Grants to benefit SSW students, efforts in congregations, literacy

The School of Social Work has received two new grants – one that will begin an initiative of developing leaders and resources for congregational community ministries and another to assist gerontological students.

Baylor University also was awarded another GEAR Up Waco grant that will provide $1.2 million to continue and expand literacy efforts of the Learning English Among Friends (LEAF) community initiative, a joint project of the Center for Literacy and the School of Education.

Co-investigators for the grant are Diana R. Garland, dean; Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for undergraduate studies; Jon Singletary, CFCM director and assistant professor of social work; and Vicki Marsh Kabat, CFCM associate director.

The CFCM proposal, titled “Strengthening Congregational Community Ministries,” will focus on four key areas:

- educating future community ministry leaders for churches;
- preparing those leaders through congregational field internships in the School of Social Work;
- producing community ministry resources and training for churches; and
- publishing a quarterly journal to be used as a resource for congregational leaders.

Co-investigators for the grant are Diana R. Garland, dean; Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for undergraduate studies; Jon Singletary, CFCM director and assistant professor of social work; and Vicki Marsh Kabat, CFCM associate director.

The CIOS foundation was established in 1952 by Paul and Mary “Katy” Piper.

“The single most requested need congregation members ask of their church staff is for ways to serve in their local communities,” said Dean Garland. She cited results from more than 10 years of administering the CFCM’s Church Census survey, which provides an in-depth profile of families within a congregation.

“The Piper family is excited about this program to assist churches in carrying out community ministries, particularly since the Baylor School of Social Work is already working with a number of other organizations that receive funding from CIOS,” said Kent Reynolds, the foundation’s executive director.

These groups include the Baptist General Convention
One of the activities I enjoy most during the academic year is traveling to places where I can catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Some of these friends are alumni who are leaders in the profession of social work, in social services and in the church.

I also enjoy friendships with those of you who are not social workers but who are the “Aarons” who lift up our arms, who give us strength and courage to do what we do. You are pastors and store clerks and lawyers and teachers and child advocates and ranchers and retired adults — God’s people who have a burning passion for a world ordered by God’s justice and love.

From some of you, that support comes in the form of words that lift our hearts and strengthen our resolve. From others, it comes as financial gifts. Some of those gifts made it possible for us to produce this newsletter.

Others will help us send two professors to Moldova this coming spring to provide initial graduate courses to the social work faculty in the little Baptist school there, while we also work with these dedicated faculty to strengthen their education program.

Still other gifts will provide scholarships for students who know that God is calling them to social work, but who don’t have the resources for college or graduate school. And some of you use your extraordinary resources to make it possible for us to launch whole new programs of support for the church and its ministries, such as the Christ Is Our Salvation grant described on page 1.

Day by day, I experience keenly that the Baylor School of Social Work is much bigger than these scrunched, temporary offices in this parking garage on Baylor’s campus. It is all of you. A school, like a church, is never the buildings — it is the people who are journeying together.

On Sept. 30, I’ll be at a professional continuing education event at Ridgecrest, N.C., and another in Houston on Nov. 3. Both will provide three continuing education credits for your professional license if you are a social worker. I hope to see you this fall!

For your spring calendar, we will be celebrating the centennial year of social work education for the church. The WMU Training School was founded in 1907, and because we are the proud carriers of that tradition, we are throwing ourselves two birthday parties in 2007. The first will be March 8-11 in Dallas, where we are co-sponsoring the North American Association of Christians in Social Work annual meeting. As a part of that meeting, our faculty and students will be providing multiple workshops. We will have a party on Friday evening that will debut a new short video about our tradition of social work education.

In June, at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship gathering in Washington, D.C., we will be featured on the general session program. As far as I know, this is the first time social work education has received top billing at a national Baptist gathering.

If you change your e-mail, job or address – or have other news you want to share, please send it to us. We love to hear from you!

Diana R. Garland is dean of the School of Social Work and founding director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries.
GRANTS

continued from page 1

of Texas, Baptist University of the Americas, Buckner Benevolences and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

As part of the grant proposal, the center will name Yancey as the Associate Professor of Church and Community.

“We are so grateful to the Piper family for providing this gift,” Yancey said. “It will not only help congregations, but also it will enable students to prepare for their calling to practice social work in the context of church and community ministry.”

Also a part of the educational component of the grant is the naming of a team of community ministry student consultants, who will provide outreach to congregations to extend the center’s work. Monies also will fund stipends for six undergraduate and graduate students in congregational field internships (see list on page 1).

