

VENTURES

Spring 2009

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Social, Behavioral, and Economic SciencesPartnerships for Sustainable Community Development Activities
Begin in Tanzania

The MSU-based Partnerships for Sustainable Community Development program is an alliance of local and international organizations working together to make communities more sustainable in their health, education, economic, and general well being. Several MSU colleges are involved, as the initiative was designed to take an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to addressing community sustainability issues. The Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), a joint initiative between the College of Social Science and International Studies and Programs, serves as the administrative hub for the program.

An overwhelming majority of Tanzanians live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and livestock for food and income, rainfall for water, and firewood for cooking – all closely tied to their rural environment. MSU's history of collaboration in East Africa in general, and in Tanzania in particular, makes this country a natural launching point for the Partnership pilot program.

With an alumni donor couple providing a program initiation grant to get the Tanzania pilot program started, a multidisciplinary team of MSU faculty and staff has made several trips to the country to identify the primary pilot villages and strengthen relationships with our Tanzanian partner institutions and organizations.

The first anticipated project for the Partnership will be an enhancement to the water system in a rural village in northern Tanzania. Currently, villagers in Naitolia walk approximately five miles to their water source, and this project is planning to bring water access closer to the village and schools. With enhanced access to water, the Partnership will develop an educational program that will advance agriculture and health knowledge within the schools and community, and implement programming to improve animal and human health.

The Partnerships for Sustainable Community Development members are hoping to secure an anchoring endowed fund, which will allow MSU and partners to work in other countries in an integrated fashion, sustain long-term relationships with local partners in those countries and perform follow-up evaluations to measure the long-term effects of the partnership activities. For the Tanzania pilot project, MSU's partners are the University of Dar es Salaam Institute for Resource Assessment, the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, and the Aga Khan Development Network.

For additional information on how you can assist Michigan State University by supporting CASID's activities and the Partnerships for Sustainable Community Development program, please contact **Sarah Blom**, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the College of Social Science, at 866-678-2005 or blom@msu.edu.



Sarah Blom, Sr. Dir. of Development, Rob Glew, Dir. of CASID, and Jeff Riedinger, Dean of International Studies & Programs, visit the village of Milola where MSU is working to help elevate the livelihood of the members of the rural community in Tanzania.

Dean Honored with Prestigious
Anthropology Award

Marietta L. Baba, Dean of the College of Social Science and Professor of Anthropology and Labor and Industrial Relations, has been awarded the Conrad Arensberg Award for her influential ethnographic and collaborative approaches to research in the anthropology of work—especially in business and industry—that have expanded the scope of anthropological understandings.

The Arensberg Award was established in 1991 by the Society of Anthropology of Work—a section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)—to recognize significant contributions to the field. The Arensberg Award is the primary recognition in this field of study and is awarded every other year. The award was presented to Dean Baba at the Annual Meeting of the AAA on November 21, 2008, where she presented, *Anthropologies of Work in Late Capitalism: Constructing a Discipline for "Warner's Quadrant."*

Message from the Dean



Marietta L. Baba © 2007 Kim Kauffman

This is one of the best times of the year on campus as our students look forward to the next stage in their lives: graduation, an internship, study abroad, graduate school, or a new career. There is also an unsettling undercurrent for these students and for everyone in the State of Michigan. During difficult economic times, the MSU College of Social Science is more grateful than ever for the support we receive from our alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.

Recently, we teamed up with MSU's James Madison College to present a panel for alumni and friends in Washington, D.C. on Michigan's role in the global economic crisis and recovery. Attendees enjoyed a discussion with Economics faculty and the deans from both colleges. Professor **Charles Ballard** is an expert on the Michigan economy and author of *Michigan's Economic Future* and *Michigan at the Millennium*.

Assistant Professor **Lisa Cook**, who is jointly appointed with James Madison, has been named the World Bank Review Team Lead on President Barack Obama's Economics and International Trade Team. Associate Professor **Jinhua Zhao** is an expert on energy and the bioeconomy and recently won a research paper competition from the Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements. In the midst of this financial crisis, MSU continues its tradition of solving real-world problems with leaders in economic research.

