60 YEARS
JOINT PHD
SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
Dear Faculty, Students, Alumni and Friends,

Please join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the University of Michigan Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science. The program was founded in 1957 following a Russell Sage Foundation funded study of the need for and status of doctoral education in the social work profession. The Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science was revolutionary in concept in 1957, providing for a full integration of the action focus of the social work profession with the highest level of scholarly preparation led by eminent faculty of the School of Social Work together with the eminent University of Michigan faculty in five social sciences, psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, and economics. Professor Henry J. Meyer, considered a pioneer of social work research with his landmark 1965 study, Girls at Vocational High, provided outstanding leadership for the innovative program from 1957-1970, and was recognized by the University of Michigan Board of Regents as having led the program and, “made it a model for doctoral education in social work throughout the nation” (Board of Regents, 1978).

The program has continued Meyers’ legacy, and has exerted a powerful impact on the profession by producing two generations of leaders in social work research and education. Graduates have gone on to lead the profession in scholarship and science, and in education. Today, over 100 University of Michigan PhD graduates serve on faculties of the top social work programs in the country and around the world. Over the past 60 years, dozens have served as deans at the most prominent schools of social work in the nation.

During this 60th anniversary year, we will look back with pride at the accomplishments of the University of Michigan Joint PhD Program, and we will look forward to leadership and innovation in social work doctoral education for the next generation. Always leading, always interdisciplinary—please join me in celebrating the people who have made the program great, the faculty and the alumni, as we chart the path of the next 60 years of social work doctoral education at the University of Michigan.

Go Blue!

Lynn Videka, PhD
Dean, University of Michigan School of Social Work
Dear Friends,

This academic year we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science at the University of Michigan.

In January 2017 I assumed leadership of the Joint Doctoral Program, and I was especially glad to inherit the program from a long list of successful and committed directors. But as with many administrative jobs, I assumed this role not fully realizing what I had gotten myself into. I quickly learned that not only is this hard work, but it is “heart” work. Though my efforts toward ensuring that our students experience a high quality doctoral education might be hard, the success of the program has a way of ensuing an overwhelming joy that has a direct line to my heart. From the international reputation of our award-winning faculty, to the unique contributions of our five social science partners, to the University buy-in and the support of the School of Social Work Dean, Lynn Videka, I realized that I am being trusted with guiding an educational experience that has changed the professional trajectories of some of the most influential people to ever be called social workers.

I do not take this job lightly. I enthusiastically welcome the challenges associated with directing the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science because I am passionate about doctoral education and I am in the business of learning. What I have learned in my first few months has been nothing short of impressive. I have learned that despite the changing demographics of our applicants and the varying social work and social science topics our students want to study when they enter the program, one thing has remained constant: the School’s commitment to excellence in interdisciplinary doctoral education to produce change agents who can reach out, raise hope, and change society. In short, we produce the best and the brightest interdisciplinary scholars in the world who epitomize the notion that oftentimes hard work truly is “heart” work, and our alumni continue to demonstrate this as they enter a world in need of change.

Our joint doctoral program is comparable to none, and with this commemorative program book, we are taking a moment to recall our past, raise hope in our present, and change the future of our society.

Here’s to the next 60 years of “heart” work,

Daphne C. Watkins, PhD
Associate Professor and Director
Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science

“...the School’s commitment to excellence in interdisciplinary doctoral education produces change agents who can reach out, raise hope, and change society.”
The Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science began in 1957 with a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation, in cooperation with the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. The Russell Sage Foundation approved the proposal submitted by the Coordinating Committee on Social Welfare Research at the University of Michigan and awarded $250,000 (equivalent to $2.28 million dollars in 2017) to formulate arrangements by which the interdisciplinary alliance could be continued along two closely connected lines: (1) creation of a joint PhD degree program in social work and social science, and (2) stimulating research within the School of Social Work and between the disciplines at the University of Michigan.

