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Attention SSW Alumni!

• Go green by receiving important information electronically! Visit www.alumni.wayne.edu and click on “Update Your Information.”

• We want to know about your promotions, appointments, awards, honors and publications. Please drop a line to Julie Alter-Kay at ae8440@wayne.edu.

• Don’t have alumni gear? Show your spirit wherever you go with items from our alumni store. Go to http://socialwork.wayne.edu/alumni/store.php and download an order form. And if you wear your gear on a roadtrip, snap a photo for us!

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Detroit, MI  48202
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Web: http://socialwork.wayne.edu/

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FROM THE DEAN

Amid the continual struggles of promoting a more just and equitable society, social workers derive strength from the knowledge that, at any given time and in any given situation, there is someone they can help.

Schools of social work are similarly self-aware, and the Wayne State University School of Social Work is ever mindful that its home in Michigan’s only urban research university uniquely positions it to address the problems afflicting urban societies as it conducts research, trains practitioners, and forges partnerships in one of the nation’s largest metropolitan areas.

This annual report captures how the School of Social Work is embracing and advancing its urban mission through its faculty, degree programs, research center, advisory boards, and field education offerings. Within the past year, we have welcomed five new faculty with diverse expertise in gerontology, mental health, substance abuse, psychoanalytic psychotherapy, and early parenting. We have admitted students into the new clinical scholarship track of our Ph.D. program, our new dual-title degree program in social work and infant mental health, and our newly revised M.S.W macro concentration, Innovation in Community, Policy and Leadership (I-CPL). We have created the nation’s first-ever Ph.D. in social work and gerontology, which will begin accepting candidates this fall. We have furthered federal- and state-funded research in the critical areas of teen dating violence and college retention of foster youth. We have reconfigured our Board of Visitors for amplified fundraising capacity. And we have enriched field education by applying and being selected to participate in the Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Social Work Field Placement Project, which will train students to work closely with physicians to screen for behavioral health problems at the primary care level and to better address the needs of individuals with mental health and substance abuse conditions.

These developments you will read about make it clear that, even as our research expands and intensifies, the School of Social Work remains committed to its historic role as a practice school and to the critical task of preparing generations of social workers to promote social and economic justice through strong advocacy and empowerment. We are rooted in a region that is working tirelessly to address societal and economic challenges, and we are immensely proud of the critical role we play in this effort by training practitioners to pursue evidence-based interventions that reflect the unique needs and circumstances of individuals, families and communities.

Thank you for spending some time with this annual report, and thank you for supporting the Wayne State School of Social Work.

Most sincerely,
Cheryl E. Waites
Dean and Professor
Beginning with the fall 2013 semester, Ph.D. students may select the dual-title option after general acceptance into the social work doctoral program. In addition to standard doctoral-level courses in research methods, statistics and social work theory, gerontology dual-title Ph.D. students will complete nine credits of gerontology-focused courses, participate in a gerontology-focused research practicum, and write both a substantive paper and a doctoral dissertation with mentorship from gerontology faculty. The total number of required degree credits is the same for both dual-title Ph.D. students and students receiving a Ph.D. in social work alone.

Professor Arlene Weisz, director of Wayne State’s social work doctoral program, said the new dual-title Ph.D. reflects the School of Social Work’s responsiveness to the changing health care landscape.

“The Affordable Care Act has ushered in an age of integrated health care, where both public and private payers will require services to be appropriate and evidence-based,” Weisz said. “Dual-title degrees are increasingly critical to our field, as social workers need scholarship that increases expertise in complementary areas of practice so they can understand and meet the complex and interrelated needs of their clients.”

The WSU School of Social Work has been a forerunner of dual-title degrees, offering with the WSU Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute a dual-title degree in social work and infant mental health for master’s and doctoral students since 2012 (see page 14, bottom). According to Associate Professor Faith Hopp, coordinator for the School of Social Work’s graduate certificate in gerontology, the dual-title Ph.D. is ideal for gerontology research.

