

community CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



PREPARING TO CHANGE THE WORLD

SIERRA LEONE
NATIVE PAUL CONTEH
PREPARES TO BE AT
THE FOREFRONT
OF CHANGE IN HIS
COUNTRY

Preparation for work in this world

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



“WE ARE CALLED.” “I FELT LED.”

These are words I have heard spoken over and over again as I visit with students and alumni of this school.

Most did not choose social work but, rather, they were chosen for it. They are on this path not just because they love people and want to help others, but also because they love God and have experienced a calling to this work.

The Baylor School of Social Work prepares social workers who have been called to serve and to lead in Waco, in the United States, and around the world as

messengers of good news where there is sorrow, poverty, brokenness and oppression.

Social workers impact the lives of individuals and communities everyday. Social workers help kids finish school. Social workers work with teenagers by developing and running counseling, afterschool, tutoring, and mentoring programs to keep them in school and away from drugs and gangs. Social workers provide more mental health care than any other profession and help people cope with and manage their illness effectively. Social workers specialize in services to veterans and their families and help with the counseling they need to readjust to civilian life, find jobs, and become contributing members of our society. Social workers help children affected by the divorce of parents or the death of a loved one deal with grief and loss so that they can put their young lives back together and succeed rather than losing their way in school and falling behind. Social workers help organize communities so they every child gets three meals a day and can learn in school and grow up to be productive wage earners rather than school failures. Social workers minister in churches around the world, helping them to better understand how to meet needs in their communities.

Because this work to which they are called is so demanding, this is a demanding academic program. This program is not a sprint; it is a marathon of study and application, as so many of you know because you are our alumni. Our reason for giving students the most rigorous and excellent education possible is to prepare them for the demanding path ahead.

When students leave the School of Social Work, it is the beginning of “paying it forward.” We count on them to continue in excellence ... to continue to be outstanding social workers, ministers, servants, therapists, community organizers, leaders. We expect them to excel in practice, in research, in modeling for others. We expect them to become field instructors and supervisors, and authors. This is what we expect them to do. This is what we prepare them to do ... impact lives for the better.

There is no higher calling than the one that chooses you. Social work is a path of goodness and justice. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you and your commitment to use those gifts, and we celebrate the difference you are making in the lives around you, today and everyday. ♦

Diana Garland

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COMMENTS

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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.

Research project focuses on intentional families

RESEARCH SEEKS TO HELP CHURCHES UNDERSTAND “FUNCTIONAL FAMILIES” +

BY NIKKI WILMOTH & EMILY ROBERSON

WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID WE make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. That is never more evident than among “intentional” families; however, as Christians, we are still learning how to minister to this often invisible population.

Lecturer Becky Scott and Dean Diana Garland are in the midst of a research project seeking to understand how relationships form in families not based on the cultural norms of family formed by sexual coupling or biological relationships, i.e. “families of choice.” Dr. Garland started this line of inquiry years ago as it connects to her long-term research and teaching interests regarding families, equipping families and equipping congregations to minister to families.

“We understand as Christians, we often treat one another as family, sharing meals, holidays and resources; however, some have ‘become’ more than that and have long-term ties and commitments to one another,” Dean Garland said.

With family dynamics constantly changing, congregations are tasked with ensuring that no one within the community of faith remains without an adoptive family. Understanding the development of these types of bonds is crucial in learning to better serve this population.

“We are looking to understand how people, of all ages, come to identify themselves as family with those whom they have no legal or biological ties,” Dean Garland said.

The unique aspect of this research is the work with these types of family relationships based on emotional and spiritual commitment, and the role these families play in ministering to the family-less in our congregations and our society.

“In the world of the early church, the basic social and economic unit of society was the household consisting of 50-100 people, where nuclear families were embedded, but not autonomous,” Dean Garland said. “In these households, roles of family relationships, work and religious expression were intertwined.”

These types of households are nearly nonexistent today. According to Scott, E.M. Duvall suggests that in modern history, the nuclear family replaced the household of the early church, referred to in the New Testament, as the basic social unit of society suggesting primary relationships are an outcome of sexual bonding, typically by heterosexual partners and their children. This then ignores other types of “families” found in the world today.

Results of this study will aid in educating social workers currently working or preparing to work with congregations. Dean Garland noted that when professional skill-sets include understanding about how functional families develop in faith settings, they may be better able to facilitate these meaningful connections, thus improving a sense of familial belonging for those who are orphaned, widowed or

otherwise rejected in our culture today.

“This research has the potential for giving visibility and voice to families now invisible and ignored by congregations,” Scott said. “It has the potential for providing common ground for both conservative and progressive Christian factions to see ‘family’ not as the gauntlet for political debate but as a means of providing belonging and support for all God’s children.”

Scott added that families were not declining. Family structures are just changing.

“These are still legitimate families that are playing the roles of the family as in institution in our society,” Scott said. “We know so much about how the typical family with two spouses and children

“Congregations celebrate weddings, the

births of children, Mother’s Day and

Father’s Day, but there are no rituals

recognizing when Christians, unrelated...

establish family relationships”

develops over time. We know less about how these other families develop. We are trying to map the process of their development. When social workers and ministers understand how families develop, then they can improve the way they support and strengthen the families with whom they work.”

The two have interviewed nine families in their research so far. According to Scott, these families have come together through a variety of circumstances as co-workers, as co-congregants, as neighbors and have chosen to develop their relationship into a familial relationship.

“The stories are really beautiful as they demonstrate the fact that we can covenant with others in unique and creative ways and that in doing so each person benefits,” Scott said. “Despite family relationships being challenging, each story has been filled with words of gratitude at the provision of God through these unique familial commitments.” ♦



MSW student profiles

Student develops her own love of the field and a generation

Chelsea Kramer carries on the family love affair with social work

By Emily Roberson

FOR CHELSEA KRAMER, social work is a family affair. Her mother, Tinker Kramer, is a gerontological social worker, and her sister, Amy Ward, also received her BSW and MSW from the Baylor School of Social Work.

"I grew up with my mom being a social worker so I saw what she did, and I thought to myself, 'I like that. I want to help people,' but I didn't know exactly what it was at the time," Chelsea said. "When it came time to

practice," Chelsea said. "No human is perfect, so sometimes it's hard because certain biases may come up. But social work allows you to look beyond those and see the whole

person. They aren't just their disease, they aren't just this problem, and

there are so many things that play into a person's life and circumstance."

During her BSW internship at Meals On Wheels, something clicked inside of Chelsea. Going into her undergraduate internship, Chelsea was unsure of which population to serve. After her experiences her senior year, her doubts evaporated.

"I have fallen in love with older adults," Chelsea said. "I think what drives me the most is they have so much value, but there are too many times when they are put off to the side because they are at the end of their lives. They have so much to share and so much wisdom. At a certain point, I just knew I didn't want to be anywhere else. These are the people I want to work with."

Chelsea made the most of her internship at Meals On Wheels. In addition to at-home assessments, Chelsea helped investigate the food desert created by the closing of the 12th St. HEB in Waco, and started a reminiscence group in West, Texas for older adults.

"At the beginning, I thought I would just be doing the at-home assessments for home delivered meals, but then there were opportunities as things

went along, and I just took them and went with it," Chelsea said. "One of my favorite aspects has been delivering meals to clients in Riesel, Texas. I feel

"I have fallen in love with older adults. They have so much to share and so much wisdom."

like that is where I have really been able to practice my social work skills."

Chelsea, named the BSW Outstanding Student last spring, began the advanced standing program this fall. Her concentration is in mental and physical health with a specialization in gerontology. She'll intern at a nursing facility, started by the SSW 2014 Alumni of the Year Pat Crump, this upcoming spring in San Angelo. After graduation, she plans to engage in clinical work with the older adult population.

"I feel like I've grown as a person in



1

decide my college major, my sister was in the MSW program at Baylor at the time, and she would just come home so excited about everything she was learning, and she was so passionate."

Chelsea chose the social work path too, and since coming into the program five years ago, she has truly discovered her passion for the profession.

"Social work is right for me," Chelsea said. "Since I took my first intro course, I have learned so much, and I have just fallen in love with it. We bring people together for a common cause, for a common person. It's a holistic profession, taking into account everything a person is going through."

The program's emphasis on faith has been a perfect match for Chelsea.

"My faith really drives me, and Baylor Social Work is all about faith in



2



3

these past few years," Chelsea said. "I have learned so much while at Baylor, and my eyes have been opened. I am where I am meant to be, and that's thanks to the School of Social Work. I wouldn't be here without them. It's has been life changing. What I am learning will impact my entire life." ♦

1 Chelsea enjoys a moment with her family. 2 On the last day of her undergraduate internships at Meals On Wheels, Chelsea smiles with her field supervisors. 3 Dr. Jon Singletary honors Chelsea at Family Dinner in April.

