



Overcoming the odds

MSW student Ashley Brown battled through her second renal failure during the spring semester determined to earn her master's degree. On May 15, she walked the stage at the Ferrell Center, and three days later underwent a 9-hour surgery to receive her brother, Ryan's, donated kidney. Read her story under "News" on the School of Social Work website at: www.baylor.edu/social_work

CALENDAR *of events*

AUGUST

- 13 Summer Convocation
- 14 Summer Commencement

SEPTEMBER

- 16 Fall Worship Service
- 17 Board of Advocates Fall Meeting

OCTOBER

- 8-10 NASW/TX Annual Conference
- 14-17 CSWE Annual Program Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 11-14 NACSW Conference



community CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



IN THE FAMILY WAY

ADOPTION PROVIDES
FACULTY FAMILIES
NEW PATH TO JOY

Long, uphill battles

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



I WAS REMINDED AFRESH OF something recently, although I have really known it for 30 years: Social work and Christian faith fit together so well, but that fit is lost on many.

Three decades ago I was a young faculty member serving with Dean Anne Davis at the Carver School of Church Social Work in Kentucky. Our school had a clear Christian identity, and as a consequence, we had to fight just for the opportunity to be reviewed for national accreditation. Many Christians who have been working for more than a few years as social workers and social work educators know well the long, uphill battle we have waged to gain credibility among our academic and professional colleagues.

Today, much of the bias against social workers who are actively Christian is dissipating, due in large part to people like Dean Davis, who died in 2006, and Dr. David Sherwood, our friend and former colleague, who is now retired. They were the pioneers who forged the path for those who would be following. The faculty at Baylor's School of Social Work also has been a part of that trail blazing. They have moved rocks out of the trail and built many bridges, along with similarly minded colleagues in other institutions now and in the past.

I bring this up now because many of you may not know this history; certainly some of our current students may not know how much they stand upon the shoulders of those who went before them. Today, spoken bias against a social work school in a Christian institution is much less common, and I believe that is significant. So many Christians have persisted in doing the hard work of being engaged in the governing organizations of our profession, of building relationships with social work colleagues and being found worthy of respect, of demonstrating the ethical integration of faith and practice in our research and writing, of doing the time-consuming work of serving the profession, and of telling our stories.

Unlike any other time since the beginning of our profession, the doors are open. More important, minds are open. Our colleagues in other universities say to us, "What you are doing at Baylor is fascinating. We want to learn from you." On a recent trip to Washington, DC, I heard a leader in our accrediting agency say in conversation that the religiously affiliated schools often do better in addressing some of the difficult issues such as sexual orientation than do many of the non-religiously affiliated schools. Three deans of social work schools in state universities invited me to dinner during a professional meeting in Florida. They wanted to learn from me how we help our students examine their faith and use it in ways that are sensitive and genuinely helpful in their relationships with clients. Other Baylor faculty members are having similar experiences.

The good word I want to share is this: We are having an impact on our profession! Baylor Social Work is known as having a significant message to bring to our colleagues

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At the Baylor School of Social Work, our students learn about believing in human dignity, the power of hope, the need for justice, caring as the foundation for effective change, and serving that transforms lives and communities.

Sex education in the church

STUDY WITH MINORITY YOUTH CHALLENGES LONG-HELD ASSUMPTION +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

THE FIRST THING MINISTERS to minority youth should understand is that a significant number of their youth are either sexually active or are facing pressures to become active. The second thing is to schedule a comprehensive sex education class – one with information about abstinence and contraception – on the Christian education calendar.

In a recently published article in *The Journal of Youth Ministry** (Vol. 8, No. 1, Fall 2009), authors Michael Sherr, director of doctoral studies at Baylor University School of Social Work, and Preston Dyer, professor emeritus at the School, report two notable findings: Youth who participated in the Project-U-Turn comprehensive sex education program in a church setting scored higher than youth who participated in a public school setting; and there is no evidence that presenting messages about abstinence and contraception is contradictory or that it increases sexual activity.

Encouraging abstinence and educating about contraception are compatible... [and] can be a very effective way to reduce teen pregnancy.

The study reports on the outcomes of a nine-hour federally funded, comprehensive, abstinence-based program delivered to 620 minority (African American and Latino) youth in church and in public school settings in Miami, FL. It is the first empirical study of comprehensive sex education programs (rather than abstinence-only or contraception-only approaches) and the first to compare outcomes at the two settings, Sherr said.

The study shows that youth at churches scored higher on every measure congruent with choosing abstinence until marriage. Youth at both settings, however, significantly increased their scores based on pre- and post-test evaluations.

“The study also concluded that encouraging abstinence and educating about contraception are compatible, not competing, goals,” Sherr said. “There is no evidence that providing both messages is confusing, contradictory or harmful. Rather, it can be a very effective way to reduce teen pregnancy and other teen health risks related to sexual activity.”

Regardless of the setting, almost half of the youth in the sample had sexual intercourse before the program,

but after the program, the findings indicated statistically significant reductions in the percentages of youth that continued having sexual intercourse, Sherr said.

“Perhaps more important, there was no increase in the number of youth that had sexual intercourse for the first time and most that chose to have sex used some form of contraception,” he said.

The study focused on African American (35.1 percent of participants) and Latino (65.9 percent) youth because previously reported statistics show that two-thirds of African American teenagers (66.5 percent) and more than half of Latino teens (52 percent) report having sexual intercourse. Numbers for multiple partners, pregnancies, abortions, miscarriages and incidences of sexually transmitted diseases also are higher for these two ethnic groups than for others.

The authors conclude that churches can play a “transformational role” in the lives of youth by offering a comprehensive program that emphasizes healthy relationships, personal goals, effective communication skills and is theologically consistent with church doctrine.

They also reiterate that a comprehensive sexual education program can include “accurate content about contraception and other physiological aspects of sexuality without increasing the prevalence of youth who may have sex if presented with this information.” ♦

*Evaluating a Comprehensive Abstinence-based Program for Minority Youth: Comparing Church and Public School Outcomes

project U-TURN

“Project-U-Turn” is a nine-week classroom-style program that teaches youth to recognize the benefits of healthy relationships, and the reasons, skills, and support to choose abstinence until marriage, in conjunction with medically accurate information about sexually transmitted diseases and contraception. Youth learn that sexual activity has physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual consequences. Although educators provide accurate information about STDs and contraception, they encourage youth to recognize that contraception only protects them physically.

Several awards presented at spring events

Jason Pittman named 2010 Alumnus of the Year; Ray Lisauckis honored for 28 years of service

THE SCHOOL RECOGNIZED

several outstanding students and others at the annual Family Dinner April 29 and at the Field Education Luncheon April 20.

Jason Pittman (BA 1995, MSW/MDiv 2002) was named the 2010 Alumnus of the Year. Pittman has worked in inner-city ministries since his undergraduate days at Baylor. He has been executive director of Touching Miami With Love (TML), an outreach ministry of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, since 2005.

Pittman regularly serves as a field supervisor for MSW students who intern at TML. He also is the immediate past president of North American Association of Christian Social Workers (NACSW). He and his wife, Angel, also a Baylor graduate, serve together in inner-city ministries; they have two sons, Isaac and Lucas.

Students who received awards at the Family Dinner include: NASW Student of the Year, Erica Reyes-Rosas;

MSW Spirit of Social Work, Ashley Brown; BSW Spirit of Social Work, Owen Wible; BSW Outstanding Student, Camesha Ethley; and MSW Outstanding Student, Amy Kramer.

Recognitions and awards presented at the Field Education Luncheon include: Shannon Pillis, BSW Student Intern of the Year; three MSW Student Interns of the Year (Viviana Urdaneta, Children and Families; Hannah Kuhl, Community Practice; and Karolina Stelzer, Mental and Physical Health).

Tancy Horn-Johnson, Waco Center for Youth, was selected as Field Instructor of the Year, and Dan Worley, The Freeman Center, was selected as Field Administrator of the Year.

