

VISIONS

SPRING 2013



Challenging Minds, Leading Change, Transforming Lives

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Attention SSW alumni!

- Receive 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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On the heels of Social Work Month 2013 – which our students, staff, faculty and alumni observed with habitual vigor throughout March – it’s gratifying to observe how the School of Social Work embodies the National Association of Social Workers’ theme for this year’s celebration: “Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy: The Power of Social Work.”

FROM THE DEAN

As faculty member Reggie Huff (M.S.W., '81) eloquently observed when accepting the SSW Alumni Association’s 2013 Alumnus of the Year award in March, the strength and determination people have to overcome life’s inequities is critical to personal triumph, but it is often not enough. These individuals frequently require the informed and passionate advocacy of helpers, such as social workers, who strive to ensure that anyone willing to fight for a better future has the right help at the right time in the right place.

The Wayne State University School of Social Work promotes advocacy through robust and varied coursework, intensive field education and training, and innovative research that explores and expands theoretical frameworks and evidence-based practices for serving individuals, families and communities. As you read this issue of *Visions*, you will see many examples of how our school embraces and advances this vital mission of advocacy and the promotion of social and economic justice.

It is evident in our continuing education offerings that focus on topics of national importance to social workers, such as Lori Messinger’s lecture on cultural competence with LGBTQI populations. It is clear in the expertise that Elizabeth Agius, a key staffer with our Center for Social Work Research, is lending the state’s Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services as it builds a solid infrastructure for providing high-quality prevention services in Michigan. It can be seen in the creativity and passion our students are bringing to their field work and to philanthropic endeavors, such as the CyberMentors’ cell phone drive for domestic violence victims. It defines the renewed determination of M.S.W. student Linsey Rae Higgins to defend and counsel the men whose limitations, as she explains in her Brehler Award-winning manuscript, once confounded and angered her. It resonates in the emergence of new sources of tuition assistance for the next generation of social workers, such as the David Wineman Scholarship Fund, which we look forward to disbursing later this year.

And of course, our school’s commitment to advocacy and social and economic justice characterizes our talented and engaged faculty. It is with tremendous sadness that I note the recent passing of our esteemed and longtime colleague, Professor Eileen Trzcinski, after a battle with cancer. An expert in labor economics and comparative international policy, Eileen was a tireless researcher and author who advocated by identifying successful social work systems and practices in other countries and suggesting ways to harness our global knowledge for the betterment of all people. She was a vibrant mind and a tenacious scholar, and she will be greatly missed.

Often in life, passings coincide with arrivals, and that is the case this spring. My last word is a word of welcome, to Delores Dungee-Anderson, who has accepted the position of associate dean for academic affairs. Delores has occupied this important role on an interim basis since September, and her efforts to promote excellence in our school’s academic programs and student services have brought energy and vision to Thompson Home. We are delighted that she will be staying on to continue this exciting work.

Please enjoy this issue of *Visions*. Enjoy the summer!

Cheryl E. Waites
Dean and Professor



Greetings!

Spring is always an exciting time to be part of the School of Social Work Alumni Association. The excitement of graduation is in the air, and with it the expectation of

the diverse and talented individuals who are going to join our ranks – as alumni and as practitioners.

This season also brings with it some of our association’s most exciting events. Our annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on March 29 was a huge success, with outstanding attendance that filled our banquet room to capacity. It wasn’t hard to understand the draw: popular SSW faculty member and Neighborhood Services Organization executive Reggie Huff (M.S.W., ’81) and recording artist KEM – ever gracious with his donations to our summer auction – were this year’s award recipients, and both inspired and delighted us with their characteristic elegance and insight. It was synchronous and special that both 2013 honorees share the same mission: to end homelessness in the city of Detroit by healing the whole individual, identifying and addressing the emotional, physical and mental imbalances that lead to life on the street. Reggie and KEM made us all incredibly proud to be social workers.

Next up is our annual Dinner with the Dean and Silent Auction, which will be held on June 20 at the historic Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. This event raises money for the Alumni Association’s student scholarships, so we encourage you to come out, catch up with your fellow alumni, bid on some exciting items, and bring your dancing shoes! The auction always boasts great things, including gift certificates, art, themed baskets, sports paraphernalia, food, clothing, jewelry and alumni apparel.

Speaking of alumni apparel, are you wearing your pride for the WSU School of Social Work? You’re not limited to T-shirts; the school sells a variety of great items from pants to hats to tote bags, all of them signaling your affiliation with a world-class school of social work. If you want to “represent,” please visit the School of Social Work’s online alumni store and download an order form at <http://socialwork.wayne.edu/alumni/store.php>.

Finally, I’d like to encourage all of you to consider a leadership position with our alumni association. We have several board and committee positions open that call for dedicated, hard-working people. If you are interested in serving on the board or on a committee, please contact Julie Alter-Kay at ae8440@wayne.edu or at (313) 577-4464. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Larmender A. Davis, *president*

ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS:

CROONER, CRUSADER HONORED FOR WORK TO BATTLE HOMELESSNESS IN DETROIT

A packed room in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center provided a festive arena for the annual awards luncheon of the SSW Alumni Association, which on March 29 honored Risarg “Reggie” Huff (M.S.W., ’81) and R&B singer KEM for their tireless work to end homelessness in Detroit.



The association’s Alumnus of the Year award went to Huff, who serves as director of homeless services for Detroit’s Neighborhood Service Organization. Its services, available to Detroit’s estimated 19,000 homeless, include a mobile outreach program, a crisis support center, and supportive housing programs.

