

# *The Program*

**WELCOME**

Lester Monts

*Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Michigan*

**REMARKS**

Gloria Thomas

*Director, Center for the Education of Women*

**INTRODUCTION OF CITATION READERS**

*Gloria Thomas*

**PRESENTATION OF CEW SCHOLARSHIP AND  
FELLOWSHIP CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

Anne E. Lehker

Judy Dow Rumelhart

OCTOBER 13, 2009 The MICHIGAN UNION, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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*T*HE CENTER FOR THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The CEW Scholarship Program for returning women students was established in 1970 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of women to the University of Michigan. Designed to honor the academic performance and potential of students whose education has been interrupted, the scholarships are awarded on the basis of applicants' goals and commitment, academic record and promise, and strength of motivation. CEW has awarded over 1,200 scholarships since the program was established.

The Center for the Education of Women thanks all of our friends who, throughout the years, have given time and money to create and sustain the Scholarship Program. We are especially grateful to the people who financially support this program and thus the women we celebrate tonight. CEW Scholarship Awards are invaluable to their recipients: They often mean the difference between completing a degree or not doing so. Without the generous donors, many dreams would be deferred, if not abandoned. The gifts that fund these scholarships literally change lives.

To the people who kindly give their time to read applications and work with the Center to select the recipients we also offer our thanks and appreciation. The hours and dedication that each volunteer gives are key to our success. Every year the Center receives more worthy applications than we can financially assist. It is difficult to select the best from the amazingly talented pool of candidates, and we regret not being able to partner with all the applicants.

We are confident that tonight's honorees will be great additions to the community of CEW Scholars. The 2009-2010 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 56. Almost half the recipients have children. While each Scholar is unique and will make her own path in life, the women share certain characteristics, including intelligence, vision, determination, and promise.

On behalf of tonight's scholarship recipients, we offer our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who makes this event possible.

*Thank You*

*“Today’s women Born yesterday Dealing with tomorrow  
Not yet where we’re going  
But not still where we were.” Adrienne Rich*

Anyone who is in attendance tonight or who has read this booklet will undoubtedly experience two things—being *impressed* and being *inspired*.

This year's Scholars are impressive! Their intelligence, passion, and dedication will positively influence their disciplines, their fields of practice, their families, their communities, and the world. Many of tonight's winners have already exhibited this kind of leadership, but the CEW Scholarships bestow upon them both additional financial resources and important votes of confidence for their achievements.

CEW shares the pride their families have in these students for modeling strong academic performance and realizing their potential through hard work. We know they will continue to contribute to society through their volunteer and philanthropic work in addition to their professional roles.

The inspiring individuals, families, and foundations that create and fund CEW Scholarships are also worthy of applause. It is their ability to dream alongside their scholars that makes this night possible.

After 39 years of offering scholarships, we now have more than 1,200 former Scholars and Fellows living in communities throughout the globe. Many of our Scholars stay in touch with CEW, so we are able to celebrate their ongoing successes in business, education, the sciences, the arts and other professions as well as in life. These old friends comment that they were bolstered both by their scholarships and by the counseling, programs, and information services they received from the Center. As one former Scholar told us,

*Receiving the scholarship gave me the financial support I needed to complete my degree.*

*Working with the counselors at the Center helped me to create a succinct action plan for how to make sure my degree worked for me and opened the doors that I needed to open in order to excel in my career, in my self-development, and in leading my family....*

The Center is proud of our open door policy, providing free counseling to any individual wishing to explore educational and employment opportunities, or work-life and family balance issues. Our robust program

offerings (more than 60 per calendar year) focus on skill building, leadership development, and employment opportunities. They have been the first steps for many people striving to fulfill their potential. In addition, the CEW library with its print and technological resources provides a place for people to explore employment, education, work-family concerns and other issues. Simply put, for many people the Center for the Education of Women represents a safe, supportive and stimulating place to begin and to sustain their dreams of leading independent, successful lives.

CEW is proud of our Scholarship Program, the partners who have created the funds, and the students who have been selected as Scholars. We are equally proud of the thousands of individuals who come to the Center each year seeking help and advice.

#### CREATING A LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERISM

*“I feel a strong commitment to ‘give back’ what I have received—by serving others.”*

What becomes of CEW Scholarship recipients? Beyond the immediate impact of supporting and encouraging Scholars to achieve their educational goals, we wondered whether there was a larger and more lasting effect. Would being the beneficiary of such support foster a sense of altruism, civic duty, and the moral obligation to give something back? Would it promote a commitment to engage in volunteerism? To explore these questions we compared the results of our survey of CEW Scholarship recipients with the national profile of women engaging in volunteer activities according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. What we found may surprise you.

Our Scholars, despite their busy lives, find time to donate their talents to numerous types of volunteer organizations at nearly twice the national average of other college-educated women. They engage in volunteer activities for many reasons. Among the most commonly cited reasons were: “the opportunity to make a difference” and “the opportunity to give back to the community.” As one Scholar told us:

*The receipt of the CEW Scholarship Award has always over the years served to remind me that my career is not mine alone – it occurred due to much support from others, and my work each day should be (and is) motivated by a commitment to serve others. I feel a strong commitment to “give back” what I have received – by serving others.”*

A CEW Scholarship touches one life, which in turn touches many.

*The Scholarships and  
Fellowships*

**GAIL ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* LYNN VERDUZCO BAKER

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:* CATHLEEN CLERKIN

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:* TAM HITESHEW

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

**JANE AND BILL BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* LEE RUEMENAPP

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 an endowment that will fully fund tuition for a CEW scholar each year. 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.”

**RUTH JEANETTE BUTTREY SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* SO-YOUNG NAM

The Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship was created in 2004 by her granddaughter Stephanie Buttrey. It honors Ruth Buttrey, who filled her life with learning and adventure. An early proponent of women's education, Ruth studied at a teacher's college as well as at the New England Conservatory and the Chicago Musical College. After marrying Ted Buttrey, who oversaw the growth of Buttrey Department Stores, Ruth produced a home talent show in the Midwest. Throughout her life, Ruth supported various women's groups, especially through her active participation in the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Ruth and Ted also endowed many scholarships in his home state of Montana. CEW's Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholarship recognizes an outstanding undergraduate on the Ann Arbor campus, with a special focus on the fields of business and engineering.



**CEW GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* ALVIN THOMAS

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

**COLLEGIATE SOROSIS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* CALI ELLIS

The Sorosis 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:* AMY HARTWIG; JENNIFER STANLEY

Since 1990, the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group has provided CEW scholarships for undergraduate women students in financial need. The Lucile B. Conger Group is a University of Michigan alumnae organization founded in 1947. The Conger organization has nearly 200 female members. The group is actively involved in raising funds to provide scholarships for women to attend the University of Michigan.

**MOLLY H. DOBSON SCHOLARSHIPS** *Recipients:* RENEE BALTHROP; MARIE CONNER

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.

**ROBERT BRUCE DUNLAP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* CLARE PRITCHARD

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:* MIRA STANLEY

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:* HELA ISSAQ

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:* JULIA DEPORRE

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:* MARGARITA HUAYHUA; EBONY ELIZABETH THOMAS

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."

**LINDA J. RIDER SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* CAROLYN DOUGHERTY

This scholarship was established in celebration of Linda J. Rider by her family and first awarded in 2004. When Linda enrolled at the University of Michigan at the age of 41 to earn her bachelor's degree, she was a professional writer, editor, photographer and single mother. To honor Linda's accomplishment of earning her degree as a nontraditional student, this scholarship is designed to assist women returning to college later in life. The Linda J. Rider Scholarship is awarded based on financial need.

**HELEN HUFF SHELL SCHOLARSHIP** *Recipient:* MARIA JHAI

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:* CAROL ALLIE; SAYALI BHATWADEKAR; KATHARINE VANDENBROEK BRADLEY; MELISSA BURWELL; JOSIANNE CACERES; ANNA COLDHAM; JENNIFER DRAKE; ALICE GATES; COLLEEN GIDDINGS; FIONA GREENLAND; RIMA HASSOUNEH; TENNERY HICKS; VANESSA HINES; HSUN-YI HSIEH; KYUNG HEE LEE;

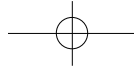
MAHIMA MAHADEVAN; STACY MATES; SUZETTE MCGRAW; KRISTINE RONAN; MELISA SCOTT; CYNTHIA SMITH; CECILIA TOMORI; MICHELLE WASHBURN; KATHY ZARUR

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.

**IRMA M. WYMAN SCHOLARSHIPS** *Recipients:* SHANI ALLISON; ELIZABETH VANDERMARK

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. Now retired from the corporate world, she lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she is Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese.

⊕ *The Scholars and Fellows* ⊕



**CAROL ALLIE** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“I have never wavered in my original dream of being a teacher,” says Carol Allie, “even though I had to set those dreams aside for a while.” In fact, 30 years passed from the time Carol graduated from high school until she finally set out to make her dream come true. During that time, Carol married, had two children, and worked many jobs to help support her family.

