



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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2015 BAYLOR SSW FACULTY

The Baylor School of Social faculty recently gathered together for a group photo at McLane Stadium. Pictured from left to right are: Carrie Arroyo, Elizabteh Goatley, Rob Rogers, Cynthia Harr, Dennis Myers, Erma Ballenger, Preston Dyer, Melody Zuniga, Jennifer Dickey, Whitney Luce, Helen Harris, Jim Ellor, Diana Garland, Gaynor Yancey, Holly Oxhandler, Clay Polson, Samantha Vo, Jon Singletary, Becky Scott, Johnny Jones, and David Pooler.

Sic 'Em, Social Work!



COME SOCIALIZE WITH US



CALENDAR *of events*

APRIL 2015

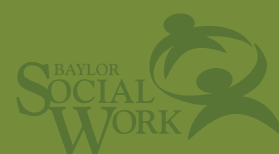
28 Field Awards Luncheon

MAY 2015

5 MSW Colloquium
8 Dean Garland's Retirement Reception
15 Awards Breakfast
15 Convocation

AUGUST 2015

24 First Day of Classes



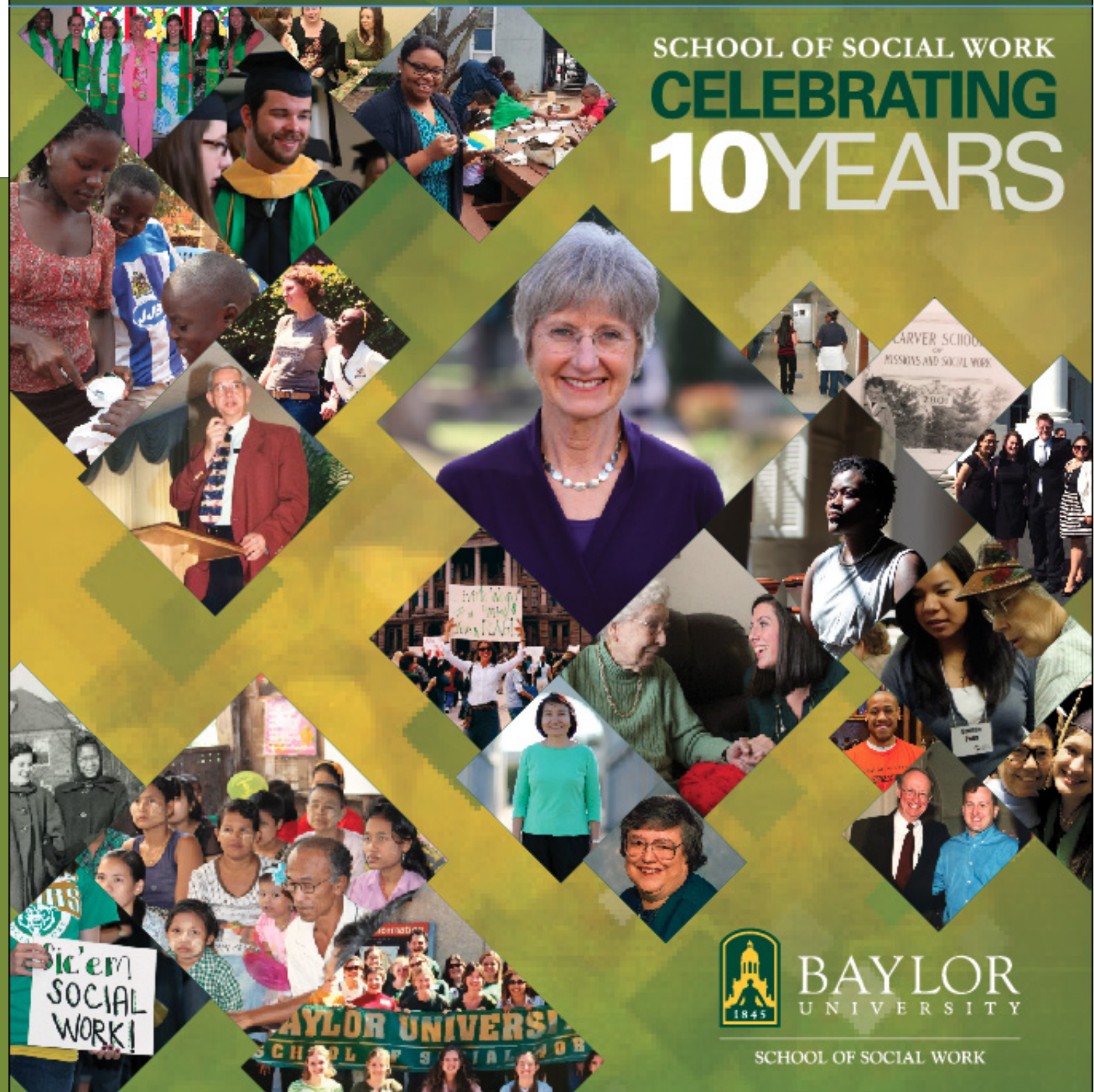
ISSUE NO. 35

community CONNECTION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



BAYLOR
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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Welcome to this special 10th Anniversary edition

DIANA R. GARLAND Dean, Baylor School of Social Work



IN EARLY JUNE 1997, I SAT ON the floor of my empty house with my 16-year-old son, John, surrounded by the boxes of household goods we had brought in our car. We were eating hamburgers out of a sack and waiting for the truck to arrive with our furniture and my husband to arrive in the other car with the dog. The long trip from Kentucky had been a sad one; we had left behind all our friends and our community—and our 18-year-old daughter, Sarah, who had chosen to live in Kentucky with friends that summer to work before heading for her freshman year of college in the fall. John had never seen Waco before we arrived, or the house where we would live, or the high school

where he would be a junior. I had visited Baylor only the one time—for a job interview and to buy a house in the early spring. Neither David nor I were Baylor alumni—we were strangers.

Later that summer I would join the tiny social work faculty, located in a couple of offices in the sociology department and in an equipment closet that also had to serve as the office for our program staff. Preston Dyer, an amazing and gifted leader, welcomed me to my new home: Baylor Social Work. Along with new faculty members Helen Harris and Kay O'Brien, we were the undergraduate social work program (about 60 majors), a subunit of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Archeology, Gerontology, and Social Work. It took two full glass doors just to stencil the name of the department on the third floor of Burleson! Together, the four of us began to hatch the dream that became a graduate social work program launched two years later.

How thrilled we were in 2000 to move into the brand new Speight Plaza Parking Garage – offices on the first floor of the parking garage across from the old business school finished out just for us; it was originally built to be a retail store. We had a great deal of fun designing together the square block of space—with our very own classroom, a lounge for students, a kitchen for the faculty, and more offices for faculty and staff than we could imagine filling. We had admitted our first class of graduate students in 1999—14 brave students who believed that we would be accredited by the time they graduated in 2001, and we were. We could never have imagined outgrowing that space.

