

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Newsletter from Baylor University School of Social Work • Volume No. 25 • Spring 2009

For he's a jolly good ...

Jim Ellor named Fellow by national gerontology association

By Sommer Ingram
Lariat Staff Writer

James Ellor admits to being a closet historian. Though a professor of gerontology, the study of the aging process in individuals typically 65 years or older, in the School of Social Work, Ellor says his passion for the field stems from his love of history.

"I've talked to Holocaust survivors, met the first woman on Omaha Beach during the Normandy Invasion in World War II," he said. "You read about this stuff all the time but I get to meet people who were there, people who remember, and it's fascinating."

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education has named Ellor to be a fellow of the association based on his contributions to teaching, publication, leadership in administration, and involvement in the development of new programs in his field.

"Dr. Ellor was named a fellow specifically for his leadership and prolific contributions in the area of aging and religion/spirituality and his many contributions and leadership to AGHE," said Dr. Margaret Perkinson, chair of the committee that selected the fellows.

Ellor recently attended the association's leadership conference in San Antonio, where he was presented with his award and also attended various meetings and presented his work.

"Essentially being a fellow means someone has determined that I work at the top end of the field," Ellor said. "And I feel very honored. The importance of the need in this field can be seen if you just look at your grandparents or your parents as they get older and may need your support."

A major theme at the conference was economic security for the older population.

"A lot of older people's retirement packages are now 40 percent thinner because of the economy," Ellor said. "But many are too frail to go back to work and then go bankrupt. The conference will address socioeconomic issues that our economy has brought upon us."

Currently Ellor is trying to obtain funding for research involving the process of grief in people with Alzheimer's and

dementia diseases.

"We're trying to document how they grieve loss and how to work with them through behavioral methods other than medication," he said.

"Sometimes they will become agitated and anxious because everyone around them is sad but they don't understand why. At that point, we give them the medication to mask their agitation. Surely we can produce some behavioral interventions that produce the same results," Ellor said.

Ellor is also working on a project involving the study of post-traumatic stress disorder and links throughout generations of the family.



Jim Ellor visits with a resident at a local assisted living center.

He has also worked with Dr. Dennis Myers, associate dean of the School of Social Work, on a research project aiming to understand the needs and predispositions of Baby Boomers in the context of church congregations.

"Dr. Ellor is nationally known for his work, and has a deep commitment to gerontological research, particularly in the area of aging and spirituality," Myers said. "His scholarship in these areas resonates with the mission of the Baylor School of Social Work."

(Reprinted with permission)

FROM THE DEAN

By Diana R. Garland, Dean of Baylor School of Social Work

What began as “our little School” is now nearing its 10th anniversary. Many of you were social work students during the two decades when social work was a program within the sociology department of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1999, with the admission of our first graduate students, we were made a separated department—the School of Social Work. The stream of students coming through swelled from then on, both in our undergraduate program and in the MSW program. Now we have a faculty of 14 and a staff of 20, supporting the multiple research and service projects under way, as well as our academic programs with their 240 students.

We feel the growth every day as we try to figure out where to squeeze in new colleagues for the ever-expanding work of the school. What I have realized more recently is this: We have more and more alumni out there! The “few” have now become many, and as the dean, I want to do everything I can to keep the School relevant and connected to our graduates as they go into the world to bring hope and effect change.

Internally, we have been building our alumni relations effort. Last fall, we held a Homecoming reception for returning alumni, and we were amazed at the multitude who happily packed into this little space we call “home.” Recently, we have reorganized the staff to give more attention to our alumni, and Judith Stolz has gladly taken on the job of Alumni Relations and Events Coordinator. In February, we hosted nine local alumni at a dinner here at the School to launch the Baylor School of Social Work Alumni Council.

Our next alumni event will combine with an existing continuing education opportunity – the annual MSW Colloquium, this year on Tuesday, May 5. Some

**Luncheon for Alumni
and Graduating BSW and
MSW Students
May 5 at Noon
Cashion Banquet Hall
(Hankamer School of Business)**



Alumni enjoyed last fall's Homecoming Reception.

ent their practice and research presentations in a daylong free event that typically attracts 150 or more from the community. All alumni and current MSW students are invited to a luncheon, where we will elect Alumni Council officers and discuss upcoming plans and events. Judith will be sending more information about this in the coming days. Mark your calendars now!

Tracey Kelley, an alumna herself and now the School's Director of Recruitment and Career Services, is leading us into “social utilities,” i.e., setting up a Facebook site where alumni can check in and share news. Okay, I admit, I have no

idea what this is, but I trust that Tracey does! We'll also be more attentive to our Alumni page on the School's website, so be sure and check there for updates: www.baylor.edu/social_work.

So what do you think? We're just beginning so there's plenty of time for you to weigh in with your thoughts and suggestions. For instance, would you like the school to:

- provide more opportunities to earn CEUs?
- plan more social events for alumni?
- develop alumni groups in your city or region of the country?
- mentor a current social work student or talk with a prospective student where you live, or hire one of our graduates?

There's more! I am working with Vicki Kabat, editor of this newsletter, to interview and profile several of our alumni in a forthcoming book that examines the diversity of settings in which our graduates are serving and leading. We are interested in how faith motivates and informs social work practice in all the places social workers serve. We hope our work will become helpful reading for future students and young people considering social work as a profession. If you're interested in sharing your story, contact me at Diana_Garland@baylor.edu and type “Alumni Book” in the subject line.

