

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Newsletter from Baylor University School of Social Work • Volume No. 24 • January 2009

Graduate degrees made to order

Specialization options tailor learning to student passions

Within the School's three concentrations – Children and Family, Physical and Mental Health, and Community Practice – there lay a plethora of possibilities to accommodate individual student interests. Think of it as sort of a customized degree plan, made possible by a faculty committed to nurturing the passions and callings of their students.

This spring, the School will accommodate 27 students – almost half of the concentration year MSW students – seeking specializations in 19 specific areas. This is the largest number yet in the School's history.

"It's one of the most fantastic ideas that has ever been developed in our educational curriculum," said Dennis Myers, associate dean for graduate studies. "It's this precious thread that knits together the curriculum template with the student's personal interests and calling."

Graduate students must choose a concentration from the three mentioned above, but within that concentration they can further specialize during their second year, or concentration year. A sampling of specializations for this spring

Although specializations are offered at other schools of social work, Myers said he believes Baylor is unusual in its level of individualization and intentionality.

"We've got to be among a small group of schools that

was introduced by Diana Garland, now dean of the school, when she came to Baylor as director of graduate studies.

"One of the values of a relatively small program, like ours, is that the faculty really know the students," Garland said. "But one of the trade-offs is that we can't offer as many courses in specialized areas."

"The idea of specializations claims the best of both – students can craft their educational experience around their own sense of calling to address a particular topic, whether it's orphan care in Africa or natural disaster response or autism."

Students seeking a specialization are assigned a faculty mentor and together they create a specialization plan structured within the

degree's curriculum template.

"It speaks to the incredible passion and commitment of our students that they are choosing to do more work



Fifteen students were in the congregational social work specialization this fall, pictured here at the Walking Alongside Workshop on Addressing Poverty in Your Community.

include gerontology, social work and the law, international social work, congregational social work, economic development, care of persons with dementia, and trauma and victim services.

strive to individualize at this level and with this kind of structure at the graduate level," he said, "and it's possible because of the commitment of our faculty."

The specialization option

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FROM THE DEAN

By Diana R. Garland, Dean of Baylor School of Social Work

You've heard me say often how incredible I think our students are in the School of Social Work. I say it often because there are so many incidences to support it - and here is one more!



On Dec. 5, the Baylor University Campus Kitchen (BUCK) had its trial run, operating out of its temporary kitchen at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church's The Center, a recreational facility. An official kick-off event was held Nov. 12 called "The BUCK Starts Here," which more than 50 people attended and close to 20 signed up to volunteer for the BUCK initiative.

What is a Campus Kitchen? It's a way for universities to make a meaningful impact on the hunger issues in their neighborhoods and communities. It is an on-campus, student-run service program (*read more about it in adjacent article*) and the Baylor CK is the first one in Texas.

The BUCK is a student organization supervised by Baylor's Student Life Division and a part of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative (BIPI). It is coordinated by Abby Williams, a senior education major. Truly a campuswide initiative, the idea first developed from an in-class learning project in Gaynor Yancey's Advanced Practice Community Practice class. The two local agencies that BUCK will deliver meals to are Talitha Koum, an infant to 5-year-old therapeutic child care center operated as a mission group of CrossTies Ecumenical Church, and the Family Abuse Center.

So, yes, I'm proud of our students! I'm proud of Baylor for taking this concrete step to provide for its neighbors. One more thing, the BUCK program will begin full-time operations on a day that seems especially fitting - Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day.



Baccalaureate and graduate social work students readied for the official kick-off event Nov. 12 at the Bobo Spiritual Life Center during which 20 people signed up to volunteer.

The BUCK Starts Here

The following ran as a guest editorial in the Waco Tribune-Herald Nov. 1, 2008. Reprinted with permission.

We hear much these days about the need for groups to work together to solve societal challenges. Of course, collaboration and partnering are nothing new to the field of social work. We "crossed the aisle" a long time ago, and we keep crossing it.

The chartering of the Baylor University Campus Kitchen (BUCK) Oct. 15, the first Campus Kitchen in Texas, is such an example. Campus Kitchen is an on-campus student-run service program in which students use donated kitchen space and donated food from campus cafeterias, local restaurants, food banks and farmers markets to prepare and deliver nourishing meals to their communities. Each school tailors its Campus Kitchen to the specific needs of its campus

and community using the following components: food recovery, meal preparation, meal delivery and educational programs like Culinary Job Training for unemployed adults and nutrition education for children.

