

# CALENDAR *of events*

## OCTOBER

- 8-10 NASW/TX Annual Conf., Houston
- 14-17 CSWE Annual Program, Portland
- 19 Dyer Ethics Workshop
- 22-23 Baylor Homecoming

## NOVEMBER

- 11-14 NACSW Conference, Durham, NC

## DECEMBER

- 17 Fall Convocation
- 18 Fall Commencement

## Community Collaboration

The School of Social Work is scheduled to move into renovated space in the former Wells Fargo Bank building at 801 Washington in mid-December. The interior space has been completely reconfigured providing seven classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, a student lounge, a student computer lab and other amenities. With 300-plus students, faculty and staff, the School's impact on downtown Waco should be significant. The School joins about 30 people from Baylor's PsyD program who occupy a portion of the adjacent tower.



### MEETING NEW NEIGHBORS

The School is excited to be one of the first academic units to bridge the town/gown divide in such a visible and concrete way. We'll be hosting an Open House for all our new neighbors this coming spring.



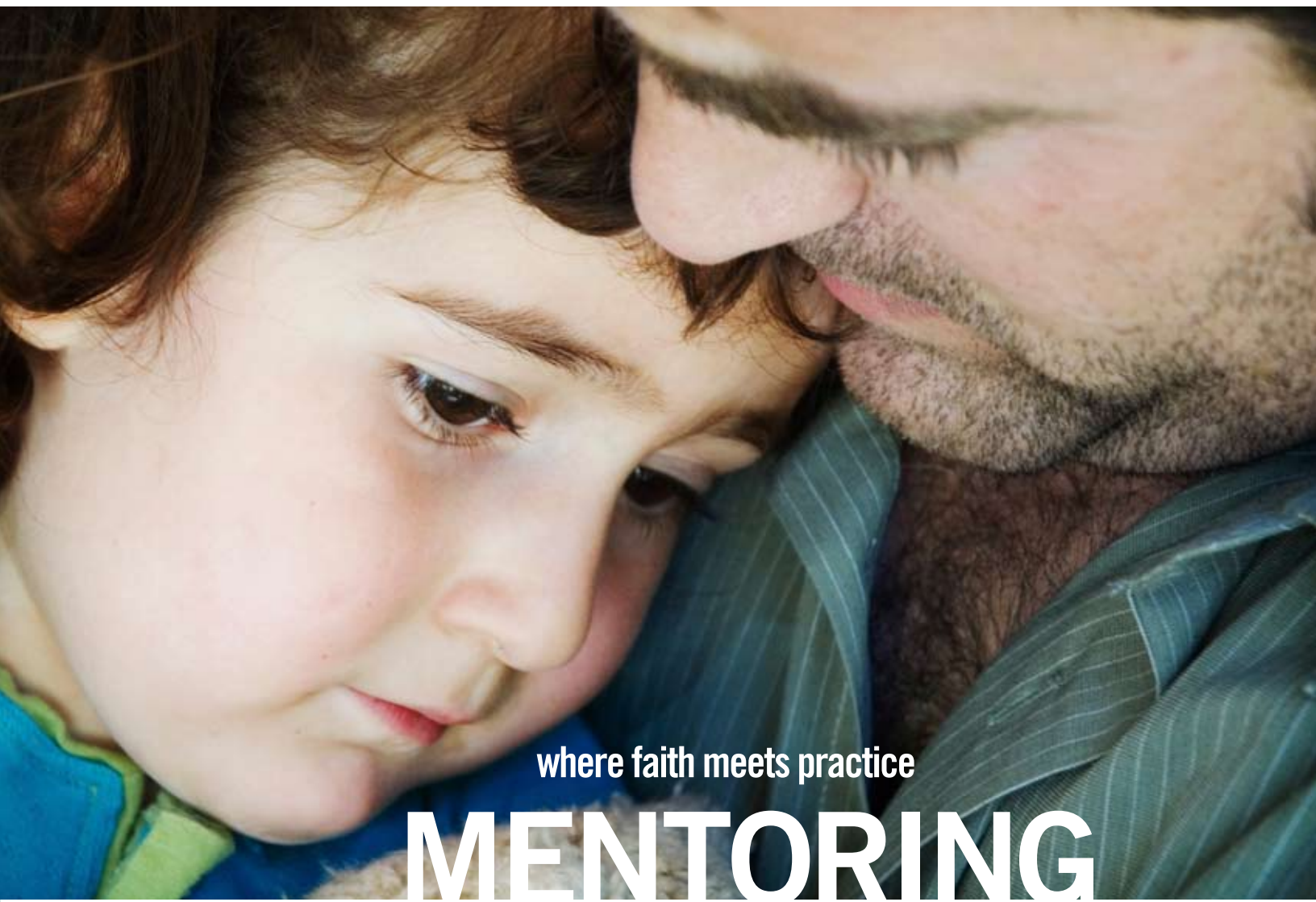


vol. no.

29

# *community* CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



where faith meets practice

## MENTORING FAMILIES IN CRISIS

PARTNERING  
WITH AN INNER-  
CITY CHURCH

BAYLOR  
UNIVERSITY



## Giving their all

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



### EVERY CHANCE I GET, I TRY TO

engage our students in conversation and learn more about their personal stories. I am always enriched by this and often humbled by their commitment and faithfulness to their call. And sometimes, I walk away fighting back tears of frustration that I cannot do more in the one area in which our students most need our help – raising scholarship funds.

Recently I had such a conversation with a young woman in our Advanced Standing MSW program. She also had received her BSW from us, and she has been working an outside job through it all to put herself through school. She says she is already worrying about finding a job when she graduates because she has a “large amount” to pay back. She has had to do it all

herself; her parents haven’t been able to help her. I probed a bit and asked if she could tell me what “large amount” means to her. She owes more than \$100,000. She said, “I may be 50 when I pay it all back but it’s OK; it was worth it to come to Baylor. I know that God has called me to social work.”

### MORAL ISSUES

Well, it’s not OK with me. Our new president, Judge Kenneth Winston Starr, says it is not OK with him either. He has launched a university-wide scholarship initiative to raise endowment funds to help our students. Baylor already is deeply committed to this; the university awarded \$30 million in merit scholarships and \$10 million in need-based scholarships for incoming freshmen – a \$40 million commitment through the next four years.

Judge Starr has stated that our high tuition and the needs of our students are moral issues, especially for a Christian university honoring the call of God to lives of servant leadership in our young students. I absolutely agree.

Raising monies for endowed scholarships for the School of Social Work has been one of my priorities since I became dean in 2005. Kay Boatman, our financial manager, tells me we now have \$2.5 million in endowed scholarships for our students. I am grateful for each dollar, but all it takes is one of these conversations – one more story of personal sacrifice endured in order to be faithful to God’s call – for me to redouble my efforts.

Out of their poverty, our students are putting all they have into their preparation to serve others. Can we do any less?

## 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.*

[WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL\\_WORK](http://WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL_WORK)



# ‘Culture of tolerance’

SEX TRAFFICKING OCCURS IN AMERICA’S BACKYARD +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

BRING UP THE TOPIC of human sex trafficking, and you’ll realize three things very quickly: most people don’t know anything about it; if they do, they think it’s an issue only in other countries; and, they could never believe it happens here.

Kim Kotrla, assistant professor of social work, whose research focuses on human sex trafficking, says Americans have a long way to go in understanding and addressing this issue comprehensively.