The Pipers also formed the Christian Mission Concerns Foundation in 1984. Katy Piper, Paul Piper Jr. and Polly Piper Rickard are the trustees of CIOS, and Paul’s wife, Shirley, is the program officer. Reynolds has been executive director of CIOS since 1983 and president of CMC since its formation in 1984.

GERONTOLOGY STUDENTS

The Center for Gerontological Studies (CGS) and the field education program have received a $75,000 Practicum Partnership Grant from the Hartford Foundation to provide students compensated field internships in gerontological studies over three years. Principal investigators are James Ellor, CGS director, and Helen Harris, director of graduate field education.

The grant will bring classroom expertise and research of the CGS to the community through field practicum.

In collaboration with community partners, the SSW will develop a rotational practicum to facilitate gerontological experiences and specialized training. Eight agencies have been selected that reflect the rural and urban demography of seniors in the area. (For more on this grant, see page 7).

GEAR UP WACO

The Center for Literacy (CFL) received a $1.2 million share of a new GEAR UP Waco grant that will expand one of the center’s major community literacy efforts, Learning English Among Friends (LEAF), now at Cesar Chavez Middle School. The program will be added to five other middle schools in the Waco Independent School District.

The $11.3 million, six-year GEAR UP grant (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is an established partnership among Baylor, Texas State Technical College-Waco, Making Connections with Youth Count Inc., City of Waco Academy for Educational Development, and the WISD. The partnership prepares at-risk students academically and socially for college.

Originated and co-sponsored by Baylor’s School of Social Work and School of Education, the LEAF program began three years ago with the first GEAR UP Waco grant at the Cesar Chavez Middle School. LEAF serves the entire family, offering programming for preschoolers, classes for elementary and middle school children and for parents.

MSW student Samantha Oakley, left, volunteers weekly at Cesar Chavez Middle School in the Center for Literacy’s Learning English Among Friends program.
Brand new graduates gather on the steps of Miller Chapel after the **Spring Convocation** May 12 (above). At the **Annual Family Dinner** April 27 (left) Laura Cadena, left, joins Monica Gibson Rich, who was honored as Outstanding Alumna-by-Choice. Krissi Howie Vandagriff is presented the Outstanding Grant Proposal award by Dennis Myers (bottom, left) at the Family Dinner. Everyone gathered at the dean’s house (below) for an **NASW Fellowship**. Can you find the dean?
Visit The School of Social Work’s New, Improved Web Site!

Available Oct. 1

www.baylor.edu/social_work

We’ve spent several months redesigning the look, content and navigation of the School of Social Work Web site to improve communication and user convenience.

Plus, we’ve added new features and expanded others, including:

• Career Services
• Student and alumni profiles and testimonials
• Online registration for most SSW events
• Most recent publications and research findings
• Expanded information and resources on the School’s three Centers:
  Center for Family & Community Ministries
  Center for Gerontological Studies
  Center for Literacy

Take a few minutes and check it out, and then tell us what you think! Send your comments to:

Vicki Marsh-Kabat@baylor.edu

Ray Lisauckis, adjunct faculty member (top), visits with MSW students Meredith Story, left, and Ella Bess Bumgarner at the first MSW Practice Colloquium May 3. At a reception honoring the new graduates (above) Gaynor Yancey, left, visits with Laura Newitt, BSW, and family.
Undergraduate Program by Gaynor Yancey

What you need?  Nothing fancy, just somewhere to live
What you need?  Enough food so I can feed my kids
What you need?  A good job and a college degree
I gotta work real hard
I can’t get it for free

Rappin’ in the School of Social Work? The above is rap – a hip hop form of writing lyrics – that one of our BSW students, Charletra Hurt, used in teaching “financial fitness” to teenagers this summer. It wasn’t really what anyone expected would happen when Charletra began her internship working in a collaboration between the Doris Miller YMCA and Faith Covenant Support Services. But good social work is about being open to new ways of teaching, learning and application.

One of the goals of Charletra’s internship experience was to meet with teens weekly to teach them financial management. The “lesson plan” included basic budgeting concepts such as saving for the future, preparation for school, and paying as you go.

Charletra did what she had been taught to do in her coursework. She assessed the need. She sought input from other social work students and teens about how best to teach this topic. She wanted to be culturally sensitive. Out of this networking and preparation came the consensus that these teens would respond best to rap as a part of their instruction. She was amazed by that suggestion but she was willing to try it!

