

## Homecoming Fun

We had a great turn out for the School's Homecoming reception Oct. 24, held this year in the Speight Plaza Courtyard. We invited everyone to celebrate the 40th year of social work education at Baylor with a birthday cake, new banners on the building where we are officed, and some fun give-aways.



### AMONG THE GREEN AND GOLD

Recent MSW graduates returning to say hello were (from left) Sally Neeley, Abbie Sumrall Mueller (center) and Kimberly Stutts with Gaynor Yancey.

# CALENDAR *of events*

## JANUARY

- 17 Martin Luther King Observance
- 21-22 Board of Advocates Meeting

## MARCH

National Social Work Month

## APRIL

- 19 Phi Alpha Induction Ceremony
- 29 SSW Family Dinner
- 30 Board of Advocates Meeting

## MAY

- 4 MSW Practice Colloquium
- 14 Convocation
- 15 Commencement



# *community* CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Tackling a Texas-sized problem

# NO ONE GOES HUNGRY

TEXAS HUNGER INITIATIVE  
EVENT INVITES ALL TO  
THE TABLE +

BAYLOR  
UNIVERSITY

A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH  
TODD STAPLES, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## In our community

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



### NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

We're excited to send you this redesigned, four-color edition of our School newsletter. We think it conveys the energy of our students and the School's dynamic degree programs and research agenda. We hope you'll find this issue an inspiring and useful tool to help you share our stories. When you've finished reading it, pass it along to friends and colleagues!

### EVOLVING CURRICULUM

We were honored to have as our guest Sept. 17 Dr. Julia Watkins, the executive director of the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting agency for social work higher education. As she spoke to us of the challenges that face our profession (see story on page 18), she also referred to the changing

accreditation requirements for social work education programs. Heretofore, we were expected to deliver specified course content, but we are now being required to develop ways to measure what students actually learn – knowledge, skills, and values they acquire. It makes sense and we welcome the changes. Our faculty has been meeting weekly since last spring to overhaul our curriculum to have it ready for the classrooms by fall 2010.

### GLOBAL MISSION LEADERSHIP

One of the programs Dr. Watkins lauded is our Global Mission Leadership Initiative. She stressed the importance of social work higher education collaborating in new ways with global partners. This fall we welcomed our first three scholars in the GML program: Sovannara Moch and Sambo Klauth, from Cambodia, and Soo Han Yeoh from Malaysia. Their arrival prompted us to think of ways to help them integrate and share with other classmates about social work in their culture, and that led to a seminar class. We were overwhelmed by how many students wanted to come to this non-credit class! Read more about it on page 10.

### 40 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK

Finally, one wonderful thing is NOT different at the School. In fall 1969, Preston Dyer offered the first undergraduate social work class at Baylor. And this fall, 40 years later, Preston is still, gratefully, teaching in the School, now as professor emeritus. We celebrate Preston's vision those decades ago, and how it has come to fruition through hard work, commitment, and perseverance. Fall 2009 also marked the 10th anniversary of our first master's degree cohort.

Now we jump into a new year and a new semester. We cannot imagine what this year will bring, but we know whose we are and whom we serve. Join us with your thoughts, prayers and support as we move expectantly into this new year!

## community CONNECTION

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*At the Baylor School of Social Work,  
our students learn about believing in  
human dignity, the power of hope, the  
need for justice, caring as the foundation  
for effective change, and serving that  
transforms lives and communities.*

# Taking it to the pews

CHURCH NOT AS MUCH OF A SANCTUARY AS WE'D LIKE TO BELIEVE +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

DIANA GARLAND planned to go to Austin for a lunch meeting on Sept. 9, but when a reporter from *The Washington Post* and then from the *Chicago Tribune* both called for an interview before 9 a.m., she decided to change her plans.

That morning, the School of Social Work released to national media the findings of Dean Garland's three-year research on Clergy Sexual Misconduct with adults. By the end of that first day, Garland had conducted eight interviews and two days later, the story had more than 200 media postings.

"We really didn't know what to expect," said Garland, who conducted more than 80 personal interviews with survivors, their family and friends, and professionals for the study. "But the media attention has been great, and that's what we hoped for. We wanted this information to go directly to the people who sit in the pews."

*"These statistics tell us clearly this is not an incidence of a 'few bad apples.' It is widespread, national and no respecter of denominations."*

The study found that one in every 33 women who had attended a congregation in the past month had been the object of sexual advances by a religious leader at some time in their adult lives. A staggering 92 percent of those advances were made in secret, and 67 percent of the offenders were married to someone else at the time of the advance.

"Those are sobering statistics. Sobering for women, and sobering for the church, which is supposed to be sanctuary ... a safe place," Garland said.

The study is based on 3,550 respondents to a question set included in the 2008 General Social Survey, an in-person survey of a nationally representative sample of English- or Spanish-speaking adults. The GSS is conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. The personal interviews included representatives of 17 different Christian and Jewish affiliations. The vast majority of the offenders were male with female victims, but lesbian and homosexual advances did exist.

"These statistics tell us clearly that the incidence of this abuse is not the result of a 'few bad apples,'" Garland said. "It is widespread, national and no respecter of denomination."

Congregation members need to understand this offense as an "abuse of power," Garland said, and not an "affair" between two consenting adults. "It can never be consensual when one party is a religious leader. They have a spiritual authority that comes with the role and that is very hard for a layperson to distrust," she said.

Garland said the study did not explore motivation of the offenders but focused on the social context within the church setting that allows abuse to occur. She found five common themes that describe the social characteristics of congregations in which CSM occurs:

► **Family members, friends and victims ignored warning signs.**

When people saw the pastor engaging in inappropriate behavior, they mistrusted their own instincts to believe this could not be true of a respected religious leader.

► **A "culture of niceness."** Being nice to one another is the norm in a congregational setting. We prefer to give a person the "benefit of the doubt," and overlook social indiscretions in order to avoid embarrassment.

► **Ease of private communication.** In almost every instance of the personal interviews, the privacy of e-mail, cell phones and text-messaging enabled and furthered an intimate relationship.

► **No oversight.** Religious leaders have great autonomy in their roles, able to come and go as they please and to maintain an office that is isolated from observation.

► **Multiple roles.** In addition to the role of religious leader, many pastors also function as friend, counselor, or spiritual director. They have intimate knowledge of a congregant's personal life and struggle that can make the congregant vulnerable and dependent.

► **Trust in the sanctuary.** Congregants let down their guard in congregations, expecting and believing that self-protection is not necessary in a sanctuary. Because of this, they share private information with a religious leader they would not share with others.

Garland said that through the years she had experienced the fall-out of CSM in congregations as either a friend, a counselor, a church member or the wife of the after-pastor called in to help the church heal.

continued on page 13



## Guthrie honored

**Plaque dedication held at Baylor in November**

Robert Lee “Bob” Guthrie was 54 years old and surely a confirmed bachelor, or so his family thought, when he announced in 1954 that he was marrying 41-year-old Martha Dee Schwartz.

“We were floored when we received that news,” remembers Gene Weeks of Athens, GA., Mr. Guthrie’s niece.