“The dual-title degree brings together courses in a number of WSU schools and colleges,” Hopp said. “By bringing students from related health care fields together in the classroom, this degree will promote interdisciplinary collaboration, which is a key element of both geriatric social work practice and geriatric social work research.”
College marks a time of transition for all young adults, but adapting to university life presents particular challenges for youth who are simultaneously transitioning out of the foster care system. Funded by a three-year contract from the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), the School of Social Work has created a university-wide Transition to Independence Program to give foster youth students the support they need to thrive in their studies at Wayne State.

Established in fall of 2012, the program, which partners with Detroit-area organizations to provide foster youth students with professional mentoring, legal representation, financial literacy, psychological counseling, and life-skills coaching, has caught the attention of policymakers at the state and federal level. In May 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services featured the program in an issue of Children’s Bureau Express, which is read by nearly 23,000 child welfare professionals nationwide. TIP Director Angelique Day has joined with Michigan Gov. Rick Synder, DHS Director Maura Corrigan, and members of the Michigan state legislature to promote the Michigan Education Trust’s new Charitable Tuition Program to help foster youth attend Michigan public colleges. And as co-sponsors of a KidSpeak listening panel, the School of Social Work in August 2013 brought state policymakers to Wayne State’s main campus to hear foster youth advocate for system changes.

Meanwhile, TIP has partnered with the University’s College of Education, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development, and the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to give transitioning foster youth critical work experience. Under a federal program administered by the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, these university partners gave 26 transitioning foster youth campus-based jobs for six weeks in the summer of 2013.

To provide students and program supporters with news and information, TIP has created an extensive website with details on program eligibility, financial aid and scholarships, child care, vocational training, and other forms of support. It also includes research on foster youth and education by Day, one of the most published experts in this emerging field, and serves as a portal for program participants to communicate and receive information on news and events.

“We believe that TIP serves as a model for university programs that can boost retention of foster youth students by giving them the ‘home’ they want and need,” said Day, an assistant professor of social work. “At Wayne State, foster youth find critical material and emotional resources, including acceptance, understanding, and stability. Once these basic needs are met, students are able to concentrate on realizing their vast potential.”
School of Social Work Associate Professor Poco Kernsmith and Joanne P. Smith-Darden, assistant professor, research, in 2012 received $1.1 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for a three-year investigation of risk and protective factors associated with teen dating violence. Utilizing an expanded socio-ecological framework, Kernsmith and Smith-Darden aim to identify factors that predict perpetration as well as important protective factors that prevent or mitigate dating violence.

With a colleague from Eastern Michigan University, Kernsmith and Smith-Darden administered surveys to sixth- and ninth-grade students at 11 middle schools and eight high schools representing high-, moderate-, and low-risk school districts with respect to socioeconomic status and community violence. Analysis of the data is underway, and the research team expects to present its findings in November 2013 at the American Society of Criminology conference in conjunction with CDC staff.

“The numbers are compelling,” said Smith-Darden. “Current research tells us that teen intimate partner violence exceeds other types of youth violence, and one in three teens in the United States has been physically, sexually, emotionally or verbally victimized by a dating partner.”

Teen dating violence is shown to have long-lasting physical and emotional consequences for both perpetrators and victims, and has been a significant research focus of School of Social Work faculty including Kim Jaffee, Debra Patterson, Stella Resko and Arlene Weisz. Kernsmith and Smith-Darden said the first year of data collection and analysis has provided a critical foundation for their longitudinal study, which is expected to inform intervention and prevention programs that are sensitive to factors such as technology, context, gender and ethnicity.

“In the first year of data collection, we wanted to explore the experiences of youth before they were involved with intimate partner violence,” Kernsmith said. “As we continue to follow these youth, we hope to learn about the factors in their communities, schools, families, and within themselves that build resiliency and help prevent violent perpetration.”

The second year of the study, which began in fall 2013, will focus on collecting a second wave of data with the original participants and dissemination of data through national conferences and through manuscript articles submitted to social work and interdisciplinary journals related to adolescents and violence.

Both Kernsmith and Smith-Darden promote faculty-student research collaboration and have invited eight M.S.W. and two doctoral students from Wayne State to work on the project. The study’s project manager, Rachel Lathrop, is an M.S.W. program alumna.
The Affordable Care Act has ushered in an age of integrated health care, one in which both public and private payers will require services to be appropriate and evidence-based. To adapt to the changing health care landscape, the School of Social Work is identifying ways to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between social work students and practitioners from other health disciplines to prepare them for the complexities of coordinating patient care in a way that ensures the best outcomes.

