

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Newsletter from Baylor University School of Social Work • Volume No. 22 • July 2008

## A celebration of excellence

*At this year's Family Dinner, held April 24, two students were honored as Outstanding in their class, as nominated by their colleagues, faculty, and field instructors. Several other students received honors at an Awards Luncheon May 7 (see page 4). Esther Reyes, Outstanding BSW Student, and Christen Argueta, Outstanding MSW Student, share their comments from the Family Dinner.*

ESTHER REYES



**Outstanding  
BSW Student**

I'm pleased to be here and honored with the opportunity to share with you a little about my time at the Baylor School of Social Work. I joined the program my junior year, a bit later than most students, but in the perfect timing of God. After jumping from major to major for two years, I had one of those enlightening experiences a lot of us pray for when we want an answer.

The summer before my

junior year, I was invited to be a camp counselor at a college preparatory program for at-risk youth from inner-city Houston. I co-led a group of approximately 20 students whom I quickly began to love, simply because they shared in the human experience with me, particularly the part about facing and overcoming adversity.

After the 10-day camp, I approached one of the directors of the program, a former

NFL football player and Baylor graduate, and said, "This is what I want to do with my life. I want to love practically and effectively. What is this called?" "Social work," he answered, "It's called social work."

I had found my calling! And this marked the beginning of unprecedented spiritual and intellectual growth as an undergraduate.

I could speak all night

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CHRISTEN ARGUETA



**Outstanding  
MSW Student**

First, I would like to thank the school for this amazingly humbling honor. I share this award with all of my colleagues. This family finds its strength in the caliber of people that compose it. This community is composed of strong, gifted professionals, who as a group have made one another better through our time together. Weekly, I sit in classes across from my peers and I am constantly in awe of the impact that they are making in the world around them through their respective organizations. There wasn't a week that went by where I

didn't hear of the differences being made in the lives of individuals, families and communities. Not only are these efforts guaranteeing the social work mission of ensuring that human needs are met, but they are going above and beyond by pouring themselves into their work and watching the difference that commitment can make. All of this is possible because of the education that we have received through the School of Social Work.

Through this journey, I have come to believe that social work is less of a structured profession, and more

of a way of life. Personally, I chose to attend this School of Social Work due to my loyalty to Baylor University. What has transpired is that I have grown to love my graduate experience through my interactions with my professors, the social work staff and my fellow graduate students. The Baylor School of Social Work has become a second family to me.

Walking through the halls, the doors are always open and there is always someone who is willing to answer questions on class assignments or discuss

*(continued on page 3)*

# FROM THE DEAN

## What is our *BEST* for the mission of this school?

By Diana R. Garland, Dean of Baylor School of Social Work

I spent most of my growing-up years in hilly and rocky southwestern Missouri. The rocks in our just-short-of-an-acre yard had a way of heaving their way out of the soil and becoming dangerous weapons when my dad ran over them with the lawn mower, shooting out like missiles at whoever was around. Consequently, my very important job was to scour the yard and pick up the rocks before my dad mowed. The problem was that it seemed to me that under every rock there were two more, so I tried to pry those out, too. Some days I felt I was going to end up in China, which the elementary school globe showed us was just through the earth to the other side.

Sometimes here at the School of Social Work, I feel like I'm home again, uncovering one rock only to find more beneath it. Each of the projects and initiatives of the school feels like a rock that we grab and pick up with great satisfaction, but research projects lead to more research and model demonstration projects and publication possibilities and ... you get the idea.

It is true that the world in which we labor is made up of rocky soil – each rock representing some of the most tenacious problems in our society: how to help families help persons with Alzheimer's grieve; how to help congregations minister with the most vulnerable children and families in their communities; how to prepare teenagers to deal effectively with pressures toward too-early sexual involvement; how to help communities identify and prevent human sex trafficking; how to help congregations prevent clergy sexual abuse.

None of these can be pried loose, dusted off, set upon a shelf, admired and then forgotten. There is always more, and it is exciting, rewarding, important work that pulls us along and builds us into an increasingly loving, committed community, here in Central Texas and

throughout the world.

I am increasingly aware, though, that we are at a crossroads. As much as we might wish we could, we can't do everything. We need to discern what is the *best* we can do, what is the divine calling on this school to serve our profession, the church, the world through the students we teach, the research we conduct, the resources we prepare.

Therefore, we are asking for help. As social workers, we encourage others to ask for help, and so we are asking others to help us discern our direction for the future.

### *Visioning Summit*

On Sept. 8-9, we are holding a SSW Visioning Summit. For two days, we are convening some of the key leaders from across the nation in social work education, in future visioning and in church studies to help us discern the path forward to using best the resources we have for the calling on our lives. In the past three years, we have engaged in a similar process with our academic degree programs. Now it is time to look at our communal research and service to the larger community and world.

