

A look at our history

School of Social Work's growth and development

Adapted from notes by Dr. John Herrick

As the MSU community reflects on its 150-year history, we want to take the opportunity to share with you some history of the School of Social Work at Michigan State.

1920 The Social Work program at Michigan State University (then called Michigan Agricultural College) began during the 1920-21 academic year when a three-term course in social service field work was offered through Household Sciences, part of Home Economics. This field work was consistent with the College's land-grant philosophy of education and service. The course, taught by May Pearson from New York City's Henry Street Settlement, comprised one lecture a week given by Ms. Pearson, who was now the Director of Lansing's Social Service Bureau, and four hours of field work. Students worked with families in collaboration with Lansing charities.

During the mid-1920s, social work education was also available in the newly-created Department of Sociology, through a course titled *The Field of Social Work* that explored social work problems and methods and included field work. As social work education



Spring on MSU's East Lansing campus.

Photo courtesy of University Relations.



moved into the 1930s, more specialized courses were offered in family case-work, rural social work, probation work, group work and the administration of community organizations.

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For many reasons, it's a proud time at MSU

As I am writing this column, it is a great week to be a Spartan. This weekend hosts the men's and women's national final four basketball games. There is joy and excitement and anxiety across campus. As you read this, the games are over, and the weekend events have come and gone; but, regardless of the outcomes, I will remember the glorious stories about the players, their families, the coaches and the university in newspapers across the state and the nation. It is a proud time to be at MSU.

MSU's excellence in sports, particularly basketball, brings very public acclaim. There are other areas of excellence to highlight, as well. This week, a breakfast sponsored by our Alumni Board will educate a conference room full of social workers about licensure and relevant rules so we can provide skillful and ethical help. This week, the Ruth Koehler Conference on children's mental health

will provide a full-day, low-cost, high-quality training event in Flint, Michigan, addressing clinical work with traumatized children. This week, a new faculty member, Dr. Joanne Riebschleger, is preparing the keynote (on rural social work) for the Michigan NASW Annual Meeting, and other faculty and alumni are preparing to lead a number of workshops at the conference. This week, faculty will work with area agencies on a range of research projects; and this week, hundreds of students provide thousands of hours of service through community field agencies. It is a great week to be a Spartan and a proud time to be at MSU.



Gary R. Anderson

We take time now to prepare to celebrate the graduation of our BASW students, our MSW students in East Lansing and the second MSW cohort to graduate from Flint. Three doctoral students are also graduating. We are grateful for the support of family and friends and celebrate the students' accomplishments.

As many of you know only too well, social work education provides a complex range of academic, intellectual and personal challenges with new learning experiences in the classroom, in the field and through relationships with fellow students and faculty. On top of the knowledge that is acquired, skills are introduced and refined. All this takes place within the context of learning and affirming a powerful set of ethics and values requiring compassion, intelligence and responsibility.

As I have the privilege of greeting our graduates and their families and friends, I am again reminded that it is great to be at State. ■

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1930 During the Depression and with the New Deal in the 1930s, there were many changes to the scope and array of social services in the United States, and emergency welfare services were established in Michigan. Through the leadership of Dr. Earnest Harper, then chair of the Department of Sociology, a complete undergraduate social work curriculum was developed. Dr. Harper was also instrumental in promoting acceptance of undergraduate social work education for public social services and public welfare, in opposition to the prevailing "graduate program only" philosophy.

1940 By 1940, a one-year master's program in Sociology leading to an advanced certificate in Social Work was established, but in 1942, due to World War II, the graduate program was suspended because of a lack of students. The undergraduate program, however, thrived. In 1944, the new Department of Social Service separated from the Department of Sociology and became part of the School of Business and Public Service. By 1946, the graduate program had returned, total Department enrollment had reached 570 students, and there was increasing demand for social work graduates.

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PAWSE collaborations developing

By Bev Henrichsen,
PAWSE Advisory Group Member

It was Wednesday, January 19, 2005. Linda Lawrence, faculty member and academic advisor at MSU's School of Social Work, excitedly approached the entrance to the Department of Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Medicine at MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). She wasn't bringing an animal in for treatment; she was headed for "rounds" and the beginning of a new collaboration with the Clinic and the School. She planned to accompany veterinarians, vet techs and veterinary medical students as they traveled through their work day. Linda was there to learn more about how social workers might "fit" with the practice of Veterinary Medicine.

The seed for the *People and Animals Within the Social Environment* (PAWSE) collaboration with the CVM was planted when **Peg Whalen**, Research and Evaluation Coordinator, and **Dr. Gary Anderson**, at that time the School's new Director, were discussing possible collaborations with other colleges and departments at MSU. Anderson recalled a 1988 meeting with **Dr. Lonnie King**, Dean of the CVM, which already had a pet loss hotline staffed by veterinary medical students. Both administrators agreed to look at where social workers and the Clinic could combine efforts.

