

inside:

- **IN THE FIRST PERSON**
COLLEEN EDDY
- **WELCOME**
RECENT ADDITIONS TO SOE FACULTY
- **RESEARCH**
SEEKING TO ASSIST CHILDREN WITH AUTISM
- **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**
THE VORPAHLS GIVE THANKS
BY HELPING STUDENTS

THE BAYLOR

impact
FROM ACTION COMES IMPACT



Dear Alumni and Friends:

From the founding of America's great universities — Yale, Harvard and Brown (originally church-affiliated institutions) — their core missions were educating citizens for a democratic society, addressing the problems of society, and fostering in students a

mission for personal and community service. Schools of education in such universities, then and now, sought to stimulate discussion, research, and action on challenging issues of the day — aimed at strengthening communities and working for the common good. In this same tradition, as one of America's top universities, Baylor's School of Education established a Distinguished Lecture Series, to promote discussion and action on relevant educational issues within the Baylor academy, the greater Waco community, and beyond.

Dr. Geneva Gay, nationally recognized in multicultural education, inaugurated the series in October addressing "culturally responsive teaching." She led the audience to explore culture as an element of effective teaching and schooling. The next day, in a follow-up discussion targeted at Waco area educational and community leaders, she discussed practical and pragmatic implications of cultural sensitivity in an increasingly diverse society.

In February, world-renowned educational psychologist David Berliner spoke on the del-

eterious effects of high-stakes testing on public schools and American economic competitiveness. During a community presentation the following day, Dr. Berliner foreshadowed a soon-to-be-released policy paper on out-of-school factors that profoundly impact schooling, some eclipsing efforts of the most effective teachers and schools.

Reactions to the series have been gratifying. Across the two lectures, audiences increased in number and breadth, including people from across the University and the region. Indeed, *Waco Tribune-Herald* opinion page editor John Young was so struck by Dr. Berliner's lecture it was the subject of his Feb. 12 column (see www.baylor.edu/soe/impact for a link to the *Tribune-Herald* column).

We anticipate salient, relevant, and perhaps provocative topics in next year's Distinguished Lecture Series. I hope you will plan to attend. Watch the School's Web page (www.baylor.edu/soe) for more information.

Jon M. Engelhardt
Dean, School of Education



Dr. Geneva Gay



Dr. David Berliner

impact

THE BAYLOR

FROM ACTION COMES IMPACT

In the F¹IRST PERSON

My first experience at Baylor University was serving as a part-time lecturer teaching mathematics methods for middle school pre-service teachers. Prior to Baylor, I had been teaching developmental mathematics at McLennan Community College for five years and before that teaching secondary mathematics at Midway High School in Waco for five years. What I had come to realize is that I do thoroughly enjoy doing and teaching mathematics.

From my initial experience at Baylor as a lecturer, I had found my calling. I found that I could incorporate my passion for doing and teaching mathematics with pre-service teachers. With the guidance of the great faculty, I began my doctoral studies in the School of Education in curriculum and instruction. I discovered that I had a place at Baylor studying and researching mathematics education.

During the next three years in the doctoral program, I had many experiences, which included being a part-time lecturer, a full time doctoral student, and a graduate research assistant to a fantastic mathematics educator, Dr. Trena Wilkerson. I was able to engage in current research on professional development for mathematics in-service and pre-service teachers, present at local, regional, and national conferences, serve in leadership roles in professional organizations, and finally begin writing and publishing my own manuscripts.

Colleen Eddy
EdD, 2005

Through the faculty and my peers at Baylor, I realized that my service as a Christian could be integrated into my professional career serving others. Baylor became my second family-- supporting, encouraging, and guiding me along the way.

I came to Baylor thinking that I could be content being a part-time lecturer and taking care of my husband and two boys. By the time I completed my doctorate, God had changed my husband's heart and mine. We were willing to go where God led us, and we followed that call to the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton.

