

The Program

WELCOME

Gloria D. Thomas, Director

Center for the Education of Women, University of Michigan

REMARKS

Chris Whitman, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

University of Michigan

Lorraine M. Gutierrez, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor

Professor of Social Work and Psychology

University of Michigan

CEW Scholar, 1984 and

CEW Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellow, 1988

PRESENTATION OF CEW SCHOLARSHIP AND

FELLOWSHIP CITATIONS AND AWARDS

Menakka M. Bailey

Cleopatra Caldwell

Ranny Riecker

CLOSING REMARKS

Gloria D. Thomas

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CEW Scholarship Program

COMMEMORATING 40 YEARS OF SUPPORTING WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL DREAMS

Tonight we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the CEW Scholarship Program by welcoming 50 amazing women to our community of scholars and fellows. CEW scholars are extraordinary people. While each will make her own unique path in life, they all share certain characteristics, including intelligence, vision, perseverance, and potential.

Times have changed in the past 40 years. Women at the University of Michigan now earn over 50% of undergraduate degrees and over 40% of graduate degrees (*Status of Women Report*, University of Michigan, 2007-2008). But these numbers do not tell the whole story. Behind today's statistics are the stories of many women who struggle as much as their 1970's predecessors to achieve their educational dreams—or who give up secure and prestigious careers to devote their talents to solving the world's social, political and environmental problems. The Center created its Scholarship Program in 1970 with the goal of enabling these women to continue their education at the University of Michigan.

It's clear that CEW scholarships still fill an enormous need. This year's 50 scholars and fellows—like the 1,341 who preceded them—certainly rely on the financial support. As important as the money, however, is the confidence they develop in knowing that someone believes in them. One of this year's scholars expressed her thoughts this way:

“It is one thing to believe in yourself, but it is truly rewarding to have someone else take a stance to express their belief in you as well. Every time I think about the scholarship you have awarded me, I am reminded that someone believes in me, someone else is rooting for me to succeed.”

OUR SCHOLARS

The scholarships and fellowships honor the performance and potential of students who have interruptions in their educations, strong academic records, and impressive past accomplishments and future goals. CEW has awarded over \$3.75 million in scholarships since the program began. The scholarships go to women, and men, in any undergraduate or graduate program on the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, or Flint campuses.

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

Continued on the next page

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

The 2010-2011 CEW Scholars represent all three University of Michigan campuses, a wide variety of disciplines, both graduate and undergraduate degrees, and an age range from 25 to 63.

THE HISTORY

Former CEW Director Jean Campbell first established the Scholarship Program in 1970 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the admission of women to the University of Michigan. In the beginning, private donations were used to establish a general scholarship fund, and the awards were simply called “CEW Scholarships.” Then, in 1990, the Margaret and Harry Towsley Foundation guaranteed the future of the program with a \$1 million endowment. In the twenty years since then, 453 women have been named Margaret Dow Towsley scholars.

Today, the Towsley Scholarships are just some of many awards that have been created by private donors. In 1985, CEW introduced the Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellowship for graduate women students in the humanities and social sciences. The Raphael fellowships are provided through an endowment established by the late Margaret Earhart Smith in recognition of her friend Mary Malcomson Raphael. And we are excited to announce that a new fellowship, the Robin Wright Graduate Fellowship, is being awarded this year for the first time. You'll find a description of all the 2010 Scholarships, Fellowships and donors on the following pages.

WITH GRATITUDE

On this joyous evening, we celebrate the rich partnership among CEW staff, the University community, and our loyal supporters. We join the scholars, their academic advisors, their families and friends in expressing our sincerest gratitude and admiration to the generous donors who have built such a strong legacy of financial assistance and encouragement for students at the University of Michigan

Thank You

*The Scholarships and
Fellowships*

GAIL ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* CATHRYN CAVALLE

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 high school 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 when this scholarship is awarded.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: JACQUELINE SMITH

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:* DEBRA WILLIAMS

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 individuals whose studies have been interrupted to complete degrees in their chosen fields.

JANE AND BILL BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* SANDY ZALMOUT

The Jane and Bill Bloom Scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2008. 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 has had a distinguished career as a physician. Jane is the first scholarship recipient who has established a scholarship endowment with the intention of fully funding tuition for a CEW scholar. Throughout it all, Bill Bloom has been a supportive partner. With their scholarship for an undergraduate on the Ann Arbor campus, Jane and Bill send a message to all future recipients to “aim high, raise your sights, and stick with it for a rewarding life.”

COLLEGIATE SOROSIS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* REBECCA HELD

The Soros Corporation is composed of alumnae of Collegiate Sorosis. The group established a Foundation to support sorority members in need of financial assistance in order to remain at Michigan. With the closing of Collegiate Sorosis, the alumnae group voted to make Foundation funds available for women’s scholarships through the Center for the Education of Women, thereby continuing its encouragement of women scholars. This scholarship is designated for women in need of financial assistance to complete their degrees at Michigan.

LUCILE B. CONGER ALUMNAE GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS *Recipients:* SHERRIE FOSTER;
NATOSHA TALLMAN (2010-2011) KATHY CHRISTENSEN; SHEILA JONES;
JENNIFER RIEMENSCHNEIDER; MARIE WOOLEN (2009-2010)

Since 1990, the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group has provided CEW scholarships for undergraduate women students in financial need. In Fall, 2009, the Conger Alumnae chose to award four additional scholarships, in addition to their original two selections for that year. Since we were unable to include those four new scholars in the 2009 program, we honor them at this year's event.

The Lucile B. Conger Group is a UM alumnae organization founded in 1947. The Conger organization has nearly 200 female members and is actively involved in raising funds to provide scholarships for women to attend the University of Michigan.

MOLLY H. DOBSON SCHOLARSHIPS

DEANNA SCULLY

Recipients: ELIZABETH HUNTER; DIAMANTINA SALINAS;

Created in 1992, the Molly H. Dobson Scholarships support women returning to school to complete undergraduate degrees. These scholarships are designed to recognize women who have expressed creativity, persistence, and dedication while striving to complete their education. The scholarships were created through the generosity of Molly Dobson, a dedicated 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 there are many deserving women with different educational needs and goals, and she wishes to create better opportunities and access for women who need financial support.

CECILIA ANNE STIBORIK DREYFUSS SCHOLARSHIP*Recipients:* EMILIA ASKARI

In 2002, family and friends of Cecilia Anne Stiborik Dreyfuss established this scholarship in her memory. Cecilia was a remarkable journalist, scholar, and champion of women's rights. This scholarship provides support for women studying literature, language and related fields from a woman's perspective, interests that Cecilia pursued throughout her life. An accomplished linguist, Cecilia received her doctorate in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan, won two Hopwood Awards, and was one of the first CEW scholarship recipients in 1970.

ROBERT BRUCE DUNLAP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP*Recipient:* BETH JAKUBOWSKI

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.

ELSIE CHOY LEE SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* ANNE JENNIFER NASH

The Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship is given to assist undergraduate and graduate women in facilitating their own work in art, writing, or music. It is also to be given to those students researching women of creativity who have struggled to find their own voices within these fields. Elsie found that the cultivation of creativity was a vital part of her search for life's purpose and meaning. In "Art in My Life," a talk given 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." She 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, Joseph T. A. Lee, with the support of family and friends.

SARAH WINANS NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* AGNIESZKA JASINSKA

The Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship, created in 2001, provides financial support to graduate, undergraduate and professional women pursuing degrees in biological and biomedical sciences and related fields who demonstrate financial need and show promise of academic merit. Dr. Sarah Winans 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 University Medical School. A long time volunteer and friend to the Center, Dr. Newman recognizes the contributions the Center makes to the University community and is pleased to continue her commitment to the education of women with the Sarah Winans Newman Scholarship.

ALINE UNDERHILL ORTEN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: LISA DOMENICO

Established in 2001, the Aline Underhill Orten Foundation Scholarship extends support to women pursuing careers in Chemistry, Biology, Natural Resources, Epidemiology, and related fields. Orten's intelligence and versatility always led her to new ways of learning and teaching. An early student of engineering, she started her career in chemistry by attending classes with medical students and began a lifelong pattern of excelling by crossing disciplinary lines. Like Dr. William Beaumont on Mackinaw Island in the previous century, Dr. Orten had an opportunity to study working intestines through the open wound of a cooperative patient who participated in her study for many years. She later began work on construction of an analyzer of body fluids, the first in the Midwest. Always innovative in her own work, Orten understood that rapidly changing environments in the sciences demand high levels of education, resourcefulness, and flexibility. The scholarship is dedicated to that purpose.

MARY MALCOMSON RAPHAEL FELLOWSHIPS

Recipients: S. MARGOT FINN; ANJU PAUL; IVY TSO

The Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellowships were 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 intended as awards of high distinction and are 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 a contribution 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."

HELEN HUFF SHELL SCHOLARSHIP *Recipient:* ALEXIS HYDER

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

MARGARET DOW TOWSLEY SCHOLARSHIPS *Recipients:* SARAH ALWARD; TERRIE BISHOP; A. SHEREE BROWN; JANET CANNON; COURTNEY CARTÉR; MELISSA CHALMERS; ALLISON DALE-RIDDLE; PAMELA EHRHART; LINNEA EVANS; CLAUDETTE GRINNELL-DAVIS; CARRIE KARVONEN-GUTIERREZ; AMY KRINGS; SANDI KUMM; ELMA LORENZO-BLANCO; LYNN MCCAIN; KERRI LEYDA NICOLL; NICOLE NOVETSKY; CARA PETERMAN; DAHLIA PETRUS; THERESA ROMANOSKY; ELIZABETH SENECAI; LORI WALLACE; STACY WILLIAMS; LORETTA YULE

Because of the life and work of Margaret Dow Towsley, countless doors for women and children have been opened and the life of this community immeasurably improved. 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 Towsley was one of the first 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 Towsley 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 to found 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 knew 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. Margaret Towsley's 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.

ROBIN WRIGHT GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP *Recipient:* FAIZA MOATASIM

CEW awarded the Robin Wright Graduate Fellowship for the first time in Spring, 2010. An internationally esteemed journalist, a foreign policy expert, and a University of Michigan alumna, Robin Wright funded this award to support the work of a UM graduate student from Africa or the Islamic World. Robin Wright has reported from more than 140 countries, but her primary passion and expertise is the Middle East, about which she has written five books. Wright's CEW Fellowship highlights her commitment to research on contemporary international and global issues, especially those related to political, economic or societal change in the Middle East or Africa and to new solutions for issues arising from the spread of globalization. The Fellowship places high priority on women graduate students who conduct their research abroad and who intend to return to their home countries to contribute their scholarly and professional skills. Wright believes that women are agents of change in the Middle East and Africa, and the Robin Wright Graduate Fellowship is another way that she is supporting those efforts.