West African student prepares to be a catalyst of change

Paul Conteh adjusts to life in America but gears up to use his skills back home

By Emily Roberson

WEST AFRICAN master's candidate Paul Conteh has called both Waco and Sierra Leone home. The two couldn't be more different. With over 5,000 miles separating Paul from his home country, he has discovered this first hand.

"Going from Sierra Leone to Waco is almost like trying to climb Mount Everest," Paul said. "At first, you just want to pack your bags and go home because everything is so different. Transitioning cultures was much harder than I realized."

Conteh is a student in the Global Mission Leadership Initiative (GML). The GML program brings leaders to Baylor from their home countries with a commitment to return after they complete their education. The goal is for these leaders to become catalysts for change in their own communities.

"One of the strengths of the Social Work School is they don't force us to do things the American way because if

they did, we might get sucked into the 'American dream,'" Conteh said. "They let us learn our own way so we can be effective when we return home."

Paul received his undergraduate degree in community development from the Evangelical College of Theology in Sierra Leone, and began working on a project called Project Restore Hope. It was through this experience that Paul began contemplating a career in social work, and started forming ties to Baylor.

"There are times when we have certain passions we can't see for ourselves until we have someone else see that inside of us, and social work is a passion that someone identified within me," Conteh said. "I became involved with Project Restore Hope, and Dennis and Cindy Wiles were working on that as well. Mr. Wiles is on the Baylor Board of Regents, and he encouraged me to apply to the GML program. I applied, and here I am."

This summer, Paul returned to Sierra Leone for a summer internship. While working with Project Restore Hope, Paul was able to research education models that could be effective in his country and be involved in child protection issues.

His internship also placed him on the front lines of the Ebola outbreak.

"This summer was exciting, but it had its dark side," Conteh said. "The dark side was Ebola, which is going from bad to worse in my country. However, I was still able to be involved with projects that have the potential to really produce change in my home country."

Since Paul has returned to Waco, he is preparing for another internship experience.

"Since I arrived in Waco in August, it has been really difficult to focus on my studies knowing Ebola has left my country in shambles, but I am trying my best to focus on my classes this year and prepare for my internship," Paul said. "This year I will be partnering with Mission Arlington and the community development wing of Project Restore Hope. I also will have the opportunity to do some traveling. I will be attending a juvenile justice conference in Switzerland and participating in a community assessment in India."

As he prepares for the challenges of the upcoming year, he is hopeful he will be able to meet the expectations Baylor has set before him.

"Coming from Baylor, there are these expectations for me to come back and be at the forefront of change in my society," Paul said. "I'm excited I had the chance to meet those expectations this summer, and I'm hopeful I will continue to do that as I move forward." ♦



SSW news briefs

Dyer tops list of “Most Influential Social Workers Alive Today”



DR. PRESTON DYER, PROFESSOR EMERITUS WAS ranked No. 1 on the list of “The 30 Most Influential Social Workers Alive Today,” compiled by Social Work Degree Guide. Dyer was chosen based on his merit, scholastic study and political activism.

“We know Dr. Dyer is an outstanding leader in our profession, and to have another organization recognize him in this way is confirmation,” Dean Garland said. “Dr. Dyer is a pioneer. I have personally experienced his advocacy for the equality of women both within families and in societal leadership during a time that some would deny those opportunities.”

Dyer has been with the School of Social Work since 1969 and served as director of the undergraduate program for three decades. Before his time at Baylor, he worked as a clinical social worker for mental health. His research has focused on marriages and families, with publications in more than 100 academic and scholarly journals.

“His fingerprints are all over this school. The collegial, supportive community we enjoy here developed out of his fiercely egalitarian and community spirit,” Garland said.

To see the list in its entirety go to: <http://bit.ly/1wDUaF4>

Congratulations, Dr. Dyer!

Singletary, Yancey honored by alma maters



VIRGINIA Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Social Work honored Dr. Jon Singletary with its “Making a Difference” PhD Alumni Award last fall.

According to the VCU website, the award recognizes and honors “alumni who have distinguished themselves as innovators in research and scholarship,

education, advocacy and policy development or human services.”

Dr. Singletary serves as the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the BSSW and holds the Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies. He recently celebrated his 10th anniversary at Baylor.

East Texas Baptist

LEFT Dr. Gaynor Yancey, left, is pictured with former East Texas Baptist University President Dr. Samuel W. “Dub” Oliver.

RIGHT Dr. Jon Singletary (far right) is shown with his wife, Wendi, and VCU Dean of Social Work Jim Hinterlong.

University (ETBU) also presented our Dr. Gaynor Yancey with the J. Wesley Smith Achievement Award in the fall. According the ETBU website, the award honors an alumnus who demonstrates outstanding achievement in their profession and shows a continued interest in ETBU.

Dr. Yancey is a professor in the Baylor School of Social Work and teaches urban missions courses and social issues at Truett Seminary. ♦

Celebrating social work in Zambia

DR. MOFFAT ZIMBA, president of Northrise University in Ndola, Zambia, spent several days at Baylor this spring including two days at the School of Social Work celebrating efforts in creating a social work program at Northrise. Mukupa Musonda, one of our GML students, will be going back to Zambia to teach in the new program. ♦



Alum receives award from CBF

CAROL MCENTYRE, MSW/MDiv '03, was awarded the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Young Baptist Leadership Award for her excellence in Christian education ministry and leadership at the 2014 Churchworks! Conference in Huntsville, Ala.

The award is presented annually to a young Baptist clergy or congregational leader who represents a growing interaction with and support of the CBF and has demonstrated ministry to peers and colleagues of every generation.

McEntyre has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbia, Mo., since 2012, and is a native of Sparta, Tenn.



Dr. Jim Ellor recognized with statewide award for work in West

DR. JIM ELLOR, ONE OF OUR PROFESSORS, AND DR. SARA DOLAN, an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience in Baylor's College of Arts & Sciences, were selected as recipients of a statewide award for their volunteer crisis intervention work in the city of West following the fertilizer plant explosion in April 2013.

The two received the 2013 Jack Colley Citizen Corps Leadership Award from the Texas Association of Regional Councils, presented in Galveston last fall during the Texas Citizen Corps 2013 Texas Unites Conference.

Jim and Sara saw a need and responded. They had the wisdom to see that the needs for community response would last long after the initial crisis, and they have continued to serve these neighbors week after week, month after month with compassion and professional competence. They are a picture of what it means to be Christian. We could not be more proud of the work they have done in the midst of such tragedy. ♦



Student project sheds light on payday lending tactics

FRAUGHT WITH UNSAVORY practices, the business of payday and auto title lending companies is a burgeoning problem for communities all across the state. Three Baylor MSW students decided it was time to reveal the true implications of this type of predatory lending, and the Killeen and Temple newspapers picked up on it when the project was actually demonstrated at an agency in Belton, Texas in the Spring.

As part of their social policy class project, Lauren Serafy, Rucker Preston and Janae Griffiths simulated how these types of lending situations can snowball into an uncontrollable cycle of debt through a class for clients of Helping Hands, a non-profit where Preston serves as executive director.

"This has really been on my heart for about three years," Preston said. "I heard Suzii Paynter, former director of the

Christian Life Commission, speak about payday lending, and at Helping Hands, we see the effects of this type of lending first hand in the populations we serve."

According to the students' research, payday loans are meant to be short-term solutions for people who need cash fast. What many do not realize, however, are the terms to which borrowers must agree when the loan is dispensed. Many of the loans are single-payment plans which means borrowers must repay the entire loan all at once. Money is loaned out, and the entire amount must be paid back two weeks later. The lender assesses a typical fee of \$20-25 per \$100 borrowed for a two week period, translating to annual percentage rate of 400-600% interest. Borrowers can extend or "rollover" the loan for another fee if unable to pay on time. The fees do not pay down the principal, and every two weeks, if the loan is

not paid back in full, another fee is assessed.

"The advocacy project had to be real and engaging within the community, beyond the walls of the school," Preston said. "This simulation was designed to help participants understand completely the practices of [many] payday lenders."

Needless to say, Serafy added, frustration levels ran high. Participants were forced to choose between money for food or housing and repayment of the loan.

Reactions to the harsh realities of the decisions being made were eye opening for everyone involved. ♦



Serafy, Preston and Griffiths.

SSW alum featured on radio and in print

AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA'S "THE SPLENDID TABLE" featured Baylor Social Work Alum Mark Menjivar, and his peek into human life and hunger through the lens of our refrigerators. "You Are What You Eat" is an exhibit of photographs of the interiors of refrigerators in homes across the country. Mark lives in San Antonio and is a licensed social

The Splendid Table®
O AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA™

Photographer takes voyeuristic peek inside refrigerators

by Lynne Rossetto Kasper



worker who earned his BASW in 2002. Menjivar was also recognized as one of the Top Five Artists to Watch by the *San Antonio Express*. To read and listen to the full radio interview, type in the following link: bit.ly/SSWmenjivar.



