

Thank you

CEW would like to thank Deborah and Michael Tirico, for generously underwriting the cost of this booklet.

About the Award Booklet Cover...

On March 19, 2016, CEW Scholars met for the Scholar Community's 2nd Annual Gathering. In the spirit of the event's theme, *Mavens and Guides: Bridging Ideas and Expertise*, CEW recruited help from the dynamic mother-daughter duo of Elena Townsend-Efimova and Elizaveta McFall, local artists who specialize in glass and tile mosaic. Through their vision, guidance, and generosity, CEW Scholars, family members, and staff were able to create mosaic panels representing the four seasons, as pictured on the cover of this booklet. Just as the CEW Scholar Community is made of unique individuals from all seasons of life, these beautiful mosaic panels were each created one little piece at a time. The mosaics live on as a physical representation of the CEW Scholar Community and of the power of working together as a community. The panels are now on permanent display at CEW.

Thank you, Elena and Elizaveta—and to all Scholars and staff who participated in this project!

Welcome

Welcome

Tiffany Marra, PhD, Director

Center for the Education of Women, University of Michigan

Presentation of CEW Scholarship and Fellowship Awards

Helen Maynard, BA

*2015-16 CEW AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholar
Knight-Wallace Fellow 2014-15, Freelance Television Producer
CEW Scholar Community Advisory Committee Member*

Quyen Epstein-Ngo, PhD

*2008-09 CEW Gail Allen Scholar
Research Assistant Professor,
Department of Emergency Medicine, Injury Center, IRWG
CEW Scholar Community Advisory Committee Member*

Janet Kinney, RDH, MS

*2006-07 CEW Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar
Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Division of Dental Hygiene,
Periodontics, and Oral Medicine, School of Dentistry*

Karen Isble, MM

Assistant Vice President for Development, University of Michigan

Closing Remarks

Tiffany Marra, PhD

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Stephanie Buttrey
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Susan McCannel
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Lolita Nunn
Dahlia Petrus
Benita Robinson
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Robert Schwyn
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Brittini Ward

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Kirsten Ellin

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Gloria Thomas

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BAILEY GRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP
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Gloria Thomas

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RAPHAEL FELLOWSHIP
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CEW Scholarship Program

COMMEMORATING 46 YEARS OF SUPPORTING WOMEN'S AND NONTRADITIONAL
STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DREAMS

CEW advances diversity and inclusion at the University of Michigan by serving as a resource, voice, and advocate to empower women and nontraditional students. CEW provides immediate and ongoing services and financial support needed to ensure educational success and degree completion.

Women and nontraditional students are CEW's primary constituency, but all students are welcome. CEW also serves those who encounter education and career obstacles based on their non-linear paths to, and experiences within, the University community.

THE HISTORY

The Center for the Education of Women was founded in 1964 to address barriers that kept women from successfully pursuing degrees and careers. CEW quickly discovered that traditional financial aid was dependent on full-time enrollment—an impossibility for many women at that time regardless of their ambition, intelligence, and ability to succeed.

CEW founder, Jean Campbell, and her staff responded to the financial need many women faced by designing an innovative scholarship program focused on women and raised an initial \$7,500 in private donations. The first scholarships were awarded in the fall of 1970 to mark the 100th anniversary of women being admitted to the University of Michigan.

In 1990 the Margaret D. and Harry A. Towsley Foundation's \$1 million endowment to the program greatly expanded the number of scholars CEW can support each year. CEW's scholarship program continues to grow as many other generous individuals and organizations provide funds for dozens of scholarships and fellowships.

Continued on the next page

CEW joins with all of our generous donors in celebrating nearly 1,700 scholars and fellows who have received support since the program began. By connecting private resources with scholars' intelligence, motivation, and effort, CEW helps to transform individual lives which in turn helps families, workplaces, and communities.

THE SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

CEW Scholars and Fellows come from all graduate and undergraduate programs on Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses. They are students who have had an interruption in their education or who are providing significant care for a minor, older adult, or disabled adult—they show remarkable resilience as they navigate the demands of being a student at an elite institution while also juggling significant family and work responsibilities. Some are returning to college after time away to raise a child or care for a family member, many have worked multiple jobs to save up funds for college, and others have left their countries to seek refuge and education in the U.S.

These scholars and fellows have strong academic records, impressive accomplishments, and defined goals. Many also experience significant financial need as a barrier to achieving their goals. Much like the original scholarship recipients of the 1970s, these bright, persevering students have overcome daunting obstacles to achieve their educational dreams. CEW Scholarships and Fellowships provide a way for them to successfully complete their degrees and make an impact in their field of study.

Today, we celebrate a rich partnership among the University community, our generous supporters, volunteers, and CEW's staff. We join the scholars, their families and friends, and their academic advisors in expressing our deepest admiration and best wishes for their success here at the University of Michigan.

Thank you

The CEW Scholar Success Fund

CEW Scholars often tell us, “it’s more than just the scholarship” that makes the difference in their academic careers. The customized support CEW provides to scholarship applicants and awardees is just as important as the funding. With this wisdom in mind, we created the Scholar Success Fund so CEW Scholars can engage in a variety of programs and services, both in-person and online, that will help them expand their network, access resources, and be successful at the University of Michigan and beyond.

The Scholar Success Fund supports...

- Assistance with scholarship applications and financial aid
- Programming and events tailored for nontraditional students
- An online Scholar Community that connects nearly 1,700 CEW Scholarship recipients for mutual support, mentoring, and advancement
- Dedicated staff members who create programs and outreach to meet the emerging needs of the CEW Scholar Community

Since creating this fund, CEW supporters have recognized its importance and generously answered the call. Their foresight continues to ensure that all CEW Scholars can thrive—both during and beyond their scholarship year. On behalf of all our scholarship recipients, we want to thank every donor who has prioritized the academic careers of CEW’s impressive scholars. Your support helps validate scholars’ goals and abilities, and enhances a sense of belonging at the University of Michigan.

Through the Scholar Success Fund, we ensure that every scholar—each a piece of the rich mosaic of our community—is able to reach their full potential and embrace a sense of purpose and belonging as a student and beyond. Together, we can create a vibrant community more powerful than any individual.

If you have questions about funding a scholarship or supporting the Scholar Success Fund, please contact Charlotte Myers at charlomy@umich.edu or 734.764.7258.

*The Scholarships and
Fellowships*

GAIL ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: MERIDETH GARCIA*

In memory of their daughter Gail, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen established the Gail Allen Scholarship in 1997 with support from their family and friends. Gail Allen was the 1995 CEW Dorothy Gies McGuigan Scholar whose goal was to become a teacher who would “engage high school students to think critically about our society and help young women find their voice.” Gail Allen’s excitement for studying history and women’s studies at the University of Michigan was interrupted by illness, but she persisted and earned her master’s degree and teaching certification. She was pursuing further studies in history at the time of her death. The Gail Allen Scholarship is awarded annually to recognize women who are returning to complete an undergraduate or graduate degree at the University of Michigan. To honor Gail’s interests, women enrolled in history, women’s studies, or related fields are given preference for this scholarship.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: DENISE MILLER

Created in 1990 by the Ann Arbor Branch of the American Association of University Women, the AAUW Scholarship supports women returning to school to complete their degrees at the undergraduate or graduate level. AAUW is a membership organization that promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive social change. The AAUW Scholarship is dedicated to creating better access to education for women.

AAUW: MARY ELIZABETH BITTMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: CHELSEA HOLLADAY

In 2006, the American Association of University Women joined with the Bittman family to establish the Mary Elizabeth Bittman Scholarship. A member of AAUW for over 50 years, Elizabeth was an Honorary Life Member–Ann Arbor Branch. She was also a 70-year resident of Ann Arbor, active in both business and community activities. Despite economic difficulties, Elizabeth graduated from the University of Michigan in 1941 with a degree in political science—at a time when a college education for women was less common than it is today. In honor of Elizabeth’s belief that, “An education is something that can never be taken away,” this scholarship is designed to help women whose studies have been interrupted to complete degrees in their chosen fields.

MENAKKA AND ESSEL BAILEY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP *Recipients:* SARAH BARUCH;
AUBREY LANGELAND; SARA MEEROW; TARLISE TOWNSEND

Menakka and Essel Bailey, Ann Arbor residents and business professionals, are also longtime friends and supporters of the Center for the Education of Women. In 2011, the Baileys created a new fund, the Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellowships. This gift enables American graduate students to study abroad—especially in South and Southeast Asia—and to do field work and language study in the fields of public health, health care, and the environment.

CHRISTINE KAHAN BLACK SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* BRITTANY FULTON

The Christine Kahan Black Scholarship is the first CEW Scholarship ever established as a Christmas present! Chris Black has had a lifelong commitment to higher education, advancement for women, and equity of opportunity. As a highly respected administrator and innovator in Research Development Support at U-M Medical School, Chris is a teacher/mentor for researchers as they develop and fund their projects. She specializes in helping young faculty—many of whom are women—develop projects and win their first grant from the National Institutes of Health. Early in her career, Chris developed award-winning videos to inspire young women to pursue careers in science and technology. She’s done similar work for students with disabilities, and, with her husband, supports scholarships for students with physical challenges through the Ann Arbor Community Foundation, as a memorial to their son, Burt. Now, to honor Chris, and her career spent helping people meet their potential to do great things, Chris’s husband, Herb Black, established the Christine Kahan Black Scholarship. He presented it to her on December 25, 2013.

JANE AND BILL BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* MELODY WILSON

In 1964, when Jane Bloom walked through the doors of the newly opened Center for the Continuing Education of Women, she was only the second person to seek assistance. Her affiliation with CEW began then—when Jane was a forty-year-old mother of ten and Ann Arbor-area chicken farmer—and it continues to this day. With perseverance and determination, and help from CEW along the way, Jane Bloom completed both an undergraduate and a medical degree at the University of Michigan and had a distinguished career as a physician. Throughout it all, Jane’s husband Bill, who died in 2011, was a supportive partner. Together they established a scholarship endowment with the intention of fully funding tuition for a CEW Scholar; their scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2008. With their scholarship for an undergraduate on the Ann Arbor campus, Jane and Bill sent a message to all future recipients to “aim high, raise your sights, and stick with it for a rewarding life.”

RUTH JEANETTE BUTTREY SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: RAIVYNN SMITH*

The Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship was created in 2004 by her granddaughter, Stephanie Buttrey. It honors Ruth Buttrey, who filled her life with learning and adventure. An early proponent of women's education, Ruth studied at a teacher's college as well as at the New England Conservatory and the Chicago Musical College. She then worked with a company in Chicago which sent representatives throughout the country with scripts and costume trunks to produce shows for local organizations using local talent. In that way she met Ted Buttrey in Havre, Montana, who volunteered to be in one of her shows. A few years later, during the depression, Ruth wrote her own show and sent her own producers through the northwest, earning welcome income for the family during those difficult days. In the late 1930s they moved to Texas where Ted oversaw the growth of Buttrey Stores, Inc. Throughout her life, Ruth supported various women's groups, especially as an active participant in the PEO Sisterhood. Ruth and Ted also endowed many scholarships in his home state of Montana. CEW's Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship recognizes an outstanding undergraduate on the Ann Arbor campus, with a special focus on the fields of business and engineering.