The seed began to germinate in 2001. Whalen attended the first Human Animal Bond Initiative Conference (HABI) held on campus, sponsored by MSU's College of Nursing and the Department of Animal Sciences. The next year, Lawrence was drawn to



the same conference, although Lawrence and Whalen were not yet aware of each other's mutual interest in the human-animal bond. Recognizing the possibilities for a special collaboration, Lawrence and Whalen discussed their common interests to see what they might develop.

In February 2004, Lawrence and Whalen convened an interdisciplinary advisory group made up of community members, two veterinarians, four social workers, an MSW student, a local psychologist, a humane society official, and a domestic violence advocate/trainer. "Because of MSU's land grant mission, we wanted to consider

the connections between community-based professionals, animal advocates and other groups, as well as look at opportunities for student training, service to communities and research opportunities," said Whalen. The advisory group was excited about the possibilities and recommended activities for the School to pursue, including exploring collaboration with the College of Veterinary Medicine. "We also were interested in discussing other inter-college research, education and outreach projects," said Anderson.

Last April, the two women went to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to tour UT's new Veterinary Social Work Services program (VSWS), which had been started by Elizabeth Strand, PhD, MSW, less than two years previously.

Back at MSU, Lawrence arranged a meeting with Dr. King. His assistance and enthusiasm further fueled the project. "Dr. King talked about how long this collaboration had been his vision. He had a plan for finding a veterinary champion within the CVM and putting us in touch with the right departments and personnel. That

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1950 As the social work profession became more specialized, social work education at MSU responded. In 1950, the graduate program created a two-year MA program that was replaced in 1952 by a two-year Master of Social Work degree that, with the support of MSU's President John Hannah, became accredited by both the American Association of Schools of Social Work and the Council on Social Work Education. The first MSW degree was awarded in June 1953, and **in 1956, the Department of Social Service became the School of Social Work.**

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FACULTY

DeBrenna Agbenyiga, Diversity Specialist for the School and Assistant to the Dean of the College of Social Science for Diversity and Multicultural Programs, will join the Social Work faculty as Assistant Professor in the tenure system beginning this summer.

The School has received a federal grant in partnership with the **MSU Center for the Advanced Study of International Development** and the **Zonta Club of Lansing** to work with partners in Ghana to train Ghanaian women regarding economic development. This involves two trips to Ghana by MSU partners. In April, 12 people from Ghana visited MSU, mid-Michigan, and the Midwest. Thank you, **Rena Harold**, **DeBrenna Agbenyiga**, and alumna **Gwen Taylor** from Zonta of Lansing, for your hard work.

Joe Kozakiewicz, Director, and **Kim Steed**, Educational Program Director, of the Chance at Childhood Program in conjunction with **Ingham County Friend of the Court**, received a grant to provide education, referrals and supervised visitation to low-income, non-custodial parents and their children. They also have a grant through the **State Court** to fund students to represent incarcerated parents on

such issues as modification of child support orders, with child support charges beginning again when the parent is released; one goal of the program is to encourage post-incarceration reunification of parents and children.

Assistant Professor **Margaret Nielsen** had a short opinion essay on Social Security as insurance published in the *Lansing State Journal* in March, appearing opposite the editorial page.

Assistant Professor **Joanne Riebschleger** presented the keynote address on rural social work for the NASW–Michigan Chapter Annual Meeting held on April 15 in Grand Rapids. Other presenters included faculty member **Mary Barron**, alumni **Duane Wilson** and **Michael Clark**, and **Dorothy Gonzales** from the MSU Board of Trustees. Alumnus **David Neal** was awarded their *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Faculty member **Glenn Stutzky** was interviewed on local television as an expert on Internet bullying. Glenn is a national expert on the nature and severity of bullying and the role it plays in the development of violence. He has appeared on National Public Radio and ABC's *20/20* and *Good Morning America*. ■

PAWSE collaborations

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champion was **Dr. Pat LeBlanc**, DVM, MS, Director of the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, who shared our enthusiasm and excitement. But none of us knew what it would look like," said Lawrence.

The collaboration is now taking shape. As Dr. LeBlanc noted, "Veterinarians have long been known for their compassionate care for animals, as well as being compassionate professionals who provide emotional support for their human clients." Whalen and Lawrence believe a social worker on site will enhance existing supports for pet owners/guardians.

Linda never made it to rounds that January Wednesday. The clinic became so busy she found herself listening, learning

and watching an extraordinary system doing extraordinary things. By day three, a client making the difficult decision to euthanize his very ill 15-year-old yellow Labrador family member, asked Linda to talk with him. She listened while he told her stories about Mark, his mischievous escapades, how he was afraid of thunderstorms, and his importance as a member of the family. The man didn't know how the family would handle losing Mark.

Lawrence and Whalen are looking at veterinary social work field placements and cooperative research projects. The PAWSE Project, however, has no direct funding and is dependent on alumni donations, fundraising, grants and community interest. We are working to create an endowment for the project and establish a small fund to cover the basic expenses related to research.

The PAWSE Advisory Group asks for your support and contributions. Even \$5 allows us to survey two area veterinarians about their interests and needs for social work services within their practices. Please consider sending \$1, \$10, \$50 or more, as a tribute to each of the animals that have touched your own life, your family or the lives of your clients.

