



## Convocation Celebrations

Baylor School of Social Work held Spring Convocation May 13 in Waco Hall with 30 BSW candidates and 57 MSW candidates. MSW student Kathleen Lokey, center, celebrates at the reception after the ceremony. Ntiense Covey, MSW 2008 and a field instructor for the School, is at left. The candidates participated in Baylor Commencement the following day at the Ferrell Center.

# CALENDAR *of events*

## SEPTEMBER

- 8-9 Beckoning the Boomers Conference
- 16 MSW Fall Preview Day
- 15-17 No Need Among You Conference
- 22 Fall Worship Service
- 22-23 Board of Advocates Meeting
- 24 Parents Weekend Faculty Coffee

## OCTOBER

- 8-10 NASW/TX Conference, Dallas
- 26-30 NACSW Conference, Pittsburgh

## NOVEMBER

- 4-5 Baylor Homecoming
- 5 SSW Homecoming Brunch

## DECEMBER

- 16 Fall Convocation
- 17 Baylor Commencement



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# *community* CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



"I have seen firsthand the impact of war"

## AFTER KANDAHAR

ROTC CAPTAIN  
PREPARING TO  
COUNSEL MILITARY

BAYLOR  
UNIVERSITY



# Outstanding Scholarship

DENNIS MYERS The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor of Family Studies



Editor's Note: We told Dean Garland that her message in this issue of *Community Connection* would have to wait. We wanted you to know that she is the 2011 recipient of the University Outstanding Scholarship Award for tenured faculty. We knew she would not be sharing this good news with you, so we decided to commandeer her column to tell you why she was such a remarkable candidate for this highly competitive and prestigious award.

DIANA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS OUR DEAN are more visible than her scholarship. Administratively, the School of Social Work has grown from four to 18 full-time faculty and from 17 to 111 MSW students. She has raised almost \$7 million in endowment, primarily for faculty chairs and graduate student scholarships. For most, this level of accomplishment would be quite sufficient. In the case of our dean, this is only one part of the story. The rest of the story is about her transformational research and state-of-the-science knowledge development.

Dr. Garland is single author of eight books, co-author or editor of 10 books, and co-editor of a six-book series on congregations and families. She has published more than 90 professional and academic journal articles during her 30 year academic career. Of those, 52 have been published since she came to Baylor in 1997. She has published in the prestigious journals *Social Work* and *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. She has achieved national recognition through her ground-breaking contributions to social work, family, and religious life. Her productivity is most evident in these arenas of inquiry – social work, faith, service and the church; family, faith, and congregations; and clergy sexual misconduct. The trademarks of her remarkable scholarship are doing research that matters, collaborative and mentoring relationships, and funded research.

Because of her scholarship, researchers and practitioners in the fields of social work and congregational studies have greater insights into how Christian faith can be integrated into social work practice. They also have a better understanding of the impact of community service on individual faith and congregations and the variables that define religious identity and faith in religiously affiliated organizations. She currently is engaged in a project with Dr. Gaynor Yancey (see page 3) to define the identity, roles and motivations of social workers employed by congregations. Her book *Churches Ministering with Families* (1990) and *Church Social Work* (1992) were two of the first to define the role of social work in the life of congregations and Christian mission organizations. Her work is acknowledged by leading and nationally recognized scholars such as Robert Wuthnow and Bob Wineburg. Dr. Wineburg (University of South Carolina) offers this observation:

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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.*

# Defining church as a practice site

STUDY LOOKS AT COMPLICATED DYNAMICS OF CONGREGATIONAL SOCIAL WORK +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

**SOCIAL WORKERS WHO SERVE ON** congregational staffs have many titles, but rarely is it “social worker.” They are ministers or counselors or outreach and community directors or pastors. The ambiguity of the job titles reflects what has been a long, but not always easy, alliance between social work and the church.

Originally, the two fields were one, emanating from the desire many women in the church had to help immigrants and people in poverty. The Woman’s Missionary Union Training School, established in 1907 in Louisville, KY, was the first higher education opportunity for women in Baptist life who yearned to do mission work. The School’s Good Will Center was an adaptation of the Settlement House model that became the forerunner of social work field education, the heart of social work education.

As the social work profession grew and educational requirements increased, a national Code of Ethics helped standardize the profession. Issues such as confidentiality and dual relationships seemed to make the ministry an uneasy fit with the profession, even though the code recognizes that a client’s spirituality or faith experience can be a strength upon which to achieve holistic health.

Nevertheless, it’s complicated. For example, does a social worker in a church setting evangelize, and does the church community expect that? How does a social worker who is a pastor counsel a church member who is making choices counter to the expectations of the faith community? Does the social worker provide needed services without attaching an implicit Gospel “string” to it?

Diana Garland, dean of the Baylor School of Social Work, and Gaynor Yancey, professor at the School, are exploring this unique setting for social work practice in their latest research project, titled “Social Work with Congregations,” funded by the Louisville Institute. Both have researched and written about social work in congregations for more than 30 years.

“We know there are more and more social workers in congregational settings, but we need to define this field,” said Garland, whose degree programs at Baylor are distinctive for their integration of faith and practice. “We are trying to define the religious site as a setting for social work practice. There is a rich oral history, but very little literature.”

Garland and Yancey said they both expected to find that licensed social workers working in congregations would be faced with potential ethical challenges.

“Traditionally, we know that social work has had

challenges with seeing the church as a viable context for practice because of the social worker/client power imbalance and issues of self-determination,” Yancey said. “Likewise, the church has often seen the social work profession as too humanistic, of not being able to include ‘God’ language in its treatment.”

To their surprise, however, they have found in the participants they have interviewed so far an “ease in knowing themselves and their environments well enough that they are confident they are not

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*“Traditionally, we know that social work has had challenges seeing the church as a viable context for practice.”*

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violating the expectations of either the social work profession or the faith community,” Yancey said.

As of late-April, the two had interviewed 28 congregational social workers. These 28 come from 21 different states and represent 10 religious groups. The majority of them (21) hold master of social work degrees and 18 are licensed by their states as social workers. Seventeen of the respondents had studied in public or non-sectarian private institutions, yet only seven had no formal theological education. They have served as social workers for an average (mean) of 16 years.

Of the myriad job responsibilities the respondents describe that they have, the researchers have been able to categorize them as follows: intervening in crisis in the congregation or larger community; coordinating programs that address human needs (food, childcare, supports to families); creating community; leading spiritually by teaching in church religious education programs; and providing more education in the community with representative examples such as parent education, living with grief, and coming alongside volunteers.

“One of the things we’re trying to decipher is if they think of themselves as social workers working in a congregational setting or pastors and ministers using

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# MSW student profile

## After Kandahar

**Student prepares to counsel military personnel after her own deployment +**

*By Vicki Marsh Kabat*

IN THE CLASSROOM, BEA Ramos is just another unassuming MSW student in her foundation year. Outside the School of Social Work, though, this petite young woman who has played violin since she was 10 and loves to salsa dance is addressed as Capt. Ramos of the 319th Headquarters Company of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps., Harlingen, Texas.

"It is my job to ensure that my company as a whole completes its specific mission," said Ramos, who was commissioned in the ROTC in 2006 and received her promotion to captain in March.

Part of Ramos' responsibility for the 79 persons in her company includes assuring that each individual is trained on tasks such as shooting a rifle, taking it down and cleaning it, to collectively knowing how to respond to military contact in the field. She will take command of the 812th Quartermaster Company with 164 soldiers in July.

The youngest of five children, Ramos is the only one to pursue the military, but she said she followed an older brother and sister into Junior ROTC in high school.

"I was really impressed when they would pick me up from elementary school wearing their uniforms," she remembered.

As a senior at Nikki Row High School in McAllen, she was accepted at the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point – the first student from the high school to have that honor.

"But I chose not to go there," she said. "I knew I wanted to major in psychology and that I could finish at University of Texas – Pan



In March, MSW student Bea Ramos was promoted to the rank of captain in the ROTC.

American (UTPA) in three years. I was really focused on completing my PhD at a young age."