Her mother died when Carol was a young teen. “My Sunday school teachers and my favorite teachers from elementary school were there to help support me during that difficult time. They took me to lunch, bought me clothes, invited my grandmother and me for Thanksgiving dinners. All these acts of kindness gave me a deep respect and affection for teachers, which I have carried with me through the years.” Their influence inspires Carol to become the “best teacher I can possibly be.”

In 2003 Carol enrolled at Henry Ford Community College, graduating summa cum laude. She then transferred to UM-Dearborn, where she’s now working on an undergraduate degree in Education and majoring in science. Her dream is to have her own early elementary classroom, where “the joy of learning radiates” and she can “watch the excitement on a child’s face as she builds a block tower or conquers a challenging puzzle.”



Carol’s professors describe her as thoughtful, hard working and highly motivated to learn and grow. They say she demonstrates emotional maturity and cultural sensitivity, attributes that set her above many of her peers.

“I am a patient person,” Carol tells us. CEW is delighted to reward Carol Allie’s patience and perseverance by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley scholar.

**SHANI ALLISON** *Irma M. Wyman Scholar*

“As Ford restructures and grows in this century, I want to play a key role in the company’s future—to help develop electric and hybrid vehicles that are affordable and safe for the environment. Ford is up to the challenge, and so am I.” Shani Allison is an obviously proud and dedicated product development engineer. She has worked at the Ford Motor Company since 2001, after graduating with a BS in Engineering from Pennsylvania State University.

Shani intends to be “more than just an engineer a company hires. I want to be the engineer a company can promote into upper management.” To fulfill that ambition, Shani is back in school, continuing to work at Ford while she pursues a MS in Engineering Management at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Her goal is to develop the business skills she needs to assume a leadership position.



While her professors commend Shani’s accomplishments as a student and engineer, they save their highest praise for her outstanding leadership abilities and her commitment to others. Explained one of her former advisors, “Shani continues to give back, influencing and supporting minority and women students in engineering.” She’s a role model and mentor for underrepresented students and is the current president of the National Society of Black Engineers, Detroit Alumni Chapter. Shani also returns to Penn State each year to chair a prestigious Diversity Engineering Board. On top of all that, she is a long-time volunteer assistant girls’ soccer coach.

With her “professionalism, drive and ability, Shani will truly be an asset to the engineering community.” Agreeing with that prediction of Shani Allison’s bright future and grateful for her commitment to our environment, CEW names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



**RENEE BALTHROP** *Molly H. Dobson Scholar*

“I have to admit,” says Renee Balthrop, “that I was anxious about returning to school. Would I know where to go? Would I be the oldest in my class? Would I be older than my professors? The answer was almost always ‘Yes.’ But now I feel confident and happy.”

Renee, the single mother of three daughters, spells out three reasons for her determination to complete her undergraduate Education degree at the University of Michigan-Flint:

To be a role model for her daughters. “I want to show them, as well as myself, what the benefits of having a degree really are. If they see that I can do it, they will feel that they can as well.”

To achieve her dream of being a teacher. Renee worked for ten years as a school paraprofessional, discovering the joy of “supporting young people as they inquire, learn, struggle, and grow.”

To give back to herself, after devoting herself to others as a stay-at-home wife and mom and community volunteer. “For over eight years I have worked and worried, sacrificed and saved, proudly raising my daughters on my own...to be amazing, independent, intelligent and educated young ladies. Now it’s my time.”



When she graduates, Renee plans to teach and work toward a master’s degree in Education. It’s a goal that her professors are confident she can achieve. One of them tells us that Renee “possesses every necessary skill” to work with youngsters. Another calls her “a dedicated, responsible, fun-loving, attentive, and kind person with a positive, can-do attitude.”

For all these reasons, CEW is honored to award Renee Balthrop a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship.

**SAYALI BHATWADEKAR** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Sayali Bhatwadekar is a student of classical Indian music, proficient in the harmonium, flute, and tanpura. She also dances Kathak, a classical Indian art form. Yet from an early age, Sayali also had a passion for the health sciences. She sought a profession that combined her aptitude for science and her artistic interests.

She found it in dentistry, which “besides skill, precision and manual dexterity, requires endless creativity.” Sayali earned a degree at the Nair Hospital Dental College in Mumbai. She volunteered in rural camps, providing free care to people with no other access to dental hygiene. “I realized that dentistry had a long way to go in rural India, and I wanted to help change this scenario.”



When Sayali married and moved to the US, she offered her services as a dental assistant in order to familiarize herself with US dentistry. Then, since foreign-trained dentists must complete two years of training to be eligible to practice in this country, Sayali applied and was one of seven from an application pool of 350 to be accepted into the University of Michigan’s Internationally Trained Dentist Program.

When she completes her DDS degree, Sayali will return to her husband and their home in Chicago, work as an associate in a dental practice, and then open her own practice. “Someday I hope to travel back to India to develop sustainable educational dental health programs in impoverished communities.”

Sayali’s professors tell us “she is an example of the best and brightest of the future of dentistry”—intelligent, ambitious, conscientious, and compassionate. She is, said one, “the kind of individual that we all want taking care of our families and ourselves.”

CEW supports Sayali Bhatwadekar’s career goals by awarding her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**KATHARINE VANDENBROEK BRADLEY** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“My career goal,” says Katharine Bradley, “is to mitigate disparities in health coverage and access.” That’s quite a shift for someone who began her academic studies in the arts and humanities. Katharine attended high school at Interlochen Arts Academy and earned a BA in Comparative Literature from Barnard College. Faced with the decision to enter a doctoral program, Katharine opted instead “to find a greater sense of calling before continuing my education.”

Her search took Katharine to Idaho and the U.S. Forest Service—and later to a position with a statewide health policy project in Idaho, where she discovered her “intellectual, professional and moral mission” in life. Along the way she also earned an MBA at the University of Washington.

Katherine says she’s drawn to studying and helping enact equitable health policies not only because she enjoys the complexity of the issues but also because of “the stories and struggles of the under-served people I have met...and because of my own dependence on health insurance!”

Now a joint PhD student in the Health Services Organization and Policy Program at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health and Department of Political Science, Katharine is studying health policy development and theory, while also caring for her young daughter.



According to her professors, Katharine’s coursework, along with her remarkable intelligence and the “substantial experience in health policy that she had before beginning her UM studies,” ensure her future as “a first-rate scholar, making important contributions to our understanding of health politics and policy.”

“We need Kate,” said one of her advisors. “She will be one of the people explaining, and influencing, health policy in the future.” In support of Katharine Bradley’s important work, CEW awards her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**MELISSA BURWELL** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Melissa Burwell grew up in a working, middle-class family where higher education was not promoted or valued. Without a college education, Melissa worked low-wage jobs. When in 2001 she became physically unable to do general labor, Melissa enrolled at Washtenaw Community College, seeing it as her way back to the work force.

Enrolling in college after being out of school for a number of years was somewhat scary, but from the beginning Melissa has excelled. In a dual enrollment program with the University of Michigan, she earned two associate's degrees, an undergraduate degree in pre-law, and a number of academic awards.

With the ultimate goal of becoming a civil rights attorney, Melissa is currently a master's degree student in the University of Michigan's School of Social Work. Melissa believes that, as a social worker, she can fulfill her commitment to social change and equality. "As a clinical therapist, I will give clients the emotional support they need and, as a social worker advocate, I will ensure that my clients' protected rights are not denied. I will also advocate for the reform of outdated policies and practices that deny equal access and perpetuate unequal treatment."

"These past six years have not been easy," Melissa admits, "but with my Christian faith, the support of my academic counselors and professors, I continue to succeed." Those who know Melissa say she will achieve her goals. According to one professor, "Despite many struggles, Melissa has the persistence and motivation to function well as a graduate student...She did not start off life on the same kind of academic trajectory as most of our students, yet she is a natural academic."

Proud to be a part of Melissa Burwell's bright future, CEW awards her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**JOSIANNE CACERES** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“I learned early in life to work hard and be persistent,” says Josianne Caceres from Lima, Peru. Josianne’s parents divorced when she was an infant, and she was raised by her grandmother. “My grandmother paid for my schooling until she ran out of money.” At that point, Josianne worked several jobs to cover her expenses at Universidad del Pacifico, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Accounting.

“I learned to maximize the little income I had and the time I needed to commit to my jobs and to my studies.” Josianne believes this experience “reinforced my tenacity, my courage, and my desire to achieve goals and think big.”

“Thinking big” led Josianne to the UM Ross School of Business, where she began work last month on her MBA. When she graduates, her short term goal is to “gain experience as a consultant in a top-notch US firm. I am interested in learning international best practices that I can bring back to my country.” Back in Peru, Josianne hopes to establish a consulting firm to develop and support local small and medium-sized enterprises, “the backbone of the economic boom in my country.”



Before coming to the US, Josianne worked as a senior auditor at Unilever Peru and Ernst & Young Peru. Her supervisors at both companies praise Josianne as an outstanding professional who moved quickly through the ranks, despite her relative youth and inexperience, because of her intelligence, innate understanding of accounting principles, strong work ethic, leadership and teamwork skills.