The Executive Committee at the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies approved a joint interdepartmental Ph.D. program under the direction of a supervising committee appointed by the Rackham dean. During its inaugural year, the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science partnered with three social science departments (economics, psychology and sociology) and later added political science (1966) and anthropology (1981). The strong interdepartmental collaborations between the School of Social Work and the five social science areas were brought together with one common goal: to train world-class interdisciplinary researchers and teachers.

With more than 400 graduates in its 60-year history, the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science is a program unlike any other in the country. The first graduate of the program, Phil Fellin, wrote in his historical account of the creation of the program: “Contributing to the founding of the program was a long history of interdepartmental, interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration between schools, colleges, and departments within the university. For over one hundred years, prominent faculty members in the social sciences and professional schools have displayed an interest in social work education. As a result, a special relationship of the social sciences and social work emerged that facilitated creation of the Joint Doctoral Program.”

The rich tradition of excellence in doctoral education continues as graduates of the program have since gone on to exceptional careers in social work and social science. Though graduates have

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“The strong interdepartmental collaborations between the School of Social Work and the five social science areas were brought together with one common goal: to train world-class interdisciplinary researchers and teachers.”
Located in the heart of central campus at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science students and faculty are what make the program thrive; they have a passion for underserved populations, and a desire to leave a legacy for others to follow. The Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science has sustained a rich history in its 60 years, graduating generations of scholars, fostering learning and community, and forging bonds between social work and the social sciences in the hopes for a healthier community, an enhanced profession and a restored society.

traveled near and far to impact the world with their research, teaching and service, they always manage to support the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Social Science by giving back through fellowships in their names or to honor their loved ones. These generous funds alleviate some of the pressures of current students as they matriculate through an intensive 5+ year program in which mastery of both social work and the social science is required. In addition to private fellowships, our students are nationally-awarded scholars who support their doctoral training through fellowship funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other funding sources.

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JOINT PHD PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DIRECTORS

1957-Present

Henry Meyer 1957-1970
Yaheskel Hasenfeld 1970-1977
John Tropman 1978-1980
Norma Radin 1980-1982
Sheila Feld 1982-1989
Charles Garvin 1989-1996
Ruth Dunkle 1996-2001
David Tucker 2001-2005
Lorraine Gutierrez 2005-2010
Berit Ingersoll-Dayton 2010-2016
Daphne C. Watkins 2017-present

Photos courtesy of the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library
Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present

In honor of the Joint PhD Program’s sixtieth anniversary, we are highlighting three graduates who have made outstanding contributions to social work and social justice and who have demonstrated leadership, innovation and scientific discovery through his/her joint PhD. These honorees were selected by the current governing faculty of the University of Michigan School of Social Work and are being honored for their excellence in research, teaching and service.

Eileen Gambrill has devoted much of her professional career to integrating practice, research and ethical concerns in her writing, teaching and research. Her interests propelled her into the science of behavior, critical thinking and the influence of propaganda in the helping professions, which she writes about in her 2012 book of the same name.

“Social work and social welfare is concerned with minimizing avoidable miseries, many of which are created by avoidable inequities in opportunities maintained by related policies and regulations,” says Gambrill. “Attending to and being moved by such avoidable inequities as well as harming in the name of helping is key in my view in social work, highlighting the importance of whistle blowing when necessary. We should strive to identify and celebrate whistleblowers in our own history who have improved the quality of lives for clients, often at great expense to themselves in terms of punishing consequences. Anyone who speaks up and creates change is a role model for me.”

Gambrill graduated from the U-M SSW Joint Doctoral Program in 1965 with a degree in Social Work and Psychology. Today she is a professor of the graduate school at the School of Social Welfare at UC Berkeley.

“I was very lucky to go to U-M,” says Gambrill. “I had great freedom in selecting courses at the university, great libraries, and the support and guidance from outstanding faculty.”
Michael Sherraden's research has influenced asset-based policy development and programs here in the U.S. and in countries around the globe. In 2010, TIME magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

“Since my graduation 38 years ago, I have said to many potential applicants that the Joint PhD Program at U-M is the best social work doctoral training in the country, and they should go there if they get a chance.”

