

CRITICAL NEED

*Luoana Rotar,
MSW student originally
from Romania,
is translating teaching
materials for students
in Moldova.*

In November, the school will host a Moldova Summit to connect people and services at Baylor and the community with Oleg Trulac, professor and administrator of CTE. “This is an opportunity to mold the social work profession of Moldova,” Preston Dyer said, “and to impact lives well into the future.”

The Dyers first went to Moldova in 2005 to become familiar with the college, its administrators and students. They returned in spring 2007 for five weeks and taught undergraduate and graduate-level students. The primary purpose of the partnership is to teach Baylor SSW master-level courses to existing and potential faculty. The 10 graduate students in the class all have undergraduate degrees in social work and five are already teaching, Preston Dyer said.

The Dyers taught module classes – one class per week, eight hours a day – using Power Point and a digital projector. The textbooks normally used in the course were not available in either Russian or Romanian.

“This was one of the hardest parts of teaching,” Preston Dyer said, “but we were impressed by the passion of the students and their desire to absorb the information taught.” One student who speaks fluent English offered to translate the Power Point into Romanian for the next teacher.

After teaching the helping skills of Lawrence Shulman, a primer for American social work education, Dyer noted that for the students “to have that much of a systematic approach for dealing with people and situations opened up a whole new world for them.”

Because of the cost and time involved in translation,



the goal is to build a library collection of texts that can be shared by all CTE students. Baylor school faculty and staff donated \$200, which the Dyers presented to Serghei Namesnic, CTE president.

One resource that is needed to teach is the work of Alan Keith-Lucas, one of the first to write about the integration of faith and social work practice. Helen Harris, senior lecturer at the School, wrote an article last year on Keith-Lucas’s book, *Giving and Taking Help*, wanting to highlight his knowledge in this field and “keep his work alive.” The book denotes three primary focuses for helping: providing clients with reality; emphasizing the importance of empathy; and providing support (physical, emotional, and spiritual).

“He is so foundational and inspirational for students learning the importance of the integration of faith and practice,” Harris said.

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Luoana Rotar, an MSW/MDiv student, is originally from Romania, and when she heard about the desire to have Harris's article on Keith-Lucas translated, Rotar volunteered. She said she thinks this article will be a tremendous asset for the students in Moldova. She is doing the work as part of her graduate assistantship and has completed nearly half of the translation. Once completed, the translated article will be e-mailed to the students for use.

She said it takes her about 30 minutes to translate 15 lines of the original text, noting that often English words do not have a Romanian equivalent. "Even if the term 'social worker' is a phrase used in Romania, it must be adapted using similar words," Rotar said. Nevertheless, she like the work she said, "because it applies Christianity."

Preston Dyer also emphasizes the mutuality of the School's relationship with the Moldovan students. "Our partnership is two way," he said. "Not only are we taking Baylor Social Work education to the CTE students, but Baylor SSW faculty have the opportunity to learn about social work in the former Soviet Union and to teach in a different culture.

"It can equip Baylor professors with a different perspective to enhance their view of social work and its impact around the world."

– *Sarah Bush, MSW student*

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