It was the meeting of two highly intelligent minds, two people who met while serving in Germany after World War II. When they returned to the States, they made their life together in Dallas where he was a lawyer and she worked as an educator and social worker. Mrs. Guthrie died April 6, 2009, following her husband’s death in 1997.

In her last will and testament, Mrs. Guthrie bequeathed \$500,000 to the School of Social Work at Baylor University to establish The Robert Lee and Martha Dee Guthrie Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund. The proceeds are designated to provide assistance to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a degree in social work and focusing on gerontological studies. The gift translates to approximately \$25,000 annually for student scholarships.

“We are so touched that Mrs. Guthrie would entrust us with carrying on the continuum of care she provided to so many as a social worker serving the elderly,” said Diana R. Garland, dean of the School of Social Work.

“My aunt was very energetic and enthusiastic about everything she did,” Mrs. Weeks said. “She just had an ongoing passion to help people live out the fullest life possible.”

Robert Lee “Bob” Guthrie received his B.A. degree from Baylor University in 1921, and as a Rhodes Scholar, received



### **BAYLOR FAMILY RECOGNIZED**

Paul Schwartz and Gene Weeks, center, accepted a plaque honoring Robert Lee “Bob” and Martha Schwartz Guthrie on campus Nov. 7. With them for the occasion are, from left, Kristen Box, School of Social Work Director of Development; Abigale Dixon and Erica Reyes-Rosas, MSW students; and Helen Harris, senior lecturer.

his law degree from Oxford University in England. Martha received her B.E. degree from Mankato State Teachers College in 1938, an M.S.W from the University of Minnesota in 1947 and did postgraduate work at the University of Iowa and at Southern Methodist University.

The two met in Germany, where Martha was an educator and cultural attaché after serving as an American Red Cross worker and assistant field director during WWII. Robert was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in England and Germany and also with British forces based in North Africa. He was City

Major in the American-occupied town of Rossilini, Italy, and was awarded a Bronze Star for his involvement in an attack on Bremen, Germany.

“He wrote wonderful letters to us children [his nieces and nephew] from all the countries where he served,” Mrs. Weeks said. “They had such wonderful insights and observations, very thoughtful, very droll.”

Returning to Dallas after their service overseas, Mr. Guthrie continued practicing law and was elected the first president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

Mrs. Guthrie was a teacher at the

Hockaday School and then a social worker at the Dallas Council of Social Agencies, and later as director of the Hospitality House, an activity center that served older people.

After retiring, Mrs. Guthrie published two genealogy books on her ancestors and a collection titled "WWII Letters Back Home."

Mrs. Weeks remembers that her aunt and uncle were dedicated to each other and always very active physically, walking two miles each morning even into their later years.

"They were exceptional people," Mrs. Weeks said. "The two of them together were a dynamic force."

When Mr. Guthrie entered a nursing

*"My aunt just had  
an ongoing passion to  
help people live out the  
fullest life possible."*

home, Mrs. Weeks says that her aunt was dedicated to his care. "She spent two to three full days a week with him and became helpful not only to him but to all the people on his floor. She just took on her social worker role," she said.

Robert, Jim and brother, Edwin (Mrs. Weeks' father) grew up in Salado, Texas, where their father was the town druggist. All three sons graduated from Baylor University. Robert was a member of the Baylor University Heritage Club. Mrs. Weeks and one of her cousins also graduated from Baylor.

"I remember my freshman year in 1956 was my father's 40th class reunion at Baylor," she said.

The extended Guthrie family gathered at Baylor November 7 to dedicate a permanent plaque on campus in memory of Robert and

Martha. The group also enjoyed a guided tour of the university and an extended family reunion in Salado.

In addition to the bequest left to Baylor School of Social Work, Mrs. Guthrie also left a generous gift to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School to be applied toward Alzheimer's research.

— Vicki M. Kabat

### Ellor asked to join national project on preparedness

Associate Professor Jim Ellor has been asked to work with the Tarrant County Health Department on a national project to develop training and curriculum for radiological/nuclear disaster events.

The training is being developed

under the Advanced Practice Center program with the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the Centers for Community Diseases.

Materials will be targeted at public health practitioners and emergency response stakeholders nationwide. Live classroom training and evaluation is planned for spring 2010 with release of the new training in mid-2011.

Previous initiatives that investigated preparedness found serious gaps in behavioral and psychosocial training and exercise for nuclear/radiological disaster response and recovery.

Ellor was selected because of his work during the past two years with disaster mental health provision.

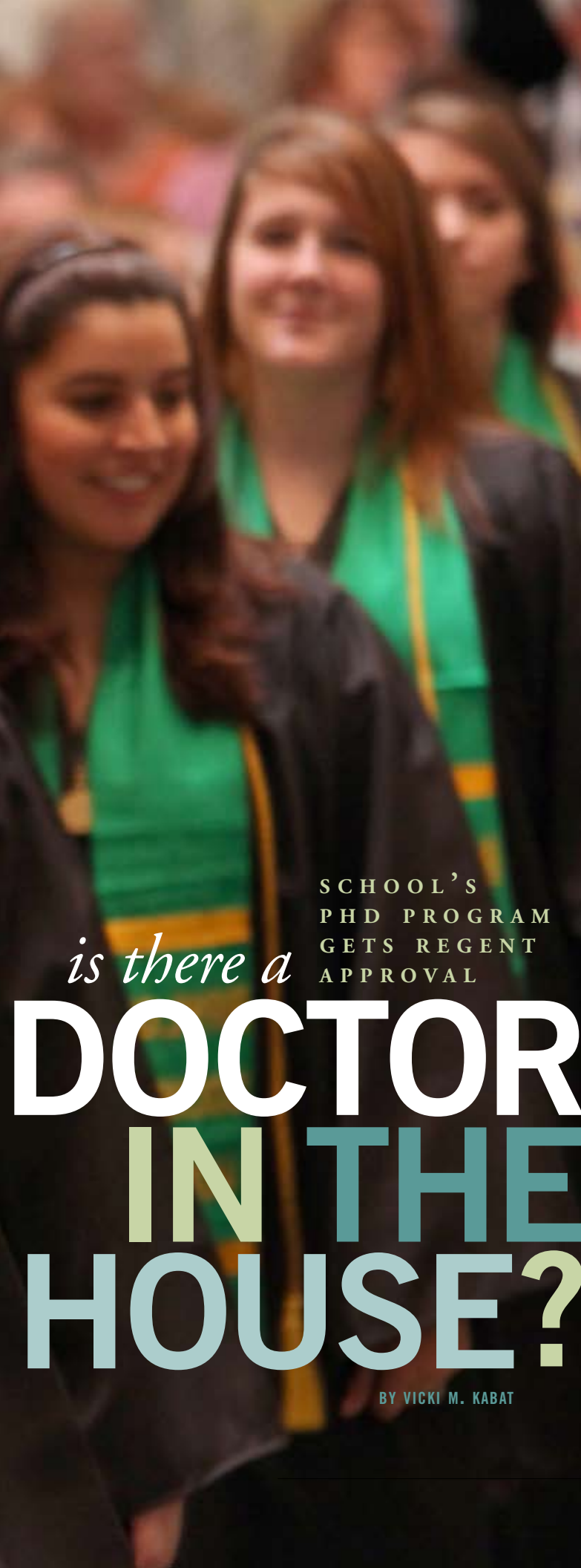


### MAKING THEIR MARK

On worldwide Red Hand Day, an initiative to stop the use of child soldiers, MSW students in Kim Kotrla's "Human Trafficking" class stamped their handprints on a poster to show their support of anti-child soldiering laws and sent the poster to Congress. This photo was posted on [www.redhandday.org](http://www.redhandday.org). The students who initiated this project were Kim Foster, Lacey DeJager, Renae Parsons and Stephanie Drum.







