

Alumni News and Information for Future Newsletters

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Visions

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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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Dean Phyllis Vroom Announces Retirement, Effective September 30th

On June 13th Dean Vroom, accompanied by Ronald T. Brown, WSU provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, told a gathering of faculty and staff, quoting Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven..." and my time is now." With those words she announced her retirement, effective at the end of September, ending nearly ten successful years as leader of the school, plus another two as interim dean. She continued, "the transition will be seamless...there is much more to do and you have the talent to do it." She reminisced that she originally joined the school in 1969 under a three-year grant.



Dean Phyllis Vroom

Provost Brown confessed to a lack of words adequate to describe Dean Vroom's contributions to the school and impact on WSU, and suggested, tongue in cheek, that perhaps a street should be renamed in her honor. In a later statement Brown said, "Dean Vroom's name is synonymous with Wayne State as well as the School of Social Work. Under her leadership, the school has been recognized internationally for the quality of its research, and as a force for social change and community transformation."

Under Dean Vroom's leadership, the school was reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in 2006 (the accreditation of the Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work degree programs was reaffirmed by CSWE without qualifications until 2015). The new PhD program, which she was instrumental in developing, welcomed its first cohort of students in 2006 as well. In 2008 the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research was established by the School of Social Work and chartered by the university. Last year Dean Vroom presided over the school's year of celebration of its 75th Anniversary. During Vroom's tenure as interim dean and dean, the school received well over five million dollars in grants. She also served as acting provost and as acting president of the university during part of 2010.

She is a longtime member of the faculty and has served in curricular leadership roles, first as coordinator of the BSW Program, from 1973 to 1986 and as coordinator of the MSW Program from 1987-1988. She served as Associate Dean from 1990 to 1999. Her areas of expertise are social work practice with African-American children, youth and families; social work in urban middle schools, and social group services. Within the community, Professor Vroom currently serves on the board of Black Family Development, Inc.

Associate Dean Cheryl Waites will serve as interim dean until a successor is found. A national search will begin this fall. ■

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Board of Governors

Tina Abbott, Chair; Debbie Dingell, Vice Chair; Eugene Driker;
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dean Phyllis I. Vroom

When I sat down to write this, I was at a loss for words, not knowing how to sum up more than 40 years at the Wayne State University School of Social Work. Then my mind wandered back to my early days of education and training in Social Group Work Practice. And I remembered an important lesson: the test of a leader's job is the sustainability of the group. That's the feeling I hope to convey in this, my last message to you here as dean.

I take great pride and satisfaction in the fact that I am leaving the school with outstanding BSW, MSW, and PhD degree programs, a dynamic Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research, and a viable and relevant Continuing Education and Professional Development Program. We have a fully online BSW degree program option and substantial online course offerings, and we anticipate offering an online MSW Program in the near future. A lot of people besides me deserve credit for these accomplishments... starting with Associate Dean Cheryl Waites who becomes interim dean, BSW and MSW Program Coordinators, Cassandra Bowers and Kim Jaffee, PhD Program Director, Arlene Weisz, Associate Dean for Research Joanne Sobbeck and Assistant Dean Janet Joiner, along with our superb faculty and the talented and hard-working academic and support staff, with special mention of my immediate support staff: Kathy Burnett, Marilyn Knall, Curt Brahm, and Juanitta Hill.

I have also had much-appreciated, valuable assistance from the members of our Board of Visitors under the leadership of, most recently, Susan Rogers and in the past, Virgil Carr and Richard Brehler. And I can't fail to mention the help and encouragement from our strong and loyal Alumni Association, which has been headed by Phyllis Edwards, who has recently been succeeded by Larmender Davis. Many alumni are also donors to the financial health of the school, so I extend my gratitude to them and to the many others who have contributed generously in the past and, I trust and hope, will continue to do so in the future.

It seems there are other "goodbyes" in this issue of *Visions*. Loren Hoffman and Peggy (Margaret O.) Brunhofer have retired

from the faculty after long and fruitful careers with invaluable contributions to the school and to hundreds of students. Peggy initiated our ever-evolving program in continuing education and professional development and is consulting with Dennis Muzzi, who will serve as interim head of the program. We say goodbye, also, to our wonderful editor of *Visions*, Al Acker. Not unlike many in the school, Al's work "behind the scenes" is much appreciated by administration, faculty, and staff.

But change in leadership and personnel are healthy and good...for people and for organizations.

There are also stories that point toward the future. It was my pleasure in May to host the traditional graduation luncheon for more than 340 BSW and MSW graduates. I have no doubt the class of 2011 will be making a positive impact on the area and the world as they begin their careers. And, speaking of impacts, The Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research continues to widen its impact as a research and development partner with local and regional agencies. Our BSW and MSW curricula in class and field are fully competency-based. And three exciting new scholars have joined our faculty as assistant professors, Angelique Day, Heather Edwards, and Jamie Mitchell. You will read about them in upcoming editions of *Visions*.

Now I'd like to thank all of *Visions* readers for your loyalty and interest in the Wayne State University School of Social Work. As an alumna, I look forward to keeping up-to-date on the school as a *Visions* reader just like you and to contributing to my own planned gift, an endowed Social Work student scholarship (Phyllis I. Vroom Endowed Scholarship) through annual giving.

