Almost fifty years ago a new unit opened on the campus of the University of Michigan—the Center for Continuing Education of Women. Despite evolution and changes over the past fifty years, today’s CEW remains committed to the original goals. “We continue to support women at the University of Michigan and in the community as they pursue education, employment, leadership and advancement, and a voice in society,” notes CEW Director Gloria Thomas.

Our anniversary year, 2014, offers a wonderful opportunity for celebrating CEW’s work, impact, and spirit. Please celebrate with us, joining us for one, or all, of our anniversary events in the coming year, each with a unique focus.

CEW extends special thanks to TIAA-CREF, our Premier Anniversary Sponsor, for their generous support of all our Anniversary events.

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CEW Celebrates: Women and Film
The Annual CEW Mullin Welch Program
January 14, 2014, Michigan Theatre
7:00 -8:30 p.m.
Special Guest: Cynthia Wade
CEW’s anniversary will kick off at the Michigan Theater with a gift to the community. The evening will include a free program of specially selected short films by and about women, along with birthday festivities. Oscar winning film director Cynthia Wade will discuss her documentary, “Mondays at Racine.” Community partners committed to women’s causes will celebrate their work alongside CEW. This event is free and open to the public. Please register on our website at www.cew.umich.edu

We thank our Event Contributing Sponsors: Ford Motor Company Fund; Barbara Eichmuller, Reinhart Realtors; Retirement Income Solutions, and, in-kind sponsor, Biggby Coffee. We also thank the Jackson family for their continuing support of the Mullin Welch programs. Join us!

Theory-to-Practice Conference: Women’s Economic Security and Mobility
May 14-16, 2014, Rackham Building
Keynote speaker: Sheryl WuDunn
This 2 ½ day interdisciplinary, multi-sector conference will focus on identifying and combating barriers that women living in poverty face as they seek economic security and mobility. National researchers and practitioners will join U-M faculty, bringing multiple perspectives to this complex concern with policy recommendations as the expected outcome.

The Wednesday night keynote lecture by Sheryl WuDunn will be open to the public. WuDunn is a Pulitzer Prize winning co-author (with husband Nicholas Kristof) of Half the Winter 2013-2014

CEW to Celebrate 50th Anniversary in 2014
From the Director

This issue of the CEW newsletter highlights the Center’s priorities for the upcoming year—with a particular focus on our 50th anniversary and the U-M Campaign, for which CEW has set an ambitious goal of $5.6 million to support ongoing and new initiatives. The new Community of Scholars Network and the advocacy project on Economic Security and Mobility for Women Living in Poverty receive special attention. Further, we highlight some of the people we have been engaging recently to help us accomplish the important work we do—namely, Kelsey Mozola, D-SIP intern; Dr. Don Vereen, new CEW Leadership Council member; Dr. Penny Pasque, CEW Visiting Scholar; and Diana Copeland, CEW Twink Frey Visiting Social Activist.

With CEW reaching this milestone, we turn the page, with thoughtful reflection on where we have been, the difference we have made, and what the continuing needs are, particularly for adult women in the U-M and Ann Arbor communities, and throughout Southeastern Michigan. From this reflection, we know that the Center continues to make an impact on the lives of many women—and increasingly men. They seek our guidance, financial resources and referrals for navigating the intricate maze toward obtaining essential skills and education to succeed in higher education and the workforce.

Building on our strengths, CEW has decided to expand one of our signature initiatives—the CEW Scholarship Program. Now in addition to awarding more than 1,500 scholarships, averaging $6,000 per scholarship, to adults returning to one of the U-M campuses to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees, CEW will extend the shelf life of the scholarship experience beyond the year that the award is received. Our goal is to establish a network where CEW scholars can continue to find and provide professional support for each other—in launching one’s career, in advancing up the ladder, through the various transitions, up to and including retirement.

We have also enlarged our focus on women living in poverty throughout the state of Michigan. We have reported in past newsletters the establishment of the Michigan Partners Project to develop policies to help women exit the cycle of poverty. You will continue to see updates on this initiative, especially as we lead up to the theory-meets-practice conference on Women’s Economic Security and Mobility in May 2014. Updates on this and other CEW priorities are highlighted in this special pre-Anniversary issue.

