunteer recruiter for U-M undergraduate programs in Texas. He presented to MSW students during an October luncheon hosted by the School of Social Work’s Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Office of Student Services.

EMILY JEAN MCFADDEN, MSW ’76, teaches part-time at Grand Valley State University School of Social Work. She also serves on the State of Michigan Social Work Board and chairs the Continuing Education Committee. Emily volunteers as a therapist with domestic violence survivors at the Center for Women in Transition. She is giving the plenary address at the International Foster Care Conference in February 2007.

GLENN WHITELAW, MSW ’76, is currently a professor at Wayne State University School of Social Work and has served as an adjunct faculty member for ten years. He is past president of Michigan Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He presented to MSW students at an October luncheon hosted by the School of Social Work’s Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Office of Student Services.

DARLENE (KNAPP) RACZ, MSW ’77, has been named the new associate director of social work and community programs for the U-M Health System’s Geriatrics Center and Turner Geriatric Clinic.

ROBERT WOLLACK, MSW ’78, received an honorary bachelor’s degree from Eastern Michigan University. Robert is founder, president, and CEO of Wolverine Human Services.
Alumni Profile:  
Dan Boggan, MSW ’68

When Dan Boggan heard how African Americans in his father’s generation couldn’t go to certain restaurants and schools, he became motivated to work his way to the top in his fight against injustice. “I was driven to make sure that doors were open,” he says.

He started by opening the Frieze Building doors at the U-M School of Social Work to acquire some powerful raw skills. Those skills helped him advance in managerial jobs from New Jersey to Berkeley and achieve his dream: to integrate workplaces by opening doors from the inside.

Boggan grew up in Albion, Michigan, with a homemaker mother and a father who worked long, hot days as a foundry worker and farmer. “You’ve got to get your education,” they taught Boggan and his eight siblings.

He got his first taste of working for civil rights while still in high school and then continued during his first three years at Albion College. While at Albion, Boggan served as president of the local NAACP chapter and also as an award-winning state president of the NAACP’s Michigan Conference of Youth and College Chapters.

After graduating from Albion College in 1967—the year that major race riots lit up Detroit—Boggan decided on a graduate education that involved his interest in working for civil rights. He applied to the U-M School of Social Work for a degree in community practice. Professor John Tropman was one of his favorites, says Boggan. “He got you engaged, made you think, made you work hard, but was easy to talk to. I remember to this day reading (Amitai) Etzioni. Those were principles I’ve relied on, along with Drucker’s ‘Management by Objective.’”

He took his freshly printed MSW diploma to Starr Commonwealth in Jackson and worked as the campus manager. After that, networking guided his career. A friend from the NAACP wooed him to work for the Jackson city government and so did friends in other governments in Flint, Portland, San Diego, Essex County—New Jersey, and Berkeley, where he was city manager. His Berkeley experience landed him an 8½-year stint as a vice-chancellor at the University of California, Berkeley, and his athletic experience there led him to his final job before retirement at 58 as senior vice president and chief operating officer of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

His degree, he feels, gave him “transferable skills.” “I found out in almost everything you do you’re managing people and financial resources, you’re providing leadership, and you have to understand how to lead,” he says.

Another work constant for Bogdan is the two-sided coin of flexibility and firmness. “Change is always something you’ll deal with,” he says. “I remember telling one fire chief when I was city administrator, ‘either you make this decision or I’ll make it for you.”

“Sometimes it’s difficult,” he says, “but I remember what my mom said: ‘This too shall pass.’”

According to Professor Michael Heyman, the chancellor and Boggan’s former boss at University of California, Berkeley, Bogdan “was especially successful in his relationships with staff—open, responsive, caring, and quite respectful.”

Underneath Bogdan’s well-modulated, soft-spoken voice isn’t just a savvy semi-retired administrator. There beats the heart of a poet who writes regularly, the loving hand of a husband and father of four, and the legs of an athlete who can still play three games of basketball in one morning.

He continues to contribute his decision-making abilities to a mind-numbing twelve corporate and nonprofit boards including Clorox, Payless Shoes, and the California Endowment.

Without a secretary, “the first year I retired, I nearly sank.” Says the man who helped so many others rise up, “I realized all the things an organization can do to support you.”

—Debbie Eisenberg Merion, MSW ’78, is a writer and writing coach in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
SUSAN (LAURIE LIPSKY) LITMAN, MSW ’79, has married and moved to Nottingham, England. She began a private counseling practice through which she serves married and unmarried couples, as well as individuals with relationship, stress, personal growth, or bereavement concerns.

1980s

AMY ELLWOOD, MSW ’83, wrote an article about mentoring that was published in the fall issue of the American Association of Medical Colleges’ web-based publication, Faculty Vitae (www.aamc.org/members/facultydev/facultytvitea/fall06/perspectives.htm). In the article, Amy honored her mentor, the late Edith Gomberg, former U-M School of Social Work professor. Amy currently serves on the U-M School of Social Work Alumni Board of Governors. She is a professor of family medicine and psychiatry at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

JILL FARRELL, MSW ’86, is teaching a course in social policy at Madonna University.