To close this message, allow me to make a wish for this institution I love so much: may the future bring continued progress and growth and may the nation and the world recognize more fully all of the things that make this a wonderful place to learn and an outstanding source of knowledge for improving the lives of people, families and communities. ■

Sincerely,
Phyllis Vroom, Dean

Dean Vroom Named “Woman of Distinction” at ACE Network Breakfast



University President Allan Gilmour presents Dean Vroom with “Woman of Distinction” Award

The Wayne State chapter of the Michigan ACE Network hosted a spring breakfast at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on May 9 to celebrate Wayne State’s 2011 Women of Distinction honoree, Dean Phyllis Vroom. Dean Vroom is the first Wayne State University Women of Distinction Awards honoree. This new award will be given annually.

More than 75 people attended the breakfast, making it the largest event of its type that ACE has ever held, according to organizer Mary Wood. In presenting the award, President Allan Gilmour, cited, among other attributes, Dean Vroom’s taking on the roles last year as Acting Provost and Acting President “with thoughtfulness and grace”

during a “tender time” for the university.

In accepting the award, Dean Vroom said, “As I look around this room, I see many other women as deserving or more than I, including those who nominated me. I am very grateful. This is a warm, lovely event that I will always remember.”

The nomination criteria are, “Wayne State women employees who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to women and/or issues of diversity. We define ‘commitment’ broadly to encompass all areas of university life and all levels of employment from administrative positions of leadership through service as a faculty or staff member on campus or in the community.”

The selection committee felt that Dean

Vroom was highly qualified in each area, including her leadership role in planning and presenting the ACE Conference, “Young Women, Strong Leaders” in 2009, and her strong record of nurturing leadership among women administrators and scholars in the School of Social Work throughout her long career there.

In conjunction with the Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE) of the American Council on Education, the Michigan ACE Network is committed to identifying, developing the leadership of, advancing and supporting the retention of women in higher education. ■

Social Work Month Celebrated at Annual Alumni Association Luncheon

March 25 Social Work faculty, alumni and students gathered at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center to honor Alumna of the Year, Saunteel Jenkins and Citizen of the Year, Sonia Plata. Dean Phyllis Vroom set the tone for the event by recognizing the many accomplishments of each honoree. Larmender Davis, the supervisor of the Social Work Department at Karmanos Cancer Institute and an Alumni Board Member, also congratulated Social Work alumni for their remarkable work in the city of Detroit.

The spoken word by poet Kalima Johnson also inspired the audience. Her poem about Detroit evoked nostalgic memories of Vernor's products, Better Made potato chips, boat rides to Bob-Lo Island and detailed many of the virtues and challenges in the city of Detroit. Johnson earned her MSW from the school in 1997 and is currently a social work professor at Marygrove College. Editor's Note: Ms. Johnson's poem is reprinted here, with the poet's permission.

Dr. Geneva Williams, keynote speaker, also recognized the vital roles of social workers at the macro level in helping to make Detroit a viable and vital city. Honorees Saunteel Jenkins and Sonia Plata delivered inspirational messages as well. Each of these dynamic women is playing a central role in the revitalization of the city.

Shaunteel Jenkins, who earned her BSW from the school in 1998, and her MSW in 1999, was elected to Detroit City Council last year. Sonia Plata is Director of Community Capacity Building for New Detroit, Inc.

Councilwoman Jenkins is a lifelong Detroiter who was educated in Detroit Public Schools, and graduated from Cass Technical High School. She has spent her professional career serving the community, and, prior to her election to Council, was the Director of the residential treatment program at Mariners Inn, a shelter and treatment center for men who are homeless and drug addicted.

As Director of Community Capacity Building, Plata administers New Detroit's Compassion Capital Initiative to strengthen more than 90 community-based organizations, devoted primarily to human and social services, so that they can more effectively fulfill their missions. In addition, she is responsible for New Detroit's participation in the Skillman Foundation's Good Neighborhoods Initiative, an intensive community-based revitalization effort in Detroit, and New Detroit's participation in the federal government's Compassion Capital Fund.

The honorees were chosen by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, under the leadership of President Phyllis Edwards. ■

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President Davis presents Citizen of the Year Award to Sonia Plata