Josianne sees her CEW scholarship as “a seed of change that will be planted in me but will branch out to others.” In support of that promise, we gladly name Josianne Caceres a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

**CATHLEEN CLERKIN** *American Association of University Women Scholar*

“My life was planned out [by my parents],” says Cathleen Clerkin. “Education was not to be part of it.” Despite their objections, Cathleen “became a bookworm,” and “turned my life-course upside down by deciding to pursue higher education.” Overcoming her parents’ opposition at every step of the way, Cathleen slowly accumulated enough credits to graduate as valedictorian of her community college class.

Determined to continue, Cathleen defied her parents and applied to the University of California Berkeley. She was accepted, majored in Psychology and graduated with honors. As a PhD Psychology student at the University of Michigan, Cathleen has very quickly become a star. She has,



explained one of her professors, “a gift for designing original research that is well beyond what one would expect from a first year student. She is surpassing every expectation of our vigorous doctorate program, and she is on a very positive trajectory to become a successful scholar in psychology.”

Though she’s only begun her graduate education, Cathleen has already “completed several research studies, presented her research at a national conference, won multiple awards for her work, received media coverage for her research, all in addition to excelling in her coursework and as a teacher.” She also spent this past summer in China, teaching “English through the Arts” to a wide range of students.

Cathleen’s educational path may be somewhat unconventional, says another professor. She’s “someone who doesn’t fit the mold, yet someone who’s exactly what... academies need.” Cathleen’s research, on the impact of conflicting multiple social and racial identities, is “an especially important yet under-researched topic,” and Cathleen brings to it compassion, intelligence and commitment.

CEW is honored to recognize Cathleen Clerkin’s perseverance and promising academic career by naming her the American Association of University Women Scholar.

**ANNA COLDHAM** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“Several weeks ago, I put a brick in the water tank of my toilet. This water conservation technique now lies as a paltry homage to a goal I have carried for over a decade: to further sustainable business practices and resource management in the US and abroad.” It’s a life-long passion: “At an early age, I was taught to see myself as part of a larger whole,” to understand “how humans interact with their environment and with one another.”

After graduating with a degree in Economics from Carleton College, Anna held progressively responsible positions with a national insurance company and “discovered an aptitude for bringing opposing sides together.” Now Anna is learning to apply those skills to the challenges of natural resource management. She is a fellow of the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise and a joint MBA/MS student in the University of Michigan Schools of Business and Natural Resources and Environment.

Anna’s goal is to be a consultant, using her facilitation, mediation, team-building, and strategic planning skills to “incorporate sustainability into daily practices and mediate disputes over the use of natural resources.”

Her professors know Anna will succeed. She is an excellent student, the winner of many prestigious academic awards. Passionate about her chosen profession, she “has a strong desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others.”

As one of her advisors explained, “We need individuals who can help others deal with conflict and be more strategic. Anna has the qualities of mind, interpersonal skills, energy and drive to succeed in an extremely challenging role.”

Given Anna Coldham’s potential as a leader in the field of environmental sustainability, CEW is proud to award her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.



**MARIE CONNER** *Molly H. Dobson Scholar*

“Press your way.” Marie Conner says that these words “have echoed in my heart and mind for as long as I can remember.” Looking back at her life, Marie admits that she’s always had to press her way through adversity.

Marie was a teenager when both her father and mother died. It was a time in her life when “press your way” became most important and most difficult. Alone and confused, Marie admits she made “some terrible mistakes.” And it took many years, and many steps backwards and forwards, for Marie to take control of her life.



Marie is a single parent motivated to succeed because she wants her three children to have easier lives than hers. Over a period of several years she has earned two associate degrees from Wayne County Community College, where her children also now attend. Marie has moved on to the University of Michigan-Dearborn, working on a BA in Communications, Public Relations and Corporate Business.

Marie is legally blind. According to her professors and advisors, however, Marie is not to be deterred. She presses forward, distinguishing herself with scholastic honors and with her goal to “serve the community and assist those who need encouragement, direction, and support.”

The list of praises for Marie is long. Her admirers say that she has “special qualities”; that “students flock to her for her wisdom, advice and assistance.” They call Marie an ideal role model, “a bold statement to her children and others that higher education is the key to realizing a better way of life. Age doesn’t matter, just the desire.”

Inspired by Marie Conner’s perseverance and ideals, CEW celebrates her achievements with a Molly H. Dobson Scholarship.



**JULIA DEPORRE** *Aline Underhill Orten Foundation Scholar*

“As a child, I never imagined myself as a Peace Corps volunteer.” It was, however, Julia DePorre’s powerful experiences in Paraguay that convinced her to become a physician.

Julia developed a passion for science during high school and college. She majored in Chemistry at Kalamazoo College and then worked at Pfizer. Though she clearly had a bright future as a pharmaceutical chemist, Julia’s desire for “adventure and service to others led me to another part of the world.” Her time in the Peace Corps pushed her “to discover more about myself and changed my perspectives.” She returned to the US “dazed by the luxury and wealth that surround us” and determined to continue to serve and make a difference.

Taking a job in a free clinic, Julia realized “how many of the lessons I had learned in Paraguay were applicable to treating American patients.” Julia is now a student in the University of Michigan Medical School. “My dream is to work in or establish a free clinic in Jackson, MI, where I grew up.”

Julia knows that “to be a great physician demands empathy, strong character, and a passion for both science and people”—all qualities her professors see and admire in Julia. “Though her intellectual curiosity and academic capacity are impressive, just as important are her intangible personal skills that allow her to enter complex situations, understand the people involved, identify her role and work toward a solution.”

Heeding one of her mentor’s promise that “a gift to help Julia attain her goal to be a physician will be like giving the gift to thousands of future patients,” CEW takes pleasure in naming Julia DePorre the Aline Underhill Orten Foundation Scholar.



**CAROLYN DOUGHERTY** *Linda J. Rider Scholar*

Inspired by her fifth grade teacher, Carolyn Dougherty developed a love of “reading, writing, and all other aspects of English” that has remained an important part of her life. When she married, Carolyn devoted herself to raising, teaching, encouraging and influencing her children—sharing with them and with her Sunday school students her excitement for language and learning.

When Carolyn’s troubled marriage ended three years ago, it brought relief—and the responsibilities of a single parent to five children, ranging from four to fifteen years old. Knowing that her lack of higher education hampered her ability to support her family, Carolyn enrolled part-time at the University of Michigan-Flint.



Carolyn is now a full-time English major at UM-Flint, thriving on her study of literature, writing and public speaking. Her goals are to teach high school English and eventually to earn a master’s degree.

Those who know Carolyn call her “an exceptional communicator, a gifted teacher, and a talented story teller who captivates audiences with her message.” One of her admirers told us that, “like most, Carolyn is no stranger to heartache and difficulty. However, rather than becoming a victim of her circumstances, she has chosen to turn hardship into possibility.”

In another impressive testimony, one of her professors says that Carolyn “brings her A-game every day, regardless of the incredible responsibilities she has at home.” Because of her experiences, Carolyn “is equipped differently for academic life, and it is the difference that makes her contributions so necessary to the future.”

Impressed by Carolyn Dougherty’s commitment to herself, her family and her future students, CEW happily awards her the Linda J. Rider Scholarship.

**JENNIFER DRAKE** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Jennifer Drake began college at age 18, intending to be a child psychologist. It seemed an abstract goal at the time, so Jennifer eventually left UM-Dearborn, had a child, and worked many jobs. She then trained for and began a ten-year career as a massage therapist. The times were against her: Her job in Honolulu ended after 9/11 when the tourist business waned. The massage therapy office she opened in Michigan flourished at first and then floundered in a weakening economy.

A series of personal challenges for her and her husband compounded these obstacles. Through it all, Jennifer knew she still wanted her degree. "In my profession, it was rewarding to help people with pain relief. But many times mental/emotional aspects caused much of their recurring stress." This awareness gave meaning to Jennifer's original ambition to be a child psychologist. She has come to realize that, "to better the life of a child, one must improve relationships, communication and interaction in the home."

Now Jennifer is back at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, 13 years after she left, earning a BA in Psychology. Her goal is to complete an MSW or attend ministerial school. She is attracted to the ministry, Jennifer says, because it would allow her to counsel people who need help, teach those who wish to improve, and inspire spirituality.



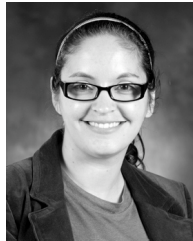
As someone who has struggled, Jennifer is proud of the person she's become. "I am much more capable, focused and ready now than when I 'should have' graduated." Her professors share that self-assessment, calling her a diligent student who "possesses personal and academic depth."

In honor of her past and future accomplishments, CEW awards Jennifer Drake a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**CALI MORTENSEN ELLIS** *Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholar*

During her first semester at Bates College—where she was one of few Hispanic students and female Economics majors—Cali Ellis read about a federal bill that proposed to eliminate the social safety net for legal, tax-paying immigrants. “That just seemed unfair, so I set up a little table and gathered signatures outside the cafeteria for a letter of opposition.” Seeing how many students ignored her was Cali’s “first lesson in politics and the difficulty of making even a small change in the world.”