The lesson plan for the day that Charletra taught the difference between “needs” and “wants” gave definitions and examples and put these into cultural and social contexts. Then, the rappin’ began.

In the evaluation at the end of financial fitness class, the teens expressed how much they liked learning. Now, they said, they really stopped to think before they spent money.

What did Charletra think? “I can’t carry a tune at all,” she said. “I never would have considered rap to be a positive teaching tool. I have learned so much about cultural sensitivity from these teens. I loved every minute of it!”

Gaynor I. Yancey is associate dean, baccalaureate studies, and associate professor.

Graduate Program by Dennis R. Myers

A n anonymous exit survey on the graduate curriculum at the School of Social Work taken by graduating MSW students this past spring showed 64 percent gave the program the highest possible rating when asked their level of overall satisfaction.

As program administrators and faculty, we find this encouraging. We carefully craft courses and internship experiences that deliver advanced practice values, knowledge and skills. This builds upon an educational program that is thoughtfully prescribed and sequenced so that learning happens in a coherent way and our graduates emerge as fully prepared, advanced practitioners. The expectations are fairly straightforward: Do the assignments, take the tests, work well in groups, write papers using the APA format, and demonstrate the competencies of an advanced practice social worker in the chosen concentration area.

We continuously review our program, and its success and efficiency are well-documented. One thing we can’t orchestrate, however, is the individual student’s engagement with and ownership of the learning. The potential of the curriculum to deeply transform and prepare is directly and exponentially related to how the student interacts with it. For many, it’s a transforming experience that leads to a fulfilling professional life. Students in the MSW program come to us with different understandings: some with a clear sense of purpose and others uncertain of their goals. The faculty celebrate the opportunity to walk alongside these students – in casual conversations, mentoring and advising – as they explore their call and grow to understand the motivations, interests and dreams that propel them. This process of engagement will inform their relationships with the curriculum, the faculty, colleagues and, ultimately, clients.

The MSW program now offers two new ways for students to help shape their education. First, students may design and implement an MSW specialization within one of the two concentrations – Families and Children or Physical and Mental Health. The specialization is an option during the concentration year to individualize learning and to focus in one arena of social work practice. The

continued on page 7
student is awarded a Certificate of Specialization as part of the annual convocation. Five students received this certificate at the 2006 convocation (students listed on page 13).

MSW students can earn a specialization in gerontology or in church social work. Qualified students who opt for the latter may receive a tuition scholarship offered by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Second, all candidates for graduation now participate in the MSW Practice Colloquium, held each spring toward the end of the semester, for which they create presentations based on their professional interests and newly acquired expertise. Members of the practice community attend the colloquium and receive professional development and continuing education units. Offered for the first time last May, the practice colloquium received overwhelmingly positive evaluations.

Growth in new graduate student enrollment challenges the kind of individualization that has characterized the program in the past. This fall, we have 60 new students enrolled in the MSW program, up from 44 the previous year. In spite of the increased demand upon the program, faculty members remain steadfastly committed to encouraging students to embrace an advanced practice education that will empower them to understand and realize their professional vision.

Dennis R. Myers is associate dean, graduate studies, and professor.
Debbie Luttrell McCune (1993) teaches early childhood classes for Jefferson Community College and has been conducting custody home studies for family court. She also is working on her PhD in social work and community services through an online program at Capella University. She is the childcare director at First Kids of First Christian Church in Louisville, Ky. DebiMcMSW@aol.com

Deborah Chittam Nichols, since graduating in 1989, has worked at Forsyth County Prison Chaplaincy, Prodigals House (for ex-offenders), SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), and Kanawaha Valley Hospice Care. Since 1995, she has been with International Mission Board/SBC in Melo, Uruguay. dekay58@yahoo.com

Steve Scudder recently accepted the position of director of missions for Savannah River Baptist Association after nine years of service to the South Carolina Baptist Convention. This association is located in the Beaufort-Bluffton-Hilton Head area of South Carolina. stevescudder@islc.net

Jim Sennett (1986) has worked in a variety of clinical settings since graduation, including an HMO, a managed mental health care organization, hospital, family service agency, private practice, and a not-for-profit EAP/managed mental health care company. Currently, he directs the Louisville Office of Behavioral Medicine Network and is a fellow in the Academy of Certified Social Workers and a Certified Employee Assistance Professional. jdsennet@netzero.net

Susan Turner Thompson (1995) and her husband, Jeff, live in Philadelphia, Pa., and work at an inner-city church, which Susan says is exciting because of its racial and economic diversity. They are the parents of two sons, Trace, 2, and Zachary, 6 months old. Jdstt@aol.com

WE DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE

By Kelly Knox

Carol McEntyre (MSW/MDiv 2003) knew she wanted to apply her social work skills in a congregational setting, but she wasn’t quite sure how that would happen. Now she is. McEntyre spends her days ministering to university students at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

“I wanted to work in a church setting; I just didn’t think it would be with college students,” she said. “College is such a formative time. So, when the opportunity arose, I knew it would be a chance to impact students for life.