Then, "life happened," she said. In 2006, after graduating from UTPA, she married and moved to Alabama with her husband, who was in the Army; they spent two years there. She had commissioned with the ROTC the same day she graduated from college, and in 2009 she was deployed to Afghanistan.

Mobilized to Kandahar with the 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Ramos served as the theatre

petroleum officer. She worked with contractors and coalition partners to assure that fuel quantities were disbursed accurately and efficiently. Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan, had not been built up for U.S. troops at that time, she said, so conditions were a little rough.

"We lived in tents, slept on cots, and the restrooms were intense," she laughs. The weather there was very similar to the weather in southern Texas. About a quarter way through her deployment, an Air Force unit left and her division moved into their quarters – "like little mobile homes," she said.

The Kandahar base was one of the largest in Afghanistan, and Ramos said she really enjoyed being able to interact with forces from so many nations – Australia, England, Canada, and Romania, to name a few.

After her deployment, Ramos, whose marriage had ended, moved to Texas and applied to Baylor School of Social Work. She had researched several universities while deployed and decided to get her



Ramos on watch in Afghanistan.



# HOGG SCHOLARS

graduate degree in social work.

"I have always been interested in mental health, and I had seen firsthand the effects of being in a war zone on soldiers. I knew there was a great need for mental health care professionals with this population," said Ramos, who began her MSW work last fall.

In researching the social work profession, she was surprised to learn that it provides the majority of mental health care providers in the nation – more so than psychology and licensed professional counseling. What really appealed to her, however, was how social workers treat the person holistically, focusing on the client's strengths, and not just his or her illness.

"Social work understands that patients are persons in an environment and that they may need help with things other than their illness," she said. "For instance, a person may be schizophrenic and lose his job. Then, because he has no income, he loses his home and becomes homeless. The social worker addresses all of those issues, not just his mental diagnosis."

In her foundation year, Ramos interned at Metroplex Health System Hospital and its Metroplex Pavilion – Behavioral Health Services in Killeen, which treats many military members and their families from nearby Fort Hood. She is one of four recipients of the Hogg Mental Foundation scholarship at the School this year (*see sidebar*).

"That's what I want to do, is work with soldiers, veterans and their families. The families go through so much during deployment." ♦

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health makes available up to five \$5,000 scholarships annually to graduate social work students who demonstrate a strong commitment to providing mental health services after graduation.

A requirement of the scholarship is that recipients commit to one year working with Spanish-speaking populations in a mental health field post graduation.

Several School of Social Work students have been recipients of the scholarship.

The 2010-2011 recipients and their field placements were:

**Xiomara O'Neill -**

Waco Center for Youth in Waco, TX

**Bea Ramos -**

Metroplex Pavilion, Killeen, TX;  
continuing scholar in 2011-2012  
at Buckner International Community  
Transformation Center in McAllen, TX

**Andrew Trujillo -**

LUCHA Ministries,  
Fredericksburg, VA

**Emilie Ventura -**

Family Counseling, Waco, TX

The 2011-2012 recipients and their field placements will be:

**Rebecca Lizeth Castillo -**

Advocacy Center, Waco, TX

**Carolina Fuentes -**

Catholic Charities  
in Fort Worth, TX

**Felipe Monsalve -**

DePaul Psychiatric Center,  
Waco, TX

The Hogg Foundation funds grants and programs to support mental health services, research, policy analysis and education in Texas. Learn more at [www.hogg.utexas.edu](http://www.hogg.utexas.edu)



*Andrew Trujillo, MSW 2011 and a Hogg Scholarship recipient, right, was featured in an article in the Religious Herald, written and photographed by Barbara Francis. Trujillo, who is bilingual, interned with LUCHA Ministries, a community-based outreach for Latinos in the Fredericksburg, VA, area. To read Francis's article, go to: [www.religiousherald.org](http://www.religiousherald.org) and search for LUCHA (printed April 12, 2011).*

## A Capitol Day in Austin

**THE VANS ROLLED OUT** bright and early March 3 as 65 students and five faculty and staff members headed down I-35 to Austin to attend the National Association of Social Workers' Texas Advocacy Day.

Students from two foundation year classes jumped at the chance to gather with social work students from across the state and to meet with legislators. The community practice classes got a close look at how macro issues play out in state politics and gained experience contacting and speaking with legislators. The policy classes this semester tracked bills that supported a vulnerable population of interest. Some groups even advocated for a vulnerable population with their legislator while they were in Austin.

Sponsors who attended were Johnny Jones, Michael Sherr, Danny Steis, Tracey Kelley and David Pooler.



## Art for the Heart: On mission to Cambodia

**ON MAY 15, EIGHT SOCIAL** work students and their sponsors left for Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to begin their 15-day mission trip to learn more about human trafficking. They have spent the spring semester preparing for this trip and learning the technique of art journaling, which they will teach to staff members of a restoration residential center in Phnom Penh.

"I have never been more excited for a trip," said BSW student Jennifer Young before the group left.

The students held two workshops open to the public to hone their presentation skills on teaching art journaling. Although not art therapy, the creative outlet is beneficial in helping individuals process feelings, said Kim Kotrla, associate professor of social work and sponsor of the trip.

"We had a lot of participation in those workshops, and it was an excellent way for us to prepare," Kotrla said.

The team planned to visit Khmer Rouge, historic site of oppression of Cambodians, and meet with International Justice Mission representatives; go to the SKY project, which helps reintegrate survivors into families; and travel to Siem Reap (*see map*) to visit the Angkor Wat Prayer Walk. They will return to the United States May 29-30.

Traveling with the team was MSW student Sovannara Moch, a Global Mission Leadership student from Cambodia, who counseled victims of human trafficking before coming to Baylor.





# Texas Two Steppin'

## "NO NEED AMONG YOU" CONFERENCE SET FOR SEPT. 15-17

The Center for Family and Community Ministries in the School of Social Work will be a co-sponsor for the third year of the "No Need Among You: Including the Excluded" Conference.

This Texas "regional conference" brings churches, faith-based organizations and other nonprofits who work among the poor together to learn how to more effectively serve, include and empower the lower-income and marginalized of our cities. Co-sponsors include Texas Baptists (BGCT), Mission Waco, Baylor School of Social Work, Mission Cy-Fair, World Vision, Buckner, Waco Regional Baptist Association, Baptist University of the Americas, and Crestview Church of Christ.

Three plenary speakers have been confirmed, with others pending. They are Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell, senior pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston; Alexie Torres-Fleming, Founder of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice; and Bob Roberts, pastor of Northwood Church in Keller, TX.

In addition to plenary speakers, the event will offer more than 25 workshops on topics such as: Ruby Payne's nationally acclaimed training on "Framework for Understanding Poverty," mental health and the church, homelessness, addiction, urban children and youth programs, community organizing, affordable housing, micro-loans, global economic development, job training, fair trade, establishing and maturing a nonprofit organization, church assessments, recruiting and sustaining volunteers and financial literacy.

To learn more about the conference or to register, visit the Texas Baptists website at [www.bgct.org/TexasBaptists](http://www.bgct.org/TexasBaptists).



For the third year, the School has participated in the Walk Across Texas challenge sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. This year's team included, from front left clockwise: Helen Harris, Judith Stolz (captain), Susanne Klawetter, Krista Barrett, Angela Fields Traylor, Mary Agnew, Marilyn Gusukuma and Tracey Kelley (not pictured). In total, the team walked more than 3,300 miles, or enough miles to walk across Texas four times! Kelley walked the most miles on the team with 651, Agnew with 493 and Gusukuma with 474.

## Prevalence of slavery in US explored

Ron Soodalter spoke to graduate students at the School of Social Work March 22 as part of Baylor's International Justice Mission Week of Justice. He is co-author with Kevin Bales of *The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today*.

More than 17,000 people are trafficked into the United States, and it is estimated that 27 million people are enslaved globally today – more than twice as many who were enslaved during the heyday of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, he said.

"This is something you cannot unlearn," said Soodalter, who spoke at several venues at Baylor during the week. "You can choose not to do anything about it, but you cannot unlearn what you now know."





