By J.B. Smith
Waco Tribune-Herald

Sohani Cooray expected to spend Christmas vacation 2004 relaxing on a beach in her native Sri Lanka. Instead, the Waco social worker found herself running from one of the worst natural disasters of modern times.

She and her family checked into a beach hotel on the island nation’s west coast Sunday morning. They heard about tsunami waves flooding the southern part of the country, but the ocean appeared calm. Cooray walked to the beach, about 200 yards from the hotel, and began reading a book.

"Suddenly, the water started rising at first slowly, and then with increasing force, the waves crashed towards us," she recalled in an e-mail the next day. "We started running as fast as we could, but it seemed as if the waves would not let go of us."

Cooray lived to tell about the disaster, which was unleashed by underwater earthquakes hundreds of miles away. The surging floods killed at least 31,000* Sri Lankans—and left another 4,000 missing; another 500,000 were displaced making Sri Lanka one of the unluckiest victims of the deadliest tsunami in history.

In Waco, Cooray works with children at Brook Avenue Elementary school for the McLennan County Youth Collaboration’s Communities in Schools program, a job she has had since she earned her master of social work degree from Baylor in 2002. But on Monday, she was helping with disaster relief efforts in her home country, still shaken by what she had seen.

"Entire orphanages have been swept away," she wrote in an e-mail to the Tribune-Herald. “Army camps were swept. Hotels were taken away. Our trains, buses were floating on water.”

Her own escape from the tsunami waves was hair-raising. She and her family were able to run 50 yards back to the hotel, where other relatives were staying, but the water kept chasing them.

"We were now 200 meters away from the ocean, but the water came into the hotel, huge glass windows were cracking into pieces, gas cylinders, TVs, huge refrigerators were all floating with us," she wrote in a message to friends in the U.S. "Tables were giving way, and I thought the hotel would collapse.”

Struggling through five feet of water, she managed “by the grace of God” to get out of the hotel, which was packed with frightened tourists, she said. But she feared for the lives of some family members who remained trapped in a small room, unable to open the door. Somehow, they also made it to safety, but others did not.

“My parents saw people being dragged toward the sea, and there was nothing they could do about it,” Cooray wrote.

Cooray said some of her relatives who were traveling in southern Sri Lanka got

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FROM THE DEAN

Exciting opportunities abound, now and just over the horizon

By Diana R. Garland, Ph.D.

I teach Introduction to the Profession in the graduate program, and I love it. Like a mama duck with 30 or so ducklings, on the first day of class I lead the new students into the mid-August heat on the plaza outside the School of Social Work and gather them together for a class photo. I print the class snapshot and have them write their names with their smiling hot faces, and I keep the photo before me until I learn their names. I have years of these pictures of all the classes I have taught. I often look back through them; I love to look at the smiles and excitement students bring to begin this adventure called social work education. I always catch their excitement.

I am especially excited because it is a year of new initiatives for us—and some of these will be useful to you, I hope! For example, one of the benefits of our new independence is the addition of an administrative position called Director of Recruitment and Career Services. Vicki Northern, one of our own alumni, joined us two years ago as a lecturer and has served also to direct our student recruitment for both the baccalaureate and graduate programs. This fall, she will be moving into an expanded role that will include helping our graduates find their first jobs and helping our alumni who want to relocate to find employment opportunities. It will be a year of developing networks with employers and channels of communication with students and alumni, so stay tuned.

Second, we are in the midst of developing the church social work network. You will find a much-expanded “church social work network” section in this newsletter as a consequence. This has been a dream of mine for almost a decade. The Baylor School of Social Work is so glad to have this opportunity to work with alumni of Baptist graduate education programs that have been preparing leaders for the church for almost 100 years. The WMU Training School and Carver School alumni, along with alumni from other Baptist seminary social work programs, no longer have a “home” since those programs have closed. Some are social workers, others obtained degrees in religious education, or Christian social ministries, or missions. All of them are part of the rich Baptist heritage of caring for “the least of these.”

On May 5, 2005, Woman’s Missionary Union called a “summit” in Birmingham to talk about what to do to organize those who identify with this heritage. Representatives of Samford, Campbellsville, Baylor, WMU, and a small group of Carver alumni spent most of a day talking and praying together. The outcome was the group’s blessing and encouragement for Baylor to lead out in organizing the “church social work network”—including alumni of all the graduate schools that Baptists have supported to prepare women and men for social work and leadership of the Christian social ministries and missions of Baptist congregations. We are offering to adopt these colleagues as “alumni by choice” of the Baylor School of Social Work. We invite graduates of Baptist undergraduate social work programs who are working in church settings to be a part of the church social work network as well. We will be publishing a directory for the church social work network later this fall.

Another initiative we are launching this fall is the Jubilee Initiative, which will provide leadership in scholarship and service that address social and economic injustice and personal and community impoverishment locally, nationally, and globally. A Christian university must make connections between faith and the content of course curricula. But it must also have a larger vision and purpose. It must see itself as being a change agent in the complex problems that plague humanity. Responding to persons in poverty and the challenges of social injustice are pervasive themes throughout the Bible, both the Hebrew Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus.

In a day when much attention of American churches is focused on personal charity, we think it is particularly important that Baylor School of Social Work provide leadership in examining the biblical concepts of social justice as expressed in the concept of jubilee and responding accordingly to situations of economic deprivation. We will be calling on colleagues from all over the campus and beyond to join us as we forge and launch a strategic plan for the university. Stay tuned; I’ll be letting you know in future issues the shape this initiative will take.