IRMA M. WYMAN SCHOLARSHIPS *Recipients:* CANDRA GILL; ELEANOR SCHUHMANN

Irma M. Wyman Scholarships provide support for women students of Engineering, Computer Science, and related fields on either the graduate or undergraduate level. Criteria for selection include field of study, merit, promise of future contributions, and life circumstances. Ms. Wyman has generously contributed funds to make these scholarships possible. Ms. Wyman is herself 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. Having benefited during her education from both the financial and psychological support of a Regents Scholarship, she hopes to provide a similar boost to others. After retirement from the corporate world, she served 10 years as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Minnesota. Ms. Wyman is now fully retired.

The Scholars and Fellows

SARAH ALWARD *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Sarah Alward was on track to become an epidemiologist. Then, after graduating from Grinnell College with a degree in biology, she spent three years teaching English to children in rural Japan and began to suspect that a career as a research scientist would never fulfill her need for creativity and individual expression.

In Japan, says Sarah, “I was able to witness how people, especially children, interact with the natural world around them: harvest festivals, summer solstice dances, and even a stag-horn beetle wrestling match.” Her newfound appreciation for the human connection to nature led Sarah to the field of landscape architecture.



Sarah is now a master's degree student in the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. Her goal is to become a landscape architect. Having come to appreciate “how a simple rock garden has the remarkable power to inspire deep, thoughtful reflection,” Sarah dreams of “creating environmentally sensitive and aesthetically beautiful outdoor spaces that both connect under-represented segments of society to nature and strengthen the connection that all of us have with the environment.”

Sarah has made a deep impression on her professors, who predict she will one day be “among the leaders in the field of landscape architecture.” In the words of one advisor, “Sarah is a dream student who gives her utmost to every task. She is extremely intelligent but also artistically talented. She has a powerful sense of beauty, color, and texture that makes all her designs come alive and speak to other people.”

Sarah tells us that she has discovered a profession for which she can sustain her passion. Delighted to support her enthusiasm and potential, CEW awards Sarah Alward a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

EMILIA ASKARI *Cecilia Anne Stiborik Dreyfuss Scholar*

“Like journalism itself,” says Emilia Askari, “my career is at a crossroads. The legacy media organizations that once sent me to Patagonia to report on killer whales and to the Upper Peninsula to report on endangered wolves are themselves on the brink of extinction.”

Emilia says it took courage to return to school after two decades as a professional journalist. Having earned an undergraduate degree from Brown University and an MA in journalism from Columbia, Emilia was an award-winning environmental reporter for such papers as the *Miami Herald* and the *Detroit Free Press*.

The technology-driven changes in news gathering and reporting are, says Emilia, “both troubling and thrilling.” They raise essential questions: “Who will watchdog the government?” and “Who will gather crucial news that has little commercial value?” In order to explore such issues, Emilia is working on a master's degree in the University of Michigan's School of Information.

The inspiration to make a shift in her career also comes from Emilia's parents, both of whom modeled the value of education, from her wish to model those values for her own two children, and from a sense of “responsibility to represent Iranian Americans in a positive way in the workforce.”

Emilia has had other connections to the university over the years. She was a UM Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellow, and she has long been an adjunct journalism instructor. Those who know Emilia say she has always had an interest in academia, and they are not surprised that she has become a student again. They predict that, given her intelligence, creativity, and determination, Emilia will help lead her profession into the future. In support of Emilia Askari's new career, CEW names her the Cecilia Anne Stiborik Dreyfuss Scholar.



TERRIE BISHOP *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.*

Terrie Bishop's educational journey has been a series of stops and starts. She describes her childhood as very happy, with “two loving and caring parents.” But, because neither of her parents graduated from high school, “college was never stressed” in Terrie's home. Knowing she wanted to work with children, Terrie entered a co-op program in high school, intending to become a nurse. Terrie soon discovered that “nursing was not the profession for me.” She had no Plan B, however, no other career idea that would give her similar opportunities to “have an impact on people.”

In the decade that followed, Terrie married, had two children, and concentrated on being a “very hands-on mother and wife.” Her ambitions for a college degree remained in the background until, at the suggestion of a friend, Terrie enrolled as an accounting major at Wayne State University. Terrie eventually realized, however, that she “felt no passion” for accounting.



“Once again at a crossroads,” Terrie learned about SOAR, an academic support program for non-traditional adult students at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. “I was confident that this was my opportunity to get it right,” she says. Now entering her final year as a psychology major at UM-D, Terrie plans to continue her education and to earn a master's degree in social work. Her career path may have changed but not her determination to work with children, to “shape their lives...and help them conquer personal and emotional issues.”

Along her journey, Terrie has impressed her professors and colleagues, one of whom describes her as a “rare jewel.” They tell us that, given Terrie's “intrinsic motivation to learn and her extremely personable, mature, relaxed, empathic, and insightful” nature, she possesses the “perfect combination of characteristics for a social worker.” In support of Terrie Bishop's ambitions, CEW is proud to name her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

A. SHEREE BROWN *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.*

Sheree Brown returned to her Boston home after receiving an undergraduate degree in history and African/African-American studies at the University of Michigan in 1999. She earned an MA in history and museum studies from Tufts University. Sheree then worked at the Museum of Science, Boston; the Boston Historical Society; the Smithsonian Institute Anacostia Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC; and the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society in Key West.

Her experiences helped Sheree develop strong archival and artifact research skills and introduced her to the issues of diversity, inclusion, and representation facing museums today. Through it all, she retained a special fascination with the research about medieval England she'd begun at Tufts.

Sheree is now back at Michigan, working on a PhD in history and writing a dissertation on guilds in late medieval and early Tudor England. She plans to combine an academic career and museum curatorial work, with the goal of “broadening the historical narrative presented to museum goers by foregrounding the contributions of everyday people and challenging them to make personal connections to history.”



In her roles as teacher, scholar, and curator, Sheree is committed to presenting “marginalized groups as valuable and important enough to be the focus of serious historical investigation and to be included in the historical record as main characters.”

In 2008, Sheree was nominated for the *Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award*. In addition, she is a superb student. One of her advisors describes her as someone “with whom every interaction is not only a pleasure but a challenging and stimulating intellectual experience.” In recognition of Sheree Brown's “exceptionally promising future as an historian,” CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

JANET CANNON *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

After a long career as a professional musician, Janet Cannon has come to the University of Michigan to “pull together the different strands of my musical endeavors and weave them into a coherent whole.” Janet is a double bass player who has performed in many symphony, opera and chamber orchestras.

A native of California, Janet received her bachelor's degree from Manhattan School of Music. After studying and performing in Mexico for six years, she moved to France and devoted herself to many musical projects and activities. She studied with a renowned bass virtuoso, played in orchestras and recitals, earned diplomas in performance and teaching, helped run a small music school, and taught beginning bass lessons.



At some point, however, Janet realized she'd exhausted her opportunities in France. “I had developed my abilities, both in teaching and performing, to a fairly high level, but I was unable to put them to use.” So, Janet and her teen-aged daughter returned to the US, and she is now working on a master's degree in music performance in the School of Music, Theater, and Dance.

Janet has set herself several goals for the next stage of her career. In addition to improving her own skills, she is working on a program to help beginning bass players overcome the “mental, physical, and postural problems so many musicians develop under the stress of performing.” In addition, she is studying playwriting in order to someday dramatize the life of Domenico Dragonetti, the world's first double bass virtuoso.

Whether she devotes herself to teaching, or eventually earns a PhD, Janet is passionate about “bringing live music back into our society in a more meaningful way.” With her professors telling us she has the talent and experience to achieve all of her goals, CEW is delighted to award Janet Cannon a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

COURTNEY CARTER *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“I am at a place,” says Courtney Carter, “where I thought I would never be in my life—a junior at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.” Courtney “was raised in a disadvantaged, violent neighborhood with homicides, teenage pregnancies, and drug abusers.” Six of Courtney’s friends “lost their lives to gun violence,” including her eldest brother, “who was like a father to me.”

Courtney survived her difficult childhood and, in the “midst of the madness,” her grandparents taught her to value education. “I will always remember my grandmother working as a maid and encouraging me to finish school,” writes Courtney. When her grandmother died, however, Courtney entered an abusive relationship that eventually ended in divorce. She worked a minimum wage job for over nine years, only to be told one day that the position was being eliminated, leaving her without money or benefits for herself and her children.

Courtney is proud that she has survived such potentially devastating life circumstances: “Because of my perseverance, I have managed to stay employed, raise three productive children, and volunteer in the community.” Courtney is now an undergraduate student at UM-D, with a concentration in health policy and psychology. She intends to earn a master’s degree and to help “homeless, mentally ill or abused women, children, and elderly.”



In the words of one of her professors, “Even greater than Courtney’s challenges and dashed dreams is her determination to succeed....Her goal is to work in communities like the one in which she grew up and to help people who have no positive influences to see that they can accomplish great things.” CEW joins with Courtney Carter’s other admirers to “shine a light” on her strong academic skills and personal commitment. We delight in naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

CATHRYN CAVALLE *Gail Allen Scholar*

Cathryn Cavalle was a good student who graduated from high school “excited about the future and the possibilities” before her. Her plans were ended abruptly. First, Cathryn learned her parents had neither the funds nor the interest in sending her to college. Then, when she told them she was a lesbian, they and her extended family disowned her.

Still, Cathryn considers herself fortunate. “I have known others whose spirits and lives were crushed by ignorance and hate. Some of them lost to AIDS; some, to drugs and alcohol. But my coming out was, and continues to be, a great catalyst. The losses in my early life made me stronger, and the struggles I’ve seen and experienced solidified a warrior in me.”



Twenty years after high school, Cathryn finally enrolled in college. She earned an associate's degree and is now working on a bachelor's degree in women and gender studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. She plans to continue her education with a master's degree in social work or higher education. Cathryn is committed to advocacy. She wants “to empower others who identify as LGBTQ, to dissolve the gender binary and contribute to a world of inclusion and harmony.”

Working with a number of different groups, Cathryn is already a leading force among her peers. Most recently, she was appointed to the newly formed LGBTQ Task Force, charged with assessing how to create an inclusive UM-D campus climate.

