



Bearing a Legacy

Witnessing Dr. Preston Dyer bear the mace during December Commencement was especially meaningful to anyone who knows even a little about the significant role he played in laying the foundation for a social work program at Baylor before social work could even be selected as a major. Dyer encouraged the development of baccalaureate social work education at a time when most academics in the field deemed an undergraduate degree in social work inconsequential. He pushed for the development of a master's of social work program at Baylor, and he had the vision to bring Diana Garland to Baylor in 1999 to help him lead the charge. Six years later, their shared efforts resulted in the independent Baylor School of Social Work (SSW) we know and love today. For us, Baylor could not have given the honor of carrying forward the ceremonial mace to a more fitting individual than Dyer, someone who has so faithfully carried forward the vision, mission and development of the SSW.

CALENDAR *of events*

SEPTEMBER

- 27 Fall Worship Convocation
- 27-28 SSW Board of Advocates

OCTOBER

- 2 Dyer Ethics Workshop
- 5 MSW Preview Day
- 25-28 NACSW in St. Louis, MO

NOVEMBER

- 2-3 Homecoming Weekend
- 9-12 CWSE in Washington, D.C

DECEMBER

- 3 Last Day of Class
- 4-5 Study Days
- 14 Fall Convocation Ceremony

issue no.

32

community CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

"Now I have a story to tell."

AFTER ALL, TO STAND.

OVERCOMING
ADVERSITY,
MSW STUDENT
PREPARES TO
HELP FELLOW
UGANDANS DO
THE SAME



BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

Celebrating community

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



IN MANY WAYS, THIS issue is a celebration of partnership, life as a community, and what can be accomplished when willing individuals with diverse backgrounds and skills come together to work toward the greater good.

This collaboration takes on many colorful forms. Sometimes it happens on a grand scale, such as partnering with influential organizations like Compassion International or No Kid Hungry

to provide international student-leaders with a quality education or to make sure children from impoverished Texas families receive proper nourishment. Other times it happens behind the scenes, as one of our social work students faithfully contributes her or his services to a local organization, rallying behind an individual who's seeking help to face life's challenges. And then, of course, sometimes it's just plain fun: running (or walking) a race together to raise funds for student scholarships or improve foster care across the state.

While it's worth taking a moment to celebrate each of these scenarios, I'm thrilled that living and working as a true community and building meaningful partnerships that bring change are nothing new to the School of Social Work. It is what I have joyfully come to expect from this group of gifted colleagues, inspiring students and countless friends and partners.

As you read this collection of stories, I hope you are encouraged to think of ways that you can engage in the community around you for the good of others, whether that means reconnecting with the School by attending events or professional development seminars (check pages 7 and 23 for announcements) or simply becoming more engaged in your own place of service. ♦

Diana Garland

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.

From Insight to Empathy

NEW MSW COURSE UTILIZES CHILDREN'S ARTWORK TO FACILITATE UNDERSTANDING +

BY CHARIS DIETZ

SPEND ENOUGH TIME AROUND the Baylor School of Social Work and you are certain to learn how the administration and faculty view the concept of research: as a means to an end, not an end in and of itself.

"Our research and related findings must be useful to the world around us," Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work, is fond of saying. "It's not enough to gather information. We need to be doing research that will have an impact on the real problems that face real people."

This standard holds for our students as well. So it's no surprise that a new MSW course is resulting in a creative and colorful teaching tool for Waco-area children and their families.

As with most worthy efforts, the impetus behind the development of the course began with a couple of questions that needed to be answered: *How can we help people understand mental illness and related disabilities? And how can we engage our students in this process?*

Several exploratory road trips and brainstorming sessions later, Jim Ellor and Tracey Kelley—later joined by Becky Scott—had an idea of how they could begin finding some answers to those complex questions: through the minds of children.

"Back when I was a kid, any children who had special needs were in a different classroom or location. Today most schools mainstream them, and children have a lot more contact with children who have Down syndrome or other challenges," Ellor said. "The stories from the children with disabilities tend to be pretty consistent: they are picked on, the other children don't understand them, and they don't feel a part of the group."

"We are taking the approach of the Gestalt theory as we develop the course and, ultimately the exhibit, the perspective that knowledge yields empathy."

AN IDEA IS BORN

Motivated to find a way to help children relate with other children with mental or physical challenges, the team was drawn to the concept of art as a universal language, transcending both age and cognitive capabilities. Through collaboration with Baylor's Mayborn Museum, they were excited to learn that an Austin-based non-profit organization called Artsonia was willing



Thomas White, diagnosed with ADHD, and his artwork titled "Movement, movement, and movement," an apt expression, he noted, for what is happening in his mind.

to share pieces of children's artwork from around the state to aid the project. Each piece of art was created by a child with a disability as part of a school assignment. With the permission of the artists and their parents, Artsonia began to send the artwork to the Baylor team, and thus began the process of children educating graduate students in the first offering of Social Work 4V80 (Children's Art in the Museum: Explaining Psychopathology to Children).

A CLASS TAUGHT (IN PART) BY CHILDREN

Without knowing the artist's emotional or physical challenge, each MSW student selected one piece of artwork provided by Artsonia. The artist's identity and his or her disability was revealed, and the research began: first research related to an artist's specific challenge followed by a study on how the artist's disability can be reflected in art, particularly through the shared Artsonia pieces. Then began the most dynamic—according to the course's first cohort of six students—part of the process: interviewing the child-artists themselves.

Jasmine McGregor (MSW '12) has always been interested in the process of creating art and enjoys dabbling in various forms, but the opportunity to interview and review the artwork of a 14-year-old youth named Thomas, who told McGregor he had been diagnosed with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), gave her a whole new appreciation for the artistic process.

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MSW student profile

After all, to stand.

Overcoming adversity, MSW student prepares to help fellow Ugandans do the same

By Charis Dietz

“WILL THE NEIGHBORS SEE us?”