For the past two and a half years, I have been an assistant professor in the College of Education. As the only mathematics educator at UNT, I have been able to apply my experiences of collaboration with the mathematics and science departments, and with colleagues at other universities such as Midwestern State University, Southwestern State University, University of Texas in Austin, and last but not least Baylor University.

“FROM MY INITIAL
EXPERIENCE AT BAYLOR AS A
LECTURER, I HAD FOUND MY
CALLING.”

Also, I continue to grow in my service in several mathematics organizations by serving on committees and as a journal reviewer with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, School Science and Mathematics Association, and Association of Mathematics Teachers Educators. In July 2008, I was elected president-elect for the newly formed Texas Association of Mathematics Teachers Educators.

My philosophy as a professor has been to engage my students just as Baylor engaged me in all aspects of what being a professor would require. I went into my career with my eyes wide open, knowing full well that Baylor had fully prepared me for this place and time in my career.

WEB extra To see comments from some of Colleen's instructors, please visit www.baylor.edu/soe/impact.



WELCOME

New Faculty Join SOE Departments

Dr. Anthony Boucher

Health, Human Performance and Recreation

Adopted at birth, Anthony Boucher (pronounced 'boo shay') moved to Honduras with his Peace Corps parents, when he was six weeks old. Later, he spent time in Venezuela, Chile, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, and Puerto Rico. Texas is "home."

Dr. Boucher received bachelor degrees in zoology from Texas Tech (1993) and basic health care sciences from the University of Texas Medical Branch (1994). He then completed a master's of physical therapy (UTMB, 1996) and was awarded his PhD in physical therapy from Texas Woman's University's School of Physical Therapy (2008).

"Baylor is the optimal place for me to profess my clinical and educational experiences in a Christian and research intensive environment," Dr. Boucher says.

He enjoys sports and spending time with his family, when not with students.



Dr. Anthony Boucher



Dr. Donald Fuller

Dr. Donald Fuller

Health, Human Performance and Recreation

A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dr. Fuller traveled to the University of New Mexico for his bachelor's degree (1989) and to Indiana State University for his master's degree (1991), both in athletic training. He completed his PhD (1995) at the University of Southern Mississippi in teaching and administration.

At Baylor, Dr. Fuller is director of the undergraduate athletic training program that prepares students for national certification and state licensure. His research focuses on professionalism within athletic training educational programs.

He came to Baylor because people he met from the program were friendly, supportive, helpful, and strong Christians. He enjoys working with students who want to be life-long learners.

Off campus, Dr. Fuller works with Meals-on-Wheels, the American Red Cross, and the Waco Cycling Club.

Dr. Mary Ann Jordan

Educational Administration

Eastland, Texas, is home for Dr. Mary Ann Jordan. She graduated from Baylor University with majors in secondary education and English and a minor in mathematics.

She received her master's degree from Texas A&M-Kingsville and her doctorate from the University of North Texas. After teaching mathematics, she served as a school administrator.

Dr. Jordan came to Baylor "to share my knowledge and expertise with persons who desire to be servant leaders to the students of Texas." She serves as program director for the newly re-established principal preparation program in the educational administration department.

In her free time, Dr. Jordan enjoys watching theater, music, and sports as well as driving her 1957 red Ford Thunderbird. She also plays the harp and the piano, and she enjoys traveling.



Dr. Mary Ann Jordan

The Baylor Impact is published four times a year by the School of Education at Baylor University to inform alumni and friends of the ongoing work and contributions of the School, its programs, faculty, staff, students, and graduates.

Our cover story was a result of feedback from readers like you. If you know of a story connected to Baylor's School of Education that needs to be told, please let us know about it. Your story might be our next feature. Send your ideas and comments to Doug Rogers, editor, BaylorImpact@baylor.edu.



RESEARCH

Seeking to Assist Children with Autism

Imagine living in a world where you cannot tell others that you are hungry, tired, or want your favorite toy.

Many children with autism have limited communication skills; they live in that kind of world. These children often display high levels of severe challenging behavior, such as aggression or self-injury. Children who cannot communicate, use behaviors to get their needs met — a child wanting attention may bite his hand because he knows this will get his teacher's attention.

