

# CALENDAR *of events*

## MARCH

16 School Open House

## APRIL

28 Annual Family Dinner

28-29 Board of Advocates Meeting

## MAY

2 Carver Alumni Reunion Dinner

3 MSW Practice Colloquium

13 Convocation

14 Commencement



Midwife/Middle  
School Science  
Teacher / San  
Antonio / 3-person  
household,  
including dog /  
first week after  
deciding to eat  
all local produce

## Come to Our Open House March 16

The Baylor and Waco communities are invited to join us 5 to 7 p.m., March 16, as we celebrate our new location at 811 Washington Avenue. Welcoming remarks will be at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments and tours of the building will be available at the come-and-go event. Featuring special guest Mark Menjivar.

### YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

A series of images taken of opened refrigerators - "as is" - in homes across America by social work alumnus Mark Menjivar - on exhibit at the School of Social Work March 14 - April 29



# *community* CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



"No one discipline can carry the torch"

# INFORMING THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION

ACADEMIC OPTION  
ADDRESSES POVERTY  
& SOCIAL JUSTICE

BAYLOR  
UNIVERSITY

# Transitions

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



## THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

has been in a whirl of activity and fast-paced change the past few months, most noticeably with our move to downtown Waco in mid-December. In the midst of still looking for copy paper and staples, though, I want to slow down and take note of two important transitions. Drs. Dennis Myers and Gaynor Yancey have moved from positions as associate deans to full-time devotion to leading the research, writing, and teaching in two of the most important areas in our school's focus.

Only a few months after I first came to Baylor in 1997, Dr. Dennis Myers, who at that time was a faculty member in the Institute for Gerontological Studies at Baylor, agreed to transfer to the social work program. One year later, the Institute was joined with the newly formed Department of Social Work in the College of Arts and Sciences. We were not to become a school for another eight years.

I quickly recognized in Dr. Myers a scholarly peer with a commitment to learning from and supporting better care for older adults and their families. In the intervening years, we have been colleagues, mentors to one another, co-administrators, and trusted friends. He first directed the undergraduate program, and for the past 10 years, he led our graduate program, first as director, and when we became the "School of Social Work" in 2005, as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. He provided oversight to the program's evolution and growth, establishing it as one of the finest MSW programs in the nation with a waiting list for admission.

Last September, Dennis was installed as the inaugural Dorothy Barfield Kronzer Endowed Professor in Child and Family Studies. He has moved from his administrative duties fulltime into the role of professor and scholar in research focusing on multigenerational family life in the longevity revolution. In a society where the baby boomers are now beginning to be eligible for Social Security, where many elders live well into their 90s, and where multigenerational family dynamics are being constantly recreated, the need for his research and knowledge is monumental. How proud and grateful I am that Dennis now has time to devote all of his impressive creative energies and intellectual passions to this field.

Another person who has walked the journey at Baylor with me is Dr. Gaynor Yancey, whom I brought to Waco just as soon as I could. I knew Gaynor from her work for almost 30 years in Philadelphia's inner city as a missionary appointed by a national missions organization, first working to engage congregations in serving their community. Later she served as the executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank. She conducted ▶

continued on page 17

Cover photo: A panel of MSW students in Dr. Gaynor Yancey's Advanced Practice class answers questions from the Waco City Council about their research on Poverty Reduction. From left: Trevor Stephen, Bethany Molinar, Kristina Garrison and Morgan Caruthers.

## community CONNECTION

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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.*

[WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL\\_WORK](http://WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL_WORK)



# Too sad to concentrate?

HARRIS QUESTIONS IF THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN GRIEF AND AD/HD +

VICKI MARSH KABAT

**JOHNNY IS 9 YEARS OLD** and in the third grade. His elementary school is near a military base. In his young life, Johnny's mother has been deployed twice and his grandmother died two years ago. Johnny's parents are concerned that he has difficulty focusing on his homework and is sometimes unable to settle down and concentrate. His teachers, too, have noted that he has difficulty paying attention, is often impulsive and irritable and struggles with learning new material. Recently, Johnny was tested and diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD).

Is there any connection between his grief experiences and the psychiatric diagnosis?

According to dissertation research conducted by Helen Harris, senior lecturer in the Baylor School of Social Work, there is – at least in the study of 1,750 elementary aged children (grades 1–5) in Central Texas upon which her study is based.

The results show a “significant association,” she said. “In fact, in this sample there appears to be an increased risk of approximately 26 percent for a diagnosis of AD/HD with each successive loss experience.” In research terminology, “association” implies two factors can occur simultaneously, i.e. when one shows up, so does the other without being causative. Harris is pursuing her Doctorate of Education at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. She recently successfully defended her dissertation based on her research of this question.

Parents or guardians of children in Belton and Killeen Independent School Districts completed the survey questionnaire in May and June, 2010, averaging a 24 percent return rate. On the survey, an experience of loss was defined as: divorce in the family; death of a parent, sibling or grandparent; deployment of a parent; separation from family; or incarceration of parent.

“Of the children who had experienced loss – and not all of them had – there was a range of one to six losses. In other words, one child could have had as many as six losses,” she said.

Cognitive impairment in individuals experiencing grief or loss – regardless of their age – can include difficulty in paying attention, concentrating, and learning new materials. Oftentimes that impairment is accompanied by irritability and impulsivity.

“If you look at that checklist, you have identified the diagnostic criteria for AD/HD,” Harris said.

An average of 10.2 percent in Harris's study had a psychiatric diagnosis of AD/HD. Harris further found that the majority of children with this diagnosis were referred by parents or teachers, were diagnosed by family physicians and that 85 percent were evaluated with behavior checklist and other testing.

Harris has taught social work at Baylor for 14 years, primarily in the areas of practice, physical and mental health care, and grief and loss. She was the director of the first hospice in Central Texas, and has worked in crisis intervention, foster care, adoption, and bereavement. This question about association has been on her mind for 25 years.

“All of the work I've done in these practice settings involves people dealing with separation and loss. All of them have experienced not just the emotional feelings that come with grief but also the cognitive impact of grief. Is there a connection?”

In her literature review, she found only one reference about the association between grief and loss and the diagnosis of AD/HD. “It made me nervous that no one else that I could find had studied it,” she said.

With encouragement from university colleagues, she pursued her topic. She found that AD/HD is estimated to affect 3 percent to 5 percent of the U.S. population, meaning it is considered a statistical rarity, i.e., not normative for the population. Yet the rate of the diagnosis is increasing annually. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, rates of AD/HD diagnosis increased an average of 5.5 percent per year from 2003 to 2007, an increase of 2.2 percent annually over the preceding nine-year period.

Harris's study began to answer her research question, but it prompted many other questions. She has a particular interest in this question in regard to children in military families. She also would like to know if her findings in Central Texas will hold up more broadly. If so, she imagines that society might move toward recognizing and using “grief accommodation” guidelines for parents, teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, and health-care providers similar to disability accommodations that are now provided to help children succeed.

“We have to do a better job of identifying what the cognitive effects of grief are and at least consider that children who are grieving and exhibiting signs of attention deficit may not need a psychiatric diagnosis,” Harris said.

“Grief lessens as people heal and then attention gets better. That's not the same as neurological pathways that aren't there and are not going to be there the rest of your life.” ♦

# student profiles

## “I pledge ...”

**Two MSW students in same class  
become U.S. citizens in the same week +**

*By Vicki Marsh Kabat*

### JOY EKPIN AND CAROLINA

Fuentes realized early in their acquaintance that they have many things in common. They shared a class in the first year of their master’s of social work degree, they are both engaged to be married in 2011, and neither was born in the United States. They even did their social work internships for the same agency.

