

# Visions

a publication of the WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

www.socialwork.wayne.edu

FALL 2004



## dean's message

In this issue of *Visions* we celebrate the newest additions to the School of Social Work alumni group: the graduating class of 2004. It is my pleasure to welcome each member to the alumni body and I hope that you will stay engaged with the Alumni Association, (please note the opportunity to join on page 6) the School of Social Work, and Wayne State University.

In early May, nearly 100 candidates were awarded the Bachelor of Social Work degrees and another 230 achieved the Master of Social Work degree. This accomplishment, for many, came at the end of a sometimes-arduous journey, often complicated by work and family demands.

As I told this class in earlier remarks, they have left both the School and the University better for their presence in many ways. Thanks to the work of the Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Work Students and the Student Organization, this class convinced the University-wide Student Council to financially support bringing Ben Carson, neurosurgeon, and David Pelzer, a survivor of child abuse and author, to our campus. Articles covering these important events are included in this issue. The class was also actively involved on important governance committees, such as the BSW and MSW Program Committees, the School-wide Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the university-wide Student Council and Graduate Council. Our neighbors are the better for the class's volunteer activities with the Cass Community Social Services, the Capuchin Kitchens and Gilda's Club. Another student group, Coalition for Community Social Work, again presented its annual community-oriented program "Take Back the Night," raising awareness and sharing strategies to prevent all forms of interpersonal violence.

These contributions on the part of our students have helped the wider campus to understand the role that social work can play in both social policy and effective direct service to others. And I know they will continue to make their mark in our society as they make the transition from student to alumni.

On another subject, I would like to extend my gratitude to Susan Titus, who has been the editor of *Visions* for the last several issues. She has done a fine job of keeping us informed about the School's activities, and will continue to contribute to the school in her other responsibilities. Please welcome Al Acker, who takes over as editor with this issue. ■

With warm regards,  
**Phyllis I. Vroom**  
Dean

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WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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## Tauber wins 2004 Brehler Manuscript Competition

On April 29th, School of Social Work student Patty Tauber was honored with a \$2500 stipend as the 2004 winner of the Brehler Manuscript Competition. Tauber's essay was judged best among eight submissions by the Review Committee, which includes representatives of the Brehler family, faculty members, and previous competition winners.

For the first time since the competition began in 1992, each applicant/author was required to work with a mentor from the School of Social Work faculty. Tauber's mentor was Professor Margaret Brunhofer. This change in the process was instituted by the Review Committee last year. The manuscript competition is underwritten by the Elizabeth N. Brehler Scholars Program, established by the Brehler family to honor the memory of Elizabeth Nettie McCaughan Brehler, a School of Social Work student who died in June of 1990. The school is grateful to the family

and friends whose generous support provides this opportunity for students of the school.

The goal of the competition is to encourage students to explore their personal and professional values and the difficulties they have experienced in applying those values in their social work practice.

Instructions for submissions to the 2005 Brehler Manuscript Competition are now available. Students interested in entering should contact Susan Titus, 313-993-4066 or ap3849@wayne.edu. Mentor commitment forms are due December 3, 2004 and the Competition submission deadline is February 4, 2005.

Richard Brehler is the father, and the chair of the Board of Visitors. Pippin is one of his sons. Margaret Brunhofer is the mentor and the winner's name is Patty Tauber. The Committee includes members of the Brehler family and all previous winners.

The rest of the information



From left: Pippin Brehler (son) Richard Brehler, winner Patty Tauber, mentor Professor Margaret Brunhofer and Dean Phyllis I. Vroom

is below.

No award was given in 2003, and the committee decided that future manuscript applicants had to have mentors, to review the draft and to help the applicant meet the goals of the manuscript competition. Faculty

were recruited to become mentors, and were matched with students. There were ten people who wanted to submit a manuscript, and who had mentors. Two people withdrew, but there were eight manuscripts submitted in the scholarship

competition. After a long session, the Committee decided that Patty Tauber's most clearly met the goals of the competition. She was awarded \$2,500. ■

## Pulitzer-nominated Author Dave Pelzer Thrills WSU Audience

Sponsored by School of Social Work's Student Organization, and Social Work Alumni Association, and funded by WSU Student Council, Dave Pelzer's March 31 lecture in the Community Arts Auditorium thrilled a large audience with its homage to the educators, social workers, foster families, volunteers and law enforcement officers who made a difference in his life.