I look back and laugh. As I sat in the floor of my empty living room in 1997, I had no inkling that in 2005, I would see our social work program become a School of Social Work, and that I would have the amazing honor of serving as its first dean. I had no dream in those first meetings of the four of us—our best meetings were in someone's car on the way to somewhere—that we would someday be 40 faculty and staff members in a three-story building we now call home. I could never have imagined that we would someday launch a PhD program, or dream of students coming from and doing internships and then becoming leaders all over the world. Who could have imagined on-line education that would make that possible? Faculty and staff and advocates have come and gone, and so have students, during these 18 years. Each one has left indelible fingerprints on what we have become, and are still a part of us. This school was not my dream, not even the dream of that small group of four visionaries. This school is a sign of God's grace and work in the world. Could we have done any of what has happened here without God's blessing? My assessment says there was no chance; we did not have all the necessary human wisdom, resources, or vision for what I have seen. What will our future these next 20 years be? Go ahead, dream! And then laugh with me, because we are in for an inconceivable ride.

As I leave my role as dean and return to the faculty, I do so with joy, because I know that God has been at work here in ways we could never have imagined. That work continues. I am looking forward with great anticipation to what happens next.

Diana Garland

community CONNECTION

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COMMENTS

School of Social Work

Baylor University

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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.



Meet the 2015 Alumna of the Year: Whitney Luce

WALKING ALONGSIDE DEFINES THE CAREER OF THIS TWO-TIME ALUMNA +

BY NIKKI WILMOTH

WHITNEY LUCE IS A FIFTH GENERATION Baylor graduate. She once thought she might attend another university, in another state, but while on a trip to visit, she couldn't sleep, so she took out her Bible and began to read and pray ... it was then she realized Auburn wasn't the school for her. It would be Baylor.

Whitney grew up in Waco and went to Waco High. She was exposed at an early age to the profession of social work as her mother's Baylor roommate and best friend, also known as Aunt Carolyn, was Carolyn Cole, a social worker (who is also an award winner on page five). Whitney knew upon arrival at Baylor that social work would be her chosen field.

"I grew up knowing that I wanted to help people," Whitney said. "My grandfather was on the Home Mission Board, and I was exposed to those facing poverty or oppressed in some way. I felt led to this work."

Faith played a large part in Whitney's decision to work in social work.

"Social work is exactly what Jesus called us to do...loving those who society doesn't love, advocating for those who may not have a voice," Whitney said.

According to Whitney, her time at Baylor as a student in the School of Social Work was a very formative time, both personally and professionally. She loved everything she was learning and watched as her professors lived out what they taught in the classroom.

After graduating with her BSW in 2003, she moved right into the advanced standing program and received her master's degree in 2004. One week later, she got married and moved to San Antonio where her husband was in law school.

Whitney took a job at Methodist Mission Home, an adoption agency, where she served as the adoption counselor for the Newborn Domestic Program. It was a voluntary adoption program, and she was responsible for the adoptive parents, working with them as facilitator from match to birth and finally through six-month follow-ups.

"I drove all over Texas doing education and home studies, getting parents emotionally ready. I started hosting weekends for adoptive parents to come in from all over the state," Whitney said. "It was such an honor to be a part of the entire process but when I was able to be in court on adoption day or even pick up babies at the hospital and take them to their new parents, it was especially incredible! Through this job, I gained such a respect for birth mothers and the selfless choice they make through the act of adoption. They loved their children so much that they knew it was the best option for them."

After her husband's graduation, the two moved to Dallas when Brandon took a job in the district attorney's office. Whitney took a job with Baylor Medical Center in the Stroke and Dialysis Unit working with the older adult population, but only stayed for about nine months. A job came open in

the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and she moved back to working with babies.

It was here that Whitney found some of her most rewarding work. She worked in the NICU, Antepartum and Postpartum Units working with high-risk pregnancies.

"I loved advocating on behalf of these families and mothers. There were many difficult times, such as when mothers lost their babies," Whitney said. "I learned so much about just being with people even when you can't 'fix' it ... just being comfortable being there in the midst."

While in this position, Whitney was able to work as part of an interdisciplinary unit including a psychologist, occupational therapist, dietician, physical therapist, and others. As families dealt with very difficult situations, they noticed gaps in support and a lack of organization of resources.

"We decided to pull together to form an organization that would provide counselors who specialize in that area, support groups that provide information about grief and even things like cremation and funeral services for infants," Whitney said, "all of the things you never want to think about but now all of a sudden you have to, and you need someone to help."

The organization is called Perinatal Support of Texas and is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support parents who receive a terminal diagnosis for their child during pregnancy or shortly after birth.

Whitney officially left her job at Baylor Medical to serve as executive director of the organization until she and her family moved back to Waco in 2011, when her husband took a job and she went to work for Heartland Social Work.

It was at this time Whitney began her teaching career. She accepted a position with McLennan Community College in the Mental Health Department.

"I was so excited to get the chance to teach," Whitney added. "Now looking back, I think there was a teaching aspect to all of my jobs, and I always liked it."

Then the opportunity to teach at Baylor arose and returning on the other side of the aisle had actually been a goal of Whitney's, though she didn't know if it would really happen. She feels that returning as a colleague has been a bit surreal but feels blessed to be given the chance to use her social work skills both to teach and to mentor.

These days, Whitney finds herself taking the role of walking alongside her students much like she did with her clients. It goes beyond teaching to just being there when they need her, to help them grapple with whatever they may be facing. ♦



Meet the 2015 undergraduate award winners

BY MARGARET RIGGINS

JAJA CHEN: OUTSTANDING STUDENT +

GROWING UP IN A SMALL FAMILY from Norman, Okla., Jaja Chen learned the importance of loving people at an early age.

"When I was little, I remember my mom doing a lot of visits to the hospital for church members, so we would bring food for them after they delivered babies or whatever it was," Jaja said.

Her attraction to the spiritual aspects of Baylor greatly influenced her desire to pursue an education here.

Originally, Jaja planned to pursue a degree in psychology but, shortly after arrival, realized there was something missing.

"I was originally interested in the psychology program, but then eventually, when I learned about social work, and the Baylor School of Social Work, I realized that it would fit my interests in social justice much more than psychology and also my interest in counseling," Jaja said.

As a senior, Jaja has been a part of the social work program for three years and has been able to see the many qualities that set the Baylor School of Social Work apart from others.

"Not only is it a smaller program, but it is a close-knit community. Baylor also adds on the faith and practice component of social work. In our classes, we address the issue of how you deal with religion and spirituality with the clients you deal with," Jaja said.

Aside from the influence of Jaja's mother on her pursuit of a career based on loving people, Jaja's high school counselor also made a great impact on her career path.