Our alumni are the face of the School to the world. We are ever grateful for the many ways you carry your unique light into the darkest and thorniest social issues around the globe. But you are not alone; we're here to support your arms when they grow weary.

*Blessings,
Diana*



**HENRY A. RANDOLPH, BA 1965
ROBINSON, TEXAS**

I graduated from Baylor in 1965 (BA Religion). I was unable to return to school until the '80s to begin and complete my graduate work. I finished my graduate program with an MS in Gerontology in 1986.

I had always been working in a "people" occupation. On completion of this program I went to MCC to work on a Long Term Care certification so I could become a Nursing Home Administrator. ...A few years later, I still had a social work desire coursing in my veins, so I went to work at the Heart of Texas Region MHMR here in Waco. I worked with the mentally ill and worked with about 120 to 130 clients.

I have to say in all honesty, that job as a case worker for mentally ill folks was the most satisfying job I ever had. The money? It was very little compared to my jobs as administrator of nursing homes. But I learned that money is not the answer to life's rewards.

I am retired now, and my wife and I are devoting the remainder of our lives to fostering children with primary medical needs. Oh, we sometimes get frustrated with the State and their volumes of regulations, but we still feel our calling supercedes all of those regulations. The most important thing is that we are still serving as the Bride of Christ and "mother" to these children in their severe needs. cajuntex2001@yahoo.com

**BARRY McCARTY, 1970
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

I've been a child and family therapist in Houston for 25 years after graduating from Baylor, Vanderbilt Divinity School and Texas Woman's University.

While working in a children's unit at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia, I got to be primary therapist for a nine-year-old boy who broke out of a crowded mobile home shared with

ALUMNI STORIES

Alumni and social work friends
share their stories
of impacting individuals
and communities.
Send your story to
Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu.

eight siblings, his mom and a step-dad by throwing many rocks through the windows at his school. He was trying to find his father who was in prison in Florida but instead found a chaplain intern named Barry. I owned a 1928 Tudor Model A Ford, which I sometimes drove to work, and we had a deal that if he could go a week without biting his teacher or hitting another kid or therapist, he would get a pass to ride in that car and have an afternoon in town with me. It took a few weeks before he could control his anger, fear and sadness but that day of driving away from the hospital was special for both of us.

Though I was only making \$400 a month for the year, I would have done that work for free. That experience inspired me to go back to school and sign-up at age 32 for a two-year child therapist training program at Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences in the Houston Medical Center and get substantial training in doing play therapy with emotionally and physically wounded young children and their families.

My mentor there was a fine child psychiatrist named Mae F. MacMillan who had studied under Anna Freud in England. I love playing with and inspiring the minds, hearts and spirits of young children and their siblings and parents.

What better way to pay back teachers, mentors, supervisors and families

than to be a child and family therapist! And I've got three great kids who went or are going to Baylor where their mom and dad met! barmac48@aol.com

**DAVID GUTSHALL, MSW 2006
WILLIAMS, ARIZONA**

I am employed as a Clinical Social Worker at a local hospital, a job for which I have been well prepared by my Baylor School of Social Work experience. However, the social work I am most proud of has taken place at my church. Shortly after I moved my family to a small mountain town in northern Arizona, my wife began attending a very small Pentecostal Church. She informed me that the church had a social service ministry/fund but that they did not know what they were doing and she urged me to help. I agreed to talk to the husband and wife pastors but had reservations about how I could help them or what would motivate me to help them.

The pastors shared their vision and then spilled their stories of wasted funds, enmeshment, and inevitable burnout. Five minutes into the conversation my head was pulsing like a migraine with information, ideas and advice that had been stored there during my MSW training. I was hooked. Within days, we had an assessment tool, standardized case plans and protocols for assistance and confidentiality. The church now has a pastoral staff that are confident in the complexities of the helping process, and that staff has huge plans for ministry in our small community.

Since that night, several years ago, the church has frugally dispensed more than \$3,000 to 14 different individuals and families. I personally have provided a variety of counseling services to families and individuals in times of crisis and grief. I have made many referrals to community behavioral health and social service agencies. I have advocated for families and children in a variety of

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ALUMNI

(continued from page 3)

forums. I have been involved in more than one of our congregation going to jail and then visited them during their incarceration.

I consider all of this to be a success, however, my favorite outcome of this body of work was expressed by my pastor. Recently he said to me, "When we started this ministry I had visions of lives and faiths being radically changed and strengthened but I didn't think they would be my own." I feel the same way.

To date I have been paid \$200 for my services as Assistant Pastor/Director of Kings Family Ministry. At that rate I would have to work at my church for more than a thousand years just to pay back my student loans. Yet it has been a pure gift to me, made possible by my education at Baylor School of Social Work, to be an effective laborer in God's vineyard. dgutshall@gmail.com

LOWELL LARSON CANTON, GEORGIA

You may possibly remember me. It was my privilege to be in the first instructional group for the social work program when the Carver School merged with SBTS in 1962. I had just come to Louisville under appointment of the Home Mission Board and was asked by Dr. Allen Graves to help organize the field work program. Those are wonderful memories. Robin Rogers was the finest student I ever had and his accomplishments do not surprise me in the least! He had quality written all over him from the first moment we met!

