

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Newsletter from Baylor University School of Social Work • Volume No. 17

Global Studies

Mexican Culture

The 11 students who traveled to Mexico Dec. 27 to Jan. 5 with Laine Scales, associate professor of social work, discovered a new world – one that had little to do with stereotypes or with their own culture, just a few hundred miles north in Texas.

“Mexico really is a developing country in deep poverty, and it sits right next to us,” said Courtney Ray, a senior bachelor of social work student from Fort Worth. “That really blew me away.”

The students were part of the “Social Services in Mexican Culture” class, a three-credit-hour course now in its fifth year as an elective in Baylor’s School of Social Work. In association with the Cemanahuac Educational Community in Cuernavaca, Mexico, the course provides field trips to social service agencies and a home stay experience with



This little girl at one of the rural community centers in Mexico captured the heart of one Baylor student.

See student’s personal account on page 5.

Mexican families.

“It was very important to me that students did a lot of self examination in relation to the theme of culture during this course,” said Scales, who began the course in 2001 after taking the intensive language program at Cemanahuac herself in 1999.

“It was an amazing, incredible 10-day journey for me,” said Leslie

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Moldova Education

Preston and Genie Dyer returned to the Republic of Moldova Jan. 26 through March 2 to teach graduate social work courses at the Baptist College of Theology and Education in Chisinau. The city is the capital of the republic, which is one of the smallest and poorest countries in Europe.

The Dyers and others from the School of Social Work first visited the college in 2005, beginning a relationship with its administration and students. The administrators had said they needed opportunities for their faculty members to get MSW degrees, which none have. The Dyers returned this year to teach the first courses in the master’s program and hope the initiative will continue and build to a full degree.

Teaching at the college is challenging because of language differences – Russian and Romanian. These categories define not the country one is from, but one’s primary language. Courses at the college are taught in both languages

– the first part of the week in one and the last half of the week in the other.

The Dyers had 12 students in their undergraduate class, none of whom had been taught any systematic approach to social work practice. The Dyers taught the seven-step helping process; the practice course curriculum and skills labs; scientific evaluation, i.e., measurable objectives; ethics; and

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THINKING AHEAD

School proposes three goals for its future *by Diana Garland*

During the past 15 months, the School of Social Work has engaged in a strategic planning process called “appreciative inquiry.” Surprisingly to me, this experience has been delightful, even though a lot of work. Akin to what we call the “strengths perspective” in social work assessment, we sought to define what is unique about the school, what we do especially well and what is most important for us to do in the future.

We involved everyone in the process that we thought had a perspective that would help us, using open-ended interviews to gather information. Faculty and staff interviewed one another, and then our board members. We interviewed students, alumni, university leaders and even our spouses and children. Then we moved beyond to those who see our world from a mile up – national leaders in denominations, in the academic preparation of church leaders and in social work education.

The interviews were rich. We plastered quotations all over the school’s walls so that we could ponder them as we went about our daily activities. Here is one such quote that has stayed with me for weeks:

“This is a century in which European-Americans will become the minority. The church doesn’t know a lick about race and culture, but social work does. Baylor could help the church understand racial and cultural dynamics. There are more growing ethnic congregations than multi-ethnic congregations. Seminaries don’t understand patterns. They look at culture ideologically rather than sociologically. They need to understand community dynamics. They don’t have a way to train

leaders for community ministries. Baylor Social Work can step into this gap. What Baylor does with its social work program is critical to the church. Not every program at Baylor can be a national leader, but Baylor School of Social Work can be.”

– Dr. Daniel O. Aleshire,
president of the Association of
Theological Schools

We lived with quotes like this, thinking about what they said to us about our future, about what we could and/or should do next. Our Baylor consultant, Ashley Thornton, wrapped up our ambitions aptly: “The School of Social Work wants to save the world and still be home in time to fix dinner.”

We know we cannot save the world – that’s certainly not our job! But we want to be faithful to use our resources and abilities as part of the

plans the Savior has for this world and for God’s children in it. Of course, that includes the children in our own households as well as those halfway around the world. It includes the students who come to us to prepare for the calling in their lives, and it also includes students in other places who may never come to Baylor but still need faculties prepared to guide them in following their calling.

We have summed up what we have learned in the past 15 months in a proposed three-pronged initiative. We strive to educate:

- Baylor students through our current BSW and MSW programs for global leadership and service;
- future faculty members and scholars who will in turn educate students at Baylor and in other academic institutions for global leadership and service, as well as build a literature of research and theory



A display hung on one wall of the School of Social Work throughout the fall as students, faculty and staff were invited to post their suggestions about the future direction of the school.

for the integration of Christian faith with social work; and

- indigenous church leaders in professional social work for leadership and service in their cultures and communities.

This ambitious initiative expands our educational programs and scholarship into global venues where we already have relationships. According to those national professional and church leaders we consulted in this process, no other university has such an opportunity to lead the world in scholarship and education for the integration of Christian faith with social work practice.

Our strategic initiative comes with major financial needs. We need a building to house our educational programs (classrooms and labs), centers, research projects, and faculty and staff. We have a new director of development joining us in late spring who will focus all of his energies on helping us realize these goals.

Second, we need the resources to launch a PhD program to educate future social work faculties and researchers. These professionals are desperately needed for community and worldwide leadership in the social work profession and in social ministries of the church.

Finally, we are proposing a global education initiative that will prepare leaders to serve people groups across borders, the profession and the church. The Moldova and Mexico experiences are excellent examples. The initiative involves taking our educational programs to other places and also giving our students opportunities for global learning experiences.