LOUISE G. CAIN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: JERI PRESTON*

The Louise G. Cain Scholarship was established in 2007. It honors the memory of the woman whose intelligence, initiative, and organizational energy led to the creation of the Center for the Education of Women. In 1964, Louise wrote a proposal for a Center for the Continuing Education of Women, urging the University of Michigan to use its "resources and prestige" to support the educational needs of women, especially those wishing to return to the University. In that same year, her dream became a reality. According to her ally Jean Campbell, who co-founded CEW and served for twenty years as its director, Louise was a visionary leader who enjoyed raising public awareness, fighting injustices, and championing worthy causes. With this scholarship, CEW carries on Louise G. Cain's commitment to help women reach their full potential.

CEW GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: HAIDAR AL-MOHAMMAD*

The CEW Graduate Scholarship was established in 2008, the result of a Presidential Donor Challenge launched by University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman. The Challenge made it possible for donors to increase the impact of their gift by matching a portion of their funds with a University contribution. The CEW Graduate Scholarship Fund supports promising graduate students, ensuring that the University will continue to attract the "best of the best." With gratitude, CEW acknowledges Loretta M. Skewes for establishing the CEW Graduate Scholarship Fund, thereby enabling others to contribute and ensuring that we will continue to grant CEW Graduate Scholarships in perpetuity.

COLLEGIATE SOROSIS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: YAOHUA (KAREN) LIN*

The Sorosis Corporation, composed of alumnae of Collegiate Sorosis, established a foundation to support sorority members in need of financial assistance in order to remain at the University of Michigan. With the closing of Collegiate Sorosis, the alumnae voted to make foundation funds available for women's scholarships through the Center for the Education of Women, thereby continuing their encouragement of women scholars.

MOLLY H. DOBSON SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients: LAUREN HALTER; TAMARA VANDERFORD*

Created in 1992, the Molly H. Dobson Scholarship supports women returning to school to complete undergraduate degrees. These scholarships recognize women who have shown creativity, persistence, and dedication while striving to complete their education. The scholarships were created through the generosity of Molly Dobson, a dedicated emerita member of the CEW Leadership Council and an active volunteer in the University and larger Ann Arbor community. Molly created these scholarships because she believes in the value of education. They are designed to be flexible because she knows that deserving women have different educational needs and goals.

ROBERT BRUCE DUNLAP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: ELEANOR AVSHARIAN*

This scholarship was established in 2006 in memory of Robert Bruce Dunlap. Robert was a long-time University employee, first at the University Hospital and later at the School of Dentistry, and an even longer-term sometime patient at the University Hospital. As a professor's son, he was well imbued with the importance of education and the necessity of helping students further their education. Because of Robert's long association with the University Hospital and his gratitude to all members of the medical teams, it is appropriate that first preference be given to an Ann Arbor campus undergraduate student pursuing a career in a health-related field. The donor has stipulated that this scholarship may be extended beyond one year until graduation.

ELIZABETH M. DUSSEAU SCHOLARSHIP and MARGARET DUSSEAU BREVOORT SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients: ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ; ERICA BAILEY*

The Elizabeth M. Dusseau and Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholarships, established in 2013, were endowed in the estate of Elizabeth Dusseau, who died in May 2012 at the age of 101. Elizabeth Dusseau earned her bachelor of arts and master's degrees in public health from the University of Michigan, and became an expert in parasitology. After many years of dedicated service to the University, Ms. Dusseau was promoted to assistant professor, a rank she held until she retired in 1978. Margaret Dusseau Brevoort began her long career as a

social worker in Ann Arbor. However, she spent most of her professional life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as the executive director of Milwaukee Psychiatric Services Agency and a renowned and early proponent of social work education.

Elizabeth Dusseau chose to endow these scholarships in her name and that of her sister to honor their upbringing. Born in Monroe, Michigan, to a family that highly valued education for both male and female children—at a time when such a belief was somewhat radical—their family’s commitment to women’s rights was deeply ingrained. It is no surprise that Elizabeth and Margaret made their marks upon the world. At Elizabeth’s request, her CEW Scholarship will be awarded to “a woman in the field of science,” and Margaret’s will go to a “woman in the field of social work.”

BETH HALLORAN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: TREMELL GOINS, JR.*

One of the University of Michigan’s most admired fundraising leaders from 2001-2011, Beth Halloran is now a senior executive at the Minneapolis Foundation. From 2005-08, she served as Development Director at CEW. Her energy, focus, intelligence, and integrity not only generated fundraising success, but also nourished lasting relationships with CEW donors. Two of those donors, Molly Dobson and Connie Dunlap, connected with Beth in a special way and deepened their friendship even after she left Ann Arbor. In 2013, Connie and Molly collaborated to endow a new CEW Scholarship in Beth’s honor. The Beth Halloran Scholarship is to be awarded annually to students whose academic careers have been interrupted, and/or who are the primary parent responsible for minor dependents.

JOAN P. IRELAND SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: JENIFER PIFER*

Like many of today’s CEW Scholars, Joan Ireland was a nontraditional student. After raising her children in the Midwest, she moved to California and returned to school to pursue graphic design. When she met her husband, Everett, they discovered that they had both been students at the University of Michigan at the same time, but had never met one another. Out of gratitude to U-M, and their lifelong enthusiasm for learning, Joan and Everett Ireland both established Michigan scholarships as part of their estates. Joan Ireland passed away in 2014, and her bequest established the Joan Ireland Scholarship in perpetuity at CEW. Being awarded this year for the first time, Joan P. Ireland Scholarship will provide support to deserving women students, undergraduate or graduate in any field, who need financial assistance in order to pursue a degree.

BEATRICE KAHN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: KRISTIN CARLSON*

Beatrice Kahn began graduate work in the early 1950s, about 10 years before the Center for Education of Women was created. She was then the busy mother of three young daughters and eager to prepare for a career in her newly chosen field of social work. Her entry into the MSW program was hastened by her husband's unexpected cancer surgery; she was concerned that she might become the sole or primary support of her children. She completed her degree in social work and went on to 29 years as a gifted therapist and marriage counselor at Child and Family Service. Her own experience and her long friendship with Jean Campbell and other CEW leaders made Bea Kahn a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of the Center. Beatrice died in November 2012 at the age of 94. Her husband, her family, and her many friends established the Beatrice Kahn Scholarship at the Center for the Education of Women in her memory.

ELSIE CHOY LEE SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients: CAROLYN GENNARI; SASCHA RAIYN*

The Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship assists undergraduate and graduate women pursuing their own work in art, writing, or music. It is also given to students researching creative women who have struggled to find their own voices within these fields. The cultivation of creativity was a vital part of Elsie's search for life's purpose and meaning. In "Art in My Life," a talk Elsie gave in 1991, she said: "Literature, art, and poetry have been my friends all my life; they are my media of expression in good times and bad. Looking back, I can say that these arts not only enriched my life, they have helped me regain part of my health." Elsie advocated making known the unheard voices of women in the arts in world cultures throughout time. Her eight-year research on an 18th century Chinese woman poet resulted in *Leaves of Prayer: The Life and Poetry of a Farmwife in Eighteenth-Century China* (The Chinese University Press of Hong Kong, 2nd ed., 2000). The Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship was established in 2001 by her husband, the late Joseph T. A. Lee, with the support of family and friends.

SARAH WINANS NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: ANN MILLER*

The Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship, created in 2001, provides financial support to undergraduate, graduate, and professional women pursuing degrees in biological and biomedical sciences and related fields, demonstrating financial need, and showing promise of academic merit. Dr. Newman most recently served as Associate Dean of the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and, from 1970 through 1996, was a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the U-M Medical School. A long-time volunteer and friend to the Center, Sarah recognizes the contributions CEW makes to the University community and is pleased to continue her commitment to the education of women.

MARY MALCOMSON RAPHAEL FELLOWSHIP *Recipient: ELIZABETH KOOMSON*

The Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellowship was established in 1985 for women graduate students in a humanities or social science field in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The fellowships are awards of distinction presented to women held in the highest esteem by their faculty. Fellowship recipients have been nominated by their departments and are selected on the basis of their academic excellence and their potential to make contributions of exceptional usefulness to society. The fellowships are provided through an endowment established by the late Margaret Earhart Smith in recognition of her friend Mary Malcomson Raphael, a singularly resourceful and creative woman who “had a gift for evoking power in people above and beyond their ordinary capacity.”

LINDA J. RIDER SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: MONICA DE ROCHE BRUBAKER*

This scholarship in celebration of Linda J. Rider was established by her family in 2004. When Linda enrolled at the University of Michigan at the age of 41 to earn her bachelor’s degree, she was a professional writer, editor, photographer, and single mother. To honor her accomplishment of earning an undergraduate degree as a nontraditional student, the Linda J. Rider Scholarship is awarded to women who need financial assistance to return to college later in their lives.

RETIREMENT INCOME SOLUTIONS (RIS) *Recipient: EDWARD WAISANEN*

This scholarship is made possible by a gift from local financial advisory firm, Retirement Income Solutions, Inc. (RIS). CEW Leadership Council member and Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager at RIS, Margaret Kephart, said the decision for RIS to support a CEW Scholarship was clear, “We all believe strongly that education holds the key to a better life and have seen that play out in our own families and communities. And, many of our clients work in higher education, so this scholarship was a natural extension of the work we do.” Margaret herself was a nontraditional college student, and benefited from mentoring and support of women who believed in her. RIS Scholarships have also been created at two other outstanding local organizations, Girls Group and the Ann Arbor Rotary Club.

HELEN HUFF SHELL SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient: CASSANDRA ACEVES*

The Helen Huff Shell Scholarship was established in 1982 by Helen when she retired from her distinguished career in personnel management. Throughout her career, Helen diligently sought to enhance the status of women in the workplace. Her scholarship recognizes that commitment to women in business or the professions.