But when Ekpın reminded her professor she would be absent from class Wednesday because she was getting her U.S. citizenship, Fuentes did a doubletake.

“I said, ‘What? Me too. On Thursday!’” she said.

The whole class was taken aback, said Becky Scott, fulltime lecturer at the Baylor School of Social Work and their instructor in the Groups and Organizations class.

“How rare would that be? Two students in one class receiving citizenship in the same week?” Scott said.

“It was such an important milestone for each of us, and we couldn’t believe we hadn’t known it,” Fuentes said.

### JOURNEYS TO AMERICA

The women’s stories on arriving at that important juncture, though, are quite different. Ekpın came to America as a toddler, just over a year old, with her mother and older brother, arriving on Feb. 14, 1982, from Nigeria. Her father was already here, studying psychology at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. The family’s emigration was part of a long-range plan.

Fuentes, on the other hand, was 18 when her parents made the decision



Carolina Fuentes, left, and Joy Ekpın discovered they had more in common than they first thought one important week in their lives last November.

to leave Colombia, a decision made only after several traumatic events occurred (see “Trust & Obey”).

Ekpın is the last in her immediate family to acquire citizenship; Fuentes, the oldest of three daughters, is the first in her family. Although Ekpın grew up in America, Fuentes

had a choice about emigrating.

“My parents didn’t want to move but they felt God was calling them to come here. They told me my sisters had to come with them, but because I was 18, I did not,” she said. “That was a very difficult time. We were leaving everything we knew

# Trust & Obey

and loved. It was very bittersweet.”

The Fuentes family arrived in Houston in 2002, and Carolina’s father, Zenis Fuentes, became pastor for the Hispanic ministry at Berean Baptist Church. Carolina knew no English and had to contend with a new American culture as well as with many different Hispanic cultures within the church and community.

“We felt a little isolated. There was a lot of misunderstanding and poor communication. It was a shock to me at 18 to find out that because I was a woman, I might not be welcomed into a ministry role,” said Fuentes, a dual degree

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*“...my sisters had to come  
but because I was 18, I did  
not. It was a difficult time.”*

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student in social work and divinity.

By nature outgoing and friendly, she withdrew. “I became very shy, and that’s not who I am. I was double-guessing myself about the grammar I used. It was very painful and hard on my self-esteem,” she said.

Fuentes began intensive ESL classes at a community college, earned her associate’s degree, and then transferred to Baylor to get a BA in environmental studies and religion.

## FINDING SOCIAL WORK

Ekpin grew up primarily in the Houston area. Her original family grew with the birth of a sister and two brothers. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology and criminal justice from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX, and then worked in juvenile probation in Fort Bend County, Houston, for four years. She also was involved with a nondenominational church mission that worshiped with

homeless individuals in the inner city.

“Both of those experiences led me toward social work,” she said. “I felt lost in connecting my homeless brothers and sisters with resources. I got frustrated with that. I also think I wanted to do more for them than they wanted done, and I had to learn not to do that.”

It was just in the past year that she decided to pursue citizenship. It is not an easy process. A person must have a green card (be a Lawful Permanent Resident) for five years, pay for and apply for citizenship, be fingerprinted and clear an FBI and CIA investigation, study for the test, and be interviewed. (For more information, see [www.immigrationdirect.com](http://www.immigrationdirect.com))

At one point, Ekpin had to delay because she didn’t have the application fee, at that time \$675. “I didn’t have a job then and I had to decide, do I want electricity or my citizenship,” she said.

Ekpin was sworn in on Wednesday, Nov. 17, in Houston and Fuentes on Thursday in San Antonio. Neither had time to celebrate because of the demands of their classes and internships.

“We just had to get back to Waco and back to class,” Ekpin said.

Someday, both would like to return to their native countries, but for now, they’re content to share wedding plans and stories of their fiancés, study together, and finish their degrees.

The young women joke easily with one another as they share their stories. Joy’s people in Nigeria are Ibibio and her given name is Inemesit, which means not just “joy,” but “my soul is happy.” Carolina has returned to her more outgoing, ebullient nature, and as they compare wedding plans, she suddenly exclaims to Joy, “Wouldn’t it be fun if we both get pregnant?”

Joy bursts into giggles. “You are being silly, very unreasonable, out of control!” ♦

The Fuentes family loves their native Colombia and had no desire to leave it. Her father, Zenis Fuentes, a Baptist minister all of his adult life, led a church in their home city of Armenia, in the foothills of the Andes Mountains. Everything they knew and loved was in this community, famous for its rich and flavorful coffee beans.

In the early 1990s, though, their world began to crumble, literally and figuratively. Oppositional forces to the Colombian government were kidnapping people at alarming rates – politicians, physicians, lawyers, pastors. “We heard rumors that my father would be kidnapped, and we knew it could happen,” Carolina said.

At about that same time, insurgents stormed a Catholic church during mass and kidnapped almost everyone present, she recalled. “It was very sad and hurtful for the whole country, because there were no rules anymore.”

In 1999, their city was hit by an earthquake that did extensive damage. The Fuentes’s house was leveled, as were the homes of many in her father’s congregation. Their church had to be demolished. “We walked the streets and there were so many people crying. It was a citywide grieving.”

Her father came to the States to look for resources for his church and its families. The church in Houston where he spoke asked him to become its pastor. He turned the offer down and returned to Colombia, but the church persisted. Two years later, he moved his family to the United States.

For Carolina, it was a difficult time. “It was traumatic. But it was time for my father to use his experience someplace else.”

They found themselves living with a foot in each world, she said. “We were always thinking of people we had left behind, and that keeps you from building a new home. If you cling to the past, you can’t look at the present or what the future might be.” ♦



# SSW news briefs

## Reading, writing and moving

In mid-December, faculty and staff rolled into downtown Waco +

IT WAS A HUGE TASK by anyone's standards, moving an entire academic unit of Baylor University from its home of 10 years on campus. With the help of departments across campus and the organizational skills of the school's staff, the feat was accomplished Dec. 13-15.

The 35 faculty and staff of the school took up professional residence at 811 Washington Avenue before the holiday break. When students returned for spring semester classes Jan. 10, classrooms were ready and the escalators were working. Read more about the move and the media reports about it on the school's website.



The moving trucks arrived early the morning of Dec. 13, and the movers loaded and moved the school during the next three days, using a color-coded system. Jeanie Fitzpatrick, left, spent much of the fall semester poring over floor plans for the renovated space as the school's point person for coordinating the move. No one was exempt from the heavy work of packing and unpacking, including Dean Diana Garland, below center. Bubble wrap became a precious commodity in the packing process, as Professor Jim Ellor, below right, demonstrates.



# Academic Ambassadors

## BSW, MSW STUDENTS SELECTED FOR WHO'S WHO

Two School of Social Work students have been selected for Who's Who Among Students in American University and Colleges. Elizabeth Queen is a senior



baccalaureate degree student from Jackson, MS. She plans to attend Duke Divinity School in the fall.



Stephanie Halbert, from Round Rock, TX, is an MSW student in the physical and mental health concentration who will graduate in May 2011.

They will be honored at a reception hosted by the university at 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Armstrong-Browning Library on campus.

Recommendations for students come from university faculty. Criteria include GPA, participation and leadership within school or extracurricular activities, community involvement, and future leadership ability and/or potential.