This was the unspoken question pulsing through the mind of young Julian Alum as she, her mother and siblings hurriedly rummaged through a garbage heap in the slums of Kampala, Uganda, looking for sellable scraps or anything edible under the cover of night. The risk of having her family’s desperation exposed—of being seen as destitute by her peers and their people—seemed almost unbearable, though perhaps, in reality, it was the least of her family’s real worries.

Only months before, Alum’s father—still a young man—had passed away from illness. Her mother took the only job she could find, selling sweet potatoes at the village market. But her meager income wasn’t nearly enough to keep a family of five children afloat. Education was a luxury that could no longer be afforded. Alum and her siblings were forced to drop out of school, and the youngest children were taken out of the city to a neighboring village because there simply was no way to provide for them.

At the age of eight, Alum became

“Even in the face of pain and adversity, I had to see to it that my dream of advocacy was never crippled by the circumstances around me.”

a child laborer, working alongside her mother in the market to supplement their income. All at once, her childhood was gone. In its place there was only a broken family, a daily fight for survival,



GML Scholar Julian Alum looks forward to returning home to Uganda and implementing what she’s learning.

and no hope for an education that could improve the circumstances. But two years later—in the midst what seemed like her family’s darkest hour—hope is exactly what broke through.

“One day a family friend came by and told my mother about Compassion International,” Alum recalled. “I was accepted in the program, and it was life-changing. Through Compassion, our hope was restored.”

Sponsored by a family in

Oregon, Julian fully engaged in Compassion’s Child Development programs. She reenrolled in school, received practical skills training and, ultimately, discovered her faith and her calling.

“On some days, we would be taught skills like handcrafts and how to make table mats,”

Alum said of her training through Compassion. “They recognize that not all students will succeed academically, and they wanted us to be economically

empowered by having a skill to use after completing the program.”

But Alum *did* succeed academically. In fact, because of her bright mind and hard work, after completing her secondary level (high school) education, she was one of only 30 students in the country to be chosen for Compassion’s Leadership Development program, allowing her a rare opportunity in Uganda: attending college.

Inspired by the impact a social worker with Compassion International had made in her life throughout her years in the program, Alum chose the closest thing to a degree in social work the local university had to offer: a degree in development studies.

After college, she returned to Compassion—this time as a staff member in the war-torn region of West Nile. There she began working with children who were orphaned and experiencing many of the same challenges she had once overcome.

“When I would tell them, ‘You need

to stand strong,’ they understood because they knew of my struggles growing up and the transformation in my own life,” Alum said.

“Even in the face of pain and adversity, I had to see to it that my dream of advocacy was never crippled by the circumstances around me,” she continued. “My desire is to become a leading advocate for the poor in Uganda by designing programs focused on holistic development as well as programs that deal specifically with social injustices, such as the lack of education for young girls and the women affected and children orphaned by the spread of HIV/AIDS.”

After a year of service in West Nile, it was that desire which drew Alum back to Kampala where she began working with children and families in her home community. Over time she created a small business called God is Able Jewelry Project, which provides a way for women who are HIV-positive—and thus often ostracized from Ugandan society—to work and feed their families.

Invested in empowering the lives around her, Alum still yearned for more education and training and prayed for the skills to become an effective agent of change in her country.

She never could have guessed that meeting a group of Baylor University business students on a mission trip to her city would be the way the answer to her prayer was set in motion.

Through a multitude of willing hands, the generosity of Compassion International and other scholarship donors, and an



Through the years, Alum saved each of her Compassion child sponsorship photos. (Her first is pictured at left.) She calls the timeline of photos “My Ebenezer: Thus far the Lord has brought me” based on 1 Samuel 7:12.



Alum conducts a health sensitization workshop with children, ages 6-8, in Kampala, Uganda.

interdisciplinary community of Baylor faculty and staff—including an economics professor and his wife who welcomed Alum into their home—her miracle happened. She was flown to Texas, enrolled in Baylor University and began the quest for what she had once only dreamed: a master’s degree in social work.

“Now I look back at the way we suffered and struggled through life, and I remember the days when I would cry because there was no money for school fees and nothing to eat at home,” Alum said, reflecting on her life’s journey. “I thank God I did not give up. Thank God I stood because all that is now history. Now I have a story to tell.”

That story is still being written. Today, Alum is about to begin her second (and final) year in the MSW program. Her irresistible smile lights up the School of Social Work, while her bright mind and life experiences continue to challenge and encourage her classmates.

Recognized for her passion for advocacy and vision for change in her home country, Julian was recently admitted into the SSW’s Global Mission Leadership (GML) Initiative—an academic program which identifies global leaders and allows them to focus their MSW curriculum and research around

social issues in their own countries.

Jennifer Smyer Dickey, director of GML, was first drawn to Alum in one of the Cross Cultural Interactive Seminars she teaches. “What I have come to know about Julian is that she is not only burdened for her country—specifically women and children who suffer from HIV/AIDS—but she also believes in her country,” Dickey reflected. “She sees the strength and endurance in her people. She knows that if they have skills and knowledge they will live empowered lives of change.”

An empowered life: It’s Alum’s story, and it’s the story she hopes will be retold again and again in the lives of the women and children in Uganda upon her return. ♦

It takes a village... to raise a leader.

In addition to Julian Alum, we have a new Compassion International student joining us this fall, Brooke Abuya from Kenya. Baylor School of Social Work is one of only three schools in the nation where Compassion is supporting graduate students. We’re grateful for the opportunity to partner together in investing in the lives of these courageous individuals.

PhD program now accepting applications for first cohort in 2013

IT'S OFFICIAL. The School of Social Work has begun accepting applications for the new PhD degree program. While the program was initially set to launch in 2011, the start was postponed in an effort to ensure that its format and curriculum could effectively meet the needs of today's leaders in the social work profession.