Pelzer's talk, entitled "The Real Heroes," included autobiographical references to the interventions that literally saved his life. Author of five best-selling books, including "A Child Called It" and "The Lost Boy", Pelzer experienced abuse, starvation and mental cruelty. At age 12, after his teachers notified authorities about the abuse he was suffering, he was made a ward of the court and placed in foster care until he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at age 18. As a member of the armed forces, Dave became part of

the team refueling SR-71 Blackbirds and the F-117 Stealth Fighters in midair. Since his Air Force service, Pelzer has served as a juvenile hall counselor, and youth service worker. He studied human services at Troy State University. He is a national advisor to the Missing Youth Foundation and is a Certified Correctional Custody Program Facilitator. Currently he travels the country putting on programs for corporations, human service organizations and youth-at-risk.

Dave Pelzer won a J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award in 1990, was named one of ten

Outstanding Young Americans in 1993 and elected an Outstanding Young Person of the World in 1994. In 1996 he had the honor of carrying the centennial flame for the Olympics. Pelzer is the only author to have four books simultaneously on the New York Times Best Seller list. ■

## Student Chapter of Black Social Workers brings Dr. Ben Carson to WSU Campus

Ben Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at John Hopkins Medical Institution, Baltimore, Maryland participated in the separation of the conjoined Iranian twins in March of 2003. A native Detroit, Carson shared his experiences firsthand last March in the Wayne State University Community Arts Auditorium. The Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Workers, Student Chapter of Wayne State University School of Social Work, and the Coalition for Community Social Work sponsored the event, which was funded by the WSU Student Council.

His talk titled, "Gifted Hands — An Evening with Dr. Benjamin Carson" was followed by a book signing and reception.

Carson, professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics, is author of three books: "Gifted Hands," "Think Big" and "The Big Picture."

Dr. Ben Carson has dedi-

cated his life to inspiring others to excel by using their God-given talents. His childhood journey was filled with poverty. He struggled with poor grades and a violent temper. After his mother, who only had a third-grade education, challenged him to strive for excellence, Ben rose from the bottom to the top of his class. His achievements earned him academic scholarships to college and medical school.

Today, Dr. Carson is world-renowned for leading a medical team that separated West German conjoined twins in 1987, as well as leading a team of South African doctors in the first successful separation of vertically conjoined twins in 1997. He has refined the techniques for hemispherectomy, a radical brain surgery to stop intractable seizures, and has developed, along with the Hopkins plastic surgery division, a craniofacial program to help children who need combined neurosurgical and plastic surgical recon-

struction.

Dr. Carson holds numerous honors and awards, including more than 20 honorary doctorate degrees. He is a member of the board of directors of the Kellogg Company, honored by the Horatio Alger Society, as well as a fellow of the Yale Corporation, the governing body of Yale University.

Dr. Carson's remarkable story is told in his first book, *Gifted Hands. Think Big*, his second book, encourages others to develop their intellectual potential. His latest book, *The Big Picture*, offers an up-close look at a professional surgeon's life -- and his unique perspective on priorities, race, society, success, and living out a life of faith in a complex world. He travels globally to share his knowledge and philosophy with the hope of inspiring people of all ages and educational backgrounds to be — and do — their best! ■

## New Development Officer Named for School of Social Work

Marguerite Carroll Carlton has joined the School of Social Work as director of development and alumni relations for major gifts. In her new position, Carlton will be responsible for all of the School's development activities as well as other university initiatives.

Carlton earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Michigan. She has held various development and marketing posts at Wayne State University dating back

to 1989, with additional positions at the University of Michigan, the Visiting Nurses Association and other non-profit organizations. Her focus in the new position will be on annual gifts, endowments and planned giving. She is also helping the school prepare for its part in the university's upcoming capital campaign.

Commenting on Carlton's appointment, Dean Phyllis I. Vroom said, "We are very fortunate to add a person of Marguerite Carlton's back-

ground and experience to our development efforts. I look forward to working with her and our Development Committee to continue strengthening the financial support of the School of Social Work."

Carlton can be reached at 313-577-8807 or by e-mail at margueritec@wayne.edu ■

*School's new Development Officer Marguerite Carlton*



## Sixteenth Annual Edith Harris Lecture Features Dr. James Garbarino

More than 350 students, alumni, agency representatives and others nearly filled the WSU Community Arts Auditorium last September 17 to hear the 16th annual Edith Harris lecture delivered by James Garbarino, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Family Life Development Center and Elizabeth Lee Vincent Professor of Human Development at Cornell University. The event was co-sponsored by the Detroit Public Schools office of School Social Work and Black Family Development, Inc.