Several of the Phi Alpha Ambassadors gathered before the holidays. From bottom left: Krista Barrett, Phi Alpha sponsor; Saleta Hopkins; Erin Castillo; Xiomara O'Neill; Elizabeth Queen; Jessica Tidwell; Rachel McCarty; and Courtney Lance.

Students who qualify for Phi Alpha, the academic honor society for social work students, already exhibit exemplary qualities. They must have a GPA of 3.75 and at least nine hours of social work credit to be invited to membership. The Phi Alpha officers for the 2009-2010 year, though, wanted a way for society members to be even more involved in the school and to model leadership. This year, the Phi Alpha Ambassadors was created to help realize that ideal. The Ambassadors are available to help host and facilitate academic events sponsored by the school. Five ambassadors served at last fall's Dyer Ethics Workshop, and this spring, several ambassadors led tours of the new facility for members of the school's Board of Advocates. "It was wonderful to see Phi Alpha students serving alongside the staff to help make these events such a success," said Phi Alpha sponsor Krista Barrett. This spring, the Ambassadors will have opportunity to serve at the Annual Family Dinner and at the MSW Practice Colloquium.



## MILE 26, .2 to go

*Faculty duo train for and tackle White Rock Marathon together*

FOR JON SINGLETARY, associate professor at the School of Social Work, it was his first marathon. For his training partner and faculty colleague, Susanne Klawetter, it was her 10th. Together, they took on the challenge of the Dallas White Rock Marathon Dec. 5, and finished it in stride and side by side.

"I'm a rookie runner," Singletary said. "She's definitely the veteran. I was amazed I was still vertical at the end."

Klawetter dismisses her partner's modesty. "Anyone who can finish a marathon still standing

has accomplished a real feat."

Klawetter says she runs for many reasons. It centers her and helps her gather her thoughts for the day; she wants to model a healthy lifestyle for her 4-year-old triplets; and she enjoys the challenge.

For Klawetter and Singletary, their shared joy in such a solitary sport may spring from another commonality they share: both are parents of multiples (Jon has 4-year-old twins).

Incidentally, both are registered for Baylor's Bearathon in April. ♦



## “Go start a social movement”

BSW CLASS DECIDES TO GET NEIGHBORLY IN NEW LOCATION +

By Vicki Marsh Kabat

### THE STUDENTS IN MICHAEL

Sherr's fall social work class knew their Practice III class in Organizations/Communities would be challenging. Still, none of them was expecting the assignment he gave on the first day of class.

“Dr. Sherr told us our assignment for the semester was to start a social movement,” said Bree Babineaux, one of 16 senior social work students in the BSW class at Baylor University.

The reactions from the students were mixed: Some were skeptical, others uneasy about so little structure, still others just glad for a different kind of assignment. Sherr, associate professor of social work and director of the School of Social Work's doctoral program, was ready for something different, too.

“In this class, the students are actually practicing community development and learning how to ‘be’ an organization,” he said. “At this stage, they know what they need to know, and I just try to stay out of their way.”

That's how Project Neighbor came into existence. After discussing pervasive social issues such as poverty,



### “PROJECT NEIGHBOR” CLASS

Students in a BSW Practice III class last fall put organizations and community theory to the test.

homelessness, and health needs, the class decided that there is one underlying issue for most of today's social problems: “We don't know our neighbor,” said class member Meghan Smith.

Coincidentally, the School of Social Work would have some new neighbors by the end of year. As Baylor University's 11th and newest academic unit, the school had quickly outgrown its space on campus. Almost 300 students, faculty and staff moved into a three-story, renovated building at 811 Washington, in the heart of downtown, in December.

The students mapped out businesses, city and state offices, churches, nonprofit agencies and residences in the census track that directly encompasses the Washington Street site. Like a Community Welcome Wagon in reverse – down to the basket of goodies the organization is known for bringing

– students paired off and began dropping in on their neighbors-to-be to introduce themselves, say hi and chat.

Sherr acknowledges his approach to the advanced practice class is a little unconventional, but he's excited about how the students have responded. He does no lectures in class, but he assigns podcasts he develops and readings. Discussion and strategizing happens mostly on the class's blog site. The class also started a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

“This may not work. It has to be organic, and it has to have momentum,” said Sherr, who hopes Project Neighbor will be carried on in successive classes.

“It's certainly not going to happen in one semester, but already we see ownership in some of the students who will take the class next semester.” The advanced practice classes are taught



*Jeanne Dix, a volunteer with Mission Waco, talks to class members.*

# Carver School: Verlene Goatley

By Dr. Tanya Brice,  
Associate Professor of Social Work

by different professors in the school.

During the fall semester, the students continued their visits to six individuals representing two nonprofit agencies, a city office, two churches and a restaurant. They delivered small baskets of candies mid-term. They invited people from the downtown community and from other academic units to one of their classes on campus to explore what they think it means to be good neighbors.

They have visited younger cohorts in the school to generate interest in Project Neighbor. As the semester drew to a close, their final assignment was to develop a plan to sustain their social movement after they leave Baylor.

"The traditional model of community practice education focuses heavily on developing a product, whether it's an assessment or a final presentation," Sherr said. "Our goal is to make sure there is enough interest in this project to continue it."

It seems fitting that the profile photo on the class's Facebook page is of Fred Rogers, who for generations opened his PBS children's show by singing, "Would you be mine, could you be my mine, won't you be my neighbor?"

It also may be an appropriate symbol because the wisdom of Fred Rogers's approach to children's programming was initially dismissed as too simplistic.

These students have taken the first steps, but they know that relationship must be sustained. They also know that relationship can't begin without a "Hello." ♦

*Follow Project Neighbor's activities on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Neighbor](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Neighbor)*

When Verlene Farmer Goatley was a child living in Bridgeport, OK, she became interested in missionary work when a White missionary would come over to the "Black town" and practice being a missionary to Africa with the children.

The zeal this missionary exhibited for the gospel inspired the little girl and set her on a course that would lead her to be one of the first two African American women to integrate the Carver School of Missions and Social Work. She and Freddie Mae Bason, a classmate and friend from Langston University, set out in fall 1953, traveling by bus from Oklahoma to Louisville.

On Dec. 20, 2010, I had the honor of visiting with Mrs. Goatley in Oklahoma City, OK, while she was there visiting her sisters. I was joined by Dr. Laine Scales, Carver School alum, Professor of Higher Education at Baylor, and author of *All That Fits a Woman* (Mercer University Press, 2000). We recorded Mrs. Goatley's recollections of her days spent at the Carver School as part of an oral history project that Dr. Scales has been working on since 2003.

Mrs. Goatley describes her experience at Carver as "mind-boggling." When she entered, she had not yet completed her Bachelor's in Religious Education at



*Mrs. Verlene Farmer Goatley, left, and Tanya Brice*

Langston University, so the academic load was challenging.