Responses to a survey sent to alumni and colleagues in the field overwhelmingly confirmed that the revised curriculum and hybrid format are on target for those already providing leadership as educators, administrators and researchers who are willing to address the complex social issues of our world.

By utilizing virtual classroom/ videoconferencing technology to facilitate live interaction with faculty and other students, the program accommodates the needs of students to remain in their current homes and places of employment.

Each cohort will include approximately seven students. Classes begin in June 2013, and the first deadline for applications is October 15, 2012.

Visit www.baylor.edu/social_work to learn more.



The PhD program will utilize Cisco videoconferencing software to hold class remotely in real time.

Military Family Coping Project receives funding for Phase II of research

SOLDIERS DEPLOY for a limited time at the call from our country, but some will come home having experienced untold stresses that will remain with them for a lifetime.

The more that is known about these stresses the better we can prepare our Soldiers for what they will be facing.

One significant step closer to gathering and disseminating this knowledge, an interdisciplinary team of Baylor faculty, hosted and guided by the School of Social Work, received a one-year grant of \$350,000 to fund the Military Family Coping Project – Phase II, a collaborative research effort to study pre-deployment stress among Soldiers, their spouses and parents. The research is supported by the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command

(USAMRMC).

Phase I of the study involved a series of focus groups with soldiers, spouses and parents to help the team to develop research questions and instruments.

Phase II will allow the research team to survey a sample of 500 soldiers, 175 spouses and 175 parents in paired sets to study three different perspectives of pre-deployment stress.

The research team includes principal investigators Jim Ellor, PhD, of Baylor and Sandra B. Morissette, PhD, of the Veterans Affairs VISN 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans and Texas A&M Health Science Center. Co-site principal investigators are Lt. Col. (Ret) Sharon Reese, DrPH, RN, and Janice Whitacre, PhD, Acudetox Director, Warrior Combat Stress Reset Program, based at Fort Hood. Reese will serve as project manager. Also from Baylor are

co-investigators Dennis R. Myers, PhD, The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor in Family Studies at the Baylor School of Social Work; Sara L. Dolan, PhD, assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience, and Keith P. Sanford, PhD, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience, Baylor College of Arts & Sciences; and Janet R. Crow, PhD, assistant professor, and Suzy H. Weems, PhD, chair and professor of family and consumer sciences, Baylor College of Arts & Sciences.

Also assisting the effort are three Baylor social work graduate students: Tara Hixson, Celia Feller and Heidi Rathbun-McVeigh, who are involved in the data collection and analysis process.

The team hopes to find further funding for Phase III of the project, a post-test of the same sample after the soldiers return from the Middle East.

Coaster Crawl

BSW CLASS FINDS CREATIVE WAY TO PROMOTE AWARENESS LOCALLY

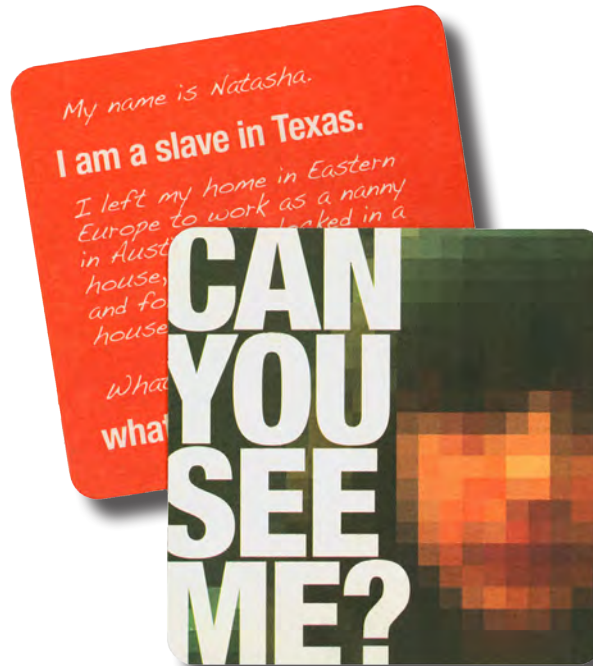
There's a simple, new way to educate the local community and raise awareness on social ills such as human trafficking according to BSW students: coasters. Last fall, a class taught by Dr. Kim Kotrla brought an Austin-based initiative to Waco.

"It's important for the community to know more about the issue of domestic trafficking," Cynthia Estrada, a student organizer for the event, said. "And it's important to know that it's not just something that happens overseas. It happens here in Texas, in small cities."

What's Your Response is an Austin-based organization with an initiative called "Coaster Crawl," designing and distributing coasters which feature authentic scenarios of domestic human trafficking victims and how the reader can help. The organization provided the SSW class with thousands of coasters to share.

"The students decided to actually try and replicate the effort in Waco," Kotrla said. "They wanted to see if there were any differences in the responses between the two cities."

Volunteering their time, the group of students distributed a total of 10,000 coasters to local restaurants and other



With the hope of raising awareness about human trafficking within the U.S. and Texas, student volunteers from a BSW class distributed 10,000 coasters to restaurants and other businesses in the Waco and Austin area.

venues in Austin and then Waco.

While some restaurant owners were hesitant, the students were surprised to find that, overall, Waco business owners were receptive to idea.

"What's fun is I had several students come up and say, 'Hey! I went to eat at so-and-so's and I saw the coasters.' So the businesses are really using them," Kotrla said.

For many of the students, including

Estrada, this was their first time to promote awareness in a tangible way.

"Issues like human trafficking need a lot of attention, and I thought this was a good strategy to take steps toward meeting that need," Estrada reflected. "It was simple, and it was fun for us, as students, to do."

BSW STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



From left: Laura Pennington, Elise Haykin, and Natalie Allen (pictured with Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Jon Singletary) were recognized at the Academic Honors Week Convocation for achieving the three highest GPAs of all BSW students in the SSW for 2011-12.