Alumna of the Year Saunteel Jenkins accepts her award from President Davis

I am Detroit

Poem #1

Kalimah Johnson

I am Detroit
 I am the streets that some say are never clean
 I am the Motor Capitol
 Turned Murder Capitol
 The Motown Sound that sends folks into fantasies
 Of when they were younger and much more beautiful
 And some won't even step south of eight mile
 Always running their mouths
 About how a friend of a friend got robbed down here
 And they refuse to discuss how it is their neighbor
 That keeps getting arrested and shown on John TV
 For picking up working girls down in the throws of my city
 That I happen to love so much
 And whether they are willing to admit it or not
 It was their teens that introduced to the Detroit scene that ecstasy
 Except they be
 Steadily swearing that
 Their children are as sweet as angels
 And when they come to Detroit they are just having a good time with friends
 But what they really be doing is raving and raising hell for our police authorities
 Throwing up on our property and vandalizing our old abandoned buildings
 That were once beautiful
 Until gentrification made their parents moved the hell up out of here...
 And I am still Detroit
 And I was Detroit when red Faygo pop was for 30 cents
 When the Boblo boat was steaming and just for fun I went
 When the Vernors factory had me excited about a school trip
 And when Better Made had better days without one bag with a burnt chip
 And I have smelled Detroit
 Like that buttered popcorn on the first floor at the downtown Hudson's
 Begging my mama to let me ride that horse for a dime one more time
 When I knew she was broke as hell and had not nine
 On the Eastside by the river where it is colder in the winter
 Which made us stronger
 On the Westside watching the smiles and while walking 6 and 7 mile
 Which made us nicer
 On the Southwest side where it just seemed warmer
 Because of the People
 On the North-End where me and my friends grew up
 Listening to the big church bells ringing from the steeple
 And I am Detroit
 I love this city so much you can't touch me
 I can go and see the world and come back and still love me some
 D E T R O I T
 City
 I am the strength in the Joe Louis Fist
 I am the Motown sound you cannot resist
 I am the rubber, the steel, the buckles and all those parts
 That make American made engines start
 I am Belle Isle, Rouge and Chandler Park
 I am "let me see your footwork" "jit jit jit" Detroit!
 I am the shine on top of the GM building after dark
 This city is in my heart
 And
 We just need a little more love...
 And because I love this city so much
 You can't touch me
 I can go and see the world and come back and still love me some
 D E T R O I T
 City. ■

Special Assistant to the Dean Loren Hoffman Honored at Retirement



Retiring Special Assistant Loren Hoffman

Dean Phyllis Vroom hosted an informal retirement reception on Thursday, July 21 at the Thompson Home to honor her retiring Special Assistant Loren Hoffman. At that occasion she said "We wish Loren well as he makes a transition from faculty member and starts another chapter as full-time grandfather, entrepreneur, sailor, touring motorcyclist and part-time social work practice consultant."

A member of the part-time faculty since 1976, Hoffman joined the faculty full-time in 1996. He has worked for the past 9 years as an academic advisor and field advisor supporting professional development of students and career path development of recent graduates. In the curriculum area of field education he coordinated field work assignments for undergraduate and graduate students, and conducted a seminar for field instructors who supervise internships. He earned his BA from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, and his MSW from the school in 1972.

In his role as dean's liaison to the Alumni Association, Hoffman worked closely with the SSW alumni board for the past 5 years. The Alumni Association honored him as the school's "Alumnus of the Year" in 2002. He was also recognized at the Alumni Dinner with the Dean in June, during which the Association thanked him with the gift of a case of his favorite wine. Following his retirement from the school, Hoffman plans to pursue avenues to support returning veterans. ■

NEWS FROM THE *Center*

A Progress Report: Center Announces Recent Evaluation Contracts

Since its inception over two years ago, The Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research has been offering research support, technical assistance, and consultation to community-based organizations and government agencies. The contractual work may cover a range of services including evaluation design and implementation, organizational development and change, data collection and statistical analysis, needs assessments, survey research, focus groups and interviews. Center staff works with interested partners to determine the services needed and helps identify faculty and staff who are best able to achieve the project goals. Here are five examples of recent Center evaluation assignments:

Oakland Family Services “Dynamic Dads” Project

Dr. Shawna Lee is directing an evaluation for the Oakland Family Services Dynamic Dads Project, which is a support and education program for fathers of children experiencing developmental disabilities and/or chronic illnesses. The program seeks to strengthen fathers' relationships with their children and connections to their family as a whole. Lee specializes in research on fathers, families and parenting and contributes her expertise to assess fathers' demographic factors associated with program completion; analyze whether program retention rates differ for men and women; analyze factors, such as participant engagement, that may be associated with program completion; present findings to project staff and lead a discussion of evaluation implications; and prepare a final evaluation report to be presented to Oakland Family Services designed to lead

them in improvement of the program. Visit: www.oaklandfamilyservices.org to learn more about this program.

Community Care Services “Supported Education” Project

Professor Eileen Trzcinski, is engaged in an evaluation of the Supported Education Project within Community Care Services. This program was developed in the early 1990's to aid individuals in recovery from psychiatric disability and co-occurring disorders by providing needed skills to return to post-secondary education. Trzcinski is a specialist in family economic policy, and labor and feminist economics, and has over 30 years of experience with program evaluation. The goals of this particular evaluation include: assessment of program effectiveness through a pre-post test measure as well as follow-up surveys with program participants; assessment of program effectiveness through qualitative interviews with selected program participants/graduates; presentation of evaluation findings to project staff and leading discussions about the evaluation implications for the project and organization as a whole; and preparation of a final evaluation report to the sponsoring organization. For more on this program, visit: www.comcareserv.org

Reaching Higher Incorporated Curriculum

Reaching Higher is a non-profit organization founded to build self-reliance, and social skills while fostering positive life choices and improved relationships among middle and high school youth. The Reaching Higher staff is working with

Dr. Joanne Sobek and Ph.D. students collecting information to inform the development of the program and establish a foundation of evidence to demonstrate program effectiveness. This project includes staff, volunteers, and board members, creating a strong and sustainable learning environment among stakeholders. The activities and objectives of this evaluation are to: assist Reaching Higher Inc. in developing a logic model to guide programming efforts; conduct classroom observations and focus groups with youth, mentors and program facilitators; conduct thematic analysis and present to Reaching Higher staff; assist in establishing program criteria based on evidence-based practice models and recent peer review literature; assist with developing outcome measures and assessment processes for the program; create and test new assessment instruments and prepare a final evaluation report and provide recommendations to Reaching Higher Inc. To learn more about this program, visit: www.reachinghigherinc.org

Brandeis University and Skillman Foundation's “Good Neighborhoods and Good Schools” Initiative Brandeis University has contracted with the Center to assess the organizational capacity-building efforts of the Skillman Foundation.



NEWS FROM THE *Center*

As part of a larger evaluation of the Skillman Foundation Good Neighborhood's Initiative, being conducted by Brandeis University's Center for Youth and Communities, this project, under the leadership of the Center's Director Dr. Joanne Sobeck and Manager of Community Partnerships, Elizabeth Agius, is helping to document the efforts of the Foundation to strengthen nonprofit capacity and to provide recommendations for future efforts in six target neighborhoods. This evaluation will



include: assessment of documents and data describing activities from 2007-2010 provided by the Foundation and external consultants; Preparation of multiple data

bases, tracking the Foundations' capacity building activities; conducting interviews with the Foundation, New Detroit, Youth Development Commission, University of Michigan Technical Assistance Center and Four Brightmoor organizations and preparation of a final report outlining evaluative finding and recommendations for further capacity building efforts. For more on the Good Neighborhoods Initiative, visit: www.skillman.org/good-neighborhoods

Oakland Family Services Workforce Retention Project

Research Coordinator, Neva Nahan and Professor Eileen Trzcinski from the School of Social Work are engaged in a project to evaluate the Workforce Retention Project for Oakland Family Services. This project was designed out of an expressed need by Oakland Family Services to increase and promote retention among employees and to increase worker satisfaction. The evaluation



involves five components: development of data collection instruments in response to program administration and expressed need; conducting follow-up interviews with a sample of program participants to investigate worker views on retention and factors influencing retention; analysis of employee and employment data; presentation of preliminary findings and participation in feedback session; and production of a final to inform retention activities. To learn more, visit: www.oaklandfamilyservices.org ■

Publications (in print)

Campbell, R., **Patterson, D.**, & Bybee, D. (2011). Using mixed methods to evaluate a community intervention for sexual assault survivors: A methodological tale. *Violence Against Women*, 17, 376-388. doi: 10.1177/1077801211398622

Casstevens, W., J., **Waite, C.** & Outlaw, N. (2011). Non-traditional student retention: Exploring perceptions of support in a social work graduate program. *Social Work Education: The International Journal*. doi: 10.1080/02615479.2011.556188

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Hien, D. A., Campbell, A. N. C., Killeen, T., Hu, M., Hansen, C., Jiang, H., Hatch-Maillette, M., Miele, G., Cohen, L. R., Gan, W., **Resko, S. M.**, DiBono, M., Wells, E. A., Nunes, E. V. (2010). The impact of trauma focused group therapy upon HIV sexual risk behaviors in the NIDA Clinical Trials Network "Women and Trauma" multi-site study. *Aids and Behavior*, 14(2), 421-430.

Keith, RE., **Hopp, FP**, Subramanian, U, Wiitala, W. & Lowery, J.C. (2010). Fidelity of implementation: development and testing of a measure. *Implementation Science*, 5(99), 1-11. doi:10.1186/1748-5908-5-99

Kernsmith, P. D. & Tolman, R. M. (2011). Attitudinal correlates of girls use of violence in teen dating relationships. *Violence Against Women*, 1-17, first published online April 8, 2011. doi: 10.1177/1077801211404312

Continued on page 9

Alumna Danita Echols Delivers 5th Annual Dean's Diversity Lecture



Diversity lecturer Danita Echols welcomed by Dean Vroom

March 31 the Dean's 5th Annual Diversity Lecture, entitled *Invisible Children: Minorities and the Child Welfare System*, was delivered by Danita Echols at the WSU Law School, Partrich Auditorium, which proved a comfortable setting for the 225 Social Workers who attended. Echols, who earned her MSW from the School of Social Work in 1998, inspired the audience with provocative background slides about the nature and experience of the Michigan foster care system. Her remarks centered on her unique experience as a foster care trainer and as a youth who, herself, aged out of the foster care system in Michigan some years ago.

After Echols completed her presentation, she was joined by a panel of five youth who shared their stories of devastation and triumph as they negotiated their way through the foster care system with the help and care of Echols. After

the panel presentation ended, Echols gave a summary of how little change had occurred from the time she was in care until now and also discussed the importance of maintaining relationships for youth in care. The Dean's 5th Annual Diversity Lecture was co-sponsored by the WSU School of Social Work and the school's Alumni Association.

Echols has had a variety of experiences in foster care, including working in private agencies. She has been a statewide, national and international presenter and keynote speaker discussing youth transitioning out of the foster care system. Echols also has contributed a chapter to the book *Growing Up in the Care of Strangers: The Experiences, Insights and Recommendations of Eleven Former Foster Kids* published by the William Gladden Foundation Press. ■

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Publications in Print Continued from page 7

Kolbe, A., **Hutson, R.**, Shannon, H., **Trzcinski, E.**, **Miles, B.W.**, Levitz, N., Puccio, M., James, L., & Muggah, R. (2010). Mortality, Crime and Access to Basic Needs: A random survey of Port-au-Prince households before and after the January 2010 earthquake. *Medicine Conflict and Survival*, 26(4), 281-297.

Miles, B.W., (2010). Discourse analysis. In N. Salkind (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of research design*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Patterson, D. (2010). Services for victims of sexual violence. In M. Koss, J. White, & A. Kazdin, (Eds.), *Violence against women and children: Volume 2: Navigating solutions*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

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Walton, M. A., **Resko, S. M.**, Whiteside, L., Chermack, S. T., Zimmerman, M. A., & Cunningham, R. M. (2011). Sexual risk behaviors among teens at an inner-city emergency department: Relationship to violent behaviors and substance use. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 48(3), 303-305. ■

Alumna and School Social Worker Rola Bazzi-Gates Named Social Worker of the Year in Region A



Rola Bazzi-Gates

Editor's Note: This story is, in part, based on an article in The Arab American News, as reported by Natasha Dado.

Dearborn school social worker Rola Bazzi-Gates was presented with the Social Worker of the Year Award for Region A, through the Michigan Association of School Social Workers, May 6. She has also been nominated for State of Michigan Social Worker of the Year.

"It is a rewarding job in making a difference in children's lives and making them successful at school," Bazzi said. She has been on the social work staff at Dearborn Public Schools for 13 years. The passion to help and work with children, and make a difference in their lives, is what led Bazzi to pursue a career in social work.

Bazzi launched her career as a mental health therapist and later clinical therapist at two local mental health agencies. During her career in the Dearborn Public Schools she has provided guidance to students, teachers administrators, parents and social work interns.

At Salina she coordinates the special education team, and is a chairperson of several committees. But advocating for the parents in her community is one of the many vital roles she plays. Bazzi

teaches parents effective discipline strategies through the Love and Logic and Parents Talk Programs. At Salina she implements school-wide social skills, core values and anti-bullying programs.

Bazzi has shared her expertise by supervising 17 social work interns from various universities. In 2006 she was honored as Outstanding Ancillary Professional Staff by Wayne County RESA and DPS. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Wayne State University majoring in sociology with a minor in social work.

Bazzi is married to Lieutenant Colonel Don Gates, and has three children Ali, 18, Amanda, 5, and Adam three months old. Her husband is in the Army Reserve and was deployed to Afghanistan last May. ■

Boston University Social Work Dean Gail Steketeer to Deliver 24th Harris Lecture November 17th

The faculty selection committee recently announced that the 24th Annual Edith Harris Lecture will be delivered November 17 at the Community Arts Auditorium by Dean Gail Steketeer of the Boston University School of Social Work. Dean Steketeer took office in 2008 and has been a member of the school's faculty since 1986. From 1996 to 1999, she served as the School's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.



Harris Lecture presenter Dean Gail Steketeer

The lecture is entitled "Piles upon Piles: Understanding and Intervening in Hoarding", and will cover the features and symptoms of hoarding, a model for understanding the problem, and basic assessment strategies. Interventions include cognitive and behavioral mental health treatments and community task-force methods.

Steketeer received her undergraduate degree from Harvard and her MSW and PhD degrees from Bryn Mawr in 1973 and 1987. She has conducted multiple research studies of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and related spectrum conditions, including compulsive hoarding. She has received several grants from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to study OCD and hoarding. She currently leads a multidisciplinary team

studying the psychopathology and treatment of compulsive hoarding, as well as web-based and group treatments and community task force initiatives to address this problem. She has published over 180 articles, chapters and books on anxiety, OCD and related disorders, including 8 books. Her recent books include *Compulsive Hoarding and Acquiring: Therapist Guide and Client Manual* (Steketeer & Frost, Oxford University Press, 2007), *Buried in Treasures: Help for Compulsive Hoarding* (Tolin, Frost, & Steketeer, Oxford University Press, 2007), and *Stuff: Compulsive Hoarding and the Meaning of Things* (Frost & Steketeer, Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt). Her newest book, *The Hoarding Handbook: A Guide for Human Service Professionals* (Bratotiis, Schmalisch, & Steketeer, Oxford) came out in May.

Edith Harris was a graduate student in the School of Social Work from 1966 to 1968. An outstanding scholar, Mrs. Harris was deeply committed to the profession and demonstrated that commitment by showing serious interest in the welfare of individuals and families. So, 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.

This yearly event is made possible through the generous support of the Harris Foundation. Each year a committee of faculty members is responsible for selecting the speaker. The group is currently chaired by Dennis Muzzi, and includes Professor Arlene Weisz, Assistant Professor Shirley Thomas and Assistant Professor Antonio Gonzalez-Prendes. ■

Class of 2011 Honored at Dean's Graduation Luncheon

On May 4th, Dean Phyllis Vroom honored the class of 2011 during graduation luncheon at the Roostertail restaurant on Detroit's waterfront. Vroom welcomed members of the class with these words, "I want to take just a moment to express the personal pride I feel for the accomplishments of the class of 2011 and to thank you for attending this luncheon. Each new academic year begins with hopes and dreams and each ends with celebrations like this one."

Besides Dean Vroom, other luncheon speakers included student representatives Ericka Warren (representing BSW students) and Hillary Mortenson (the MSW representative,) followed by BSW

Coordinator Cassandra Bowers, MSW Coordinator Kim Jaffee and Arlene Weisz, Director of the PhD Program.

Then School of Social Work Alumni Association President Phyllis Edwards extended a welcome to the graduates on behalf of the association.

The final speaker was Takisha LaShore from the Office of Field Education, who presented certificates to the five graduating Hartford Grant recipients, Renita Derrick, Dawna Matela, Stephanie Materazzi, Bonnie Niebel and Kathleen Shaw. ■

Retiring Professor Brunhofer Honored at May Reception



Retiring professor Margaret "Peggy" Brunhofer

Margaret O'Kane Brunhofer MSW, PhD, joined the Wayne State University School of Social Work faculty in 1991. She was honored for 20 years of teaching, scholarship and service at a reception on May 13, at Alumni House on the WSU main campus following her retirement as professor and coordinator of the MSW Program.

Reception guests were welcomed by Professor Arlene Weisz Professor, followed by greetings from Dean Vroom Dean, reflections by Associate Dean Cheryl Waites, colleagues Jerry Brandell, Pam DeWeese, Charlene McGunn and Neva Nahan. After the honoree responded, Arlene Weisz closed the program. Then entertainment and music were provided by "The Pub People", Patrick Gossman and Ed White.

For the past four years Brunhofer has served as Director of the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development. She also serves in a leadership role as co-chair of the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative, established by the Michigan Licensing Board of Social Work Examiners. During the past two years she has been instrumental in working closely with the staff and director of the school's Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research to establish practice and research partnerships with community agencies.

Her fields of expertise are social work practice, professional ethics, and grief

and loss. Her current interests include complicated mourning reactions, family reactions to loss, intervention with the bereaved and ethical issues in social work practice. She has presented at national and state conferences on children and grief, clinical assessment with the bereaved, and grief reactions following traumatic brain injury. She has provided in-service training to hospital social workers, home health care professionals, rehabilitation staff, school personnel, foster care staff and social work clinicians on a range of grief and loss issues.

Currently, Brunhofer maintains a clinical practice in which she specializes in grief counseling and in long term psychodynamic psychotherapy with survivors of trauma. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Detroit.

The retirement reception was planned by a committee that included Dean Vroom, as well as Arlene Weisz, Neva Nahan, Kathy Burnett and Loren Hoffman. ■

PhD Student Cassandra Barrigan Selected for Gerontological Social Work Pre-Dissertation Initiative



Cassandra Barrigan

The Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work has selected current PhD student Cassandra Barrigan for the second cohort of the AGE SW Gerontological Social Work Pre-Dissertation Initiative. This honor is made in recognition of Barrigan's potential in the field of gerontological social work. In notifying her of the award, the association told her, "We hope that your experience with the initiative will strengthen your commitment to and expertise in

gerontological social work research, education, and practice."

As part of the award, Barrigan will receive a one-year membership to the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the Association for Gerontological Education in Social Work (AGE SW). She will also be invited to attend the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, to be held November 18-22, 2011 at the Boston Hynes Convention Center. Along with other awardees, Barrigan will attend a day-long, pre-conference session on Friday, November 18, 2011. The focus of the pre-conference session will be on familiarizing awardees with gerontological research strategies, the dissertation process, teaching, and writing for publication. Barrigan will receive a \$400 stipend, to be matched with an equal amount from the school to be used to defray conference-related expenses. ■

Social Work BSW Senior Charlie Cavell Helps Detroit Unemployed

Editor's Note: This story is based in part on one originally reported by South End staff writer Susan Woods, with additional information from an interview with Charlie Cavell

College students can do a lot to help others. Charlie Cavell, who will be a Wayne State senior this fall, is attempting to do just that. Cavell is one of many students who are working with Blackstone LaunchPad to get their ideas up and running. Currently Cavell is working at Priest Elementary/Middle School as part of his social work internship.

Funded by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, the Blackstone LaunchPad opened last September to offer career guidance, resources, and advice to entrepreneurs, innovators, and inventors at Wayne State University. The primary mission is to show WSU students that starting a new venture is both a legitimate career path and an attainable reality. The secondary mission is to encourage every WSU student who wants to start a new venture, either for-profit or not-for-profit, to do so in Metro Detroit and thereby contribute to the economic and social growth of our region.

Cavell's idea was to establish a program to aid the growing number of unemployed in the Detroit area. His nonprofit program, Pay It Forward, connects people who seek employment with those who can provide help. Its uniqueness is in the fact that it is open to anyone between the ages of 14 and 26, including paroled felons.

The program works with existing organizations, such as the Salvation Army, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Franklin-Wright and Job Corps, to get these individuals internships. Interns also get a resource packet to help guide them towards educational and employment opportunities.

Visions asked Cavell how his education at the school has helped him with the project. He replied, "My training from the Wayne State BSW program thus far has given me hands-on knowledge with real world situations to test my ability while also giving me the support to truly do good for those in need. The program is the right mix of book smarts and street smarts...equally valuable when helping people in the real world."

Cavell's goal is that, by the end of their internships, participants will have two letters of recommendation, plus have a job or be seeking a training opportunity. The program starts with a phone interview. Cavell or other volunteers from the school's BSW and MSW programs then have a face-to-face meeting with prospective interns. After that step, a contract is signed, and the participant receives a bus pass to aid with transportation needs. After the internship, an exit assessment



Pay It Forward founder Charlie Cavell flanked by (left) Natalie Frakes, Pay it Forward Board member and Christine Smith, the program's eleventh intern, who was hired by the Salvation Army after her internship ended. The group is pictured at Detroit SOUP, a micro-grant competition which the project won late last year.

determines how much the person was aided.

Pay It Forward has been IRS certified since last Thanksgiving. With this certification, the program is eligible for federal investments, including the Venture grant, which could give the program \$3,500.

William H. Volz is Executive Director of Blackstone LaunchPad at WSU and Professor of Business Law and Ethics. He said "We're excited about the opportunities created by nonprofit ventures like Pay It Forward, and we enjoy supporting Wayne State students developing these programs every bit as much as those seeking to make a profit. "The interns benefit, the employers benefit and the community benefits. Charlie Cavell's Pay It Forward program is precisely the kind of initiative the Blackstone LaunchPad is here to support."

As this issue of Visions was going to press, Cavell announced that Pay it Forward was awarded an additional grant, this one from City Connect Detroit, to provide 25 additional internships. ■

MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LARMENDER A. DAVIS



New Alumni Association President Larmender Davis

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I begin my term as the new president of your Alumni Board for 2011-2012.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Loren Hoffman, who diligently served as the Board's liaison to Dean Vroom for the past several years. Loren did an excellent job of making the Board look good and we are going to miss him terribly. We say again Loren, thank you for all your hard work and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

The board had a fantastic retreat in July in which we laid out our plans and vision for the upcoming year:

- Facilitating quarterly community-service events in which all social work alumni can be involved;
- Scheduling at least two "meet-n-greets" to encourage networking and fellowship among social work alumni;
- Continuing work with the office of the Dean and the school to sponsor CEU events;
- Developing a strategic fundraising plan for operation and scholarships;
- Becoming more active with the school's student organizations.

In order to meet these goals we need you! We need to recruit dedicated, people with diverse backgrounds to serve on the Board (monthly meeting commitment); we need alumni member participation on our Board committees (Education, Membership, Social, and Fundraising); we need to ensure that our alumni members renew their memberships and pay their dues; and we need your participation

at scheduled events. If everyone does a little, we can achieve these great goals.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our annual events:

- Social Work Month Annual Alumni Luncheon: Friday, March 23, 2012 11:30-2:00 (nominations for Alum of the Year and Citizen of the Year are now being accepted and due by the end of November, 2011)
- Dean's Diversity Lecture: Thursday, March 29, 2012, 2:00-4:00
- Dinner with the Dean: Thursday, June 21, 2012, 5:00-9:00

Your Alumni Board is looking forward to a great year. I am looking forward to seeing you at upcoming events and encourage your participation. ■

Sincerely,
Larmender A. Davis, President

SAVE THE DATE: DEAN VROOM TO BE HONORED SEPTEMBER 27

A retirement party for Dean Phyllis Vroom is scheduled for Sept. 27 at McGregor Memorial Conference Center from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

2011-2012 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Sarah Ann Barlow '08

Vice President

Joanne S. Brogdon, '01

Sherry E. Brown '03

Michelle Calvillo '10

Jerry Caughey '78

Tia Cobb '94

Larmender A. Davis '94

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Mary Solecki '10

Laquetta S. Walker '11

Director of Field Education Anwar Najor-Durack joins ACE Committee

Director of Field Education Anwar Najor-Durack has been appointed to the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) Committee of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) for 2011.

According to the letter Najor-Durack received confirming her appointment, "the ACE Committee carries one of the greatest

workloads of any of the association groups. Members will be expected to participate in thorough reviews of provider applications, and can anticipate six or more conference call meetings and two face-to-face meetings." She attended her first in-person meeting last March. ■

School of Social Work Board of Visitors

N. Charles Anderson
Detroit Urban League, Inc.

C. Patrick Babcock
Class of 1969
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Michael Brennan
United Way for
Southeastern Michigan

Larmender A. Davis
Class of 1994
President Alumni Assoc.

Juanita Doss
Class of 1972
Burdette and Doss
Psychological Clinic

Michael S. Earl
Class of 1980
Oakland Family Service

Phyllis Edwards
Class of 2002

Annette S. Freedman
Class of 1969, Retired

George D. Gaines, Jr.
Class of 1964, Retired

Allan Gelfond
Class of 1961
American Technion Society

Shirley Mann Gray
Class of 1976
Children's Hospital
of Michigan

Louise Guyton
Comerica, Inc.

Paul L. Hubbard
Class of 1971

Angela G. Kennedy
Class of 1966

Guadalupe G. Lara
Class of 1976

Mohamed Okdie
Class of 1985
President, Mental Health
Board

V. Lonnie Peek, Jr.
Class of 1969
Strategic Solutions

Susan H. Rogers, Chair
Class of 1977
Birmingham Public Schools

Lenora Stanfield
Class of 1966, Retired

Lillie Tabor
Retired

John H. Talick
Retired

Alice G. Thompson
Class of 1981
Black Family
Development, Inc.

Jacquelin E. Washington
Class of 1965
Board of Governors Emerita

Eloise C. Whitten
Retired

Angela B. Wilson
Class of 1985

Clip and return this form, completed, with payment to: WSU Alumni Association, P.O. Box 02308, Detroit, MI 48202-0308

JOIN THE WAYNE STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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.

Member #1 _____

Member #2 (must reside at same address) _____

Address _____ Check if new address

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Member #1 e-mail _____ Member #2 e-mail _____

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Single membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70
Joint membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90

Additional tax-deductible contribution \$ _____ Check payable to WSUAA

VISA MasterCard # _____ Exp. date _____

Join an affiliate group! Your dues include membership in up to three affiliate alumni associations:

- Member #1 _____
Member #2 _____
- Athletics
 - Organization of Black Alumni
 - Women of Wayne
 - Business Administration
 - Education
 - Engineering
 - Fine Performing and Comm. Arts
 - Law
 - Liberal Arts
 - Library and Information Science
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy and Health Sciences
 - Science
 - Social Work
 - Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs

PC: SWNL Gt: _____ Sr: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____
 Business phone number (with area code) _____
 Home phone number (with area code) _____

Payment Method

VISA MasterCard

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____
(required for credit card gifts)

Designation

Please select a fund number from chart below.

Amount	Fund Name	Fund Number
\$ _____	_____	_____
\$ _____	_____	_____
\$ _____	_____	_____

I would like to make a contribution to **Wayne State University**.
 My gift will support the School of Social Work.

Make check payable to **Wayne State University**.

Matching Gifts

Your employer or your spouse's employer may multiply your contribution through a matching gift program.

My company's matching gift form is enclosed.

► **Mail this form to:**

WSU Fund Office
 5475 Woodward Ave.
 Detroit, MI 48202

For more information, contact Marguerite Carlton, development director, at 313-577-8807

Amount enclosed: \$ _____
Please Print

Number	Fund Name
2-22111	Social Work Improvement and Development Fund
4-44469	Social Work General Scholarship Fund
0-61962	Shawn A. Abraham Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-60082	Carol Barron Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-60204	Virginia Baumgartner-King Endowed Scholarship
0-50694	Everett Beishlag Memorial Loan Fund
0-61180	Elizabeth N. Brehler Endowed Scholars Program
0-51057	Charles B. Brink Loan Fund
0-61768	Arnette Burwell Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-61889	Emmie S. Chestang Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-60179	Rachel I. Coleman Endowed Scholarship
0-60430	Patricia L. Dillick Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-61097	Cecille Y. Dumbrigue and Shirley P. Thrasher Endowed Memorial Scholarship
0-61488	Annette Sniderman Freedman Endowed Scholarship
4-47602	Emmesia Mathews Frost and Kenneth M. Frost Endowed Scholarship
0-60266	Allan and Harriet Gelfond Endowed Scholarship
0-61334	Fred and Freda Gentsch Scholarship
445233	Ted and Arlene Goldberg Annual Scholarship
0-60022	Annie Louise Pitts Handy Endowed Scholarship
	Edwin H. Holmberg Endowed Scholars Fund
445226	Anthony D. Holt Annual Scholarship
0-61990	Joseph P. Hourihan Endowed Scholars Award
0-66013	Shirley Doris Hupert Memorial Scholarship
4-44765	Evangeline Sheibley Hyett Endowed Scholarship
0-51629	Bette Kalichman Student Loan Fund
0-60240	Rose Kaplan Endowed Scholarship Fund

Number	Fund Name
0-60198	Vernon Edward Keye Memorial Endowed Scholarship
477169	Charles (Chuck) Kramer Endowed Scholarship
0-61843	Alice E. Lamont Endowed Scholarship
0-60184	James W. Leigh Endowed Scholarship
0-60208	Elizabeth and Reginald MacArthur Tribute Endowed Scholarship
0-60119	Eileen M. Maceroni Endowed Scholarship
0-60011	Maryann Mahaffey Endowed Scholarship
0-61938	Lois J. McOsker Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-50804	Aaron Mendelson Memorial Trust Fund
4-47708	Edward J. Overstreet Endowed Scholarship
4-45253	Parare Consulting, PLC Susan H. Rogers Annual Scholarship
0-60262	Carolyn Purifoy Patrick-Wanzo Endowed Scholarship
4-47432	Donald J. Roberts Memorial Endowed Scholarship
4-44775	Harold and Carolyn Robison Memorial Scholarship
0-61944	School of Social Work Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship
0-52234	School of Social Work Alumni Association Emergency Student Aid Fund
0-67786	Social Work Futures Endowment Fund
0-60233	Raymond Snowden, PhD Memorial Endowed Scholarship
0-60311	Mavis M. Spencer Endowed Fund for Scholars
0-60282	Maldo Ellen Talick Memorial Endowed Scholarship
4-77166	Mary Turner Scholarship Phyllis I. Vroom Endowed Scholarship
0-66044	Jacquelin E. Washington Endowed Scholarship
0-60139	Beryl Zlatkin Winkelman Endowed Scholarship
4-47118	Ella Zwerding Memorial Scholarship