The School of Social Work’s M.S.W. program was recognized for its efforts to promote the interdisciplinary training of future social workers in March 2013, when it was selected to participate in the Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Social Work Field Placement Project. Sponsored by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and the Council on Social Work Education, the project provides a $10,000 stipend for one student in each participating M.S.W. program to receive a field placement in an integrated care setting. Of the award, $5,000 is allocated to the field placement site, $2,000 to the administrative costs of the graduate school, and $3,000 to the student in the form of a scholarship.

As designed, the integrated field education placement allows the social work student to be embedded in a health care clinic and to work side-by-side with other allied health staff. Students learn to understand the culture of primary care practice, gain knowledge and skills to practice in an integrated care setting, and better understand interaction between physical and behavioral health conditions such as depression and diabetes. Students also learn to screen for behavioral health conditions, provide interventions focused on promoting overall health while addressing psychosocial stressors, and learn about follow-up and case management.

The School of Social Work has added two new courses to its M.S.W. curriculum to provide social work students who will be committed to working within primary care practices the skills and knowledge they will need. These courses are Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice in Integrated Healthcare and Integrated Health Policy and Services.
Cheryl Waites, dean and professor: healthy aging and health promotion; intergenerational relationships and intergenerational practice; culturally appropriate and responsive practice; social work education; gerontological social work education and training; African American families

Cassandra Bowers, assistant professor, clinical, and coordinator of the B.S.W. program: child welfare; human service organizations; interprofessional team work

Jerrold Brandell, distinguished professor: psychodynamic social work; supervision in psychotherapy; child and adult psychotherapy; psychoanalysis; portrayal of psychoanalysis in media

Suzanne Brown, assistant professor: interpersonal practice with children, adults, and families; interventions with individuals with serious and persistent mental illness; substance abuse and trauma; dialectical behavior theory; human behavior in the social environment

Angelique Day, assistant professor: kinship care; Indian Child Welfare Act; foster care and physical health and education well-being; youth in transition, youth aging out of foster care; child welfare policy; foster care and college access

Carolyn Dayton, assistant professor: infant mental health; attachment processes in early development; domestic violence in pregnancy and early childhood; development of emotion regulation capacities in early childhood; influence of fathering on early child development; functional neuroanatomy of parenting

Delores Dungee-Anderson, associate dean for academic affairs: dissociative correlates of childhood and adult trauma, with emphasis on substance dependence, homelessness and personality disorder

Heather Edwards, assistant professor: public policy; political participation; child welfare; foster care
Challenging Minds, Leading Change, Transforming Lives

Lauree Emery, lecturer and director of the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development: human behavior in the social environment; psychoanalytic psychotherapy; existential humanism; music therapy; LGBTQ health and wellness

Antonio González-Prendes, associate professor and chair of the M.S.W. Interpersonal Practice Concentration: cognitive-behavioral therapy with adults with mental health and/or substance abuse issues; anger treatment; culture and anger; gender-role socialization and anger

Faith Hopp, associate professor and coordinator of the Gerontology Certificate: end of life care; telehealth systems and chronic illness care; gerontology

Kim Jaffee, associate professor and coordinator of the M.S.W. program: maternal and child health; intimate partner violence screening in health care; racial residential segregation; social work and health; LGBTQ health

Poco Kernsmith, associate professor: intimate partner and family violence; sexual assault and coercion; stalking; childhood sexual abuse; female offenders; sex offender reentry; perpetrators of violence

Fay Martin, assistant professor, clinical, coordinator of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies Certificate, and education technology coordinator: online teaching and learning research; behavioral addictions, risk taking and antisocial behaviors of urban older adults

Jamie Mitchell, assistant professor: African American men’s health; cancer prevention strategies for African American men; patient-physician-family communication around initial cancer diagnoses; the intersection of mental and physical health for aging African Americans

Durrenda Onolehemhen, associate professor: international social work; women’s reproductive health

