

A special section of
FOCUS EMU

Students prepare for future through BSW program



SOCIAL WORK TECHNOLOGY: Undergraduate students majoring in social work learn the latest technology to address the needs of clients.

If you have a passion for helping people and are concerned about issues of social justice, social work is the profession for you!

Social workers help people to resolve personal dilemmas and address the inequities in communities. Eastern Michigan University's baccalaureate program in social work prepares students for professional practice with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Our program is committed to the empowerment of poor, vulnerable and underserved populations.

When you complete the social work program, you will be prepared for beginning social work practice with populations that include individuals and families who are homeless; children who have been abused and neglected; troubled youth; persons with chronic mental illness, persons who are addicted; aging people who are in need of services; and families struggling with poverty.

You will develop skills in:

- Assessing the needs and strengths of individuals, fami-

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MSW program provides opportunities for students to specialize, become leaders

In this day and age, responding to the complex needs of our most vulnerable individuals, families and communities requires an ever increasing level of specialized knowledge and practice skills.

This task is made all the more difficult when social workers have to advocate for limited resources and manage multi-layered human service agencies and community resources.

As a result, a master's degree in social work is becoming increasingly important — and expected — for social work professionals seeking leadership and advanced practitioner roles with human services.

The MSW Program at EMU currently serves more than 200 students who are primarily experienced social workers, human service administrators, or persons embarking on a career change. To accommodate part-time, working students from the greater southeast Michigan region, northern Ohio, Ontario, and central Michigan, classes are offered evenings and Saturdays.

Students select a specialization in child and family services, mental illness and chemical dependency (MICD) rehabilitation, or aging.

The MSW Program's specialized classes, field placements, and capstone research project promote empowerment

A message from the director of Social Work

Welcome to the Department of Social Work at Eastern Michigan University. Social work at EMU has a strong tradition of providing quality education through its nationally accredited programs in baccalaureate and graduate social work at one of Michigan's premier institutions.

If you care about people and about addressing their problems, then social work at EMU is where you want to be. Our values are progressive and include service, social justice, dignity and the worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity and competence. We express these values by developing leaders for social and economic justice.

We tackle the problems that people experience in their everyday lives: violence, mental illness, drug abuse, racism, poverty, ageism and family problems by teaching our students the necessary skills and knowledge to address these issues. In short, we empower our students to be prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century.

Our weekend programming, evening and day programs are responsive to both

traditional and non-traditional students, and lead toward professionally rewarding jobs. Our faculty are experts in a wide range of professional activities, are well published and have achieved many recognitions and awards. Our graduates leave our programs with a solid understanding of the human



Gunther

condition and the necessary skills needed to bring about change.

If you want to make a difference, we hope that you make social work at EMU your educational destination.

We invite you to visit us at our Web site, www.emich.edu/public/swk/social/index.htm, or drop in and visit us to experience the power of social work at Eastern Michigan University.

John Gunther, Ph.D.
Department Head
Social Work



MASTERS OF THE ROUND TABLE: Master's of social work students work together to learn empowerment strategies.

and interventions at multiple levels – with individuals, families, agencies, communities and/or social policies.

Learning culturally competent approaches to working with people of color, those with disabilities, and violence against women encourages students to challenge social injustice, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and ageism.

Graduates of the MSW Program are typically promoted to higher levels of responsibilities at their current workplace, or readily obtain master's level positions in community agencies, state or county human services, and advocacy organizations.

Gerontology career offers diverse opportunities

If you enjoy interacting and being with elders, and you are interested in improving the lives of older people, then a career in aging is for you!

The good news is that because the number of older people is increasing and we are living longer, there is a growing need for people to work in the field of aging. In fact, *U.S. News and World Report* recently named gerontological social work and geriatric food designer as two of the "hot track careers" for the 21st century.

A career in gerontology offers many diverse job opportunities. For example, many elders are active and healthy. Persons working with these individuals might provide educational opportunities, recreation and leisure programs and volunteer activities.