Our faculty and students continue to earn recognition for their outstanding work. **Thomas Summerhill** was appointed Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Summerhill is an associate professor of history and has served as Acting Associate Dean since January 2008. He also serves as Director of the Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science. **Tim Pleskac**, assistant professor of psychology, was awarded the Hillel Einhorn Young Investigator Award by the Society for Behavioral Decision Making for his research on decision making and learning while taking sequential risks, which was recently published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Criminal Justice professor **Merry Morash** was honored as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology (ACS) for her significant contributions to the field. Three Social Science faculty were honored with All-University Awards: **Richard Baillie** (Economics and Finance) received a Distinguished Faculty Award; **Steven Haider** (Economics) received a Teacher-Scholar Award; and **Colleen Wilson** (Sociology) received an Excellence-in-Teaching Citation. Graduate student **Carolina Santos** (Geography) won an Earth Systems Science Fellowship from NASA. Santos will pursue her research on complex land use & cover trajectories in the Northern Choco bioregion of Colombia.

The Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI), the Midwest's premier research institute on Latino communities, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this November. Current plans include a two day "Latino/a Communities in the Midwest" conference with presentations on Latino issues, including aging, health, education, and immigration. Information regarding anniversary events is posted at www.jsri.msu.edu/20thanniversary.

Thank you again for all that you do for the MSU College of Social Science!

Marietta L. Baba, Dean and Professor

Social Science Alumni Association Update

The College of Social Science Alumni Association (CSSAA) supports and advances the college by promoting the mutual interests of alumni, faculty, staff, and students. The CSSAA does this by encouraging alumni to support the College of Social Science and its strategic priorities through the donation of their time, money, and expertise.

When you become a member of the MSU Alumni Association, you can direct a portion of your dues to the college by selecting Social Science as your college affiliation. This money supports a wide variety of activities in the college. These projects include student support—through the CSSAA Study Abroad Scholarship and Undergraduate Research Grant—and faculty support, through the Outstanding Teaching Award. Alumni activities supported by your dues include an annual meeting, college reunion breakfast, homecoming tailgate, and MSU's Grandparents University.

In addition to helping advance and support your college while joining a network of MSU alumni throughout the world, membership in the MSU Alumni Association also brings tangible benefits to you and your family. One of the most popular of these benefits is access to MSU Alumni Career Services for online résumé postings, résumé critiques, and job listings in your prospective career field. Additional benefits include the quarterly MSU Alumni Magazine, a \$45 discount for adults attending MSU's Grandparents University, and discounts on car rentals, hotels, shipping and moving companies, and airport parking.

Take the Dare and join the MSU Alumni Association now by visiting msualum.com/secure/join/default_dare.cfm

Christine Mason Soneral
President, College of Social Science Alumni Association
(BA Political Science '95)



Award recipients Robert Goodman (Economics '65 and '70), Max Kreinin (Economics Professor), Barbara Sawyer-Koch (Public Administration '90), Steve Wolf (Anthropology '81), and Karen Wolf (Economics '82) at a Social Science reception prior to the MSU Grand Awards Ceremony.

College of Social Science

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COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



Psychology professors Neal Schmitt and Dan Ilgen

Excellent mentoring inspires the mentee. It can profoundly shape a career, reflect outstanding examples of professionalism, and provide a model to aspire to. Psychology alumni **Stephen Gilliland** (M.A. '90, Ph.D. '92) and **Jadyn Jensen** (M.A. '04, Ph.D. '06) can attest to that.

Gilliland and Jensen were so appreciative of the education they received that they spearheaded a fundraising effort to create an endowment in honor of their mentors. The Ilgen-Schmitt Endowed Graduate Fellowship is named for Industrial/ Organizational Psychology professors **Dan Ilgen** and **Neal Schmitt**.