Debra Patterson, assistant professor: rape victims/survivors; law enforcement’s response to rape/sexual assault; Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners; rape crisis centers

Tam Perry, assistant professor: transitions, built environment and aging; gerontological social work; long-term care issues

Stella Resko, assistant professor: substance abuse prevention and treatment; youth violence; adolescent dating violence and intimate partner violence; sexual risk taking behaviors; motivational interviewing and brief interventions

Richard Smith, assistant professor: sustainable community and economic development; ecocities; geographic information systems; migration; poverty and inequality; urban neighborhood change

Joanne Smith-Darden, assistant professor, research: human behavior in the social environment; domestic and family violence; child development; adolescence

Joanne Sobeck, associate professor, associate dean for research, and director of the Center for Social Work Research: nonprofits; substance abuse; university-community collaborative research; implementation science

Shirley Thomas, assistant professor, clinical: child welfare; stress and anger with African American women; stress and stressors; military families

Arlene Weisz, professor and director of the Ph.D. program: teen dating violence; domestic violence

This fall, the School of Social Work is pleased to welcome two new faculty:

Associate Professor
Ann Rosegrant Alvarez
Assistant Professor
Jun Sung Hong

To learn more about our faculty, visit socialwork.wayne.edu/faculty/profiles.php.
Funny how time flies when you’re having fun. This cliché definitely applies to my two years as president of the Wayne State University School of Social Work Alumni Association. It was my pleasure and I was humbled to be able to serve as the leader of one of the most active alumni groups at WSU.

During this time we made an impact on the community. We planned and executed two successful domestic violence candlelight vigils during domestic violence month in 2011 and 2012. We “adopted” needy individuals when the holidays came. We honored an alumnus of the year and a citizen of the year with a luncheon during national Social Work Month. In 2012, the respective awards went to Ryan Hertz (M.S.W., ’08) and Representative Rashida Tlaib; in 2013 to Regie Huff (M.S.W., ’81) and recording artist Kem. In the fall of 2012, we helped stage a “Social Work Survival Camp,” while in the summer of 2013 we tackled the emerging and serious issue of human trafficking by co-hosting a documentary screening followed by a panel discussion. Finally, we recruited six new board members and three board committee members to gain new ideas and energy.

We still have much work to do. My successor, Corey Faulkner, was crucial in accomplishing what we did over the last year and is well-prepared to take the reins of the alumni association. Please consider joining the board or a board committee, and please participate in our wonderful activities.

Sincerely,

Larmender A. Davis

Immediate Past President
A survey of 2011 M.S.W. graduates conducted by the School of Social Work last year found that 98% of respondents are employed in social work.

**Primary field of practice for current job**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32%</td>
<td>Mental Health or Community Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Child Welfare or Children’s Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(including residential)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Aging/Gerontological Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>School Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Health/Medical Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Community Planning/Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(including housing, employment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Alcohol, Drug, or Substance Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>Family Services (including denominational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>family services, domestic violence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Developmental Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Group Services (YWCA, YMCA, JCCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Other</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Principal job function for current job**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Function</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Case Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Management/Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Community Development/Community Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Challenging Minds, Leading Change, Transforming Lives**

School of Social Work Alumni are helping individuals, families and communities across the United States and the world.

Barbados ....................... 1
Canada .......................... 137
Cyprus .......................... 1
Great Britain (UK) ........... 2
Ireland ........................ 1
Japan ........................... 2
Netherlands .................... 1
Nigeria ........................ 1
South Korea .................... 2
Alice Thompson (B.S.W., ’80; M.S.W., ’81) believes you have to have a big head to sit on the Wayne State School of Social Work Board of Visitors (BOV). But she doesn’t mean a large ego. She means you must always have room to wear your BOV “hat” – no matter what other hats you might be wearing.

“As members of the Board of Visitors, we are ambassadors for the School of Social Work, which means we have a duty to talk to all the groups and organizations we represent about the good work happening at the school as it addresses pressing problems in the city, region and state,” said Thompson, who was elected BOV chair in 2012.

Encouraging her colleagues on the Board of Visitors to expand their advocacy for the school is one of Thompson’s chief objectives as she leads them in their responsibilities. Helping the BOV fulfill its duties, noted Thompson, is a set of recently revised bylaws that have reconstituted the board’s composition and increased its efficiency by reducing the total number of committees, streamlining committee tasks, and eliminating redundant responsibilities.