Some older persons are frail and less active. Jobs that relate to these more vulnerable elders might be in agencies that deliver services to older persons, in long-term care or other health care

settings. And, if you are someone who would like to own your own business, gerontology is for you! The relative newness of the field of aging means that there are ample opportunities for innovative programs and products.

Many people have started their own businesses and corporations that provide services or design products that would attract older consumers. An added plus is the fact that gerontology is a multidisciplinary field of study, which means that you will be working side by side with professionals in other disciplines on a regular basis. As a service provider, you may be coordinating information from housing agencies, lawyers, transportation providers, nurses and family counselors. As a health care professional, you might serve on a health care team providing hospital care, day care or home care to an elder.

The following are some of the job activities you may be involved in when working in the aging field. If you work directly with older people,



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: Jill Ratajczak (right), a social worker and EMU alum in the master's of social work program, discusses the needs of her client, Frances White, a resident of Carpenter Place. Part of Ratajczak's job is to counsel and advise the elderly, make follow-up visits and determine whether there's a need for additional resources and support.

your activities might include:

- Developing programs such as health promotion or intergenerational activities for older persons in community agencies;

- Advocating with or on the behalf of elders;

- Providing direct care to frail, ill, or impaired elders in a variety of settings such as hospitals and continuum of

care centers;

- Counseling and advising older persons and their families about care giving, mental health, and many other issues.

If you are less directly involved with elders but work on their behalf or, if you investigate issues in the field of aging, your activities might include:

- Conducting research on the aging processes and diseases associated with aging;

- Analyzing issues related to older persons such as the health care system and housing alternatives;

- Planning, administering, and evaluating community-based services for older persons;

- Designing products to meet special needs and interests of elders;

- Advising business, industry and labor regarding older workers and consumers.

To take advantage of the many career opportunities in the field of aging, contact EMU Gerontology Program Director Elizabeth Schuster at 487-1361 or e-mail her at elizabeth.schuster@emich.edu. The EMU Gerontology Program Web site address is www.emich.edu/public/gerontology.

**The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education is a resource for information on careers in gerontology contained in this article.*

Students learn to help dementia patients through AEP

The EMU Alzheimer's Education Program (AEP) was formally established in 1989. Anne Robinson has been its director since its inception. During the past 14 years, the AEP has emerged as a leader in designing innovative education and training programs for professional and family caregivers.

What are we about?

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative disease that affects a person's memory, thinking and behavior. Our mission is to empower professionals and students by providing them with the knowledge and skills to develop interventions that recognize and support the human value, dignity and potential of persons with dementia and their families. We do this through education, training and research.

The AEP offers an array of education and training programs including: an **18-credit hour graduate certificate in gerontology specializing in Alzheimer's care**.

The AEP is the first certificate program in the U.S., which addresses the urgent need for specialized, multidisciplinary education programs for health care professionals who will encounter dementia. The



DEMENTIA DEMANDS: Lynn Chenoweth (standing), a lecturer in the Alzheimer's program, leads a workshop on how to use music and props to help persons with dementia cope.

program provides a theoretical framework and practical grounding in working with families and persons with dementia.

Special features of the certificate include:

- Person-centered philosophy
- Evidence-based practice
- Work-based learning
- Multidisciplinary program
- U.S. first certificate program
- Flexible admissions requirements
- Interdisciplinary teaching team
- Flexible class schedule
- Scholarships

There also are a number of Continuing Education opportunities for

social work professionals. These include:

The Edna Gates Conference on Dementia Care has enabled the AEP team to work the past seven years in partnership with health care organizations statewide to develop a conference that focuses on innovations in dementia care.

The Lillian and James Portman Conference has enabled the AEP to develop an education program and a means to recognize and celebrate the gifts of those who provide direct care for persons with dementia.

In addition to offering professional development opportunities, the AEP has been able to secure major grants

from the **The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)**. In June 2001, EMU received one of the prestigious "Innovations in Long Term Care" grants sponsored by MDCH's In-Home Respite project.

