



# NEWSLETTER

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## MISSION

To strengthen the social sector with a talented, prepared workforce.

The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (formerly American Humanics, Inc.) is a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations dedicated to preparing and certifying future professionals for leadership in America's diverse and vital array of nonprofit enterprises.

Participation in the Alliance builds on and enhances student's major course of study at the University of Houston. At graduation, students will receive your baccalaureate degree in addition to the highly respected Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Certification and the credential of Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) in Nonprofit Management. Some students return to the university to obtain their Alliance and CNP credential certification in concert with post-baccalaureate education.

## PURPOSE

## WORDS FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As we look back upon a busy academic year, I am so impressed with the work of our NLA program and the community of support that has given us so much. The first thing that we must say is: **THANK YOU!**

Without our community of support, the David M. Underwood Chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance could not continue to evolve and excel as this unique program offered by the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston.

-Our **Alumni** are proud to be associated with the founding director, Margaret O'Donnell or MOD, whose vision and influence to develop a stronger community of "youth service professionals" and the "next generation of nonprofit leaders" through AH at UH. During AMI Phone-A-Thon, those same alumni have "answered the call" of students seeking to grow their skills and build both their AMI campaign and professional network. THANK YOU for participating in the highest grossing Alumni phone-a-thon to date!

-Our **Graduate College of Social Work** family, including Dr. Ira Colby, former dean, Dr. Paul Raffoul, outgoing dean, Connie Loyd, Director of Development, and Mary Guillory, former director of Development of Development, have all served as strong cheerleaders and advocates for this program's value to the community. Their efforts, combined with our Leadership Circle and UH Advancement staff, allow us to **meet a fundraising goal set in 2007** for this program to build up **\$2 million in endowment funds**. [See page 3 for a full list of Endowment Donors]

-Our **Leadership Circle** has continued to grow and change to embrace the needs of our NLA program. Under the new leadership of Mary Beth Staine, former Junior League President and Bo's Place Executive Director, and the watchful counsel of Flo McGee, founder of the Leadership Circle, this dedicated group of community volunteers and nonprofit leaders help guide the vision, share the story, and grow support for this program. It is their dedication that helped us to keep working toward our endowment goal and our place as a source to grow leaders for the social sector.

-Our **Students** are the reason we continue to pursue this vision for the future. With a wonderfully diverse array of majors (business, music, human development and family studies, communication disorders, hotel and restaurant management, sociology, liberal studies and more), the UH NLA students continue to set the standards high for themselves, their instructors, their internship supervisors, and our team. With CNP alumni like **Jennifer Battle**, **Roberta Leal**, and **Amber Rangel** as guides, these students embrace a future for this chapter that carries great promise.

Please read through the next page to see both defining milestones that have been achieved on behalf of this program along with the newest opportunities that our Chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) has been awarded.



- **Melanie Barr Fitzpatrick, MSW** | NLA Program Director

## MILESTONES ALONG THE JOURNEY OF OUR PROGRAM



**2011-12** The program's name transitioned to match the national name change to **Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA)** from American Humanics (AH). Alumni of the program begin to claim their **Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) credential**.

**Melanie Barr Fitzpatrick** took over the legacy of Margaret O'Donnell (MOD) and Lori Godwin as program director.



**2013-14** NLA program celebrated its **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** at University of Houston, recognizing both the founding year of 1993 and founding director MOD's vision for a Center for Youth Service Professionals.

**Mary Beth Staine**, Executive Director of Bo's Place, becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair of the Leadership Circle, formed by Flo McGee to support the efforts of AH and, later, NLA.



**2014-15** The **NLA endowment campaign** achieves its **\$2 million goal**, insuring the permanence of this program at the University and key support for annual operations. This major milestone is reached with the support of the NLA Leadership Circle, GCSW outgoing dean, Ira Colby, Development Directors Connie Loyd and, previously, Mary Guillory, UH Advancement staff, and our dear friends, David M. Underwood and Flo McGee. We are so pleased that the **Fondren Foundation** were the first and last donations of this campaign.



**2015-16** **AFP Collegiate Chapter** at UH will be revived with NLA students at the helm under the guidance of **Amber Rangel, CNP**, Program Coordinator.