Citizen of the Year went to KEM, who rose from addiction and homelessness on the streets of Detroit to international musical acclaim. KEM is founder of Mack and Third, a nonprofit that provides food, toiletries and health care screenings to the homeless through an annual summer concert and fundraiser.

Accepting his award, Huff drew from the National Association of Social Workers’ theme for Social Work Month 2013: “Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy: The Power of Social Work.” The United States is a tapestry woven from the stories of diverse individuals, he said, and it tells a story of struggle, renewal and success. Social workers play a key role in this story by helping those with a will to improve their lives find the right strategy.

“Resilience and self-determination cannot overcome the many crises that our consumers are confronted with, but weaving those strengths with targeted advocacy often can,” Huff said. “The profession of social work has a distinguished history of not only providing social safety nets to the most vulnerable of our community, but also challenging systems that impede social mobility for them.”

Drawing from his days on the streets of Detroit, KEM acknowledged the frustration social workers experience serving clients who aren’t willing to change. But he stressed that their aid is critical because it helps addicts live to see the day when they are ready to abandon their addictions.

“I would not be standing here today were it not for the love and support of people like you,” he told the audience of social workers. “The people we serve may not get it right away, but we are sustaining them.”

KEM said his outreach is not mere philanthropy, but something he finds necessary to feel rooted in the good fortune of sobriety and success.

“The reason for my giving is selfish: I want to keep what I have,” he said. “To keep what you have you have to give it away. To whom much is given, much is required.”



From left to right:
Woodford, Lamb,
Waites, Messenger,
Jaffee, McClatchy



Dean's Diversity Lecture: CULTURAL COMPETENCE WITH LGBTQI CLIENTS

With proper training, social work students can be powerful advocates for individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, a national expert told a Wayne State audience in March, adding that the nation's social work curricula can be enhanced by defining and measuring competencies that ensure social workers are culturally competent to practice with the LGBTQI population.

Lori Messenger, professor and director of social work studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, said compassion and respect for LGBTQI individuals do not equate to competence. She cited sobering statistics indicating that the country's M.S.W. students – including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning or intersex – don't feel prepared to address the complex challenges facing this population. Messenger, who delivered the WSU School of Social Work's seventh annual Dean's Diversity Lecture on March 21, said improving social workers' cultural competence with LGBTQI populations is a job for educators and field instructors.

"The real problem is that there is no clear definition of competency and no clear delineation of competency standards," Messenger said, adding that the development of competencies will allow even social workers who feel conflicted because of religious or other values to surmount their personal beliefs by focusing on best practices. "It's time to move beyond attitudes to competencies. We've been caught up for too long on how people feel about LGBTQI and not on if we're doing good work."

During her talk, which provided area social workers with continuing education contact hours as part of the school's Continuing Education program, Messenger presented the crowded Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium with 10 proposed competencies she has developed using unpublished guidelines from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) as a framework. The competencies, which Messenger

hopes will be refined and adopted by CSWE, cover practice and policy considerations and attempt to move the discipline "to a place where people are comfortable with their gender identity, not to where it needs to be fixed."

Among other things, the competencies call for knowledge of major theoretical approaches to understanding sexual orientation and gender identity, a critical analysis of societal views, and recognition of the mental and physical stresses that result from oppression and stigma. The competencies also call for an understanding of various subgroups within LGBTQI communities, of relationship and family formation, and of the development of identity across the lifespan, particularly during the process of "coming out" and of aging. Messenger, who coauthored the book *Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression in Social Work Practice: Working with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People*, also calls for robust research with LGBTQI populations and the application of research to administrative practices and policy.

Messenger's talk was followed by a panel discussion that included Kim Jaffee, WSU associate professor of social work and coordinator of the M.S.W. program; Michael Woodford, assistant social work professor at University of Michigan; Kathryn Lamb, co-president of the WSU student organization Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity – Social Work (SOGI-SW); and Skip McClatchy of Wayne State University's Adult HIV/AIDS Program.

Jaffee, who helped develop an LGBT Studies minor at Syracuse University, last year surveyed WSU M.S.W. students about their attitudes and beliefs toward LGBTQI populations and is analyzing the data to discern the factors that influence those attitudes.

"If we don't understand the attitudes and beliefs of students and the environments in which we are teaching these competencies, then we're missing a piece that's important," Jaffee told the audience.

School of Distinction

Our faculty and staff share their nationally recognized expertise and research in a variety of formats and settings. We are proud to highlight a few of these awards, appointments, and honors.

Speaking Engagements

Distinguished Professor **Jerrold Brandell** participated in the 13th National Conference of the American Association for Psychoanalysis and Clinical Social Work on March 15-16 as a panelist for "Successful strategies for professional publication." He was also chair and panelist for "The widening world of trauma"...**Jerrold Brandell** on March 21 delivered a lecture in Hartford, Conn., on "Suicide in the therapist's family: A post traumatic adaptation," as part of a special program at the Institute of Living...Assistant Professor **Angelique Day** was an invited speaker at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Education Collaboration Grantees meeting, held April 23-24 in Alexandria, Va., where she spoke on "Engaging foster care youth in public policy reform"...**Janet Joiner**, assistant dean for student affairs, completed with the University at Buffalo's School of Social Work a podcast series interview on cyber social work, cyberbullying prevention, and the WSU School of Social Work Student Institute for Cyber Social Work...Associate Professor **Durrenda Onolemhemen** presented a paper entitled "The Ethiopian birth kit project" at the 13th World Congress of Public Health, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia...Assistant Professor **Jamie Mitchell** was invited to present IOG-funded work at the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research Regional Meeting to represent MCUAAR as a pilot scholar...Assistant Professor **Tam Perry** in April mentored Ph.D. student Shantel West and M.S.W.

student Julia Valeriani in presenting a poster, "Preparing practitioners: Relocation in older adulthood," at the Bridging the Research and Practice Gap: A Symposium on Critical Considerations, Successes and Emerging Ideas Conference in Houston...**Tam Perry** has been invited to participate in the 11th Annual Hartford Interdisciplinary Scholars Communications Conference on July 22-24.

