Letter from the Dean

Dear Social Work Graduates:

Congratulations on your graduation today from the faculty and staff at the Graduate College of Social Work. This celebration marks the end of at least two years of hard work and the beginning of a career in one of the most honorable professions in the world. We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge, not only your accomplishments, but also the support of others: parents and family members, significant others, and classmates who have helped along the way. Certainly the encouragement and counsel of Faculty and staff have also contributed to your success. Your motivation and perseverance to complete this professional degree have prepared you to be of service to those who in need, both in our society and throughout the world.

I, along with the faculty and staff of the Graduate College of Social Work, wish you every success in the coming years and we look forward to your continued support through our Graduate College of Social Work Alumni Association. We honor you today on your achievement and hope that your future is enriched through a successful and significant social work career.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D.
Interim Dean and Professor Emeritus
University of Houston  
Graduate College of Social Work  

Convocation  
Thursday, May 14, 2015, 2 p.m.  
Cullen Performance Hall  

OPENING PROCESSION  

WELCOME  
Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean and Professor Emeritus  

AWARDS  

SPEAKER  
Angela Blanchard  
President and CEO at Neighborhood Centers, Inc.  

PRESENTATION OF  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATES  

HOODING OF PH.D. CANDIDATES  

PRESENTATION OF  
M.S.W. CANDIDATES  

HOODING OF M.S.W. CANDIDATES  

CLOSING REMARKS  

RECESSIONAL
Spring 2015

Doctor of Philosophy

Mark Herrick Trahan
The Role of Paternal Self-Efficacy in Father Involvement
**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Dr. Monit Cheung

Alicia R. LaChapelle
Capping Back: A Grounded Theory on African American Adolescent Males and Emotional Self Protection
**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Dr. Susan Robbins

Melissa Irene Maldonado Torres
Latinas/os and the Sex Trade: A Qualitative Study on the Perceptions of Customers, Victims and Service Providers
**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Dr. Luis R. Torres

Ginger Silloway Gummelt
Children’s Perception of Violence: A Thematic Analysis of Students Essays
**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Dr. Monit Cheung

Roberta Marie Leal
Examining the Relationship Between Socio-Demographic Factors, Perception of Health and Physical Activity among Hispanic Adults with Comorbid Diabetes and Depression
**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Dr. W. Andrew Achenbaum

Ozge Coskun Yetistirici
Reflections of Turkish Immigrants on Their Adaptation to the United States: A Qualitative Study
**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Dr. Luis R. Torres

Fall 2014

Master of Social Work

Lujain Munir A. Alshaikh Abdallah
Oree Shirelle Anglin
Meredith Christine Atkinson
Kelly Glenn Boothe
LaQuasha Quinshell Burke
Carlos Guadalupe Diaz
Petria Christine Ellis
Jennifer Emokpaire
Daniela M. Fragoso
Whitney Janee’ Garrett
Esther Marie Garza
Angela Gomez
Jessica Narvaez Gonzalez
Deshara Latoi Goss

Samantha Hendricks
Becca Keo-Meier
Caitlin C. Lyons
Travis Macher
Alisha Johnese Matthews
Sarah Moi Mawa
Lindsay M. McCallum
Katherine Elizabeth Meserve
Ashley Monie Smalls
Olivia Ramsey
Lisa Marie Richardson
Amelia Vazquez Rivera
Le’ Teshia Rockwell
Jennifer Marie Hanson Sailor
Esmeralda Sotelo
Graduate College of Social Work
CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Spring and Summer 2015

Master of Social Work

Allison Jane Abdias
Teresa Ann Adcock
Shirley Ann Addicks
Pamela Lopez Alaniz
Sheela Monique Anderson
Carolina Arenas
Ali Ilyse Aronowitz
Michael Ator
Mooreen C. Azagidi
Angela D. Bailey
Mallory Jill Balkin
Emmanuel Ben-Edet
Alayne Kay Billingsley
Anna Elizabeth Billingsley
Robinson David Block
Ashley Brown
Franchesca Isabella Calhoun
Jensy Claude
Carolina Coronel Bertero
Ariadna Cossio
Jaysa Michele Curry
An Hoai Dang
Luana Meireles Da Silva
Kandi Rokeyssha Deshotel
Thu-Trang Thi Dinh
LaKia Cherie Dixon
Ashley Stout Duplantis
Fairly Virginia Edrington
Chinyere Yvonne Eigege
Tecelia Esters-Spence
Shay Allison Everitt
Hannah Michelle Foshee
Kristin Ann Francklow
Marisela Gomez
Candi A. Gonzalez
Allison Ann Gray

