

Welcome to the 2015 SSWR Board of Directors Elections.

This year, there are openings for one (1) Vice President-Elect, one (1) Treasurer, two (2) Members-at-Large, and one (1) Student Member-at-Large. The responsibilities of each open position are described below. In order for your vote to be valid, you must be a current SSWR member.

Nominees for this year's elections are:

Vice President-Elect:

Michael Spencer, PhD, MSSW, University of Michigan
Karina Walters, PhD, MSW, University of Washington

Treasurer:

Carmen Morano, PhD, MSW, Hunter College, CUNY
Trina Shanks, PhD, MSW, MPhil, University of Michigan

Members-at-Large:

Laura Abrams, PhD, MSW, University of California, Los Angeles
Leopoldo Cabassa, PhD, MSW, Columbia University
Anne Haley-Lock, PhD, MSW, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Daphne Watkins, PhD, University of Michigan

Student Member-at-Large:

Mary Ann Priester, MSW, University of Southern Carolina
Rebecca Rebbe, MSW, University of Washington

Each nominee has supplied a biographical sketch and vision statement. We encourage you to read the following materials carefully before you cast your vote.

To cast your vote use the online ballot at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSWRelections>. Jennifer Lewis, the Administrative Director of SSWR, will be administering the online voting process. With this single exception, your ballot will be anonymous.

Voting deadline: December 22, 2015, 11:59pm, Eastern

Descriptions of Open Board Positions (terms start February 1, 2016)

Vice President-Elect (three-year term including one year as Vice President-Elect, one year as Vice President and one year as Past Vice President/Past Conference Chair.)

The Vice President-elect serves as a member of the Program Committee, plans and coordinates the pre-conference methodology workshops and provides direct support to the Vice President in planning the annual conference. The Vice President-elect becomes the Vice President in the second year of his or her term. The Vice President chairs the Program Committee, which plans and coordinates the annual conference. The Vice President becomes the Past Vice President in the third year, serving as a member of the Program Committee. During periods when there is no President-elect, the Vice-President shall serve as President in the event of the President's resignation, lengthy absence, or incapacity.

Treasurer (three-year term)

The Treasurer shall receive, have custody of, and disburse the funds of the Society subject to authorization of the Board of Directors, oversee maintenance of records of all receipts and disbursements, preparation of financial statements, annual dues notices, and records of dues payments, and carry on the routine business and fiscal affairs of the Society; arrange for an independent audit of the accounts annually, with approval from the Board of Directors, sign contracts and other authorized documents on behalf of the Society; and prepare an annual budget based on plans developed by the Board of Directors and the committee chairs.

Board Member-at-Large (three-year term)

A member-at-large may be asked to serve in the following capacities: Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee; Chair, Excellence in Research, Chair, Outstanding Dissertation Awards Committees; Chair, Doctoral Fellows Award, Chair Deborah Padgett Early Career Award, Volunteer Coordinator for Annual Conference; Coordinator of Conference Evaluation; Chair, Committee on Publications. Nominees should be prepared to take on one or more of these roles if asked by the President.

Student Member-at-Large (two-year term)

The Student member-at-large works with the President on planning the doctoral student session and luncheon at the annual conference, chairs the Doctoral Student Task Force, and represents student interests on the Board. Note that this position is currently reserved for a doctoral student. Nominees should have a minimum of two years remaining in their doctoral studies.

In addition to the above tasks, Board members are expected to be available for Board meetings before and during the January annual conference, a two-day, mid-year meeting in the early spring and monthly conference calls throughout the year.

Qualifications sought in Board nominees include:

- Leadership
- Support for and commitment to SSWR and its mission
- Experience and stature as a researcher
- Communication skills
- Ability to fulfill commitments as a Board member

The Nominees – Photos, Biographies, and Vision Statements

Vice President-Elect Nominee



Michael Spencer, PhD, MSSW
University of Michigan

Mike Spencer is the Fedele F. Fauri Collegiate Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan and is the former Associate Dean for Educational Programs. His research examines disparities in physical and mental health and service use of populations of color, as well as interventions for reducing disparities.

