



Akia Burnett (far left) leads a class discussion at the University of Ghana Department of Social Work. See story on page 10.

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School of Social Work prepares students for the 21st Century



As we celebrate MSU's 150th Anniversary, it is encouraging to review some of the recent advances in the School of Social Work in addition to individual faculty research and outreach.

In the past 15 years, two special lectureships have been established at the School: the Ruth Koehler Lectureship for Children's Mental Health and the Dorothy Harper Jones Lecture for Family Therapy. These have enriched the educational experience of students and provided valuable educational opportunities for the broader community.

The School has gained a number of Hartford Foundation grants to strengthen our teaching and community outreach with regard to work with older adults. And an endowment named for Professor Diane Levande will provide additional resources to promote work with older adults.

Building on the work of Lieutenant Governor Connie Binsfeld, the School has led the Chance at Childhood Program—our collaborative with the MSU College of Law (see page 9). Building on the legacy of Robert Little, a Kinship Care Resource Center has served Michigan citizens for five years.

The BSW program has developed a signature theme of diversity—with special projects for all students. The MSW program has developed optional specializations in family practice, gerontology, child welfare, urban affairs, infant mental health and school social work. Our doctoral program has continued its interdisciplinary focus while assuring a core of social work knowledge, being reconstituted as a PhD in Social Work.

The School has supported Martin Luther King Jr. Day (see *Spring 2005 News*) and begun a University-wide Michigan Indian Day commemoration (see page 8). Expanding MSW programs across the state, we currently have cohorts in Flint, Gaylord, Saginaw and Marquette, in addition to East Lansing. A new distance education program using a hybrid strategy is being launched (see page 3).

Enriching the educational experience, reaching out to the community and expanding access to education—in these ways and many others, the School strives to be a significant part of President Lou Anna Simon's vision of the "Land Grant University for the 21st Century." ■

Expecting change, striving for improvement



Gary R. Anderson

In response to Hurricane Katrina and the devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi, MSU invited displaced University students and faculty from New Orleans to engage in their work at MSU until they could return to their campuses. Our faculty, staff and students have raised funds and provided volunteer labor in support of local efforts to welcome and help evacuees who moved to Lansing. With agency partners, we played a leadership role in a teach-in on campus to explore lessons learned from Katrina, particularly its implications with regard to race, poverty, health and mental health (see page 11). It is a privilege to be part of a profession that prepares students and joins with others to meet physical needs, provides psychological support, works with individuals, families and communities, and advocates for social justice.

Fall semester has been busy, with the highest MSW program enrollment ever and the largest BSW class since MSU moved to a semester system.

We welcomed new faculty (see page 5) and have been strengthened by their research interests and talent; and we moved into expanded office space, now occupying almost three floors in Baker Hall. New curriculum changes are in progress: finalizing a MSW-JD dual degree program, expanding and adding flexibility to our research class offerings, and developing new courses for MSU underclassmen before they select a major. We have come to expect constant change and strive for continual improvement in all aspects of our program.

Finally, as I begin my eighth year as director, my appreciation for my colleagues, my admiration for our alumni, the pleasure of working with high quality students, and the value of our community agencies and partnerships remain constant. I am glad to be part of the MSU School of Social Work—this special learning community in the midst of the seventh largest University in the U.S. ■

A remarkable life, a tremendous loss

Dr. **Gwen Andrew** died on June 14, 2005, at the age of 82 after a lifetime dedicated to research and academic service. Gwen earned her BA and MA degrees in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she was an assistant to the famed Harry Harlow and his social research with monkeys. Her PhD in Sociology-Anthropology was earned at MSU.

After working for the Michigan Department of Mental Health, ultimately as director of research, she joined MSU Social Work in 1966 as associate professor. She became acting director of the School and director of research for a College of Human Medicine program in 1967. In 1968 she was promoted to Professor, awarded tenure and named director of the School of Social Work.

Gwen served as dean of the College of Social Science from 1975 to 1989 and acting dean of the College of Human Ecology from 1985 to 1987. She went on to be acting dean of the College of Nursing, assistant vice provost and director of the Human Health Program before retiring from MSU in 1995.

During her life, Gwen provided significant support to the School through the Chance at Childhood program and the Ruth T. Koehler Lectureship. To honor her, the School

established the Gwen Andrew Research Fund to help faculty conduct off-campus research. Earlier this year, Gwen created the Ruth T. Koehler Professorship for Children's Services, to support MSU social work professors studying child-related issues.

"In the School of Social Work, Dr. Andrew is remembered as a fair, intelligent, supportive leader with a strong commitment to research and outreach," said Director Gary Anderson. "I appreciated her wonderful sense of humor, her practical outlook on life, her desire to avoid the limelight but to make good things happen, her generosity and hospitality, her willingness to listen and give wise advice and counsel, and her commitment to MSU."

Gwen had been one of the most generous supporters of the School of Social Work. Her support was personal and professional as well as financial. She was a great friend, gracious and helpful and fun. She will be greatly missed.



Gwen Andrew



New Blended Statewide Clinical MSW Program is now available

This program combines face-to-face, videoconferencing and online instruction, structured in a unique learning community to bring quality, clinically-focused graduate social work education close to you.

