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Dear Alumni and Friends:

Some of us remember when the words “collaboration” or “collaborator” had negative connotation – think Alger Hiss and “collaborating with the enemy.” Today it is quite a different story. The bywords of progress in the 21st Century are

“collaboration” and “partnership.” Indeed, many important issues we address as a society are today best done by working together with others.

Recently, several of the School’s collaborative efforts have resulted in affirmations and accolades:

- Waco’s Family Health Center, which has served needy Waco families for a half century or more, has joined forces with the SOE community health faculty and other Baylor faculty to pursue important research questions aimed at improving public health.
- As you know, our teacher education program includes extensive supervised field experiences designed and implemented in collaboration with our professional partners in local public

schools. As part of our accreditation process, 14 of our 17 educator preparation programs have been nationally recognized by relevant professional societies for their excellence.

- A Texas consortium dedicated to research on and evaluation of educator-preparation programs has recognized our collaborative efforts to network Waco-area K-12 superintendents. (This same organization has also recognized our clinical preparation program for secondary teachers in area schools, a unique approach to teaching science content to elementary teachers – developed by SOE faculty – and five pre-service teachers nominated by Baylor. More on this story when “official” announcements are made later this year.)

In this issue of *Impact*, we share other important initiatives that demonstrate the power of collaboration in transformative educational experiences for School of Education students – the power of internships, cross-disciplinary teaching, and working with international partners for missional and research purposes.

Jon M. Engelhardt
Dean, School of Education



impact **THE BAYLOR** impact

FROM ACTION COMES IMPACT



In the F¹IRST PERSON



I always dreamed of a career in the NFL, and thanks to my education at Baylor, I'm finally living my dream. Initially, I wanted to become a professional athlete, but when that opportunity wasn't afforded to me, I sought out other alternatives to reach my goal. I have been blessed to work for the Miami Dolphins Football Organization as a scout since shortly after graduating with my master's degree in sport management under the guidance and direction of Dr. Jeffrey Petersen in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation. I firmly believe that I can apply what I learned at Baylor – both on the field and in the classroom – to make an impact in the NFL.

I started at Baylor in 2006 as a football student-athlete. I wanted a career in football, whether it was as a coach or player, so I pursued a degree in education with a minor in corporate communication. When I finished in 2010, I still had a year of eligibility, so I took graduate classes in sport management in HHPR. I decided to forego the NFL draft and finish the master's degree.

I especially loved every class I took with Dr. Petersen – from facilities management to sports marketing. Dr. Peterson, Dr. Blair Browning in communications, and Dr. Marshall Magnusen – who taught sport psychology – were among the professors who motivated and inspired me to go the extra mile and never settle for mediocrity.

One of the most important skills I honed at Baylor was my writing ability. As an NFL scout, I write a lot of scouting reports on college and professional players, painting the picture of a player with my words. If I didn't have the skills to eloquently describe each player, I wouldn't be effective in what I do.

Baylor has an elite program both academically and athletically. I was

fortunate to have in my corner people like Art Briles, Brian Norwood, Odell James, Chris Achuff, and Kaz Kazadi. After my eligibility was up, Coach Briles gave me the chance to stay with the football program. Working with Jeff Barlow and Brett Bufton as the team's assistant in equipment management, I learned what really goes on behind the scenes preparing for game day.

That year, Robert Griffin III was up for the Heisman, so we had scouts coming in every day. Interacting with those guys made me realize scouting was a career I wanted to pursue. I was fortunate that Baylor coach Jeff Leiby was friends with a national scout for the Miami Dolphins and told him about my interest. Later, I was asked to send a résumé. I then received a call to interview for a position with the Dolphins. Two days later, I got the job.

“ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS I HONED AT BAYLOR WAS MY WRITING ABILITY...IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE SKILLS TO ELOQUENTLY DESCRIBE EACH PLAYER, I WOULDN'T BE EFFECTIVE IN WHAT I DO.”

This will be my second year going through an NFL draft and, during the season, I had the responsibility and title of Northeast Area Scout. I scouted collegiate players in a seven-state area in the Northeast. I love helping the Dolphins look for the right talent – and, most importantly, the right *fit* – for our team.

If I were an NFL player, I'm sure I would love it. But with my Dolphins colleagues, I experience the same brotherhood, loyalty, and passion for winning that I experienced while competing for Baylor. We trust each other, and loyalty is number one.

So, I am indeed living my dream, and the academic preparation I received from Baylor's School of Education made it all possible. Sic 'em!

WEB *extra*

To see comments from some of Chris's professors – and Coach Art Briles – visit www.baylor.edu/SOE/impact.



EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY:

Graduate Students Study Abroad in Costa Rica

Sixteen graduate students from the School of Education and the School of Social Work will travel to Costa Rica in May with Educational Psychology professors Dr. Terrill Saxon and Dr. Tamara Hodges.

"We've had both master's and doctoral students go from multiple disciplines," Saxon said. "It's a very customizable experience."

During the two-week stay, the Baylor group will study the differences between Costa Rica's public and private schools, conduct additional research, and earn credit for a multicultural studies and education course. They will also zip line, kayak, visit indigenous reservations, and come in contact with Costa Rica's vast biodiversity.

Last year, Baylor helped the Mangrove Reforestation Project, a Neotropica Foundation initiative, to educate citizens about protecting the environment. Despite the 5 a.m. wakeup call and boot-sinking mud, the experience has become the group's newest tradition. Last summer's students raced the clock to plant shoreline trees before the tide came in. They dug holes along the shore, formed a fast-moving assembly line, and planted more than 100, 15-pound saplings to help with the desalination of surrounding plants.