One of Cathryn's professors tells us, “Because we live in a world where many misconceptions about LGBT persons exist, and where there is still significant discrimination against these persons, I am excited to work with a student who is willing to take on this vitally important project.” Impressed by her “intelligence, hard work, and commitment to positive social change,” CEW honors Cathryn Cavalle by naming her the Gail Allen Scholar.

MELISSA CHALMERS *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“When I returned to work full-time after my daughter was born three years ago,” says Melissa Chalmers, “I was adamant that I would always put her first and work around her needs.” Melissa admits to having a grueling work ethic with “little need for sleep, nutrition, or alone time,” so she believed she could handle her multiple roles as mother and caregiver, partner, daughter, and busy general manager of the local Arbor Brewing Company. But Melissa gradually returned to a lifestyle that often put her daughter second to a demanding work schedule. “I was exhausted, and I felt like I’d failed.”

In the course of serious soul searching, Melissa reawakened academic aspirations she’d ignored for eight years, since earning a BA in social anthropology from the University of Michigan and an MA in cultural studies from the University of London.

Melissa is now in school again, working on a master's of science in information from the University of Michigan's School of Information. She has discovered a new career field that challenges her to apply the knowledge and skills from her interdisciplinary social science background to fascinating issues about our technological future.



In her new life, Melissa plans to become an archivist or information professional in an academic or non-profit organization, “responding to and anticipating technological change as we design tomorrow's systems for preserving the past.”

Those who know Melissa speak of her in superlatives. One of her former colleagues describes her as an amazing leader: an intelligent, thoughtful person with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, a strong work ethic, and a “compassion that instills confidence in her colleagues, subordinates and supervisors alike.” Another colleague calls Melissa “a profound and radical thinker,” able to transform the world around her. CEW is proud to support Melissa Chalmers with a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

KATHY CHRISTENSEN *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar*

While a student at Wayne County Community College, Kathy Christensen—a divorced mother of three children, including two teen-aged daughters—championed the cause of a new WCCC millage to support school operations. In the process, Kathy found her political voice and discovered a talent for “bringing people together to promote positive change.” Kathy has since been involved with many successful civic causes, such as raising funds for summer fireworks and for a new Wayne police station.

Kathy, an award-winning student at WCCC, is now at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, working toward her undergraduate degree in accounting. Picking a career was a tough choice. Given her



passion for creating “cooperation, hope and productivity from the ashes of difficulty,” Kathy at first planned a career in public relations or marketing. Then, despite having little mathematics background, she discovered “a comfort and fascination” with numbers and decided to use those skills to become an accountant. Kathy plans to continue her education by earning a master's degree in tax accounting.

Whatever her profession, Kathy knows she'll continue to “influence as many people as I can to be positive and productive and to give back as much as possible.” It's especially important to Kathy that she pass that legacy along to her children.

Kathy's professors and colleagues commend her, calling her a “concerned, active, dependable, and persevering individual” and “someone who takes very seriously her commitment to others.” CEW is delighted to support Kathy Christensen's career and civic goals by awarding her a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholarship.

ALLISON DALE-RIDDLE *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Allison Dale-Riddle worked in her first political campaign, a congressional race in her home state of Montana, when she was 21 years old. Newly graduated from Earlham College with a degree in peace and global studies, Allison was fascinated by the American election system and eager to learn more about it.

Between 2001 and 2005, Allison held positions with a Washington, DC political action group, a presidential and a gubernatorial campaign. These experiences raised a number of questions for Allison: How can we better understand voter participation? How effective is campaign targeting? What are the characteristics of successful campaign messages? And, like a true researcher, Allison wanted answers to those questions.

As Allison explains, “My desire to better understand voter behavior led me to graduate school.”

Her first step was an MA in political science from the University of Massachusetts. From there Allison enrolled in the University of Michigan's Political Science Department, where she's now a successful and highly regarded doctoral student. One indication of that success and promise is the fact that, during the 2006 elections, Allison and a colleague designed a field experiment “to test the effectiveness of using text messages to mobilize voters.” The results of that study, which showed text messages increasing voter participation by 3%, were published in a prominent political science journal.

Such an accomplishment by a first-year PhD student does not surprise Allison's professors, all of whom hold her in the highest regard. As one of them told us, “Allison is extremely smart, highly motivated, and awesomely competent. I'm sure she is on her way to an important and influential career” as an academic researcher. In support of Allison Dale-Riddle's bright future, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



LISA DOMENICO *Aline Underhill Orten Foundation Scholar*

Lisa Domenico describes her educational journey as both rewarding and challenging. Living on her own and supporting herself since the age of sixteen, Lisa says her original ambition was simply to graduate from high school in her native Canada. When she reached that goal, Lisa allowed herself to dream a little bigger—a nursing diploma from a nearby community college. “With the support and encouragement of so many incredible professors,” Lisa eventually enrolled in York University and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

“At York,” explains Lisa, “my passion for using my knowledge for improving the lives of others was truly lit. I realized I had the ability to affect people’s health and well-being through what I was learning.” She’d come so far, and the next logical step was graduate school.



Lisa is now a PhD student in the University of Michigan’s School of Nursing.

For Lisa, “improving the lives of others” means becoming a psychiatric nurse and working with individuals and families dealing with alcohol addiction and the phenomenon of denial. The research Lisa is currently involved in—and the research she intends to continue when she is a university faculty member—investigates the effects of self-concept on behavior, especially the patterns of denial among alcoholics.

Lisa is proud of her academic accomplishments and ready to use her education “to better the health of others and to help future nursing students achieve their goals.” Those who have worked with Lisa know she is destined to succeed. They call her an exemplary, tenacious student with “an unparalleled passion for creating change through education.” They predict that her novel research project “holds promise for opening new avenues for the treatment of alcohol dependency.” With admiration for Lisa Domenico’s past and future achievements, CEW names her the Aline Underhill Orten Foundation Scholar.

PAMELA EHRHART *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“The week my husband died,” says Pamela Ehrhart, “I vowed I would never be one of those people who look back on their lives with regret. Instead, I planned to make the family's disaster into an opportunity to redesign my life.”

Pamela enrolled in college after graduating from high school in 1965. “But conflicting desires,” she says, “led me to a challenging and exciting life of marriage, family, and travel as a military spouse.” She lived in Alaska, Germany and Virginia, worked a variety of jobs, and raised two children. All the while, Pamela pursued her growing interest in other cultures “in public libraries instead of formal classrooms.”

Now a widow, Pamela asked herself, “How can I use what I have accomplished in my life to recreate myself?” Her work as a non-profit volunteer and board member, church volunteer, and storyteller at the Flint Public Library nurtured her past and created connections for continuing community involvement. Pamela also decided to return to school to earn an undergraduate degree.

Pamela earned a BA in history from the University of Michigan-Flint in 2009 and immediately enrolled in a master's program in social sciences/global studies. Her goal is a PhD in British history and a teaching career. “I plan to expand the horizons of older adults in non-traditional classroom settings such as retirement homes.” Pam has already begun this project by facilitating a relationship between UM-Flint and an area senior center.

Pamela has impressed her professors, who praise her talent as a writer and researcher, her insights as an historian, and her determination to spread her enthusiasm for learning. One of them described Pam as “one of those rare, independently motivated students who fully understand that a college education is just the beginning of the learning adventure.” In support of Pamela Ehrhart's adventures, CEW awards her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.



LINNEA EVANS *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Linnea Evans believed she had reached her educational limits after earning a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in public health from Boston University. In the course of her successful career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, however, Linnea realized that, without a PhD, she would forever be limited to supporting roles. She began listening to the inner voice telling her she had the ability and passion to push herself further.

Now working on her doctorate in health behavior and health education in UM's School of Public Health, Linnea has other incentives as well. For one, as a woman of color, she believes she brings a public health perspective that is often disregarded. In addition, Linnea is motivated by the increasing



degradation occurring in her hometown of Flint. “As I notice the stark contrast in the landscape from year to year, I speculate about the impact on the health of my family, friends and neighbors,” says Linnea. “Increasingly, I find people out of work, blocks littered with foreclosure signs, disappearing businesses and closing schools, and palpably high stress levels.”

When Linnea graduates, she plans to become a university faculty member, researching “how policies bolster racial and social role-related stressors and place black women at the highest risk for developing and dying from stress-related chronic conditions.” Her goal is to design community empowerment models to mediate those stressors.

One of Linnea's strengths, say her professors and colleagues, is her “drive to face the challenges she will encounter as she pursues her complex research agenda.” Given her perseverance, skill as a diplomat and communicator, deep understanding of cultural issues, confidence and commitment, Linnea is destined to have a positive impact on the people she serves. To help insure her success, CEW awards Linnea Evans a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

S. MARGOT FINN *Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow*

In Margot Finn's words, she is “exploring the proliferation of mass media representations and ethical discourses about food since the 1980's.” She says that “by analyzing films, television shows, popular books and magazines, and news media,” she is able to “track the development and examine the ideological appeal of four main discourses about “superior” eating: gourmet food, thinness and weight-loss dieting, socially and environmentally responsible food choices, and cosmopolitan or ethnic cuisines.”

Margot's complex analyses of modern foodways led to her dissertation about the meritocracy of taste and how “superior” eating has become compensation for the “simultaneous, more widespread decline in middle-class standards of living and wages.” As Margot explains, “Food has become an increasingly important marker of class status, reinforcing class hierarchies and pathologizing the tastes and practices of people who cannot afford to engage in “superior” eating.”

Currently a doctoral student in the Program of American Culture at the University of Michigan, Margot transferred here from the English Department at New York University. Before then, she earned a BA in rhetoric, English and sociology from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. When Margot completes her doctorate, she plans to become a faculty member and to continue researching and teaching about “foodways, mass media, and social inequality.”

Her professors tell us that Margot is doing “groundbreaking” work in the nascent field of food studies, “inventing a new interdisciplinary critical paradigm.” Described as “an interdisciplinary humanist of exceptional talent and learning,” Margot is engaged in “rigorous research that will have far-reaching repercussions both within and outside academia for the very way in which social justice is conceived and acted upon.” To show our enthusiastic support for Margot Finn, “one of the intellectual stars of her generation,” CEW names her a Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow.



SHERRIE FOSTER *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Scholar*

From an early age, Sherrie Foster knew she wanted to be a psychologist. One of five children, Sherrie also knew she would have to work to pay her way through college. What she had not anticipated were the circumstances that intervened.

