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Dear Alumni and Friends:

In our last issue of *Impact*, we invited you to join us for a new School of Education Homecoming game-day tradition at our new home in the renovated Marris McLean Science Building. Despite a cooler-than-expected morning, we hosted

a good crowd for breakfast burritos, hot chocolate and a tour of the building – all of which garnered rave reviews.



This new tradition is part of a bigger effort to better connect with you through a comprehensive communications and alumni relations strategy. So we are delighted to announce

Meg Cullar (BA '82) has joined the School of Education family as the Director of Communications to help us refine and implement that strategy. Many of you may recognize Meg's name from *The Baylor Line*, where Meg was news editor for many years. We are excited Meg will now bring her considerable professional skills, expertise

and sense of Baylor history to work with our alumni and friends and to share the School's many stories. If you have ideas about how we can connect more effectively, I encourage you to communicate directly with Meg at Meg_Cullar@baylor.edu.

I would also like to thank SOE alumna Susan Josephs (BA '73, MEd '77), who during the last year stepped in as a part-time staff member to address a number of communication, alumni relations and technology needs. Susan's work helped us articulate and demonstrate the value of focusing human resources on this critical area. We are grateful for Susan's exceptional work, which has provided a strong foundation for future developments.

For Homecoming 2014, we will again host something special – either a tailgate lunch or a breakfast, depending on game time – at Marris McLean Science. So please plan to join us on Nov. 1, 2014, and in the meantime, let's keep in touch.

Jon M. Engelhardt
Dean, School of Education



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THE BAYLOR

FROM ACTION COMES IMPACT



In the F¹IRST PERSON



I enrolled in graduate school at Baylor University immediately after receiving my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from The University of New Mexico, and a new type of learning began to shape my life forever. I learned what it meant to be “called” to a profession. I learned something that I had taken for granted my entire life, the word “teach.” Baylor University allowed me to look inside myself and find innate abilities that would propel me into the field of education with the spirit to do everything in my power to teach others.

After graduating with a master’s, I was excited to begin my teaching career and accepted a job with the Waco Independent School District as a third grade teacher in a Professional Development School. I was very confident the preparation I received from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction had prepared me for my new position. As soon as I was able, Baylor allowed me the opportunity to serve as a mentor to teacher candidates. I saw many of my former professors at my school on a daily basis. I was inspired by how Dr. Larry Browning, Dr. Betty Conaway, Dr. Barbara Purdum-Cassidy and other instructors were able to transfer educational theories into practical classroom application. In my third year of teaching, I was awarded Elementary Teacher of the Year for Waco ISD. This was a great honor and one for which I will always be thankful.



Aiyana Henry
(MSED '02, EdD '12)



“MY PROFESSORS
CHALLENGED ME TO ASK
DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AND
PREPARED ME WITH THE SKILL
SET TO FIND THE ANSWERS.”

As I continued my teaching career, I began to think, “Where can I have the most impact on our future generations?” The answer that I came up with – preparing teachers. I looked no further than Baylor University to pursue my doctoral degree.

The motto for the Baylor University School of Education is: *Preparing Leaders, Impacting the World, Shaping the Future*. This was exactly what I wanted to do and what had been modeled for me by professors at Baylor. Once I enrolled in this rigorous program, I was provided many leadership and teaching opportunities. My professors challenged me to ask difficult questions and prepared me with the skill set to find the answers. During my third year in the program I was awarded Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor for Social Sciences.

After receiving my doctorate and spending one year as a Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor at Baylor, I was offered a position with the University of Oklahoma as Assistant Professor and Elementary Education Program Coordinator of the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education. I believe my educational experiences and plethora of teaching responsibilities at Baylor are largely responsible for my newly acquired position.

I will be forever indebted to Baylor University and the School of Education for the guidance and preparation I obtained. With this background and the Lord’s guidance, I am ready to prepare my own leaders, impact the world and shape the future of others.

For information about the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, visit baylor.edu/SOE/ci.

WEB extra: To see comments from some of Dr. Henry’s professors, please visit www.baylor.edu/SOE/impact.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HUMAN PERFORMANCE, AND RECREATION: Baylor Master of Public Health Program (MPH) Accredited

by Eva Doyle

The School of Education's Master of Public Health Program in HHPR was recently accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. This milestone strengthened the program as a career option for students.

Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention.¹ Because students in Baylor's program combine traditional public health knowledge with competencies of a health education specialist, they are particularly effective in developing population-based health assessment, research and intervention programs. They often express appreciation for Baylor's strong community-based training and opportunities to integrate faith into their careers.



Meagan Young helps out at HHPR's Church Under the Bridge Health Fair. Meagan is now a clinical care coordinator for the International Rescue Committee.

"Baylor's program...is equipping me with academic, spiritual and social skills for serving communities with health needs."
– Jasmin Sumrall, MPH candidate '15

"There are so many opportunities to connect with the community and practice what I am learning in class in a real-life setting." – Berlian Jeffery, BS '12, MPH candidate '14

"The MPH program at Baylor gave me the opportunity to pursue a global emphasis in health education. My professors were very supportive, and I gained cultural understanding and cross-cultural health education skills through hands-on experience in and out of the classroom."
– Meagan Young, BSEd '07, MPH '13

"Baylor has faculty that truly care about their students and actively work to put them on the road to success."
– Jennifer Moore, BSEd '09, MPH '11

For more information about this exciting program, please contact Dr. Eva Doyle (Eva_Doyle@baylor.edu) or visit our website at baylor.edu/SOE/hhpr/mph.