A special recognition went to Ray Lisauckis, who has served the School in a number of roles since 1982, including lecturer, field supervisor, and field committee member. Lisauckis has moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area with Veterans Affairs.



Jason Pittman was honored as the 2010 Alumnus of the Year at the Family Dinner April 29. He and wife, Angel, have been involved in inner-city ministries since their undergraduate days at Baylor.



Ray Lisauckis was honored for his 28 years of service and involvement in the School of Social Work.

Two endowed positions filled

DENNIS MYERS, professor of social work and associate dean for graduate studies, was awarded the Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Professorship in Family Studies, and Jon Singletary, associate professor of social work, was awarded the Diana R. Garland Chair in Children and Family Studies.

Endowed positions are paid for, at least in part, by funds gifted to the university. The funds are invested so that the endowed position can exist as long as the university itself. Having an endowed position also ensures that the professor will have more time to devote to scholarship, writing and research.



MYERS



SINGLETARY

“To receive an endowed position means you have an established record of scholarship, research and teaching that your colleagues believe will continue for the rest of your teaching career,” said Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work.

SCHOOL TO BENEFIT FROM \$200 MILLION GIFT TO BAYLOR

A deferred gift to Baylor University worth an estimated \$200 million has been designated to be shared between the School of Social Work and the College of Arts and Sciences, among other programs.

Given by an anonymous donor, the gift is to be applied toward medical research and educational programs that will benefit the field of knowledge and experience in diseases, disorders, care, treatment and other issues associated with aging.

It is the second largest donation made to a Texas college or university and ranks among the top 20 private gifts made to higher education in the United States, according to data reported by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"The idea that someone looks at this School, which is only four years old, and believes in the mission and direction enough to give a gift like this is an amazing vote of confidence in our program," said Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work.

MSW STUDENTS INVITED TO NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONGRESS

Four students serving in internships in the DC-area this spring were invited to attend the 2010 Student Social Work Congress, a virtual event held April 22-23. The event was in conjunction with the Social Work Congress, attended by some 400 social work professionals to consider the direction of the profession.

Students who attended were: Eric Bean, intern with Bread for the World; Kate Bean, intern with Salvation Army; Kari Stelzer, intern with Johns Hopkins; and Emily Mathew, intern with National Institutes of Health. The group also was invited to lunch in February with Elizabeth Clark, executive director of the National Association of Social Work.

TWO STUDENTS NAMED TO NATIONAL 'WHO'S WHO'

Christine Browder, BSW student, and Kate Bean, MSW student, were selected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Browder, BSW 2010, will enter the Advanced Standing MSW program this summer. This past semester, she interned with the Texas Hunger Initiative as a regional organizer helping to develop relationships with local grassroots organizers to help end hunger in Texas.



This summer, she will intern at Wilton Baptist Church in Wilton, CT, with the preschool ministry.

Bean, MSW 2010/MDiv candidate, interned this past spring at Salvation Army National Headquarters in Alexandria, VA, with the liaison for the abolition of sexual trafficking. She and husband, Eric, also a dual degree student, will spend five weeks in India this summer on a mercy trip mission.



PROFESSOR, STUDENT INVITED TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Michael Sherr, director of the School's doctoral program, and MSW student Trevor Stephen were invited to attend the 2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Hong Kong in June.

Sherr was awarded the University of Hong Kong Young Scholar Award for Outstanding Abstract.

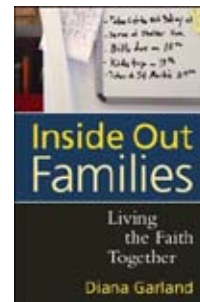
He will present the paper for which he won the award, "Analyzing the Practice Methods of Jane Addams: Lessons for Building Partnerships, Social Capital, and Global Civil Societies." He also will present a paper titled "Prevention of HIV/AIDS with At-Risk Youth: Findings from a Randomized Control Study of Inner-City High Schools in Miami, Florida."

Stephen, a dual degree student, will present his research on the organization of culture from three different perspectives – Caribbean, Kenyan and American. He and two other students from different schools will look at commonalities and differences in hopes of helping global organizations practice more effective leadership.

GARLAND RELEASES LATEST BOOK, INSIDE OUT FAMILIES

Diana Garland's most recent book, *Inside Out Families: Living the Faith Together*, has been released by Baylor Press.

In this book, Garland guides congregational leaders and counselors to encourage families to engage together in the Christian practice of service – a practice Garland's research shows will help develop a vigorous and resilient faith in children and youth that will carry them into adulthood.



READ MORE ONLINE

To catch all the latest news about the School of Social Work, visit our website: www.baylor.edu/social_work

Also, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We're just a click away!

*(Right) Joshua, Rob, Ruth and Mark Rogers
(Below) David and Cheryl Pooler with Josianne and Emilie*



*(Above) Don, Beth, Helen and Daniel Harris;
(Right) Laura and Janna Harr*





IN THE FAMILY WAY

BY VICKI M. KABAT

ADOPTION PROVIDES
FACULTY FAMILIES
NEW PATH TO JOY

BAYLOR SOCIAL SOCIAL WORKERS ARE

no strangers to adoption. Many work in adoption agencies counseling adoptive parents, biological parents and the children who are being placed. But for five faculty members in Baylor's School of Social Work, adoption has a personal dimension.

Assistant professor Cindy Harr and husband, Bob, adopted two infant girls more than 20 years ago while serving in Brazil as missionaries. Associate Dean Rob Rogers and his wife, Ruth, waited two and a half years for the twin 4-year-old boys from Thailand who became their sons. Senior lecturer Helen Harris and her husband, Don, first adopted an infant son. When he became older and persistently began asking for a baby sister, they adopted a daughter. Assistant Professor David Pooler and his wife, Cheryl, have 9- and 7- year old daughters from China. Another faculty member and her husband are in the process of adopting two children, but chose not to be part of this story because the placement is in process.

"I'm not sure why so many of us have chosen adoption," said Helen Harris, whose son, Dan, now serves in the Air Force and daughter, Beth, will begin Baylor this fall. "As social workers we are probably more familiar with and more open to the adoption process."

As a family ministry expert, Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work, believes that the adoptive family is a model Christian family, one given to us in the life story of Jesus.

"It's the Good News that in Christ, we all have family, that all children are our children. Jesus was 'adopted' by Joseph — that's why it was so significant that Joseph named him. And Jesus's next-to-last words on the cross were to birth a new family consisting of his mother and his beloved friend."

The couples in this story found themselves at a place where they, too, chose a nonbiological way to birth their families. It was a journey that began with loss but ended with deep and satisfying joy.

CINDY AND BOB HARR

After 12 years of marriage, the Harrs still had no children, although a medical reason never was found. During those years, Bob pastored churches where one young couple after another gave birth, and Cindy struggled with her disappointment and anger. "I spent a lot of time talking to God about this," she said.

She also was working with adoptive parents as a social worker. "I brought a lot of babies home from the hospital

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*Laura and Janna Harr
experience their first snow*

to their adoptive parents; just none of them were for me.”

The Harrs moved to Brazil with the International Mission Board in the early 1980s and restarted the adoption process they had had to leave in the States. More than a year after they arrived, they received word from their social worker that a baby girl had been born at a hospital about five hours away. They quickly jumped in their car and made the drive.

“We saw

her, we got to hold her, and the next day we were supposed to take her home,” Cindy recalled.

But the biological mother changed her mind. The Harrs drove home on what seemed like a much longer trip this time. “I had decided early on to trust God in this, to commit my way to the Lord and trust that He would give me the desires of my heart. So there we were, still trusting God.”

Four days later, the biological mother told the social worker to call the couple. “She said she had no place to take her, so it was a real act of love on her part,” Cindy said. “We named the baby Janna, which means God’s gift.”

Two years later, they adopted another baby girl, Laura.

HELEN AND DON HARRIS

Helen was working at the South Texas Children’s Home in Beeville as a young single adult when she became extremely ill and needed surgery.

Her condition left her infertile. When she and Don began to consider marriage, Don was the one who brought up adoption.