MARGARET DOW TOWSLEY SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients:* **ASHLEY BOSTIC; RACHEL BOSWELL; AFTON BRANCHE; BETSY QUERNA CLIFF; LAURA DARCH; SHAUNA DYER; NICOLINA EVOLA; BRI GAUGER; MARIA JOACHIM; ERICA JOHNSON; ERIKA MURCIA; CHIA-HUI NEILLY; RONKE OLAWALE; LISA OLINGER; LILIYA PARAKETSOVA; ANGELA PERONE; ALEXANDRA RAMIREZ; DEBRA RHIZAL; SAFA SANKARI; ESTHER TRAGER; ALYSSA VAN HOFWEGEN; DEIDRA WILLIAMS; ROBIN WILSON**

The life and work of Margaret Dow Towsley has opened countless doors for women and children and immeasurably improved the life of the Ann Arbor community. After completing a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and a master's degree at Columbia University Teachers College, Margaret Towsley taught preschool at the University School in Ann Arbor, married pediatrician Dr. Harry Towsley, and started a family. A neighborhood summer play group in her home became the Children's Play School, which thrived for more than 53 years. Margaret was one of the first persons in Ann Arbor to acknowledge the special needs of children and working mothers, and her leadership helped inspire and shape the Perry Nursery School. An early believer in equal access for women, Margaret was a major force in creating a gender-integrated Ann Arbor YMCA. When women and their organizations needed a home of their own, she helped establish the Women's City Club. An active political leader, she became the first woman elected to the Ann Arbor City Council. Those who knew Margaret Towsley describe her as a woman devoted to her family and as a mother who fostered in her five daughters an independence of spirit and a confidence to reach for their own stars. Her quiet and sustained support nourished the CEW Scholarship Program since its founding. Returning women students have benefited in untold ways from her faith in the Center and her belief in educational opportunities for women. Indeed, Margaret Towsley always acted upon the premise that, given support and nurturing, all people can achieve their dreams.

IRMA M. WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipients: MONIQUE MANNERS; DOLORENCE OKULLO*

The Irma M. Wyman Scholarship provides support for women students in engineering, computer science, and related fields on either the graduate or undergraduate level. Criteria for selection also include merit, promise of future contributions, and life circumstances. Irma was a 1949 graduate of the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan, one of two women in her class. She became involved with the computer industry in its early stages and rose to become the first female vice president at Honeywell, Inc., then a Fortune 100 company. After retirement from the corporate world, she served 10 years as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Minnesota. Having benefited during her education from both the financial and psychological support of a Regents Scholarship, she established the Irma M. Wyman Scholarship in 1996 to provide a similar boost to others. CEW mourns the passing of Irma Wyman, who died in November 2015 at the age of 87.

The Scholars and Fellows

CASSANDRA ACEVES *Helen Huff Shell Scholar*



Cassandra Aceves is earning her PhD in business administration at the Ross School of Business. After working for several years, Cassandra realized that she was more interested in analyzing business strategies and incentive programs than taking part in them. She first earned an MBA, but knew that her goal was to complete a PhD and enter academia as a tenure-track professor.

Cassandra began her studies at Michigan in 2012, just after giving birth to twins. At the same time, her husband began a PhD program in Chicago. Although Cassandra was essentially a single parent for the bulk of her coursework, she impressed her faculty mentors with her scholarship, creativity, and hard work.

Described as having “a gift for identifying really big, important, and unexplored research questions,” Cassandra completed a research article on one topic while continuing to make progress on her dissertation research on another topic entirely. Her dissertation explores how reputational rankings actually lead people to cheat and to thereby destabilize the ranking system itself. Cassandra excels at critical thinking, is entrepreneurial, and is an outstanding writer, as her mentors document.

Throughout her program, Cassandra has reflected on her own experience of a topic much studied in the business world. How, she asks, can a woman resolve the tension between caregiving and academic success? Cassandra Aceves has resolved her own tensions by accomplishing much in both realms of her life. CEW is proud to acknowledge her successes and to name her a Helen Huff Shell Scholar.

HAIDAR AL-MOHAMMAD *CEW Graduate Scholar*



Haidar Al-Mohammad is earning an MSW, concentrating on interpersonal practice with an emphasis on diverse and underrepresented populations. Haidar’s goal is to become a clinical social worker. He is especially interested in working in an outpatient setting with clients who have mental illness. Noting the ways mental illness affects individuals as they manage daily activities, Haidar sees the potential to reduce everyday stress by treating mental health symptoms. Through this work, Haidar aims to assist patients in developing strategies for reaching their goals as well as to “enhance their opportunities and address their needs.”

Haidar already holds a BA in health administration and has a wealth of employment and volunteer experience working with low-income or underserved community members. He has been involved in employment training for individuals reentering the workforce. In his current role as a patient advocate at a local federally-qualified health center, Haidar assists those who have language barriers, mental health issues, or complicated living situations. Many of the clients are vulnerable, so Haidar aids them in deciphering governmental regulations and learning about physical health and nutrition.

Faculty and supervisors consistently note Haidar’s intellectual rigor, his interpersonal skills, his passion for serving community members, and his strong work ethic. He is able to incorporate research and coursework into practice settings. Working with clients with mental illness, says Haidar, will give him a unique opportunity to contribute to his community.

Haidar is poised to make an impact in his field. CEW is pleased to name Haidar Al-Mohammad a CEW Graduate Scholar. We look forward to his future contributions to his community.

ERICA BAILEY *Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholar*



After receiving her BA in sociology, Erica Bailey decided to be of service to her community through the AmeriCorps VISTA program. She was so inspired by her work with the Michigan Prisoner Reentry Program that she continued working there for several years beyond her initial volunteer year. After exploring work in education, Erica decided to earn an MSW with a specialty in the management of human services. Although family responsibilities led Erica to postpone her graduate work until this past year, she continued to focus on underserved populations.

Erica is preparing herself for a particular life of service: she wants to design and lead social and emotional development programs for youth of color in Detroit. She believes that this degree will ensure that she can be “useful in facilitating systemic and community change throughout Detroit.” Erica seeks the solid foundation that the MSW degree can provide as she learns about methodologies and program design specific to working with marginalized populations. Her years in the field of education and her work with prisoners solidified her belief that she can be most effective working with youth to equip them with the tools needed to succeed.

Those who have worked with Erica have no doubt that she will succeed in reaching her goals. They praise her leadership and her ability to develop programming based on strong research, as well as her outcome-based approach.

CEW proudly supports Erica in her quest to improve the quality of life for Detroit’s youth, particularly those of color, and so awards her a Margaret Dusseau Brevoort Scholarship.

SARAH BARUCH *Menakka and Essel Bailey Fellow*



Sarah Baruch's interest in medicine began when she trained as an EMT and learned how to make rapid decisions in urgent situations. Gradually, however, Sarah felt called to do more, to provide the ongoing care that she saw physicians deliver once patients had arrived at the hospital.

While earning a bachelor's degree in Hebrew and Jewish cultural studies, Sarah also completed the pre-medical requirements in anticipation of entering medical school. Before she did so, however, she spent two years traveling, volunteering, and also exploring alternative treatments for her own chronic pain. She entered medical school with the perspective that it might be possible to combine Eastern and Western medical insights to provide optimum care.

Now in her final year of medical school, Sarah is focused on a career path that will combine different modalities of treatment. Her next step in Western medicine will be a residency program in family medicine. This year she took the next step in Eastern medicine, completing the Medical Qi Gong Instructor Qualification Program in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Sarah explains that Thailand has just recently accepted Chinese medicine as a legitimate medical practice and is developing regulations and standards for qualifications as a practitioner. Not only did the training program in Thailand provide her with the opportunity to learn and subsequently practice Qi Gong, it allowed her to observe the national conversation on integrating Chinese medicine into accepted medical practice.

Sarah Baruch wants to practice integrative medicine and serve as a bridge between Eastern and Western approaches. CEW is proud to award a Menakka and Essel Bailey Fellowship enabling her study in Thailand.

ASHLEY BOSTIC *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Ashley Bostic is one of those students who continues to seek greater educational opportunities. In Ashley's case, although she holds two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree, she is now beginning work on a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) in the University's School of Nursing.

Ashley is a career changer who, after proving herself as a biological scientist, decided to devote herself to nursing. In 2015, she completed U-M's accelerated second career program, earning a BSN. As part of a program to prepare nurses to provide competent care to diverse patients in a multicultural society and to facilitate the development of skills in order to reduce health disparities, Ashley brought her passion for social justice and her commitment to evidence-based research. She worked with alumni mentors, clinical faculty, and a diverse group of participants during her four-semester degree program.

Now Ashley wants to have a direct impact on patient care and on communication between medical teams and patients. In order to do so, she seeks to become a faculty member in a prestigious nursing school, such as the one at the University of Michigan. As a faculty member, she will be able to address these issues in the training of future nurses. She will also be consulted by health advisory boards and policymakers. Through these means, Ashley will focus on reducing medication errors and on improving communication during critical care situations.

Ashley Bostic is clear in her goals for improving nursing practice and health care in acute care settings. In awarding her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship, CEW commends her efforts and believes in her continued success.

RACHEL BOSWELL *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



According to Rachel Boswell, “connections with people, social support systems, and community” are necessary for citizens to achieve quality of life, and she is determined to design urban landscapes that encourage such communities. Rachel is enrolled in the dual degree program of the School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, expecting to earn master’s degrees both in landscape architecture and in urban planning.

At the beginning of her higher education, Rachel focused on courses that would guarantee financial stability. But after several starts and stops in her educational progress, she recognized that she was most attracted to creative and hands-on work. While earning her BFA, Rachel spent a year at a university in Norway where she decided to focus on becoming “a designer of places that foster health and connectivity, instead of a designer of objects.” After completing her degree, she spent 30 months with the Peace Corps in Tanzania.

Now Rachel sees a path that combines all of her previous experience. Her goal is to work on community participatory planning, either through a nonprofit or a local governmental agency. Down the road, she plans to return to school for a PhD.

According to her professors, Rachel is a “versatile creative person” poised to contribute directly through leading participatory community development processes or through academic research and leadership. She is already a student leader in her cohort and displays outstanding scholarship.

Anticipating Rachel Boswell’s ongoing influence on community development, CEW is proud to name her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

AFTON BRANCHE *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Afton Branche has known for years that she was interested in a career in the social sector. She graduated from Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in culture and politics and then proceeded to spend several years working in nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. In these sectors, she served as a researcher on immigration policy and on topics related to women's empowerment. Building on that experience, Afton is now enrolled in the Ford School's master's degree program in public policy.

As she works towards her MPP, Afton has impressed faculty and staff at the Ford School with her experience in policy work, her analytical ability, and her intellectual rigor. They use terms such as "effective," "committed," and "well-respected leader" when describing her. Afton returned to school in part to strengthen her skills in public policy analysis and management, noting that quantitative methods were of significant importance in the nonprofit sector where she worked. She recognized the desirability of analyzing outcomes either as a funder or as a recipient of funds.

As she looks to the future, Afton plans to work in the nonprofit sector on women's rights and economic empowerment. In the long-term, she hopes to serve as a representative of a foundation supporting work in these areas. Her previous experience includes managing a scholars program for a foundation in preparation for a major conference on women's rights in developing countries.

Afton Branche has already contributed to the nonprofit sector. With her MPP, CEW expects even greater contributions from her and so names Afton Branche a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

KRYSTIN CARLSON *Beatrice Kahn Scholar*



As a nontraditional student, Krystin Carlson made her way through community college, earned a BS in environmental health science at Purdue University, and now is close to achieving her PhD in toxicology through the School of Public Health's environmental health science program. Along the way, she also raised her two young children, served as a leader in Purdue's Adult Student Network, and garnered awards for presentations in her field.

