During my undergrad years, I have gained experience working with the elderly population. My freshman year of college, I participated in a medical and dental brigade in the country of Honduras. I could communicate with the residents and translate for peers who needed it. Due to this, I got so much more out of this experience by being able to speak to the people of Honduras. I could get a sense of the health problems the elderly population of this third world country experiences. After this involvement, I signed up for an international engagement in the country of Mexico. Once there, I was selected and placed to serve at a nursing home. The home was in terrible conditions along with it being too small for all the residents living in it. Part of my job at the home, was to assess the needs of the elderly and help raise funds for things they needed. This past summer, I spent time volunteering in a nursing home in my hometown and I couldn't help but notice the differences between the nursing homes in the U.S and in Mexico.

 Based on my experiences, I can say I would love to work with the elderly population. My concentration is interpersonal practice with aging in families and society. I am interested in focusing on social and emotional development in people with disabilities because with physical challenges there are often difficulties in building relationships due to physical limitations. The University of Michigan Social Work program was attractive to me because of its specialization in aging in families and society. Geriatrics is not a popular field which creates a huge need that strengthens the necessity for families to begin thinking about the process of aging along with preparing for it. Many people are not prepared for the future and I want to raise awareness on this problem because the elderly population is increasing rapidly. My goal is to become a professional licensed social worker and if I am awarded the Geriatric Social Workers of South East Michigan scholarship, I will be able to enhance my skills and be provided with a new set of skills to practice social work that caters to promoting the well-being of the aging, families, and communities.