The purpose of this three-year demonstration project is to design, implement and evaluate a new model of in-home respite services for families caring for a relative diagnosed with dementia. Students, in pairs, make weekly home visits to an assigned family.

Since 1987, the AEP has received an annual **Alzheimer's Caregiver Education Grant** (from the MDCH) to develop and implement more than 40 customized workshops for health care professionals in the dementia network statewide.

For further information, contact: The Alzheimer's Education Program, Marshall Building, Room 206I, P.O. Box 981337, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-1337.

You also can call (734) 487-2335, fax your queries to (734) 487-0298, or go to the Web site: www.emich.edu/public/alzheimers. The AEP program is nationally recognized for its excellence and a proud member of the Department of Social Work.

Social work students gain experience in Mexico

For six weeks every spring, the Department of Social Work at Eastern Michigan University offers an annual international program entitled "Community Practice in Mexico." This program is designed for students interested in social work, health care, human services, and other disciplines.

The trip begins in Mexico City, where the students stay for 2 1/2 days. For a quick visit to the largest city in the world, the students visit sites such as the Zocalo, the Cathedral, the famous pyramids, archaeological and historical sites, museums, the National Palace, and other public buildings.

After a short stay in Mexico City, the students head for Morelia where they are hosted by Mexican families for their remaining six weeks of studies. Upon arrival in their home stays, the students meet their "home parents" who, by the way, hardly speak English. This is done by design so that American students are forced to practice their Spanish. These families take in one to three students at a time and provide three meals a day, a warm bed, and lots of laughs.

School begins for the EMU stu-



SOCIAL WORK SOUTH OF THE BORDER: EMU students Diana Krajewski (kneeling, back left), Emily Wright (sitting, middle) and Sara Lundquist (standing, back right) work with children patients in the oncology unit at Morelia, Mexico Children's Hospital. The three participated in the "Community Practice in Mexico" international program offered annually by EMU's Department of Social Work.

dents at Universidad Latina de America, where the students immerse themselves in the Spanish language for two weeks. Since the average Morelia citizen does not speak English, it is recommended that partici-

pating students have at least one year of college-level Spanish or two years of high school Spanish.

Once the students feel more comfortable with the language, they serve in community agencies such as hospi-

tals, nursing homes, a soup kitchen, and other health and human service agencies in Morelia.

At the end of the day, students attend classes in social policy analysis, community practice, and theories of intervention, conducted by social work professors from EMU. The main focus of these classes are to integrate theory with practice. Consistently, students process the events of their day. This is done by discussing experiences in the agency in which they serve, by writing a journal, engaging in conflict resolution and in dealing with their feelings. Evenings are left for homework, walks around town, or bonding with host families.

The "Community Practice in Mexico" program is certainly a life-changing experience. It also is a way for students to earn up to 12 credit hours while helping the Mexican indigenous vulnerable community and experiencing a different culture first hand.

For information, call Elvia Krajewski-Jaime at 487-0372, or go to elvia.krajewski@emich.edu.

Field internships provide thousands of hours of community service

The profession of social work has its roots in the inner-city communities of New York, Boston and Chicago, in the early days of the 20th century. The profession continues its devotion to the community in all schools of social work throughout the United States.

EMU's accredited graduate and undergraduate social work programs are no exception. Accreditation for professional social work programs requires that undergraduate students complete 400 clock hours of internship in two semesters in a social agency located in the community. The graduate program requires 900 internship hours over four semesters in community social agencies.

Field agencies are recruited and oriented by the staff of the EMU Field Placement Office. Currently, the Department of Social Work keeps — on record — pertinent details and affiliation agreements on 448 community-based social agencies and institutions available to serve as field internship sites. Students are providing social work services to people with

a variety of concerns, such as homelessness, domestic violence, mental illness and chemical dependency; child neglect and abuse; declining health and poverty.