We are continuing to work on developing a Ph.D. program and a plan for globalizing our curriculum and field experiences for the many students who come to us who feel called to serve internationally. As you can tell, it will be a whirlwind year of activity. I look forward to all of it, and at the same time, I love to leaf back through those class photos and pray for our alumni who are already serving in so many places around the world.

Diana R. Garland is dean of the School of Social Work and founding director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries.
New Collaborative Venture In Social Work Education
Launched April 18, 2005
by Julie Campbell Carlson
Baylor University Public Relations

Baylor University’s School of Social Work, Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio and Buckner Baptist Benevolences announced a new collaborative arrangement to train students for international missions and ministry through social work education on April 18, 2005.

Through the collaboration, BUA will develop a minor in social work with future plans to develop a bachelor’s degree in social work with the idea that these students could pursue graduate study at Baylor. Baylor’s School of Social Work will make available consultation and a faculty exchange with BUA. Buckner will provide a faculty member - Buckner staff member Patty Villareal, an alumna of the Carver School of Church Social Work - to BUA.

“We are seeking to increase the diversity of our student body and of our faculty, and this is a wonderful partnership to that end,” said Dr. Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work. “To look at the population of Texas and the United States and, in fact, the world, we need to provide leaders for Hispanic communities and congregations, and this is an outstanding way to accomplish that. For many of these students, English is a second language, and we see the strength in having these bilingual students to provide bilingual leaders to the Spanish-speaking communities.”

Dr. Reyes agreed. “Demographers predict Texas’ population to grow by 30 million in the next 40 years. And 96 percent of that growth will come from non-Anglo populations - mostly Hispanics. BUA students are prepared to serve in that multicultural future,” he said.

According to Garland, many of the students will be dual degree graduate students pursuing degrees in social work and theology or divinity from Baylor’s Truett Seminary.

“Many of BUA’s students are international students who will return to Central and South America. This is a wonderful way to provide persons with the knowledge and skills for work within their home communities,” Garland said.

Buckner President Hall said the partnership is “all about meeting needs. Worldwide issues affecting children and families should be the concern and responsibility of caring Christians. We need to start allocating resources - including the resources of dedicated, committed, highly trained Christian social workers - to help meet those needs.”

For more information, contact Garland at (254) 710-6223, Arnie Adkison, vice president of advancement at BUA, at (210) 924-4338 or Russ Dilday, director of communications at Buckner Benevolences, at (214) 758-8063.

The new collaborative venture between Baptist University of the Americas, Baylor University, and Buckner Baptist Benevolences, was inked by the presidents of the three entities and witnessed by Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work. Shown left to right are Albert Reyes, president of BUA, Garland, Robert Sloan, then president of Baylor, and Ken Hall, president of Buckner.

‘Integrating faith and practice’ more than words

The following excerpt from an email written by a student to several faculty members demonstrates the uniqueness that sets the Baylor University School of Social Work apart from any other school of social work; the integration of faith and practice. This is used by permission of the student and the field instructor who supervises the student; names are withheld as a matter of confidentiality.

“I wanted to update you all on my client and to ask you to pray. I have a client that had a premature baby. The baby became ill and was hospitalized and then died. Please pray for my client and her family and for me. I have had a close relationship with this client and I am grieving over her baby and my client’s life. Thank you for praying with me over the last few weeks. I am so thankful to be a part of a school program with professors that carry me and my life in their hearts and to God. I am so blessed by your prayers for me and the other students and I am so glad that I have you all in my life, as a student and friend, to pray with me and talk with me. Thanks again.”
Preston Dyer is principle investigator for a research project evaluating the “Active Relationships” marriage education program. He is research consultant for ANTHEM, a marriage coalition in Dallas that is providing marriage education to people with low income in the Dallas area. The Dyers recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on a Caribbean cruise with their children and granddaughters. Congratulations, Preston and Genie on 45 years of marriage.

Diana Garland led a staff retreat on family ministry for First Baptist Church, Boerne, Tex., in April. She was the keynote speaker for the North Carolina Family Matters Conference, sponsored by Hayes Barton Baptist Church and Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC that same month and preached at Hayes Barton Baptist Church on April 3. Garland also led the annual retreat of the North Carolina Baptist Children’s Network, Raleigh NC, April 4-5. In June, Garland presented a workshop at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s annual General Assembly in Grapevine, Tex. entitled “Families of a Southern Baptist Woman Missionary and the Social Curriculum: The Education and Heritage Society held at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., June 2-4; the paper will be published in the Fall 2005 issue of the journal Baptist History and Heritage.

David Sherwood led a continuing education workshop for field instructors and community professional social workers at George Fox University, Newberg, Ore., April 4. The topic of the workshop was “Ethics in Social Work Practice: Professional Competence in Dealing with Issues Involving Values, Spirituality, and Religion.” Sherwood also presented a paper, “Hnau What? C. S. Lewis on What it Means to be a Person,” at the Oxbridge 2005 Conference at Oxford University, Oxford, England, July 24-30. The Oxbridge Conference is sponsored by the C. S. Lewis Foundation every three years. The conference theme was “Making All Things New: The Good, the True, and the Beautiful in the 21st Century.” Sherwood reports a long-time interest in C. S. Lewis having written a masters degree thesis at Vanderbilt University on Lewis and said Sherwood, “I have no trouble finding ways to work a little Lewis into social work classes by quoting from The Abolition of Man, Mere Christianity, The Weight of Glory, or The Chronicles of Narnia.” At its June 2005 meeting in Alexandria, Va., Sherwood was recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education for his service as a commissioner. Sherwood completed a three-year term on the Commission at that meeting, but he continues to serve as a chair of accreditation site visit teams and as a consultant for programs seeking accreditation from the Council.