A note or email about your interest in or support for this initiative and your contribution, of any amount, can be sent to PAWSE, MSU School of Social Work, 254 Baker Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1118, or to socialwork@ssc.msu.edu (please put "PAWSE Project" in the subject line). Your thoughts and stories are welcomed as we consider the implications of animals in our personal and professional lives. ■

STUDENTS

Senior **Jeri Bertapelle** has won a *Merit Award* for presentation of her Dean’s Assistantship research project: *Older Adults Looking Back*. The Assistantship is a competitive award in the College of Social Science. Jeri competed against other Assistantship recipients from her cohort for the *Merit Award* in the *Social Science Oral Presentation* category. **Dr. Suzanne Cross** and **Dr. Margaret Nielsen** advised Jeri on her project.

Junior **Paul Brown** was awarded the first-ever NASW–Michigan Chapter *Diversity Leadership Award*, given to a student who has exhibited leadership potential in the area of diversity and who plans a project to promote diversity. The \$1,000 award is to be used in developing the project. Paul was honored at the April 15 NASW Annual Meeting and will present the outcome of his project at next year’s meeting.

Seniors **Jerilyn Church** and **Jeri Bertapelle** were selected to receive *Lucille Barber Awards* this year. The *Barber Award*, a memorial to Professor Lucille Barber, goes to an undergraduate student who has exhibited exemplary academic scholarship. This is the first time two seniors have been selected.

Senior **Angelita Navarro** was named *Outstanding Senior* for this year’s graduating class. Angelita has been president of the School’s chapter of the Organization of Latino Social Workers for three years and was elected BSW student representative to the NASW–Michigan Chapter Board. As *Outstanding Senior*, she will lead the way to the podium during the College’s graduation ceremony this May. ■

School welcomes Riebschleger

Joanne Riebschleger, PhD, ACSW, has joined the School as Assistant Professor. Dr. Riebschleger’s position is allocated 75% to Social Work and 25% to the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. She teaches undergraduate and graduate generalist practice courses and conducts research on rural social work practice and children of people with psychiatric disabilities.



Joanne Riebschleger

Dr. Riebschleger has 20 years of social work practice experience in mental health, health and child welfare agencies. She is best known nationally for her work on rural social work practice and internationally for her work with families of people with psychiatric disabilities.

She holds a PhD in Social Welfare from the Mandel Applied School of Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and an MSW from MSU. She comes to us from Central Michigan University where she was Associate Professor of Social Work.

She says, “I look forward to getting connected and reconnected with students and colleagues at Michigan State. In many ways, I feel like I’m returning home, but with new energy and vision.” *Welcome back, Joanne!* ■

A look at our history
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1960-1970

In 1962, the School became part of the College of Social Science and offered its first off-campus classes. Under the leadership of subsequent directors Dr. Gordon Aldridge, Dr. Daniel O’Keefe, and then Dr. Gwen Andrew, the faculty and enrollment continued to grow. When Dr. Andrew was named Dean of the College of Social Science, Dr. Fred Cox, a specialist in community organization and planning, replaced her.

1980

Director Cox was followed by Professor Thomas Ruhala in an interim capacity, during which time the School weathered a financial crisis as the University faced program cutbacks due to the weakened state economy. Dr. Nancy Humphreys, a nationally-prominent social worker, became the next Director. Now off-campus programs were being offered in Traverse City, Sault Ste. Marie, Lapeer and Alpena.

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In our new feature, *Knowledge Abstracts*, recent PhD graduates from MSU School of Social Work share practical implications of their dissertation research for social work practice.

Occupational resilience: Protective factors among clinical social workers

By Andrew Greifer,
PhD (MSU 2004), MSW



Andrew Greifer

In keeping with strength-based traditions in social work, my dissertation identified factors associated with resilient clinical social workers. Occupational resilience was measured through three aspects of job engagement: a sense of involvement, energy and effectiveness on the job.

Social worker resilience seems to be related to three sets of factors: organizational functioning, workers' personal qualities and their amount of experience in the field. Increased resilience may occur when:

- Social workers believe in their organization's values and ethics, get intrinsic enjoyment from the work itself, have latitude in controlling the pace of their own work, have a reasonable workload and work in an organization that has a good sense of community and social support.

- Social workers have qualities such as optimism, ability to reframe or re-appraise work challenges positively, internal locus of control, ability to elicit social support, a sense of humor and spirituality.

- Social workers have more extensive experience in the field.

One implication of these findings is that social service agencies can influence worker resilience and sense of job mastery while preventing burnout and increasing productivity by doing such things as streamlining burdensome documentation requirements, providing supportive clinical supervision, facilitating job latitude and encouraging peer support. Likewise, social workers in the job market may benefit from assessing these aspects of prospective employers' organizational cultures.

In addition, social workers who can monitor and positively reframe thoughts, as in cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy approaches, may be able to increase their level of job resilience. Actively seeking social support from colleagues and supportive clinical supervision may also be of benefit.

This research also suggests that social service agencies should scrutinize their training, supervision and support to new graduates; similarly, new social workers may benefit from requesting such supports, considering private supervision and monitoring their coping strategies.