“I want to help them understand that to be a Christian is to care ‘for the least of these.’ We don’t just talk about helping people,” McEntyre said.

The college students in her care got a chance to put their growing awareness into action following Hurricane Katrina. “Last year, when our church became a shelter for Hurricane Katrina victims, our college students would drop by just to play with the children who were staying in our fellowship hall,” she said. “They also sorted clothes for Katrina survivors. I always tell them that we can change the world, that we can make a difference.”

McEntyre also has had opportunities to share with the rest of the congregation about community ministry needs and social justice. “When I first came to Knoxville, I led a Wednesday night series for the whole church called ‘God’s Care for the Poor,’ and I talked about all the biblical passages that admonish Christians to care for the poor,” McEntyre said. “Our church is located downtown, and we have a large homeless population right outside our door. We are trying as a church to reach out.”

McEntyre credited her SSW internship experience at Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, as providing her direction for her future career. “I had the opportunity to create a food pantry, plan community ministries, lead worship and oversee benevolence needs.”

McEntyre chose social work because she knew it would be a ministry and not just a job. She adds with a laugh, “Once a social worker, always a social worker!”
Seeking a practical theology

MSW/MDiv student passionate about helping displaced

By Kelly Knox

You won’t find Tihara Vargas sitting still for long. The 26-year-old student has been on the move since she was born, traveling a long, circuitous path that led her to the School of Social Work.

She was born in Coamo, Puerto Rico, and her father, Rolando, joined the military and completed training before her first birthday. Shortly thereafter, he was stationed in Munster, Germany. No sooner had the family settled there than they were sent to New Jersey, only to return to Germany shortly after Vargas finished kindergarten. The Vargas family was in Germany for the next seven years.

When Vargas was 12, the family relocated to El Paso, Texas. Her parents served as bi-vocational pastors of a Hispanic church, and Vargas was influenced by their outreach to the needs of families in nearby Juarez, Mexico.

“Looking back, I think my life as a military ‘brat’ played a huge role in my self-awareness and helped me attain a global perspective,” Vargas said. “As a daughter of a bivocational minister, I was formed by the passionate sacrificial service of my parents as they exposed me to the needs in the military families and local Hispanic families. The trips to Mexico exposed me to devastating poverty, but most of all, a desire to have a practical theology.”

During her years spent in Texas, Vargas graduated from high school and began to look toward fulfilling God’s calling on her life. Given her family’s experience in combining missions and military, Vargas entered the Army Reserves just days after graduation. “I turned 18 the day I graduated from basic training,” she said.

She moved to Lynchburg, Va., to attend Liberty University, where she planned to pursue law school. Instead she got her undergraduate degree in music and religion.

She said she didn’t start singing until her senior year. “I didn’t even know I could carry a tune!” She studied classical vocal performance and also sang in worship bands.

“It turned out that the double major played perfectly into some careers I had immediately following graduation, working with fundraising in nonprofit organizations,” Vargas said.

“I traveled and sang in churches all over the U.S., Puerto Rico, India and Haiti. During these worship services, we would bring attention to international humanitarian aid needs.”

Vargas worked with HBI Global Partners (Hindustan Bible Institute in Madras, India) and Worldhelp.

Then, in early 2004, Vargas was notified that her Reserve unit had been activated to the battlefields in Kuwait and later, Iraq. It was in Iraq that Vargas met Chaplain Patrick Moore, a recent graduate of Baylor’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary. There was an instant connection between the two, she said.

“I felt like I was with Jesus when I was with him,” Vargas recalled. “It was through him that I learned about Baylor’s dual degree program. Meeting Chaplain Moore answered the ‘where and how’ to the desire of serving Christ through others that was planted and fostered throughout my life.”

Vargas, now in her second year of the MSW/MDiv program, hopes to work with fellow student Viviana Triana to open an immigration center in Waco.