Dyer Ethics Workshop

**OCTOBER 2, 2012
1:30 - 4:30 P.M.**

**"ETHICAL PRACTICE REQUIRES
KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEW
TSBSWE RULES"**

BY

VICKI HANSEN, LMSW-AP, ACSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NASW/TX

**REGION XII SERVICE CENTER
WACO, TEXAS**

REGISTER:

WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL_WORK/DYER2012

Reflections from the classroom

JON E. SINGLETARY Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies



WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE ROLE of Associate Dean last year, I worried about having opportunities to get to know our students. I assumed I could handle the behind the scenes work of directing the BSW program, scheduling classes and working with our faculty and staff to keep our program strong. I was less certain about being able to spend quality time with our students since administrative responsibilities meant that I wouldn't be able to teach more than about one to two courses each year.

As soon as I started sharing this with our faculty, the opportunities to guest lecture started coming in. I guess it shouldn't be a surprise that they would be glad to have someone come in from time to time! Our classes are always better when we play to our strengths and this approach allows me to visit classes and talk about church and community, about social justice and global issues.

It certainly has given me the chance to get to know our students better. I've been making time to spend with students before and after class in the halls, but the opportunity to be with them in the classroom on a regular basis has made for much more meaningful interactions.

I was first asked to join Becky Ellison in our Practice III course that focuses on practice in communities and organizations. The emerging social workers taking this course loved the idea of asset-based community development and asset mapping—a project that is being made real to them as they participate in Waco's Poverty Solutions Initiative. They were interested in how faith functions as an asset in people's lives. In this class, they were asking, "What is the role of faith in the lives of the people we serve?"

Shortly after, I visited Social Welfare Policy where our emerging social workers were asking hard questions about taxes and human services, social policies our country is having to

"When our distinct characteristics as a School of Social Work come alive to them, it makes me proud of our emerging social workers, proud of our faculty for teaching these things so effectively and even more honored to be a part of the leadership of this program."

address in new ways, and I loved the way we were able to express our thoughts on faith as a part of how we can shape our response to these issues. This class wanted to know, "What does faith look like in larger contexts, not just our community but our nation?"

Last semester, I visited both sections of the Human Behavior and the Social Environment class. Again, themes of working for social justice in light of how people experience oppression were given real expression in light of our faith. Here, they asked, "What do these opportunities mean in light of how I live out my faith?"

In each classroom, I didn't just get to meet our students, I was able to get to know them. I was able to hear what makes these emerging social workers excited about this profession and their sense of calling.

Furthermore, in each class I heard our professional competency of ethically integrating faith and practice come alive. Students were demonstrating the three distinctive practice behaviors that we say are the outcomes of social work education at Baylor; they were able to understand the faith of others, the faith of the larger context in which they serve and to examine the meaning of their own faith.

I love the new opportunities I have as Associate Dean, and I am committed to this role because of the passion and gifts our students are taking into our world. When our distinct characteristics as a School of Social Work come alive to them, it makes me proud of our emerging social workers, proud of our faculty for teaching these things so effectively, and even more honored to be a part of the leadership of this program. ♦

Stepping into the field

ROB ROGERS Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

“I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE!” is a trademark statement of our social work students. So it is no wonder that they are eager to practice what they learn in the classroom. We don’t keep them waiting!

In their first year, students in the standard (two-year) MSW program spend 16 hours a week for two semesters in a generalist field education internship. In their second (or concentration) year, they, as well as Advanced Standing students, have an advanced internship experience. Let’s take a closer look at the advanced internships and hear from several students and alumni about their internship plans and experiences.

For most students the process of developing an advanced internship begins in January, eight months before fall classes begin. Dr. Erma Ballenger, Director of Field Education – Advanced Practice, meets several times with each student to hear about their passion, expectations and career interests. Sometimes a student’s interests fit well with one of the (more than 150) agencies currently affiliated with our field education program. In other cases, students want an internship where none exists. Then using her extensive network of contacts, Dr. Ballenger creatively and persistently explores options in other cities, states and countries.

“In social work, field education is the core element, the ‘signature pedagogy’ within the academic program.”

During the fall semester, students spend 60-100 hours developing a contract for specific work activities. The goal is to ensure that their fulltime internship experience in the spring semester will enable them to apply and develop further the knowledge and skills they are learning in their concentration courses. Students also work with agency personnel to develop a research proposal on a topic of interest to them and of value to the agency. I asked four recent alumni about their internship experiences. The following is what they shared.

ASHLEY KUHN

“When it comes to older adults, I like to focus on resiliency and thriving,” said Ashley Kuhn. However, it was her interest in older adults with Alzheimer’s disease that attracted her to



the Sagecrest Alzheimer’s Care Center, which is on the 100-acre campus of the Baptist Retirement Community near San Angelo, TX. There Ashley worked with an interdisciplinary team conducting assessments, creating care plans, providing family support and counseling, and educating families about end-of-life decision making.

What she learned and how she performed in this setting led to her being hired by Sagecrest, where she is pursuing her dream of working with older adults in all aspects of their lives. It has also enabled her to be of more support to her family as they care for her grandmother, who has Alzheimer’s disease.

JENNY HODGE

How can congregations and other religious organizations work together effectively to meet needs in their communities? Finding answers to this question is what motivated MDiv/MSW student Jenny Hodge to do her internship with the Waco Regional Baptist Association (WRBA). She said, “I wanted to make a contribution by creating networks and avenues of resource sharing between the various food assistance programs and organizations in the community.

My goal was not to have churches replicate services already in the community, but discover how they can best support and utilize existing food assistance resources.” Having completed her MSW in May, upon completion of her MDiv degree, Jenny plans to pursue her interest in community organizing by earning a PhD in social work with an emphasis on the impact congregations and schools of social work can have on impoverished communities in which they are located.