Innovations

Associate Professor **Kim Jaffee** and Field Education Director **Anwar Najor-Durack** successfully applied for funding from the Center for Integrated Health Solutions, SAMHSA, HRSA, and CSWE to have the WSU School of Social Work participate in the Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Social Work Field Placement Project.

Leadership Positions

Marilynn Knall, assistant to the associate dean and current M.S.W. and HPPAE scholarship recipient, accepted an invitation to serve on the National Advisory Board of the CSWE's National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education Gero-Ed Center...Assistant Professor **Stella Resko** accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of the Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions...WSU Deputy President and School of Social Work Dean Emerita **Phyllis Ivory Vroom** will receive the Michigan American Council on Education Women's Network's 2013 Distinguished Leadership Award on June 4th at Michigan State University...Dean **Cheryl Waites**

accepted an invitation to serve on the National Advisory Board of the CSWE's National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education Gero-Ed Center...**Cheryl Waites** was elected graduate program representative 1 for CSWE.

Awards

Assistant Professor **Heather Edwards** received a 2013-14 University Research Grant, awarded by the WSU Office of the Provost to encourage original research, scholarship, and artistic expression...Assistant Professor **Fay Martin**, assistant professor, clinical, was honored by Wayne State University in April with a 2013 President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching...Assistant Professor **Debra Patterson** received the 2013 School of Social Work Full-Time Teaching Award...Assistant Professor **Tam Perry** received a 2013-14 University Research Grant, awarded by the WSU Office of the Provost to encourage original research, scholarship, and artistic expression...Part-time faculty **Brenda Romanchik** received the 2013 School of Social Work Part-Time Teaching Award.

Service

The following individuals were recognized for their service at the WSU 2013 Employee Recognition Program: **Julie Alter-Kay**, special assistant to the dean (15 years); **Janet Joiner**, assistant dean for student affairs (20 years); Associate Professor **Durrenda Onolemhemen** (15 years); Student Records Clerk Senior **Margaret Madej** (25 years); **Neva Nahan**, coordinator for research (35 years).



Distinction continued...

The Wayne State University School was pleased to have seven faculty members present at this year's annual Society for Social Work and Research conference, held Jan. 16-20 in San Diego. They are **Suzanne Brown, Carolyn Dayton, Poco Kernsmith, Jamie Mitchell, Debra Patterson, Tam Perry,** and **Richard Smith.** Second from left is Assistant Professor Tam Perry, who presented as part of Invited Symposium III "Neighborhood environments across the life course."

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

SPRING 2013

- Baker, K., & **Brandell, J.** (2012). Child and adolescent psychotherapy and psychoanalysis: One hundred years after "Little Hans." London: Routledge Press.
- Campbell, R., **Patterson, D.**, & Bybee, D. (2012). Prosecution of adult sexual assault cases: A longitudinal analysis of the impact of a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) program. *Violence against Women*, 18(2), 223-244.
- Day, A.**, Dworsky, A. & Feng, W. (2013). An analysis of foster care placement history and post-secondary graduation rates. *Research in Higher Education Journal*, 19, 1-17.
- González-Prendes, A. A. & Brisebois, K.** (2012). Cognitive-behavioral practice and social work values: A critical analysis. *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, 9(2), 21-33.
- González-Prendes, A. A.** (2012). Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. In E. J. Mullen (Ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Social Work*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kernsmith, P.D.** & Kernsmith, R.M. (2012). Female pornography use and sexual coercion perpetration. In A. Thio, T.C. Calhoun, & A. Conyers (Eds.), *Deviance Today* (pp.109-120). Boston, MA: Pearson.
- Lehning, A. J., **Smith, R. J.**, & Dunkle, R. E. (2012). Age-friendly environments and self-rated health: An exploration of Detroit elders. *Research on Aging*, 1-23.
- McCormick, T. R., **Hopp, F.**, Nelson-Becker, H., Ai, A. L., Schlueter, J. O., & **Camp, J. K.** (2012). Ethical and spiritual concerns near the end of life. *Journal of Religion, Spirituality & Aging*, 24(4), 301-313.
- Mitchell, J.M.** (2012). Integrating education on addressing health disparities into the graduate social work curriculum. *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 32(5), 471-486.
- Mitchell, J. M.** & Watkins, D. C. (2013). Social determinants associated with colorectal cancer screening in an urban community sample of African-American men. *Journal of Men's Health*, 1-10.
- Patterson, D.** & Campbell, R. (2012). The problem of untested sexual assault kits: Why are some kits never submitted to a crime laboratory? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 27(11), 2259-2275.
- Resko, S.M.**, & Mendoza, N.S. (2012). Early attrition from treatment among women with co-occurring substance use disorders and PTSD. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*. 12(4), 348-369.
- Rey, S. J., & **Smith, R. J.** (2012). A spatial decomposition of the Gini coefficient. *Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences*, 1-16.
- Smith, R. J.** (2013). The influence of western philosophy on definitions of social justice. In M. J. Austin (Ed.), *Social Justice and Social Work: Rediscovering a Core Value of the Profession* (pp. 21-30). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Smith, R. J.**, Lehning, A. J., & Dunkle, R. E. (2013). Conceptualizing age-friendly community characteristics in a sample of urban elders: An exploratory factor analysis. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 56(2), 90-111.
- Smith, R. J.**, & Miller, K. (2013). Ecocity Mapping using GIS: Introducing a planning method for assessing and improving neighborhood vitality. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 7(1), 95-106.
- Swain, J. E., Konrath, S., Brown, S. L., Finegood, E. D., Akce, L. B., **Dayton, C. J.**, & Ho, S. S. (2012). Parenting and beyond: Common neurocircuits underlying parental and altruistic caregiving. *Parenting: Science & Practice*, 12(2-3), 115-123.
- Swain, J. E., Perkins, S. C., **Dayton, C. J.**, Finegood, E. D., & Ho, S. S. (2012). Parental brain and socioeconomic epigenetic effects in human development. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 35(5), 378-379.
- Trzcinski, E.**, & **Sobeck, J. L.** (2012). Predictors of growth in small and mid-sized nonprofit organizations in the Detroit metropolitan area. *Administration in Social Work*, 36(5), 499-519.