Gaynor Yancey has authored, with three other non-Baylor colleagues, an article, “Mixing and phasing of roles among volunteers, staff, and participants in faith-based programs.” The article appears in Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, 34(2), pp. 179-205.
She is extremely quiet. She is super polite and is always most gracious when she is spoken to. Most of the time, though, she sits at her table in silence along with her tablemate who also sits in silence. She is always pleasant and is a constant reminder to me of what a Southerner means when a woman is referred to as being “genteel.”

About two months ago, however, this genteel woman started coming out of her shell of quietness. It all started with the dancer. As she tells me, “I don’t know anything about dancing. I don’t even know how to dance but I sure do like it.” “Oh, he dances so beautifully!” “He teaches us about making flowers…of course, we aren’t really making flowers but when you make flowers with your arms like this, then it helps you breathe better.”

As the story goes, two months ago the dancer started dancing with the residents in order to determine how dancing would enhance the lives of these older persons. In the academic world, we would say that he started doing his assessment and research about the impact of dancing on the lives of persons in residential care. The results of these weekly dancing sessions have been inspiring.

As the story goes, the residents were quite stiff and did not totally trust themselves to the dancer. Then, in a few weeks, the breakthrough came in this way. The men started to say that they needed to change from their tennis shoes into their hard-soled shoes because those shoes made it easier to glide across the wooden floor. Some of the men are asking the women to dance. Many of the wives of the male residents are coming to dance with their husbands during these sessions. “Talk about the importance of marriage and the family!” The dancer says that he has seen such a difference in the residents because they are so relaxed. More than that, they are experiencing the importance of the human touch in their lives and are looking forward to his presence with them each week.

My genteel friend giggles now when someone mentions her dancing exploits. She is talking more. She is laughing. One can sense a new life in her as she recounts how she doesn’t know what she is doing but she is really enjoying it. What a joy it is to see a genteel woman in her shell of silence come out into a world of fun and laughter.

How exciting it is to know that the social worker at this organization is a graduate of our social work program. How exciting it is that she has always had a love for older persons. How exciting it is that that love was translated into working in an organization that focuses on older persons.

Shall we dance?

Gaynor I. Yancey is associate dean, baccalaureate studies and assistant professor in the School of Social Work.

Center for Family and Community Ministries

Hand In Hand 2005

The 2005 Hand in Hand conference, held during March 2005 in Dallas, featured Peter Benson, president of the Search Institute. Benson presented the Barbara Chafin Endowed Lectures in Family Ministry; a series of lectures named by a gift from Kenneth Chafin, longtime Baptist pastor.

Hand in Hand also featured a one-day workshop, Developing Family Ministries in Your Congregation, presented by Diana Garland and Bo Prosser, coordinator for congregational resources at Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Summer ‘summit’ produces strategic plan

Jon Singletary, newly named director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries, and Diana Garland, founding director, convened a “Family Ministry Summit” in Colorado this August.

Building on research findings relevant to congregations and faith-based organizations from the Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN), participants produced an initial strategic planning document to guide the work of the CFCM in coming years.

Participants in the Summit included clergy and congregational staff, agency and denominational leaders, and staff of the CFCM.

The major outcome of the Summit was the development of a new strategic plan for strengthening families and their communities through the work of congregations and denominational agencies.

Leaders from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Buckner Child and Family Services, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship serve as partners of the Center for Family and Community Ministries. For information about the Center for Family and Community Ministries please see www.family-ministry.org.
I must confess ambivalence about reaching for feedback from our graduates related to their views on the quality and effectiveness of the MSW program. I know there is potential for major learning when new graduates reflect on the extent of satisfaction and meaningfulness of their preparation for advanced social work practice. Still, when the findings from our graduate exit survey arrive and before I open the file, I have to remind myself to breathe.

The 2004-2005 Graduate Exit survey was created by the School’s Evaluation and Accreditation Committee, under the leadership of Drs. Rob Rogers and David Sherwood, and was analyzed by Mr. Faron Kincheloe of Baylor’s Office of Institutional Research and Testing (IRT). It leaves no stone unturned in its invitation to our BSW and MSW graduates to answer the question—how did we do? Of the 32 who graduated, 26 (81%) took the time to electronically and anonymously complete a questionnaire that had over 40 items—many requesting commentary as well as a standardized response. The table below presents some of the findings and selected student comments.

The memories of this graduating class are rich and shall remain in our hearts and minds as a gift to be unwrapped for a future reminiscence. One aspect of their legacy is already apparent in their parting words in this survey. The words of affirmation are deeply appreciated and some of the recommendations have already contributed to administrative and programmatic changes. For example, we will offer an upgraded career services program for future students and substantial content in advanced administrative practice will be offered all concentration students. Thanks be to these advanced practice social workers for caring enough to share their thoughts and insights so that this School of Social Work can be the incubator of scholarship and service our students deserve.

Dennis R. Myers is associate dean, graduate studies and professor in the School of Social Work.

### Extent of Satisfaction with MSW Program: Graduates 2004-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item (n=26)</th>
<th>Extent of Satisfaction Mean</th>
<th>Percent Rating Satisfied (7 or 8)</th>
<th>Percent Rating Very Satisfied (9 or 10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Accessibility &amp; Helpfulness</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>12% (n=3)</td>
<td>88% (n=23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Education</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>35% (n=9)</td>
<td>65% (n=17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Modeled Values &amp; Principles of Respect</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>15% (n=4)</td>
<td>77% (n=20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Support</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>15% (n=4)</td>
<td>85% (n=22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Process</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>38% (n=10)</td>
<td>62% (n=16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Readings</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>50% (n=13)</td>
<td>50% (n=13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaningfulness/Quality of Assignments</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>50% (n=13)</td>
<td>35% (n=9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>8% (n=2)</td>
<td>77% (n=20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>23% (n=6)</td>
<td>19% (n=5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Satisfaction with education</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>35% (n=9)</td>
<td>62% (n=16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Faculty Accessibility and Helpfulness**—“that was a highlight of my education—the willingness and ‘open door’ policies of the faculty completely changed my educational experience for the better.”