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You can't call it **FAMILY** until you

sweat together!



1



2



3

1 Clark Kent (aka Jon Singletary) prepares to reveal super-human strength during the half-marathon route. 2 Dennis Myers leads Kasey Ashenfelter to a fast 5k finish. 3 The SSW team was hard to miss during the Bearathon thanks to some bright blue race shirts and a fantastic turnout. 4 (From left to right): Kay Boatman, Erma Ballenger and Jeanie Fitzpatrick know how to keep it fun. 5 Post-race, the SSW declares an official “Bearathon Survival Day.”



4



5

For more photos from the Bearathon and other spring events, visit the “Baylor School of Social Work” page on Facebook.

SSW Takes on the Bearathon

Some walked. Some ran. Some went 5k. Others took on the half-marathon route. But *all* had a blast participating in Student Foundation’s Bearathon 2012 in March, raising scholarship funds for current and future Baylor students. Overall, the School of Social Work had more staff and faculty participate in the event than any other academic unit at Baylor—and we’re the smallest! That’s a lot of heart.

RUNNING *for a cause*

TEAM MELODY

BY ISAAC DOVALINA

How does a conglomeration of students, faculty and staff in an academic unit become known as an authentic “community” or even a “family?” It has to do with the way they actively support one another inside and out of the work place. Melody Zuniga, Director of Field Education - Generalist Practice, can certainly attest to that.

Melody, by her own assertion, has never been the most athletic person, and after deciding to live a healthier lifestyle, she began to run.

Last year, after working up to being able to run a mile and a half, Melody decided that she would run her first race ever, the Speak Up For Kids Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) 5k, aimed to help and serve children in foster care.

“I thought, ‘well I can’t really think of a better cause than that,’” Melody said. “I set a goal in my mind to raise a thousand dollars, and I did.”

She constantly reminded people about the cause and asked for donations.

“I guess I harassed people enough to where they thought they wanted to do something

to make me feel heard,” Melody laughed.

When Melody went into the office the day before the race, her colleague, Susanne Klawetter, surprised her with a stack of CASA 5k registration packets that had been picked up by multiple other families associated with the School of Social Work.

They wanted to run the race with her and support the cause that she is passionate about.

“It was really touching that people thought of that,” Melody reflected.

While training for the race, Melody had her fair share of struggles, but she reminded herself of everyone rallying behind her.

“All of these people donated... and I can’t stop. I can’t stop,” Melody said about her thoughts during training.

And she hasn’t stopped. Melody has now completed five 5k races, including Student Foundation’s Bearathon 5k with her SSW teammates in March (see previous page). In a couple of months, it will be time for the CASA 5k again, and yes, Melody’s already planning to be there.



TOP PHOTO: Melody Zuniga and her husband, Jose, complete their first 5k race: Speak Up for Kids CASA 5k. **MIDDLE PHOTO:** The day before her first race, Melody came into work to find a box filled with the registration packets of several families associated with the SSW who had secretly registered to run the race with her as a way of showing their support. **BOTTOM PHOTO:** Melody and Jose enjoy some post-race, congratulatory hugs from their children.

C. Anne Davis honored through endowed scholarship

FORMER STUDENTS COME TOGETHER TO SEE ANNE'S LEGACY LIVE ON +

BY DAVIN ALLEN

C. ANNE DAVIS—in many ways an unsung hero of our day—led students with a pioneering spirit as the first dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She boldly went against the grain, carried by her vision for a social work program infused with faith, and empowered student after student after student.

After the closing of the Carver School in 1997, Anne readily brought her expertise to Baylor University and helped Baylor's School of Social Work develop curriculum for a Master's program that threaded the 100-year history of the Carver School into Baylor's rich heritage and ongoing legacy.

Now her passion and service will be forever memorialized through the Cora Anne Davis Endowed Scholarship Fund in Social Work at Baylor University.

"She touched students' lives, and those lives touched other lives," Darla Bailey shared.

"I remember Anne teaching a whole semester on social justice," Darla recalled. "It was so powerful to read Scripture from a social justice standpoint and to see that it has played an intricate part in our Christian heritage. Anne brought that truth alive."

As a student of Anne Davis, Darla benefitted firsthand from Anne's vision for church social work. The result? Darla was equipped to pursue her calling. Now the president and co-founder of Kaleidoscope, Inc., an innovative day program for young adults with complex medical needs, Darla chose to pay it forward. Upon learning that Anne was in Waco, Darla and several friends devised a plan to honor

Anne's legacy and establish a scholarship in her name that would empower generations of Baylor students.

WAITING FOR THE MISSING PIECE

Kim Myers, an attorney with Rogers and Hardin, LLP, was more than 400 miles away in Atlanta when she first heard about the scholarship honoring Anne Davis. She had

been part of the first class to graduate from the Carver School and credited much of her transformation to those years.

"Anne's ability to articulate social work with the faith component was something I'd never heard before," Kim reflected. "She articulated the vision of what I felt like the church should live, that of an interior motivation. We should serve because we are called to, because of what Christ has done for us—not to change people."

Kim eagerly called to make a gift and learned that the scholarship fund almost had enough to begin awarding scholarships. Her gift would be the missing puzzle piece in this beautiful act of generosity.

"I'm so amazed and respectful of what they've been able to accomplish at Baylor's School of Social Work," Kim commented. "They continue to stress to the students that the theological piece of social work is not necessarily what

you're going to preach to others, but your motivation for doing this as a profession."

LIVING THE LEGACY

Kelly VanderPloeg McCaleb (featured in the previous issue of Community Connections) is one of many students whose dreams were enlivened through the C. Anne Davis Endowed



Diana Garland celebrates the establishment of the C. Anne Davis Endowed Scholarship in Social Work made possible by the generosity of Board of Advocate members Kim Myers (left) and Darla Bailey (right) along with other former students and friends of Anne.