**AMI 2016** will be hosted in **Houston, Texas** for some 400-500 NLA students from across the nation seeking to be "Certified to Change the World." Houston-area nonprofit experts and agencies will be highlighted during the workshops and case study site visits during the first week in January.



## UH CNPs (ALUMNI) AT A GLANCE

### EDUCATION

**50%** of CNPs attend Graduate School  
**4%** go on in search of their **PhD**  
**4%** hold a **CFRE**, a Fundraising credential  
**22%** sought a different type of **Certification**

### EMPLOYMENT

**76%** Full time  
**3%** Part time  
**21%** Seeking higher education

### SECTOR

**56%** Social (*Government, Nonprofit, etc.*)  
**7%** Profit  
**20%** "Other" (*self-employment, consultation, etc.*)

### VOLUNTEERISM

**51%** Volunteer  
**50** agencies have CNP volunteers  
**13%** serve on a Nonprofit Board

The CNP credential in Nonprofit Management is made up of four major components including: courses, leadership and service learning, attendance to the national conference, and a 480-hr internship. NLSA is a breeding ground for future CNPs to learn how to put things in action as a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP).

From networking, programmatic planning, to creating committees, students organize various modules that ultimately turn into certification requirements for all NLA students.

Meet who is behind the scenes with *planning, leadership* and *ensuring success* to this program....



**Tasmina Dhanani**  
President

*Human Development & Family Studies Major*



**Nisa Ali**  
Vice President

*Communication Sciences & Disorders Major*



**Le'ah Yarber**  
Treasurer

*Communications Major*



**Rui (Summer) Xia**  
Secretary

*Accounting & Finance Major*



**Christie Bennett**  
Historian

*Sociology Major*



**Maria Huerta**  
Marketing & Membership Officer

*Liberal Studies Major*



**Brittany Young**  
Community Outreach & Alumni Liaison

*Marketing Major*



**Nicole Richardson**  
Career Development Institute (CDI) Officer

*English Major*



**Erica Faris**

Fall Retreat Officer




**Elizabeth Wheeler**

Fundraising Officer

*Art History Major*

During the Summer of 2014, NLSA Officers decided upon a theme for the 2014-15 year: **COMMUNITY**.

See how that has evolved on our Social Media Outlets:

uh.edu/socialwork/nonprofitleaders  
 @UH\_NonprofitLDR

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

My name is Ashley Dorsett, I am a junior at the University of Houston majoring in Human Development and Family Studies with a certification in Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA). I joined NLA in 2014 because I was interested in the gaining more knowledge about the nonprofit sector as well as learn how to network with alumni and the Houston community. When I joined NLA I was immediately drawn to the **COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**.

This committee is designed to create site visits for the program and networks with nonprofit professionals (including our alumni), something I knew that I would excel in. So far, I have helped put together two site visits: one at The Women's Home in December and one at Ten Thousand Villages in February. Through this, I have seen the NLA program competencies in action and am confident that this



knowledge can take me above and beyond as a future CNP.

The Community Outreach Committee has also helped me improve my leadership, communication, and networking skills. NLA is a group of diverse individuals where everyone brings different characteristics to the table in order to help each other excel as future CNP's. Being a part of the Community Outreach has given me the motivation and encouragement I need to continue on with NLA. Community Outreach makes it possible for people to come to together and work together. This experience has also made me more aware of the problems in our community and has strengthened my determination to change, shape and improve our communities' environments.

- Ashley Dorsett,  
*Human Development & Family Studies Major*

## Where did we go in 2014-15?

- Volunteer Houston
- The Women's Home
- Open Door Mission
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Harbach Ripley (NCI)
- Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston



# FALL 2014: FALL WORKSHOP SERIES & ANNUAL RETREAT

The **FALL WORKSHOP SERIES** was a crucial milestone in my undergraduate career because of the invaluable knowledge I received. I learned about the meaning of philanthropy and the fundraising process, case for support, and the different strategies used to solicit funds. I was able to learn these concepts not just through lecture, but also by having the opportunity to incorporate them into my own fundraising efforts for AMI 2015. This knowledge not only assisted me in creating my personal case for support, but also allowed me to experience the joy of knowing that various individuals believe in my professional development and are invested in my success.