# FAMILY DINNER



1

1 Student award recipients at the Family Dinner April 28 in the Barfield Drawing Room were (from left): Everett Smith, MSW Outstanding Student; Bree Babineaux, BSW Spirit of Social Work Student; Elizabeth Queen, BSW Outstanding Student; and Erin Castillo, MSW Spirit of Social Work. 2 Erma Ballenger, left, Tancy Horn-Johnson, and Tanya Brice. 3 Alumna of the Year Suzanne Dwight, center, visits with Helen Harris, left, and Carol Kemp. 4 Ross and Nelwyn Reagan, Board of Advocates member. 5 BSW students Meghan Smith, left, and Ashley Binns.



2



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6 BSW student Erin Steptoe, left, and her guest Jessica Steptoe.



7

7 MSW student Alexis Budd visits with Board of Advocate (BOA) member Peter Maddox.



8

8 BOA member Darla Bailey, left, with MSW/MDiv student Kristina Garrison.

9 MSW students Rachael Linthicum and Trevor Stephen.

10 MSW student Morgan Caruthers, left, and BSW student Kameryn Phillips.



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For more photos from Family Dinner and other spring events, visit [BaylorSSW on Facebook](#).



ABU







# LIFE UNDANT

BY VICKI MARSH KABAT

## BAYLOR SOCIAL WORK

### “THEY HAVE MUCH TO TEACH US”

Social work has always been concerned about people whose circumstances deprive them of the ability to meet basic needs such as housing, enough food to eat, and health care. In today's unforgiving economy, the person finding it increasingly difficult to “get by” may well be your grandmother.

Will baby boomers go bust? The first wave of boomers has already begun to draw upon their Social Security benefits. The strain on federal resources upon which older Americans have depended for the past five decades will be unprecedented. As the costs of food, gasoline and health care steadily climb, legislators bandy Medicaid and Social Security benefits like a shuttlecock over a budgetary badminton net.

Dennis Myers, who has spent his academic research career focusing on issues of the elderly and their families, is keenly aware of the challenges before this vulnerable population group. He is also convinced, however, of the aging person's inherent strengths and resiliency. As the head of the School of Social Work's newly launched Gerontology Initiative, Myers is devoting himself to finding ways to draw upon the inner resources of the aging to improve quality of life for them and their communities.

“We're deeply committed to quality of life and quality of care for older persons in our society,” said Myers, The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor of Family Studies. “They face many challenges, it is true. But they are also survivors. They have so much that they can teach us.”

The Gerontology Initiative draws together several educational, research and application-based projects focused on improving quality of life for older persons. It is the latest in the School and the university's long-standing commitment to serving the elderly (*see sidebar, p. 13*). Myers is joined in the Initiative by faculty colleagues James Ellor, Helen Harris, Gaynor Yancey, Robin K. “Rob” Rogers, and Tracey Kelley.

Harris, senior lecturer at the School, believes the research and practices that can result from the Initiative's work are “essential to providing humane care for older adults.”

“The combination of increasing numbers of older adults and decreasing resources makes it imperative that we develop best practices that are both efficient and effective for this population,” she said.

#### RESEARCH COMPONENT

The School of Social Work in recent years has received scholarship funding specifically designated for students interested in working with the elderly. There are at present four scholarship funds

*Nancy Covington of Lakeside Baptist Church attends a Center for Family and Community Ministries workshop on poverty initiatives.*

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## Gerontology (cont'd)

providing financial support for students in both degree programs who have an interest in gerontological social work practice.

Funding can support research projects, as well, and The Danny & Lenn Prince Endowed Fund for the Residential Care of Older Adults Initiative is an example. Members of the Gerontology Initiative team launched a study this spring that focuses on social workers and administrators in residential long-term care settings. The study's objective is strengthening the care environment of these facilities and enriching the personal and family life of older persons who reside in them. The research team will provide research, evidence-based practice models, educational programs and practical resources, Myers said.

"We already know that social workers decrease the costs of care and increase the quality of life of residents," Myers said, citing a 2006 study by Rizzo and Rowe. "Social workers in these facilities offer effective mental health services, provide administrative leadership and create beneficial transactions with staff, family and community."

The team is conducting personal interviews with 15 licensed social workers and chief administrative officers from 10 licensed skilled nursing facilities within a broad Central Texas area. Federal law mandates that nursing homes employ or consult with a full-time social worker with at least a bachelor's degree in social work or "similar professional qualifications," Myers said. All skilled nursing facilities, regardless of size, must provide "medically related social services to attain or maintain the highest practicable resident physical, mental and psychosocial well-being," according to the federal statute (42 CFR 483.15).

"These social workers and administrators are on the frontlines of care provision, and they are under attack as they face budget and staffing cutbacks," Myers said.

Joining this research effort are two MSW students who already have experience working as either a nursing home social worker or administrator—Natalee Oliver, MSG Gerontology 2000, will join the MSW program this fall, and current MSW student Carolyn Lofton. Both are involved in interviewing and transcription to support the study.

### COLLABORATIONS

The School also has developed partnerships with local agencies and larger entities serving the elderly. The most recent collaboration is with Buckner Retirement Services, which provides seven senior living communities throughout Texas. MSW student Ashley Kuhn will be the first Baylor social work student to intern with BRS, at its San Angelo site.

"San Angelo has some of the most innovative programs in the state," Myers said. "We are so happy our students will have this opportunity with Buckner."

Buckner Retirement Services offer the only Alzheimer's care facility in Texas patterned after the Eden Alternative, a family-oriented and person-centered care approach. The organization seeks to improve the lives of the elderly and their care partners on the principle that aging should be another stage of growth and not a period of decline, according to its website ([www.edenalt.org](http://www.edenalt.org)). Buckner also invests in home-based and residential services, a model for an integrated continuum of care.

Kuhn visited her practice site in early May and is excited about her placement. "I hope to learn a great deal about the 'cutting edge' treatment for Alzheimer's care that they model," said Kuhn, who became interested in gerontology, and specifically Alzheimer's, after watching her grandmother deteriorate rapidly from the disease.

"I want to work with the residents, their care plan, and the home health aspect of their care," she said.

Closer to home, the School is involved in a research project with Meals & Wheels working with its social worker, Van Jones. The study, "Resilience Resources Among Older Marginalized Persons," seeks to understand the assets and strengths of marginalized elders in order to determine what sustains them in day-to-day living. Marginalized is defined as having reduced financial resources and/or high levels of loneliness.

"Usually the emphasis for this subset population focuses on their neediness, but little attention is given to their assets and strengths," Myers said. "They are surviving in extremely difficult circumstances. How? What are their inner resources?"



*More than 20 area nursing home social workers and administrators attended a luncheon in their honor hosted by members of the Gerontology Initiative team at the School of Social Work in February.*

# PAST FORWARD

## FUTURE RESEARCH

Myers envisions these current studies will be the first of many the School will undertake. "Studies of how the variable of religious faith influences the transactions between professional and long-term care organizations are non-existent," he said, "as are qualitative investigations of what practices are effective and ineffective with older persons and with their family caregivers."

As an example, he says that when older persons move into a nursing care facility, they often lose their primary social community and support network because they are no longer able to attend church or worship services. "That's a grievous loss, so how do we prepare the church and the nursing home staff to understand and ameliorate that loss?" Myers asked.

Likewise, he said there is scant research that accommodates recent major public policy and administrative changes, such as the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports program or innovations directed toward the transformation of nursing home culture as reflected in the Eden Alternative.

"In order to address these gaps in knowledge, we need to hear and understand the impact of regulatory requirements, day-to-day rhythms, joys and challenges on role performance of administrators and social workers," Myers said.

Because of the versatility of a social work degree, many licensed professionals will find opportunity to work with the elderly, Ellor said. "Studies have suggested that up to 40 percent of social workers at some point in their careers will work with older adults in some capacity," he said.

"Over time, we hope to provide state-of-the-science resources leading to sustainable change in these care settings and in the preparation of administrative and social work leaders," Myers said.