I am writing to suggest that you might consider a workshop focusing on the role of volunteers in social work settings. I am now retired from the work place but I know that if I had any success during my working years that I owed a great debt to volunteers. I think that some things do not change much. I never had an assignment that provided me with many paid staff. Basically the programs were funded with minimal dollars and I



Rob Rogers, associate professor, is remembered fondly by his former professor at Carver School of Social Work as someone who "exemplified excellence."

had to recruit volunteers or fail! I used many seminary students such as Robin.

A story I have told many times.... One summer I was away from the Baptist Center I was directing in Louisville. Robin was with me that summer. I gave him the assignment to direct the program in my absence. When I returned after a two weeks absence, the seminary students that were there said they were glad to have me back in the office. "Robin had taken a strong leadership role and asked only one thing....that they do the very best they could." I guess they thought I was a bit easier on them. Well, that was Robin. He exemplified excellence and asked others to do the same. He will

always be one of my all-time favorite students....in fact, he is the captain of the team.

I believe that many of your graduates will be working and leading programs with minimal paid staff and will need to rely on volunteers. I do not think much has changed or will change in that respect.

I am just beginning a new place of service with our local YMCA. I will be the Director of Volunteer Services and developing the volunteer recruitment and training program. It will be a volunteer place of service. So I'm walking the volunteer walk....and not just talking it! lowelllawson@windstream.net

JACOB D. MAINS, MSW 2005 SALEM, OREGON

I worked two years in Child Protective Services in Oregon and now have been at the state psychiatric hospital for a few months. I actually really like it, too. It's an excellent learning opportunity in mental health and I'm working toward the LCSW.

I know I've told you all this before but thanks for putting together such a top-notch MSW program. The faculty at Baylor are second to none and the

integration of faith and practice in the program is a key strength. It takes getting out in the field and working with other social workers to know how good your training was, and I know now that mine was excellent. I have felt very well prepared in my different practice settings and have always received good feedback from supervisors. My Baylor MSW has served me very well so far in my career, and I know it will continue to do so. Thank you! mainsj777@yahoo.com



David Garland, Eric Swanson and Diana Garland



Kay Warren

NEXT BIG IDEA

More than 250 people attended the Feb. 9-11 conference sponsored by Truett Seminary, the School of Social Work and Leadership Network. Of these registrations, 10 churches were represented, 14 social workers, 108 students, 71 individuals and 63 "other," including denominational and nonprofit agency leaders. Among churches, the majority was Baptist, but we also had members from Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Church of Christ, Episcopal, Nazarene, Mennonite and ecumenical and/or evangelical community churches. We also had more than 60 SSW and Truett student volunteers who served as greeters, workshop facilitators and guides.

For videos of the main sessions and news coverage of the conference, visit:

**WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/BIGIDEA OR
WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/TRUETT**



MSW students Suzanne White, left, and Adetokonbo Faleti enjoy worship.



Lynne Hybels, at left, and participants at one of the five worship services led by Ryan Richardson and Baylor students.

RIISING ABOVE POVERTY

Alumnus of Year Buddy Edwards leads Caritas' mission

In his role as executive director of Caritas, a nonprofit charitable organization in Waco, Buddy Edwards doesn't get face time with many of the 22,000-plus families the agency serves each year. When he does, it tends to be memorable.

For instance, there was the woman who came in recently and needed help procuring insulin for her diabetic child. She had come to Caritas directly from a job interview.

"She was making every effort to get above her circumstances," Edwards said. "She told me, 'I've come here all my life, my mother came here, and I don't want to come here. I hope I'll be able to rise above this.'"

That's what Edwards hopes for all of the agency's clients, and it was the expectation of Caritas' founders when the agency was founded in 1967. Edwards said the originators of the food pantry thought it would be a short-term service for people in need "until the poverty issue was addressed and solved," he said. Forty years later, "Caritas, unfortunately, continues to be a growth industry."

Edwards has been named the 2009 School of Social Work Alumnus of the Year, an award he'll receive at the School's annual Family Dinner on April 23.

Edwards received his BA in sociology in 1972 with a certificate in social work. He received his MSW at the University of Texas-Arlington, where he focused on community practice.

Edwards spent 29 years of his career at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, 25 years as Director of Planning and Research and the last four years as a grants officer in the Department of Development. When the center reduced its

2009 Family Dinner & Recognition Ceremony

Thursday, April 23, 6 p.m.

**Cashion Banquet Hall
(in Hankamer School of Business)**

**SSW Alumnus of the Year
BSW Student of the Year
MSW Student of the Year**

**For reservations:
Kara_Sikes@baylor.edu or
254-710-8418
by April 14**

workforce, it was an opportunity for Edwards to pursue his long-time volunteer interest at Caritas, stepping into the role of assistant executive director in August 2007. He worked alongside Kenneth Moerbe, executive director from 2002 to 2008, for more than a year before Moerbe retired.

Despite his decades of volunteer work with the Caritas board of directors and his year on staff, Edwards says he feels the increased responsibility of his new job. At Hillcrest, he worked with 30 department heads, but that at Caritas "it all falls right here. It's very fast-paced, and I feel the weight and responsibility of the program that I heretofore had not."