As soon as we find the lead gifts for our building, we will be launching a major financial campaign to establish this school - bricks and classrooms, faculty positions,



Preston and Genie Dyer with their host family in Chisinau.

MOLDOVA

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discussed diversity, stereotyping and discrimination. During the first two weeks of their stay, they taught graduate students.

The Dyers' hosts for the stay were Alex and Lucia Stepanenco and their six children, ages 4 to 20. They enjoyed wonderful home-cooked meals such as grape leaf rolls, pickle soup and apple crepes, as well as frequent "movie" nights using the Dyers' laptop and projector. Four-year-old Daniel watched "Shrek" multiple times, Preston reported.

Throughout their stay in Moldova, the Dyers kept a blog and the following comments are excerpts from it:

JAN. 29

We made it through the first day, as did the students! We met first with the dean of the School of Social Work, Vadym Burlac. The class has 10 students, eight women and two men – much like in the U.S. Several of them are social workers that we met in 2005. Four of them teach at the college and the others work in Chisinau or villages close by.

JAN. 31

One of the students we met in 2005 came by our class. She is from central Asia in a country that is Muslim. She said she could not talk about Jesus, but could show Jesus' love by serving others through social work.

We are really impressed with our students. They really get involved in

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GARLAND

scholarships and resources for international programs.

I feel so deeply that this school is needed, that this work is important, that our students are gifted and passionate about service and social justice. I never saw myself as a fundraiser, but I'm ready to put myself out there for these causes. Are you?

Please pray with us and for us. Search your heart to see if what we are doing here is a dream in which you would like to join us. I hope you will link arms with us. We need you.

Diana R. Garland is dean of the School of Social Work

MEXICO

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Whitlock, an MSW student from Fort Worth. "It was very humbling. Being able to see it, taste it, breathe it, I got to really experience the Mexican identity."

Carmen Branscum, an MSW student, said the trip expanded the ways she envisioned her role in social work and gave her new confidence and direction.

"Before I went, I was mortified about doing direct practice," she said, adding that she saw herself primarily in administrative roles. "I couldn't see how I could work with and communicate in Spanish to Hispanics in direct practice," she said.

"But I realized that people are people everywhere, and that even through the layers of each culture – mine and theirs – there are universal values ... a smile, a thank you. Now, I don't want to lose that personal contact, that human face."

The course included historical and cultural experiences as well as trips to a rural orphanage, a children's hospital, an agency that served older adults, and a rural health clinic.

Students read materials about the culture and politics of Mexico through the fall semester and then spent a weekend in class together processing what they had learned, Scales said. Each also was assigned a paper on an aspect of a social, economic or political issue of importance to the country.

"It really made me angry," said Whitlock about the research she did on factory working conditions in Mexico. "If you are a moment or two late coming back from your bathroom break, you can be fired. There is a lot of oppression in the workplace. It was really intense."



Eleven students traveled with Laine Scales, center in white shirt, to Cuernavaca, Mexico, to experience culture and social work practices in Mexico.

Scales said the social work profession in Mexico is very different from its counterpart in the United States. There are few educational requirements for practitioners and few organizations to develop or encourage professional standards. Even with these challenges, though, good work is being accomplished.

"The orphanage has an amazing program," said Mike Ormsby, an MSW student from New York, referring to the rural facility called *Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos* ("Our little brothers and sisters"). The class toured the orphanage that houses and educates 600 children and had a chance to see the whole operation firsthand. "There really are people working very hard to change things, who are making a difference."

On their field trip to a rural community center, Branscum remembers vividly her encounter with a little girl. As the Baylor students stepped off the van, the child ran directly up to Branscum and gave her a dandelion flower. Later, during the tour of the facility, the Baylor students learned that most of the

children there had lost both parents and many had been street children.

"It hit me that this little girl had nothing, yet she gave me everything she had," Branscum said. "It was a vivid illustration to me of how Jesus calls us to drop everything and follow him, and I thought, 'That's why I love social work.'"

"Any time you've been changed profoundly personally or professionally, it impacts the other dimension," said Lance Summey, an MSW student. "Right now, this still feels very personal, but I know it will affect what I do professionally in the future."

For Branscum, it's as personal as the pressed dandelion framed in her dining room at home.

"If I have a true desire to help someone, regardless of their culture," she said, "that will shine through and take me to the places I want to go and to the people I want to help."

For more information about the annual Mexico class, contact Scales at 254-710-4487.

LAND OF POVERTY OR PLENTY?

Social work student discovers unexpected meaning

Is Mexico a land of great poverty or great plenty? After traveling and studying in Argentina, by Latin American standards a “wealthy” nation, my perception of Mexico was that of a nation “in need.” However, after my recent study-abroad trip to Cuernavaca with the Baylor School of Social Work, I am seeing Mexico as a land of great plenty – full of generosity and hope, often found in people and places where we might least expect it.

I saw the poorest of the poor – those who called the stone church steps their home, those who were rejected by their own and by foreigners from abroad. But I also saw so many given a home who did not have one of their own. This was especially true for the children of VAMOS!, a program founded by three Vermont natives to address marginalization of the poor by building schools in rural areas and educating street children.

One thing that really shook me was the number of kids I saw on the streets helping their parents or relatives sell small trinkets to locals and tourists in the Zócalo. The lives of street vendors are characterized by instability, oppression and extreme poverty.

Making the trip to VAMOS!, however, showed me that these children have not been forgotten – maybe by the Mexican government, but not by concerned citizens of Mexico who work with them. Seeing VAMOS! in action, both in a rural and urban setting, was a great experience for me. It reminded me that even in a developing country that struggles with severe poverty, good things can still happen. Even with corruption at all levels of government, people can still care.

