



WINTER 2019

# MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM



## CONTENTS:

Letter from the MCSP Directors  
PAGE 02

MCSP 20th Reunion Save the Date  
PAGE 03

MCSP Alumni Spotlight  
PAGE 04

MCSP Program Spotlight  
PAGE 08

MCSP Photo Gallery  
PAGE 11





David, Wendy, and MCSP Alum Samantha Edwards with the UM Wallenberg Medalists from Parkland, FL and Chicago's B.R.A.V.E at MCSP's Youth Empowerment and Activism Workshop for 75 high school students and teachers

DEAR MCSPERS,

OUR BIG NEWS THIS LETTER IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MCSP'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – OCT. 4-5, 2019 (HOMECOMING WEEKEND). WE HOPE TO SEE A GREAT MANY OF YOU HERE IN ANN ARBOR FOR THE FESTIVITIES.

WENDY IS CHAIRING A FABULOUS ALUMNI COMMITTEE TO PLAN THE EVENT, AND WE WILL BE SENDING UPDATES AS SOON AS MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE. HOLD THE DATE!!

MEANWHILE, WE CONTINUE TO HAVE GREAT SERVICE, DIVERSITY, PROGRAMMING, AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES THIS SEMESTER. ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIMES OF SOCIETAL DIVISIVENESS, GROWING NUMBERS OF HATE INCIDENTS, AND VERY HEAVY ACADEMIC STRESS, OUR STUDENTS CONTINUE TO RELY ON THE SUPPORT, COMPASSION AND LOVE WITHIN THE MCSP COMMUNITY.

WE HOPE YOU, OUR ALUMNI, ARE ALSO TAKING CARE OF YOURSELVES, FINDING YOUR MCSP ALUMNI SUPPORT NETWORK, AND WORKING TO BUILD YOUR OWN COMMUNITIES OF PEACE, KINDNESS, INCLUSIVITY, AND LOVE.

WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT -

[HTTPS://LEADERSANDBEST.UMICH.EDU/FIND/#!/SCU/LSA/MCSP](https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/scu/lsa/mcsp)

SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!

DAVID SCHOEM  
MCSP DIRECTOR

WENDY A. WOODS  
MCSP ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



**MICHIGAN  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOLARS  
PROGRAM**

**20TH  
REUNION  
OCTOBER  
4TH & 5TH**

---

**CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS OF  
SERVICE, DIVERSITY,  
DIALOGUE, AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

# Jessica Eller

Years in MCSP: 2012-2014, from 2013-2014 I served as a Peer Mentor.

What have you been up to since graduation?

Since graduating, I served in AmeriCorps as a College Adviser at an urban public high school in Lansing, MI for 2 years helping low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students become college ready and helped them with the application and financial aid processes. I found this position very related to what MCSP taught me about educational equity.

What are you currently doing now?

Currently I am working in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions helping to promote the University of Michigan experience to prospective students and families. I coordinate all high school visits to the University of Michigan and through this role I am promoting college access again. I was recently accepted to Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and plan to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue a career in human rights advocacy.

How do you integrate social justice into your life post college?

I believe I incorporate social justice into my life by the professional choices I have made and the work I choose to do and what I choose to advocate for publicly and everyday interactions with people. MCSP taught me the importance of engaging with others who are different than you and to work to elevate the voices of marginalized communities.

What is your favorite memory about MCSP?

My favorite part of my MCSP experience was joining and leading the Smile Bringer Singers. This club was a perfect outlet to express my creativity in choreographing dances and getting to engage with the elderly at nursing homes during and after our performances. SBS was a close-knit family for which I am so grateful.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences!

P.S. the first photo is me visiting Columbia, where I have been recently accepted. The second photo is from my days as a College Adviser when I brought students to UM's campus. The third photo is my close friends from MCSP when we had a graduation photo shoot. The fourth photo is of the Smile Bringer Singers circa 2014.





# Michael Jung

Years in MCSP: 2006-2009 as a participant, peer advisor, and webmaster

What have you been up to since graduation?

A lot has happened in the decade since graduation. I served in the Korean military, went to law school and got admitted to the bar, and worked in a variety of exciting environments in multiple countries, including Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia. My focus has been on children's rights and child protection, though the work has been expansive in scope.

What are you currently doing now?

I work as a legal officer at the Legal Aid of Cambodia on a myriad of issues, including assistance with the development of the new juvenile justice system and child-friendly standards, access to justice for women and persons with disabilities, alternative dispute resolution in relation to land rights and civil disputes, protection of labor rights especially in the context of migration, and cross-border legal aid for cases implicating civil and political rights, to name a few.