It's hard to imagine anyone better prepared to step into that responsibility than Edwards. He's a lifelong Waco resident and a member of the well-known and much-loved Morticians rock band, for which he plays keyboards and guitar. A lot of people in this community know him. He also volunteered at Caritas for 20 years, serving on the board and also as chair of the board's public relations committee for many years. He knew and



Buddy Edwards spends a lot of his time staying connected to people in the community.

worked with Gene Jud, the volunteer executive director who built much of the agency's reputation and visibility during his tenure from the late 1970s until his retirement in 2001.

"I've always loved this organization," Edwards said. "For me, the Caritas mission is just so basic. I had a strong identification with being able to address those basic, key needs people had just to sustain life."

Originally a nonprofit charitable agency founded in 1967 by the Austin Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, Caritas was chartered by the state of Texas as an independent agency in 1979. Although no longer officially a faith-based organization, Caritas' staff and volunteers are still largely motivated by their religious desire to help others, Edwards said.

"The folks that are here have a very strong faith calling, and we feel we are led to be here," he said.

The connection between his personal faith and his social work profession has always been a strong and comfortable one for Edwards. “I’ve always felt that the social work skills aligned perfectly with my faith. It was an easy fit, and I would say for me it’s one of the motivating factors for my being here.”

Caritas has been a field practice site for the School of Social Work’s MSW

students for some time. The agency hosted two students in spring 2008 and another this year. “I know the value of these students, and I hope to continue to build that relationship,” Edwards said.

The agency hosts the annual Feast of Caring, a meal of bread and soup, each spring as its major fundraiser. It also is a beneficiary of KWTX Channel 10’s annual Food for Families drive held each November, which brought in 300,000 pounds of food last year.

As Edwards said, though, hunger is still a growth industry, meaning more and more clients come to Caritas looking for assistance. That’s not likely to change in the current economic climate. It presents him with his most immediate challenge.

“There have been nonprofit agencies whose donation base has fallen sharply off, so our challenge is to maintain the wonderful level of support we’ve always had from this community,” he said. “I want to be sure we can provide the services our clients need, but also to provide job security for our staff.”

Poverty is a multilayered social problem that Edwards said is hard for the

general public to understand.

“There are still so many stereotypes.

Most people don’t under-

stand the degree of difficulty there is to rise above it, the social dynamics that work against getting out of poverty,” he said.

That’s where Caritas can step in, and Edwards believes the community trusts Caritas to be that helping hand. “I think people see Caritas as the arm within the community to alleviate some of that pain and suffering and that they trust us to do that. People feel good about giving their time or money to Caritas because they trust us to be good stewards. I’m going to do the very best I can to make sure that we deserve that trust.”

— Story and photos by Vicki M. Kabat

“I’ve always felt that the social work skills aligned perfectly with my faith.”



Caritas receives six tractor-trailer loads of returned merchandise a week from Walmart’s Gifts-in-Kind program. The goods are stored in the agency’s 35,000-square-foot facility.

Caritas www.caritas-waco.org

- has a staff of 32 part- and full-time employees
- coordinates 250 to 300 volunteers monthly
- serves 22,000-plus families annually
- is located at 15th and Mary Streets in a 35,000-square-foot-facility since 2003
- provides food, medications, clothing, utilities, rent and transportation
- operates a Gifts-in-Kind program with Walmart that began in 2004, which last year brought in 3.9 million pounds of returned merchandise from throughout Texas donated to Caritas; about 50 percent of the merchandise is paper products and the rest is a combination of toiletries and housing goods.
- conducts a Food Stamp Outreach program (funded by the Waco Hunger Coalition) to help clients sign up for the program
- operates three local resale stores that offer clothing, household goods, furniture and appliances at low prices
- is a 501(c)3 organization governed by a 20-member, multi-ethnic, interfaith board of directors

IT'S SIGNING TIME

By Gaynor Yancey, Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies

Psalm 143:10 says “Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God” (KJV). For many of the students in the baccalaureate program in social work (BSW program) pursuing the major in social work is a result of following what they have determined to be God’s purpose for their lives. For others, there is a sincere calling into professional social work that may or may not be related to a faith response. In either case, the Baylor School of Social Work has the distinct privilege and opportunity of teaching and training future social work professionals through the BSW program.

The purpose of the baccalaureate program in social work is twofold: to prepare undergraduate social work students in generalist practice in the workplace and to prepare them for graduate school. Students may choose to do either of these, depending of course, on their future goals or life’s circumstances.

One of the joys that we have as faculty is to come alongside the students in their educational plans and provide them with the teaching, research and mentoring that will help ensure their next steps toward their future goals.

Spring is the time for athletes to “sign” on the dotted line and declare their intent to play at a certain college or university. In a similar way, at this time of the year, our BSW students who are planning to enroll in graduate school start to hear from the schools of their dreams regarding admission to MSW programs.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, 22 of the 38 admitted students to the MSW Advanced Standing program came from our own BSW students—55 percent, our largest group to date. That makes us really proud!

Although we would love for all of our undergraduate students to stay at Baylor for graduate work, the reality is that many choose to make application at other graduate schools of social work. This year’s group of students has been accepted at, or made application to, the following graduate schools: Baylor, George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Florida State University, the University of



South Carolina, the University of Denver, the University of Texas-Austin, the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of

Texas-Arlington, the University of Houston, and Portland State University.