On balance, both organizational and personal factors should be considered in order to maximize job resilience among social workers and to improve organizational functioning. ■

1990 In the late 1980s, after interim leadership from Professor John M. Herrick, the School selected Dr. Roland Meinert as its Director. In 1992, after another period of interim service from Dr. Herrick and Professor Diane Levande, Dr. Marilyn Flynn was named the next Director. Under her leadership, the School broadened its use of distance education technologies for off-campus cohorts of MSW students in Gaylord and Marquette, strengthened ties with state government, and provided leadership in international hosting programs.

Dr. Herrick again served as Acting Director during the 1997-1998 academic year, overseeing projects that expanded the School's outreach capacities in community organization and distance learning, and facilitating the continuation of many other School projects. Beginning with the 1998 academic year, the School welcomed a new Director: Dr. Gary R. Anderson, who came to MSU from Hunter College (City University of New York).

Please watch for the *Fall 2005 News*, where we will continue with the story of the School in the new millennium!

An exercise program for cancer patients: Physical and emotional well-being as indicators of quality of life

By Joan Borst,
PhD (MSU 2004), MSW

The purpose of my study was to examine the effect of a ten-week exercise program on the physical and emotional well-being of patients in active treatment for a variety of cancer diagnoses. The exercise program was designed uniquely for each individual, although fashioned after the "Cancer Wellfit" program [www.cancerwellfit.com]. The study examined data from 62 men and women between the ages of 21 and 80. Before and after the exercise program, participants completed the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy–Fatigue

[FACIT–F]. The results revealed that both physical and emotional well-being improved significantly, and that the change was not significantly influenced by gender, age range, cancer type or type of cancer treatment.

The results of this study support use of the biopsychosocial model of health assessment and treatment, and the promotion of holistic health



Joan Borst

assessments that include all spheres of patient well-being. This study suggests that beyond improvements in physical well-being, exercise is also a useful alternative or adjunctive therapy to the common psychological interventions prescribed for people living with cancer such as education, support and therapy. Exercise may improve hopefulness by allowing a cancer patient to personally alter one's experience with cancer and act as a time-out from appointments and medical treatments. Health care policy can benefit by the funding of community health centers that provide inexpensive and safe exercise programs to people living with cancer. ■

Ruhala inspired many; many feel his loss

With great sadness, we report that Professor Emeritus **Thomas G. Ruhala**, MSW, died on November 23, 2004, in his home with the love of family and friends all around. Born July 18, 1933, in Flint, Ruhala, 71, was a faculty member of the MSU School of Social Work for 22 years before retiring in December 1991, including a year as Acting Director. He taught and lived onsite for the School's first off-campus program in Traverse City.

After retiring, Ruhala stayed active, facilitating an HIV/AIDS support group for the Lansing Area AIDS Network and a HEART to HEART support group for persons with heart disease, as well as volunteering for Sparrow Hospital's Ambassador program. His life focus was group work, as he believed in the healing and transformational potential of group process.

A musical celebration of Tom's life is being planned for the Spring of 2005. Tom was an avid theater-goer and Broadway fan and performed in the New York premier of *Just the Two of Us*, as well as *The Shadow Box* in his beloved Traverse City. Donations can be made in Tom's name to LAAN (Lansing Area AIDS Network) or a charity of your choice.

He was a gifted professor and mentor, inspiring his students and fellow professors alike. His door was always open to all students, not just the ones taking his classes. He will be missed.



Thomas G. Ruhala

BASW Program reflects diversity theme

The BASW program is growing! We now have three sections of every class, effective with this year's juniors. We admitted the largest class since MSU switched to semesters, and even more people have applied for Fall 2005.

Diversity is the signature theme of our program, with a special emphasis

on social justice for oppressed populations. Our students all engage in diversity projects during their junior year, involving paid or volunteer work with a population different from themselves. They are expected to complete project-related assignments in three classes.

Our senior class is the most diverse admitted in recent years, and it has

actively sponsored delicious diversity-themed potlucks. This year, we submitted students' posters based on the diversity projects from **Dr. Margie Rodriguez LeSage's** class to the all-university diversity-themed artistic contest and are currently awaiting word whether or not they won!

Senior **Jerilyn Church** was one of 80 U.S. college students to be awarded the prestigious Udall Scholarship, given to Native American students with an interest in promoting health care.

Senior **Angelita Navarro** was chair of Dia De la Mujer, an annual campus-wide event highlighting the accomplishments of Hispanic women. She is also the statewide BSW representative to NASW-Michigan. Junior **Paul Brown** is one of the campus leaders for MRULE, which promotes positive interactions among diverse populations. And senior **Toranda Brown** won an Alumni Diversity Scholarship award, sponsored by our Alumni Board.