## BAYLOR SOCIAL FIRST COHORT IN 2011

The saying that “good things come to those who wait” proved true when the Board of Regents approved at its fall meeting the School of Social Work’s first doctoral degree program.

The “hybrid” program will include both on-campus and distance course work supported by University technology, with its first cohort of students to be admitted in fall 2011. The program requires 60 credit hours and will take four years to complete.

The School also offers baccalaureate and master degrees, including two dual degrees with Baylor’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

“We have been developing this proposal and refining it since 2002, so we are deeply excited about the program,” said Diana R. Garland, dean of the School of Social Work. “We are especially pleased at the vision Baylor has for a new approach to doctoral education that will allow us to use technology to bring students to campus virtually for some of their course work, and at the same time, maintain their leadership positions in the communities where they are currently serving.”

The emphasis of the PhD program will be on research and academic scholarship, not professional practice, Garland said. Studies will focus on three areas: intergenerational relations (children and families, and the aging); integration of religious faith with professional services; and social work in the context of congregations and religiously affiliated organizations.

These three specializations are particularly critical for the work for which the School will be preparing doctoral students: academic posts in social work programs and leadership of faith-based organizations around the world.

“Baylor School of Social Work is already a leader in social work research and model development, especially in the fields of congregations and faith-based organizations,” Garland said.

“Our doctoral students will contribute to that leadership and expand the contribution we are making to the field of social work and to the ministry of the church in ways that I can only begin to imagine.”

Larry Lyon, dean of Graduate Studies at Baylor, is pleased with the addition of the social work doctoral program.

“It fits exceptionally well with Baylor’s historic Christian mission and forward-looking research vision. This new program will further solidify Baylor’s position as a top Christian research university,” he said.

A committee within the School is reviewing applications for a director and staff positions for the program.

SCHOOL’S  
PHD PROGRAM  
GETS REGENT  
APPROVAL

*is there a*

# DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

BY VICKI M. KABAT



# alumni DOCTORS

**We asked our alumni to contact us if they had pursued doctoral degrees. Here are some updates.**

**SHANNON THOMAS** (BSEd 1996/MSEd 2002/Master's in Clinical Gerontology 2002) is pursuing her doctorate in Population (Community) Health/Health Studies at Texas Woman's University with the expectation of completing it in 2012.

**HOLLY CAROLE POPE VANSKOY** (BASW 1966) earned her PhD in research and development from the University of Texas at Austin, a member of UT's first doctoral class in 1986. She currently is the evaluator for a four-year federally funded HHS Abandoned Infants Assistance project in Austin and the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health's three-year statewide project to culturally adapt mental health evidence-based treatment for children and adults.

**RANDAL W. BOLDT** (MSG 1998/PsyD 2000) received his master's in gerontology from Baylor's Institute for Gerontological Studies before it became a part of the School of Social Work. He completed a master's and doctoral degree in psychology with the Baylor PsyD program in 2000 and became a clinical psychologist. He now works in Baylor's Counseling Center.

**ROSA BERUMEN-BLACK** (BASW 1997) is working toward a PhD in Health Care Administration at the University of Phoenix with the expectation of completing it in 2010. Her dissertation topic will be "Perceptions of Adult Patients with Chest Pain on Services Received in a Hospital Emergency Room." Rosa currently is working for Health and Human Services in Austin in the Department of Aging and Disability.

**SALLY B. KILGORE** completed her PhD in Social Service Administration in sociology in 1982 from the University of Chicago. She currently is president/CEO of Modern Red SchoolHouse Institute, which provides technical assistance to schools and districts.

**ASHLEY HINTON** (MSW 2009) will begin her doctorate in clinical psychology at University of Texas SW in fall 2010. Currently she is a child and family therapist with Providence of Texas.

**NOELLE LECRONE FIELDS** (MSW 2004) will complete her PhD in social work at Ohio State University in 2011. She is working as a research assistant on a project studying the caregivers of Holocaust survivors.



This particular doctoral program addresses a unique gap in social work education, Garland said. Of the 446 programs in the country, there is no other PhD program in a Christian university that focuses on faith and learning, professional leadership of the church's ministries, and social work education in a Christian context, she said.

Social workers have the potential to provide

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*"We want to keep our program sharply focused in order to do what we do best rather than attempting to meet a broader range of needs."*

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significant church leadership, relating social service and social action to the values and beliefs of the church community around the world, Garland said.

"A PhD program will enable us not only to offer education for this leadership but also to conduct research and develop theory that will move the profession forward in its ability to provide effective leadership and models of service in the church and faith-based organizations.

"We want to keep our program sharply focused in order to do what we do best rather than attempting to meet a broader range of needs for doctoral education," Garland said.

# It is always a joy

**GAYNOR YANCEY** Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies

ONE OF THE FUN THINGS in my job is getting to visit the BSW “Introduction to Social Work” course taught each semester. This is the foundation course for all students who want to learn about the social work profession. Some students attend already knowing they want to pursue social work while others are just considering it. Most are sophomores but there may also be juniors or even an occasional senior. My purpose in visiting with the students is to get to know them, share about the social work major, and to answer any questions they may have.

In this Intro course, students learn the history of the profession, what social work is and what social workers do, visit social agencies to see social workers in action, and learn about the ethics and values of the profession. It really is an interesting course! The course helps students identify what their hearts have been telling them about their desire to help people. For the first time, they start to learn the professionally based skills and knowledge necessary to help people.

*“One thing is for sure: They are committed to helping people, families, communities, and organizations that are marginalized.”*

As a part of this course, students write a paper that is a reflection of their values in relation to the values of the social work profession. In this assignment, students generally share about their ideological, family, faith and personal perspectives and how they align with what they are learning about the profession. These papers are at the heart of the application process. They provide the basis for the application discussions between an applicant and a social work professor and set the tone for what is to come in the process of learning how to be a professional social worker. The recommendation of the professor and having a 2.5 overall grade point average are two of the main determinants that are considered by the BSW Admissions Committee.

This year’s Introduction course gave me much to think about. First, this group is one of our largest cohorts in years with 47 students enrolled in the two sections, 43 of whom now have applied to the social work major for next fall. Second, there are nine men in this class – the most we have ever had in one course. This is cause for celebration! One of these men is a



senior who chose to start over after he discovered social work. Third, this group has more non-traditional students, meaning older than the traditional undergraduate student age of 18 to 22, in it than cohorts of the past. Fourth, I was reminded again of our need for classroom space. Combining the two sections for my visit meant that students were sitting on the floor and, literally, were packed wall to wall. Fifth, I was struck by the expressed concerns of this group overall – human trafficking, deaf populations, international social work, justice, mental health needs, and disabilities. The usual responses of working with the homeless, the poor, children, or families were expressed but not as much so as in past classes. About a third of this group wants to work overseas with specific populations in specific countries.