## FAITH CONNECTION

Although the research and scholarship occurs in the academic setting, the Gerontology Initiative team hopes the fruit of its labor finds expression not only in long-term care settings but in the church. The School will host a conference at Baylor Sept. 8 and 9 called "Beckoning the boomers: How to effectively reach and care for the new mature adult." (<http://texasbaptists.org/age-culture/senior-adult-ministry/>) The conference is designed to benefit ministers to senior adults with the hope of creating collaborations and offering resources, Myers said.

"We think we have something to offer. Senior adult ministries are receiving much less attention from denominational agencies than in the past, and there is minimal centralized effort to promote networking, the exchange of ideas, the mentoring of new ministers to the field. The School of Social Work can make a significant contribution in this work," he said.

## SEEKING ABUNDANCE

"The baby boomers are foraging new paths of living, as they have done throughout their lives," Ellor said. "The School's Initiative will offer guideposts for this emerging population

Baylor and the School of Social Work have long been focused on gerontological care. An Institute for Gerontological Studies was established at Baylor in 1978, and in 1987 the university initiated a Master of Clinical Gerontology. Ellor came to Baylor School of Social Work in 2004 to become director of the Institute, which later merged with the School's Center for Family and Community Ministries.

Currently, social work students may pursue a Minor in Aging in their undergraduate work or a Specialization in Gerontology as graduate students. Foundational courses include "Introduction to Gerontology" and "Aging and Mental Health."

"It's easy in this field to get caught up in the challenges of growing older," Ellor said, "but what I appreciate most is the strength and courage of each person as they find new ways to continue to be themselves, learning from the past and looking toward the future."

Ellor, Myers and Harris were awarded two Hartford Foundation Grants three years ago, which funded greater integration of aging content in the curriculum and student rotations among older adult-related field internships. Part of those grants was the development of assessment tools that students need to work in agencies for older adults.

"We recruited partner agencies from Central Texas to be a part of this effort," Harris said. "Those agencies said to us, 'Here is what the students need to know and be able to do when they come to work for us.'"

The current Gerontology Initiative within the School is a natural extension of the Hartford grant support for curriculum innovations that effectively prepare students for work with older persons, and the first of several projects that lie ahead, Myers said.

## SAVE THE DATE

### BECKONING THE BOOMERS:

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY REACH AND CARE FOR THE NEW MATURE ADULT

SEPT. 8 - 9, 2011 • BAYLOR CAMPUS

[www.texasbaptists.org](http://www.texasbaptists.org)

calling on all of the resources of our society, especially the church, to be a part of the lives of older adults."

Life and life abundant (John 10:10) is the guidepost that drives the work of the Initiative, Myers said. "Whatever we're doing here, there's a call to the abundant life that Jesus talks about," he said. "Folks are still seeking abundance, and they have a lot to give but sometimes the structures are not established for that kind of connection."

"We think our students, our research, our service can contribute knowledge and leadership to bring abundant life to older persons in our communities." ♦



## Capping off their education

JON E. SINGLETARY Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies



THIS WAS MY FIRST SEMESTER to experience BSW capstone presentations from the perspective of an associate dean. As a faculty member, I have long appreciated the intent of our capstone course. I have enjoyed listening to the result of student experiences in capstone as they highlight what they have learned here and synthesize that learning into a notebook and a presentation that paves the way for their future. This year, through a different lens, the experience painted a more comprehensive picture for me of what this capstone course means.

For starters, I saw the way our staff, under Krista Barrett's leadership, masterfully plans and implements the capstone presentations. Krista randomly assigns the 30 graduating seniors to a professor, a practitioner, and a time slot when all can meet for the hour-long presentation. Because of her skill, the scheduling and facilitation are always flawless.

Then, in my administrative role, I experienced capstone through the comments of the faculty who taught the course this spring. Helen Harris and Becky Ellison spent countless hours reviewing and editing, helping the students create a final notebook that communicates the core of what they have learned. Excited by what they saw, Helen and Becky would send me an occasional message: "Look what this student said about the importance of research" or "Here's a great example of how this student really gets the ethical integration of faith and practice." I am grateful for their time, leadership and enthusiasm.

It was the students' excitement about capstone that probably surprised me the most. The course requires extensive review of their social work education as they determine how policy, research or ethics most impacted their understanding of social work practice. Yet, they express what they have learned

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*"You see the confidence dawn in their faces that they now are equipped to go out and make a difference in the world."*

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in that process with so much enthusiasm. "It's great to see how much we have learned," one student commented. Students come to realize just how prepared they really are for the professional journey that lies ahead.

The BSW capstone course helps the students encapsulate their educational experience with us and in doing so, you can see the confidence dawn in their faces that they now are equipped to go out and make a difference in the world. What more can we ask of this experience?

My hope is that the notebook and the presentation truly become a capstone. A capstone is one of the finishing or protect-stones that forms the top of a wall. Social work education may feel like scaling a wall at times, but as our students near the top, this course cements the experience for them in a way that demonstrates the strength of what they have accomplished and what they hope to accomplish as they live out their callings.

In *One Thousand Gifts*, Ann Voskamp shares her understanding of a practice of thanksgiving that carries us forward through the opportunities and challenges of life's callings. Those who focus on anger and despair will struggle to find a way through and will not be able to alleviate the suffering in our world. But, she writes, those "who focus on all things good and all things beautiful and all things true, even in the small, who give thanks for it and discover joy even in the here and now, they are the change agents who bring fullest Light to all the world." Dark cannot lessen darkness; only we, as Light-bearers, can do so.

I hope our graduates look back on this time at Baylor with joy, but also that they look forward with a resolve to practice thanksgiving in all things, and with grace and joy for the ways we are confident they will be Light in our hurting world. ♦

## Graduates benefit from research projects

ROB ROGERS Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY asked questions by students is, “Why is there such an emphasis on research in the MSW degree program?” It’s an important question and one that the faculty revisits periodically. Next year we will be answering that question formally in our self-study for reaccreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). In this column, I want to share some perspectives on this topic by several of the professors who teach research courses and students who have completed them.

It might be helpful to briefly describe the research requirements with a focus on the advanced research courses. By the time students graduate with an MSW, they will have taken a statistics course, an introductory research course, and in the Concentration (final) Year two advanced research courses – Research Seminar in the fall and Research Project in the spring. In the advanced courses students work with their professor and field supervisor to plan and conduct a study on a topic of interest to the student that has relevance to the agency in which the student is working.

The scope of their studies is quite remarkable. Below are four of the 58 topics students investigated this spring in the form of research questions:

*“Research helps you see social work practice through a new lens - one that is always curious about how things can be better...”*

- How do children’s living situations impact their behaviors at school? (Kathleen Lokey)
- Is the Active Relationships for Young Adults Program effective in helping Hispanic adolescents develop effective skills in building and maintaining healthy relationships? (Justin Smith)
- What are the needs of the caregivers who are caring for their elderly loved ones at First Baptist Church Woodway? (Kelly VanderPloeg McCaleb)
- To what extent do parental rules reduce adolescent sexual activity? Does increased parental limit-setting increase contraceptive use? Do the average scores of parental rules vary by gender, age, and ethnicity? (Everett Smith)

Several articles could be written about how agencies have



used the results of studies like these to strengthen their services.

I asked the professors who teach these courses what they hope students will learn from conducting a research project. First, they want students to develop **competence** in conducting research. Here are some of their comments: I hope that students will ... “understand the process of developing and carrying out research” (Cindy Harr); “learn that research is not a mystery that only a few can come close to cracking” (Beth Kilpatrick). Also, they want students to gain the **confidence** needed to conduct research: “...see that they can do research and actually use this skill” (Jim Ellor); “... gain the confidence to embrace research as a practice tool, not some esoteric practice” (LeAnn Gardner).

In addition, I asked what value they hoped the research experience would have for the graduates’ practice as social workers. Among their responses were the following comments: I hope they ... “see social work practice through a new lens – one that is always curious about how things can be better or why things work the way they do” (Gardner); “... highly value the research process as the best friend to social work practitioners with a vision to make a world of difference” (Dennis Myers); “... bring a practical approach for integrating research into their practice in a way that will benefit both their agencies and clients” (Harr).