We are spending the summer months, at least in part, preparing for this summit by reviewing our current research and service projects and continuing education initiatives. This will be a starting place for the summit participants. If you are interested, here are some of the questions we will be considering:

- What *has been* the focus of the research,



*Dean Garland visits with MSW graduate Carmen Branscum at the May 16 Convocation of the School.*

education for social work practice, and service of this school? What are its current assets?

- What are the *current* and *future* trends in the church and the world that could/should be the focus of the SSW's research, service and continuing education?
- Among these, which are most significant to the mission and scope of the SSW?
- What are the constituencies this SSW needs to reach as potential stakeholders in the work of this school? What are their felt needs?

This is a beginning point for what I hope will be a free-wheeling, energetic, forward-thinking, spirit-filled time together. As you pray for us and think about the school, we welcome your letters and e-mail with your own thoughts about the path before us. And please, mark your calendars for Sept. 8-9, and pray for us.

## REYES

(continued from page 1)

about my time at the Baylor SSW, but given that I don't have permission to, I want simply to share about one of the most valuable challenges I was presented with as a social work student at Baylor, a challenge that was fundamental in learning how to do what I want to do, which is to identify and address some of the most pressing needs of our world.

What challenge was this? Well, I wanted to change the world, right? My professors said, "Let's get started," and I was challenged to learn about myself. So I took on the challenge. Before learning the "how-to" of working with a distressed child, or the "how-to" of writing a proposal for program implementa-

**"I learned that I do not exist alone  
and that my life is connected to the  
life of every human being."**

– Esther Reyes

tion, I learned the "who" and the "what" of my essence, of my past and of my present. I was challenged to learn substance before procedure. This was a critical first step in learning to become an effective generalist social worker.

During this time of introspection, my biases surfaced, many of them at least (I'm still learning), and I discovered and eventually was able to articulate the influence of my experiences in my life. More than that, however, I learned the one reality that I believe has motivated people for centuries to be inclined to care for others.

I learned that I do not exist alone and that my life is connected to the life of every human being. I discovered this not only through introspection, but more importantly through Scripture. This interconnectedness is a reality that Paul calls "a mystery of Christ revealed by the Spirit."

And so now my dreams and aspirations for the future are not about me ... they can't be if I truly expect God to use me in such a time as this.

In sum, I graduated in December equipped with knowledge, values, and skills with a worth that ... believe it or not ... far exceeds four and a half years of Baylor tuition! And I plan to pursue a Master of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania beginning this summer.

But really, I do this because I am and will remain hopeful that we can do God's will on earth as it is in heaven. Thank you.

## ARGUETA

(continued from page 1)

quandaries that class conversation has stimulated. This family relationship extends beyond the classroom and touches our personal lives through encouragement and support. It is rare to walk down the hall and not see a smiling face offering the encouraging words 'you can do it,' or a personal inquiry about my family or personal happenings.

These relationships have fostered a sense of comfort as we challenge ourselves professionally. I will emerge in the real world knowing that I have a school full of individuals who are outwardly supporting my progress, as well as my growth through any challenge I face. Through this, I know that I can never fail, as mistakes are learning experiences and I will always have a

**"I will always have a support system  
within this school."**

– Christen Argueta

support system within this school to answer questions and share experiences.

Through my experiences with this school, I have come to the realization that I want to give back what has been given to me. I would like to eventually obtain my Ph.D. and provide support to future social workers, as well as continue to promote critical thinking around such a valued profession.

I have been extremely blessed to work with individuals who I will always consider mentors. Dr. Myers has provided invaluable guidance and constant support. Vicki Hansen, my field supervisor, has been a model for the kind of great leader that I would like to be one day. It is the professors and staff who have made the experiences so memorable and valuable.

Again, I want to thank the school for this honor. I would also like to thank my family, my parents, and my husband for his daily selflessness and support. I also have to thank my daughter, Carys, who this last year was with me every step of the way. Thank you.



*Carys Clore Argueta arrived a little more than a before the Family Dinner, weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 oz.*



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WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL\_WORK**





## AWARDS LUNCHEON

*An Awards Luncheon was held May 7 during the MSW Practice Colloquium to honor nine students and a field instructor for excellence in a number of areas. The recipients were nominated by colleagues, faculty and classmates. An award in each category is not given every year, but was this year, including four awards for research writing. The recipients and awards are listed at right (left to right):*

**Sarah Bush**  
**Melissa Ishio**  
**Irine Thomas**  
**Viviana Triana**  
**Sally Neeley**  
**Flor Avellaneda**  
**Joyce Hull**  
**Amy Downs**  
**Linsey Schafer**  
**Crystal Leatch**