“That was part of our conversation before we got married — how we would have and be a family.”

The Harrises began the adoption process in 1984 with the Children’s Home where Helen had worked previously, and it was about three years before their infant

son, Daniel, came to them.

“The social worker brought him to us when he was 2 days old. As a social worker, I’ve always had a profound sense that, if possible, the best outcome for children is to stay with their biological parents; that’s the ideal,” Helen said. “So, I was overcome with the sense of loss he might be feeling and that his birth mother was feeling.”

When Daniel was about 2, he began to ask God for a sister, and so the Harrises began the process again. They had been selected by two mothers through the Children’s Home, but neither of those adoptions happened. One mother miscarried in her fifth month, and the other changed her mind. Harris calls these losses “emotional miscarriages.”

“Miscarriage is kind of an unrecognized grief in our society anyway,” she said, “but these emotional miscarriages — who could I tell that to?”

Nine months later, they were told about another mother close to delivery who had chosen them. Helen was not sure she could go through the pain of losing another child, but Daniel, then 5, still asked about a new sister.

The family arranged to see the baby shortly after she was born, but did not tell Daniel this might be his sister. “He sat on the couch, held out his arms, and said ‘Come to big brother!’” Helen said. “We had not told him. Kids are so much smarter than we are!” Beth entered the family in 1992.

ROB AND RUTH ROGERS

After 12 years of marriage and unsuccessful attempts to have children biologically, the Rogers felt led to adopt. From the beginning, an international adoption was appealing to them.

“We both had really positive experiences with internationals through our life exposure, so that really set the stage for us,” said Rob, associate dean for graduate studies.

In the early 1980s, only India, Thailand and the Philippines were open to intracountry adoption. Further narrowing the match was Ruth’s intuition that they were to wait for twins.

“We knew that, statistically, Asians have fewer twin births than Caucasians and that we may have to wait quite a while, but we both had a peace about waiting,” Rob said.

When the Rogers were told in 1985 that 2-year-old twin boys were available for adoption, they had to wait another two years to work through the adoption process with the Thai government. In the meantime, the couple received quarterly reports and photos of the boys.

“The waiting process was



Baby Beth Harris and proud big brother Daniel

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It's all about family

GAYNOR YANCEY Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies

DURING THIS COLLEGE basketball season's March Madness, Baylor enjoyed part of the national spotlight because of the success of our men's and women's basketball teams. One of the men who was interviewed by the media often was Tweety Carter, and he always emphasized the same thing: "It has been so exciting to have everyone at Baylor so proud of us. It makes us feel good because it makes everyone else feel good. It's all about family."

That phrase about family has been the impetus for prompting me to recall what that means in the School of Social Work. When I first came to Baylor and the School 10 years ago, there were two of our social work majors who married each other – Ahmad and Jennifer. They were the first couple that we had in the School. They met in the BSW program and they both received their MSWs here. Ahmad went on to work at the Methodist Home and now has his own ministry through Christian music. Jennifer went to

"One thing is for sure: They are committed to helping people, families, communities, and organizations that are marginalized."

work at the Social Security Administration Regional Office in Waco and now serves on the School's Board of Advocates.

Another student in that first BSW cohort when I came here was Sarah. She loved social work and particularly anything dealing with administration and community development. As she graduated, her younger sister, Joy, came into the BSW program. Joy learned to love social work because of the influence of Sarah. Sarah went to Philadelphia to get her MSW degree. Joy graduated from the BSW program and later from our MSW program. She was one of three students who did their internship in Moldova, creating helping programs among a deaf population there. She is now studying in Spain.

Then there was Vicki. As a student in the "sequence," as it used to be called years ago when there was not a major in social work at Baylor, Vicki changed career paths, so to speak, and entered the MSW degree. Vicki has taught with us and was the initial Director of Recruitment and Career Services for the School. She now works with veterans through the VA and volunteers as a field instructor for



some of our interns. Who knew that her youngest daughter, Robin, would follow in her footsteps? Robin received her BSW degree from Baylor and like many of our students, was accepted into Advanced Standing. She now works at Communities In Schools and volunteers as a field instructor for our students. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Jose and Sarah met and realized they were in love in our BSW program! They married and then entered Advanced Standing. While working here in Waco – she in residential care with older persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia and he with substance abuse recovery programs – they both voluntarily served as task supervisors and field instructors for our students. Jose is now in doctoral studies and Sarah is a chaplain.

Another sister duo is Amy and Chelsea. Amy graduated from our BSW program last summer and went into Advanced Standing. She is presently doing her internship at Fort Hood among returning veterans who have a diagnosis of PTSD. She is an MSW candidate for May graduation. She recently contacted me about her desire to be a BSW major. "I feel strongly pulled toward serving others in my life, and I am therefore very drawn to the social work program," she said.

We also have a brother/sister combination in the BSW program. Owen is a BSW candidate for May graduation. Owen has been a part of the School's student recruitment team and he is interning at Child Protective

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The longevity revolution

DENNIS MYERS, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies



LONGEVITY TRAVELS WITH welcome and unwelcome companions. Family, friends and faith make the journey lively and meaningful while loss of health and relationship disorient and discourage. Sometimes the demands of long-term care overwhelm the best that family and friends can offer; sometimes there is no one to care. For more than 30 years, Baylor social workers have been willing to walk alongside older persons and families as they struggle with unfamiliar dependency and the maze of long-term care dilemmas.

Nationally, a relatively small number of social work students (5 percent to 9 percent) expresses an initial interest in working with older persons even though most, at some

By 2050, an estimated 110,000 social workers trained in gerontological care will be needed to serve Americans.

point in their careers, will be working with them and/or their caregivers. In the School of Social Work, about 10 percent of our MSW students declares this vocational intention. Under the leadership of Dr. Jim Ellor and Ms. Helen Harris, the Gerontology Specialization Initiative provides competencies in advanced care coordination, strength-based assessment, individual and family caregiver counseling and psychotherapy, advocacy, community collaboration, and

program development services. Students are also uniquely equipped to know how to ethically respond to the religious faith of their older clients and their families, how to activate community and congregational resources, and to recognize how their own faith informs their gerontological practice.

While we celebrate the vocational call of students to gerontological practice, the nation faces a daunting gap between the need for long-term care services and the number of social workers who are and will be available to respond.

Based on current trends, persons requiring long-term care (skilled nursing care, alternative residential care, or home and community care) may increase from 8 million to 19 million by 2050. The need is particularly acute in the area of residential long-term care services, including continuing care retirement communities (CCRC), assisted living centers (ALC), residential care settings (RCS), intermediate care facilities (ICF), and skilled nursing facilities (SNF). Currently, about 40,000 social workers serve as vital team members among the array of professionals who are concerned about quality of care and quality of life within these residential contexts. By 2050, an estimated 110,000 social workers will be needed.

Inadequate funding of long-term care educational opportunities is the most significant barrier to an adequate and prepared cadre of competent and committed long-term care social workers. Outcome data from the Hartford-CSWE projects, such as the Geriatric Social Work Curriculum Enrichment program, Faculty Scholars program, and the Hartford Practicum Partnership for Aging Education (HPPAE), document that financial incentives, internship resources, and aging-content curriculum result in a substantially higher number of social work students who choose careers in long-term care. Except for the Veterans Administration Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers (GEC), no substantive sources of national support exist for social work students with an interest in older persons. The initial momentum for increasing attention in gerontological social work at Baylor was fueled by generous support from external funders such as the Hartford Foundation. Unfortunately, priority changes and current economic challenges have diminished the impact of these critical resources.

In an unprecedented and providential turn of events, the friends of the School are significantly increasing the availability of financial resources to support the preparation

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'I'm everything!'

BSW STUDENT SEES HER MULTICULTURAL BACKGROUND AS 'BEST OF ALL WORLDS' +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

LINDA HAMZA CAME to Baylor at the age of 16 with her life already touched by political and religious intolerance, personal upheaval and prejudice. Yet, the senior BSW major born in Saudia Arabia of Sudanese parents exuberantly exclaims, "I'm not from here or there; I'm everything!"