Dr. Tonya Davis, assistant professor of educational psychology, studies methods for reducing challenging behavior in children with autism by giving individuals alternative means of communication, such as using pictures or an electronic device that produces a spoken message when activated.

Initially, she must determine what the child is trying to communicate with the challenging behavior. The next step is to teach a more appropriate alternative. Her research studies the best ways to prepare children for communication intervention. Dr. Davis says, "teaching a child to communicate is truly life-altering, for both the child and the caregivers."



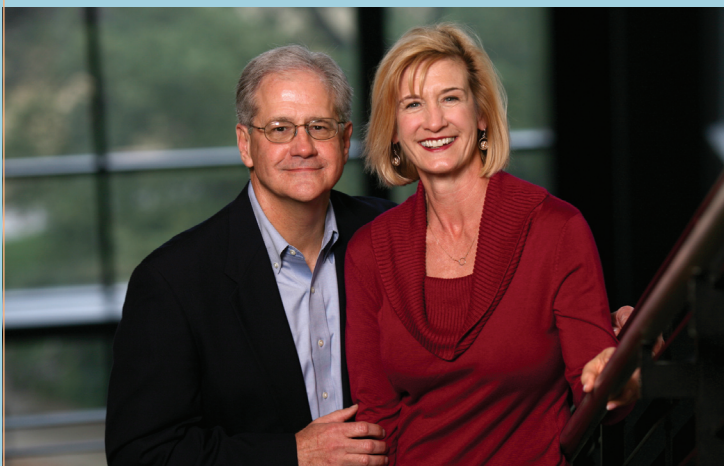
Dr. Tonya Davis with student and electronic communication device

Her current study seeks to determine if communication intervention is improved by allowing a child to play with a desired toy before teaching the child how to ask for the toy. In pilot studies, this technique has improved the teaching sessions. Future research will refine and expand this concept.

Dr. Davis, who hopes to hear soon about recent grant proposals, has prepared national articles and presentations on the subject, including for the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* and the Association of Behavior Analysis conferences. She will be on sabbatical this coming summer to conduct research.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Vorpahls Give Thanks By Helping Students



George and Nancy Vorpahl

By Amanda Keys

"I'm not in law because of lawyers," George Vorpahl (BBA '72, JD '75) declared. "I'm in law because of teachers."

From high school political science teachers to Baylor Law professor Matt Dawson's Practice Court, teachers prepared the foundation for George's career. Likewise, Nancy Vorpahl (BA '73) treasures memories of her high school drama teacher and Baylor SOE professor Betty Ruth Baker's mentorship.

A shiny, red apple — the traditional teacher's gift — didn't seem to be thanks enough for those who shaped their lives. The Vorpahls wanted to do more, to fully express their appreciation and to assist others who dreamed of becoming teachers. The result: George and Nancy established the Price-Vorpahl Endowed Academic Scholarship and designated it for students in Baylor's School of Education.

"One of my first kindergarten students wrote me a thank you letter when she was close to graduating from high school," Nancy smiled. "Teachers invest in each child's life, and that's going to have a ripple effect for years to come."

The Vorpahls' support stretches farther with the matching gift program from George's employer, Temple-Inland, and has provided the perfect opportunity to honor their parents — Leon (BA '43) and Ardis (BA '45) Vorpahl and Harold H. Price and Mary Elizabeth Price David — and their commitment to education.

Nancy noted, "You can see that love for education in each one of our scholarship recipients."

Start a ripple effect by investing in future Baylor educators. If you would like information about existing endowed scholarship funds you can support or want to learn how you can establish a new fund at Baylor's School of Education, please contact Carole Menefee using the information below.



IMPACT TOMORROW

Discover more about ways to assist students or programs in the Baylor School of Education by contacting Carole Menefee, the school's development officer, at:
Carole_Menefee@baylor.edu
(254) 710-2561 or 800-BAYLOR-U, option 4



Carole Menefee