How do you integrate social justice into your life post college?

Social justice has become ingrained into the way I think. Several years after graduation, I continued to witness injustice and hear similar firsthand accounts from colleagues from different pockets of the world. It was like being back in an MCSP course and not being able to comprehend why there is so much inequality and suffering. So I decided to become a lawyer.

My passion for pro bono work is directly linked to my love for community service that was amplified at MCSP, and social justice has been an integral part of my times with NGOs, the UN System, courts, government agencies and branches, and legal clinics. My work as a child rights advocate spans the spectrum of human rights, including those of children, women, LGBTQ refugees, ethnic minorities, and indigenous groups, as well as broader international law in the criminal and humanitarian contexts. Confronting human rights violations and painful abuses is a difficult task, but the energy and capacity I started to build as a student at MCSP continues to serve as my firm driving force today.

What is your favorite memory about MCSP?

Heather already mentioned this in the previous newsletter, but my MCSP friends organized a surprise party for me before returning home to Korea. I still remember vividly how Jessica skillfully led me from No Thai to "her house," only to be greeted unexpectedly by numerous warm faces – that image touches my heart to this day. I still have the picture frame from Heather and Tamara that night displayed at home. The sense of community at MCSP was powerful, comforting, and inspirational, which was also evident while being a peer advisor with amazing friends or when I went around interviewing so many MCSPers in making the end-of-year videos. It was both hilarious and heartwarming to say the least, and I still watch those clips from time to time.





# Selena Joarder

Years in MCSP: 2014-2016

What have you been up to since graduation?

Since graduation, I've been working as a College Connections Coordinator with LSA Advancement. I travel and interview both alumni of the college, and parents of current LSA students. (If you're a young alum of LSA, too, you get a weekly newsletter from me.)

It's neat learning how the entire U-M experience affects folks everyday. It's also fun learning about little-known campus history. I recently learned about the "Once Film Festival" that involved a sheet as a screen, a projector, and lots of independent films on top of a parking garage. There are some wild stories.

What are you currently doing now?

I'm working to determine what's next! My role is generally a two-year job, and so I'm sorting through what my options might be afterwards. I thought after graduation life becomes more apparent, but I'm finding that in many ways, that's not quite the case. :)

How do you integrate social justice into your life post college?

I'm still trying to figure out how best to do this. Of course there are pieces of life that I try to always be conscious of like the language I use, and the way I frame certain conversations. I try to read pieces that help me stay informed on the state of various communities from all sorts of angles—that's what I miss most about school—learning about the same idea from different lenses to get a fuller picture. I try to think about my job from an equity angle, as well, as, especially with current parents, I have the ability to influence a child's U-M experience (even in just a slight way). Thus, we think a lot about being inclusive when we reach-out so as to connect with all walks of life. Everyone deserves to be listened to. I recently proposed that we begin "equity trips," to connect with parents of first-gen students from Michigan to help them navigate the college experience. Those are still in the works!

What is your favorite memory about MCSP?

I miss MCSPhamily nights, late-night adventures with friends, and the general sense of being surrounded by people who care deeply. I loved how it was possible to meet a new person, and hear their entire life story, the introduction simply being that you were both in MCSP.







# Anne West

Years in MCSP: 2011-2013: 2011-2012 participant; 2012-2013 Peer Adviser for Community Service

What have you been up to since graduation?

I worked for a study abroad program in Thailand for one year and served as an AmeriCorps Vista for another year. In my Vista role I worked with social workers engaging in direct service, community organizing, and policy work. I loved the diversity of roles that social workers have in a community, and that led me to a social work graduate program at the University of Chicago. I've been working at a teaching hospital on the near-west side of Chicago since graduating from my program in 2015. I married a fellow MCSP alum, Ares Panagoulis, in 2017 and we are enthusiastic cat parents.

What are you currently doing now?

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Rush University Medical Center on the near-west side of Chicago. I provide long-term outpatient individual and group psychotherapy for patients ages 18 and up, many of whom are in therapy for the first time and/or who have experienced complex trauma. I am also a post-graduate psychotherapy fellow at Womencare Counseling Center where I am training in trauma treatment from a feminist relational psychotherapy lens.

How do you integrate social justice into your life post college?