He is the Principal Investigator of the REACH Detroit Family Intervention, an NIH-funded, community-based, participatory research (CBPR) project which aims at reducing disparities in type 2 diabetes through the use of community health workers among African American and Latino residents in Detroit. He also investigates the association between discrimination and physical and mental health as well as service use among Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans. Additionally, he has contributed to the social work literature on diversity and social justice and examines identity related issues such as power and privilege as it relates to prejudice and oppression of target and agent groups. His research has been supported by numerous funding agencies including: NIDDK, NIMH, AHRQ, Academy of Family Physicians, and the CDC.

Dr. Spencer's research has been recognized through multiple awards including induction in the inaugural class of the Fellows of the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), induction as a 2016 Fellow of the Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, selection as the 2014 Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecturer for Equity and Social Justice, election to the SSWR Board Member-at-Large, and selection for the CSWE Minority Fellowship Program. At the University of Michigan, he also was the recipient of the Rosalie Ginsberg Outstanding Faculty Award for Community Service and Social Action and the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award.

VISION STATEMENT

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the position of SSWR Vice President-Elect. The primary goal for my research has always been to promote the health and well-being of racial and ethnic populations that have been systematically impacted by oppression. I have tried to accomplish this by initiating innovative and cutting edge translational research that addresses social determinants of health, are trans-disciplinary in nature, and appropriate for the populations I work with, including the use of community-based participatory research (CBPR). My research utilizes advanced designs and methods, including randomized controlled trials, and includes both qualitative and quantitative analyses. But mostly, the goal is for my research to have impact that benefits the communities I work with. It is these values that I hope to bring to the board and to the annual conference program.

As Vice President-Elect and then Vice President, my primary responsibility would be helping to develop the annual conference program and research training workshops. Leadership has always been important to me as a way of serving the profession. My experience as a SSWR board member-at-large, as the cluster chair for the Race, Ethnicity, & Immigration and the Mental Health sections of the SSWR conference abstract review, as Associate Dean for Educational Programs at Michigan, and my approach to research has prepared me well for this task. I hope to bring my vast network of scholars, funding institutions, and stakeholders and consumers of our research to increase the relevance and visibility of the SSWR conference. I also hope to bring an inviting and innovative atmosphere to the conference where new and seasoned scholars can engage in stimulating exchange and new learning.

Vice President-Elect Nominee

Karina L. Walters, PhD, MSW
University of Washington

Karina L. Walters, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the Associate Dean for Research, the Katherine Hall Chambers Scholar, and the Director and Principal Investigator of the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI; NIMHD P60MD006909) at the University of Washington. IWRI is one of 16 National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities Comprehensive Centers of Excellence and one of two devoted to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) research in the country. Dr. Walters has over 20 years of experience in social epidemiological research on the historical, social, and cultural determinants of health among AIAN populations as well as chronic disease prevention research (e.g., HIV, AOD, obesity). Dr. Walters has presented at over 320+ national and international conferences; was an invited speaker for Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS) at the NIH; and was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Walters has served as Principal Investigator or Co-I on

over 37 National Institute of Health (NIH) grants (13 as PI) from diverse NIH institutes; has mentored over 90 scholars from historically underrepresented populations including 35 AIAN scholars; and has participated in 14 national research training programs for underrepresented ethnic minority scholars. Dr. Walters received her B.A. (sociology) in 1987, her M.S.W. (clinical) in 1990, and her Ph.D. in 1995 all from the University of California, Los Angeles. After serving on faculty as an Assistant and Associate Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work (1995-2001), she joined the University of Washington faculty in 2001 and became Full Professor in 2011. She has served as Director of the Doctoral Program (2003-05) and as Associate Dean for Research (since 2012). Prior to her career in academia, Dr. Walters was a community-based psychotherapist and served as Commissioner for the Los Angeles County American Indian Commission.