Dr. Myers
featured online

THIS SEPTEMBER, Dr. Dennis Myers, The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor in Family Studies, was featured



The leaders of church members aren't opposed to submitting to long-term congregational programs, such as Bible study, all agree with them. However, churches' opposition seems whatever hour of the day.

"I do not have lost in translation that based on the discretionary use of internet is extended without accountability and 'beyond the walls' ministers to the community," Ryan said.

The key to making Bible resources is volunteer is to tap into their passion, Harnett and Myers agree. And congregations must recognize and respect that. So churches should share their commitment.

in two articles on baptistnews.com. In the articles, Dr. Myers gives insight into why

baby boomers are returning to the workforce after retirement, and ponders how churches can minister to a growing population of retired members.

If you would like to read both of the articles in their entirety, go to:

bit.ly/SSWmyers

bit.ly/SSWmyers2.

Sic 'Em Dr. Myers, and Sic' Em BSSW!

Long-time print journal makes its digital debut

THIS PAST YEAR, THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, IN PARTNERSHIP with Truett Seminary, launched the online version of *The Journal of Family and Community Ministries* (JFCM). You can gain access to high-quality, valuable research in an instant!

The journal features research-based articles with a special emphasis on application for ministry. JFCM is a **free, subscription-based resource**. It consists of a number of sections with a wide array of topics such as Global Missions, Healthy Congregations, Community Development, Mental Health, Marriage, Children and Adolescents, and many others. The journal's editorial board consists of professors and researchers in various areas, from social work and neuroscience to business and pastoral ministries.

“We are very excited about this gift from Baylor to the church,” Dean Garland said, “to help it be the church in the world today, wherever they are.”

Not only are church leaders encouraged to subscribe for free to the journal, but also to submit articles for publication.

"I'm sincerely hoping that church leaders not only subscribe to the journal and use its resources, but also contribute out of their own experiences and see this as a way to disseminate their ministries beyond their own communities throughout other congregations," said Dean Garland. Subscribe at www.familyandcommunityministries.org. ♦

THE JOURNAL OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES IS
NOW ONLINE



...AND IT'S FREE

Baylor University's new online journal is a must-have resource for Christian leaders to find scholarly research and practical application.



CHAIR ENDOWED

Board of Advocate member endows SSW faculty position

Danny and Lenn Prince of Dallas announced last fall their intent to establish the Danny and Lenn Prince Chair in the Baylor School of Social Work.

"Danny and Lenn Prince have honored Baylor University with their generosity and their unwavering enthusiasm for the University's future -- a future in which Baylor will increasingly serve as an agent of inquiry and change in the world," said Baylor President Ken Starr. "In particular, their gift will empower our faculty and students



in the Baylor School of Social Work for decades to come."

The endowed chair furthers the Baylor School of Social Work's mission to advance social work knowledge,

values and skills in a Christian context by endowing a faculty position to be filled by an outstanding scholar and teacher whose accomplishments indicate potential for national and international leadership and distinction in his or her field.

The Danny and Lenn Prince Chair will greatly enhance the Baylor School of Social Work's development of programs to prepare professionals in the field of gerontology.

"This Chair is an investment that transforms what the School of Social Work can do in the preparation of social workers to be advocates and resources for older adults to come, when we cannot even yet imagine what the opportunities and challenges will be for aging adults and their families," said Dean Garland "The resources the Prince family have provided will support not only a faculty member to bring focus to this important stage of human life in what we teach our students, but also the research we conduct and the models of care we are able to develop. Endowing a faculty position and the research that faculty member will be able to lead with students --there is no more meaningful way I can think of to invest in generations to come." ♦

"Why I give back..." to the SSW

WHEN BRANDY FRYE Puckett, BSW '11, was supporting four children, working full time and commuting from Houston to Baylor to complete her BSW degree, she needed all the support she could get.



"Every professor in the department gave the exact dose of unconditional love and

acceptance that I so desperately needed in order to keep my motivations high while my spirits were low," Puckett said.

Now, as the executive director of a nursing home in north Texas, Puckett is able to return some of that support by contributing to the SSW Endowment Fund.

Her small north Texas town, miles away from any large city, is plagued by extreme poverty and open racism. The nursing home struggles against a reputation for "being where the 'have-nots' go."

Puckett is currently working to

improve this reputation by changing the culture at the facility and the attitudes amongst the staff.

"I raised the bar of expectations and the staff has grown in response to meet me there," Puckett said. "The investment I have made in them has shifted the attitudes among the employees and the level of care we provide for our residents has improved tremendously."

Puckett attributes this success to the professors and curriculum at the SSW. She recalls many lessons from college which continue to inspire her today to give hope for others struggling with social prejudices and injustices.

"I have reverted back to my books and notes on planned change so many times," Puckett said. "The residents are now being seen for who they are: real people with individual stories."

Puckett appreciates the commitment the SSW professors made to her education and the lessons which moved her to reflect on her own life and career.

"The educational investment I received while attending Baylor will never be taken lightly," Puckett said. "It is my honor to be in a position to give back." ♦

Let's make the greatest impact, together

IN 2014, THE SSW LAUNCHED

a fundraising effort with a goal of reaching \$150,000 before the end of the year, and thanks to our beloved donors and friends, the Campaign for Excellence hit its mark before the end of the summer! But we aren't done, yet! There is still time to participate.



The SSW depends on gifts from friends and alumni to be able to do the work we do. Gifts to the Baylor SSW Excellence Fund enable us to meet our budget each year and do "extra" events and projects. This fund helps us:

- host events and special speakers so that our students can meet the nation's leaders in our field;

- buy needed equipment and publish materials to educate others about social work and Baylor;

- send faculty to workshops to keep them educated on the most recent research and practices in their field;

- start new programs and initiatives - like our continuing education program for alumni;

- provide start-up costs for faculty research; and

- host conferences and workshops for faculty, staff, students and community members.

Visit baylor.edu/social_work/campaignforexcellence for more information on how to leave your mark of excellence today. ♦

New roles offer chances for new partnerships, change

DAVID K. POOLER Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies



SEASONS CHANGE AND OUR LIVES ARE NO different. As I start my sixth year as a faculty member in the School of Social Work I am aware that I am in a steep learning curve and definitely growing. I am also experiencing satisfaction and joy. This summer I started as the Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies. This change presents both challenges and opportunities. The challenges revolve around learning a new role and having new and different responsibilities. The opportunities here revolve around a central guiding question, which is this: “How can I use my talents, gifts, and skills to support my colleagues and our students to help them do what they do best?” And I am equally guided by the question “What can we do together?”

I have been practicing gratitude every day for more than 15 years. This practice has guided me and will be a part of how I do my work in this new role, especially when there are challenging days. One of the ways I focus on gratitude is to search and find out what is right and good, especially in the things that I get to do with others.

In this vein, I want to celebrate the faculty and staff in the School of Social Work by mentioning something that all of us working together have created. We have created the perception, and I would even say “reality,” that the Baylor University School of Social Work has an exceptional and strong undergraduate program. We started offering a first semester freshman course entitled “Social Justice and New Beginnings at Baylor University” for our pre-social work majors in 2013. In the first week of class this fall, Drs. Elizabeth Goatley and Gaynor Yancey hosted this year’s

pre-social work freshmen in the School living room for dinner and a tour of the building. I had the privilege of being there to meet them. When asked about Baylor University and about their decision to major in social work, I heard over and over that they chose Baylor’s School of Social Work for its quality and its reputation for excellence. Simply stated, this is about “us”, all of us, students, faculty and staff. Wow! Anything I can do to continue to foster excellence, I will.

A primary goal for me in my new role will be to help foster an environment and culture where we can flourish together. This is not a new direction or focus for the school or for me. The Baylor School of Social Work has a rich tradition of promoting this type of environment. And it is in this environment that students find

*“The opportunities here revolve around
a central guiding question, which is this:
‘How can I use my talents, gifts and skills
to support my colleagues and our students
to help them do what they do best?’”*

belonging and support for their professional identity. This fosters that excellence!

What we do together really matters, and each of us will make a difference. In order to do what matters, we have to pull back from the flurry of activity and just “be” who we are. Sometimes we do not need to “do” something else or something more, but we need to settle into ourselves with a deep sense of okayness. I hope you will step back and reflect on what you most love about yourself and why. Also reflect on why you have chosen social work, or why you support social work. The answers you find may just provide you a newfound sense of energy and capacity. ♦



Transition creates challenges, but more often opportunities

JON E. SINGLETARY Associate Dean for Graduate Studies



AT THE BEGINNING OR END OF ANY SEMESTER there is always a major time of transition as one cohort of students graduates and a new one prepares to join us. Goodbyes are difficult, but we know our role is to launch students into the professional roles for which they have been preparing.