First, a number of serious medical conditions, combined with the devastating impact of a friend's suicide, kept Sherrie from pursuing her education. Then, as her life “returned to normal,” Sherrie got a job, met her husband, had three children and “spent the next 24 wonderful years raising them”—in addition to doing volunteer work in her community, especially with the homeless.

But Sherrie's dream of getting a college degree never died and, when her children were grown, she finally enrolled at C.S. Mott Community College. As part of her requirements for Mott's Honors Program, Sherrie again devoted herself to the problem of homelessness in Flint by helping to create Mission of Hope, a day center for the area's homeless.



Last month Sherrie began working on a bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Michigan-Flint. She knows that the empathy and patience she learned—both from her difficult early years and from the rewarding years she spent raising her children—have made her a better student and will make her an effective social worker.

Sherrie's professors agree. They are all deeply impressed by her commitment to serving others. In the words of one advisor, Sherrie is “a whirlwind of energy driven by a true sense of compassion.” CEW is eager to support Sherrie Foster's career goal of working with at-risk adolescents and young adults. Thus, we name her a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Scholar.

CANDRA GILL *Irma M. Wyman Scholar*

“As I continue my education, I bring with me my family’s legacy,” says Candra Gill. Both of her parents are educators: her mother is a university professor and her father is a former high school teacher. According to Candra, the high value her African-American family places on education stems partly from the fact that “so many of the opportunities we take for granted were denied to my grandmother.”

Candra, who earned a BA in English from Truman State University in Missouri and an MA in English from Northern Michigan University, has been on university campuses in various capacities for most of her adult life. For the past six years, she has worked in student affairs at the University of Michigan.

Candra first came to Ann Arbor to be with her brother as he recovered from a brain injury sustained in a car accident. Now his health has reached a stage where Candra can once again turn her attention to her studies. She is currently a master’s degree student in the School of Information at the University of Michigan.



“For the whole of my career, I have known that I want to teach,” says Candra. “Now my brother’s injury has opened up my interest in technology and social computing.” Candra’s new career goal is to “develop software and strategies to assist people with disabilities.” She also hopes “to consult with brain injury rehabilitation programs on ways to use readily available consumer technology as assistive devices.”

Candra’s dedication to her studies is borne out by her professors, one of whom calls her “the most passionate, articulate, and gifted student I have ever taught.” Those who know Candra describe her as a remarkable scholar, writer and teacher, devoted to innovation and to “expanding her horizons.” To support her future of service and social activism, CEW names Candra Gill an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

CLAUDETTE GRINNELL-DAVIS *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“Assertive.” “Skeptical.” “Critical.” “Stubborn.” These adjectives, which both Claudette Grinnell-Davis and her professors use to describe her, are positive qualities they believe will insure Claudette's success as a social work scholar. But, as Claudette admits, those same qualities have caused her some trouble in the past.

In fact, Claudette's decision to become a PhD student in the joint Social Work and Social Science Program at the University of Michigan “began with a job termination.” Working as a family reunification therapist to help parents and children re-connect after long-term foster care, Claudette questioned the narrow parameters and philosophical underpinnings that dictated how she could work with



her clients. According to Claudette, when she was asked to resign her supervisors told her she “thought too much to be a good social worker.”

Claudette believed otherwise, and she had the positive feedback of clients, students, former professors, and a probate judge to confirm her belief in herself. She'd also already successfully completed a BS in psychology from Michigan, a master's degree in theology from Calvin College and an MSW from Western Michigan University. And so, overcoming the fear that she was too old to be a graduate student again and in the face of several economic and family hardships, Claudette came to the University of Michigan

Things have worked out so well that Claudette believes she is fulfilling her destiny. She's happy to be involved in scholarly research, happy to be in an environment where asking questions is important: Why are some parental interventions more effective than others? Why do some clients learn to be good parents while others repeat the same patterns inter-generationally?

When she graduates, Claudette plans to become a university professor and researcher, answering such questions while maintaining connections with the child welfare and family services community. CEW supports Claudette Grinnell-Davis by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

REBECCA HELD *Collegiate Soros Foundation Scholar*

“My time in the Peace Corps,” says Rebecca Held, “clarified the direction I wanted my career path to take.” Rebecca joined the Peace Corps after graduating with a BA in political science from Rhodes College. Working in Senegal, Rebecca “witnessed firsthand how people in the developing world are dependent on—and affected by—their physical environment.” Rebecca writes that “deforestation and soil degradation are two of the worst environmental problems Senegalese villagers face: Women search for firewood in ever-thinning forests, and men grow crops in fields where the soil has been depleted from overuse and wind erosion.”

Rebecca's duties in Senegal included helping the villagers plant trees, compost soil, and adopt micro-gardening techniques. Despite the effectiveness of her efforts, Rebecca realized the limit of her contributions compared to the size of the problems. She began to understand the necessity for good world-wide environmental policies.

Rebecca returned to the US and took a job with a consulting firm in Washington, DC. While she enjoyed the opportunity to study and report on important issues like climate change, she also knew she'd rather be in a position “to actually influence the environmental policy process.”



Rebecca is now a master's degree student in environmental policy in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan, where she is particularly interested in the problems of climate change mitigation and adaptation. When she graduates, Rebecca plans to do environmental policy analysis and implementation in the public or non-profit sector.

Rebecca's professors and supervisors praise her abilities: a sharp, analytical mind, exceptional academic skills, intellectual curiosity and engagement, maturity, and discipline. As one of her advisors explained, “Rebecca is a bold thinker, fearless about seeking to accomplish what she believes is right.” In support of her determination to “help humans live sustainably on the planet,” CEW names Rebecca Held the Collegiate Soros Foundation Scholar.

ELIZABETH HUNTER *Molly H. Dobson Scholarship*

Elizabeth Hunter stood before her fourth grade classmates and said, “I have no idea what I want to be when I grow up. I only know what kind of person I want to be. I want to be someone who, when something bad happens to them, grows up to help other people who had bad things happen to them.” Elizabeth's teacher called her “emotionally sensitive,” unaware of the “bad things” happening in Elizabeth's own home.

“In the fourth grade,” says Elizabeth, “I did not know the words 'social work.’” But now she does. It took Elizabeth a while to get her life on track, to reach the point where she could enroll at Oakland Community College and earn an associate's degree in mental health/social work. Along the way she had a daughter and supported herself as a successful hair stylist.



Now Elizabeth has “a feeling of purpose that motivates me to accomplish more than I ever thought possible.” She is embarking on the next step, ready for the challenges of completing first a BA in social work at the University of Michigan-Flint and then an MSW. Elizabeth hopes to continue working at Lighthouse PATH, the Pontiac transitional housing program for homeless mothers where she completed her internship. Her career goal is to work in the field of child welfare and foster care.

Those who know Elizabeth praise her strong academic ability, growing self-confidence, sound judgment, and ability to problem-solve in challenging situations. Elizabeth tells us she feels “honored to dedicate the cells of my brain, energy of my body, and time of my years to champion the rights of children and young adults.” In support of that important mission, CEW awards Elizabeth Hunter a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship.

ALEXIS HYDER *Helen Huff Shell Scholar*

“I believe in learning by doing,” explains Alexis Hyder. “So I spent nearly ten years developing my on-the-job knowledge before beginning graduate school.” After Alexis finished her BA in government from Wesleyan University, she moved from one position to another, gathering different skills and perspectives and preparing herself for a life of “public service and social impact.”

Alexis first became a fellow with Coro, a leadership development program that emphasizes civic engagement. “Coro expanded my definition of public service and empowered me to create social impact in unexpected settings.” Alexis next joined MTV, where she coordinated the creation of multimedia social change campaigns for young audiences, including an Emmy Award-winning project about Darfur and a Peabody Award-winning project about mental health on college campuses. Working at MTV convinced Alexis that “corporations can create significant social value.”

Alexis then became a volunteer for the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative. Working in Monrovia, Liberia, she joined the staff of the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare at the Ministry of Health, helping to support long-term strategy development. In the process, Alexis says she “learned how to operate effectively in a resource-strapped environment.”

At that point, Alexis decided it was time to return to school to increase her understanding of management and organizations. She is now an MBA student in the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Alexis says she chose The Ross School because its William Davidson Institute “is at the forefront of using businesses to tackle global challenges.”

Alexis isn't sure of her next career move, only that it will be “at the intersection of business and social change.” Those with whom Alexis has worked know that, given her talent for building relationships, managing complex projects, and solving problems, she'll be a leader for corporate social responsibility. CEW names Alexis Hyder the Helen Huff Shell Scholar.



BETH JAKUBOWSKI *Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholar*

“As a single parent,” says Beth Jakubowski, “I grew up with my two young children.” Over twenty years, Beth's life took “many twists and turns,” and she “sometimes made choices that did not result in the success I hoped for.” She twice enrolled in college, but family responsibilities prevented her from continuing. “Thankfully,” Beth says, “I was born with an innate ability to persevere and to find hope and determination in any circumstance.”

Now, “with two beautiful grown children living their own lives with purpose and compassion,” Beth knows that “the best example I can set for them is to pursue who I am.” With that conviction guiding her, Beth successfully completed 65 credits at Washtenaw Community College. Beth flourished at WCC, not only academically but also as a campus leader. She became president of Beta Gamma Alpha, the international honor society for community colleges, and also joined several environmental groups.



“Just being in the stimulating environment of college has opened up my soul and heart,” Beth writes. “I have never been happier about what lies ahead.”

This is Beth's first semester at the University of Michigan, where she's working toward her bachelor's degree in biology, with a minor in gender and health. Her goal is to earn a master's degree and become an environmental health consultant for non-profit organizations.

Beth has won the admiration of her professors and advisors. As one of them told us, Beth has the “whole package: academic ability, discipline, organization, motivation, and maturity.” With her “combination of rigor and warmth” and her “commitment to the well-being of the people around her,” Beth is certain to excel. Impressed with her goal “to make a difference in the world,” CEW proudly names Beth Jakubowski the Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholar.

AGNIESZKA JASINSKA *Sarah Winans Newman Scholar*

When Agnieszka Jasinska's family immigrated to the US in 1996, Agnes had already spent a year at the University of Warsaw studying applied linguistics. In 2000, she earned a BA in English and philosophy from Wisconsin's Marquette University.

While applying for a graduate program in philosophy, Agnes realized that her academic interests “were better matched to cognitive neuroscience and psychology” than to the humanities. The idea of such a dramatic switch led Agnes to devote “several months of intense, independent reading” to cement her decision. While deliberating, Agnes moved to North Carolina, married, and had a baby.

