

ONGOING

University of Michigan School of Social Work • Winter/Spring 2009



Addressing Poverty through Social Services

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- 22 Over \$19 Million Raised in Campaign



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SAVE THE DATE

Installation of Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work

Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 4 p.m.
SSW Educational Conference Center
See page 8 for more information.

Symposium on Jewish Communal Leadership

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
SSW Educational Conference Center
“If Not Now? Challenge, Choice, and Change in
21st Century Jewish Community”
See page 14 for more information.

Retirement Party for Associate Professor Brett Seabury

Saturday, May 30, 2009, 2 p.m.
Hudson Mills Metropark, Dexter, Michigan
For more information, call 734-763-2345.



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From the Dean

It is with excitement that I begin my tenure at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work. With a rich heritage and an astonishing wealth of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other contributors and collaborators, the School presents a range of possibilities for meeting the challenges of the coming century.

I am privileged to follow in the footsteps of Paula Allen-Meares, who brought so much to the School, and to have profited from John Tropman's wisdom as he served as interim dean during the fall of 2008.

Furthermore, the School has just concluded its participation in the Michigan Difference Campaign, exceeding its goals and generating over \$19,000,000 in new resources for the School. (See page 22.) The success of the campaign is one indicator of the breadth of the School's reach. Over 5,000 donors contributed to the campaign.

Vivian Shapiro, associate professor emerita who is profiled in this issue (see page 13), was instrumental in our success as she was a member of the School's Campaign Task Force Committee that was co-chaired by Bill Pickard ('65) and Olivia Maynard ('71). The other committee members were Robert Aronson, Laurel Capobianco ('96), Helen Charlupski ('73), Larry Moses, Helen Pregulman, Richard Rogel, Susan Rogel, Sally Schmall ('94), Kristine Siefert ('75), John Tropman (PhD '67), Carol Wasserman ('84), and Robert Wollack ('78).

These new resources are enabling the continued growth of our programs. We have brought to campus Karla Goldman as the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work to develop our Jewish Communal Leadership Program. Her installation ceremony on April 1 is followed the next day by a symposium, "If Not Now: Challenge, Choice, and Change in 21st Century Jewish Community." (See page 14.)



UM Photo Services: Scott Galvin

Lou Burgio has also joined our faculty to occupy the Harold R. Johnson Chair in Gerontology, bringing to our campus his expertise in intervention research. At his installation ceremony on March 4, he is speaking on "Implementing Caregiver Intervention Programs in Community Settings."

A new group of junior faculty is enriching our work on poverty and social welfare, health care and the quality of life, and health disparities, which are among a range of issues central to the education of social workers and the practice of the profession. (See pages 8-9.)

We are continuing our work on global initiatives, including work by our students in Costa Rica (page 16), South Africa (page 17), India, and Rwanda, among other placements.

Among the events of this winter semester are the installation ceremonies for Karla and Lou, as well as my inaugural presentation. Faculty and staff have worked to design these events as forums for consideration of some of the important issues of our times and profession, as well as opportunities for celebration and reconnection.

I look forward to welcoming you to these events, to our ongoing conversations, and to our work together.

—Laura Lein, Dean
Collegiate Professor of Social Work

Welcoming Dean Laura Lein

On January 1, 2009, Laura Lein officially became the fifth dean of the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She inherits a strong school that is ranked the highest by *U.S. News & World Report* at a public university, exceeded its goal of raising \$16.5 million during the last campaign, attracts expert faculty and top-notch students, and has unique programs and curriculum.

WHO SHE IS

From elementary schoolchildren in migrant harvester camps to Mexican immigrants in Texas to Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Austin, Texas, Dean Laura Lein has immersed herself in the lives of needy people. Her research interest is oriented around how families in poverty use social services and to what extent the services are useful to them.

Dean Lein has held this interest since a college student. During fieldwork in the Virgin Islands for her studies at Swarthmore College, where she was in the first class to graduate in anthropology, Dean Lein studied what happened when institutions evaluated people in a way that failed to match their environment.

Investigating why elementary school students' math scores on standardized tests had fallen dramatically in one year, the project she worked with found that a number of the test's arithmetic problems had to do with elevators, of which the students had little or no knowledge.

Living on a Navajo Indian reservation, she discovered that it could be costly for a community to help out a researcher. In one incident, her host family brought horses and ropes several miles to retrieve her car from a ditch when rains descended on the clay roads while she was doing fieldwork.

In doing research for her dissertation in social anthropology at Harvard University, Lein lived for two years in harvest camps with migrants who had traveled between central Florida and upstate New York. She concentrated on the children's experiences switching school districts and learned about the interactions of these families with various education, health, and welfare systems.

Since graduating from Harvard in 1973, Lein has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on over fifty grants. As director of the Center for Research on Women at Wellesley College, she was responsible for raising a budget of \$1 million a year (not insignificant in the 1980s) and working with young scholars in research and practice work. She was a founding member of the board of the National Counsel for Research on Women.

In 1985 she moved to the University of Texas at Austin, where she was attracted to the School of Social Work's interdisciplinary work and became



Dean Laura Lein presents her fourfold vision for social work.

All photos by U-M Photo Services: Scott Soderberg.





TOP: Associate Dean John Tropman and Dean Laura Lein greet Provost Teresa Sullivan and Dean Emeritus Harold R. Johnson at Dean Lein's inaugural presentation.



MIDDLE: A large group gathers to listen to Dean Lein and to celebrate.



BOTTOM: Associate Professor Emerita Elizabeth Mutschler, Associate Professor Diane Vinokur, and Tim Wintermute, executive director of the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation, enjoy conversation during the dean's reception.

professor of social work and anthropology. She was asked to collaborate in building up the School of Social Work's Center for Social Work Research, contributed to the school's first continuing education program, taught courses, and developed a research agenda supported by research funds amounting to \$500,000 to \$1 million a year.

In addition, Lein is author of nine books and a multitude of articles and chapters. She has served on many boards, including the Committee on Child Development Research and Public Policy of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences (1989–92).

WELCOMING THE NEW DEAN

In addition to holding several small, informal gatherings, the School welcomed Dean Laura Lein with a reception on February 13. Provost Teresa Sullivan introduced her, and those in attendance included deans of other schools, alumni, field instructors, faculty, staff, and students.

In her talk, "Don't Just Be Good—Be Good for Something: Social Work at Michigan for the 21st Century," Lein discussed four themes in the context of social work for the 21st century:

- the importance for social work to be active and visible in the transformative political and economic climate in which we are now living;
- the significance of social work practice and research in addressing issues that remain salient in our society: race and racism, persistent poverty, and flaws in our social welfare safety net;
- in response, the possibilities for universal services and systems to meet human needs;
- the importance of social work in areas that affect and are affected by the larger themes above—health and mental health in areas ranging from gerontology to neonatal care, child welfare and child care, housing, and employment and education.

Earlier that week, faculty, doctoral students, and university colleagues held two conversations on social work for the 21st century. Wednesday's gathering addressed the role of public intellectuals and how the School and University could be sites for debate, questioning, and discussion. Thursday's conversation focused on whether universities and schools of social work should have a strategy for strengthening contributions to society and what that strategy for intervention could be.

A photo exhibit ran throughout the week and beyond. On Tuesday Joan Kadri Zald ('59) gave a presentation on her exhibit, "Portraits of Homelessness," which shows the diverse range of people who become homeless and the various stages of homelessness. The photos—taken in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Tucson, Arizona—record the faces of the homeless and capture their humanity. **M**

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



Falling through the Safety Net

Off Welfare but Not out of Poverty

As a case study of the 1996 reforms aimed at moving people from welfare to work, Sarah at first seems a shining example of success.

After her husband left her and their four children, Sarah applied to the government's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). About a year later, she was able to find work as a certified nurse's assistant and leave welfare behind.

But soon after, she lost her house. Despite 12-hour shifts and 50- to 60-hour work weeks, she has not saved enough to lease an apartment. Instead, Sarah and her children have been living with relatives and friends. Her pay, averaging \$6 per hour after taxes, goes toward food in the households where they are staying. They move every two or three weeks, because, as Sarah explains, "You don't want to wear out your welcome."

Lacking a permanent address has made it impossible for the Texas mother to receive mail or apply for

even minimal transitional benefits such as Medicaid and subsidized child care. She applied for Women, Infants, and Children food benefits for her three-year-old, but her work schedule did not allow her to attend the required nutrition education program. The benefits were denied.

Without medical insurance until she had worked for six months, Sarah postponed shots, physicals, and treatments for one child's asthma and another's sinus infection.

"Can I at least have emergency food stamps?" she asked a caseworker.

"As long as you're working, you're not classified as an emergency," was the response.

DISPELLING THE MYTHS

Sarah's story is excerpted from *Life after Welfare: Reform and the Persistence of Poverty* (2007), Dean **Laura Lein's** latest book addressing the interface between families in poverty and the institutions that serve them. The work follows the experiences of 179 families in Texas, where Lein held a dual appointment in social work and anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin before coming to Michigan.



All photos by Rick Williams.

“Texas has been an interesting state to study, because it ranks close to the bottom of the fifty states in its welfare payments and at the high end in proportion of people without health insurance. So it has high rates of poverty, many individuals with untreated medical conditions, and high levels of virtual homelessness,” she says.

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act sought to drastically reduce the welfare rolls, and it was undeniably successful at doing so, at least in the short term. “But if the goal was to reduce poverty and increase the well-being and stability of the families who left welfare,” Lein states, “the results are far more complicated and disturbing.”

Her in-depth interviews with “Sarah” (not her real name) and others derive from her training as a social anthropologist. Lein has always been fascinated by “the story behind the numbers.” Writing her dissertation about migrant laborers deepened her commitment to exploring and improving the policies and programs affecting families in poverty. She has studied the welfare system at the state and federal level and its implications for many indigent populations, including immigrant workers, panhandlers, and Hurricane Katrina evacuees, as well as welfare leavers and low-wage workers.

“All of these groups face the same conundrum: a complicated service system based on confusing eligibility criteria and often delivering only a fraction of what’s needed to become stable and self-sufficient,” Lein reports. “They confront numerous barriers to employment and often live in poverty even when employed, all in the context of a flawed services safety net.

“Family stability rests on a four-legged stool: one leg is a living wage job; a second, affordable child care for families with children; a third is health care coverage; and the fourth is affordable housing. Families who have left the welfare rolls without long-term supports in these areas experience marginally increased income but are likely to remain in poverty.”

NEEDS BEYOND “GETTING A JOB”

Professor **Sandra Danziger’s** research interests and findings are in sync with Laura Lein’s. A sociologist, she has studied welfare clients and programs since the 1970s. When the 1996 reforms were enacted, she set out to learn how these families would fare in the welfare-to-work transition.

The answer is: not so well. Many women, in particular, have fallen through the cracks.

“Studies throughout the country showed that case-loads plummeted. In one survey of Michigan welfare recipients at the start of the reforms, U-M researchers found that the number of women, mostly single mothers, receiving welfare declined from 72 percent in 1997 to 18 percent in 2003,” she reported.

Danziger noticed the trend that more women each year earned no income and received no benefits. “Disconnected” women in the survey rose from 1 percent in 1997 to 8.6 percent in 2003. She has documented their barriers to employment, including learning disabilities, less than high school education, alcohol or drug dependence, lack of work experience, and health problems in both the parents and children.

What troubles her about these unemployed and unsupported women is that “they have profoundly complicated lives. With low education, physical and mental health problems, and minimal skills, they are living on the edge. With no stable income, they may be living with friends or relatives. The more barriers a woman faces, the less likely she is able to maintain stable employment.”