Schmitt, department chairperson and university distinguished professor, and Ilgen, the John A. Hannah distinguished professor in Psychology and Management, set examples their students find difficult to replicate. Gilliland remembers Schmitt's guidance during the crafting of his dissertation. "I felt great satisfaction upon turning in an initial draft of more than 200 pages. Now it was off my desk and onto Neal's. The next morning I arrived at the office and the draft was waiting on my desk. Neal had somehow managed to read and provide substantive comments on the entire draft in less than 24 hours. I realized at that point that he was setting an example of mentorship that I would always try, but never truly be able to live up to. To this day, I don't know how he did it."

Jensen recalls Ilgen's unrelenting commitment to his students. "He was generous with his time and resources, and was a constant source of support during my time at MSU. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor and will be forever thankful for his wisdom and his role in my development as a scholar."

Both professors and their spouses were so touched by the creation of the fund that they designated part of their previously planned gifts to the Ilgen-Schmitt Endowed Graduate Fellowship. "We're honored to be recognized in this way," commented Schmitt. "Without ongoing fellowship and other forms of graduate student funding, the program would not be able to attract the high caliber of graduate students needed for the program's success. It is a pleasure to support this initiative," Ilgen said.

Ranked No. 1 nationally for the last decade, MSU's Industrial/Organizational Psychology Program will be assisted immensely by the Ilgen-Schmitt endowment in continuing the program's prestigious academic reputation. For more information about the Ilgen-Schmitt Fund, contact **Sarah Blom** at blom@msu.edu or 1-866-678-2005.

Social Sciences Development & Alumni Relations

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alumni](http://www.socialscience.msu.edu/alumni)

The College of Social Science at Michigan State University is a community of scholars committed to creating, disseminating, and applying knowledge in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. The MSU Social Science community includes more than 6,700 undergraduate and graduate students, 400 faculty, 170 staff members, and 85,000 alumni in four schools, eight departments, and six centers and institutes.

Social Work Gift Advances Leadership and Social Justice Education

Central to providing high quality social work services is the ability to be an effective advocate for social justice, particularly in times of scarce resources. The new Fund for Advocacy, Leadership and Social Justice, created with a gift from generous alumna **Kate Pew Wolters** (MSW Social Work 1982), will allow the MSU School of Social Work to continue its leadership in defining, exploring, promoting and teaching concepts of social justice in the 21st century.

Effective advocacy is a central skill for all social workers and a significant emphasis in the MSU Master of Social Work program. At the same time, each graduate of the MSU School of Social Work should have his or her leadership qualities identified, deepened and expanded,

explained Gary Anderson, director of the school.

"We have a tradition of preparing social workers for a variety of leadership roles," Anderson noted. "The role of leadership in recruiting and retaining workers and building organizations that can provide ethical and effective services is essential. This fund will support activities to advance leadership skills for our students and, through continuing education, for our alumni."

The Fund for Advocacy, Leadership and Social Justice will promote advanced educational opportunities and broaden training, with the goal of equipping each student to be an effective advocate and leader. Specifically, the fund will support the development and delivery of elective courses on advocacy and leadership, continu-

ing education workshops, specialized field placements, guest lecturers for the school and broader community, as well as targeted research projects.

"Both advocacy and leadership are informed by and inspired by the value of social justice," Anderson said. "Each of these qualities—advocacy, leadership and social justice—will be significantly advanced by the newly endowed fund and are central to our mission."

The fund will create collaboration opportunities with other disciplines and enhance advocacy, leadership and social justice exploration at Michigan State University for years to come. For more information about making a gift to the School of Social Work, contact **Melanie McGuire** at mmcguire@msu.edu or 1-866-276-2425.

Reflections on a New Era in American History



Ernest Green (Social Science '62; '64)

Ernest Green (B.A. Social Science '62 and M.A. '64) has a very personal perspective regarding President Obama's recent inauguration as the 44th President of the United States.

Green is the oldest of the "Little Rock Nine," a group of African American high school students who entered Central High School under federal protection on the morning of September 25, 1957. Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus had called for the National Guard to turn away the African American pupils in direct defiance of the federal government, which had approved a desegregation plan for the school. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent in federal troops to protect the rights of the students and escorted them into the school in one of the defining moments of the American civil rights movement.