SSW MOURNS THE PASSING OF

Professor Eileen Trzcinski

Professor Eileen Trzcinski, a member of the School of Social Work faculty for nearly two decades, passed away on March 28 after a months-long battle with cancer. She was 61.

Faculty, staff and students responded to Trzcinski's passing with sadness and with recollections of her vibrant mind, passionate advocacy, and generosity toward the young social workers she helped develop. Ph.D. Program Director and Professor Arlene Weisz called Trzcinski, who specialized in comparative international policy and labor market analysis as well as applied econometrics, "an energetic teacher and mentor for doctoral students who was greatly appreciated." Distinguished Professor Jerrold Brandell called her "an internationally recognized scholar with a lifelong commitment to social justice." Dean Cheryl Waites added, "Eileen was committed to issues of social and economic justice."

Students left words of sorrow and appreciation on the School of Social Work's Facebook page, calling Trzcinski "an amazing person," "a pleasure to work with," "caring and understanding," and "a professor whom I will never forget."

Angela Kaiser (Ph.D., '10) said Trzcinski, who taught social research methods and economics, eased her through the number-crunching required for research.

"Because I am more of a qualitative-minded person, I was a little nervous about taking statistics when I started the program," Kaiser said. "Eileen was very encouraging and helped me to appreciate statistics and feel more confident in my ability to work with quantitative data. I believe that Eileen genuinely cared about her students and always attempted to help us do our best. She will definitely be missed."

Ph.D. student Jessica Camp, who collaborated closely with Trzcinski on dissertation-related research until her last days, called her mentor "the most authentic person I've ever met in my life." She was widely traveled, spoke several languages fluently and had an academic working knowledge of several more, Camp noted, saying Trzcinski's strength as an analyst of U.S. social welfare policy came from her "global perspective."

"She saw that in this country we often talk about inequalities as if they can't be challenged," Camp said. "But other countries deal with these issues, and have come up with viable solutions that allow for many benefits, such as longer life, lower rates of mental illness and less violence. She was a problem solver who didn't see global problems as immovable."

Trzcinski joined the social work faculty at Wayne State University in 1994 and was appointed Research Professor at the DIW (German Institute for Economic Research) in Berlin, Germany. She received her Ph.D. in Economics and Social Work from University of Michigan in 1985 with specializations in labor economics and econometrics, and had more than 30 years of experience in survey design and analysis. She designed and conducted surveys at the national, state, and local levels, including longitudinal surveys, and worked at some of the leading survey research centers in the world, including the Institute for Social Research at University of Michigan, the German Institute for Economic Research, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Institute for Statistics and Demographics in Warsaw, Poland. She produced more than 50 publications, including work that has focused on low-income labor markets and on comparative family and labor market policy in Canada, the United States, Africa and Asia.

Outside her work, Trzcinski enjoyed cross-country skiing, bicycling, sailing, painting, and watching and attending championship figure skating events.

Contributions in memory of Eileen Trzcinski (IMO 444469 SSW) support the School of Social Work Scholarship Fund. To give, please visit socialwork.wayne.edu and click on "Make a Gift."

Challenging Minds...



Assistant Professor
Angelique Day is a
foster care alumna.

FEDERAL AGENCY SHINES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON WSU foster youth retention program

Wayne State University's Transition to Independence Program (TIP), an initiative developed by the School of Social Work to help students aging out of foster youth thrive in their studies, was featured this spring in a publication of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The May issue of *Children's Bureau Express*, which is read by nearly 23,000 child welfare professionals nationwide, profiled the program as part of what Assistant Social Work Professor and TIP Director Angelique Day calls Wayne State's "institutional reaction" to the serious educational challenges faced by Wayne County's foster youth population, which is by far the state's largest. Among these challenges are poor rates of college preparedness and retention, caused by chronic school year disruptions that occur when youth change foster families, and a lack of independent living skills, which are necessary to manage classes, work, relationships and responsibilities successfully. Unfortunately, less than 60% of foster youth graduate from high school by age 19, and fewer than 10% of foster youth attend college.

Funded by a three-year, \$340,197 contract from the Michigan Department of Human Services, TIP partners with Detroit-area organizations to provide eligible WSU students with a range of free support, including professional mentoring, legal representation, financial literacy training and counseling, and even care packages during finals week. Here on campus, TIP has appointed staff – dubbed "foster youth champions" – to serve as liaisons between WSU foster youth and key university offices. These offices include Financial Aid; Counseling and Psychological Services; Career Services; Housing and Residential Life; and the Campus Health Center. The program also employs a full-time life skills coach to provide program participants with additional support.

According to Day, Wayne State has retained 84% of the foster youth enrolled in the program since the fall of 2012.