At Langston, she participated for several summers in domestic missionary work as part of a National Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention partnership. Mrs. Goatley and Freddie Mae Bason were recruited by Dr. Guy Bellamy, an advocate of racial reconciliation working for the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Bellamy arranged for the two women to attend Carver School in 1953 in hopes that the Home Mission Board could hire the two women upon graduation. "Carver School trained me for

*continued on page 17*

## Proof of Accreditation

Are you a Carver School alumnus who needs verification that Carver was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education when you received your degree? The CSWE has a web page listing all formerly accredited programs, and it lists The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1984-1997: <http://www.cswe.org/Accreditation/41929/41931.aspx>

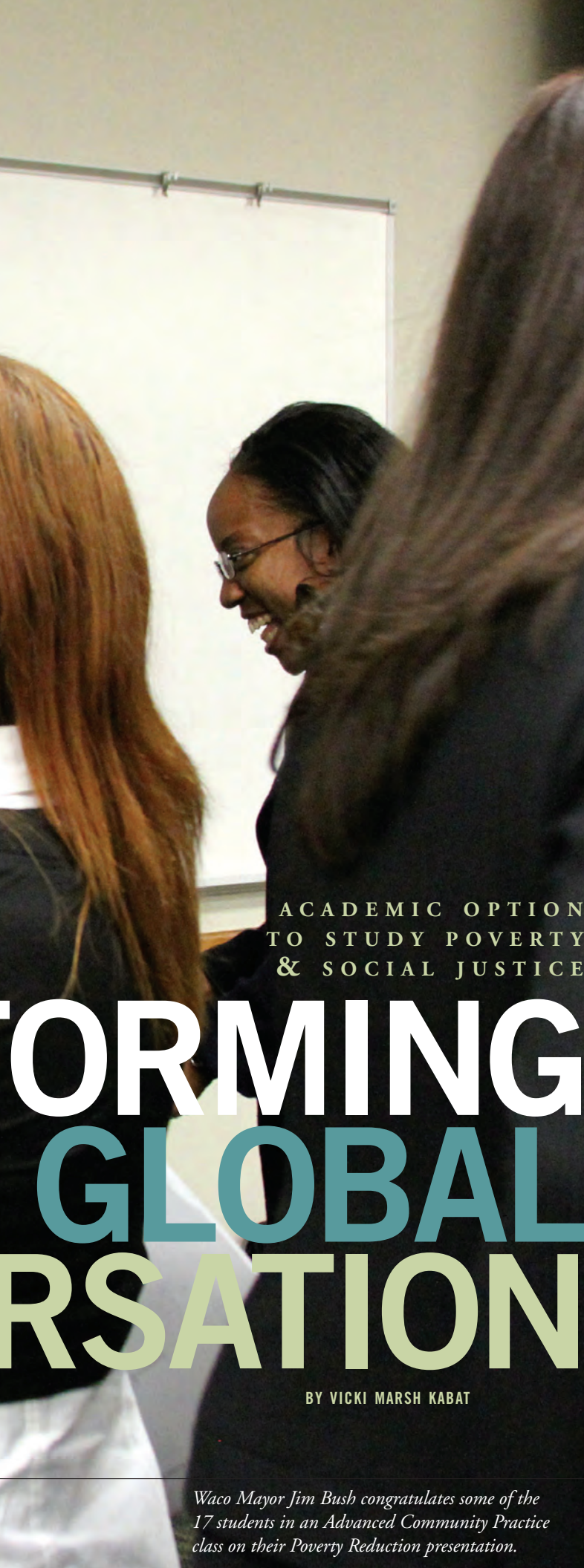
If you need further help, contact the Office of Social Work Accreditation and Educational Excellence.  
Dr. Judith Bremner, [jbremner@cswe.org](mailto:jbremner@cswe.org) or 703-519-2047.





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ACADEMIC OPTION  
TO STUDY POVERTY  
& SOCIAL JUSTICE

# FORMING GLOBAL RSATION

BY VICKI MARSH KABAT

*Waco Mayor Jim Bush congratulates some of the 17 students in an Advanced Community Practice class on their Poverty Reduction presentation.*

BAYLOR  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE

## “IT TAKES ALL OF US”

When Katie Yocham came to Baylor as a freshman four years ago, she shared something in common with many of her classmates. She cared deeply about issues of poverty and social injustice and wanted to find a way to serve others.

She just couldn't quite figure out how to do that, and she believes she's not the only one with that dilemma.

“The students at Baylor care, but I think a lot of them don't have ways to direct that. They'll do Steppin' Out one weekend, or volunteer with Campus Kitchen, but often it's seasonal and sporadic,” said the December 2010 graduate who majored in International Studies.

That's why the thought of the new interdisciplinary minor in Poverty Studies and Social Justice approved in late January by the Provost Office thrills her so much.

“This can reach so many students,” she said. “It's a way around the narrow focus of most academic disciplines. Now you can follow your gifting in a specific career, but also access this minor and incorporate that awareness into your own field of study.”

The minor is housed in the School of Social Work and becomes effective this semester. It will consist of 18 hours with three core courses – Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Social Policy and Services, and Foundations of Social Justice. Students may choose from a host of optional courses to complete the required hours.

### MAYOR MAKES POVERTY A PRIORITY

The addition of this minor comes at a time when Waco Mayor Jim Bush has identified reduction of poverty as his primary goal for 2011. That announcement in January followed closely on a presentation delivered Dec. 6 to City Council members by an advanced practice MSW class. The 17 graduate students spent the fall semester researching national best practices for poverty reduction, building from a set of initiatives developed the previous year by a grassroots group of local citizens called the Poverty Solutions Group.

Although pockets of concern have surfaced around local poverty issues for decades, it wasn't until 2000 that a collective concern in the city and on campus began to formulate.

That year, the U.S. Census data showed that Waco had the fifth highest poverty level in the state (26.9 percent) and that 32.5 percent of its children, aged 5 and younger, were living below the poverty level. That got people's attention. For city leaders, it was a public relations embarrassment. For leaders of the largest and ►

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## Poverty minor (cont'd)

oldest Baptist university in the nation, it was an ethical challenge.

“There has long been the question raised in Waco,” said Jon Singletary, The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair of Children and Family Studies in the School of Social Work, “how can we have as many communities of faith as we do and at the same time have as high a poverty rate as we do? Why is there this disconnect between people of faith engaging people in poverty? People in the community have asked it and people on campus have asked it.”

### IMPACTING COMMUNITY

When Diana Garland, now dean of the School of Social Work, came to Baylor in 1998, one of her first actions was to take note of the communities surrounding the campus.

“We’re social workers and one of the principles we teach is to be aware of ‘person-in-environment.’ We needed to be aware of the economic condition of clients who seek help from social services because our students work with these clients in their field internships,” she said.

Garland shaped the faculty and school based largely on that assessment. “I told people here that if we do not noticeably improve the community, then as a school of social work, we have failed. That’s been foundational for us every step of the way.”

The school’s impact often has been behind the scenes as students and faculty worked with local agencies and foundations to do research and assessments – work that is often necessary to procure funding. Other projects

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*“How can we have as many communities of faith as we do and at the same time have as high a poverty rate as we do?”*

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originating from the school have been more visible.

One initiative that has gained national attention and continues to thrive is the Baylor University Campus Kitchen (BUCK), which distributes unused food from campus dining halls to nonprofit agencies that serve children. BUCK began as a project in a social work advanced practice community development class and is now administered by Baylor Student Life.

Another directive housed in the School of Social Work is the Texas Hunger Initiative, now in its second year. Its goal is to eliminate hunger in the state by 2015. In its first full year, THI’s collaborative efforts with city, state and federal agencies saw a 20 percent increase of participants utilizing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).

Other academic units also have tackled poverty, often through Waco Independent Schools and Communities In Schools-Heart of Texas with Baylor students from across academic disciplines tutoring, mentoring and otherwise partnering to help at-risk children and youth succeed academically.

### SPORADIC EFFORTS

Nevertheless, university efforts were sporadic and disorganized. Faculty members made hesitant strides toward a unified campus approach in 2005 with two loosely defined initiatives. One was called the Jubilee Initiative and the other Community Ministry through Academic Partners (CMAP). Primarily by word of mouth, faculty gathered to try to determine campus interest, but neither effort was “owned” by any academic unit or the university at large and the groups disintegrated.

