

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Newsletter from Baylor University School of Social Work • Volume No. 16

## School remembers mentor and teacher C. Anne Davis, first dean of Carver School

After a lifetime of “doing what Jesus did, until He comes again,” Cora Anne Davis died Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006.

Davis was a pioneer of church social work. Her passion for the Lord and for serving others became the basis for her quest to integrate faith with professional social work.

“It just came naturally to me to put the two (theology and social work) together,” Davis told an interviewer in March 2005.

“I would look at a situation, and it would just make an inordinate amount of sense to me what they were saying, the whole thing about relationships, the whole thing about justice, what love really is.”

Davis was born April 17, 1937, in Baskerville, Va. She was baptized at Ebenezer Baptist Church and dedicated her life to ministry at the age of 13. She grew up in the arms of Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU), participating in women’s mission activities throughout her childhood.

She attended Averett College, Danville, Va., in 1958, and later transferred to Westhampton College, in Richmond, Va., (1955-58), supported by WMU scholarships. It was in her junior year that she found her life’s work when she enrolled in an “Introduction to Social Work” course.

“It was like somebody was singing my song,” she remembered. “I just knew that that was what I wanted to do.”

Davis attended the Carver School of Missions



**Funds sought for  
endowment scholarship**  
Story on page 5

and Social Work, Louisville, Ky., (1958-60). From 1960-1966, she was appointed by the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, to the Elkhorn Baptist Association’s Baptist Center in Lexington, Ky. In 1966, Davis returned to Louisville, served on the ministry staff at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, and pursued a Master’s of Social Work at University of Louisville’s Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work.

Davis was one of the

first female faculty members at Louisville’s The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, appointed in 1970. In 1984, she completed her Ph.D. in higher education from University of Louisville and became founding dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at the seminary. Davis led her colleagues to develop the concept of “church social work” and educated generations of church social workers currently leading today’s Baptist congregations, mission programs and religiously affiliated organizations. In addition to her faculty role, Davis’ sermons and writings urged Baptist

churches to take seriously their social responsibility in the world and

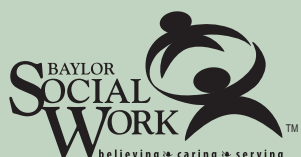
their obligation to provide community leadership for important social and ethical issues.

For Southern Baptist women seeking ministry positions from the ’70s

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# CELEBRATING SOCIAL WORK

Join us in Dallas and DC for “birthday” parties *by Diana Garland*

I love the name of the semester that begins in January – “Spring Semester.” The words conjure hope in a future not yet seen but remembered, one full of blooming azaleas and tulips and warm showers of rain. Those images enliven these gray winter school days with anticipation – for the seasonal changes but also for the changes that will occur in the lives of our students who will join the growing ranks of Baylor Social Work alumni in a few short months. I look at the promise of their lives of service, and I know they will become a transformative presence in hurting lives just as surely as I know spring will come. It’s a future not yet seen, but I have memories of its reality as I’ve watched one class after another graduate and then later learned of their inspired service in some of the hardest places in the world.

My very favorite part of my job is collecting stories of the work of our alumni. I see that work with my own eyes as I travel around the country and meet with you. You will read stories in this issue of some of those very special people we have the joy of calling “our alumni,” such as Darla Bailey, who is leading the effort to gather our alumni and encourage them to remember C. Anne Davis with an endowed scholarship in her name (*see story, page 5*). Alums, when you tell us stories of your professional work, you give us a great gift. We celebrate your commitment and successes.



*Dean Garland met with a group of alumni in Ridgecrest, N.C., this fall, and provided three hours of CEUs in a workshop.*

alumni in your area. One of your faculty members can join you. We also can offer a CEU workshop.

The two most important gatherings in the next six months are in Dallas, the NACSW Convention (March 8-11) ([www.nacsw.org](http://www.nacsw.org)),

and in Washington, D.C., at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (June 28-30) ([www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info)). At both occasions, Friday night in Dallas and Thursday night in D.C., we will be having a blow-out celebration for alumni and friends. Please try to make at least one of these parties! Events for our alumni are being planned at both of these events.

