Alumni News and Information for Future Newsletters

We’re interested in what you’re doing now. Please take a moment to complete the following and return it to us via fax, e-mail or US mail to:

Wayne State University School of Social Work
4756 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

Fax: (313) 577-8770
e-mail: aa2851@wayne.edu

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Visions
Dean Waites Named “Outstanding Dean” by Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education

Associate Dean Cheryl E. Waites has received the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) Leadership Award for Outstanding Dean. This highly competitive national award is sponsored by The Social Work Leadership Institute of the New York Academy of Medicine, which is a national initiative working to ensure that America’s older adults receive the care they need to live life to the fullest—and that their caregivers also get the support they deserve.

In a letter informing Dean Waites of her selection, the HPPAE selection committee said:

“The award is in acknowledgment of your exceptional leadership in the field of aging. Among other notable achievements, the selection committee was impressed with your consistent support for initiatives promoting older adult content in curricula, for strengthening and establishing partnerships with organizations serving older adults in Detroit and your extensive research on this subject.” The letter also commented on the overwhelming response and a high volume of nominations of very successful leaders in aging they received, and how this made the selection of one award recipient per category much more.

Continued on page 6
Welcome to the fall edition of Visions. It is a great pleasure to be back full-time as Dean after an extended period of taking on other administrative duties for the university. I must thank Associate Dean Cheryl Waites for ably filling in as Acting Dean during my absence. And, speaking of Dean Waites, she recently has received the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education Leadership Award for Outstanding Dean. You can read all about it within these pages.

This issue also includes our annual honor roll of the donors who have supported the school during 2009. Despite the difficult times our economy has suffered recently, the generosity of our supporters continues. This support becomes ever more crucial to help us maintain our standards of excellence in the face of diminishing support from other sources. A hearty thank you to all the donors listed. Your generosity continues to warm our hearts.

There’s also news from the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research about our strategic partnership with The Children’s Center and research on teen dating violence, a project that Professor Arlene Weisz and Research Associate Joanne Smith-Darden are currently working on together.

Also from the faculty comes news from Professor Jerrold Brandell of the publication of the new edition of his comprehensive textbook *Theory & Practice in Clinical Social Work*, which has already become required reading in social work classes at universities on both coasts.

And the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development is making news as well, with establishment of an informative and useful web site and the introduction of a new certificate program in substance abuse treatment.

There’s also an article about the annual Edith Harris lecture, the last of our 75th Anniversary events, featuring Alumna Janice Prochaska.

I would like to conclude this message with sincere, warm wishes for the approaching holiday season and the hope for a happy, prosperous New Year from all of us at the School of Social Work.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Vroom, Dean

School of Social Work Donor Honor Roll 2009

The administration, faculty, staff and students of the Wayne State University School of Social Work gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of the following individuals and organizations during the 2009 calendar year. If you wish to make a contribution, or have a comment on this honor roll, please contact our director of development, Marguerite Carlton, at (313) 577-8807 or ae8206@wayne.edu

Gifts of $50,000 or greater
Ford Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Gifts of $20,000 or greater
The Gerontological Society of America

Gifts of $10,000 to $14,000
New York Academy of Medicine
The 23rd Annual Edith Harris Endowed Memorial Lecture was delivered by Janice Prochaska, PhD, President & Chief Executive Officer of Pro-Change Behavior Systems, Inc. on Friday, October 1, 2010 at the Community Arts Auditorium. The lecture's title was “Helping Family Members at Each Stage of Change.”

The chair of the faculty planning committee, Margaret Brunhofer, after the lecture said, “Janice Prochaska is an expert in both clinical and research fields. She presented her research on the Transtheoretical Model and its application to work with families. Prochaska’s model incorporates core principles of social work practice theory and best practices in social work.”

Therapeutic change is a process that unfolds over time and involves progress through six stages: Precontemplation, Contemplation, Preparation, Action, Maintenance, and Termination. Prochaska’s lecture explored each stage of change and the principles and processes of change that are emphasized at each stage. Matching therapeutic principles to each stage decreases resistance and facilitates progress. One of the special challenges of family therapy is that family members are usually in different stages of change. This can lead to conflicts over the change process and to negative attributions about family members’ motivation.