When transitions involve our faculty colleagues, they are no less difficult. This year we said goodbye to two colleagues who have served our students well in the role of lecturer. Ratonía Runnels and Flor Avellaneda taught across the curriculum, and students loved their time with these two teachers. We are grateful for Flor and Ratonía and look forward to ways we will continue to work together.

Another transition on our faculty is less of a goodbye, but it is no less difficult to experience. Rob Rogers stepped out of the role of Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and returned to the role of full-time teaching as he and his wife moved to Kentucky this summer. We are all sad to imagine these halls without him, but excited about the opportunities to see his face virtually several times a week and in person several days a month as he returns to campus for key meetings. He is continuing his research and is chairing a new Innovations Committee. In addition, he is providing significant leadership through his teaching as we launch a pilot in our MSW Concentration Year (second year) that includes teaching several courses in virtual classrooms using Internet-based video conferencing.

In July, David Pooler joined me as Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies as I moved into the Associate Dean's

role for Graduate Studies. I now carry responsibility for the MSW and PhD programs, both of which provide us with exciting virtual classroom options. The PhD is a hybrid program with most classes taught in virtual classrooms. This arrangement enables students to be in the program without having to relocate to Waco.

Now, we are experimenting with a similar option in the MSW program. This year, Advanced Standing and Concentration Year students are taking several courses where they meet with their class and professor each week online in a virtual classroom. (The computer screen looks like Hollywood Squares or the opening photo of the Brady Brunch.) Interacting via computer may sound awkward, and sometimes it is, but the face-to-face conversations come alive within a few minutes of interaction just as they do for in-person classrooms. Before long, everyone forgets that we are talking through our computers.

Professors in all three concentrations are using this technology for a portion of their teaching, with some using it more than others. Dr. Rogers is teaching Administration and Community Practice. Others are teaching research, field seminar, theory, and advanced practice courses virtually. And several are teaching electives, such as Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy, Working with Hispanic Families, and Professional Writing for Resilience. In one way or another most of our faculty is incorporating new types of technology in their teaching this year.

Teaching so many of our courses online in virtual classrooms is certainly a significant shift for us, as is having Dr. Rogers do this from a few states away. However, it has made it possible for us to have PhD students in every U.S. time zone and in Japan. And more students than ever before will be able to earn their MSW with Baylor's faith and practice distinctives while practicing in international internships as well as placements all around the United States.

Transitions are challenging, but they open doors to opportunities. As colleagues change jobs and roles and students become alumni, we pray for wisdom and courage as together we cross thresholds to teach, learn, and serve in new ways. ♦



SCHOOL *highlights*

Family Dinner honors outstanding students in degree programs

SCHOOL COMES TOGETHER TO HIGHLIGHT THE BEST OF THE BEST +

EACH YEAR AT FAMILY DINNER, the school comes together to celebrate students and alumni. Awards are given to students in both the BSW and MSW programs, who consistently rise to the level of excellence.

The Spirit of Social Work Award is intended for a student who embodies the spirit of social work through engagement in and beyond the classroom. These students are leaders among their peers and demonstrate a commitment to the values of the social work profession and the Baylor School of Social Work.

The Outstanding Student award is intended for an individual who excels in his/her contributions to the school. This student demonstrates outstanding academic performance, professional behavior and collegiality. ♦



2014 award winners: Beth Harris, BSW Outstanding Student, Chelsea Sanchez, BSW Spirit of Social Work, Chelsea Kramer, BSW Outstanding Student, Kelsey Shunk, MSW Outstanding Student and Venée Hummel, MSW Spirit of Social Work.

SSW holds competition, meets a need

LAST SPRING, THE GRADUATE SOCIAL WORK Student Association held a food drive benefitting Caritas of Waco, a non-profit offering food, clothing, household items, and travel to residents of McLennan County and beyond. The event, Share the Love, was a competition between the faculty/staff and students with more than 300 lbs. of food being delivered to Caritas. The drive culminated in Game Night that included pies to the face to Drs. David Pooler and Jon Singletary. ♦



Faculty member receives highest honor

DR. JIM ELLOR, SSW PROFESSOR, was named an outstanding faculty member for Baylor University for 2014. Jim was recognized for "significant contributions" to the Academy. His work in West, Texas, is the epitome of what it means to be in the service of others. And for the record, the smallest school on campus has had four of these awards in nine years, *three in the last five!*



"Jim's life in our midst has been one of quiet service, just being there and doing what needs to be done, week after week, year after year," Dean Garland said. "He is a terrific teacher and nationally renowned scholar."

Congratulations, Jim, on your well-deserved honor. ♦

Visiting scholar joins SSW

DR. RICK CHAMIEC-CASE IS the executive director of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work and a friend to the Baylor School of Social Work.

He lives in Botsford, Connecticut. Together, NACSW and Baylor SSW launched an online social work continuing education consortium. Dr. Chamiec-Case has also served as a co-researcher and co-author with our faculty on several projects through the past 16 years. He



is now serving as a "visiting scholar" as the school develops the Congregational Social Work Initiative. We will be collaborating

together on research and scholarship to support social workers employed in congregational settings. ♦

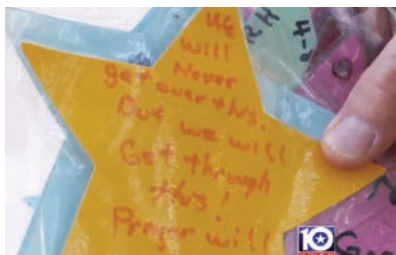
Two initiatives established at the School of Social Work

FACULTY MEMBERS SEE NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY AND RISE UP TO MEET THEM +

TWO NEW SCHOOL initiatives were approved last fall: Trauma Response and Congregational Social Work.

Trauma is a frequent focus of social work practice. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in veterans and soldiers, depression and anxiety in survivors of trafficking and abuse, complicated mourning in survivors of disaster, suicide and homicide, and many other health and mental health conditions are the result of trauma.

Whether responding to a fertilizer plant explosion in the town of West, Texas, or preparing congregations to work with survivors of sex trafficking in Cambodia, School of Social Work students, graduates and faculty members are engaged in trauma work and research. The Trauma Response Initiative focuses on providing preparation and



Dr. Jim Ellor holds a star from the West Tree of Hope project, one year after the explosion.

leadership for trauma practice both domestically and globally and research that uses evidence for practice and evaluates the effectiveness of practice. This new initiative is at the heart of the school's mission: servant leadership in a caring community.

Virtually every congregation has four purposes for what they do: worship, community, education, and missions. Congregational activities ideally serve

these multiple functions, sometimes all at the same time; the spiritual and social activities are intertwined.

Congregational social workers provide leadership in more than one, and sometimes all, of these functions. In fact, the broader their work is in addressing all four functions of congregational life, the more central they are to the life of the congregation. This work is explored in detail in Dean Garland's and Dr. Gaynor Yancey's new book entitled "Congregational Social Work: Christian Perspectives."

The desire of this initiative is to train students to conduct congregational research, develop full-time congregational staff positions and strengthen community transformation initiatives in their communities. ♦

Church members learn Spanish to aid outreach efforts

MSW STUDENT BRINGS CONGREGATION TO PLACE OF INCLUSION AND ACCEPTANCE +

A CHILDHOOD SATURATED with hard work and poverty gave Carlos Charco, MSW '14, a unique outlook on service and equality. As the youngest of 12 siblings, Charco grew up in a rural area of Guerrero, Mexico helping to sell his father's harvest to make ends meet for his family.

"I saw and experienced poverty," Charco said, "but at the same time, I experienced a community that supported each other in the midst of very scarce resources."

Charco said the community in which he grew up helped shape his philosophy of public service and his desire to be an agent of change. For instance, during his childhood, the members of his village came together to petition and work with the government to put electricity in the residents' homes.

As part of his spring MSW internship at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Charco began a program designed

to help others be agents of change.

In a church-wide survey, Wilshire Baptist found many members wanted more emphasis placed on acceptance, inclusion and diversity. To meet this demand, Charco began offering Spanish classes to church members who wanted to connect with the large immigrant community in Dallas.

Wilshire's Minister of Missions Heather Mustain (Baylor MSW/MDiv '12) said Charco's classes would help shape the church's future involvement in the Dallas immigrant community.

"We are charged to be the body of Christ in our world," Mustain said. "What better way to relate to people than speaking their own language?"

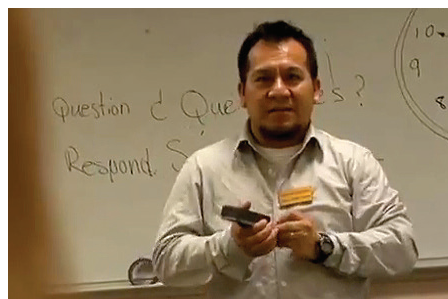
The class was inspired by Charco's own experiences, as well as his previous work with impoverished communities and immigrants, many of whom were victims of human trafficking, violent crimes or domestic violence, or were

families trying to stay together.