The directors of Cemanahuac Educational Community, the language and culture school we attended, are exceptional agents of change. They may not have been licensed social workers, but this family of former missionaries trained in anthropology are

some of the most passionate political advocates I have ever met. They witness social injustices daily and are consistently moved to act. Being exposed to this model of compassionate social action was perhaps the most inspiring thing for me.

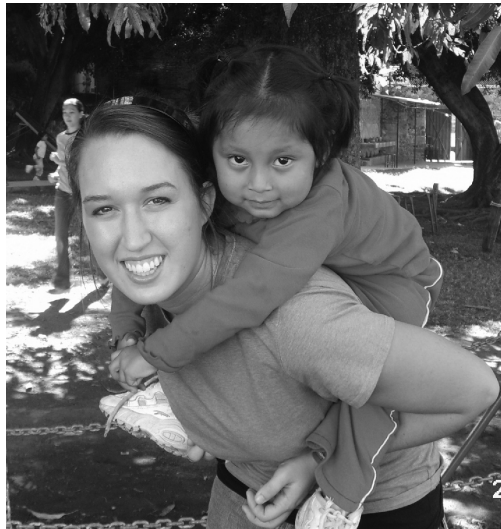
Coming back home and settling into my school routine has proved challenging.

How do I apply these experiences to life in Waco? But I have been able to bring to my field internship at Compassion Ministries (a transitional homeless shelter in Waco) a new dimension of culturally sensitive practice that was unknown to me before.

I have seen firsthand the unsanitary living conditions, the polluted air and the high inflation and low wages that compel Mexican citizens and their families northward – across the border.

I have more empathy and more sensitivity toward this population, and my time spent in Mexico has encouraged me to stay in the States and advocate for them on the domestic front. Unlike before, when I thought I would need to live in Latin America to be able to do social work with Latinos, I am now more fully aware of the opportunities I have in the United States to fight the discrimination and oppression of Mexican immigrants, as well as to advocate for widespread social service provision for this population.

The implications of what I witnessed and learned in Cuernavaca are far-reaching, and I have seen that I don’t have to travel far to apply what I have learned. I have plenty of work cut out for me here.
— Courtney Ray



Courtney Ray, BSW student, and a new friend from a rural Mexican orphanage.

“Being exposed to this model of compassionate social action was perhaps the most inspiring thing for me.”

Courtney Ray

Would you like to help?

If you value giving students the experience of study abroad and would like to help with the school’s Global Study initiatives, contact Dean Diana Garland at 254-710-6223.

MOLDOVA

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the discussion and contribute great examples.

FEB. 1

In our discussion about the poor today, one student said “Most Moldovans would love to live as ‘poor’ people in the U.S. live.” We told them that there are homeless people in the U.S. and children who go to bed hungry every night. I am not sure they believed us.

FEB. 3

We completed our first week of teaching and we think it was very successful. We gave each student a certificate of completion and I wish you could have seen the smiles on their faces.

Yesterday, students gave reports about social agencies in Moldova. They all began by giving a picture of the issues globally and then compared to Moldova. They think much more about the world as a whole than Americans do.

FEB. 13

We have a new translator this week ... he is good about letting us in on the jokes in class so we know what all the laughing is about!

Today we met with the president of the college and the dean of social work to talk about our dreams for the continuation of the master’s program here. They are still in desperate need of textbooks in their languages.

FEB. 14

One of the students today asked if mezzo was the same as “group work.” I realized that she had learned social work as casework, group work and community organization ... this is terminology in our profession that



Some of the students proudly showing their certificates of completion at the end of the Dyers' class. One student thanked the Dyers for “helping me see my work with different lenses.”

has been dead at least 30 years. That is how far behind they are.

FEB. 15

Teaching these students is exhilarating! They actually want to learn. We were going over the “identifying purpose and role skill” for the hundredth time, when one student finally got it. She said, “Now I see, if I don’t start my relationship out in the right way in the first session, then my client will always see me as only a friend.” And later she said to us, “Thank you so much for helping me see my work with different lenses.”

FEB. 16

Today was our last day of class with the graduate students. When we finished class today, the students just didn’t leave. We dismissed them three times, and still they stayed.

FEB. 17

Yesterday was an absolutely wonderful day of teaching. Preston said, “I don’t think that I have ever felt more affirmed as a teacher in over 45 years as a college teacher.” Student after student had breakthroughs of insight.

I have been thinking of this project as being one to get the college faculty MSW degrees so they could

better teach their undergraduates. But one student, who works at the hospital, expanded my vision. She said, “I have been talking to my co-workers about the helping process and how excited about it I am. Now they want me to teach it to them.”

FEB. 27

We began our classes with Russian undergraduates today. Of the 12 students in the class only five entered into conversation and others showed little interest. One student told us, “Here the purpose of social work is to bring people to Christ.” The students then debated whether a Christian would ever need a social worker, i.e., that Christians could solve their problems with God’s help.

FEB. 28

What a difference a day makes. Today it was like we had a different group of students. They were being very friendly. Still they are not as interested in learning the helping process as they are in discussing how social work is done in America. Most of the students are from central Asia and really have little idea of what social work as a profession is like.

Read more at: <http://dyersinmoldova.blogspot.com>



Annual School of Social Work Family Dinner

April 26
First Baptist Church - Woodway

Please join us for our 7th Annual Family Dinner,
a celebration of the academic year and the
accomplishments of our students

Honorees include:

BSW Intern of the Year: Catherine Meadows
MSW Intern of the Year: Teran Yaklin
Outstanding BSW Student: Charletra Hurt
Outstanding MSW Student: Walker Moore
Outstanding Alumna: Cynthia Johnson

Special showing of the video
"We've a Story to Tell," commemorating 100 years
of social work education for the church.