On a positive note, Michigan’s welfare-to-work program is becoming more flexible, she noted. “So instead of a minimum wage job, some clients are being offered training for higher-wage professions like truck driver or nurse’s aide.”

But she would like to see the focus go beyond “getting a job,” to address the physical, mental, and emotional issues that hold many people back. “For example, a welfare recipient who is diagnosed with depression could be exempted from work while she pursues counseling,” Danziger suggests. “Or counseling could be counted as one of the required activities for maintaining benefits while seeking a job.”

DENYING ACCESS TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Of course, “getting a job” does not guarantee a transition from poverty. Assistant Professor **Luke Shaefer** notes that in the United States, employers are often expected to provide benefits like paid sick leave, maternity leave, and pensions. Workers in the lowest quintile, making \$12 or less per hour, are rarely offered these options.

He sees an improvement in one piece of Laura Lein’s four-legged stool: “Public health insurance for children of poor families has expanded from 18 million in 1987 to 30 million in 2007,” he reports. The increase is due primarily to expanded eligibility for Medicaid, especially under the creation in 1997 of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

But while the families of more low-wage earners are being covered by health insurance, he says that few are being protected by unemployment insurance.

“It’s a complicated program, but there are two main eligibility elements. First, the worker has to have

earned a certain amount in the past year, and the large majority of low-wage workers actually meets their state’s monetary requirements. The second relates to the terms of the job separation. If a worker quits voluntarily or is discharged for cause, most states will not grant unemployment benefits.

“Most low-wage jobs don’t lay people off,” Shaefer explains. “They just cut hours or change schedules, making their lives unpredictable.”

He envisions a system where workers are allowed to “bank” months of unemployment insurance and draw upon it when needed—“enabling a woman to extend her maternity leave or a manufacturer to use a year’s worth to return to school and get retrained. Someone who never left a job could draw upon it after retirement.”

Employment issues also interest Associate Professor **Sherrie Kossoudji**, especially as they relate to immigrants. Her research compares the experiences of three groups: immigrants who have become citizens, immigrants who aren’t citizens but have legal status (green cards), and illegal immigrants.

An economist, Kossoudji looks at whether there are issues associated with being an immigrant that affect income parity. How much lower are their wages? How much more likely are they to live in poverty?

“Following the reforms of 1996, undocumented immigrants have been ineligible to receive welfare. These workers do have labor rights, but to claim these rights, they must admit they are here without papers,” she points out.

“It is a real catch-22. And it raises an ethical conundrum. People talk about how illegal immigrants use our resources but not how we benefit from their presence. Prices are lower because of their labor. Is it ethical for us to eat cheap strawberries while denying them services?”

* * *

If the reforms of the past decade seem to have promoted as many problems as progress, the U-M SSW researchers are intent on the possibilities for future changes and developments in poverty policies and programs.

“The strengths and resilience that so many families draw on to face the exigencies of poverty can be developed and supported by new ventures developed through research and evaluation on new types of approaches,” Dean Laura Lein says. “Focused research and the development of model programs can influence policy-makers and the larger public as well.” **M**

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



Highlighting Important Research

E-Portfolios Expand the Scope of Portfolios

Combine the technology of the new millennium with the student-focused pedagogy that emerged in the 1960s and you get e-portfolios. Although e-portfolios are used throughout education from high school through graduate studies and from schools of education to art and design, they are just catching on in social work education and are doing so successfully.

With a genesis in curriculum evaluation and the U-M SSW's privilege, oppression, diversity, and social justice (PODS) initiatives, Assistant Professor **Dale Fitch**, Assistant Research Scientist **Melissa Peet** ('99, e-portfolio manager at the U-M Duderstadt Center), Associate Professor **Beth Glover Reed**, and Professor **Rich Tolman** have implemented e-portfolios in a focused manner. They documented their work in an article entitled "The Use of ePortfolios in Evaluating the Curriculum and Student Learning," published in the fall 2008 issue of *Journal of Social Work Education*. Data reported in the article came directly from the group's execution of the concept at the U-M SSW.

As they are guided through the portfolio concept, students are asked to reflect on their learning experience, seeking both the relevance and meaning of their own goals, as well as their social work-related career goals. Students may also use the resulting products as a place to store evidence and milestones of their education.

Fitch, Peet, Reed, and Tolman investigated the execution of portfolios, typically paper-based products, using technological support. E-portfolios are comprised of

a folder-and-file system, which acts as a repository for artifacts. These artifacts can range from classroom assignments to reflections on the field experience to career documents. (See diagram on this page.)

The e-portfolio concept is unique for several reasons, including that students have control of their content via their ability to grant access to specific artifacts and/or people. Additionally, artifacts can be multi-purposed—for example, a class reflection can also be used as a philosophy statement. Unlike paper documents, which are copied or scanned to be shared between multiple reviewers, documents in an e-portfolio are limited only by a student's own structure and intent. Taken as a whole, e-portfolios allow for easier and greater content management compared with a paper process. Thus, in using electronic resources, the building of a portfolio becomes less about creating the final product and more about participating in the process of self-discovery.

Reed and Peet have developed an integrative portfolio manual that can be used in seminars to assist students in learning how to develop artifacts and philosophy statements. Associate Dean for Educational Programs **Mary Ruffolo** and Director of Field Instruction **Betsy Voshel** are piloting an e-portfolio seminar using the manual as a guide. The overall goal of the manual and seminar is to guide students through the integrative learning approaches.

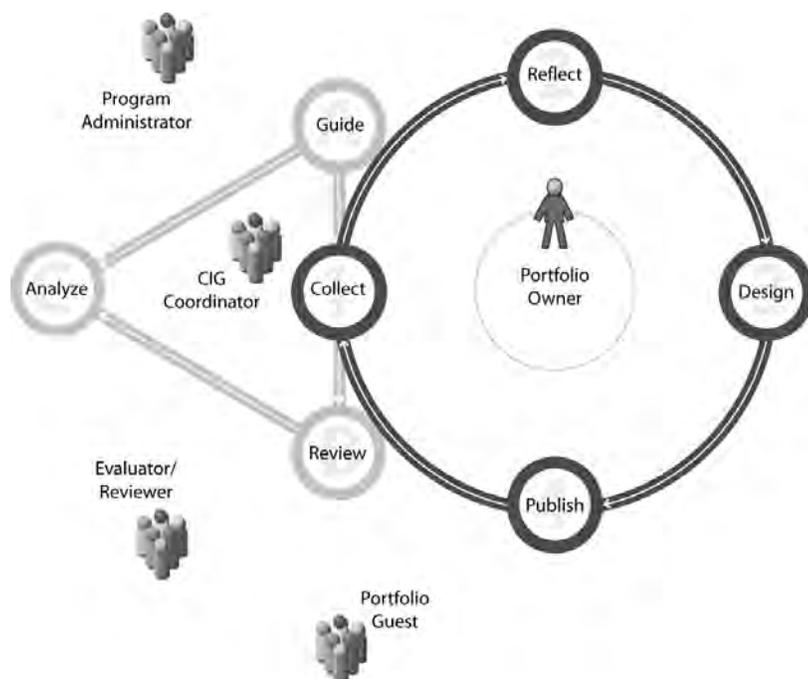
Student Edmund Lewis feels that everyone should be exposed to the e-portfolio concept. "The class taught me how to express my passion and talents honed in social work in a very different way. I now have something that I can reflect on and share with my peers and professors."

The faculty members' research indicates several anticipated and unseen issues with the e-portfolio concept, including ownership and access to the work and who gives permissions to view various levels of the portfolio. Further, they document a challenge in the usability of the portfolios system (including hardware, software, and demand) from a systems integration standpoint, concluding that portfolios can be used successfully if integrated with existing course management systems. Separate logins, duplicative process, and other aspects were not conducive to a complete experience.

Even considering the minor roadblocks of getting a system up and running and making it both pertinent and functional within an educational context, Fitch, Peet, Reed, and Tolman support the idea that portfolios, and especially the multi-functional e-portfolio, can expand and enhance the learning process for students. While a job after graduation is important, portfolios can assist a student in deciding who they are, how they view the world, and perhaps even how they want to change it. **M**

—Melissa Wiersema is assistant director of administration at the School of Social Work.

PROCESSES OF PORTFOLIO-BASED LEARNING AND EVALUATION



New Faculty Profiles

Louis Burgio

Lou Burgio was appointed the Harold R. Johnson Chair in Gerontology September 1, 2008, through August 31, 2013. He is also professor of social work, holds a joint appointment as research professor within the Institute of Gerontology, and is adjunct professor in both the School of Nursing and the LS&A Department of Psychology.

Dr. Burgio received a PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 1981 in applied developmental psychology, followed by a one-year post-doctoral fellowship in behavioral medicine from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He has been a licensed, practicing psychologist since 1983. He has held full-time faculty positions at the University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, and the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

He has done extensive research in applied gerontology, focusing on developing interventions for the behavioral complications of dementia in nursing homes and working with dementia caregivers in the community to ease the stress and burden of caregiving. He has received continuous funding from NIH since 1990.



UM Photo Services: Scott Galvin

Karla Goldman

Karla Goldman was appointed the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work, a joint appointment in the School of Social Work and Judaic Studies, beginning September 1, 2008. She directs the University's Jewish Communal Leadership Program.

Her work places American Jews within their broader social contexts. She traces the construction of American Jewish identities as a function of the choices around class, religion, gender, race, and politics afforded to Jews as a result of their complicated place as both outsiders and insiders in American society. Dr. Goldman is also engaged in studies of the history of the Jews of Cincinnati and of the Jewish experience of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

She received her doctorate in American history from Harvard University and was the first full-time woman faculty member of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati. She is the author of *Beyond the Synagogue Gallery: Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism* (Harvard University Press, 2000). Dr. Goldman previously taught American Jewish history at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati and served as historian in residence at the Jewish Women's Archive in Brookline, Massachusetts.



UM Photo Services: Scott Galvin

Sandra Momper

Sandy Momper, assistant professor of social work, joined the faculty in fall 2008. Dr. Momper's research interests include gambling, substance abuse, PTSD, mental health, and health disparities among rural and urban American Indians. She completed her MSW and PhD in social work at the University of Pittsburgh.

She recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the U-M Substance Abuse Research Center (UM-SARC), funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), where she studied substance abuse from a multidisciplinary perspective.

She is presently an investigator on a large population-based study of ecological stressors, PTSD, and drug abuse in the City of Detroit. The project, entitled "Detroit Neighborhood Health Study," is funded by NIDA and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Dr. Momper is active in the American Indian community at the University of Michigan and is a board member of American Indian Health and Family Services of Detroit. She brings to her work twenty years of direct practice experience with African American families and children in urban settings, as well as extensive experience in community organizing.



UM Photo Services: Lin Jones

H. Luke Shaefer

Luke Shaefer joined the faculty in fall 2008 as assistant professor of social work. His research focuses on the effectiveness of the U.S. social safety net in serving low-wage workers and economically disadvantaged families. He has published articles on low-wage work and the politics and economics of the minimum wage. His recent work explores the effects of nonstandard work characteristics on workers' access to social benefits such as health insurance coverage and unemployment insurance.

He is currently co-principal investigator on a study of the financial, medical, and labor market effects of crowd-out caused by expansions of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). He is also research associate for the Scheduling Intervention Study, a randomized experimental study of a workplace intervention designed to improve scheduling practices in entry-level retail jobs.

Dr. Shaefer is further interested in nonprofit management, especially the economics of social service administration, the development of nascent nonprofits, and the proper role of human service organizations in public policy advocacy. He received his PhD in social service administration from the University of Chicago in 2008.