As exciting as the potential for BUCK is, what is equally exciting for me is how this project originated and the ways Baylor University is coming together to offer it. Graduate students in the School of Social Work's community practice course were given a semester-long project to research and implement a program that could meaningfully address a community issue. The students chose to address hunger. That choice was influenced by the U.S. Census Bureau figures for 2006 that showed Waco to be the

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fifth poorest city in Texas with an adult poverty rate between 26 percent and 27 percent. That figure rises to 31 percent for children. The overall poverty rate for Texas was less than half that, 12.6 percent. These figures were especially disturbing for us in the School that this could be the case in the neighborhoods around Baylor – the largest Baptist university in the nation.

Although the project began in social work, it is a true interdisciplinary effort. The BUCK project is part of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative, housed in Baylor Student Life. The full time student coordinator for BUCK is Abby Williams, a senior education major. She will be responsible for the program's continuation. Recruitment of volunteers from across the campus will begin Nov. 17 and a trial run will be held Dec. 5.

The program will go into full effect this spring, with several distribution sites around Waco. Already, a number of local restaurants have joined with Baylor Facilities Services (ARAMARK) to donate food to BUCK, and the students are hoping more restaurants will join in.

Crossing the aisle – undergraduate and graduate students, students from across academic disciplines, Baylor University and the community – all coming together to address hunger needs in the only real way that matters to those who are hungry: a plate full of food.

When our country, and our city, faces so many great challenges, BUCK gives me great hope. What else could be possible if we all joined together? How could Baylor University lead out to address the poverty of families that is the underlying cause of hunger? Someone has to cross the aisle first. I'm so glad that this time it was Baylor. – *by Diana Garland*

Graduate degrees

(continued from page 1)

even than is already required in a rigorous master's program like ours," Garland said.

Kimberly Stutts, BSW 2008, is an Advanced Standing MSW concentration year student specializing in congregational social work with families. She chose the specialization both to enhance her resume but also to be more intentional about her projects and assignments.

"I think people are scared to do it because they think it's so much more work," she said, "but it really isn't – it's just about being intentional with your work."

For instance, Stutts chose to take Loss and Mourning as an elective and focused her assignment to write a curriculum study on a psychotherapy program dealing with the kinds of losses an adopted child can experience that can be taught in a church setting.

Myers said there is no data yet to suggest the specialization is a "difference maker" in terms of career options for graduates, but it does certify that the student has demonstrated advanced practice knowledge and skills in a substantive area within one of the concentrations.

Despite presenting additional administrative challenges and time requirements on faculty members, there are always enough faculty to serve as mentors. This year there are eight faculty mentors.

Helen Harris, lecturer in the School, is mentoring four students this spring. She says it is a joy for her and a true opportunity to go "deep and wide."

"Students are able to be exposed to a variety of theories, practice models and practice contexts while focusing their assignments in one particular area. They 'go deep' in that subject area and broad in their concentration studies," Harris said.

These classroom "experts" enhance the classroom experience for everyone, Myers said. "Students who choose this option are motivated and engaged and that increases the learning experience for everyone in the classroom."

SPECIALIZATIONS FOR SPRING 2009

- Gerontology
- Social work and the law
- Counseling with children and adolescents
- International social work
- Human rights and global poverty
- Adolescents in community
- Congregational social work with families
- Social work with Latino populations
- Economic development
- Child and adolescent mental health
- Church social work
- Trauma and victim services
- Care of persons with dementia
- Crisis and stress management
- Family ministry
- Children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders
- International human rights and social justice
- Multicultural counseling
- Social policy practice



Angela DeLaney was the BSW NASW Baylor's Homecoming Queen representative, only the second time a representative has been selected. Escorting her was Scott Gress.

HOMEcoming 2008

A host of alumni and friends dropped by the School of Social Work after the Homecoming Parade Nov. 1 for a reception. (Above left) Preston Dyer greeted Marshall and Doris Edwards. (Above) Kelly Atkinson, BASW 2001/MSW 2002 (left), and Jennifer Smyer, BASW 1994/MSW 2008, flashed megawatt smiles. Melody York Zuniga, MSW 2004 (below), and husband, Jose, brought their niece, Mimi Hernandez, all tired out from the excitement of the parade.