"These results are very promising," said Day. "They are well above the average retention rates of other first-generation, low-income students who enroll at Wayne State University."

Leading Change...

Community development expert discusses role of **immigration** in urban neighborhoods



Foreign-born individuals are choosing American neighborhoods based on good schools, quality of life and other “mainstream” considerations, assistant social work professor Rick Smith told a Wayne State audience this winter, adding that the days of “ethnic enclaves” are waning.

At a Feb. 7 symposium on the decline, dynamics and reinvention of Detroit, Smith said local and state policy-makers in certain regions of the United States have proposed courting immigrants from other parts of the country as a way to stabilize high-poverty urban neighborhoods and spur the creation of small businesses. Consequently, he said, researching migration patterns and proclivities is critical to establishing successful ways to welcome immigrants. For example, while immigrants historically sought out neighborhoods populated by other ethnic groups to cope with societal barriers – a phenomenon known as “reactive solidarity” –

today’s immigrants are more inclined to choose where they live based on cultural and economic amenities.

Because people, including immigrants, typically pursue “intra-urban” movement – they move from one part of a metropolitan area to a better one to improve quality of life while maintaining employment – Smith said the neighborhoods most attractive to immigrants on average have lower rents, fewer vacancies, and residents that are educated. While immigrants do not appear to be favoring enclaves on average, he noted, there is some preference for proximity to Hispanic- and Asian-owned firms.

The symposium, entitled “Urban Disruption@Wayne,” was held in the WSU Faculty Administration Building and featured the work of faculty and advanced graduate students across the social sciences and humanities with a focus on how inequities and power result from or lead to urban disruptions. The other papers during Smith’s session, “Housing and Neighborhood Dynamics,” also looked at challenges stemming from property abandonment, mortgage lending, and housing supply.

Above: Assistant Professor Rick Smith presenting at Urban Disruption@Wayne.

BREHLER WINNER

EXAMINES PERSONAL STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND, EMPOWER MEN



Richard Brehler with Linsey Rae Higgins, center, and Kim Jaffee

M.S.W. student Linsey Rae Higgins won this year's Elizabeth N. Brehler student manuscript competition with her candid account of how feminism caused, and ultimately resolved, her resentment toward the embattled men she encountered in family practice.

For more than 20 years, WSU social work students have used the Brehler competition as a vehicle for exploring their prejudices, biases, and beliefs – both as an exercise in self-analysis and in an effort to reconcile conflicting personal and professional values. In “Embracing Men: A Feminist’s Transformational Journey,” Higgins describes how her malaise with traditional gender roles, planted early through childhood experiences, grew into a strong antagonism toward men during social work placements involving fathers, boyfriends and husbands who shirked their most fundamental responsibilities. All of her time, Higgins realized, was “invested in educating young women, hoping to empower them to live their lives free of the men that seemed to bind them” to desperate, bleak lives. Meanwhile, she writes, “my negative attitudes about men seriously limited my ability to offer my clients unconditional positive regard, the foundation of an effective client-therapist relationship.”

In a manuscript that Higgins’ advisor, associate social work professor and M.S.W. Program Coordinator Kim Jaffee, says “beautifully and masterfully pulls together her experiences, evidence-based practice, and theory,” Higgins explains how she began to reframe her view of men through a critical examination of intersectionality theory, a construct of feminism that describes how multiple systems of oppression and discrimination can lead to systematic social inequality for certain individuals.

If Higgins’ early feminism led her to view males only in their singular identity as men, her newly informed feminism allowed her to see them as multidimensional, besieged by a “host of life stressors” such as violence, teenage fatherhood, unemployment, incarceration, poverty, illiteracy, alienation from family, and crippling child support obligations. These overwhelming concurrent challenges leave men in desperate need of effective social workers, Higgins concluded. She now advocates for policy and social work practice that consider the “larger psychosocial context” and empower men through, for example, parenting classes, rehabilitation for nonviolent drug offenses, mentoring programs, and a new definition of masculinity that emphasizes racial and community pride.

Higgins, who will receive \$3,000 for her winning entry, was recognized along with other scholarship applicants at an April 25 award ceremony in Thompson Home’s Phyllis Ivory Vroom Parlor. Antonio González-Prendes, associate social work professor and chair of the Brehler selection committee, said Higgins’ manuscript “stood against very strong competition. She did an excellent job setting the background of her story and developing the ethical dilemma against the framework of intersectionality theory.”

Higgins received her master’s degree this spring and completed her field education at the multi-campus César Chávez Academy in southwest Detroit. She plans to become a school social worker, in which role she will encourage fathers’ involvement in their children’s education.



SSW Professor David Wineman, right, with Fritz Redl.

SSW'S DAVID WINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP to honor professor's commitment to academic excellence and justice

The School of Social Work has announced the development of the David Wineman Memorial Endowed Scholarship to honor the former WSU social work professor's devotion to his students and his field.

Dean Cheryl Waites has asked a volunteer group, headed by School of Social Work Board of Visitors member Ivan Louis Cotman, to establish the endowed scholarship, which was launched at the school's annual Alumni Association awards luncheon on March 29 (see page 2). Wineman retired from the School of Social Work in 1984 after teaching for 33 years. At the time of his death in 1995, he had spent a decade championing children's rights as a full-time volunteer for the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The volunteer group establishing the scholarship consists of members of the Wineman family — including Professor Wineman's son, Steven, sister-in-law Marilyn Wineman (SSW alumna), and niece, Judith Wineman — as well as former students, colleagues, and friends.

Wineman served as a faculty mentor to Cotman while he was earning his Ed.D. in the mid-1970s, and guided the doctoral student with what Cotman described as "penetrating observations."