All of these programs are excellent. Some of these students have been accepted at two or three of these schools and they are trying to decide which one is best for them.

This list reminds us that we also have wonderful students from all over the United States who are choosing to come to Baylor’s MSW program because of its reputation. Many of our students are choosing to stay at Baylor; others are choosing to go elsewhere. The reality is that they are prepared to go anywhere.

Feedback from the educators in these graduate schools indicates that they like our undergraduate students because they are strong writers, critical thinkers and they know their social work skills. As one educator shared, “I am always so happy when we get a BSW from Baylor into our graduate program. I can automatically

Many of our students are choosing to stay at Baylor, others are choosing to go elsewhere. The reality is that they are prepared to go anywhere.

count on that student being a strong writer and a critical thinker.” We know the strength of our BSW program! We are confident that our students graduate with a solid set of social skills and

knowledge base. We are confident in their level of proficiency.

Your support means so much to our BSW program! Thank you for your prayers, your monetary support, your efforts at recruiting others to join us and your notes of encouragement. How wonderful it is that we are in this educational endeavor together. It truly does “take a village” to bring up a child. In the same way, it takes all of us working together to help students realize their dreams.

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

By Dennis Myers, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Have you ever thought about July 4th and Veterans Day as two occasions for appreciating social workers? At first glance, the connections between the armed services and social work may not be readily apparent: the missions may seem dissimilar, and each uses different language for involvement — enlistment vs. enrollment, rank vs. classification, discharge vs. graduation. A closer look reveals, however, that the relationships between the two are complementary and multifaceted.

Since World War I, social workers have proudly served in the armed services, providing medical and mental health services to soldiers, families and the community. For decades, veterans have entered into educational programs to prepare for a career in social work and MSW graduates have chosen to join the military. This exchange of students and graduates offers benefits for the military and for social work education.

The 2008-2009 MSW foundation and concentration classes have four service veterans — Lisa Daniels, Aukeysia Tate, Tina Roane and Esther Castro — who have successfully and honorably completed careers in the military. Matt O'Brien and Jessica Morant are MSW students considering entering the military as commissioned officers after graduation. Like our other applicants, these individuals apply and enroll with the same motivations as their academic cohort — to be instruments of healing and justice.

For some of these veterans the desire to become a social worker is stimulated by a personal experience. Tina is a retired veteran with 23 years of Army service with tours of duty in Germany, Korea, Kuwait and Desert Storm. Her path to becoming a history teacher was rerouted by an experience she had with social workers in a medical center specializing in heart transplants. Tina explains that she and her family spent many hours

waiting for a heart donor for her husband, and it was in the midst of the uncertainty and solitude of waiting rooms that she found social workers who were present and caring.

"I needed somebody to understand what I was going through, to acknowledge the overwhelming and conflicting feelings created by receiving a heart to save my husband's life and by realizing that someone's life was lost in the exchange," she said. From that moment on, she has been dedicated to being the kind of social worker that changed her life's direction.

All of our student veterans agree there have been numerous ways in which military life provided them with valuable lessons for social work education and practice. Aukeysia was in ROTC in college and, after graduating, served a little more than one year on active duty.

"This exchange of students and graduates offers benefits for the military and for social work education."

She describes the benefit of the experience: "It was a great experience. It fit my personality type perfectly. I am a person of structure and the service gave me an opportunity to gain leadership right out of college."

Esther enlisted in the Army Reserves after high school and went on active duty in 1997. During her tour, she received training as a supply administrator, medic and practical nurse. For her, the five years of active duty, including a deployment to Korea, prepared her for social work by enriching her ability to "work with different cultures, go into new relationships with an open mind, and pursue her career goal of working with older veterans."

All of the veterans are grateful for the personal discipline and respect for

the mission they developed while in the service and for the ways these attributes are serving them now.

The benefits of military service make these veterans powerful contributors to our learning community. The seeds of their discipline and sacrifice produce a richer and more potent educational experience. They are the voices of "real world" knowledge and an example of how to acknowledge differences among persons and weave those differences into a viable team. Lisa points out that veterans in our program demonstrate accountability to colleagues. She believes that the "be there for one another" perspective would serve the School well.

The legacy of veteran involvement is a more prepared Baylor social work professional. Some veterans will graduate and as civilians, effectively bringing wellness and hope to service members, families and communities. Some of our graduates with no military experience will become vital members of the Veterans Administration health care teams, delivering quality care to those who have served.

Others, like Matt and Jessica, envision a career in the armed services.

Matt is clearly focused on the goal of "entering military service as a chaplain who will also be a mental health/clinical focused MSW graduate with a specialization in post-traumatic stress disorder, working with both returning soldiers and their families."

It may be an unexpected thought, but military service and social work education are inseparable partners in difference-making locally and globally. Each July Fourth and Veterans Day, those of us in social work can rise with a deep sense of connection and pride to honor all our veterans and those on active duty who have served and are serving so sacrificially.

SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS

BGCT APPROVES SCHOOL'S CHURCH SPECIALIZATION, TRUETT JOINT DEGREES

Following a team visit in late September, the Vocational Theological Education Council (VTEC) of the Baptist General Convention of Texas recommended continued endorsement of the School of Social Work's MSW with Church Social Work Specialization or joint degree with Truett Seminary.