Dean Diana Garland (left) and the School celebrated Laura Anne Vick's 50th consecutive Baylor Homecoming. Laura Anne is a member of the School's Board of Advocates and a dedicated Baylor alumna! Helen Harris (top, center) helps Linsie Abney Goza, BASW 2004/MSW 2005, and her husband find Linsie's photo in the School's new wall display of graduating classes. Anne Ferguson (above), BASW 2006, signs in before taking a tour.

A SEASON OF CHANGE

By Gaynor Yancey, Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies

Fall is my absolutely favorite time of the year! Differing from other parts of the nation, the green leaves of summer seem to change slowly here in Central Texas. We are, however, in the midst of, for us, a beautiful fall season. Last week, the green leaves of summer seemed to change overnight into this magnificent tapestry of colors – the bright yellows, reds, pinks, oranges, and even purples burst from every tree.

Seeing the changing leaves always reminds me of change, generally. As we move closer to our December graduation, change reminds me of our graduating BSW students. Just as I saw what seemed to be the sudden change of leaves last week, this is what happens with our students. All of a sudden (or so it seems to us) they are ready to graduate and move into the world as social work professionals or transition into graduate school.

The changes in our students are mostly not dramatic but come gradually. All of the elements are in place, semester by semester, as they gain new knowledge, understand more about human nature, and have opportunity after opportunity to participate in service learning. Ultimately, then, they focus all of their desires and commitments on their field placements as they practice in the real world the things that have been taught in the past four years.

What *is* dramatic, though, is that one day, in that last semester of undergraduate education, our students reveal that they *have* changed. We do not know this because they announce it or write it to us. In what appears to be as sudden as the changing of the color of leaves in autumn, so do the vibrant layers of our

students' personalities and hard-won maturity "suddenly" emerge. Watching this metamorphosis is one of the joys of being in this educational endeavor together – it truly is a team effort!

Change in our students' lives means:



The May 2008 graduating class of BSW students.

- being aware of keeping someone's life story confidential.
- subjecting oneself to professional supervision and instruction that is meant to strengthen understanding of what it means to practice social work with the rigorous ethics and integrity.
- taking on the shared responsibility of a person's, family's, organization's, or community's life.
- sharing the burdens of another without having those burdens overwhelm you as a caring professional.
- learning to invest oneself and all of one's professional training in someone else.
- hearing the critique of peers as helpful to your growth as a caring professional.

• learning that it is truly the function of a caring professional to create an environment of empowerment in which others can thrive.

Yes, by this time of the semester, our students are prepared to change

the world because *they* have changed! At a recent event, two of our BSW students shared about what made them choose social work as a major. One said that she wanted to change the mental health system. She said that people with mental health issues needed to have things around them that caused them to be joyful – things like colored walls, windows and colorful plants. Her goal in doing social work is to *change* the practices of mental health institutions.

Another student shared that she chose social work because she wants to help students in the public schools in Texas by instituting *change* in the public school system. After she adds a law degree to her social work degree, she wants

to work toward becoming the Director of Education for the State of Texas in order to bring about the *change* that she understands is needed to help so many families who are poor.

Just as the green leaves of summer need to have just the right environmental conditions to change into a blaze of glorious colors, so it is with our BSW graduates. Because of the right environmental conditions of solid teachers and practitioners, financial support, encouraging and loving friends and family members, and consistent prayers on their behalf, our BSWs are ready to show the world their truest colors – that they have changed from students into social work professionals. What a blessing!



Vicki Hansen (center), executive director of NASW/TX, was hosted by Ester Flores (left), director of baccalaureate field education, and Erma Ballenger (right), director of graduate field education.



Social work students (from left) Rebecca McNabb, Heather Hughes and Sally Neeley.



DYER ETHICS WORKSHOP

More than 150 area social work practitioners, students and faculty attended the Dyer Ethics Workshop Oct. 2 at the Region 12 Education Service Center. Vicki Hansen, executive director of NASW/TX, presented this year's topic on "Ethics in Action: Texas Law for the Social Worker." Social work students in the photo at left are Rachel Proctor (from left), Natalie Woods, Sarah Viviani and Courtney Drew. Below, members from the community visit before the workshop begins.