The Hamzas fled their homeland because of political intolerance, coming to America on asylum when Linda was 10. The Muslim family settled in Fort Worth where they had family members and a community

*"I don't know how
we made it. We went
through so much."*

to help them with the transition.

Linda had to learn English and a new way of life, but her feeling of not really belonging was all too familiar. She said that she was called the "n" word many times when she lived in Saudia Arabia, because there she was not accepted fully as Arabian or Sudanese. Coming to America and then Baylor, especially post 9/11, was just another part of her history.

"That's my life story, and coming here was just another layer to that," said the 20-year-old. "Because I'm not here or there. I'm everything! That I know another language and have lived in so many different cultures – I see it as a huge strength. For me, it's the best of not just both worlds but of all worlds."

One of five siblings, Linda speaks with great love and admiration for her family. Her father, a university



professor in Saudia Arabia, worked as a gas station attendant and spent 18 hour-plus days driving taxicabs in Fort Worth until he could get recertified to teach in America. Her mother, trained to be an attorney, worked three

jobs, including fast food and retail, in order to keep the family together. Now she is a medical technologist and attending nursing school.

"I don't know how we made it," Linda said, recalling those hard

early years in Texas. “We went through so much. My parents personal drive, some luck and God helped us survive.”

There seems to be no lack of personal drive in the Hamza family. Linda chose to attend Baylor because of the strength of its pre-med program to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a surgeon. So focused was she, she admits she had a life plan carefully laid out through her 30th year. But she took an Intro to Social Work class in her sophomore year and suddenly her plans shifted.

“I always knew I would give back to the world” – one of the Five Pillars of Islam – “I just grew up knowing that, although I didn’t know exactly how. And I saw my parents take difficult stands for their beliefs (her mother was jailed in Sudan for selling books about religious freedom). Injustice just really rubs me the wrong way!”

In the social work intro class she felt everything fall into its proper place for her. “Social work had a whole new spin on it. All those things that are deeply rooted inside me – it just made sense.”

Letting go of her childhood dream, though, was difficult. She laughs that the stereotype for immigrants is that they will either become engineers, doctors or lawyers – but it is no laughing matter to her parents, who continue to struggle with her decision, she said.

“They’ve asked me why I’m throwing away all our dreams. That’s been an ongoing battle. But, just as they had to do what they did in leaving Sudan and Saudia Arabia, I have to do what I must even if my parents don’t agree,” she said.

For one so young, Linda is self-aware, confident and determined. Those are not traits that she always saw as positives, though, and admits they have

been hard won – and are still in process.

“When I first came to Baylor, people would actually ask me, ‘Do you know you’re a Muslim at a Christian school?’” she said, rolling her eyes. “That came up a lot! But I’m very open-minded and I love it here. I’ve always felt it was a nurturing environment.”

Nevertheless, Linda felt bombarded by a collision of several different cultures — America, Texas and Baylor. “I just sat down and decided I had to figure out, ‘Who is Linda?’”

She chose to systematically break down her personal walls as she knew them and then decide what she wanted to keep. That included family and faith values, financial realities and

“People actually asked me, ‘Do you know you’re a Muslim at Baylor?’”

more. As most college-age youth do, she questioned her faith and even the existence of God as she sought to find a faith that was her own.

“Even in questioning, I knew that at the end of the day I had to be true to myself, whatever that meant.”

Sometimes the questions she wrestled with were smaller. Linda points to her nose stud and said, “When I got my nose pierced, my mom reached for it to pull it out saying, ‘No, that can’t be real!’ I’m rebellious but I have to be able to say to my mom that I know you don’t believe this, but this is what I believe.”

Linda said she always knew she would do many things with her life, and she is confident social work will provide her that platform. “People

have told me, ‘dream big,’ and I do.

I would love to own my own family and marriage practice, write books, publish articles, be a professor and teach others. I see the professors at the School and how they’re doing such big things with their lives, and I just want to tell them, ‘I love you people!’”

She interned this year as a case manager at the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children doing intake and referrals for up to 60 clients. Her research project was a pilot program on Sudanese, Arab and Muslim immigrants and the challenges faced by the family unit between adolescents and families — a topic she knows a little something about.

These days, Linda said her mother, now in nursing school, will call to tell her about someone she met that day and how a social worker helped her. “She’s sharing stories about her clients and connecting them to my vision,” Linda said.

The Hamzas physical and cultural journeys have been extraordinary, and in many ways a testimony to their family’s resiliency and love.

“I said to my father a while back, ‘We’ve come a long way and we’re still going. Two of your children are in college and another is about to be.’ It’s a beautiful thing to know that after all the things we’ve gone through, we’re still here.” ❖

'I can see the hurt in the girls' eyes'

FORMER TEACHER EARNING MSW TO COUNSEL TEENS WITH MENTAL DISORDERS +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

STEPHANIE HALBERT knows that who you have in your life can be the difference between a person making it or not. She plans to be that person – especially for adolescents suffering with mental illness.

The foundation year MSW student from Round Rock said she always felt a strong calling to reach out and help others, so she began her journey with an undergraduate degree from Baylor in elementary education. She taught for four years in two different independent school districts – one serving more affluent children. It was working in the district with less affluent families, teaching sixth graders, though, that she loved.

"I knew I was making a big difference in their lives," she said of those sixth graders, many of whom were homeless. But most of the children in the other district "had everything they needed already. I didn't feel that I was impacting their lives."

She discovered that she ultimately was more concerned about her students'

*"...[the U.S. is] failing
in nearly every arena of
mental health care."*

physical and emotional well-being than she was about their reading level. She knew many social workers who worked with Communities In Schools, the nation's largest dropout prevention program, so when she considered next steps, she thought of social work.

"I considered counseling, but I knew social work would give me a much broader skill range with which to work with youth," she said.

As a teacher she worked with several adolescents who were diagnosed with mental disorders and she found she had "such a heart for that."

"In a nation with an abundance of resources, it saddens me that we are failing in nearly every arena of mental health care," she said. While she wants to counsel individuals she also wants to impact mental health care globally, raising awareness, improving services and decreasing the stigma.

"I don't know how that will unfold, but we must have affordable options for those who struggle with mental disorders."

Stephanie's passion comes from her own journey through some "difficult places and back," she said. "Christ has definitely allowed me to experience some hard times, but in doing so, I am much more sensitive and aware. I'm glad my journey brought me here so that I can create change."

In the spring semester and this summer, she is interning at the Waco Center for Youth, working with youth ages 13 through 17 who have mental disorders. "Right in the middle of my passion," she said, "I can see the hurt in the girls' eyes and recognize their pain and it just makes me that much more excited



to be there and working in this field."

Stephanie has great faith that teens who struggle with mental illness can live fulfilling and productive lives, but she emphasizes the necessity of their having a support system.

"It's about who you have in your life encouraging and supporting you that allows for that resilience. But if there is no support or understanding, it can break a teen down. They need someone to believe in them." ❖



1

Out and about

1 Several social work students spent the day April 13 in Austin at the State Capitol for the second annual Social Work Student Day. Faculty sponsor was Tracey Kelley (far left). 2 MSW student Morgan Caruthers was one of 15 social work students who attended training before volunteering at the Parent Support Workshop.



2



3

Dual degree students

3 Members of one cohort of students completed their Master of Divinity degrees this spring after completing MSWs last year or previously. They were hosted at a luncheon May 13 at Truett Seminary. They are, from left, Kristen Sciba, Leslie Blake, Mallory Homeyer, Walker Moore, Dori Messarra Hoagland, Amanda Wilson, Amber Stark and Viviana Urdaneta.



Teddy and me

Even a hard-working Baylor Bear like Sarah Whitmire, MSW student, sometimes needs the comfort of a stuffed friend – and a stuffed couch – to catch up on sleep in the Student Lounge.