“Because so much of the focus has been on international victims or trafficking that occurs in other countries, we are just beginning to grapple with the fact that we have a problem in our own backyards,” said Kotrla, whose overview article on domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) was published in the April 2010 issue of *Social Work: A Journal of the National Association of Social Workers* (Vol. 55, No. 2, 181-187).

Kotrla’s article cites research that shows that more U.S. citizens are victims of sex trafficking than are foreign nationals (Hughes, 2007, 181). Plus, more U.S. federal money for social services goes to foreign nationals than to American citizens who are victimized.

“The federal act (The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000) does not discriminate on service provision based on country of origin, but monies provided

*“We turn a blind eye to the immense commercial sex industry that is predicated on the view that young girls are commodities to buy and sell.”*

for services to U.S. victims have still not been appropriated,” Kotrla said. “At the same time, appropriations for international victims’ services were increased for fiscal year 2011.”

There are a few reasons for this disparity, Kotrla says. In America, the population caught in this trade is still perceived as criminals, i.e., prostitutes, and not as victims of trafficking.

“There is a huge public awareness process that has to happen so that we can recognize that these are victims of abuse and not perpetrators of crime,” she says.

The other factor Kotrla cites is a “culture of tolerance” in the United States that continues to turn a blind eye to the “immense commercial sex industry that is predicated on the

## How are our children targeted?

- The average age of youth being lured into the commercial sex trade is between 11 and 14, with some as young as 5.
- Children are targeted at bus stations, arcades and malls, especially those who appear to be runaways or without money or job skills.
- Traffickers advertise children online for sexual purposes through hundreds of Web sites, but they search for victims through social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace.
- Those most at risk are children who have run away or been ‘thrown away’ from home, those who are homeless or have a history of abuse, and those in the foster care or child protective services systems (Shared Hope International).

SOURCES: All cited from Kotrla’s *Social Work* article

*Social work students will go to Cambodia in May ... see story at: [www.baylor.edu/gml](http://www.baylor.edu/gml)*

view that young girls are commodities to buy and sell.”

Kotrla mentions song lyrics, movies and television, fashion, video games and other forms of entertainment as part of the cultural machine that supports flourishing sex trafficking markets. One of the newest venues is the Internet, where you can “purchase” or “sell” young victims for sexual exploitation on popular marketing sites. The Internet also fuels an escalating secret addiction to pornography, which also feeds the market. Even our language has been corrupted, Kotrla says, so that “pimpin” is now a word commonly accepted as meaning “being cool” among teenagers.

It is demand-and-supply economics, and the United States is now the No. 1 destination of victims trafficked for purposes of exploitation, she says.

“It has crept into our daily life as part of the norm.”

Since Kotrla began focusing on this topic in her research three years ago, she has presented on sex trafficking at several national conferences. In October, she will present at the University of Nebraska at the International Human Trafficking Conference. She has just completed a study where she looked at 115 cases of DMST involving 153 victims over a nine-year period. The results of this study are the basis for an invited article, “Sex trafficking on minors in the U.S.: implications for policy, prevention and research,” for ▶

continued on page 12



## Together again

On faculty at the University of South Carolina, Brice and Jones are reunited this fall at Baylor +

By Vicki Marsh Kabat

Johnny Jones and Tanya Brice were hired at the University of South Carolina as instructors while they were finishing their doctorates. Both were then hired as tenure track faculty. A few years later, they parted ways as each pursued academic success - Jones remaining at USC and Brice developing a graduate program at Abilene Christian University's School of Social Work.

This year they are colleagues again as new faculty members at Baylor's School of Social Work.

### TANYA BRICE, MSW, PHD

Ask Tanya Brice, new associate professor of social work, about her research, and her eyes light up as she leans forward in her chair, fully engaged. "I just feel there is this story that has to be told," she says.

She's not the only one who believes so. Early this fall she was entertaining offers from three academic publishing houses - Oxford, Harvard and University of South Carolina - to print what began as her dissertation. The working title



is *Wayward Girls*, and it focuses on the treatment of African American girls in North Carolina's juvenile justice system during the Progressive Era (1890s to 1930s).

"It is a case study of the Efland Home for Girls. No one has ever written about this home, and I'm looking at it to see how race, class and gender define delinquency," she says.

Just as quickly, she will tell you what her next two book projects will be. In other words, she loves research and believes her need to tell these stories probably is the underlying reason she has pursued a career in social work education.

It was an educational career path that took a few turns. She went her freshman year to the University of South Carolina, but then took a year off on the beaches of Bahama. In her family, though, education was not an option, it was an expectation, she says.

"I was kind of the Prodigal Daughter," she laughs. "My father was not happy about that choice."

She came back to the States and was making "good money" waitressing, she says, but she went back to college "to get my degree and not have to hear about it anymore."

Social work seemed to her like an easy route to a fast degree, and she transferred to South Carolina State University, an historically black college in Orangeburg, planning to lay low, graduate and then go back to waitressing.

"First semester, I found out that social work is *not* an easy major. At South Carolina State, they see social work as a ministry and they take it very seriously. Second, I couldn't hide out. The president of the University called me to her office. She had found out I had been an honors student in high school, and of my poor attitude toward academics at USC. She told me that very few are blessed with this opportunity, that I needed to succeed, and give back to my community." ▶



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## JOHNNY M. JONES, MSW, PHD

It was 104 degrees, middle of August, and Johnny Jones, new assistant professor at the School of Social Work, was trying to find the classroom he'd be teaching in this fall at Baylor. He was hot, lost, and just a little downcast.

That's when he noticed three verses from the Bible etched into a sidewalk, all of them dealing with how people should treat one another.

"I was kind of discouraged at that point because I felt so far behind in everything I needed to do, but when I saw those verses, I knew I'd made the right decision. It was an affirming message at the right time."

Jones's career in social work has included clinical, administrative and academic positions. He moved to Baylor from a faculty position at the College of

*"...when I saw those verses, I knew I'd made the right decision."*

Social Work at the University of South Carolina, where he was director of The Center for Child and Family Studies, a research and training center within the School. His research focuses on child welfare policy and programs, and for the past four years, he has been the principal investigator of a multimillion-dollar grant from the South Carolina Department of Social Services/Health and Human Services.

When the opportunity at Baylor presented itself, Jones looked into it – for many reasons. It didn't hurt that Waco is the hometown of his wife, Stacy Black Jones, a Baylor alumna (BASW 1989) whom he met at Carver School. And then there was his relationship with the School's dean, Diana Garland. As a student in the master's program at Carver School of Social Work from 1990 to 1993, Jones was Garland's graduate assistant, student and assistant for a national family and children's conference

she spearheaded.

"I worked for Diana at Carver. I knew if I came here, I'd work hard, but I've never minded hard work. That's just who Diana is," he says.

Jones received his Bachelor of Arts in experimental psychology with a minor in sociology at Georgia State University; his Master's of Social Work degree and a Certificate in Theology from Carver School, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and his PhD in Social Work, with a concentration in policy and administration, from Florida State University.

Prior to beginning his PhD work at Florida State University, Jones was South Area Director of Ministries for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries Inc., where he did his field placement as an undergraduate student. It was at the Children's Home that he met Larry Owens and Erlene Grise-Owens, alumni of Carver School, and stumbled upon his calling and his career.

"I didn't know anything about social work before then, but I saw in them what I really wanted to do," he says. "They had a passion for working with vulnerable populations such as children."

Jones is not surprised he's now at Baylor. As a lifelong Baptist, he says



Baylor is the place to be as a scholar, and he is excited about the university's commitment to being a top research institution. He looks forward to expanding his research to include child welfare in the context of church and church agencies.