BILINGUAL SCHOLARS TO PROMOTE MENTAL WELLNESS

*By Dennis Myers, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, and
Erma Ballenger, Director of Graduate Field Education*

Esther Castro, a current MSW concentration student, knows all about the struggles of Spanish-speaking persons who deal daily with mental health challenges. A close relationship with an uncle with autism enriched her growing up years and formed her mission as a social worker. She watched as her childhood friend endured the hurtful reactions of an unresponsive and uninformed community. These images of ignorance and unmet needs motivated her to champion Spanish-speaking persons facing disruptions in mental and emotional health.

More than ever there is a need for social workers who share Esther's remarkable commitment. The call for bilingual social workers is growing locally and nationally. Spanish-speaking persons comprise our state's largest ethnic population. The U.S. Census Bureau recently reported that the number of Hispanics living in Texas reached 8.6 million, 36 percent of the state's 2007 population. Spanish-speaking professionals are under-represented in social work and other mental health professions, making it less likely that mental health services address the cultural strengths and needs of these populations.

The Baylor School of Social Work seeks to answer the call for social work students who, like Esther, possess a deep interest in engaging the mental health challenges of Spanish-speaking persons and communities. The School wants to prepare future social work leaders with professional, cultural and linguistic

competencies to prevent and alleviate barriers to mental wellness and quality of life. Fortunately, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health also recognizes that

in Texas for one year after graduation.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health named four Baylor School of Social Work MSW students as recipients of

the inaugural bilingual program. Esther Castro was included as one of these four scholars for 2008-2009, tangible affirmation of her desire to be a difference-maker in communities where mental illness is often ignored, undiagnosed

and untreated. The three other MSW concentration year awardees are Abbie Sumrall, Flor Avellaneda and Frances Rodriguez.

In the next three years, it is anticipated that the School will be able to support and prepare 16 MSW students for this unique mission. These students will receive a total of \$168,000 in stipend and tuition remission funds.

In partnership with the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, the School is living into its vision for social work leaders prepared to serve Spanish-speaking populations, locally and globally. Because of this initiative, Baylor social work graduates will be actively creating a state and world where Spanish-speaking persons like Esther's uncle can experience mental and emotional wellness and quality of life.

Four MSW students named Hogg Scholars



Frances Rodriguez



Flor Avellaneda



Esther Castro



Abbie Sumrall

Students must be bilingual (Spanish and English), involved in field placements that promote mental health for Spanish-speaking persons, receive full tuition and fees for the Fall and Spring semesters, and agree to provide bilingual mental health services in Texas for one year after graduation.

"The School is living into its vision for social work leaders prepared to serve Spanish-speaking populations."

Spanish-speaking Texans with mental health challenges are underserved by professional social workers and have taken an unprecedented step to reverse this trend.

During the summer of 2008, the Foundation initiated the Bilingual Mental Health Scholarship Program for Accredited Social Work Programs, offering scholarships to qualified MSW students. The scholarship program invites schools to apply for three-year grants (\$88,000) to fund stipend and fees for qualified MSW concentration students. Students must be bilingual (Spanish and English), involved in field placements that promote mental health for Spanish-speaking persons, receive full tuition and fees for the Fall and Spring semesters, and agree to provide bilingual mental health services



Appreciation for Latinos shapes career

"I am willing to learn in any way to be the best bilingual social worker possible."

Abbie Sumrall has a memory of Disney World unlike that of most. She remembers seeing its spires as a backdrop to the low-income Latino neighborhood where she volunteered one summer in a children's sports camp.

"The kids would come to the camp and just be crying because they couldn't communicate with us," says the concentration-year MSW student. "They just didn't understand what was going on and it was so frustrating for them."

Although Abbie is not Hispanic herself, she believes there is a need for non-Hispanics to learn the culture and serve this community. "I am not Hispanic by ethnicity and therefore I recognize that I must always be learning new things about the culture and making sure I am effectively practicing with Latinos," she says. "I do not, however, think this will limit me because I am willing to learn and grow in any way that I need to be the best bilingual social worker possible."