**Research Writing**  
**Spirit of Social Work, MSW**  
**Grant Writing**  
**Field Intern of Year, MSW**  
**Field Intern of Year, BSW**  
**Spirit of Social Work, BSW**  
**Research Writing**  
**Research Writing**  
**Field Instructor of the Year**  
**Research Writing (not pictured)**



## MSW COLLOQUIUM

*More than 60 practice or research presentations were made at this year's MSW Practice Colloquium, more than double those given at last year's event. Presentations for faculty and local social work practitioners ran throughout the day, with the Awards Luncheon held at noon. Six hours of CEUs were available.*

*At left, Jen Adams discusses community impact. On facing page, Linsey Helm (top left) and Ev'marie Blair visit between presentations; Karen Birech (middle, from left) Mary Bakaysa, Jennifer Maness, Erin O'Brien and Joel Harder pose for the camera; and Liz Patterson (below left) and Sue Ann Martinez, relax after completing their presentations.*



# 'ELUMINATING' OUR WORLD

*Technology expands possibilities for student distance field internships*

Our commitment in the School of Social Work is to make the educational experience global so students develop knowledge and skills necessary to practice and minister around the world. Because of advances in technology, we now know this is possible.

Recently in one week, I used my laptop and a software program provided by Baylor University called Elluminate to talk in live time with a graduate in Moldova and a faculty member in Rwanda. Tracey Kelley (MSW 2005) is in Moldova teaching several of our MSW courses to students and graduates of the Chisneau Theology College as part of our work with them to bring graduate social work education to one of the most impoverished countries in Europe.

**"A shared sense of mission and the provision of technology are making it possible to 'be with each other.'"**

*Helen Harris*

We tested the Elluminate technology to determine the possibility of sending our students for field internships in Moldova while also having them in the required integrative field seminar. Tracey, thousands of miles and four time zones away, sounded like she was just down the hall. We shared PowerPoint presentations that we watched simultaneously and instant messaged our comments.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, faculty members Jon Singletary and LeAnn Gardner were leading a team of our students in Rwanda exploring ministry opportunities with women, children and families. Jon and I also connected through Elluminate Live.

This past spring, the school had five students who completed internships at field sites across the nation, made possible by the Elluminate technology. Coordinating this work and procuring the site placements was Erma Ballenger, director of graduate field education.

We are crossing the globe and keeping connected to each other and to educational competencies and equivalences at the same time. A shared sense of mission and the provision of technology are making it possible to "be with each other" while hundreds of thousands of miles apart. The light shines in Moldova and Rwanda and Waco at the same time. We are warmed by it. Our paths are "elluminated" by it. — *Helen Harris*

# CHILDREN OF THE DUMPS

*By Gaynor Yancey, Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies*

At this writing, we have just finished the spring semester and graduated our highest numbers ever in the history of Baylor University. Coincidentally, we just graduated our highest numbers in the history of the School of Social Work – a total of 86 BSWs and MSWs.

We are celebrating another first – the MSW Advanced Standing class that will start in July for the next academic year consists of 55 percent (our highest percentage ever) of our own BSW graduates. These students will finish next May with their MSW degree, which means they will have attained two degrees in five years.

Additionally, we had almost \$24,000 in scholarship money to distribute among the students who needed financial aid. Fourteen of the scholarships awarded were in the range of \$1,100 for the academic year. We feel most blessed to have been able to help that many students. These are three things that we hope you will celebrate with us.

With these things to celebrate, what in the world would make me select “the dumps” as my topic? Thirty years of

ministry and teaching in the urban, inner city areas of Philadelphia and Chester, PA, and Camden, NJ, taught me much about people who were poor, homeless and hungry. More often than not, the majority of these persons were picking

**“The people at the dumpsters were looking for objects of worth to them.”**

*– Gaynor Yancey*

trash from the trash bins that were placed near the entry and exit doors of the fast food restaurants.

The first time I ever saw a homeless man bend over into the trash at a fried chicken fast food franchise, I was astounded. I was even more astounded when he found two half-eaten chicken legs and a portion of a roll in the trash bin. It was just enough food to satisfy him for a little while, even if it was someone else’s trash.

After the great exodus in mid-May of students from apartments and residence halls, I was aware of the number of persons I saw at each of the

dumpsters on the campus. I tried not to embarrass them by looking but I have noticed them. Ironically, just as the hungry homeless man in Philadelphia was looking for something to eat – his food of worth to him – the people at the dumpsters were looking for objects of worth to them – maybe a discarded desk, books, pillows, a lamp. These folks are not looking for junk; they are looking for objects of worth!