The MSU School of Social Work is proud to announce that its accredited MSW program with a concentration in clinical practice is now available throughout Michigan in 2006 for qualified students. The Blended Statewide Clinical MSW Program has the same course content and requirements as the on-campus two-year MSW Program when completed on a part-time basis. The only essential difference is the media by which the content is delivered. This program combines face-to-face, videoconferencing and online instruction, structured in a unique learning community to bring quality, clinically-focused graduate social work education close to you. The MSW Program Bulletin provides details about courses and requirements, which are the same for all our MSW programs.

The principal components of the program include:

- face-to-face instruction during one-week intensive social work institutes on campus at MSU in East Lansing each summer for three years
- face-to-face instruction in a regional learning community with a faculty mentor one Saturday each month September through April for three years; these sessions will be linked with MSU faculty
- a large part of most courses conducted through readings, assignments, and interactive activities online in secure web sites

- field education (two semesters in each of two different agencies) generally arranged close to where you live or work

The benefits of the program include:

- full accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education, essential for licensure
- classroom sessions limited to one week each summer, and one Saturday each month September through April, for three years
- field education generally arranged close to where you live or work
- the same prestigious MSW courses and faculty as the on-campus program
- linked online learning communities of students from your region
- a part-time schedule to accommodate working professionals
- less travel and less time in classrooms
- greater flexibility in day-to-day scheduling
- a blending of features especially designed to bring the best of technology-based instruction to make a great program more accessible throughout the state

Applications are being received until February 1.

For more information visit <http://www.msu.edu/~swdisted/statewide.html>.

Condensed MSU School of Social Work keynote speech at graduation recognition ceremony, May 6, 2005

You will change the world; believe it

Elizabeth Carey,
Executive Director,
Michigan
Federation for
Children and
Families



As a 1992 BSW and 1996 MSW graduate of Michigan State University, I welcome you to our family of MSU grads and to the profession of social work. I am pleased, as a proud member of the social work profession, to remind you, and to share with your loved ones, why the world would be a hateful, painful, poverty-ridden place with a destiny to destruct without social workers. Social work is a profession with a clear mission, driven by core values and guided by an elite Code of Ethics.

Let me tell you a story about a young girl named Allison who began her life with two parents and three brothers in a stable and loving home. Allison's entire world turned upside down when her mother died. Soon, her father could no longer get up every morning and make it to work. Her younger brother was acting out in school. Allison felt lost and alone. A neighbor noticed this family's pain and slow progression towards chaos. She spoke with the father about food and financial assistance at a local community action center. Then she helped him find grief counseling for the whole family. The counselor helped her brother find an appropriate outlet for his anger and worked closely with his school. Her father began the hard work of overcoming his depression.

Allison began to smile again. A few years later, Allison's older brother became ill with cancer. Doctors treated the physical signs of his illness, but this crisis revived all the grief and pain associated with their mother's death. A family service worker within the hospital helped the family with their emotional issues and with finding resources in their town. They needed nursing help, medical equipment, transportation and an advocate with their insurance company. Time passed, he began to recover, and Allison graduated from college, accepting a job with a Fortune 500 company. Although now an adult who had "survived" her childhood, she struggled with a propensity to abuse alcohol and misuse credit. Her employer's Employee Assistance Program offered help with these and many other issues. Allison's wonderful teachers helped her accept her childhood pain and loss and recognize her current behavior as signs of her childhood trauma.

Why do I tell you this story? Because each time Allison and her family were in crisis, they found help. And who was there to provide the help? *A social worker!* A neighbor, grief counselor, food bank worker, school social worker, medical social worker, clinical therapist, substance abuse counselor, debt counselor—each had an impact on Allison, her family and, eventually, our society.

Let me shift now to my current work of leading a statewide advocacy organization. Most days, I review legislation, proposed policy, budget recommendations, provider needs, and child and family needs, and I try to determine how and when to influence which issues.

Even in times of budget cuts, we

advocate for additional dollars for the most vulnerable of our vulnerable; this year, that is special needs children in foster care. In the last three budget years, Michigan's revenues have been falling, resulting in over \$3 billion in spending cuts. Human services have taken quite a hit, both in Michigan and nationally. But every year, we organize our providers and consumers. They share their stories, their outcomes and their needs with legislators and remind them they are elected to uphold the Constitution of Michigan and that they have a duty to the less fortunate. With information, statistics and a lot of advocating, we convinced some lawmakers that it is absolutely necessary and absolutely possible to increase spending for special needs children. A first draft of a budget bill released yesterday includes *an increased allocation for specialized foster care*. It was a day when I saw all our work begin to cause social change, a day when I was reminded that all of our work was worth it, and all good things will be rewarded in time.

My personal and professional journey thus far strengthens my resolve to generate more advocacy and an even stronger commitment to fighting the good fight for vulnerable children and families in Michigan and around the world. The education, mentoring and practice I received at MSU's School of Social Work sparked the fire within me, honed my skills and prepared me to enter the profession, commit myself to serve and, hopefully, to change the world!

Today, I rejoice and reconfirm my own commitment to the social work profession. I welcome you to join me. You should be very proud. Go forth and *do good!* ■

Welcome to our newest School faculty

The MSU School of Social Work was pleased to add the exceptional talents, skills and experience of its three newest faculty:

DeBrenna LaFa Agbényiga, PhD, joins us as assistant professor after serving as clinical instructor since 2000. She continues to serve as assistant to the dean of the College of Social Science for Diversity and Multicultural Programs.

She teaches direct practice with groups, organizations and communities, community practice and administrative skills, and coordinates the School's faculty and student exchange program at the University of Ghana.

Her interests include diversity and higher education, international social work practice, education and field training, cross-cultural comparative organizational analysis, and kinship/foster care policy and service delivery.