The experience obviously did not dissuade Cali. She went on to help a labor union organize Mexican-American workers at a local egg factory. While earning a master’s degree in Public Policy at the University of Michigan, one of her professors urged her to stay on for a PhD. But Cali declined. She was eager to “understand the political process firsthand.”



Cali worked first on Jennifer Granholm’s gubernatorial campaign and then as an assistant policy advisor in Governor Granholm’s office. Cali describes huddling around a radio on the morning of September 11, 2001, listening to the horrific reports. “That day of fate deeply reaffirmed my choice to remain in public service,” next as an assistant to the Governor’s Homeland Security advisor in the Michigan National Guard.

Cali has now returned to the University. She’s ready to complete a doctorate in the Joint Program of Public Policy and Political Science and to research the effects of varying state-wide responses to external international threats.

With her “distinguished academic record, history of public service, and extensive policy work experience,” Cali continues to impress her advisors: “She is flat-out smart!” CEW, grateful for Cali Ellis’ efforts on the state’s and the nation’s behalf, awards her the Collegiate Sorosis Foundation Scholarship.

**ALICE GATES** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Alice Gates' advisors use superlatives to describe her. Yet the title "community organizer" probably means the most to Alice.

She is a PhD student in the Joint Program in Social Work and Sociology. Alice is here, she says, to reflect upon her years of experience in community-based organizations and to expand her ability to create change.

Before coming to Ann Arbor, Alice worked for a domestic violence shelter, Habitat for Humanity, the Women and Poverty Project, a migrant farm workers' union, an alliance for Latino parents in high poverty school districts, community health clinics, and in Guatemala as a human rights observer. These experiences opened Alice's eyes to human struggle and "the power of ordinary people coming together to confront the abusive practices and policies of their government."

In the time that Alice has been in Ann Arbor, she's helped develop the Washtenaw County Workers' Center, a new organization for immigrant workers and their allies. She's won many prestigious research and service awards. And she's doing research that "has the potential to transform decades, even a century, of received wisdom about how working people come to understand their own rights as members of a political and social community."

Alice's goal is to become an academic and "inspire others through my teaching and my example to challenge the boundaries—immigrant/citizen, university/community, activist/scholar—that weaken collective efforts for social change."

Says one of Alice's advisors, "She's destined to make the University of Michigan proud." With such endorsements, CEW delights in naming Alice Gates a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



**COLLEEN GIDDINGS** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“I have taken a circuitous route,” says Colleen Giddings, “to my ultimate goal to be a middle school math teacher.” Colleen completed her first degree 25 years ago in Industrial Administration from General Motors Institute.

Colleen worked for many years as both a foundry line supervisor and as an IBM customer engineer, one of very few females in those male-dominated environments. Colleen’s job eventually ended as part of an economic slowdown, so she took time off to “fulfill my dream of being a full-time mom” to her six children, now aged now 12 to 24.

When her youngest child entered school, Colleen went back to work to help her husband support



their family. She became a substitute teacher and in the process realized how much she loved teaching. “The sense of gratification when you see that proverbial light bulb go off is a thrill like none other.”

So Colleen is now a student in the University of Michigan-Flint’s Master of Arts in Education Program. Her professors know that Colleen’s students will benefit from her intelligence, enthusiasm and commitment. Colleen knows they’ll also benefit from the lessons she’s learned in her own life—the message

her parents gave her about believing in herself and never giving up, and the awareness her own children have given her that each child is unique and has a unique learning style.

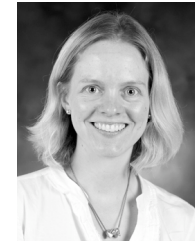
Colleen also says that she “especially wants to model to young female students that it is not only OK to be good at math but, more importantly, to enjoy math.” Wishing to support Colleen Giddings’ new and admirable career goals, CEW awards her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**FIONA ROSE GREENLAND** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“I am an unconventional PhD student,” explains Fiona Rose Greenland. “I once prized precocity more than anything; now I’m grateful for the maturity and clarity of purpose that come with growing comfortable in one’s own skin.”

By the time Fiona graduated from the University of Michigan in 1998, she had amassed a stellar campus leadership and academic record, including being named a Rhodes Scholar. She moved to England, where she earned master’s and doctorate degrees in Classical Archaeology from the University of Oxford and embarked on an academic career, “teaching courses about Greek statues and researching Roman tombstones.”

Fiona explains that the birth of the first of her two children, eight months after she received her PhD, “played a major role in shifting my concerns and interests away from antiquity and towards the present day.” As her life became more complex, and she “struggled as so many employed parents do, to balance responsibilities,” Fiona was drawn to learning more about “working parents, social constructions of maternal roles and differences in kin support arrangements across cultures.”



Ever the student, Fiona undertook her own study of “a whole world of scholarship devoted to questions I was asking about my own life.” She began to imagine how she could contribute. That passion influenced her to return to the US and to the University of Michigan, where Fiona is now a PhD student in a joint program in Sociology and Public Policy. She plans to resume an academic career, combining research and policy advocacy on issues related to inter-and intra-generational relationships.

In the words of one of her advisors, “We at Michigan think ourselves lucky” to have Fiona among us. CEW proudly names Fiona Rose Greenland a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

**AMY HARTWIG** *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar*

Thwarted by her family's personal and financial struggles, Amy Hartwig lost the opportunity to attend a university after high school. Though she did enroll part-time at a community college, Amy admits to being "disenchanted by the experience." So, after a few semesters and additional family disruptions, Amy gave up and moved on. Her priorities "completely shifted from school to other things," and her life moved in fruitful new directions.

For one, Amy became the "superstar" volunteer for a Flint-area non-profit club, a drug and alcohol free zone where teenagers could safely express themselves and interact with others through music. Amy did it all, working weekends for five years and earning high praise from her manager: "I feel

confident in saying that no Amy during that time and there would have been no club."



For another, Amy fell in love with publishing. Work she'd done earlier at a local newspaper led to a job at a small publishing house. In the process, Amy rediscovered a love for writing, graphic design, sales, layout and editing. She'd found her calling.

Though "grateful every day to have found something that gives me so much joy," Amy wants more. So she's back in school, working on a BA in English at the University of Michigan-Flint. "I see the years before me as a steady journey. I plan to savor each class and experience it to the fullest. I am definitely here for quality, not speed." When this part of her journey is complete, Amy wants to be a book editor in a publishing house.

Amy's professors and colleagues praise her intelligence, dedication, and "can-do" attitude. CEW, eager to help her achieve her dreams, names Amy Hartwig a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar.



**RIMA HASSOUNEH** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Rima Hassouneh is a Palestinian American who came to this country when she was 18. She has earned three college degrees: BA and MA degrees in English literature from Western Washington University and an MA degree in Arabic Literature from the University of Michigan. Rima currently teaches Arabic language courses in UM's Near Eastern Studies Department. She also teaches Arab-American literature and Muslim identity courses in the Program in American Culture.

Rima is, in the words of a colleague, an outstanding teacher and an "absolutely essential" member of the faculty, "engaging students with diverse perspectives on Arab-American issues in ways that are interactive, inclusive and rigorous."

Now Rima is becoming a student once more. She has been accepted into the University of Michigan's School of Education to earn post-baccalaureate secondary school certification. In other words, Rima wants to be a junior and senior high school teacher.

Why? Because she came to the U.S. as a young woman, Rima believes she is well qualified to address "the complex issues of assimilation and adaptation—in schools where administrators and educators are often at a loss in dealing effectively with immigrant children and their parents."

Equally compelling is Rima's commitment to increasing students' sensitivity and understanding of other world societies and cultures. As she explains, "I have chosen to teach the Arabic language and culture to secondary school students because, as a Palestinian Arab woman who has made her home in America, I feel a personal responsibility to educate young generations of Americans about Arabs and Muslims, who have been gravely misrepresented and misunderstood, especially since 9/11."

Rima Hassouneh hopes to teach in an Ann Arbor-area school. Sharing her commitment to a diverse and open-minded community, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



**TENNERY HICKS** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“My journey to this point in my life has been full of interesting, difficult challenges.” Describing herself as someone from a “humble public assistance background,” Tennerly Hicks has overcome many financial and personal setbacks. In the midst of these troubles, Tennerly concluded that “the only thing that could both empower me and change my circumstances was education.”

Tennerly’s initial goal was to earn an associate’s degree in Early Childhood Development and open her own day care business. She did so with ease, impressing her community college professors with her motivation and intellectual abilities. With Tennerly’s academic success came an increased belief in her abilities. Her vision for her future changed forever when she was accepted into an advanced composition honors class, was named a Writing Fellow, and began tutoring others. “I became confident that I could earn a BA and more.”



Six years later, after completing an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Siena Heights University, Tennerly is now a master’s student in Psychology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn—combining her course work with caring for her two children.

The sky is the limit for Tennerly. She recently became a part-time Psychology instructor at Monroe Community College. Her goal is to continue to teach at the post-secondary level and to work with parents, helping them to understand “how they affect their children’s learning and behavioral development.”

Tennerly says that, in the course of her academic journey, she has “discovered unknown and unrealized skills and passions.” The professors who know her agree, calling her “empathic, compassionate, genuine and intelligent.”