4

Field Education Luncheon

Almost 200 people filled a banquet room at the Hilton for the April 20 luncheon where several students received awards for their outstanding work in field placements. Field Administrator of the Year was Dan Worley, The Freeman Center, and Field Instructor of the Year was Tancy Horn-Johnson, Waco Center for Youth. **4** MSW students enjoy the Field Education Luncheon. Far left to right they are: Stephanie Halbert, Jordan Dugger, Andrew Trujillo and Aimee Stapp Mattazores. **5** Also attending were (from left): Kristin Woods (BSW 2007/MSW 2008); and BSW students Nikki Collins, Jill Roberts and Lauren Repa.



5

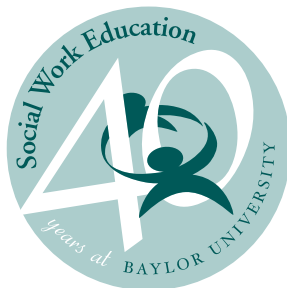


Phi Alpha Induction

Thirty-one students were inducted into the social work's honor society April 19 in Miller Chapel, where family and friends gathered for the ceremony and a reception afterward. (Top) Linda Hamza and Paula Haynes (back, from left) and Britney Thornton (front) turn to greet friends as they enter the chapel. Officers for 2010-2011 are (above, from left) Saleta Hopkins, Bethany Northern and Courtney Lance. Outgoing officers were Owen Wible, Shannon Pillis and Gamesha Ethley.

For more photos from all
this Spring's events, visit the
School's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/BaylorSSW



‘The gift won’t stop with me’

FIRST RECIPIENT OF MADALENE CAIN AWARD EXEMPLIFIES DONOR’S LIMITLESS SPIRIT +

CHARIS CHAPMAN

BORN WITH A RARE GENETIC

disorder, Sarah Male has faced the challenge of progressive hearing loss from infancy. But four words spoken by her mother – a single mom of three children with special physical needs – did not escape Sarah’s hearing...or her heart: Don’t ever limit yourself.

It was a high calling for the eldest sibling in a family battling incessant medical needs with limited resources. And by middle school, Sarah was already weighing the cost of dreams that were bigger than herself.

“I knew I wanted to go to college,” Sarah said. “And I knew mom would do all she could to help me, but I would have to cover the rest.”

Study, work, save, and serve – this became the young girl’s lifestyle, a pattern that followed her into college.

At the start of her freshman year at Stephen F. Austin University, Sarah traveled to New Orleans to serve in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. While there, she contracted a serious infection in her right ear, resulting in an eardrum that ruptured more than six times in one semester and two years of constant illness.

Despite her pain, Sarah pressed on to pay her way through school, doggedly working two jobs while keeping her grades up. Halfway through her undergraduate studies, however, Sarah felt like the Lord was directing her toward Baylor University to complete her undergraduate degree in social work and, hopefully, attend graduate school. Financially maxed and exhausted, she wondered how she could afford to take this leap of faith.

This time the whisper came from someone else: Don’t ever limit yourself. Though not audible, the



BSW student Sarah Male interned this spring at the Advocacy Center in Waco.

exhortation came from the life and foresight of Madalene Cain.

LEGACY OF ‘TOUGHY’ CAIN

Born in 1915, the youngest of 13 siblings, Madalene Cain faced both the difficulties of the Great Depression and a strained home life. At age 16, with only the clothes on her back and a dollar in her pocket, she left home, determined to make a life for herself. And she did. Due to her courage, work ethic and assistance from the Villa Maria Residence for Girls and her faithful mentors, Madalene became the first female stockbroker in San Antonio.

Madalene Cain passed away in 2007, but her experiences, character and compassion – much like Sarah’s – inspired her to make provisions for the Madalene Cain Charitable Foundation.

“Madalene wanted others to have the chance to fulfill their destiny,” said Michael Wilkes, trustee of the Madalene Cain Charitable Foundation.

Today Sarah Male, now a Baylor senior, is the first recipient of the Madalene Cain Endowed Scholarship Fund in Social Work. An intern and volunteer at Waco’s Advocacy Center, Sarah’s passion continues to be “for those who are underrepresented.” The scholarship provided by Madalene’s foundation has given Sarah the grace to keep pressing toward her goal of graduate school, and, ultimately, serving those with need.

“I want to carry on Madalene Cain’s legacy,” Sarah said. “And, as I go out from here, this gift won’t stop with me.”

If you’re interested in leaving your own legacy to support students like Baylor’s Sarah Male, please contact Kristen Box, director of development, at (254) 710-2561 or Kristen_A_Box@baylor.edu. ❖

LESLIE LEZIA BRENNER (BA Sociology/Religion 1965) received a Master of Religious Education with emphasis in social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1967, a Master of Science in college student personnel at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1971, and a PhD in counseling psychology at Georgia State University in 1978. She is a licensed psychologist in Georgia and has been in private practice, specializing in addiction, since 1981.

DANA DECKER LAUER (BASW 1991) will be taking her first international mission trip this summer to Nicaragua to assist with medical and dental clinics for the people of Bocana de Paiwas.

AILEEN B. TAYLOR (MRE 1957) served as a church secretary and youth director for many years. She was a department secretary to the Director of Missions at the Baptist Convocation of North Carolina for 20 years. After retiring, she worked 10 years as a part-time church secretary and taught English to Internationals using the Bible in Sunday School for 15 years. She was assistant to the Church Media Director for 20 years, an ordained deacon, and active in WMU. She now lives in an assisted living facility in Albemarle, NC.



Goin' to Kansas City

David and Diana Garland met with social work alumni on their trip to the Big XII basketball tournaments in Kansas City. Left to right, they are: **Katie Brennan Homiak** (MSW 2005/MDiv 2006), provides older adult in-home therapeutic services for Jewish Family Services and is a crisis assessment counselor in the North Kansas City Hospital ER; **Micah Pritchett** (MSW/MDiv 2003), pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Kansas City; **Hannah Casillo** (MSW/MDiv 2007) is an in-home family therapist for DCCCA Family Preservation; Diana Garland; **Sheri Nelson** (BSW 1982) worked for 10 years in state social work and then obtained her master's in biblical and professional counseling, and now is the director of counseling for Doulos Ministries/Shelterwood in Independence, MO.; **Terri Cox Fallin** (MSW 1996) is an alumna-by-choice as a graduate of Carver School. She is director of development for Cottey College in Nevada, MO.; and David Garland. None of the group knew each other before their luncheon with the Garlands, but this is how new alumni networks are born! If you'd like to organize a network in your city or region, contact Judith_Stolz@baylor.edu to help you contact alumni.

Let us hear from you!

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Photos cannot be returned.)

MAIL TO:

Krista Barrett
Managing Editor
School of Social Work
Baylor University
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Waco, TX 76798-7320.

OR E-MAIL:

Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu
or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name at graduation _____

Current name _____

Year of graduation _____ Degree _____

☐ Baylor graduate ☐ Carver School graduate

Mailing address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Employer _____

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

A powerful force for good

FIRST PARENT SUPPORT WORKSHOP BRINGS EVERYONE TOGETHER TO HELP FAMILIES +

VICKI MARSH KABAT



MSW student Trevor Stephen (far right) was one of 15 social work students who volunteered at the first Parent Support Workshop. Also pictured is volunteer Irma Lopez (center), a McLennan Community College Presidential Scholar and graduate of Christian Women's Job Corps of McLennan County.

THE IDEA BEHIND THE FIRST

Parent Support Workshop was simple: Connect the people who most need local and state assistance with those who provide it. Sounds like common sense, but getting the right people together in one place at a time convenient for people who work varying shifts isn't that easy. But, it was extremely effective.

Ninety-two families attended the first workshop, held Feb. 27 in the Activities Center of First Baptist Waco, and received personalized assistance from advocates and comprehensive assistance from 17 local, county and state agencies and nonprofits.

"It was amazing!" said Jodi

Terwilliger-Stacey, a local attorney who attends First Baptist and coordinated the workshop. "I knew it could be, because when you get all of these agencies together who have concrete ways to help those in need, they are a powerful force."