Dr. Garbarino's speech focused on the cumulative effects of risk factors on

children. He tied those risk factors to practice, based on research often with a gentle touch of humor. The lecture included many elements from Dr. Garbarino's extensive published work on the subject. His most recent books include *And Words Can Hurt Forever: How to Protect Adolescents from Bullying, Harassment and Emotional Violence*, co-authored with Ellen deLara, *Parents Under Siege: Why You Are the Solution, Not the Problem, in Your Child's Life*, co-authored with Claire Bedard, and *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them*.

The lecture series honors the memory of Edith Harris, a graduate student in the School of Social Work from 1966 to 1968. Mrs. Harris was an outstanding student whose untimely death in 1968 cut short a very promising social work career. Through the generosity of the Harris Foundation and Mrs. Harris' husband Mort, the series continues, carrying forward her concern for the mental health of individuals and families by annually bringing to the Wayne State University campus a nationally-known expert in the field. ■

## Board of Visitors Member Accepts new Position

C. Patrick Babcock, member of the School's Board of Visitors since its inception in 2001, has accepted a new position as Senior Policy Consultant with Public Policy Associates, Inc. of Lansing. He will head up the firm's work in the areas of human services, health and philanthropy.

Before the move, Babcock held various positions at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, most recently as Director of Public Policy. His

career in public service has spanned nearly 40 years. He held key public policy positions in the administrations of former Michigan Governors William Milliken and James Blanchard. He has also taught graduate seminars on public policy and public administration at Wayne State University. All of his colleagues and friends in the School of Social Work wish him well in his new assignment. ■

## Harvard Professor delivers 17th Edith Harris Memorial Lecture

As this issue was going to press, the 17th Edith Harris Lecture was delivered by Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Professor of Public Health Practice and Associate Dean for Faculty Development, Harvard University School of Public Health. Dr. Prothrow-Stith's topic was "Youth Violence: Prevention Strategies in Urban Settings."

Prothrow-Stith is a nationally recognized

public health leader with applied and academic experience ranging from neighborhood clinics and inner city hospitals, to serving as state commissioner of health, to being a dean and professor at the Harvard School of Public Health. Appointed in 1987 as the first woman and youngest-ever Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dr. Prothrow-

Stith expanded treatment programs for AIDS and drug rehabilitation, and oversaw a department budget of more than 300 million dollars and a department of more than 4,500 employees. During her tenure, she established the first Office of Violence Prevention in a Department of Public Health.

Look for details in the next edition of *Visions*. ■

## Mission Statement

As a school of social work in an urban research university, the mission of the Wayne State University School of Social Work is to discover, critically examine, transmit, and apply knowledge to advance social work practice and social welfare policy and, through preparation of BSW and MSW practitioners, research and service, to contribute to social, cultural, and economic justice and the well-being of vulnerable and oppressed individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, and society. ■

## “Stop Family Violence” Semipostal Stamp Raising Funds for Violence Prevention

The Wayne State University School of Social Work and the United States Post Office celebrated the launch of a U.S. semipostal stamp “Stop Family Violence” last October.

Lloyd E. Wesley, Jr., postmaster of Detroit served as the master of ceremonies, and special guests at the event included: Detroit City Council President Maryann Mahaffey; Dean Phyllis I. Vroom; Nancy S. Barrett, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs at Wayne State; and John H. Talick, lead executive/district manager, U.S. Post Office.

John Talick is a Board of Visitors member and chair of the BOV’s Development Committee. He has established an endowed scholarship in memory of his social worker mother, Maldo Ellen Talick, which provides support for several social work graduate students. “Through my mother, and my own experience, I know first hand what a difference social workers can make for individuals and organizations,” Talick explains. When he was helping postal

employees deal with the aftermath of a workplace tragedy, he turned to a social worker for assistance.

“Social Work has played a major role in preventing domestic violence and helping relieve the suffering that family members experience,” said Dean Phyllis Ivory Vroom of the Wayne State University School of Social Work. “In the School of Social Work, we’ve collaborated with agencies to develop and test prevention programs for troubled families and those who batter.”

A “semipostal” is a stamp issued and sold by the Postal Service at a price exceeding the first-class letter rate, in this case 45 cents. If the stamp is used for a typical first-class letter at 37 cents, the difference goes to the Department of Health and Human Services to be used for violence prevention. The stamp, which was issued Oct. 11, 2003, will be on sale through the end of 2006.

