

Goodbye. BC has given me a place to invest myself in the work of immigrant integration, developing policy, and building the field of social work with immigrants. With this investment of heart and mind comes a tough goodbye. This has been a chapter in the many chapters of my life that I would not have missed writing. The pages turned quickly and I have loved the bright doctoral students finding questions that need scholarly answers. The classroom has been rich in opening minds to the impact that real folks, any of us, can have on society and individuals migrating toward hope. The expeditionary courses I led in England, Brussels, France, and Italy were exciting educational experiences, and I watched students get infected with a desire to know how to help the teeming masses yearning to breathe free. At the Southern border, we did not build walls but sought to become bridges, embracing the work of justice, of combining law and social work with faithful human engagement. What an honor it has been to share these moments and to build on them with initiatives like exporting our commitment to interdisciplinary teams of law and social work serving the whole person to Chile and elsewhere.

Creating a first-of-its-kind initiative to focus on the practice of immigrant integration, the role of professionals in helping newcomers navigate new homelands and achieve their hopes of a secure life with economic, civic, and social well-being is work that springs from my core belief in the value of social policy and social work.

Across the country today are public servants who passed through my life as social work students—now in roles at ORR, LIRS, USCIS, Department of State, statehouses, think tanks, military bases, VOLAGS, NGO's and local advocacy organizations. What matters when I close this office door is them and their impact.

My thanks to the wonderful student editors who created this newsletter issue after issue. Good students teach their teachers, and these editors pushed the issues, discovering for themselves—and our readers—the world of immigrant integration in ways simple and profound. I am enriched especially by Christina, Elizabeth, Vanessa, Krystallia, Erica, Francesca, and Abigail, along with a host of contributing editors. The archives live as a resource.

BC's motto "for others" is an apt precept for me. A child of early grief, of plenty at first and later of want, I found no easy road to happiness (nor sought it). Over time, I discovered myself in the faith community; seminary, and then a career of youth work, mission, and care of the soul. Then, developing the Boston FoodBank, and the International Institute of Boston and New Hampshire, followed by teaching at BC—and these have been wonderful because of the gratitude of my heart in finding and pursuing a life of purpose focused on human need. I have known vocation.

Now, I transition to a new address, waegmont@gmail.com, and I will be glad to be invited to speak, consult, lecture, and enjoy coffee. To the 258 million immigrants who are integrating into new countries: thank you for being my outstanding teachers.

—Westy Egmont