“When Tennerly makes up her mind to do something, she does it,” says another of her advisors. CEW is delighted to support Tennerly Hicks’ bright future by awarding her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**VANESSA HINES** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Vanessa Hines' return to school in 2008 was "something I had to do," compelled by a number of personal challenges and tragedies in her life. Vanessa's original dream was to be a journalist. She earned two undergraduate degrees, one in Communications from Oakland University and another in Journalism from Wayne State University. She won a number of prestigious writing awards along the way and was about to embark on her exciting newspaper career when her twin sister was diagnosed with cancer.

Less than a year later, Vanessa learned that she had breast cancer and, in the course of that "tenuous and sometimes very frightening journey," she was unable to accept two exciting job offers. "I grieved the loss of possibilities that having cancer meant in my life." Her journalism career "was not to be. God had other things in store for me."

At one point, Vanessa and her sister fought their cancers together and, when her sister died, Vanessa and her mother turned to a bereavement support group at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Their heart-wrenching journey to acceptance was the beginning of Vanessa's new life.

In honor of her sister's memory, and in acknowledgement that she has become a "different person," Vanessa is now an MSW student in the University of Michigan's School of Social Work. Her goal is to work with bereaved people, hospice patients, cancer patients and their families.

Vanessa's UM professors know that she will be a wonderful social worker, able to combine her "intellectual and academic prowess," her own life experiences, and her "passion to use her talents, skills, and abilities in the service of humanity." CEW recognizes Vanessa Hines' struggles, resilience and commitment by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



**TAM HITESHEW** *AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholar*

“I want to continue my education until I am fluent in Chinese, so that I can teach students like me. I want to inspire kids most unlikely to succeed and show them, through example, that they too can be successful despite what others may tell them.” Behind those words is an amazing story.

Tam Hiteshew recalls being told as a child that she wasn’t smart. Her high school guidance counselor “assured me it was OK. Some people get married and find jobs, and that’s the career path I should consider.”

Tam tried college for a while but left for a retail job. After eleven years, she was laid off, despite winning several ‘Leadership Excellence’ awards. With few prospects, Tam made a remarkable decision. “Over the years, my interest in Asian culture had grown, and I was ready to study it.” So, she enrolled in Chinese language classes at a community college.



Then, believing the University of Michigan was a “shot in the dark,” Tam applied anyway. And, in her words, “so far I have been successful” as an undergraduate in the Asian Studies program. Tam’s goals are to study in China, get a master’s degree, and teach.

Tam’s professors praise her intelligence and enthusiasm. After reading her research paper on Chinese graffiti, one of her professors recommended that she apply for a Fulbright. She is “a welcome tonic in the classroom, drawing on an exceedingly diverse range of non-academic experiences,” including being a graffiti artist in Detroit. “She is exactly the kind of student we need to have in this University, destined to be an increasingly exciting scholar.”

Recognizing a winner when we see her, CEW names Tam Hiteshew the AAUW: Mary Elizabeth Bittman Memorial Scholar.

**HSUN-YI HSIEH** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“Knowledge brings me courage,” says Hsun-Yi Hsieh, “and at this point in my career I understand very well that I need academic training in Agroecology in order to provide original scientific insight to the world.” To gain such insight, Hsun-Yi has just begun a PhD program at the School of Natural Resources and Environment. “Nowhere else academically and spiritually satisfies me in the same way.”

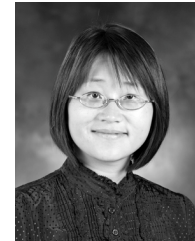
This is Hsun-Yi’s second time at the University of Michigan. In 2005, she earned a master’s degree from SNRE and wrote a thesis about the influence of US farm policies on Michigan family farmers’ conservation attitudes and behaviors.

After graduating with her MS, Hsun-Yi returned to her native Taiwan to become an associate researcher at the Industrial Technology Research Institute. At one point she spent eight months on assignment at the Energy and Resource Group of the University of California Berkeley, studying the social, environmental and energy impacts of biofuel production.

Her commitment is to study exemplary agroecosystems throughout the world and to discover the optimum system for alternative agriculture to alleviate consequences such as biodiversity loss and global warming. There are agroecosystems that function very well, explains Hsun-Yi, including organic coffee farms in Mexico, where she worked in 2008.

According to one of her advisors, Hsun-Yi is “a great example of a really bright and creative person being captivated by a scientific question, working really hard on it, not giving up when encountering a roadblock and finally gaining a deeper understanding of how nature works.” Her professors all look forward to Hsun-Yi becoming an outstanding professor and researcher in sustainable agriculture—the “kind of scientist badly needed in today’s world.”

CEW supports Hsun-Yi Hsieh’s valuable work by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.



**MARGARITA HUAYHUA** *Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellow*

“I was born and raised in an indigenous Quechua community in Peru. As a migrant in Lima, I suffered discrimination because of my background.” That statement explains the direction Margarita Huayhua’s life has taken. As an adult, Margarita first believed that teaching Spanish to Quechuan-speaking peasants would reduce their outcast status. She then speculated that the key was for children to speak Spanish without a Quechuan accent.

“However, after a few years of working with bilingual education, I realized that it was not enough for Quechuans to speak Spanish the ‘right’ way...Indigenous people are considered unviable because they are not ‘modern.’ And the only option they have is to renounce their way of life and their ways of thinking and feeling.”



This blatant discrimination—that Quechuans “are not treated as citizens with rights, are denied any capacity to act and are considered illiterate”—led Margarita to work for several years as a teacher in Peru. She eventually earned a master’s degree and became a prominent educational researcher.

Then, with only basic knowledge of English, Margarita decided to pursue a PhD in the US. This was, explains one of her professors, an “incredibly brave leap, but typical of Margarita’s personality. She is undaunted by hard work.” Now a student in the University of Michigan’s Department of Anthropology, Margarita has established herself as “an outstanding, even brilliant graduate student...mature and tenacious.”

Margarita’s goal is to understand how institutions and everyday social situations reproduce social domination—based upon spoken language, race, rurality/urbanity, and gender. According to an advisor, Margarita “is wholly committed to finding ways of addressing inequality and poverty in Peru...and on a broader scale.”

CEW salutes Margarita Huayhua’s dedication to social justice by naming her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellow.

**HELA ISSAQ** *Sarah Winans Newman Scholar*

Hela Issaq learned at an early age what it's like to feel different. As the Muslim daughter of Afghani immigrants, Hela describes her life as "a careful balance of two cultures. I wanted to be a 'normal' American, and at the same time I was proud of my family and our traditions."

Hela believes that "feeling like an outsider shaped my life and work." She has always been committed to increasing cultural understanding and helping under-served populations, so early in her life Hela decided to become a physician.

After graduating with a BA in Molecular Cell Biology from Berkeley, Hela volunteered in a colon cancer screening program with the American Cancer Society. That experience led her to earn a master's degree in Public Health at Dartmouth. Hela then worked at a network of Oakland, California-area HIV clinics, encountering patients who felt like outsiders because of their ethnicity or the stigma of being HIV-positive.

All of these experiences led Hela to the University of Michigan Medical School. When she completes her MD, Hela plans to treat under-served patients as a family medicine practitioner in an urban community clinic.



"Hela's passionate commitment to addressing societal problems related to health care is obvious if one spends only a few moments speaking with her," explained one of her professors. In addition, she is "unusually warm and engaging, articulate and idealistic, with an insightfulness and thoughtfulness that I've rarely encountered among medical students."

Hela also has, said a former colleague, "a strong commitment to working with under-served communities and a keen sense of justice coupled with a practical ability to see how she can make a difference."

Honoring Hela Issaq's dedication to others, CEW is delighted to name her the Sarah Winans Newman Scholar.

CEW: THIRTY-NINE YEARS OF AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO WOMEN

**MARIA JHAI** *Helen Huff Shell Scholar*

Pragmatics certainly influenced Maria Jhai's decision to become a lawyer. Maria explains that, after returning to college at age 26 and completing an undergraduate degree in Anthropology at the University of Arizona, she saw law school as "the most direct route to financial and professional independence" and the ability to provide for her young daughter.

Fortunately for Maria, enrolling at the University of Michigan Law School did not mean sacrificing her love of learning: "I find the study of law to contain endless intellectual challenges and yet also to be personally satisfying....It addresses core questions about how society functions, how people resolve disputes, and the values through which our society defines itself."



Maria is not the only one who believes she has chosen her perfect field. Professors and advisors are in awe of her talent and promise. As one of them told us, "If I were asked to provide a reason why people who have been away from school for some time should be encouraged to return, Maria would be Exhibit A."

Maria has accumulated, said another, "a wealth of community and international experience: an internship with a Congressman, fieldwork in Mexico, community development in the Third World and work in emerging Chinese capitalist markets." She combines that rich background with her strengths as a student: "an exceptionally rigorous thinker...simply a brilliant, exceptionally motivated student, already a scholar and researcher."

Maria's goal is to begin her legal career in private practice and then to seek a position in academia. Wherever her life takes her next, however, those who know her predict that she'll be a star. In recognition of Maria Jhai's journey and promise, CEW names her the Helen Huff Shell Scholar.