Today he’s working to tackle major social challenges facing the U.S. in the decade ahead as a Steering Committee co-director of Grand Challenges for Social Work, a national initiative that lays out a roadmap for reducing extreme economic inequality, closing the health gap, and harnessing technology for social good, to name just a few. There are 12 challenges in all.

“More and more of the world’s challenges will be not only technical and economic, but also fundamentally social,” says Sherraden. “Consider the social demands of global environmental changes, such as pollution and climate change, which affect family and community stability, social relationships, health, and even survival. Also consider the growing importance of different kinds of people learning to get along together. To address these and other social challenges, we will have to continually rethink social work’s mission and capacities.”

“Social work can have a very robust future,” he says. “Both sides of social work—social caring and social development—must be strengthened.”

CLASS OF 1979

Michael Sherraden
Lorraine Gutiérrez is the director of the U-M Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at the School of Social Work, where she leads the implementation of this campus-wide initiative to ensure a living and learning environment where all community members will flourish. Her work with DEI is a natural extension of what has been a lifelong focus for Gutiérrez—something she calls “everyday social justice.”

“Social justice is a core value of social work,” says Gutiérrez. “I talk to my students about being aware of how our daily actions contribute to or harm social justice. Who do we choose to affiliate with socially in terms of cultural and racial diversity? Are we making purchases that are sustainable, such as the vehicles we drive, and using products that are environmentally safe? As social workers we must always be mindful and work to raise awareness of social injustice around us. It’s easy for people to become accustomed to a way of living and not notice how unfair and unequal it is for others.”

Gutiérrez earned her joint degree in Psychology and Social Work at U-M in 1989. She taught at the University of Washington in Seattle until 1994, and returned to Ann Arbor in 1995. She has a joint appointment with the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychology, and focuses her research on empowerment theory and practice, the experiences of women of color and critical multicultural organizational and community change strategies. Gutiérrez says her joint degree has impacted her personally and professionally every step along the way.

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“I’ve been in an academic career ever since graduation and my degree has had everything to do with where I’ve landed,” said Gutiérrez. “It’s given me the opportunity to live in two culturally diverse and stimulating cities, and to raise my children in resource-rich environments. When I was a student here, I was so impressed with the depth and breadth of the faculty, the resources and opportunities available to me, and the range of people available to help me navigate my program. For anyone interested in interdisciplinary scholarship or an academic position, the U-M Joint PhD Program is ideal.”
Pinghui Wu chose the Joint PhD Program at U-M because it offers her the unique ability to combine social work with economics. She wants to understand how macroeconomic changes affect workers and their families, particularly among those displaced by trade competition of imported goods from low-wage countries. Wu is from Taiwan, where she worked in policy analysis before coming to the U.S. She says she was frustrated by a pervasive lack of insight among Taiwan policy makers into the factors contributing to the problems faced by workers. Wu's research at U-M seeks to understand why some workers fare better than others at finding new jobs in their local labor markets.

"A lot of economists are working on the problem with a top-down approach," says Wu. "But I’m interested in looking at the problems with a human angle in mind. Economics gives me the tools to answer questions I am interested in, and social work keeps me rooted to the population I’m concerned about. No other school or program offers that."
Nkemka Anyiwo’s journey to the Joint PhD Program began in undergraduate studies. Working with youth in juvenile detention facilities, Anyiwo became interested in the social, cultural and political aspects which contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, especially with young men of color. As she began to work as an undergraduate research assistant, she found that while psychology provided a good theoretical foundation, researchers weren’t effectively communicating it to the young people doing the intervention work.

Social work’s emphasis on applied, social-justice-oriented work drew her to apply to the Joint PhD Program. Anyiwo wanted to bridge the gap she saw between academia and practice, creating community-based interventions informed by theory and praxis in social work and psychology. The Joint PhD Program lets her do that—“it’s a beautiful marriage,” Anyiwo says, “between two passions.” Anyiwo tells those considering the program, “It takes a lot of balance to have two scholarly identities, but it can be a powerful, beautiful thing.”