Plus, he kind of owes Dean Garland. She's helped him get to where he needs to be before. "Stacy and I married during the summer before our last year at Carver. I had sold my Nissan for \$1,000 to pay for our honeymoon and so when we got back that fall, I was without transportation. Diana gave me her old 10-speed bicycle, and I rode that bike to my job and field placements across town from the seminary. She gave me the 'bicycle off her back.'" ♦

## FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

### BECKY SCOTT

Scott, BS, MSW, LCSW, joined the School as a lecturer in 2009 in a temporary position. She had served in an adjunct capacity since 2004. This fall she was named to the permanent lecturer position. Her social work practice has focused on children and families receiving mental health services and/or clinical interventions with families involved with Child Protective Services.

Scott is married to Joel Scott and they have two children.



### MELODY ZUNIGA

Zuniga, Baylor BA, MSW, has served the School as an adjunct faculty member since 2007. She became Director of Baccalaureate Field Education in 2009. That position title was changed to Director of Field Education - Generalist Practice. This fall she was named a full-time lecturer. Before 2009, she worked as a forensic interviewer for the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children of Waco.

Zuniga is married to Jose Zuniga and they have two children.





## Celebrating our own

### Installations of Myers, Singletary mark School's first endowed positions +

The University celebrated a red-letter day the week prior with the inauguration of its new president, but on Sept. 23 and 24, the School of Social Work honored two of its own. Jon E. Singletary and Dennis R. Myers were installed as inaugural holders of the School's first endowed positions.

Singletary was feted with a dinner the evening of Sept. 23 at which he was installed as The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies. As part of that evening, he then delivered a message at the School's Fall Convocation Worship service at 7 p.m. in the Paul Piper Chapel of Truett Seminary.

Likewise, Myers was the guest of honor at a luncheon Sept. 24 during which he was installed as The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor in Family Studies. He delivered his inaugural lecture at 1:30 p.m. in the SBC Theater at the Mayborn Museum.

"In a time of economic recession in which many schools of social work nationally are struggling with major budget cutbacks, we are incredibly blessed to be able to endow two positions," said Dean Diana Garland. "We are very aware that this is possible only because of God's bounty and the staunch commitment of individuals who care deeply about our students, this school, and the social work profession."

*See more photos from both installations on page 20 and on Facebook at Baylorssw*



Members of the Kronzer family gathered to celebrate the installation of Dennis Myers as The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor in Family Studies. From left, they are: Diane Danner (Dorothy Kronzer's niece) and her husband, Charles; Jim O'Brien, husband of Kim Kronzer O'Brien (daughter); joined by Myers and Dean Diana Garland; and Wally Kronzer (son) and wife, Kathy, with their son Corey, a junior at Baylor.



Jon Singletary, center, newly installed Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies, was joined by (from left, back row): father Dennis, Diana Garland, son Harper, mother Eva, and wife Wendi. In front are sons Abbott and Haden and daughter Ainsley.



# Poverty in Waco



**"We plan to stay in Waco. This is a great opportunity to make a direct impact on what will be our hometown."**

— Kasey Ashenfelter (center)

At the Waco City Council meeting Sept. 21, city leaders took definitive steps toward addressing poverty reduction in the city when it committed to developing and enacting a 10-year master plan. This approach is similar to initiatives already in existence to address homelessness and, most recently, education.

Included in this plan will be the background work of 17 social work graduate students from the advanced practice community concentration class taught by Gaynor Yancey, professor of social work.

"We are excited to be in on the ground level of this initiative that has so much potential to impact people's lives and the city," said Kasey Ashenfelter, an MSW student in the class who will intern with Jeff Wall, City of Waco housing and community development director, this spring. Ashenfelter is a dual-degree student, also working to complete his master's of divinity at George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

This step by the city was predated by the work of the Poverty Solutions Group, comprised of concerned citizens, which has been meeting during the past two years.

This fall, Ashenfelter will serve as class coordinator as the students work in teams to assess four major aspects of poverty in the community: resources (social services), environment (housing), economics (jobs training and placement) and education (health and preparedness of children to succeed academically). They will present their recommendations to the city in mid-December.

Yancey says she is excited her advanced practice students have such a meaningful opportunity to develop skills in addressing systemic problems. "The class will create a process for the city to follow for the creation and usage of committees," she said. "We'll identify markers, best practices, and suggest an infrastructure as this initiative goes forward. The committees will be comprised of those who are concerned about reducing poverty in Waco."

For Ashenfelter, this project is a chance to impact the city he and his wife, Emilee, a teacher at Midway Independent School District, plan to live in. Both received their undergraduate degrees at Baylor and have lived here for seven years.

"We plan to stay in Waco," he said. "It feels like home to us. So this is a great opportunity to make a direct impact on what will be our hometown. I've had this passion to address poverty but until now had not found the way to engage. This is perfect for me."

Regarding the Sept. 21 Council meeting, Ashenfelter said that class members left inspired. "I think the whole class was really motivated by that. We want to bring our very best to this project," he said. "Seeing all the people there that night really drove home to us that this is much bigger than just us."



## REGENTS SURPRISE GARLANDS WITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Diana and David Garland were honored at the Baylor Board of Regents' May dinner for their service as First Lady and Interim President of the university.

They were surprised with the announcement of pledges from the Regents of \$50,000 toward endowed scholarships in each of their names for School of Social Work and for Truett Seminary students.

The announcement was made by Kristen Box, director of development for the School, and David Hardage, director of development for the Seminary.

## NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOIN SCHOOL



**AMY MILEY EVERETT** joins the Center for Family and Community Ministries as program coordinator for the North Waco Family Partnership Program.

Amy received her dual masters degree in Social Work and Divinity from the Baylor School of Social Work and Truett Seminary in May 2004. She began teaching in the School of Social Work as an adjunct instructor in January 2010. Amy and her husband, Jeremy, have two sons, Lucas (6) and Samuel (4).



**MARY LINDSAY JACKSON** is the School of Social Work's new MSW Admissions Coordinator/Global Mission Leadership Project Manager. She works with Marilyn Gusukuma in MSW Admissions and Jennifer Smyer in the GML program. Mary Lindsay recently received her Bachelor of Arts from Baylor University and married this summer to Slater Jackson.



## Abundant Good Will

CARVER ALUMNI REMEMBER SETTLEMENT HOUSES +

**JUDY BURDETT** grew up in a decade of turmoil both at home and abroad, but she was committed to bringing hope into situations where she could. She received a dual degree in social work and missions from Carver School of Church Social Work in 1957.

Before entering Carver she had worked with inner-city children in a Bible study program and taught English to women who had immigrated to her hometown of Dunwoody, Georgia. It was those experiences that led her to pursue the Carver education, which she loved.

"It was all so meaningful," she says of her time at Carver. She remembers in detail the family-like environment and the distribution of "chores" in the dormitory. She served as meal planner and cook for the dorm family and took messages in the telephone room. She has a copy of the cookbook,



"Dawson's Delights," which she used to plan meals. Flipping through its pages, you can find instructions for "Honeymoon Ham" and "Queen's Crown Salad," among other goodies.

"We ladies all attended Chapel together," she recalls. She remembers happily a snowfall on the first day they went to the Seminary to attend classes. "We all put on our boots and marched together across campus in the snow to get to that class, and we had so much fun playing in the snow on the way."