What do students and alumni think about these same issues? I e-mailed similar questions to the 58 students who had just completed their research project as well as to some alumni who have been practicing social work for up to nine years. Their comments were remarkably similar and mirrored the hopes of faculty. Below is a sampling of their comments.

They definitely felt that conducting a research project in

continued on page 25



## Professionalism honored

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mary Teeters, (MSG Gerontology 1993) vice president for client services at Meals and Wheels and More, for being named the 2011 recipient of the Rose Professional Spirit Award by the Austin Groups for the Elderly, or AGE.



The Rose Professional Spirit Award honors a person whose professional commitment goes above and beyond their job description and who has touched the lives of older Austinites.

At Meals on Wheels and More, Mary oversees all of the agency's social workers, who visit clients and assess their needs, as well as the 'and More' coordinators, who work with volunteers to provide additional service to clients. Mary monitors client data and contract compliance and is responsible for reporting as required by various funding sources.

Mary is past chair of the Aging Services Council (ASC) and a current member of the ASC Steering Committee. She also is on the Board of the Texas Association of Aging Programs.

Mary received her master's degree in gerontology from Baylor University and has worked in the field for more than 12 years. Before joining Meals on Wheels and More in 1998, she worked for the Meals on Wheels organizations in Waco and Tarrant County.

When asked why she decided to go into the field, she replied, "I've watched a lot of people grow old and be ignored, as if there was nothing they could contribute any more. I wanted to change that ... to let them know that they are still worthy of dignity and respect and admiration ... to help them live as full a life as they are capable of living."

Dan Pruett, the CEO and president of Meals on Wheels and More, said, "Mary's willingness to take on additional duties that help our older population combined with her understanding of and respect for specialized training and methodology has been a major factor in bringing an enhanced level of dignity to many seniors in our community ... there is no question that Meals on Wheels and More would not be as effective in assisting homebound seniors in Central Texas were it not for the dedication, hard work, ability, and professionalism of Mary Teeters." ♦

*Published with permission from Meals and Wheels and More website*

### HEATHER LEE (DYER) LINGLE

(BA Sociology 2000, MSG 2002) worked at Texas Legal Services Center for a year after graduation and then attended South Texas College of Law in Houston, graduating in May 2006. She and husband, R.J. Lingle, have a 4-year-old son, Harrison, and a 1-year-old daughter, Rebecca. Heather is an attorney at Dabney & Pappas and handles probate cases and other general civil litigation matters.

### MATTHEW SCHOBERT (MSW 2002)

began in mid-May as a social work executive at the Portland, OR, Veterans Medical Center. In this role, he will be the Director for Social Work and Chaplain Services.

### JAMIE MCKINNEY (BSW 2008, MSW 2010)

took the position of medical social worker at Providence Hospital, Waco, TX, beginning June 1.

### TINA HARLOW (Carver 1994)

has been a Child Protective Services caseworker for 10 years. She and her husband and two children live in Clark, CO.

### KELLY BAKER (MSW 2008)

will be attending Johns Hopkins this fall to pursue a master's in public health.

### CAROL MCENTYRE (MSW 2007)

was selected as the Outstanding Alumna by Carson Newman College, Jefferson City, TN.



She is a congregational social worker at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN. She shared a photo of son Nate at his first birthday party.

### TASHA (MSW 2007) AND WALKER

MOORE (MSW 2007) welcomed their second daughter, Adaline Nicole, on March 27, weighing 9 lbs., 9 oz.

LINDA HAMZA (BSW 2010) is a social worker at the Social Learning and Rehabilitation Program unit of the North Texas State Hospital – Vernon Campus. She will begin her Generalist Master's program at Texas A&M – Commerce while continuing her job at the state hospital.

JACQUELINE L.B. ST.CLAIR (MSW 2003) worked for almost four years in community mental health in Lynchburg, VA, and also taught at Liberty University. In fall 2006, she and husband, Jack, opened a franchise for Home Instead Senior Care in Manassas, VA. The St.Clairs are the parents of a son and were expecting a daughter in May.

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE SCHOOL AT:



Baylor School  
of Social Work



baylorssw



Baylor University  
School of Social  
Work

## PUBLICATIONS

### JIM ELLOR

- Ellor, J., McFadden, S. H. (2011). Perceptions of the roles of religion and spirituality in the work and lives of professionals in gerontology: views of the present and expectations about the future. *Journal of Religion Spirituality and Aging*, Vol. 23(1 & 2).
- McFadden, S., Kimble, M., Ellor, J., & Seeber, J. (2011). The Center on Aging, Religion and Spirituality: Lessons Learned. *Journal of Religion Spirituality and Aging*, Vol 23(1 & 2).
- Ellor, J. W. (2011). I don't remember: Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. In P. Cynthia Franklin & E. Rowena Fong (Eds.), *The Church Leaders Resource Book for Mental Health and Social Problems*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Ellor, J. (2010) *Journal of Religion Spirituality and Aging*. Vol. 22, issues 1, 2, 3, & 4. Issues 1 & 2 were guest edited. Ellor edited issues 3 & 4.

### DIANA GARLAND

- Garland, Diana R. (2010). *Inside out families: Living the Christian way together*. Baylor University Press.
- Garland, D. R., & Argueta, C. A. (2011) Unholy touch: Church leaders and sexual misconduct with adults. In C. Franklin & R. Fong (Eds.), *The church leader's counseling resource book* (pp. 405-416). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Justice, Jessica A., and Garland, Diana R. (2010). Dual relationships when clergy counsel congregants: Reflections from a social work perspective. *Social Work & Christianity*, 37(4), pp. 437-445.
- Garland, D. R., & Argueta, C. (2010) How clergy sexual misconduct happens: A qualitative study of first-hand accounts. *Social Work & Christianity*, 37(1), 1-27.

### HELEN HARRIS

- Harris, H. (2010). Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder or grief: A study exploring the association between childhood loss and grief and a diagnosis of AD/HD in elementary-aged children in Central Texas. Belton: The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.
- Harris, H. & Harris, B. (2010). Faith and adoption: Applying the principles of Alan Keith-Lucas. *Social Work & Christianity: An International Journal*, 38(1), 51-63.
- Harris, H. (2010). A look back for the future: Applying the wisdom of Alan Keith-Lucas for child care services today. *Social Work & Christianity: An International Journal*, 37(3).

### MICHAEL SHERR

- Sherr, M. E. (2010). *On Becoming a Christian Educator in Social Work*. Botsford, CT: North American Association for Christians in Social Work.
- Jones, J. M., & Sherr, M. E. (in press). The role of relationships in connecting social work research and evidence-based practice. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*.
- Sherr, M. E., Pooler, D., Stamey, J., Dyer, P., Smith, E., & Summers, A. (in press). The influence of religious participation on sexual activity in a randomized effectiveness trial for at-risk youth. *Journal of Social Service Research*.
- Sherr, M. E., Pooler, D., Stamey, J., Jones, J., & Dyer, P. (in press). A randomized effectiveness trial of a sex education program for minority youth in Miami, Florida. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*.
- Williams, N. A., & Sherr, M. E. (in press). Oh how I try to use evidence in my practice: Efforts, successes, frustrations, and questions. *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*.
- Stamey, J., Sherr, M. E., & Williams, N. A. (2011). Bayesian analysis for evidence-based practice in social

work. *Social Work Research*, 35(1), 46-52.