Working side by side with the agencies were more than 75 volunteers, including 15 students from the School of Social Work. The School's Center for Family and Community Ministries (CFCM) held two training sessions at the School on Feb. 18 with volunteers. Terwilliger-Stacey facilitated an advocate training session and Gloria Martinez, with Catholic Charities of Central Texas, and Esther Morales, with Helpings Food

Stamps Outreach Program, facilitated a benefits application training session.

On the day of the event, volunteers met people in the parking lot, at the door, and throughout several stations in the Activities Center. Childcare was available. Printers and phone lines were humming throughout the day. Agency displays and information booths lined the outer walls of the Center, while applicants and volunteers helping them fill out the forms sat at round tables throughout the center of the room. H1N1 and flu shots were offered free at another station.

Jennifer Scarborough, MSW 2009/MDiv candidate, who works at Catholic Charities of Central Texas, was thrilled

at the results of the workshop.

"We did 50 – yes, 50 – applications in that one day. It was awesome! I've never attended an information fair where we did more than eight requested services," she said. "We couldn't have done it without the volunteers."

Comments from evaluations after the event were also glowing. The director of the Legal Assistance Project (LMSS-Waco), wrote: "Having volunteers there to assist, including bilingual volunteers, was a real bonus." A representative from Potter's Vessel Ministries wrote: "Never have all these agencies come together in one building and actually assisted people with understanding the benefits and filling out the applications. Some of the women I talked to left with a feeling of encouragement to better their lives."

Terwilliger-Stacey, who offers pro bono assistance since being admitted to the Texas Bar in 2009, said her goal for the workshop was to address the financial viability of low-income families and single parents, especially single moms. "Single moms are in crisis – they're really doing it all and doing



Jodi Terwilliger-Stacey helped train volunteers at a session held at the School of Social Work.



MSW student Kelli Hepner visits with a mother and her children.

it alone. They're barely making it."

Social work students who volunteered also had a heart for single parents. Kelli Hepner, an MSW student, said, "I have worked with single moms in the past and I have watched them struggle for basic necessities, like diapers and clothes. They are often struggling and need a voice.

"They spend their time caring for their children, but at this event they had someone help care for them and give them the direction they were seeking."

Trevor Stephen, another MSW student, commented on the wider impact of helping individuals. "When you help the individual get her needs met the family is made stronger; strong families make better communities and better societies."

Jon Singletary, CFCM director and associate professor at the School of Social Work, also attended the workshop. "The School has a long track record of being involved in the Waco community in practical, hands-on ways, so this was just a natural fit for us," he said. "Many parents are working more than one job, but still are only one medical visit or car repair away from financial crisis.

The assistance they receive here today could make the difference between staying in a home and being evicted."

The applications for assistance included child support, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women's, Children and Infants program (WIC), and Child Care Services (CCS) among others.

Agencies represented included: Office of the Attorney General, Catholic Charities, Helping's Food Stamps Outreach Program, McLennan County Public Health District (WIC), Waco Housing Authority, Legal Assistance Project, McLennan County Health

Services, Family Health Center, South 18th Street Community Dental Clinic, Potter's Vessel Ministries, Christian Women's Job Corps, Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas, McLennan Community College (GED/ESL classes), EOAC, Goodwill, Caritas, and Child Care Services (CCS). TSTC and MCC were present to provide information on their educational programs and financial aid.

A partial list of services available included public housing, emergency assistance, health and dental care, prescription drug assistance, computer skills, job interviewing skills, certification programs, utility/rent assistance, guardianship, GED/ESL classes and more.

The event was so successful that another is being planned for this fall, and Terwilliger-Stacey believes the next one can be as productive, if not more so.

"Now that people see what a win-win situation it is – for recipients and for the agencies who need to meet their application requirements – I hope it really takes off. The assistance is there, so let's put it to good use for the people who need it most." ♦

Partnering to make a difference

LUCHA MINISTRIES AN EXAMPLE OF COLLABORATION THAT WORKS +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

IN SOME WAYS, LUCHA Ministries is an example of a little agency that could. With not much more than a deep desire to respond to a felt community need, the nonprofit organization based in Fredericksburg, VA, launched itself in 2004, but it did not try to go it alone.

"We are very intentional about choosing partners, accepting funding and involving others in significant ways in leadership roles," said Sue Smith, executive director of LUCHA Ministries and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Mission Field Personnel. LUCHA stands for "Latinos United through Christ in Solidarity and Support." The ministry serves among approximately 18,000 Latino residents in the Fredericksburg community.

The Baylor School of Social Work became one such partner in 2009, sending

"I believe the students are getting good, hands-on, practical experience."

then-MSW student Jennifer Scarborough there in the School's first placement with LUCHA. This spring, MSW student Mary Zane Morton interned with the agency and praised the experience for the variety of learning opportunities it brought her.

"I worked with social service agencies, the health department, pastors of churches, the food bank staff, LUCHA board members and clients, that is, families and individuals," she said. She also helped plan and start a community garden, an idea that originated with Scarborough, and researched the difference in cultural values among different generations of Latino families.

Morton is also the recipient of the

Hogg Foundation Mental Health scholarship, awarded to graduate social work students in Texas who work with Latino populations.

"I love that the Hogg Scholarship is highlighting the need for Spanish-speaking social workers because that need has been so obvious in everything that I've done this semester," she said.

The CBF is another partner, and recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to LUCHA to assist with program funding in areas where Baylor students and students involved in CBF's Student.Go missions program serve.

"We're pleased to share in this partnership," said Bo Prosser, CBF's coordinator for congregational formation. "Greg and Sue Smith and the Baylor School of Social Work are wonderful resource partners for congregations."

Sue Smith is glad she can mentor the students at LUCHA. "We are really excited about having the opportunity to work with and mentor students who are interested in the areas of missions, social work, social justice, and cross-cultural ministry," Smith said. "I believe that the students are getting good, hands-on, practical experience in working with the immigrant population."

Diana Garland, dean of the School of Social Work, agrees. "I'm very excited about this multifaceted partnership and the terrific opportunity LUCHA provides for our students. It's the very kind of collaboration we want to expand."



Jennifer Scarborough (left), MSW 2009/MDiv 2010, was Baylor's first intern to LUCHA, here with a client family, mother Silvia and baby Osvaldo.

LUCHA works in the areas of advocacy and support of Latinos as they struggle to overcome barriers and create a better life in the United States, Smith said. The ministry now has 20 different partners that include governmental agencies, churches, hospitals, seminaries and mission boards.

"We began LUCHA in 2004 asking Latinos one question: What is your struggle?" Smith said. "Then we began to build networks to bridge the gaps in what Latinos need and how they can access it."

Garland's scholarly research shows that collaboration works.

"We know from the research we've done on volunteerism through local churches that the community church has a significant role to play as a partner with existing agencies," she said. "It is one of the ways the church can be most effective in its own mission of living out the Gospel message." ♦

snap shots



1



(Above) Chuck Jobe, lab technician with Baylor's Department of Ceramics and Sculpture, turned the School logo into a three-dimensional bronze sculpture for Diana Garland to present to Cindy Johnson, 2007 Alumna of the Year, and to Jason Pittman, 2010 Alumnus of the Year.

Family Dinner April 29

The Annual Family Dinner hosted more than 300 guests at the Cashion Academic Center Banquet Hall. 1 Owen Wible (right), graduating BSW student, presents a gift and announces a donation by the senior class to the Caitlin Elizabeth Creed Endowed Scholarship to Caitlin's parents, Kathy and Brad Creed. Caitlin, a pre-Social Work major, was killed in an automobile accident as a freshman. She would have graduated this spring. 2 Posing for this group shot are: (back row, left to right) Rachel Graves, Kieasa Jones, Nick Molnar, Ashley Binns, Ashley Summers; (front row) Ashley Reimes, Rachel McCarty and Alexa Clark.