Krystin's goal is to teach science at a community college while also serving the state as a part-time toxicologist. Each of these roles supports her vision of sharing science and knowledge in ways that improve the lives of individuals. As they learn about science and especially about environmental risks, Krystin believes individuals are empowered to make appropriate choices that can make a difference in their lives.

Krystin has served as a graduate student instructor, receiving high evaluations from her students, and now mentors other GSIs. She has also trained in and taught communication methods for scientists speaking to the general public.

Faculty describe Krystin as an innovative thinker and instructor. Through her PhD program, Krystin focused on understanding public health hazards along with strategies for protection from them. Her ambitious dissertation research focuses on auditory effects of heavy metal toxicity. It combines methods from two approaches, and has already resulted in two awards from prestigious groups in the field.

Recognizing that Krystin Carlson will make a difference in the health and lives of average citizens, CEW names Krystin Carlson a Beatrice Kahn Scholar.

BETSY QUERNA CLIFF *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



As a journalist covering health care for nearly a decade, Betsy Querna Cliff witnessed firsthand the impact of health policies on individuals and families. While she loved her work in journalism, she realized she wanted to more deeply explore the causes of high health care spending. To do so, she needed the quantitative skills and theoretical background that a doctoral degree could confer, and a career that would give her the time to delve into those issues. In 2013, she entered the doctoral program in the School of Public Health's Department of Health Management and Policy.

Betsy has written for U.S. News & World Report, The Boston Globe, and other national and local news media. Her work involved personal interactions with families choosing between paying a mortgage or health care bills, individuals without insurance, and others facing a variety of challenges related to health care access. She earned numerous awards for her work including a National Health Journalism Fellowship.

Betsy is now investigating the impact of price transparency initiatives on prices at hospitals, the effect on behavior changes in insurance benefit design, and, more broadly, how consumers make decisions about their health care. Betsy has been working with public health, medical school, and economics faculty on multiple research projects and publications.

As she looks ahead, Betsy anticipates an academic career, though she would like to continue to use her passion for writing for a general audience in some way. With her unusual combination of skills, CEW anticipates much from Betsy Querna Cliff, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Laura Darch *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Laura Darch earned her associate's degree in 2000, but immediately began working as a chef in a restaurant within walking distance of her home. She had planned to continue with a bachelor's degree, but a family move and no car put her too far away from educational opportunities. For the next decade, Laura and her husband continued to work to support their family until 2011 when they both returned to school for further education. But returning to school has not been easy—they now have three children, two of whom have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and their finances have been precarious.

Nevertheless, Laura has persisted in her studies at UM-Flint in mass communication and is now only two semesters away from completing her degree. Through her communications studies, she has focused on the effects of media on autistic children. Her undergraduate work has convinced her professors that she should continue in a graduate program.

Laura has combined theory and research to study how it is possible to communicate successfully with children who have ASD by using the connections they form to media figures, both real and fictional. She plans to continue this line of research in order to assist other parents who face communication challenges with their children. As a parent advocate, Laura is able to share information with other parents as well as to encourage them to participate in her research.

Laura Darch is dedicated to assisting her own autistic children as well as many others in order for them to fully achieve their potential. CEW applauds her commitment and work, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

SHAUNA DYER *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Shauna Dyer is earning a PhD in sociology. Her research interests focus on social stratification and income inequality, while her goal is to teach at the university level and continue her research.

Shauna's interest in the intersections of income inequality, mobility, and educational opportunity stems in great part from her own life course. Despite outstanding SAT scores and high achievement in high school, Shauna lacked the financial and emotional support that could enhance her college experience. Her childhood was impoverished and chaotic, and none of her family had attended college. Shauna began college but quickly dropped out, got married, and then had four children. She was 31 before she completed her bachelor's degree, earning a BA in social science.

As a college student, Shauna realized that she wanted an academic career. While caring for her children, she began a graduate program at the University of Oregon; upon receiving her MS in sociology she was encouraged to apply to premier PhD programs to complete her education.

Shauna has already earned multiple awards and fellowships, and has worked as a research assistant with two different professors. She is described as a serious scholar who will contribute to her field and whose "scholarly goals are aimed squarely at an important crossroads of the social factors underlying inequality at different stages in the life course."

As Shauna combines her personal understanding of socioeconomic impacts on educational opportunity with rigorous research methodologies, she is poised to add to our understanding of income inequality. Therefore, CEW proudly names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

NICOLINA EVOLA *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Nicolina Evola has long held a dream of becoming a doctor and working in women's health. She began college expecting to go on to medical school and then to a graduate degree in public health. While in her first year, Nicolina hit a roadblock that many thought would end that dream, giving birth to a son.

However, Nicolina never considered stopping school. Instead, becoming a mother made her more determined to complete her education for her son's benefit as well as for herself. Her family offered support in caring for her child while she attended classes, and Nicolina continued her studies while working thirty hours a week.

In addition to her courses, Nicolina has worked at a local hospice and has spent time shadowing doctors who specialize in obstetrics and gynecology. She has mapped out a future in which she will not only provide health care to women, but also educate them about their own bodies. As her interest in medicine widened it began to include addressing more broadly the needs of the patient as a whole person. As a result, Nicolina decided on biopsychology, cognition, and neuroscience as her major.

Those who have worked with Nicolina note her strong professional and academic drive, and her determination to achieve the best for herself and her son. They also expect that she will accomplish all of her goals.

CEW supports Nicolina Evola's determination to complete her education and to provide a model for her son. We are proud to assist her in meeting her goals by awarding her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

BRITTANY FULTON

Christine Kahan Black Scholar



Brittany Fulton entered the School of Social Work as a “Global Activities Scholar,” reflecting both her previous experience in Peru and her goal of working with refugee and immigrant populations.

After earning her BA in psychology and Hispanic studies, Brittany spent two years in Tacna, Peru, volunteering as an English language teacher. Brittany’s interactions with her students and the people of Tacna solidified her desire to become a licensed social worker. She adapted to working in an environment of scarce resources and was humbled and transformed by the experiences and struggles she shared with her neighbors, students, and their families. As Brittany’s work in Peru came to a conclusion, she began exploring MSW programs.

Brittany began her master’s program as a new mother with her partner still in Peru, but she was determined to continue her education in order to reach her goals. Through her coursework and her internship, Brittany is already putting together theory and practice. Last year she worked in a refugee resettlement program operated by a local nonprofit, and spent the summer of 2016 in Hong Kong working with refugees there.

Colleagues and supervisors describe Brittany as a professional with excellent communication and case management skills. She is proactive in her approach to her work, and demonstrates her passion for social justice.

On completing her MSW, Brittany will seek licensure as a clinical social worker. She looks forward to working with Spanish-speaking refugees and immigrants, as well as developing programs that meet their cultural needs. In anticipation of Brittany Fulton’s impact on these individuals, CEW names her a Christine Kahan Black Scholar.

MERIDETH GARCIA *Gail Allen Scholar*



Merideth Garcia has extensive teaching experience, from K-12 education to university settings. While she recognizes the need for students to master digital tools, she also notes that digital technologies are often poorly presented and that teachers may not be well prepared to introduce them into their curricula. So Merideth has stepped away from teaching to return to school herself, and is earning a PhD through the Joint Program in English and Education.

Some of the questions Merideth seeks to answer are: How do students interact with different technologies? How can teachers thoughtfully integrate technologies into their teaching and assignments? To what extent do teachers create lesson plans with technology for technology's sake and to what extent do they use technology to achieve other teaching goals? What are the optimal ways to use technologies to improve literacy skills?

Her dissertation research takes an ethnographic approach by carefully studying the uses of technology by students and teachers alike in a few high school classrooms. Through this type of research, Merideth plans to “produce a nuanced portrait of the different ways different tools are taken up, used, passed on, or discarded.”

As those who work with Merideth point out, these are essential concerns for educators in the 21st century. This research will be useful in preparing teachers to use digital methods in a student-centered manner. It also illuminates the intersection of technology and literacy within our culture that draws a line between the tech-savvy and the tech-marginalized.

CEW recognizes the importance of Merideth Garcia's research and is pleased to award her a Gail Allen Scholarship.

BRI GAUGER *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Bri Gauger had a first career managing grassroots campaigns for nonprofit organizations. This experience brought her to the realization that often community organizers and local campaigns work within an environment that discourages shared equity goals as individuals choose “favorite causes.” As she sought another model, Bri found that the profession of urban planning is in itself interdisciplinary, cross-sectional, and has a strong foundation in social justice.

Bri completed a master’s degree in urban planning in 2014 and then came to the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning to earn a PhD in urban and regional planning. Her goal is to obtain a faculty position in urban studies, urban planning, and/or women’s studies. Bri’s faculty comment on her professional and ethical approach, her leadership qualities, and her initiative. She is described as an outstanding student and has already had papers accepted for the Urban Affairs Association conference and the American Association of Geographers conference.

As she considered how urban planning interacts with social norms, Bri began to question why gender discrimination seemed to be in the background of planning work. She subsequently discovered a group of feminist planners who were active in the 1970s and 1980s, and sought to uncover the interactions between urban planners and feminists at the time. Bri’s dissertation will be a qualitative historical study of key figures, intersections, and influences between these two groups.

Bri Gauger is producing scholarship that will “make a major contribution to the scholarly literatures on feminist and planning theory, social equity, and epistemology.” CEW supports her work by awarding her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

CAROLYN GENNARI *Elsie Choy Lee Scholar*



Carolyn Gennari’s creative practice “defies conventional categorization, and this is what makes it so compelling and exciting,” according to one of her advisors. Carolyn is currently working on an MFA in the Stamps School of Art & Design. She comes to the MFA program after several years of gallery, museum, and community work.

After earning a BA in art history, Carolyn relocated to Providence, R.I. where she immediately began participating in her community. Serving first as an AmeriCorps volunteer, she worked at a gallery, coordinating the artist in residency program. She also worked at a local museum and helped to organize a microgranting program that funded creative work in Rhode Island. Then Carolyn founded The Wonder Show, a community project that worked with libraries and museums to present archival information through a combination of history, storytelling, and performance.

Despite her creative talents and innovative approaches, Carolyn felt that she needed a graduate degree to fully participate in the museum/archive/library profession. She sought the multidisciplinary program available at U-M, recognizing that her creative work and interests span multiple fields. As a student, she continues to be engaged in community learning as part of the Engaged Pedagogy Initiative.

Carolyn’s graduate thesis project will be an amalgam of art, storytelling, and performance that retells the history of arctic exploration. This project will be part of the exhibition “Fantastic Worlds: Science and Fiction, 1780-1910” mounted by the Smithsonian Institution. Carolyn Gennari is clearly an innovator in her field, and CEW is proud to name her an Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.