As I reflected on this, I recalled the processing of one of our students who had been to Guatemala for a semester. She talked about going to the “dumps” in Guatemala to minister to the children who live there. I am always amazed when I hear of the numbers of children who live by themselves in “dumps” throughout the world. This student was disappointed that she did not get to go weekly so that she could love and care for these children.

My thoughts went to another student who left for Guatemala this week to work with a ministry to children in the “dumps.” Two other students are in Peru this summer working with children in the “dumps.” All of them are there because of their commitments to loving and caring for children that, to others, would seem to be throwaways.

The children in the dumps, as they are called, are not junk; they are persons of great worth! These BSW students understand clearly that the “dump children” have been discarded because of various circumstances. These BSW students are highly trained in their social work skills and seeing individuals, groups, communities and organizations from a strengths perspective.

This underpinning, along with their commitment to service, compels some of our BSW students to go to other countries to love and care for children in need. I am so grateful that these BSW students are in the “dumps” this summer.



## Join Us at the School's “Virtual” Homecoming

If you can't make it to Baylor for Homecoming Weekend, send us your photo and a brief update on family and career. We'll feature these in the Fall issue of Community Connection and on our Alumni page on the School's web site. Catch up on all your friends and former classmates! Send information to:

**Krista\_Barrett@baylor.edu**

**Send your information in early!**



# 'I'M GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

*Recent MSW graduate is turning "talk" into action to help others*

When Elizabeth "Liz" Patterson was 4 years old, she decided what she wanted to be: a congresswoman, so she could make laws that would make the world better.

A summer as a congressional page in Washington, DC, though, changed her mind. "They didn't seem to really do that much," she said.

Nevertheless, she majored in political science at Baylor for her undergraduate degree. She loved identifying and analyzing the problems, but, again, "no one was doing anything about them," she said.

That's just not good enough for Liz Patterson; she wants to take action that makes a difference. A friend told her that she needed to be in social work.

Before she began the MSW program, though, she was hired at NeighborWorksWaco to do home ownership and credit counseling. Her employer, Roy Nash, then asked her to develop a foreclosure prevention program, which she did. While at the agency, she helped more than 40 families keep their homes through that program, which now has three fulltime employees running it. Patterson's first social work internship also was at NeighborWorks, as part of the agreement for her employment there previous to beginning her degree work.

Her next internship was with the City of Waco – more in line with her political science roots – but in its Housing and Community Development division. On the continuum of housing, she went from helping people who wanted homes be able to buy them, to helping those who had homes keep them, to helping the homeless find homes.

"It was a different spectrum and different issues, but there were some of the same feelings and fears," she said.

While in her city internship, Patterson researched and promoted within the city the Supportive Housing Program ([www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/shp/](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/shp/)), which focuses on a different approach to service provision for the homeless, and especially the chronic homeless.

"Supportive Housing changes the mindset of community services from emergency, immediate needs to long-term support and sustainability," Patterson said.

Patterson is hopeful about the program being adopted by Waco. "It looks like everything is in place; we just need someone to step up and take ownership of it."

Since graduation in May, Patterson has begun a career internship at the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Waco as a rating veteran service representative. It is her job to review evidence submitted on benefit claims, which involves examining medical and



legal documents and determine what compensation will be granted.

"I can really make a difference in an individual's life, plus I can learn more about the systemic policy issues," Patterson said. "Perhaps one day I'll be able to make some real changes in those systems to better serve that population who has given so much for us as Americans."

Patterson has empathy for those struggling with medical challenges. In her freshman year of college, her mother was diagnosed with cancer for the second time, this time with

breast cancer. She is now five years cancer-free. "I don't know what I would have done without the support and understanding of both my parents," she said. "I cannot imagine my life without their unconditional love and encouragement."

Then, in her first semester in the MSW program, Patterson experienced ongoing, undiagnosed medical problems. She had to make several trips home to Houston for medical visits and feared she would have to drop out of the program.

"My professors here were just so great and so supportive," she said. "They basically said to me, 'Tell us what we need to do to help you get through the program.' I've never heard of anyone doing that, especially not in a graduate program."

Diagnosed with Crohn's disease, Patterson said her treatment is working and that she's doing well.

In reflecting on the school's response in her time of need, Patterson said it was a support system and bond she knew she could count on.

"It was how you envision the body of Christ being," she said. "I never found that in a church, but I found it in this program."

Now, she stays alert to how she can represent that kind of support for someone else. She cites the story of the man walking along the beach where thousands of starfish have washed ashore and are stranded. He picks up one starfish after another and throws them back into the sea. A friend tells him that what he's doing isn't going to make any difference, but the man answers, as he throws one more starfish into the sea, "It makes a difference to this one."