Fifty years for a campus-based women’s center is a monumental achievement! Not only was CEW among the first to be established, but we remain a model for other college and university women’s centers across the U.S. It is our goal to keep this coveted position by staying relevant, moving more toward financial sustainability, and engaging our partners and collaborators who are also committed to this work of advancing women in higher education and the workforce. With these priorities, we hope to continue to encourage and enhance education and career success for adults, especially women, from a “one person at a time” approach to larger scale efforts. As always, we invite you to join us.

Gloria D. Thomas, Ph.D., Director, CEW

On Our Cover

Our cover photo is 2012 CEW Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar Parrish Berquist. Parrish graduated last year with dual Master’s degrees from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and the School of Natural Resources and the Environment. She is currently working on her Ph.D. at MIT.

CEW’s New Look

We hope you enjoy the new look of the CEW newsletter. CEW is participating in the University-wide brand update that includes a new logo, and increased use of photography and color to tell our stories and highlight our impact.
CEW 50th Anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sheryl WuDunn, author, delivers the conference keynote on May 14, 2014

CEW Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Deborah Willis, Women of Color in the Academy Project Coordinator

CEW welcomes Deborah Willis who will coordinate our Women of Color in the Academy Project (WOCAP). Deborah comes to CEW from Rackham Graduate School’s Graduate Student Success Office (GSS) where she was Program Coordinator for the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP). She is a University of Michigan alumna, receiving her M.A. and Ph.D. from the department of Sociology. Throughout her career, Deborah has maintained a commitment to support initiatives and programs that encourage recruitment, retention and successful transitions of people of color in the academy—at all levels. In addition to her work at the University of Michigan, Deborah is actively involved in numerous community organizations. She looks forward to developing collaborations and partnerships across the University and beyond that will lead to transformative experiences for the women she serves.

Carrie Ross, Senior Counselor and Program Specialist

Carrie Ross joined the CEW staff in March, 2013, in the role of Senior Counselor and Program Specialist. She comes to CEW from the U-M Health System where she spent 10 years as a clinical social worker. Carrie received her MSW from Columbia University and her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary. She also has a BA from Drake University where she studied English, sociology, and women’s studies. Her professional background includes extensive counseling, education, and advocacy work with homeless youth, LGBTQ communities, and surrounding issues of reproductive health access. Carrie’s current clinical interests include MSW student teaching, sexual orientation and gender identity concerns, multicultural/feminist practice, and the needs of first generation college students. In addition to counseling at CEW, Carrie also teaches in the Michigan Sexual Health Certificate Program through the U-M School of Social Work.

Bentley Library to Publish History of CEW

This lecture is made possible, in part, by the CEW Frances and Sydney Lewis Visiting Leaders Fund. This event is free and open to the public.

In January 2014, look for “A Matter of Fairness:” A History of the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan.

Based on research conducted at U-M’s archival collections at the Bentley Library, and interviews with former directors Jean Campbell and Carol Hollenshead, along with others connected to the Center, this 50-year history of CEW’s work with individuals and impact on campus will be published as part of the Bentley Library’s BULLETIN series.

We celebrate the past fifty years with anticipation of what achievements are yet to come. We look forward to having you join the celebration.

Friends and Scholars Weekend

October 17-18, 2014, Michigan League

This weekend will recognize the 2014 CEW scholars while providing opportunities for former scholars and fellows to reconnect. CEW has been awarding scholarships to nontraditional students at the University since 1970. We’ll end the weekend with a party for friends of CEW. We thank our Event Contributing Sponsors, the U-M Credit Union and Retirement Income Solutions.

Zora Neale Hurston Lecture

November 5, 2014, Rackham Auditorium

Keynote Speaker: Alice Walker

Along with the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, the Center for the Education of Women will bring Alice Walker to the Michigan campus to deliver the 16th Zora Neale Hurston lecture. As the Zora Neale Hurston lecturer, Walker will explore social justice issues from her unique womanist and black feminist perspective. Bringing thought and activism together, Walker reflects the complementary missions of DAAS and CEW.