“My heart is for those displaced people who don’t have a country to call home,” Vargas said. “Social work is a perfect fit because it’s the incarnation of the gospel. It’s about taking situations that are hopeless and making something beautiful blossom from them.”

Kelly Knox is a senior social work major minoring in journalism.
Diana Garland and her husband David Garland will have a new book available before the holidays from Brazos Press, titled *Flawed Families of the Bible: How God’s grace works through imperfect relationships.* Her article “When wolves wear shepherds’ clothing: Helping women survive clergy sexual abuse” appeared in the spring 2006 issue of *Social Work & Christianity* (Vol. 33, No. 1). She also co-authored with Mary Katherine O’Connor and Ellen Netting, from Virginia Commonwealth University, and Terry Wolfer, from the University of South Carolina, the article “Team-based research: Notes from the field” for *Qualitative Social Work: Research and Practice,* 5 (1), 93-109. She offered two workshops at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Atlanta, June 23-24: “Clergy sexual misconduct” and “Crazy families of the Bible: Stories you didn’t hear in Sunday School.” She and Jon Singletary are conducting a nationwide survey of congregational early childhood programs that has been funded by the A.L. Mailman Family Foundation and the Louisville Institute.

**Dennis Myers** was named a Gero-Ed Center Expert Trainer by the Council on Social Work Education’s Gero-Ed Center (National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education). He has had two co-authored articles accepted for publication: “Student Narratives on Social Work as a Calling,” with Helen Harris, Jon Singletary and Laine Scales, in *Aretē,* and “Service and faith: the impact on faith of community ministry participation,” with Beryl Hugen, Terry Wolfer, Diana Garland, David Sherwood and Paula Sheridan, in *Review of Religious Research.*

Rob Rogers, Gaynor Yancey and Randy Wood (School of Education) will have an article titled “The Importance of Academic Enrichment and ESL in a Community-Based Middle School” in the September 2006 issue of *Middle School Journal.*


**Jon Singletary** gave a keynote address and workshop titled “Ministering to Families in Crisis” at the Light the Way Conference of the Texas Baptist Weekday Education Association in July. This spring, he presented an audio teleconference for the North American Association of Christians in Social Work titled “Faith-based Advocacy for Social Change.” In June, he presented “Charity to Justice: Congregational Advocacy and Global Poverty” at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Atlanta, Ga. He has an article in press with *Family Ministry* titled “Hands are Not for Hitting,” a study of early childhood programs’ use of the Institute for Peace and Justice’s Preschool Pledge of Nonviolence. Also, his article titled “Waging Peace at Home” was in the summer 2006 issue of *Christian Ethics Today.*
Timothy Brown (MSW 2003) lives in Bryan, Texas, and is employed by Hospice Brazos Valley as the Clinical Director/Mission Support. He promotes end-of-life care issues by presenting lectures to social services and health care agencies, organizations and conferences in the Brazos Valley, in Texas and nationally. He is the field placement liaison for three major schools of social work and has mentored three students since his graduation. Tim has been awarded more than $75,000 in grants for development and implementation of programs and services. tm_brown@att.net

Kelley Bruce (BASW 2004, MSW 2005) is a qualified social worker for the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, England. kelleybruce@hotmail.com.

Elaine Crump (MSW 2002) is a social worker II in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Baylor University Medical Center. She recently attended a five-week Spanish language immersion course in Madrid, Spain, to enhance her communication with Latino clients. elaine_edc@sbcglobal.net

April Ellison (2004 Baylor) graduated in May from the University of Houston with her MSW degree with a concentration in health care. Also in May she welcomed the arrival of her son, Malik J’von Ellison Washington.

Noelle LeCrone Fields (MSW 2004) is the director of social services at the Mayfair Village Sub-Acute and Nursing Center in Columbus, Ohio. Her areas of interest are aging, social services in long-term care and mental health in long-term care settings. lecronefields@yahoo.com

LeAnn Gardner (MSW/MDiv 2003) on May 21 was ordained to the gospel ministry of the Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., where she serves as an associate pastor. lgardner@kathwoodbaptist.com

Whitney (Smith) Luce (BASW 2003, MSW 2004) works as an adoption counselor at the Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, Texas. Her areas of interest include adoption, children and families. Whitney@mmbhome.org

Rebecca Russell (MSW 2006) is an admissions counselor at University Behavioral Health, an emergency psychiatric facility, in Denton, Texas.