"He was energetic, cerebral and engaging," Cotman said, "and he was constructively critical. His legacy is one of supporting his students' academic pursuits."

Wineman was co-author with Fritz Redl of two seminal texts: *Children Who Hate: The Disorganization and Breakdown of Behavior Controls* and *Controls From Within: Techniques for the Treatment of the Aggressive Child*. For several years, beginning in 1946, Wineman was director of Pioneer House, a Detroit home for severely disturbed boys. He was also the clinical director of a University of Michigan summer program for disturbed children from 1950 to 1968.

Announcing the creation of the David Wineman scholarship at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on March 29, Cotman lauded Wineman as "a professor who was never afraid to take risks as he advocated to empower children and adults." Cotman said the scholarship, which will be merit-based and available to students beginning in the Winter 2014 semester, is a way to carry Wineman's vision forward.

"We need more David Winemans to serve as advocates for justice," Cotman said. "What we say are his words. Our message is his message to a future generation."

The goal is to raise a minimum of \$25,000 to establish the endowed fund this year, with the first scholarship awarded in the 2013-2014 academic year. To give in memory of David Wineman (IMO 222913 SSW), please visit socialwork.wayne.edu and click on "Make A Gift."

Transforming Lives.

IN MEMORY OF EUGENE E. PETTIS

Alumnus (M.S.W., '62) and former WSU social work instructor Eugene E. Pettis passed away on Jan. 13 at the age of 81.

A native of Detroit, Pettis worked for 35 years as a mental health director at Detroit East Mental Health Community Clinic, was an adjunct faculty member at Wayne State

University, and later taught at Wayne County Community College (WCCC). He lived the philosophy "Each One Teach One" and consequently was involved in a number of local and inter-national educational and humanitarian groups, including National Association of Black Social Workers, National Black Child Development Institute, and schools and community organizations in Africa.

Lessons From the Field

Nowhere is the School of Social Work's commitment to social and economic justice more apparent than in the area of field education, the critical period of professional development during which students apply what they've learned in the classroom to real-world situations. Always, our social workers are trained to treat the person in the environment so they can address the social, familial and behavioral factors that may prevent clients from realizing their full potential.

In this issue, *Visions* talks to two new School of Social Work graduates about what they learned in their unique field experiences, and how they will apply these lessons as they begin their professional social work careers and further their education in the M.S.W. program at Wayne State.

Tyeisha Carr (B.S.W., '13): Wisdom from experience

Tyeisha Carr entered Wayne State's B.S.W. program two years ago determined to make a career of helping troubled kids. Though in her thirties, Carr had been a teenage mom who, unprepared financially and mentally, had dropped out of college two decades earlier. She came to the study of social work to help at-risk and adjudicated youth because, she said, "I wanted to be the people I didn't have."

As happens often with social work students, Carr's passion changed when she began her field training at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in Detroit. Tasked with providing counseling to clients "from intake to discharge," Carr realized that the insights of her youth were every bit as applicable to individuals struggling with substance abuse.

"I know that things can get bad fast," Carr said. "I've never had a substance abuse problem, but I know the feeling of waking up and saying, 'How did I get here?' And I know what it takes to get out of it. I had a unique amount of empathy for my clients, but I also had a no-nonsense approach. I didn't allow for excuses, and it led to success."

Of the 20 clients assigned to Carr, only four were not discharged successfully. Her devotion to her clients was so strong that she stayed at her placement after graduation long enough to personally discharge clients with whom she'd developed a strong relationship.

Carr credits the School of Social Work with teaching her excellent interviewing and writing skills – two indispensable forms of communication in substance abuse counseling. Many of her clients had been referred to her by probation or parole officers, she said, and the stakes for them were high.

"We joke about getting English degrees because we write so much in social work," said Carr, who prepared monthly reports on her clients, "but it was so important for me to communicate clearly. This was not a role play, these were people's real lives, and if I didn't communicate correctly, someone could go to jail or lose custody of their children."

Carr looks forward to her M.S.W. field placement in integrated health care at Detroit's Southwest Solutions.

Darnice Moore (B.S.W., '13): Insights into aging



Darnice Moore was no stranger to service when she began her field education at Matrix Human Services in January. A student in the School of Social Work's Where Online Works! B.S.W. program, Moore had volunteered extensively throughout Detroit at Goodwill Industries, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, L.I.F.T. Women's Resource Center, and other organizations. It was this work that prompted her to study social work, and while she thought her calling might be with women and children, her work at Matrix changed that.

Moore was assigned to work with Matrix Bridging the Gap, a program providing assistance to adults ages 50 and older with transportation, food, home care supports, and wellness services, as well as resource planning, financial literacy, and job and training opportunities. Moore conducted home visits and assessments for clients, learning about their needs and evaluating their living conditions. The experience was "eye-opening," says Moore, who is now considering gerontology as her M.S.W. focus.

"A lot of seniors live by themselves; they have no support or services, no family or people to check on them," Moore said. "It really made me see things differently." She also learned about loss, which is a constant reality for social workers working with older populations. One of Moore's first home visits involved a woman who was 97 years old – and who passed away shortly after.

In addition to home visits, Moore's field work entailed visiting food banks and senior centers to make presentations on Bridging the Gap services, as well as conducting quantitative research. While at Matrix, she conducted a research and analysis survey on clients' perceptions of the program, which generated data the organization plans to use in its next grant application.

A wife and mother, Moore credits Wayne State with giving her the flexibility and support she needed to finish her degree while juggling the demands of family life. The early morning hours – often well before dawn – were the "sweet spot" for her, where she was able to log on and devote her entire focus to her studies. She credits the school with teaching her objectivity.