In my work, I do my best to work from an anti-oppressive framework that honors connection, humility, and authenticity--I think these are approaches that our intergroup dialogue classes at U of M really help lay groundwork for. I also work for organizations that believe in increasing accessibility to mental health services and who integrate a social determinants of health framework for healthcare. Outside of work I try to stay connected to local politics, community events, and volunteerism.

What is your favorite memory about MCSP?

I have so many memories of community and connection associated with MCSP! My first memory at MCSP was meeting my dear lifelong friend, Gerardo Villarreal when we both attended the "Warm Fuzzies" volunteering event. I met other lifelong friends through Soc 389 classes, time in the dorms, PACS, and Alternative Weekends. MCSP was a very special place to meet loving, committed, friends and its exciting these days to reconnect and hear where life has taken each of us.





## MCSP Starts the Winter Semester with a Day of Service

MCSP has always begun the academic year with a community day of service but has not begun the winter semester this way. This year's PACS team wanted to change that so they successfully planned and coordinated our first Winter Day of Service on January 12.

Almost half the community, 73 students, served at five sites in southeast Michigan. Tearing out dry-wall and hauling debris, we worked with Habitat for Humanity on a house in Ypsilanti. One participant said that this was the most strenuous but satisfying work they have ever done. We put our mechanical skills to work and assembled furniture at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. At Gleaners Community Food Bank, we sorted and packed non-perishable food and learned about food insecurity in our community. We played basketball and made new friends at the St. Louis Center, a community for people with intellectual and developmental differences in Chelsea, MI. While doing chores on their horse farm outside of Ann Arbor, we learned about the mission of Therapeutic Riding to work with adults and children with intellectual and physical differences. Everything we did helped us feel more compassion and empathy.

After serving, we gathered for a meal and reflection back in West Quad finding meaning in our service and strengthening our connections. Participants said they appreciated the importance, space and care given to reflection. They believed that reflecting in community afterwards helped bring their service full circle and provided understanding and context to their experiences.

All in all, the day was enjoyable and impactful and PACS hopes that a winter day of service becomes a long-standing tradition with MCSP.







## IRC Spotlight

The Intergroup Relations Council had another eventful semester of dialogues and events. Students had the opportunity to pursue their own passion projects and plan a dialogue they want to bring to the MCSP community. These dialogues included conversations on the School to Prison Pipeline, Food Justice, Social Impact of Policy, Campus Climate at U-M, Socioeconomic Status at U-M, and our Week of Love dialogue. In addition to these important discussions the IRC team organized MCSP students to attend various cultural events such as the Arab Xpressions show, Yoni Ki Baat, and African Students Association show.

While IRC team was focused on planning dialogues and events they also were intent on welcoming and orientating the 2019-2020 Intergroup Relations Council group. This became a focus for the current team as conversations around sustaining their great work and carrying on the core values of IRC arose in our weekly meetings. The current IRC members decided to hold an orientation for the upcoming '19-'20 team where they explored social identity and privilege, how to plan dialogues, and engaging in social justice work and education within the MCSP community & beyond. This event is testament to the fantastic job this year's IRC team has done of spreading and maintaining a compassionate and inclusive culture.



# PB&U Taking Care of YOU: Health & Wellness Programming

The Programming Board (PB&U) has the responsibility for coordinating some of the most joyful and relaxing events of the winter semester. In this newsletter, we'd like to spotlight one of our specialty missions - Health & Wellness. One of our members, Catherine (Cat) Mykolajchuk, helps PB&U coordinate programs focused on mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Some of the events include: Tea & Hot Chocolate Lounge Nights, therapy dogs, Facemask Nights, Morning Yoga Sessions, attending Mental Health focused events around campus, and numerous other well being-centered activities. PB&U is all about the fun, but we also want all MCSPers to understand the importance of self-care and that taking care of YOU can be fun too! Cat sends out a monthly newsletter highlighting the various PB&U programs that are health & wellness focused for the month. MCSPers are encouraged to make time in their busy schedules for some down time! This is a team effort and all of PB&U assists in program planning and implementation and also treats themselves to facemasks when the opportunity arises with their fellow MCSPers. :)







To me, fair friend, you never can be  
 old,  
 For as you were when first your eye  
 I eyed,  
 Such seems your beauty still. Three  
 winters cold  
 Have from the forests shook three  
 summers' pride,  
 Three beauteous springs to yellow  
 autumn turned  
 In process of the seasons have I  
 seen,  
 Three April perfumes in three hot  
 Junes burned,  
 Since first I saw you fresh, which yet  
 are green.

**William Shakespeare**  
**Sonnet 104**