Washtenaw County agencies receive the largest number of students (50 percent). Wayne County agencies host another 28 percent of the students. The remaining 22 percent are scattered throughout southeastern Michigan and northwest Ohio.

This year, these students, combined, will provide 80,500 hours of community service in these agencies and faculty will have made 372 visits to agencies located in the communities around the metro area.

These internships are arranged through the field placement program in the Department of Social Work. Students are matched with university-affiliated agencies near their homes, and in fields of practice that match with their career interests or their field of concentration (for advanced graduate students). Students attend a companion field experience seminar and are monitored in agency

placements by the seminar instructor. The instructor makes two visits a year to the placement site.

In addition, the agency selects qualified social workers in these agencies that train and supervise the students in placement. As is the tradition, these supervisors are unpaid volunteers who contribute time to this role without pay. In return, the students bring new ideas, fresh approaches, and helping hands to the agency.

Typically, undergraduate students are placed primarily in local agencies, such as Safehouse, SOS Community Service, and HelpSource.

Students interested in substance abuse services go to Dawn Farm and Home of New Vision. Students who want to work in school settings have, in years past, been placed in Detroit Public Schools through the Comer Project. These students begin their practice by shadowing social workers and attending orientations and training sessions. Eventually, they are able to carry a small caseload and engage in group and community work assignments.

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lies, groups, organizations, and communities;

- Intervening with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities;

- Effectively interviewing individuals, families, and groups;

- Planning services with colleagues and consumers;

- Evaluating the effectiveness of practice and programs;

- Reaching out to people and communities;

- Advocating for consumer rights and addressing consumer needs;

- Networking with other professionals;

- Helping communities to address member needs; and

- Development of cultural competence.

Our diverse faculty focuses on student learning and teaching excellence in all areas of professional concentration. Our baccalaureate social work program provides services that students need. Most classes are offered both day and evening,

Graduate students are more often commuter students who live longer distances from campus. Placements are

tuition is affordable, and commuter access is convenient.

The baccalaureate social work degree is very marketable, and also provides the potential for advanced standing into a master's of social work program. The U.S. Labor Department has identified social work as one of the fastest growing professions.

Our program is housed in a new technologically advanced building, and offers multiple hands-on learning experiences, including three different field experiences. We also offer opportunities for study abroad.

To learn more about the social work program, go to <http://www.emich.edu/public/swk/social/index.htm>.

You also can contact Marjorie Ziefert, director of the baccalaureate social work program, at (734) 487-5823 or e-mail her at Marjorie.Ziefert@emich.edu; or contact Eva Taylor, (734) 487-6807, or e-mail her at Eva.Taylor@emich.edu.

found that are convenient to their home communities, which could be as far away as Tawas City, Michigan.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Fryzel inspired by MLK

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was acutely aware of the direct and indirect impact violence and hate has on our communities. He was also very aware of the social force that love and nonviolent action could have.

This is why he worked tirelessly for social change wherever he saw injustice. He knew that if he loved everyone, and lived within his own integrity, then peace and love in the world would grow exponentially. With these ingredients, social transformation and his vision of the "Beloved Community" would become a reality.

The very soil that my activism has sprung from was nourished by the teachings and principles of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bishop Desmond Tutu, Bell Hooks and Cornel West.



CONTEMPLATING KING: Lori Fryzel, a bachelor's of social work student, said her activism is inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Before I even entered college, I knew I wanted to be an activist and work for civil rights. And that is why I chose to major in social work here at Eastern Michigan University.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, in a 1959 speech to students, "Become a dedicated fighter for civil rights. Make it a central part of your life... Make a career out of humanity... You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

I think that my career (thus far) and education in social work displays my deep commitment and passion for progressive social change, justice, and the empowerment of people in their communities. These values are all at the core of social work. I agree with Dr. King in that we must be involved in the struggle for freedom and justice because it is our civic responsibility.

Over the past six years, I have participated in a wide array of social justice work on many differ-

ent levels. This summer I became aware of a group of people who were concerned about a faction of persons who wanted to repeal Ypsilanti's City Charter so that gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals would have no protections against discrimination.