TREMELL GOINS, JR. *Beth Halloran Scholar*



Tremell Goins, Jr. began college with the expectation that it would provide him with a way to earn a living. Instead, he became passionate about the issue of educational inequality and changed the course of his life. After working for the Children's Defense Fund, Tremell began to develop and serve in summer and after school youth programs designed to increase literacy and educational attainment. Observing the outcomes of such programs led Tremell to seek a broader understanding of the impacts of parental involvement and educational interventions on youth, particularly on students of color.

Tremell first entered the educational leadership and policy program, earning a master's degree. Both the coursework and his involvement with the Youth Participatory Action Project convinced him to continue his education. He is now working towards a PhD in education and psychology, and conducting research with the Wolverine Pathways Pipeline Project. The doctoral degree will provide Tremell with the theoretical and methodological tools to examine two areas of specific interest. The first is the effects of out-of-school-time educational experiences on youth and the second is the role schools play in addressing the social status of students of color and their impact on achievement.

After completing his degree, Tremell plans to continue his work with urban youth. His goal is to develop summer and after school programs for inner city youth that address educational and social identity, in addition to social consciousness development. CEW salutes Tremell Goins, Jr. for his commitment to students and names him a Beth Halloran Scholar.

LAUREN HALTER *Molly H. Dobson Scholar*



Lauren Halter was an outstanding high school student as shown through her academic success and her creative writing. She was a student who worked successfully with others and tutored struggling students. Lauren began her first year of college with academic success, but personal doubts. Because her interests and skills crossed multiple areas of study, choosing a major became a difficult task. At the same time, she felt her schooling to be a financial drain on her family. Lauren decided to leave college to explore her myriad interests through a variety of jobs in different sectors.

Lauren discovered her management and leadership skills in a retail setting. She learned how important engagement with the wider world was as she greeted guests from around the globe in a local bed and breakfast.

Eventually, Lauren found herself ready for a new challenge and decided to return to school. Majoring in both psychology and environmental studies addresses her interest in connecting with individuals from across the world. She is likely to add a minor in linguistics or international studies. In this way, Lauren satisfies her interest in the physical as well as the sociocultural world.

Lauren sees a wide array of possibilities open to her upon graduation. She is interested in serving in the Peace Corps. She will consider opportunities and graduate programs in both social and environmental sciences, or a combination of the two with environmental psychology. Working in academia with a diverse group of students is also a possibility.

Lauren has learned much in her gap years, and is now focused on moving ahead. In naming Lauren Halter a Molly H. Dobson Scholar, CEW celebrates her new discoveries.

CHELSEA HOLLADAY *AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Scholar*



Chelsea Holladay is new in her career as a dental hygienist, but is already planning her next steps. Chelsea earned her associate's degree in dental hygiene only three years ago. She is now in the bachelor's degree program in dental hygiene at the School of Dentistry. In her first position as a dental hygienist, Chelsea moved beyond her basic duties and provided research support to the surgeon as well as assisting in writing lectures and organizing fundraisers.

Chelsea also began volunteering at VINA, a nonprofit community dental center serving uninsured and low-income residents. She had already discovered the need for dental care in disadvantaged populations. Shortly after completing her degree, Chelsea accompanied other health professionals on a trip to Honduras where they provided services with rudimentary equipment and in extreme conditions. Through these volunteer experiences, Chelsea began to redefine her career path, with providing services to underserved communities becoming her focus. Chelsea began her work with VINA as a clinician; within three years she became chairperson of the executive board.

Chelsea is determined to improve her clinical skills and understanding of dental hygiene, but she also has a new goal. With her BS in hand, she plans to apply to the School of Dentistry and earn a DDS. She then will focus her work on providing dental care internationally, working with the Peace Corps or other agencies.

CEW is impressed by Chelsea Holladay's commitment to her profession and to the world, and names her an AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Scholar.

MARIA JOACHIM *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Maria Joachim is a doctoral student in health services organization and policy at the U-M School of Public Health. Her path to public health has been long but carefully thought out. Upon completing her BS in biology, Maria anticipated medical school as her next step. In preparation, she began working as a research assistant in an endocrinology lab.

During her years in the lab, Maria also volunteered with other health care and non-governmental organizations, including a suicide prevention line. There she saw the impact of our health care and social systems on individuals. As an international student, Maria also began comparing health policy and access to social and health benefits across countries.

Maria decided to pursue public health rather than medical school, and served as an intern for two global health organizations. Through her fieldwork and her subsequent master's degree in global health and population at Harvard University, Maria began to question the deeper structural issues of health systems that deprive uneducated and poor patients and families of health services. She identified the organizational level of health delivery as a key area of concern.

Maria is now completing a book chapter for a WHO/European Observatory publication. She spent the past summer in South Africa, researching and documenting the ongoing reforms and processes of collaboration to reflect effective supply chain governance through healthcare public-private partnerships.

As a PhD student, Maria is described as a “talented and dedicated sociologist” whose research asks important new questions. She envisions a career in academia with a research focus on global health systems and health system reform.

CEW applauds Maria Joachim's dedication to improving health care, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

ERICA JOHNSON *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Erica Johnson first graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in psychology over a decade ago. Now she has returned to complete a master's degree in social work. In between, Erica completed a master's degree in human resources and industrial relations and was employed by several large national corporations. Her usual role was managing diversity or inclusion initiatives. Erica experienced many examples of corporate downsizing, where she found that employees of color felt the greatest impact. She also became aware of the embedded biases in many corporations that often led to an awareness by employees of the fragility of their employment.

Erica saw the ramifications of these biases in families and communities of color, where the disproportionate rates of unemployment led to low self-esteem and truncated adolescent career trajectories. Erica believes that she can combine her background in human resources with the tools and insights from social work to provide therapeutic services that will address all aspects of job attainment, mental health, and career planning, and the coping strategies needed.

Whether working with individuals, families, or groups, Erica envisions providing therapy and career programs to communities of color. Her previous experience enhances her social work coursework and internship placement, according to faculty. It also provides context and examples for other students in the program. The University is already tapping her expertise for its own Diversity Initiative.

CEW salutes Erica's commitment to communities of color and to fighting the biases found in employment practices. We name her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

ELIZABETH KOOMSON

Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow



As a child in Ghana, Elizabeth Koomson became aware of the kinship and property distribution systems that often disadvantaged women. Her current research has taken her back to Ghana to study how women working in small gold mining settings are gradually changing these systems.

Elizabeth completed secondary school and university studies in Ghana despite scarce family resources. She then provided financial assistance to her siblings to complete their schooling and raised her four children. Her work as a development officer for the Netherlands Development Organization, SNV- Ghana allowed her to assist women to gain greater control over their lives. It also gave her added insight into the customary cultural assumptions that organized women's lives and, in many cases, diminished their opportunities.

After receiving a Ford Foundation–IFP grant to complete the MSW program at Michigan, Elizabeth entered the joint anthropology and social work PhD program. With her field research complete, Elizabeth is now finishing her dissertation. Her work involves an ethnographic study of women who work in the small-scale gold mining industry in rural Ghana and how they are transforming the gendered cultural assumptions of their community. While women are generally relegated to “feminine” tasks, their earnings have allowed them to devise economic mechanisms, such as owning land, that give them greater power.

Elizabeth's work is “innovative and important” and of “great interest and value” to other researchers. Upon completion of her degree, Elizabeth plans to return to Ghana and work in a development organization that focuses on women, such as the UN Women's Desk.

CEW is proud to award Elizabeth Koomson a Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellowship to complete her significant work on Ghanaian women.

AUBREY LANGELAND

Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow



Aubrey Langeland is interested in the health of workers across the globe, and especially in the connections between science and policy that impact those workers. As part of her research for her PhD program in environmental health sciences through the School of Public Health, Aubrey studies electronic waste processing and its impacts on both workers and the environment.

Electronic waste (e-waste) flows from developed to developing countries, where items such as computers and cell phones are often dismantled by hand to recover precious metals, or are burned. Aubrey traveled to Kalasin, Thailand, where such waste sites abound. Through health and exposure assessments of workers, along with evaluation of environmental and ecological effects of e-waste disposal, Aubrey outlined environmental and health concerns and began to identify policy strategies to address those concerns. In the process of data collection and analysis, Aubrey also increased her ability to perform exposure assessments.

Aubrey's professors call her an "innovative and original thinker" whose research and professional goals are forward-thinking. They praise her academic excellence, but also her commitment to improving the lives of workers around the world. As an academic researcher, Aubrey may well improve health protections for workers in the e-waste industry, and she will continue to conduct high-impact occupational health research.

Aubrey writes, "The narrative that our responsibility for our consumption begins at the point of purchase and ends at the time of disposal must be redesigned to consider the global impact of a product from cradle-to-grave if humans are to adapt sustainable lifestyles on our planet." In agreement with this assessment, CEW names Aubrey Langeland a Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow.

YAOHUA (KAREN) LIN *Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholar*



Yaohua (Karen) Lin is studying for an MA in higher education in order to have a better understanding of the American higher education system. Raised in China, Karen had to overcome the expectations of her small community that, as a girl, education was wasted on her. Instead, she pushed forward to attend the best school in the area and then became the first member of her family to complete college.

Karen is a professional admissions consultant for Chinese students aiming to attend U.S. schools. In her work, she has witnessed the impact that studying in a foreign country has on students. As Chinese-American cooperative universities increased in number, Karen saw growing opportunities for working with international students and she decided to invest in her own education abroad.

Karen was already focused on expanding her education and had taken advantage of MOOC, or massive open online, courses. Once she arrived in the higher education program, she worked to learn the intricacies of American educational policies and practices that other students knew implicitly. She maintained a strong GPA and also held a part-time job.

As she looks ahead, Karen imagines working in some capacity with international study programs or international student affairs. She works as an academic advisor in the School of Engineering, where she explains policies to potential students. At home, Karen continues to encourage and support education for girls and women.

CEW congratulates Yaohua (Karen) Lin on her achievements to date, and awards her a Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholarship.

MONIQUE MANNERS *Irma M. Wyman Scholar*



Monique Manners has nearly completed her BSE in industrial and operations engineering, having travelled a long path from high school graduation in 2008. At that time, Monique was eager to leave Hawaii and a complicated family life. She married and soon had her son, moving to North Carolina with a military posting. Unfortunately, her marriage ended and Monique found herself a single parent without higher education or job experience.

Monique was determined to move forward. Overcoming her terror of failing in college, she enrolled in her local community college. Not only did she survive, she excelled, and soon became not just a successful student but a representative of the college. As a student ambassador for College of The Albemarle, Monique traveled statewide to meet with high school students, often relating her own story of fear and success. She gave campus tours and assisted new students in the registration process. Monique graduated with two associate's degrees, one in arts and one in science, and continued onward.

At U-M, Monique discovered industrial and operations engineering, which she loves. Not only has she been successful in her course work, but she has also been involved with an engineering research team focused on the monitoring of chronic disease. Professors point to Monique's problem solving and critical thinking skills, suggesting that she consider graduate school.