To me, this was a point of great personal and professional growth because I would have otherwise not experienced this process or practiced the accompanying courage and skills needed were it not for the workshops. These concepts are building blocks all future CNPs must grasp because in any position you hold in a nonprofit organization, your work will be united with the organization's development efforts. I have learned that a great nonprofit organization has a culture of philanthropy, therefore all employees become advocates and essentially, fundraisers for the organization.

As a future CNP, I will apply this knowledge to the Nonprofit Sector by taking these concepts I applied to myself and applying them to the organizations I will work for. I will have the skill to identify and cultivate potential prospects, build a case for support, solicit funds, and steward all donors.

Regardless of the specific organizational role that I may have in the future, I feel confident in my ability to incorporate my knowledge learned from these workshops with any organization's culture of philanthropy. I am glad to have attended these workshops, as I feel that the ability to learn and put my skills in practice has been my most rewarding experience thus far.

- Carolina Aguilar,  
Communication Sciences & Disorders Major,  
American Sign Language Minor



## Fall 2014 Workshop Topics

**Making the Ask**  
with Dini Spheris

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**Grant Writing & Board Roles**  
with Jeff Stys

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**Personal & Professionalism**  
with Ronnie Hagerty, United Way of Greater Houston

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**Governance & Advocacy**  
with David Lopez, YMCA of Greater Houston



**Team Building Facilitator:**  
Anthony Rivera, CNP



**FALL RETREAT** was actually the first event I attended after joining the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA), and what a great way to begin my journey!

Volunteer Houston humbly opened their doors to us and provided us with a great environment for learning. We began the morning by learning more about the NLA and the requirements for completion of the program. I found this very helpful and am sure I would have been very confused without it. Ms. Ashley Francis, the Intern Program Manager at Volunteer Houston, then spoke about her background in the nonprofit sector as well as a description of Volunteer Houston's mission and vision.

This was really my first glance into the professional opportunities the nonprofit sector could provide. Hearing Ms. Francis speak really got me fired-up and excited about my future as a CNP. Through the day, we also learned how to network effectively. This made the whole idea of networking a lot less anxiety provoking and intimidating. I was even able to network with a few professionals as well as my fellow students after the training.

We wrapped up the day by engaging in some team-building exercises led by an NLA alumnae, Mr. Anthony Rivera. This was a really great opportunity for me to get to know some of the other students in the program and made me feel very welcome. Fall Retreat was a great way for me to learn more about what career in the nonprofit sector would have to offer.

Fall Retreat was a great experience and I am so thankful to have attended.

- Katie Boerke,  
Marketing Major



A Special **THANK YOU**  
to **Volunteer Houston** for the space





# ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (AMI) & FUND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES



Each Spring NLA students engage in an 8-week long workshop series to learn about **FUND DEVELOPMENT** with Dini Spheris. Through this time, students gain a working knowledge on not only what fundraising is, but what it takes.

Through topics such as: building a case for support, donor research, "Making the Ask", learning ethics and stewardship to mention, students gain a comprehensive foundation to jumpstart their careers as Certified Nonprofit Professionals (CNPs).

At the completion of the spring series, students were able to simulate a professional presentation and deliver a pitch for their prospects in front of their peers and alumni from their preselected agencies.

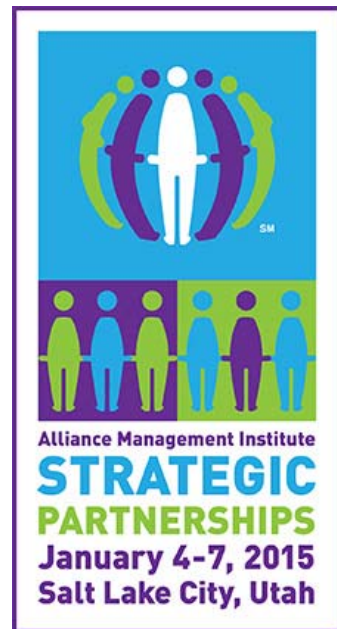
The **AMI** experience for me began with learning about fundraising and how to make an ask. The University of Houston Nonprofit Leadership Alliance team did a great job in assisting us through the entire process. After our first meeting, where we discussed details for how much we needed to raise and deadlines, I began thinking of how to reach my contacts and what would motivate them to donate for me to attend this conference. I came up with a T-Shirt Campaign. I launched my campaign and began selling shirts. I was amazed at how many of my friends and family supported me and I ended up raising more than my goal with t-shirt sales and additional donations.