"I've learned how to be observant, how to let the client say what their needs are, and how to be nonjudgmental," Moore said.

Staffer's work with state substance abuse officials

highlights value of

community partnerships

Elizabeth Agius serves as the manager of community partnerships in the Center for Social Work Research. She has worked in research at Wayne State for nearly 20 years, including 15 years in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. Much of her research and evaluation efforts have focused on prevention of substance abuse in individuals and communities. She has also been principal investigator on a variety of substance treatment programs, including women's specialty treatment and a program for returning citizens.

The Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services (BSAAS/Bureau) in the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is charged with overseeing treatment and prevention efforts related to substance abuse and problem gambling addictions in Michigan. Substance use disorder services are provided through 16 regional coordinating agencies (CAs) that are responsible for assuring services are available to those in need of help. Bureau administration and staff manage contracts with, provide technical assistance and consultation to, and monitor the quality of the care provided by the Community Mental Health providers and the coordinating agencies. The administration also establishes the policy directions and standards for the statewide system.

The bureau is continually managing changes in policy, as well as the ebbs and flows of substance use trends. BSAAS seeks to address the many issues raised by various forms of addictive behavior that are found within society and the consequences of those behaviors. This complexity invites with it the need for tools for management, information gathering, evaluation and research. The School of Social Work's Center for Social Work Research is one partner that provides assistance to

BSAAS as it seeks to reduce underage drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse, among other priorities. The fit with the school and its research center is logical as many social workers are employed in MDCH-funded agencies.

Agius' connection with BSAAS started in 2010, when she was recruited to participate in the state training cadre assisting with the creation of a module on evaluation to train prevention staff statewide. After this, she was tapped to present at two trainings for state prevention staff. When the need for an evaluation of a federal grant arose, BSAAS contacted Agius. BSAAS was awarded the contract for the three-year State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) grant, which is now one of three Agius works on with the department. In this grant, the evaluation helped to track how agency representatives came together to develop systems for expanding substance abuse needs assessment and data collection, as well as integrating prevention with behavioral health measures.

Agius has always worked to be a true partner with her clients on evaluation, seeking to meet the demands of funders, while encouraging strategies and products that are most useful to the client.

“I understand that some people react negatively to evaluation, but my philosophy is that an evaluator should work with you so that you get the information you need to improve your program and practice,” Agius said.

Larry Scott, BSAAS manager of prevention services, echoes this sentiment. “Working with Ms. Agius has been great,” Scott said. “We have worked with other evaluators, but we did not have such a collaborative relationship as we do now.”

This collaboration has grown over time. As a result of building this partnership, Agius has been invited to serve as the evaluator on two other BSAAS grants, the Strategic Prevention Enhancement and the recently awarded Partnerships for Success II. In these efforts, Agius was also able to provide some grant writing support for these projects. These grants continue and expand BSAAS’ efforts to build a solid infrastructure for providing quality prevention services in Michigan. This includes reinforcing work on the five-step model of assessment, capacity, planning, implementation and evaluation. Social workers, especially those in community practice, are very familiar with this model, which enhances the partnership efforts.

More broadly, the bureau is working on improving its focus on developing Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) in all of their provider networks. An important aspect of this work is to develop cross system collaborations and to promote more integrated treatment among primary care, mental health and substance abuse.

Agius was invited to present some of the data collected from the Strategic Prevention Enhancement grant to the state-level ROSC Transformation Steering Committee, and then to provide some advice for evaluating the overall efforts the bureau is making.

“Elizabeth is a valuable resource. She is a team player who has helped us use information and think about evaluation on other projects as well,” said BSAAS Director Deborah Hollis. A new statewide survey to assess provider thoughts on the ROSC development process is currently in the works.

This partnership with a state department has expanded the reach of Wayne State’s School of Social Work across Michigan, helping to build its reputation as a strong partner for research beyond the Metro Detroit area. In addition, the projects provide support and opportunities for student assistants who work on the evaluations.



Deborah Hollis, director of Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services, and Larry Scott, BSAAS manager of prevention services

AUTHORS' CORNER

BOOKS FROM SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI



The Desires of Thine Heart
Felecia Berry, L.M.S.W. (M.S.W. '99), member of the WSU School of Social Work Alumni Association board

The Desires of Thine Heart is a true story of a woman seeking to find peace during a turbulent time in her life.

Berry is brave in her honesty to share what proves to be the darkest and most painful part of her life. She is exposed to insufferable hardships at a very young age, losing her father at three and becoming a victim of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation at nine. As a teenager, she is raped by her manager at a fast food restaurant. Very soon, her life spirals into a cesspool of drugs, alcohol, abusive relationships and suicide attempts – all desperate but futile efforts to disavow her pain. She finally finds the elusive sense of peace she always longed for in Jesus Christ. He is the light at the end of her tunnel of suffering and out of her dark past, she rises and becomes a restored woman.



Parents and Professionals Partnering for Children with Disabilities: A Dance That Matters
Janice Fialka (M.S.W., '83), Arlene K. Feldman and Karen C. Mikus

This newly revised edition of Fialka and Mikus' first book, *Do You Hear What I Hear: Parents and Professionals*

Working With Children With Special Needs (2000), *A Dance That Matters* draws upon the metaphor of dance to highlight the essential partnership between teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents of children with disabilities. It offers helpful steps for self-reflection, personnel preparation, and parent-professional training, including practical insights and evidence-based approaches to forming partnerships and sample letters, conversations, and other forms of communication between professionals and parents. Written with easy-to-read, non-technical language that speaks both to the heart and the mind, *A Dance That Matters* also contains a "dance manual" with straightforward, ready-to-use strategies for quick reference during any phase of the partnership.