Before entering the Joint PhD Program in Social Work and Sociology, Lisa Young Larance was a social work practitioner. Larance’s pioneering work in anti-violence intervention provided her the opportunity to create and develop community and prison-based programming. Throughout her direct-practice work, Larance straddled the line between practice and scholarship, creating, publishing, and training on evidence-based interventions. Larance found that scholars and practitioners have much to gain from collaboration, but those relationships were often too few. A PhD will provide her additional tools as she continues to encourage collaboration at the oft-ignored intersection of research and practice.

“The Joint PhD Program is providing me with the research skills to push for practitioner-informed theory,” Larance says, “and it is allowing me to flourish as a researcher and as a social worker.” After graduation, Larance intends to keep doing what she loves including consulting, teaching, and doing the kind of research that amplifies the voices of women who have too often been silenced.
SOCIAL WORK AND ANTHROPOLOGY

John Doering-White

A Social Work and Anthropology candidate, John Doering-White studies undocumented migration, violence, and care networks throughout Central America and Mexico and along the U.S.-Mexico border. With funding from sources including the School of Social Work, Doering-White spent a year and a half researching non-governmental shelters which assist Central Americans migrating throughout Mexico. The Joint PhD Program, he says, has afforded him the unique opportunity to meld theory and practice into one cohesive program of study.

After graduation, Doering-White hopes to teach and continue his research alongside undocumented communities. For those considering the Joint PhD Program, he says to prepare for hard, but rewarding work, and to make the most of the opportunities the University of Michigan affords students.

SOCIAL WORK AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Taha Rauf

A Social Work and Political Science candidate, Taha studies the long-term effects of trade and religious institutions on development. He has previously examined ethnic politics, public good distribution, returns to microfinance, and more. Michigan has introduced him to many new ways of thinking about contemporary issues and trained him to test ideas and theories on them. The wide spectrum of ideas he has come across during his PhD equipped him to challenge his own ideas and come up with newer ones that make innovative and original contributions to the scholarship. He now “researches things [he] never would have imagined before joining the PhD program.” This winter he will travel to India, collecting data on trade routes and religious institutions.

Rauf’s advice for those considering the Joint PhD Program? “It’s important to know what you want, and be confident enough to go out, risk it and seek it.”
John F. Longres, PhD ’70, attended the School of Social Work as a doctoral student in the late sixties and studied in a unique Social Work and Psychology program. Longres went on to teach individual development and group organizational behavior at Portland State University, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Washington where he retired in 2006.

“It’s incredibly difficult to go to school today and avoid debt,” Longres said. “I’ve never forgotten how grateful I was for the financial assistance I received. Giving back to the School that gave me so much was a logical step.” In 2013, Longres established and continues to support an endowed fund, The John F. Longres Award in Sociology or Psychology. Through this fund, John provides financial support for SSW doctoral students in our joint program with psychology or sociology whose research focuses on social psychological issues as they relate to social work practice with individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations or policy.

“Giving back to the school that gave me so much was a logical step.”

SUPPORT U-M SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK JOINT PHD STUDENTS

Create an Endowed Student Support Fund

Establishing an endowed fund such as the The John F. Longres Award, provides critical support for social work doctoral students. A fund can be designed to be awarded to students based upon the following preferences:

- Financial need
- Academic merit
- Special interests/area of study
- Geographic location

The SSW development staff can work with you to establish an endowed fund to support our doctoral students.

Contact Susan Himle-Wills at 734-615-2581 or shimle@umich.edu
REACH OUT. RAISE HOPE. CHANGE SOCIETY.

5 SOCIAL SCIENCE PARTNERS

6 ALUMNI WHO ARE CURRENT DEANS/INTERIM DEANS

11 DIRECTORS IN OUR SIXTY YEAR HISTORY

400+ GRADUATES

48 PERCENT OF CURRENT STUDENTS WHO ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITIES