WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Meet our Honorees for 2009

Alumnus of the Year

Clyde Alexander, PhD, MSW

Clyde Alexander (MSW Class of 1988), currently serves as Chief Administrator, Pontiac Children’s Services and School Social Worker, Pontiac School District, where he has supervised social work students from WSU for the past 13 years. After completing his MSW degree, Clyde Alexander served as a substance abuse therapist at Oakland Family Services and a medical social worker at Pontiac General Hospital. With over 30 years of professional experience in human services, Dr. Alexander has also held positions as children’s supervisor (Oakland County Children’s Village), youth specialist, group worker and family counselor (W. J. Maxey Boys Training School), substance abuse therapist and clinical director (Woodward Counseling, Pontiac), and consultant. As Program Director at the Pontiac Area Urban League, he developed and coordinated programs for teen fathers and conducted teen parenting classes. For the past 17 years he has volunteered with the Male Responsibility Network Mentor Program in Pontiac, coordinating African-centered Rites of Passage programs for adolescent males. He completed a doctorate in clinical psychology from The Union Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Alumna of the Year

Vicki Freer, MSW, ACSW, LMSW

As Director of Programs and Services for Family and Children’s Services, Midland, Michigan, Vicki Freer (MSW Class of 2001) supervises the clinical staff and serves as the agency liaison for social work student interns. Ms. Freer has helped Family and Children’s Services through organizational transitions which have improved service outcomes for clients, while insuring the growth and success of Family and Children’s Services. She received her BSW degree from Saginaw Valley State University. After earning her MSW degree, she served in a number of leadership roles at Family and Children’s Services, including Director, Employee Assistance Program. As Coordinator of Pre and Post Natal Services, she developed a 12-week childbirth and parenting education program which has continued since 2001, reaching many young parents. In her current role as Director of Programs and Services she is responsible for the daily operations of the agency which serves over 10,000 people yearly. She recently lead her agency through a national accreditation process, while maintaining her other management obligations and providing direct services as an outstanding therapist.

Citizen of the Year

Paul Bridgewater

A native of Saginaw, Paul Bridgewater now resides in Detroit where he serves as President and CEO, Area Agency on Aging (DAAA). Mr. Bridgewater earned a degree in political science from Saginaw Valley State College and a Master’s in Public Administration from Oakland University. A member of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, he has served on the board of the Washington based National Area Agency on Aging Association and as a member of the Executive Council of AARP’s Michigan Chapter. He served as President of the Michigan Area Agencies on Aging Association, Chairperson of the Michigan Minority Aging Network, and President of the Michigan Society of Gerontology. Currently a member of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Senior Advisory Council and Chair of the City of Detroit “Dying Before Their Time” Taskforce, he was also a Trustee of New Detroit, Inc. Serving twice as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, he also was invited by President Clinton to serve on the White House Conference on Social Security. In 2008, the Assistant Secretary, Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services invited him to speak at a forum on the critical disparities in health and long-term care services among the urban poor. Paul Bridgewater is also host of “The Senior Solution,” a radio talk show, which airs on WGPR 107.5 FM each Saturday morning at 10am. He writes a weekly column in The Michigan Chronicle and teaches Gerontology courses at Wayne County Community College.