After a four-year break in her studies, during which time Agnes cared for her daughter while studying independently, she returned to school at the University of North Carolina. There Agnes began her official “retooling” by earning a graduate certificate in cognitive science. “From the very first lab meeting that I attended at UNC,” Agnes says, “I have been hooked on scientific research.”

Agnes is now a doctoral student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience at the University of Michigan. Her dissertation examines the neural mechanisms of complex traits, focusing on cognitive control and addiction. Once she completes both her PhD and an MS in Human Genetics, Agnes' goals include postdoctoral training, joining the faculty of a research university, and one day running her own research laboratory. Agnes plans to continue her research on genetics and the neuroscience of cognitive control.

“We are lucky to have Agnes at Michigan,” says an advisor, “and we all are fortunate that she has chosen to apply her unique, exceptional talents to the field of neuroscience.” Another advisor predicts that “Agnes' dissertation research will have an enormous impact, not only in her field but in the world more generally.” In support of such promise, CEW names Agnieszka Jasinska the Sarah Winans Newman Scholar.



SHEILA JONES *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar*

Life has not been easy for Sheila Jones. Raised in an abusive home environment, Sheila and her family moved so frequently that, by the time she graduated from high school, she had attended thirteen different schools. Sheila's subsequent search for stability and friends led her astray several times. It also contributed to her two divorces.

Sheila got her life on track when she was thirty. "I entered my third marriage, finally to someone who is encouraging and supportive." Sheila, who is mother to seven children aged 12 to 27, took advantage of losing her job by enrolling at Mott Community College and earning an associate's degree in culinary arts and food service management.

Sheila then completed a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint, majoring in psychology and sociology. She's now working on an MA in social sciences and public administration, with a focus on gender studies. Looking even further ahead, Sheila says that her accomplishments have given her the courage to say out loud "I want to earn a PhD."

One of Sheila's career goals is to use her background in culinary arts as a way to share her love of cooking and teach people how to prepare healthy, nutritious meals on limited budgets. With her outstanding abilities as a student and leader, Sheila has convinced her professors that she's bound to succeed. One professor writes, "I am especially impressed with Sheila's ability to understand contemporary social challenges in human terms. It is a deep sense of empathy that underscores her outstanding academic ability."

Sheila compares herself to a butterfly "finally emerging into a self-determining adult." To honor Sheila Jones' life journey, CEW awards her a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholarship.

CARRIE KARVONEN-GUTIERREZ *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“When I first applied to graduate school for public health, I thought 'doing good' meant traveling to far-away lands and working with indigenous populations,” says Carrie Karvonen-Gutierrez.

“During my master's program, however, I realized how much work there was to be done right here in our own communities and hospitals.”

After receiving a BA in biology from the University of Northern Iowa, Carrie completed her MPH from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health in 2005. During that time, she worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital as a health science research specialist and, in the process, discovered her “passion in the field of epidemiology.” Now, working at UM on two community-based research studies of women, Carrie manages projects, analyzes data, and co-authors scientific manuscripts. She has learned, in other words, to be a researcher. However, “in actuality,” Carrie says, “the women participating in the studies have taught me far more.” Carrie writes: “It is because of them and their belief in us that I have decided to return to school. I am in awe of their selfless participation as research subjects. Our findings will not impact most of them directly, but they realize that we are 'doing good,' so that we may help others like them.”



Thus, Carrie is once again a student, pursuing a PhD in epidemiology at UM's School of Public Health. She knows that she needs to extend her education to the doctoral level in order to create her own research agenda. When she completes her degree, Carrie plans a career in academia, where she will specialize in the “pre-geriatric ageing process, especially arthritis and physical functioning.”

“One of the best students I've ever encountered.” That theme that runs through the recommendations from Carrie's professors and colleagues. An advisor predicts that “any award will be amplified one-thousand fold by what Carrie gives back to her community.” With such an endorsement, CEW is delighted to name Carrie Karvonen-Gutierrez a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

AMY KRINGS *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“When people come together, they can experience a transformation: citizens organize as powerful advocacy groups and violence-ridden neighborhoods reinvent themselves as safe communities.” Amy Krings' belief in this principle guides her education and her career.

Amy was introduced to community organizing as an undergraduate at Xavier University. She immersed herself in a number of social projects, including working with a group of homeless people to save their local shelter. She “observed homeless men and women develop their social and political capital as well as their confidence and resilience by volunteering as 'citizens' rather than receiving services as 'clients.’” That powerful lesson influences everything Amy has done since then.



She earned an MSW at the University of Michigan. She worked with citizens in her Cincinnati hometown to address issues of civil unrest and racial disparities. She worked for five years with a non-profit organization, training community members and police officers in neighborhood-based problem solving. She helped research and implement practices to reduce gun violence, a project that won national and international awards and, more importantly, says Amy, “saved lives.”

Amy is now a PhD student in the Joint Program in Political Science and Social Work at Michigan. She has returned to school to learn to “design evidence-based, community-driven interventions that can be funded, evaluated, and duplicated.” Amy's ultimate goal is to become a university faculty member, researching “interdisciplinary approaches to revitalizing neighborhoods, improving intergroup relations, and increasing civic engagement.”

Impressed with her strong background and passion for issues of social justice, Amy's professors are delighted that she's returned to the University of Michigan. Her commitment to volunteerism and social change, combined with her strengths as a teacher, ensure “she will make a significant contribution in the areas of civic engagement and violence reduction.” In support of her career goals, CEW awards Amy Krings a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

SANDI KUMM *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Sandi Kumm's daughter discovered her mother's true calling. Volunteering in a hospital, she called Sandi one day to say, "I've found the perfect career for you—a child life specialist." And, says Sandi, she was right!

Describing her life as a novel with many chapters, Sandi titles the current chapter "Saving the Best of Me for Last." Sandi spent over thirteen years as a corporate travel consultant, rising to the rank of vice president at a major bank. After losing her career to downsizing in 2001, Sandi first ran a day-care center in her home, then resumed work as a travel consultant. She quickly realized, however, that "the travel industry had changed significantly." Economic constraints meant that the level of service she was accustomed to providing was no longer routine. Knowing that what she most enjoyed doing was helping people, Sandi seized upon her daughter's suggestion.

The first step was earning an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College and volunteering at Detroit's Children's Hospital. Now Sandi is working toward a bachelor's degree in behavioral science at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. After an extensive internship, Sandi will be a child life specialist, "making a difference in people's lives one family at a time." Her goal is to work with children and families dealing with invasive medical procedures and chronic illness, using cognitive and therapeutic activities for pediatric pain management.



Sandi is attending college at the same time as her two children, a point of pride that she attributes to her "patience, persistence, and reinvention." Her advisors and former colleagues share that opinion. They also describe Sandi as an "efficient, professional person of utmost integrity," someone who combines strong academic achievement with a dedication to her studies. CEW congratulates Sandi Kumm on this latest chapter of her life by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar

ELMA LORENZO-BLANCO *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Elma Lorenzo-Blanco was born in Germany to Spanish immigrants. Despite Elma's early academic success, her teachers and parents chose not to send her to the Gymnasium school that would have prepared her to attend a university. Instead, Elma was enrolled in a Realschule for vocational students, where her "language differences" would not present as much of a challenge.

Elma excelled at the Realschule and worked in international business for several years. But she never forgot her dream of obtaining a university degree. When she moved to California ten years ago, Elma enrolled at Saddleback College as a way to "make friends and become proficient in English." She gained much more in the process: a Regents Scholarship to UCLA, a BA in psychology, and a passion for research about Latina/o populations.



Today, as a PhD student in psychology and women's studies at the University of Michigan, Elma is learning to design and conduct studies within the Latina/o community. "Although they are the fastest growing ethnic minority population in the United States," explains Elma, "Latina/os are under-represented in health research and are poorly served by the health care system." Elma is gaining hands-on research experience by working with her UM professors on projects with local and national Latino/a communities. She also teaches ESL classes and helps Latino/a families learn about their rights as immigrant laborers

Elma knows that, when she becomes a university faculty member, the same "socio-cultural and structural barriers" that kept her from attending graduate school earlier in life will help her to understand the similar challenges that ethnic minority populations face in the US.

One of Elma's advisors praises "the intelligence, motivation and unflinching persistence that has carried her through barrier after barrier." In support of her "potential to become an outstanding scholar," CEW names Elma Lorenzo-Blanco a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

LYNN MCCAIN *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Lynn McCain has a very specific career goal. She plans to rise to middle- and upper-level management positions at the University of Michigan and from there to areas of even greater responsibility, “possibly as a vice president or CEO of a major health services organization.”

To prepare herself, Lynn is a student in the Executive Master's Degree Program in Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. At the same time, she maintains her position as office manager and executive assistant in UM's School of Medicine.

“My reasons for returning to school,” says Lynn, “are at once personal, professional and practical.” On the personal level, she is “energized by the opportunity to learn and grow.” Lynn earned a BA in deaf culture from North Central University, worked as a sign language interpreter, and enrolled in a graduate program until marriage and family obligations intervened. Now that her two children are grown, Lynn is excited to be in the classroom again.

On a professional level, Lynn enjoys situations where she can “influence outcomes and help those around me learn, grow and develop as employees and as people.” In recognition of her leadership skills, Lynn received the 2009 Award of Excellence by the University of Michigan's Association of Office Professionals. On a practical level, Lynn says that her career is an essential part of her family's financial security

Lynn's UM supervisors are her biggest supporters, urging her to continue to grow and take on the management roles for which she is so perfectly suited. “Behind Lynn's quiet demeanor,” explains one of her advisors, “is steely determination. The university will reap rewards for supporting her education and career.” With such an endorsement, CEW awards Lynn McCain a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.



FAIZA MOATASIM *Robin Wright Fellow*

As a child in Pakistan, Faiza Moatasim was fascinated by “building things.” Her interest led to a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the National College of Arts in Lahore. Faiza credits her success to her family’s “unconditional love”: “While it is a common source of great pride for Pakistanis to send their sons abroad for higher education, the story is quite different for daughters. My academic journey would have been impossible without the support I have received from my family.”

Faiza moved to Montreal and earned a master’s degree in architecture from McGill University. She then returned to Pakistan and combined a career as a professional architect with an assistant professorship at her alma mater.