**Field Education**—“I was able to do what I really wanted and thus I had a great experience.”

**Staff Support**—“they are the greatest people.”

**Career Services**—“did not know how to access these services.”

**Overall Satisfaction with social work education**—“I would have liked to have had more emphasis on administrating and planning and directing agencies.”
Field Connections

The Internship Bridge

By Helen E.W. Harris, M.S.W.

This time last year, she was beginning Advanced Standing coursework and making decisions about where she would do her internship. We had prayer several times in class as hurricanes bore down on her home state of Florida. This summer, as Hurricane Dennis approaches her city, she is busy making arrangements for her clients, hospice patients who cannot evacuate and who depend on their medical equipment, medicines and caregivers. She will stay because this is her work and her ministry.

What a difference a year has made for this graduate and for so many others; from the classroom to the internship to the very real trenches of practice. And some things have not changed. She still knows that her School of Social Work family is praying for her and those she serves.

During our most recent baccalaureate Capstone Presentations, I served on a panel with one of our graduates. She gave wonderful feedback to our student, affirming her strengths and encouraging her to pursue excellence in her practice and her written work. She was able to make the connection for the student between her school experience and her practice experience. I loved hearing her say that the skills, knowledge and values she acquired in the School of Social Work have been critical to her work in the profession the past five years. She turned to me then and offered to supervise a field intern in the coming year.

I am ever more grateful for our graduates and the work that they do. As I am meeting this summer with students making arrangements for their concentration internships, I celebrate their passion for the work and agonize over wanting to provide for them the very best learning experience possible. More than once this summer, the answer has come from our graduates who write to share the work they are doing and offer to provide an internship experience for one of our students. Faith Lamb wrote about her work with immigrants and refugees and opened a possibility for a student who feels called by God to work with this population. Some students are certain about what they want to do. Others are sorting out the many areas of practice that interest them and interviewing to decide where to do the internship. Some will have great experiences. Others will find their learning coming through skill development in making the most of a challenging situation. All will have the faithful, committed guidance of a faculty field liaison.

This I know. At the end of it all, we will have final evaluations that commend our students for their work. I have seen some of those this summer. Statements like:

“She is an asset to the agency.”

“Her ability to connect with clients and understand their needs is a true value to the profession.”

“She demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and related to a wide range of individuals in various roles across cultural differences.”

“Great job grant writing.”

“Excellent student with very good skills.”

And we will have graduates who are ready to answer their calling, contribute to the profession, and help clients ride out the storms in their lives. It just doesn’t get better than that.

By Helen E.W. Harris, M.S.W.

Helen E.W. Harris is director of graduate field education and senior lecturer in the School of Social Work.

Why a Board of Advocates?

by Joy Fenner

What is a Board of Advocates and what do they do? From time to time that question is asked of me.

Our role is one of advocacy for the School of Social Work. Our purpose speaks to encouraging awareness among the alumni and friends of the School and assisting in developing resources; our joy comes as we put faces to such endeavors. At each of three meetings annually, selected students from the baccalaureate and graduate programs share their social work pilgrimage. Inevitably somewhere in the testimony, mention is made of the personal and guiding touch of a faculty member. Students in field education tell about how prepared they usually feel, and on those occasions when they don’t, they know their supervisors will help them. At the annual Family Dinner in the Spring we rejoice in the stories of those students who are recognized for excellence in various categories.

Board members serve voluntarily and function through a committee process. We are fortunate to have outstanding chairs: Carol Bowman, consultant with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, the Institute for Gerontological Studies; Skip Moran, teacher in Highland Park High School, Academic Affairs; Christine Hockin-Boyd, consultant with WMU of Texas, Center for Family and Community Ministries; and, Curt Mooney, president and chief executive officer of DePelchin Children’s Center, Advocacy and Development. In addition to Board members, other persons with special expertise are enlisted to serve on committees to help provide the best service to the faculty and staff.

Many persons are asked to serve on various boards because of their potential financial contributions. I don’t know about that aspect of our Board of Advocates, but I do know that their passion and commitment are priceless.

Joy Fenner, former executive director-treasurer of Woman’s Missionary Union of Texas, is chair of the School of Social Work’s Board of Advocates.
Alumni Update

Audrey Cordova (BASW 2002) completed her MSW at San Jose State University in May of 2004 and is a social worker providing outpatient psychiatric services for adults and their families in Santa Clara County, Calif. She is also registered to complete hours toward her LCSW. Audrey can be reached by email at do0fi@sbcglobal.net.

Carol McEntyre (MSW/MDiv 2003), along with husband Michael, accepted positions at First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn. She is minister to university students and he is youth minister; see more about the McEntyres on the church’s website www.fbcknox.org. Carol can be reached by email at cmcentyre@fbcknox.org.