Reservations are due April 19
Contact Jeanie_Fitzpatrick@baylor.edu
or call her at 254-710-1199.

MSW Practice Colloquium May 2 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cashion Academic Center

Social work practitioners, alumni and friends are invited to hear
the latest research and application from MSW concentration
students as they give capstone presentations on topics such
as family counseling services, ethics, mental health and more.

Up to **6 CEU credit hours** can be earned.
Cost is \$10 for the certificate

Plus, special luncheon honoring
Helen Harris

Outgoing Director of Graduate Field Education
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Blume Conference Room in Cashion

Lunch is provided with reservation by April 19.

Contact Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu
or at 254-710-6400



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Dean Diana Garland, at right, visits with SSW alums
and friends at a Tyler, TX, gathering in February.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS

March 29 – San Antonio, TX

Baylor SSW/Carver School of Social Work Alumni
and Friends dinner following "Ethical Integration of
Faith and Professional Practice" ethics workshop

June 28 – Washington, DC

Centennial Celebration for Carver School as part of
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Meeting at
the Grand Hyatt Washington.

Call 254-710-1199 for more information

IN OUR HALLS

Faculty and staff, top right, gathered to send greetings to the students in **MOLDOVA** as Preston and Genie Dyer prepared to depart in January. School staff members, center right, made and assembled plates of **HOLIDAY TREATS** to give in appreciation to offices across campus.

MSW STUDENTS, below, congregate in the school hallway with their laptops as they wait to meet with a faculty member.



HOMELESS COUNT IN WACO



"I stood and watched with pure amazement at the professionalism and compassion your students reflected in today's critical homeless event. The homeless individuals were truly blessed by our dear Baylor students."

— Jeff Wall, Director of
Housing & Community Development,
City of Waco

For student quotes about their experience
with the Homeless Count go to:

http://www.baylor.edu/social_work/index.php?id=38750

More than 70 SSW students, faculty and staff participated in the biannual homeless count for the City of Waco Jan. 25-26. Above is Foundation MSW student Daphne Paul.

A TYPICAL DAY

By Gaynor Yancey, Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies

Today was a typical day in the School of Social Work for undergraduate students. It started with an e-mail from a student saying “I can’t possibly graduate a year later than I had planned. Do you have time to meet with me and my adviser to see what we can work out?” Within a half hour, the educational plan was adjusted and this student was back on schedule. “My parents will be so happy! I worry so much about how to help them with the money it is costing them.”

At lunch, one could hear the excited laughter and chatter from a group of students coming into the building. Several pre-social work students were on a “field trip” with their instructor (one of our MSW graduates). She wanted them to see what the school looked like, meet some of the faculty and staff, and begin to connect with what might become their future home. It was invigorating to watch them – their enthusiasm, energy and passion – all traits that describe our undergraduate students!

As the chatter of that group subsided, you could hear a discussion among the undergraduate students who work on the school’s recruitment team. They were brainstorming about ways to increase the visibility of social work among the university’s student body. Their ideas were great – a movie night, a BSW mixer, an ad for the multimedia screen in Chapel, a letter from the associate dean, a visit to residence halls. How wonderful to hear these students’ desire to let others know about social work.

Across the hall from this group, Pete Campbell, the BSW field education director, was talking with a student about her potential placement for the fall. She was sharing her desire to be in a particular agency. Previous to her visit, another student had met with Dr. Campbell about being in a placement where there was one of the few undergraduate stipends available. She was in desperate need of financial help. Patiently and attentively, he worked with each student to find a way to meet the desires of their hearts and their needs.

And then, there was a student, all smiles, standing in the doorway to the work room. Yesterday, she had been in tears, questioning her major, whether she could afford to stay in school and exhausted from a night full of study for the test she’d just taken. Yesterday, she sought out one of her instructors to talk to. And today, with her big smile back in place, she came to say how much better she felt – that all she’d needed was someone to tell her she was OK, even though she was struggling and that this, too,



BSW graduates Kristin Stout, from left, Samantha Carbajal, Maddy Dizdar and Ev'marie Blair, shown here with Gaynor Yancey, center, associate dean for baccalaureate studies, at Fall Convocation Dec. 15.

was a part of her learning experience. Today, with her big smile, she believed she could learn social work ... and save the world! Today, she needed to tell someone that she had never experienced the type of love and acceptance that she had in the School of Social Work.

And when all is said and done at the end of the day, this is what is typical of a day in the life of a BSW student in Baylor’s School of Social Work – the care, the concern, the commitment and the community we have together.

CARVER CORNER

Mariam Lou Misner (1956) was a missionary to Indonesia with the International Mission Board, SBC, until retiring in 1993. For several years, she gave speeches and attended camps promoting missions. Currently Mariam’s activities are through her home church. She is active in WMU, director of the Prayer Ministry, teaches a Sunday school class and disciples new Christians. Until recently, Mariam has volunteered with an adult literacy group. mmisner@stjoelive.com

Don Lee (1995) was one of almost 100 who gathered in Tyler, TX, to hear Dean Diana Garland’s update on the School of Social Work in February.



HEART AND SOUL

By Dennis Myers, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Social workers are most at home in places where compassion meets human need and aspiration. Rigorous intellectual training prepares us for the adventure of applied practice. Graduate field education is the heart and soul of our mission to prepare advanced practitioners who are thoughtful, skilled and ethical leaders for service to the profession and the world. Much is at stake in field education for the students, the school, the agencies and the profession.