To further our diversity theme, we sponsor yearly field trips. Last year, we returned to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Reservation and toured tribal social service and cultural agencies. This past fall, 45 of us took a bus to Chicago to tour the DuSable African American Museum, the Howard Brown Health Center for LGBT clients, the Mexican Fine Arts Museum, and Hull House. Doctoral student **Scott Berlin** was our host at Howard Brown, and alumna **Amy Lott** joined us for part of the trip! ■

Baccalaureate convention was a big success

The national **Baccalaureate Program Directors Convention** came to Detroit in November 2004! The BPD is a national group for faculty and program directors from the more than 400 accredited undergraduate social work programs. This year's convention broke all attendance records. The convention featured workshops and presentations from top social work educators and administrators from around the country, an extensive exhibit hall with publishers and university displays, and an opportunity for students and faculty to present their research on topics of interest to baccalaureate social work educators.

This year, a number of MSU faculty and students presented sessions, including faculty members **Suzanne Cross, Paul Freddolino, Margie Rodriguez LeSage, JoAnn McFall, Sue Bowden and Glenn Stutzky**; students **Angelique Day and Jerilyn Church**; and recent BSW grads **Emily Proctor and Emily Lietz**. Director **Gary Anderson** represented the **National Association of Deans and Directors** in a joint session with the executive directors of BPD, NASW and CSWE. The School sponsored the opening reception, featuring a dance performance by members of Michigan area Indian tribes. And 15 of our juniors and seniors had their conference registration fee paid by the School to attend the conference.

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, MSW 1975, received the *2004 Public Elected Official* award from the National Association of Social Workers; **Sue Bowden**, Undergraduate Coordinator, received an *Appreciation Award* from the national BPD Board for outstanding service as chair of the local planning committee.

What a wonderful way to highlight the accomplishments of our students and faculty! Attendees were very complimentary of their experience; *many said it was the best conference ever!*

A big thank you to Sue Bowden for all her hard work on this project. ■

Local service project honors Martin Luther King, Jr.'s memory

The University held a series of events on January 17 to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including an evening march to the Wharton Center prior to the annual University program. The School, one of the few academic units marching, was well-represented by students, alumni, faculty and family members in spite of the extremely cold weather; during the program, our Social Work banner had a prominent place above the Wharton Center stage!

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this year the School's Diversity Committee decided to engage in a service project rather than compete with the other January 17 events. On January 28, the School joined with **Volunteers of America Michigan (VOA)** to host a service fair. **Reverend Greg Roberts**, Director of the Governor's Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, shared a memorial reading.

Volunteers served ethnic dishes to the homeless population at the VOA day shelter as well as assessed them for services such as health care, haircuts and styling, and hygiene maintenance. Various government agencies were also present to provide assistance with housing, employment and mental health needs.

Volunteers from the School assembled hygiene kits filled with deodorant, shampoo, other toiletries and MSU

hats in bags donated by the Graduate School; the hats were purchased from **Steve and Barry** at a reduced price through support from the **College of Social Science Dean's Office**. Each participant received a bag before leaving the fair.

Over 100 participants attended the fair and took advantage of the services.

A special thank you goes to the **Diversity Committee**, its co-chairs **Julie Navarre** and **DeBrenna Agbenyiga**, and all the volunteers for their hard work on this successful event. ■

Participating agencies

Family Independence Agency
Ingham County Health Department
Lansing Area AIDS Network
Salvation Army
MADD
Gateway Community Services

Lunches donated by

Winston's Catering
Le Chef Creole
Taste of Thai
Thai Kitchen
King Buffet
Charlie Kang
PF Chang's

Photo by Dave Weatherwax, *The State News*



Volunteers served ethnic dishes to the homeless population at the Volunteers of America day shelter in Lansing as well as assessed them for services such as health care, haircuts and styling, and hygiene maintenance. Various government agencies were also present to provide assistance with housing, employment and mental health needs.

Continuing Education plays vital role in professional growth

Self-development is a higher duty than self-sacrifice. —Elizabeth Cady Stanton

The mission of the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program is to help people thrive in service to their communities by offering innovative, valuable and accessible professional development opportunities throughout Michigan and beyond. Continuing Education belongs on the list of self-care tasks for those who commit themselves to the service of others. To support you and facilitate your ability to make time for growth, reflection and further connection with social work, MSU Continuing Education offers many options. You can choose an online program, hire us to come to your agency for a specialized training or attend one of our programs offered throughout the state. We value our past and current relationships and enthusiastically look forward to what we can accomplish together in the future. ■

Continuing Education Workshops and Courses for Spring and Summer 2005

Hazing...Kids Are Dying to Fit in

MSU Faculty, Glenn Stutzky, MSW

May 11, 2005 from 8:30 AM-Noon

2930 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan

General public \$40 • Discounts available

Conflict Resolution/Mediation Skills for the Social Worker in Agency Settings

MSU Faculty, Mary Barron, PhD

Meets Tuesdays from 5:00-7:50 PM • July 5–August 2

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

General public \$150 • Discounts available

Solution-Focused Social Work Practice

MSU Faculty, Mary Barron, PhD

Meets Thursdays from 3:00-5:50 PM • July 7–August 4

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

General public \$150 • Discounts available

Update on social work licensure

Social Work Licensure, Michigan's Public Act 61 of 2004, becomes effective July 2005. While professional development is beneficial throughout your career, the legal requirement for licensed social workers in Michigan to document 45 approved Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECH) will not begin until their three-year renewal periods

begin. Therefore, the first licensed social workers affected by the state's continuing education requirements will need to obtain their 45 CECHs between 2006 and 2009, when their license will be up for renewal. Of these 45 CECHs, five must be in ethics and one in pain and pain symptom management. The draft rules had their last public hearing on March 22, and

written comments were accepted until April 1.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdch. On the left side, select: *Health Systems and Licensing*, then select: *Licensing for Health Care Professionals*, then select: *Social Work*. There are many links on the page, including a list of *Frequently Asked Questions*, so take your time browsing. ■