For more information about the program call Susan Titus at (313) 993-4066. ■



John Talick and Dean Vroom display examples of anti-violence stamp

### Maldo Talick Scholarship recipients 2003-05

**Amanda Duda** is in the Pre-Candidate Advanced Standing Program. She began the program in Spring/Summer, 2004 and will graduate in May, 2005. Her interest is working in an agency or school setting to provide therapy for adolescents.

**Christy LaPorte** completed the Master of Social Work Program in May, 2004. Her field intern-

ship was at Henry Ford Behavioral Health Center. Her interpersonal practice concentration was Mental Health Treatment (Inpatient & Outpatient).

**Michelle Macal** completed the Master of Social Work Program in May, 2004. Her field internship was with Larson Middle School – Troy District and Oakland Family Services. Her interpersonal practice concentration was

the family systems theory track.

**Kara McCallum** is in the Master of Social Work Core 2 year program. She began the program in September, 2003 and will graduate in May, 2005. Her field internship this year was at the Deaf Community Advocacy Network.

**Emily Mitchell** is in the Pre-Candidate Advanced Standing Program. She began the

program in Spring/Summer, 2004 and will graduate in May, 2005.

**Taneisha Pointer** will start the Master of Social Work Program in Fall, 2004. Her interest is in dealing with families at risk.

**Rachel Ruppert** is in the Pre-Candidate Advanced Standing Program. She began the program in Spring/Summer, 2004.

She is interested in working with children in at risk populations.

**Chevonna Shawver** is in the Pre-Candidate Advanced Standing Program. She began the program in Spring/Summer, 2004. She is interested working with abused and neglected children, and children with mental disabilities. ■

## School of Social Work Remembers Alumnus Theodore Jordan

Detroit resident and former City of Detroit official Theodore Jordan died August 28 in Providence Hospital. Mr. Jordan earned his master’s degree in Social Work from

Wayne State University. Shortly after graduating, Jordan became founding director of Todd-Philips Home for Boys. After three years in that position, he moved to

the YMCA, where he was named director of youth work in 1967. In 1975 Mayor Coleman A. Young appointed him as director of the city’s Housing Department. Four

years later, a second mayoral appointment named him director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. ■

## Alumni Association Celebrates an Exciting Year

*A Report from Alumni Association President Nora Holt*

Greetings to our members, potential members and friends. 2004 has been an exciting year for your Alumni Association. And that fact is reflected in a steady increase in membership. Former members have rejoined, encouraged by our contacts and the schedule of opportunities to get together as published in *Visions*. Others have taken the opportunity to join through *Visions* and at various Association events. Right now we have about 870 members. By the time my term expires, I'd like reach at least 1000.

We are now also getting in touch with some alumni electronically. About 75 members have signed up for the School of Social Work's list-serve and more are being added each month. If you'd like to sign up, simply send your e-mail address to Alumni Liaison Anwar Najor-Durack. Her e-mail address is ac1724@wayne.edu

We've raised over \$3200.00 by selling a variety of apparel items with the School of Social Work logo on them at various events. Look for them

at upcoming events.

Speaking of events, we've had three very successful ones in the last year, starting with the Fall Alumni Reception October 23 at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. More than 100 alumni and others had a great time while honoring two respected civic leaders, City Council President Maryann Mahaffey and Wayne State University Board of Governors member (and SSW alumna) Jacquelin E. Washington.

Our second major event was the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at Alumni House on March 25 this year. More than 200 guests celebrated the achievements of Social Worker of the year Arezell Brown of the Detroit Public Schools and Citizen of the Year Selma Goode, founder and coordinator of Westside Mothers. Keynote speaker was Michael J. Brennan, President and CEO of United Way Community Services.

Finally, also in March, your Alumni Association co-sponsored, along with the Student Organization, the well-attended



*Alumni Association president Nora Holt*

lecture "The Real Heroes" by Pulitzer Prize nominee Dave Pelzer. An article on this event appears elsewhere in this issue of *Visions*.

In closing, let me thank all of the SWS alumni who have volunteered to make our merchandise sales and special events so successful. And, if you're not already a member, I invite you to help us reach our goal of 1,000 members by signing up today.

**Nora Holt**  
President

*Editor's Note: Nora Holt, a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors since 1999, is currently serving as president. She earned her BSW from Michigan State University and her MSW from Wayne State University in 1966. Her varied career has included work in mental health, child welfare, school social work, substance abuse treatment and clinical case management; Ms. Holt has also supervised BSW and MSW candidates at both WSU and the University of Michigan. She retired in 1998. ■*

### WSU Alumni Association Mission Statement

The mission of the Wayne State University Alumni Association is to build loyalty and support among our graduates.