DeBrenna is one of the principal researchers for a federally-funded project to identify factors influencing recruitment and retention of child welfare workers. She has also conducted evaluations of joint training of lawyers and social workers and factors that can create permanency for children in foster care. She was also involved in development of the School's first *Kinship Care Resource Directory*.

She earned her MSW and PhD at MSU after earning a BS in Criminal Justice and a Graduate Certificate in Alcohol and Drug Studies at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Assistant Professor **John Mooradian**, PhD, ACSW, LMFT, earned his MSW from the University of Michigan and his PhD from MSU. John originally joined the School in 1994, serving as adjunct professor and then clinical assistant professor. He also held an appointment at the Wayne State University School of Social Work from 1995-1997.

John teaches graduate-level practice courses and advanced clinical practice with families. He also coordinates our Certificate in Clinical Social Work with Families.

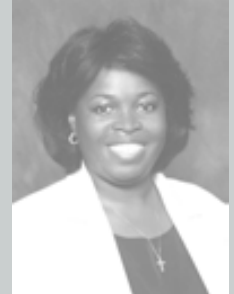
He has many years of clinical experience in agencies and private practice, as well as administration, program development, clinical supervision, consultation and training. He worked extensively in juvenile justice and also promoted use of systematically-gathered information for program and practice decisions.

John's areas of interest include couple and family therapy, adolescent behavior, mood and anxiety disorders, trauma and resilience, ecosystemic research and innovative teaching and learning processes. In addition, he focuses his teaching and research on diversity and social justice issues.

Tina Timm, PhD, is a licensed clinical social worker and a marriage and family therapist. She joins the School as an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program. In the School of Social Work, she is teaching advanced clinical courses on working with individuals, couples, families and groups.

Tina completed her BA and MSW at the University of Michigan and her PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy at Purdue University. Her clinical and research interests include sexuality across the lifespan, relationship and sexual satisfaction, adult attachment and women's issues. She has more than 13 years of clinical experience, including work at Masters & Johnson Institute where she received advanced training in sex therapy and the treatment of sexual trauma.

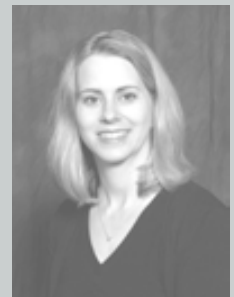
For the past six years, Tina was an assistant professor at Saint Louis University School of Social Work and maintained a small private practice. She is married and has two children and three step-children. ■



DeBrenna LaFa Agbényiga



John Mooradian



Tina Timm



Pictured left to right: Rita Walters, Victoria Fitton, Erica Shifflet Gibson and Michelle Ventour.

We have four new PhD candidates

This fall brings four new students to the PhD Program in Social Work. These students bring a wealth of experience from diverse social work backgrounds as they pursue their research agendas through course work and hands-on research.

Victoria Fitton received her BA in Psychology and her MSW from MSU and continues as a Spartan, studying the treatment process of working with women who have experienced trauma. Victoria is currently a psychotherapist at Wellspring counseling, and is a clinical instructor in the School of Social Work.

Erica Shifflet Gibson received her BASW from the University of Michigan-Flint, and her MSW from U of M-Ann Arbor. Her social work experience has been in the area of foster care and adoption, and she has worked with Habitat for Humanity. Erica's doctoral studies will focus on public policy relating to mental illness and homelessness.

Michelle Ventour is on the faculty and was the Bachelor's Program director at Marygrove College in Detroit. She received her BASW from Mercy College in Detroit and her MSW from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Michelle has social work practice experience in many areas, including suicide prevention, employee assistance and work with the Alzheimer's Association. Her doctoral studies will focus on diversity and how organizations change services to meet the needs of their changing clients.

Rita Walters will also return as a Spartan, having received her MSW from MSU. Her BS (Criminal Justice) was earned at Lincoln University of Missouri. Rita has worked with grieving children and with delinquent youth and as adjunct instructor at Sienna Heights University (Adrian, MI). Her doctoral work will focus on family interactions and abuse and neglect in a population of non-verbal and non-ambulatory children.

Undergrad Program touts award winners, largest junior class ever, strong diversity

The Undergraduate Program is proud of all its student award winners this past academic year. Senior **Paul Brown** received both the Ernest and Phyllis Green College of Social Science Black Alumni Scholarship Award and NASW-Michigan's first Diversity Leadership Award for social work students. Senior **Jessica Wilson Tolland** received a College of Social Science Distinguished Scholarship Award. Senior **Maresha Foreman** received a College of Social Science Charles Hayden Kelly Award. Junior **Kimberly Tisdale** was given a College of Social Science Study Abroad Grant. All of these scholarships are highly competitive and have a rigorous application and screening process. Additionally, past senior **Jerilyn Church** was one of 84 Morris Udall Scholarship recipients nationally for academic year 2004-05 and recipient of the School's Lucille Barber Award for Outstanding Scholarship. Past senior **Angelita Navarro** was named the School's Outstanding Senior. **Maresha Foreman** has also been elected to the NASW-Michigan Board as BSW representative. And senior **Emily Sorroche** has been named an at-large student liaison to the MSU Board of Trustees.

We are also pleased to have admitted the largest junior class since the early 1990s, when we moved to semesters. Seventy juniors will join our 62 seniors.