"[That] experience shaped even more my calling to serve others and gave me the population group I want to continue to serve," Charco said.

Charco's work at Wilshire Baptist Church grows out of the Congregational Social Work Initiative in the Baylor School of Social Work. Like Charco, students involved with this initiative are working with congregations to engage in effective community transformation.

Watch Charco in action:
bit.ly/CarlosSSL ♦



Alumna follows divine calling to lifetime of service

BY SARAH SYPERT

GOD DID NOT JUST CALL KRISTI

Lake Fuller to the field of gerontology; He put up a flashing neon sign.

Everything in Fuller's life seems to have pointed her in this direction and led to where she is now, the co-owner and vice-president of operations for one of the most innovative facilities in the residential care industry.

As a child, while rubbing her grandmother's feet to ease the pains of cancer, Fuller wanted to hear over and over again the dream that meant so much to her grandmother. Years earlier, her grandmother dreamed of a group of elderly people who walked into her church choir loft holding hairbrushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

From that moment on, Fuller's grandmother, Mrs. Ottis Lake, began to care and advocate for the elderly, fulfilling what she saw as a divine calling.

In a time when the nursing home business was riddled with "crooks who took social security checks and housed residents in barns and chicken coops," Lake lobbied the Texas Legislature for standards and licensing regulations in the industry. She soon opened her own high-quality care facility, and thus the family legacy began.

Eventually, the family business with Fuller's father at the head grew into five nursing homes around Texas: two in Tyler and one each in Longview, Beaumont and Houston.

Born a Bear

Just as family tradition led her to gerontology, it also led Fuller to attend Baylor University. Having grown up watching Baylor football games and with three older brothers already there, Fuller knew it was the only place for her.

At the time, gerontology was separate from the SSW; however, as a sociology major and gerontology minor, Fuller took many classes under Dr. Dennis Myers,

who now leads the Gerontology Initiative at the SSW.

Myers played a large part in Fuller's decision to remain at Baylor to obtain her master's degree in gerontology. There was talk of Baylor building a retirement facility, and knowing that Fuller's passion lay in building and new construction, Myers knew it would be a good fit for her.

Although that facility was never built, Myers continued to mentor Fuller and persuaded her to go out of state for an externship to complete her degree.

Fuller completed her externship at Parkway Village in Little Rock, Arkansas, and

graduated with her master's degree in gerontology in 1996. She was eventually hired full-time at Parkway Village, and it was there she was able to explore her passion for development and start a new sub-acute unit.

"It allowed me to have the development passion combined with actual management," Fuller said. "I needed to have that completely paired to see the needs and how to develop to meet those needs."

Continuing the Legacy

When Fuller returned to Texas with her husband, her family was beginning a new project after leaving the nursing home business for a short time.

Fuller and two of her brothers combined their vocations in gerontology, marketing and law to create Founder's Commercial, Ltd. The company developed and owns The Abbey at Westminster Plaza, a luxury senior living community in Houston, Texas.

"It is so neat how God has put us together with our different passions and has created such an incredible team," Fuller said.

The Lake family continues

their grandmother's work to push the limits of nursing homes toward better and better care.

The Abbey is a state-of-the-art facility designed to incorporate the best practices in gerontology. The complex includes both assisted living units and a new independent living community which opened in fall 2013.

Among its features are rehabilitation services, restaurant-style dining, a dog park, library, movie theater, computer lab and general store. The Abbey also boasts one of only two hydro-therapy pools in the Houston area.

The Abbey's memory unit is equipped with a walking path and a kitchen for Alzheimer's patients who enjoy the outdoors and cooking as Fuller's grandmother did.

"We've always been progressive in pushing nursing homes," Fuller said. "We ask how we would want that facility to look if it was our mom or ourselves living there."

Innovation through Faith

The services and amenities at the Abbey are not the only innovative aspects of this facility. Fuller and her brothers incorporate their faith into every facet of their work and inspire their staff to do so as well.

"Not only do we feel we're called to this business, but we seek God's guidance in every decision," Fuller said.

Drawing from her family life and Christian education, Fuller has developed a distinctive, yet simple approach to

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Meet the 2014 Alumnus of the Year

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. once said that our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. The work of Pat Crump, MSG '93, 2014 Baylor School of Social Work Alumni of the Year, is a shining example of showing what it means to care about what matters most—people.

Finding Connections

From an early age, Pat felt a connection with older adults. He realized long ago that everyone you meet has something to teach you ... the elder generation, especially.



He grew up in a small town in Louisiana and had always enjoyed the company of older adults. One of his best friends was his paternal grandmother. He was her last grandchild, and their relationship was truly special. Spending time with her helped develop his love for a population too often forgotten. This love would provide the foundation on which he would build his career.

Following his calling

Pat entered Baylor as a business major, but not really sure about his career path. His experiences at Baylor, however, opened his eyes to the importance of



devoting oneself to the service of others and being a part of something bigger than one's own ambitions. When he was a junior, a friend had just graduated, and told Pat about the graduate program in gerontology, suggesting it could be the perfect way to align a vocation with his love for older adults and his desire to serve. And that's just what he did!

After earning his BBA in business administration in 1991, Pat entered

the gerontology program. He attended classes with Dr. Dennis Myers, SSW professor, who encouraged him to seek an internship with Danny Prince, (one of our current Board of Advocates members) who owned a number of nursing home facilities, and who also happened to be from Pat's hometown. The placement worked out, and Pat left Waco for Albuquerque where he finished his master's degree in gerontology in 1993, and later became a licensed nursing home administrator.

A life of dedication

Since his time at Baylor, Pat has dedicated his life to improving the care of the elderly.

Today he is the president of Baptist Memorials Ministries and vice-president of operations at Buckner Retirement Services. He leads a team of more than 900 employees and works to "find a better way" of care for more than 2800 residents. Pat is not only an advocate for the elder population, but he also advocates on behalf of his staff ... providing necessary resources and support to help foster pride in their work and to reduce turnover rates. Pat is dedicated to developing models that foster a beautiful work and living environment that is meaningfully intertwined.

"Pat Crump demonstrates in word and deed an exemplary expression of the values and virtues of the School of Social Work," Myers, said. "He provides compassionate care to older persons and their families in environments energized by his executive leadership. Older persons made vulnerable by economic and health challenges benefit from his deep devotion to ensuring that no one within the reach of his administration is left behind."

Transforming long-term care

A perfect example of this advocacy is Buckner's Green Houses. While Pat was still working with Baptist Ministries, the idea of creating a home-like environment for residents that would also empower staff members began to take shape at



a nursing facility in San Angelo. A Green House home is created from the ground up to foster the same feeling and experience one gets from living in a family home. Each one is designed for 10-12 residents. The comfort of private rooms and bathrooms are combined with the family-like atmosphere of open common spaces. The innovative staff model gives residents four times more contact with caregivers and reduces staff turnover.

"The Green House project is what I am most proud of," Pat said. "What happens in those homes destroys the establishment models, lifts up the status of employees and promotes human interaction. This completely changes traditional care for older adults."

His work with the Green House Project began at Baptist and continues today with his role at Buckner. Buckner currently operates four of these facilities and has two others planned.

Engaged leadership

Pat's journey is a blessing to witness as he works diligently to bring dignity to older adults.

"Pat's memories of rewarding conversation with his grandmother propel him to seek out meaningful connections with those benefitting and delivering the services he highly values," Dr. Myers said. "Whether sharing a cup of coffee or being there at the time of homegoing, Pat can be counted on to be present and engaged."

Like Christ teaches us to do all throughout the New Testament, Pat has dedicated himself to standing in as an advocate on behalf of the vulnerable. Congratulations, Pat Crump, the Baylor School of Social Work 2014 Alumnus of the Year!

IMPACT IMPORTANCE

Alumna makes strides in community deemed
"Poorest Place in America" **BY EMILY ROBERSON**

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LOUISIANA

has a knack for making headlines, but not the type of headlines most residents would hope for. The small city located in the north east corner of Louisiana was dubbed by TIME magazine as "The Poorest Place in America" in 1994, and nearly 20 years later, made headlines again as "The Most Unequal Place in America" according to CNN.

While the headlines paint a bleak picture, Jenny Hodge MSW '12/MDiv '14 is working with Together for Hope, a project of the



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, to change the fortunes of Lake Providence through asset-based community development.

"The hope is that if we can talk about the good things and start to build confidence in our residents, then we can begin to address the needs in the community, this time with a different attack," Jenny said. "Asset-based community development is the best way to go about community development here, because the community internalized so much of the articles written about Lake Providence."

Jenny has gathered a group of community leaders crossing ethnic, race and economic boundaries to help better the city.