Julie Driver Grau (BASW 1990) works at Burks Elementary in McKinney, Tex., as a special education/resource lead teacher. Julie writes, “After practicing social work off and on since graduation from Baylor in a variety of children’s organizations, I have switched to teaching special education students in a lower socioeconomic school. It was this exact population that I fell in love with during my internship at Waco’s ARC and after all these years, I finally had to answer my calling and felt that I could do the most good by being a school teacher with a social worker’s heart. Although I have read Community Connection with great interest for several years now, I am only now compelled to write. I was very moved by the article pertaining to Aid For Orphans and the wonderful gift from the School of School Work staff. My husband’s mother came from the Ukraine to America with her parents having only known displaced persons camps in the late 40s. My husband and I do not have children and we have been discussing adoption of a Ukrainian child. Your article was one of many ‘signs’ that it was time for us to be more serious about our plan. In the mean time, I am dusting off my sewing machine to begin making clothes to send to Aid for Orphans. Thank you for sharing the spirit of the social work staff with all of us and perhaps setting the wheels in motion for my own family to begin to grow.” Julie Driver Grau can be reached by email at jedgrau@yahoo.com.

Paige Griffin (BASW 1992) is employed at North Texas Public Broadcasting/KERA as the early childhood outreach coordinator. Her areas of interest include early childhood and child development. Paige can be reached by phone at (214) 740-9241 (office) or (817) 423-3701 (home) or by email at pgriffin@kera.org.

Pam (Graves) McKown (BASW 2004/MSW 2005) recently passed her licensing exam. Congratulations Pam.

Micah Pritchett (MSW/MDiv 2003) works at Providence Hospice in Waco as a social worker. His wife Elizabeth will graduate with her M.Div. degree from Baylor’s Truett Seminary in August. Both Micah and Elizabeth were ordained in May of this year and hope to find work in a shared pastorate. Micah can be contacted by mail at 3122 McFerrin Ave, Waco, TX 76708.

Kelly Schmidt (MSW 2004) passed the Intermediate Licensing Exam for her LMSW. She is employed with the foster care division of Lutheran Social Services in Corpus Christi, Tex.


Dana Stanley (MSW 2005) is employed at Heart of Texas MHMR as the Intake Social Worker for Developmental Services; she is working with a psychologist to assess and evaluate persons with mental retardation. Dana reports being “pleased with the challenges this position provides and encouraged by the team-oriented environment.” Dana can be reached by email at dana.stanley@hotrmhmr.org.

Meg (Harris) Watwood (BASW 2001) welcomed a new addition to her and husband Shane’s family; daughter Sophia Margaret was born July 1, 2005. Meg is employed in a part-time capacity at Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home giving her time at home with Sophia.
Graduation is a bittersweet experience for all who have taught, nurtured, guided, and sometimes prodded students toward what is the culmination of many years of hard work. Spring and Summer 2005 brought 24 new bachelor of social work and 32 master of social work students into the fold of Baylor alumni.

**Master of Social Work – Families Concentration**
Linsie Abney, Jamie Bauman*+, Courtney Burdick, Jose Carbajal+, Rebecca Carlson*+, Allison Coker*, Christy Richardson Collins*, Ebony Hall*, Katherine Brennan Holmik*+, Luci Hoppe*, Derrel Jeffrey, Telaeuna Kirby+, Kristi Knight*, Dana Phillips*, Kirsten Rogers*+, Becky Shumake*+, Caroline Smith+*, Dana Stanley*

**Master of Social Work – Health Concentration**
Jamie Beene*, Kelley Bruce* (not pictured), Sarah Carbajal*+, Davey Gibson*+, Sarah Hatch*, Kristen Hudson*+, Amy Jackson*+, Tracey Kelley*, Jacob Mains*+, Pam McKown*, Cassandra Plummer*+, Melissa Skelton+, Jaimee Walker, Heidi Zimmerman

* Phi Alpha Honor Society
+ Dual Degree – Master of Social Work/Master of Divinity

**Bachelor of Arts in Social Work**

**Bachelor of Social Work**
Brooke Cowan*, Molly Pack

**Phi Alpha, honor society of the SSW, elected their 2005-2006 officers during the spring semester. Shown here, left to right, they are Krissi Vandaguff, secretary; Robin Northern, president; and Bonnie Jenkins, vice president.**

**Dennis Myers, associate dean of the graduate program, and Marilyn Gusukuma, graduate program manager, hosted potential MSW students at the annual “Premiere Day” at the School of Social Work.**
Laura Caruthers and her husband Alan recently welcomed a new addition, Samuel Benjamin Caruthers III. Laura works at the Advocacy Center as a therapist, while Alan is a unit manager at Methodist Children’s Home. Well wishes can be sent to 4306 North 23rd Street, Waco, TX 76708.

Jane Cauthen has retired as a program director for victim services in a family counseling agency. After she graduated from Carver, she worked as a caseworker at Connie Maxwell Children’s Home in Greenwood, SC, where she met her husband Ralph. Jane can be reached at 109 Hawkins Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Cynthia Kinnison wrote “Quentin and I now live in Pasadena, Calif. while he studies for his Ph.D. in practical theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. Quentin has learned a great deal from his mentor, Dr. Mark Branson, which will help as we look to serve in an inner city church in Phoenix, Ariz., focusing on community ministries. While we are here, I am working full time for an agency whose mission is to recruit foster/adoptive parents from the churches. I am also teaching at Biola University as adjunct professor.”

Donald Nelson Lee (1995) is a clinical social worker at Rusk State Hospital. His area of interest is geriatrics. Donald can be contacted at work, P.O. Box 318, Rusk, TX 75785; phone: (903) 683-7774. His email is donald.lee@dshs.state.tx.us.

