New Program Advances SOE

by Wesley Null

With a long history of preparing highly effective teachers for Texas schools, the Baylor School of Education is undertaking the logical next step—the preparation of faculty who will provide leadership for teacher education at other institutions.

Approved on Feb. 13, 2009, Baylor SOE’s new PhD in Curriculum and Teaching program will prepare graduates for university-based leadership in the field of curriculum and teaching. PhD graduates will serve as university faculty members who conduct research, prepare teachers, and perform all duties necessary to thrive as university faculty members.

“I feel that I need to give myself all the opportunities that I can to grow and extend my knowledge of curriculum and teaching,” Mark Montgomery, PhD candidate says. “For this reason, I chose to enter into the PhD in Curriculum and Teaching program to better prepare myself for a future university position as a mathematics educator.”

The SOE’s program is distinctive in the way it integrates Baylor’s historic Christian commitment. Students are taught to integrate theory, practice, and faith in all aspects of their work. All PhD students complete coursework that addresses how faith impacts the field.

Students in Baylor’s program will specialize in a field such as literacy, mathematics education, English education, science education, social studies education, foundations of education, or moral education. The program enrolled its first students in summer and fall 2009.

For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/soe/ct/ or email Wesley_Null@baylor.edu.

Connecting with Students
Back to the Future: Faculty Find Home in Campus Residence Halls

By Courtney Dale Norwood

Reserve and replenish, that’s what we do when it rains, and to keep up with the demands of providing excellence inside and out of the classroom, we rely on our ‘rainy day fund’ to help along the way.

Summer is a time when we send students abroad to places such as Brazil, or to provide community health projects and share Christ. Making ends meet for these trips can be tricky, and for extra support, we look to our rainy day fund.

For students, professional conferences provide invigorating opportunities that enhance a Baylor education. Traveling to these conferences can be burdensome. To lighten the load, we look to our rainy day fund.

Our commitment to excellent education within the classroom often includes a dependence on technology. When we need to upgrade, we go to our rainy day fund.

Much like our faculty and students, our rainy day fund—better known as the School of Education’s Excellence Fund—must be replenished continually. In fact, recently you may have received a call from a Baylor student asking you to help replenish the School of Education’s Excellence Fund.

Perhaps “faculty living in the residence halls” sounds like a foreign idea, however, the earliest colonial colleges were built on the English model where faculty were intimately involved in all aspects of their students’ education, including living with them on campus. Baylor Professor Albert H. Newman and his wife lived with students in Georgina Burleson Hall, which served as a women’s residence hall when it opened in 1888.

During the past five years, Baylor’s faculty-in-residence initiative encouraged the return of faculty to residential life. Seven faculty members now call residence halls home. Dr. T. Lane Scales, professor of educational administration and associate dean of graduate studies and professional development, and her family moved into Kokernot Residence Hall in 2009.

Kimberly Gibson, a Kokernot resident from College Station, Texas, notes, “It is a brilliant idea to connect students personally with Baylor faculty in a comfortable setting. I have enjoyed getting to know Dr. Scales and her family through invitations to talk in their home, to attend book club discussions, and to take group trips to the theatre. The experience has been wonderful.”

By Loeen Irons and Dr. Beth Lanning

While the country pours millions of dollars and hours of education into prevention messages—“Keep your doors and windows locked.” “Always park in well-lit areas.” — sexual assault and sexual abuse continues to occur.

Community Health faculty Beth Lanning and Loeen Irons received a grant from the Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children to develop primary prevention programming aimed at preventing assaults and eliminating circumstances that create abusers.

Using guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control, Baylor researchers conducted group interviews in Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan counties. Graduate students Brittany Davenexce and Emily Spangler rendered transcripts from each group.

When asked why sexual abuse/assault occurs in one’s county, participants revealed a number of issues in their responses:

• “Because within that culture abuse of women is tolerated.”
• “Because children in our county do not understand when to say no.”
• “Because predators in our county find ways to be involved in unsupervised child care.”

Compiled data fuels two initiatives. One targets young men in fraternities and in athletics, emphasizing that men are key to prevention. The second initiative reviews two areas counties to talk about cultural norms which influence and model behaviors within communities. Sometimes, cultural norms perpetuate sexual assault/abuse by reinforcing community member beliefs about traditional gender roles, power, violence or privacy. Example: The cultural norm “Boys will be boys” frequently is used to excuse abusive behavior.

The project’s goal is to equip the Advocacy Center with data and programs to enhance primary prevention strategies.

Impact Tomorrow

Discover more about ways to assist students or programs in the Baylor School of Education by contacting Cody Knowlton, senior executive director for university development, at Cody.Knowlton@baylor.edu (254) 710-2561 or 800-BAYLOR-U, option 4.

“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 programs, faculty, staff, students, and graduates. 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.”

By courtney Dale

Rainy Day Fund Sustains Many SOE Opportunities

“Thank you” to those who supported this fund. Because of you, our students are building upon their calling through a Baylor education, and we hope others will join with you.

If you are interested in supporting the School of Education’s Excellence Fund, make your gift online at www.baylor.edu/give. For more detailed information about how you can support the School of Education, contact Cody Knowlton at 254-710-2561 or Cody.Knowlton@baylor.edu.