We will be celebrating the centennial year of social work education in Baptist life for the church. The WMU Training School was founded in 1907, and because we are the proud carriers of that tradition, we are celebrating our birthday. There is more information about both of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please share your news with us. We love to feature the stories of the work our alumni are doing. If we can help you weave a rope of support in your region, let us know. You are the delight of our lives.

*Diana R. Garland is dean of the School of Social Work*

## **NACSW Convention March 8-11 in Dallas**



## **CBF Assembly June 28-30 Washington, D.C.**

One of my passions is gathering groups of social work alumni – both from Baylor and the Carver School – and forming regional networks. As social workers, we know that each of us is like an individual thread and can easily be broken. But, when woven together we become a virtually unbreakable rope of strength. “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” said Jesus (Matthew 18:20). That is empowerment!

Will you help me form a network in your city or region? Network gatherings do not have to be elaborate. Gathering for a cup of coffee is a great way to begin. We will share postal and e-mail addresses for

# DAVIS

*continued from page 1*

through the '90s, Davis was a model and a source of encouragement, both written and verbal. She was a skilled preacher and the first woman dean in a Southern Baptist seminary. For social workers called to professional ministry, Anne Davis provided a model for integrating that calling with professional social work preparation.

Davis reflected upon three reasons why she gave her life to church social work: a) she was imitating the life and model of Jesus; b) she drew from scripture a "justice mandate" and "priestly mandate" that called Christians to serve others; and c) she understood social ministries to be an "integral part of the nature of the church: that Christians were to do what Jesus did until He comes again."

Davis twice saw her beloved Carver School closed. But she had faith that God would allow her to continue the work to which she was called. In 1997, Davis launched a series of Bible studies called, "Come Go With Me."

The following year she moved to Waco, Texas, where some of her friends and former Carver School

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*"Christians were to do  
what Jesus did until He  
comes again."*

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colleagues had settled. Davis served as Director of Operations for the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children, an agency directed by one of her former students. Davis also served as a consultant to Baylor University School of Social Work, helping to design a new MSW curriculum to carry on the dream of social work education for the church that was

deferred when Carver was closed.

In 2003, struggling with health concerns, Davis retired. But she kept in touch with many students, colleagues and church workers who have been inspired by her ministry and leadership. She died in Waco at the age of 69.

Davis left a tremendous legacy for ministers and laypersons concerned about social ministry. She articulated a biblical basis for helping and a reminder that every Christian is called to minister to one another.

In 1979, Davis spoke of her motivation. "I am not in this work because of the needs of the world. I am in this work because I believe that as a Christian, I have no other alternative but to be in this work," she said. "You see, it's not because of the sad condition of the world that the church needs to minister; it is because it is inherent to the very nature of the church that it must do that, as bodies must breathe." – *By Laine Scales*

## A TRIBUTE

Those of us privileged to have studied with Anne Davis will always remember stories that she told. Much like the Master Storyteller, Jesus, Anne taught us with stories that had multiple layers of meaning – illustrations about human behavior, social work practice, or theological truth; usually all of the above at one time.

One story in particular that has stayed with me comes from her days as director of the Baptist Center in Lexington, Ky. One day a woman came into the Center. She was wearing a rumpled, outdated coat, much too heavy for the weather outside, carrying a couple of tattered shopping bags full of her belongings – one of those women so often called "bag ladies." In Lexington, many of these folks were from Appalachia from families that came to the city for work and yet often remained in poverty and culture shock.

Anne approached her and asked if she could be of help. The woman replied in a huff, "What makes you think you could have anything I need?" Anne, completely unruffled and not defensive, simply said, "Well, I am sure you are right. I was just wondering what brought you in here today."

The woman turned and motioned toward a beautiful stained glass window depicting Jesus that was a part of

the Center. Sunlight was streaming through it, and the woman said quietly, "I just came in to enjoy the pretty." Anne pulled a chair up to the window, told her to rest, take her time at the window, and that she was welcome anytime to come in and sit right there.