VISION STATEMENT

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the position of Vice President-Elect of SSWR. As the leading social work research organization in the country committed to promoting social justice and rigorous research, I would be thrilled to serve in this capacity. With social work's research emphasis on the design of culturally derived and community-based research; its emphasis on holistic, culturally protective factors, strengths, and resiliency; and the development of novel community-grounded interventions that address socio-cultural context, we are uniquely positioned to provide research leadership to address the struggles of our times. SSWR not only has the capability as the foremost national social work research organization, but the responsibility to provide cogent leadership to identify innovative, culturally grounded research practice and policy solutions to reduce disparities and to promote equity nationwide. SSWR's board initiated a strategic plan (2012-2017) to ensure a responsive research workforce to address the great social challenges of our times. If elected, I will work closely with the President, Vice President and Board to advance these strategic goals. In my role as VP-Elect and lead coordinator for the annual SSWR pre-conference methodology workshops, I will strive to meet the strategic plan goals by: (1) strengthening research mentorship for early career investigators, particularly from historically underrepresented and oppressed populations; (2) amplifying social work's aptitude for conducting innovative, culturally responsive research; and, (3) increasing social work's ability to procure NIH and other federal funding for research and research training activities. I am excited and honored to work with SSWR's membership to advance our social work research capacity. If elected, I will be able to launch quickly into my conference planning role as I have a solid foundation of experience in planning national and international research conferences, having procured NIH conference planning grants for Indigenous health conferences and meetings.

Treasurer Nominee



Carmen Morano, PhD, MSW
Hunter College, CUNY

Dr. Carmen Morano is a Professor at the Silberman School of Social Work [SSSW] at Hunter College and Director of Silberman Aging: A Hartford Center of Excellence in Diverse Aging. Carmen's first academic appointment was with the University of Maryland-Baltimore (UMB) in 2000. During his tenure at UMB he was awarded the Hartford Faculty Scholar's Award for his research developing psychoeducational interventions for African American caregivers. Carmen joined the faculty at SSSW in 2005 serving in a joint position with the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging. As the Director of Education and Training for Brookdale, Carmen focused on a variety of workforce development projects for Adult Protective Service Workers. Dr. Morano was the PI for the Competency Based Gero Curriculum Project and Co-Investigator

for the Interprofessional Training and Education at Cornell-Hunter [ITEACH], a 2-semester interdisciplinary course for Social Work, Nursing and Public Health students from Hunter College and Medical students from the Weil Cornell College of Medicine. Carmen currently is the PI for the Connecting Neighborhood Elderly with Community Based Teams [ConNECT]. This innovative intervention was designed to support a community-based approach to developing enduring transitions between medical and social systems of care.

Dr. Morano was a John A Hartford Faculty Scholar [2003-2005], the NASW-Maryland Educator of the year in 2005, and received the AGE SW Leadership Award in 2010. He was the first social work educator to be elected Chair of the HRSA Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary Community-based Linkages and served as the Managing Editor of the Journal of Geriatric Social Work from 2010-2014. He is Co-Chair of the Aging Field of Practice Specialization at the SSSW and Co-Director of the AGE SW Geriatric Social Work Pre-Dissertation Initiative, formerly the Hartford Pre-Dissertation Program, that has awarded training fellowships to more than 100 doctoral students.