One important piece of data generated by the Jubilee Initiative was a list of university courses that addressed poverty or social justice in some capacity. Diana Garland assigned this task to two graduate assistants, and the results identified more than 20 courses across campus.

“No one knew the other was offering these classes,” said Gaynor Yancey, professor at the School of Social Work, “and yet none of them was redundant.”

“Obviously people on campus were concerned about their neighbors in the community,” Garland said, “and this data helped us authenticate that concern and get a sense of its breadth.”

Despite these early, abbreviated attempts, the conversation continued informally about how to develop an academic emphasis across campus that would give a new dimension to the university’s mission of developing servant leaders.

“It’s taken some time to get people to come together. It still does,” said Singletary, who rallied student interest around fair-wage policies for university-hired employees as a new faculty member six years ago. “It takes a commitment of time and energy to think about and address the complexity of poverty.”

### BIPI FORERUNNER OF MINOR

For the past three years, a small group of people on campus has been functioning through the Baylor Interdisciplinary Poverty Initiative (BIPI) to create visibility, focus and initiative around specific Baylor-sponsored programs to address poverty in the wider Waco community. BIPI is patterned on the interdisciplinary Shepherd Poverty Program ([www.wlu.edu/x12034.xml](http://www.wlu.edu/x12034.xml)) at Washington and Lee



*Jeff Wall, director of Housing and Community Development, City of Waco, left, is working with two MSW interns this spring: Stephen Boyes, center, and Kasey Ashenfelter.*

University, a four-year, liberal arts college in Lexington, VA.

The Baylor poverty initiative was established in 2007 to be a catalyst for social change around issues of poverty, civic engagement, and social and economic justice. Funded by a three-year, \$150,000 grant from the Bridgeway Charitable Foundation ([www.bridgewayfoundation.org](http://www.bridgewayfoundation.org)), BIPI has been co-directed by Singletary and Yancey, and Yancey now serves as its faculty chair. It is housed in the Division of Student Life with Rosemary Townsend as its director of business affairs. It continues to operate the Campus Kitchen program.

"The Bridgeway grant and BIPI really became the impetus to carry this emphasis on social change and justice around poverty issues into the academic realm," Yancey said.

## COMPLEXITY OF APPROACHES

Reflecting the systemic complexity of poverty and social justice, the new minor draws its elective courses from disciplines as diverse as economics, philosophy, social work, anthropology, environmental science, political science, engineering and psychology.

"Working with poverty systemically can seem overwhelming," Singletary said. "Poverty is cyclical, it's about education, economics, politics. It's literacy, housing, hunger and health. We all knew it would take multiple players with multiple points of view, but until now no one had been able to bring us all together."

Thomas Odegaard, senior lecturer in the Hankamer School of Business, has taught "Economics of Poverty and Discrimination" to economics and social work majors since the early 1990s. A few years ago, the course was split into two sections, one for each discipline. It becomes another of the core courses in the minor.

"Economics can bring something to the conversation about poverty. We talk about income and human capital. But there are many other dimensions to the

issue and this interdisciplinary minor can bring a richer background to this discussion," Odegaard said.

Those other dimensions can result in differences of opinion about the best approach to meaningful reduction of poverty, Yancey said. "Every discipline approaches poverty differently and there are strong philosophical and ideological differences, and each model believes it has best practices. The interdisciplinary minor will enable students to hear all those differences and from them, draw their own understanding."

Twice in the past three years, Singletary taught an elective class, "Foundations of Social Justice," with both classes filled to capacity. This course will become another one of the core classes of the minor.

"There is no doubt in our mind that students come to Baylor with a compassionate heart for addressing oppression. Often, they come in as religion majors because they think first of missions. What we know as faculty is that it takes all of us. No single academic discipline can carry the torch on this," Yancey said.

Further evidence of the momentum around poverty issues has been the popularity of a 2008 Poverty Summit sponsored by Student Activities and attended by more than 200 students, and the Institute for Faith and Learning's Poverty Symposium, also held in 2008. A national student conference, Hungry for Justice, was held in October 2010 at Baylor, sponsored by the Campus Kitchens project.

Yocham took Odegaard's class as an elective after hearing about it word-of-mouth from a friend. She was fascinated to learn there were so many others on campus with her same passion for these topics. She next took Yancey's Social Policy and Services class, and her enthusiasm grew. She spent last summer working with the School of Social Work's Texas Hunger Initiative (THI).

"I never would have been exposed to this if I had not taken the initiative to pursue it. How are you supposed to know about this?" said Yocham, who now is an AmeriCorps VISTA staff member with THI. "With this minor, all the people on campus with this interest can come together in a more intentional and focused way."

Odegaard thinks the minor will be a "get students beyond the headlines in the paper," he said. "There's more going on than that, and this minor will provide a more grounded background to inform the conversation – wherever a graduate goes."

Yancey hopes that Baylor's growing determination to impact local poverty provides a "monumental" opportunity for the university to model its mantra of integrating faith and practice.

"How does the faith we express as a university come together and look out for those who face poverty every day? How does that change Baylor, change Waco? It can be the actual representation of Christ as a university." ♦



## Building on strengths

JON E. SINGLETARY Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies



*“LIFE IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITY for new beginnings.”*

These are the words Dr. Gaynor Yancey used in her final column for *Community Connections* as associate dean for the baccalaureate program. She mentioned the excitement and anxiety of students moving into the workforce and of faculty and staff moving into our new building downtown. Dr. Yancey didn't mention another new beginning that is so significant in her own life. She made the decision last semester to return to teaching and research full-time and to step away from administration after 10 years of directing

*“How, then, do we prepare to live out  
God's calling in our lives by developing  
the strengths God has given us?”*

our Baccalaureate in Social Work degree program.

As with the other scenarios, there is excitement and anxiety surrounding this one. Stepping away from administration, she is ready to engage students more fully in the classroom and with the personal relationships for which she is known. Already in the process of writing a book with Dean Garland on church social work, she is poised to work on resources for congregations through research projects in her new role.

Alongside these positive thoughts about the transition, I also can sense some concerns she is feeling. Dr. Yancey has been an excellent administrator; she will certainly miss parts of

that role and she will be missed in that role. There are aspects of administration that she is glad to give up, but her spirit of servant leadership will keep her on the move offering care to students, staff and faculty from her new space on the third floor.

Here on the second floor, I have opportunities for new beginnings as well. I have been learning the ins and outs of baccalaureate social work education from Dr. Yancey as I work to assure the BSW team that I will keep our program strong. Baylor has a remarkable 40-year history of social work education that we celebrated last year. As we make our way to a 50-year history, I look forward to building on the strengths that have been established for us through the years.

In fact, building on strengths will be the cornerstone of my first year in this new role. I have the privilege of knowing our staff well having worked with them in a variety of ways prior to this transition. I want to get to know them better, though, and to hear what they identify as their own strengths.

The Gallup Organization offers a leadership development program as a part of its StrengthsQuest resources, and we will utilize this material to discern how individual strengths help us function as a team. Their research suggests that the most effective people are those who understand their strengths. They are the leaders best able to develop strategies to meet and exceed the demands of their daily lives, their careers, and their families. My top identified strengths fall in the category of strategic thinking. Most of our staff members have strengths in the area of relationship building. Our BSW team will work on becoming strengths-based leaders as we work with our students and each other around these themes.