Summers during her Carver education, Judy worked at various Good Will missions and after graduation she moved to the Good Will Settlement House in Macon, GA. She then was transferred to the Settlement House in LaGrange, GA to help manage the crisis call line that had been started. Unfortunately, the grant that funded the crisis line ran out soon after her arrival and she found herself unemployed. She spent about 12 years total working at various settlement homes and homeless missions.

"I appreciated the response of the people I worked with, such as the children. They were so appreciative of anything you did for them or with them. I really loved working there," she says of her work in the settlement homes.

While in LaGrange, Judy had substitute taught occasionally at LaGrange College, and she was offered a fulltime faculty position there as professor of social work and criminal justice. After retirement from teaching/social work in 1997, she focused on her church activities at First Baptist Church



### CLASS OF 1955-1956

Sitting, left to right: Judy Burdett, Virginia Evans, Carolyn Evans, Reid Maddox. Standing, left to right: Wynona Lowry, Esther Graham, Joyce Stringer, Elinor Hasty and Mildred McWhorter.

of LaGrange. She serves as an associate teacher for Sunday School, participates in the Merrymakers Lunch Group, a prayer group, and also does water aerobics.

She remembers her time at Carver and her social work career with great fondness. She is grateful and proud that Baylor School of Social Work embraced the Carver alumni as Alumni by Choice.

**CAROLYN (EVANS) JONES**, class of 1958, came to Carver wanting to learn more about missions work and the Cuban culture. But when that original dream became impossible, she found another path toward serving people.

As a young girl, Carolyn was drawn to Cuba because of connections with family and friends who were missionaries on the small island. In her early 20s, she toured mission facilities in Cuba, and knew she wanted to spend her life there as a missionary.

In the late 1950s, however, there



### SNOW DAY AT CARVER

Carver students revel in the rare occurrence of snow in Louisville, Ky.



was unrest in Cuba, and she learned that women were no longer permitted to do missionary work on the island nation. Carolyn had to decide whether to choose another country to study or focus on social work. She chose social work.

In recalling her days at Carver, Carolyn speaks fondly of her experiences, especially the memories related to her time spent living, working, and studying in the dorm with her peers. A classmate of Judy Burdett's, Carolyn also became involved in Good Will Settlement Houses (originally called Baptist Settlement Houses) throughout the South.

The Good Will houses were modeled after the Settlement House movement begun in the North by social reformer

*"A choir trip to Mississippi was a big deal for these kids, most of whom had never seen Canal Street."*

Jane Addams, but the purpose of the two models were different. Carver's settlement houses were not about social reform so much as about personal reform and evangelization (*All That Fits A Woman*, T. Laine Scales, 2000, Mercer University Press). The Good Will houses also provided Carver students a place to develop their social work skills; as such they were the forerunner of field education that contemporary social work students experience today. By 1930, there were approximately 21 Good Will Centers funded by local and state WMU organizations in the Southern part of the United States (Scales, 205).

Carolyn spent six years living and working in the New Orleans Good Will Settlement House. Her first assignment, to work with kindergarten age children, she found "rather traumatic" because she had never worked with children. She adapted quickly and used her artistic and musical abilities to design programs for

the children's play and choir groups.

The children's choir group became quite a success, and was invited to Mississippi and other locations in the region for performances. "A choir trip to Mississippi was a big deal for these kids, most of whom had never even seen Canal Street," she says.

In the early 1960s when Carolyn lived in New Orleans, the country was still segregated. The Settlement House was located at the edge of a main plaza that effectively served as a dividing line between races. The African American children were afraid to cross the plaza because of the strict segregation.

"The children were so excited and eager to learn, though, that they soon started coming across the plaza by cover of darkness to the Settlement House for lessons." Word spread and soon the Settlement House staff created a new schedule to accommodate all of the children: African American boys on Mondays, African American girls on Tuesdays, and Caucasian children on Thursdays. Though still segregated, the children were delighted to join the Settlement House, she says.

Carolyn later worked with other

Good Will centers and at one time worked at the SafeHouse Domestic Violence Center in Macon. She retired from that work to help her husband run a family business.

She spends much of her time now writing, one of her lifelong passions. She translated the book of Mark from its original Greek into an easy-to-understand vocabulary for children, which was published as *Text in Context* (Trafford/2006). She also is working on a 1,000-page manuscript about the divinity and humanity of Jesus and the human race.

In thinking about her years at Carver and the early struggles for social work degree accreditation (see sidebar below), Carolyn is thankful for the vision Diana Garland had to include the Carver alumni.

"We struggled for so long to be accredited [at Carver], that seeing the fine school of social work at Baylor be an accredited school gives a sort of validation to me and other alumni for all of the struggles we had at Carver," she says.

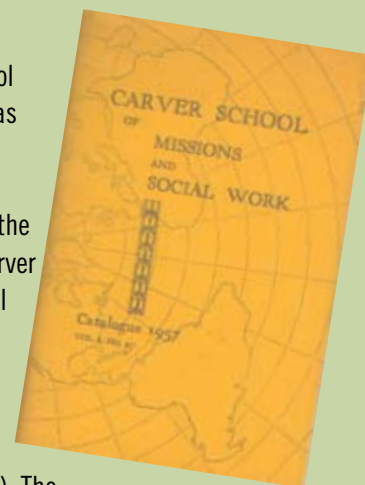
— *Stories by Saleta Lawrence, MSW Student*

*With appreciation to Judy Burdett for sharing her photos and memorabilia*

## CARVER TIMELINE

The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Training School was founded in Louisville, Ky., in 1907. The name was changed to the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in 1952. In 1957, the national WMU could no longer support the school financially and it became the property of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Carver School merged with the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963. Efforts to achieve accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education began in 1958, but it was not achieved until 1987, under the direction of C. Anne Davis, first dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work (name change in 1979). The Carver School thrived for 12 years until it was closed in 1996 by the Seminary.

SOURCE: *All That Fits A Woman*, T. Laine Scales, 2000, Mercer University Press: Macon, GA.







# MEN F ir





## BAYLOR SOCIAL 'FAMILY IS HARD WORK'

Healthy families are not families that never experience crisis; they are families that know how to manage a crisis. To Susanne Klawetter, a social work lecturer who specializes in community-based family practice, helping families access their own strengths and community resources to handle crisis is one of the best ways to strengthen the family unit.

What would happen, then, if you brought best practices of social work family mentoring to congregations and the families they serve?

A unique collaboration this year between an inner-city church and Baylor University's Center for Family and Community Ministries will help answer that question. The North Waco Family Partnership Program began in September at Calvary Baptist Church, a North Waco inner-city congregation committed to community outreach. Klawetter, a faculty member at the School of Social Work, is joined on the project by Jon Singletary, director of the CFCM and The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies. Klawetter and Singletary are members of Calvary. The project is being coordinated by Amy Everett, MSW/MDiv 2004, an adjunct professor in the School.

"Ideally, social workers in family practice work themselves out of a job, and in this model, church outreach continues in a loving and encouraging relationship," said Klawetter, whose community-based approaches strive to incorporate communities, schools, congregations and court systems to be a supportive network for families in crisis.

"The CFCM is always asking how a social work model might look in the church," said Singletary, director of the center since 2005. "On the church side, Calvary has had an ongoing conversation about how it could make a meaningful difference in the community. This seems like a natural pairing to both strengthen and encourage families." The goal of the program is to partner church members trained in financial literacy, parenting, and other life skills with community members who express an interest in being mentored.

"We are hoping to explore biblically based principles and approaches to engaging low-income neighborhoods and to discern how God is prompting Calvary members to engage and participate in their lives," said Everett.