Prochaska’s most recent work includes applying that model to behavior issues, such as juvenile delinquency, bullying prevention, weight management, consumer credit debt, advancement of women scientists, and being a proactive health consumer. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Parks & Recreation Association and for the Star Island Corporation.

She also holds an adjunct faculty position at the University of Rhode Island. She earned her MSW from Wayne State University and her PhD in Social Work Administration and Policy from Boston College.

Edith Harris was a graduate student in the School of Social Work from 1966 to 1968. Her untimely death in 1968 cut short a very promising career and was a loss to society at large. Her memory is honored annually by the presentation of the Edith Harris Memorial Endowed lecture, featuring a prominent speaker and expert on the mental health of individuals and families.
For the past two years, staff from the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research (CSWPP) has provided technical assistance and consulted with our strategic partners at The Children’s Center. For over 80 years, this large, child-serving agency, has addressed the needs and problems of some of the most challenged children in the US. As part of the partnership, Center staff sits on the Quality Compliance and Evaluation Committee, which is charged with providing guidance and assistance for the operations of the Quality Department of The Children’s Center. In addition, the CSWPP performs literature reviews, faculty/staff exchanges, focus groups and offers statistical software and library access as a part of this university/community collaboration.

To continue providing high-quality services, this spring The Children’s Center moved to improve staff development efforts, by contracting with the CSWPP to explore staff perceptions about factors associated with and barriers to clinical work. Dr. Joanne Sobeck, Dr. Bart Miles and Elizabeth Agius have developed and implemented focus groups and a web-based survey for clinical staff in collaboration with a committee of Children’s Center staff and supervisors. These methods are being used to assess staff needs and perceptions around skills and competencies. The information gained from the focus groups and survey will be used to fine-tune staff development offerings, ensuring that staff members are even better equipped for their challenging roles. Our Center will continue to work with Children’s Center as its staff continually seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services they provide.

Highlighting The Children’s Center, Strategic Partner of the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research

Professor Arlene Weisz and Research Associate Joanne Smith-Darden are currently working together on research related to Teen Dating Violence (TDV). TDV is a significant public health problem across the United States (CDC, 2008).

Studies indicate that between 9% and 30% of high school students’ experience TDV, with incidence rates varying based on the scope of the definition employed (Eaton et al. 2007; Foshee et al., 1996; Howard & Wang 2003; Molidor & Tolman, 1998).

Research suggests that high rates of interpersonal violence (domestic violence, murder, assault) in a community may influence residents’ beliefs about violence and its acceptability. These beliefs may, in turn, influence teen’s willingness to seek help when confronted by violence in their dating relationship.

Bridging their respective research interests (youth dating violence and sexual assault prevention for Weisz, underserved children and youth for Smith-Darden) to investigate this phenomenon, they conducted TDV focus groups at high schools in Wayne County, Michigan. The goal of these focus groups was to examine teens’ understanding and perception of Teen Dating Violence, as well as probing how community context drives normative cognition about the phenomena and subsequent teen help-seeking behavior.

The focus groups were conducted to obtain pilot data to inform an RO1 grant submitted to Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), a division of the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Four focus groups (three made up of students and one of faculty) were conducted under the supervision of current doctoral candidate, Jessica Lucero. Some exciting themes emerged from the discussions.

One primary theme concerned the use of

Continued on page 10
Publications (in print)


Social Welfare Researcher Richard Smith Joins Faculty

Richard J. “Rick” Smith has joined the faculty, effective with the 2010-11 academic year. Prior to joining the school, Smith earned his PhD in Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley, where he also taught and held a research appointment at the California Social Work Education Center. His dissertation research, “Immigrant and Minority Businesses in Federal Community Development Programs,” analyzed the impact of Empowerment Zones and Renewal Community tax incentives to promote hiring local workers in neighborhoods with high poverty. He earned his MSW and BA at the University of Michigan, and also has an MFA from Western Michigan University.