It is always a joy to have a new cohort of students who are interested in learning about social work. It is a joy to anticipate how this group will impact the future as social workers when they gain more knowledge and skills through our program. One thing is for sure: They are committed to helping people, families, communities, and organizations that are marginalized. They want to work throughout the world. They are confident and intentional with their focus. They are excited to be in their first social work course!

We are most blessed and honored because they have chosen us to walk alongside them for the preparation they need to accomplish their dreams and desires of becoming the best social workers they can possibly be!

## Cultural awareness

DENNIS MYERS, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

JENNIFER SMYER, Director, Global Mission Leadership Initiative (co-author)



*“Serendipity is putting a quarter in the gumball machine and having three pieces come rattling out instead of one – all red.” — Peter H. Reynolds*

**SERENDIPITY HAPPENS** when you are looking for something and accidentally discover another thing even better. The original intention was to provide three international scholars in the Global Mission Leadership (GML) Initiative with a series of cross-cultural, interactive, non-credit seminars. We hoped these seminars would provide students an opportunity to relate graduate course work to their cultural context, experience the support of international colleagues, and develop leadership skills for their future work in an international setting. This simple idea, however, has turned out to be a powerful, serendipitous experience for faculty and students, and a boon to our curriculum.

We wondered if these seminars might be of interest to other international and non-international students. Graduate students’ lives are already so busy, though, that we weren’t sure anyone would attend a seminar that did not count toward degree requirements. To our surprise, the invitation to join the conversation received an overwhelming response. In fact, students had to be turned away because of the size limits of the seminar.

There was a deep interest in engaging in conversations that made the American-centered curriculum relevant to the world. Under the leadership of Jennifer Smyer,

the seminar is revealing the hunger that students have for learning that extends across borders. Here are comments of some of the students who participated:

*“The seminar is a way for a student from a different culture to reflect on how social work can work in your own culture. It helps to feel like you are not the only one who is looking at social work from a different perspective.” — Rike Bowman from Germany*

*“I can reflect back to the situations in my country. This is like an applied knowledge and skills to see what would work and what would not work. So the meaningful experience is learning from experts from different areas and to apply in the situation of my country.” — Sambo Klauth from Cambodia*

*“It allows me to see things through and interpret my other classes using a cultural lens.” — Trevor Stephen from Grenada*

*“It allows me to learn from the students of other countries especially with regard to the status and development of the social work profession, cultural and social issues and policies in their countries.” — Soo-Han Yeoh from Malaysia*

The conversation and relationship among colleagues are the keys to the serendipity that energizes the seminar. Jabu Lunsford (Zimbabwe) values the relational benefits as reflected in the opportunities to “establish friendships and study partners.” Erin Castillo (United States) highlights the “dialogue between students from around the world,” while Joseph Yoon (United States) appreciates the transcultural lens the seminar interaction provides:

*“I’ve learned so much from my international colleagues about their countries of origin and the unique application of social work they utilize in their various social struggles. It’s been rewarding and enlightening to see the profession as a global movement in contrast to a local occurrence.”*

For some, the seminar provides an oasis from the newness of a strange culture and a place for refreshment and renewed energy. For Saleta Hopkins (United States) the course is “the highlight” of her week, and Xiomara O’Neill (Colombia) says it is “a rest in the midst of the stress” for her.

The cross-cultural seminar is a good idea that is reshaping the nature of social work education at Baylor. Faculty are inspired by our students who want to act globally, and we become energized with the prospect of a curriculum that informs international social work. Serendipitously, this hope for change in other places has also changed us in ways we are only beginning to understand.



# Hearts to heal

SUMMER MISSION TRIP LETS BSW STUDENT BUILD BRIDGES, MEND LIVES +

SALETA HOPKINS, MSW student

WITH A HEART for missions and the Middle East, BSW student Audrey Waggoner spent her summer helping a team of surgeons provide life-saving heart surgeries for Arab and Kurdish children.

The senior from North Carolina served with seven other students through the Preemptive Love Coalition (PLC), spending several weeks in Suliamaniyah, a portion of northern Iraq inhabited mostly by Kurds who were displaced during the war.

“Unlike Kabul and other areas of Iraq, Suliamaniyah is an area where the people

*“I felt honored to give something back — not just charity, but a long-term investment in saving lives.”*

love Americans and were excited to have us as their guests,” Waggoner said.

There is an ever-growing waiting list for children in Iraq who need these surgeries, and in a country struggling with war and other critical issues, the health care system is not equipped to meet the demand. According to the PLC website (<http://preemptivelove.org/>), the reason for the growing number of heart surgeries “remains a topic of great speculation, [but] experts have hypothesized that Saddam Hussein’s 281 chemical attacks on the Kurds of northern Iraq are a contributing factor to congenital heart disease in many today. Intra-family marriage is [also] still practiced by many today and probably contributes to the prevalence of these diseases.”



Waggoner says of her time in Iraq that “no two days were alike” but that she visited the children in the post-operation ward of the hospital, taught ESL (English as a Second Language), and assisted the grant writing team. The language barrier was rarely an issue, due in part to translators and the Kurdish language skills card she carried with her daily.

As a woman in the Middle Eastern country, Waggoner abided by cultural and religious differences of the area. She walked behind men, wore conservative clothing and was in by the 8 p.m. curfew.

One day during her visit, one of Waggoner’s ESL students invited her and other members of the team to her home for a traditional Kurdish meal and a party.

“Our main purpose there was to build bridges to better relationships between the Americans and Kurds,” she said. “Because so many of the Kurdish people already love Americans, this objective was not difficult.”

Waggoner discovered Baylor School of Social Work on a visit one summer to see her grandmother. She plans to enroll as an Advanced Standing MSW student this

summer. Her field placement this year is with Child Protective Services, where she assists with interviews and investigations of children who have been abused. She also was awarded the Hubler Endowment Scholarship given to individuals who dedicate themselves to the service of others through ministry and religion.

After finishing her MSW, Waggoner hopes to return to Iraq and other Muslim areas to apply her social work skills. “I’ve always believed that serving internationally is a beneficial choice for all involved,” she said.

“As I spent time in Iraq this summer, I felt more and more honored to be able to give something that’s really important — not just charity, but a long-term investment in saving lives.

“The experience definitely helped me to realize that God is a lot bigger than I am and what I thought He was. He is more powerful than any cultural barrier.”

# 'We just didn't talk about it'

MSW STUDENT'S PAST GIVES PURPOSE TO HER FUTURE +

VICKI MARSH KABAT



IT TOOK 30 YEARS and a crisis in her personal life for Shelley Curran, MSW concentration year student, to deal with the abuse she experienced as a child.

Once she did, she found herself, and she found her calling.

"When I experienced abuse as a child, my family never dealt with it," said Curran, 47, of Rowlett, a suburb of Dallas. "We just didn't talk about it."