Graduate social work students Everett Smith and Audrey Waggoner will spend their internship this year providing the clinical component of the program. They will meet with families who live in North Waco and have requested ▶

WHEN FAITH &  
PRACTICE MEET  
IN THE CHURCH

# MENTORING FAMILIES IN CRISES

BY VICKI MARSH KABAT

*Kelli Hepner, MSW student, volunteers at a Parent Support Workshop helping families connect with community resources.*

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## Families (cont'd)

assistance to do initial assessment and counseling. They also will create the bridge between families in the Calvary neighborhood and church members who volunteer to continue the relationship. Many of these initial groupings will emerge from relationships Calvary has built with families in North Waco through several years, Klawetter said.

The project hopes to work with five to six families

*“We say to the family in crisis  
from the first meeting, ‘YOU are  
the expert on your family.’”*

initially and attendance or membership at Calvary is not a requirement to participate. The process moves from assessment (i.e., determining problem and available resources within the family), to resource referral and connection, to problem solving and counseling.

“We say to the family in crisis from the first meeting, ‘You are the expert on your family,’ but it can sometimes be helpful to have someone provide an outside perspective and learn new skills,” Klawetter said.

The project began in September with a Sunday school elective at Calvary studying the book *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert (2009, Moody Publishers). The class is led by Calvary senior pastor Jim Holmes Coston, and the project team. A training that will include cultural responsiveness, an introduction to social work practice, boundaries and safety, is planned for late fall. Families in and outside the church can sign up to participate throughout the fall. Direct work with the families will begin in January.

Most of the members of the project team are parents themselves, and Klawetter said they bring with them a humility and respect for how hard the work of family is.

“It’s the most complicated thing we do. We are doing this out of great hope and faith and a great heart to strengthen families, develop resiliency skills and to foster safer overall systems for children.” ♦

## Alumni!

We’ve made it easier than ever for you to keep us updated on your lives and careers. Fill out the brief form you’ll find at: [www.baylor.edu/social\\_work/index.php?id=77158](http://www.baylor.edu/social_work/index.php?id=77158)

## Research focus (cont'd)

the *Journal of Applied Research for Children*. Currently she is developing a proposal for submission to obtain funding to educate church leaders, specifically about pornography, and the development of a tool kit of resources to be used by churches.

“There is research that proves that the exploratory stage of Internet pornography will often lead to further behaviors to satisfy sexual needs, including the purchasing of sex,” she said.

Kotrla believes the social work profession can be instrumental in educating and advocating for this issue. From the social work counselor in schools to the policy-makers at the macro level, social workers have the skill set and the core value of justice that can uniquely address better policies, tougher penalties for traffickers and the facilitation of the recovery and restoration process.

“There’s always outrage when people first learn of the scope of human trafficking,” Kotrla says, “but I am still floored at how many people don’t realize what is happening to our youth,” including legislators, law enforcement personnel and social work practitioners.

As a country, we must wake up to the victimization of our children and provide the services they need for recovery. Safe housing facilities are especially needed, she says.

“We have to accept that this group is just as traumatized, just as victimized as any other person trafficked from another country. They deserve the same resources and opportunities for recovery as any other trafficking victim. Mostly our youth just end up in the juvenile justice system. We need an equitable system for this vulnerable population.” ♦

## NEWS NOTE

**Gaynor Yancey** will step down from her role as Associate Dean of Baccalaureate Studies to return to her first two academic passions – teaching and research and publication of the role of the church in the social work profession. The recipient of several teaching awards of excellence, Professor Yancey is well-known for her Policy course. She also is the author of numerous articles related to poverty and social justice issues, and the role of the church in helping to address oppression and need. She was named Professor of Church and Community in 2006.

**Jon Singletary**, now serving as Director of the School’s Center for Family and Community Ministries, will assume the associate dean responsibilities officially Jan. 1 when the School moves to its downtown facility.

We congratulate both professors for this affirmation of their unique gifts and talents.



# Beginnings and endings

**GAYNOR YANCEY** Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies

**LIFE IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITY** for new beginnings. It may be after coming through a serious health crisis, or in the joining of two lives in marriage, or at retirement, or at the birth of children. In the academic world, we experience new beginnings every semester.

As we begin this fall semester, we recognize and celebrate all the ways we are witnessing growth. The fall semester started with 31 new seniors in the BSW program. They join the five who expect to graduate in December, resulting in a senior class of 36. Although halfway or more into their degree, they will have new opportunities and skills to experience this semester. They become the mentors and role models for their sophomore and junior BSW classmates. They are beginning their field internship experience – finally they get to help people directly as they get practice experience with an agency that focuses on the application of the theory they've been learning in class! The focus of the faculty changes with the seniors.

*“The BSW program welcomed 68 new members this fall – the largest in Baylor’s 41-year history of offering undergraduate social work education.”*

It is aimed at helping students continue to identify skills and knowledge through their application to helping people, helping seniors in their capstone experience synthesize their significant learning, and getting them ready for graduate school or the workplace. These are all wonderful new beginnings.

Even as we prepare for the departure of this cohort, we welcome a new cohort entering the program – 68 new BSW majors. They are the largest group to enter the undergraduate social work major in the 41-year history of undergraduate social work education at Baylor University! In similar ways, these 68 are as excited as the seniors. They have finally found their “home” – a major that will help them help people.

Most of these students did not know the BSW major existed when they came to Baylor, and that is true for the majority of entering freshmen. They discover us, for the most part, after they have been at Baylor for a semester or two. Just a few weeks ago, Tracey Kelley, our director of recruitment and career services, told me she had been swamped with students



coming in to change their majors to social work. After they officially change their degree plans, they leave our offices with huge smiles on their faces. They have found their place.

Despite their joy, they also recognize that their chosen profession is not one that will earn them the high-dollar salaries of their peers pursuing business or pre-med degrees. They sometimes express to us their concern about how to tell their parents they have decided to follow their hearts and not their bank accounts. It is a new beginning for the student, and it may also be for parents, who have the opportunity now to encourage their child to prepare for his or her “dream job.”

While our students experience these new areas of growth, the School is experiencing new growth as well. Last year, we started the new academic year with 128 pre-social work students (declared their intent to major in social work but are not yet admitted into the program) and social work students (admitted to the major). This year we have started with 156 undergraduates, a gain of 28 students over last year's census.

To every new beginning, there is an ending. We conduct a Graduate Exit Survey at each commencement with graduates of the BSW and MSW programs. From May's graduating BSWs, we learned that they were most satisfied with and gave the following their highest rating (9.3% of a possible 10): “The Baylor social work program prepared me to understand and respect human diversity and to practice social work without discrimination.” Now that is an ending we can celebrate as we watch these 22 graduates begin their new careers as professional social workers! ♦



## Research in, of and for the community

ROB ROGERS, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies



**WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES** and organizations as a context for learning is at the heart of social work education. The Council on Social Work Education recognizes this by designating field education as the profession's signature pedagogy. In 2009-10, our BSW and MSW students invested 260,000 hours in field internships and contributed significantly to the welfare of the communities in which they served. What may be less obvious are the innovative ways in which our faculty engage communities and organizations to enrich student learning and contribute to the quality of life in Central Texas.

Three macro practice courses – two at the graduate foundation and undergraduate level and one at the advanced level – are prime examples of this. At the undergraduate senior level is Practice III: Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations, and its MSW counterpart is Professional Practice II.