"Out of this group, we have identified five priority areas to work in," she said. "These areas are: education and training, economic development, neighborhood development, shared spaces and events, and spiritual communities. The first one we are trying to tackle is neighborhood development."

Neighborhood development encompasses housing issues, green spaces, parks, safety, neighborhood watches and other things like adequate drainage, and smooth streets

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"Social work" pastor returns home

BY EMILY ROBERSON

JOHN DURHAM, BASW '92, IS BACK where he started. About nine blocks from where he started to be exact.

John, whose father pastored Columbus Avenue Baptist Church for 32 years, is a Waco native and Baylor Social Work alumnus. Since he left more than 20 years ago, he has spent his time doing what he least expected: ministry.

"I always loved church growing up, loved listening to my dad preach, but [I] never wanted to be a preacher and never wanted to go into ministry," John said. "Working in a church was the last thing on my radar."

John began to move toward ministry in high school when he realized he had a love for directing people toward God.

"In high school, people were starting to ask me about God," he said. "I loved that people came to me. I loved sharing life with them,

and I loved pointing them to the scripture. I loved speaking on the character of God."

It was this love for counseling that eventually drove John toward a

degree in social work. In all his years of ministry, John says his social work degree has prepared him for anything the world can throw at him.

"Seminary prepared me for preaching the Bible, teaching the Bible, theology and doctrine, but social work prepared me for people," he said. "And really, that's the heart of ministry. Jesus was about people."

After graduating, John served as the lead student pastor at First Baptist Houston for 10 years, and then went on to become the lead pastor at First Baptist Irving before coming back to Waco. During his time in Houston, Irving, and now, Waco, John has relied on his social

work degree to help him minister to people experiencing extreme hardship.

"What was interesting about First Baptist Irving was that it was in the heart of a neighborhood that was surrounded by poverty, blight, brokenness, drugs, and gangs," he said. "So again, it wasn't my seminary degree, but my social work degree that helped me understand how to deal gracefully with people from different backgrounds outside of the church."

After 22 years away from Waco, Durham has returned home hoping to make an impact in the local community at Highland Baptist Church.

"In the humor of God, he moved me back to where I started," he said. "Waco had changed a lot in the almost 22 years since I'd been gone. It was interesting, that God called me to a church where we're surrounded by a lot of brokenness, a lot of poverty, and a lot of hurt. I feel like that is something that Baylor prepared

me for dealing with a variety of people from a variety of backgrounds with a variety of hurts."

According to John, social work and the gospel go hand-

in-hand.

"We help people, so we earn the right to tell them about a God who loves them," John said. "I think to do one without the other, you're missing out on the full gospel. If you just help people and you don't tell them about Jesus, you're just giving them temporary hope. If you tell them about Jesus without helping them, you've come across as what James said, just 'Hey, God bless you, be on your way.' So to me, it should really be the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world and that is caring for people's physical needs while pointing them to the one who can forever take care of their spiritual need, Christ." ♦



John, Hannah, Caleb and Jennifer Durham

Where are they now? BY SARAH SYPERT

Brooke Davilla, MSW '10 Caitlin Elizabeth Creed Memorial Scholarship



WHILE EARNING HER UNDERGRADUATE degree in social work, Brooke Davilla was in survival mode, working full-time to pay her own way through college. But sometimes, even that wasn't enough.

To pay for her education, Brooke worked at Starbucks as a barista and at Curves as a fitness instructor. She also worked for the SSW whenever the opportunity arose to participate in programs like the Texas Hunger Initiative.

"I worked full time, if not more, throughout the whole process," Brooke said.

The stress of work and a full class schedule began to weigh on Brooke, although she maintained her faith that everything would work out for the best.

"I was really stressed out because I still had a remaining amount of the semester that I hadn't figured out how to pay for yet," Brooke said. "But I talked with my grandmother, and she said you know it's going to be ok; we will figure it out."

That evening when Brooke was closing up at Curves, Dr. Gaynor Yancey walked in and said she had been nominated to receive the Caitlin Elizabeth Creed Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

"She told me about Caitlin and her family," Brooke said, "and I remember just sitting there crying, thinking, 'Oh my gosh, this is an answered prayer, this is what I was hoping would come through.'"

continued on page 25

KELLEY BRUCE (BASW '04, MSW '05)

Recently, Kelley returned to Waco from the United Kingdom. She is now the International Program Manager for Generations Adoptions.



KAY DUNLAP (MSW '13)

Currently, Kay is working as a Nephrology Social Worker at the Brazos Kidney Center/Fresenius Medical Care in Waco.

FONDA LATHAM (BA '78)

Fonda is serving as the Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling in Tyler, Texas.

LAUREN POLSON (MSW '04)

Lauren began working at Family Counseling & Children's Services in Waco as a Clinical Social Worker.



BRANDON TIDWELL

(MSW '02)

recently moved to San Francisco, California, and is now the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for Blue Shield of California.



JULIAN ALUM (MSW '13 and GML graduate)

Julian has accepted a job as the head of the social work program at a new Christian university in Uganda.

We want to know how our graduates are making an impact. Send your updated information to Nick Miller at:

SWO@baylor.edu

IN HER OWN WORDS

Anne Davis Scholar stays true to Matthew 25:40

CELINA BASALDU, MSW '13, IS THE Campus Minister for Service and Social Justice SMU Catholic Center and was the 2013 recipient of the C. Anne Davis Scholarship. She oversees the service opportunities that the center provides for students all while staying true to Jesus' message of serving "the least" (Matthew 25:40). She truly believes a job such as this would have never been possible had it not been for Baylor University and the School of Social Work.



Celina Basaldu MSW '13

"I came to Baylor without truly knowing the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. It was through the compassion and prayers of others inside and outside of the classroom that I was able to re-commit my life to follow the will of God. In my early beginnings at Baylor, I was awakened to a passionate love for Christ. It was through the School of Social Work that I learned exactly how to show that love, and that was through simply walking alongside my neighbors whoever they are. Baylor University and the School of Social Work has taught me how to be pastoral and how to share the message of Jesus. My profound awakening in college has cultivated a desire to work with students and walk alongside them through their personal journeys."

expanding horizons

Baylor SSW seeks to expand program offerings to Houston

ONE PROGRAM. TWO CITIES.

This will be the new reality for the MSW program in just a few short months. The Baylor School of Social Work is expanding its MSW program to Houston beginning August 2015 and is currently recruiting students for the inaugural cohort.

“We’ve been working on this program since the spring,” Dean Diana Garland said. “Since then, we’ve been dreaming about what we can do to be a resource for the peoples and communities of Houston.”

Why Houston?

Houston is a city with 6.5 million residents and incredible need. This city has great potential to benefit from the skills our graduates can provide.

“Houston is an ideal setting for an educational social work program due to its booming economy, growing population, and cultural diversity,” Garland said. “Shadowing these opportunities, however, are the realities of social issues that such a growing economy and population create.”

Overall employment of social workers in the U.S. is projected to grow 19 percent by 2022. And currently, 1,800 social work positions remain unfilled in and around the city of Houston. Garland plans to recruit Houston-area residents who will go on to fill jobs in the city and surrounding areas.

“I am really excited to have Baylor School of Social Work come to Houston,” Baylor SSW alumna Ashley Herridge, MSW ‘07, said. Herridge is

currently a social worker for Women’s Services at St. Joseph’s Hospital in downtown Houston. “It’s a huge city and there are many opportunities here for students, interns and people to be involved in the community and work with under-served populations. Houston has such a large network of organizations that there are lots of opportunities for alumni to find their niche.”

In Waco, 16% of MSW degree students are from the Houston area. The Houston campus would afford students internship possibilities that simply are not available in Central Texas.

“Sometimes we have students wanting to work with human trafficking or refugees, but there aren’t as many opportunities to engage in that directly here in Waco because of not having



as large a refugee population perhaps as Houston or Dallas/Fort Worth,” said Melody Zuniga, director of field operations for generalist practice for first-year MSW students.

According to Dean Garland, Houston, the second-largest metropolitan area in the state, has a need for well-trained professionals who are proactive in their approach to complex social issues, such as poverty, education, substance abuse, violence and preventable diseases.

“We are continuing to expand the reach of our work to real people in real places who confront these social challenges,” Garland said. “By strategically positioning ourselves in a community like Houston, that is both receptive to trying new ideas and one which also has a dynamic economy, we will use this position to become active in the local community.”

How will the program work?

When the program begins next fall, 15 students will be enrolled in the new program.

“One of the reasons we’re starting so small is that we want to make small mistakes, not big mistakes, and learn from this experience,” Dean Garland said. “We take pride in the quality of our program, and we don’t want the program to be diminished because we’re in two locations.”

During the first year of the program, classes will be held in a traditional classroom setting so students and faculty can engage with one another in a face-to-face learning environment. In the second year, when students are required to hold internships, the majority of the courses will be accessible online via virtual classrooms.