Now a student in the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan, Faiza is researching the planned, post-colonial capital cities of Chandigarh, India and Islamabad, Pakistan and the spontaneous squatter settlements that continue to grow on their outskirts. When she returns to Pakistan, Faiza will work in and teach about low-income housing development. She is committed to addressing the “housing issues of the underprivileged, who represent the vast majority of Pakistanis. Architects in general and in Pakistan in particular have a social obligation to create equitable environments, accessible to all and not just to the minority who can afford to pay for their services.”

One UM advisor describes Faiza as “an advocate for the urban poor and sustainable urban development.” Her commitment to social equality is “one of Faiza’s defining features as a young scholar.” Sharing the belief that she “will make a substantial contribution to urban modernism, especially in relation to issues of poverty, justice, and cultural differences,” CEW is proud to name Faiza Moatasim the first Robin Wright Fellow.

ANNE JENNIFER NASH *Elsie Choy Lee Scholar*

Anne Jennifer Nash was destined to turn her passion for vocal music into a career. After graduating with a BA in French and music from Dickinson College, she enrolled in The Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, earning honors for her master's degree in music and graduate performance diploma in opera.

Anne Jennifer then apprenticed with the National Opera Company and the New Jersey Opera, and spent three seasons as a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival. She also sang with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Florentine Opera and Bard Summerscape. By then, says Anne Jennifer, "I had *New York Times* reviews as evidence of my 'success,' but something was missing." It was the opportunity to fulfill her passion for teaching.

So Anne Jennifer became a voice instructor at the University of Pennsylvania, working for three years with undergraduates and graduates with diverse vocal skills. Discussing her teaching, Anne Jennifer says, "My studio at Penn taught me...that to continue at the university level I needed to enhance my repertoire, deepen my pedagogical foundations and diversify my performance opportunities."



As a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance, Anne Jennifer is doing all three. In addition to teaching in her voice studio, Anne Jennifer has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and sung the title role in a 2010 University production of Gluck's *Armide*.

When she graduates, Anne Jennifer plans to become a teacher, performer, and arts administrator at a liberal arts college. She has impressed professors and colleagues with her "beautiful, clear, flexible, and sparkling soprano voice." In the words of one admirer, "Anne represents the highest academic and artistic standards of the University. She possesses huge potential to give back to the arts." In tribute to her accomplishments, CEW names Anne Jennifer Nash the Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.

KERRI LEYDA NICOLL *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Kerri Leyda Nicoll graduated with an English degree from Connecticut College, confident that her life was moving in the right direction. Looking back, she realizes that, although her decisions at the time did not take her down a “direct path,” her experiences along the way uniquely prepared her for her career.

The next step in Kerri's path was Princeton Theological Seminary, where she earned a master's of divinity degree. The three years she spent there, says Kerri, solidified her “commitment to social justice and service to the poor.”



In support of that commitment, Kerri became involved with a number of social service agencies. She worked with the children of Haitian immigrants and preached in two different church communities. She spent four years as a program assistant in a soup kitchen, “gaining insight into the daily struggles of individuals and families living in poverty” and witnessing “significant gaps between their experiences and the policies designed to assist them.”

This awareness, plus her growing interest in learning and teaching, led Kerri to become a student again. She earned an MSW from the University of Pennsylvania before enrolling in the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Political Science at the University of Michigan. Kerri continues to focus on the policies and programs that seek to alleviate poverty. She plans to become a professor of social work, “contributing to the scholarly literature on anti-poverty policies in this country and teaching undergraduate and graduate students about these issues.

Kerri's professors predict that her research about the effect of clients' attitudes about poverty on their decisions to accept assistance will have a major impact on the field. In the words of one advisor, Kerri “not only has enormous potential. That potential is already being realized.” To help Kerri Leyda Nicoll along her path, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

NICOLE NOVETSKY *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Nicole Novetsky has lived a rich life as musician, teacher, soldier. Now she is embarking on an exciting new career.

The cultures and politics of the Middle East have always fascinated Nicole, so much so that she majored in Mideast studies, as well as cello performance, at the University of Michigan. When she graduated in 1985, however, “limited opportunities existed for a woman with a Mideast specialization.” Nicole earned an MA in education from Eastern Michigan University and became a middle-school teacher.

Her twenty-year teaching career bears witness to Nicole's belief in “building bridges to people of other races, cultures, faiths, and socio-economic backgrounds.” She has taught in urban and rural schools, a gifted and talented program, and a Hebrew School. During the past nine years, she helped establish and taught at University Preparatory Academy, a Detroit public charter school serving low-income minority families.

In the midst of her teaching career, Nicole also spent one year of active duty training in the Army National Guard and seven years in the Reserves, specializing in counterintelligence. She did so, she says, to “honor the tradition of military service by my father and grandfather.”

Nicole is now back in her hometown of Ann Arbor, the single mother of two young children, working on an MA in modern Middle Eastern and North African studies. She plans to work for the government in national security or international development in the Mideast, engaged in efforts to “expand our knowledge of Islamic culture and build coalitions with Muslim groups here and abroad.”

The consensus among Nicole's professors is that she is one of the most experienced, dedicated, talented and promising students they've ever encountered—“a unique and valuable resource.” In support of Nicole Novetsky's new direction, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



ANJU PAUL *Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow*

Anju Paul's research focuses on the "stepwise migration patterns" of Filipino domestic workers. Her findings, which her professors say are both original and important, bear a similarity to Anju's own "stepwise" career trajectory. "I took an unconventional path to academia," she explains. After graduating with a degree in business administration from the National University of Singapore, Anju worked for Singapore Airlines. Feeling unfulfilled, she earned a MA in journalism from New York University and became a reporter.

Anju writes: "I became engrossed in a series of stories I wrote about a community of Arab and South Asian Muslim teenagers living in post-2001 New York. I wanted to do more than report on their lives; I wanted to understand migration origins and impacts." Her interest eventually led Anju to become a doctoral student in the Joint Program in Public Policy and Sociology at the University of Michigan



Anju has discovered a pattern of migration through which a significant number of migrants from the developing world secure entry into Western countries by "working their way through multiple intermediate countries in Asia and the Middle East." Her theory, say Anju's advisors, "has the potential to make an exceptional contribution to society."

In addition to becoming an academic researcher, Anju is committed to teaching, saying that she wants her students "to understand and appreciate that most action is social." Anju hopes that, "armed with this knowledge, students will be able to see beyond their individual concerns and become active, engaged, and critical citizens of the world." Anju also plans to use her journalism skills to raise the general public's awareness of the obstacles migrants face with determination and ingenuity—"a side of the story that too often goes unnoticed."

In support of the maturity, breadth, and sophistication Anju Paul brings to her important research, CEW names her a Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow.

CARA PETERMAN *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“No one in my family had ever gone to college,” explains Cara Peterman. When Cara graduated from high school, she went to work in the insurance industry. “Just surviving was hard enough on minimum wage,” Cara recalls. “My desire for an education died to a small ember and the thought that I was not smart enough set in. However, on my thirtieth birthday, the ember started to burn, and I realized I wanted to make a difference in the world.”

Cara gave her two-week notice and applied for admission to Monroe Community College. “The word 'terrified' is an understatement,” writes Cara, “yet I was also exhilarated and somehow calm in knowing that I would make it.” Not only did Cara prevail, she excelled. In 2008, she graduated with an associate of science degree and a specialization in chemistry.

While working on her degree, Cara used her spare time and recycled items from her home to invent an organic pesticide device for infested plants. Her creation won a prestigious award from the Michigan Liberal Arts Network for the Development of Student Scholars. It also won the attention of professors at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, who encouraged Cara to continue her education there.



Cara is now both completing her bachelor's degree in earth science and geology and beginning course work for her master's degree. She has already planned her thesis research—testing the overall health of the River Raisin Watershed. Cara's goal is to earn a PhD and “save the soil and water for our children” so that they can cherish memories of “making mud pies and fishing in the lake,” just as she does.

One of her professors tells us that Cara takes on complex and complicated projects that would challenge a seasoned graduate student. “That's just the type of person she is.” To honor Cara Peterman's accomplishments and dreams, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

DAHLIA PETRUS *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Dahlia Petrus describes herself in several ways: She's a devoted mother who was “born in Baghdad, grew up in the United States, the first in her family to attend college and the first to heed the call of American pop culture.” As the daughter of Iraqi immigrants, however, Dahlia also says she's “incomplete” because she's unable to visit her war-torn homeland.

Dahlia tells us she's also a proud academic advisor in the University of Michigan's Comprehensive Studies Program, who has recently moved from her twelve-year career to “the exhilarating world of academic research and teaching.” Those who know Dahlia describe her in other ways, saying she's had an amazing effect on everyone working with her. “Students love Dahlia,” explains a colleague.



“She is committed to minimizing alienation they might experience on campus and finding resources to support them. If it were not for Dahlia, many students would not be where they are today, would not have graduated or pursued graduate careers.”

Dahlia's education began with a BA in psychology from the University of Michigan. She then earned an MA in counseling from Oakland University. Currently Dahlia is a graduate student in Modern Middle Eastern and North African studies at UM. Her new career goal is to remain at a university, combining teaching with academic advising. She also aspires to develop a mentorship program for U.S. college-bound Iraqi refugees

In her role as graduate student, Dahlia is winning new admirers. One of her professors explains that Dahlia is “embarking upon cutting-edge research on the relationship between women's rights and national liberation movements in the Arab and Muslim worlds. I feel privileged to work with Dahlia as her research develops in complex, insightful, and critically astute ways.”

CEW is proud that Dahlia Petrus can now also describe herself as a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

JENNIFER RIEMENSCHNEIDER *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar*

As a child, Jennifer Riemenschneider loved school, especially reading and writing. Beginning in the third grade, however, Jennifer was subjected to constant teasing from her classmates. “As a shy child, I suppose I was an easy target,” she says. Jennifer lost confidence in her abilities and began to doubt her self-worth. When Jennifer was fourteen, her beloved grandmother died suddenly. It was then that Jennifer gave up. She left school when she was sixteen.

By the time she was 22, Jennifer had a husband and two young children. But even being a busy mother did not quiet the voice in her head that urged her to finish her education. She earned her GED, enrolled at Washtenaw Community College, had a third child, and eventually transferred to the University of Michigan.

Jennifer is now a graduate of UM's English Department, where she rediscovered her love for creative writing. “As a child who was bullied,” Jennifer explains, “I began inventing stories early on, weaving lives out of all I was too shy to say.” Jennifer had been on the UM campus for only one month when she entered one of her short stories in the prestigious Hopwood writing competition—and won a first place award. She subsequently won two more Hopwoods and two other writing prizes.