Curran grew up, married husband Tim, and the couple had three children – Kayla, now 20; Steven, 18; and Christina, 15. She was a stay-at-home mom until 1993 when she began keeping the books for her husband's automotive collision repair equipment distributorship. It was also about this time that Shelley and Tim both became Christians. Shortly after, they began having trouble in their marriage.

"God was just getting hold of me, and I knew I had to deal with the abuse," Curran said. "We went to counseling together for awhile but it soon became evident I needed to continue on my own."

That transition wasn't an easy one for either of them. She continued working in the business and co-facilitating a woman's abuse recovery group in her church. After working for 11 years, ruptured discs in her neck and back forced her to quit.

"I thought I'd really found my niche working with sexual abuse victims, but my back pain wouldn't allow me to continue," she said. "I was really discouraged."

As she recuperated from surgeries to alleviate the pain and damage, she made a decision. She wanted to go back to college and get a degree.

"I loved working with Tim – I still do –

*"I want to provide a safe place where children can tell their stories ... and not have to wait 30 years like I did."*

but I never would have had the courage to tell him I didn't want to work in the business anymore. The back problems provided me the opportunity," she said.

She began at Dallas Baptist University in 2004 and during that time volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

She says her husband and kids are her biggest fans and cheerleaders. Married 24 years, Tim came with her to the MSW orientation last fall, and has stood by her all the way. "He says I worked

with him for 11 years and now it's his turn to support and encourage me."

She graduated from Dallas Baptist University in 2008 with a degree in psychology and a minor in sociology. That same summer, she visited Baylor and entered the MSW class in fall 2008.

"I could have easily gone to UTA

## adult LEARNING

Shelley Curran, who began graduate school at Baylor at age 46, shares some of her hard-earned insights on being a non-traditional student:

"I expected there would be more students my age. Knowing that I had kids almost the same age as my classmates ... that was a big factor for me. I didn't know whether to be their friend, peer, or parent figure."

"I can no longer pull an all-nighter!"

"I think when you're older, you take a little bit more of a risk. I'm definitely stepping out of my comfort zone."

"Your whole family has to be on board. I had an apartment in Waco my first year, and last spring I was here five days a week and only home on the weekend."

"I can't get used to calling professors by their first name. That's just not the way I was raised. I still can't do it with some of the older professors."

"It was really an adjustment to be in my first internship, to actually get back into a professional environment where I had supervisors and policies to deal with."

# snapshots

## homecoming 2009

(University of Texas at Arlington). It definitely is a lot closer, but I chose Baylor because I wanted to continue growing in my faith, and the fact that Baylor teaches how to integrate your faith with practice was really appealing to me,” she said.

Curran entered the program knowing that she wanted to counsel abused children.

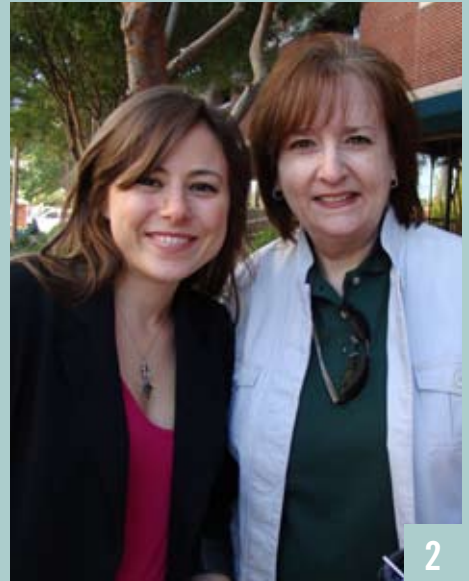
“I want to provide a safe place where children can tell their stories at the time it happens,” she said, “and not have to wait 30 years like I did.”

Curran’s field placement this year is at the Collin County Children’s Advocacy Center. “I love it. I feel like I’ve found my place. This is my calling.”

She is interested in becoming a forensic interviewer and providing therapy to abused children, but she realizes that this environment can trigger emotions. She spoke with her supervisor and asked him candidly if someone who had been abused could work successfully in this type of environment.

“He told me yes, and that when a situation triggered something for me, we would work through it together. That’s all I needed to hear,” she said.

“God has shown me through family and through professors that I’m on the right path at the right time of my life. I know there are some kids out there that I can help.”



The School celebrated Homecoming under a tent in the Speight Plaza and welcomed home lots of friends. Above 1 are MSW students Sheryl Roberts, Jamie McKinney and Patty Miller. Jane Upshaw, MSW 2009, 2 visits with professor Cindy Harr. The SSW hand clappers were a big hit with little Bears-to-be 3, distributed by Dean Diana Garland. 4 Megan Nichols, BSW 2008/MSW 2009 (left), greets cohort classmate and fellow MSW alumna Beth Kilpatrick.

### TAKING IT TO THE PEWS continued from page 3

“I just got sick and tired of seeing the pain and grief and division this situation causes. I wanted to know how prevalent it is and then find ways to prevent it from happening.”

The CSM study website contains several documents for religious leaders and congregation members to use as resources, including a sample code of ethics, an article on developing prevention strategies, a model legislative article to sustain church/state separation, and a Q&A of frequently asked questions.

“Our focus for this study is prevention. We love the church and the men and women who are called to serve the church as religious leaders,” Garland said. “If even one person is abused, it is unacceptable.”

► To learn more about the study, articles published, curriculum available and other resources on this subject, visit [www.baylor.edu/clergysexualmisconduct](http://www.baylor.edu/clergysexualmisconduct)



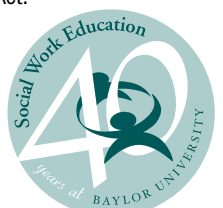


## Party like it's 1969

The School is celebrating 40 years of social work education at Baylor all this academic year, and we kicked off the year with an all-school party in our best '69 tie-dye and headbands.

**1** MSW students (from left) Andrew Trujillo, Sambo Klauth and Trevor Stephen. **2** Erma Ballenger (left) and Angela Fields get their groove on. **3** Judith Stolz (left), daughter, Anna Wilson, and grandchildren Chase and Cadence pose with Joy. **4** Rob Rogers (left) is no less amazed than we all were as Dennis Myers discovered his inner hippie in this rendition of the YMCA song. **5** Gaynor Yancey, in tie-dyed splendor, dishes up the beans and brisket.

# snapshots







6

### A plate date

Faculty and staff brought homemade goodies to assemble Christmas plates to deliver to 70 offices on campus that help the School throughout the year. Eric Weeden 6 is on ribbon duty and 7 student worker Sarah McClung (from left), Tracey Kelley and Sam Oakley dish up cookies and smiles.



7

### CSWE trip

MSW students who attended the national Council on Social Work Education conference in November were (from left): Sambo Klauth, Soo Han Yeoh, Trevor Stephen, Jabu Lunsford, Saleta Hopkins, Raymond Adams and Erin Castillo 8.



8



### Tying one on

A project generated from Kim Kotrla's "Human Trafficking" class was held Nov. 17 at the Baylor-UT football game. Purple armbands were distributed as a way to bring awareness to the problem of global human trafficking. MSW students (from left) are Saleta Hopkins, Kristen Terry and Sovannara Moch.