As I reflect on Anne's life and all she taught me, and on her loss to us far too soon, I remember her determination to minister to the least of these, the people the world so often calls ugly. In her later years, when her health caused her to be the recipient of others' help, I know that in many ways she had to face a lot of what is ugly in life; particularly the terrible ugliness that is a part of the human institution of the church. Yet she continued to look for the dream of House Beautiful to live on, and she continues to inspire us to do so as well.

I see her now in a new sphere of influence: I can't imagine that she'll not soon be learning and teaching again there, but I also believe she can hear Jesus say, "You are welcome here, my good and faithful servant. Come in, rest, and enjoy the pretty."

**Angela Dennison**  
M.Div. 1992, Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary,  
MSW 1993, Carver School of  
Church Social Work







# FALL EVENTS

School staff members, above, donated vitamins for children and toiletry items for nursing home residents as their Christmas present to faculty. Laine Scales, sponsor for the Social Services class traveling to Mexico over the holiday break, will hand-deliver the supplies. At right, Baccalaureate Field Director Pete Campbell visits with Jabu Lunsford, MSW student, at **HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE** Oct. 21. Forty-three MSW students (below, right) attended the **ORIENTATION** for Foundation students, the largest class yet. In front are Daphne Paul and Lance Summey.



Several MSW students prepared **THANKSGIVING BASKETS** to deliver to various offices on campus (middle, left). Pictured here are, from left, Kelly Baker, Melissa Ishio, Catherine Kinder, Jennifer Swezey and Jackie Butler. Erin Young, left, and Jessika Doolittle (bottom, left), MSW students, have a little fun on Halloween in Jim Ellor's Gerontology class.

# LIVING THE GOSPEL

## *Carver grad wants alumni to carry Davis' vision forward*

Darla Bailey carries a phrase with her from her days at seminary – “doing the Word.” It’s a phrase she saw come to life in the work and ministry of C. Anne Davis.

“It’s a really powerful phrase about living the gospel,” Bailey said. “And Anne Davis epitomized that living out of your faith ... of what church and social work can be.”

It is because of Davis sharing that vision that Bailey, a 1993 graduate of Carver School of Church Social Work, is spearheading an effort to endow a scholarship in Davis’ name (*see story, page 1*) for social work students at Baylor.

“I have written my check out of gratitude for the ‘free’ education that Southern Baptists gave me and for the life and work of Dean Davis to make Carver School of Church Social Work a reality for me,” Bailey said.

She is encouraging others whose lives were touched by Davis to do the same. “I can’t expect Baylor students to understand the history of church social work, of where we’ve been and how far we’ve come, unless I do something to help educate them,” she said. “The Training School and Carver aren’t here anymore. But we have Baylor. And I believe they are carrying out Dr. Davis’ vision through Dr. [Diana] Garland.”

The dream of honoring Davis through a scholarship first began last fall, when a group of Carver School and Baylor Social Work alumni and friends gathered in North Carolina for a continuing education workshop led by Garland. Several there began talking about ways for WMU Training School and Carver graduates to reconnect.

**Join the School of  
Social Work as we celebrate**

**100 Years of Social Work  
Education for the Church**

**June 28, 2007  
at the  
CBF General Assembly  
Washington, DC**

### **Davis Endowed Scholarship**

An endowed scholarship at Baylor University requires a minimum of \$25,000. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please mail your check to Baylor Social Work, One Bear Place #97320, Waco, TX 76798-7320 and put “Davis Endowed Scholarship” in the memo line.

School of Social Work: 254-710-1199

“We decided to use 2007 as the year we spend getting the remnants back together,” said Bailey, who co-owns a day program for young adults with special needs called Kaleidoscope in Louisville, Ky.

“Our goal was to focus on the CBF conference in June. ... We really want people to make an effort to be there.”

They had planned to honor Davis at the School of Social Work’s birthday party celebrating 100 years of social work education for the church. However, Davis died Nov. 9, and never knew of the group’s plans.

“I’m sad that we weren’t able to tell Anne what we were doing,” Bailey said. “But I know she would be pleased.”