We do this by promoting a positive image of the university, by strengthening feelings of identity with the university and by offering opportunities for alumni to serve the university—all done with a touch of good humor and fun.

We measure our success by our number of active members, by their degree of participation in alumni- and university-sponsored activities, by their volunteer efforts on behalf of the university and by their advice, counsel and financial contributions to the university. ■

## In Memoriam... SSW Scholarship honors Memory of Alumna Rachel Coleman

Rachel Inez Coleman, who earned her BSW and MSW degrees from the WSU School of Social Work, died of brain cancer at her home April 1, 2004. She was 28. When first diagnosed in 1997, Ms. Coleman refused to accept the prognosis that she had but a few months left. On the

contrary, she filled the intervening seven years with many accomplishments and generous service.

While pursuing her degree in the social work program at Wayne State University, Ms. Coleman continued to undergo rounds of chemotherapy and radiation

treatment while volunteering, traveling extensively and spending as much time as she could learning how to sail. For several summers, she volunteered as a counselor at a weeklong recreational camp for children with cancer. In August, 2003, she entered into hospice care, but

continued to serve, weekly mentoring a hospice social work intern until two weeks before her death.

In addition to her parents, Kristine (a part-time SSW faculty member) and Rodney Miranne, and Leonard Coleman, Rochester, NY; survivors include her sisters,

Johanna Coleman, Detroit; and Kathryn and Lisa Coleman, Covington Louisiana. At Ms. Coleman's request, her family is establishing an endowed scholarship in her memory. For more information, contact the School's Development Officer Marguerite Carlton at 313-577-8807. ■

## Class of 2004 Honored at the Annual Dean's Graduation Recognition Assembly

On May 1, 2004 more than 300 BSW and MSW degree candidates were honored during the Annual Dean's Graduation Recognition Assembly at the Masonic Temple's Scottish Rite Theatre in Detroit. Phyllis Ivory Vroom, Dean of the School of Social Work presided during the event as several invited speakers addressed the graduates and their guests.

Ms. Cathrine Bunker, Vice-

President of Student Organization and WSU Student Council Representative spoke on behalf of the student body, followed by faculty representatives Drs. Cassandra Bowers and Margaret O. Brunhofer who offered greetings from the BSW and MSW programs respectively.

The dean then honored members of the class of 2004 that earned special awards

and honors for their outstanding performance. This segment was followed by the introduction of keynote speaker, Sharon Gire, Director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging. Ms. Gire was appointed in 2003 by Governor Jennifer Granholm to direct and manage Michigan's services for the aged. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Gire was a member of the State Board of

Education. She also served as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives from 1987-1998. Gire is a graduate of the Wayne State University School of Social Work.

Following Ms. Gire's remarks, Dr. Maxine Thome, Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of the NASW, welcomed the honorees into the profession of social work. In her position as Executive Director, Dr.

Thome leads an organization that boasts more than 8,000 members statewide.

The Assembly concluded with remarks by then Alumni Association President, Ms. Patricia Fisher. Ms. Fisher welcomed the new graduates and encouraged each of them to become active participants in the school's Alumni Association. ■

## School-sponsored Reception Honors Gubernatorial Appointee Sharon Gire

Last fall the School of Social Work, in cooperation with the School's Alumni Association and the Institute of Gerontology, honored Sharon Gire at a reception after her appointment as Director, Michigan Office of Services to the

Aging. Ms. Gire was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm in June, 2003. As Director she is responsible for directing Michigan's aging network, the system providing services to older persons throughout the state.

From 1999 to her appointment, Ms. Gire was an elected member of the State Board of Education; responsible for the supervision of all public education in Michigan. Ms. Gire also served as a member of the Michigan House of

Representatives from 1987-1998. As a member she chaired the Human Services and Children's Committee, Education Committee, was elected Associate Speaker Pro Tempore; chaired a subcommittee on Medicaid Managed

Care, was the Minority sponsor of the Patient's Bill of Rights reforms. Ms. Gire is a graduate of the Wayne State University School of Social Work and was the keynote speaker at this year's Dean's Graduation Assembly. ■

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**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY** **Alumni Association Membership Registration**

Membership is available to alumni and friends of the university. Call (877) WSU-ALUM for additional information or School of Social Work Alumni Association.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  Check if new address

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