Scholarship Fund in Social Work. And when she wrote a heartfelt thank you note to her donors, she had no idea the number of heart strings her words would pull.

As she shared her experiences volunteering with Hospice care, Kim Myers was deeply touched. "As I was going through the death of my mom, it was the Hospice workers who were helping us through those last few months," Kim shared. "It was a really interesting coincidence that during the year that my mom died and I was dealing with that on a very personal level that I got a letter from Kelly, a scholarship recipient, who was dealing with Hospice

herself!”

Now a graduate of Baylor’s Master’s in social work program, Kelly lives the legacy of Anne Davis as she pursues a career in gerontology.



Davis led her colleagues to develop the concept of “church social work” and educated generations of church social workers who are currently leading today’s Baptist congregations, mission programs and religiously-affiliated organizations.

“The scholarship is not just honoring Anne, but is impacting students like Kelly,” Darla said. “She has graduated and has gone back to work in Michigan. That’s our goal: to equip students and send them back into their communities, and that’s what I see happening at Baylor.”

“I think the only way we will see that continue is to encourage the efforts at Baylor University,” she continued. “And that encouragement comes through our giving.” ♦

To learn how you can be a part of changing students’ lives by supporting scholarships in Baylor’s School of Social Work or by establishing one of your own, contact Kristen Box, director of development, at Kristen_A_Box@baylor.edu or (254) 315-9773.

achievements & accolades

JEREMY EVERETT, director of the Texas Hunger Initiative, has been named a Next Generation Project Texas Fellow of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas at Austin. Those honored with this recognition are chosen based not only on their outstanding professional achievements but also for their contributions to their community. The Next Generation Project Texas brings together the most distinguished young leaders in Texas from all walks of life—government, business, education, media and non-profits—to deliberate on the most pressing state, national and global issues.



Because of her tireless service and leadership in guiding her class to establish Campus Kitchen at Baylor—an affiliate of the student-run national non-profit Campus Kitchens Project—**GAYNOR YANCEY** (pictured far right) was presented with the Yancey Outstanding Faculty Partner Award. Named after its first recipient, the award will continue to be given to faculty who serve as dedicated advisors on behalf of the program in the future. Pictured in the project’s Community Garden with Yancey are 2012 Campus Kitchen honorees: (left to right) Amy Heard (BA ’12), Hannah Laird, a Baylor senior, majoring in nutrition sciences, and Dave Thiel of ARAMARK.

SSW Alumna Honored with National Award

BY ISAAC DOVALINA

The Baylor School of Social Work is proud to celebrate alumna Ev'marie Peach (BSW '06, MSW '08), former Director of Bound for Success, as the recipient of the Award of Excellence in Innovation in Resident/Client Services from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

In 2010, recognizing the startling low percentage of college attendance by at-risk high school students, Peach began working to develop a college mentorship program at the Beaumont Housing Authority (BHA) before they had even received funding.

"To our surprise, we got the grant of \$110,000," Peach said. "We started recruiting students that were going to be high school seniors and students who were in our housing program."

Due to her efforts, the Bound for Success program was born, reaching out to at-risk high school seniors living in low-income households. Recruited students are taught a wide variety of lessons, ranging from financial tips to how to succeed in college.

Perhaps one of the most significant services that Bound For Success offered to the students was the opportunity to visit college campuses across Texas. Students were able to widen their views on attending college by being able to receive a first-hand account of what it would be like. The students visited eight universities, and were able to spend the night at a hotel in downtown Dallas when they visited Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Arlington.

"I know they really enjoyed that," Peach said. "A majority of the kids in that group probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to be a part of that experience otherwise."

Bound for Success helped the students and their families with the process of applying for college and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). According to Peach, this type of assistance was unheard of by the students.

The program guided high school seniors through their final year of school, showing them the importance of education after high school. All 17 were accepted into one of the colleges of their choice—a monumental success.

Not only did Bound for Success provide these students with services that took them to colleges across Texas and helped them apply for school, they also provided each student with a scholarship of \$3,500.



Ev'marie Peach (left) takes Bound for Success students to tour colleges.



Ev'marie Peach (center) accepts NAHRO award.

Peach said that the most challenging part of the program was getting the kids to believe that college was a realistic possibility.

"They didn't think a college education was possible for them," Peach said. "All it really took was somebody to push them."

With a large amount of local buzz the program was enrolled in contests, garnering recognition for its impact in the community. After winning the state award, the program advanced to the national level and was selected to receive the national award.

"High school seniors living in subsidized housing is a population that is often neglected but holds great potential," NAHRO President Akinola Popoola said. "The BHA program exposed these youth to new ideas and surroundings, and showed them what can be achieved with education which led to amazing results."

"I didn't think it was going to get that far up after just running the program for one year," Peach admitted.

The success of the program, however, proved undeniable.

For Peach, though, the most rewarding part of her experience was not the award; it was being there for the students to watch them grow, and in turn, they were there for her as well.

"I don't think the kids have any idea of how much influence they had on me as far as just learning and growing in myself—both personally and professionally," Peach said. "It's memories like that I'm never going to forget. Ever." ♦

BRUCE DAY (Carver MDiv/MSW '85) is the Executive Director of the Rome and Floyd County (Georgia) Habitat for Humanity. His branch is building two new homes a year, and Bruce has overseen the opening of three different housing services that serve 12 families a year. Bruce plans on adding a disaster response program and a financial literacy program, which will double the number of families his organizations serve annually.

RICKY CREECH (Carver MSW '91) was appointed as Executive Director/Minister of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention in April 2011. Ricky brings to the Convention twenty years of denominational life experience, serving Montgomery Baptist Association as Church and Community Ministries Director, Birmingham Baptist Association as Executive Director and Oak Grove United Methodist Church as Minister of Administration and Missions.