Monique says, "I am strong because I've had to struggle." CEW celebrates Monique Manners' strength and accomplishments, and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

SARA MEEROW *Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow*



Sara Meerow acknowledges the complexities of planning green infrastructure (such as rain gardens, parks, green roofs) to increase urban resilience to climate change and other hazards. Her research for her PhD in resource policy and behavior at the School of Natural Resources and Environment consists of developing and testing a Green Infrastructure Spatial Planning (GISP) model that is designed to assist decision makers in locating green infrastructure to maximize multiple social and environmental benefits.

Sara's scholarship provides important empirical testing of theoretical concepts, adding to the research on planning for urban resilience. She is applying her model in four cities: Detroit, New York, Los Angeles, and Manila. Because the Philippines are extremely vulnerable to climate change and rapidly developing, Manila is an important case study. Having completed two field work trips, Sara made a final trip to Manila this past summer. This trip included an important piece of her study: meeting with stakeholders to learn their priorities regarding the different benefits—such as reducing air pollution, increasing wildlife habitat connectivity, or managing stormwater—and incorporating those results into the planning process.

Sara's mixed methods approach illustrates her ability to “[understand] the human dimensions of environmental and climate change issues deeply.” Rather than focus on a single benefit, such as stormwater management, Sara's model invites policy makers and stakeholders to leverage multiple social and environmental co-benefits when siting green infrastructure.

“Sara's research has great potential to have wide-ranging impact both in academia and among practitioners,” according to one faculty member. In awarding Sara Meerow a Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellowship, CEW applauds her work.

ANN MILLER *Sarah Winans Newman Scholar*



Ann Miller began her nursing career over fifteen years ago with a passion for pediatric nursing. Over the years that passion has remained, with a renewed commitment to advancing her skills and a desire to fulfill a long-held dream of returning for additional education.

Ann's career has included full and part time work in pediatric hospitals and in pediatric home health. Those who have worked with Ann praise her knowledge, skill, and compassionate care. She has served as a mentor to other nurses, gladly sharing her knowledge and experience. But Ann is committed to expanding her nursing practice.

After completing the MSN program, Ann will be able to become a nurse practitioner in a pediatric acute care setting.

Ann brings a unique viewpoint to her work. She herself has a child with medical needs and as she describes receiving that news as well as delivering that news to other parents, she notes that she brings "a diverse and compassionate perspective" to pediatric care. Ann cites both of her children as key to her decision to return to school. She wants her children to understand the benefits of higher education, and as a single parent feels she provides a model of moving ahead through difficulties.

Ann notes that she may again work in a pediatric hospital or pursue work in a pediatric specialty clinic or as a professor of nursing. In whichever way her career continues, it is clear that Ann Miller will have an impact on children with acute care needs, their families, and her profession. CEW therefore awards her a Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship.

DENISE MILLER

American Association of University Women Scholars



Denise Miller learned some key life lessons while growing up on a Montana cattle ranch. She saw firsthand the balance between business interests and environmental concerns. The value of education was clear, and she learned the importance of forging her own path as a woman. Upon finishing college, Denise worked as an analyst and strategist across several industries, but increasingly felt the need to increase her knowledge base in business as well as in environmental sustainability.

Denise found the way to do that at U-M's Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise. Working on a joint degree in business and natural resources, Denise will earn an MBA and an MS in environmental policy and planning. She has already proven to be a leader among her peers, heading a group consulting project to assist a major Michigan corporation develop sustainability goals and a plan to achieve those goals by 2020. She has also proven to be a leader in her cohort, involved in numerous extracurricular activities.

Denise brings a broad set of experiences to the table. She has worked with governmental affairs, policy formation, and strategic planning in settings ranging from a Fortune 500 business to a Clinton Foundation initiative.

Denise is able to integrate innovation and analysis. Her ultimate goal is determining how businesses can create a positive impact through strategic planning and incorporating sustainability goals. Both faculty and clients who work with Denise anticipate that this seasoned professional will continue her rapid professional growth.

In awarding Denise Miller an AAUW Scholarship, CEW joins them in expecting her continued career success.

ERIKA MURCIA *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Erika Murcia brings a broad set of experiences to her graduate work in the School of Social Work. Born in a refugee camp during the Salvadoran civil war, she grew up in a small village in El Salvador. Her childhood was filled with uncertainty and fear of violence as her village was assumed by the army to be supporting the guerillas. Nevertheless, Erika persevered and at age 17 moved to San Salvador to enter college, with her extended family offering financial support for her education. She earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of El Salvador.

Putting her degree to work, Erika worked in a variety of nonprofit organizations in Latin America. She served as the Latin American and Caribbean regional director for an international agency. In addition, she often worked as a translator and research associate for academic researchers doing fieldwork in El Salvador.

With a deep commitment to “empower people at the margins of society,” Erika decided to earn an MSW. She is particularly interested in working with marginalized communities such as refugees and immigrants. Learning about tools such as program evaluation and participatory action research will enable her to expand her ability to help communities organize.

Erika plans to work with a U.S. based international agency training community organizers and creating action research projects. Erika Murcia knows first hand the difficulties of being marginalized in society and she is dedicating her life to building peace. CEW gladly awards her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

CHIA-HUI NEILLY *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Chia-Hui Neilly has practiced nursing in Taiwan and in the U.S. for over a decade. Alongside her employment, she has spent many hours volunteering her time to provide health services to underserved populations. Now, Chia-Hui is planning to combine her nursing expertise with her dedication to providing healthcare to underserved communities as a family nurse practitioner. She is earning a doctorate of nursing practice at UM-Flint with an ambitious plan to impact community healthcare upon graduation.

The nursing faculty commend Chia-Hui for her pursuit of knowledge, her leadership and generous assistance to classmates, and her broad vision. They describe her as a proactive advocate of community-based primary care and as someone who will “make a difference.” She is the founder of the Student Nurse-Practitioner Association and assists other students in developing competency.

Chia-Hui has noticed that patients return multiple times to the hospital setting when early primary care prevention could instead manage their diseases. As she describes relationship-based care, she outlines a model of working directly with community members who might otherwise receive little health care.

After receiving her degree, Chia-Hui plans to create a nurse-led mobile clinic offering services to underserved communities. As a counterpart, she envisions direct links with community leaders, educational events, and a focus on individualized care. An important component of this primary care will be an awareness of cultural factors that impact health care delivery.

In recognition of Chia-Hui’s bold vision and her potential to change lives, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

DOLORENCE OKULLO *Irma M. Wyman Scholar*



Dolorence Okullo is earning a master's degree in health informatics in the joint degree program offered by the School of Information and the School of Public Health. She has an ambitious agenda of developing global standards for health data, enabling policy makers, practitioners, and patients to easily use information from diverse systems.

Dolorence has already used her expertise to improve health data management in her native Uganda. She has worked with a nonprofit AIDS organization, U.S. agencies such as the CDC, USAID, the Peace Corps, and the State Department, and with the Ugandan government on projects aimed at collecting and managing health data.

As a child, Dolorence assisted her mother, a community nurse, and observed the difficulties of managing health information handwritten in notebooks or files. Soon after earning her master's degree in information systems, she volunteered for the AIDS Support Organization (TASO), which later hired her, and she developed a data management system for their 4,000 clients. That data system used basic tools, but now Dolorence is skilled at moving data between systems. She provided innovative solutions in multiple projects, excelling at collecting, managing, and analyzing data for strategic planning and program implementation.

Fundamentally, Dolorence wants to improve processes and create user-friendly information systems that are accessible to patients, health care providers, researchers, and analysts. In the future she hopes to pursue a PhD in ontology. Dolorence has a comprehensive understanding of health data systems and a vision of effective and easy transmission of data across systems and countries.

CEW names Dolorence Okullo an Irma M. Wyman Scholar in recognition of her potential to improve health services globally.

RONKE OLAWALE *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Ronke Olawale brings an impressive combination of previous work, personal experience, and advanced education to her joint PhD program in social work and anthropology. Growing up in Nigeria, Ronke experienced poverty in the context of a nation lacking a formal safety net. As a features journalist for over fifteen years, she pursued her interest in social problems and solutions, writing primarily about health, rights, and the needs of vulnerable populations.

As Ronke began to expand her understanding of how she might dedicate her career to social justice, she first completed a master's degree in theological studies at Harvard Divinity School and then earned a master's degree in public administration at New York University. Deciding on a career in academic research, Ronke then decided to complete her PhD at the University of Michigan.

Ronke's general area of interest is analyzing how social policies and services improve the lives of children and vulnerable groups. She is taking an ethnographic approach to her work, assisting on research on groups in extreme poverty and evaluating a college prep program aimed at vulnerable youth. For her dissertation work, Ronke will be examining the effects of the Ebola pandemic on children and youth in Liberia. The research will investigate the impacts of social policies and services on children, including those orphaned by Ebola. Ronke expects to consider both local support systems and indigenous social nets.

CEW is pleased to support Ronke Olawale's continued academic work, expecting her to make a difference in her native Africa. We name her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

LISA OLINGER *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Lisa Olinger successfully taught elementary school for fourteen years, but eventually decided to make a significant career change and move to another profession that had long interested her. She decided to become a social worker and is now earning her MSW at the University. With a specialization in interpersonal practice and mental health, Lisa looks forward to a career working with adults in a clinical setting.

Many of the qualities that made Lisa a successful teacher will also be vital in social work practice. She has worked with disadvantaged families and in multicultural settings. Careful listening, a commitment to empowering and guiding others, and investing in positive social growth are all aspects of therapeutic work. Lisa is taking this diverse skill set and adding to it through coursework and her internship at the U-M Psychological Clinic.

Lisa has developed an interest in the impact of unresolved childhood trauma. Whether working with individuals or couples, Lisa believes that such trauma often underlies conflictual relationships, and that through therapy individuals and their partners can understand that relationship. Through her internship, Lisa has had the opportunity to observe couples therapy as well as to work with clients herself. Her supervisors agree that she is developing a strong professional identity.

Lisa Olinger has already been a success in one career. As she enters her new one, it is clear that she will be equally successful there. CEW admires Lisa's bravery, and offers support by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

LILIYA PARAKETSOVA *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Liliya Paraketsova grew a successful career as a restaurant general manager and sommelier, but ultimately felt unfulfilled. She asked herself, was she helping those in need or changing lives in any meaningful way? After giving considerable thought to how she might have a positive impact on others, she decided to go into international public interest law.

Liliya remembered her childhood in Russia, where she was the daughter of a single mother. She remembered the exclusion she experienced in American schools as an immigrant. Liliya knew that being “different” in any way could lead to injustices.

Bringing her international background and her own experiences to the JD program at Michigan’s Law School has led her to focus on human rights on an international level. It has also led to her emphasis on the empowerment of women and children.