We continue our signature theme of diversity, with special emphasis on social justice. Juniors do required projects with a population different from themselves and have project-related assignments in three different classes. Diversity-themed field trips continue to supplement classroom learning. We went to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe on November 18 to tour the Tribe's health center, new behavioral health facility, social services center and court. We also visited their Seventh Generation Cultural Center and their new museum. Thanks to **Dr. Suzanne Cross** and the Diversity Themed Events Planning Committee, led by seniors **Floresha Foreman**, **Letisia Pena** and **Krista Strobel**, for their help in planning the trip. ■

School of Social Work presents Continuing Education opportunities for 2006

Social Work Licensing Examination Test Preparation

Cost: \$240, includes 10 hours of lecture by highly-qualified faculty plus nationally-recognized Social Work Exam Services (SWES) materials.
Location: East Lansing, MI

May 12: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.; **May 13:** 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Description: This two-day course focuses on helping you pass all levels of the ASWB Master's exams by teaching test-taking skills and offering an extensive review of social work practice, policy, ethics and human behavior. Established in 1983, SWES's comprehensive materials include practice exams, review workbooks and lecture outlines, all of which will be yours when you take our preparation class. 92% of students using SWES lecture and materials pass the exam. To learn more, visit www.swes.net.

Guarantee: If you attend at least 80% of the course and fail a Master's level licensing exam within one year of taking the course, you may retake the review course at no charge (duplicate materials extra).

Alumni Breakfast Series

Cost: \$20 (discounts available)
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. *Location:* Lansing, MI

Self Care, January 27

Speaker: TBA

Registrants eligible to win a free massage.

How to Do Clinical Supervision, March 31

Speaker: John Mooradian, PhD, Assistant Professor, Coordinator, Certificate Program in Clinical Social Work with Families

Contemporary Issues in Aging Professional Seminar Series

Cost: \$39 for one class; \$85 for all three (discounts available)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Location: MSU campus, East Lansing, MI

Grief and Loss, February 18

Legal Issues and Eldercare, March 18

Gay and Lesbian Issues, April 22

Hazing and Bullying Issues

Presenter: Glenn Stutzky, MSW, nationally-recognized expert on hazing and bullying issues.

Hazing and Bullying, March

Location: Tuscola County location TBA

LGBT Bullying, May

Co-sponsor: Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
Location: Ann Arbor location TBA

For updated information, visit <http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~sw/ceu/index.html> or contact Michele Brock at (517) 353-8620.

The Michigan State University School of Social Work Continuing Education Program's mission is to help people thrive in service to their communities by offering innovative, valuable and accessible professional development opportunities throughout the state of Michigan and beyond.

Field Education is measuring its success

This is an exciting year for the MSU School of Social Work Field Education Program. We have implemented our "new and improved" curriculum emphasizing the developmental, incremental and behaviorally-specific aspects of all field course objectives. Because evidence-based outcomes are essential, we have also implemented pre-test and post-test surveys to measure and document the extent of overall program success in advancing student competence. Furthermore, and perhaps most importantly, course objectives are now more student-, field instructor- and liaison-friendly.

We are very proud of the scope of our program. We have 334 students placed in 60 cities and towns across Michigan. Of these, 39 are in their own work settings; 26 students are in six programs within St. Vincent Catholic Charities; and 27 students are in ten departments or programs within MSU, including 12 in our own Chance at Childhood Clinic.

The Field Sequence welcomes feedback from the School community. We will publish results of an outcomes research currently underway in a future newsletter as well as on our web site. Thanks to all of you who work so hard to create outstanding learning experiences for our students "in field."

Michigan Indian Day Event 2005

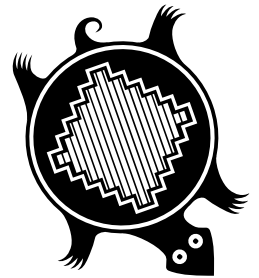
Strengthening the Circle: Social, Cultural, Legal and Health Issues for Michigan Indians Today



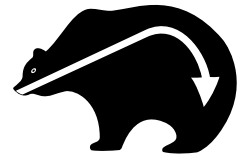
Warren Petoskey
Member and Elder Advocate
Little Traverse Bay Bands of
Odawa Indians

One hundred fifty people attended the celebration of Michigan Indian Day 2005 in the Gold Room of the MSU Union. **Eva Kennedy**, an Oneida Elder from Detroit, welcomed the audience, and **Robert Antone** (Oneida) performed a “grass dance.”

The tone of the day was set by the keynote address delivered by **Warren Petoskey**, Elder Advocate for and member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians of Michigan. He spoke of the devastating impact the residential boarding schools have had on the American Indian population and the maltreatment American Indian children experienced in these facilities. Mr. Petoskey indicated “the present instability of the Native family can be traced to a number of core factors, including

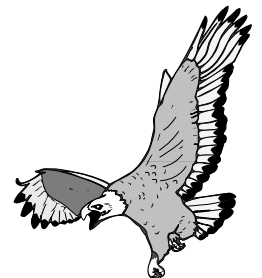


the residential boarding schools.” The residual negative effects on subsequent generations are known as “historical trauma.”



Susan Montroy, a descendent of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and a clinical therapist, concluded the morning session with a discussion of the historical trauma as post-traumatic stress.

The afternoon sessions focused on social, health and legal issues and the importance of the preservation of the language. The day closed with traditional American Indian drumming and singing provided by members of the North American Indigenous Student Association (NAISO).