"I learned so much about how to care for the people around me, from her. She helped many of my friends who struggled with mental health issues. Seeing her in their lives really inspired me," Jaja said.

After graduation in May of this year, Jaja plans to continue her education in the MSW/MDiv program through the School of Social Work and Truett Seminary.

"I would love to use my degree in social work to go into counseling. I have a huge passion for urban missions, and so I would love to use my social work skills in a cross-cultural ministry context or church setting in the long run," Jaja said.

This year, Jaja has been named the 2015 Baylor School of Social Work's Outstanding Student, an award given at the Family Dinner.



NATALIE GARCIA: SPIRIT OF SOCIAL WORK +

ALTHOUGH THE TRANSITION TO BAYLOR in January of her sophomore year wasn't the easiest, Natalie Garcia, a native of Washington state, was soon able to find Baylor a place she could call home.

"Right around the time I was considering transferring, my sister had graduated high school and decided to come here so I actually followed her," Natalie said. "When I first came to Baylor, I was frustrated trying to find transfer degree programs. I didn't really know where I was going to go and felt very lost."

After doing intensive research trying to find a major that fit her interests, she finally came across social work.

"When I started reading the description, things just started clicking for me. Something just really made sense that hadn't before. I've never lost that feeling the whole time I've been here," said Natalie.

Now on her third year, Natalie is able to share the different aspects of Baylor that make it such a unique and special home for her.

"What is so cool about social work at Baylor is that you get the 'big Baylor' experience with all the different events and then you get to come to social work and it's just 30 other students. Everyone knows you and cares about you," Natalie said.

The emphasis that Baylor puts on faith has been a perfect fit for Natalie.

"The fact that Baylor teaches about the integration of faith in practice, unlike other schools, I think is so important when you're doing social work because everyone has a spiritual aspect about them. It's something that can't be ignored," said Natalie.

This year, Natalie has been given the Baylor School of Social Work's Spirit of Social Work Award.

"I feel really honored that I got this award and that it means that I've done well during my time here and that my hard work paid off," said Natalie.

After her graduation in May, Natalie is staying to work on her master's of social work degree with a focus in the community practice concentration.

"I'm really interested in doing work with community development, especially around poverty, and in working with restorative justice and community reconciliation," Natalie said.

Reflecting on her time at Baylor, Natalie is easily able to look back on those who have made the biggest impact on her.

"I have had so many different professors that genuinely care. Not just that we were learning the material but that we were going in a direction that's meaningful to us," Natalie said.



Meet the 2015 graduate-level award winners

BY NIKKI WILMOTH

CAROLYN MEYER: OUTSTANDING STUDENT +

BORN THE DAUGHTER OF A BAPTIST minister in Louisiana, Carolyn Cole Meyer developed early a love for the marginalized and the voiceless.

Carolyn's dad was the editor of the state Baptist paper for more than 20 years, and during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, he wrote a number of editorials for equal rights. As a result, their family home was vandalized, and they received hate mail and threatening phone calls.

"My dad instilled in me a heart for social justice," Carolyn said. "I watched him bravely write those articles and watched him stand up for what he believed even if it met with resistance. Growing up in a home like this taught me to speak up for those who could not."

Carolyn knew at an early age she wanted to help others. When she was only nine years old, she marched in and told her mother that she wanted to work with pregnant teenagers, and that is exactly what she does today.

"I always wanted to be of service to others, and I wanted to do something meaningful in my life, and hopefully make a difference in others' lives," Carolyn remarked.

She graduated from Baylor with her BA in sociology and social work in 1977, and is currently in the master's program, graduating in May. She works full-time at Midway Independent School District as the coordinator of the Pregnancy, Education and Parenting (PEP) program, and has been there since 2002.

"The PEP program can best be described as an umbrella for students by providing them a social worker who acts as a liaison with their childcare, coordinates their home instruction [so they don't have to miss school after delivery], offers transportation to school and childcare facilities, and provides parents and pregnancy information," Cole added. "The central goals are healthy baby, healthy mom and graduation from high school. I love my work!"

Carolyn's social work journey began more than 30 years ago, and graduating in May with her MSW will be the fulfillment of a 30-year dream. She will turn 60 years old four days after graduation and is excited to enter this next "season" of her life ... full of "spirit" that has been instilled in her from her cohort, her professors and from the strong foundation of advanced social work skills she feels she's gained since beginning her journey at Baylor.

"Receiving the Spirit of Social Work Award reaffirms my soul that I was indeed led by the Spirit to this place, at this time in my life," Carolyn said. "It also inspires me to keep my own spirit alive and well as I sit with the greatest Spirit of all and listen."



JOHN DAVID: SPIRIT OF SOCIAL WORK +

MEET JOHN DAVID. JOHN IS A second-year Global Mission Leadership student, is a dual-degree Baylor student, is a pastor from Nigeria and will be sitting for his social work licensure exam in May!

"I initially came to Baylor for the master of divinity program at Truett Seminary, but was excited to realize that I could complete a dual degree with social work," John noted.

John enrolled in the program because of his passion for service to humanity and the hope of seeing transformation in the communities he serves back home in Africa.

"In the course of my ministry as a pastor back in Nigeria, I realized that there is a lot congregations can offer to their communities that can lead to true transformation," John said. "However, very few congregations are engaged in their communities as a way of investment in the transformation and development of those communities. In view of this, I wanted to be trained to adequately engage congregations and community stakeholders in this process."

John hopes to respond to some of the social issues in his community in a professional way and not in a hurtful way, and believes the School of Social Work is preparing him for that very mission.

"I desire to see partnership and collaboration between congregations and social service agencies in Africa and to see them organized and engaged in the community development process," he said.

John sees the needs of people all around him and is passionate about helping to address them in a meaningful way. Tough social issues like poverty, hunger and injustice are just a few he feels he was put here to address and do his part in alleviating. "I believe God, in His sovereignty, gave me physical and spiritual life in Him for a purpose, and I want to live to fulfill that purpose," John said.

Inspiration for John comes not only from God, but also from his family. He and his wife, Chabrabab, have been married for eight years, and they have two daughters, Callidora (6) and Charissa (2). He notes that his parents have also been great influences. His father died in 2004, but he and his mother's sacrifices have allowed him to be here and have guided him in the right direction.

"This award means so much to me. It has been a humbling experience, as is my journey in life," John said. "God has blessed me in different ways with a supportive wife and children as well as a supportive family in Nigeria. Therefore, receiving this award is a way of presenting something that shows them that their sacrifice has been worth it."