Bailey and several other alumni are combining lists from the now-closed schools, and they encourage anyone with updated information about graduates to contact them at [darla@kaleidoscopeservices.org](mailto:darla@kaleidoscopeservices.org) or call the School of Social Work at 254-710-1199.

“I’m hoping people who read this will look through their e-mails and Christmas card lists to see if there’s anyone we’re missing,” she said.

In addition to raising funds for the scholarship, Bailey hopes to use the list to organize regional groups for fellowship and continuing education opportunities.

“We’d like to be able to pull together people for classes or weekend retreats that are relevant and have practical applications for what we’re doing professionally,” she said.

– By Franci Rogers



# ACADEMIC UPDATES

By Gaynor Yancey, Associate Dean for Baccalaureate Studies  
and Dennis Myers, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

We think that one of the most meaningful stories in the School of Social Work is the vitality and growth of the academic program. One way to share this story is to provide some highlights from the 2006-07 academic year in the areas of enrollment, recruitment and career services, field education, and administrative/curriculum changes.

## *Enrollment*

Steady growth marks the progress of the academic program since we became an independent School of Social Work two years ago. Undergraduate student enrollment was at 96 in fall 2004, dipped slightly to 87 in fall 2005, and jumped to 121 in fall 2006. Graduate enrollment has climbed steadily in those three years at 63, 71 and 85 this past fall.

## *Field Education*

Likewise, we've seen the number of field education hours, field, and service learning placements remain steady during this period. Total field hours for the 2003-04 academic year were 38,738 for both programs, 44,405 for 2004-05, and 38,048 for 2005-06. For this spring semester, we have 69 graduate students in field placements, concentration students in 26 agencies and foundation students in another 14 agencies. We approved 38 new field supervisors for the coming summer and fall. In the undergraduate program, we've had increased growth in all our internships and service learning sections.

## *Recruitment*

Our director of recruitment, Vicki Northern, and her team of student recruiters maintain a busy schedule of hosting events and presenting at Baylor orientations, Preview Days, and at denominational conferences. This past year, they have attended Baylor's Worldview Leadership Academy, the Hispanic Baptist Conference, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly. Northern reports that the office has received more than 450 BSW and MSW contacts since mid-May 2006.

## *Administrative/Curriculum*

One of our great challenges – and great blessings – is how to continue to provide a powerfully formative professional learning experience for our students. With student growth, new faculty, and new university systems, this challenge keeps us ever focused on the future, even as we attend to the present. Some of these components simply have to do with technological updates. For instance, we now have for our students' convenience:

- A revised Web site that is much friendlier for potential and current students
- Online admission application for the graduate program
- Electronic submission and review of degree plans for graduate students



Participants in the **MSW PREVIEW DAY** Nov. 3 were, from left, Robin Northern (MSW '06), and MSW students Jessika Doolittle, Louis Gomez, Abigail Parnell and Jennifer Caballero, dual degree.

Other highlights from the past year include:

- The CBF awarded four \$5,000 scholarships to MSW students
- A new Master of Theological Studies/Master of Social Work dual degree has been approved by Baylor's Board of Regents, contingent upon approval of Truett's accrediting council
- Research grants are providing 26 MSW students and three BSW students with financial help this year
- Last May we offered the first MSW Practice Colloquium, featuring 42 students providing pro-



Four students participated in the Fall Convocation. From left, they are Ashley Herridge, Charletra Hurt, Allison Lambert, and Steven Brodic, with Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for baccalaureate studies.

fessional-quality presentations on their research to local practitioners. We will offer the colloquium again in May.

- A three-hour elective in social services to Mexico was offered in the fall, with the trip to Mexico (part of the course) held during the holiday break.
- We are now providing advanced instruction in social work administration to all MSW concentration-year students.

### *Future planning*

As we look to the year ahead, we have many initiatives under review. We are evaluating processes for student placements in field education and advising systems, and we continue to streamline and revise curriculum requirements, coursework loads, and group-learning laboratory experiences to further strengthen our students' educational experience.

These endeavors involve faculty, staff and students – all of whom work diligently with us to continuously shape and mold this School of Social Work.