Melanie Sargent (BASW 2002, MSW 2004) works as a counselor to families in crisis at STARRY (Services To At-Risk and Runaway Youth), a nonprofit organization that is part of the Baptist Children’s Home and Children at Heart of Ministries. Melanie also is seeking a Juvenile Probation Officer License, which will enable her to see children who are on deferred prosecution and provide counseling to the families in the hope that the youth will not be repeat offenders. Melanie.Sargent@starryonline.org

Matthew Schobert (MSW 2002) was elected Waco Branch chair of the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers board of directors and was elected to the chapter’s executive committee.

Kelly (Watkins) Sladovnik (MSW 2001) is a clinical social worker, intermediate psychiatry, at the Veterans’ Affairs Medical Center in Waco, Texas. kellysladovnik@hotmail.com

Sharon (Williaford) Walsh (BASW 1999) is working as a clinical social worker at Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, in the labor and delivery/postpartum units. Her husband is a Navy submariner. They recently purchased a house and would love to host any Baylor graduates in the future who are looking for a tropical getaway. sharaloha@yahoo.com

Workshops

Sept. 28 in Waco, Texas
Dyer Ethics Workshop
“Ethics in Decision Making”
1 to 4 p.m. • CEUs available
Call 254-710-6400

Sept. 30 in Ridgecrest, N.C.
Noon to 4:30 p.m.
Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center
Lunch & CEU workshop (3 hours)

Call 254-710-3854 to register or Pamela_D_Edwards@baylor.edu

Nov. 3 in Houston
8:30 a.m. to Noon
DePelchin Children’s Center
Lunch and CEU workshop (3 hours)
CBF Leadership Scholarships

For the first time, SSW students have been nominated to receive Leadership Scholarships from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The awards are designated for Baptist students currently enrolled in one of 13 schools involved in the Consortium of Theological Schools related to the CBF. SSW students nominated are Amy D. Downs, Jennifer L. Gunter, Walker K. Moore and Tasha L. Waugh.

Alumna Homiak honored

Baylor Graduate School Association recognized Katie Homiak, MSW ’05, MDiv ’06, at its Interdisciplinary Scholarship Forum in May. Homiak gave a summary of her research, “Family violence in congregations: An exploratory study of clergy’s needs.”

Leadership Workshop and Conference

The Center for Literacy at Baylor University and Literacy ConneXus jointly hosted a Literacy Conference June 11-16 at George W. Truett Theological Seminary. The event included introductory and leadership training in English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Doris Edwards of Blowing Rock, N.C., trained 13 to lead EFL workshops and nine to teach English abroad on short-term mission assignments. Billie Sue Fields of Fort Worth, Texas, led the Adult Reading and Writing/GED training. David Clanton, director of marketing for the Baptist Standard, led a one-day workshop on public relations for literacy ministries. Judy Shipley, associate professor of education at Hardin-Simmons University and advisory board member for Literacy ConneXus, led a hands-on workshop on using media technology.

Yancey receives teaching award

Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for undergraduate studies and associate professor, was recognized for outstanding teaching, service and research by the faculty of the School of Social Work in spring 2006. She was then awarded the distinction by the whole university during spring commencement services.

Faculty invited to research group

Preston Dyer, professor of social work, and Kim Kotrla, assistant professor of social work, were invited to participate in a research roundtable May 11 in San Antonio, Texas, sponsored by ACF’s Hispanic Healthy Marriage Initiative (HHMI), the Texas Health and Human Services Commission’s Strengthening Families Initiative and the Anne E. Casey Foundation.

Congregational literacy programs

The Center for Literacy is in the process of surveying congregation-based literacy programs throughout Texas. By mid-summer, more than 60 churches from eight denominations and 39 cities had participated in the survey. They serve people of all ages in 10 program areas, including adult basic education, tutoring children, English as a Second Language and citizenship classes. The survey will conclude June 30, 2007. To participate in the online survey, go to http://www1.baylor.edu/surveys/Literacy_FaithBased/literacy_esl_survey.htm.

Licensing Exam

Congratulations to these alumni who recently passed the state licensing exam:

Tammy Woods
Amanda Dennis
Rebecca Russell

Mentor of the Year

Congratulations to Jerrod Clark BASW ’00, MSW ’02, MDiv ’03, for being recognized as the FOCUS grant Mentor of the Year. FOCUS helps mentor children/youth who have an incarcerated parent. It is sub-contracted locally by Mission Waco to serve MCYC. Jerrod is a volunteer for the FOCUS program and he volunteers as youth director at Church Under the Bridge. He works for Mission Waco’s M-Powerment (job training) program.