Gayla Sherman (1988) and husband, Gayle R. Klopp, were recently appointed as co-executive directors for Charles Hall Youth Services (CHYS) in Bismarck, ND. CHYS serves approximately 200 youth each year, ages 12-21, through its core residential group home program, independent life skills and transitional living programs. Contact Sherman at gayla.sherman@charleshallyouthservices.com or by phone at (701) 255-2773.

caught by the rising water. Their car got caught in the branches of a tree, and the mother was swept to her death in the ocean. Meanwhile, friends and co-workers back in Waco worried about Cooray.

Doug McDurham, executive director of MCYC, heard about the devastation Sunday and drove to MCYC’s downtown office to find her contact information. He couldn’t reach her by phone, but left her an e-mail message, which she returned.

“I really didn’t expect to get through to her that way,” he said.

He said he was touched by Cooray’s empathy for the victims of the disaster.

“She was thankful for the experience because it provided her insight into what folks who experience trauma go through,” he said.

* Originally estimated at 18,000 dead, numbers of the deceased has reached over 31,000 since this article originally appeared.

This article, used by permission of the Waco Tribune-Herald, first appeared in that publication’s December 29, 2004 edition.

impact: After Indonesia—which lost at least 128,000 and suffered another 37,000 missing persons—Sri Lanka suffered more from the tsunami than anywhere else. Its southern and eastern coastlines were ravaged. More than 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, along with crops and fishing boats. The International Labour Organization estimates more than 400,000 people lost their jobs as a result - mostly in the fishing, hotel and tourism sectors.

toll: More than 31,000 people died and more than 4,000 have been reported missing. More than half a million people were made homeless. In one of the worst incidents, more than 800 people died when a train was struck by the tsunami at Telwatta, in the south-west.

aid: In the wake of the basic humanitarian relief effort, the government plans to rebuild coastal resort towns - some from scratch. About $2 billion(US) has been pledged to help reconstruction efforts. But the issue of sharing aid with north-east areas controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels has caused tension and divisions. President Kumaratunga suffered a setback when a key coalition partner opposed to a deal with the rebels quit in June 2005.

Statistics from the BBC/UK’s online news site.
Hosted by the Board of Advocates, and funded in part by gifts from members of the Board—and other friends of the School of Social Work—the Family Dinner offers an opportunity to celebrate successes and look to the future.

For the 2004-2005 academic year, award recipients included Hilary Marsh (BSW Intern of the Year) and Ebony Hall (MSW Intern of the Year) and Emily Conner (BSW Student of the Year) and Katie Brennan Homiak (MSW Student of the Year).

Congratulations Hilary, Ebony, Emily, and Katie for your hard work and accomplishments... your entire SSW family salutes you!

Marv Knox, editor of the Baptist Standard and a member of the Board of Advocates, is shown here at the Family Dinner with Dean Diana Garland. “The School of Social Work’s annual Family Dinner is one of my two favorite events of the entire year,” said Knox.

Emily Conner, BSW student of the year, accepts her award from Gaynor Yancey. Conner graduated in May 2005. Conner is pursuing her MSW as a part of the Advanced Standing program.

Associate dean Dennis Myers congratulates Ebony Hall, MSW Intern of the Year, on her accomplishments.

Dean Diana Garland, shown here with award winner Katie Brennan Homiak—and husband Chris (a Truett Seminary student himself)—offers her congratulations to Katie. When her studies are completed next year, Katie will be one of the few dual-degree (MSW/MDiv) graduates of Baylor University.

Associate dean Gaynor Yancey and BSW Intern of the Year, Hilary Marsh, celebrate Hilary’s outstanding accomplishments during her undergraduate studies in the School of Social Work.
The Church Social Work Network: A Bit of History

by Diana R. Garland

I want to tell you the story of how the Church Social Work Network came to be. First of all, when we began dreaming about a church social work network, we were really thinking about those graduates of the Southern Baptist seminary social work programs, and even more specifically about those who attended WMU Training School and Carver School at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. But when we put out the word and people started contacting me expressing interest, I realized there were lots of other traditions as well—American Baptists and many others.

By the time our church social work directory is published later this year, there is no telling how many different varieties of Baptist social workers we will have found. Social workers are—shall I say it—a social bunch. Certainly, we love to fold people into fellowship. So I am thrilled that we are able to place the tent pegs of our Baptist ingathering so widely.

The story I tell below is the one I know, my own story. As we develop this network, I earnestly hope that those of you who have come different paths will also tell the stories of how you came to be a Baptist social worker. Send them to us, and we will publish them in future issues of Community Connection. If we don’t preserve our stories, I am afraid they will be lost.

Beginnings of the profession

The social work profession grew out of the concerns and efforts of church leaders and volunteers, and Baptists led the way. A century ago, Baptists were among the first to develop social work education to provide leadership in ministries to families and communities through orphanages, hospitals, and settlement houses.

The Woman’s Missionary Union Training School—founded in Louisville in 1907—was an important program for training women missionaries and social workers. Baptists recognized the need for education to prepare women called to serve in the church. Social work and missions were virtually the only avenues of ministry of faith and practice and the leadership of faith-based services. It was the only program ever located in a seminary of any denomination or faith tradition.

The Carver School survived only 12 years. The dramatic shift in leadership, theology, and culture of the Southern Baptist Convention during the last two decades of the last century led Southwestern Seminary and New Orleans Seminary to abandon efforts to develop accredited social work programs.

Demise of the Carver School of Social Work

I became the second dean of Carver School of Church Social Work in 1993, when Anne Davis retired. In 1995, I was removed from the deanship by Seminary President Albert Mohler after I spoke publicly in criticism of his policies. The focal issue was the role of women in leadership in the church. If you are interested in that story, see the article I wrote about it (“When professional ethics and religious politics conflict: A case study,” Social Work and Christianity, 26 (1), 60-76). Despite organized protest on the part of the students and many alumni, as well as the community, the school was closed in 1997, with the seminary president’s statement to the public and Baptist presses as the only explanation—“conservative theology and social work education are not congruent with one another.”