His research interests include understanding urban community change, immigrant and minority entrepreneurship, sustainable community economic development and anti-poverty strategies.

Although he had been back in Michigan only for a few weeks when Visions interviewed him, Smith already had a few observations to share. When we asked what factors influenced his decision to join the faculty, he cited the support he has already begun to experience as a tenure-track faculty member, both from his colleagues and from the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research. “The fact that the school has an associate dean for research is a strong signal of the importance it places on supporting the faculty’s research activities,” he said. He also ventured an early assessment of the students he is teaching, calling them strong and enthusiastic, “very comparable to those I taught at Berkeley.”

One of the more unusual assignments Smith has experienced in his teaching career was a stint as a Peace Corps Educational Development Specialist in Mongolia, where he trained English teachers. Soon after that he returned to Mongolia to manage the Spring English Language Center and consult for UNICEF.

From 2001 through 2005, Smith worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, first as a Presidential Management Intern and later as a Community Planning and Development Specialist.

Smith’s research is published in the Journal of Human Behavior and the Social Environment and forthcoming in Administration in Social Work. He currently serves as a core advisor for the International Ecocity Standards project of Ecocity Builders.
New Edition of Brandell’s *Theory & Practice in Clinical Social Work* Published by Sage

Professor Jerrold Brandell has recently finished editing the second edition of his comprehensive clinical anthology, *Theory & Practice in Clinical Social Work*, which was published in February by Sage. The 859-page book includes contributions by Wayne State SSW faculty members Margaret O’Kane Brunhofer and Dean Phyllis Vroom, as well as one by Brandell. In all, 36 prominent experts contributed a total of 28 chapters for this edition.

The book is divided into three major parts. Part I is called “Frameworks for Clinical Practice” and includes chapters on systems theory, behavioral and cognitive theories, psychoanalytic theory and neurobiology. Part II covers “Specific Treatment Modalities,” with chapters on practice with children, adolescents, and families, cognitive-behavioral therapy, psychoanalytic psychotherapy, couple treatment, group treatment with children and adolescents, and group treatment with adults. Part III, titled “Specialized Clinical Issues, Themes, Dilemmas,” includes 15 chapters covering a wide range of topics ranging from trauma and terrorism to loss and mourning and social work in urban school settings.

Quoting from the back cover of the book, “This thoroughly updated resource is the only comprehensive anthology addressing frameworks for treatment, therapeutic modalities, and specialized clinical issues, themes, and dilemmas encountered in clinical social work practice. Editor Jerrold R. Brandell and other leading figures in the field present carefully devised methods, models, and techniques for responding to the needs of an increasingly diverse clientele.” The cover statement continues, “The extensive breadth of coverage makes this book an essential source of information for students in advanced practice courses and practicing social workers alike.”

“Frankly,” Brandell observed, “a big part of my motivation in putting together this new edition is the deep concern I have over the current state of clinical social work education. Since the first edition of this work appeared in 1997, I believe there has been a gradual weakening of the clinical curriculum in many American schools of social work. There are probably many reasons for this, but it’s a disturbing trend – one that if unchecked, will eventually lead to graduating MSW’s who haven’t the slightest idea of what real clinical practice is all about. In some small way, I am hopeful that this new edition of *TPCSW* will help us to restore clinical social work education to its rightful place in the graduate curriculum.”

To purchase a copy of the 2nd edition, contact order@sagepub.com.

Outstanding Dean Continued from page 1

Outstanding Dean Continued from page 1

challenging.

Other awardees are Debra Fromm Faria, Outstanding Faculty Award, Joelle Osterhaus, Outstanding Student Award, and The Arthritis Foundation New York Chapter, Outstanding Community Partner Award.

The Outstanding Dean/Director in Aging is chosen in concert with National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work and recognizes a “HPPAE site Dean or Director who is advancing aging in his or her university or college through research, through community service, through strengthening university-community ties, through securing institutional and financial support for aging.”