Baking bread with Diana, other thoughts on the BSSW

BY HELEN HARRIS Assistant Professor

I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN and where I met most folks. I do remember when I met Diana Garland. She sat across the room with her booted foot propped on a chair and somehow managed to look both professorial and elegant. I knew Preston Dyer would lead my interview for a one-year appointment as field director of the Baylor BSW program. Diana Garland, newly hired in the School, former dean of the Carver School, was on the search committee despite having injured her foot a week or so earlier. She smiled cryptically and listened carefully before asking questions that let me know that work here would change me. She was interested in my practice and how it was informed by my faith. I had been taught that my faith and practice were supposed to be separated by a large impenetrable wall. My rebellious spirit had quietly rejected that notion and surreptitiously infused God's call in my life into the secret places of prayer and devotion to my clients. She asked about my theology, I who had never been trained as a theologian, and I discovered that she did not mean doctrine or dogma. She smiled her approval at moments and furrowed her brow for a moment when my answers were shallow. I knew everyone on that search committee except Diana Garland; what a gift she has been in my life.

That interview was the beginning of a journey of incredible, impassioned work together, of agreeing and disagreeing, of building in unity, and yes ... of friendship. If you've shared the privilege of a relationship with Diana Garland, you have been changed, transformed by her care and her mentoring. There are times the impact of her mentoring feels like an NCIS slap on the back of the head; but most of the time it feels like the transformation of raw ingredients into homemade bread....the smell of the kitchen transformed, the rising that comes with leavening, the painful diminishing that pounding requires, and the rising again to a product that feeds the

world, starting with children and families.

There were few of us, those first years, figuring out how to add an MSW program with no new faculty lines. Diana Garland was her feisty, undaunted self. She divided up the curriculum, made assignments and we began writing syllabi. I began writing an MSW field education manual and recruiting advanced practice placements and supervisors. No one took on more work than Diana; that was her way then. It is her way now. She and Preston formed the faculty as a Curriculum Committee of the whole, a practice that we have duplicated several times during periods of significant growth and change. She said she wanted to know what we thought; I doubted her, tested that out and found that it was the truth. I learned how much of her drive was connected to justice for those left out.

For example, her strong sense of justice around the closing of Carver and the orphaned status of Carver graduates became our passion as well; the Carver graduates became our "Alumni By Choice"... their choice and ours.

In another example, Diana heard the hearts of faculty members and we added a third concentration, Community Practice. At the same time, she continued to beat the drum for congregational social work and we became one of the first and premiere programs in the nation to provide internships in congregations and religiously affiliated agencies. The early years, like the middle and current ones, were years of change: new projects, growth, and determined expansion. The division of social work became a department and the department became a School ... and not just any old school, but a pace-setter at the University for development, for scholarship, and for excellence in



teaching. Diana turned stones into stone soup; each gift, no matter how small, multiplying the impact on our students and community. We have watched her raise money for the Global Mission Leadership Program, for a new campus in Houston, for an on-line journal, for endowed chairs and for scholarships. With an example of this kind of stewardship, it is no accident that xx% faculty and staff financially participate with her in supporting the work of God in this place.

Diana Garland is the Kim Mulkey of academia. She is always coaching, always developing, and always determined to win. I've seen her "take a charge in practice" (i.e. take on questions and doubts in faculty meetings) and get up smiling. I've seen her draw up schemes that I thought would never work and bring us out on the other side with winning scores and seasons. We have grown individually as well as corporately. I have personally benefited from her generosity including the opportunity to leave field administration and go to the classroom full-time so I could pursue a doctorate. She is devoted to the professional development of every member of our team. She is not larger than life. But Diana's dreams are larger than life, and we keep discovering together that they are more than dreams. They are visions and they become milestones and accomplishments. The Baylor School of Social Work is recognized in the University for excellence in research and professional education with numerous faculty and staff awards, including hers for outstanding research. We are recognized across the country in the broader social work community for carving the way for the ethical integration of faith and practice. Our reputation is larger than life; it is as large as God's call.

Thank you, Diana Richmond Garland. Together, we are part of God's great plan for social work education at Baylor University and the preparation of social workers for those who are hurting in the world, beginning with but not limited to those in the Church and her agencies.

Learning to live in the present takes intentionality

BY JON SINGLETARY Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

LOOKING BACKWARD IN order to move forward is how Steve Jobs describes his success at Apple. Award-winning British chef Gordon Ramsay says that he doesn't like looking backward, "I'm not the one to sort of sit and cry over spilt milk. I'm too busy looking for the next cow."

Maya Angelou had a more balanced view: "I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going. I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment. I'm here, and I do my best to be completely centered at the place I'm at, then I go forward to the next place."

The Baylor School of Social Work is in the midst of the most significant transition we have faced in our short life together as a community. Diana Garland retires from being dean in May, and we are preparing for what our next steps will look like.

I am a future-oriented person. I am always anticipating what is next. As soon as I finish a lecture, presentation, or even a conversation, I hardly allow myself to stay in the moment long enough to make sense of it before I look ahead to the next opportunity.

This next year, I plan to go about things differently. Right now, I am looking to our future ... living with anticipatory grief, anxious about the search for a permanent dean, celebrating the launch of our Houston campus, and preparing to welcome a new cohort

of PhD students. But this is all still future-oriented. In order to balance my focus on the future, I have to learn from Angelou the value of our past and present.

This week I am trying to listen to the voices of our past, being mindful of our success stories as well as our failures. I want to hear more from Diana as well as Preston Dyer, from my senior colleagues and from our alumni about their experiences here. In doing so, I am reminded of the lessons learned over the years. My hope is that mistakes of the past might not be repeated and that celebrations of days gone by might give us new perspective.

I want to worry less about the future and I want to pay more attention to the past, but I am most hopeful about learning to live in the present. We have an amazing community of faculty and staff with strong, veteran leadership and vibrant, energetic new members. We have students who are full of passion and zeal, but they are with us for such a short moment of time. Many of them are taking capstone, a course that invites them to look to the past, envision the

future, and talk about what it means in terms of their present learning. I value these connections deeply and want to nurture them in the present moment.

Being mindful of what is happening right now sounds so easy, but for me it takes great intentionality. To live in the present, I need to listen



more, risk being vulnerable, experience the grace offered, and appreciate the relationships that make our school strong. If those are the characteristics of the School of Social Work we desire for the future, then we all, myself included, have to cherish and celebrate what those things mean to us right now.

"The joy of the present is hope in the future," writes German theologian Jurgen Moltmann. For a future-oriented person like me, this perspective is attractive; however, we also know that Christian hope is rooted in the past events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and the presence of his mercy and grace that is sufficient for today.

My approach to the next year is to keep us headed down the path we are forging. I want to assure a solid start in Houston. I want to sustain and strengthen relationships with alumni and other friends of the school. I want to share my goals and aspirations for the future. And there will be time for that. But for now, let's sit down, share a cup of coffee and exchange stories about what is happening in our lives right now.



Students pictured discuss their projects at the Capstone Poster Presentation this month.