"I'm always the one trying to see where I can make a difference," Patterson said. "I'm going to make a difference to at least *that one*." – Vicki Marsh Kabat

# 'A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE'

## *Alumnus shaping services for veterans' health care*

Matthew Schobert (MDiv 1999, MSW 2002) is literally working his way through the micro, mezzo and macro levels of professional social work that he learned as an MSW student at the School of Social Work.

His newest challenge will be at the macro level as administrative officer/program specialist of social work service for the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, where he will work closely with the chief of social work service, chiefs from other departments and the director's office.

"It's a chance to be more involved in helping shape the services that are developed for patients," he said. "I'll be able to work on a whole new set of social work skills."

For nearly a year, he has been at the Waco VA Medical Center working as a psychiatric social worker, providing intensive case management and clinical social services to veterans and their families.

"I was amazed at the ability of the human mind to communicate, process and learn, and on the other hand to see the same human mind experience reality remarkably differently from most of the rest of us," he said.

Schobert graduated from Union University in Tennessee in 1995 with a double major in history and religion. He then earned his MDiv at George W.

Truett Theological Seminary and his MSW from Baylor with a concentration in health care.

Raised in Illinois, moving to Waco, TX, was a big decision for Schobert, but Baylor's university setting, liberal arts education and an acquaintance he had made with David and Diana Garland while at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY, informed his decision.

"I was very impressed with the strength she [Diana Garland] displayed in standing up for her convictions. To her, Christianity wasn't narrowed to simply teaching and evangelism, but it expanded to take in all human needs. I wanted to know how to take that and bring about change in society," he said.

While getting his degree in theology at Truett, Schobert became involved in Mission Waco, where he was given the opportunity to learn and teach about issues of poverty, hunger and social justice. He then interned for a year at World Hunger Relief Inc.

After graduation he worked with Baylor's Center for Christian Ethics and then Baylor's Student Athletic Services. He liked the direction his jobs were going, but wanted something more directly related to his social work degree that was in a faith-based setting.

He found what he was searching for at the Methodist Children's Home,



where he was a unit manager and social worker for three years. He provided social work services for at-risk adolescents and supervised direct care staff.

A chance encounter with a former classmate, however, led him to apply to the same Waco VA Medical Center he had interned at previously.

In January, Schobert was temporarily reassigned from acute psychiatry to geriatrics and extended care at a geriatric psychiatric nursing home on the Waco VA campus. In this setting, he was able to combine the skills of a psychiatric social worker and chaplain by working with veterans requiring nursing home and hospice care. He attended their social needs and explored options with them for their re-entry into the community after they were discharged.

Of all Schobert's different roles, he believes his time as a chaplain at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, where he worked from 1998 to 1999, had the greatest impact on his choice to pursue social work.

"I brought a ministry of presence to families who were going through crisis or end-of-life issues," Schobert said. "It's that sense of being a part of something so unique that I love." – *Tricia Herrmann, Communications Specialist*

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# MILESTONES OF MATURITY

By Dennis Myers, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies,

*Maturity is a fascinating and awesome adventure, and a creative response to an overwhelming gift; it is also a work.* – Bernard J. Boelen

Educational programs, like the learners who inhabit them, mature in response to overwhelming gifts they receive across the life course of the program. Clearly, the development of the Baylor MSW program is a response to contributions made by academic leaders, faculty and staff, friends of the program, and financial supporters. Educational programs are also profoundly transformed by the gifts of their students.

In fall 1999, 14 students entered the first graduate classes in social work at Baylor. This fall, 70 students entered their first classes, quietly marking a decade of graduate social work education. In 1999, students enrolled to prepare for advanced social work practice, never realizing how they, and the nine cohorts of students who followed them, would influence so dramatically the development of a youthful program.

Now that a 10-year birthday party is on the horizon, it seems timely to reflect on how the program has changed over the decade through the presence and voices of our students.

You are familiar with the developmental milestones that help parents and health care providers know the extent to which a child is growing up in expected ways. You may be less familiar with the milestones for 10 year olds since this stage of childhood may seem less important than the early childhood days or even the adolescent years. Actually, these “in between” years provide times for important changes, even for an MSW program.

Ten year olds should meet these benchmarks:

*Grow to about 56 inches (143 cm.) and weigh about 70 pounds (32 kg.).*

After 10 years, the graduate student body is thriving. Enrollment for 2008-09 is approximately 130. After the May 2008 graduation, 262 colleagues are now alumni of the school. We have experienced

increases in faculty, staff and financial resources. With these indicators of vitality, there are also some challenges of growing up and becoming “heavier” at such a rapid rate. Warnings that the program was growing too quickly were signaled by the students, resulting in changes in assignment of faculty to courses and revisions in practices related to admissions, enrollment and graduation.