## The story of two gifts

FACULTY AND STAFF SURPRISED EACH OTHER AT CHRISTMAS +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

### IN A STORY REMINISCENT OF

O'Henry's story, "The Gift of the Magi," faculty and staff at Baylor University's School of Social Work surprised each other this holiday with their choice of gifts.

No hair was cut and no tortoiseshell combs were given, but Dean Diana Garland could hardly have been any more surprised than were Jim and Della in that classic Christmas story.

It has been a tradition at the School for staff members to make a monetary or material contribution to a nonprofit agency or other worthy cause they have selected as a way to honor the faculty at the School.

Likewise, the faculty has traditionally contributed to a fund to provide a small gift for each staff member.

It always has been a pleasant surprise to each group what the final contribution is. One year, the staff made dozens of infant sleepers for children in orphanages in the cities of Kramatorsk and Kherson in the Ukraine. Another year, they collected gift items for residents of an elder care facility.

"We decided several years ago that the best way we could honor and 'gift' our faculty was to contribute to people our faculty teach our students

to honor and serve," said Jeanie Fitzpatrick, assistant to the dean and organizer of the yearly staff gift.

As the faculty group and the staff group busily made their secret plans for gifting one another, an unexpected synchronicity was occurring – one that became apparent just days before the university went on break for the holiday.

"I received two separate e-mails, one from each group, announcing what their gift was, and I didn't know whether to laugh out loud or fall on my knees in gratitude," Garland said.

Each group had collected donations to contribute to the School's recently announced campaign to endow the School, given in the other's honor.

Kristen Box, the School's Director of Development, was astonished as well. "That both of these groups feel so strongly about educating future social workers – and is willing to back it with money – is pretty amazing. It's something development people dream about!"

Garland said the faculty and staff's commitment to the School and its work was no surprise to her, "but these contributions to our endowment campaign brought tears to my eyes."

## outside THE BOX

**THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS** that I have been with the School as Director of Development have been a delight for me. I have been able to combine my social work training and business skills to support the students, faculty and staff as they carry out their passion to serve others and fulfill their individual callings.

In Isaiah, we are told to loose the chains of injustice, set the oppressed free and help those in need. I believe Baylor's SSW equips students to effectively carry out this mission. We offer tangible ways for individuals to come alongside students such as Sambo Klauth as he prepares to go back to his home country of Cambodia and develop programs to prevent human trafficking.

When you give of your time, talent or treasure to the School, you are investing in the lives of more than 300 students and the myriad projects, agencies and individuals they serve around the globe. In fact, Baylor SSW students provided 69,000 hours of professional services during this academic year.

I will be traveling extensively in Texas this semester, visiting friends of the School, and I will be contacting many of you to schedule meetings while I am in your area. Please consider joining me and many others in giving to the School of Social Work. Feel free to contact me with questions, ideas, or comments anytime.

### KRISTEN BOX

Director of Development

Cell: 254-315-9773

Office: 254-710-6284

kristen\_a\_box@baylor.edu



### SUPER FUN

"First Lady" Diana Garland, met with 20 Baylor alumni in the Pittsburgh area Nov. 4, including Pittsburgh Steeler and Baylor alumnus Daniel Sepulveda. Daniel gave his testimony and spoke about being a professional football player and Super Bowl champion!



**KLISTA BOMBERGER** (MSW 2009) is working as program manager for Communities In Schools of the Heart of Texas. She recently passed her licensing exam.

**SOHANI COORAY** (MSW 2002) and husband, Shamindra, welcomed their daughter, Shenali Thilinka Fernando, Sept. 25.

**BERTHA COURTNEY** (Carver 1961) is a resident of National Church Residences ministering to other residents as God leads her.



**Michael and Carol McEntyre with son, Nathan Henry.**

**CAROL MCENTYRE** (MSW/MDiv 2003), and husband, Michael, announce the arrival of their son, Nathan Henry, born Nov. 8 weighing 5 lbs., 2 oz. and measuring 18 inches. Carol is Buckner Community

Minister at First Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN.

**DANA FRADY** (Carver 1993) is the District Administrator for the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, child advocacy program for abused and neglected children.

**CHRISTINA (GRAHAM) HANSEN** (BASW 2002) earned her MSSW from the University of Texas in Austin in 2004. She is currently an adjunct faculty member in the counseling department at San Antonio College. She and her husband welcomed their first child in July.



**Dan and Katie Leverenz**

**KATIE ROBINSON LEVERENZ**

(BSW 2009) is a foster home developer in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor program at Catholic Charities

Diocese of Fort Worth. Her husband, Daniel, is a medical student, expected to graduate in May 2011. Katie and Dan will live in Fort Worth until he finishes his medical rotations.

**KELLY WATKINS MOORE** (MSW 2001) married Gary Moore Oct. 10, 2009. She has worked at the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System for five years as a clinical social worker in the Primary Care-Behavioral Health Clinic.

**SHERI NELSON** (BASW 1982) works as director of counseling for Doulos Ministries in Missouri.

**RACHEL PROCTOR** (MSW 2009) is a case manager at Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth. She writes: "I love my new job! I am a case manager in the therapeutic foster care program. My boss and I are kind of redoing the program, and I am getting to rebuild and restructure everything with her, which has been a fun challenge."

**MATTHEW SCHOBERT** (MSW 2002) was appointed to serve on the NASW Texas Chapter Ethics Committee.

## Let us hear from you!

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Photos cannot be returned.)

### MAIL TO:

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Managing Editor  
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Waco, TX 76798-7320.

### OR E-MAIL:

Krista\_Barrett@baylor.edu  
or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name at graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Current name \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Baylor graduate ☐ Carver School graduate

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# Challenges for the profession

CSWE DIRECTOR VISITS SCHOOL, CALLS FOR UNIFIED SOCIAL WORK VOICE +

VICKI MARSH KABAT



Board of Advocate member Mark Trice poses a question at the panel discussion.

## THE ENCROACHMENT UPON

the social work profession by other professions, notably human services, will be the “real test” for social workers in the future, according to Julia Watkins, executive director of the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting body for social work higher education.

At the invitation of Diana Garland, dean of Baylor School of Social Work, Watkins spoke to faculty, staff, students and members of the School’s Board of Advocates (BOA) at a special session Sept. 17 at Baylor University. The session included a panel discussion with four tenure-track or recently tenured professors of the School (see page 19).

“We must be clear about what social work is and claim it as our own,” said Watkins, who has served at CSWE, based in Washington, D.C., since 2003. “Otherwise we face serious problems in recruitment of our students and professionals,” she said, where many programs’ rates currently are flat.

Examples of professions that are encroaching upon the social work

professional domain, she said, include nursing, marriage and family therapy, counseling, community and social development specializations, sociology and rehabilitative counseling.

Watkins said she believes this ambiguity among the professions is happening because the social work profession has not been unified in its voice.