Law school faculty are already praising Liliya as a “brilliant student” and urging her to consider federal court clerkships upon graduation. Not only is Liliya excelling in her classes, she is volunteering with multiple projects that reflect her interests. She has been working with clients for Legal Services and for the Unemployment Law Clinic. She is involved with the Syrian Accountability Project and the Global Health and Human Rights Database. Rather than taking a corporate internship, Liliya spent the summer interning at the Human Trafficking Clinic.

Liliya is well underway on her path to providing legal services to refugees and other marginalized populations worldwide. CEW commends Liliya Paraketsova’s dedication to ensuring the human rights of others, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

ANGELA PERONE *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Angie Perone served as a successful civil rights lawyer for several years after completing law school. She was involved in cases that affected pregnant women, undocumented workers, and transgender persons. As a staff attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Angie was the supervisor of the Elder Law Project. Angie found that she was increasingly using social science research as she investigated the discrimination experienced by LGBT elders and decided that she needed that foundation to make a difference through policy change.

Angie is now in the joint social work and sociology PhD program, which includes completing an MSW. Through her coursework, she is integrating her personal experiences of discrimination and harassment throughout her life and her understanding of civil rights law with research on aging, discrimination, and the intersections between them. In her work with the Elder Law Project, she learned of policies and practices in facilities that denied appropriate services to those residents who identified as LGBT. For her dissertation project, Angie will examine the overt and subtle forms of discrimination experienced by LGBT elders who live in long-term care facilities.

Angie is described as having “enormous potential to contribute to our knowledge at the intersections of aging and sexuality.” Angie currently works with SAGE Metro Detroit, which focuses on services and advocacy for LGBT older adults. She also serves on the Michigan State Advisory Council on Aging, where she provides policy research and guidance.

CEW values Angie Perone’s important contributions to her field, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

JENIFER PIFER *Joan Ireland Scholar*



Jenifer Pifer loves working with children. With her associate's degree in early childhood education, she has been a dedicated teacher and an active professional, presenting at state conferences. But in spite of her success, she wondered whether she was making as big an impact on others as she could be.

In the process of supporting friends whose child was regularly hospitalized, Jenifer experienced the work of the child life specialist at the hospital. She saw how these professionals in child development assist both hospitalized children and their families during a challenging part of life. Interested in the possibilities, Jenifer then learned that a child life specialist bachelor's degree program was being instituted at UM-Dearborn.

With an already full life of teaching, working, and raising her daughter, Jenifer was uncertain how she could realistically add returning to college to her activities. The SOAR program at UM-Dearborn provided her with the support and encouragement that resulted in her completing her first year.

Jenifer has plunged directly into her new career. She has joined two professional associations and founded a Child Life Student Association on the Dearborn campus, working with faculty and staff on campus. She brings her expertise in early childhood education into the classroom and enthusiastically shares her commitment to her new profession. As Jenifer looks forward to her new career, she can already envision ways that she could work not only with patients, but also with their siblings and parents.

CEW is certain that Jenifer Pifer will bring much to her new career, and so names her the inaugural Joan Ireland Scholar.

JERI PRESTON *Louise Cain Scholar*



Since her college graduation years ago, Jeri Preston has worked in the mortgage industry, and in nonprofits, and has raised three children. For the past few years she has been the Student Services and Communications Coordinator for the honors program in LS&A. Now Jeri is combining her work responsibilities with graduate study as she earns an MA in post-secondary higher education.

Jeri has both experienced and observed the barriers that can affect successful completion of college. Whether those are changes in family financial situation, personal or family crises, stepping out to focus on parenting, or simply balancing work and school, many students face critical moments that hinder their success. As a student services or student access professional, Jeri wants to help students, especially nontraditional students, find a way to cope and continue to graduation.

Jeri has already streamlined processes at the honors program, always with the goal of improving student access. She was primarily responsible for creating a university-wide scholarships and fellowships opportunities web page. She currently supervises more than a dozen student workers. She has also supported the new MONTS group (Michigan Organization of Non-Traditional Students).

School of Education faculty anticipate Jeri becoming “a successful professional in the field of higher education by providing positive and effective support systems for students.” For now, she is satisfying the urge to learn that she identified in herself as a child. Jeri Preston put on hold her plans to continue her higher education. Now she is finally continuing, but with the goal of helping others like her.

CEW celebrates Jeri’s plans and awards her a Louise Cain Scholarship.

SASCHA RAIYN *Elsie Choy Lee Scholar*



Sascha Raiyn's education in journalism, like her career, has been interrupted, put on hold, and rediscovered. But throughout her journey, Sascha has remained committed to a communications career. Sascha is now completing her bachelor's degree in journalism and screen studies at UM-Dearborn while working full time at a Detroit radio news station.

As she describes it, Sascha started college majoring in journalism. When she was offered a significant position at a public radio station, however, she left school and moved. Within a few years, she left that job to become her father's full time caregiver and remained with him until his death.

When Sascha tried to return to journalism, she discovered that employers were looking for someone with both current experience in the field and a degree. So she redirected her skills and earned certificates in web and graphic design and spent five years as a freelance web designer. Sascha began to plan her return to school and a return to journalism. Despite some interruptions for other life events, Sascha entered UM-Dearborn in 2014 with support and encouragement from the SOAR program.

When a faculty member encouraged her to apply for an internship at a local television station, Sascha doubted her chances. But she not only completed the internship as an investigative producer, she was subsequently hired by the station as a part-time investigative news producer. Not long afterwards, Sascha met with the news director of a public radio station. To her surprise, he invited her to apply for a full-time opening and within months she began as the full-time education reporter.

CEW gladly names Sascha Raiyn an Elsie Choy Lee Scholar and celebrates her continued commitment to her field.

ALEXANDRA RAMIREZ *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Alexandra Ramirez is earning a master's degree in urban planning, building on her bachelor's degree in architecture. After completing her bachelor's degree in Mexico she provided design services as a consultant.

Alexandra's approach to urban planning is rooted in her knowledge of traditional Mexican understandings of community and cooperation. Alexandra's family, the women in particular, taught her to rely on her community in moments of life crisis.

This sense of the importance of community is apparent in her role as an MUP student. She serves as the International Chair of the Student Urban Planning Association on campus. In addition, she founded a student-led group called the Cultural Competency Collaboration, which engages students and faculty in conversations about race and diversity.

Alexandra has also worked with an initiative that encourages students at Morehouse College to consider graduate work at the University of Michigan. Along with others in the urban planning program, she has created workshops and delivered programs at Morehouse. Building on her considerable experience in urban planning in Mexico, Alexandra developed a summer research project in Mexico in which she considered "the links between transportation systems and access to work among low-income households." Most recently, Alexandra interned in the Mexicantown-Hubbard area of Detroit, engaging local business owners in discussion about their needs and priorities for growth.

After completing her degree, Alexandra expects to spend some time working for an agency of local government or at a nonprofit with an emphasis on the intersections of transportation access, real estate development, and participatory planning in Mexico.

Alexandra Ramirez will have an impact on urban planning and development in Mexico. CEW is pleased to name her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

DEBRA RHIZAL *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Debra Rhizal has been active in the field of birth and maternal care for many years. She had an early dream of working in nursing at an international level and was preparing for nursing school when she was offered a unique opportunity. The midwife who delivered Debra's first child offered her the position of birth and office assistant for her practice. This gave Debra six years of experience as she attended multiple births. Debra also became a doula and a childbirth educator, services she continues to offer here in Ann Arbor. Her compassionate approach tailors her assistance to the specific needs and desires of the family, yet she is well versed in the complexities of care.

Debra is now at the U-M School of Nursing, in the Nurse-Midwifery Program. Described as "already a leader and strong advocate for mothers and babies," Debra has chosen to expand her opportunities to have an impact not simply on individuals, but on larger decisions related to maternal policies. She is interested in both domestic and international issues around maternal and infant health, and envisions working in a leadership, training, or administrative position. Debra is committed to remaining a clinical midwife and continuing to support the birth process for individual women, but now hopes to partner that work with a faculty training position.

Midwives who have worked with Debra or taught her in classes comment on her extensive experience, her caring attitude, and her focus on patients. They also note Debra's engagement with the community, whether as a coach for a girls' team or a passionate organizer for a food co-op.

CEW applauds Debra Rhizal's commitment to maternal and infant health, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ *Elizabeth M. Dusseau Scholar*



Elizabeth Rodriguez is on her way to becoming an outstanding neuroscience researcher, poised to add to our understanding of the underlying mechanisms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She is in the PhD program in neuroscience where she has already collaborated with scientists in other labs, authored research, and presented conference papers.

Elizabeth's interest in science developed at an early age, and as a college student she was already taking advantage of opportunities to work in faculty laboratories. Her experience with family mental illness led to her interest in the underlying biological mechanisms that lead to illness, and in the intervening years Elizabeth has narrowed her focus to answering fundamental questions regarding the development of PTSD.

During the years between her undergraduate degree and coming to Michigan, Elizabeth worked in the research lab at a major university. Her contributions led to two peer reviewed publications on which she was a co-author. As she has progressed through the doctoral program, she has presented at research seminars, won a best poster award from the Summer Research Institute, and participated in the Trauma, Stress, and Anxiety Research Group that includes researchers from U-M and from the VA. Elizabeth expects her next step to be entering a post-doctoral fellowship position.

In addition to commenting on her expected contributions to their research field, Elizabeth's professors note that she has attained this high level of professional accomplishment while raising her daughter and participating in the maintenance of her extended family.

In recognition of her achievements and in expectation of her impact on our understanding of PTSD, CEW awards Elizabeth Rodriguez an Elizabeth M. Dusseau Scholarship.

Safa Sankari *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Safa Sankari has worked on behalf of Syrian refugees and the Syrian-American community for several years. The recent humanitarian crisis unfolding in Syria, however, prompted her to return to school at UM-Dearborn for a master's degree in clinical psychology.

Safa has served as president of the Michigan Syrian American Medical Society Foundation, raising funds for medical services in Syria and designing a regional conference aimed at developing responses to the crisis, specifically to mental health issues. She has also been an active parent and participant in the Huda School and Montessori,

as well as in other community projects.

Safa identifies women and children as the most vulnerable ones involved in the Syrian conflict. Sexualized violence is used as a military tool, and both women and children are at greatest risk for abuse. Safa has been involved in the Mapping Project of Sexualized Violence in Syria, led by the Women's Media Center. The project keeps track of reported sexual violence in the country and Safa has courageously spoken out through the media.

While Syria already lacked adequate mental health services, the conflict elevates the need for those services. An entire generation, says Safa, will need mental health care and as a clinician, she will be ready to provide it. As a beginning, Safa helped establish a psychosocial program through the Syrian American Medical Society to provide psychological services to refugees in Jordan.

Not all Syrians who need mental health services because of this ongoing conflict reside in that country. Safa plans to begin by providing services to her local community while she continues offering assistance to those in Syria.