Twenty-seven student volunteers helped make the day a success. A special thank-you goes to **Dr. Suzanne Cross** for her leadership and coordination of this event. ■

**Thank you to the 2005
Michigan Indian Day
event sponsors**

- Michigan State University:**
School of Social Work
College of Social Science
American Indian Studies Program
Geriatric Education Center of Michigan
Department of Psychology
Counseling Center
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Phi Alpha Honor Society–Beta Chapter
Families and Communities Together (FACT) Coalition
Department of Anthropology
Center for Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities
College of Nursing
Eli Broad College of Business Multicultural Business Program
- Lansing Community College:**
American Indian Science & Engineering Society
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
National Association of Social Workers–Michigan Chapter
Individuals:
James R. Colthorp
Suzanne L. Cross

2005 Chance at Childhood Program notes many accomplishments

The 2005-2006 Chance at Childhood Program (CAC) is the largest to date. Nineteen students have been admitted to the certificate program and will perform their placements in the Chance at Childhood Law and Social Work Clinic. In addition, five first-year students have been placed in the Clinic, and four advanced standing students were placed in the Clinic over the summer.

During the past year, a grant from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) Access to Parenting Time Program helped our students obtain experience working with families and children involved in the court system as they provided supervised parenting time when ordered by the Ingham County Family Court. We have received a second grant for this year.

CAC also contracted with SCAO to provide legal representation to incarcerated persons as part of the state's Prisoner Support Adjustment Project. Students gained invaluable experience working in three counties to prepare and file motions and present cases in court.

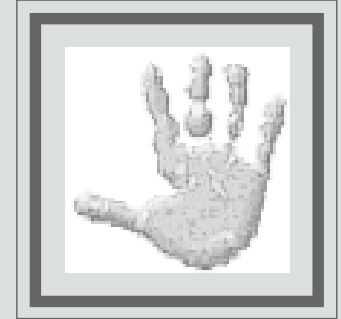
The Program made a number of public presentations outlining legal issues surrounding kinship care families and presented at the 2005 Annual Colloquium of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children on the benefits and challenges of interdisciplinary social work and law education in the classroom and in a clinical setting.

Currently, CAC is developing a program for staff at Lutheran Social Services and creating a manual to

help school personnel follow the Child Protection Act. We also have applied for a federal grant to develop a supervised parenting time program and facility for cases involving domestic violence.

CAC will begin publishing the *Michigan State Children's Law Journal* (previously published by the University of Michigan Child Welfare Resource Center) in cooperation with the State Bar of Michigan Children's Law Section. The quarterly journal is mailed to the Children's Law Section's 1,000 members and many social service agencies. Future editions of the

Chance at Childhood



Journal will take an interdisciplinary approach to child welfare to ensure that it is of interest and value to professionals of every field working in child welfare. ■

Lecture features

"Rituals for Our Times..."



Evan Imber Black

The second **Dorothy Harper Jones Lectureship in Family Therapy** was held on October 28, 2005. The presenter was **Evan Imber Black**, PhD, director of the Center for Families and Health at the Ackerman Institute for the Family in New York, and professor of psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Her lecture was entitled *Rituals for Our Times: Celebrating, Healing, and Changing Our Lives and Our Relationships*. A reception and book signing followed the lecture. In addition, she conducted a special small-group experience with students and held a Master class for clinical practice faculty.

The Dorothy Harper Jones Lectureship in Family Therapy was established by family, friends and colleagues to honor Jones' contributions as professor of social work, assistant dean for diversity issues in the College of Social Science, associate dean of the Graduate School and senior consultant to the Provost.

Partnership established with the Department of Social Work at the University of Ghana

“This experience allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and freely immerse into a culture unfamiliar to me.”

—Akia Burnett

“I believe we can grow immensely from experiencing other cultures and interacting with groups of people.”

—Brian Ahmedani

A strong and lasting partnership has been established between the MSU School of Social Work and the Department of Social Work at the University of Ghana, as well as a long-term partnership among trainers, social workers, scholars and business leaders in Ghana and the US. This is the culmination of a program funded by the U.S. Department of State for women’s workforce development conducted in partnership with MSU’s Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) and led by Social Work’s **Rena Harold** and **DeBrenna Agbényiga**.

Last April, Ghanaians visited MSU, mid-Michigan and the Midwest. In June, **Dr. Agbényiga** and social work graduate students **Brian Ahmedani** and **Akia Burnett** were in the delegation to Ghana that also included representatives of MSU’s CASID, the Michigan Center for Empowerment and Economic Development,

the Lansing Community Micro-enterprise Fund, the City of East Lansing, the Zonta Club of Lansing and Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women.

The Ghanaian Program Advisory Board recruited nationwide to select trainees and trainers, focusing on women entrepreneurs, looking toward ongoing training for self-employed women in Ghana. Over 60 participants attended from all over the country, with 20 receiving additional training to become trainers.

The University of Ghana is working to secure financial support to establish an ongoing women’s entrepreneurial program, and many of the Michigan partners are actively seeking support for the Ghanaians. The School’s relationship with the Department of Social Work at the University of Ghana includes curriculum development, research, a faculty and student exchange program and academic scholarships. ■



Akia Burnett (far left) leads a class discussion at the University of Ghana Department of Social Work.

L-R: DeBrenna Agbényiga, Stephen Ayidiya (Head of the University of Ghana Department of Social Work), Akia Burnett and Brian Ahmedani.

SSW faculty accomplishments gain recognitions, reach wider audiences

DeBrenna Agbényiga, PhD, received a certificate of recognition for her work toward achieving diversity at MSU.