During the fall 2003 semester, Gaynor Yancey led both classes in conducting a community survey in East Waco. This was the first major community-based assignment in a course in Baylor's new School of Social Work. The purpose was to determine what types of small businesses could be started in the area. The BSW students were anxious about going door to door along Elm Street to interview residents and asked, "What if they won't talk with us because we're from Baylor?" The master's students, many of whom were in the dual degree (MDiv/MSW) track, were responsible for interviewing pastors in the area. They became frustrated because they could not complete their assignment quickly. They learned

firsthand the need to be flexible about meeting with very busy pastors! The BSW students discovered that the interviewing skills they learned in Practice with Individuals were also applicable in macro settings, and that good will and competent interviewing go a long way in bridging cultural differences.

Students responded enthusiastically to this trial effort. A community or organizational assessment is now a standard assignment in these social work classes, which have been taught by Becky Ellison, Cindy Harr, Michael Sherr, Jon Singletary, Gaynor Yancey, and myself. Through these projects, students learn the generalist practice skills of how to form teams, negotiate a scope of work with a client organization, identify stakeholders, plan strategies, coordinate schedules, and integrate diverse findings into a readable report and an engaging Power Point presentation, which they deliver to client organizations and community groups.

Client organizations and communities from subsequent classes cover the map of Central Texas: municipalities such as Bellmead, China Spring, Hewitt, and West; neighborhoods

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*"A community or organizational assessment is now a standard assignment in these social work classes."*

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served by Waco ISD schools (three elementary, four middle, and one high school); the community of East Waco; and five organizations that include the Methodist Children's Home, Potter's Vessel Ministries (PVM), and the Waco Educational Alliance. The impact of these efforts can be substantial.

With assistance from Dean Garland, one class scanned all of the professors and courses at Baylor to ascertain the extent to which poverty was included in cross-disciplinary instruction. This effort was the precursor of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative (BIPI), which received a \$150,000 grant to expand and promote interdisciplinary poverty initiatives, including national and international service projects as well as a proposal for an interdisciplinary poverty minor at Baylor to be housed in the School of Social Work.

The work of another class, taught by Michael Sherr, with PVM directly influenced its board's decision to shift the agency's



focus from providing medication assistance for those who could not afford their prescriptions to patient navigation. With the shift in focus came new strategies and funding sources and a 10-fold increase in PVM's budget. The agency's impact now is measured in terms of better utilizing existing health resources and facilitating collaborative solutions to gaps in the delivery of health services throughout Central Texas.

During the past two years, students in the Community Practice concentration have tackled even more ambitious projects. Under Yancey's leadership, the inaugural Advanced Practice class in 2008 collaborated with the BSW Practice III class, taught by Cindy Harr, to develop and launch the Campus Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that continues to operate under the Baylor umbrella. Remarkably, these students accomplished in one semester what typically requires two years at other campuses across the nation. As a result of this engaged learning project, student volunteers daily collect food prepared but not served in Baylor's cafeterias and distribute it to feeding centers throughout Central Texas. By helping Baylor become a better steward of its resources, this learning experience will, over time, affect the nutrition and life chances of thousands of individuals and families locally.

The above are only a few of the more visible and documented ways that faculty, students and community partners interact in a culture of learning. As they do, profound learning – even transformation – occurs for all who participate, and the benefits live on long after grades have been submitted. I believe that is education at its best, and it is what we as a faculty strive for every day in the School of Social Work. ♦



1

## Summer at the School

1 Three BSW students participated in Convocation August 13 before their graduation the next day. New alumni are, from left: Katie Burch, Rachel Masters and Taylor Lott. 2 The new MSW Advanced Standing cohort kicked off their graduate work at orientation July 6.



2



3

3 Graduate students in the Introduction to the Social Work Profession course were asked to answer the question, with only a few words, "What does the integration of faith and practice mean to you?" Dual-degree student Felipe Monsalve, from Colombia, had no trouble with the assignment.



## Working with our elders

GERONTOLOGY SOCIAL WORK ALUMNI WILL BE IN INCREASING DEMAND+

JIM ELLOR, PROFESSOR

### WITH THE BABY BOOMERS

reaching Golden Pond, a steady stream of persons reaching the age of 65 is slowly reaching flood stage. The combination of Boomers aging and increased longevity means the need for social work services to this population will continue to increase into the foreseeable future.

The Baylor University School of Social Work prepares social workers to work with older adults through the Gerontological Social Work Initiative Program (GSI). Developed originally from the Hartford Foundation's Partnership Program for Aging Education, this program reflects the competencies necessary to work with older adults in a variety of settings.

The program combines three important curricular ingredients. Each of the three areas reflects some of the competencies designed by the Hartford Foundation to prepare social workers. The signature pedagogy in social work is our field placement. Students do a field placement of a minimum of 500 hours in a local social service agency.

Although most of the student's time is spent in a single agency that she or he has selected, the GSI student may also rotate into at least two other agencies for a short period of time to broaden the experience base. Students are expected to be an integral part of the work of the agency. Upon completion of the program, this rotation model enhances both the student's experience and marketability to prospective employers.

The second curricular ingredient is reflected in the Aging and Mental Health Course, which addresses a vital component in the student's professional preparation. This course delivers the basic counseling, assessment and



community intervention skills that will be needed to work with older adults.

Finally, students do a research project in conjunction with their primary field agency that will allow them to contribute to knowledge in the discipline. Social workers are needed in a variety of agencies and in churches, community agencies, hospitals, nursing homes and mental health clinics. The GSI program takes advantage of the knowledge and skills in both the fields

of social work and gerontology to offer important knowledge and concrete skills for working with seniors.

The Hartford Foundation grant to the School of Social Work ran from 2006 to 2009, with 26 students involved in the program during that time. Here is a representative glance at what some of those graduates are now doing as professional social workers in the field of gerontology.



### Heather Hughes Vines (MSW 2009)

is the client care coordinator for Comfort Keepers in Jackson, MS. Her job helps older adults remain in their homes and maintain their independence. She says she loves going to their homes, where all the memories are, and hearing their stories. Her classes prepared her for her job and she says she uses the skills she learned every day by identifying needs, locating resources in the community, and referring these to her clients. The opportunity to be part of the GSI rotating cohort to other agencies in Waco was brilliant, she says. What better way to establish relationships with other agencies than by going there and seeing how they operate?



### Sally Neeley (BSW 2008/MSW 2009)

has earned her LMSW and is working on her LCSW. She is a medical social worker for Vistacare Hospice in Waco, TX. She did her MSW internship in a hospice agency and said she knew she wanted to be a hospice social worker. She loves the opportunities it provides for advanced practice and counseling. Her GSI experience showed her how vast the needs are for older adults and the importance of continuing to learn to be able to meet those multiple needs. She says every day she pulls from knowledge and experiences she had during her time at Baylor to meet the needs of her patients and their families.



**Ivy Fannin (MSW 2007)** is a medical social worker for Texas Home Health Hospice in Waco, TX. She says there is a lot of direct care with many diverse needs and situations. The GSI rotation at Baylor taught her alternative methods of skills application specifically focused on serving and meeting the needs of older adults.



**Emily Calland (MSW 2007)** After graduation, Emily worked for a hospice agency at a VA Medical Center in Shreveport, LA. She says she believes that her GSI experience made her resume stand out and helped her get the job. She also believes that she had a definite advantage, especially compared to other recent social work graduates, in her depth of understanding of older adults. She and her husband, active duty Air Force, moved to Guam in December 2009, and she hopes to return to work soon.