“We haven’t been there speaking as one

*“We must be clear about  
what social work is and  
claim it as our own.”*

voice about what social work is and what we bring to the table. As a profession, we haven’t grappled sufficiently with this. We are applied sociology – it’s doing research, it’s going out into communities and being good generalist social work practitioners.

“I think we’re the best educated for it. I have no modesty in saying that at all. We’ve got to be really clear and really forceful with our voice on that,” she said.

About 50 people gathered for Watkins’ presentation as part of a BOA Retreat Sept. 17 and 18. Garland introduced Watkins saying, “She has a vision for social work education that will inform us about the future of the School of Social Work here in Waco, Texas.”

Watkins said the profession also is faced with “formidable challenges” of accountability, quality assurance and the pressures of developing global educational opportunities.

“We must carry out our imperative as a transformative force in the world. We speak implicitly and explicitly to changing lives one at a time and confronting global problems of poverty, insecurity, inequality, racism and a deteriorating global environment,” she said.

There are 397 accredited social work undergraduate and 169 graduate programs in the nation representing 50,700 students, “an enormous and significantly conspicuous enterprise,” she said. That total includes 143 social work programs in faith-based institutions.

“Maintaining the status quo is

# facultyPANEL

not acceptable. We all must have a vision for 2012 and beyond, as Baylor does. Difficult choices must be made and global partners must be identified so that as a profession we can continue to 'give back.'"

Watkins lauded the School's Global Mission Leadership Initiative, in which students from Asia and Southeast Asia earn a joint Master of Social Work/ Master of Theological Studies at Baylor. Upon completion of the degrees, they return to their native countries to practice or teach, also serving as field supervisors for Baylor SSW students who will intern in those countries.

"One of the key variants in this equation of global education and social work education is that of leadership. The Baylor model for global leadership is a wonderful example of this kind of development," Watkins said.

Accrediting requirements from the CSWE have reflected the increased emphasis on accountability, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a "quest for excellence," Watkins said. Schools no longer can concentrate on content solely but now must be accountable for measuring outcomes and outputs. "We could no longer suggest it was simply value-added and not demonstrate what it meant."

Baylor School of Social Work, accredited in 2005 for eight years, will be re-examined for accreditation in 2013. Faculty and administrations already have begun weekly meetings to examine its curriculum to adjust to the new requirements.

"We must always return to the core values of social work practice," Watkins said, quoting from the profession's nationally recognized standards: "Service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships... these cannot and will not be put aside."



## JON SINGLETARY:

Maybe because of the many challenges before us in our profession, I believe we must rely upon our creativity and imagination, our hope, in the ways we seek solutions.



## MICHAEL SHERR:

I want us to envision how Baylor can "educate for Shalom,"\* bringing all disciplines together as we teach for justice and social practice. I see social work as the discipline that can be the conduit for that.

\* "Educating for Shalom" references a book by Nicholas Wolterstorff



## SUSANNE KLAWETTER:

How does research inform practice but also how does practice inform our research. How can we merge the two? As social workers, we have a really unique opportunity to speak into that.



## KIM KOTRLA:

It's easy to get overwhelmed and not know where to focus, but the School is on the right direction. As faculty and staff, we bring so many unique gifts here that if we follow our callings, the rest will work itself out. I feel very hopeful.



# faculty activity

## presentations

- Harris, Helen.** (2009). "Non-Profit Ethics: Professionalism 101," Presbyterian Children's Home and United Way. Corsicana, TX., August 11, 2009.
- Harris, Helen.** (2009). "Adolescent Refugees and Immigrants: Loss and Mourning," Catholic Charities, Fort Worth, TX., July 31, 2009.
- Harris, Helen and Bledsoe, Christie.** (2009). "Mastery Learning," TxATE Annual Conference. Austin, TX., June 6, 2009.
- Harris, Helen** (2009). "Loss and Opportunities for Congregational Response." Center for Family and Community Ministries. Waco, TX., May 21, 2009.
- Kotrla, Kim.** "A Faith-Based Approach to Addressing Pornography." Invited oral presentation at the North American Christians in Social Work Annual Fall Conference. Indianapolis, IN., October 2009.
- Kotrla, Kim.** "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: An Overlooked Tragedy." Invited oral presentation at the National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter Annual Conference. Fort Worth, TX., October 2009.
- Kotrla, Kim.** No Need Among You – Including the Excluded Conference. Invited oral presentation at conference sponsored by Mission Waco, Waco, TX., September 2009.
- Kotrla, Kim.** Co-presenter at an eight-hour human trafficking training for law enforcement hosted by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments in June 2009.
- Kotrla, Kim.** "Human Trafficking: Global and Domestic Perspectives." Invited speaker during Justice Week sponsored by the Baylor International Justice Mission Chapter in March 2009.

## publications

- Garland, Diana R., Myers, Dennis M., & Wolfer, Terry A.** (2009). Protestant Christian volunteers in community social service programs: What motivates, challenges, and sustains them. *Administration in Social Work*. 33(1), 1-17.
- Kotrla, Kim.** Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in the U.S. *Social Work* (in press).

- Kotrla, K. & Martin, S.** (2009). Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: A social worker's guide for screening and education. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 7(5), 494-507.
- Singletery, Jon.** (2009). The emergent journey of church-based program planning. *Social Work and Christianity*, 36(2), 127-142.
- Yancey, Gaynor, Rogers, Rob, Singletery, Jon, & Sherr, Michael.** (2009). A National Study of Administrative Practices in Religious Organizations. *Social Work and Christianity* 36(2), 192-216.
- Singletery, Jon.** (2009). Hope for orphans: A model of care for vulnerable children. *The Journal of Family and Community Ministries*, 23(2-3), 29-38.

## grants

- Singletery, Jon.** (2009). Leadership Development for Community Transformation Project. Funded by Christ is Our Salvation, Inc.
- Singletery, Jon.** (2009). Texas Hunger Initiative. Funded by the Baptist General Convention of Texas Christian Life Commission.



## Where the bottom falls out

ALUMNUS RESPONDS TO “THE EMERGENCY THAT WALKS IN THE DOOR” +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

LYLE GRIFFITH WAS nursing a cup of coffee in the break room at the Meyer Center. It was his last day at the downtown Waco facility that offers a variety of services for people in need. Services like the washers and dryers along the far wall of the break room, emitting a comforting background hum as clients wait for their loads to finish.

“I’ve been down and out a few times,” Griffith says, “but I can tell you, these are the best services for the homeless of anywhere in the country.”

The Meyer Center occupies a century-old former church building from which it provides job training, a medical clinic, laundry and shower facilities, a postal address, counseling and referral. It is operated by Mission Waco, a nonprofit agency.

For Griffith, the center has been the stop in his life that was giving him a new beginning. A journeyman carpenter, he had found a job, a place to live, a truck to drive and a way to regain his life. Today was a fresh start.

“These people (at the Center) look at you, and they can tell if you want to help yourself or not. If you do, they’ll help you get there,” he says.

Jerrold Clark is one of those people. The 32-year-old has been the social worker at the Center since 2005, says it’s his job to “respond to the emergency that walks in the door.” And there are a lot of them; he sees about 20 persons a day needing a place to sleep, medications, food, help with utilities, counseling or job training.