KATIE MUZOS FREDERICK (BSW '05) married Greg Frederick on January 15, 2011 in Austin, Texas, and is attending



May 2013. Katie is working on campus as a research assistant and resides with her husband in Buda, Texas.

GERRY HUTCHINSON (Carver MSW '79)

was recalled to active duty to serve in the Horn of Africa. Hutchinson, a U.S. Navy Reserve Chaplain, will serve 15 months of active duty as part of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa.



MATTHEW SCHOBERT (MSW '02) and **CHRISTI HART** (MSW '02) were both appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Social Work Data Management Committee comprised of VA social workers from across the country.

Matthew and his wife, Camden, welcomed a son, Frederick Matthew Schobert III, (aka "Trey") on December 13, 2011.

SCOTT TAYLOR (MSW '03) received his Ph.D. in School Work from Boston College.



DANA SMITH (BASW '04, MSW '05) was recently promoted to CEO of Communities In Schools

in North Texas (CISNT). She has worked for CISNT since graduating from Baylor with her MSW degree in 2005. In less than one year, while serving as the program's grant writer and interim CEO, the organization went from a shrinking agency to one that has grown to over \$4 million, serving over 3,200 at-risk children in 34 programs across four school districts in two counties.

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SNAP SHOTS



1

SPRING AWARDS & RECOGNITION

1 (Left to right): Joshua Tan, Heather Mustain, and Sambo Klauth were recognized for their excellence in research at the 2012 Awards Breakfast in May. 2 Our 2012 Field Award Recipients (pictured left to right) are: Bea Florez, MSW Intern of the Year (Physical and Mental Health), Alexis Christensen, MSW Intern of the Year (Community Practice), Laura Pennington, BSW Intern of the Year, Vicki Northern, Field Instructor of the Year, Patsy Buckner, Task Supervisor of the Year, Doug McDurham, Field Agency Administrator of the Year, and Anthony Stewart, MSW Intern of the Year (Children and Families).



2



3

NO KID HUNGRY LAUNCH AT THE CAPITOL

3 An Austin-area elementary school student participates in a Biscuit Brothers performance while Diana Garland looks on before bringing remarks. 4 (Left to right): Todd Staples, Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture and featured speaker at the event, Bill Shore, founder and CEO of Share Our Strength, and Jeremy Everett, director of Texas Hunger Initiative (THI), are pictured with Lee Leffingwell, mayor of Austin, as he presents a proclamation from the City of Austin. 5 KLRU-TV, the Austin affiliate for PBS, interviews Everett on the work of THI.



4



5

Texas Hunger Initiative

We've been busy.

FROM AUSTIN UP TO AMARILLO: THIS YEAR IN REVIEW +

BY KASEY ASHENFELTER

IN OCTOBER OF 2011, the Texas Hunger Initiative (THI), in partnership with Share Our Strength, launched the No Kid Hungry Campaign in Texas at an event in Austin. The launch brought together leaders such as Todd Staples, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Lee Leffingwell, the Mayor of Austin, the School of Social Work's Diana Garland, along with elementary school students from Waco and Austin.

The morning event was a great success with leaders hopeful for the future, promising to support the campaign and pledging to work to end hunger among children in Texas. These pledges have not gone unfulfilled. As its name suggests, the No Kid Hungry Campaign launch served as a taking off point for the Texas Hunger Initiative. Since the launch, the Texas Hunger Initiative has greatly expanded its work. Its local involvement has spread across Texas in all directions, and it now has a presence in 13 communities and numerous school districts in addition to these.

The Texas Hunger Initiative organizes local communities by creating Food Planning Associations (FPAs) in cities and counties throughout the state. FPAs are made up of government and civic leaders, representatives from faith communities, corporate leaders, non-profit organizations and people experiencing food insecurity, and they function as strategic planning teams to assess local food systems, identify resources and gaps, create and implement plans to address these gaps using existing resources, and evaluate the process in order to move toward food security.

Currently, the Texas Hunger Initiative has functioning or exploratory

FPAs in: Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Ft. Worth, Lockhart, Lubbock, McAllen, McLennan County, Midland, Presidio, San Angelo, and San Antonio. The FPAs work on all aspects of food insecurity in a community.

For example, THI partners with the USDA and Dairy MAX, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the National Dairy Council, to help interested school districts implement alternative delivery models for school breakfast that allow all children to eat during the first 15 minutes of class.

During the fall of 2011, this team launched or expanded the School Breakfast Program in 65 primary and elementary schools in five Texas school districts—Connally ISD, Dallas ISD, El Paso ISD, Lufkin ISD, and Waco ISD. To date, Dairy MAX has collected data from 24 schools in three districts, and this data shows that school breakfast average daily participation has increased over the previous school year anywhere from 134 percent to 207 percent.

THI also works with the USDA, TDA and non-profit partners to increase participation in the summer meals program. This year THI worked with communities to increase the number of summer feeding sites by 50 and increase participation by 19,000 meals daily. THI is also working with its partners to implement a summer outreach texting tool. For the first time, families will be able to text message their zip codes to a phone



Director of Texas Hunger Initiative Jeremy Everett addresses the crowd at the No Kid Hungry launch on the Capitol steps.

number and receive information about summer feeding sites close to home.

With efforts like these, THI is making significant steps towards lower food insecurity in Texas. Though the Initiative's progress is encouraging, there is still much work to be done in Texas.

Hunger reaches every city and town in Texas. There are currently 5.5 million Texans who are food insecure. This number is staggering and unacceptable in a state as great as Texas. The Texas Hunger Initiative is working to change these numbers, but it will only happen when all groups and individuals in Texas—elected officials, congregations, businesses—decide to work together and believe in the common goal of ensuring every individual has access to three meals a day, seven days a week. ♦

READ MORE ONLINE

www.baylor.edu/texashunger/
and find out how you can help
end hunger in Texas by 2015.