**KYUNG HEE LEE** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Kyung Hee Lee began her medical career in her native Korea. She earned both an undergraduate nursing degree and a master's degree in Public Health at Yonsei University before working for six years as a hospital nurse and clinical instructor.

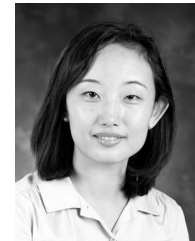
That extensive professional background prepared Kyung Hee well for her doctoral studies at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. Given her interest in gerontology and dementia, Kyung Hee is enhancing her expertise with concurrent study in the Master of Science Degree Nurse Practitioner Program in Gerontology.

The care of elderly dementia patients is a crucial and growing issue everywhere in the world. It is notably so in Korea, where the aging population faces a changing social structure. As one of Kyung Hee's advisors explains, "Democratization and Westernization has affected the tradition where elders were cared for within the family." Hence, nursing homes and community-based settings are an emerging phenomenon.

With it comes the need for nurses and other caregivers who are specially trained to care for the elderly, especially those with dementia—and for educators to do that training. It is in this arena that Kyung Hee plans to establish herself, as a practitioner, researcher and teacher. In her own words, "My ultimate goal is to design interventions to prevent adverse outcomes for the problematic behaviors of people with dementia, a topic rarely investigated in Korea."

In a field in need of "humane solutions," Kyung Hee is, according to an advisor, "a highly accomplished student....She is committed to making a difference, and there is no question that she will."

Possessing "the tenacity and ingenuity" to be successful in her studies and beyond, Kyung Hee Lee is a worthy recipient of a CEW Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.



**MAHIMA MAHADEVAN** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Two experiences taught Mahima Mahadevan about herself and the world. The first was the Peace Corps. Teaching in Kyrgyzstan, Mahima observed many young girls who “had a life predetermined for them: getting married, having kids, and tending to the house.”

Mahima’s second experience was with Alternatives for Girls, a nonprofit agency serving at-risk and homeless girls and women in Metro Detroit. Among her tasks was to drive through the city at night, “distributing condoms, food, blankets and needle cleaning kits to commercial sex workers.”

One evening, Mahima met a “young woman who was my age. You could sense her intelligence and wisdom when she spoke—and her potential to be great. However, her life was in stark contrast to mine. Why was I the one handing out blankets, and she was the one on the street?”



These situations in Kyrgyzstan and Detroit are clearly different. But both, says Mahima, “are the results of women lacking power and choice.” Her desire to help women realize their potential led Mahima to the University of Michigan for a master’s degree Public Policy.

Mahima’s goal is to work with a non-profit organization to tackle homelessness, discrimination, health care and other policy issues affecting women. These are, says Mahima, “topics that should not be discussed in areas dominated by men. The need for more women in public policy is urgent...in order to create an agenda focusing on women’s rights.”

Those who have worked with Mahima know that, with her combination of intelligence, enthusiasm, creativity, integrity and honesty, she will make a major contribution.

“I understand how fortunate I am. My goal is to use my life to help others.” In support of Mahima Mahadevan’s ambition, CEW awards her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**STACY G. MATES** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

After graduating from Oberlin College with a degree in Biology, Stacy Mates joined the Peace Corps to learn more about “how environmental issues play out in developing countries.” Stacy worked with farmers in two Panamanian communities to “build soil fertility and reduce dependence on outside assistance.”

Stacy then spent eight years as the Urban Agriculture Coordinator at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, “working alongside volunteers at local farms to harvest donated crops for hungry people.” Stacy also developed a curriculum for low-income children, teaching them about nutrition and farming.

Her work was so gratifying that Stacy might well have spent her whole career in Pittsburgh. However, when her job began to evolve away from hands-on farm work and into administration, Stacy finally listened to the colleagues who’d been urging her to earn a graduate degree. “It became clear,” she says, “that it was time to return to school.”



Stacy is now a master’s degree student in Conservation Biology at the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment, where she impresses her professors with exceptional academic ability and dedication. Stacy’s thesis will examine the relationship between pest control methods and beneficial insect diversity in Michigan apple orchards.

Then it’s back to the fields. “I hope to focus on agricultural extension work, serving as a liaison between academic researchers and growers; and to use my new skills to help low-income urban gardeners, minority, immigrant, and small-scale farmers.”

According to one of her professors, whenever Stacy is faced with a challenging problem, she comes up with a creative solution. In gratitude for her determination to apply her creativity to the future of agricultural sustainability, CEW awards Stacy G. Mates a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

CEW: THIRTY-NINE YEARS OF AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO WOMEN

**SUZETTE MCGRAW** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Raised in an environment that did not provide “solid morals and character upon which to build a future,” Suzette McGraw joined the Army when she was 22 years old and discovered a “purpose and direction” for her life. During that time, she explains, “I had the honor of sending many soldiers off to battle, and the sadness of not seeing them return.”

Though Suzette’s military experiences “helped to shape me into the person I am today,” the personal problems she’d experienced earlier in her life reappeared when she became a civilian again. At one point homeless and jobless, Suzette slowly began to rebuild her life. At a conference on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, she learned about the Student Outreach Academic



Resources (SOAR) program for “at-risk” students. It was the answer she sought.

Today Suzette is an undergraduate Psychology and Women and Gender Studies major at UM-Dearborn. She plans to earn graduate degrees and to “work with socially and economically oppressed young people, empowering them to rise above expectations.”

Suzette is a much admired member of the UM-Dearborn community. In addition to the enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity she brings to her studies, Suzette works with campus groups like SOAR and the Women in Learning and Leadership (WILL) program to mentor her fellow students. She shares her motivational story with groups of potential students, impressing upon them the rewards of attending college.

“Suzette has persevered through personal and professional obstacles in her life,” explains one of her professors, “and she has embraced, with zest, the intellectual and civic opportunities available on campus.”

With gratitude for the service she has provided her country and her peers, CEW proudly awards Suzette McGraw a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**SO-YOUNG NAM** *Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholar*

So-Young Nam's father's death when she was 19 was an emotional and financial trauma. So-Young and her mother had both taken jobs to earn money for her father's surgery, but he died before that could happen. "Afterwards, I could have attended university to study mathematics as I had always wished, but it didn't have meaning anymore. I was angry for being angry, sad for being sad."

So-Young needed a healing change. Setting out with a backpack and little money, she traveled "over half the earth." "I walked and wrote in the daytime and stayed in a hostel or train at night." Along the way, she met her husband, volunteered in a kibbutz, "met so many people living in the earth," and "learned how to wait."

Six years after her father's death, So-Young's path led her to Ann Arbor and back to her love of mathematics. Now an undergraduate in the University of Michigan's Math Department, So-Young sees poetry in numbers. "To me math is pure beauty; concrete and abstract art, lying upon a firm structure of logic that explains the timeless flow of nature." Her dream is to complete a PhD and become an academic mathematician.



"My grandfather," says So-Young, "was a conservative Confucian scholar who taught me the virtue of humility." According to her professors, So-Young also possesses the qualities of persistence and confidence. They tell us how So-Young convinced them to admit her into courses for which she seemed unprepared and unlikely to succeed; and how, through intelligence and hard work, So-Young has excelled. She is, says one of them, "an excellent student with a bright future."

In honor of So-Young Nam's incredible journey, CEW names her the Ruth Jeanette Buttrey Scholar.

**CLARE PRITCHARD** *Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholar*

High school was difficult for Clare Pritchard. She left, worked various jobs, and then “embarked on an independently planned, year-long journey around the world,” stopping along the way to teach English in India and Taiwan.

When she returned from her travels, Clare earned her GED at age 23, “put together my life experiences and explored the direction I wanted to take personally and professionally.” She completed an associate’s degree at Washtenaw Community College, did volunteer work for hospice, worked in an Alzheimer residence, then enrolled in the University of Michigan’s Nursing School, where she is now working toward her BSN. Clare is excited by her studies, which allow her to explore her belief in the “connection between the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of a person’s health.”



From her experiences with “widely divergent jobs, lifestyles, and cultures,” Clare has come to appreciate “the shared nature of the human condition and the universal need for health care.” Her career goal is to work as a public health nurse and then to earn a master’s degree in public health nursing. Among her interests are nutrition, community health, and such global initiatives as HIV-

AIDS awareness.

Because she struggled in high school, Clare admits that each semester she “conjures up the ability to persevere through the fear of failure.” On the contrary, however, Clare is proving to herself and others that she’s skilled and successful in her chosen profession. She maintains a high GPA, makes the Dean’s list, and is a member of various honor societies.

Those who have worked with her describe Clare as “a woman of character,” compassion and dedication. CEW salutes Clare Pritchard by naming her the Robert Bruce Dunlap Memorial Scholar.

**KRISTINE RONAN** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Kristine Ronan's feet are planted firmly in two worlds. She comes from "a small Minnesota farming community, the fifth generation of German immigrants." Before enrolling at Yale University, Kristine had "entered an art museum exactly once, on an elementary school trip."