CEW celebrates Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide. This conference is made possible by Rackham Graduate School and the Michigan Meetings conferences. We also thank our Event Contributing Sponsor, Ford Motor Company Fund.

CEW celebrates 50

1964-2014

50

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We celebrate the past fifty years with anticipation of what achievements are yet to come. We look forward to having you join the celebration.
I began working at CEW through the Development Summer Internship Program (D-SIP), a twelve-week program that places twenty-seven interns in development offices at the University and local nonprofits. As a Women’s Studies major, CEW was a perfect fit for me in terms of my passion for issues around women’s rights.

My project focused on engaging former CEW scholarship recipients in two aspects of CEW’s 50th Anniversary in 2014: seeking scholars’ advice in planning the Anniversary activities, and recruiting scholar-volunteers to raise funds for the Scholarship Program. I organized two groups of scholars to serve as advisers for the planning process and the fundraising effort. Through small discussion sessions with both groups, followed by an email survey, CEW gathered scholars’ insights to inform the programs and activities to come.

A unifying theme that emerged from each group was that scholars feel they share something important in common and see real value in staying connected with one another. Largely in response to these conversations, CEW has decided to accelerate its plans to create a more formalized Scholars’ network, and link it to the Anniversary celebrations. The scholars interested in fundraising also see their work as helping create and sustain meaningful scholar-to-scholar connections.

We received valuable feedback regarding programming aspects of the Anniversary. In the survey, we focused mostly on the Friends and Scholars Weekend (October 17-18, 2014), which will highlight the Scholarship Program and its impact. Here are some of the findings:

- 50% of respondents indicated that they were likely or somewhat likely to attend one or more events, even with the events just beginning to take form and more than a year away; 21% were undecided, and 28% somewhat unlikely or unlikely.
- 85% of scholars would like to gather in small groups, either to discuss a particular topic over dinner or through a workshop.
- It is important to 69% of respondents to provide an opportunity for all scholars attending the Friends and Scholars Weekend to gather together in one place sometime during the weekend.

The discussion topics preferred by survey respondents are: achieving work/life balance, identifying & taking the next step in your career, working for social justice, needs & opportunities for success in the academy, and finding success in fields traditionally associated with men.

When scholars were asked about possible programs, they indicated a high degree of interest in the following topics: promoting yourself effectively, negotiating successfully, seeking and finding new job opportunities, and understanding and managing conflict.

The survey responses conveyed excitement from the scholars regarding participating in the Anniversary, and provided CEW with valuable suggestions to improve the proposed activities.

Finally, I would like to thank the scholars and CEW supporters who are serving as advisers and have been instrumental to my project:

CEW Friend and Volunteer, Jill McDonough
1981 CEW Scholar, Peggy Fisher
1981 CEW Scholar, Julie Nagel
1982 CEW Scholar, Cleo Caldwell
1987 Best Products Scholar, Maureen Martin
1995 Lucile Conger Scholar, Liz Wilson
2001 Molly Dobson Scholar, Sanja Savic-Berhamovic
2005 Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar, Line van Nieuwstadt
2006 Molly Dobson Scholar, Farideh Almani
2008 Cecilia Dreyfuss Scholar, Dawn Dodge
2008 Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar, Shelley Strickland
2010 Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar, Lynn McCain
2010 Robert Bruce Dunlap Scholar, Beth Jakubowski
2011 Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar, Katrina Ellis

Above: Kelsey Mozola, CEW D-SIP Intern, 2013. Kelsey continues to work at CEW 10 hours a week through her senior year.
Along with the rest of the University, CEW is gearing up this fall for a significant new “Victors for Michigan” fundraising campaign. It is an exciting moment of “disciplined dreaming.” Building on our strengths, where and how can CEW continue to make a difference in women’s lives?—How do we do it, what will it cost, and who will join us?