Fluent in Spanish, Abbie spent the last semester of her undergraduate career practicing social work in Cuernavaca, Mexico. "I was so thrilled to learn from Hispanics and what it is like to be on the other side of the border. I would like to go back to Mexico and advocate within the government on behalf of families there," she says.

She has studied many of the issues that impact this population, including immigration, NAFTA and different sub-cultures within the Latino group. She also has taught English as a Second Language and tutored Hispanic children.

Because of her commitment to the Latino population and her academic accomplishments, Abbie was one of four Baylor School of Social Work students to be selected as a Hogg Foundation Spanish Speaking Student Scholar (*see story on preceding page*). As such, she commits to serving the mental health needs of Latino persons in Texas for a minimum of one year after graduating from the MSW program.

"I have learned so much about the needs of this diverse community and how they have become so marginalized in our state. My passion continued to grow as I learned the history between the United States and Mexico and saw the long background of discrimination against a people that once inhabited part of the United States," she says.

With a concentration in family and children at the School, Abbie said she would love to work with Latino families on both sides of the Mexico border, helping to provide them with skills and resources to meet their mental health needs in order to promote healthy relationships

in the home. She also is considering teaching as an adjunct to further raise awareness of the needs of this population. After her year in Texas required by the scholarship, Abbie would like to move to Mexico and work with Athletes in Action, a sports ministry in Mexico City. "I can see myself living a life that will go back and forth across the border," she says.

Abbie, who will marry in June, will spend her spring semester in a field placement in Chicago and then return to Texas for her yearlong commitment to the Hogg Foundation.

"I have had many experiences that have opened my heart to the many strengths, joys and pains of this population," she says. "For me to not serve them in my profession would be like closing a door on family members who have changed my perception of the world." – Marissa Moorehead, MSW student

Photos: Abbie with the family she stayed with in Cuernavaca (left) and with one of the orphaned children she worked with while there.

SSW ALUMNI NEWS

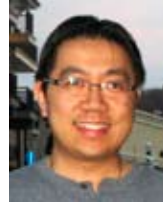


Michelle (Beale King) Broadwater (BASW 1999) is a program director responsible for supervising social workers for Communities in Schools of Greater Tarrant County. She received her Master's degree in Social Work Administration in 2002 from University of Texas at Arlington. Michelle is married to Rob and they have two children, Austin (6) and Addison (5 months).

Marian Cooper (BSW 2007) received her Master's of Social Work in May 2008 from New York University. She is now working as a foster care social worker at New Alternatives for Children in New York City.

Lance Summey (MSW 2008) is working in India and Thailand providing oversight to a philanthropic ministry that addresses the needs of families and children living in poverty. Lance primarily quantifies, manages and monitors the programs' initiatives. In India, a 30-person native staff runs the support programs for the slums of Hyderabad, where most people live on less than \$1 a day. This programs includes: a 200-student primary school for K through fourth grade; two nursery schools caring for 160 children; two infant care centers caring for 40 children; a medical clinic serving 5,000 people in adjoining slums; a community center educating 100 adults per day in micro enterprise, local language literacy and English conversation; a roving health education group providing classes for 60 people a day; and a daily meal program for 400 children. In Thailand, the ministry has been commissioned by the Thai government to develop and oversee housing and programming for the 5- to 10-year-old girls they have rescued from the Cambodian human trafficking trade.

Tsz Wai Lau (BASW 2003) earned his Master's of Social Work from GWB/Washington University in St. Louis, MO, in December 2004. He is a hospice social worker providing care for terminally ill patients and their families. Tsz Wai and his wife are anxiously waiting for their first baby's arrival this coming April.



Stephen Johnson (BSW 2008) is participating in Mission Year, which is a year long program that involves living in an urban neighborhood where Christian young people volunteer, worship, and love their neighbors. He is serving in Clarkston, Georgia with the Fugees Family, Clarkston Community Center, and Friends of Refugees. You can read more about Stephen's work in his blog: www.missionyear.org/blog/stephenjohnson



Melissa Ishio (BASW 1986/MSW 2008) spent the summer volunteering as an English teacher at Christian children's camps in Japan, where she and her husband and two sons live. Melissa also taught in Korean summer camps where she was joined by some MSW colleagues, including (from left in photo) **Kelly Baker** (MSW 2008), **Micah Tarry** and **Jane Upshaw**, current MSW students. In August, Melissa began working as a New Parent Support Home Visitor at the Atsugi Naval Air Facility. ihmelissa@aol.com

Nicole Back (MSW 2007) is one of 17 students and alumni of national schools of social work to be selected for the inaugural Alumni and Student Committee on Leadership in Aging, an initiative of the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.