SNAP SHOTS



1



2

FAMILY DINNER

1 David Pooler visits with MSW student Pagrita Fuller. 2 (Left to right) Jennifer Young (BSW Outstanding Student), Kathy Kelley (MSW Outstanding Student), Jessica Juch (MSW Spirit of Social Work Award), and Hannah Abernathy (BSW Spirit of Social Work Award) are recognized for their scholarship, advocacy and service. 3 Darla Bailey (right) founder of Kaleidoscope, Inc., an innovative adult day health center in Louisville, KY, was named the 2012 School of Social Work Alumna of the Year. She is pictured with Liz Sneed, director of Kaleidoscope, Inc. 4 (Left to right) Diana Garland, David Garland, dean of Truett Seminary, and Diana's mother, Dorsie Richmond, enjoy dinner with family and friends of the School. 5 MSW students Rachel Graves (left) and Kameryn Phillips pause for a photo op.



3



4



5

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MELODY ZUNIGA

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Artwork (from p. 3)

“When Thomas is with his art, it is one of the rare times he’s focused and completely absorbed. He’s a very insightful, intelligent person, and his artwork reflects the busyness of his mind,” McGregor related from her interaction with the youth. “Art is a human experience where you are allowed to express whatever is going on inside.”

Along with providing a platform for self-expression, McGregor’s classmate, Crystal Graham (MSW ’12), observed that her artist, Kayla, who has Down syndrome, communicated a fundamental desire to relate—to be seen and treated like the rest of her peers who have “eyes, ears, nose, mouth and hair” like she does.

Kayla’s reflection—through her self-portrait—on the common bonds of humanity is exactly what Ellor, Kelley and Scott hope to inspire, not only in the minds of their graduate students, but in the community beyond. Today that looks like a row of six pieces of children’s art, each framed with a statement from the artist, hanging in the first floor hallway of the School of Social Work. But soon—by the end of the next session of the course—it will be a full-scale exhibit in the Children’s Discovery Center of Mayborn Museum.

“We are taking the approach of the Gestalt theory as we continue to develop the course and, ultimately, the children’s artwork exhibit—the perspective that knowledge yields empathy,” Ellor said.

In putting the theory into practice, the goal of the children’s artwork exhibit is that, as families visit the museum, parents will be able to guide their children through the exhibit, while helping them relate to each artist (whose name, age, photo and artist’s statement will be posted below her/his piece) as well as thinking through the concept that “art is art,” no matter what challenges one might have.

“I’m hoping that, along with educating children on what it’s like to have a mental or physical disability, this project will help teach children about bullying and how we’re all different in our own special way but everyone should be included and embraced no matter what they happen to be diagnosed with,” Graham shared.

To assist parents in getting the most out of their children’s tour through the exhibit, Ellor, Kelley and Scott, with the help of their students, are developing a booklet—broken into age-appropriate segments—that will provide parents with suggested talking points, questions and even games to help prompt discussion among their family, as they view the artwork together.

All in all, *one* MSW class,



A new MSW course is in the process of developing a children’s artwork exhibit, which currently displayed on the first floor of the SSW building and showcases the colorful and creative artwork of children with mental and physical challenges, such as ADHD, deafness, Down syndrome, and autism.

thoughtfully created, has the potential to:

- educate future social work professionals in how various mental health challenges are reflected in a child’s artwork;
- explore the role of social work in the work of a local museum;
- convert academic information into teaching material that any parent can use to facilitate his or her child’s understanding about various mental health challenges; and, ultimately,
- contribute to the community that lies beyond the classroom.

It’s a fitting example of the School’s mission to gather and disseminate knowledge in a way that makes a lasting impact, with the greater good always in mind. ♦

MSW Report (from p. 13)

RACHEL LINTHICUM

Hands-on clinical experience is what Rachael Linthicum was seeking in her internship at Arrow Child and Family Services. At first, she was disappointed. Clinical work with foster children and families was not what she expected, saying, “Foster care was bigger than what I saw on the surface. The system is confusing and hard to navigate. So I made the decision to learn it for myself; and I studied different theories and clinical practices that could be applied to this population.”

Her preparation was rewarded when a staff member left and Rachael was given a full caseload to manage. The staff were so impressed with her passion and skill, Arrow hired her fulltime when she graduated last May. Rachael’s long-term goal is “to earn a PhD

and teach future social workers to advocate for those who cannot do it for themselves.”

TREVOR STEPHEN

“One of my burning desires is to do ministry as a social worker internationally with a faith-based organization. My internship at Buckner Children and Family Services offered me the opportunity to do both,” said Trevor Stephen, who graduated with his MSW last May and is completing his MDiv degree at Truett. At Buckner’s international headquarters in Dallas, Trevor helped develop policies related to strategic planning, financing, and reporting.

In addition, he developed training materials and taught about what community development is like in the church and how to begin the process. “I believe one of the most important contributions I made was to help managers examine what it means by lives impacted, which is Buckner’s primary measure of program effectiveness,” he said.

Managers at Buckner were so impressed with Trevor’s work that he was recruited to work in Ethiopia last summer with Randy Daniels, MSW, a Vice President who leads Buckner’s Africa regional office.

Trevor wants to continue to work internationally to develop policies and programs that are authentic and client based. Eventually he wants to earn a PhD in social work.

In social work, field education is the core element, the “signature pedagogy” within the academic program. From this glimpse into the diverse settings and scope of the work our students do in their advanced internships, it is easy to see why. ♦

HOMECOMING 2012



Kick off your Homecoming festivities with the School of Social Work at a come-and-go reception from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 2, in the second floor Living Room of the SSW building. All alumni, current students, and their families are invited to come by for fellowship, refreshments and a tour of the building.

We are located at 811 Washington Avenue, with parking available on the Columbus Avenue side of the building. For more information or driving instructions, please call 254.710.6400.

Mark your calendar...
NOVEMBER 2-3