The approval means that certified Baptist MFA students enrolling in that degree at Baylor continue to be eligible for Ministerial Financial Assistance at the rate of \$100 per credit hour.

The team of four representatives of the triennial review met with Dean Diana Garland, several faculty members, four students and one recent graduate in the specialization and four ministers who supervise student interns. The VTEC report said that the team was impressed with the design of the program, with the dean's leadership and with the faculty's commitment to prepare students for ministry in social work.

"I was thrilled to see the magnitude of what is taking place in the School of Social Work," said one team member. "Dr. Garland outlined a compelling vision that is becoming an exciting reality. It was intriguing to learn of the prestige this school has throughout the country among secular universities."

Likewise, the team enjoyed their conversation with the four students of the program and one recent graduate. "Each student did a great job of articulating their passion for doing social work, i.e., ministry, through the local church and then told of the ways that was being lived out as both an expression of their faith and as a requirement for their degree," a team member said.

The VTEC re-endorsement request states that there is not "any other school of social work anywhere in Baptist or moderate evangelical or mainline Protestant life that prepares social workers to lead in the church in its family and community ministries and missions."



Michael Ormsby, MSW 2008 alumnus, left, with the Waco Veterans Administration, and Amanda Mwanza, MSW student, below right, an intern at the VA, talked with homeless veterans about the services available to them.

STUDENTS, ALUMNI HELP AT PROJECT CONNECT TO ASSIST HOMELESS

Once again more than 50 BSW and MSW students, as well as many alumni employed in local service agencies, participated in the biennial Project Homeless Connect, held this year Jan. 29 and sponsored by Housing and Community Development Services.

The project is part of the effort to count members of the homeless population, a requirement to receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Participants in the count spread out through Waco the evening before the Connect event surveying people who live in shelters or on the streets. Connect brings together various agencies that provide information about jobs, education and other services for the homeless. Haircuts, medical and dental needs and an opportunity to shop for clothing are also included.

This year, the Waco agency requested gift cards of \$5 from community members. Teri Holtkamp, homeless administrator for Housing and Community Development Services, said she was "blown away" by the School of Social Work's response.

"It never ceases to amaze me at the generosity of the student and faculty body at Baylor. Thanks to your donations we had plenty of cards to give to every homeless person attending the event," she said.



Tiffany Purnell, BSW student, helped prepare bags of free materials to hand out at Project Homeless Connect.

'TWOGETHER' MARRIAGE TRAINING HELD JAN. 29-30

Twenty-three School of Social Work faculty, staff, students, and Waco community human service professionals attended the 'Within Our Reach' pre-marital curriculum training seminar on the campus of Texas A&M University Jan. 29-30.

The training was sponsored by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Two-gether in Texas legislative initiative to promote healthy marriages. Motivated by the premise that when Texas families are strong, Texas is strong, Twogether in Texas is a free marriage education course that provides training on communication skills, conflict resolution and other elements of a healthy marriage for engaged and married couples.

Couples applying for their marriage license who complete this eight-hour class will have \$60 of their marriage license fee waived. They also are given the option to forgo the 72-hour waiting period to wed. Baylor School of Social Work recently received a grant as a subcontractor for Texas Twogether Marriage Education.

The principle investigators of this grant are Cindy Harr and Kim Kotrla, assistant professors. The Baylor and Waco community members who attended the seminar received free training in the Two-gether curriculum in exchange for agreement to facilitate a seminar within the next six months.

Attendees to the seminar all found the information relevant and practical. "It



Natalie O'Connor, MSW student, was one of 23 persons who participated in the 'Twogether' training at Texas A&M.

was interesting to see how the curriculum could be utilized by a variety of people," said Natalie O'Connor, an MSW Children and Families concentration student.

"I got the chance to learn the curriculum while sitting amongst private practitioners, pastors, marriage and family counselors, doctorate of psychology students, and multiple other disciplines. The curriculum provided hands-on tools to support the ideas and concepts, making this curriculum well-balanced and applicable to most couples."

Others who attended the workshop agreed with O'Connor's sentiments and said they are looking forward to employing the curriculum in facilitating a marriage education course.

For more information on participating in a seminar, hosting one for your organization or taking part in a facilitator training course, please contact Cynthia_Harr@baylor.edu or at 254-710-3359.

NEW FACES ON STAFF

Sam Oakley joined the staff as associate director for the Center for Family and Community Ministries. She will engage in research and help design and write resources that will enhance the ministries of congregations. Sam received her BS in social work at Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands) in Williamsburg, KY. She received her MSW from Baylor in 2007 and her MDiv from George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 2008. Prior to joining the CFCM, Sam was on staff as director of community ministries at Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, through a collaboration with Buckner Children and Family Services. Sam and husband, David, MDiv 2006/MA student, have an infant son, Eli.



Caitlyn Mobley is working part-time as project manager for the Global Mission Leadership Initiative. She received a BS from Baylor in 2008 in secondary education, English language arts and reading. Caitlyn and her husband, Josh, BA 2008 in business, are interested in global initiatives and intend to live overseas in the future.