- Sherr, M. E., Harr, C., & Stoltzfus, K. (2010). Si Kahn and Nehemiah. Curriculum modules for integrating faith and spirituality in social work education. <http://www.nacsw.org/member/Publications/49981736.pdf>
- Sherr, M. E., & Dyer, P. (2010). Evaluating a comprehensive abstinence-based program for minority youth: Comparing church and public school outcomes. *Social Work & Christianity*, 37(1), 28-44.
- Sherr, M. E., & Wolfer, T. A. (2010). Grace House Ministry (A and B). In T. Wolfer and M. Huyser (Eds.) *Grappling with Faith: Decision cases for Christians in Social Work*. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.
- Huff, G. E., Sherr, M. E., & Henning, N. L. (2010). A shoplifter? In T. Wolfer and M. Huyser (Eds.). *Grappling with Faith: Decision cases for Christians in Social Work*. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

### GAYNOR YANCEY

- Yancey, G., Kilpatrick, B., & Stutts, K. (2010). Confidentiality in the church. *Journal of Family and Community Ministry*, 23(4), 61-69.
- Martinez, R., Rogers, R., Yancey, G., & Singletary, J. (2010). Spiritual capital in modern organizations. *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business*, 13, 158-174.
- Martinez, R., Rogers, R., Yancey, G., & Singletary, J. (2010). The role of spiritual capital and community in Amish enterprises. *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business*, 13, 175-191.

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## PRESENTATIONS

### JIM ELLOR

- Ellor, J. W. (2010). Memory loss in Alzheimer's disease and the spiritual self. The 13th annual Spirituality Research Symposium at University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.
- Ellor, J. W., Chavkin, N. F., & Bordnick, P. (2010). Walking alongside returning war veterans and their families. The 2010 NASW/Texas Annual Conference. Galveston, TX.
- Ellor, J. W., & Hull, J. (2010). Working with families to assess older adults with dementia. The 2010 Texas Conference on Aging. Kerrville, TX.
- Ellor, J. W., & McFadden, S. H. (2010). The future of religion and spirituality as seen by professional gerontologists. The annual meeting of the American Society on Aging/ National Council on the Aging. Chicago, IL.
- Ellor, J. W., & McFadden, S. H. (2010). Professional Gerontologists View the Future of Religion and Spirituality. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. New Orleans, LA.
- Ellor, J. W., Parrott, D., & Craine, K. (2010). Town and gown partnerships at times of crisis. The 2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. Las Vegas, NV.

*For a complete listing of faculty activity during the past academic year, visit the School of Social Work Faculty Directory at: [www.baylor.edu/social\\_work](http://www.baylor.edu/social_work)*

### DIANA GARLAND

- Congregational social work. Workshop at the North American Association of Christians in Social Work Convention, Durham NC. November 12, 2010.
- Congregations as safe places for everyone: Preventing clergy sexual misconduct. Workshop at the General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Charlotte, NC. June 25, 2010.
- Social worker as change agent in religious communities: Researching clergy sexual misconduct with adults. Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA. January 15, 2010.

### HELEN HARRIS

- Harris, Helen. Life endings and ethics. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas. April 14, 2010.
- Harris, Helen with Elisabeth Harris. Faith and adoption. National Association of Christians in Social Work Annual Conference, Durham, NC. November 12, 2010.
- Harris, Helen with David Gibson. Applying the principles of Alan Keith-Lucas to child welfare services today. Pre-Conference Institute for National Association of Christians in Social Work, in Durham, NC. November 11, 2010.
- Harris, Helen with David Gibson. Applying the principles of Alan Keith-Lucas to child welfare services today. National audio conference for National Association of Christians in Social Work, in Waco, TX. October 19, 2010.

### MICHAEL SHERR

- Sherr, M. E., The fine line between innovative service or unethical proselytizing: Ethical practice with religiously affiliated organizations. Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH. March 2010.
- Sherr, M. E., Living into the vocation of a Christian Educator. Cedarville

University, Cedarville, OH. March 2010.

- Sherr, M. E., Summers, A., Stamey, J., Dyer, P., Pooler, D., & Smith, E., The influence of religious participation on sexual activity in a randomized effectiveness trial for at-risk youth. The 60th annual convention of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work, Raleigh-Durham, NC. November 2010.
- Sherr, M. E., Navigating the IRB Process in Social Work Research. The 60th Annual Convention of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work. Raleigh-Durham, NC, November 2010.
- Sherr, M. E., Comprehensive sex education with African American and Hispanic youth: Preliminary findings of a five-year evaluation.
- Analyzing the practice methods of Jane Addams: Lessons for building partnerships, social capital, and global civil societies. The 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda. Hong Kong, China, June 2010.
- Jones, J. M., & Sherr, M. E., Relationships in Research. The 60th Annual Convention of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work, Raleigh-Durham, NC. November 2010.
- Sherr, M. E., & Lopez, D., An innovative critical action research design for implementing an RCT. Evaluating community-based risk prevention programs youth: Informing Abstinence Education Conference, Arlington, VA. April 2010.

### 45 new alumni sign on

*By Flor Avellaneda, Council Chair*

**THESE PAST FEW MONTHS** have been ones of celebration for the the Baylor School of Social Work. A new home, dinners, Colloquium, and graduation have made this a great time of joy.

Wherever our new graduates find themselves working and living, they will always be part of the Baylor School of Social Work. The Alumni Council is one of the ways our new graduates can keep connected. This semester we've had 45 BSW and MSW graduates join the Council!

The Council works to help alumni strengthen their relationship with the School, network with other social work professionals, coordinate alumni events, increase awareness about activities in the the School, and obtain opportunities for

continuing education. Members meet semiregularly, usually during the lunch hour. Information is posted on the School's website for those who live away.

This year the Council took on a project that would give back to the School. The Kids' Corner is a play area in the second floor "living room" of the School for the children of visitors, faculty and students. There have already been donations of toys to the Kids' Corner. If you would like to contribute, you can do so at Amazon.com, click on the "Wish List" tab and enter "BaylorSSWalumni" in the "Find someone's list" search box. Follow the instructions to complete your contribution.

We encourage you to become involved as well! If you would like to become part of the Alumni Council, please e-mail Judith\_Stolz@baylor.edu. ♦



*The Kids' Corner is a cozy area just beginning to be stocked with toys and books for children to enjoy while visiting the School. For just a small amount, you can donate to the toy area; see instructions to contribute above.*

### Let us hear from you!

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

#### MAIL TO:

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Waco, TX 76798-7320.

#### OR E-MAIL:

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

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

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

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

☐ Baylor graduate ☐ Carver School graduate

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# Carver legacy

ALUMNI GATHER IN WACO

## IT WAS A JOYOUS REUNION

May 2, as about 20 alumni of Carver School of Church Social Work (CSCSW) and friends gathered at the Baylor School of Social Work for a reunion dinner. It also was the observance of the 25th anniversary of the graduation of CSCSW's first MSW class.

Kimberly Myers, a member of that class of 1986, helped coordinate the event. She used the occasion to announce that the Cora Anne Davis Endowed Scholarship Fund in Social Work, begun in honor of CSCSW's first dean, had reached the \$50,000-level required.

"This is a wonderful way to honor our beloved Dean Anne," said Myers, who is a member of Baylor School of Social Work's Board of Advocates.

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, current executive director of Woman's Missionary Union-TX, attended the dinner. The WMU Missionary Training School opened in 1907 in Louisville, KY. In 1952, the school was renamed the Carver School of Missions and Social



*Mrs. Virginia Walker Smith, alumna of the Carver School of Missions and Social Work, with husband, the Rev. Paul Smith, studies the historical timeline.*

Work in honor of Professor W. O. Carver. In 1984, it became the Carver School of Church Social Work.

Several former faculty members from the CSCSW also attended the dinner. "We are reminded of the scripture that 'except a seed die, it does not grow again,'" said Timothy Johnson, a former professor. "It's important to let the sorrow of the past go, because that is the fertile soil in which God prepares the next blessing."

Diana Garland, dean of the Baylor

School of Social Work, served as the CSCSW dean from 1993 to 1995, following Davis. During that time, the president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, which owned CSCSW, dismissed Garland as dean over faculty hiring practices, and closed CSCSW permanently in 1997.

"Our history together is one of tragedy and triumph, but we are tonight to celebrate the triumph," Garland said.

Baylor School produced an historical timeline for the reunion that traced the evolution of the WMU Training and later the Carver Schools in Louisville, social work education at Baylor, and global events that shaped the social work profession. Another display featured the banner created by CSCSW students and later carried in protest over the School's closing on the Southern Seminary campus.