*Lose most baby teeth. These are replaced by permanent teeth.*

The voices of our students helped faculty lose early assumptions about how to organize the curriculum and to offer learning opportunities so that we could add more responsive and more permanent instruction and programming. For example, student passion for international education prompted creation of learning opportunities in Moldova, Africa, Mexico and India. This coming year, the MSW program will recruit, educate and support graduate students from Southeast Asia at the School and at Truett Seminary, thanks to a gift from the Luce Foundation. Students educated here will return to their countries to provide social work and community ministry services.

Specializations were created to provide a way for students to pursue their individual learning interests. In 2007-08, 24 specializations, or approximately one-third of the graduating class, met the requirements for this distinction. Nine students in 2008-09 completed a specialization in gerontological social work funded by the Council on Social Work Education and the Hartford Foundation. Student advocacy for a stronger graduate program in advanced macro practice was the impetus for the new concentration in community practice that begins this fall.

*Know the complete date (day of the week, day of the month, month, and year).*

Faith and practice is an orienting

theme that keeps the program connected to the distinctive mission of the graduate program. Originally, faculty struggled to know how to best integrate this theme into the curriculum. Through course evaluations, exit surveys and informal feedback, the guidance provided by students has been an essential resource in helping this theme come alive in the curriculum. For some students, the faith and practice theme is at the heart of their reason for enrollment.

Through the past 10 years, new initiatives have been added in response to those who choose to pursue vocations within congregations and religiously affiliated organizations. In 2005, a Masters of Theological Studies (MTS-MSW) was offered for the first time. A specialization in Church Social Work also was created. In 2007, the Strengthening Congregational Community Ministries initiative, funded by the Christ Is Our Savior foundation, began providing scholarships for MSW and BSW students who are learning how to effectively support and create resources for the community ministries of congregations.

*Enjoy being with their friends.*

In the concentration year, MSW students state a preference for the kind of advanced practice internship learning experience they are seeking. This desire had led to new friendships with agencies and congregations locally, nationally and globally. In 2000, the graduate students were placed in five local agencies; in spring 2008, this number had grown to 91, including congregational settings.

Each step in the maturing process is a response to those who care deeply about the program. Each one of us holds the future of this program in our hands. As it turns out, those who are the receivers of the program are also uniquely endowed with hands that offer overwhelming gifts.

# SSW NEWS BRIEFS

## 10 GO ON 2-WEEK MISSION TRIP TO RWANDA, AFRICA

Eight social work students and two faculty members traveled to Rwanda, Africa, May 19-31 as part of Baylor University's discipline-specific missions program.

The group's emphasis was an understanding of indigenous services being offered to widows and orphans of the Rwanda genocide.

The group stayed one night at the Hotel des Milles Collines, which served as a place of refuge during the genocide as told in the movie "Hotel Rwanda," starring Don Cheadle.

"I expect it to be an emotional experience for all us," said Jon Singletary, faculty co-sponsor of the trip with LeAnn Gardner. "We have met weekly as a group and done a lot of preparation for this trip."

The group arranged visits at several sites including the Rwanda Women's Network, a community development organization serving women and youth. The students bought Rwandan baskets on site and then met the women who had made them. The organization then invited the group to join them in traditional singing and dancing.

Students on the mission trip included: Jennifer Scarborough, Courtney Drew, Heather Deal and Kristen Nielsen, all dual degree; Rae Wright, MSW and team leader; Laura Wilgus, BSW alumna and incoming advanced standing MSW; Katie Burch, BSW; and Crystal Leatch, BSW and MSW alumna.

## SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Kimberly Schlesinger joins the school as an administrative associate for the Center for Literacy and the Center for Family and Community Ministries. She will be managing web content for the



CFL, as well as the ESL church database. In addition she will be planning and coordinating events for both centers. Kimberly moved here this spring from the northeast with her husband who will begin the MBA program at Baylor this fall. Kimberly has a BA in sociology and psychology from Gordon College.

## LEGISLATURE DAY IN AUSTIN



On April 8, faculty members LeAnn Gardner and Kim Kotrla escorted 22 social work students to Austin for "Student Day at the Legislature." This day, specifically designed to bring together social work students from across the state, was attended by more than 400 this year. Students had the opportunity to visit their representatives or senators and tour the capitol.

## SCHOOL RECEIVES RECORD GIFT

On Christmas Day, while most Americans were preoccupied with presents they were receiving, one donor had giving in mind. The result was a check to the School of Social Work for \$500,000 – the largest gift in the three-year history of the school.

The donor enclosed a brief, handwritten note, reminding David Wilkinson, SSW's director of development, to protect the donor's anonymity.

Combined with a check sent a few days earlier for \$50,000, the total of

\$550,000 constitutes the largest donation to SSW from an individual since the Department of Social Work added a graduate program in 1999 and then became a school of the university in 2005.