Zuniga has also been connecting with nonprofits in Houston and reaching out to Houston alumni for possible internship placements so students can fulfill the second year internship requirement of the program.

“We’ve had such a great experience and relationship with the practice community and helping community here in Waco, we’re looking forward to adding to that and making that possible for students who want the Baylor experience but can’t relocate from Houston,” Zuniga said.

Currently, a location for the program has not been selected, but the school is scouting locations in the downtown area to be close to possible internship sites.

For more information, visit the School of Social Work’s website: www.baylor.edu/social_work/houstonmsw. ♦



SNAPSHOTS



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1 Viviana Triana speaks on trauma and recovery at the 2014 Dyer Workshop. 2 Kitty Warbutton, Marc Harris and Jenni Brietzke, all MSW students who graduated this May, take a breather between MSW Colloquium sessions. 3 Nick Miller, coordinator of career and alumni services, prepares burgers at the 2014 Homecoming Tailgate. 4 The Graduate Social Work Student Association participated in Steppin' Out. 5 New alumna Kathryn Lee, MSW '14, and MSW student Kristen Bulgrien help with the GSWSA clean-up day. 6 Prospective students gather after a successful 2014 Fall Preview Day. 7 MSW/MDiv student Jesse Harden scans through his folder at the 2014 Dyer Workshop. 8 Rachel Haptonstall, MSW '14, presents her research at the 2014 MSW Colloquium.



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SNAPSHOTS



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1 Faculty and staff members participated in the 2014 Walk Across Texas program. Pictured are (l. to r.): Charletra Hurt, Dr. Gaynor Yancey, Marilyn Gusukuma, Nikki Wilmoth, Dr. Helen Harris, Krista Barrett and Terry Henderson. Not pictured: Kasey Ashenfelter. **2** Staff members participate in Diadeloso 2014. Pictured (l. to r.) are: Marilyn Gusukuma, Angela Pool-Funai, Krista Barrett, Jim Heston and Suzanne Sellers. **3** Chet Edwards visits with Carrie Arroyo and Ratonina Runnels' class in March. **4** Alumna Faith Lamb marched in celebration of World Social Work Day in Africa, and poses with students at Uganda Christian University. **5** Alumni Breanne Muchemore and Lauren Hudson pose for a quick shot while having dinner with Dean Garland in Boston. **6** The 2014 MSW cohort gathers at Family Dinner.

SNAPSHOTS



1 Faith Mamombe, GML student, and BOA member Tom Stone enjoy a time of fellowship after the luncheon with Northrise University President Moffat Zimba. 2 Alumna Le Ta speaks with BOA member Bill O'Brien at UT Dallas during a graduate school recruitment fair. 3 Robert Ward, Family Health Center, 2014 Field Instructor of the Year. 4 Sarah McPherson, MSW '14, 2014 Community Practice MSW Intern of the Year. 5 Terra Lemeran, MSW '14, 2014 Children & Families MSW Intern of the Year. 6 Buddy Edwards, director of Caritas of Waco, 2014 Field Agency Administrator of the Year. 7 Taylor Nelson, BSW '14 2014 BSW Intern of the Year. 8 Tinker Kramer, Ridgcrest Retirement Center, the 2014 Task Supervisor of the Year. 9 Christina Lee, MSW '14, 2014 Physical and Mental Health MSW Intern of the Year.



SNAPSHOTS



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4



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7

1 Lindy Green, MSW '14, listens attentively at the Future Alumni Brunch 'N Learn held in May. **2** BSW students Jaja Chen, Chantal Tademy and Maria Villalva enjoy fellowship at the Share the Love Game Night last spring. **3** Drs. Sam Vo and Jon Singletary try their best to outdo each other at the pushup challenge held during the Christmas Party last fall. **4** Dean Diana Garland meets with Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, in Washington, D.C. **5** MSW students Jenni Duran, Lauren Arant and Rucker Preston take a moment together during Family Dinner. **6** David McClung, MSW '14, is inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society, with Jennifer Cook looking on. **7** Brett Greenfield, MSW '14, enjoys conversation at the Field Awards Luncheon in May.

partingshot

Social justice issues are brought to life through creative process

SINCE 1960, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZING THEMSELVES as right-brained or left-brained. Right-brained individuals identify with being more creative and left-brained people tend to cling to logical.

In Dr. Gaynor Yancey's Social Justice class and Dr. Jon Singletary's Frameworks and Perspectives for Community Practice course, students are given the opportunity to utilize both hemispheres of their brain. Students take a social issue and showcase it in a new way.

"This assignment results in creative expressions of how they see and reflect what poverty and social justice means to them," Yancey said. "It is quite a moving experience to have them interpret their creativity and to hear the longings of their hearts to experience a world that is so much more just than it presently is and for the hope that is expressed through their creativity."

Dr. Singletary allows a creative assignment in his course after being influenced by a professor in graduate school.

"My PhD chair was an artist and always allowed us to include a creative expression as part of class assignments," Dr. Singletary said. "There were some things we had to write, but there were others where poetry, painting, or photography worked just as well for expressing what we were learning – and I loved that. My students seem to as well. One student made a dress, one recorded a song, and one wrote a play!"

Student Sarah Mathis created an intricate social justice painting. The painting (LEFT) predominately displays a large tree with visible roots, which weave together to create the outline of the seven continents. The background of the painting is varying shades of red and displays a river running throughout the painting.

"For me, social justice can't be realized without the blood of Jesus, which is what the background represents," Sarah said. "The tree roots forming continents symbolizes to me that justice is not limited by geographical boundaries or by the cultural roots of any person, and the river is a symbol of life. No one will be cut off from the source of life when justice prevails."

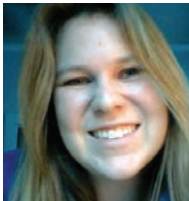
These bursts of creativity were created for classes that are a part of the Poverty minor offered by the School of Social Work, available to students of all majors.



Hodge (from p. 16)

in and around Lake Providence. Her first project is conducting a neighborhood mapping survey.

"The survey will essentially go to every homeowner in Lake Providence and have them self report what their neighborhood is, and what they think the boundary lines are," Jenny said. "We feel that the people who live in the homes are the experts on the homes and the neighborhoods. We'll compile all of that data to create a map of the neighborhoods in Lake Providence. Whichever neighborhood has the highest respondents that said yes to wanting to engage in neighborhood development, is where we will focus our attention."



Jenny is also starting an art co-op in Lake Providence to help aid the economic development issues in the area. The co-op would be modeled after a program called Delta Jewel in operation in West Arkansas. The co-op would allow 50% of the profit to go to the designer of the piece, and the other 50% going into the co-op fund.

"The hope is that this is where financial literacy, business skills, entrepreneurial skills, and then an art skill set all come together," Jenny said. "If I have a worker, he can work. He can do woodworking, even if this doesn't become their lifelong job, or ever pays all the bills, it is helping."

Jenny is hoping these initiatives will help bridge the gap between the two tax brackets and ease the burdens of the residents in the community.

"For us, this is about the whole community, not just portions of it," Jenny said. "The community really has this 'I'll believe it when I see it' mentality because they have seen so many things fail and because of the negative press the city has received. So it makes doing anything, harder, but not impossible. It's figuring out what small things can we accomplish to begin to build momentum, so we can tackle some of the bigger dreams." ♦

Divine calling (from p. 14)

policy and decision making in her business. It always comes down to what is best for the resident.

"Unfortunately, you do have to make the financial decisions," Fuller said. "We always put the resident first, then what's good for the staff, and then it's the dollar. While we still have to make hard decisions when it comes to money, we feel God gives us the wisdom."

Her faith and childhood with an ailing grandmother instilled in her the importance of human dignity and honoring those who have come before.

"Just because they're on the tail end of life doesn't mean they don't deserve that resort-style wellness building," Fuller said.

Her Baylor education also fueled Fuller's faith-based, innovative approach to gerontology. Even before holistic treatment regulations, Fuller and her staff worked to "treat the whole person."

"I think that's the difference, having a minor in gerontology and [working on] my graduate degree with Dr. Myers," Fuller said, "I think from day one they instilled that, and I just didn't really know any different."

Fuller and her brothers practice their faith in the workplace by praying for the residents and staff and even for each line item in their budget.

Their use of daily prayer also inspires the staff. While some facilities in the industry strive to be "politically correct" and do not allow staff to express their faith, Fuller and her brothers promote it.

"In most companies, you wouldn't be able to stop what you're doing at that moment to go and pray for someone in their final stages," one staff member said.

"It is encouraging to us that we're able to fulfill ourselves that way."

For Fuller, faith and trust in God permeate her career to a point where she cannot think of one without the other.