VISION STATEMENT

I would be honored to serve as the Treasurer for SSWR. I accept this nomination with the understanding that achieving the short and long-term goals of our society requires diligent oversight and management of SSWR financial resources. My vision for SSWR and specifically for the role of Treasurer is informed by experiences that includes serving as the Treasurer for the New York State Society on Aging, Vice President of AGE SW, Co-Director of the AGE SW Gerontological Pre-Dissertation Initiative, and most recently the Membership Chair of the Social Research Policy and Practice Section of the Gerontological Society of America. Combined, these experiences have provided me with an awareness of the intersection of fiscal management, member services, and ultimately the long-term sustainability of any association or society. Thus, my vision as Treasurer includes the following three areas of priority: 1. Provide timely response to members financial concerns such as the processing of requests for funds, membership dues, conference fees and/or refunds, etc.; 2. Provide critical oversight of all contracting and conference expenses and activities; and 3. Maintaining transparency to all activities of the office of the treasurer. If elected as your Treasurer I will be fully committed to support the Mission and 7-Goals stated in the SSWR Strategic Plan. I am confident that my previous experiences serving as a board member of other association, as well as my expertise in the area of interprofessional education and practice will position me to make a significant contributions in the following 3 areas of the SSWR Strategic Plan; 1. Strengthening the presence of interprofessional practice and research, 2. Collaborating with members of the board to expand financial support for research, especially the use of participatory approaches to Gerontological research with diverse populations, and 3. Building sustainable alliances with societies and associations that share in the mission SSWR.

Treasurer Nominee



Trina Shanks, PhD, MSW, MPhil
University of Michigan

Trina Shanks is Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan, where she is also Faculty Affiliate with the National Poverty Center and Faculty Associate with the Institute for Social Research. She received her B.S., MSW and PhD degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and holds a Masters of Philosophy in Comparative Social Research from the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar.

Dr. Shanks' scholarly interests include the impact of poverty and wealth on child outcomes; place-based social and economic development; asset building policy and practice across the life course; and youth employment initiatives. She is particularly concerned with the economic insecurity faced by children and families in the United States, including the substantial and growing wealth gap between White households and households of color. Through her empirical and intervention research, she collaborates with practitioners and informs policymakers. She has testified before Congress on the topic of building assets for low-income families and child savings account policy and has served as an appointed member of the Governor's Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity. As a member of the Detroit Youth Employment Consortium, she evaluates summer employment programs in the city and suggests innovative additions to local efforts. Her work has been funded by the Ford Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, local and community foundations, and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Dr. Shanks' work includes over 40 publications. In 2011, she received the Marie Weil Outstanding Article of the Year Award from the *Journal of Community Practice*. She recently co-authored an edited volume titled *The Assets Perspective: The Rise of Asset Building and its Impact on Social Policy*. She serves on the editorial board of several journals, including *Children and Youth Services Review* and the *Journal of Children and Poverty*. Dr. Shanks teaches courses in the areas of macro practice and social welfare policy.

VISION STATEMENT

I am honored to have been nominated for the position of Treasurer of SSWR. If elected, my duties would include overseeing the maintenance of records and receipts, preparing financial statements, signing documents on behalf of the Society and preparing an annual budget based on plans developed by the Board of Directors and committee chairs. I believe that I am well qualified to undertake these responsibilities. As an undergraduate business major, I have training in accounting. I have managed budgets for grants and I served as the first director of a non-profit agency in Nashville, where I was responsible for the budget. I also served as treasurer for student government at Washington University. I would enjoy supporting the fiscal operations of SSWR as well as its ongoing substantive work.

As a member and active participant for over a decade, I am committed to SSWR's mission to advance Social Work research and to collaborate with other organizations to support social work scholars. At a time in our country when median incomes are stagnant, social spending is shrinking, and confidence in government is waning, social work has the opportunity to lead our nation in a better direction through research and interaction with practitioners and policymakers at all levels. I am strongly committed to supporting rigorous research that advances social welfare practices and programs (Strategic Plan Goal 1) and fostering interdisciplinary networks in the United States and around the world (Strategic Plan Goal 2). I would like to continue SSWR's tradition of organizing institutes and workshops around statistical methods and cutting edge research areas. In addition, I would like to serve as a liaison between the organization and policymakers in Washington, DC. I have collaborated with colleagues in law, economics, business, psychology, public health and public policy in my own research. I would like to help shape networking conversations and plan meetings to support the research interests of SSWR members.