UM Photo Services: Scott Galvin



UM Photo Services: Scott Soderberg

Bradley Zebrack

Brad Zebrack earned a PhD in social work and sociology at the U-M SSW in 1999. After completing a four-year post-doctoral research fellowship at the UCLA School of Medicine, he joined the USC School of Social Work faculty in 2003. In fall 2008 he became associate professor of social work and adjunct associate professor of public health at U-M.

His teaching and research interests are in the areas of health, medicine, and quality of life. He is particularly interested in psychosocial growth and development among adolescents and young adults with cancer. He has clinical social work experience in both pediatric and adult oncology, and he has been involved in the development and evaluation of peer support programs for cancer survivors.

Dr. Zebrack is former chair of the Association of Oncology Social Work's research subcommittee and has served on grant review committees for the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, and Lance Armstrong Foundation. He currently serves on the board of directors for the American Psychosocial Oncology Society and the medical advisory board for the Wellness Community of Southeast Michigan.

Recent Faculty Publications

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Allen-Meares, P. (2008). Assessing the adaptive behavior of youths: Multicultural responsiveness. *Social Work, 53*, 307–316.

Black, B. M., Tolman, R. M., Callahan, M., Saunders, D. G., & Weisz, A. (2008). When will adolescents tell someone about dating violence victimization? *Violence Against Women, 14*, 741–758.

Danziger, S. K., & Danziger, S. (2008). Child poverty in economic and public policy contexts. In Neuman, S. (Ed.), *Educating the Other America: Top Experts Tackle Poverty, Literacy, and Achievement in Our Schools* (pp. 19–34). Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

Faller, K., Ortega, M., & Pomeranz, E. (2008). Can early assessment make a difference in child protection? Results from a pilot study. *Journal of Public Child Welfare, 2*, 71–90.

Hollingsworth, L. D. (2008). Commentary: Does the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption address the protection of adoptees' cultural identity? And should it? *Social Work, 53*, 377–379.

Paul, J. (2008). Drawn together: The Detroit Connections Project. In E. Goodenough (Ed.), *Where Do the Children Play?* Carmel Valley, CA: National Institute for Play.

Root, L. S., & Wooten, L. P. (2008). Time out for family: Shift work, fathers, and sports. *Human Resource Management, 47*, 481–499.

Williams Shanks, T. R. (2008). Appendix: Assessing asset data. In S.-M. McKernan & M. Sherraden (Eds.), *Asset Building and Low-Income Families*. Baltimore, MD: Urban Institute Press.

Williams Shanks, T. R. (2008). Determinants of asset holdings. In S.-M. McKernan & M. Sherraden (Eds.), *Asset Building and Low-Income Families*. Baltimore, MD: Urban Institute Press.

COMMUNITY AND GROUPS

Chatters, L. M., Taylor, R. J., Bullard, K. M., & Jackson, J. S. (2008). Spirituality and subjective religiosity among African Americans, Caribbean Blacks, and non-Hispanic Whites. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 47*, 725–537.

Lauffer, A. (2008). Confronting fundraising challenges. In R. J. Patti (Ed.), *The Handbook of Human Services Management*, 2nd ed. (pp. 351–372). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publ., Inc.

Oyserman, D. (2008). Racial-ethnic self-schemas: Multi-dimensional identity-based motivation. *Journal of Research on Personality, 42*, 1186–1198.

Oyserman, D., & Lee, S. S. W. (2008). A situated cognition perspective on culture: Effects of priming cultural syndromes on cognition and motivation. In R. Sorrentino & S. Yamaguchi (Eds.), *Handbook of Motivation and Cognition across Cultures* (pp. 237–265). New York: Elsevier.

Paul, J. (2008). Editor's column: Prisons, activism and the academy. *Publication of the Modern Language Association, 123*, 545–567.

HEALTH

Allen, R. S., Hilgeman, M. M., Ege, M. A., Shuster, J. L., & Burgio, L. D. (2008). Legacy activities as interventions approaching the end of life. *Journal of Palliative Medicine, 11*, 1029–1038.

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Recent Faculty Honors and Awards

The City Council of Detroit presented **Paula Allen-Meares** with the Spirit of Detroit Award on September 23 in recognition of exceptional achievement, outstanding leadership, and dedication to improving quality of life. She was selected by the Hartford Partnership Program in Aging (HPPAE) to receive the 2008 Leadership Award for Outstanding Dean in Aging. She was also appointed co-chair of the New York Academy of Medicine committee to normalize a national training program in geriatric social work.



Paula Allen-Meares

On November 1, at the Chicago Defender's Annual Newsmaker Awards 2008, **Paula Allen-Meares** was presented with the Education Award. In 2007 the award winners included Senator Barak Obama and Mayor Richard Daley. Those honored in 2008 include Michelle Obama.

Lou Burgio is the 2008 recipient of the M. Powell Lawton Award in applied gerontology from the Gerontological Society of America.

Letha Chadiha was selected to receive the Outstanding Mentorship Award administered by the Gerontological Society of America's Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology.

Sandy Danziger gave the Robert J. O'Leary Memorial Lecture at The Ohio State University College of Social Work on November 17. She spoke on "Child Poverty and Antipoverty Policy in the U.S." She also presented on this topic at the East China University of Science and Technology, School of Social and Public Administration, on October 21 in Shanghai, China.

Kathleen Faller is quoted in a *Detroit Free Press* article regarding the new National Child Welfare Workforce Initiative, with which she and **Robert Ortega** are involved. Professor Ortega will develop a cultural humility distance-learning curriculum for supervisors and mid-managers in child welfare. Professors Faller and Ortega will be involved in the evaluations, particularly of traineeships.

Liz Gershoff appeared on a "CBS Evening News" report about corporal punishment on August 20.

Liz Gershoff is quoted in an August 20 AP story, "Study Finds Minorities, Kids with Disabilities More Likely to Be Paddled."

Lorraine Gutierrez has been appointed by the provost to be on the University's Engagement, Outreach and Service Activities accreditation working group.

Leslie Hollingsworth's article "Embryo Adoption: A New Approach to Building Families?" was printed in

the Report of the National Council on Family Relations, September 2008. Her research is often mentioned in Pauline Boss's articles in this newsletter, including in the article "Rethinking Adoptions that Dissolve," same issue.

Newsweek published a Q&A with **Sean Joe** on November 25 about a high profile suicide of a black male. In addition, he was selected to be the 2009 recipient of the Edwin Shneidman Award from the American Association of Suicidology for outstanding contributions in research to the field of suicide studies. The award will be presented in April at the 42nd American Association of Suicidology Conference in San Francisco, where he will give an address.

Lydia Li spent over a month last summer in Jinan, China, for a research project, Elder Care in China, funded by the Office of the Vice President for Research, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan. The project aims to understand the quality of care and quality of life of older Chinese with chronic illness and impairment, as well as the experience of their caregivers. In collaboration with researchers in China, Li conducted in-depth interviews with twenty-four frail elders and their family caregivers. Half of the elders in the study live in the city and half in rural villages.



Lydia Li interviews an elderly woman in a rural village in China.

At the Tribal Health Summit on October 15, **Sandy Momper** served on the U-M panel comprising representatives from schools across campus. The panelists discussed what they do and how they might be able to establish relationships with Michigan tribal health center directors.

Daphna Oyserman received the 2009 Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Excellence in Research Award on January 16 for her article entitled "Identity-Based Motivation and Health," published in the *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology*, 2007. She also received this award in 2005 for another paper. In conferring the award, the society recognized the significance of the problem addressed in her research, the rigor of the analysis, and its contribution to knowledge in social work and social welfare. She was also listed on ISI Web of Science's Science Watch in December 2008 as one of the University of Michigan's highly cited researchers.

Larry Root was interviewed by the *Washington Post* as part of an online election series, called "Purple States," about work issues. He appeared on the September 18 segment.

Mike Spencer is a fellow on the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Academic Leadership Program (ALP) for 2008-09.

Mike Spencer gave the keynote address, "Community-Based, Participatory Research (CBPR) and its Value to Native Hawaiian Research" at the Kamehameha Schools Annual Research Conference, Kaneohe, Hawaii, on November 3.

Rich Tolman has been appointed by the provost to be on the University's Student Learning Environment accreditation working group.

John Tropman was quoted in the *New York Times* on company meetings on July 20.

Betsy Voshel was the key speaker at the Michigan Association of School Social Workers annual conference October 16-18 in Grand Rapids. She spoke on "School-Focused Collegial Consultation Utilizing a Case-Based Decision Model."

UM Photo Services: Martin Woet



Larry Root

In Memoriam

Charles Wolfson, professor emeritus of social work, died October 7 at age 79. Chuck was born in New York City in 1929, the son of Phillip and Elsie Wolfson. He received a bachelor's degree from Long Island University and a master of social work degree from Wayne State University, where he studied on a scholarship from the National Jewish Welfare Board.

He worked at the Detroit Neighborhood Service Organization and joined the University of Michigan School of Social Work in 1961. He spent the next thirty years teaching, conducting research, and mentoring and advising students. His special areas of expertise were criminal justice and group work.

Rosemary Sarri, professor emerita of social work, recalled that Chuck Wolfson was a wonderful colleague who made a major impact at the School and in the profession. He was a dedicated teacher and advisor who was committed to students. He made a significant contribution to training social workers to work in juvenile and adult criminal justice settings.

Since his retirement, Chuck enjoyed travel (including annual trips to his home in California), reading, swimming, dining out, being outdoors, and spending time with his large family. He is survived by his wife Marcia, five children, and nine grandchildren. See his profile in the winter/spring 2008 issue of *Ongoing*.

UM Photo Services: Martin Woet



Charles Wolfson

Pioneer Profile

Vivian Shapiro

Like one of her well-known mentors and colleagues, Vivian Shapiro has had varied accomplishments during a longstanding career. Social work, she says, “is not a static profession.” Shapiro’s most recent article, “Reflections on the Work of Professor Selma Fraiberg” (*Clinical Social Work Journal*, 2007), chronicles her mentor’s development as a highly influential clinician, researcher, and educator in the field of infant mental health—one area Shapiro has contributed to herself.

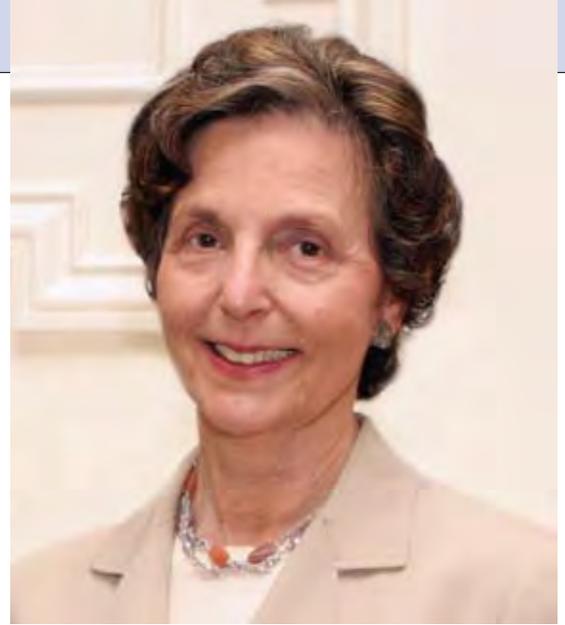
Vivian Shapiro grew up in Montréal, surrounded by many languages. Her grandparents had immigrated to Canada from Russia and Poland. The Holocaust, she says, was “profoundly present” in her family. This, coupled with living through the Depression as a very young child, fostered in her the sense that there was always an opportunity to help things get better.