Denise Marie Greenwood
Lynn Ann Hajdik
Chrystal Hamilton-Dorelien
Andrea Harrison
Madeline Hartmann Vaughn
Rita Holliday
Holly Ann Horan
Clifford Hunter
Tabeen Karisma Islam
Rhonda Kaye Jackson
Kesha Nicole Jacobs
Anna N. Johnson
Lesa Georgette Johnson
Torey Beth Johnson
Ela Karacevic
Priscilla Patrick Kennedy
Brittany Janell Kibbe
Angela Michele Killian
Antoinette King
Lorie Owen Kosarek
Glendy Lara
David Michael Latini
Brittany Erwin Lawnin
Princess Leggington
Zachary Earl Lessig
Jennifer Lynn Lombardi
Jacki Lynn Long
Daniella Elizabeth Lopez
Zelda Martinez
Margaret Elizabeth McGuire
Rachel Mary McMillen
Yvonne Anette Mendoza
Tiara A. Mikell
Hazzel Tatiana Monterroza
Francis Marie Moreno
Diana Flores Munoz
Samantha Leigh Myers
Andre L. Napier
Graduate College of Social Work
CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Katherine A Nazaroff
Lynn Luzum Nwadei
Kellie Renee O’Quinn
Amy Marie Odin
Kendra Deneen Oglesbee
Jorge Eduardo Olvera
Michele Parker-Schauer
Jamie Patin
Courtnie M Penson
Garreth Llyod Pfennig
Jessica Poku
LaPatria R. Porter
Holly Gwynn Pryor
Meghan Aílish Quinn
Paige Nicole Reitz
Stephanie L. Robson
Matthew W Rogers
Sharee Lynn Rogers
Wythel Uvette Rogers
Tracey L. Rubio
Melissa Sanchez
Christine Marie Schieszler
Kendolyn F. Shankle
Chiquita Shenea Sherman
Wendy Shull

Ja-naé M. Simon
Ebony Ashante Sims
Yolette Lynel Sneed
Mai Spickelmier-Engel
Katie Elizabeth Stavinoha
Teshia Stevenson
Alexa Taylor
Reena Thomas
Philma Thomas Maclorraine
Constance Leigh Thompson
Kaitlin Sarah Throgmorton
Leigh Alanna Todd
Julie Katherine Troegel
Firoozeh Tuller
Pilar Valenzuela Silva
Bonnie Francene Vegiard
Xin Wang
Chandre Martell Ward
Tennille L. Whitlock
Jessica Ray Wight
Britney S. Williams
Sayra Evelyn Jimenez Williams
Grace Yah Wilson
Yen- Chun Wu
Akua Bahati Zellner
Agencies for Gerontology Intercultural Field Training Fellowship (AGIFT)

Allison Abdias
Alayne Billingsley
Kendra Oglesbee
Jorge Olvera

Barbara and Ernest Henley Endowment for Family Health Scholarship

Pilar Valenzuela Silva

Barbara Winston in honor of Katherine White Scholarship

Chinyere Eigege
Paige Reitz
Kendolyn Shankle

Child Welfare Education Project Stipend (CWEP)

Oree Shirelle Anglin
Meredith Atkinson
Jaysa Curry
Carlos Diaz
Ke’Sha Jacobs
Lesa Johnson
Angela Killian
Jennifer Lombardi
Travis Macher
Alisha Matthews
Ashley Monie Smalls
Yolette Sneed
Tennille Whitlock

Dean’s Advisory Scholarship

Sheela Anderson
Chinyere Eigege
Katherine Meserve
Teshia Stevenson
GCSW Graduate Student Worker Scholarship
Anna Johnson Meghan Quinn

The George Foundation Scholarship
Carolina Coronel Bertero

GLOBE: Training Mental and Behavioral Health Bilingual Social Workers Stipend
Luana Meireles Da Silva Sayra Jimenez Williams