Jamie McKinney is the new administrative associate for the Center for Family and Community Ministries, working primarily with the *Journal of Family and Community Ministries* subscription database, Web site and the School's Web site. She received her BSW from Baylor in December and will begin the MSW Advanced Standing program this summer. She is interested in community organizing and public health.



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Web site often to catch the latest news:**

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SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS



TAKING THE H²O CHALLENGE

Members of the Human Behavior and the Social Environment II fall class chose to participate in the H²O Challenge, sponsored through Living Water. (www.water.cc).

Students in the class, taught by adjunct professor Becky Scott, chose to give up non-water beverages for two weeks and contribute the money that would have been spent on the drinks toward dig-

ging a clean water well in a country that lacks access to clean water.

According to Living Water's Web site, a child dies every 15 seconds because of the lack of clean water, and it costs only an average of 98 cents to provide clean, safe water to one person for one year.

The class collected \$318 to donate to Living Water.

BSW GRADS HEAD TO TOP GRADUATE SCHOOLS AROUND THE NATION

Most people are familiar with the excitement that accompanies "signing" season in college athletics, but the School feels the same thrill about BSW graduates accepted into major graduate school programs around the country.

Gaynor Yancey, associate dean of baccalaureate studies, reports that admission has been offered to the following graduate schools:

Baylor University	15
George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University	3
University of Portland	1
University of Texas	1
University of Texas-Arlington	1
University of Denver	2
University of South Carolina	1
University of Houston	2

Yancey said that numerous students are still awaiting offers.

"I am particularly pleased to share this because I think their admission to a variety of graduate schools shows the strength of our BSW program," she said.

BSW Research class projects inform policy, practice and education

Students in Kim Kotrla's BSW Research Class worked in small groups last fall to complete a research project on a topic that informs social work practice, policy or education. Kotrla, left, is with Nikki Collins, one of a team that researched and created a poster on the violent content in popular cartoons. Others in this group were Kate Brannan, Katie Burch, Linda Hamza and Lauren Repa. Another group looked at political awareness and voting among BSW social work students. When asked what most influences the way they vote, the students overwhelmingly reported that it is the church.



EVERETT JOINS CFCM TO DIRECT TEXAS HUNGER INITIATIVE

Jeremy Everett joined the Baylor Center for Family and Community Ministries (CFCM) in February to direct the Texas Hunger Initiative, a new project to alleviate hunger in the state that is being sponsored jointly by CFCM and the Christian Life Commission.

"With some organization and creativity, hunger in Texas can be alleviated, and I think we'll be well on our way to that within six years," said Everett, who has BAs in religion and history from Samford University and an MDiv (2001) from Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

The THI project comes alongside hunger ministries related to the Texas Baptist Offering for World Hunger offered through the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which currently provides \$475,000 for 95 Texas hunger ministries. The initiative will build capacity of existing ministries that are addressing hunger in the state. Initially, the project will identify regional leaders in the state and create networks, meeting the different needs of each region.

"I appreciate that this project begins by assessing strengths, and then allows us to build upon those strengths with a model that incorporates cultural and environmental sensitivity," Everett said. "We already have a lot of great efforts to alleviate hunger in place."

Suzii Paynter, director of the Christian Life Commission, BGCT, is excited about partnering with the School of Social Work. "It's like a new harvest to have the Baylor



Jeremy Everett says hunger in Texas can be alleviated in this decade.

School of Social Work as a partner to boost and nourish the network of ministries," she said. "Great people are doing God's work caring for the 'least of these,' and this project will give them tools, support and blessing for ever greater things, especially as we focus on Texas HOPE 2010."

Everett has spent the past five years in San Antonio's West Side, a historically low-income area where he lived with his wife, Amy (MDiv/MSW, 2004) and their two children, Lucas, 4, and Sam, 2. Employed by Baptist Children and Family Services, Everett helped start Guadalupe Street Coffee, a café with computers, wireless Internet service, murals painted by local artists and meeting spaces. As a community developer in West Side, Everett worked to bring together members of the City Council, business owners, and students and administrators from the area's Sidney Lanier High School.

The coffeehouse employs an average of seven people and sponsors a variety of youth and community programs, including college assistance, art events and business development meetings. Now, \$2 million in city and federal grants are slated to further economic development in and around the coffeehouse, according to a report by Abe Levy, *San Antonio Express-News* (posted Jan. 24, 2009).

The Texas Hunger Initiative will give Everett opportunities to use his community development skills on a broader scale. Initially THI will focus on El Paso, the Valley, Bexar and McLennan counties seeking to develop and implement strategies to alleviate hunger through policy, education, community organizing and community development.

"We have chosen to focus on these areas first because there are existing programs and relationships," Everett said. "We can build upon the trust that is already there and grow successful partnerships."

Everett will spend the first months in his new role getting to

(continued on page 15)



Baylor Service Awards

Three School of Social Work employees were honored for their service to the university at an awards ceremony March 4. Vicki M. Kabat, left, was honored for 10 years of service, and Jon Singletary and Angela Fields were honored for five years.