Member-at-Large Nominee



Laura S. Abrams, PhD, MSW
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Laura S. Abrams is a Professor of Social Welfare at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. She began her career in 1990 as a front line social worker in an adolescent group home and has investigated issues related to institutionalization and youth identity ever since. A graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare (MSW, 1993; PhD, 2000), Dr. Abrams spent five years as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work and the past ten years at UCLA.

Dr. Abrams has been recognized nationally and internationally for her scholarship in the areas of juvenile corrections, re-entry, and the transition to adulthood. She is currently working on several projects seeking to improving conditions for youth aging out of the juvenile justice and foster care systems and is the lead investigator for a cross-national study of youth justice policies and practices in four nations. The author of over fifty peer-reviewed articles, Dr. Abrams and has received several notable awards. Her article "Juvenile Justice at a Crossroads: Science, Evidence, and Twentieth Century Reform" received the 2013 Frank R. Bruel Memorial Prize for the best article published in *Social Service Review*. Her book *Compassionate Confinement: A Year in the Life of Unit C* (Rutgers University Press, 2013) received honorable mention for the 2014 SSWR outstanding social work book award. Based on her scholarship, Dr. Abrams has been invited to present expert testimony on juvenile justice policies at state and federal levels.

Dr. Abrams has many years of active service to the profession, including as the elected Vice-Chair of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE) from 2013-2015. She currently serves on the editorial board of *Social Service Review* and *Qualitative Social Work* and reviews articles for numerous interdisciplinary journals. As a longstanding active member of SSWR, Dr. Abrams is the current the co-chair of the qualitative research interest group and the crime and criminal justice cluster.

VISION STATEMENT

I would be honored to serve SSWR as a member of the board of directors. My vision for the organization includes enhancing the overall impact of social work research in improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities. I believe that social work researchers are very well situated to address pressing local and global social problems, including "grand challenges" such as reducing income and racial disparities in life opportunities, creating an effective and affordable healthcare system, ending homelessness, and ending discrimination and stigma for LGBTQ individuals. In collaboration with our partner organizations, I would like to see SSWR become a highly visible platform for publicizing the important work of social work research. As a social work faculty member situated in a larger School of Public Affairs, I have grown to see the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and public communications. In our increasingly interconnected world, social media and technology have become essential for disseminating research findings for a broader impact. We need to build capacity in social media and technology to make social work research more visible and influential.

If elected to the board, I would contribute my longstanding commitment to doctoral education based on six years of experience as doctoral chair and participation on the GADE board. As we move SSWR into its third decade, we must attend to how the organization actively cultivates the next generation of scientists. As a member of the board, I will use my expertise to enhance training and mentoring opportunities for doctoral students junior scholars, particularly for underrepresented population groups. This means continuing to offer cutting edge pre-conference methods workshops, awarding outstanding contributions to policy and practice knowledge, and expanding the range of mentoring relationships between junior and senior scholars.

In sum, if elected to the board, I seek to represent the interests of the SSWR membership, enhance the visibility and impact of social work research, and cultivate mentoring and training opportunities for the next generation of scholars.

Member-at-Large Nominee



Leopoldo J. Cabassa, PhD, MSW
Columbia University

Dr. Leopoldo J. Cabassa is an Associate Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work and the Assistant Director of the Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He received his M.S.W. and Ph.D. from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California (USC). Prior to joining the faculty at Columbia, he was an

Assistant Professor at the USC School of Social Work. In 2012, he completed a fellowship in implementation science at the Implementation Research Institute at Washington University.

Dr. Cabassa's research blends quantitative and qualitative methods, community engagement, intervention research, and implementation science. His scholarship has made significant contributions in three areas including: 1) reducing stigma towards mental illness in the Latino community; 2) improving the physical health of racial/ethnic minorities with serious mental illness; and 3) bridging the fields of implementation science and health disparities research. His work has been supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the New York State Office of Mental Health. His latest project funded by NIMH is testing the effectiveness and examining the implementation of a peer-led healthy lifestyle intervention in supportive housing agencies serving diverse clients with serious mental illness. He has authored or co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Cabassa has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, and *Research on Social Work Practice*, and is a consulting editor of *Social Work Research*. He is currently a temporary member of the NIH Health Disparities and Equity Promotion Study section. He teaches master-level courses in social work research, foundation of social work practice, and social work with Latino populations.