Michele Brock, MSW, **Margie Rodriguez LeSage**, PhD, **Sue Bowden**, MSW, and **Toni Young** of NASW-Michigan, received a grant from Boston University's Institute for Geriatric Social Work for a presentation on "Ethics and values in palliative and end of life care: A cross cultural perspective." This is a competitive award funded in part by the Hartford Foundation.

Suzanne Cross, PhD, was elected to the Council on Social Work Education Board and serves on their Strategic Issues Committee. She presented "Grandparents parenting their grandchildren: A qualitative study" at the Michigan Indian Elders Association Spring Conference, and presented and participated in videotaping a documentary at the Laingsburg (MI) Community Schools on American Indian Culture. She was on the program evaluation team for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's services for tribal members living off reservation land.

Joan Ilardo Deller, MSW, is co-principal investigator on a research study by MSU faculty in the School of Social Work and the Departments of Psychiatry and Family and Child Ecology, exploring the impact of the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program (MI Choice) on family decision making, caregiving and preferences for care. Older adults and their families in the greater Detroit area will be interviewed in cooperation with the Area Agency on Aging.

Ron Hall, PhD, has been awarded a diversity grant and has been invited to Pennsylvania State University to address a conference on skin color. His book, *An empirical analysis of the impact of skin color on African-American education, income and occupation*, has been published by Mellen Press. His articles regarding race, skin color and discrimination have appeared in the *Journal of Black Studies* and the *Journal of Social Work*.

Rena Harold, PhD, and **Lucy Mercier**, PhD, are guest editing a special issue of the *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services* on "Lesbian Parent Families at the Intersection: An Ecological Perspective on Social, Family & Individual Identities."

Dr. Rena Harold's appointment now includes the title and responsibilities of associate director of the School of Social Work. She has also been named to the MSU Women's Advisory Committee to the Provost. She is also co-investigator on the National Science Foundation funded Children and Technology Project with researchers from the Department of Psychology, the Center for Teaching and Technology, and University Outreach and Engagement to determine the consequences of using information technology on children's cognitive, social, psychological and moral development.

John M. Herrick, PhD, and **Paul H. Stuart** (University of Alabama) are editors of the 2005 Sage Publications *Encyclopedia of Social Welfare History in North America*.

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, PhD, had her article "Informing state policymakers: Opportunities for social

workers" published in the journal *Social Work*. She exhibited "The role of government in promoting community design for public health benefits" at the Michigan Land Use Summit, and presented on "Health, urban design, and public policy" at the 43rd International Making Cities Livable Conference in Venice, Italy. Her article on promoting increased physical activity in Michigan is available on-line and will be appearing in *Cities*.

David Katz, PhD, has been appointed associate director of MSU's Canadian Studies Centre. He is also designing a SSW-focused "study abroad" project for a program in Vancouver, British Columbia, which would provide a comparative survey of U.S. and Canadian social policy and programs, with special emphasis on the single-payer Canadian health care system.

Angie Kennedy, PhD, has journal articles in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *Violence Against Women* and the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, which focus on cumulative violence exposure and resilience among adolescent mothers living in urban areas.

The MSU Provost's office sponsored a series of campus-wide public forums on "Coming to Terms with Katrina and Its Aftermath." **Jo Ann McFall**, MSW, coordinated "Katrina's impact on human health: Now and for generations to come." The panel included Field Instructors **Sandra Johnson** (Mid-Michigan Red Cross) and **Sherri Solomon-Jozwiak** (St. Vincent Catholic Charities), and speakers from Osteopathic Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Nursing.

Continued on page 15.

Here's what you're up to!

We're pleased to hear from so many MSU SSW alumni!

James Angell, MSW 1959, has been happily retired for the last seven years from a clinical position at Aspen Medical Group located in St. Paul, MN. He would love to hear from any fellow graduates from the Class of '59.

Lisa Angell, BA 1991, loves working with the aged at Bortz Health Care, a nursing home in Traverse City, MI. She states that over half of the patients go back home after rehab. She also teaches Tae Kwon Do since getting her black belt.

Claudia (Bonta) Bathrie, 1969, started as an ADC caseworker in Detroit and then worked at the Clinton Valley Center as a psychiatric social worker. She received her MA in Education and moved to the Lansing area where she worked in Family Service-Foster Care. In 1992, she received her MSW from the University of Michigan. She worked at Family & Child Services as an adoptions therapist and then spent nine years at Eaton ISD as a school social worker. Married in 1971, she has a son at MSU and a daughter who recently graduated from MSU.

Aimee Blanke, MSW 2001, is employed at Family Outreach Center in Grand Rapids, MI, providing in-home family counseling to at-risk children. She also provides weekly group therapy to children with special needs.

Deborah E. Chestnut, MSW 1975, retired from the State of Michigan as a disability examiner in 2002 on an "early-out" program after 25 years with the State.

Arlene Chettleburgh, MSW 1987, has retired.

Tricia Croxton-Richardson, BA 1996, has reentered the workforce in the field of Social Work as Consultant for the Workforce Investment Act program through ETD, Inc., a Michigan Works! affiliate, doing case management for customers who are either dislocated from their jobs or adults with low incomes. She earned her MSW (community practice and social action) from Wayne State University where an internship with Detroit City Council President Maryann Mahaffey's office afforded her an opportunity to see and meet numerous dignitaries. Her career included job development and coordinating job fairs, case management, workforce development with ex-offenders, child and family work with foster care, job readiness instruction and substitute teaching. She is very interested in other 1996 and 1997 School of Social Work alumni.