CEW supports Safa Sankari's efforts to address a critical element of the Syrian crisis, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

RAIVYNN SMITH *Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholar*



Raivynn Smith first started college at age 17, and it did not go well. Challenged by college adjustment, health issues, and homesickness, along with financial worries, she decided that college wasn't right for her. Raivynn now calls that "the best thing [she] ever did." Instead, she spent two years re-evaluating her goals and her life. She determined that a career as a physician was not for her. Rather, she worked in retail and in library services interacting with the public. She traveled around the country, took advantage of public lectures and book clubs, and then decided to try again.

Raivynn has completed an associate's degree and is now earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. She no longer thinks of herself as "a failure" for dropping out years ago. Instead, she discovered her own resilience and is aiming to help others discover theirs. Raivynn plans to continue with her education in order to serve other college students through some aspect of student services. As a person of color and a nontraditional student, Raivynn felt a lack of support on campus. She wants to be instrumental in supporting other students who might not fit the "typical student" model.

As a student and a student-employee at Michigan, Raivynn is demonstrating her new approach and focus. She is a real leader in her class, using her life experience to inform and shape her academic work. In addition, this fall she will be working as a member of the Change It Up! team as a facilitator educating first year students on identity and on bystander intervention.

CEW welcomes Raivynn Smith to the work of supporting nontraditional students, and names her a Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholar.

TARLISE TOWNSEND *Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow*



Tarlise (Tarlle) Townsend has nearly completed her MPP and is now combining her public policy degree with a PhD in health services organization and policy from the School of Public Health. Tarlie wants to conduct “high-impact international health and development research in low and middle income countries.” She has already spent a year working for the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology as a Luce Scholar; this past summer she served as a UN Population Fund intern in their Vietnam Country Office.

As an intern, Tarlie conducted research on the impacts of climate change on population dynamics and health. Although Vietnam is vulnerable to climate change-induced sea level rise, there has been limited progress on mitigating the social effects of such changes among highly vulnerable groups. As part of her internship, Tarlie provided the UN Population Fund with an overview of needed policy-relevant research for use by the Vietnam Country Office as it determines priorities over the next several years. Studies are needed regarding health status, aging, and migration patterns in the context of both climate change and rapid development in the country.

Tarlle has already received numerous awards and fellowships, and has served as a guest researcher in such institutions as the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. She is described as a natural leader expected to have “a successful career as a scholar.”

As the world deals with the results of climate change, Tarlie Townsend’s research will be vital. CEW is happy to name her a Menakka and Essel Bailey Graduate Fellow.

ESTHER TRAGER *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Esther Trager discovered her interest in architecture as a child. An art class that involved designing a home fascinated her as she began to consider not only what colors and shapes to use, but specifically how residents function in their space. She continued to be interested in watching friends' families in their homes and considering how they used space.

Beginning several years ago, Esther has been working towards her bachelor's degree in architecture. Balancing coursework with family responsibilities means she has made steady, but slow, progress. However, according to architecture professors, that hasn't daunted her. They describe Esther as a top-performing student who engages with course material and challenges herself through varied approaches to her work. She emerges as a class leader and shows strong potential for graduate work and a successful career.

Esther describes taking summer drawing and architecture classes as a youth, classes where all the work was done by hand. When she took her first college architecture class, she suddenly was exposed to the computer software that was used in design. She realized that using computers in architectural design changed the field significantly, allowing for design projects that would be too time intensive if done by hand. Esther has therefore decided that she wants experience in computer science before she enters a master's degree program in architecture. As she puts it, she wants to "fuse together" expertise in design and expertise in coding.

CEW is happy to support Esther Trager's continuing progress towards a career in architecture, awarding her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

ALYSSA VAN HOFWEGEN *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



When Alyssa Van Hofwegen finished her bachelor's degree in global development studies, she immediately began working with refugee families in the greater Seattle area. She spent three years as a caseworker for World Relief before being promoted to Health and Education Programs Coordinator. While she had the opportunity to continue at World Relief, Alyssa decided to increase her professional competency through additional education.

As one of only six students chosen to be a Global Activities Scholar in the School of Social Work, Alyssa now brings her experience to her coursework for the MSW. Her academic and employment background prepared her to provide services and design programs at her internship with the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority. A summer internship coordinated with the University of Haifa enabled Alyssa to practice in an international setting with a multicultural group of citizens. This setting, Alyssa says, will prepare her for the experiences of refugees and immigrants in the U.S. where similar multicultural differences exist.

Whether practicing in a domestic or an international setting, Alyssa is interested in the macro level systems of service provision. Her future plans involve working with an organization that “brings vulnerable communities’ voices into the center rather than the periphery of the work.” She anticipates functioning as a program manager, grants manager, community organizer, or in other roles that involve community interaction.

CEW is proud to support Alyssa Van Hofwegen as she enhances her skillset for working with vulnerable populations here and abroad by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

TAMARA VANDERFORD

Molly H. Dobson Scholar



Tamara Vanderford has spent most of her adult career working in business. Now she is earning a bachelor's degree in business from UM-Flint as she prepares for her future career.

Tamara spent nineteen years at a major corporation, working her way up from the floor to a front line manager. During that time she also raised her children and cared for other family members. During the recent recession, however, Tamara was laid off. As the family struggled financially and then moved to Michigan, Tamara realized that she needed further education in order to move ahead in a career. She is determined

to also serve as a role model for her children, helping them to see the value of persistence and of educational attainment.

Tamara began studying at Mott Community College, where she was accepted into the honors program. As a part of that program she needed to do community service and so she became part of a student group called the Mott Campus Clowns. This clown troupe provides anti-bullying messages through performance at community schools. Even after completing her associate's degree, Tamara continued to offer support to the Campus Clowns.

Tamara is described as a student with an outstanding intellect and impressive critical thinking skills. As an employee, she provides exceptional customer service and brings ideas from her business classes into her work situation. After spending time on campus, Tamara hopes to work in academia herself, transferring her business knowledge to the campus setting.

CEW proudly supports Tamara Vanderford by awarding her a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship.

EDWARD WAISANEN *Retirement Income Solutions Scholar*



Edward Waisanen has returned to school after years in the Peace Corps and in nonprofit management. He is now completing a master's degree in environmental policy and planning with a specialization in environmental informatics.

As an undergraduate student, Edward says, he was concerned with social inequalities but had little experience in working directly to address them. He first took an AmeriCorps position in a nonprofit that dealt with adult literacy, and then continued with them as a development assistant. He then spent three years serving in the Peace Corps in Benin.

As a new student in his master's degree program, Edward has earned the admiration of his faculty and fellow students. His analytical and writing skills are complemented by his experience and innovative approach to disseminating information. He is involved in the SNRE weekly radio show "*It's Hot in Here*" and serves as a member of the U-M Climate Delegation team.

Edward brings a hands-on understanding of the impact of climate change after serving in West Africa as a Community Natural Resource Advisor and as the coordinator of a food security program. He is now applying his understanding of these issues to the work of Michigan's rural farmers. Edward is particularly interested in developing geospatial technical skills that can be used by governmental or nonprofit organizations working to understand climate vulnerability.

It is clear that Edward Waisanen has found his path, and that he is poised to contribute to our understanding of climate vulnerability. CEW happily names him a Retirement Income Solutions Scholar.

DEIDRA WILLIAMS *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Deidra Williams has dreamed of being a nurse-midwife since she was a teen. It took her several years after finishing high school, however, before she began to pursue that dream seriously. As a single mother, Deidra combined raising her daughter with working to support them both, and then added in coursework. She first became an LPN, then an RN, then she earned her BSN.

Deidra is now just months away from earning her MSN in the U-M Nurse-Midwifery Program. She credits her husband and her mother with supporting her through the long journey to this point. Her time as a staff nurse working with labor and delivery has given her excellent clinical skills. Her high academic achievement along with her passion and commitment to her profession are ensuring her success in this competitive program.

In addition to her work, school, and family life, Deidra remains active in volunteer activities, using her medical background to teach others about health. She is committed to increasing access to women's health care services for at-risk populations, with a special focus on Detroit's African American community.

In the future, Deidra also plans to provide health services to African women through mission work. She says, "I want to become an influential leader in the healthcare community through research, and help to drastically improve maternal infant mortality rates."

CEW is honored to help Deidra Williams complete this last step in her path to becoming a nurse-midwife, and names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

MELODY WILSON *Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar*



Two decades ago, Melody Wilson graduated from the University with a BS in physics. Today she is earning a second bachelor's degree in secondary math education. In between, Melody has been active in teaching mathematics and physics, raising a family, and supporting a youth organization.

For two years following college, Melody lived in Fiji and taught both physics and math at high school and college levels. While she taught accelerated classes, Melody also taught students who had determined that they were “bad at math” and had nearly given up. Melody was able to watch these students persevere and pass national math exams.

The experience instilled in her a desire to continue to teach and especially to introduce math to those who had given up.

Although she did some teaching and some tutoring during the following years, she was also involved in a non-profit youth organization and was busy raising five children. Now that her youngest child is in school, Melody and her family have agreed that it's time for her to achieve certification as a secondary school math teacher.

Melody's professors praise her abilities on multiple levels. While one says Melody is a student who knows how to learn and recognizes where she needs more assistance, another comments on her impressive academic performance and her skill at communicating mathematical concepts.

As Melody points out, mathematics is fundamental to multiple other fields of study. She laments what she calls the “self-fulfilling prophecy” of those who insist they are unable to do math.

CEW is pleased to recognize Melody Wilson's perseverance and pursuit of her dream, and names her a Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar.

ROBIN WILSON *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*



Reading and literacy education are passions for Robin Wilson, who is now earning a bachelor's degree in reading and a minor in language arts at UM-Dearborn. Robin's passion stems from her own childhood difficulties with reading and the assistance she received from a mentor who had overcome her own reading problems.

As a poet, a literacy activist, and a writer, Robin has already demonstrated her belief in the power of reading. She founded the Josie Odum Morris Literacy Project, Inc., a volunteer driven nonprofit organization that offers literacy education for adults in the city of Inkster. As the Education Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland and

Macomb Counties' Field Zone Unit, she instituted a reading club and increased tutoring program participation. In March of 2016, Robin was selected as a UM-Dearborn Difference Maker. Robin has also won a UM-Dearborn campus writing award for her poetry and she recently published the children's book *Mama Got Rhythm and Daddy Got Rhyme*.

Robin looks forward to being a reading specialist after obtaining a master's degree in reading. She hopes to take advantage of an initiative of Phillips Academy that works with students of color and diversity scholars who are preparing for graduate school application. Beyond graduate school, Robin would like to consult with school districts "to design research-based and culturally responsive literacy programs to benefit underserved youth."

As a nontraditional student, Robin has overcome financial barriers and with the support of SOAR on the UM-Dearborn campus, she has continued to progress in her education.

In recognition of her literacy advocacy to date and her plans to develop reading programs for elementary schools, CEW names Robin Wilson a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

Thank you

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