Nicole was a recipient of the Hartford Foundation scholarship while at Baylor. With her faculty mentor, Nicole conducted ground-breaking research on the grief responses of persons with Alzheimer's for her graduate capstone project.

Members of the Leadership in Aging Committee were selected for their talent, demonstrated leadership capacity and dedication to the field, according to the Social Work Leadership Institute, New York, NY, www.socialworkleadership.org, a project of the New York Academy of Medicine www.nyam.org.

Jessika Doolittle Ahlberg (MSW 2008) is working as a social worker in the adoptions program with San Diego's Child Welfare Services. She also is directing an independent study for three students for a social policy course at Hope International University in Fullerton, CA. jessika_ahlberg@yahoo.com

Rebecca Fredricks (MSW 2008) is the admissions director at Oak Crest Manor in Michigan. She does resident assessments, tours, health fairs, networking and marketing. rfredricks@juno.com

Daphne Paul (MSW 2008) graduated from Commissioned Officer Training Aug. 1 at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. She then moved to Fort Walton Beach, FL, where she begins rotations in alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment, family advocacy, and mental health. amhere4u@usa.net



KELLEY NEW RECRUITMENT, CAREER SERVICES DIRECTOR

Tracey Kelley has been named the School of Social Work's new Director of Recruitment and Career Services, effective Jan. 5. She fills the position vacated by Vicki Northern, who left in November to do clinical work at the VA Medical Center in Waco.

"I am delighted at the privilege of returning to campus full time and am excited about my new role within the Social Work family," said Kelley, who has a BBA (2000) and MSW (2005) from Baylor and has been a part-time lecturer at the School for the past two years. "This opportunity will allow me to welcome students into our programs but also assist them as they leave, obtain jobs and bring about change through professional social work practice."

Kelley comes to the School after serving as the Guardianship Program Director at Friends for Life, a nonprofit agency that serves elderly, people with disabilities and caregivers through an adult daycare center, guardianship, independent living, money management and quality-of-life programs. In that role, she supervised a staff of 14 in five offices across 39 Texas counties in coordinating referrals, delivery of case management services and estate management with adult guardianship clients.

"Tracey brings experience, strong leadership, energy and effectiveness to this vital area," said Dennis Myers, associate dean of graduate studies, who will co-supervise the position. "Her commitment to the School, the recruitment team, prospective students and our shared vision led her our way."

As an undergraduate at Baylor, she was a student worker in the School of



Social Work and has continued an affiliation with the School since. In spring 2008, she traveled to Moldova for the School and taught social work to students at the College of Theology and Education in Chisinau, the country's capitol (*see related story on page 12*).

In her role at the School, Kelley will be responsible for recruiting students for the baccalaureate and master's degree programs, representing the School at recruitment events, advising potential students, and coordinating the work of a student recruitment team. She also will maintain and expand career-networking opportunities for graduates of the School.

CALENDAR

JAN	23	BOA Meeting
FEB	9-11	Next Big Idea
MAR	15-16	NASW Annual Practice Conference, Las Vegas
APR	23 24	SSW Family Dinner BOA Meeting
MAY	5 15 16	MSW Practice Colloquium Convocation Commencement



CALLING ALL ALUMNI

Let us hear from you!

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Photos cannot be returned.) Mail to: Krista Barrett, managing editor, School of Social Work, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97320, Waco, TX 76798-7320.

Or send via e-mail to Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name (at graduation and now) _____

Year of Graduation/Degree _____

Are you a Baylor or Carver School graduate? _____

Mailing address _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____

Title or Position/Updates (career, family, etc.): _____

CARVER

Eunice Harvey (1953) is a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Two of her five daughters are missionaries in Italy and Thailand. For 26 years Eunice worked for SBC Foreign Mission Board, where she served in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe, Africa). After retirement from SBC, she worked as a payroll clerk in a local factory in Sedalia, MO, until 1990.