At first, Mohler attempted to sell the school to Samford University in Birmingham. When negotiations with Samford fell through, the school was sold to Campbellsville University in Kentucky. The graduate program never reopened, although the existing generalist social work program at Campbellsville took on the name “Carver School.”

Baptists were once again left with no accredited graduate social work program whose mission included preparing church social workers. In response, and at long last, Baylor University began developing its graduate social work program in response to purchase a copy of the book visit http://www.mupress.org/webpages/books/scales.html. or call 1-800-637-2378.
to the request from the BGCT forty years before. In 1997, Baylor University invited me to Waco to found a new graduate social work program to serve the needs of Baptist congregations and ministries.

**Baylor establishes new graduate program in 1999**

In August 1999, Baylor University admitted its first class of 17 graduate social work students. The need for such a program to support the work of Baptist congregations and ministries is greater than ever before. Agencies such as the historic Baptist child and family service agencies must have qualified professional social workers to lead their programs of care. Congregations and other missions need professional social workers to shape and work with their community-based ministries. Graduates of this new program are already serving as missionaries in this country and abroad.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, there were 65 students enrolled in the Baylor graduate social work program. To date, we have 129 graduates. Beginning June 1, 2005, the Baylor School of Social Work was promoted to freestanding status in the university with our own dean, no longer a department within the College of Arts and Sciences but a school on par with the law school, education school, and seminary.

**A new gathering of social workers**

I have continued to feel the need to gather into some sort of network the many alumni that are represented in this rich heritage of social work education. On May 5, 2005, Woman’s Missionary Union called a “summit” in Birmingham to talk about what to do to organize all of us who identify with this heritage. Representatives of Samford, Campbellsville, Baylor, WMU, and a small group of Carver alumni spent most of a day talking and praying together. The outcome was the group’s blessing and encouragement for Baylor to lead out in organizing the “church social work network”—including graduates of the Training School, the Carver School, and all the schools that Baptists have supported to prepare women and men for social work and leadership of the Christian social ministries and missions of Baptist congregations. We want to include graduates of undergraduate social work programs that are working in church and denominational contexts as well.

We will be publishing a Church Social Work Network Directory with all the information about everyone we have collected. We hope to have it in the mail before Christmas 2005, so that you can find that long-lost friend from school days and send a Christmas card. (Although if you are like me, I missed Christmas cards altogether last year and sent Valentines cards instead.) Anyway, watch for the directory. And please, help us find other alumni from the WMU Training School, Carver School, and other Baptist seminaries and universities. If you have not already filled out the form on this page and sent it to us, please do so, and share it with colleagues.

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**Church Social Work Network**

Thank you for your interest in a network created specifically for graduates of Carver School and other Baptist seminary programs of social work and Christian social ministries. Please provide us with the requested information by using this form or email to churchsocialnetwork@wmu.org.

**Name**

(include maiden name if that is the name you used upon graduation)

**Mailing address**

**Phone number**

**School attended**

**Degree earned**

**Year of Graduation**

**What are you doing currently?** (Please limit your response to 75 words.)

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May we use your contact information in a printed or online directory provided for participants?  □ YES  □ NO

**Mail to:** Church Social Work Network, WMU Foundation / 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL, 35242-5235.
Garland appoints three new program directors

The School of Social Work is growing and expanding. Even as it does, Dr. Diana Garland, dean, has announced the appointment of three new program directors. These include Dr. Pete Campbell, new to the faculty, and Drs. Rob Rogers and Jon Singletary, who have been faculty members but are assuming these roles as program directors.

According to Garland, new herself in the role of dean, “filling these posts means that we are making additional strides as we seek to provide more and better opportunities for our students in service and education.”

Dr. Pete Campbell has moved to Waco from North Carolina to serve as the director of baccalaureate field education. Dr. Campbell most recently served as professor and chair of the Division of Education and Physical Education at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC. Before that, he served as professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Family Studies at Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., where he also served as director of field education. Campbell has also served as director of the social work program at Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC. Before entering academic life, Dr. Campbell was in private practice as a marriage, family and child therapist with a pediatrician group and as supervisor and mental health clinician in the Family Guidance Center, Inc., both in Hickory, NC. Dr. Campbell earned his Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Campbell University, his MSW from Louisiana State University, and his B.A. in Sociology from Mississippi College.

Dr. Rob Rogers has been named director of the Baylor Literacy Mission Center (BLMC), a collaborative effort of the Schools of Education and Social Work and in partnership with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Rogers has been actively involved in service and research with the BLMC for the past two years, expanding the work of the center to include literacy education for families through public schools in the Waco area and developing models of literacy education for congregations. Rogers has been instrumental in obtaining grant funding for the BLMC and developing field placements in the various programs of the BLMC for our students. The BLMC provides a vital service and an opportunity to develop models and research in response to the dramatic increase in the population of Texas and beyond of persons who need to learn to speak and read and write English in order to improve their living circumstance.

Dr. Jon Singletary has been named director of the Center for Family and Community Ministries. Dr. Singletary joined the faculty in 2003, while he was serving as a research partner representing Virginia Commonwealth University in the Faith and Service Technical Education Network—a project funded by Pew Charitable Trusts. Singletary earned his Ph.D. and MSW degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as an M.Div. from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, and Singletary is a Baylor alumnus (B.A.). Dr. Singletary convened a summit of key national leaders in family and community ministry in August, to develop a strategic plan for expanding the work of the Center, including developing continuing education opportunities for social workers and congregational leaders of family and community ministries.
Garlands honored with endowed chairs

Baylor University recently announced unrelated gifts from two separate anonymous donors that will provide for the establishment of endowed chairs in the School of Social Work and George W. Truett Theological Seminary, in honor of Baylor husband and wife scholars Drs. Diana and David Garland.