Institute to feature marketing, leadership and supervision

The Leadership Institute of the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program is a result of combining research and feedback with vision. This Institute, designed specifically for human service professionals, provides skills training in a variety of competency areas during evening classes, with practical assignments. This spring and summer, we are offering coursework in Marketing, Leadership and Supervision. Discount prices vary per event and will be reflected in the information online.

Develop the leader within you! Sign up for one, two or all three!

For more information, contact:

Michele Brock, MSW, ACSW, Continuing Education Coordinator
212 Baker Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1118

Phone: 517/353-8620 • Fax: 517/353-3038 • Email: brockm@msu.edu

For more detailed descriptions of the listed programs, please visit our web site: www.ssc.msu.edu/~sw/ceu/. ■

Koehler conference a great success

About 150 people attended the Ruth Koehler Mini Conference held in Flint in April 2005. Many attendees came from the Flint/Oakland County/Wayne County/Saginaw areas, and there were also a number of students attending from our Flint campus. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive for **Dottie Ward Wimmer**, our nationally-recognized presenter. This conference is part of a memorial tribute to **Ruth Koehler**, retired professor at the School. ■

Leadership Institute: Human Service in the 21st Century

Business skills grounded in social work values

Getting the Word Out: Promoting Your Agency and Services

Dawn Lehman, PhD
Meets from 6-8:30 PM
May 16 & 23 and June 6, 13, 20

Effective Leadership

Robert Sheehan, MSW, MBA
Meets from 6-8:30 PM
July 5, 12, 19 and August 2 & 9

Thriving as a Supervisor

Jarl Nischan, MSW
Meets from 6-9:30 PM
July 13, 20, 27 and August 3

*See registration form available online for details
General public \$150 per course. Discounts available.

Tentative Fall programming

Dates and times to be announced

Contemporary Issues in Gerontology Professional Seminar Series

including workshops on:

- Adult Protective Services
- Legal Issues (DNR, Guardianship)
- Health Care Disparities
- Spirituality, Religion and Faith in Aging
- Gay and Lesbian Issues in Aging
- Bereavement Issues for Older Adults, Their Family Members and Service Providers

Working with Resistant Clients

Jerome Price, MA

Cyberbullying and Hazing

Glenn Stutzky, MSW

Dorothy Harper Jones Lectureship in Family Therapy

Evan Imber-Black, PhD
October 28

Meet the SSW Alumni Association Board

The School of Social Work Alumni Association is dedicated to furthering the development of the field of social work through professional development, school involvement and individual student scholarship support. To these ends, they offer breakfast workshops, present a *Distinguished Alumni Award*, award scholarships to students who have overcome barriers to achieve educational expertise, and consult with the School's Director. Four of the nine Board Members are profiled here:

Janice Tribble, MSW, is the Chair of your Alumni Board. She earned her BA in Social Work from MSU in 1970 and MSW from Wayne State in 1978. She says, "I work for the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Office of Children and Adult Licensing (OCAL). I am the program manager for foster home licensing and camp licensing. I have worked for the State of Michigan since 1970. OCAL licenses child placing agencies, child caring institutions and children's and adult foster care camps. I supervise a unit of 10 licensing consultants."

In addition to being part of the School of Social Work Alumni Association for the past nine years, she has also served on the College of Social Science Alumni Board for the last three years.

Sarah B. Bannon, MSW (MSU 1991), CSW, ACSW, holds a Certified Diplomate APA and is a National Trainer for the NJDA (National Juve-

MSU School of Social Work Alumni Association Board Members

Janice Tribble, Chair
Kimberly Keilen, Secretary/Treasurer
Sarah B. Bannon
Marcia Bullard
Paula L. Clark
Leisa Fuller
James F. Loree
Michelle Mickelson
Maureen Moloney

nile Detention Association). She is CEO of Lakeview Consultants, LLC, where she does strategic planning, technical assistance and training for a variety of community-based, publicly-funded health care organizations. She specializes in community partnership development, expansion of funding, implementation of evidenced-based best practice and adherence to regulatory requirements.

She tells us, "One of my current projects is with the Institute for Health-care Studies at MSU, focused on juvenile/family systems. I regularly take time to walk around campus (weather permitting) and have a personal goal of feeding the ducks at least monthly. I have been doing this since early childhood—since I grew up just three miles from MSU!"

Paula L. Clark, MSW, CSW, earned her BS in Social Work at MSU in 1969 and her MSW at Western Michigan in 1971, with a cognate in Planning and Administration. She retired

from the State of Michigan in 2002 from her position as Director of Clinton and Shiawassee Counties of the (then) Family Independence Agency.