Emily Ferrell, BSW '05 MSW '06

BY MARGARET RIGGINS

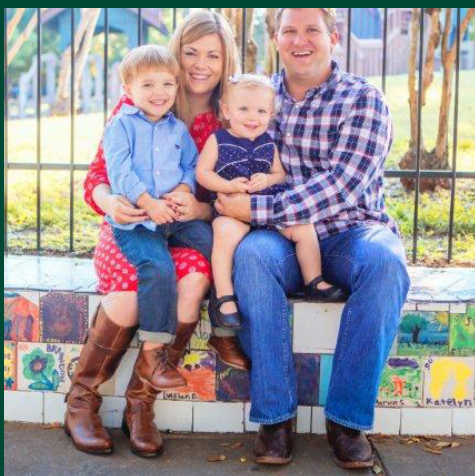
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS of both her grandparents, parents and multiple other family members, Emily Ferrell chose to pursue her education at Baylor University. She entered the social work program in the spring of 2001. Emily graduated with her bachelor's degree in social work in 2005, and went on to earn her MSW the following year.

Emily completed her graduate internship at DePelchin Children's Center in Houston and has continued to work there since graduation in 2006. Today, she works in the Child Welfare Services Department as the program coordinator over the Home Study and Foster Care/RTC admissions teams.

Emily is most proud of the work that she is currently doing with an "action team" within her department to "address the need for improved customer service and to focus on relationship building, as well as improving our recruitment efforts and strategies."

Emily and her middle school sweetheart and now husband, Chase (Business '05), are approaching their 10th wedding anniversary this year. They currently reside in the Heights in Houston with their two children awaiting their third child in November

"They are definitely being raised to love the Baylor Bears," Emily added.



Becky Shumake, MSW '05 BY MARGARET RIGGINS

ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY FROM Louisiana, Becky Shumake came to Waco in pursuit of a social work graduate degree from Baylor due to the great reputation of the University. After receiving the University Ministerial Scholarship, Becky was able to stay and pursue her education here.

After graduating from Baylor's MSW program in 2005, along with her wife Telawna, Becky worked in dropout prevention and recovery, ortho/trauma medical social work and hospice care

Currently Becky works as a licensed social worker at Providence Hospice where she has been the last nine months working with patients at the end of life, offering support to them and their families. "Oftentimes, people are fearful of end of life and distance themselves



from patients and families at the time when they need the most love and support. My job allows me the opportunity to come alongside these families during these times to offer support, encouragement and assistance as needed," Becky said.

When asked what she was most proud of

Becky told of her work with MSW interns saying, "It is very rewarding to me to be able to give back to the field by helping future social workers learn and grow during their internship experience. Two years ago, I was awarded the honor of Field Supervisor of the Year from Baylor and that honor meant a great deal to me."

Along with the Baylor School of Social Work, Becky and Telawna celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary this year with their two daughters, 16 and 18, and 21-month-old son.

Rebecca Bohner, MSW '05

EVER SINCE REBECCA BOHNER was a little girl, she knew she would choose a career path that would allow her to be of service to others. She grew up with a number of health care professionals in her family which nudged her in the direction of nursing.

"Upon taking coursework within the nursing field, I reading that nursing was not the best fit for my gifts and talents," Rebecca said. "A small group leader encouraged me to talk with the social work program director at my college, and after talking with [a social work professor], I enrolled in an Introduction to Social Work class."

After only a few class meetings, Rebecca knew social work was where God was calling her to be. Since that time, she said the Lord has providing "amazing" opportunities for her to be of service and to grow as a social worker as well as an individual.

"I love that social work is a profession where you get to meet people where they are and walk alongside them as they moved toward reaching their goals," Rebecca said.

Rebecca is a licensed clinical social worker, but she will begin a new position on May 1, as the director of field education for the Union University School of Social Work in Germantown, where she received her Bachelor of Social Work degree. She is excited to return to her alma mater and serve in this capacity.

"I hope to continue working in a position within higher education that allows me to utilize my administrative skills while also being able to work directly with college students," Rebecca added. "While working, I hope to pursue a Doctorate of Higher Education Administration within the next five years."

Rebecca's husband, Greg, is a licensed professional counselor who is finishing his Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision at Kansas State University, and they just recently moved to Memphis, Tenn.



Heather McAnear, BSW '05



HEATHER MCANEAR GRADUATED from Baylor in 2005, with her bachelor's degree in Social Work. She currently lives in Waco, but will be moving to Austin this summer.

Since 2006, Heather has worked for Generations Adoptions. She is serving as an education supervisor now, but with the move to Austin, she will be opening a full-time office for the agency there. Generations Adoptions offers domestic infant, international, and embryo adoption services to adopting families and women making an adoption plan. Her job is to educate the community on adoption and train adoptive families on adoption issues.

"Children are in need of a healthy, loving family, so I work to find and provide those homes for them," Heather said. "Adoption is a difficult process and families are in need of education and support during and after the adoption."

Heather added that she loves to help families that are "struggling to find understanding for the trauma their children have been through and find effective strategies for parenting them."

Heather recently completed a seven-month training course to become a Trust-Based Relational Intervention® Educator, a parenting model focusing on training families in trauma-informed care of children that come from abuse, neglect, or trauma.

"My goals are to change the image of adoption in our society and to see more women find a hopeful option for their child," Heather said.

Shannon Vandegriff, BSW '05 BY MARGARET RIGGINS

THROUGH HER VOLUNTEER WORK with Mission Waco and the influence that the Poverty in Waco class had on her as a freshman at Baylor, early on Shannon Vandegriff felt led to pursue her undergraduate degree in social work. "I wanted to help marginalized and underserved individuals and families by connecting them with needed services," Shannon said.

After graduation from the BSW program in 2005, Shannon continued her education and graduated from Portland State University with a master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy in June 2014.

Fast-forward to today, Shannon recently started working for Deschutes County Health Services in Bend, Ore., where she pursues her passion for, "using evidence-based approaches to improve health systems and enhance social welfare," Shannon said.

"As our agency seeks to transform and improve the way behavioral health and public health services are delivered, we need reliable information and processes to make decisions, maximize existing resources, improve health outcomes for our community, and reduce unnecessary costs," Shannon said.

Shannon continues to pursue her dreams of becoming "the director or manager of a health-related program or organization, or work in health policy at the state level to improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of health care for Medicaid recipients."

Although she would not consider herself a "social worker," Shannon believes the social work education she received from Baylor greatly influenced her desire to work in health care to better the Medicaid population.

Shannon and her husband, Adam, reside in Oregon with their two Wire-haired Pointing Griffons where they enjoy "the Pacific Northwest's abundance of beautiful scenery, outdoor activities, and foodie paradise."



DAVEY GIBSON, MSW '05

DAVEY GIBSON IS LIKE many other Baylor alumni; he is not the only one in his family to attend...his father, his mother, and brother attended, and he met his wife here too!