She attended McGill University in Montréal, concentrating in sociology. After college, she married Harold Shapiro, who would later become the University of Michigan’s tenth president (1980–87).

The Shapiros moved to New Jersey so that he could attend graduate school in economics at Princeton University. She raised their family and began to take classes toward a master’s degree in social work—an achievement that required persistence as the family moved more than once during this time. “I’ve always thought that women often have a dual kind of life,” Shapiro says of managing both family and career simultaneously. “I was lucky to advance in both.”

Shapiro completed her MSW at the University of Michigan in 1969. Soon afterward, she met Selma Fraiberg at the U-M Child Development Project, where Fraiberg was leading a study dedicated to understanding the phases of normal infant development and the contributing factors to infant and early childhood emotional disorders. Shapiro became involved in the pioneering project, working as a clinician, researcher, and graduate student supervisor for nearly ten years. With Fraiberg, she co-authored numerous papers, as well as the highly influential “Ghosts in the Nursery.”

From 1980 to 1988, Shapiro worked as assistant professor, then associate professor, at the School of Social Work, achieving emeritus status in 1987. During this time, she taught and continued to do research on the subject of children’s emotional well-being.



Her work challenged the conventional practice of assessing children’s mental health only once—when the children were in kindergarten. Kathleen Faller, Marion Elizabeth Blue Professor of Social Work, says of Shapiro’s research, “The interventions she taught and practiced have had an enormous effect on infant mental health service delivery.”

She moved back to New Jersey in 1988, when her husband accepted the position of president of Princeton University. The same year, she joined the Mount Sinai Medical School in New York as a research consultant. Here, working with the Hispanic immigrant community, she became interested in the idea of biographical discontinuities.

This interest became the basis for her doctoral research at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Her dissertation explored, through narrative reconstruction, the stories of Russian immigrants to America—research that resonated with her own family’s history.

When she received her PhD in 1994, Shapiro went on to work with families who had adopted young children from Russia. One of her goals was to help the children reconcile past experiences with current ones so they might “develop a better sense of self.”

Her work in the area evolved into a book, which she co-authored with her daughter Janet (who received a PhD from U-M), entitled *Complex Adoption and Assisted Reproductive Technology: A Developmental Approach to Clinical Practice* (2001).

Currently, Shapiro continues to work with children and adults of nontraditional families in her private practice. She and her husband also keep busy with their four daughters and eleven grandchildren and with community service.

Like the influential woman she worked with years ago and writes about today, Vivian Shapiro has made marked progress in various roles. As a researcher, educator, clinician, author, mother, and wife, her contributions benefit many. **M**

—Jane E. Martin is a freelance writer living in Ann Arbor.

From the Sol Drachler Chair in Social Work

For almost twenty years, the University of Michigan's School of Social Work has been home to one of the nation's preeminent training programs in Jewish communal leadership.

I am honored to have been invested with the responsibility of restructuring the strong legacy left by the directors and alumni of Project STaR and the Sol Drachler Program in Jewish Communal Leadership to address the needs of the Jewish community of the future. With the support of the faculty and administration of both the School of Social Work and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, we are bringing together a program in Social Work, Judaic Studies, and nonprofit management that will draw upon the full strength of the University of Michigan to equip young leaders to address the critical challenges faced by today's and tomorrow's Jewish community. Its name is the Jewish Communal Leadership Program.

In moving forward, we will be emphasizing the strengths that come from the program's home in the School of Social Work. In addition to highlighting outstanding local and national fieldwork opportunities, we will promote the particular relevance of the social work curriculum to the many students who may be attracted to the Jewish professional world by their desire to build community and advance social justice.

In particular, we will draw attention to the SSW's strong offerings in community organizing, intergroup dialogue, and relationship building. This course of study will train leaders ready to help Jewish communal organizations build the coalitions that are possible and resolve the tensions that inevitably emerge within our complex, multicultural society. Future graduates will be prepared to work successfully within both traditional and nontraditional Jewish community organizations and will be ready to address the Jewish community's place within a broader social context.

After a two-year hiatus, we will be rebuilding the program's public profile, within the University and beyond, as we look toward recruiting an incoming class for fall 2010. One milestone in this effort will be a symposium convened in association with the installation of the Sol Drachler Chair in Jewish Communal Service on April 1 and 2, 2009. (See box on this page for more information.)

My hope is that a dynamic, thoughtful program attuned to the most vital and challenging issues faced by today's Jewish community will readily engage those who are seeking to make a difference in the world and are eager to do so from within Jewish contexts. With proper preparation and support, future graduates of the University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program will play an important role in helping American Jews recognize and fulfill their responsibilities to each other, to Jewish communities around the world, and to the broader society. **M**

—*Karla Goldman is Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work.*

If Not Now: Challenge, Choice, and Change in 21st Century Jewish Community

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009, 9 A.M.–2:30 P.M.
SSW EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER

Please join us for the April 2 symposium, which highlights the questions that will engage students of the University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program. The goal is to bring together dynamic activists, leaders, and thinkers to consider how to strengthen and build a Jewish community that believes in itself and understands its responsibilities within a broader society. Participants will address critical issues in American Jewish public life, such as the place of activism and politics in communal work, the challenges posed by current anxieties (intermarriage, continuity, the changing roles of men and women, alienation from Israel), and the role of Jewish community in pluralistic environments. The symposium will advance the conversation around these issues and set an agenda for the kind of communal leadership education the Jewish community needs in order to address current and future challenges.



Growing aging population means fewer resources for children

How do Americans decide how much to invest in the nation's youth or seniors?

Prioritizing distribution of resources for children—a segment that is becoming a smaller proportion of the total population than the growing 65 and older group—is an increasingly important issue, says Gary Freed, the Percy and Mary Murphy Professor of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and director of the Child Health Evaluation and Research (CHEAR) Unit at the University of Michigan.

“It’s not an all-or-nothing proposition,” Freed says. “It’s a question of how much of our limited resources do we put into each population?”

Freed discussed this topic in a lecture, “The Impact of the ‘Aging of America’ on Children,” during the Fedele F. and Iris M. Fauri Memorial Lecture on October 27 at the School of Social Work.

Changes in demographics affect the financing of public programs and private markets for health, education, and social services. Freed says the generational dilemma over the allocation of resources is a silent battle that likely stacks the deck against children.

“The future of our country will be affected negatively if changes are not made that secure continued public and . . . private investment for children’s health,” says Freed, a professor of health management and policy in the School of Public Health who has more than eighteen years of experience in children’s health services research.

The gap is widening between the generations and the programs that provide support to vulnerable populations. For example, most Americans do not realize that more Medicaid funding goes to the elderly than to children.

—Excerpted from *U-M News Service*, Jared Wadley, October 2008. Two continuing education units (CEUs) for this lecture were offered to those with an MSW degree.

Normal sadness or depression?

“Is normal sadness being labeled as a mental disorder?” asked Jerome Wakefield, professor of social work and of the conceptual foundations of psychiatry at New York University. Wakefield spoke on “The Loss of Sadness” at the School on October 15. Attendees with an MSW degree were able to earn one continuing education unit (CEU).

With enormous increases in depressive disorder treatment and diagnoses, as well as antidepressant use, depression has become the problem of our time, says Wakefield. *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of*

Mental Health provides nine symptoms of depression, and recent diagnoses of depression require five out of the nine symptoms that last for two weeks, along with distress or impairment in social or occupational functioning.

However, Wakefield stressed, this definition may mislabel persons who experience intense normal sadness in response to loss or other major stressors (e.g., losing a valued job, learning of a catastrophic illness diagnosis) as having a mental disorder. Wakefield argued that the current definition of major depression lacks sufficient attention to the context of symptoms.

In a study published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* in 2007, Wakefield and colleagues found no significant differences between depressive symptoms experienced after the loss of a loved one and other significant negative life events.

Detroit youth challenge racial and ethnic stereotypes

Youth from Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit are traveling the city, suburbs, and continent to perform a play, *Speak for Yourself*, about race and ethnicity. The script was written by Detroit youth who were involved with the School’s Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity program, headed by Professor Barry Checkoway.

On December 3, five sixteen-year-olds from Mosaic came to the School to present the play, which originated as a collaboration among the U-M Office of the Provost, National Center for Institutional Diversity, Program on Intergroup Relations, and School of Social Work, with funding from the Skillman Foundation. Through directly addressing racial and ethnic stereotypes, the writers and actors wish to increase intergroup dialogue, challenge segregation, and create community change.



Detroit youth present a play on race and ethnicity.



U-M Photo Services: Scott Galvin

U-M Professor of Pediatrics Gary Freed presents the 2008 Fauri Lecture.



U-M Photo Services: Martin Vloet

Jerome Wakefield

Immersion in Costa Rican Culture

A taste of international travel interested Abby Konyndyk in immersing herself in a culture different from her own. She chose to come to the University of Michigan School of Social Work after hearing of the School's growing international field placements.

Abby accompanied four other MSW students and Lecturer **Bob Miller** in the summer of 2008 to Costa Rica for eight weeks. To meet their field-related requirements, the students practiced community development and community organization in Falconiana, a rural community near the Nicaraguan border.

They were the first group of American students entering the communities, where they stayed for six weeks. "We had to introduce ourselves and create a way to teach the people who we were and what we were there to do," says Abby. In doing so, notes Bob Miller, "I believe the students represented the United States well."

Because they asked how the community wished them to help, their tasks were varied.

They worked with a small women's association that studied agriculture and horticulture, teaching the women English so that they could set up an agrotourist business. Not having a printer, they handwrote lists of words and phrases in English. "I was satisfied to be able to see the progress the women made in English," says Abby.

The students helped the association codify the thirty-five types of plants grown there, and they did research on the purpose for each. Supervised by an older resident, the students built a substantial retention wall out of boulders. Once complete, the wall prevented soil from being washed away from the nearby fields that the association used for growing crops.

Bob Miller made connections for the group to partner in their work with the United Nations, the Costa Rican government, and the NGO Reto Juvenil Internacional. He has taken U-M students to Costa Rica in the past through the Global Intercultural Experience of Undergraduates Program and has seen students grow significantly each summer. "Our students learned intercultural competency and the impact upon us of learning another culture," he comments.

Immersion in the culture was one goal of the field placement. "Home stays were the best part of the trip," says Jenn Sanders regarding their first two weeks in which they lived with local families. "I learned about the country and culture and my Spanish really improved." The students studied the language, and on their day off each week, they traveled and explored the country.

The students visited the University of Costa Rica's School of Social Work to learn about social work issues in the country. "I now know that there's so much more than the Western approach," says Jenn. "Doing this field placement was one of the best decisions I have made."

Abby agrees. "The field placement was so different from the kind of community organization that I did in my previous internship at Michigan."

The group realized how important teamwork was as each used strengths for the benefit of the whole. "Each one of us had real responsibility for making this field placement successful for us and for the community," says Abby.

Nellie Kim continues to draw on her experience even while taking classes after the internship. "The field placement gave me more focus to want to take full advantage of my last semester in the program and obtain practical social work skills. I have a better grasp on classroom materials as I can relate them to our experiences in Costa Rica. One of the many things I'd like to do is community development work in an international setting." **M**

—Tanya C. Hart Emley is editor of Ongoing.



TOP: Nellie Kim, MSW student, teaches an English class in a rural Costa Rican community during a summer field placement.

MIDDLE: Nellie Kim, Abby Konyndyk, Jerusha Haasenritter, Jenn Sanders, and Carey Wiese plan at a team meeting.

BOTTOM: Carey Wiese, Jerusha Haasenritter, and Nellie Kim work with a local resident to build a retaining wall.