2



3

3 From left are BSW students Jessica Sanchez, Audrey Waggoner and MSW student Breann Willis Cathey (BSW 2009).

4 Alan Nguyen, MSW student, and guest, Madeline Vu.



4

Who is my brother's keeper?

JON SINGLETARY, CFCM Director, Associate Professor



ONE ROLE I HAVE IN the School of Social Work is that of chair for our Curriculum Committee. For the past year and a half, we have had weekly lunch gatherings to discuss curricular innovations, student competencies and other aspects of teaching and learning. Among the topics of conversation is always our program theme of seeking the ethical integration of faith and practice. Several of us have started saying it another way: Our mission is to prepare students for faithful and just practice.

As director for the Center for Family and Community Ministries, I am always thinking about this missional statement in light of students who desire to serve as social workers in congregations. In the past several years, we have had dozens of students intern in churches, and we are beginning to see up to three a

year move into full-time staff positions with churches after they graduate.

As they are preparing for a congregational internship, we wrestle with questions such as: What are the role and purpose of a social worker in a congregation? How do our professional values align with those of the congregation? How is the congregation seeking to strengthen families and build communities?

The students serving on our church social work team this year have been struck by the poverty in Waco and interested in organizations addressing it. They are also struck by the number of churches in our city. This leads them to ask why we have so many churches and yet so much poverty. Rather than being overwhelmed by the question, this group of students has organized a research project to ask civic leaders how they perceive the role churches play and to ask pastors what role their churches play.

The students believe we have resources in our School and the Center to make an even greater impact on our city. Let me tell you, it is humbling to have students teaching me to believe in the power of what our churches can do! Easter is the season of celebrating the power of God to overcome death, and yet I struggle to believe that God can overcome poverty. These students provided me a different perspective this recent Eastertide.

I invite you to consider some of the questions our students are asking local pastors and civic leaders (*see sidebar at right*) and to consider the power of God to do even greater things in your community. And if you want one of these awe-inspiring students to come your way, please let us know! ♦



churchsurvey

1. WHAT IS YOUR CONGREGATION currently doing to meet the needs of the people in your community?
2. What kind of support do local agencies receive from local churches?
3. How has congregational involvement benefited local agencies?
4. What challenges do you see for churches and local agencies partnering to serve our community?
5. What are some ways to strengthen community involvement by congregations?
6. In what ways does your congregation work to meet the needs of the community through partnership with other churches or agencies (volunteering, donation of goods, monetary donations, etc.?)
7. Are there any ministries you would like to provide but are not providing at this time?
8. How could a partnership with another agency or congregation help you to be able to provide these ministries?
9. What can social service agencies do to promote a relationship with your congregation?
10. What is your vision with regard to working with social service agencies in the future?

A semester 'on island'

BROOKE RASCO, BSW 2009/MSW 2010

AFTER THE LAST PINEAPPLE harvest in 1992 on the small island of Lana'i, many of the former agricultural workers were able to transition to the hotel and tourism trades that became the economic staples for the island. Many others, however, did not and still struggle in isolated pockets of poverty.

Known for its isolation, the tiny island is not connected to any other city or land mass in Hawaii.

Three MSW students spent their spring semester interning with Lana'i Baptist Church, working primarily with the children and youth of the church through the elementary and high school on the island.

The students were Brooke Rasco, Brianna Springer and Kelsey Davidson, who returned mainland in mid-April. One of the intern team's projects was to work with the congregation to establish a community garden. Rasco shares this experience:

WHEN THE INTERN TEAM arrived on island several months ago, it was mentioned that the congregation would like to have a community garden. Instantly we were excited about the potential of a garden here and could see the different ways it could benefit both the congregation and community. In preparation for the garden, I utilized the resources taught at the Walking Alongside Fall Workshop of the Center for Family and Community Ministries.

The community garden ministry plan was modeled after Heidi Unruh's *Action-Learning Process of Ministry Development* that includes Prepare, Act, Learn and Grow as its four main parts.

In Prepare, we ask how we can prepare ourselves (spiritually, relationally,

organizationally) to take action and grow. In Act, we clarify vision, values and goals based on team preparation and God's guidance. In Learn, we ask what we have learned about God, ourselves, our church and community about our ministry calling. In Grow, we ask how we can expand the circle of God's activity in the ministry team, church and community.

The garden has been a two-fold process of logistics and ministry planning. I worked with the pastor to help develop the ministry plan utilizing the model focusing on its sustainability, and how it could be incorporated into the spiritual life of the church and be a vital community outreach. For the logistical planning of the garden, a local *kapuna* (elder) was identified as a potential leader. He is well known and has great respect among the community members and knows how to garden.

When approached to see if he would be interested in spearheading the ministry, he was excited and wanted to start digging that day! He is a key reason for the garden's success because he is knowledgeable not only about the land but also the people of the island. In addition to him, another leader was identified who will come alongside the *kapuna* to help facilitate and manage the garden.

The goals of the garden are to: give back to the community; help food-insecure families have a place to grow fresh food; be good stewards of the earth; form intergenerational relationships with *keiki* (children) and *kapunas* (elders); provide a place for youth to develop leadership and life skills; teach people on the island about health and nutrition; build community partnerships; and plant seeds of hope and faith. ❖



Brianna Springer (from left), Brooke Rasco and Kelsey Davidson in Hawaii

brianna springer

"Watching the island children run the 100 yards to school after having a good breakfast at church each Wednesday was a highlight for me. It's a wonderful way the church meets the spiritual and physical needs of the children."

brooke rasco

"The hearts of the youth have forever moved me. We were able to spend time with them working toward different goals."

kelsey davidson

"I was able to work at the elementary and high schools with the school-based behavioral health team, and it allowed me to build rapport and relationship with the youth."

READ MORE ONLINE

To learn more about community garden resources, visit the Center for Family and Community Ministries and click on "Walking Alongside Resources." www.baylor.edu/social_work/cfcm

Among 'Fellows'

JON SINGLETARY, Director, Center for Family and Community Ministries

THE TITLE 'FELLOW' IS ONE of those honorary university designations denoting respect for a person's contributions to a particular discipline. It has been around for centuries dating back to Cambridge and Oxford in the United Kingdom. Originally, research fellows were junior researchers who were not yet on the faculty of an institution or they were senior researchers committed to particular projects at the end of their careers. Through the years, the term has been applied in many ways to many roles, to people already associated with the university or to people outside interested in partnering with the university, to researchers as well as to teachers and practitioners, and to women as well as men.

In a field such as social work, we often look for a more gender-inclusive designation, but the tradition of the title 'fellow' carries so much esteem that it is hard to find another designation when wanting to honor colleagues in our field. This kind of honor is exactly what the Center for Family and Community Ministries had in mind when we

approached several colleagues this spring about becoming our first Faculty Fellows. Diana Garland, founding director of the CFCM, states the value of Fellows this way: "The Fellows are an exciting group of colleagues whose research and leadership help to strengthen family and community ministries that congregations and religiously affiliated organizations are offering around the country. It is an honor to have their names and their work associated with us."

The leaders we have invited to serve as Fellows work in a range of positions from distinguished faculty members in other universities to executives of leading national research institutes. The addition of "Fellow" to their name is an honorary title that allows them to associate their work with Baylor and the Center and, more important, it gives us a way to work more closely with them and the exciting leadership they are offering in ministry.

For a complete list of our new CFCM Faculty Fellows and a brief bio on each, please visit www.baylor.edu/CFCM. ❖

BSW *report*

continued from page 9

Services. His sister is entering Baylor as a first year student in the Fall and has declared social work as her major.

We have several students in the MSW program who married while in the program and are now social workers in Waco and are voluntarily serving as task supervisors and field instructors.

Family for us in the School of Social Work is not just about marriage, parent/child relationships, or sibling relationships even though these are the examples that have been used in this article. We are grateful for these familial relationships that bring students to us! Family, however, is about all of us who relate to the School of Social Work in some way. As Chelsea said so clearly, "I feel strongly pulled to serve others in my life..."