Davey graduated with both an MSW and an MDiv from Truett, and his father helped shape his direction in the social work field as he has been in the social work field his entire career. Davey has served in ministry for 12 years working primarily with teenagers, and feels "blessed" to have been able to

prepare for his career at Baylor. He is currently serving as the young adult pastor at Sugar Land Baptist Church outside of Houston, Texas.

Although his title does not include social worker, he feels that he uses the skills of the profession everyday when interacting with the church and the community, and the results are evident.

"Whenever families are able to serve together and minister alongside each other, it is particularly rewarding," Davey said. "We have had family mission projects with local and global organizations like 'Lunches of Love' and 'Feed My Starving Children, and have more than 100 families participating in their Family Retreat."

He and his wife, Jordan, have been married for 11 years, and they have two boys, Will and Jack. They live in Richmond, Texas, and make it back to Waco "as much as possible" hoping the boys will choose to be in Baylor's Class of 2031 and 2034!



TRACEY KELLEY, MSW '05

Tracey Kelley came to the School of Social Work as a student worker. This was her first exposure to the profession. Her interest lies in social work practice and research and is focused in the areas of policy and large systems operations, especially with older populations.

She graduated from the program with her MSW in 2005, and then her BBA from Baylor in 2010. She currently works for University Development at Baylor as the director of donor relations.

"I see the need for continual systems refinement and development. In my particular role, I see the greatest need to create effective and efficient connections for investors in our organization to the impact of their gifts," Kelley said.



ourheritage

SOCIAL WORK IS A PROFESSION CENTERED around helping improve the quality of life for children, families, older persons, and entire communities. It is a profession grounded in being a voice for those left behind, in seeking justice for those left shattered and in advocating on behalf of the communities where practitioners live and serve. At the Baylor School of Social Work, these tenets are taught in a Christian environment, allowing students to explore ethical ways to integrate faith and practice.

Christian social work education has been a part of education at Baylor for more than 45 years, but it can trace its roots back much further. Its beginnings can be found at the dawn of the 20th century, when in 1907, the Women's Missionary Union Training

School opened in Louisville, Ken., which later became the Carver School of Church Social Work. The storied history of the work done there helped shape what would become more than 100 years of church social work, including here at Baylor.

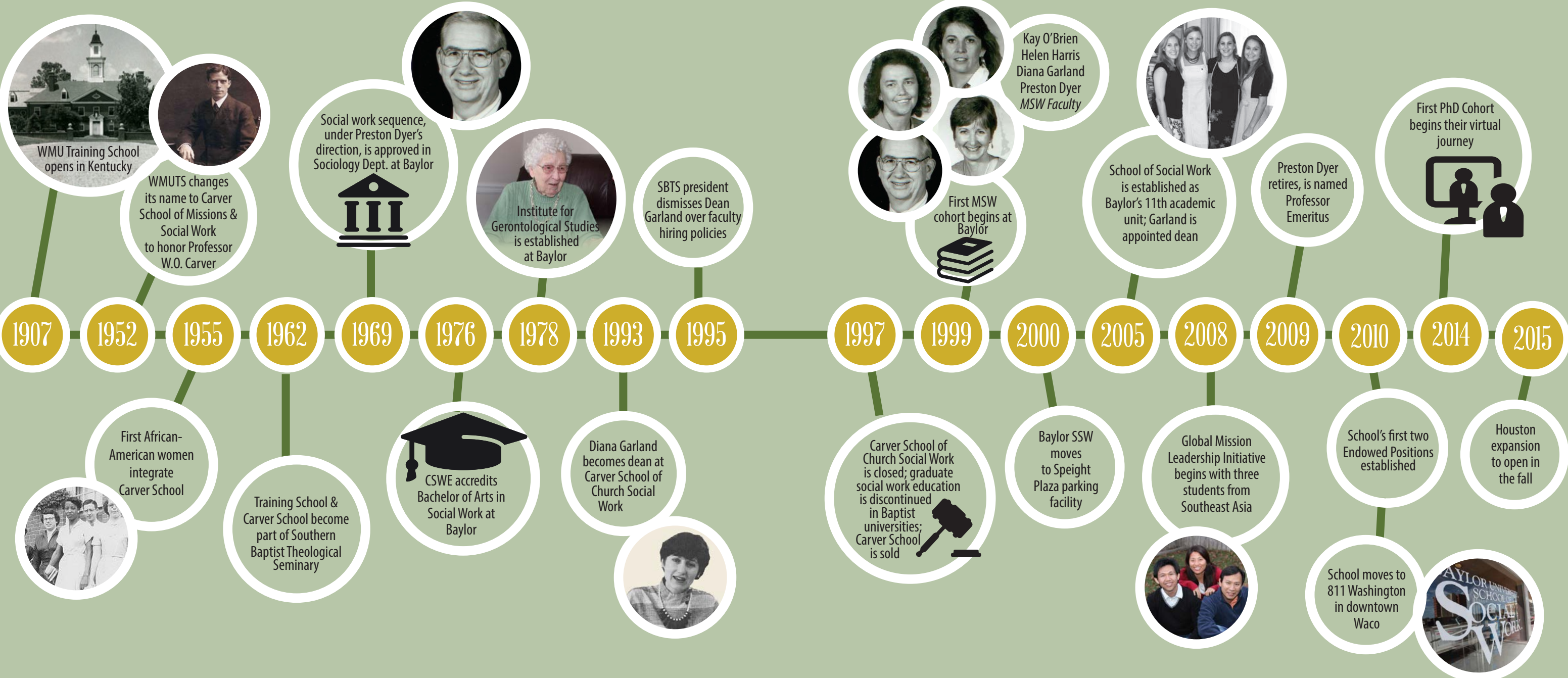
In the mid-60s, the Texas Baptist Life Commission with the prompting of Baptist social services around the state, petitioned Judge Abner McCall, then president of Baylor University, to create a School of Social Work at Baylor. According to Dr. Preston Dyer, founding chair of the school, the group felt a strong need to have social workers that were trained in a Christian education facility. In 1969, with a Social Security 707 Grant, Baylor was able to start an undergraduate social work program, which Dr. Dyer says was

a true pioneering effort since most social work programs were at the graduate level. It wasn't until 1997 that graduate level social work came to Baylor, with the arrival of former Carver Dean Diana Garland.

Diana arrived when undergraduate social work was a degree program in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Archeology, Gerontology, and Social Work. With a grant from Lilly Endowment, the Baylor Center for Family and Community Ministries was established in 1998, with Garland as director. The MSW program was launched that same year, and in 1999, the School of Social Work was created as a separate department in the College of Arts and Sciences, with Preston as chair and

Diana as graduate program director. Diana became the chair of the department in 2001, with the initial accreditation of the new MSW program. In 2005, the School of Social Work became an independent academic unit with Diana as the inaugural dean.