Our students are already familiar with this approach. At Baylor, all undergraduate students take the StrengthsQuest Inventory as freshman. We will be able to look at how their talents relate to interests they have in social work. We also will consider how they can use these to develop professional strengths throughout our curriculum as they journey toward careers of serving others.

Thinking about our strengths points us to another theme at Baylor and in the School – the integration of faith and practice. In considering the words of Ephesians 6, I am mindful of finding our strengths in God: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” We know we are all given talents and gifts that we are called to nurture and develop. How, then, do we prepare to live out God's calling in our lives by developing the strengths God has given us? ▶

continued on page 20

## Re-envisioning social work curriculum

ROB ROGERS, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

“LET’S MAKE IT REAL!” exclaimed the faculty in unison at the end of a half-day retreat on a spring day in May 2006. What was all the excitement about and what did we want to make real? We had just spent the afternoon responding to a question posed by our retreat leader, Ashley Thornton, Director for Continuous Improvement at Baylor. She had challenged us to consider, “If there were no limits or constraints, how would you teach social work at Baylor?” Within minutes, four separate teams were eagerly tackling that challenge. The energy was high and the mood was playful and expectant. It had the air of a high-stakes contest with a big cash prize for the winning team!

Three hours later we reassembled with our creative models of an ideal social work education program. The members of each team presented their ideas with passion. The walls were plastered with poster paper overflowing with diagrams, symbols, and innovative ideas. As we sat in amazement looking at the results, we suddenly realized that, for all of their diversity, the models were strikingly similar at their core. In our vision, classrooms had moved from within four walls on campus to agencies in the community where fulltime faculty had offices alongside field faculty and students. Days were spent

*“What would be the ideal model of social work education? We are changing the foundation of [our] culture ...”*

discussing issues, solving problems, planning interventions, serving clients, and evaluating outcomes ... together. Students learned theories just in time for practice and reflected on the outcomes. Project papers and proposals were written on the run, passed in the halls, and used by team members who added insights before handing them off to others.

In our vision, we had become a learning community that included clients and neighbors. We all read, wrote, presented, and critiqued each other because it was the only way to work together effectively. The context and stimulus for all learning were the demands of social work practice. It was Reflective ... Experiential ... and Authentic Learning (REAL).

Even as we were envisioning our ideal model of social work education, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), our accrediting agency, was debating a radical proposition of its own: What if instead of prescribing the content that social



work programs must teach, the standards focused entirely on what students need to learn? Furthermore, what if the standards only suggested what these outcomes might be and allowed programs to develop and justify learning outcomes best suited for the practice of social work in their specific contexts?

With remarkable courage, CSWE’s Commission on Accreditation, of which Dean Garland was a member at the time, adopted new educational standards in 2008. Teaching objectives were replaced with the language of learning – competencies and practice behaviors. Suddenly, one of the key constraints to our vision of REAL education had evaporated! Now we not only had a mandate to change but also an incentive to act, since our program was slated for reaccreditation review in only four short years.

The faculty was galvanized for action and began meeting weekly for lunch and two-hour discussions about how to transform our traditional, quality curriculum into one focused on learning outcomes. Now, more than two years later, we are continuing these discussions at least twice a month. Changing the foundation of the culture in which we were educated and have been working has been an enormous challenge!

Last spring in selected BSW courses, professors did a pilot test of our new approach to measuring student competence. This fall, we began implementing the new system in all BSW and MSW Foundation courses. On Dec. 7 and 8, 104 students (that’s one-third of our student population) took time from preparing for finals or delayed leaving for semester break to share with us their perspectives on competencies and practice behaviors. Helen Harris skillfully facilitated ▶

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## JACOB MAINS

By the time Jacob meets the patients he works with at the Oregon State Hospital, their lives “have been devastated by mental illness, and they don’t have the resources to get the help they need anywhere else,” he said. “They have lost jobs, relationships, housing and hope.”



Then they meet Jacob Mains, MSW 2005, psychiatric social worker at the hospital. He and a team of others provide intensive services including medication management; individual, group and family therapy; and job training. He said it’s amazing to watch the transformation that occurs.

“Individuals who were lost in their illness become bright, articulate and healthy. They go from homelessness to living in supportive, transitional housing. Relationships can begin to heal. Most important, they go from feeling hopeless to believing they matter and can do something valuable with their lives.”

Jacob was the first person in his family to go to college. His family had few resources to help him pursue a degree, but after working with inner-city youth near Oakland, CA, he knew he needed more education and training. Knowing of its world-class faculty and intentional integration of faith and practice, the Baylor School of Social work was the only place he wanted to be, he says.

“If it was not for the financial support I received, I would not be able to do the work I do every day with some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Because of them, my life and the lives of the people I work with, have been forever changed.”

## DEBORAH SIMCOX

Deborah has worked in hospice care a total of 10 years, first in the 1990s after she earned her BA in Social Work at Baylor, and now again the past three years for Providence Hospice. Just talking about her work and the privilege she believes it is, she tears up – not from sadness, as perhaps one would expect, but from gratitude.



“It is the most incredibly rewarding work. I am still amazed that people allow me to walk into their lives at such a vulnerable time and are willing to share their stories and their families with me. It’s a great honor, and I do feel it is a calling, and that God gives you a special grace to be able to do this,” said Deborah, BASW (1982), MSW (2003), LMSW.

Deborah believes God has provided many special graces for her. She returned to Baylor for her graduate degree in social work when she was 40 and the mother of two school-age children. “On paper, it was financially impossible for me to go back,” she said. “My husband and I just stepped out in faith.” She continued to work fulltime, then for the Advocacy Center, while she pursued her degree part-time. “All I can tell you is that each time a payment was due, the money was there. The scholarship I received made a huge difference.”

Deborah says that during that time, every penny that came their way was a blessing. She encourages people to give to student scholarships even if it’s a small gift. “Every dollar matters. They add up and God multiplies it.”

## VIVIANA URDANETA

As a youth minister in her home country of Colombia, Viviana longed to be able to



do more than just listen when people came to her with their troubles. “I remember my deep desires to help both children and parents but I wondered how I could prepare better in able to help them more,” she said.

That question brought her to Baylor, where she received master’s degrees in divinity and social work (2010). Now she works as a Spanish-speaking counselor at Genesis Women’s Shelter in the Dallas Outreach office for women and children affected by domestic violence. She meets with 25 to 30 women and children each week.

“I’ve always wanted to help people in that moment of crisis,” said Viviana, whose husband, Julian Gonzalez, is working on a doctorate at Southern Methodist University. “Once we both complete our PhD’s, we want to return to Colombia. I think part of my calling is to help people from my country and to use my social work skills to counsel people there.”

Attending Baylor would not have been possible for her without the scholarship assistance she received. “I didn’t have the money,” she said, “but the people who gave to this made it possible for me to go to school.”

Now, she helps women realize they have options, too. “So many think they can do nothing, that they are helpless, but I help them to see the strength they have. I love that moment when I see a woman realize ‘I can decide otherwise for myself and my family.’”

## Dean's Report

continued from page 2

one of the first social work research studies focused on congregations. She had both the practical experience and the academic knowledge and skills we needed to shape our social work program. For the same 10 years that Dr. Myers was leading our graduate program, Dr. Yancey led our baccalaureate program as it grew exponentially, attracting students from across the nation.

During that time, Dr. Yancey continued her research that led to resources and training designed to help congregations serve their communities. Her instruction of advanced practice BSW and MSW classes has led to the student development of resources that are currently shaping how Waco understands and addresses issues such as poverty, urban development, hunger and congregational outreach. Ask any civic leader in Waco; they all know and deeply respect Dr. Yancey, increasingly looking to her for leadership in addressing the challenges of poverty in our community.