GLOBE Youth: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals Stipend
Teresa Adcock Jamie Patin
Ali Aronowitz Garreth Pfennig
Anna Billingsley Holly Pryor
Jensy Claude Meghan Quinn
Ariadna Cossio Wythel Rogers
Fairly Edrington Kendolyn Shinkle
Esther Garza Chiquita Sherman
Marisela Gomez Wendy Shull
Lynn Hajdik Mai Spickelmier-Engel
Tabeen Islam Katie Stavinoha
Brittany Kibbe Teshia Stevenson
Zachary Lessig Kaitlin Throgmorton
Jacki Long Xin Wang
Daniella Lopez Jessica Wight
Andre Napier Yen-Chun Wu
Michele Parker-Schauer Akua Zellner
Hammill Foundation Scholarship
  Tecelia Esters-Spence
  Kellie O’Quinn
  Tracey Rubio

Hogg Foundation Scholarship
  Hazzel Monterroza

Isla Carroll Turner Fellowship in Gerontological Social Work
  Shirley Addicks
  Pamela Alaniz
  Carolina Arenas
  Rhonda Jackson

Mehta Foundation Scholarship
  Lujain Alshaikh Abdallah

Presidential Matching DAC
  Jensy Claude
  Angela Gomez
  Christine Schieszler

R.J. DeBottis Scholarship
  Allison Abdias
  Alayne Billingsley

Ruthmary A. Goldman Scholarship
  Shay Everitt
Barbara Jordan Unity Award

This award is in the name of the first black woman elected to the Texas Senate and the first W. S. Representative for Houston’s 18th District, known for her tenacity and perseverance. The recipient of this award is a part-time or Advanced Standing student who has demonstrated discipline, determination, and a high standard of excellence.

The Jane Adams Award

This award is named for one of the Social Work profession’s founders and examples of conviction put into practice. This award is given to the student who best demonstrates service to the GCSW, professionalism, scholastic achievement, leadership, and the ability to establish and maintain faculty-student support and rapport.

Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award

Gandhi provides the inspiration for the GCSW’s un-official motto, “We must become the change we want to see,” and this award is given to the student who most exemplifies the power of this principle. This student is innovative in leadership style, thought, and character and is known as someone who embodies the change they work to achieve.

Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award

This award is named for one of society’s greatest contemporary examples of advocacy, empowerment, and the championing of social justice and is given to the student who embodies these same principles. As a leader, this award recipient has shown the power to cooperatively determine goals and unite others behind their causes.

Mary Richmond Award

This award is given in honor of one of the Social Work profession’s community practice pioneers. The student who receives this award has performed exceptional community service beyond employment or field practicum. Additionally, the recipient of this award represents the epitome of social work values and ethics and supports a traditional casework philosophy.
Community Organization and Change for Social Justice Faculty Award

This faculty has demonstrated dedication to building a movement of vulnerable population by working with the people to effect change. Through education, this faculty has engaged students and inspired commitment and action to attain social justice.

Outstanding Faculty Award

This award was initiated by the Student Association to honor and recognize a member of the GCSW faculty who demonstrates exceptional class performance, supportive student interaction, professional role modeling, and advocacy on behalf of students. The faculty member chosen for this award will have the honor of placing Master’s degree hoods on candidates for graduation at today’s ceremony.

Outstanding Staff Award

This award is given to honor a staff member who has provided outstanding friendship and support to students throughout the academic year. Although this person may not have instructional interaction with students, he/she is chosen based on their commitment to the GCSW and the promulgation of social work education, values, and ethics.

Humanitarian Award

This award is given to an individual from the community that exemplifies social work through their dedication and efforts to promote social justice and equality. This community leader embodies the core components of social work by promoting the well-being of individuals and communities through social change and honors people’s right to self-determination.
Faculty

W. Andrew Achenbaum, Ph.D.
Professor

Amtsberg, Donna
Clinical Assistant Professor

Steven R. Applewhite, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Jodi Berger Cardoso, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Patrick Bordnick, Ph.D.
Professor

Aabha Brown
Clinical Assistant Professor

C. Brené Brown, Ph.D.
Research Professor

Monit Cheung, Ph.D.
Professor

Ira Colby, D.S.W
Professor

Larry Eugene Hill, Ph.D.
Research Professor

Sheara Williams Jennings, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Rev. William Lawson
Distinguished Community Scholar in Residence

Roberta Leal
Clinical Assistant Professor

Patrick Leung, Ph.D.
Professor

Virginia Lucas
Clinical Assistant Professor

Sarah Narendorf, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Jamie Parker
Clinical Assistant Professor