The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Services was established to recognize the Baylor School of Social Work’s growth and excellence under Diana’s leadership. The David E. Garland Chair in Preaching acknowledges the leadership, vision and devotion to ministry that characterizes David's service in the pastorate and as a professor.

“As the first dean of the School of Social Work, I am deeply honored by this gift and extremely grateful for the donor’s generosity and commitment to the mission of this school,” Diana said.

Under Diana’s leadership, the School of Social Work graduate program has grown 300 percent and was ranked 87th in the top 100 graduate schools in U.S. News and World Report, a significant achievement for a young program with a unique emphasis on integrating religion and spirituality in social work practice.

David Garland, associate dean of academic affairs at Truett Seminary, received the Christianity Today Award of Merit and a Silver Medallion last year for his commentary on 1 Corinthians. Though his specialty is in New Testament and he has published 12 books, he considers preaching to be the ultimate aim of biblical study, and has served as interim pastor of 15 churches in Kentucky, Indiana and Texas.

“We consider effectiveness in communicating God’s word to today’s world to be a major challenge and need in the life of the church and her mission,” David said. “This extraordinary gift will allow Truett Seminary to push toward greater excellence in this vital area.”

The School of Social Work and Truett Seminary will be raising money to fully fund the endowments for these chairs. For information about contributing to these endowed chairs, please contact Assistant Vice President Cindy Dougherty at (254) 710-2561 or 1-800-BAYLOR-U, option 4.

Singletary leads students on poverty issues discovery; CBF provides funding for the experience

As a part of an assignment in a full year of studying poverty issues in the class “Social Policy” and hunger movements in “Human Behavior in the Social Environment,” four undergraduate students and officers in NASW/BU learned about an exciting summer opportunity.

Golda Waselovich, Claire Austin, Mallory Homeyer, and Laura Neiwitt were invited to attend the “One Table, Many Voices” conference hosted by Bread for the World and Call to Renewal in Washington, DC and decided they would spend the remainder of the Spring finding a way to attend this event.

They learned that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was involved in the work of these organizations and had been a partner with these organizations.

Dr. Jon Singletary, NASW/BU’s faculty sponsor, also knew of the event and had worked with the CBF associate coordinator for missions, Tom Prevost, and Partners in Hope, the CBF rural poverty initiative, on similar events.

Singletary helped the students approach Partners in Hope to see about their involvement, and Prevost made the decision to assist the young women on their adventure to Washington, DC. CBF, in turn, provided financial support to their student organization, NASW/BU, which paid their way.

The women each had remarkable experiences in DC and returned with an even greater passion for poverty and hunger issues.

While at the “One Table, Many Voices” conference, the Baylor SSW contingent heard from Senator John Edwards (D-NC) and Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben and Jerry’s ice cream and TrueMajority.org. They took part in forums discussing interfaith involvement in social justice and faith-based advocacy. As well they met with Daniel Vestal, CBF’s chief executive officer, and returned home to meet with Tom Prevost for a lunch gathering to share their stories.

Through partnerships with the CBF, their support of the Center for Family and Community Ministries, and of student experiences such as this, SSW students are better able to understand the role of the church in the delivery of social ministries.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2005

September 8  Inaugural School Worship Service
          9  Board of Advocates Meeting
          22  Preston Dyer Workshop
October 26-30  Baylor Homecoming Week
           27-30  NASW Annual Meeting
                    Grand Rapids, MI
November 10-12  NASW/TX Annual Meeting
                    Galveston, TX
December 16-17  Fall Pinning/Graduation

2006

February 16-19  CSWE Annual Meeting
                    Chicago, IL
April 27  Family Dinner
           28  Board of Advocates Meeting
May 12-13  Spring Pinning/Graduation

CALLING ALL ALUMNI  Let us hear from you!

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Sorry, photos can not be returned.) Send information to: Tim Norton, Community Connection editor, School of Social Work, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97320, Waco, TX 76798-7320. You can fax this form to (254) 710-6455 or send via email to Krista_Barrett@Baylor.edu.

Name __________________________ Year of graduation ________

Name at graduation, if different __________________________________

Home Address ________________________________________________

Home Telephone (_____) ___________ Business Telephone (____) ________

Employer _____________________________________________________

Title or Position ______________________________________________

Business Address ______________________________________________________________________

E-mail Address _________________________________________________________________

Areas of interest (family, special projects, etc.) ___________________________

Program of study _________________________________________________

Are you a Carver School graduate? ________________________________

Insider Information

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

To email any member of the faculty or staff, use the 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
Diana Garland, Dean  
Dennis Myers, Assoc. Dean, Graduate Studies  
Gaynor Yancey, Assoc. Dean, Baccalaureate Studies  
Pete Campbell, Director, Undergraduate Field Education  
James Ellor, Director, Institute for Gerontological Studies  
Helen Harris, Director, Graduate Field Education  
Rob Rogers, Director, Baylor Literacy Mission Center  
Jon Singleton, Director, Center for Family & Community Ministries  
Preston Dyer  
Laine Scales  
David Sherwood  
Scott Taylor

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Community Connection is designed and edited by Crux Communication. For more information visit www.cruxcommunication.com or contact Tim Norton by telephone at (770) 936-5378.