Following his graduation from high school in Little Rock, Green received a scholarship to attend Michigan State University from an anonymous donor. He went on to a distinguished career in the government and private sector, including assistant secretary in the Labor Department under President Carter and managing director with Lehman Brothers. He is currently working at Barclay's Capital in Washington, DC.

Green and all of the members of the Little Rock Nine were invited to the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Green said that the installation of an African American as the President of the United States was an incredibly poignant moment for him. "It affirmed to me that all I believed in so long ago and stood up for as a young black student in Arkansas was absolutely the right thing to do. I felt very privileged to be part of the history that brought us to this wonderful moment for America – I was so proud," Green shared.

Green went on to reflect on his time at MSU. "My time at the university helped instill so many convictions and taught me critical and strategic thinking that has been integral to my success in life," he said. "The scholarship to attend Michigan State University transformed my life, and I owe so much to the multidisciplinary experience I received in the College of Social Science," he shared.

Many years later, the name of the anonymous scholarship donor was revealed to Green. It was none other than MSU's own university president at the time, John Hannah. "It was so incredible to learn that it was President Hannah who sponsored my scholarship," Green continued, "and it was certainly one of the motivating factors for me in creating a scholarship fund that would assist students in attaining their educational goals." For information about creating your own scholarship fund, contact **Sarah Blom** at blom@msu.edu or 1-866-678-2005.

Social Science Alumni and Friends Honored

Last October, the MSU Alumni Association recognized three Social Science alumni and a faculty member who have brought honor to their college through their exceptional achievements.

Robert Goodman, recipient of the MSU Distinguished Alumni Award, received both his M.A. ('65) and Ph.D. ('70) in Economics from MSU. He is an economic consultant for Putnam Investments. Widely known as "Dr. Bob" in the financial community, he is the author of *Independently Wealthy: How to Build Financial Security in the New Economic Era*.

Max Kreinin, recipient of the MSU Honorary Alumni Award, is a University Distinguished Professor of

Economics at MSU. Over a 50-year period, he taught tens of thousands of students and supervised 40 Ph.D. dissertations. He has authored 11 books, including the popular text, *International Economics*, now in its 10th edition.

Barbara Sawyer-Koch, recipient of the MSU Alumni Service Award, earned her M.A. in Public Administration ('90). An MSU trustee from 1979 to 1995, she volunteers extensively at MSU. Sawyer-Koch worked in the Michigan Department of Treasury for 17 years, rising to director of the Office of Strategic Planning. Barb and her husband Don have housed 13 international graduate students.

Steve (Employee Relations and Anthropology '81) and **Karen** (Economics '82) **Wolf**, jointly received the MSU Alumni Service Award. Both are heavily involved with their community and their alma mater. In 2006, they served as hosts for a lecture and reception featuring John Walters, the national drug czar. Karen is the principal of Karen B. Wolf Consulting. Steve is the director of human resources for Aquinas College.

To read more about the MSU Alumni Association Awards and the Social Science recipients, visit <http://socialscience.msu.edu/cssaa/awards.php>.

Join the MSU Alumni Association Now!

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News (tell us about your personal and professional milestones – recent accomplishments, recognition, etc. – and you may be highlighted in a future newsletter):

Let the IRA Rollover Provision Benefit MSU & You

Charitable gifts from IRAs are available again in 2009. The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 reinstated the IRA Rollover Provision charitable gift opportunity through December 31, 2009. This incentive for charitable giving permits owners of traditional or Roth IRAs who are age 70 ½ or older (and required to take minimum distributions) to make gifts directly to MSU, with a limit of \$100,000 per year. Although no charitable deduction is available to donors for the amount gifted to MSU, the donor does not need to claim the gift as ordinary income. To discuss IRA rollover gifts, contact Nick McLaren at mclarenn@msu.edu or 1-866-761-4199.