At Yale, Kristine took a survey course in art history and was "hooked." During a break from her studies, she worked in inner-city New Haven, learning how art could "address and deal with the hardships of poverty." The experience helped Kristine to reconcile "my rural upbringing and relatively sheltered life and the cosmopolitan intellectual life of the Ivy League."

After graduating, Kristine moved to Charlottesville, working at the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture as the managing editor of *The Hedgehog Review*. At the same time, Kristine devoted herself to the neighboring arts community. She even formed her own film company, Dakota Roads Productions, a collection of 200 local volunteers.

At the urging of several women mentors, Kristine applied to the History of Art Program at the University of Michigan, where she is now a PhD student. Kristine's goal is to manage an art institution and be "a voice for the arts within the public sphere."



The word that appears in everyone's description of Kristine is "exceptional." She has impressed her professors as one of the best students they've ever encountered: "an exceptional combination of raw intelligence, modesty, forthrightness, grasp of group dynamics, sensitivity to the needs of others."

Kristine's dream is to illuminate the cultural richness of art and its power to create identity among such groups as Native Americans and rural Americans of the Midwest and South. In support of that dream, CEW names Kristine Ronan a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

**LEE RUEMENAPP** *Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar*

Lee Ruemenapp has always been fascinated by child birth. Her life-long commitment is to “make a difference for birthing women” and to provide a “holistic, non-intervention birthing experience for families.”

That passion led Lee to earn an associate’s degree and work as a nurse in Northern Michigan. Over the past decade or more, she has also become a lactation consultant and child birth educator. The quality and compassion of Lee’s patient care have earned her an amazing level of respect and affection from both her colleagues and the families she serves.



As one of Lee’s co-workers explains, “The manner in which she delivers care makes Lee stand out from others, her appreciation of the uniqueness of each family...She assures that care is individualized and encompasses the needs of the family as a unit.” Lee is a “hands-on nurse who is not afraid to experience the miracles of life and death with the families she cares for.”

Lee is now enrolled in the University of Michigan’s RN Studies Program in Traverse City, working on her BSN. At the same time, she maintains her full-time job and cares for her own two children. Lee’s goal is to earn an MSN and take her career in new directions.

Praising Lee’s perseverance, one of her colleagues told us, “I am proud of women like Lee who aspire to further their education and do so while working and raising a family. She is an example to others that they too can achieve their dreams with sound planning, dedication and hard work.”

Described by another colleague as a “true nursing leader in Northern Michigan,” Lee Ruemenapp earns our respect and gratitude. CEW is happy to name her the Jane and Bill Bloom Scholar.



**MELISA SCOTT** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

For 14 years Melisa Scott has been at the bedside of birthing mothers. She has shared their happiness and, in some cases, their heartbreaking sorrow. Melisa has seen firsthand that “many of the families affected with complications surrounding birth are minorities from lower socioeconomic groups.”

At this point in her highly respected career as a clinical instructor and nurse at the University of Michigan Women’s Birthing Center, Melisa is ready for a new challenge. To address the disparity in health care for women and children, Melisa plans to “practice midwifery in the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area, working with minority teens and other at-risk populations; and with community-based organizations.

Melisa was born in Ann Arbor and graduated from Pioneer High School. Her earliest job as a surgical technician inspired her to earn an associate’s degree from Washtenaw Community College and become a labor and delivery nurse. Eventually, while raising three children, Melisa also completed a BSN degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Melisa is now in the Master’s in Nurse Midwifery Program at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, bringing to her studies vast on-the-job experiences and wisdom. Her colleagues predict that Melisa will excel in her new career. As one of them told us, “She is considered an expert in her field and is looked upon with the utmost respect by her fellow nurses, staff, and physicians she works with on a daily basis.”

Melisa “takes pride in the fact that she is able to stand up for the rights of her patients when they are too weak, too sick, or otherwise unable to do so for themselves.” CEW takes pride in supporting Melisa Scott by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

**CYNTHIA SMITH** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

“Creating art has always been my passion,” says Cynthia Smith. Now “I have found my calling to go back to college and finally finish a bachelor’s degree I started over 20 years ago.”

Cindy worked as a dental assistant for 14 years after high school, selling her artwork at juried art fairs in the summers. She finally quit her job to enroll at the Center for Creative Studies, but a lack of funds forced her to leave before graduating. Cindy found work as a computer artist and eventually became a successful freelance graphic designer. Her job gave her “flexibility as I raised my three children” and the opportunity to travel the world for her clients.



When Cindy returned from her travels, she’d share stories with her children’s classmates. That experience began her shift from corporate professional to educator. Working with students became Cindy’s passion. She coached K-12 students in Destination Imagination, an international creative problem-solving competition, and another program entitled Tech Effects. Cindy’s teams have won both regional and state championships.

“Coaching opened my eyes to the exhilaration in teaching and the great growth experiences that go along with it. All it took was for one child to ask me why I don’t teach,” and Cindy was on her way. She’s now earning her bachelor’s degree in Art Education at the University of Michigan-Flint.

The people with whom Cindy worked as a graphic artist say that they will miss her creativity, work ethic, tenaciousness, “resourcefulness and erudition.” They know, however, that Cindy’s enthusiasm and talents will make her an excellent teacher.

Recognizing Cynthia Smith’s potential as a teacher, CEW is proud to award her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**JENNIFER STANLEY** *Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholar*

Sometimes, as in Jennifer Stanley's case, the ideal career finds you. Jennifer became a dental hygienist because it fulfilled her desire to be both a healthcare professional and a "dedicated mother." Jennifer completed an associate's degree and worked as a hygienist, knowing at some point she planned to finish her bachelor's degree. It took awhile, since she "put school aside when I remarried and expanded my family."

Jennifer is now in school again, a senior in the University of Michigan Dental Hygiene Degree Completion E-Learning Program. In addition to her coursework, Jennifer volunteers as a student ambassador for the Program, accompanying faculty members for prospective student presentations at area community colleges.

During one such presentation, administrators at Oakland Community College recognized Jennifer's potential and immediately offered her a temporary position as a clinical instructor. That job has become long term and, delighted by the high regard her colleagues and supervisors have for her, Jennifer wants to remain on the faculty.



Jennifer has discovered that teaching brings her "great satisfaction," and—with urging from her OCC mentors—she is now thinking about a master's degree. In addition, Jennifer has become involved in community service: She created and delivered an oral health education program for nursing homes.

According to one of her colleagues, Jennifer came to her teaching position with "very little classroom experience and began instructing students as if she had performed the task for years." Jennifer's student evaluations are "exemplary" and she displays commendable professionalism and leadership potential.

Impressed that the dental hygiene profession "will be enhanced by her contributions," CEW delights in awarding Jennifer Stanley a Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group Scholarship.

**MIRA STANLEY** *Elsie Choy Lee Scholar*

“Early on, music got under my skin, seeped into my blood, and became a life force of its own.”

Mira Stanley was raised on a stage. Her band director father brought her to rehearsals, where she’d “sit directly beside him, playing with my dolls, drawing pictures, and dancing during the sound checks.”

Mira’s love of music and dance initially took her to The Boston Conservatory for a degree in musical theater. But she left, seeking the freedom to explore other aspects of the performing arts and to figure out exactly “what art means to me.” Her search brought her to the University of Michigan, where she is now an undergraduate student in the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Mira says



she’s chosen “a less performance-oriented path” that will include a graduate degree in directing. Her dream is to start her own theater company “dedicated to producing works concentrating on social issues, community outreach and education.”

As part of her new career goals, Mira has volunteered on a number of projects, including being the graphic designer for an award-winning human rights documentary, *The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez*; and contributing her videographer skills for various Barack Obama campaign productions.

Mira evokes superlatives from her professors and admirers. They call her “an extremely positive force whose energy is contagious”; “a dream student who’s curious and open to new ideas”; and a natural actor who’s attentive, accepting, daring, passionate, vulnerable, intelligent and self aware.”

In support of her ambition to become a writer, director, and arts administrator and to spend her life “creating art that is rooted in a deeper understanding of humanity,” CEW happily names Mira Stanley the Elsie Choy Lee Scholar.

**ALVIN THOMAS** *CEW Graduate Scholar*

Alvin Thomas comes to the University of Michigan's PhD program in Clinical Psychology with rich life experiences and an extensive research background.

Beginning at age 16, Alvin taught elementary, middle, and high school for ten years in his native St. Lucia, West Indies. Working with his students convinced Alvin that, with "a proper understanding of the issues involved, children who would otherwise be labeled 'bad' by the educational system could be helped to work through their problem behaviors and succeed." He has since been driven by a passion to help such children.

While earning a BA in Psychology at Morehouse College, Alvin took part in several research projects with his professors at Morehouse and St. John's University. He participated in a service and study trip to Trinidad and Tobago, and he explored "the construction of masculine identities among St. Lucian men." He traveled to Nepal, India and Tibet, overseeing a study of "vocational discernment among Tibetan Buddhist monks in and around the Dalai Lama's monastery." And he "examined the causes of aggression in African-American males, seeking to lay to rest the stereotype of the inherently, genetically predisposed 'angry black man.'"