Teresa F. deVries, BA 1967, writes that she received her MSW from U-M in 1969. She has had her own private practice of psychotherapy for adult individuals, couples and groups since 1976. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, clogging and

playing a mountain dulcimer.

Maurice A. Grondin, MSW 1978, is employed by Life Guidance Services in Grand Rapids doing outpatient mental health therapy.

Susana Herrera, MSW 2002, is employed with the City of Houston's Mayor's Anti-Gang Office. She is currently administering one of three Truancy Reduction Demonstration Projects in the U.S., partnering with the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Houston Police Department and City of Houston Municipal Courts.

Arthur Hilson, BA 1967, MSW 1969, spent 15 years designing and directing the statewide toll-free child abuse hotlines in New York and Massachusetts. He returned to school and graduated with his law degree from Rutgers University Newark Law School in 1984 and is a partner in his own six-lawyer business law firm in central New Jersey.

Donnie R. Jones, BA 1980, has been employed with Muskegon Public Schools (Bunker Middle School) as a special education social worker since 1997. He received his MSW from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985. He worked in child welfare in Los Angeles, CA, from 1985-91 and on a federal research project from 1991-97.

Karen Kaipio-Codere, MSW 2003, is currently a part-time social worker/discharge planner at Portage Hospital in Hancock, MI. She is married to Brad, and they have two children, Maija (4) and Mason (1).

Jacqueline (Loren) Lisiecki, MSW 1989, is in private practice working with children, adolescents and adults.

Sandra J. McCarger, MSW 1983, states her post-retirement academic work includes a three-year certification program in Christian discipleship/pastoral care at The Center for Catholic Studies. She is currently working on a catechesis certification tract. She is also active in a local jail ministry.

M. Juanita Walker McGill, MSW 1965, is a retired social worker "with no regrets." She states that her experiences were challenging and positive on behalf of the clients.

Colleen Milligan, MSW 1993, is currently a faculty member at CMU Counseling Center and also teaches a first-year experience freshman orientation course. Her areas of specialty include "Yoga for Stress Management" Group and "Stress Management Education" Group.

Julie Ann Mowatt, MSW 1977, states she still loves being a professional social worker. She currently has a private practice specializing in geriatrics and is a consultant to retirement communities. She is married and has a 7-year-old daughter.

Abbie J. Nelson, MSW 1987, will be retiring after 28 years at Catholic Human Services in Hastings, MI, where she has been a child welfare worker, pregnancy counselor and open adoption educator.

Anne O'Neill, MSW 1998, is currently employed with the Department of Human Services in Munising, MI. She states that she is remaining busy as a Children's Protective Services worker in her hometown.

Judy Passanante, MSW 1975, is entering her third decade of social work practice. She states she is winding up her tenure providing training and clinical supervision to graduate and post-graduate students to join a group practice through the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, a multi-specialty clinic. She would love to hear from classmates.

Lisa Ratta-Shoshan, BA 1998, is employed by Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC, working with pregnant and parenting teenagers. It is a medical model-based program providing prenatal/OB-GYN medical care. She uses her Spanish almost daily due to a large number of Latina patients and loves it.

Erin Roberts, MSW 2004, runs Give Back A Smile™, the nationwide charitable foundation of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, dedicated to providing cosmetic dental care at no cost to all survivors of domestic violence. Learn more at www.givebackasmile.com.