After more than 18 years of service, Diana will retire this year as dean, with Dr. Jon Singletary stepping in as interim dean. 2015 will not only commemorate her retirement and our 10th Anniversary as a school, but it will also bring the graduation of the first PhD cohort and the expansion of the program into a facility at South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Baylor School of Social Work ... still pioneering efforts to better serve individuals and communities around the world.



Ideas are planted, initiatives bloom, lives are changed

GLOBAL MISSION LEADERSHIP PROVIDES MODEL FOR MISSIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY +

BY JENNIFER DICKEY Lecturer

THROUGHOUT THE LIFE cycle of the School of Social Work, priorities within the school often arise from the ideas of one person. Those ideas turn into conversations among more people, and those conversations turn into collaborations, and those collaborations become the next big initiative, all in the blink of an eye (or so it seems). Such is the case of the Global Mission Leadership (GML) Initiative

In 2008, a mustard seed of faith



was conceptualized in the heart and mind of Diana Garland. She took that idea and put it to paper and submitted a proposal to the Henry Luce Foundation. The seed of faith consisted of several beliefs. First, the belief that in the midst of crisis plaguing our world, God is executing a redemptive plan for hope and transformation. Second, the belief that part of His redemptive plan involves men and women, called by God, equipped for social work professional practice, and empowered to be catalysts of change in their communities around the world. Through the Henry Luce Foundation's gracious funding, the Global Mission Leadership Initiative was born. The initial grant provided the opportunity for Christian global leaders, who are committed to their country and are advocates for justice, to come to Baylor to earn a Master of Social Work degree with a commitment to return

to their nation as catalysts for holistic transformation. In 2009, we received the first GML students from Cambodia and Malaysia. In the subsequent years, we would receive students from Myanmar, the Philippines, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. Like Joseph from the Old Testament, these students carry core competencies of servant leadership, developed character, strategic thinking capacity, and a heart for advocacy. The vision of the program flourished with these first 15 GML students, who have graduated from the Master of Social Work program and are now practicing social work in their nations around the globe.

In that first year of this initiative, we never dreamed of the gift of learning that would come our way through this program. Two concepts inform our



approach to equipping global leaders: mutuality and collaboration. Although GML students come as students, they quickly become educators among us. In the classroom, GML students teach, colleagues and faculty alike, about each one's particular worldview, culture, and contextualized practice methods. Mutuality of learning and discovery marks our journey with each GML student. As a result, innovative discussions blossom and collaborative research initiatives develop among student, faculty, and peers. Additionally, American students are educated in how to engage clients of different cultures and nationalities, preparing them to engage in culturally competent social work practice. This collaboration, infused

with mutuality, marks this program.

We have found that our learning relationships with the GML students continue even after they become alumni. We are discovering ways that GML alumni and faculty can partner together on research. Several of the GML alumni are interested in serving as field instructors for

"Once receiving their degrees, [GML students] are not only better equipped to serve, but also become trainers of trainers, thus multiplying the concept many times over." - Bill O'Brien, BOA member

other Baylor MSW students who want to engage in international social work abroad. Others shape our classroom discussions by sharing their expertise and contextualized social work practice through our ability to have them "virtually" teach in our classes. Truly, we are growing into a global family, living and serving around the world.

GML alumni are impacting their communities with social work service, rooted in their deep faith in God. Julian Alum is currently teaching social work classes in a Christian university in her home country of Uganda. Brooke Abuya daily advocates for the vital needs of children through his role in Kenyan foster and adoption services. Sovannara Moch of Cambodia trains Cambodian



professionals who work directly with survivors of trafficking and exploitation throughout her nation. Mary Rose Oximas teaches social work courses in a university in Manila in the Philippines.

With the gracious gift of the Lindner family, the GML program was endowed in 2010. This opened the door for growth in the initiative through the hiring of Dr. Samantha Vo as the Global Mission Leadership Endowed Chair. Through partnerships with committed constituents, we are graduating students who are committed to becoming social work educators. Four of our GML graduates are teaching social work in universities in their home countries. One of our GML students will graduate in May and will return to her nation of Zambia to start a social work program in her sponsoring university. As educators, they are shaping the development of the social work profession by mentoring students in their classrooms and engaging in academic writing. They are also developing contextualized social work education that allows their nation to contribute to the universal profession in distinct ways.

We could not offer this program without the committed support and thoughtful insight from a host of colleagues who shape our educational programming. Dr. Bill O'Brien, a veteran missionary, comments, "The Global Mission Leadership Initiative is a striking model of 'alongside' missional practices. Baylor's School of Social Work seeks out committed men and women who are already working in various kinds of social work, but without an accredited degree. It then offers course work and mentorship that does not keep the students out of their home culture for long periods of

time. Once receiving their degrees, they are not only better equipped to serve, but also become trainers of trainers, thus multiplying the concept many times over. While cross-cultural missionaries are still needed, this model provides a very cost-effective result, the total costs equaling what it takes to keep a foreign missionary on the field for one year. The GML program is cutting-edge missiology."

Through a symphony of committed Baylor social work colleagues, this initiative endeavors to continue to contribute to Christ-centered international development through culturally informed transformational education, informed engagement with congregations and religiously affiliated organizations, and compelling scholarship that allows communities around the world to thrive.

A seed planted in 2008 has developed into a thriving, growing tree. Our hope is that that tree provides shade and nutrients to communities all around the world. All of us would agree that along the way, some have planted the seed and some have watered it, but only God could have caused this growth.



"After a lifetime of international missionaries being my heroes, I was able to go on several short-term international mission trips with Buckner. To see a world so physically and spiritually hunger greatly intensified my motivation. Then I heard from Dr. Diana Garland about her 21st century international mission plan - GML. The idea of bringing college graduates from foreign countries to earn their master's degree here and then go back to be spiritual social leaders in their own language and culture was an inspiration to me. To be able to do this in two years at what it cost a missionary family per year was so special. GML is the international missions way of the future."