I had to think long and hard about her decision to set aside the administrative oversight of the BSW program so that she could expand her research and teaching. As Associate

Dean, she had opportunity for personal mentorship of so many students. She is greatly gifted in the gentle care of guiding the exploring, enthusiastic spirits of young people! Yet as a classroom teacher, that mentoring can take on new dimensions. She is passionate about her research and publication around congregations and communities and the roles social workers can serve to bridge and strengthen those connections; she is instilling that passion in our students.

The reality is that over these years, on many days I have spent more time with Dennis and Gaynor than I have with my spouse. We have dreamed together, wrestled with problems, prayed, and supported one another as friends and research partners. I am blessed to experience the best of all their considerable gifts and skills for the benefit of our students and this School.

I miss them in the daily administration of the school, but I am so excited about the current and future impact of their research and on the students they are mentoring, now that they can devote to them that first calling on their lives. ♦



## Miss Verlene

from page 5

missions work," Mrs. Goatley said, "and it confirmed my passion for missions work."

Although it was a time of acute racial tensions in the nation, Mrs. Goatley describes positive experiences at Carver. She remembers how she and her colleague, Freddie Mae, were met at the bus station when they arrived by the women of Carver. She describes the supportive relationships that she enjoyed among fellow students. When she was denied access to public facilities, such as a movie theater or restaurant, due to Jim Crow policies in Louisville, her White classmates joined her in solidarity, and would not go into those facilities.

"They were women who loved the Lord," she said.

Mrs. Goatley also earned a Bachelor's of Science in Sociology and Criminal Justice at Langston and pursued a Master's in Religious Education at Carver. She served for seven years in Liberia, West Africa, as a teacher at the Suehn Industrial Missions, a missions project supported by the National Baptist Convention. She was forced to return home due to a severe illness. She later became the director of the Baptist Student Union at Langston University, serving in this capacity for more than 25 years.

Mrs. Goatley married for the first time at age 63 to the Rev. Wilbur Goatley, a 1956 graduate of the Southern Baptist Seminary, who was among the first group of African American men to attend the seminary. They currently live in Eminence, KY, where the Rev. Goatley is Pastor Emeritus. ♦



# MSW Colloquium

## Carver alum reunion dinner May 2

MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE ISSUED FOR DAVIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

ON MAY 23, 1986, THE FIRST cohort graduated from the Master's of Social Work program of the Carver School of Social Work and Missions at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In honor of this 25th anniversary, a group of Carver School alumni is rallying its Carver colleagues to attend a reunion dinner May 2 at the Baylor School of Social Work.

Kimberly L. Myers, an alumna from that '86 SBTS Carver class, and now an attorney in Atlanta, applauds the Baylor social work graduates who "are so ably carrying our Carver traditions out into God's world and on into God's future."

Myers, also a member of the School's Board of Advocates, said the dinner has been timed to provide an opportunity for Carver alumni who attend to receive CE credits at the school's May 3 MSW Practice Colloquium.

The dinner is also a forum to raise monies for the C. Anne Davis Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is two-thirds of the way to meeting the required \$50,000 level.

The installation of a short biography and bronze relief of "our

beloved Dean Anne," Myers said, would be an "extra special way to end our reunion." Myers has pledged to match any gift up to \$10,000 toward the fund received by April 20, 2011. Davis was the first dean of the Carver School of Social Work and Missions.

Two Baylor students already have benefited from proceeds accrued from the Davis Scholarship.

"I'm certain we can each vividly remember the excitement of fulfilling our own individual callings through pursuit of a faith-based social work degree, and the personal hardships we overcame to reach that goal," Myers said.

Diana Garland, who followed Davis as dean of Carver School, is grateful to the initiative around this Silver Anniversary. "Kim's commitment to honoring Dean Anne and to supporting our current students is amazing."

Several former faculty members from Carver School also are planning to attend the dinner.

To learn more about the reunion, the Colloquium or how to contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact Judith Stolz at 254-710-6411. ♦

## MAY 3

8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

JOIN US FOR MORE THAN 60 PRACTICE OR RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS ON SOCIAL SERVICE ISSUES AS RELEVANT AS TODAY'S HEADLINE

CASHION ACADEMIC CENTER

ON THE

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

UP TO 6 CE CREDITS  
AVAILABLE (SOME ETHICS)

254-710-6400  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

## THE BIG FOUR

### WHY ARE THESE WOMEN IMPORTANT?

They were the first four students to share a rented home in 1904 while attending the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) - only two years after women were admitted. They are part of the rich history of the legacy of women in missions and social work that we are at risk of losing. The School of Social Work is developing a timeline to be installed in its new facility in downtown Waco to capture this story. The timeline will trace the historic events of the WMU Training School and its Carver School successors; of social work education at Baylor University; and of world and national events and the resulting milestones of the social work profession in America.

Can you help us either with information for the timeline or with donations toward its production? Call Dean Diana Garland at 254-710-6223 for more information.



Rena Groover, Clemmie Ford, Alice Huey and Ella Jeter  
Photo: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

### Council to sponsor Kids' Corner

By Sam Oakley, Council Chair

#### THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL

Work's Alumni Council met recently and voted to sponsor a Kids' Corner in a section of the school's new lobby.

The school has always been a family-friendly place, and the throng of student, faculty and alumni children who attended the Move-In Party in January makes it clear it will continue to be! The Kids' Corner will offer children a place with toys, books, and other things to entertain them and let them know they are welcome in our space. Stay tuned for details on how you can contribute to this special gift!

The council made this choice after meeting recently in the school's new space. We enjoyed seeing the big, beautiful classrooms, meeting rooms, and lobby area. We decided that as alumni, we wanted to make a special contribution to the new building.

On a broader scale, we continue to focus on building the alumni network. We want to give back to the school that gave us such a great foundation for our profession. It is important that we

keep in touch with one another! As we strengthen our network, we will be able to help graduates find jobs, connect to continuing education opportunities, and support and learn from one another.

If you are a graduate of the school, please go to the Alumni page on the School of Social Work's website and update your contact information. If you live in or near Waco, we would love to have you participate in our Alumni Council.

On a personal note, my husband Dave and I will be moving our family in February to Baton Rouge for a ministerial position Dave has accepted. I have enjoyed serving as Alumni Council chair this past year, but the council agreed that this position should be held locally.

The group elected Flor Avellaneda (BSW 2008/MSW 2009) to that role. Flor is a community educator/case manager at the Family Abuse Center in Waco. Congratulations, Flor, and we all look forward to your leadership!

By the way, as soon as we're relocated, I'll go on the school website and update my information! ♦

**EBONY L. HALL** (BASW 2004/MSW 2005) has recently accepted an offer from Millwood Hospital to become director of one of its outpatient facilities, Excel Center in Lewisville, TX. She also is preparing to take her LCSW exam. She has completed her PhD at the University of Texas-Arlington and will finish her divinity graduate degree from Brite Divinity this year.

**KIMBERLY STUTTS** (BSW 2008/MSW 2009) is working at Northside Baptist Church in Corsicana, TX, as minister of benevolence and missions. She directs the church's food pantry and clothes closet and the benevolence and financial assistance ministries. She also helps direct community ministry outreach and mission efforts.