After consulting CEW’s many constituencies to assess women’s ongoing needs, we have decided on three campaign priorities. Our goals total an ambitious $5.6 million to raise between 2013 and 2018. As the University launches this campaign, here is a brief snapshot of CEW’s goals:

1. **Scholarship Program: Growth, Impact, Sustainability—$3.1 Million**

   U-M’s overall top priority for the campaign is increasing student support. CEW’s top goal reflects this emphasis in 2 ways:
   - At least $1.6 million in scholarship funds to meet the demand for more and increased scholarships for nontraditional students. Most of these will be endowed funds.
   - $1.5 million in an endowed Scholarship Program Sustaining Fund that will generate about $70,000 per year and build over time. With that income we will ensure the quality and stability of the Scholarship Program as it grows, and, in response to Scholar demand, launch and operate a lifelong Community of Scholars Network for CEW Scholars post-graduation.

2. **Community Counseling Endowment Fund—$1.6 Million**

   Endowment funds of $1.6 million, added to CEW’s Community Counseling Endowment established 2011, will generate funds to support in perpetuity one full-time, professional counselor devoted to community participants—area residents who are not currently students, staff, or faculty.

   Because the U-M must increasingly concentrate its General Fund resources on research and teaching, CEW is building this endowment to sustain our capacity to serve non-University community members—a critical part of our mission for 50 years. Just over half of our counseling participants fall in this category. In addition to being a powerful community asset, community counseling grounds CEW advocacy and program development in the changing lives of community women, keeping our offerings current and relevant.

3. **Women’s Economic Security and Mobility Initiative —$900,000**

   CEW launched Michigan Partners for Women’s Economic Security and Mobility in February, 2013, and will operate its first three years with Ford Foundation support. Under CEW’s leadership, the Partners will research, pilot, and assess ways to address economic security and mobility challenges of women living in poverty in Michigan. We will then bring results and best practices to policymakers, legislators, and opinion leaders.

   - Expendable funds of $500,000—$100,000 per year 2016-2020—will establish the “roots” of this initiative as we incorporate it into CEW’s long-term work. ($900,000 goal includes $382,000 already raised from the Ford Foundation; see cover story, Spring 2013 CEW Newsletter.)

   **Watch this space in upcoming newsletters for continuing news of progress, gifts, and their impact. If you’d like more information on the campaign, please contact Mary Lynn Stevens, CEW Development Director, at malyhe@umich.edu or 734-764-7291.**
The annual CEW scholarship celebration is a highlight for CEW scholars, staff, and friends. This year’s award ceremony was the 43rd time we have gathered to honor our scholars and fellows and their families. On Sunday afternoon, September 29, we welcomed 54 women and men to our list of CEW scholars and fellows. And, as always, the 2013-2014 recipients inspire us with their intelligence, persistence, and dedication to serving their fellow human beings.

The CEW Scholars

The scholarships and fellowships honor the performance and potential of students who have interruptions in their education, strong academic records, and impressive past accomplishments and future goals. CEW has awarded over $5.25 million in scholarships and fellowships since the program began. The scholarships go to women, and men, in any undergraduate or graduate program on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, or Flint campuses.

Before returning to their studies, scholars over the years have held nearly every high-paying or minimum-wage job, from politicians and government officials to Peace Corps volunteers; from auto assembly workers to medical professionals; and from stay-at-home moms to professional musicians, to name only a few.

CEW scholars today are contributing their knowledge and talents across the world. They are doctors and nurses caring for the elderly and the disenfranchised; musicians and artists; teachers, scholars, social workers, lawyers, engineers, and public policy experts working across the spectrum of disadvantaged populations; environmentalists and urban planners addressing issues of sustainability; and scientific researchers working to cure all kinds of diseases.

The 2013-2014 CEW Scholars represent all three University of Michigan campuses, a wide variety of disciplines, both graduate and undergraduate degrees, and an age range from 26 to 57.

NASA Astronaut, Mae Jemison, to speak at WCTF conference

Dr. Mae Jemison will speak at the 32nd Annual Women of Color Task Force (WCTF) conference on March 7, 2014. The first African American woman to go into space, Dr. Jemison has long been a proponent of advancing women in engineering and the sciences. Dr. Jemison served six years as a NASA astronaut and currently leads 100 Year Starship, an initiative to assure human travel to another star within the next century.