Waites was recognized at the HPPAE Award Ceremony, on Saturday, October 16th during the Council on Social Work Education’s Annual Program Meeting, in Portland, Oregon. Her award was presented by Patricia Volland, Director of the Social Work Leadership Institute and Senior Vice President, New York Academy of Medicine.

At the same meeting, several faculty members, and doctoral candidate Erin Comartin, presented papers or workshops. Comartin, along with faculty member Poco Kernsmith, presented a paper examining public attitudes regarding sanctions for youth sexting. Dean Waites, Anwar Najor-Durack and Lauree Emery presented a workshop on implementing a competency-based curriculum, while Professor Jerrold Brandell participated in a panel on “The New Psychodynamic Curriculum.” New faculty member Richard J. Smith (see profile also in this issue) also presented. The search committee was also busy at the conference interviewing potential faculty candidates to fill four open positions at the school.
President Search Advisory Committee Includes Dean Vroom

S
ince Jay Noren has announced his resignation from the presidency of Wayne State University, the Wayne State University Board of Governors, wishing to seek advice and counsel from a broad cross-section of persons in the university and from the community, has established a search advisory committee to recommend a prospective pool of candidates. Dean Phyllis Vroom has been named to the committee as one of two deans representing their university peers.

Board of Governors member Paul Massaron chairs the committee, assisted by BOG member Diane Dunaskiss as Vice-Chair. Other BOG members named to the committee are Debbie Dingell and Gary Pollard.

In addition to Dean Vroom, James Garavaglia, President, Alumni Association and Senior Vice President, Comerica Bank has been selected as have Academic Senate President Seymour Wolfson, and Medical School Dean Valerie Parisi. The faculty is represented by Linda Beale, Professor, Law School Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, Associate Professor, Education Rodger MacArthur, Professor, School of Medicine; Alicia Nails, Lecturer, Fine, Performing & Communication Arts; and Louis Romano, Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences. Student Senate President Amanda Carnegie, Senior, Business Marketing and International Studies represents the student body.

Other committee members are: Judy McClusty, President, Staff Association, UAW 2071 and Charles Parrish, President, AAUP-AFT representing staff and unions, and Business/ Community representatives are Paul Hillegonds, Senior Vice President, DTE and Kirk Lewis, Chief Govt. & Corporate Affairs Officer, City of Detroit. The university administration is represented by Ron Brown, Provost/Sr VP for Academic Affairs, Hilary Ratner, Vice President for Research, Joseph Sawasky, Associate Vice President and CIO. Also serving is Paul Schaap, Professor Emeritus.. Executive Secretary to the Committee is Christine Cook.

To nominate a candidate, please send the name, current title and contact information electronically to: PSAC@wayne.edu, or by mail to:

Wayne State University
Presidential Search Advisory Committee
P.O.Box 02549
Detroit, MI 48202

Those who may be interested in applying may submit a cover letter, vitae and any supporting materials electronically to: waynestate@storbeckpimentel.com, or mail them to:

Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Managing Partner
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, LLC
1400 N. Providence Road, Suite 6000
Media, PA 19063

Here is the Search Committee website: http://bog.wayne.edu/presidentialsearch/committee.php.
Dr. Antonio Gonzalez-Prendes has been awarded a grant from the Flinn Foundation for “Increasing Access to Utilization of Services by Latino Clients with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders in Macomb County.” In reacting to award of the grant, Gonzalez-Prendes credited colleagues Dr. Joanne Sobeck, Dr. Joanne Smith-Darden, Liz Agius and Neva Nahan for their help in putting the proposal together.

Gonzalez-Prendes is the principal investigator for the grant, and has two collaborators: Dr. Yobany Pardo, Ph.D., a psychologist working with St. Joseph Hospital and Dr. Edgar Cruz, M.D., a family practitioner with Henry Ford Hospital. The proposal was developed with the assistance of the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research and in collaboration with the Hispanic Mental Health Alliance of Macomb County (HMHAMC).