Transformed into a Social Worker in South Africa



Like Kate, Sequoyah Hayes did special studies through Cross-Cultural Solutions. She worked in Cape Town at Care Haven, a shelter for twenty-five abused women and their children.

"A lot of people at U-M and the School of Social Work worked with me to help me be able to volunteer in South Africa and experience its culture firsthand. The trip was life-changing and opened my mind and heart," says Sequoyah.



Joe Donlin spent a summer field placement in Johannesburg working with the Global Call to Action Against Poverty. Joe campaigned on international policy issues of poverty and inequality and supported the development of community poverty hearings in five African nations: South Africa, The Gambia, Liberia, Kenya, and Cameroon.

"Doing international/global work requires a serious level of critiquing oneself and recognizing where one's position is within a local community and within the global community. I think it's beneficial if we all add a humble critique to our work," says Joe.

The last day at the NGO Etafeni was an emotional time for MSW student Kate McCriskin and the friends she had made in Nygana, a township about thirty miles outside of Cape Town, South Africa.

Deb, the founder of Etafeni's Life Skills Group, had told everyone they would hold a traditional day, and everyone dressed up, including Kate. The day turned out to be a surprise farewell for her. Her friends gave a skit, shared the meanings of their names, and told her about their lives and views. They feasted on foods that they eat daily.

As Deb expressed her gratefulness for Kate's work among them, Kate wondered why they were doing this for her. One woman who spoke up began crying. "You don't know how you have helped me, the skills you have helped me with," she declared. At that, tears flowed unashamedly across the room.

A young man told Kate, "You've given me hope. You came here; I know I can go somewhere. You have helped build bridges by coming."

Although she felt choked up, Kate knew that this might be her last opportunity to express her gratefulness to them. "You have done more for me and taught me more than I have done for you or taught you. You welcomed me, trusted me," she told them.

Now she reflects, "How can I open doors like that to other people?"

Kate went to South Africa for six weeks in the summer of 2008 for special studies through Cross-Cultural Solutions. She chose an international country because "it was important to me to see how social work operates on an international basis and to see others' great ideas for social work."

Director of Field Instruction **Betsy Voshel** sees Kate as "a perfect example of someone who is open to learning. She discovered and immersed herself in the culture, she eagerly engaged very challenging issues, and she benefited professionally and personally from the field experiences she cultivated."



Kate McCriskin's experience in South Africa transformed her as a person.

With her background and interest in working with HIV-positive individuals, Kate eagerly assisted in an income generation program with HIV-positive women who made items and sold them locally and internationally. Kate joined a group that traveled around the area in a mobile trailer, pitching tents in local communities and conducting HIV and TB testing.

She also taught life skills such as yoga, self-esteem, and anger management for community residents, aged 18–30, who were preparing to enter the workforce.

"The experience was better than I could have ever dreamed of," Kate exclaims. "The best part of being there was immersing myself in the culture. I got to know the people and to hear their viewpoints on issues and their struggles."

Her special studies advisor, Professor **Larry Gant**, sees a great change in Kate. "Kate left as a bright-eyed student excited by the possibilities the trip would offer her. She came back transformed. Her eyes, mind, and thoughts were opened by her many experiences and interactions with people who experienced the world in a very different way than she did.

"I notice now how her energy is channeled through newfound wisdom, calmness, and commitment to social change. She left a student and returned a social worker." **M**

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



Matt Borus spent almost four months in Pretoria, near Johannesburg, with the International Organization for Migration on an HIV policy towards migrant workers. He also worked with the aftermath of violence against immigrants that occurred in May.

"I wanted to experience social and policy work in a country with strong social movements," says Matt. "South African popular movements have won great victories in the last fifteen years, but there's so much they're still working toward."

Ameliorating Effects of Poverty

Ask Shannon Ellis what her favorite part of social work is, and she unhesitatingly replies, “Doing outreach and engaging with people, meeting them where they are.” “Outreach” is a key word to Shannon, who has been involved in community outreach and service even before she came to the School of Social Work.

Growing up, Shannon had a number of social workers as role models; her mother was a social worker for the state of Michigan, and several of her aunts were social workers as well. Though she expected to become a massage therapist, simultaneous positions at Yellow Brick Road, a youth street outreach program in Portland, Oregon, and the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington turned Shannon’s interest to social work.

Shannon spent the next ten years in social work positions, most often working to help homeless young people. “I did a large amount of street-level outreach to people who are homeless, which required skills of engagement and a good knowledge of resources for people who are homeless.” She then decided to pursue a master’s degree in social work at the University of Michigan because “I wanted to learn more about the theories underlying my work and to increase my professional skills in order to become a stronger social worker.”

In particular, Shannon credits her field placement at Southwest Counseling Solutions in southwest Detroit as being one of the most useful aspects of her studies in the School of Social Work. She started her internship there on an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team, where “I would visit people in their homes, take them to appointments, refer them for any necessary additional services to get their basic needs met, facilitate a recreation group, and keep team members in the loop as far as any ongoing issues.” Shannon also joined another outreach team that goes to soup kitchens and shelters to try to find people who could be helped by the services offered by Southwest Counseling Solutions.

Shannon is by no means the only School of Social Work student placed with a nonprofit organization created to help alleviate the effects of poverty, homelessness, or mental health issues in the community. The School of Social Work has a tradition of field placement and involvement, with the bulk of field



placements in southeast Michigan, although some placements are available across the country and even internationally. All students must complete 912 hours in their field placements, and over 300 students receive new field placements each year. Any student interested in serving people or families suffering from poverty has a choice of multiple field placements for which they may apply, of which Southwest Counseling Solutions is one example.

One of the most important things about Southwest Counseling Solutions, Shannon says, is that the programs there “assertively engage with individuals who have multiple barriers to obtaining necessary support services” so that the people most in need of help can get the help they need. Shannon sees the homeless people she helps as having “many hidden talents and strengths. Society values certain things and fails to recognize the survival skills and intelligence required to survive on the streets.”

After receiving her degree, Shannon is interested in doing more work with homeless people or people with a history of homelessness. She would enjoy being a member of an ACT team again, but in whatever job she pursues, she wants to be sure that her duties involve some type of outreach activities.

“True social workers are social workers 24 hours a day,” Shannon says. “In addition to being a profession, social work is a lifestyle.” **M**

—Amber Michele Gray is a freelance writer living in Ann Arbor.

Dissertations Defended



Jenell S. Clarke

Jenell S. Clarke

SOCIAL WORK AND PSYCHOLOGY

“Black children’s adjustment to their parents’ marital disruption: An examination of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)”

Using a homogeneous sample of Black children, I examined (1) whether marital disruption in Black families has the same presumed adverse effects reported in the general literature, (2) whether family circumstances prior to the marital disruption modify the association between marital disruption and children’s adjustment, and (3) whether the effect of marital disruption varies by the particular child outcome under investigation. Two outcome domains were assessed—behavioral problem (BPI; externalizing and internalizing behaviors) and achievement (PIAT; mathematics and reading). A sample of 405 children aged 4–11 were examined over a four-year inter-survey period. Marital disruption was associated with a significant effect for one of the four outcome variables of interest (i.e., reading) after accounting for several child and family characteristics. Results revealed significant interaction effects of parent-child relationship, maternal depressive symptoms, poverty status for behavior problems, and parental conflict for achievement.



Joanne Smith-Darden

Joanne Smith-Darden

SOCIAL WORK AND PSYCHOLOGY

“Childhood maltreatment, attachment, and cognitive processing: A mediation model”

This dissertation investigates the interface between childhood relational maltreatment, attachment, and cognitive processing, specifically auditory and language processing. A sample of 117 incarcerated male adolescents, mean age of 17, from a Midwestern detention center participated in a survey study. A structural equation modeling strategy was utilized to examine the role of attachment and cognitive processing deficits in child relational maltreatment. A significant relation was revealed between attachment on auditory processing as well as internalizing and externalizing behaviors, including withdrawal, anxiety, social problems, and aggression. When attachment was held constant, the relation between child relational maltreatment and auditory processing became significant in its influence on those same behaviors, indicating support for a partially mediated model. The current study supports the need for a multi-model intervention approach when working with maltreated children and youth.



Melita Vaz

Barbara Thomas

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIOLOGY

“Childhood shows the man as the morning shows the day: Three essays on childhood maltreatment, current social relationships and physical health”

This dissertation examines the effects of three subtypes of childhood maltreatment (i.e., emotional, moderate physical, and severe physical) on current social relationships and physical health. The analysis is based on data from the National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS) 1995–1996, a nationally representative random-digit-dial sample of non-institutionalized, English-speaking adults who were aged 25–74 at the time of the survey. The data suggest that childhood maltreatment is negatively associated with perceptions about social relationships and this association tends to be evident across the age groups studied. The data also suggest that childhood maltreatment is negatively associated with psychological resources and with physical health. Personal control and self-acceptance mediated the effects of childhood maltreatment on current health, but the other examined psychological resources did not mediate this relationship. The findings provide important insights into the long-term effects of childhood maltreatment on social relationships and physical health.

Melita Vaz

SOCIAL WORK AND PSYCHOLOGY

“Understanding parental theories about children’s health”

This dissertation studies lay theories of health and illness among nineteen Christian and Hindu parents in Bombay, India. Using an ethnographic design, I interviewed parents of school-going adolescents aged 13 to 15 years about their views on adolescent health. Most interesting was the “mismatch” between parents’ views and what research shows: When presented with known risk conditions such as HIV/AIDS, smoking tobacco, and drugs, parents minimized the perception of danger. In contrast, adolescent health risks reported by parents included bad friends, premature sexual awareness, and mass media—things that could distract the adolescent from their approved goal of education. Since parents are more likely to seek help for issues pertaining to education and premature sexual awareness than acknowledge other concerns, Indian social workers could use such interactions to address parental concerns as well as to educate them about issues such as tobacco and drugs.

Geriatric scholars meet with Dutch CEOs

At the end of October, the sixteen students who have been awarded geriatric scholarships met with seventeen CEOs of Dutch Christian organizations in long-term care. The CEOs were visiting South Dakota and Michigan to study developments in elder care in the United States.

Nathan Keup ('04), who was a geriatric scholar when he studied at the U-M SSW, helped coordinate the visit. He works as director of real estate development for Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, a senior living provider.

The geriatric scholars and faculty met with the Netherlands study group after the group's tour of the Village of Redford, a 33-acre continuing care retirement community. Over lunch, they discussed issues facing the senior living and care industry, including marketing and branding, government subsidy and regulation, overall debate of public versus privately financed health care, care delivery models (home health vs. campus-based), and the emerging professions within an evolving industry.



The School's geriatric scholars meet with CEOs of Christian elder care organizations from the Netherlands.

"Despite the language barrier," says geriatric scholar Gayle Shier, "we came together with a common purpose: helping older adults maintain their quality of life for as long as possible. It didn't take long to realize that the challenges facing the Netherlands right now are remarkably similar to the ones we experience in the United States.

"We were able to brainstorm together, and the visitors from the Netherlands and representatives from Michigan all left with ideas for improving their practice. It was inspiring to see these professionals—from different countries, speaking different languages—learn from each other, and I left confident that our older adult clients will benefit from the work done that day."

The School's Geriatric Scholarship Program aims to address the increasing need for geriatric social workers by creating more aging-rich placements and increasing the number of students in the field of health care and social work for older people.

NASW-MI comes to the School



Maxine Thome, executive director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)-Michigan chapter, spoke to the School's Nontraditional Student Network on September 17. She shared how the NASW provides resources to both macro and clinical social workers. Emphasizing that NASW is an advocacy program, she told the students, "You will always find yourself in a position where you can advocate."