We look to a future that we believe holds continued growth and diversity in our student population; exciting collaborations with other universities and denominational groups; continued engagement with professional organizations and associations; more varied degree options; and a constantly growing and strengthened alumni base that can help carry the good news of this School's work to their colleagues and associates.

# FACULTY UPDATE

**Helen Harris**, Ellen L. Csikai, and Barbara Jones have an article in press with Lyceum Books Inc. titled "Assignments and Syllabus: When Mourning is Complicated," *Social work in end-of-life and palliative care: A compendium of syllabi and teaching resources*. Harris also has an article titled "Growing While Going: Spiritual Formation at the End of Life" in press at the *Journal of Religion, Spirituality & Aging*. Harris has 30 items on the National Intermediate Social Work Examination, 2005-2006, for the Association of Social Work Boards. Richmond, Va.

**Michael Sherr**'s article, "Exploring how Social Work Administrators Integrate Spirituality in the Workplace," with Rick Chamec-Case, was published in the journal *Social Work and Christianity*, 33(3), pp. 268-287. Also, his article, "The Afrocentric Paradigm: A Pragmatic Discourse about Social Work Practice with African Americans," was published in the *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 13(3), pp. 1-17.

## It's a Party!

The School of Social Work invites you to be our guest at our celebration of

### **100 Years of Social Work Education for the Church 1907 -2007**

**Friday, March 9**  
at the NACSW Convention in Dallas, Texas  
in the Convention Hall

- No long speeches
- Premiere viewing of "We've A Story To Tell" video
- Tex-Mex buffet
- Live music
- Texas Two-Step dancing
- And did we mention ... no long speeches!

For more information,  
call 254-710-1199 or [Jeanie\\_Fitzpatrick@baylor.edu](mailto:Jeanie_Fitzpatrick@baylor.edu)

# STUDENT COMMENT

“ After one semester in the Master of Social Work graduate program, I am surprised at how much studying



social work and the values it embodies has deepened my understanding of my Christian faith and the values I derive from that. David Sherwood, social work professor at George Fox, wrote:

*The profession of social work provides us all with unique opportunities to demonstrate the gospel of Christ – to give our clients the grace-filled gift of knowing what it feels like to be treated with love and justice, what it feels like to experience caring, grace, forgiveness, trustworthiness, honesty, and fairness, what it feels like to be treated with respect and dignity as a person with God-given value.\**

This is an excellent description of how I hope to use my own personal values and the Code of Ethics to guide my practice as a social worker. I want to treat people with dignity, value their self-worth, respect the decisions they make in governing their own life, protect the sanctity of life, fight for the oppressed and against injustice, share hope for tomorrow, and maintain my integrity.”

Martha M. Stice,  
MSW student

\*Sherwood, D. (2002) *Christianity and social work: Readings on the integration of Christian faith and social work practice* (2nd ed.) (pp. 9-30). Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work

## Alumni Gatherings

**Feb. 8 - 9 in Lakeland, Fla.**  
Southeastern University

Family Ministry Workshop, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 8  
“Integration of Faith and Social Work”, 1-4 p.m.  
Feb. 9 – (3 CEUs available)

**Feb. 16 in Tyler, Texas**

**March 8-11 in Dallas**  
**NACSW Convention**

**June 28-30 in Washington, D.C.**  
**CBF General Assembly**

**Call 254-710-1199 for more information  
or contact**

**Jeanie\_Fitzpatrick@baylor.edu**

## CARVER CORNER

**Donald J. Gloege** (1987) is working on his PhD in clinical social work at Smith College School of Social Work. He lives in Shelby, N.C., supervises pre-licensed social workers in Shelby, and is a psychiatric social worker at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System in S.C. [djgloege@carolina-rr.com](mailto:djgloege@carolina-rr.com)

**Stacey L. Jaudon** (1996) provides clinical and pastoral care outpatient services at the Pastoral Counseling and Growth Center in Asheville, N.C. [sljaudon@bellsouth.net](mailto:sljaudon@bellsouth.net)

**Jane Meadows Mitchell** (1987) works in Greenville, S.C., in the new Family Support division as a parent educator at A Child's Haven Inc., a therapeutic child care program for children who have been abused and neglected. [J2kl.mitchell@att.net](mailto:J2kl.mitchell@att.net)