The gift will support the Diana Garland Chair of Social Work, an endowment fund established with a previous contribution from the same donor, increasing the fund to more than \$650,000. With a total of approximately \$2.1 million required to fund an endowed chair, the donor's intent was to "get the fund off to a good start," with the expectation that other supporters will come alongside to complete the funding.

Meanwhile, SSW students will benefit immediately from the donor's generosity. According to the donor's wishes, investment earnings from the fund may be used to provide scholarship assistance to deserving students on the basis of need

*(continued on page 11)*

# FORD FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE RESEARCH

Baylor University has received a grant from the Ford Foundation to conduct the first national research on clergy sexual abuse of adults, said Diana Garland, dean of the university's School of Social Work and director of the study.

The unprecedented initiative will help communities and congregations develop new practices and policies to prevent clergy sexual abuse and ensure that survivors receive appropriate care.

The immediate goals of the project are to determine the prevalence of clergy sexual abuse of adults;

to teach religious leaders, congregants and the general public that sexual activity between a religious leader and a congregant cannot be considered consensual; to communicate to survivors and their families that they are not alone and that they deserve support and professional care; to provide promising policy and prevention strategies; and to communicate that the church can respond to ethical violations with compassionate care for the vulnerable as its major focus instead of institutional self protection. The Ford Foundation's grant to the project totals \$200,000.

"Our faith communities have been dismayed to learn that trusted spiritual leaders have used their roles to abuse children and that others covered up the abuse and thus allowed it to continue," Garland said.

"This project intends to shed light on the problem of spiritual leaders who abuse their power with adults and how that abuse can be prevented. The goal is to strengthen congregations with protective policies and structures that take human vulnerabilities seriously," she said.

Clinical reports indicate high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, other anxiety disorders, depression, physical

illness and suicide among those who have been abused by clergy.

Questions for Garland's study are included in the General Social Survey 2008, one of the most rigorous and respected surveys in existence. The GSS is conducted by the National Opinion

Research Center at the University of Chicago every two years. It is the only full-probability, personal-interview survey designed to monitor social characteristics and attitudes in the United States.

The total sample size of the GSS will be approximately 3,500 with a representative sample of English- and Spanish-speaking adults in the nation. Complete

anonymity of respondents is guaranteed. Data from the survey will be delivered in January 2009. Research consultants for the project include Mark Chaves of Duke University and an advisory committee.

Garland will further interview members of at least 30 Christian and Jewish congregations directly affected by clergy sexual abuse.

"We anticipate, based on case studies and anecdotal reports, that the opportunity to contribute to a study on this topic will be healing and empowering for survivors and their families and congregations," Garland said.

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For more than half a century it has been a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide, guided by its goals of strengthening democratic values, reducing poverty and injustice, promoting international cooperation and advancing human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Russia.

Garland previously had received \$31,000 combined funding for this project from the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the JES Edwards Foundation of Fort Worth, Texas.

**"This project intends to shed light on the problem of spiritual leaders who abuse their power with adults and how that abuse can be prevented."**

*Diana Garland, Dean*

## RECORD GIFT

and merit, rather than being reinvested in the fund.

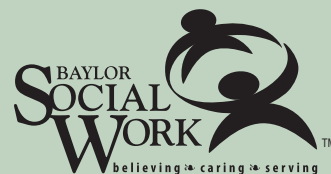
"I am tremendously impressed with the School of Social Work – with the students and faculty, the creative projects, and the grants the school has received," the donor told Wilkinson and Dean Diana Garland. "But I have been particularly impressed with the approach to training students that integrates faith and practice.

"For me, the opportunity to help provide scholarships for our students while also making progress toward an

endowed chair in Diana's name is the best of both worlds."

Garland praised the faithfulness of this friend's vision for the school. "Since the day I became dean, this friend has been an invaluable supporter, encourager, adviser and advocate for the school and its vision," she said. "The fact that this donor had a Christmas list comprised of ways to give to others is consistent with this person's character and values and a wonderful testimony to [the donor's] convictions about Christian stewardship."

**FOR MORE  
SSW NEWS,  
VISIT [WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL\\_WORK](http://WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL_WORK)**







## FAMILY DINNER

*Dr. Daniel Vestal, director of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (above right) was the guest speaker at this year's Annual Family Dinner. Also featured was Alumnus of the Year Sam Dyer, pictured here with Dean Diana Garland and father Preston Dyer (right). Erma Ballenger (above, center) enjoys dinner conversation with BSW students Joy Pfanner (left) and Christine Browder. Felipe Garza, Buckner International, (below right) visits with Tiffani Horowitz.*

*Board of Advocate member Doris Edwards (below, center) hosted Sue Getterman (left) and Gerrie Lilley at her table. The dinner, held at First Baptist Church of Woodway, hosted almost 300 guests and emphasized the School's theme of "believing, caring, serving."*