Read more at:
http://www.wacotrib.com/hp/content/news/stories/2006/07/30/07302006wacfocusmentors.html
FIVE EARN CERTIFICATES OF SPECIALIZATION

The MSW program graduated five students this spring with a Certificate of Specialization within one of the program’s two concentrations. The students are: Bonnie Curington, therapeutic interventions in elder care; Bonnie Jenkins, social work practice with special needs adolescents; Meredith Jones, domestic and sexual violence; Francis Pinkney, mental health issues related to children and adolescents; and Ruth Cassidy, crisis intervention and victim services.

2006 STUDENT AWARDS

Five students were honored at the SSW Annual Family Dinner April 27. They are: Mallory Homeyer, Outstanding BSW Student; Seth Miller, Outstanding MSW Student; Dana Nicole Earls, MSW Intern of the Year; Alexandra Ruiz, MSW Intern of the Year; and Krissi Howie Vandagriff, Outstanding Grant Proposal. Also honored later in the spring semester was Meredith Jones for Outstanding Research Project.

IN THE NEWS ...

Visit the School’s Web site to read the following stories of SSW social workers in the news:

• Students at Lobby Day in D.C. advocating against world hunger (see at right)
• Alumnus honored for water project in Afghanistan
• Faculty member speaks for global advocacy against poverty

IN PUBLICATIONS ...

Diana Garland’s article on clergy sexual abuse and Michael Sherr’s article on faith and learning indicators in Social Work and Christianity

www.baylor.edu/social_work


SOCIAL JUSTICE

Four social work students meet with Edwards

Four students from the School of Social Work were able to apply lessons learned about social movements and public policy at a congressional visit to U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Texas) this spring. Regional organizers from Bread for the World (BFW), a grassroots Christian citizens’ movement against hunger, contacted Jon Singletary, assistant professor, to schedule the visit after several student groups in Social Policy (taught by Gaynor Yancey) and Groups, Communities and Organizations (taught by Singletary) conducted research on BFW’s efforts to address hunger and poverty. Bread for the World inquired about students’ willingness to share their findings with Edwards, and several expressed interest.

Laura Newitt (BSW 2006), Golda Waselovich (BSW 2006), Sam King Oakley (MSW/MDiv 2008) and Meredith Story (MSW/MDiv 2007) shared stories with Edwards from their internships and presented statistical data on hunger and poverty for Waco. The students urged Edwards to join the House Hunger Caucus and sign the Hunger Free Communities Act. They argued that low-income families lack a wealthy lobby; as a result, they said their voices as social work students matter for professional as well as vocational reasons. They told Edwards they feel called to stand alongside the poor, and that this is a vital way of doing so.

Edwards said he was moved that Baylor students would speak out on behalf of others in this way and that they would take time and energy during finals week to advocate for families and children living in poverty. He later signed the Hunger Free Communities Act and offered to do even more to assure a federal budget that takes into consideration the needs of low-income families.
New Faces in the School

Kelly Atkinson joins the School as a research associate on the CCM grant. She will be coordinating with Gaynor Yancey the team of student consultants and interns in the development of new products and materials to strengthen community ministries in congregations. Kelly has worked for three grants in the School, including the $2 million Pew Charitable Trusts grant. She has a BASW and an MSW from Baylor and has served as an adjunct faculty member in the School. Currently, she is social ministries facilitator at Antioch Ministries International and has been involved in missions in Sri Lanka, India, Turkey and Lebanon.

Angela Dennison joined the School this summer as second associate director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries in a collaboration with Buckner Children and Family Services Inc. She will assist Buckner and other religiously affiliated organizations and local congregations to plan, implement and evaluate effective community ministry models grounded in professional social work methodology. Previously, she was with Volunteers of America of Kentucky, where she was a commissioned minister and directed programs addressing the needs of homeless individuals and families. She also developed and managed housing for persons with chronic mental illness and seniors with limited incomes. She has an MSW from the Carver School of Church Social Work, formerly at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and an MDiv from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kim Kotrla has been teaching adjunctively with the School since she completed her PhD at the University of Texas in Austin in 2004, and she has been conducting research with Preston Dyer on the effectiveness of marriage enrichment. She also received her MSSW from the University of Texas in administration and planning. Previously, she worked with the Texas Office for Developmental Disabilities to develop a statewide program for preventing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Her scholarly interests are social work research, social policy, medical social work, and health promotion among women and children.