VISION STATEMENT

I am deeply honored to have been nominated as a candidate for the Member-at-Large position in the SSWR Board. To this position, I will bring the passion and commitment that drives my work to improve the health and mental health of underserved communities.

If elected to serve on the SSWR Board, I will dedicate my efforts and services to support and strengthen the mission and strategic plan of SSWR in the following areas. First, I will work to advance the capacity, training, and mentoring opportunities of doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and early to mid-career social work scholars, particularly from historically underrepresented groups. The preparation and career advancement of social work scholars from diverse backgrounds to conduct and disseminate rigorous and innovative social work research is critical for the future of our profession. Second, I will bring my expertise and experiences in implementation science to strengthen SSWR's initiatives to promote the translation of social work research into policy and practice. Third, I will support efforts to recognize and celebrate the contributions of SSWR members conducting social work research that promote social justice and culturally-appropriate social work practice, and help eradicate inequities in health and mental health care. I welcome the opportunity to serve in this leadership position and will work tirelessly to advance the research capacity, visibility, and impact of our profession.

Member-at-Large Nominee



Anna Haley-Lock, PhD, MSW
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Anna Haley-Lock is Associate Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Social Work, where she was Associate Director from 2013-15 and is affiliated with the Institute for Research on Poverty and Center for Demography and Ecology. From 2003-9 she served on faculty at University of Washington's School of Social Work. She earned her MA (MSW) in clinical practice and PhD focused on organizations from University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, and BA from University of Michigan.

Dr. Haley-Lock's work investigates how organizations are shaped by a range of internal and external forces, and shape the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Within that emphasis, she studies employers' choices about designing, managing, and rewarding jobs, and those choices' impacts on employment outcomes experienced by organizations and their workforces. She focuses on low-wage jobs in for-profit and nonprofit settings, and those disproportionately held by vulnerable groups of workers such as women and persons of color. She utilizes quantitative and qualitative methods, and perspectives from sociology, political science and business for theoretical framing.

Dr. Haley-Lock's findings inform social work practice by identifying "upstream" strategies for changing workplaces and public employment policies to promote worker, family, and community wellbeing. Her work is published in varied social work and other journals (e.g., *Social Service Review*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *Administration in Social Work*, *Journal of Community Practice*, *Work & Occupations*, *Industrial Relations*, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, and *Community, Work & Family*).

Since 2013, she has co-chaired SSWR's Work, Family, and Family Policy Cluster and Special Interest Group and served as a reviewer for its 2016 Doctoral Fellows Award Committee. She first presented at SSWR in 2001, and has valued participating in nearly every meeting since. Though she attends other academic conferences, Dr. Haley-Lock considers SSWR her central professional affiliation.

VISION STATEMENT

What a time to be a social work scholar. Research emerging from our field, and our capacity for generating knowledge, is uniquely well positioned – given its embrace of cross-disciplinary, multi-level theoretical and methodological approaches – to illuminate and address increasingly complex social problems. This makes serving on SSWR's board incredibly exciting and important, and I am deeply honored by the nomination. I would welcome serving in whatever ways the organization needs, and identify strongly with SSWR's efforts to support doctoral students; recognize topically and methodologically diverse research excellence; advocate for expanded funding for social work scholars' research; seek greater inclusion of social work perspectives in major investigative initiatives; and promote the use of our research in policy and practice.

Additionally, as a candidate whose research falls on the "macro side" and co-chairs such a SSWR conference cluster, I've been thrilled at the emergence and growth of clusters in organizations/management, community, and policy topics. Now several years along, I would welcome the chance to engage members who began and who now participate in those clusters in a discussion about potential next steps for best aligning those groupings with research that our members want to share at our conference. I would also enjoy exploring ways to better reflect the cross-disciplinary and multi-level quality of our research through new mechanisms for all conference submissions – e.g., special submission streams and cross-cluster offerings. And I would like to do some collective thinking with the whole membership about the unique role(s) that SSWR as an association and conference does – and might – play, distinct from what many of us seek from other, specialized academic associations.