In addition to her work with NASA, she has been a Peace Corps Medical Officer; the founder of The Jemison Group, Inc., a technology firm that considers social and cultural aspects of technology design and implementation, and the founder of an international science camp for young teenagers.

Dr. Jemison earned joint degrees in Chemical Engineering and in African and Afro-American Studies at Stanford University and her M.D. from Cornell University.

Dr. Jemison’s comments on transforming the face of leadership will set the stage for an engaging and meaningful conference. Registration will begin in January, 2014, on the CEW website, www.cew.umich.edu.
The Michigan Partners Project (MPP) has hosted two planning meetings to move forward its agenda of addressing Michigan women’s economic security. The MPP hosted its kickoff event on June 13 at the U-M Detroit Center. Over 30 MPP members attended, representing more than 20 academic institutions, community organizations, advocacy organizations, and activist groups. The energy was high in the room as members gathered to mobilize and strategize around the issue of economic security in the state of Michigan for women living in poverty.

MPP members engaged in a facilitated discussion aimed at developing a policy agenda to address barriers women face when exiting out of poverty. Some of the priority areas participants identified as critical included a need for more access to higher education, greater security with basic needs, and an amenable culture in the business sector to the needs of women and families who currently live in poverty.

On October 17, the MPP hosted a follow up meeting at the Riverfront Banquet Center in Flint, MI. The purpose of this meeting was to expand on the priority areas discussed at the first meeting by identifying issues and recommendations for action. Attendees identified issues that negatively impact women’s potential for economic stability, as well as preliminary recommendations. Issues attendees endorsed for further action included quality childcare and early childhood education for all, greater educational access for women receiving DHS assistance, and inclusion and best practices in supporting women from diverse backgrounds in the workplace.

The MPP continues to move forward in developing specific policy initiatives addressing Michigan women’s economic security. With start-up funding from the Ford Foundation, the MPP continues to hold meetings that provide specific information for investigating policy initiatives that can support the efforts of women seeking economic mobility. Additional meetings to define implementation steps will be held in the coming year. Membership is open to any organization or individual addressing women’s economic security in their work. For more information, please contact Ebony Reddock at esandusk@umich.edu.
CEW Welcomes Dr. Penny Pasque as its 2013-14 Visiting Scholar

Associate Professor Penny Pasque teaches educational leadership and policy studies in the College of Education at the University of Oklahoma. She is actively involved in the Women’s & Gender Studies program and the Center for Social Justice.

During her year-long stay as CEW’s Visiting Scholar, Dr. Pasque will analyze data from the National Study on Women in Higher Education and Student Affairs. These data—which include diary, interview, focus group and archival materials—provide a rich context for examining the lives of women faculty and determining what gender equity efforts still need to be advanced within higher education.

Dr. Pasque will also work with U-M faculty in the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education (CSHPE), the National Center on Institutional Diversity, and the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good. Proximity to these faculty will allow her continued collaboration on the Faculty Diversity Research Project. Pasque is a graduate of the U-M’s CSHPE program and received a Gail Allen Scholarship from CEW in 2005-06.

Scholar and Activist Bring New Perspectives

Twink Frey Visiting Social Activist is Local Environmental Justice Leader

Each year, CEW supports the work of a Visiting Social Activist by providing one month in Ann Arbor, a $10,000 stipend, and U-M resources to work on a project that would not be possible under the activist’s usual working circumstances. The program is funded by U-M alumna Twink Frey and her husband James McKay.

Starting in September, Diana Copeland is creating an eco-feminist curriculum for youth that addresses urban environmental issues. As Co-Director of East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC), Copeland is familiar with providing environmental justice leadership and civic engagement training to residents of Southeast Michigan. Since 2007, EMEAC has worked with U-M and the Detroit Public Schools to run the Greener Schools program. This interdisciplinary arts and environmental education program engages high school students in redesigning their schoolyards and elements inside the buildings. By improving the school environment, students gain a sense of ownership and worth. Copeland’s new curriculum will build on this model to include videos of Detroit women and teens, reflecting on how place has shaped their view of self.

More information about Ms. Copeland’s visit, including a public presentation about the new curriculum, can be found at www.cew.umich.edu/action/tfvsa.