Carver alumna Darla Bailey said the evening was "to celebrate who we are and not just the Carver legacy, but also what is happening here at Baylor University."

Kelly VanderPloeg McCaleb, MSW 2011, spoke at the dinner as the third recipient of the Davis Scholarship (see story, next page). ♦

*With Grace Gaddy, Baylor intern for the Baptist Standard.*



*Sandy Wisdom-Martin, left, executive director of WMU-TX and Carver alumna, with Diana Garland, Baylor School of Social Work dean.*

# MSW graduate advocates for the elderly

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SAYS ASSISTANCE MADE HER DREAM POSSIBLE +

## CHARIS DIETZ

**ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER** their honeymoon, Kelly VanderPloeg McCaleb and her husband, Daniel, were on the highway, headed south toward another life milestone: the pursuit of Kelly's master's degree in social work.

With their belongings in tow, the 1,100-mile drive from Wisconsin to Waco offered the couple plenty of time to reflect on the road ahead. One income? Check. Squeaky-tight budget? Check. Any idea of how they would afford Kelly's graduate education at Baylor? *No* check.

Nevertheless, the young couple believed in Kelly's calling to provide specialized care for the elderly, and they believed Baylor School of Social Work was the place to receive that education.

## 'THANK YOU FOR NOT FORGETTING'

Kelly was just a shy second-grader when her interest in caring for the elderly population was sparked.

"Ever since I was little, my mom would bring me to nursing homes to sing while she played the piano. I began to continually visit the elderly, and, throughout that, my passion and love for them started to develop," Kelly said. "The looks on their faces were priceless. And when they would hug me, it was almost like they were saying, 'Thank you for remembering us. Thank you for not forgetting who we are.'"

In high school, an opportunity to travel to Ecuador and serve in an "old folks home" became one of the most eye-opening experiences of Kelly's life.

"It was absolutely heart-breaking to see the way they were just left alone and abandoned," she said. "That really stirred something in my heart, and I recognized that God has

called me to work with that population."

Kelly worked as a nurse's aide in homecare and volunteered on a dementia unit in a nursing home during her undergraduate education at Kuyper College in Michigan. She changed her major from crosscultural missions to social work.

"I want to be an advocate for the elderly," she said. "There is such wisdom to be learned and gained from these individuals. If we don't interact and connect with them, their stories and legacies will be lost."

As she researched and sought advice about the best social work graduate program, her professors and colleagues pointed her to Baylor's School of Social Work. Kelly and her husband knew in their hearts that Baylor was where she was supposed to be.

## PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

Kelly persevered through her first semester at Baylor, but the couple was struggling financially. Medical bills and living expenses were taking their toll, and they found themselves barely able to stretch their resources from paycheck to paycheck.

"I remember praying with my husband over the situation, and he kept reminding me that God would provide," Kelly said.

Only a few days later, Kelly received an e-mail informing her that she was the recipient of the Cora Anne Davis Endowed Scholarship Fund in Social Work.

"The scholarship was a huge answer to prayer and has been a blessing to me in more ways than I can explain," Kelly said.

"If I had not received scholarships from such generous donors, there's no way I would have been able to attend Baylor University – one of the most exciting, learning-filled adventures of my life."

Kelly knows that her graduate degree, and her dream to serve the elderly would not be possible without the scholarship she received.

"There are some who may be hesitant to start a scholarship, feeling that



*Kelly VanderPloeg McCaleb spent her internship this spring at First Baptist Woodway researching the needs of caregivers.*

maybe it won't truly affect someone's world in a major way," she said. "But it does. Every single scholarship and every donation made to Baylor allows for different students on unique journeys to go out and make a difference in the world." ♦

*If you would like more information about how your gift to Baylor can make a difference, please contact:*

Kristen\_A\_Box@baylor.edu  
254-315-9773 (cell)  
254-710-6284 (office)



# SNAP SHOTS



## CONVOCATION MAY 13

**1** BSW candidates waiting to process into Waco Hall are, from left: Lindsey Humphrey, Paula Haynes, Lindsey Hawkins, Rae Graves, and Brandy Frye Puckett. **2** BSW students Jessica Tidwell, Britney Thornton and Ashley Summers. Britney was the vocalist for the Family Dinner. **3** MSW graduate Bethany Rivera Molinar with her mother, Teresa Rivera. Bethany provided cello music at this year's Family Dinner and was a vocalist at the Convocation.



**4** Audrey Waggoner spoke on behalf of the MSW cohort. **5** BSW student Jessica Wedel (in wheelchair) broke her leg and required surgery two days before Convocation, but she didn't miss any of the ceremonies thanks here to classmate Liza Buck, at right. **6** Bajabulile Lunsford, left, from Zimbabwe, and Helen Harris.

## No child left hungry

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAMS GEAR UP +

**BUILDING FROM THE** momentum created in last summer's feeding program for children, the Texas Hunger Initiative has developed several new partnerships to assist in that effort this year.

The New York City Coalition Against Hunger is providing THI with 10 new AmeriCorps Vista staff members who will be placed throughout the state to assist, train and coordinate churches and other nonprofits as feeding sites. They join the four Vistas currently working in the THI office in Waco.

Also, THI has entered into a four-year partnership with Share Our Strength's "No Kid Hungry" campaign. Share Our Strength is a national nonprofit that seeks to end childhood hunger in America by 2015 ([www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org)). The partnership grants THI more than \$200,000 for 2011 and enables the Initiative to hire organizing staff for the hunger campaign.

Locally, we joined with the McLennan County Hunger Coalition and the Food Planning Task Force of McLennan County to sponsor a Summer Meals Summit in April. More than 100 people, primarily representing churches, gathered to learn how they could become involved in the summer feeding program. In McLennan County alone, almost 25,000 children do not receive the nutrition they need during the summer months.

### CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

A recent study done for THI by Baylor School of Social Work graduate student Ashley Castillo shows that 62 percent of congregation members across denominations would be more involved directly in combatting hunger if they knew tangible ways to help. THI works

to inform such potential volunteers of ways they can be involved through partnerships, information sharing, and sharing of resources. THI has recruited, helped organize, and been a resource for approximately 50 Texas churches that plan to serve as feeding sites this summer.

Here's some information that you can share with your church:

- One in four children in Texas does not know where his or her next meal is coming from, a situation known as food insecurity.
- Texas has the second highest food insecurity rate among children in the nation.
- During the school year, 2.8 million students in Texas participate in the free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch program. These students often go without consistent meals when school is not in session.
- Only 11 percent of Texas students who receive the free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch during the school year participate in the summer program.
- Churches can participate in the summer feeding program by serving as a feeding site (preparing meals on site for which the church is fully reimbursed) or by serving as a distribution site (meals delivered by an outside sponsor). They also can provide volunteers, financial assistance and transportation.
- If a church is located in a neighbor-



Kenneth Moerbe, chair of the McLennan County Hunger Coalition, left, welcomes City of Waco Mayor Jim Bush at the Summer Meals Summit April 12 at the City of Waco Multipurpose Center.

hood where 50 percent or more of the children residing there (under 18 years of age) are eligible for the school-year feeding program, the church will be reimbursed for two meals a day per child.

Finally, consider this incentive. Only two of Jesus's miracles are shared by all four Gospels: his resurrection and the feeding of the 5,000. If the authors of all of the Gospels believed that this act of grace was such an essential aspect of who Jesus was, perhaps we should give it similar prominence in our faith and ministries. We can help you find ways to join us in making sure no child goes hungry. ♦

READ MORE ONLINE

[www.baylor.edu/texashunger/](http://www.baylor.edu/texashunger/)  
and find out how you can help  
end hunger in Texas by 2015



# SNAP SHOTS



Some of the faculty, staff and students attending the reception were, from left: Tracey Kelley, Jennifer Young, Kameryn Phillips, Ani Steele, Jon Singletary, Marilyn Gusukuma, Meghan Smith, Eva Bull, Rob Rogers, Chelsea Craig, Melody Zuniga, Angela Traylor, and Dean Diana Garland.



## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

**1** Students who made the Dean's List the previous two semesters were honored for their academic achievement at a reception April 26. **2** BSW student Kameryn Phillips visits with Dean Diana Garland at the event. On April 19, the School's "living room" was filled for the Field Education Luncheon. **3** Rebecca Ellison, from left, was named Field Instructor of the Year; Jeff Wall, City of Waco, was named Task Supervisor of the Year; and Gaynor Yancey was surprised with a special recognition for service to field education. **4** Field Administrators of the Year were Melody McDermitt (shown here) and Libby Bellinger, Meals & Wheels. **5** Liza Buck was named BSW Intern of the Year. **6** Kelly Stanley, left, was named MSW Intern of the Year in Children and Families, receiving her award from Erma Ballenger, Director of Field Education-Advanced Practice. Morgan Caruthers (not pictured) was named MSW Intern of the Year in Community Practice.





## research (from p. 3)

their social work skills,” said Garland. “Either way, we’re finding there is little conflict between their social work values and the religion and faith values of their congregational community.”

The researchers also are grappling with understanding the congregation as an organization different from nonreligious entities. “Congregations are not like social service agencies,” Garland said. “It’s a community of people, but in our culture, if you are unhappy with something in the church, you just pick up your membership and go someplace else. So how does a social worker become a change agent in that community?”

Social workers in congregational settings say they *do* struggle with the dual or multiple relationships that seem endemic to this setting. “We have been pretty professionalized in social work to believe we don’t have relationships with clients outside the professional relationship but that is not the case in congregations where you share your community with clients. So how do you manage those relationships?” Garland said.

The study has garnered the interest of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW), which has invited Garland and Yancey to author a book on their research.

Garland hopes this descriptive research will help social work educators know how to prepare students in their degree programs for professional practice as congregational leaders. “We can’t prepare social workers if we don’t know what they’re going to be doing when they get out there. We need to define the field, to be able to describe how these social workers are seeing the situation so we know better how to prepare them to provide leadership in that setting.”

“We’re trying to tell the story of what it means to be ‘neighbor’ to one another,” Yancey said, “from a professional and a spiritual perspective.” ♦



*Between sessions of the MSW Practice Colloquium, students encouraged one another in the halls. Pictured from left are: Lindsay Church, Chantel Garrett, Becky Boggus, Carolyn Lofton (MSW Foundation student), Audrey Waggoner and Elizabeth Hakey.*

## MSW report (from p. 3)

which they practiced what they had learned in class strengthened their competence and confidence. “I now feel significantly more equipped to enter the field of social work knowing that I understand not only how to conduct a full research study, but that I understand the value in doing so” (Salette Lawrence); “The most important thing I learned was the basic structure of how to plan, implement, and report a research project. It seemed like an overwhelming task at the outset, but with valuable help from the faculty, I was able to complete the project and develop more confidence in my research abilities” (Kelly Clines Thompson).

They sharpened their skill in being a consumer of the research of others. “Now, I feel that I can look at ... research literature and not feel intimidated by it, but I can actually digest it and understand the methods used and its applications for my practice” (Viviana Triana); “I will better be able to critique future literature and research through more informed and analytical lenses” (Bethany Northern).

A few even discovered a passion for research that propelled them to enroll in a PhD program. “The realization that research could actually be fun was one reason I chose to go back for my PhD in Social Work” (Elissa Madden).

In some way everyone expressed a greater realization of the value of research not only for the profession but for their individual practice, particularly evidence-informed interventions. “...my first learning was that I have a real desire to practice in an informed way and conduct research that would be included into practice” (Andrew Hannig); “I got to see into a completely different area of my clients’ lives, which I wouldn’t have if I hadn’t done the research” (Marissa Moorehead).

I hope these highlights give you a glimpse into both our aspirations for emphasizing research in the MSW curriculum and its effects in the perspectives and practice of our graduates. I want to thank all of those who took the time to share their comments. ♦



## Dean's column (from p. 2)

*"There has not been a single person more influential in Social Work in making the field aware of the significance of faith-based social services' contributions to congregational and community life than Diana Garland. She is my mentor, and yes my hero, not just for her astute scholarship, but for her Sisyphus-like pursuit to keep this scholarship on the front burner in the academy when no other scholar dared. If anyone needs to be recognized for being an outstanding contributor, it is America's mother of scholarship in faith-based social services."*

Diana's productivity in the study of family and religious life parallels her contributions to understanding the relationships among social work, faith, and congregations. Her qualitative work led to the concept of family faith, a revolutionary advance in specifying the relational nature of faith. Dr. Garland also has been active in identifying the types, strengths, and needs of families in American congregations. Her book, *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide* (1999), was winner of the 2000 Book of the Year Award of the Academy of Parish Clergy at Princeton Seminary. Eric Swanson, a nationally renowned author and speaker for Leadership Network, recognizes the powerful influence of her scholarship on contemporary families and congregations: "Dr. Diana Garland's passion, combined with persistent scholarship around family and community, has positioned her to be one of the prominent and clarion voices on healthy and productive families today."

Dr. Garland also has attained national prominence addressing sexual misconduct perpetrated by religious leaders. Her scientifically rigorous national study provides new insights into the causes and correlates of this destructive behavior. Mark Chaves, professor of sociology, Duke University, past president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and her research partner on a national clergy sexual misconduct study, provides a particularly compelling view on Dr. Garland's approach to research:

*"I know best Diana's contributions to knowledge about clergy sexual advances towards adults in their churches. Diana and I collaborated on developing survey items to measure for the first time the prevalence of this behavior. Diana was in every way the driving intellectual force behind this project. My respect for Diana is immense largely because of the way she insists on doing the highest quality research and on doing research that matters."*



*Dean Garland addresses a gathering of social workers and administrators who work at long-term residential care centers at a luncheon held in their honor at the School.*

Whatever the area of her research, Dr. Garland is translating her findings into publications that make them accessible to professionals, religious leaders and lay persons. For example, her book *Parenting by Grace* (1991), written for parents in congregations, sold more than a million copies, bringing together the social sciences and biblical studies in a style accessible to lay persons. For 10 years, she served as editor of the *Journal of Family and Community Ministry*, a journal designed

to make research accessible to religious leaders. She directs the School's Center for Family and Community Ministries, which focuses on translating research and theory into resources for congregational life.

Dr. Garland has the remarkable ability to obtain significant financial support for her research imperatives. Since she came to Baylor in 1997, she has had 16 grants for research as the single or primary investigator, totaling more than \$6.3 million, from a diversity of funding entities. In addition, she has had six additional grants, totaling \$1 million, to launch academic programs and to sponsor conferences featuring research in social work and congregational studies.

As faculty and staff of the School, we are so pleased that our Dean received this much deserved recognition. We just had to take this opportunity to let you know about this so you can celebrate this award with Diana and with all of us who love this place. Her commitment to and delivery of faithful scholarship superbly exemplifies the mission and spirit of a great research university. We are all inspired by her unwavering desire to discover new knowledge powerful enough to energize healing and justice for persons, families and communities. ♦

# SNAP SHOTS



1

## PHI ALPHA INDUCTION

The Social Work Honor Society, Phi Alpha, held an induction ceremony April 18 at Miller Chapel. **1** Waiting for the ceremony to start are MSW students Carolyn Lofton and Catina Hart (in blue shirt). **2** Posing with the beribboned Phi Alpha wreath are, from top left counter clockwise: Rachel Cozart, Leslie Whaley, Kathleen Lokey, Nikki Collins, Whitney Mackey and Sarah Male. **3** Phi Alpha Officers for last year and the coming year (from left): Courtney Lance (outgoing), Saleta Lawrence (outgoing), Katie Durrett (incoming), Jessica Tidwell (outgoing), Amanda Poole (incoming) and Jennifer Young (incoming).



2



3

## MORE FIELD AWARDS ...



Nicole Collins, MSW Intern of Year,  
Physical and Mental Health



Melody Zuniga, Director of Field  
Education-Generalist Practice.



Posing with field instructor Van Jones of  
Meals & Wheels are MSW students Aurelia  
Pratt, left, and Saleta Lawrence.