SARAH BORTH PHOTOS





## CONVOCATION

*The School's largest graduating class celebrated Convocation May 16 at First Baptist Church of Waco, with a reception following. The School had 23 BSW and 63 MSW students who received degrees. Above, Flor Avellaneda, graduating BSW student, addresses her colleagues. Above right, MSW graduate Sarah Bush is congratulated by Preston Dyer. It was a day for capturing the moments, and this one of MSW graduate Tracy Butler (right). BSW graduate Kimberly Stutts (below right) shares a joyous moment with her friends and family at the convocation reception. Daphne Paul, MSW graduate, and Helen Harris (below left) are all smiles.*



BAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY





## SCHOOL PICNIC

*A large group gathered on May 12 at Whiteball Park in Woodway to enjoy an end-of-semester picnic and kickball game. Faculty, staff, students and families enjoyed good food, good company and good times. At left, new MSW graduate Lance Summey unleashes a super kick. Below left, Noah Sherr and Haden Singletary enjoy the playground while others (above and below) just hang out and relax.*





# SSW ALUMNI

**Laura (Newitt) Beaver** (BSW 2006) graduated with an MSW from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, in December 2007 and on Jan. 26, 2008, married Matt Beaver. Laura is teaching an undergraduate class at Fontbonne University in St. Louis in the human services major and recently accepted a full-time position at CASA in St. Louis County as the community relations and foundations specialist.

**Angela Dorskocil Gaither** (BASW 2002/MSW 2003) married Patrick Gaither on Dec. 15, 2007, in a family home in Temple, TX, and honeymooned in Fredericksburg, VA. Angela and Patrick, a respiratory therapist at Cook Children's Medical Center, live in Fort Worth, where she continues to work full-time as a social worker for Community Hospice of Texas. In addition she will begin her

last year of school at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law as a part-time, evening student. During the summer, she will join the Law Clinic at the school and will be involved in representing low-income and minority clients with matters such as prospective orders, child custody, and appeals for Social Security disability. [agdorskocil@mail.txwes.edu](mailto:agdorskocil@mail.txwes.edu)

**Steven Brodie** (BASW 2006) is serving a tour of duty in Iraq with the U.S. Marine Corps. He writes that he's doing fine but is looking forward to his return home to wife, Ashley, and daughter, Madison. [scrodie44@msn.com](mailto:scrodie44@msn.com).



**We'd love to hear from you!**  
Send your news and updates to  
[Krista\\_Barrett@baylor.edu](mailto:Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu)

# CALENDAR

<b>AUG</b>	<b>15</b>	Summer Convocation
	<b>16</b>	Summer Commencement
<b>SEPT</b>	<b>18</b>	Fall Worship Service
	<b>19</b>	Board of Advocates Mtg.
<b>OCT</b>	<b>2</b>	Dyer Ethics Workshop
	<b>30</b>	CSWE Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
	<b>31</b>	Baylor Homecoming
<b>NOV</b>	<b>6-8</b>	NASW/TX Annual Conference, Galveston
<b>DEC</b>	<b>19</b>	Fall Convocation
	<b>20</b>	Fall Commencement

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI

*Let us hear from you!*

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Photos cannot be returned.) Mail to: Krista Barrett, managing editor, School of Social Work, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97320, Waco, TX 76798-7320.

Or send via e-mail to [Krista\\_Barrett@baylor.edu](mailto:Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu) or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name (at graduation and now) \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation/Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Baylor or Carver School graduate? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## TOT for TEX

**Training of Trainers (TOT) for people to learn how to use the Teaching English with Excellence (TEX) ESL new teacher training materials.**

Specifically for prospective TEX Trainers; *not* for new ESL teachers. Training will prepare new TEX Trainers to provide basic training for new volunteer teachers in faith-based ESL ministries

**July 13-19, 2008**

**Sunday, 6 p.m. to Saturday, 2 p.m.**

**Baylor University, Waco, TX**

**\$200 plus a \$50 nonrefundable reservation fee**

**TO REGISTER:**

**Robin Feistel**

Literacy ConneXus ESL Teacher Trainer  
& Ministry Consultant

936-564-6017

[RobinESL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:RobinESL@sbcglobal.net)

*Subsidized by the Mary Hill Davis Mission Offering, Literacy ConneXus, Baylor University and Baptist General Convention of Texas. TEX materials will be given to those who decide at the end of the TOT to do TEX trainings. Limited travel scholarships may be available.*



## WE MADE IT!

MSW graduates Tihara Vargas (left) and Tiffani Horowitz (right) celebrate with their friends.

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<b>'Ellumination'</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Spring Picnic</b>	<b>14</b>
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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Volume No. 22

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