Thompson said the school is excited about the recent appointment of President M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., whose recent position as deputy director for strategic scientific planning and program coordination at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health is “very much in line with the mission of social workers to advocate for social and economic justice,” Thompson said.

Perhaps most importantly, the BOV will focus on broadening the School of Social Work’s donor base.

“Social workers are altruistic – giving is a part of who we are. But we need to educate our peers that giving back to Wayne State doesn’t have to mean writing a $100,000 check. It can mean giving whatever you’re able, as frequently as you’re able,” Thompson said.

*Her motto? “It’s not equal giving, it’s equal sacrifice.”*
Leadership and Community-Building:

Two Paths to Positive Social Change

The School of Social Work's M.S.W. Program is where social workers choose the "route" they'll take to a brighter and more equitable world. In spring 2013, the School of Social Work celebrated the first graduates of the M.S.W. Program's newly revised Innovation in Community, Policy, and Leadership concentration, designed to prepare world-class practitioners in the areas of community building, social policy development, and social work leadership.

Aaron Egle received his M.S.W. in May 2013. He chose the Community Building/Development Platform of the I-CPL concentration.

Aaron Egle describes his affinity for community-based social work by calling himself a "ditch-fixer."

"One of my social work professors at Wayne State pointed out that when there's a ditch in the road, you need to help the people who fall in, but you also need to fix the ditch so that no one falls in ever again," Egle said. "I want to fix the ditch, and that's why I chose to study community building when I earned my master's degree."

Egle chose Wane State "for the diversity, because I wanted a different perspective on social work and the community focus that was absent from my undergraduate studies. It was the best decision I ever made. I loved the intimate class size and the collaboration with my professors and peers."

Egle's interest lies in community organizing, and he honed his skills during an M.S.W. field education placement with Hope Community Outreach and Development on Detroit's east side. Focusing on community safety, he developed a survey to discern the chief concerns of neighborhood residents and helped them find financially resourceful solutions.

"The community platform really opened up my eyes to the ways that we view different communities, and the reasons why some places are so much better off than others," Egle said.

Tom Lam is slated to receive his M.S.W. in May 2014. He has chosen the Leadership Platform of the I-CPL concentration.

Tom Lam's post-bachelor's work with underserved populations – from minorities seeking mental health services to ex-offenders transitioning out of the prison system – led him to pursue a master's degree focused on change through leadership.

"Through my work, I've seen that a lot of the issues that affect those seeking services can be resolved at the leadership level, because one sound decision at the leadership level can improve the quality of those services and the level of accountability among those who administer them," Lam said.

Wayne State's M.S.W. program, Lam said, "is so extensive and so established that it will give me a big network of support and a lot of options after finishing the leadership platform."

While working on his degree, Lam is practicing his leadership skills as a Wayne State M.S.W. student liaison U-Link Advocate to the National Association of Social Workers-Michigan Chapter, keeping his peers informed about legislative action days and NASW tools to help influence policymakers in Lansing.
Advancing the research agenda of the School of Social Work is a principle goal of the Center for Social Work Research. The center consults with faculty to find external funding, potential research sites and ways to publicize faculty research and scholarship.

In the past year, despite the reductions in available funding, faculty submitted 17 proposals for funding from foundation, university, state and federal sources. The use of a university-community partnership model that highlights the needs of the community allows our faculty to engage in mutually beneficial research that is particularly appropriate for our urban mission.
The center's partners include Focus: HOPE, State of Michigan Department of Human Services - Wayne County, Michigan Department of Community Health: Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, The Children’s Center, Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health, and Oakland Family Services.

In addition to more formal research partnerships, the Center matches faculty and staff expertise to meet the needs agencies have for program evaluation, survey research, and organizational capacity building, such as staff development, intervention design, and planning. The center has managed these fee-for-service projects with agencies such as Community Care Services, Starfish Family Services, and Mid-Central AHEC.