Since the inception of the Baylor graduate program in social work in 1999, one person – Ms. Helen Harris – has filled the demanding and ever-expanding role of field director. She did so while also acquiring a reputation as an outstanding teacher and productive scholar. In order to devote more time to teaching and writing, Helen will change roles in the school at the end of this academic year – a decision she made after long, deep and difficult reflection. Her colleagues have affirmed her decision, while also acknowledging with thanksgiving the amazing contributions Helen has made to interns, community agencies, the graduate curriculum and to all of us in her role as graduate field director.

Helen has created educational and administrative systems that are recognized as national benchmarks and that received commendation from the Council on Social Work Education for their excellence. Her colleagues describe her in these ways: “always well prepared,” “excellent insight,” “creative and intuitive,” “integrity, faithful friend, servant and spiritual,” “passion for field work” and an “excellent collaborator.”

One faculty member characterizes Helen as “Mother Teresa on ster-

“One faculty member describes Helen as ‘Mother Teresa on steroids!’”

**Dennis Myers,
Associate Dean**

oids!” Another observes that she is a “fountain of knowledge; she sets the bar high for both herself and her students, but the results speak for themselves.” Current students and alumni speak of the profound contribution she makes to their professional development. They describe her as “one who is able to find learning in any situation” and call her “mentor,” “scholar and teacher.” Helen maintains contact with graduates and continues to be involved in their career decisions and plans.

In all that she does, she routinely affirms the profession and its central

role in creating a just and responsive community and world. She is devoted to the idea of client self-determination and social and economic justice. Caring deeply for those who suffer physical and emotional pain, Helen gives freely – often anonymously – from her own economic resources to address human need and support human service organizations.

Endings are always beginnings. Helen’s new role in the school means that more students will benefit from her teaching and the profession will benefit from her research and writing.

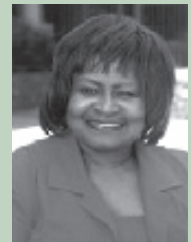
Thank you, Director Helen, for the legacy of a stable and meritorious field education program that equips social workers for effective service. Thank you, Friend Helen, for living a life that spreads blessing, generates gratitude and inspires us all to be better human beings.

Welcome Dr. Erma Ballenger

Erma Ballenger joins the School of Social Work July 1 as director of graduate field education. Ballenger comes to us from the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she has been director of undergraduate studies and on the faculty since 1980. She brings to us 39 years of social work practice experience. She received her BA in sociology from the University of Colorado-Boulder and her MSW and PhD degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Ballenger’s practice experience and interests include criminal justice, marriage and family therapy, religious faith and social work practice and child welfare. She is a licensed clinical social worker and clinical member, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. In 1998, she was the Outstanding Faculty of the Year at Missouri and the Social Worker of the Year in 2000 for the Central Unit-Missouri NASW chapter.

We welcome Dr. Ballenger to our faculty, and we look forward to the significant contributions she will make to the life of our students and to the mission that calls all of us to this place.



LOOKING BACK & AHEAD

By Helen Harris, Director for Graduate Field Education

My 14-year-old hasn't kept many of her childhood dolls, but she has one favorite that is still on the shelf. Nostalgia hit me the other day, and I picked it up to reminisce about Beth's doll playing days. The head swiveled and the doll that had been facing me now faced away.

Maybe a metaphor for adolescence, I reflected. But it didn't take much movement or time for the head to swivel toward me again. What a wonderful gift for perspective; the ability to look backward and forward with equal ease. I want that gift, to be able to see what came before and how it fit together and almost in the same moment to be looking ahead to the joys, excitement and challenges.

As I prepare to make the transition from director for graduate field education, I do so with both celebration and wistfulness. I started with the social work field education program as a field instructor many years ago. Some of my favorite Christmas cards each year are from students who were my interns at hospice. They really were some of the strong voices that God used to call me to the School of Social Work full time.

I agreed to come for a year to coordinate the field program and have absolutely loved this 10-year adventure. We have grown to more than 90 field agencies and more than 90 students in the field this spring semester. We "birthed" and have nurtured an MSW field program that has seen students placed across the United States with experiences on four continents. We are leading the way in field education in placement of students in faith-based organizations and congregations, and we are doing it with complete social work integrity.

Our students are strong social workers who are able to integrate their personal faith with their social work practice. We have made significant progress in securing internship stipends through agencies and grants; more than 50 percent of our MSW students are receiving an



internship stipend. Many of our field faculty in agencies have been with us for five years or more providing supervision steeped in experience and curricular infusion.

Many of our graduates join us as field supervisors, seeking to give current students the time and care that they received.

The field education program is the most "we" experience you will ever encounter. It takes the community, cooperation

and commitment of the practitioners, students, administration, faculty and staff. What a blessing it is to work with Krista Barrett, possibly the most organized person God created in this century. The administration has responded to the growth in the program by adding a director of baccalaureate field education and as many sections as it takes to make the field seminars an interactive learning experience.

And what an incredible privilege it has been to be able to call agencies about student placement possibilities and be told "yes" again and again. Their gift of time, commitment to the profession and absolute love for the development of new social workers inspire us.

Now, I have been given the amazing opportunity to spend more time writing about some of what I've been learning the past 10 years and teaching more in the classroom. That teaching will, I trust, include field seminars because I believe so deeply in this work that we are doing.

As my face turns toward the future of the next several years, I see the school's continued growth in so many areas: globalizing our curriculum, additional rotational partnerships such as the Hartford Partnership Program and much more.