MOLDOVA COALITION

Second Summit furthers collaborations to assist orphans

The Baylor School of Social Work hosted its second annual summit on Moldova Nov. 3 – 4. The summit is part of the ongoing collaboration between the School and the College of Theology and Education (CTE) in the country's capitol city of Chisinau.

This spring, three MSW students will travel to Moldova for their field placements to work directly with the Moldovan government, UNICEF and Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI) to reduce the number of Moldovan children in orphanages.

Several representatives from agencies providing services to Moldova were present at the November meeting. For the second year, Oleg Turlac, professor of theology and spiritual formation at CTE and coordinator of the partnership with Baylor School of Social Work, was in attendance. With the partnership with the School, Turlac says he hopes to see 12 students graduate in 2011 with the first MSW degrees ever granted in his country.

"His insights into the history of Eastern Europe and firsthand knowledge of conditions in Moldova are extremely important in keeping the discussions grounded in both reality and hope," said Preston Dyer, professor emeritus and coordinator of the Moldova Initiative and one of the first School of Social Work faculty members to teach at CTE in 2005.



Those attending this year's summit were Leah Smith (front row, from left), Joy Pfanner, Oleg Turlac and Jon Merryman. Back row (from left) are Dearing Garner, Cindy Dawson, Genie Dyer, Preston Dyer, Tracey Kelley, Charlie and Joy Fenner, and Megan Nichols.

The success of the first Moldovan summit last year resulted in a strong spirit of cooperation that led to the formation of a new organization, The Moldova Coalition. Several new initiatives developed including an agreement between CERI and a Baylor faculty member, Kim Kotrla, to explore a federal grant to address trafficking in Moldova; a commitment by Sweet Sleep, an agency that provides beds and bedding for orphans in Moldova, to develop a blog for the new organization (<http://moldovacoalition.blogspot.com>); an agreement between CERI and the School that will make it possible to send three social work interns to Moldova in the spring of 2009; and an agreement to meet again.

Joy Pfanner, Megan Nichols and Leah Smith are concentration-year students who will graduate in May with their MSW degrees. They will spend their final semester this spring in Moldova working with Garner, chief executive officer of CERI. Part of CERI's plans for the country is to provide shoes and socks

for every child in an orphanage before cold weather arrives. He also reported on the work of Jon Meyer, a CERI social worker who is heading up the work with the Moldovan government and UNICEF to reduce the number of orphans in Moldova by 50 percent.

Jon Merryman from Sweet Sleep presented a video of that organization's work in an orphanage in Moldova, and Joy Fenner, former executive director of the Texas Woman's Missionary Union and outgoing president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, reported that WMU is now sponsoring a Woman's Job Training Corp program in Moldova to train and find jobs for women. Cindy Dawson of Global Women, a woman's missions agency, discussed their support of two CTE faculty members who have developed a program to help women escape sex trafficking.

Visit the School of Social Work Web site often to catch the latest news:

**[www.baylor.edu/
social_work](http://www.baylor.edu/social_work)**



Greater Houston Area ESL Ministry Conference

Saturday, March 7, 2009
Champion Forest Baptist Church
15555 Stuebner Airline Road
Houston, TX 77069

Literacy ConneXus and the Baylor Center for Literacy invite you to participate in a conference for those who teach ESL to internationals, immigrants and refugees through churches and universities. Textbooks will be on display and representatives will be available to answer questions about curriculum, local area programs and resources.

Registration: 8 a.m.
Workshops: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact: Lester@literacyconnexus.org
or at 817-696-9898 or call 713-661-2650

EVENT EXPLORES NEW FOCUS ON MINISTRIES

Kay Warren, Lynne Hybels among featured guests

Some of the biggest names in global social advocacy will gather with leading scholars and church mission practitioners for The Next Big Idea conference Feb. 9-11, 2009, at Baylor University. The inaugural event is being jointly sponsored by Baylor School of Social Work, George W. Truett Theological Seminary and the Leadership Network.