As part of his doctoral study, Alvin is now engaged in a project about "the relationship between racial identity, self-perceptions of masculinity, socially aggressive attributions and coping strategies among African-American men transitioning into adulthood." According to his advisors, Alvin brings to this work "the inquisitive and meticulous mind of the scholar."

Another of Alvin's professors says that "he is the most outstanding student I have ever worked with. If I could write only one recommendation for a student in my 30-year career, it would be his." In support of Alvin Thomas's important work, we award him the CEW Graduate Scholarship.

**EBONY ELIZABETH THOMAS** *Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellow*

Ebony Thomas “comes from and still identifies strongly with a working class, African-American Detroit community that has both historical and contemporary reasons to distrust research,” much of which “characterizes African-American students from a deficit perspective and positions aspirational working-class Black communities as either anomalous or invisible.”

Ebony completed a BA from Florida A&M and an MA from Wayne State University and taught high school English in Detroit-area schools for several years. She experienced firsthand the complexity of “positioning my students as individuals with agency.” Encouraged by success (“During my first two years of teaching, my students’ standardized test scores in writing jumped from the fifty-ninth percentile to the ninety-fifth.”), Ebony took a leave of absence in 2006, enrolled at the University of Michigan—and began to design and conduct her own educational research.



Ebony is now a doctoral candidate in the Joint Program in English and Education. “It has been a pleasure,” says one of her advisors, “to watch Ebony evolve from a teacher who chafed against the problems she encountered in education to an educator of teachers and a researcher who can target problems and work to solve them.”

Ebony’s dissertation draws on her own classroom experiences to help teachers understand that, through the language they use, they can “manage race-, ethnicity-, gender-, and class-related conflicts.” It is, explains one of her advisors, the “project for the rest of her life.”

Ebony is an articulate speaker and writer with a “keen intellect and a passion to contribute to issues in education.” According to her professors, she is destined “to have a profound impact on teaching and learning over the next two or three decades.” CEW honors Ebony Elizabeth Thomas by naming her a Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellow.

**CECILIA TOMORI** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Cecilia Tomori left her native Budapest after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Relocated in an American high school, she “relished the opportunity to ask questions and develop my own opinions—skills that were heavily discouraged under Hungary’s socialist regime.” Biology and Education were Cecilia’s favorite subjects, and she earned a combined degree in those fields from Swarthmore College.

Cecilia also remembers “observing the daily struggles of my mother, who was the sole provider in our multi-generational household in Hungary.” Her fascination with the intersection between biology and women’s lives eventually led Cecilia to the doctoral program at University of Michigan’s Department of Anthropology, where she is one of a new generation of scholars in the field of medical anthropology.

Cecilia’s professors predict her dissertation, a study of the social and cultural dimensions of breastfeeding in the United States, has “the potential to become influential in a world well beyond academia.” Not only, they say, does Cecilia have “the intellectual brilliance and energy to bring off this boldly conceived project,” but the fact that she was in her teens by the time she moved to this country accounts for “the freshness and originality of her vision of American life.”



As one advisor explained, yet another aspect of Cecilia’s exceptional ability—in addition to the fact that she has done it all while also becoming the mother of two children—is how she has moved from an undergraduate background in biology to her current work in anthropology. “You get the sense of incubation,” as she absorbs very different and novel material, “followed by really brilliant insight.”

Delighted to support Cecilia Tomori’s goal of becoming a university teacher and scholar, CEW names her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

**ELIZABETH VANDERMARK** *Irma M. Wyman Scholar*

The design studio is the educational setting for architectural students. Elizabeth Vandermark describes it as the classroom of “first connection” where would-be architects learn their skills, their use of tools and their “ways of being.”

Unfortunately, says Vandermark, the design studio format, which has “remained largely unchanged since its inception in nineteenth century France,” is no longer sufficient. For one thing, its “formally hierarchical and competitive” nature helps explain why “women continue to leave the profession in disproportionately higher numbers than men.” For another, the design studio does not adequately prepare architectural students. “In lieu of being left alone to design...the activities that constitute



architectural practice today start with feasibility studies and master planning activities...Teams of architects, engineers, planners, specialists and clients work together in collaborative settings to define design problems and develop solutions.”

Elizabeth Vandermark is a successful practicing architect, with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan. She has returned to earn a PhD from Michigan’s College of

Architecture because she knows it is time to rethink how we educate architects. Her goal is to provide a “foil to this formalized curriculum”; to “bridge the community and the academy.” In other words, Elizabeth wants to open the studio doors and send architects-in-training into the community, to engage in service learning projects and collaborate with a wide mix of people.

Elizabeth Vandermark is a change agent. One of her advisors says she ranks among the brightest, most talented and articulate architects ever produced in our education system. “She has demonstrated leadership talent that will lead her to help implement new studio models for instruction.”

CEW admires Elizabeth Vandermark’s commitment to changing the pedagogy of architecture and names her an Irma M. Wyman Scholar.



**LYNN VERDUZCO BAKER** *Gail Allen Scholar*

Lynn Verduzco Baker, a biracial Mexican-American/white woman, speaks eloquently about her family's background and her own rebelling against the unspoken "mechanisms through which society controls and constrains people based on social class, gender, sexuality, age, disability, and race."

"My grandparents and parents...grew up in a world in which there was a real possibility they would lose their jobs, health insurance and the ability to feed and house their children if they challenged the status quo...They came to appreciate having 'enough.' Asking for or expecting more was too much of a risk."

Lynn understands why her family urged her to "be docile." But it was not her nature. She could not ignore the injustices. She found her voice as a high school senior, experiencing firsthand the gendered/racialized nature of teen pregnancy and motherhood. "I stopped feeling guilty for speaking my mind, and my confidence grew." She earned a degree in English from California State-Fresno and became a high school teacher.



As a PhD candidate in the Joint Program in Sociology and Women's Studies, Lynn's goal is to challenge social injustice. Her professors say Lynn's research on bullies, for example, highlights an understudied phenomenon and will help teachers confront its underlying causes.

Lynn's dissertation focuses on teen mothers. "We know a lot about what happens to them, but we don't know much about what they do or think." She plans to bring the missing voices of poor and working-class teen mothers into "an academic conversation now dominated by the negative outcomes of teen childbearing."

Lynn's professors praise her intelligence and commitment. Most of all, they predict she will become a leading scholar, "truly making our society a better place." To honor Lynn Verduzco Baker, CEW names her the Gail Allen Scholar.

CEW: THIRTY-NINE YEARS OF AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO WOMEN

**MICHELLE WASHBURN** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

Michelle Washburn spent fourteen years as a veterinary technician in biomedical research. When Pfizer closed its Ann Arbor labs, she lost her job. “Though I enjoyed my career, after so many years I craved a change that would allow me to be in touch with people’s lives more directly. So, as one career ended against my will, I decided to look at the event as a time to explore other avenues.” As the mother of three children aged five and under, Michelle especially wanted a career that would offer a better balance between her work and family life.

A friend’s enthusiasm for being a dentist ignited Michelle’s own interest, and she enrolled in the University of Michigan’s undergraduate Dental Hygiene Program. Michelle attributes her success in the program to her “absolute love of this new field and my ever-growing excitement for what my future holds.”



Her professors wholeheartedly agree that Michelle is a star. She’s involved in several activities, including being the first UM student selected for the national Student Advisory Board of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association.

Michelle has also performed community service at a local Head Start facility, learning firsthand about the “immense dental health need in our immediate geographic area.” After she graduates, Michelle intends to volunteer one day a week “at a clinic that serves the under-served in our community.”

One of her professors tells us that Michelle “embodies the characteristics of a nontraditional student. She weighed her options carefully after losing her job at Pfizer and is committing herself completely and enthusiastically to her new career...She’s a model student in all respects.”

In support of Michelle Washburn’s new career, CEW is delighted to award her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship.

**KATHY ZARUR** *Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar*

"I am a second generation Palestinian-American, born in San Francisco, a city of cultural diversity and a history of activism." This statement sums up the influences in Kathy Zarur's life: her heritage and her interest in both art and political activism.

Kathy's family wanted her to be a lawyer, not an artist. She tried, but without enthusiasm. Kathy eventually quit college and set out on a voyage of self-discovery. "I devoted myself to art making," photographing artists, homeless people, LGBT members of her San Francisco neighborhood.

Her journey led her across the world and ended in Kathy's first visit to Palestine. "A deep root system emerged...that bound me to my family and solidified my commitment to both art and justice." Kathy returned to the US to complete a degree in Art History from San Francisco State University. Her journey then led her to the University of Michigan, where she has already earned an MA and Museum Studies Certification and where she is now a PhD student in the Department of the History of Art.



For her dissertation, Kathy analyzes self portraits by three male Arab artists, focusing on "the concrete effects of gendered and racialized media representations." According to an advisor, Kathy's "tremendously timely" work addresses "broad issues about the US war on terror, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the experiences of displacement."

As another professor explains, Kathy "is rapidly becoming one of a new generation of scholars who will significantly expand our understanding of contemporary art...and redefine our concepts of our bodies, our identities, and the relationship of art to politics."

Kathy's goal is to do community outreach in a museum or cultural center. CEW congratulates Kathy Zarur for finding her passion by naming her a Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar.

*Thank you.*