ANNITA LIST, MSW ’88, was the recipient of the Hispanic Health and Human Services Award for West Michigan. She is the founder of Diversity Counseling and Therapy Center and also serves Spanish-speaking court-mandated clients in West Michigan. She has provided annual training on domestic violence in El Salvador and China.

1990s

ELLEN M. CRAINE, MSW ’91, is pleased to announce the formation of Craine Mediation with her husband, Martin Rostker, MSA. Craine Mediation focuses on divorce mediation at all stages of the divorce process (including post-judgment issues), family mediation (including adult guardianship and family caregiver issues), and civil mediation for all types of cases. See www.crainemediation.com.

WARDE MANUEL, MSW ’93, became athletic director for the University of Buffalo in July. He was hired from the University of Michigan, where he was an associate athletics director overseeing football and men’s basketball.

ANKA GOSS-FOSTER, MSW ’94, was hired by the city of Detroit to be its director of philanthropic affairs. Goss-Foster, formerly senior program director for the Detroit office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, will work to get the city and foundations in partnership on neighborhood programs.

AMY AI, MSW ’93, PHD ’96, is the author of a study entitled “Psychosocial Mediation of Religious Coping Styles: A Study of Short-Term Adjustment Following Cardiac Surgery.” The study was one of twenty presentations selected for media promotion out of 3,500 presentations being made at the 114th annual American Psychological Association’s national convention. Amy’s study was featured in a press release distributed to international, national, and regional print and broadcast media.

BEVERLY J. PATCHETT, MSW ’97, is clinical director and CEO of Empowerment Professionals, P.C., a psychotherapy and life coach practice in Royal Oak, Michigan. Additionally, she is liaison to the NASW-Michigan chapter and is public relations director of the board of Oakland County Council for Children and Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities. Her goal for 2007 is to release a second book related to the mental health field. Beverly was recently accepted into the Honors Edition of the Cambridge Who’s Who Executive and Professional Registry, and Strathmore’s Who’s Who. For updates on Beverly’s seminars, visit www.empowerment-pro.net.

2000s

ANGIE LODES-ELLIOTT, MSW ’00, works in a senior living community. She says that choosing to specialize in working with the geriatric population has been a rewarding experience for her.

HEIDI SHRIVER, MSW ’00, has been an adoption social worker for Children’s Home Society & Family Services (CHSFS) in St. Paul, Minnesota, since 2002. In May/June 2005, she traveled to Seoul, South Korea, for CHSFS and visited social welfare agencies and cultural attractions. On her return trip, Heidi escorted a baby to her American (cont. on page 28)
Alumni Profile: Rich Bringewatt, MSW ’72

During the Vietnam War, Rich Bringewatt served as a military social worker in an evacuee hospital in Japan. While his experiences solidified his desire to pursue social work as a profession, it was the significant encouragement of professors during his studies at the School of Social Work that focused his interests and prepared him to develop innovative approaches to care for the chronically ill.

Enrolling in the School of Social Work’s community organization sequence in 1971, Bringewatt pursued varied interests in mental health, elderly, and children’s issues. After shifting to the administration and policy sequence, Bringewatt was mentored by Professor John Tropman, who guided him through an independent study on policymaking and played a key role in sharpening his health policy skills. “Dr. Tropman’s affirmation heightened my interest in health policy and helped develop a thought process and skill set that has been important throughout my career,” Bringewatt says.

Pragmatic encouragement motivated Bringewatt to adopt a gerontology specialty. “My areas of interest were broad, but the Institute of Gerontology’s director indicated that the Institute had grants available for those specializing in gerontology. “This is a good lesson,” Bringewatt reflects. “Financial incentives for students make a difference in building capabilities in areas of priority importance to a changing society.”

After graduating, Bringewatt worked for an area-wide demonstration program in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, determining what shape the nascent national system of Area Agencies on Aging should take. When the U-M Institute of Gerontology’s Bob Benedict agreed to head the Pennsylvania Office on Aging, Bringewatt joined him and put his policy knowledge to work.

Since this initial endeavor, Bringewatt has maintained a social entrepreneur spirit in care of special needs populations through service in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors and has held a variety of executive leadership positions at the national, state, and local levels.

Though the settings have varied, his commitment has remained consistent: to implement systemic and policy-level incentives that encourage health care providers to develop seamless networks of care for frail elders, those who have complex care needs, and others who are chronically ill or disabled.

In his current role as president of the National Health Policy Group (NHPG), a Washington, D.C.-based health policy and specialty care consulting organization, Bringewatt brings more than three decades of experience to bear on the question of health care reform.