HMHAMC is a collaborative of volunteer local agencies and individuals in Macomb County that was established approximately two years ago with the purposes of increasing accessibility to mental health and substance abuse services for the Latino population in the county.

The problem: Latinos underutilized mental health and substance abuse services. When they actually make use of these services they tend to terminate services prematurely, without perhaps deriving the full benefit of treatment. Too often, particularly in substance abuse cases, the individual ends up coming in contact with the legal system.

This project will train practitioners who work with the Latino population in the use of the SBIRT, as well as to provide information on key cultural issues that impact mental health/substance abuse services use by Latinos. SBIRT stands for Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment. The SBIRT is a motivational-based intervention developed by Boston University’s Medical School and School of Public Health that has been found to be successful in screening and increasing participation in treatment for clients with substance abuse problems. The project will train professionals in the county who come in contact with Latino clients in the use of the SBIRT; provide technical assistance and supervision to participating providers/agencies; and monitor and collect data to assess the impact of the intervention on entrance-to-treatment and retention rates.

Gonzalez-Prendes awarded $30,000 grant from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation

The Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development at the Wayne State University School of Social Work has recently put up a new web site to help interested professionals learn more about the office’s workshop offerings and the seasoned clinicians who present them. The site, continuingeducation.socialwork.wayne.edu also allows perspective students to register and even pay fees online.

In other news, the director, Peggy Brunhofer, PhD has announced establishment of a new certificate program in substance abuse treatment. The majority of human service workers encounter substance abuse difficulties in their professional practices, and many feel ill-equipped to effectively address these issues. The program includes content on addiction and its impact on the brain; drugs of use; theories of causality and societal attitudes; assessment instruments; treatment approaches, including motivational interviewing and stages of change model; co-occurring disorders and relapse prevention. Special issues in substance abuse treatment, including culture, family dynamics, adolescent issues, women, older adults, and GLBTQ, will be included in the content covered. The certificate program culminates with opportunities for case consultation.

The CE office also offers agency-based professional education on a range of topics. Expert instructors, in consultation with agency staff, create high-quality, customized workshops that can meet the specific needs of any agency. In keeping with the learning styles of adult learners, all workshops include interactive components. For example, CE staff developed an on-site, six-week program for Black Family Development on advanced psycho-social assessment and treatment planning, using case examples from that specific agency and engaging agency staff in creating interventions as part of the workshop.

Twice a year, the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development also offers a one-day Licensing Preparation Workshop for the MSW Clinical Exam. The next Licensing Exam Workshop will be offered in April 2011. The spring Continuing Education series of workshops will be offered the weekends of March 25 and 26 as well as April 1 and 2, 2011.”

Office of Continuing Education Inaugurates Web Site and Introduces Certificate Program in Substance Abuse Treatment
As we reflect on this historic 75th Anniversary year, your Alumni Board is also planning future events to support our mission which includes providing opportunities for social and educational activities for the membership and the community, and to assist the school by promoting programs which benefit students, faculty and the university. For example, we are collaborating with Bridging Communities, Inc., a non-profit grass-roots organization, to host an “Intergenerational Telethon” during Social Work Month, which will benefit both our students and the elderly in our community. Donors can either assist a student by donating to our endowed alumni scholarship fund, or assist an elder to remain in their home and community by donating to Bridging Communities. Your board is asking our members to participate either by donating money or time. Keep an eye and ear open for more information as well as for the exact date next March.

Bridging Communities, Inc. (BCI) is a nonprofit grassroots collaborative consisting of local unions, businesses, residents, and faith-based organizations working together to create caring communities where people of all ages can live in dignity. BCI began work in Detroit in 1980 as Ecumenical Project S.A.V.E. (Seek and Visit the Elderly), as a cooperative effort by clergy to address the growing needs of elderly members of their congregations and the community at large. BCI touches the lives of the frail, at-risk elderly of Southwest Detroit by supporting the independence of over 1,600 elders with the assistance of more than 1,300 volunteers.