“We’re at the frontlines of where the bottom has fallen out of peoples’ lives,” Clark said. “I help them figure out how to get to that next best place in their lives.”

Clark has been involved with Mission Waco since his undergraduate days at Baylor University, first as a volunteer youth mentor and later as a paid employee with the agency’s MPowerment job-training program. He came to Waco from his hometown of Las Vegas, Nev., in 1996 and proceeded to earn three degrees — a BASW in 2000 and MSW in 2002 from the School of Social Work and an MDiv in 2003 from George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

Clark also serves regularly as a field instructor for student interns from Baylor School of Social Work.

“I do it because somebody did it for me,” he says. “There have always been people who believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself, people who found in me those gifts and talents I didn’t know I had.”



Flor Avellaneda, BSW 2008/MSW 2009, who was supervised by Clark in 2007- 2008 as an undergraduate, remembers such a time when Clark believed in her.

“After one semester with him, I was offered a job as an interim co-director of Mission Waco’s after-school program, and I was really unsure. But Jerrod assured me that I was capable and that he believed in me and what I could bring to the role,” she said.

Although he admits it takes time to invest in students and prepare them for social work, the benefits are reciprocal. “I stand in awe of what they bring to the table, their skills from the classroom. These students will be cast out into the larger world and be a servant leader wherever they land.”

Avellaneda is now a program manager at Communities In Schools of the Heart of Texas at G.W. Carver Academy. She says Clark modeled for her what it really means to be a social worker on a day-to-day basis and in life.

“He is very compassionate and really cares about quality,” she said. “You see it in his character and in the way he lives his life. He helped me think about what it means to be a social worker even when you’re not at work, but in living out what you want to do in life.”

## Change and expectation

JON SINGLETARY, CFCM Director, Associate Professor



**THIS YEAR HAS BROUGHT** great change in the Center for Family and Community Ministries. We have been through a helpful process of combining efforts with the School's Center for Literacy and Center for Gerontological Studies and finding ways to stay committed to these areas of focus. At the same time, we continue to seek new directions for strengthening the ministries of congregations and faith-based organizations.

The Texas Hunger Initiative is one such new initiative. Jeremy Everett and Beth Kilpatrick head up THI as a partnership project with Texas Baptist's Christian Life Commission. This effort has allowed us to combine our teaching and research in efforts that seek to engage congregations and other partners, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Texas Food Banks, to promote food security in the state of Texas.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Angela Dennison. For three years, Angela

has helped us strengthen ministries offered by congregations around the country through a partnership with Buckner Children and Family Services. Angela has been a huge asset to our efforts in the Center and has brought so much life to our work together. We wish Angela the best and look forward to new directions in partnerships we have with Buckner, the BGCT, and CBF Texas.

In addition to these Baptist partners, the Walking Alongside studies we are completing will help us make new connections in other congregational circles.

These studies and many of the articles from our journal can be found online along with other new resources to strengthen your ministry. Among the newest resources are a series of one-page handouts related to specific ministry topics: family literacy, financial literacy, intergenerational ministry, ministry with at-risk youth, community gardening, mental health ministry and several more.

With each resource we post online, each partnership we enter into, and each staff member who makes our work a reality, I am mindful of the many opportunities we have to experience Christ being made known through the Center and the School of Social Work. With Epiphany just past, I am even more mindful of the ways Jesus is made manifest in your ministries to the communities in which you find yourselves and among the families you serve. Thank you for the ways you have allowed us to work with you in the past. As we begin a new year, our prayer is that we might join your congregation in new ways to make His love real through your ministry.



## walking alongside

THE CENTER HELD ITS THIRD annual Walking Alongside Workshop for churches intentional about relationship and service with those who are poor or in need. Nearly 60 participants from 20 churches attended the Oct. 16-17 event on the Baylor campus.

The agenda included a panel of community ministry leaders, an overview of CFCM curriculum, and personal testimonies from several social work students who have served as congregational interns through the Center.

Panel members included Christy Craddock, MSW alumna and Director of Youth Services with Touching Miami With Love; Lester Meriwether of Texas Literacy Connexus; Maria Pacheco, Buckner Community Minister at Park Cities Baptist Church; and Jonathan Grant, former associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

The discussion focused on ways churches can help empower residents who live in their communities. Jon Singletary, CFCM director, was pleased with this year's workshop. "Combined with the skills learned and relationships developed at this workshop, helping participants understand how to hear and respond to the ways God is calling them to engage their community is central to what we try to offer each year," he said.

Materials from the Walking Alongside Workshop can be found online at [www.baylor.edu/cfcml](http://www.baylor.edu/cfcml).



# Texas at the Table Hunger Summit

FIRST GATHERING FOCUSES ON WAYS TO FEED MORE CHILDREN IN SUMMER 2010 +

ON NOV. 19, nearly 200 people gathered at Baylor for “Texas at the Table: The Baylor Hunger Summit” to explore ways all the leading stakeholders concerned with ending hunger in Texas could work together more effectively. As Jeremy Everett, director of the Texas Hunger Initiative, who hosted the event, said, it certainly seemed like the start of “something big.”

Invited guests included mayors of major Texas cities, state food bank directors, religious leaders, and school district leadership from around the state.

*“Sometimes all the  
right people and right  
opportunities line up  
in the right ways and  
something big happens.”*

Keynote speakers included Camille Miller, Director and CEO of Texas Health Institute; Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples; Julie Paradis, Director of Food and Nutrition Service for the USDA; and Max Finberg, Director of Faith Based Initiatives for the USDA.

“Hunger issues are getting more attention during this administration than in any administration in the past,” said Bill Ludwig, regional administrator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “This is the first time I’ve ever seen the right people at the table who have money, volunteers and commitment to end hunger. I see this Hunger Summit as the beginning of ending hunger in Texas.”



Jeremy Everett (top) said there is plenty of food for all Texas citizens. More than 100 people signed a pledge (below) committing to end hunger in Texas by 2015.

## READ MORE ONLINE

To see how the White House covered the event, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2009/12/11/usda-faithneighborhood-center-participates-texas-hunger-initiative>

Suzii Paynter, director of the Christian Life Commission, and cofounder of the Texas Hunger Initiative stated, “One of the fallacies we have to confront is that we think someone else knows how to do this. They don’t. We are it.”

The THI is a collaboration of the School of Social Work’s CFCM with funding from the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It is a capacity-building collaborative project. It seeks to develop and implement strategies to end hunger through policy, education, community organizing and community development. THI will work with communities to develop food-planning associations that will make plans for making food delivery efficient in their communities.

“One reason we haven’t ended hunger already is lack of organization,” Everett said. Texas is the third hungriest state in the nation, he said, with 1.3 million people experiencing hunger daily. “We have enough food; we just need to distribute it to people more efficiently.”

The Nov. 19 summit was coordinated by the Texas Food Policy Roundtable, comprised of more than a dozen local, state and federal representatives who met monthly to explore ways to collaborate in order to more effectively disseminate food. The Roundtable’s first goal is to increase participation of children in summer feeding programs in 2010.

Many of the 3 million children in Texas who participate in the free school lunch program go without a meal when school is not in session.