She is presently in her 30th year as Adjunct Faculty for Social Work and Human Services at Lansing Community College and also works part-time for the Barry-Eaton County Health Department Home Care and Hospice Program.

She tells us, "My passion is mentoring the future generation of social workers. I love working with students in a variety of ways. I love to travel, play bridge, go to movies and theatre, bicycle, read, music, attend MSU sports events (Go Green!) and my Bouvier dog Hannah (named for MSU President John Hannah)."

James F. Loree, MSW (MSU 2001) is a Clinical Social Worker who currently serves as AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) Intervention and Prevention Coordinator at Albion College. In this capacity, he works closely with the counseling center team, the administration, the faculty and, of course, directly with the students of Albion College to promote safe limits and healthy choices regarding alcohol and awareness of negative effects of other drugs.

Regarding his MSU days, he remembers "how I struggled to complete the readings and produce the papers on time, learning how to manage quality, quantity and time. The faculty was totally supportive, and with my classmates I grew tremendously as a person and a professional. MSU holds fond memories for me." ■

Davis career, 50 years, still going strong

Meet **John E. Davis**, LCSW, DCSW, ACSW (MSW 1955). John says he is “mainly retired” after a dis-



John E. Davis

tinguished career spanning more than 50 years. Well, not really retired: he still teaches seminars on Ethics and on Clinical Supervision

each year, and he still has a limited private practice.

As one of the first private practitioner social workers in the Dallas area in the 1960s, John joined forces with a psycholo-

gist and a psychiatrist to develop a multi-disciplinary mental health clinic. He was also the first social work consultant to Terrell State Hospital, the first social worker to do in-home disability studies and has done numerous domestic and international adoption studies. He has been a mentor, supervisor, consultant and teacher.

Highlights of John’s community volunteer work over the years include advocating for fair housing practices, working with homeless women and consulting with elder abuse guardianship programs. His professional volunteer work goes back to his 1953 membership in the American Association of Social Workers, one of the groups that became the National Association of Social Workers. As a charter member of NASW, John has served in a number of roles at local, state and national levels.

He has received a number of awards and recognitions, including *Dallas NASW Social Worker of the Year* (1986) and *Lifetime Achievement Award* (1996); *MSU School of Social Work Distinguished Alumnus* (1996) and *Alumni Service Award* (1997); 1993 *Certificate of Recognition* from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for 25 years of service (now 35 years); and in 2004, John was named a *Social Work Pioneer* by the National Association of Social Workers. The Pioneer program identifies and recognizes individuals whose unique dedication, commitment and determination have improved social and human conditions, who have contributed to the evolution and enrichment of the profession, whose lives stand as models for future generations of social workers.

This is John Davis. ■

Two new Deans of Social Work are MSU alumni

Christine Flynn Saulnier, BS (MSU), MSW, PhD, an academic administrator in the University of Wisconsin System who also has a lengthy social work background, has been named the new Dean of the School of Social Work at Simmons College, in Boston. From 1997 to 2002 she was a faculty member, then an administrator at the Boston University School of Social Work, serving as director of the MSW Program and the Advanced Standing Program. Saulnier is the author of a book on feminist theory and numerous articles on feminism, alcohol problems and group work.

Stan Stojkovic, Associate Dean and Professor in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), was recently named Dean of the School after serving as Interim Dean. Dr. Stojkovic joined the UWM faculty in 1983; he earned his PhD at MSU in 1984. His primary teaching responsibilities are in the areas of public administration, philosophy, and criminal justice and criminology. His major research interest is in the area of correctional administration. ■

Remembering...

Cheryl Lynn “Sherry” Whalen, BASW (MSU 1966), died in March 2005. She had a long career in social work in Michigan, most recently as Senior Project Coordinator for Strong Families/Safe Children, State Interagency Family Preservation Initiative Coordinator and State Wraparound Co-Chair. She will be missed by all who knew her. Donations can be made in Sherry’s name to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Williams career spans 25 years

Oliver J. Williams, BASW (MSU), MSW, MPH, PhD, is Professor and Executive Director of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community at the University of Minnesota (St. Paul) School of Social Work. He has worked in the field of domestic violence for more than 25 years, provided individual, couples and family counseling, been a child welfare and delinquency worker, worked in a battered women’s shelter, developed curricula for batterers’ intervention programs and facilitated counseling groups in these programs. He recently presented the 11th annual Karen Honig Memorial Lecture at Jane Addams College of Social Work at University of Illinois–Chicago. ■

Federal projects aid children and child welfare agencies

A shy, withdrawn young man—who has just finished second grade and has already experienced more trauma than many adults—is facing his second foster care worker within the past six months. The new worker is struggling to understand the case notes and the elements of a case plan documented only in sketchy generalities. The young man wonders how long this new worker will last and already has decided to be very careful about trusting this new stranger. The agency is spending scarce dollars on training the new worker, and a reduced caseload for the new worker means an overload for co-workers. The supervisor is covering part of the caseload, waiting for the new worker to be able to assume full responsibility. The supervisor has heard a rumor that yet another foster care worker is considering switching employment. The supervisor hopes this new worker will be fully on board before the next vacancy occurs.