**Phyllis A. Platt** (1991) lives in Crestwood, KY, with her husband, Chris, and children Alyssa and

Rachel. She has been employed at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work as a research project coordinator and part-time faculty teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Recently Phyllis began teaching in the MSW program at Spalding University. She also is conducting a dissertation project that examines programs and their integration into the schools and communities that they serve at the University of Kentucky. She is a volunteer with Commonwealth Compassion Bridge that works with faith-based initiatives in Kentucky to provide support and resources to empower and sustain programs. [paplatt@bellsouth.net](mailto:paplatt@bellsouth.net)

**Deborah Myers Snyder** (1973) is Church Ministries Development Director at Shelby Baptist Association, where she works with individual and groups of churches to develop ministries in their communities. [debsnyder@charter.net](mailto:debsnyder@charter.net)



# SSW ALUMNI NEWS

**Ericka Bond** (MSW 2006) is director of social services at Wind Crest Nursing Center in Copperas Cove, TX. She recently received her state licensure and is working on her MDiv at Truett Seminary. She is a proud parent to a German shepherd named Lyric. *EBondMSW@gmail.com*

**Timothy Brown** (MSW 2003) is chair of the leadership search committee for NASW/TX, and this past year was named the NASW/TX Brazos Valley Social Worker of the Year. He has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry as a professional member of the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners and is chair of its rules committee. He is an informal settlement officer of the board, a member of its ethics committee and its professional development committee, and is a developer and item writer of the Jurist Prudence Exam. Tim has been selected by the Association of Social Work Boards as an item writer for the ASWB Social Work Examination and also has been selected as a member of the ASWB bylaws and resolutions committee. He completed the supervision required to sit for the License Clinical Social Work licensure upgrade, which he did this past summer. *tm\_brown@att.net*

**Lacy Henderson** (BASW 1999) has been employed with the Arlington Police Department as a response team counselor in the Victim Assistance Unit since January 2005. She graduated in December 2005 with a Master's in Criminology and Criminal Justice and in May 2006 with an MSW, both from the University of Arlington. This past summer, Lacy completed an internship in Washington, D.C., with the National Network to End Domestic Violence in its public policy office. *lhls99@aol.com*

**Jeanne Anderson (Enochs) Legge** (BA Sociology 1966) retired in April 2006 as a rehab teacher at Rehab Services for the Blind in Jefferson City, MO, where she worked for 23 years. *jlegge44@yahoo.com*

**Carol McEntyre** (MSW/MDiv 2003) recently accepted the position of Community Minister with Buckner Baptist Benevolences at First Baptist Church Knoxville, TN. *cmcentyre@fbcknox.org*

**Nanci McLeskey** (MCG 1999) is a nurse educator at the University of Utah and became a board-certified gerontological nurse in September 2006. She is looking

forward to her son Travis' wedding in April 2007. *nmcleskeymcs@comcast.net*

**Melanie Mims** (MSW 2006) passed her licensing exam and works at the Waco Family Abuse Center as the children's services coordinator, where she develops and implements programming for children, trains volunteers, and plans activities for the evening children's programming. *Melanie\_Mims@baylor.edu*

**Kristen Smith** (BASW 2002) graduated with her MSW from University of Pennsylvania in 2004. After graduate school, she worked as a hospice social worker. Kristen recently moved to Virginia, where she is continuing to work with senior adults but her practice in the medical realm has piqued her interest in nursing. She is applying for a Master of Science in Nursing and ultimately would like to become a geriatric nurse practitioner and integrate her social work foundation with a career focused on improving end-of-life care. *kstarheels@yahoo.com*

**Katie Tetuan** (BASW 2002) recently graduated from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work in the clinical concentration. She works for Wediko school-based services as a contracted clinician within the Boston Public School system and has a part-time position as a child bereavement group facilitator at the Children's Room, which recently was chosen as one of Massachusetts' outstanding charities. *ktetuan@yahoo.com*