Featured guests include Kay Warren, renowned HIV/AIDS activist and author, and co-founder with husband, Rick Warren, of Saddleback Church; Lynne Hybels, social activist and best-selling author and co-founder with husband, Bill Hybels, of Willow Creek Community Church; and Eric Swanson and Rick Rusaw, co-authors of *The Externally Focused Church* and *Living a Life on Loan*.



transforming ideas into action

**Early-bird registration
fee extended to Jan. 16**

CRISIS RESPONSE TRAINING

Last Sept. 19, Waco was preparing to offer a three-day training workshop for crisis responders. It had to be cancelled, however, to respond to persons being relocated in the Waco area after Hurricane Ike.

The Critical Incident Psychosocial Intervention Team Training Event, offered by the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District, now has been rescheduled for Jan. 16-18. This time, it also will be available as an elective for credit to BSW and MSW students at the School of Social Work.

Social work professor Jim Ellor and Maggie Ellor, BSW student, and Walai Jantawiboon, MSW student, are helping to facilitate the training, for which 56 people have enrolled, including 20 social work students. The training prepares individuals to respond during times of crisis with spiritual and emotional support, and it is available to professionals in social work, psychology, counseling and ministry, as well as professionally trained students and clergy members in the Waco area.

"It's a need churches have expressed to us," Ellor said. "People start internalizing their stress, and we need to be able to create a catharsis within the group so that they turn to each other for support." Upon completion, participants will receive two certificates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and one from the Red Cross.

"When Katrina hit, we had only limited systematic psychosocial spiritual support for evacuees," Ellor said. "We don't want that situation to repeat itself."

Additional levels of certification are available, but are not offered at this time in Waco, Ellor said. There are plans for the initial training, however, to be repeated in the future.

The current training session is full for Jan. 30, however, other workshops will be made available in the late summer.

Please contact Kelly Craine [KellyC@ci.waco.tx.us] at the Waco/McLennan County Health District Offices to be notified of future workshops.

"When I read a report on the research that Diana Garland had done of the impact of volunteerism on faith development, I thought I had discovered gold," said Swanson, "I told her, 'We in the church desperately need this information.'"

"What engages families and nurtures their spiritual maturity - for children, youth and the elderly? The answer is opportunities to live their faith through service together in meaningful community ministries. That's where the new focus should be," said Garland, dean of the Baylor School of Social Work and a leading social scientist in the study of faith and its impact on families and communities.

The event will feature more than a dozen workshops on topics such as community renewal, orphan care, human trafficking, mentoring youth, the missional church, homelessness, economic development in underdeveloped countries, and much more. Worship celebrations will be held nightly.

Register online at www.baylor.edu/bigidea or contact Kimberly_Schlesinger@baylor.edu or at 254-710-3854.

www.baylor.edu/bigidea



UNITY MARCH

The School of Social Work was well represented at the March for Unity held Nov. 14 on the Baylor campus. Several organizations coordinated the silent march in response to the discovery of a rope in a tree and threats and racial slurs that followed the election night victory of Barack Obama. Further investigation disclosed that the rope was a failed attempt at a tree swing. The group ended its march at Pat Neff where Interim Baylor President David Garland (above) and Dub Oliver, vice president for student life, spoke briefly. School of Social Work Dean Diana Garland (above, right), listens to the comments of Ryan Phipps, president of the Association of Black Students. At right, several faculty and staff from the School participate in the walk.



FALL PROJECTS

The School prepared almost 70 plates of home-baked Christmas goodies to distribute Dec. 8. Assembling plates at left are Marilyn Gusukuma (from left), Jeanie Fitzpatrick and Judi Stolz. The School also collected close to 200 pounds of food (below) for the Staff Council's university-wide Food for Families drive.





CHRISTMAS PARTY



Faculty, staff and families gathered Dec. 16 to celebrate the holidays. Santa Claus (above, left) came by to welcome a special little one to her first Christmas, Carys Arguetta. (Above, right) The Three Kings - or maybe Tenors - Michael Sherr (from left), Dennis Myers and Jim Ellor are joined by a Little Prince, Benjamin Roldan. Gracie Sherr (right) concentrates on her cookie decorating technique. Kimberly Schlesinger and Dennis (left) take top honors in the evening's "Tackiest Christmas Clothes Ever!" contest. Folks load up at the potluck dinner (below).





Sprinkles, anyone?

Kimberly Schlesinger helps Olivia and Zoe Klawetter decorate cookies at the School's Christmas Party Dec. 16.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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