Christine Walton, MSW 1995, was employed at CMH in dual diagnosis upon graduation. She is currently employed as a dual diagnosis therapist in a mental health setting at Munson Medical Center-Partial Hospitalization Program in Traverse City, MI. ■

~~~~~ In Memory ~~~~~

Barbara Gugel, BA 1974, passed away December 9, 2004 from cancer.

Virginia Seeley Rice, BA 1957, passed away April 22, 2004.

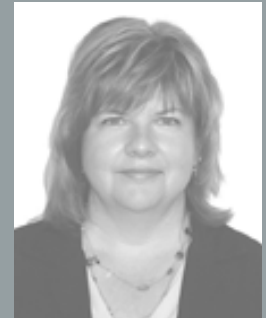
Cheryl Whalen, MSW 1978, passed away March 7, 2005 from cancer.

Royal Arthur Wilson, BA 1950, passed away.

Passion drives Smith as Exec VP of Anixter Center

Cheryl
Smith,
MSW

1984, recently
was named
executive
vice president
of Anixter
Center, one
of the Mid-
west's larg-
est nonprofit



Cheryl Smith

organizations assisting people with disabilities to live and work successfully in the community. Smith joined Anixter Center in 1990. Most recently, from 1998 through August 2005, she served as vice president of programs. Anixter Center has 70 programs in 35 locations throughout the Chicago area, including: a pioneering program for young adults with developmental disabilities based in Highland Park, the Adult Community Transition Program; an innovative pediatric residence in Evanston for children who are medically fragile; and adult residences in far north suburban Zion and Winthrop Harbor.

Of her new role with Anixter Center, Smith says, "I have a passion for and a commitment to the work of Anixter Center, for both the people who receive our services and the staff members who direct and provide them. I want to help further refine and enhance the quality of the services we offer for people with disabilities to assist them in living and working as independently as possible in their communities."

Our goals are achievable with your help

The *New York Times* noted that “public universities” are increasingly adopting “private university” procedures and strategies. One aspect of this has been steadily raising tuition in an attempt to maintain quality instruction and support faculty research. This is particularly challenging at MSU where we value access to an education at this major, internationally-renowned university. We need to attract and support faculty and maintain buildings and student supports in the face of multiple years of deep state budget cuts. How can we keep the promise of MSU alive so that it remains an affordable and accessible high quality educational experience?

In part, this is made possible by financial gifts from alumni and friends —no matter how large or small—to support the programs of the School. This past year, we were able to provide at least limited scholarships to 75 graduate students. This is still fewer than 20% of all graduate students but more support than in any previous year.

One of our goals is to provide at least a minimal scholarship to each student admitted to the MSU School of Social Work. Some of these scholarships are possible due to endowed scholarship funds in honor of Rick Gardner, Robert Little, Robert Aldridge and Linda Lane. However, we have no endowed funds to support BSW students or PhD students.

Another goal is to increase students' experiences with global populations and policy. With the vast majority of our students from the state of Michigan, we are developing a range of opportunities to gain experience with people and communities beyond our borders. These programs, such as a summer session study abroad, would be more accessible with financial support for students and their faculty mentors.

A third goal is to be more creative and energetic partners with community agencies to address social problems that have a clinical and community dimension. This requires freeing faculty time to serve in these partnerships and to conduct community-based and community-driven research. We need funds to support student assistants in these efforts and to support faculty assignment to these projects.

In the last newsletter, we featured a Foster Child Endowed Scholarship program that will provide some financial help and a mentor for youth admitted to MSU who have been in the foster care system. We needed \$10,000 for this fund to be permanently endowed. After the newsletter appeared, a large gift from a friend of the School combined with other generous gifts enabled us to reach that goal. (More funds would allow us to provide more help!)

We are very grateful for your past gifts, and we appreciate the multiple demands for charity and assistance in this time of disasters. We encourage you to continue to invest in the education of present and future helping professionals who will provide leadership in times of crisis. Gifts to the School can be designated for your intended purposes, with checks made out to “MSU” and mailed to: MSU School of Social Work, 254 Baker Hall, E. Lansing, Michigan 48824. Thank you. ■

Master of Social Work (MSW) Program in FLINT

For students who want to earn the fully accredited MSW degree. All required courses offered at the Mott Community College Campus. This program has been enrolling students since Fall 2001. Special features include:

- ▶ Classes begin in May or August 2006, taught by MSU faculty
- ▶ Concentration (major) in Clinical Social Work or Organization & Community Practice
- ▶ PART-TIME 3-year program with evening courses designed for working students
- ▶ Required field education can be arranged close to where you live or work
- ▶ Our successful experience with MSW programs in Traverse City, Gaylord, Alpena, Saginaw, Marquette, Flint, Lapeer and Sault Sainte Marie

Early decision deadline: December 15. Final deadline for completed applications: February 1, 2006. For further information, call Julie Farman, Flint Program Coordinator, at (810) 244-8600 or follow the FLINT PROGRAM link at <http://www.msu.edu/~swdisted/>.

Donor generosity enhances School of Social Work's research, services and scholarships...*thank you!*

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 Westrick, JoAnn
 Whalen, Margaret H.
 Whiteman, Dr. Victor & Mrs. Imogene S.
 Wulf, Andrea L.
 Zang, Frederick W.

SSW faculty accomplishments — continued from page 11

John Mooradian, PhD, ACSW, LMFT, has a chapter on relational therapy with families of substance abusing parents in *The Handbook of Relational Therapy for Foster Children and Their Families*. Also, "Simulated family therapy interviews in social work education," based on a creative exercise in his classes, has been accepted by *The Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. John presented on "Relational/Family Therapy and Clinical Supervision" at St. Vincent Catholic Charities' Grand Rounds.

Joanne Riebschleger, PhD, serves as Chair of the National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas Research Subcommittee. Her article on effective rural practice has been accepted by *Families in Society*, and her chapter on model literature reviews will appear in *Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (3rd ed.). At the NASW-Michigan Annual Conference she presented a workshop and was the invited keynote speaker for the Awards Banquet.

John R. Seita, EdD, has articles in *Michigan Child Welfare Law and Reclaiming Children and Youth*. At our Alumni Breakfast, he spoke on "How kids outwit adults." Seita is assisting the Grand Rapids Public Schools to implement Positive Youth Development principles with teachers to build better relationships with students for increased academic success and student retention and with St. Vincent Catholic Charities doing research on factors that impact transitions from foster care into independent living.

Marya Sosulski, PhD, has had "Fostering HOPE: A narrative case analysis of one teen mom's pursuit of a college education," accepted by *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*. She is principal investigator on a Michigan Department of Community Health grant on Medicaid and families with severe and persistent physical and mental disabilities in Michigan. **Joanne Riebschleger**, PhD, **Angelique Day**, MSW, and **Ellen Sugrue Hyman** of Arc Michigan are investigators on that grant. ■

Tell us what you're doing today!

Notes from Alumni will be featured in the *Fall 2006 News!*

Please provide us with your current address.

Circle one: BA / MSW / PhD

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Year of Graduation _____

Home address _____

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Briefly describe your professional activities and other information you want your classmates to know

Please send this form to: School of Social Work, Michigan State University, 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing MI 48824
Email: socialwork@ssc.msu.edu

Web site: <http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~sw/> Alumni web site: <http://www.msu.edu/~sswalum/>

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Our teaching, research and outreach seek to promote positive change and social justice
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