Currently a student in Michigan's MFA Program for Fiction Writing, Jennifer eventually plans to use her experiences as a high school dropout to help other young people “find their way back to education.”

Jennifer has won the respect and support of her professors with her talent and her “genuine enthusiasm for education.” They say she stands out among her peers for being “analytically sage and intellectually curious.” CEW honors Jennifer Riemenschneider's perseverance and commitment by naming her a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar.

THERESA ROMANOSKY *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” Asked that question as a child, Theresa Romanosky was unsure. She took some college classes after high school but realized that her “heart wasn't in it.” Instead she worked for twelve years, handling complex payroll procedures for nursing homes. During that time, Theresa became interested in labor issues and health care policies.

Though she was working full-time, Theresa's husband encouraged her to return to school. She eventually earned a degree with highest honors in environmental studies from the University of Pittsburgh. The decision to leave work completely and attend law school came after “a great deal of reflection.” However,” says Theresa, “I realized that the best use of my skills was a legal career.”



She is now working on a JD degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

Theresa is passionate about workers' rights, including the effect of state and federal regulations on citizens and undocumented workers; cost and availability of employer-provided healthcare insurance; fair wages and freedom from harassment; and organized labor negotiations and employee grievances.

By the way, says Theresa, “I never ask my nieces and nephews what they want to be when they grow up. I've learned that the better question is 'What do you like to do and what do you care about?’”

Theresa's professors support her pursuits. They praise her “analytic smarts and sound judgment.” In the words of one advisor, Theresa “offers reason, passion, vision...a formidable slate of characteristics for any student and, let's face it, for any human being.” CEW is proud to name Theresa Romanosky a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

DIAMANTINA SALINAS *Molly H. Dobson Scholar*

Diamantina Salinas grew up in Minnesota, where her parents are migrants working in the beet and potato fields. Education for women was not valued in that environment, explains Tina. “We were encouraged to marry and start families of our own.” Tina dropped out of school at sixteen to work in a potato warehouse—a step that Tina's parents, proud of their daughter's enrollment at the University of Michigan, today say they wish they had tried to prevent. Several years after leaving high school, Tina married and moved to Michigan with her husband. She volunteered daily at her three-year-old daughter's Head Start program and, after the center's administrators sent her for training, became part of the program staff. Tina's supervisors urged her to go to college, and Tina began to dream about getting her GED.

It took a while. Now the mother of four young daughters, Tina did earn her GED and began to volunteer at her children's elementary school. This time it was the school's principal who urged Tina to earn a college degree and become a teacher.

“I did not think I could afford to go to a university,” Tina says. But, because of the Student Outreach and Academic Resources (SOAR) program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, she was finally able to realize her dream of becoming a teacher. Tina is working toward a BA in early childhood education and working part-time at the Early Childhood Education Center on campus. She also volunteers in the community by accompanying non-English-speaking Hispanics to doctors' offices and human service agencies.

Tina's career goal is eventually to start her own Head Start program. She continues to earn the respect and encouragement of her colleagues and professors, who clearly recognize Tina's talents and potential. According to one of her advisors, Tina “abundantly possesses the qualities for success as a non-traditional student.” She is a persistent, patient person “who challenges herself to learn.” CEW honors Diamantina Salinas' perseverance by naming her a Molly H. Dobson Scholar.



ELEANOR SCHUHMAN *Irma M. Wyman Scholar*

“Throughout my ten-year career, I have spent much of my time dealing with unfriendly, unreliable, redundant and counterproductive computer systems,” says Eleanor Schuhmann. While Eleanor sees such programs as challenging riddles, she realizes that most others find them to be frustrating. “If the steps are too cumbersome and complicated, many people simply will not use the program.”

Eleanor graduated from Notre Dame University with a BA in psychology and German. Since then, her proficiency with computers means Eleanor has become the “expert user” of software for every organization for which she's worked. In fact, her habit of “exploring the nooks and crannies of software” to maximize a program's utility led her current employer to create a new position for her, asking her to “develop standardized procedures and make existing systems more robust and usable.”



According to Eleanor, “the major challenge of the information industry is creating systems that not only store and process data but do so in ways that people can use easily.” Because she knows she's up to that challenge, Eleanor has returned to the classroom. She chose the University of Michigan because the Human Computer Interaction specialization in the School of Information will enable her to explore all aspects and theories of program design and user interface. When Eleanor completes her master of science in information degree, she plans to become a software and information systems designer.

The people with whom Eleanor has worked speak of her in superlatives. One of her former colleagues explains that, while Eleanor is obviously an intelligent, intuitive, analytical, hard-working and respected leader, these adjectives miss the real point. “Her true worth is intangible—greater than the sum of all these assets. She's a diamond.” In support of her talent, CEW names Eleanor Schuhmann an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.

DEANNA SCULLY *Molly H. Dobson Scholarship*

The dream of graduating from college runs deep in Deanna Scully's family. It began with her mother, who was the first person in the family to graduate from high school but who was unable to reach her goal of obtaining a college degree. The dream passed to Dena. There was no money for college, however, since Dena was one of seven children in a single parent home.

When Dena married, her husband encouraged her to continue her education but, with three young children, Dena believed her first responsibility was to work and family. Not until 1999 did Dena finally enroll at the University of Michigan-Flint. At the same time, she was determined to meet the needs of her children. "I refused to miss their sporting events, so I could often be found doing my homework while sitting in the bleachers." Dena thought of quitting many times, until she heeded the advice of her boss: "Take one class at a time, but don't give up. Just go at the pace your family situation will allow, even if it takes ten years!"

All three of Dena's children have completed or are working on their college degrees. She's proud of being an example to them of the importance of hard work and perseverance. When she graduates next spring, Dena will have persevered for eleven years to complete her bachelor's degree in marketing at UM-Flint. She then plans to return to her profession as a pharmacy technician. As the past president of Michigan Society of Pharmacy Technicians, Dena knows that "inside of me is the desire and potential to be a leader."

Dena is highly admired by those who have worked with her. They praise her "life of service to others," her "incredible potential," and her "commitment to the pursuit of higher education in the face of many challenges." To honor Deanna's lifelong dream, CEW delights in awarding her a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship.



ELIZABETH SENEAL *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“When I was ten,” says Elizabeth Senecal, “I taught my parents to recycle. Later I started the first can- and bottle-recycling program in my high school.” Her awareness that everything used “in daily life takes energy from the Earth” was part of Elizabeth’s lifelong dream of living in Africa, “where man is close to and reliant upon nature.”

After earning a BA in French and psychology from Wellesley College, Elizabeth believed she’d never again be a student. “The thought of having to write one more paper nauseated me!” she writes. Instead, she became a high school math teacher, soccer and basketball coach. Elizabeth loved her work and the school community that embraced her. At the same time, however, she felt her old dream “itching,” calling for her to pursue it.



So Elizabeth joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in a village of 900 people in Senegal, West Africa, where she “spoke their languages, danced their dances.” She also observed the “powerful symbiosis of man and nature. The villagers relied on the fields for food and pulled water from a thirty-foot well dug by human hands.”

Her African experiences left Elizabeth “more brain-starved than food-starved.” She returned to the US to pursue her education. She is now a master’s degree student in the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. Elizabeth plans a career in environmental management related to ecosystem restoration or renewable energy development.

Elizabeth’s hard work and enthusiasm have won many admirers. A former colleague says of her, “In baseball (and, by the way, she is an excellent player!), Elizabeth would be called a ‘grinder’: She works hard every day to make life better for those around her, and she inspires others to do the same.” CEW delights in naming Elizabeth Senecal a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

JACQUELINE SMITH *American Association of University Women Scholar*

On the streets of Majuro, a coral atoll in the Marshall Islands, Jacqueline Smith observed “thirteen-year old boys squatting in dark corners drinking vodka, warm and straight.” Jacqueline had gone to Majuro as a volunteer for Jesuit Volunteers International after earning a BA in English from Luther College.

Jacqueline's experiences in Majuro raised many questions: “How had Marshallese come to prefer copious amounts of white rice and sugar to the fresh coconut, tuna and breadfruit that sustained their ancestors for millennia?” “How had nursing infants on orange soda become favored over breastfeeding?” “What good did it do for newspapers to promote eating apples and lettuce when those foods were beyond the financial reach of most families?”

In the process of seeking answers to these questions, says Jacqueline, “I discovered my vocation to work in public health.” After two years in Majuro, she returned to the US and eventually enrolled as a master's degree student in the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. This past summer, Jacqueline lived in India on an internship to study “the convergence of yoga and worksite wellness.”



When she graduates, Jacqueline plans to earn a PhD. She writes, “It would be a dream fulfilled to become a leader in the field of integrative health, working at a prominent university and sharing my education and experience through writing and public speaking.”

Jacqueline's professors are unanimous in praising her intellectual curiosity, passion, creativity and enthusiasm for new ideas. With her disciplined work ethic and her desire to excel, Jacqueline is “exactly the kind of woman the benefactors of the CEW scholarships had in mind.” In the words of one advisor, “she will carry the University of Michigan's name forward with excellence.” In support of Jacqueline Smith's dream, CEW names her the American Association of University Women Scholar.

NATOSHA TALLMAN *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Scholar*

“When poverty is a familiar part of your ethnic enclave, it is hard to expect or strive for more than what you see in your immediate environment.” Natosha Tallman speaks from personal experience. As a young adult, Natosha succumbed to peer pressures that “created social, emotional, and economic obstacles” and took over six years of her life to overcome.

Through it all, Natosha held on to her passion for knowledge, especially for becoming a journalist and radio and television broadcaster. She sees “being a well-educated journalist” as her way to reach out to the people she most wants to affect: those in whose shoes she has walked and who can benefit from her experiences to restore their sense of self worth.



Natosha is now an undergraduate student of communications at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. In addition to her studies, Natosha devotes her time to helping the emotionally impaired and disadvantaged. Since acquiring a Fundamentals of Drug and Alcohol Counseling State Certificate, she volunteers at “80 Strong Community Outreach,” a non-profit organization that mentors the children of incarcerated parents and helps ex-prisoners and drug offenders re-acclimate to society. Natosha explains, “It is so amazing to see a life, set up to fail, blossom like a rose in uncultivated soil simply because someone took the time to nourish it.”