Finally, I believe my clinical MSW training and management research (and teaching) are helpful qualifications for being an effective board member and promoting initiatives that encompass our members' micro through macro research interests.

Member-at-Large Nominee

Daphne C. Watkins, PhD
University of Michigan

Daphne C. Watkins, PhD is an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan, with faculty appointments in the School of Social Work, the School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, and the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the Institute for Social Research. Her research underscores the influence of gender role socialization on health status over the adult life course for marginalized men. To date, Dr. Watkins' research has focused on understanding the social determinants of health that explain within group differences among black men; developing evidence-based strategies to improve the physical and mental health conditions of black men; and increasing knowledge about the intersections of age, culture, and gender.

Dr. Watkins received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a PhD in Health Education from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining the University of Michigan School of Social Work and School of Medicine she completed a National Institute of Mental Health-sponsored (T32) postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan and a National Institutes of Health (K12) career development award in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine.

Dr. Watkins' research has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and various university-based centers and institutes. Her scholarship includes over 40 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and a mixed methods research book in the social work research series (Oxford University Press; July 2015). In addition to her scholarship, Dr. Watkins co-directs a Gender and Health Research Lab and teaches Masters, Doctoral, and Continuing Education courses at the University of Michigan on research methods; program evaluation; mixed methods; and racial, ethnic, and gender issues in interventions.

VISION STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated for Member-at-Large for SSWR. If elected, I will demonstrate my commitment to service in three ways. *First, I will commit to assisting the organization with its investment in training opportunities for the next generation of social work researchers.* In particular, SSWR's mission and strategic goals and tactics (SSWR Goal 1: Tactic 1c) resonate with me because I value high quality training opportunities that support our up and coming social work researchers. *Second, I am committed to building the trans-disciplinary and inter-professional support network of investigators conducting research on social work practice and policy both in and outside of SSWR.* I, myself, am an interdisciplinary scholar. Therefore, I value the connections that can be made outside of our profession (SSWR Goal 2: Tactic 2d) in order to expand the mission and reach of our organization. Many of us come to SSWR unsure of what to call ourselves. But I am a firm believer that regardless of our educational and disciplinary backgrounds, our commitment to the mission and the vision of SSWR is what make us social workers. *Finally, like many of you committed to social justice and wellbeing, I am no stranger to hard work.* In addition to my current service for SSWR, I am also in my second term as President for the American Men's Studies Association (AMSA). I am the first woman and person of color to ever serve as President in the AMSA's 24-year history. Before serving as President, I was Vice President, and I have been a member of the AMSA Board of Directors since 2009. I hope to bring what I have learned from leading this international organization to SSWR, should I be elected to serve as the Member-at-Large.

Student Member-at-Large Nominee



Mary Ann Priester, MSW
University of South Carolina

Mary Ann Priester, MSW is a third year doctoral student in the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina (USC). Mary Ann is a fellow in the inaugural cohort of the USC Graduate Civic Scholars Program. She is also recipient of the Office of the Vice President for Research Support to Promote Advancement of Research and Creativity Graduate Research Grant and the Preparing Future Faculty Award. Mary Ann currently serves as the student representative on the College of Social Work Doctoral Program Committee. In this role she has collaborated with the Dean, faculty members, and her fellow students to increase professional development opportunities for doctoral students, enhance program experiences, and improve social work doctoral student visibility at the local and national levels.

As a health services researcher in training, Mary Ann has more than ten years of experience working with underserved and vulnerable populations, particularly individuals who are homeless or involved with the criminal justice system. These experiences have fueled her commitment to improving access to behavioral health services for vulnerable populations and informed her research focus. In particular, Mary Ann is interested in structural and behavioral processes that contribute to barriers to behavioral health service access and utilization by persons exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACE). She is also interested in behavioral health and social trajectories of persons exposed to ACE.