Once I arrived at the conference, **the entire experience SURPASSED my expectations.** We listened to several speakers with incredible experience and knowledge, which they shared with us. I really enjoyed listening to their stories and advice. Another exciting part of AMI was the case study. I chose to do my case study at the National Ability Center. This is an organization that provides programs to individuals of all abilities including skiing, biking, swimming, horse back riding, and much more. Our team met and began planning how we could help the National Ability Center improve one of their programs. Once we came up with a plan, we put together a presentation and at the end of the day presented our ideas to the Executive Director and her team. This was a great learning experience in teamwork and pitching ideas to a nonprofit Executive.

Another positive learning experience from AMI was meeting new people and networking. The conference did a great job at stressing the importance of networking and how to effectively connect with other nonprofit professionals.

I think AMI is overall a great experience for a future CNP and I feel as though it helped me grow professionally and personally.

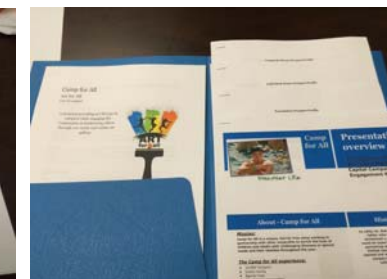
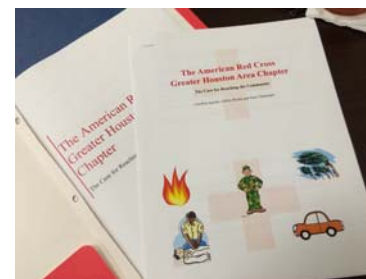
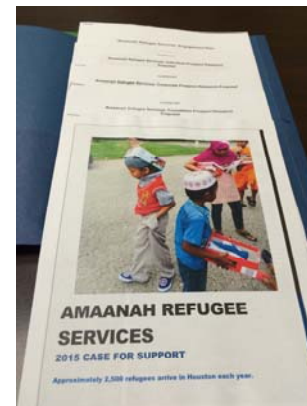
- Erin Clayton,  
Human Development & Family Studies Major



## Spring 2015 Participants

- **Amaanah Refugee Services**
  - Chelsea Balanciere
  - Katie Boerke
  - Aaliyah Cooper
  - Leola Donaldson
- **American Red Cross**
  - Carolina Aguilar
  - Ashley Boone
  - Amy Chittenden
- **Camp for All**
  - Erin Clayton
  - Domonique Hutchison
  - Diana Pineda
- **The Women's Home**
  - Kendra Atkins
  - Fatimah Bafagih
  - Ashley Dorsett
  - Nimra Haroon

A Special **THANK YOU**  
to the **Dini Spheris** team



# A PERMANENT FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



In 2007, the Leadership Circle of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA) decided that it was time to think of our longevity at the University of Houston. Thus, the campaign for a \$2 million dollar endowment arose. With this established funding, NLA will be able to offer scholarships, programmatic support, and most importantly, continue our legacy but as a permanent program at the University of Houston for many generations to come. A warm THANK YOU to all of our donors, supporters, alumni and students for embarking upon this journey with us.

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRACIOUSLY DONATED BY:

**\$100,000 and up**

Mr. David M. Underwood & Mrs. Lynda K. Underwood  
The Fondren Foundation  
The Damon Wells Foundation



**\$25,000 to \$99,999**

Mrs. Flo McGee & Mr. William K. McGee, Jr.  
Ms. Margaret S. O'Donnell & Mr. Rick Herrman  
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Ms. M. Anne Murphy & Mr. Robert Rose  
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**Up to \$100**

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**NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE**

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The David M. Underwood Chapter



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[uh.edu/socialwork/nonprofitleaders](http://uh.edu/socialwork/nonprofitleaders)



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