We also need your help in selecting our 2011 Alum of the Year and Citizen of the Year by submitting nominations for one or both of these awards. Individuals selected will be honored during Social Work Month at our annual luncheon meeting, Friday March 25, 2011. You can find the nomination forms on the school’s web site under “alumni” or call the school’s alumni office at 313-577-4464. The award criteria for Social Work Alumna/Alumnus of the Year: be an alumna or alumnus of the Wayne State University School of Social Work (BSW, MSW or PhD); have demonstrated a commitment to the profession, as exemplified in the pursuit of social work knowledge, practice, leadership and/or research; having demonstrated outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: the social work profession, service to the community, service to the WSU School of Social Work. The award criteria for Citizen of the Year: have an outstanding record of public, private sector or voluntary service to vulnerable populations, positively impacting the quality of life in metropolitan Detroit or Michigan communities; exemplify social work values and ethics; demonstrate outstanding compassion, teamwork and leadership.

Two more events are dates to save on your 2011 calendar:

1) The Fifth Annual Dean’s Diversity Lecture on Thursday, March 10th, to be presented by alumna, Danita Echols ’98, who will lead a panel of youth addressing the needs of older youth transitioning out of foster care. Two continuing education hours will be awarded to alumni attending at no fee.

2) The Alumni Association’s Annual Dinner with the Dean at the Detroit Yacht Club, scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2011.

Consider becoming a member or renewing your alumni association membership during this final semester of our 75th anniversary year. And, once again, thanks for responding to my prior invitations to hear from you and letting us know about your professional milestones since completing your social work education at Wayne State. Best wishes for the holiday season and the coming New Year.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Edwards, President
Associate Professor Durrenda Nash Onolemhemhen Presented Paper at Oxford University Roundtable in July

An established worldwide expert on women’s reproductive health in Africa, Associate Professor Durrenda Nash Onolemhemhen was invited by Lincoln College of Oxford University to participate in a roundtable and present a paper, “Social Justice and Women’s Reproductive Health in Africa” last summer. The roundtable on Social Justice included 36 presenters from institutions of higher learning across the U.S., Canada and India, representing colleges and universities such as Ohio State University and the universities of Florida, Colorado and Hawaii.

The Oxford Round Tables promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education. They are a forum for the study of current issues facing state and national systems of education, and each session is made up of a small select group of leaders from both the public and private sectors of several countries.

Reacting to her Oxford experience, Onolemhemhen said that the opportunity to hear the other presenters, as well as getting feedback on her presentation, were very satisfying. She also commented on the beauty of the historic Lincoln College buildings in which the round table occurred, meals were served and participants were housed.

Quoting from the abstract of her paper, “Social justice is a guiding principal of the social work profession globally. Social injustice occurs when society denies human rights to its members and produces inequality through discrimination. Social workers are committed to addressing social injustice by assisting disadvantaged groups to acquire full participation in society by accessing resources and gaining opportunities for social and economic advancement.”

As is typical in the roundtable format, all the presenters attended each presentation and participated in a discussion following the presentation of each paper. Onolemhemhen reports that her presentation was followed by a lively discussion, along with a question and answer session.

Her paper examined, from a social work perspective, how social injustice has impacted the lives of African women during their reproductive years and how this problem can be addressed.

The deaths and injuries of thousands of women across Africa is an indication of a lack of social justice on a continental scale. Ideally, women, during their childbearing years, should have the same basic rights, protections, and opportunities as their male counterparts of the same ages. Yet the political priority for safe motherhood in Africa is low. At the root of this problem is the low status of women in African society, in which human rights for women have been compromised. A lack of political will on the part of governments to bring about social justice through social change has resulted in this insidious problem.

Teen Dating Violence Continued from page 4

of technology in teen dating relationships. Primarily through the use of cell phones, text messaging and social networking sites, young couples are acting out new patterns of power and control. Specifically, teens report that monitoring each other’s use of these technologies is common among their peers and possibly even among teens in general.