**Patty Keenon Tremble** (BASW 1981) has been named the project director for the Harris County (Houston) SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) System of Care Grant. This six-year, \$9.5 million grant provides a basis for community collaboration to provide better children's mental health services to youth and their families. Patty lives in Houston with her son, Colin, and her daughter is a freshman at Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX. *patty.tremble@cps.hctx.net*

**Janet (Phillips) Wisner** (BASW 1997) and her husband, Brad, are proud to announce the arrival of Greta Ellen Wisner to their family on July 20, 2006. She joins big brother Henry. *janetwisner@verizon.net*

# NEWS BRIEFS

## REGENTS APPROVE NEW DUAL DEGREE OPTION FOR SSW

The academic affairs committee of the Baylor Board of Regents approved the new Master of Social Work/Master of Theological Studies dual degree program at the October regents meeting.

The program is now awaiting approval of the Association of Theological Schools, the accrediting agency for George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

The new dual degree will require 96 hours, 71 hours for those who qualify for social work advanced standing status.

It is hoped recruitment for the program can begin by fall 2007.

## YANCEY TO RECEIVE GIRL SCOUTS COUNCIL RECOGNITION

Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for baccalaureate studies, has been selected as a 2007 Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts Bluebonnet Council.

Nominations include women from a variety of backgrounds who exemplify lives of service, achievement and leadership, and who serve as excellent role models for young women.

The Women of Distinction Banquet will be held in April in Waco. Funds raised from the banquet will be used locally to support Girl Scout programs for at-risk and low-income girls in the community. These programs help young girls develop self-esteem, self-reliance, leadership abilities and teamwork skills, according to the Girl Scouts Bluebonnet Council Web site at [www.bluebonnetgsc.org/specialevents.htm](http://www.bluebonnetgsc.org/specialevents.htm).

**FOR MORE SSW NEWS,  
GO TO [WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/  
SOCIAL\\_WORK](http://WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/SOCIAL_WORK)**

## RAPOPORT GRANT BENEFITS FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

The Rapoport Foundation in Waco has approved a \$61,375 grant to Cesar Chavez Middle School that benefits the "Learning English Among Friends" (LEAF) program. The 18-month grant begins in January.

The Center for Literacy, the School of Education and others partner in this innovative family literacy program.

The focus of the grant will be on adding curricula for pre-readers ages 3 to 6 and adding a "Branching Out" curriculum for grades 1 - 5. The grant includes evaluation and community asset mapping components, as well as a stipend for a social work student to work with the program.



### Save the Date!

#### 2007 Conference for International and Literacy Ministries

**June 14-16, 2007  
Baylor Campus**

*Celebrating 50 years of literacy  
missions at Baylor ...  
Learning to serve others better ...  
Preparing for the next 50 years*

**Call 254-710-3854  
for more information**

## ELLOR SELECTED FOR AWARD

James Ellor, director of the Baylor Center for Gerontological Studies, has been selected as a co-recipient of the American Society on Aging's 2007 Inaugural Forum on Religion, Spirituality and Aging Award.

The award is given to an outstanding individual or organization who has demonstrated continued excellence and leadership in direct or indirect service to the religious and spiritual needs of older adults and their families, and who has had a profound and lasting impact on the religious and spiritual concerns of older adults, through practice, teaching, research, advocacy or policy planning, according to the society's Web site.

The presentation will be made in March in Chicago.



## PANEL EXPLORES COMMUNITY MINISTRIES IN CHURCHES

A group of seven congregational, denominational and lay leaders participated in a panel presentation Nov. 3 to the 11 social work students and members of the administrative team of the Strengthening Congregational Community Ministries project, funded by Christ Is Our Salvation foundation through the Center for Family and Community Ministries.

Students had a chance to ask firsthand how pastors and others wrestle with hard questions about providing services.

The Rev. Marsha Martie, pastor of Waco's CrossTies Ecumenical Church, added, "The church has no walls. It is that thinking that is the dysfunction of the church. We don't go to church; we are the church."