Among other lessons, he has learned that good intentions and best practice innovation go only so far. Health system change must be anchored in the construction of appropriate financial incentives, new statutory authority, and policy oversight. Moreover, it is in care of high-risk beneficiaries where the U.S. health system is most flawed. Thus, NHPG works to improve policy and practice for high-risk beneficiaries by changing financial incentives and redesigning policy.

“Many people tend to think of social workers as caseworkers, not necessarily as policy analysts or legislators.” However, social work, Bringewatt believes, is all about the application of social values, and health policy is a key element of that process.

Thus, Bringewatt’s focus on strategic change at the national level is designed to benefit the individual. “The problem of care for persons with complex chronic conditions is more about the relationship between pieces of the healthcare puzzle than the efficiency or effectiveness of any one intervention or program. The fix is a systemic one.

“While we are still a long way from an ideal delivery system, it’s exciting to be part of the transformation process.”

—Elizabeth Leimbach Zambone is a freelance editor and writer living in Valparaiso, Indiana.
adoptive family. Heidi and her husband, Ryan, have three children—Nate (6 years), Alison (3 years), and Gillian (born in June 2006).

**KATHERINE BECK-EI, MSW ’01**, is a geriatric social work specialist at Saint Joseph Mercy Senior Health Services. Her experience as a social worker includes hospice, in-patient geriatric psychiatric care, long-term care, and family services coordinator for the Alzheimer’s Association. Katherine serves as a co-chair for the NASW-Michigan chapter’s Aging Special Interest Group and is an adjunct lecturer for the Alzheimer’s Education Program at Eastern Michigan University. She presented to MSW students at an October luncheon hosted by the School of Social Work’s Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Office of Student Services.

**CHRIS WILTSEE, MSW ’01**, is founder and executive director of Youth Movement Records (YMR) and a veteran of social activist campaigns. YMR has helped to fill the gaps left behind by traditional after-school programs that have fallen victim to education budget cuts. The mission of YMR is youth development.

**WILLIAM CABIN, MSW ’04**, announced that his article “The phantoms of home care: Home care nurses’ care decisions for Medicare home health Alzheimer’s disease patients” has been accepted for publication by *Home Health Care Management and Practice*. A date for publication has not been set.

**In Memoriam**

Derrick L. Anderson,* MSW ’02  
November 25, 2006

Adeline F. Aras, MSW ’47  
September 13, 2006

Vern C. Dahlquist, MSW ’65  
November 15, 2006

Marjorie Y. (Hoxie) Davis, MSW ’58  
November 24, 2006

Elizabeth (Mary Stewart) Durfee, MSW ’56  
May 22, 2006

Janice K. Dwyer, MSW ’78  
July 22, 2006

Anne Hirshfield, MSW ’83  
February 6, 2006

Chessie P. Jeffries, Jr., MSW ’69  
August 16, 2006

Ellen Adler Krantz, MSW ’79  
July 9, 2006

Suzanne Potter Lourie, MSW ’75  
July 24, 2006

Joyce E. Mason, MSW ’83  
July 15, 2006

Steven R. McElravy, MSW ’75  
August 27, 2006

Bradley J. Millard, MSW ’66  
September 1, 2006

Marcel Miller, Jr., MSW ’94  
June 23, 2006

Emilia Casanova Ramonez, MSW ’77  
July 20, 2006

Mavis A. (Henderson) Roberson, MSW ’51  
September 6, 2006

Gary Lee Ross, MSW ’76  
July 8, 2006

Hector Jose Villafane, MSW ’73  
August 14, 2006

*See www.ssw.umich.edu for a memorial statement.

**ERRATA FROM WINTER/SPRING 2006 ISSUE:**

Jill Farrell, MSW, is a 1986 graduate of the U-M School of Social Work, not a 1992 graduate as previously indicated.

**ERRATA FROM SUMMER/FALL 2006 ISSUE:**

The governor pictured with Amy L. Ai, PhD ’96, was mistakenly identified as Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm rather than Washington State Governor Chris Gregoire.
What’s New With You?

NAME
(include student/maiden name if applicable)

YEAR OF GRADUATION ___________________________ PLACE OF BUSINESS ___________________________

HOME ADDRESS ____________________________________________ ____________________________________________

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HOME TELEPHONE ( ) ____________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS ____________________________________________

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BUSINESS ADDRESS ____________________________________________

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WORK TELEPHONE ( ) ____________________________

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
AND OTHER INFORMATION YOU WANT YOUR CLASSMATES TO KNOW:

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Please return this form to:

University of Michigan · School of Social Work · Ongoing

1080 South University Avenue · Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

Or email ssw.development@umich.edu.

To inquire about submitting a photo with your class note, please email ssw.development@umich.edu.

Visit our website at www.ssw.umich.edu and enroll in our online alumni volunteer directory and database.