*- Tom Stone
BOA Member*



Your gifts go beyond the walls of the building

JUST LIKE ALWAYS, the alumni and friends of this school have come through on providing for the students, faculty and staff. The Campaign for Excellence, a very focused fundraising effort for 2014, brought in nearly \$166,000 to the School of Social Work Excellence Fund. There were 326 unique gifts to this campaign! Money from this fund go to support things such as hosting events so our students can meet the nation's leaders in our field, providing funding for new programs and initiatives, and recruiting the very best faculty to help prepare the the social workers of tomorrow. Because of your belief in the mission of this school, we are able to accomplish things we never thought we could. *Thank you.* ♦

Alford, Emily Suzanne	Cunningham, Harold Ray	Jones, Johnny Millard	Reynolds, Joy Copeland
Anderson, David L.	Dewhart, Casondra E.	Juch, Jessica Louise	Robinson, W. Scott
Anderson, Elizabeth Ann	Dietz, Charis Anne	Kelley, Katherine Fowler	Rogers, Robin K.
Anderson, Joan Gilpin	Dube, William John	Kelley, Tracey Lynn	Sellers, Suzanne E.
Angel Foundation	Dyer, Preston Mills	Knighton, Neal	Senter, Bob Anne McMullan
Anonymous	Edwards, Marshall	Knox, E. Marvin	Sheehy, Jann M.
Avellaneda, Flor D.	Ellor, James W.	Kramer, Cynthia Marie	Sherwood, David A.
Bailey, Darla A.	Evans, Christopher C.	Kreis, Siegfried Richard	Singletary, Jon
Ballenger, Erma Maxine	Fallin, Terri R.	Krieg, Nicole A.	Starr, Kent T.
Baptist Message	Fenner, Joy Phillips	Lichtenstein, Kyna Baskin	St. Clair, Jack L.
Barrett, Krista Rene'	Ferrell, Joe G.	Male, Sarah Carolyn	Stice, Martha Marie
Becca, Sherene Krystal	Firmin, George Treher	Mankin, Tricia	Stone, Tom E.
Bish, Karen A.	Frederick, Katie Anne	Martinez, Iztac	Stranz, Betty Harrington
Bowman, Friederike	Funderburk, Emmett E.	Martin, Nita Ray	Sugar Land Baptist Church
Bracken, Sarah Lou	Garland, Diana Richmond	Mattson, Hannah Elizabeth	Svrcek, Mary Rachel
Brown, Ashley Morgan	Gasper, Samantha Kay	McCall, Charles Andrew	Taylor, Charlotte Presley
Brown, Jean Jennings	Gaston, Maria Symone	Meyer, Daryl Ann	Thompson, Kim Lorraine
Burrow, Beverly Jean	George, Amber Renee	Milanof, Lillian C.	Tindel, Andy
Central National Bank	Gibson, David Lee	Miller, Nicholas Patrick	Tolbert, Charles Madden
Charlotte Taylor Trust	Goatley, David Emmanuel	Millican, Emily C	Tollefson, Andrew Charles
Cladis, George	Goatley, Elizabeth Michale	Minor, Mark N.	Traylor, Angela Cheyne
Cloud, Robert C.	Green, Lindy Megan	Montgomery, Robert B.	Trice, Mark Philip
Cochran, Cynthia Cole	Gusukuma, Marilyn	Myers, Dennis Ray	Turley-Kocian, Melissa N.
Cone, Rita Reynolds	Hall, Kenneth Lane	North American Association of Christians	Turner, Shelley S.
Crowell, Richard L.	Haptonstall, Rachel	Oakley, Samantha Therese	Vanderslice, Charles D.
	Harr, Cynthia R.	O'Brien, Kim Kronzer	Vo, Charity Samantha
	Harris, Helen E.	O'Brien, William R.	Waco Foundation
	Hart, Catina Shaneil	Pearson, Marie Cagle	Walker, Nancy Lee
	Henderson, Terry Lynn	Pena, Andrea Elizabeth	Weeden, Eric M
	Hesbrook, Carol Diane	Pitts, Ruth Eleanor	Welkley, Debra Lynn
	Hix, Andrea Curran	Pooler, David Kenneth	Yancey, Gaynor I.
	Holley, Mary Cernosek	Pool-Funai, Angela E.	Yearly, John Weston
	Holt, Jeannine	Purdy, Janet Ross	Zent, John Frank
	Horner, Melinda Smith	Raley, Gordon Alfred	
	Johnson, Fred M.		



News from around the School of Social Work

AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN for fairness and equality, MSW students Darren Wallace and Teddy Brookins



have worn orange T-shirts this semester that say: "We're not all bad people." They have been advocating on behalf of ex-offenders to open employment opportunities and reduce recidivism.

EACH YEAR, THE TEXAS Legislature hosts Social Work Day at the state capitol in Austin. This year, 26 students, from both the undergraduate and graduate programs attended. They were able to visit with members of the state legislature and their staffers about pressing social issues in around our state.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL Social

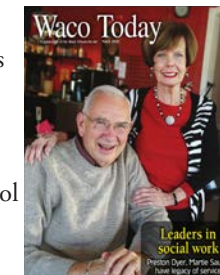
School of Social Work welcomes visiting scholar

THIS SPRING, THE school was pleased to welcome aboard Elizabeth McIngvale-Cegelski, PhD, as a visiting scholar. She will join the full-time

faculty in the fall. Being from Houston, Elizabeth has already hit the ground running in helping to network the school with various contacts in the area. She is



Work Month, the local *Waco Today* magazine just featured Dr. Preston Dyer, professor emeritus, along with retired McLennan Community College instructor Martie Sauter, for their legacy of 50+ years of social work service. Preston is a trailblazer in the field, and the school is blessed that he still touches lives every semester.



DR. HELEN HARRIS WAS recently asked to share her expertise in the field of grief. She provided practical advice for

coping with grief during the holidays. The article was picked up and/or quoted extensively by *Newsday*, publications in Austin, Dallas and New York City, and by *Christian Standard*. #impact

RUCKER PRESTON, MSW student and executive director of Helping Hands in Belton, recently testified before the Business and Industry Committee at the Texas Legislature regarding the problems cities and residents face with the predatory lending practices by auto title and payday lending companies. As part of a class project last year, Rucker and two others researched the topic and developed a simulation demonstrating the types of unfair tactics customers deal with when using these services. They have been advocating for reform ever since! ♦



passionate about mental health and is very vocal about her own struggle with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD).

Elizabeth is the daughter of Jim McIngvale, also known as "Mattress Mack," the owner of Furniture Gallery, a large furniture company in Houston. When Elizabeth was a teenager, her parents made the decision to take her to the Menninger Clinic her because her OCD had taken over her life. That tough decision paid off and even though she still struggles with her

disease today, she was forever impacted by the intervention her parents were able to make on her behalf, and she has made it her life's mission to help others in their struggle with OCD, regardless of financial status.

Elizabeth started the Peace of Mind Foundation which runs ocdchallenge.com, a free, interactive self-help website.

Elizabeth received her master's degree from Loyola University Chicago and her PhD in social work from the University of Houston.

Professor recognized for lifetime of work

BAYLOR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK'S DR. GAYNOR Yancey was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in April by the local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Gaynor not only serves as a full-time professor at the Baylor SSW, but she only teaches classes at Truett Seminary and is the Baylor University faculty ombudsman. Gaynor teaches in the community practice concentration and focuses much of her attention to the Congregational Social Work Initiative.

Dean Diana Garland noted what a "glorious and well-deserved" achievement this is for Dr. Yancey.