You and Your Nonprofit
Co-edited by **Norman Olshansky (M.S.W., '71)**

Olshansky, who is president of NFP Consulting Resources, teamed up with Linda Lysakowski and co-edited *You and Your Nonprofit*, contributing content to the book along with some

50 thought leaders from England, Australia, Canada and the United States. Nominated as best new book on nonprofit management by the Alliance for Nonprofit Management, *You and Your Nonprofit* is part of the "In the Trenches Series" of books published by CharityChannel Press. Articles cover a broad range of subjects relating to nonprofit governance, leadership, evaluation, fundraising, marketing, programing, and management. The book provides a wealth of "how to" information provided by professionals who have been in the trenches of nonprofit leadership and management. It also includes a glossary of terms utilized within nonprofit organizations. Email addresses are provided so that readers can contact the contributing authors.

How To Pull Yourself Up From Rock Bottom To Success
Dave Williams, (M.S.W., '96)

In *How To Pull Yourself Up From Rock Bottom To Success*, Williams regales his readers with the spiritual reflections of Alabama Governor George Wallace, Senator Ted Kennedy, President Ronald Reagan, Nat Turner, Martin Luther King Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, and other social and political leaders. "Have you ever wondered why some persons are happy and act as though they are successful, while others seem doomed for failure?" Williams said. "This book is written to help you think, start making right choices and become a success for the rest of your life. It is written as a guide to anyone who wants to improve their lives." As a social worker, Williams has devoted his career to making life better for those who are less fortunate. While serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and while growing up in Montgomery, Ala., during the Civil Rights struggle, Williams says, "I learned and still believe God is in control. That's my message for those persons whose spirits are low and appear to have reached rock bottom."



Jessica Lucero, right, with Professor and Doctoral Program Director Arlene Weisz

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION WINS NATIONAL HONOR

Jessica Lucero (Ph.D., '12) in January was honored at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research with a 2013 Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Award Honorable Mention for “Neighborhood risk and protective factors for teenage childbearing and fathering.”



CyberMentors present donated cell phones to Jackson, far right, and Michael, second from right.

CyberMentors collect cell phones for assault survivors

Local sexual-assault victims will have easier access to emergency services thanks to WSU's CyberMentors, who held a cellphone drive this winter.

During an event in the Student Center Building on March 7, the School of Social Work student organization presented Wayne County Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner's Program (WC SAFE) with more than 50 cellphones it had collected from the campus community in February and March.

WC SAFE Administrative Assistant Katie Michael and Advocate-Therapist Linda Jackson accepted the phones and will distribute them to clients receiving post-assault counseling.

"Some of our survivors don't have access to phones or transportation," says Michael. "The phones will help empower survivors. It's critical for them to have access to loved ones and emergency services."

Now in its second year, CyberMentors promotes the application of technology to social work practice. The group is best known for mentoring local high school students in appropriate online behaviors. CyberMentor co-presidents Julia Tune and Stephanie Weber say the cellphone drive was conceived to combine a number of societal objectives.

"We're not only recycling the phones, but putting them to good use by helping people without access to technology," Tune says. "Technology changes fast and can be expensive, making it difficult for many to keep up."

STUDENT AND ALUMNI HONORS

Ph.D. student **Ann Carrellas**, along with co-authors Preethy S. Samuel and Karen L. Hobden, presented research on "Feelings and friendships: A study of autism, empathy and relationships" in the Graduate Exhibition celebrating Wayne State's graduate student research, scholarship and creative work on March 19th in the McGregor Conference Center... Alumna **Cheryl Coleman** (M.S.W., '80), president & CEO of Northeast Guidance Center, was named by the *Michigan Chronicle* as one of the 2013 Women of Excellence Honorees at a ceremony on March 22...

Ph.D. student **Sarah Mountain** won second prize for her poster presentation at the Wayne County Community Mental Health Research Day on Jan. 1. The poster presented some of the work she has done together over this past year with Assistant Professor Stella Resko. The poster was titled, "Solitary alcohol and drug use among adolescents involved in the child welfare system." The two also presented this work at the Graduate Exhibition celebrating Wayne State's graduate student research, scholarship and creative work on March 19... **Tiffany Nelson-McKay** was named Southeast Michigan National Association of Social Workers WSU B.S.W. Student of the Year and honored on April 1... **Julia Tune** was named Southeast Michigan National Association of Social Workers WSU M.S.W. Student of the Year and honored on April 1... Ph.D. student **Shantel West** and M.S.W. student **Julia Valeriani** presented a paper, "Preparing practitioners: Relocation in older adulthood," with Assistant Professor Tam Perry at the Bridging the Research and Practice Gap: A Symposium on Critical Considerations, Successes and Emerging Ideas Conference, held in Houston on April 5-6.



Ph.D. student Sarah Mountain, right, with Assistant Professor Stella Resko



School of Social Work SCHOLARSHIPS

The work we have described in the pages of this issue of *Visions* is made possible by contributions to our general development and scholarship funds as well as to specific scholarships. Our students benefit immeasurably from this support. Please consider making an investment in their future and in the lives of the individuals they will help as social workers.

Yes, I would like to make a contribution to the School of Social Work!

Make check payable to **Wayne State University** and select a fund number from the chart below.

Mail to: WSU Fund Office, 5475 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202

For more information, contact Marguerite Carlton, major gift officer, at 313-577-8807



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**building toward endowment*

"We need more David Winemans to serve as advocates for justice. What we say are his words. Our message is his message to a future generation." — Ivan Louis Cotman (see story, page 10)



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