Kretcha Roldan-Rodriguez became a full-time lecturer this fall as a direct result of the $1.1 million CCM grant, which has provision for Jon Singletary and Gaynor Yancey to carry reduced teaching responsibilities. She will be teaching various courses in the academic program. Kretcha has her MSW from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and her BA from the University of Puerto Rico, with a major in Translation in French, English and Spanish. She has been a social work practitioner in diverse settings including foster care, drug rehabilitation, community service education, urban development, school academic counseling, and congregational social ministry. In addition to her instructional responsibilities, she will be an adviser in the BSW program.

Franci Rogers joins the staff as a Communications Specialist hired to work on resources and new products produced by the CCM grant. She also will be assistant managing editor of the Journal on Family and Community Ministry being funded by the grant. Franci has a BA in English from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. She has worked as a corporate communications developer for Publix Supermarkets Inc. in Lakeland, Fl.; the public information and community service officer for the Sherburne County Sheriff’s Department in Elk River, Minn.; and as a senior staff writer for the West Sherburne Tribune in Big Lake, Minn., for six years. She has been a freelance writer for Baylor publications.

Michael Sherr comes to the School from the Department of Social Work at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho. Michael worked as a research associate in the Lilly-funded project, “The Impact on Faith of Community Service.” One of the partner institutions on this project was the University of South Carolina, where Michael was a graduate student. He finished his PhD at the University of Southern California in 2003. He has published more than 20 articles and currently is completing a book. His areas of interest and expertise are faith-based organizations and services, volunteerism, gerontology and social work education.
These are exciting times to be in the School of Social Work. We have new staff and faculty, and our program is growing in both the baccalaureate and graduate programs. Not only are our recruitment efforts here in the SSW working, but our students are recruiting others who have a heart for helping and serving.

In the MSW program, there has been a 30 percent increase in new students from last year to this 2006-07 year. In the BSW program, there has been a 69 percent increase in students admitted to the social work major from 2004-05 to 2005-06. One pre-social work student said, “Social work is now the major of choice at Baylor.”

We love hearing from you as you begin new jobs, pass the licensing test and provide opportunities for employment to our graduating students and alumni. If you have a social work position opening at your agency, please e-mail the job description to Vicki_Northern@baylor.edu, and it will be posted on our listserv and our Career Services Web site.

We bid a fond farewell to Brenda Lenamon (who has retired from recruitment) and Jessika Doolittle, who now is in her concentration year in the MSW program. We welcome Carmen Branscum as a new student recruitment team member.

Students and alumni, if you are willing to recruit at a college or high school where you live or when home for a visit, we can provide a ‘script’ and materials for you. Students tell us at every Preview Day, Orientation and Premiere that their favorite part is the student panel, hearing from students and graduates who ‘tell it like it is,’ so your efforts are appreciated.

Vicki Northern, LMSW
Director of Recruitment/Career Services
254-710-4479
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.)? _______________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Mark Your Calendar

| Sept. 21 | SSW Worship Service |
| Oct. 20-21 | Baylor Homecoming |
| Oct. 22-23 | Board of Advocates Meeting |
| Oct. 28 | Dyer Ethics Workshop |
| Nov. 3 | MSW Fall Preview Day |
| Dec. 15 | SSW Fall Convocation |
| Dec. 16 | Baylor Fall Commencement |

Visit the School’s Web site for updated information!
www.baylor.edu/social_work

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.

Faculty
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Dennis Myers, Assoc. Dean, Graduate Studies
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
Kreta Roldan-Rodriguez
Laine Scales, Assoc. Dean, Graduate School
Michael Sherr
Tammy Woods

Staff
Krista Barrett, General Information/Field Education (6400)
Kelly Atkinson, CCM Grant
Kay Boatman, Financial Director (1408)
Angela Dennison, Assoc. Dir./CFCM (7472)
Pam Edwards, Admin. Asst./Literacy (3854)
Angela Fields, Baccalaureate Program (7389)
Jeanie Fitzpatrick, Assistant to the Dean (1199)
Carol Gene Graves, Asst. Dir./Literacy (3884)
Marilyn Gusukuma, Graduate Program (3701)
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Vicki Northern, Director, Recruitment/Career Services (4479)
Franci Rogers, Communications Specialist
Judith Stolz, Manager/Gerontology (6411)