As Dr. Erma Ballenger comes to lead us in the graduate field education program, she will provide new energy and new vision. I look forward to her direction.

I'm so excited to be a part of these times at the School of Social Work. My head is spinning...

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

WMU Training School alumna not slowing down

For Mary Neal Clarke, life is more than an adventure; it's lots of them. Since hearing a Russian missionary preach at her church as a young woman, Clarke knew she was destined to share God's love in new and exciting ways. Little seeds, she said, were planted along the way to show her the direction her life was to take.

Shortly after graduating from WMU Training School in 1949, Clarke was off to Japan. She and 26 other missionaries spent two weeks aboard a ship, ready to join the 36 others who were already there.

"It was exciting beyond words to finally go to the place where God has called you to be," Clarke said.

While in Japan, Clarke – who was then Mary Neal Morgan – taught Bible classes, sometimes in Japanese, sometimes in English. Sometimes she taught an English class followed by a Bible class. But her main responsibility was to work with the pastor of the Osaka Baptist Church to start new missions.

"Very few women did that in those days, and no one now," Clarke said. "We would plan, pray and visit people in the neighborhood, then rent a room and start teaching the Bible."

Of the three missions she helped to start in Japan, one continues as a mission and two are now churches.

After 21 years in Japan, Clarke came home on furlough and began taking classes at New Orleans Baptist Seminary, where she pursued a doctorate of education and completed all of her coursework except her dissertation. She had to make a choice between returning to her beloved Japan and finishing her degree. When a new college in Atlanta, Mercer University, asked her to teach, she chose education and began a new career.

"I struggled with it a great deal," she said. "It was the right decision."

It took her three years to finish writing her dissertation, and she stayed on at Mercer, teaching English and Non-Western Culture classes in what was then the



"It was exciting beyond words to finally go to the place where God has called you to be."

**Mary Neal Clarke,
Carver Alumna**

College of Arts and Sciences for 19 years. During that time, she took one sabbatical and returned to Japan. When she came back to Atlanta, she began yet another adventure.

In her late 50s, Clarke did something she never thought she would – she got married. She had known Dr. Coleman Clarke as a widowed acquaintance for some time, and the two realized they were a perfect couple, who enjoyed life and learning together.

"In our spare time, we would read the encyclopedia," she said. "We had a set of encyclopedias right behind the dining room table, and we would pull out a volume and read to each other."

After traveling, learning and living together for more than 12 years, Coleman passed away, and Clarke returned to Kentucky to retire. But retirement doesn't mean slowing down for Clarke. She began what she calls her "third career," that

of an author. She's written two books, *An American Girl in Japan*, and *Letters from Lucile*, which chronicles the life of her mother-in-law Lucile Daniel Clarke, who was also a missionary to Japan.

Clarke also began working for Friendship International, a ministry to Louisville's international community, when she returned to Kentucky. She was the director for two years and continues to teach English and writing courses.

"We help internationals adjust to American life," Clarke said. "And at the same time, we demonstrate real Christian love by building relationships as friends."

She also is teaching a Bible class in Japanese and volunteering as an interpreter. Clarke is an active member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

And, still, the adventures continue. Clarke has not slowed for a moment. Her latest project? Writing poetry.

"I love it," she said. "I enjoy writing, I enjoy being creative. And I want to give God all the credit." — *Franci Rogers*

GETTING PERSPECTIVE

Field placement allows student to act as catalyst

It's all in how you look at things. It's one of the most important things Walker Moore is learning in his field placement this semester. And many of his lessons are coming directly from the residents of a poverty-stricken apartment complex.

Moore, a dual-degree MSW student from Clinton, Okla., is completing an internship as a community organizer with the Waco Community Development. No stranger to Waco CD, Moore worked with the organization as its volunteer coordinator for two years before changing his focus and beginning the internship. He also lives in North Waco, in a neighborhood targeted by Waco CD for housing, economic and community development. Moore is in his second year of graduate school, and received his undergraduate degree in Biblical Languages from Oklahoma Baptist University.

When Moore began, he admits he saw many things in the same way as other "outsiders" in North Waco. At the apartment building where he is focusing much of his effort, Moore saw low income, high crime, single mothers, high school dropouts and a wasteland of failed programs designed to help. To many it would have seemed hopeless.

But Moore looked at it from a different perspective.

"It's not a hopeless task. What I see is that most residents desire change," he said. "But that change, any permanent change, has to come from the inside. My job is to act as a catalyst, bring the residents together, assist in identifying leaders in the community and help them turn their dreams into reality."

Sometimes the help Moore offers

is simply to point out tools that already exist. In order to do that well, he's working to build relationships with residents.

One of his early successes was when a woman came to him expressing her frustration with a local school. Moore was able to connect her with an organization that acts as a mediator between parents and the school district.

"It was something she'd never heard about, and she was really excited," Moore said. "Dealing with the school system can be intimidating. The residents want what's best for their kids, and I was able to connect them with resources to help them. That's what being a social worker is all about."

Moore also sees this experience as a classic example of how the community is perceived.

"People don't think there are good parents there [at the apartment complex]," he said. "But the PTA meetings are packed. The parents are asking for ways to interact and be involved. It's really changed my perception."

An example of Moore's changed perception is a grocery store in the neighborhood that also sells liquor and operates as a gambling facility.

"I perceived it as a bad thing, a place where there was a lot of crime," he said. "But the residents see it as the only place within walking distance to buy milk and bread. That's really important if you don't have a car."