Mary Ann has had numerous opportunities to present at national and international conferences across multiple disciplines. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, she serves as an ad hoc reviewer for multiple journals. Mary Ann's research is interdisciplinary, cross-cutting social work, health sciences, and social policy. Her research achievements demonstrate her willingness and ability to create relationships and execute projects across disciplines and systems in order to maximize impact.

VISION STATEMENT

It would be an honor to serve on the board of the Society for Social Work Research as the Student Member-at-Large. The 20th Annual Conference will be my second year as a presenter and attendee at the SSWR Annual Conference. As the Student Member-at-Large, my vision is to contribute to the realization of SSWR's mission through doctoral student engagement. I acknowledge the progress that has been made through execution of SSWR's Strategic Plan and hope to have the opportunity to contribute to these efforts. Specifically, I would hope to work with SWRNet to continue to grow and promote resources available for social work doctoral students. I envision the development of promotional tools to increase awareness of SWRNet and a focused effort to increase subscribership among doctoral students. Second, I would like to enhance current online communication venues for doctoral students by increasing the number of platforms utilized, and seeking ways to improve the participatory nature of these platforms. In order for the voice of doctoral students to be heard, we must develop mechanisms to obtain doctoral student concerns and feedback. Finally, I hope to clarify and promote opportunities for doctoral student participation in SSWR. For a first-time attendee at the SSWR conference, the experience can be somewhat daunting. While the doctoral luncheon is phenomenal, I would also suggest a first time attendee's meeting to orient new attendees to the annual conference, welcome new members, and highlight the multitude of opportunities (SIGs, networking, opportunities to actively participate as a SSWR member) available at the SSWR conference and as a member of the SSWR professional network. If elected as a SSWR Board Member, I hope to build on my predecessor's past successes to enhance future SSWR capacity through early career engagement of doctoral students.

Student Member-at-Large Nominee



Rebecca Rebbe, MSW
University of Washington

Rebecca Rebbe is a second year doctoral student at the University of Washington. Her research interests involve public child welfare including the policies and legal systems of public child welfare, the use of administrative data, and quantitative methods. Rebecca's research training has been supported through a NIH TL1 Multidisciplinary Predoctoral Clinical Research Traineeship. Rebecca currently serves as a member of the SSWR Doctoral Student Taskforce.

Rebecca earned her MSW from Boston College, a master's degree in education in Risk and Prevention from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Portland. With over 7 years of post-MSW experience working with families involved with the child welfare system, Rebecca worked as an in-home family crisis clinician before working for the

public child welfare system as an ongoing case worker, a CPS investigator, and an adolescent permanency and adoptions supervisor.

VISION STATEMENT

I am humbled by the nomination and would be honored to represent doctoral students' interests to the SSWR board. SSWR's mission of advancing social work research is of great importance to me. With the Grand Challenges Launch at the 2016 Conference, I believe it is critical for doctoral students to be educated about and engaged with this initiative. My goal is to facilitate the participation of doctoral students, who constitute about a quarter of the SSWR membership, with the Grand Challenges as we develop our research skills to tackle these complex, interdisciplinary issues.

If elected, I will build upon the annual Doctoral Student Luncheon at the SSWR conference and the Doctoral Student Task Force as mechanisms to represent doctoral students' interests to the Board and facilitate the development of doctoral students into rigorous social work scholars. The SSWR conference is a tremendous opportunity for growth for doctoral students. Nevertheless, it can also be overwhelming and intimidating. It is my hope to work to make the conference as welcoming and accessible for doctoral students so that it can be a useful and stimulating tool. As a current member of the Doctoral Student Task Force, I have been impressed by the passion and talent that the members of this diverse panel possess. I hope to continue the use of the Task Force as an instrument to communicate with doctoral students, develop the leadership skills of its members, and strengthen the voice of doctoral students.