**Laura Wilgus Reese (MSW 2009)** is the director of social services in the Pearl Nordan Care Center, the nursing facility for Juliette Fowler Homes in Dallas, TX. She says the GSI program contributed immensely to her success at her current job. She had only two days of training from the previous social worker when she began her job, but due to her experiences in the GSI rotation, she was able to quickly and effectively jump right in. As she has interviewed for social workers to add to their team, she says she has realized the stark difference in skill level between her classmates from the GSI and from students receiving degrees elsewhere.



**Desiree Kinser (MSW 2009)** is a social worker for Total Long-term Care in Denver, CO.

She works with seniors through a Medicaid/Medicare program (PACE) that provides holistic health care to low-income seniors; the company's mission is to provide holistic resources to seniors in the community who are nursing home-eligible in order to prevent nursing home placement. She says she feels well rounded in working with, detecting and educating others regarding dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other aging-specific disorders. She says she also finished the Baylor program understanding the importance of working well, and working hard to work well with those around her, including her interdisciplinary team members.



**Connie Evers (MSW 2007)** is a social worker with Meals on Wheels and More in Austin, TX. She works at a non-profit agency that serves more than 2,000 clients who are elderly and/or disabled and homebound. In her job she is able to provide comprehensive case management services to clients who have few resources of their own. In addition, she is able to provide Problem Solving Therapy to clients who are suffering from depression. She says it is very satisfying knowing she is providing services to a population unable to go to the services for themselves. She says her GSI experience is what made her realize she had a heart for working with this population, and her internship experience opened the door to working at her current agency. Because of what she learned at Baylor in the GSI program, she says, she is able to apply a holistic approach.



— Story assistance by Sarah Taylor, MSW student



# faculty activity

## SSW profs *en masse* to NACSW

### THIRTEEN OF THE SCHOOL'S

17 faculty members will be presenting at the North American Association of Christian Social Workers annual conference.

The conference, Nov. 11-14 in Durham, NC, has the theme "Celebrating Our Past and Shaping our Future."

It is a record participation by faculty in one event, says Dean Diana Garland.

"I'm delighted so many of us will be participating in this worthwhile association's convention. We want to support it in every way," Garland says. "The research and publication we do at the School is rich and pertinent information for those who conscientiously seek to integrate faith and practice."

The plenary speaker will be Frank B. Raymond, dean emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina. Raymond, also a member of Baylor School of Social



Work's Board of Advocates, will speak on "Changes in Christian Social Work: What's New, What's Not New."

The convention will feature more than 100 workshops divided into the following categories: administration and policy; community organizing and development; direct practice; faith and children and family services; faith of the social worker; research; and social work education.

School faculty members making presentations include: Garland, Helen Harris, Jon Singletary, David Pooler, Rob Rogers, Becky Scott, Tanya Brice, Michael Sherr, Johnny Jones, Kim Kotrla, Cynthia Harr, Tracey Kelley and Jennifer Smyer.

Harris and adopted daughter, Elizabeth Harris, a Baylor freshman pre-social work major, will present jointly on "Adoption and Faith: Perspectives Informed by Alan Keith-Lucas."

For more information about the convention, visit the NACSW website at [www.nacsw.org](http://www.nacsw.org). ♦

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OCTOBER 23

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AND ALUMNI!

LEFT TO RIGHT: AIMEE MATTAZARO, SALETA LAWRENCE, MEGAN  
WHITEHAIR AND ERIN CASTILLO (2009 HOMECOMING)





### Carver alum to lead TX WMU

**SANDY WISDOM-MARTIN**, who earned her MSW at Carver School of Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1990, has been unanimously elected the next executive director-treasurer of Texas Woman's Missionary Union, reports John Hall of Texas Baptist Communications.

Wisdom-Martin has served as Illinois WMU director since 2001. She assumed her new role in mid-September. She follows Nelda Seal, who has served as Texas WMU's interim director since June 2008.

"I am just overwhelmed and grateful for the trust WMU has put in me," said Wisdom-Martin, who also served as Cooperative Program missionary for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention from 1991-2001. In recommending Wisdom-Martin for the position, national WMU

Executive Director-Treasurer Wanda Lee called her "one of the most capable state leaders I have ever known. ... She is creative, visionary, a leader, disciplined, relational, focused; and these are just a few words that describe my friend Sandy."

Wisdom-Martin earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Southern Illinois University. She and her husband, Frank Martin, have a daughter, Hannah. — *Excerpted from Baptist Standard (Aug. 30, 2010)*



### Let us hear from you!

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

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

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**LINDA HAMZA** (BSW 2010) is working for North Texas State Hospital as a social worker for the criminally insane.

**JAMIE MCKINNEY** (BSW 2008/MSW 2010) is working as a program manager for Communities In Schools at the Heart of Texas at G.W. Carver Middle School.

**LYLE H. GREENE JACKS** (Carver 1991) has been employed since June 2007 as a social work case manager in a pediatric practice with co-located services, including pediatrician, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, feeding clinic, psychological testing, nutrition, and RN and SW case management. She has been married to Barry Jacks since January 1996 and she has a stepson, Dylan, who is 17, and a son, Dakota, who is 11.

**JOEL HARDER** (MSW 2008) is communications coordinator, Government Relations and

Policy Office, YMCA of the USA, Washington, DC. He and wife, Donelle, were married in November 2009 and live in Alexandria, VA., where Joel serves as interim pastor for young adults at First Baptist of Alexandria.

**AMY DOWNS** (MSW 2008), CSW, has worked at the Bluegrass Care Clinic at the University of Kentucky as a Ryan White Care Coordinator since January 2009. Her role is to assist in removing barriers to medical care for HIV-infected individuals. She obtained an HIV/AIDS specialization while working on her MSW degree.

**JACOB MAINS** (MSW 2005) is a psychiatric social worker at Oregon State Hospital. He also supervises MSW students doing their field placements through Portland State University. He says he would "highly recommend" the MSW program at Baylor for anyone who wants "top-notch training, world class professors and the opportunity to integrate faith with practice."





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## Endowed Installations

1 Family members of Dennis Myers gathered after the luncheon Sept. 24 for a group shot (from left): Son-in-law Clive Berry and daughter, Lori; wife Lois, senior lecturer in Baylor's Oral History Institute; daughter-in-law Dr. Anna Myers, mother Mrs. Margie Myers; and son, David. 2 Dean Diana Garland presents Dr. Myers with a plaque commemorating his installation at the luncheon held in his honor Sept. 24 in the Barfield Drawing Room. 3 Student Amanda Mendoza asks a question of Myers following his presentation on "The Longevity Revolution."



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4 MSW /MDiv students attending the worship service were (from left): Carolina Fuentes, Dinah Bolton (back pew), Morgan Caruthers, Jana Brazzil, and MSW student Kathleen Lokey. 5 Children of the School faculty members were invited to play instruments to a Ghana Folk Song at the worship service. From left, back they are Abbott, Haden and Harper Singletary, and Olivia Klawetter. In front are Josie (left) and Emilie Pooler. 6 MSW students Saleta Lawrence (back to camera) and husband, Luke (to her left), Xiomara O'Neill, Trevor Stephen and Erin Castillo visiting after the worship service.



# Let the little children come



It was all about the children at the Fall Worship Service Sept. 23 at which Dr. Jon Singletary (above) brought the message titled “Receiving the Kingdom as a Little Child” as part of his installation as The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies. After the service, a reception was held, and in these pictures, the children of Chad and Susanne Klawetter (lecturer at the School), triplets Zoe, Olivia and Sam, regale Jon with their insights on his sermon ... or maybe the cookies.