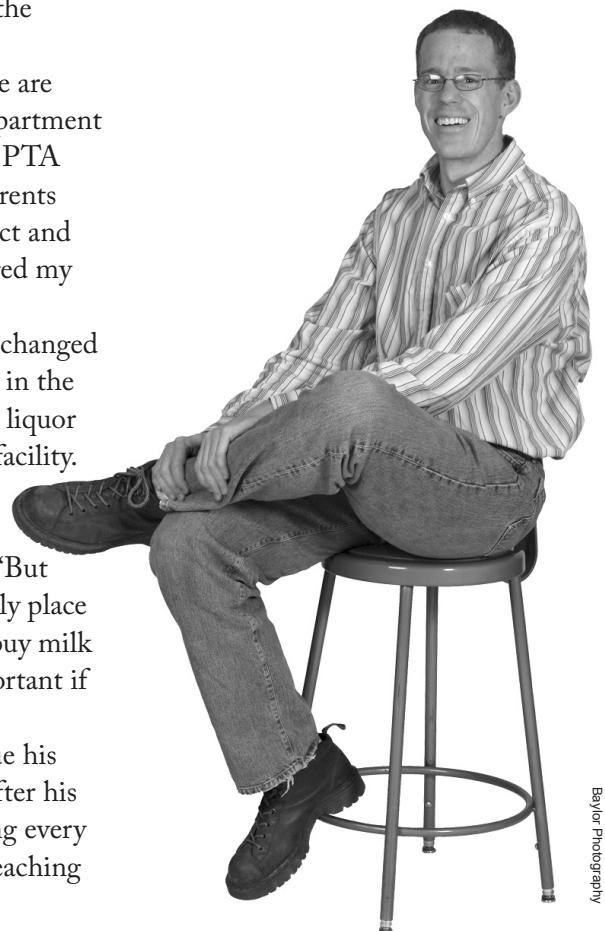
Moore hopes to continue his work in North Waco long after his internship ends. "I'm learning every day; the residents keep on teaching me," he said.

Moore credits the faculty of the School of Social Work for the foundation of his education.

"They've been phenomenal," he said of the faculty's effort to coordinate his internship. "They've thought outside the box with me and given a lot of great advice. I've learned not only how to get over my fears, but why I have fears. They've been with me every step of the way."

Dennis Myers, associate dean for graduate studies, has high praise for Moore.

"His day-to-day involvement and life choices reflect the authenticity and depth of the spirit of mercy and justice that is in him," Myers said. "Walker walks in when the world walks out." — *Franci Rogers*



Baylor Photography

NEWS BRIEFS



BIENNIAL CONFERENCE AT BAYLOR JUNE 14-16

Several hundred literacy volunteers and staff from churches throughout Texas are expected for the biennial Conference for Internationals and Literacy Ministries June 14-16. This year's conference, with the theme "Using the Past to Build the Future," commemorates the beginning of literacy ministries among Baptists 50 years ago at Baylor.

More than 25 breakout sessions will be offered including volunteer management, public realtions and your program and pronunciation. Also offered will be basic training workshops for ESL and Adult Basic Reading and Writing.

Friday's lunch will honor volunteers through the past years. At the evening's banquet, speakers will address the current status of literacy ministry within Texas. Saturday's lunch will focus on recruiting students for a new generation of literacy workers.

Registration deadline is May 18. To register or for more information, visit the CFL's Web site at http://www.baylor.edu/social_work/literacy. Or, contact Pam Edwards at 254-710-3854.

CORRECTION: *The Rapoport Foundation in Waco approved a \$61,375 grant to Cesar Chavez Middle School – not the Center for Literacy – that benefits the "Learning English Among Friends" program.*

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

SEED MONEY FOR SSW BUILDING

Baugh donation hoped to launch campaign for new facility

When a group of undergraduate and graduate students from the School of Social Work spoke at a meeting of the Baylor Alumni Association last fall, Babs Baugh was struck by one common theme she heard expressed.

"There was such a feeling of genuineness and caring among all of them," said Baugh, immediate past president of the BAA. "And their ambitions were not of money or power, but caring, loving, helping, healing. It was just what Christ talks about."

Baugh was so impressed by the students and the school's dean, Diana Garland, that she donated \$500,000 as seed money for the school's nascent building campaign.

The school, Baylor's most recently named academic unit, was moved into a temporary site in the Speight Parking Garage Plaza in 2000, where it remains. Since that time, student enrollment has increased significantly, along with faculty and staff to serve them. The school has only one classroom and has maximized all available space, including adding several cubicles in a hallway for staff. Initial architectural plans show a two-story, 70,000-square-foot building.

"We have students who have never been inside our building," said Dean Garland. "Their classes are scattered all over campus, and they've never had the opportunity to drop in on a faculty member's office or work collaboratively with other students here. This building would speak to our students about valuing who they are and valuing their work."

Garland's message resonates with Baugh. "I challenge anyone who wants to encourage students to be just what Christ wants us to be, to make a contribution, large or small, to move us out of the parking garage," she said. "There are no more deserving students than in the School of Social Work."

Garland isn't daunted about the fundraising effort needed before building plans can proceed. "When I think about our little program raising this amount of money, it seems impossible," she said. "But it makes me laugh, because everything we've done here is impossible! It's God's grace, and Babs' gift speaks to that grace."

Baugh, who attended Baylor from 1960 to 1963, recently served as president of the Baylor Alumni Association and is the daughter of Eula Mae and the late John Baugh. Her father was a Baylor trustee and regent for nine years and a significant Baylor philanthropist.

For more information, contact Baylor University School of Social Work Development at 254-710-2561. To make a contribution, mail your check to Dean of the School of Social Work, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97320, Waco, TX, 76798-7320.