For example, many teens demonstrate their jealousy and insecurities by using cell phones to constantly ‘check-up’ on each other’s location and social contacts, and it is not uncommon to share passwords for monitoring purposes. Therefore, the groundwork for potential violence is laid through patterns of psychological control and submission. New technologies increase the speed at which teen couples can keep in touch with one another and seems to raise teens’ expectations about their abilities to monitor their partners. Adults who work with youth in a variety of settings can potentially use information from this study to “catch-up” with the latest in teen dating dynamics; dynamics that may be crucial to the investigation and reduction of Teen Dating Violence.

As Visions goes to press, two journal articles based on this research are in process. As Weisz and Smith-Darden continue to collaborate, with the addition of Dr. Kernsmith they plan to submit an R21 Grant this fall, proposing to further investigate the role of technology in TDV.”
...Visions has been informed of the following alumni deaths.

Bette Kalichman (nee Geltner), 90, MSW (Class of 1948) of Chicago, former resident of Detroit died April 23. She was the wife of Nathan Kalichman for 60 years. In addition to her husband, Kalichman is survived by her daughters Miriam (Charles Firke) and Karen (Barbara Reed) and two grandchildren.

Richard J. Parvis, 92, professor emeritus at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work and leader in the area of international social development, died February 24.

Parvis earned his MSW degree (Class of 1954) from the school. His field work took him to settlement houses in Bridgeport and Detroit, he ran a settlement house in Kansas City, directed a social service agency in Minneapolis, and taught at the University of Minnesota before embarking on his international career.

Parvis dedicated his life to humanitarian activities. He believed social work could correct some underlying causes of societal and economic problems. In the 60s, Parvis spent two-and-a-half years in India teaching in Lucknow and Madras, followed by two years in Lusaka, Zambia, where he helped establish that nation’s Oppenheimer School of Social Work.

He returned to the U.S. and joined the faculty at the Brown School of Social Work, where he spearheaded efforts to develop an international community development program. In the 70s, Parvis helped found the International Consortium for Social Development, a multidisciplinary network that even today expands community resources worldwide. By the early 80s, Parvis was assisting Egypt with its community development programs.

In addition to his wife, Parvis is survived by sons John and Jim, daughter-in-law Barbara, son-in-law Peter, and grandchildren Corinne, Todd, Jannina and Semhar. His daughter Laurie predeceased him in 2007.

Freddie B. Shannon (nee Bradley), ‘48, of Detroit, Michigan died September 29 at the age of 86. Her husband Thomas J. Shannon, Jr., whom she met while both were students at WSU, preceded her in death in 2009, after 61 years of marriage. She is survived by her children Candace, Karima Leslie, Susan and Thomas and grandchildren Christina, Paul, Jasmeen and Nathan. She is also survived by her brothers Freeman and James.

An MSW Class of 1948 graduate, Shannon began her career in early childhood education as a kindergarten teacher in the Detroit Public Schools. She also was a DPS administrator and taught at Wayne County Community College. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a very active member of Grace Episcopal Church in Detroit, where a memorial service was held on October 16, 2010.

Rebecca Lawrence Tobias, 67, of Mount Airy, Pennsylvania, a social worker and ceramic artist, died of brain cancer Wednesday, March 31, at the Visiting Nurse Association’s Hospice of Philadelphia. Mrs. Tobias grew up in Kansas City, Mo. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Antioch College in Ohio and her MSW from the school in 1968.

Mrs. Tobias ended a 40-year career in March 2008 when she retired as director of social work at Living Independently for Elders (LIFE). A decade earlier, she helped establish the program, which is sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and benefits several hundred older adults in West Philadelphia.

“She believed social benefits are a right, not a privilege, and was a fierce advocate for her clients,” her husband, Stephen Tobias, said. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Tobias is survived by sons Jacob and Zachary, and a sister.
Gifts of $500 to $999 cont.
Mrs. Katherine A. Madajski
Mrs. Jane Ann Matheus
Mr. Daniel J. McCachin
Ms. Kristine B. Miranne
Ms. Alice G. Thompson
Mrs. Judith A. Wollack

Gifts of $100 to $499
Ms. Jane Mary Allen
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