That can be said of our students, our staff, our faculty, our task supervisors and field instructors who invest of their time in helping our students through their internship experiences, our financial donors who believe in the mission of the School and the potential of our students, our Board of Advocates, and all of those who are faithful in praying for us. We all feel strongly pulled to serving others in our lives. In the end, serving others is because it's all about family. For many of us, we have the privilege and opportunity of having this focus through the School of Social Work family. We are grateful! ❖

dean's *report*

continued from page 2

in social work education – even and especially in the non-religiously affiliated programs. We must all address issues of faith and religion in ways that are not only tolerant but also supportive and encouraging – of one another and of our students.

This respect is hard-earned, yes, but it is only a toehold and one that must be maintained and advanced by today's faculty members in this and other social work schools. One of the reasons I am so grateful for our new doctoral program is that those who graduate from it will be the fruit of the work of so many who have gone before them. Our profession is hungry for what they will contribute. More and more, people enter our institutions to seek social work degrees out of a sense of calling, a deep yearning to seek justice and do mercy. Baylor's programs have already plowed these fields and planted the seed; we are poised now to see the harvest continue in a new season. ❖





Mark and Joshua Rogers with their artwork.

very stressful for us,” he said. “It was hard to watch them growing up in front of our eyes and to feel powerless to speed up the adoption process and bring them home.”

In late December 1987, they got a call to come for the boys and flew to Bangkok the next month. The boys, whom they named Mark and Joshua, also had been receiving photos of their parents-to-be, so they recognized them on that first meeting.

“They ran up to me and cried ‘Pa!’” Rob said, even though they knew no English. Pa is also a word used in the Thai language.

The Rogers spent the rest of the week touring Bangkok with the boys and a social worker from the adoption agency. They visited the twins’ most recent foster home on a canal and understood better the poverty in which they had been living.

In that placement, they were unsupervised daily and allowed to run loose on the tough streets of Bangkok with a group of other young children, Rob said. “It was a really rough existence for little 4-year-old boys. They had experienced all kinds of things.”

DAVID AND CHERYL POOLER

The Poolers found out David was infertile after four years of marriage when

a medical exam revealed that a simple hernia operation he’d had as a young adult had caused the damage. “We were utterly devastated,” David said. “I had always longed to be a father.”

The couple looked into in vitro fertilization and embryo adoption, but met one barrier after another. “My wife and I were in the midst of deep grief about the

barriers we were hitting, and each time you hit a barrier it’s another level of loss,” he said. “One night, we just sat on the couch holding each other and sobbing.”

That night proved a turning point, though. David recalled that as he sat there with his eyes closed, he sensed a presence in the room that came and sat on the couch and encircled him and Cheryl.

“I’m not one to have visions,” he said, “but I had no doubt it was Jesus and that he had come to comfort us. Not to tell us we would get to be parents, but to assure us we were not in this alone.”

It was 2002, another six years, before David and Cheryl were able to hold their 17-month-old daughter, Josianne, for the first time. An unexpected financial gift from David’s father, as well as gifts from people in their church, helped the young couple meet the cost of adoption from China. “Again and again, we just felt God in this with us,” he said.

“After I held Josie in my arms, Cheryl reminded me that I came in and said to her, ‘I’m grateful for that botched surgery,’ because for so many years I had been so angry and grieved about it, but then, there was Josie!”

They adopted 16-month-old Emilie from China two years later.

PARENTHOOD

Each family feels they have formed exactly the way they were supposed to.

“I can’t imagine now our family coming together any other way,” said Cindy Harr, who found peace about waiting for children only after committing her desire to have them to God. “I did a study on adoption in the Bible, and it’s surprising how many children are given to others. For us, I think, it was about God’s desire for the children to be with the people who could give them the opportunities to grow up and honor Him.”

For Rob Rogers, he said he



Emilie and Josie Pooler

understood fatherhood from an intellectual perspective, but living into it, nurturing his sons’ growth and development, had a profound impact on his life.

“It kind of caught me off-guard,” he said. “To be an important part of someone else’s world, to show up at sporting events and help with homework. Living out parenting emotionally helped me become a more grounded, honest and authentic person.”

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David Pooler said his own damaging childhood initially made him believe his infertility was God's way of telling him he couldn't be a good father. "What I've discovered," he said, "is that I love being a dad and that I'm a great dad! Being a father just completes me."

Helen Harris, who had been on a fast-track career projectory before adoption, chose to set that aside to focus on her new son. Accustomed to working 80-hour weeks in her hospice role, she transferred her devotion to Daniel. That first year, she received the only lukewarm professional performance appraisal in her life, and she was devastated. When she got home that day, she found Daniel, almost 2 and fascinated by Winnie the Pooh, bouncing on her bed. "My Mama is Tiggerific!" he sang out in greeting.

"That stopped me in my paces. I decided I'd had two evaluations that day, and the last one was the one that mattered." ❖

coming full CIRCLE

Beth Harris is the only one of the children in this story who has decided to reconnect with her natural mother, an option the Harrises had discussed and made available to her. In early March, Beth talked to her biological mother on the phone, and she visited with her half-sister, who is about 18 months older. They plan to meet this summer.

"Now we're all Facebook friends," Helen Harris said, "We were looking at some photos of her half-sister and in one, she has this way of smiling which is an expression Beth often has."

"One of Beth's friends saw that and said, 'Oh Beth, family!' and Beth said, 'I have family; this is *more* family.'"



Beth Harris, dressed for Senior Prom

of Baylor social workers for practice in long-term care settings and in the development of new knowledge in this area. The Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professorship in Family Studies is supporting research and professional education in the area of family life and aging. Recently, an anonymous donor designated a \$100 million endowment to the School to support future gerontological social work practice and research. In addition, a substantial endowment by Robert Lee and Martha Dee Guthrie provided more than \$34,000 in academic year 2010-2011 to support three BSW and MSW Scholars in Aging Studies. When one also considers the Joe and Marguerite Long, Olson Cara Mitchell, BW/Vera Orrick, and the J. I. and Bruce Roberts scholarship funds, as well as grants and internship stipends, the financial message is a strong affirmation of the School's potential for national leadership in filling the gap in the need for gerontological social workers.

With this level of current and anticipated financial support, the School is poised to contribute profoundly to the well-being of older persons and families who need long-term care services as well as to the quality of care they receive in the facilities that service them. Thirty-five percent of the Baylor faculty has extensive experience in gerontological practice and research. The ethical integration of faith and social work practice is a core distinctive of the curriculum. Practice-based research and evidence-based practice are central elements in the instructional pattern.

The School has established internship agreements with a variety of long-term care providers and congregations and is currently offering an innovative rotational internship model for the delivery of gerontological competencies to advanced practice MSW students. Research in social work and long-term care will contribute to state-of-the-science innovations in person-centered care; faith-informed practice; increased family, congregational and community involvement; and normalized living environments. It will be my privilege to work with colleagues as we embrace the remarkable opportunities before us.

The School has much to offer the growing number of persons, families and communities living into longevity. Loss of self worth, loneliness and hopelessness do not have to be the inevitable companions of long life. Social workers prepared at Baylor know how to energize dignity, interdependence and faith – and be the kind of companions who will bless the longevity revolution. ❖

snap shots



1



MSW Practice Colloquium

More than 200 people attended this year's Colloquium May 4 at which 60 MSW students presented their research or practice projects. Above, Renae Parsons (from left), Anastasia Collier and Jamie McKinney encourage each other before the first presentations of the day.



2



3



4

Convocation

Seventy-six BSW and MSW students participated in Convocation May 14 at First Baptist Church Waco. **1** BSW students preparing for Convocation are (from left) Linda Hamza, Bethany Northern, Beth Ann Wommack and Sarah Male. **2** Joseph Yoon, MSW, waits for his name to be called. **3** Lacey De Jager, MSW, spots a friend in the crowd. **4** Sheryl Roberts, MSW, gets a celebratory hug from brother Sam.

For more photos from all this Spring's events, visit the School's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/BaylorSSW