Babs Baugh was moved to make a donation by students' "genuineness and caring."

FACULTY UPDATE

PRESENTATIONS:

Several School of Social Work faculty members presented March 9-11 in Dallas at the North American Association of Christians in Social Work annual meeting, which the school co-hosted.

The Center for Family and Community Ministries also co-sponsored a pre-convention institute titled "No Longer a Minority: Hispanics y la Familia," made possible by the Barbara Chafin Endowed Lectureship. Another pre-convention institute was "Pre-Marital Counseling using the PREPARE/ENRICH Program," led by **Preston** and **Genie Dyer**.

Presentations at the annual meeting included: **Helen Harris** and **Viviana Triana**, MDiv/MSW student, on "Field Education in Faith-based Organizations and Congregations"; **Helen Harris** also on "The Helping Relationship According to Alan Keith-Lucas"; **Michael Sherr** and **Jim Ellor** on "Rethinking the Caretaking Relationship in Preventing Elder Mistreatment: Potential Roles for Social Work and the Church"; **Dennis Myers** and **Diana Garland** on "How Congregational Volunteers Understand Evangelism and Community Ministry"; **Preston Dyer**, **Kim Kotrla** and **Tihara Vargas**, MDiv/MSW student, on "Using Marriage Education to Strengthen Military Families"; **Rob Rogers** co-presented on "Engaging the Church in Literacy: A Social Work Perspective"; **Michael Sherr**, **Jon Singletary** and **Diana Garland** on "Early Childhood Education in Congregations: Preliminary Findings from a National Study and Implications for Practice"; **Kim Kotrla** co-presented on "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Screening, Intervention and Prevention"; and **Diana Garland** on "Bible Stories You Didn't Hear in Sunday School: Using Troubling Texts in Congregational Ministry."

Jim Ellor and **Helen Harris** presented "Those Who Can, Teach: Curricular Innovations in Gerontological Education" Feb. 3 at the Council on Social Work Education, GeroEd Forum, Charleston, S.C.

Kim Kotrla presented "Testing a Risk-protective Model of Alcohol Use During Pregnancy: A Tri-ethnic Comparison" at the Society for Social Work and Research held in San Francisco in January.

Dennis Myers' daughter-in-law and son, Anna and David, presented Dennis and wife, Lois, with granddaughter **Molly Ellen Myers**, 8 lbs. 13 oz., on March 6. She joins sister Lauren.

PUBLICATIONS:

Jon Singletary, **Helen Harris**, **Dennis Myers** and **Laine Scales** had an article titled "Student Narratives of Social Work as a Calling" published in *Arete*, Vol. 30 (1) Winter 2006.

Dennis Myers, **Diana Garland** and Terry A. Wolfer had an article titled "Congregational Service – Learning characteristics and volunteer faith development" accepted for a forthcoming issue of *Religious Education*.

Gaynor Yancey, F.E. Netting and M.K. O'Connor had an article titled "Belief systems in faith-based service organizations" printed in the *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work*, 25(3-4), 261-286 (2006). Yancey also authored a chapter titled "Is federal government support of faith-based social service agencies consistent with social work values?" in **Controversial Issues in Social Policy** (3rd ed.), H.J. Karger, J. Midgley, P.A. Kindle, and C.B. Brown. NY: Allyn and Bacon.

SSW ALUMNI NEWS

Mallie Moore-Lopez (BASW 1997) is the CEO and owner of Blondie's Boutique in El Paso, TX. She and her husband have an 18-month-old daughter, named Elle. mallieml@hotmail.com

Matthew Schobert (MSW 2002) has been promoted to associate editor of *Social Work and Christianity* after serving for two years as an assistant editor.

Nicki Fretty Wilson (BASW 2002) delivered Tristan Michael Wilson on Valentine's Day 2007. He weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz., and was 20.5 inches long. Mom and dad, Brent, are doing great.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- APR** 26 SSW Family Dinner
27 Board of Advocates Meeting
MAY 2 MSW Practice Colloquium
11 Spring Convocation
12 Spring Graduation
JUNE 28 CBF General Assembly
Washington, D.C.
AUG 10 Summer Convocation
11 Summer Graduation

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WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL_WORK



CALLING ALL ALUMNI *Let us hear from you!*

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Sorry, photos cannot be returned.) Send information 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 or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name (at graduation and current) _____

Year of Graduation/Degree _____

Are you a Baylor or Carver School graduate? _____

Mailing address _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____

Title or Position _____

What are your updates (career, family, etc.)? _____

Insider Information

For general information about the School of Social Work, please call (254) 710-6400, fax (254) 710-6455 or visit www.Baylor.edu/Social_Work.

To e-mail any member of the faculty or staff, use first name, underscore and last name followed by @baylor.edu; e.g. Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu.

For direct telephone access to staff, dial (254) 710 and the four-digit extension listed in parentheses next to the staff member's name.

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Gaynor Yancey, Assoc. Dean, Baccalaureate Studies
Pete Campbell, Director, Bacc. Field Education
James Ellor, Director, Center for Gerontological Studies
Helen Harris, Director, Graduate Field Education
Rob Rogers, Director, Center for Literacy
Jon Singletary, Director, Center for Family & Community Ministries
Preston Dyer
Kim Kotrla
Kretcha Roldan-Rodriguez
Laine Scales, Assoc. Dean, Graduate School
Michael Sherr
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Vicki M. Kabat, Assoc. Dir./CFCM (4417)
Vicki Northern, Director, Recruitment/
Career Services (4479)
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Judith Stolz, Manager/Gerontology (6411)

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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