International Social Work Night



This year's International Social Work Night on November 20 featured students from six countries. Among other presentations, two students demonstrated Filipino dancing, and two students sang songs from Ghana and South Korea. As in the past, students dressed in traditional clothing and enjoyed great international foods.



Mark Courtney

Child welfare policy expert speaks at School

Dr. Mark Courtney, Ballmer Endowed Chair for Child Well-Being at the University of Washington School of Social Work, visited the U-M School of Social Work on October 28. Hosted by the doctoral student group Conversations Across Social Disciplines (CASD), Dr. Courtney emphasized the need to educate social workers both practically and theoretically to pursue social justice in their areas of practice.

He also presented research from the Chapin Hall Midwest Evaluation of Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, showing that foster youth who remain in care until age 21 are less likely to be incarcerated and have mental health concerns than youth who age out at 18. At the same time, they are more likely to have steady employment and to have pursued post-secondary education. This research was a primary impetus for the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, signed into law on October 7, 2008.

Dr. Courtney is considered a national expert on the state of child welfare policy and practice in the United States as well as its impact on the lives of children and adolescents. He is sought after frequently to testify in front of state and federal committees about these issues and has worked with a number of states to evaluate their child welfare systems.

—*Claudette Grinnell-Davis, a joint doctoral student in social work and psychology, helped to coordinate Professor Courtney's visit.*

School's first charity ball helps community

The SSW Student Union organized the School's first charity ball on November 1, held at the Michigan Union. Deborah Cohl, MSW student, provided live entertainment. Over 150 people attended, including representatives from both SafeHouse and Teen HYPE (Helping Youth by Providing Education), the two organizations benefiting from the charity ball.

"The charity ball was a success!" says U-M SSW Student Union President Nicole Mammo. "As a result of the SSW community's willingness to have fun in support of great causes, we are able to donate \$1,500 to each organization. I'm so pleased that we could sponsor and organize such a successful event, and I look forward to it growing and improving in the future."

Doctoral student awards

Adriana Aldana was awarded a Rackham International Conference Travel Grant.

Jean Balestrery's submission, "Aging in the Academy: From Research Methods towards Paradigmatic Framework of Meta-Methods," was accepted for presentation at the 2009 International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

Alice Gates and **Dana Levin** were selected to receive the Henry Meyer award. The Henry Meyer award is given annually to the student, or students, whose paper makes an original contribution to empirical or theoretical literature in a manner that integrates social work and social science.

Shayla Griffin, Sarah Jirek, Katherine Luke, and Jennifer Tucker were awarded Rackham Travel Grants.

Isok Kim and **Antonette King** were recipients of CSWE Minority Doctoral Fellowships in Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

Dana Levin was the recipient of a Barbara Oleshansky Memorial Award and was awarded a Rackham International Conference Travel Grant.

John Mathias was awarded the Irene & William Gambrell Fellowship.

Kerri Nicoll was the recipient of the Shapiro Malik award.

MSW student awards

Raj Mehta was awarded the Clinton Global Initiative University Outstanding Commitment Award for his teen fatherhood program that he will implement in Detroit. Raj worked on this program with Clinical Assistant Professor **Beth Sherman**.



Students Brian Taylor, Joe Molinari, Heather Showman, and Mina Hong are happy to help out local organizations at the School's charity ball.

THANK YOU!

Over \$19 Million Raised in Campaign

After eight years, the Michigan Difference campaign officially ended at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2008. Thanks to the support and generosity of both alumni and friends, the School of Social Work raised an impressive \$19,222,615! A total of 13,464 gifts in the form of outright annual and major contributions, private foundation grants, and planned gifts came in to the School from nearly 5,000 donors from around the globe. The School is very appreciative to all who participated in the campaign. Even during these very tough economic times, our alumni have continued to give—and give generously.

Finale celebration

To celebrate the success of the Michigan Difference, various events were held University-wide during the campaign finale weekend November 14–16. As a part of its program offerings, the School of Social Work held a special presentation Friday morning, co-hosted by Dean Emerita **Paula Allen-Meares** and Interim Dean **John Tropman**.

Two back-to-back panels that helped to demonstrate the effect the campaign has had on the School's community were introduced by John Tropman. The first panel featured MSW students Joe Donlin, Abby Konyndyk, and Kate McCriskin, all of whom were recipients of the Board of Governor's Practicum Award, an award made possible by annual gifts given in the range of \$5 to \$5,000 from alumni across the country. These three students represented the nearly twenty students who received a scholarship to conduct field placements in the spring/summer term outside of Michigan.

Each of the students spoke about their personal "Aha!" moments when classroom knowledge and real world experience came together for a personal

epiphany. Julie Maslowsky, MSW '05, director of strategic planning for U-M's Quito Project, moderated the panel. Abby's and Kate's stories are featured on pages 16 and 17 of this issue, respectively.

The second panel focused on the partnership between the School and Detroit's Skillman Foundation. In 2006 the foundation launched its Good Neighborhoods Initiative (GNI), a ten-year \$100-million commitment to Detroit families in six neighborhoods in Detroit. The School of Social Work provides technical assistance for this initiative, working closely with the foundation, residents, neighborhood stakeholders, and other partners involved in the change process.

Professor **Larry Gant** and the Technical Assistance Center's program manager, **Pat Miller**, led the discussion before turning the panel over to Charles Glass and Lancine Norris, two Detroit residents involved with GNI who recently participated in a Photovoice project. Glass's neighborhood in the Northend and Norris's neighborhood in Southwest Detroit were two of the six exhibits involved with the Photovoice project that helped young residents bring attention to both the challenges and opportu-

continued on page 24



MSW students Kate McCriskin, Joe Donlin, and Abby Konyndyk discuss the impact that their international field placements had on their educational experience. Julie Maslowsky ('05, far right) moderated the panel.

Charles Glass and Lancine Norris discuss their Photovoice project.

Social Work Scholarships Open Opportunities for the Best and Brightest

Economic hardship left Jenn Sanders and her family homeless when she was still in her teens.

"This was the start of my social work education," recalls Sanders, who recently received her master's degree in social work from the U-M. "I had always assumed that there were services to help people in need, but I didn't know about waiting lists, meal tickets, or quota systems."

Frustrated by the lack of adequate services, the teenaged Sanders logged onto a computer at the local public library to look for help. When her searches turned up a series of hits for the U-M School of Social Work, it started her thinking about how she could help others in similarly desperate straits. She eventually relocated to Ann Arbor, where she worked her way through an undergraduate degree before joining U-M's MSW program. She hopes her specialization in social policy and evaluation, with a minor in community organization, will help her address the unmet needs of others struggling to get by as she and her family once did.

Jenn Sanders' transition from homelessness to the halls of academe would not have been possible without financial assistance from donor-supported scholarships. During her time at U-M, Sanders benefited from the Shirley Falconer Slayman Memorial Award, established by William O. Slayman (AB '48) in honor of his late wife, Shirley (MSW '50), to commemorate her successful career in mental health, adoption services, disabilities, and case work. The award supports Social Work students with financial need. Given that the typical MSW student graduates with \$72,000 in debt and an average starting salary of just over \$30,000 a year, scholarships are essential for enabling graduates like Sanders to pursue careers in the public sector.

"The Slayman award allowed me to focus on my graduate education without having to worry about how I would be able to afford the cost of attendance," Sanders says. "With this assistance, I have made



Gregory Fox

the most of my graduate experience by studying on campus and abroad."

An Alumni Board of Governors' Practicum Award, created by the School's Board of Governors during the campaign, helped Sanders internationalize her social work education by supporting a 2008 summer field placement in Costa Rica. The placement gave her a unique opportunity to learn about how nongovernmental organizations develop policy and evaluation techniques in other countries.

"I've been very fortunate to be chosen as a scholarship recipient," Sanders says. "My master's education has afforded me an invitation into a PhD program, along with a variety of employment opportunities for which I would otherwise not have been adequately prepared. Donor scholarships truly are the Michigan difference: an investment in a scholar is an investment in the community that will be repaid over the course of a life's work."

—*University of Michigan Development Communications. Published in The Michigan Difference, Finale Edition, November 14, 2008.*

To read more stories about how campaign gifts are making a difference across campus, please visit www.giving.umich.edu/campaign.

continued from page 22

nities within their communities so as to develop strategies for community action. For more information about this project, please visit www.ssw.umich.edu/public/currentProjects/goodNeighborhoods.

An all-school luncheon celebration followed the panel presentations before faculty, students, and alumni headed over to Hill Auditorium for the University-wide Campaign Convocation, where President Mary Sue Coleman announced that U-M had set a record among public universities in raising \$3.1 billion in gifts during the Michigan Difference campaign.

SSW campaign highlights

The three major fundraising initiatives undertaken by the School during the campaign were incredibly successful. They were highlighted during the finale celebration. Of the \$19.2 million that was raised, donations were directed to the following areas:

FACULTY SUPPORT



Philip Dattilo

The major foundation of any school is its faculty. They hold the role of researcher, teacher, and community leader, among others. For a top-ranked school of social

work, it is critical to continue to recruit and retain exceptional faculty, and therefore this area was one of the key pillars of the School's campaign. Our faculty support fundraising goal was \$2 million. The School well exceeded this goal by raising just over \$5 million, a figure that includes two new named endowed faculty chairs.

AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



With outstanding faculty comes outstanding research, and here at the School of Social Work we have invested considerable time, effort, and energy in community-based

research and practice programs. Our goal in the area of research excellence was to raise \$9.5 million. At campaign end the School raised nearly \$9.2 million from private foundations and individual donors to support this critical work that impacts communities here in Michigan, nationally, and around the world.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The final pillar of the campaign that the School focused on, and continues to focus on, was in raising much-needed dollars to support the future of our profession—our students. With the cost of living and tuition expenses



Peter Smith

often on the rise, funding for scholarships, fellowships, travel grants, and field placement stipends is crucial in order to attract the very best and brightest to the program. Our student support goal was set at \$5 million, with the hope of increasing our endowed scholarships, which provide funding for generations of students to come. Endowed scholarships numbered six at the start of the campaign. At the close of the campaign, the School has **thirty-four endowed student scholarship funds** as well as **several expendable awards** from the \$4.9 million that was raised. Recent graduate and scholarship recipient Jenn Sanders ('08) was one of the students featured in the University's *Michigan Difference*, Finale Edition, newspaper that highlighted stories on how donations from the campaign were having a transformative effect on schools and departments across campus and those that they serve. (See page 23.)

A special thank you

A heartfelt thank you to the School's Campaign Committee, a volunteer group of alumni and friends who were essential to helping the School meet its goals. Members include co-chair Olivia P. Maynard ('71), co-chair William F. Pickard ('65), Laurel Capobianco ('96), Helen Charlupski ('73), Helen Pregulman, Richard and Susan Rogel, Sally Schmall ('94), Vivian B. Shapiro ('69), Kristine Siefert ('75), John Tropman (PhD '67), Robert E. Wollack ('78), and advisors Robert Aronson, Larry Moses, and Gilbert Whitaker. **M**



Gregory Fox

TOP: Dean Designate Laura Lein, Jim Minder ('74), and Susan Davis ('74) enjoy a coffee break in McGregor Commons.



Gregory Fox

MIDDLE: Interim Dean John Tropman (PhD '67) introduces himself to Bernadine Martin before the panel presentations.



Gregory Fox

BOTTOM: Dean Emerita Paula Allen-Meares and campaign committee member Helen Pregulman are in discussion after the finale panel.

Donor Spotlight

Annual Donors Making a Difference

Every year hundreds of alumni make an annual contribution to the School of Social Work. For some it is a \$50 gift to the annual fund, for others it is a \$200 contribution to a scholarship fund. Together, these annual gifts are having a tremendous impact upon the School and our students. This year alone, over \$200,000 has been committed to support student scholarships from the annual gifts that have been received.