This type of scenario occurs across the state. With high rates of turnover in child welfare staffing, the costs to vulnerable children and families and to agencies is high—too high. The MSU School of Social Work is acting to change this reality.

The MSU School of Social Work is midway through the second year of a five-year federal grant from the U.S.

Grant supports students entering the child welfare field

A second federal grant provides scholarships for eight MSU MSW students to enter the field of child welfare. This four-year grant will assist 32 students in all and is intended to provide an academic and field experience specialized in child welfare so that these future workers are well-prepared to promote the safety of children, permanency for children and child and family well-being.

Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children, Youth and Families to study child welfare worker recruitment and retention, and develop training curriculum and other resources. The MSU Project encompasses four components:

- A series of assessment projects, including interviewing resilient workers;
- A series of workbooks that can be used for self-directed learning or in small or large group training experiences; focus is on such areas as retention-focused management, retention-focused supervision, supervision challenges and opportunities in the first six months with a new worker, and communication skills for retention-focused supervisors;
- Partnerships with individual agencies to work together to address agency-identified issues that relate to recruitment and retention; and
- A series of web-based networks and resources to provide resources, support and connections for workers, supervisors and managers across the state.

The Project team includes three partner organizations: the **Michigan Department of Human Services** (DHS; formerly FIA), the **Michigan Federation for Children and Families**, and the **MSU School of Social Work**. The team also includes **John McKenzie**, **Judith McKenzie** and **Rosemary Jackson** of McKenzie Consulting, Inc., **Elizabeth Carey** and **Rose Homa** of the Federation, **Cindy Ahmad** and **Chris Durocher** of DHS, **Jeff Roley** of Eagle Village, **Vito Lentini** from Wedgwood Christian Services, **Janelle Beckman** from Catholic Social Services of Lansing/St. Vincent Home, and **Peg Whalen**, **Monaca Eaton** and **Gary Anderson** from the MSU School of Social Work. ■

Special opportunities to help others

There was a time when significant funding for Michigan State University—a public university committed to serving the citizens of Michigan (and beyond)—was provided by the State of Michigan. Tuition costs were relatively low and stable. In fact, during the 1990s, tuition was not raised beyond the low annual rate of inflation.

That was then—this is now. Particularly in light of continual budget cuts, we increasingly rely on the generosity of our alumni and friends to provide crucial support for students, for faculty research and program development, and to improve our community outreach.

There are three relatively modest financial needs to highlight in this newsletter:

1 The School is trying to establish an **endowment that will generate funds to support former foster care youth** who attend Michigan State University. Several former foster children who were employees of MSU started this fund. We want to be able to provide some money to help former foster care youth purchase books and supplies, and help with room and board—the kind of financial help that many of us received from our parents or provided for our own children or family members. In addition to financial help, we want to identify a mentor to provide the encouragement and support that may be missing when one ages out

of foster care and then attends a large university. We need \$9,000 to complete this fund.

2 With a rapidly aging population, we need to **prepare students for work with older adults**—to be of assistance when faced with physical and mental health challenges, to promote wellness, to educate and advocate for entitlements and services. When Dr. Diane Levande retired from the faculty last year, she started an endowment to provide funds to support faculty research, to enrich educational programming and add special projects to promote the preparation of social workers to help older adults. Our goal for this year, to move toward completion of this endowment, is \$6,000.

3 Almost all of our students are employed while concurrently attending class and working in field

placements. Many students have significant family responsibilities. Sometimes there are financial emergencies during the course of the year that may interrupt or threaten completion of their degree programs. We hope that some day all students admitted to MSU will gain some form of financial support so that more of their energy during and after school can be directed to their professional growth and development. Contributions to a new Sesquicentennial Fund will be used to **provide employment for students, direct aid, emergency aid and emergency loans.**

We greatly appreciate the financial support of our alumni and friends. Although few of us are extraordinarily wealthy, together, many seemingly modest and certainly generous gifts enable us to make social work education accessible to wonderful new students each year. Thank you. ■

Endowments honor special people, dedicate funds for specific purposes

A \$30,000 gift (which can be made in segments over a five-year period) or an estate-planned gift can create a special legacy—an endowment named after whomever the donor would like to honor and directed toward the aspect of social work education that is most valued by the donor.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Gary Anderson, School Director (517-355-7515; gary.anderson@ssc.msu.edu). Thanks, again.

GET IN TOUCH

Tell us what you're doing today!

Notes from Alumni will be featured in the *Fall 2005 News!*

Please provide us with your current address.

Circle one: BA / MSW / PhD

Name _____

Year of Graduation _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____

City/state/zip _____

Business phone _____

Please check here if this is a new address

Email address _____

Business/employer _____

Business address _____ City/state/zip _____

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/>

Michigan State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

OUR MISSION: We are dedicated to educating students for competent, responsive and ethical social work practice.

Our teaching, research and outreach seek to promote positive change and social justice
for diverse communities, families and individuals.



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