*Read more of this story online at:  
[www.baylor.edu/social\\_work/news.php](http://www.baylor.edu/social_work/news.php)*



# LEBLANC FLYING HIGH

## STUDENT PROFILE

*BSW senior scores Academic All-Big 12 honors, 4.0 GPA*

When you learn to serve in volleyball, you're told to follow through and keep your eye on the ball. It's good advice on the court and in the classroom, as Nicole LeBlanc, senior BSW student from Valrico, Fla., has learned.

Named to the Academic All-Big 12 team for her second straight year, LeBlanc earned a perfect 4.0 GPA in the spring 2006 semester. She also was named to the fall and spring Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Rolls.

"It's been hard [to be a student athlete]," LeBlanc said. "You have to make a lot of sacrifices. With a social work major there's so much to do outside the classroom, with practice and internships. That's hard to do during the season [late summer through fall], so I've had to put some things off that I could have done earlier. I probably would have been able to graduate a little earlier, but it's been worth the sacrifice."

In addition to serving as a team captain, she also has the distinction of having started in every match since coming to Baylor in 2003. Her prowess on the court has led to an invitation to play in an "exposure tour" in Europe in January. If all goes well, she could be picked up to play professionally in a European league.

"Everyone at the School has been so understanding and encouraging," LeBlanc said. "The professors have worked with me to take the time off I need at the beginning of the semester. It's been great."

She said she especially appreciates how the faculty and staff have worked with her schedule to help find placements that are flexible and will allow for off-season placements. This fall she was placed at Friends for Life,



an organization that helps elderly and disabled people live independently and provides care for those who cannot care for themselves. She said it helped her realize how seemingly insignificant things can become so important.

"So many little things are big things to them," she said. "For people with no family nearby, something like a burned-out light bulb can be huge. If they can't get up on a ladder, they can't change it themselves. It's those kinds of little things that can stop someone from living independently."

During her placement, she was able to see many of those situations firsthand as she did in-home assessments of clients. "A lot of the situations were heartbreaking," she said. "I would look at these people and see my own parents. That would be heartbreaking to any child."

Thoughts of her parents have shaped many things that are important to LeBlanc, who is the youngest of six children. "I grew up seeing my parents care for war veterans who were homeless and

*LeBlanc, No. 21, led her team in kills, kills per game, attacks, points and double-doubles. The 6-foot, 1-inch team captain is the 11th player in Baylor's history to record 1,000 career kills.*



Baylor Athletics Photos

mentally ill," she said. "They cared for them right in our home."

In the spring, LeBlanc will pursue another of her interests, working with children, when she interns at Child Protective Services. Laine Scales, associate professor of Social Work, had LeBlanc in her Human Behavior class last year, and can attest personally to her former student's care for youngsters.

"She was kind enough to visit with my daughter, who is an aspiring volleyball player. We had supper together and then Nicole took time to play volleyball with her on the Marrs-McLean gymnasium court. April was just thrilled," Scales said.

After graduating this summer, LeBlanc hopes to play professional volleyball in Europe for a year and then return to the United States to attend graduate school.

"I'm interested in so many things," she said. "Maybe some day I'll figure out a way to blend volleyball with social work."

— By Franci Rogers

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- JAN 26** Board of Advocates Meeting
- MAR 8-11** NACSW Convention  
Dallas, Texas
- APR 26** SSW Family Dinner
- 27 Board of Advocates Meeting
- MAY 2** MSW Practice Colloquium
- 11 Spring Convocation
- 12 Spring Graduation

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## CALLING ALL ALUMNI *Let us hear from you!*

Please complete the information below and provide a photo, if possible. (Sorry, photos cannot be returned.) Send information 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](mailto:Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu) or fax this form to (254) 710-6455.

Name (at graduation and current) \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation/Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Baylor or Carver School graduate? \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Title or Position \_\_\_\_\_

What are your updates (career, family, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Insider Information*

For general information about the School of Social Work, please call (254) 710-6400, fax (254) 710-6455 or visit [www.Baylor.edu/Social\\_Work](http://www.Baylor.edu/Social_Work).

To e-mail any member of the faculty or staff, use first name, underscore and last name followed by @baylor.edu; e.g. [Krista\\_Barrett@baylor.edu](mailto:Krista_Barrett@baylor.edu).

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