We asked two of our MSW annual donors about their feelings on philanthropy and why they chose to support the School of Social Work this year. Here are their stories.

I believe that everyone should find a cause they believe in and give back. My father, a dentist, was always generous with his money and service to his patients and community. He told me, "Those who are given much are expected to give back to others. In whatever way you give, it will come back to you tenfold."

In terms of my current philanthropic interests, I contribute to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Parish School. Both are in Houston, Texas. M.D. Anderson does state-of-the-art treatment and research. The Parish School is a private elementary school for children with speech and language disorders. Their early intervention helps many children who are not adequately helped by special education programs through the public school system.

I also support the U-M School of Social Work, specifically the Board of Governors' Practicum Award fund. The scholarship helps MSW students do fieldwork in the far corners of the world, giving them unique experiences that they can incorporate into their practice after graduation. I value my U-M SSW education and the School's national and international prominence, and I want to give back to others.

—Amy Ellwood ('83), LCSW, is a professor of family medicine and psychiatry at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas. She is also a former member of the School's Alumni Board of Governors.

I think it is a part of the human condition to want to make a contribution to something that is greater than ourselves. I also think we have a moral obligation to give back when we have been afforded some advantage, like the opportunity to attend a world-class university such as U-M. For these reasons, I feel strongly that everyone should find a cause they believe in and contribute either time, resources, or talents.

I like to support causes that help remove barriers to opportunity and stability, such as the School's Board of Governors' Practicum Award fund. I give to the fund because it supports students' efforts to advance their education in settings that most benefit them and society. Many out-of-state and international placements provide this opportunity but are frequently out of reach for students because of financial barriers. I also support the agency I work for, Judson Center, because I believe in their mission to help children, adults, and families improve their lives.

I support the SSW by giving financially and by being active on the School's board. I think my gift helps strengthen the School in some small way. I believe that if everyone gives in a small way, we can make a big impact on the ongoing quality of the School. Ultimately, a stronger school translates into better services for children and families.

—Sean de Four ('01), LMSW, is a regional director at Judson Center, a human service agency in southeast Michigan. He is also vice president of the School's Alumni Board of Governors.

If you have your own philanthropy story to tell, or would like to read stories about other alumni from around the campus, please visit www.giving.umich.edu and click on the "Share your story" button. **M**

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



Amy Ellwood ('83)



Sean de Four ('01)

From the Alumni Board of Governors' President

It is with great excitement that I introduce you to the newest members of the School of Social Work Alumni Board of Governors. Please join me in welcoming Anita Bohn, MSW '88; Hazelette Crosby-Robinson, MSW '08; Susan Himle, MSW '79; Erica Solway, MSW '05; and Glenn White-law, MSW '76. These graduates bring a wonderful array of experience and talent to the board. As we work to bring you opportunities to remain engaged with the School, I hope you will share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Over the past year, we expanded the number of opportunities available to engage with your fellow alumni. In October, the board hosted the School's annual homecoming tailgate party, held in conjunction with the University's 50th reunion activities. The weekend included tours of the School, a presentation by Dean Emeritus Phil Fellin, and a board-hosted luncheon. Be sure to join us this fall as we expand our reunion activities to include 25-year and 10-year grads!

In addition, the Professional Development Committee hosted its second annual professional development

event, Building Healthy, Strong Communities. Featured speakers included faculty, board, and community members presenting on topics such as ethics, pain management, alternative health care practices, boards of directors, and many others. Watch your mailbox this summer for updates regarding this year's event.

The Scholarship Committee has been busy awarding funding for out-of-state and international field placements. A total of eight students traveled to Mississippi, Ghana, South Africa, and Costa Rica. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, the committee was able to offer larger scholarship awards this year.

Based on responses from you, new initiatives are under way by the Alumni Relations Committee. Members are developing a Southeast Michigan Alumni Club, as well as finalizing details for a day of service. See page 27 for more information about these new endeavors.

We hope to see you at the day of service this spring and at reunions this fall. To share your thoughts and suggestions for other types of alumni activities, please contact us at ssw.alumni@umich.edu.

Sincerely,



Laurel Capobianco, MSW '96
President, SSW Alumni Board of Governors

LEFT: Interim Dean John Tropman (middle) was host to over fifty alumni and guests at the 2008 Homecoming Tailgate.

MIDDLE: Alumni from across the state of Michigan attended the workshop on ethics presented by Clinical Assistant Professor Betsy Voshel.

RIGHT: Dean Emeritus Phil Fellin gave an overview of the School's history during reunion weekend.





Get involved

There are many opportunities to become involved with the School of Social Work:

- Serve on the Alumni Board of Governors
- Join the Southeast Michigan or Chicago Alumni Club
- Attend networking receptions and other activities
- Create placement opportunities for student internships
- Talk with students who are considering relocating to a new region

New organizations are also reaching out to alumni. The University of Michigan Association of Jewish Alumni (UMAJA) is working with the University of Michigan Alumni Association to offer numerous benefits and opportunities. Joining UMAJA is free. Members receive a monthly e-newsletter that includes updates on Jewish alumni, students, and campus events. Visit www.umaja.org for additional information.

Social Workers for Veteran's Health and Mental Health is a student organization whose mission is to create awareness and educate social workers about veterans' issues. For more information about how to get involved and/or about future events, visit www.swveterans.com.

To learn more about all of these opportunities, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-763-6886 or ssw.alumnioffice@umich.edu.



Look for ways to volunteer in southeast Michigan through the U-M SSW.

SSW Southeast Michigan Alumni Club forming

Are you living or working in southeast Michigan and looking for a way to become more engaged with the School of Social Work? The Alumni Relations Committee of the SSW Alumni Board of Governors is currently planning several projects, and we need your help to make them successful.

Be a part of the SSW Southeast Michigan Alumni Club. Look for us on inCircle, the University's free online directory and networking community. InCircle allows you to reconnect with friends, receive notification of upcoming events, and learn about professional opportunities. Getting started is easy! Simply visit www.alumni.umich.edu/online-services/in_circle.php and log in to learn more.

Join us for a day of service. This spring, the Alumni Relations Committee is hosting opportunities for you to volunteer in southeast Michigan. More details will be arriving soon in your mailbox.

For more information about the alumni club and these events, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734-763-6886 or ssw.alumnioffice@umich.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Take our online survey

Are you satisfied with the information, stories, and updates you receive? What other information can we provide to you? Take our online survey to let us know whether we are meeting your needs, to share your ideas and suggestions, or to identify other events and activities you would like to see offered by the School of Social Work. Visit the Office of Development and Alumni Relations survey site at www.ssw.umich.edu/alumni to express your thoughts, concerns, opinions, and ideas.

Calling 10-, 25-, and 50-year reunion grads!

Special activities to celebrate your graduation year will be held on September 25.

Michigan vs. Indiana

will play the 2009 homecoming game held on September 26. Please join us for our annual tailgate before the game!

Building Healthy, Strong Communities

will once again be held in October this year. Contact the SSW Alumni Office for more information.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

734-763-6886
ssw.alumnioffice@umich.edu

Your Gift Can Have a Lasting Impact

Professor emerita and dedicated pioneer in social services for youth and social work education, Clarice Ullman Freud lives on through her legacy at the School of Social Work.



In 1942 Professor Freud joined the faculty at the U-M School of Social Work so that she could pass along to students what her years in the field taught her as a practical caseworker. For over three decades she carried a teaching load while continuing her work and affiliation with countless agencies and government entities, at one point serving with the Governor's Youth Commission. In 1974 Professor Freud retired, and in 1999 the social work community was saddened at her passing.

Through a bequest of over \$400,000 to support two endowed scholarships for MSW students, Freud's legacy continues on today. Since the establishment of the Clarice Ullman Freud Individual Research Award, as well as the Freud Fellowship, over twenty child welfare students have benefited from her generous gift and carry on her work of advocating for today's youth.

To learn how your generosity can have a lasting impact at the School of Social Work, contact Lindsey Rossow-Rood, director of development, at 734-763-6886 or via email at ssw.development@umich.edu. You can also learn more about bequests and other types of estate gifts at the University's planned giving website, www.giving.umich.edu/planning.

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M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
School of Social Work



Alumni Profile

Nial Raaen, '78

“Justice is an indispensable ingredient of the process of national reconciliation. It is essential to the restoration of peaceful and normal relations between people who have lived under a reign of terror. It breaks the cycle of violence, hatred, and extra-judicial retribution. Thus peace and justice go hand in hand.”—*Antonio Cassese*

The former insurance building, a gray four-story edifice in The Hague, is so nondescript that it is difficult to imagine those working inside are committed to “bringing criminals to justice and justice to victims.” Though he works in very ordinary surroundings, Nial Raaen and his Court Management and Support Services staff at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) are committed to just that mission.

As chief of court management for the ICTY, Raaen advances this mission in the most practical, but vital, of arenas. He and his staff provide legal and administrative support for trials conducted at the tribunal and maintain tribunal records. Specifically, his team handles responsibilities that range from organizing the logistics of trial, to ensuring that all rise when judges enter and exit the room, to keeping an official record of events in all hearings, to administering exhibits and filings that serve as evidence. Outside the courtroom, his team plays a vital role in ensuring ICTY transparency and participant confidentiality. They assume responsibility for receiving, archiving, redacting, and publishing more than 100,000 case-related documents each year.

Raaen’s interest in justice and his path toward court management began in 1960s Tennessee when, as a high school newspaper photographer, he covered a story about prison reform efforts. The project sparked his interest in corrections reform.

He applied to the U-M SSW, hoping that the training he received would prepare him to enter the corrections field—and he was not disappointed. After completing a field placement at a Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department halfway house, he secured a permanent position with the Sheriff’s Department and worked in both the halfway house and the jail.

For ten years, Raaen put his social work training to work in the service of the 14A District Court, Michigan, first as a probation officer and later as magistrate and court administrator. At the encouragement of John Tropman, Raaen expanded his administrative skills by completing a management certificate at the U-M SSW and a master’s of public administration at U-M.

His final assignment with the 14A District Court involved a pilot project that streamlined court operations. “We streamlined so well,” Raaen recalls, “that I retired and decided to try court management and administration consulting.”

While working on stateside court-improvement projects, Raaen stumbled on an opportunity to help the largest court in Cairo, Egypt, improve its case management system, consolidate its records center, and optimize its civil process. “I really liked it and couldn’t wait to do more,” he recalls.

In 2000 he volunteered for a project in Macedonia, and many of his subsequent assignments were located in the Balkans, piquing and deepening his interest in the region’s rich, if troubled, history. In 2007 Raaen married his interest in the former Yugoslavia to his well-honed administrative skills, accepting an appointment as chief of court management with the ICTY.

As a temporary organization established by the United Nations, Raaen explains, “it aims to promote reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia by bringing to justice those responsible at a high level for crimes.” The mission, however, can be complicated. “It is vital that people be accountable for their actions, but the length of a tribunal [ICTY was convened in 1993] can keep divisive issues in the forefront of cultural memory and doesn’t always permit the past to be past.”

Complexities aside, Raaen observes that the tribunal itself, with its international composition and missional focus, is an agent for reconciliation. “I have a staff of forty from twenty-four countries, including a number of staff members from the former Yugoslavia. It is remarkable to see how well people work together when they’re committed to a cause.” **M**

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

Class Notes



Betty Wilson

1950s

BETTY WILSON, MSW '57, was recently featured in *Columbia Business Times* as one of Columbia, Missouri's finest female attorneys. Betty Wilson practices domestic relations and family law, including providing mediation services at the firm Oliver, Walker, Wilson.