## Brice (cont'd)

Actually, the president’s stern talking-to was a double whammy for Brice, as the president was the first, and only, female to hold that position. “There was no way I could disrespect her, and not heed her admonishment,” Brice says.

The president’s message of social debt echoed the one she grew up with in her family. Now as a professor and mentor, it is a message she shares with her students. She says she often encounters a kind of defensiveness in this generation.

“It’s an attitude I see sometimes in my children and my nieces and nephews. They say, ‘That’s old school. We’re not like that today.’” Then she laughs, “And my students always say, ‘You sound just like my mom!’”

But for Brice, it’s a message students need to hear, especially students of color. “I want to share with them their history and context to help them understand that it is a big deal that they’re sitting here in college. They can’t mistake this blessing. And they can’t get shaken up by racism; it will happen, but I tell them they can’t use that as an excuse at all. They have an obligation to succeed.”

In the classroom, Brice tries to help all her students understand their personal context and how that impacts the lens through which they see their clients. Often, she says, her presence in the room as the professor is the students’ first challenge.

“Unfortunately in social work, students traditionally have never had a professor of color, especially an African American woman. I try to help them with that. They need to know there are different ways of knowing and being and to understand that our ways are only one way, and other ways we can learn from our clients.”

Brice believes strongly that social work is a ministry, and disagrees with the image of it often seen in media, i.e., social

control or making sure individuals don’t take advantage of the system. “Social work is about empowerment and what that empowerment looks like,” she says.

*“Unfortunately in social work, students traditionally have never had a professor of color, especially an African American woman.”*

Brice’s record of academic success is significant, even with her year off in the Bahamas. She graduated *magna cum laude* from South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, received her MSW from the University of South Carolina, and her PhD in social work research from the University of North Carolina. Previous to coming to Baylor this fall, she spent four years at Abilene Christian University as director of the Master of Science Social Work program. In that role she helped create the degree, overseeing the implementation of the curriculum, recruiting students, and leading it toward accreditation.

Leaving Abilene was a difficult decision for Brice and her family – husband Boston, daughter Tyler Alexis, and son Boston IV (“Ivey”). Ultimately, she says, the decision was made for her by God and the strong sense she had that God was leading her to Baylor.

“It really made no sense to move here given what I was building at Abilene,” she says. “But for us, this is a faith journey, and I believe this is a blessing. I’m waiting to see what God will do with me here at Baylor. I know He has me here for a reason.” ♦



## Strengthening families

JON SINGLETARY, CFCM Director, The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies



AS I WRITE THIS, WE ARE experiencing a lovely, gentle rain – especially refreshing after a month-long string of 100-degree days in August. The cyclical nature of the seasons reminds me that a similar rhythm exists in organizations, and this is certainly true of the CFCM.

This summer the CFCM experienced a host of changes with Kimberly Schlesinger and her family moving to northern Virginia, Beth Kilpatrick leaving our Texas Hunger Initiative for a position with World Hunger Relief Inc., and Sam Oakley on maternity leave with her second child, Taylor Kate.

At the same time, we were able to hire Amy Everett as Project Coordinator for the new Family Partnership Program. This initiative gives us an opportunity to design a model program, a method as such, that churches can implement to better serve families in need (*see story, page 10*).

This effort, combined with increasing numbers of congregations utilizing the Center's Church Census, affirms for us the interest that exists in strengthening congregational capacity for family ministry.

This fall, founding CFCM director and Dean Diana Garland will complete the second edition of her seminal work, *Family Ministry*. This award-winning text, now widely used by churches for planning and by seminaries for training ministers, devotes several chapters to the practice of family ministry, including how to build strong families and how to deal with crisis in families. With the release of this edition, the CFCM will offer new family ministry resources in conjunction with the book on our Web site.

Each of these efforts reminds me of the roots of the CFCM, which were strengthening congregations as they seek to nurture the faith of families. At the Center and the School, our vision is that strong families build strong communities that build strong societies. In recent years, we have focused on congregational community ministries and now we are coming full circle with these new resources related to families in congregational life.

Check out the CFCM Web site for more information on the Church Census, Family Ministry, and the family partnership program. And, as always, please contact us to learn more about how to strengthen the ministries of your congregation. ♦



### No Need Among You

"INCLUDING THE EXCLUDED" CONFERENCE

## REGISTER NOW!

THE CENTER IS ONE OF FOUR sponsors for the annual "No Need Among You: Including the Excluded" Conference Oct. 28-30 at Crestview Church of Christ in Waco. Other sponsors include Mission Waco, Texas Baptists (Baptist General Convention of Texas), and Crestview Church.

The conference brings churches, faith-based organizations and other nonprofit groups who work among the poor together to learn how to serve more effectively as they include and empower the lower-income and marginalized in our cities.

There is an all-star lineup of community development plenary speakers, including: Steve Corbett, Amy Sherman, Noel Castellanos, Larry James, Chris Simmons, Marcus Lawhorn, and Jimmy Dorrell.

The event features more than 25 workshops on topics such as: Ruby Payne's acclaimed training on understanding poverty; mental health and the church; homelessness; addiction; urban children and youth programs; community organizing, affordable housing, micro-loans, and many others.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
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# Summer feeding programs

SAN ANGELO FOOD PLANNING ASSOCIATION FILLS GAP FOR 20,000 CHILDREN +

ONE OF THE EXCITING things about our campaign for food security in Texas is seeing how communities catch fire for feeding children. Mary Herbert and Carol Heibert are transforming San Angelo, Texas. Last summer the community only had one Summer Meals site for the children of San Angelo after summer school let out. This summer Mary and Carol worked with their local Food Planning Association to feed more than 20,000 children at 10 different sites utilizing more than 1,700 volunteers. The crux of our campaign is coordinating efforts to work together to identify and address people that are going hungry in Texas.

## The Need

- New Census data released Sept. 17 revealed that 4,262,000 Texans (17.3 percent), including 1,774,000 children (25.6 percent), lived under the federal poverty line in 2009. These new numbers represent a 1.4 percent rise in poverty statewide, and a 2.5 percent jump in child poverty over the previous year.

- In 2009, 1.4 million Texans were food insecure. Texas led the nation in food insecurity among children.

## Working Together

- The Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) is coordinating the efforts to bring advocates, churches, and government to work together to ensure food security in Texas.

- THI has developed a Food Policy Roundtable with advocacy partners such as the Texas Baptist's Christian Life Commission, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas Impact, Texas Health Institute, and the Texas Food Bank Network. This Roundtable coordinates



The San Angelo Food Planning Association recruited more than 1,700 volunteers to feed more than 20,000 children during the weeks after summer school dismissed. (Photo by Chelsea Jenkins)

policy efforts of more than 30 additional advocacy organizations that work with state government to strengthen our abilities to serve food insecure families.

- THI has created a State Operations Team with USDA to ensure efficient and effective use of state and federal resources. Texas Department of Agriculture, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Department of State Health Services, and the Texas Food Bank Network serve as the State Operations Team.

- THI is in the process of developing Food Planning Associations like the one in San Angelo in every county in Texas over the next two year period. Food Planning Associations act as strategic planning councils that address the scope of hunger in local communities and are made up of elected

officials, social service organizations, businesses, and food insecure families.

- THI, USDA, HHSC and our Food Policy Roundtable partners have enrolled an additional 700,000 individuals this year in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that put an additional \$1 billion in the food sector of the Texas economy while increasing access to healthy foods for low-income families in Texas by coordinating our efforts.

We can be food secure in Texas if we continue to work together!

—Jeremy Everett, THI Director

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and find out how you can help  
end hunger in Texas by 2015