### WSU SSW CURRENTLY FUNDED RESEARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSAL TITLE</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S)</th>
<th>FUNDER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening supports for health relationships: A gender-sensitive, mixed methods analysis of protective factors for intimate partner violence</td>
<td>Kernsmith &amp; Smith-Darden</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the International Association of Forensic Nurses Online/In-Person Hybrid Training</td>
<td>Patterson</td>
<td>International Association of Forensic Nurses with funding from the National Institutes of Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne State University foster care and higher education initiative</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Michigan Department of Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using motivational enhancement among OIF/OEF veterans returning to the community</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Inkster Literacy Program</td>
<td>Smith-Darden &amp; Nahan</td>
<td>Starfish Family Services with funding from the Social Innovation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of TopicView: A software tool for child welfare policymaking</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Wayne State University - Center for Peace and Conflict Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Enhancement Grant</td>
<td>Agius</td>
<td>Michigan Department of Community Health</td>
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<td>Evaluation and capacity building for the HOPE Village Neighborhood Network</td>
<td>Sobeck &amp; Agius</td>
<td>Focus: HOPE with funding from the United Way of Southeast Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond father involvement: Understanding the complex psychosocial processes associated with early fathering in a sample of low-income, urban men</td>
<td>Dayton</td>
<td>The Lois and Samuel Silberman Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the SPF Partnership for Success II Grant</td>
<td>Agius</td>
<td>Michigan Department of Community Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication accommodation between doctors, African American men and their companions in oncology consultations: Relevance for patient-centered communication</td>
<td>Mitchell</td>
<td>Karmanos Cancer Institute with funding from the American Cancer Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Evolutionary Topic Model of congressional hearings testimonies: Measuring expressions in child welfare policy making</td>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Wayne State University Research Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving home in late life: Phase one follow-up</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>Wayne State University Research Grant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LAUREL HICKS is a first-year dual-title Ph.D. student in Clinical Scholarship and Infant Mental Health.

Laurel Hicks came to social work after a realization that what she loved doing most in life always involved helping others. She spent her free time teaching yoga, fundraising and volunteering with at-risk youth locally as well as in Cambodia. This led her to leave her unfulfilling ten-year career as a mechanical engineer in the automotive industry.

In May 2012, Hicks passed the first milestone in a sweeping career change when she received her M.S.W. from Wayne State University and ramped up her business as a labor doula and yoga teacher for pregnant women. Her interest in researching the potential for mindfulness-based therapies to ease depression and anxiety in expectant mothers prompted her to pursue a Dual-title Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work and Infant Mental Health at Wayne State, where she can collaborate with social work faculty and researchers at the University’s Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development.

“Wayne State researchers are doing fabulous things related to maternal and infant mental health. I want to pursue my doctoral degree around experts in the field who are very accessible and can serve as my advisors,” Hicks said, “I chose the Clinical Scholarship Track because my research is focused on interventions that can alleviate suffering, and I want to be aware of existing clinical practices that can inform my work.”

Hicks said she was immediately drawn to School of Social Work’s Ph.D. program because of its openness to her research goals.

“I’ve gotten a lot of support from the faculty,” Hicks said. “They encourage students to study what they’re passionate about. There’s no pressure to follow suit and simply pursue existing lines of research.”

KELLY SOLEY earned a dual-title M.S.W. in Social Work and Infant Mental Health in May 2013.

When Kelly Soley tells people about her work in infant mental health, she frequently gets a “sideways look” and a question: Why do infants need mental health?

“People don’t give infants the credit they deserve,” Soley said. “We know from the research that children are cognitively complex and perceive and process so much information. But I explain to people that my client is not just the child. It’s also the parent, and the relationship between them is what is important.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism and public relations, Soley had a single marketing job in Florida before taking a job in social work that changed her life. She entered the M.S.W. program at Wayne State and decided to pursue a dual-title degree in social work and infant mental health. She now works as a home-based therapist with mothers of young children, providing them with emotional support and connecting them with material resources.

“Supporting a secure attachment between children and their parents is so critical, because it ensures much better outcomes for children when they grow up,” Soley said. “Infant mental health specialists protect that attachment from disturbances any way they can. Sometimes it requires dealing with a mental illness, sometimes it’s just helping a mother put food on her table so she has time to get down on the floor and play with her baby one-on-one.”
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