**VIVIANA TRIANA** (MSW/MDIV 2008) and husband, Carlos, welcomed daughter Sofia Nov. 15.

**ALAN NGUYEN** (MSW 2010) is working as a conservator with Child Protective Services of Tarrant County.

**EMILY FERRELL** (BASW 2005/MSW 2006) has been at DePelchin Children's Center since graduation and at the end of 2008 was promoted to RTC and Foster Care Admissions Supervisor in foster care.

### Let us hear from you!

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

#### MAIL TO:

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#### 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.):

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# SNAP SHOTS

## December Convocation

**1** Five BSW students participated in the Dec. 17 Convocation with Gaynor Yancey presiding over the final cohort of undergraduates she served as associate dean for the degree program. From left, Diana Garland, Kandace Hillebrandt, Maria Gaston, Kelly Keaton, Morgan Champion, Amanda Bartlett, and Yancey. **2** School faculty and staff thank Yancey for her administrative gifts. **3** Hillebrandt celebrates with family and friends at the reception following convocation.



1



2



3

## BSW *report*

The Gallup materials are a new tool for our conversation, but the school has long identified its educational program as one that focuses on strengths. Strengths are central to our identification as social workers, to our sense of community in the school, and to how we understand ourselves as people of faith. How do we develop professional strengths to equip us for servant leadership?

I am excited about the opportunity to learn what these things mean for the members of this strong team that guides the baccalaureate program. As always, I invite you to share your thoughts with us – particularly if you want to join in talking about the strengths of our programs! ♦

## MSW *report*

three sessions where students talked and the faculty listened. Their questions and insights were enlightening and at times provocative.

In addition to providing valuable feedback, these sessions mark the beginning of a special two-year collaborative process. During this time, fulltime faculty, field faculty, students, and staff together will continue to develop, implement, and evaluate our competency-based curriculum. The outcome will be a Self-Study submitted to the CSWE in August 2012 as the cornerstone of the Baylor School of Social Work reaccreditation process.

As a faculty, we have embraced fundamental change. I believe that in

a few short years we will look back and realize that during this period we reached a tipping point that propelled us to unprecedented levels of competence and collaboration.

It is, indeed, a high-stakes challenge, but one I believe will move us rapidly beyond the safe, anachronistic educational model and culture that is universally sanctioned but inadequate for the challenges of the 21st century. Empowered by a vision of Reflective, Experiential, and Authentic Learning and our new location in Downtown Waco, social work education at Baylor will never be the same. ♦



## Downtown Festivities

**1** Dr. Frank Raymond, retired dean of the University of South Carolina School of Social Work and a Board of Advocates member, spoke to the school about “Changes in Christian Social Work” Feb. 20. **2 & 3** Josie, front, and Emilie Pooler, above right, daughters of faculty member David Pooler, leave their artistic mark on the painting titled “Social Work Is...”, part of the fun at the Move-In Party held Feb. 20. Students line up, right, to take turns at the painting project. **4** Marilyn Gusukuma, below left, plays with Taylor, daughter of Sam Oakley, right, at the party. **5** BSW student Elizabeth Queen, below right, a Phi Alpha Ambassador, led a tour of BOA members through the new facility. From left, they are Jim Schampers, Robert Montgomery, John Zent and Mark Trice.





## Practical research to strengthen ministries

**JON SINGLETARY**, CFCM Director, The Diana R. Garland Endowed Chair in Child and Family Studies

**PROVIDING RELEVANT** research and education for church leaders is the goal of the Center for Family and Community Ministries (CFCM), and here are two examples of how we sought to make that possible in recent months.

For the second year, we partnered with Mission Waco, Texas Baptists, and Crestview Church of Christ to host “No Need Among You: Including the Excluded.” Approximately 400 church and lay leaders from around the state came to the conference to learn more about how their congregations can better serve people living in their communities.

This conference leads me to an example of the research side of who the Center is. A team of six graduate research assistants, funded by a grant from Christ is Our Salvation, interviewed more than 20 Waco pastors, community leaders, and directors of social service agencies. The team wanted to learn more about how churches in Waco are involved in the community, how they could be involved, what fosters church-community partnerships, and what barriers have to be overcome in strengthening those relationships.

The team of Morgan Caruthers, Sara Elliott, Tiffany Gonzalez, Kristina Garrison, Kelli Hepner, and Trevor Stephen designed the research study, completed interviews in the spring, analyzed the data, and presented from their findings twice this past semester.

The first presentation was at the “No Need Among You” conference and later to the individuals they interviewed for their research. Their presentation contained a number of recommendations geared toward helping practitioners and pastors make better connections.



Pastor Marsha Martie, Cross Ties Ecumenical Church, from left; James Vaughan, Waco Chamber of Commerce; and the Rev. Delvin Atchison, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, give feedback on the student presentation, facilitated by Tiffany Gonzalez, below.

The feedback these students received is now being used as we consider our role in helping the church engage in more effective community ministries.

From this research on church-community partnerships, we are planning a workshop to help church leaders develop and strengthen these relationships. We are highlighting a few churches with strong community partners and hosting community fairs of service organizations looking for church partners. Our hope is to strengthen other church-community partnerships that inspire people of faith to engage in meaningful opportunities for service.

Stay tuned to learn more about our efforts to strengthen families and communities through the ministries of congregations. ♦



# Texas Hunger staff grows

INITIATIVE ONLY STATE-BASED GROUP ASKED TO JOIN NATIONAL TASK FORCE +

## THERE HAS BEEN GREAT

momentum for the Texas Hunger Initiative (THI) in recent months.

The THI was asked to be on the United States Tri-Sector Task Force in November. The task force, which met most recently in November, includes the non-profit sector, federal government, and a corporate coalition against hunger. Its scope is to develop and implement a plan for domestic food security. The THI was one of five non-profits asked to serve on the task force and is the only state-based organization represented.

The numbers are in and we learned that the efforts of THI and federal, state and community-based partners were able to increase participation in Summer Meals in 2010 by 2 million children over the course of the summer. This is a major step forward for Texas toward ending childhood hunger.

Texas Hunger Initiative was awarded four AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers from the New York Coalition Against Hunger. Our new staff members began in January and we look forward to how their talents will help us to has allowed us to continue to develop innovative strategies and creative business solutions toward ending hunger in Texas.

### READ MORE ONLINE

[www.baylor.edu/texashunger/](http://www.baylor.edu/texashunger/)  
and find out how you can help  
end hunger in Texas by 2015

## MEET OUR VISTAS



**MARY AGNEW** is a recent graduate of the University of Texas in Austin where she studied nutrition. During her year in Waco, Mary will be working primarily in collaboration with the Texas Food Bank Network to develop strategies to further address food insecurity in Texas.



**JONATHAN LEWIS** graduated from Baylor University in 2009 with a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Economics and Public Administration. More recently, he returned from a two-month stay in Kenya where he oversaw the Kianga Project, an economic development initiative he co-founded. Jonathan will be collaborating with major corporations to develop profit-driven solutions to the Summer Food Service Program.



**DANNY STEIS** is a graduate of George W. Truett Theological Seminary and has worked as youth leader for Calvary Baptist Church (Waco). Danny and his wife, Johanna, welcomed their first child, daughter Marley, in early November. During Danny's year of service, he will be working primarily to communicate information about THI and its initiatives. This will include collaborating with PBS to produce media projects.



**KATIE YOCHAM** received her Bachelor's in International Studies from Baylor in December, with a focus in poverty and religion. Katie will be THI's Grassroots Organizer and will spend most of her time working alongside Waco's Food Planning Task Force and San Angelo's Food Planning Association to provide community-based research for hunger.