¹Association of Schools of Public Health. (n.d.). What is public health? From <http://www.whatispublichealth.org/what/index.html>. Retrieved October 31, 2013.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY: Tracey Sulak Joins Faculty as Lecturer

This fall, the Educational Psychology Department welcomed Dr. Tracey Sulak (PhD '12) as a full-time lecturer in special education. Dr. Sulak and her family moved to Waco from Fort Worth in 2005 and have been actively involved in the Waco community. Her husband, Jed, owns an engineering firm in town and their two children, Nicole and Caleb, attend China Spring schools.

Dr. Sulak began her education at the University of Houston, where she graduated with a BA in English. After receiving certification in Early Childhood–12th Grade Special Education, she continued her education at the University of North Texas, earning an MSEd in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in gifted education. Dr. Sulak received her PhD in Educational Psychology at Baylor in 2012 and served as a teacher of record for the department throughout her doctoral program.

As a graduate student, she published studies on Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder,

parenting, disabilities in higher education and topics related to individual differences and disabilities education. Her current interest in math education and struggling learners is creating opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student research and grant writing.



When she is not teaching, researching and writing, Dr. Sulak enjoys riding horses, road biking, reading and teaching enrichment courses for gifted and talented students in China Spring. Her interests also include camping and hiking with her family and their many pets.

For more information, visit the SOE Department of Educational Psychology at baylor.edu/SOE/edp.

Dr. Tracey Sulak is training Lotto – one of two horses that she owns – for western riding.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION:

School of Education Hosts Administrator Appreciation Day

Dr. Marty Crawford (BSEd '96) recently faced an ordeal most educators have never imagined. Crawford is Superintendent of West Independent School District, which lost three of its four schools in an April 17, 2013, fertilizer plant explosion.

During Baylor's sixth-annual Administrator Appreciation Day, hosted by the Department of Educational Administration on October 30, Crawford told fellow school administrators about the challenges – and blessings – he's experienced.

The West explosion destroyed the intermediate school, only 200 yards away from the explosion site, but it could have been worse. "If we had been in school, we would have had a hard time getting students and staff out before it was engulfed," Crawford said.

Dr. Mary Ann Jordan (BA '70), program director for the Principal Certification Preparation Program, said the annual event provides camaraderie and a well deserved "thank you" (including some impressive door prizes) for administrators in the Region 12 Service Center area. "The day is set aside to show gratitude for the sometimes thankless jobs school administrators perform each day," Jordan said.

Dean Jon Engelhardt welcomed 90 participants, who also heard from Rita Pintavalle, president-elect of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, and attorney Kent McKeever,

who serves at-risk populations.

Dr. Robert Cloud (BS '65, MSPE '66, EdD '69), chair of the Department of Educational Administration, led a panel discussion with four newly appointed school administrators who are Baylor graduates – Brandon Cope (BA '04, MSED '12), Jacob Donnell (MSEd '12), Gwendy Morgan (MSEd '12) and Stephanie Zamora (BA '06, MSED '10).



Dr. Marty Crawford and Dr. Mary Ann Jordan

Jordan said the principal preparation MSED program boasts a 100 percent graduation rate and 100 percent pass rate on the certification exam. For more information, contact her at MaryAnn_Jordan@baylor.edu or 254-710-6107.

ELMER AVELLANEDA'S SUCCESS STORY:

Scholarships Provide a Pathway to Opportunity

by Derek Smith

Elmer Avellaneda (BSEd '09) had the ambition, talent and determination to pursue his calling as an educator. But as the son of undocumented immigrants who raised four children on a janitor's salary, Elmer also needed a helping hand.

"I worked my way through Baylor," Elmer remembers. "But when I came, I knew I couldn't do it on my own." Because of his family's immigration status, Avellaneda was unable to receive federal aid. "Baylor saw something in me, and I was able to receive scholarships that made it possible. Baylor took a chance on me and I am so thankful."

Today, Elmer is an Associate Principal

at Corsicana (Texas) High School, a remarkable elevation for someone who started out as a Special Education teacher just four years ago. He credits the lessons driven home by his parents – his father took him to his work and said, "This is what you'll be doing if you don't get an education" – and his teachers in Crawford, Texas, and at Baylor.

"They instilled in me the power of education and how education can change a family, change a person, change a life," Elmer said. "It took Baylor to get me where I am today. It's hard to express

how grateful I am for people who provided my scholarships. It's deep in my heart. There's no way we can know how many lives are touched because of their gift."

Your gift can provide opportunities for future Baylor students. To learn more about how you can support Baylor School of Education students, visit baylor.edu/SOE/give.

IMPACT TOMORROW

Consider establishing your own or contributing to an existing endowed scholarship fund at Baylor's School of Education.

Please contact Blake Harris for more information.

Blake_Harris@baylor.edu
(254) 710-8475 or 800-BAYLOR-U, option 4



Blake Harris

The *Baylor Impact* is published four times a year by the School of Education at Baylor University to inform alumni and friends of the ongoing work and contributions of the School, its students, graduates, faculty, staff, and programs.

Our cover story was a result of feedback from readers like you. If you know of a story connected to Baylor's School of Education that needs to be told, please let us know about it. Your story might be our next feature. Send your ideas and comments to Doug Rogers, editor, BaylorImpact@baylor.edu.



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