Natosha's UM-D advisors are inspired by her intelligence, maturity, and determination and by a “professionalism that sets her apart as a leader.” As one person told us, Natosha “refuses to be defined by her past. Instead, she uses it to inform her present and future in productive ways.” As Natosha herself says, “I want to do my part to make a difference in the world.” CEW honors Natosha Tallman by naming her a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Scholar.

IVY TSO *Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow*

“Coming from a blue-collar, single parent family,” says Ivy Tso, “I feel lucky to be the first person in my family to have the opportunity to go to college.” Because her undergraduate study was supported by a Korean government grant and loan, Ivy has now “assumed the responsibility to repay” her society with the expertise and professional skills she obtains through her education.

Ivy began that education by earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from the University of Hong Kong. She then came to the US and completed a second master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan. Ivy is now a PhD candidate in clinical psychology in UM's Psychology Department

Ivy is a consummate researcher whose work on schizophrenia has resulted in many prestigious articles, presentations and awards. But Ivy is also committed to community service. She currently volunteers her clinical services for prisoners, homeless individuals and adolescents with mental illnesses. Ivy not only provides psychological testing to these under-served populations in the community; she also designed the projects and convinced the university and the county to support them.



Ivy plans to join the faculty of a research university and “develop a psychosocial intervention program to help individuals with schizophrenia and severe mental disorders adjust to and function more independently in society.” Another goal is to promote clinical neuroscience for currently under-represented women and ethnic minority students.

Ivy has distinguished herself as “one of the most accomplished and highly regarded students” in her department. Those with whom she works praise her exceptional talent for academic research, her intelligence, drive and determination. One of her advisors assures us that “Ivy's research on schizophrenia is already making important contributions to both scientific and cultural understanding.” To support Ivy Tso's future as a scholar, CEW names her a Mary Malcolmson Raphael Fellow.

LORI WALLACE *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“When I see public displays of violence, like a mother yelling at or hitting her child, I wonder about their home life and what might be happening behind closed doors,” says Lori Wallace. “And I wonder where this cycle of violence begins.” Born into a predominantly African-American Brooklyn neighborhood, Lori says, “Violence was present in the games we played, the discipline we received, and in our daily interactions.”

Lori graduated from Vassar College with a degree in art history. She was fulfilling her father's ambition that his children receive more education than he did. “However, the expectations ended there.” So Lori “dabbled” with several careers, eventually concluding that the art world was not for her. Taking an administrative position at Boston University, Lori, “a researcher at heart,” discovered the field of mental health research and found her home.



So, twenty years after earning her BA, Lori returned to school for a master's degree in public health at Boston University. In the process, she realized that she wanted to do more than work on other people's research teams. She wanted to design and conduct her own studies, “particularly in the African-American community, to better understand the complex interplay between racism, neighborhood influences, family violence, and mental health.” In pursuit of that goal,

Lori is a PhD student in the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Her goal is to conduct mental health research in an academic setting

Lori brings to her studies an “exceptional level of maturity and professionalism,” says one of her professors. “She is an excellent student, full of excitement and curiosity.” With her ability to inspire others, Lori is “the kind of person who will continually give back so that others can succeed.” CEW honors Lori Wallace by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

DEBRA WILLIAMS *AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholarship*

When Debra Williams was a freshman at the University of Michigan, her grades “started off strong and then perilously declined” because, she now realizes, she did not take her education seriously at that point in her life. Debra left college before completing her degree. Over the years, she was fortunate to find jobs that enabled her to learn a great many things, and to travel extensively in Europe and Africa. For almost ten years Debra worked at Pfizer in Ann Arbor. “As the positions and salaries increased, my inclination to return to school seemed more and more remote,” Debra explains. “I always knew that I would return—I just never knew when.”

Debra finally re-enrolled at the University of Michigan in the mid-1990's, taking a class whenever she could and enjoying the academic success that had eluded her before. Then, when Pfizer closed in 2008, Debra was suddenly left without a job and without a college degree. Seeing this setback as a “time to make lemonade from life's lemons,” Debra and her husband decided the time had come for her to enroll full-time. Life intervened again, when Debra's husband's routine foot surgery “turned into a five-month nightmare” and she was forced to cut back her course load once again.

Now, after many starts and stops, Debra is eager to complete her UM degree. Her many life experiences have shaped her and made her “adamant” that she will “try to help people in any way” possible—a commitment she's demonstrated by being an active volunteer for many community social service groups.

After she graduates with a bachelor's degree in American culture, Debra plans to become a teacher or social worker. Her professors praise her tenacity, resilience, and strong academic abilities. CEW, eager to help Debra Williams finally reach her educational goals, awards her the AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholarship.



STACY WILLIAMS

Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar

Historical preservation was Stacy Williams' initial career goal. After an undergraduate degree in the history of art and architecture from Miami University, Stacy earned a master's degree in architecture at the University of Illinois. Along the way, she discovered healthcare architecture and became fascinated by how hospitals function.

Stacy spent a few years practicing healthcare architectural planning, where she observed and became frustrated by the “this is what we've done before; this is what we'll do again” attitude of some practitioners. Stacy came to realize the importance of incorporating the latest research about modern medicine and patients' needs into hospital design.



“We are,” she says, “at a moment in time when the US healthcare system has the momentum for changes that will affect many levels of healthcare, including building design.” Increasing numbers of regulations, growing concerns for existing procedures, and technological advances will require architects to work with healthcare professionals to design the most efficient and effective hospital facilities.

Stacy, in her second year as a University of Michigan student, is pursuing both a PhD in the College of Architecture and Urban Design and a master's degree in public health. She believes the interdisciplinarity of her studies is essential, since it will enable her to approach design problems from the perspective of healthcare workers and administrators. Stacy's new career goal is to do hospital-focused architectural research and to consult with hospital planners

Stacy has created an uncommon path of study, explains one of her professors, which “could have a significant impact on the field, as current healthcare facilities and units continue to become obsolete at a fairly rapid pace.” Given the intelligence, resourcefulness, and flair for design that Stacy brings to her work, her advisors are confident of her success. Sharing that confidence, CEW awards Stacy Williams a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

MARIE WOOLEN *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar*

Marie Woolen first attended college in 2006, after budget cuts ended her fourteen-year-long job with United Airlines. When her marriage ended shortly afterwards, Marie had even more incentive to get an education, so that she could find productive and meaningful work to support her two small children.

As a student at Schoolcraft College, Marie says she realized how much she had “missed by not going to college after high school.” Being back in the classroom raised her self-esteem and helped get her through a difficult time in her personal life. It also reignited the passion she always had for education—a passion she believes she's now modeling for her children.

Marie has done exceptionally well in school, earning very high grades in an honors curriculum and winning scholarships that enable her to continue. She's also been involved with many campus service organizations and youth-related community volunteer activities, especially Southwest Solutions, where she counsels children who “have been adjudicated and are at risk.”

Marie has recently been accepted at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where she hopes to complete her bachelor's degree in sociology. Ultimately, she plans to earn a master's degree and a PhD in the same discipline. “If I am awarded this scholarship,” says Marie, “I promise that I will be an excellent student.”

That will not be a difficult promise to keep, according to Marie's professors. They call her “an ideal student who demonstrates outstanding leadership and a clear sense of purpose.” In the words of one of her teachers, Marie has an “exuberance for learning and a strong commitment to youth whose needs she hopes to serve in her professional career.”

Another professor calls Marie “the epitome of a student scholar.” In honor of Marie Woolen's accomplishments and dreams, CEW delights in naming her a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar.



LORETTA YULE *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

When she was abandoned to raise four young daughters by herself, Loretta Yule “gained personal insight into our government's public assistance programs.” Though she describes it as a challenging time in her life, Loretta took advantage of paid-training opportunities to earn an associate's degree and return to the workforce. Along the way, Loretta encountered many families with plights similar to hers. With her background in finance, Loretta often spent her “waiting room' time at the social services office helping overwhelmed people comprehend the paperwork.”

As a loan officer, Loretta also committed herself to helping deserving people realize their dreams of home ownership. Now, says Loretta, “our country's economic crisis has severely diminished my ability to assist a large portion of the people who sought my advice.” In addition, faced with a “perfect storm” of personal crises, Loretta believes that “life-changing events” have shown her a fresh path, giving her “new perspective, direction and zeal.”



Anticipating that many of her previous customers “may soon find themselves in need of social service professionals they can trust,” Loretta has returned to school. When she completes her undergraduate degree in public administration at the University of Michigan-Flint, Loretta will seek a new arena in which to work, one that will keep her “closely connected to people in need” and also enable her to take part in creating and facilitating important policy changes.

Those who know Loretta say she is perfectly suited to achieve her goals. In the words of one former colleague, Loretta's “positive 'glass half-full' attitude and tireless work ethic” are inspirational. “She has an uncanny ability to listen intently to problems and issues and then develop and clearly communicate her recommended solutions.” CEW, in support of Loretta Yule's past successes and future goals, names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

SANDY ZALMOUT *Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar*

Sandy Zalmout first needed medical knowledge when her father was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. The trauma of his illness was compounded by her family's lack of information about the disease, their socioeconomic status, and her family's language barrier. "As the eldest, the responsibility fell squarely on my shoulders to learn as much as I could about my father's condition and treatments." Later, Sandy faced similar responsibilities in helping her mother overcome her own series of medical issues.

Sandy's biggest medical challenge, however, came after many frightening visits to the emergency room, when she and her husband learned that their infant son has hypersensitive allergies to many of the proteins found in everyday foods. "Determined to understand what was happening," Sandy educated herself "with help and guidance from doctors, from books and organizations." She is relieved to say that she is now much better prepared to protect her son.

Sandy praises the doctors and other medical professionals who offered support, guidance and inspiration along her frightening journey. She knows, however, that "many people out there lack the knowledge and resources they need" to deal with the kinds of allergies and subsequent chronic illness from which her son suffers. Sandy is "on a mission" to educate parents who face socioeconomic, language or other barriers to dealing with their children's life-threatening allergies.



Currently, Sandy is working toward a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan's School of Kinesiology, and plans to continue in the Nutritional Science Program in the School of Public Health. Her goal is to become a medical researcher, examining the impact of food and its constituents on genetic expressions and the increased incidence of chronic illness.

Sandy is already enrolled in challenging graduate courses and learning difficult biochemical concepts on her own-proof to her professors of her "ambition, resourcefulness, and academic potential." CEW supports Sandy Zalmout's vision by naming her the Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar.

Thank you.