SSW ALUMNI UPDATES



Allison Wiatrek Henley (BASW 2002/MSW 2003) and her husband, Matt, welcomed their first child, Brooke Avery Henley, on Jan. 20. Brooke weighed 8 lbs., 13 oz. and was 21 inches long. Allison_Henley@hotmail.com

Ebony Hall (BASW 2004/MSW 2005) graduated from the University of Texas-Arlington PhD program in May 2008 and began an MDiv at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, Dallas, in



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January 2008. She began as an adjunct professor teaching policy this spring at TCU School of Social Work. Ebony also is working as a PRN Behavioral Therapist through Millwood Hospital's Excel Outpatient Centers doing group therapy, family therapy and chemical dependency groups with adults and children. She writes: "I owe my educational foundation to Baylor and even more so to the School of Social Work. Thank you all for everything." ebony.hall@tcu.edu

Joel Harder (MSW 2008) is serving as interim director to singles at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, VA. The church has expressed its interest in Joel staying as a counselor/social worker. He also is preparing for his LCSW and the LSW. joel@fbcalexandria.org

Sue Ann Martinez (MSW/MDiv 2008) married her fiancé Ken on July 26 in Hondo, TX, and became a mother to Ken's two children, Ben and Shaylin. The family is living in Stockton, CA. sue_martinez@baylor.edu

Dana Nicole Earls (MSW 2006) is the campus manager with Communities in Schools Dallas Region, Inc. She tells us, "Thanks to Baylor University's School of Social Work and my internship with Communities in Schools in Waco, I am more than competent in my career and I absolutely LOVE my job." dearls232001@yahoo.com

Cindy Maddux Ochoa (MSW 2006) went to Tijuana, Mexico, after graduation to work at a Christian-operated orphanage. She met her future husband and the couple now lives in San Diego, CA, where Cindy works at a Christian adoption agency. madduxc@hotmail.com

Courtney Ray "C-Ray" (BSW 2007) currently serves as a case manager in a treatment facility for male juvenile offenders at Rite of Passage in Denver, CO. She is being challenged daily and

stretched in all areas, she says, but a nice retreat to the mountains is always soothing. Courtney_Ray1@yahoo.com

Esther Reyes (BSW 2007) is in the MSW Advanced Standing program at the University of Pennsylvania and will finish in May. She has received the Dr. Ruth E. Smalley Award in International Social Welfare for Penn's School of Social Work. She has applied to The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, DC. ereyes712@gmail.com

Alicia Abernethy Ward (BASW 2000) is a hospice social worker at Faith Presbyterian Hospice in Irving, TX. She is also adjunct faculty in the social work department at Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX. alicialward@gmail.com

CALENDAR

APR	23	SSW Family Dinner
	24	BOA Meeting
MAY	5	MSW Colloquium
	15	Convocation
	16	Commencement
AUG	14	Summer Convocation
	15	Summer Commencement
SEPT	17	Fall Worship Service
	18	BOA Meeting
OCT 15-17		NASW/TX Annual Conf., Fort Worth
29-NOV 1		NACSW Conference Indianapolis, IN
NOV 6-9		CSWE Annual Program Meeting, San Antonio



EVERETT

(continued from page 13)

know dedicated people who address the needs of the hungry every day and involving social work graduate students in the initiative.

"The process we'll put together for the hunger initiative is the same one I used in San Antonio, and both use social work principles," he said. "Students interested in community development and community organizing will graduate from the School of Social Work with direct practice experience gained through this initiative."

Baylor's School of Social Work began a concentration in community development this past year, and students already have been effective in a specific community building effort to alleviate hunger. The fall 2008 practice class researched, organized, chartered and began a Campus Kitchen, based on the national program in Washington, DC. Now a part of Baylor's Student Life Division, the kitchen is retrieving and feeding nonprofit groups this spring.

In addition, the CFCM has researched and written original curriculum titled "Understanding Poverty," that now is being tested in congregations before final publication. "We will continue to develop a curriculum on poverty to present to churches and civic groups as a way to introduce and prepare them to engage impoverished families in their communities," said Jon Singletary, CFCM director and assistant professor at the School.

The initial three-year funding of \$100,000 annually for the THI will come from grants, gifts and BGCT sources. Everett will be located at the CFCM in Baylor's School of Social Work.

"Feeding hungry people and developing communities so that families can afford to feed themselves – that's what Jesus called us to do," said Diana Garland, dean of Baylor School of Social Work. "I am thrilled we will be working with the Christian Life Commission of the BGCT to help congregations bring an end to hunger and the poverty that creates hunger in their communities."

For more information, contact Everett at 254-339-3242 or at Jeremy_Everett@baylor.edu.

MSW Practice Colloquium

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(Check-in begins at 8 a.m.)

Cashion Academic Center

MSW Concentration students will present their capstone presentations on topics including family counseling services, ethics, mental health and much more.

Up to 6 CE credit hours available; \$10 for CE hours

To register for the Colloquium:

www.baylor.edu/social_work/mswcolloquium

Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu

or call 254-710-6400



CALLING ALL ALUMNI

Let us hear from you!

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Photos cannot be returned.) Mail to: Krista Barrett, managing editor, School of Social Work, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97320, Waco, TX 76798-7320.

Or send via e-mail to Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name (at graduation and now) _____

Year of Graduation/Degree _____

Are you a Baylor or Carver School graduate? _____

Mailing address _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Employer _____

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



Getting ideas

MSW concentration students Rachel Proctor, from left, Courtney Drew and Sarah Viviani attend a main session at the Next Big Idea conference.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Volume No. 25 - Spring 2009

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