Dr. Myers noted that Kristi has deep convictions. For her faith in God and a determination to make a grandmother's dream come alive bring joy and meaning to the many blessed by her care. ♦

Davilla (from p. 17)

The scholarship is named in honor of a pre-social work major who died in 2007 in an automobile crash her freshman year. Brooke was the first recipient of the scholarship and felt moved by the gift the Creed family had given to the future of social work, even in the midst of grief.

"I felt a huge sense of responsibility to be a good steward of what they were pouring into me," Brooke said.

The scholarship enabled Brooke to finish her undergraduate degree and begin her graduate studies for which she received another generous scholarship given by the Willis Family. Their gift allowed Brooke to complete an internship in Lanai, Hawaii.

Brooke and two of her fellow students traveled to Lanai, a small island near Maui boasting the oldest operational plantation town in the United States. There, Brooke worked in the community of about 3,000 people, providing mental health counseling, establishing an afterschool program for the local children, and providing a variety of other services.

"It was an amazing experience. I wouldn't have been able to do that if people like the Creeds and the Willises hadn't been so generous," Brooke said.

Shortly after graduation, Brooke went to work for the Methodist Children's Home in Waco where she is now the director for Family Outreach. Brooke has a hand in everything from budgeting to teaching parenting classes and interacting with foster children. Her favorite part, however, is the lasting effect she can have on another person through her work to preserve families and provide the best possible care for foster children.

"To see a child who has come in with severe trust issues or a child not being able to sleep throughout the night—to see the trauma child start to melt away and the real child emerge ... is just breathtaking," Brooke said. "That's when you know we're doing something here, and it is exciting!" ♦



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2015
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faculty presentations

- Begun, S., Brown, S. M., **Klawetter, S.**, Lechuga Peña, S., & Whitfield, D. (August 2013). Isn't it ironic? Grappling with higher education's perpetuation of privilege, power, and oppression differentials. Research-based interactive workshop presentation, Pedagogy of Privilege conference, Denver, CO.
- Brennan-Ing, M, Porter, K., **Ellor, J.** (2014) Reconciling Sexual, Gender, and Religious Identities: Religion and LGBT Older Adults, Presented at the American Society on Aging Annual Meeting, San Diego, Ca.
- Crow, J., **Ellor, J.**, **Myers, D. R.**, Dolan, S., Morissette, S. & Reese, S. (2013). Social work practice with parents of deployed service members. Paper presented at the National Association of Social Workers-Texas Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. September 1.
- Crow, J. R., **Myers, D. R.**, **Ellor, J.**, Dolan, S., Reese, S., & Morissette, S. (2013). Military deployment as experienced by service-members, spouses, and parents of service-members: Similarities and differences. Paper presented at National Council on Family Relations 2013 Conference, San Antonio, TX. November 8.
- Dickey, J.** (April 2014). International Social Work: Here and Now- Ethical Implications for Domestic Practice (3 hour CEU Training), Mary Hardin Baylor Ethics Workshop, Belton, Texas.
- Ellor, J.** (2013) Community Crisis Response Preparedness: Finding Meaning in Suffering in Times of Crisis, Mo Ranch, Texas, October 15, 2013.
- Ellor, J.** (2013) Ethical Implications of Living with DSM-5, Presented at the 2013 Dyer Workshop.
- Ellor, J.** (2014) Military Family Coping Project, Presented at the Family Research IPR, Ft. Detrick, Md.
- Ellor, J.** (2013) Normal Grief in Aging Populations: Complications of Dementia and Cognitive Challenges, University of Texas at Austin, Continuing Education Event, Austin, Texas.
- Ellor, J.** (2013) Understanding the Perception of God in the Search for Meaning in the Lives of Older Adults, Presented at Leading Age: Texas, January 17, 2014, Mesquite, Tx.
- Ellor, J.** and Koepke, D. (2014) Finding Spirituality and Meaning in Suffering During Later Life, Presented at the American Society on Aging Annual Meeting, San Diego, Ca.
- Fitzgerald (Vo), C. S.** (2014, January). Cooperatives and community development: Counter-cyclical spending through partnerships. Paper presented at the 18th annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), San Antonio, TX.
- Fitzgerald (Vo), C. S.** (2013, October). The intersections of social welfare and drug trafficking in Central America. Paper presented at the 59th annual program meeting (APM) of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), Dallas, TX.
- Fitzgerald (Vo), C. S.** (2013, October). Church involvement as an entrée to ethnographic immersion. Workshop presented at the 63rd convention of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW), Atlanta, GA.
- Freeman, C., **Ellor, J.**, Dailey J. (2014) Integration of Disaster Behavioral Health into Emergency Management, Presented at the Emergency Management Association of Texas 2014 Symposium, San Marcos, Tx.
- Garland, D.** (2013) How clergy sexual misconduct happens and how we can prevent it. Center for Ministry Effectiveness and Educational Leadership, Baylor University, and the Waco Regional Baptist Association, Waco TX, November 18.
- Goatley, E. M.** (2013). A Church's Response to Human Trafficking: Strategies to Helping the Church Respond to Modern Day Slavery. Lott Carey Annual Women in Service Annual Session. Washington, DC. August 2013.
- Goatley, E. M.** (2013). Nothing New For Easter: The Role of the Black Church in Social Movements. National Association of Christians in Social Work. Atlanta, Georgia. October 2013.
- Harris, H.** (2013). Cognitive Impact of Grief: Practice Implications. NASW. Austin, Texas.
- Harris, H.** (2013). Grief and ADHD in Children. CSWE APM. Dallas, Texas.
- Harris, H., Ellor, J. & Yancey, G.** (2013). Client Spiritual Concerns in Light of DSM 5 and 2013 Community Imperatives. NASW. Austin, Texas.
- Harris, H., Hale, J., Harris, B., & Hale, C.** (2013). Four Narratives of Adoption. NACSW Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.
- Harris, H., Rogers, R., & Singletary, J.** (2013). Curricular Revision, Evaluation, and Reaffirmation: Assessing Transformational Education. CSWE APM. Dallas, Texas.
- Kelley, K. F., **Myers, D. R., Rogers, R. K., & LeCrone, H. H.** (2013). Social work ethical response to behavior challenges in long-term care. Paper presented at the National Association of Social Workers-Texas Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. September 1.
- Klawetter, S.** (2013, November). Conceptualizing women's health disparities through historical trauma theory for social work education. Paper presentation at Council on Social Work Education, Annual Program Meeting. Dallas, TX.
- Myers, D. R.** (2013). Who will care with me? Congregational/community responses with impoverished older persons. Audio conference for the National Association for Christians in Social Work, February 11.
- Myers, D. R. & Harris, H. W.** (2013). Grief & ADHD in Children. Paper presented at the Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX. November 1.
- Myers, D. R., Rogers, R. K., LeCrone, H. H., & Kelley, K. F.** (2013). Nursing facility social work and family behavioral challenges. Paper presented at the National Association of Christians in Social Work Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. October 19.
- Myers, D. R., Rogers, R. K., LeCrone, H. H., & Kelley, K. F.** (2013). Nursing facility social work practice with family behavioral challenges. Paper presented at the National Association of Social Workers-Texas Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. September 1.
- Pooler, D.K.** (2013). An Exploration of Pneumacentric Practice: Opportunity and Application, North American Association of Christians in Social Work Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, October
- Pooler, D.K.** (2013). Professionalism, Ethics, and Self-care, United Way of Navarro County, Corsicana, TX, November
- Pooler, D.K.** (2013). Social Work Joy, United Way of Navarro County, Corsicana, TX, November
- Scales, L., Brice, T. & **Goatley, E. M.** (2013). Nothing New for Easter: The Role of Louisville Kentucky Baptist Churches in the Civil Rights Movement, 1961-1963. Oral History Association Annual Session. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. October 2013.
- Zuniga, M.Y.** (2014). Space for spirituality in the signature pedagogy: Incorporating an 11th competency. Workshop presented at the Baccalaureate Program Directors annual conference, Louisville, KY, March 21.

CONGRATULATIONS

BAYLOR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2014 COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE YEAR



THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Baylor School of Social Work was recognized this fall as the 2014 Community Leader of the Year by the Cenikor Foundation Waco, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality behavioral health care services. Dean Diana Garland accepted the award at Cenikor's Celebrate Recovery Community Luncheon held in October at the Waco Convention Center. The luncheon was held in conjunction with National Recovery Month (October) and honored individuals and entities that share the Cenikor mission, support their endeavors and carry their message to the community. Congratulations to all that help make awards like this possible! ♦

CALENDAR *of events*

JANUARY 2015

- 9 Field Instructor & Task Supervisor Orientation & Training
- 12 Classes Begin
- 19 MLK Holiday

MARCH 2015

- 7-15 Spring Break

APRIL 2015

- 3-6 Easter Holiday
- 24 Family Dinner
- 28 Field Education Luncheon

MAY 2015

- 5 MSW Practice Colloquium
- 15 Convocation Ceremony
- 16 Commencement

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