1960s

BERNADINE BEDNARZ, MSW '65, is the director of the Ready, Set, Gold! (RSG!) program with the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games. RSG! is a community health and fitness program that matches Olympians/Para Olympians with elementary, middle, and high school students of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Bernadine also serves on the boards of Women and Youth Supporting Each Other and Women's Foundation Donor Circle.

SANDRA KAY ALBRIGHT, MSW '69, delivered the keynote address at the SeniorCare, Inc., and RSVP Program volunteer corps luncheon at the Danversport Yacht Club in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Sandra is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts undersecretary of elder affairs. She is very familiar with the service of elder Americans, having been in the field of human services for almost forty years as the former executive director of Kit Clark Senior Services.

1970s

BURT CARP, MSW '70, has limited his participation in things that take him far from home. However, he remains interested in the School of Social Work and its activities.

CAROL GOSS, MSW '72, president and CEO of the Skillman Foundation, received the Eleanor Josaitis "Unsung Hero" Award as part of the Shining Light Awards. The award, created by the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition and the *Detroit Free Press*, recognizes individuals who work behind the scenes to build regional cooperation and understanding.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON, MSW '73, retired from the State of Michigan in 2004. He is engaged in numerous volunteer projects, including service on local organization boards.

DONALD CHAVEZ, MSW '74, has spent the better part of his life advocating for the rights of others. In February 2008, he was recognized for his work and awarded the Outstanding Hispanic Social Worker Award at the annual National Association of Social Workers conference in Albuquerque. He has also been featured

on the NASW consumer and membership websites in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Donald began advocating for the rights of migrant farm workers with Cesar Chavez in the early 1970s. He is an advocate of the rights of children of divorce. Because of this work, he also received a written commendation from Congress in May of 1987.

LINDA YOUNG LANDESMAN, MSW '74, was recently elected chair of the executive board of the American Public Health Association. In addition, her new book, *Emergency Preparedness for Health Professionals* (2009), has been published by EMC/Paradigm Publishers. This textbook was written to provide an introduction to disaster response for allied health professionals.

SUSAN BURKE, MSW '75, now a full-time musician and visual artist, resides with her family in the Snoqualmie Valley east of Seattle, Washington. After more than twenty years in social work, including a long-term individual analytic practice and consultation, management, and training positions in Group Health Cooperative and Seattle University, she is now exploring her passion for the arts. She recently released her debut CD *Journey Home*, which explores the joy of spiritual discovery, and her paintings have been exhibited regionally. She welcomes you to visit www.susanburkeonline.com to view her art or to reconnect.

IVEY COOLEY, MSW '75, has been working as a treatment manager at the Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut, for more than nine years. She is using her group work skills running groups for intensive outpatient programs and PHP programs for adults. In addition, she participates in the family therapy, cognitive therapy, and DBT consultation groups and continues to use her skills in all of these areas.

MARVIN PARNES, MSW '75, associate vice president for research and executive director of research administration at the University of Michigan, was recognized by Steve Forrest, vice president for research, for his efforts in facilitating economic development efforts, which targeted the economic transformation and dislocation that the region and nation are experiencing.

SANDRA SAMONS, MSW '76, worked in several agencies after completing her MSW and then established a part-time private practice in 1984, which became full-time in 1989. She began her current specialty in transgender issues in 1992 and subsequently completed a doctorate in human sexuality. Her book about male-to-female transgender people, *When the Opposite Sex Isn't*, was recently published by Rutledge. Sandra lives and works in Ann Arbor. To learn more, visit www.sandrasamons.com.



Sandra Samons

1980s

LELAND DUBUC, MSW '83, is looking forward to retirement in a year or so after having held six positions in over twenty-five years in the social work field.

AMY ELLWOOD, MSW '83, is a co-author of two chapters in *A Clinician's Guide to Systemic Sex Therapy* (2009). The textbook provides detailed information on how to begin treatment from the first phone call, how to triage problems, and how to plan treatment. It contains a wealth of resources such as information on handouts, how to diagnose sexual dysfunctions, and multimedia references and bibliotherapy. Sallie Foley, MSW '78, is also a contributor.

SHARON WYSOCKI, MSW '89, started the Hospice Cowgirl Comfort Food Project for the southeastern Arizona rural hospice area that employs her as a medical social worker. Plates of freshly baked cookies are brought to hospice patients and their families to combat the loss of appetites her patients struggle with toward the end their lives.

1990s

PEG (MARGARET) WHALEN, MSW '94, has joined the Alliance for Children and Families as director of evaluation and research services. Whalen's twenty-four years of experience in research and teaching has been in public and private university and human services settings. Dr. Whalen comes to the alliance from Michigan State University School of Social Work, where she served as evaluation specialist and research instructor since 1998. Based in Milwaukee, the Alliance for Children and Families is a national membership association of nonprofit human service providers in the United States and Canada.

LAUREL (DAVENPORT) CAPOBIANCO, MSW '96, recently became the University of Michigan Alumni Association's vice president for university relations. In her new role, she oversees international relations, legislative advocacy, student recruitment, fundraising for scholarships, and diversity initiatives. She serves as the conduit between the Alumni Association, President Mary Sue Coleman's office, and the various deans across campus. Laurel is also president of the School of Social Work Alumni Board of Governors. She previously served as executive director of the Borders Group Foundation and in a variety of YMCA roles in Ann Arbor and Toledo.

CHRISTINA TABACZKA, MSW '96, is now utilizing her bachelor of business administration degree, certified public accountant (CPA) certificate, and MSW at the Michigan Theater Foundation as the director of finance and administration. She is involved in accounting and finance as well as grant writing, reporting, program evaluation, and community outreach.

2000s

JOE (EDWARD) KORN III, MSW '00, went to work in Alaska with Juneau Youth Services following graduation. His job included running the Wilderness Expedition Program. Joe later moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. After a brief hiatus from the social work field, the Clark County Department of Family Services hired him as a child and family intervention specialist in 2005. Since his hiring, he has earned double licensing as an LCSW and LADC (State of Nevada). Joe's mission in life is to help kids overcome their own challenges and go on to become successful adults.

MARIAN KRZYZOWSKI, MSW '00, director of the University of Michigan's Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy, was recognized by Steve Forrest, vice president for research, for his efforts in facilitating economic development efforts, which targeted the economic transformation and dislocation that the region and nation are experiencing.

DAVID COHEN, MSW '03, is currently working in Chicago as the evening intensive outpatient coordinator at Hazelden, a nonprofit addiction treatment organization. He also works as a family therapist at Insight Psychological Services and volunteers in a number of high schools throughout Chicago.

PRINCESS (JONES) CURRENCE, MSW '03, worked in the University of Michigan SSW Research Office before becoming manager for Health Career Programs of the U-M Medical School's Diversity & Career Development Office. In this position, she directs education programs and initiatives that serve primarily Michigan high school students, U-M undergraduates, post-baccalaureate students from various colleges and universities, and others. As a youth mentor, Princess fulfills her dream of helping young people realize their potential. For more information, see www.ur.umich.edu/0809/Sep22_08/spotlight.php.

ALLESSIA OWENS, MSW '03, recently accepted a promotion from retention advisor to manager of Student Success Programs at Prince George's Community College in Maryland.

JENNY (JENNIFER) GARDNER, MSW '04, has been working in the Detroit area with young children and their families for the past three years. She is a member of the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health and received her level 2 endorsement through the association.

KEVIN HOOKER, MSW '05, was one of fourteen applicants selected to participate in the Air Force Social Work Residency Program for 2008–09. He was commissioned as a first lieutenant into the United States Air Force and is currently completing the residency program at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.



Peg (Margaret) Whalen



Donna Wanshon

DONNA WANSHON, MSW '05, is a first lieutenant and an active duty clinical social worker for the United States Air Force. She recently won the Behavioral Health Outstanding Junior Provider of 2008 and is the newly appointed chief of family advocacy for Hurlburt Field, Special Operations Base. She is also the squadron representative for the Hurlburt Advisory Committee. First Lt. Wanshon will be going before the Captain Board soon. She became a first-time grandmother of Noah Jacob Graham on October 12. First Lt. Wanshon and her family reside in Navarre, Florida.

JUN SUNG HONG, MSW '06, recently returned to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to resume his PhD study in social work after spending 2007–08 in Seoul, South Korea, on a fellowship. His article, “An ecological approach to understanding peer victimization in South Korea,” which he co-wrote with his advisor, Dr. Mary Eaton, has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. He also co-presented at the Society for Social Work and Research annual conference in January in New Orleans.

SHANONDORA BILLIOT, MSW '07, received the Presidential Management Fellowship and began working in Washington, D.C., in fall 2008. Before that, she worked in New Orleans as a community development director, helping neighborhood organizations with capacity building and program development.

RAQUEL CASTANEDA-LOPEZ, MSW '07, is chief of staff for Rashida Tlaib, a field instructor for the University of Michigan SSW and a state representative.

ANICA MADEO, MSW '07, co-authored an article appearing in the October/November 2008 issue of *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*. The article is titled “Ethical and practical challenges raised by an adult day program's caregiver satisfaction survey.” The online version of this article can be found at <http://aja.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/23/5/423>.



Gutierrez Najera

LOURDES GUTIÉRREZ NÁJERA, MSW '98, PHD '07, received the 2009 Outstanding Dissertation prize by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and the Educational Testing Service.

ERICA SOLWAY, MSW '07, is a doctoral student studying sociology at the University of California, San Francisco, and an author of a new book, *Social Insurance and Social Justice*, published by Springer Press. She also co-authored an AARP occasional paper on teaching social insurance in higher education.

In Memoriam

Charles Wayne Bailey, MSW '77 November 26, 2008	Marilyn L. Littlefield, MSW '67 July 8, 2008
Jean Andersen Boardman, MSW '68 June 1, 2008	Patricia J. Morgan, MSW '05 November 22, 2008
Patricia Anne DeKeyser, MSW '91 March 11, 2007	Bernice P. Rowen, MSW '59 November 11, 2008
Martin E. Ferm, MSW '57 September 10, 2008	Seyoum G. Selassie, PhD '76 February 10, 2007
Margaret J. Finn, MSW '91 October 13, 2008	Robert D. Strozier, MSW '67 September 25, 2008
Walter C. Freeman, MSW '94 September 26, 2008	James B. Tunny, Jr., MSW '71 January 11, 2008
Kirby Thompson Hall, MSW '68 August 18, 2008	Ernest V. Webber, MSW '59 December 22, 1993
Susan L. Harris, MSW '64 September 27, 2008	Gareld Floyd Williams, MSW '54 September 28, 2008
Lee R. Hout, MSW '56 December 12, 2007	Judith Katherine Wills, MSW '81 May 28, 2008
Charles Kooy, MSW '59 September 11, 2007	William J. Yochim, MSW '65 October 10, 2008
Rochelle Kostant, MSW '79 November 8, 2008	Gertrude Zemon-Gass, MSW '43 July 28, 2008

SARAH YOUNG, MSW '07, is a Peace Corps youth development volunteer in a rural village in the Dominican Republic.

KIMBERLY CLUM, MSW '97, PHD '08, was awarded honorable mention of the 2009 Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation “The shadows of immobility: Low-wage work, single mothers' lives, and workplace culture.” She received the award at the Society for Social Work and Research annual conference in January 2009. Kim was also one of the eight winners to receive the U-M Horace H. Rackham 2008 Distinguished Dissertation Award.

ALISON WHYTE, MSW '08, is in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, working for the World Bank. She arrived in October and is enjoying her experience.

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