Students will conduct research by observing special education services and surveying Costa Rican educators this mini semester. In the past, students researched the use of educational technology,

youth resilience, and domestic violence, with some publishing their work in professional journals.

Now in its sixth year, the program exposes SOE students to different cultures and educational practices, ultimately contributing to their professional careers, Saxon said.

"We're busy from sunup to sundown, and we get every bit we can out of people," Saxon said. "They come back exhausted, but I think they all have a great experience." – *Briana Rojas*



School Psychology graduate student Trudy Bender in Costa Rica

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION:

New PhD for Higher Education Leaders Launches this Fall

A new PhD program will launch this fall in the Department of Educational Administration. The Higher Education Studies and Leadership PhD will be a four-year degree requiring 70 hours of coursework, a dissertation, and an apprenticeship.

"The program is tailored specifically for students who want to be in a leadership role in higher education as a graduate faculty member or senior administrator," said Dr. Rishi Sriram, assistant professor and graduate program director. The degree requires three years of residency, Sriram said, because future

leaders need to be totally immersed in a university setting. A 20-hour-per-week apprenticeship is a key component of the experience, he said.

"We have developed unique, innovative partnerships for the apprenticeships, and we will find the right fit for each student," Sriram said. Opportunities will include on-campus internships at University Athletics, Baylor Press, the Baylor Graduate School, Baylor Libraries, and the School of Education, along with an opportunity to work in the president's office at McLennan Community College in Waco. More opportunities will be added as the program grows.

Dr. Robert C. Cloud, chair of Educational Administration, said the program allows Baylor to serve other institutions. "Both our sister religious institutions and public colleges and universities need our graduates," he said. "It is a wonderful opportunity for us to prepare leaders with integrity for all sectors of higher education."

Sriram said, "The days of faculty members serving short stints as senior administrators are over. After three years, they would just begin to understand the job. We are intentionally preparing leaders for such roles."

Dr. Perry Glanzer, professor of Educational Administration, will coordinate the program, which was built through collaboration with Baylor, the School of Education, the Graduate School, and various partners. – *Meg Cullar*



Dr. Perry Glanzer (left) and Dr. Rishi Sriram

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION: From Ideas to Action



Lauryn Kirkhart, TA at Parkdale PDS Elementary School

Elementary children can have a voice in improving their community. A project developed by School of Education professors encourages elementary students to share their ideas about active citizenship.

Using “Connecting Content through Action Civics,” kindergarteners through fifth-graders identify a topic of interest, learn research methods, survey others, organize data, write a persuasive letter, and develop an advocacy presentation. Student topics have included veterans, bullying, animal rescue, homelessness, and recycling.

Baylor juniors are leading the project as part of their field experience as Teaching Associates (TAs) in Waco-area schools. A major benefit of the program, said Dr. Karon LeCompte, assistant professor of Curriculum and Instruction, is that it integrates social studies with language arts curriculum.

“The elementary students are not just learning something, they are change-agents,” LeCompte said. “They learn how to make a difference, and that leads to active citizenship.” Faculty members directing the program include Dr. Barbara Purdum-Cassidy, Dr. Leanne Howell, and Dr. Mary Witte.

Jordan Barlow, a TA who taught fifth-graders last semester, said her students became truly invested in their project about two World War II veterans – Wacoan Doris Miller and Vic Lively,

a Pearl Harbor survivor still living in Slocum, Texas. They decided that Lively, like Miller, needed a monument, so they wrote letters to the Slocum mayor and created a clay model of the proposed monument.

“They learned about bravery and honor, and honestly, they became slightly obsessed with these soldiers’ stories,” Barlow said. Her students’ pre-project letter writing left much to be desired, she said. “But at the end, I had six beautifully written letters about a subject the students grew to love.”

As they work, Baylor TAs are collecting data with a focus on creating better citizens and better writers. Baylor professors will present and publish research on the results. – Meg Cullar

To see the projects of elementary students, visit blogs.baylor.edu/connectingcontent.

HAROLD AND MIRIAM SPANGLER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP: Inspired by a Passion for Education

Throughout 41 years of marriage, Harold (BBA '54) and Miriam Spangler built a partnership of sharing their blessings with others. Harold, an engineer at United Space Alliance, and Miriam, a math teacher who spent 39 years in Houston ISD schools, influenced countless individuals through their vocational service and personal generosity.



Miriam and Harold Spangler in 2008

Harold passed away last year after a battle with Parkinson’s Disease, but his memory lives on through the educators he and Miriam helped along the way. Nearly 60 students in the School of Education have benefited from the Harold and Miriam Spangler Endowed Scholarship since the couple established the gift, reflecting their love for Baylor and passion for education.

“Harold was a good man, a kind man,” Miriam said. “People helped him along the way, and people helped me along the way. He wanted to do something to make sure that other kids would have the opportunity to get an education.”

That selfless generosity ensures that Harold and Miriam’s legacy will live on in perpetuity, and the lives they impact will touch countless others throughout schools nationwide. Miriam has also imparted a charge to many of those recipients.

“I would always tell them, ‘When you get into the real world, remember where you started – that somebody gave you a chance.’ Hopefully, they’ll help someone down the road,” Miriam said.

“Many people helped us achieve our goals,” she said. “This scholarship is a way to help others achieve theirs.” – Derek Smith

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.

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Blake Harris

The *Baylor Impact* is published 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.

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 Meg Cullar, editor, BaylorImpact@baylor.edu.



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