When I heard that there would be a campaign in opposition to this, I attended a campaign leadership training seminar conducted by Michigan Equality and joined in the community's fight to keep the City Charter. The Ypsilanti City Charter has a law that makes it illegal to discriminate against anyone. The anti-gay group wanted to delete the words "gay," "lesbian" and "bisexual" from the charter, which would have nullified the entire charter.

Working against such vicious hate campaigns is hard and emotionally draining. I often feel angry

and hopeless about the state of the world, but I continue to practice compassion with faith that Dr. King's message will be carried on, and that real change will continue to occur if we all practice it on some level of our lives.

Dr. King said that if we work to remedy one evil, we can affect all. I truly believe in this because I recognize the interdependence of poverty, sexism, racism, homophobia, imperialism, etc. When I think about the state of the world, it helps to tell myself that we are all taught some kind of "truth," and some are filled with hate for humanity. But if it is something that is taught, we can re-teach. Dr. King reminds us that "if we stand in life at midnight, we are always on the threshold of a new dawn." — *An essay by Lori Fryzel, BSW Student*

Cantu rises from humble beginnings

Saludos a todos!

The path that led me to the social work profession began in rural Texas. I was born in a humble, but resilient and proud family of third generation migrant farm workers.

From the time we could walk, my siblings and I were shuttled to migrant camps and worked alongside my parents. Although there was little money and we lived simply, we learned to be grateful for what we had. We learned to be frugal, to recycle everything, and to share what we had with those in need. Yet, there were times that we had practically nothing.

My community work and advocacy grew from being stigmatized and marginalized as a single parent on welfare. Volunteer work at my children's school led to my involvement with other parents on welfare and ultimately my community work and activism with Welfare Rights of Washtenaw County and EMU.

After a close friend and single parent enrolled in college, I realized I could do it too. I found my niche when I enrolled at Eastern Michigan University, and going into social work was a natural progression.

I never lost sight of my humble beginnings and, through my efforts and hard work, I attained a bachelor's degree in social work. Now, I am close to finishing my master's in social work. As a student, I became involved in social activism that catapulted into leadership roles, including as president of the Welfare Rights Organization at EMU and Vice President of the MSW Student Organization at EMU. Also, I was elected as national MSW student representative for the National Associa-



CANTU CAN DO: Norma Cantu, a master's of social work student, plans to work with migrant farm workers when she graduates.

tion of Social Workers (NASW) and am currently doing my field placement at the NASW-Michigan Chapter in Lansing, where I am learning more about social policy, lobbying, and legislative action.

Following my graduation, my plans are to work with migrant farm workers and eventually pursue a doctoral degree.

Norma Viola Cantú
MSW Student

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Brown-Chappell's professional activities mirror teaching philosophy

For the last six years, I have had the privilege of teaching social welfare policy and gerontology courses to student in the Department of Social Work.

Because the Department has a social justice mission to advocate for the most vulnerable populations in society, I believe that it is essential that I demonstrate this principle through my own professional activities and commitments.

One of those commitments is to

the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). This is an organization that not only seeks to assure quality service provision by our members, but also advocates with and, in behalf, of client populations on issues such as mental health parity, racial justice, women's rights and poverty.

My involvement in the NASW Michigan Chapter has been a rich source of teaching and research material. Social Work honors student have assisted me in researching member-

ship issues, presenting professional papers and developing multi-media presentations derived from my commitment to NASW.

Additionally, most students in my policy classes have participated in local, state and national policy advocacy in conjunction with the Chapter's initia-



Chappell

tives.

Finally, my colleagues in the Social Work Department also have played key roles in the Michigan Chapter. This inspired me as I sought regional, state and national levels of responsibility. — *contributed by Betty Brown-Chappell, Ph.D., MSW.*

Brown-Chappell is an associate professor in the Department of Social Work and president of the Michigan Chapter, National Association of Social Workers (NASW).