Danielle Parrish, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus

Susan Robbins, Ph.D.
Professor

Allen Rubin, Ph.D.
Professor

McClain Sampson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Isabel Torres, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Luis Torres, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Jody Williams, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Social Work
Nobel Laureate for Peace, 1997
Graduate College of Social Work

STAFF

Staff

Melanie Barr-Fitzpatrick  
NLA Program Director

Patrick Bordnick  
Associate Dean for Research

Renee Brooks  
Ph.D. Academic Advisor

Renia Butler  
Constituent Relations Event Coordinator

Yasiva C. Canga-Gonzalez  
Researcher

Nicholas Cavallaro  
Career Development Specialist

Marsha Christ  
College Business Administrator

Cynthia Crews  
Receptionist

Barbara Dwyer  
Research Study Coordinator

Krista Ellis  
Graphics Designer

Evelio Escamilla  
Research Administrator

Sonia Ewing  
Dean’s Office Executive Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Griffin  
Field Education Office Administrative Assistant

Sheara Williams Jennings  
Ph.D. Program Director

Jan Leger  
Director of Student Affairs

Brunessia Lewis  
CWEP Student Affairs Coordinator

Ann Liberman  
Director of Alumni & Career Services

Sheila Lindsay  
Financial Coordinator

Connie Loyd  
Director of Development

Lisa Martinez  
Research Administrator

Kasey McKee  
Academic Advisor

Amber Mollhagen  
Director of Recruitment and Admissions

David Nguyen  
IT Support Manager

Emilio Ontiveros  
CWEP Program Assistant

Jamie Parker  
Director of Field Education

Paul R. Raffoul  
Interim Dean

Amber Rangel  
NLA Program Coordinator

Haydee Rodriguez  
IT Assistant

Vanessa Shippard  
CWEP Field Coordinator

Daniel Uribe  
GLOBE Youth Project Coordinator
Graduate College of Social Work

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Tara Villasenor
Advising Assistant

Arnitia Walker
CWEP Director

Rosalind Walker
Admissions Assistant

Connease Warren
Communications Manager

Yolanda Williams
Assistant College Business Administrator

Maria Wilson
CDSPR Researcher

Adjunct Faculty

Bella Alex
Christine Bakos-Block
Melanie Barr-Fitzpatrick
Jennifer Battle
Bonnie Byrne
Ada Cheung
Janice Chilton
Meryl Cohen
Travis Courville
Will Dickey
Mary Harlan
Lynn Lenert
Januari Leo
Brunessia Lewis

Elizabeth McIngvale-Cegelski
Amber Mollhagen
Lillian Ortiz
Cynthia Reibenstein
Yi Ren
Beverly Rodgers
Alexis Rose
William B. Schnapp
Paul Swank
Jennifer Swantkowski
Michael Taylor
Patricia Taylor
Jacinda Tucker

Emeritus Faculty

Dale Alexander
Florence Clemenger
Gerson David
Maxine Epstein
Karen Holmes
Daniel Jennings

Jean Latting
Mary Lewis
George Magner
Paul Raffoul
Ellen Stevens-Roseman
Alexander Zaphiris
Letter from the Alumni Association President

Dear 2015 GCSW Graduate,

As President of the GCSW Alumni Association (GCSW AA) and its Board of Directors, I am thrilled to congratulate you on this momentous accomplishment. Today marks an incredible milestone in your life. You set the goal to earn a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree and you have sacrificed, endured, and persevered to attain the goal. It is an honor to welcome you to the social work community as an alumnus of the Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW). You are indeed joining the ranks of a prestigious group of more than 3,000 individuals. You should be extremely proud of yourself!

As you begin this next chapter in your life, I encourage you to embrace the wonderful opportunities that are presented to you. Keep an open mind. There are so many ways to do work that is personally gratifying while financially rewarding, making positive impacts on the community and promoting the values and ethics of the social work profession. Although there may be some uncertainty regarding what you will do next, be confident in the fact that the education and experiences you acquired during your time at the GCSW have prepared you to succeed.

In order to remain connected, I personally invite you to become an active participant in the GCSW Alumni Association. Each graduate no longer needs to join the Alumni Association but automatically becomes a member just by graduating. Remember that as a new graduate, you will need to take the next step in becoming actively involved in the Alumni Community by reaching out to the UH GCSW Alumni Association to assist the group in giving back to the Social Work Community, Students, and all UH Alumni members. The alumni association enhances alumni loyalty and pride by developing life-long relationships with one another and the Graduate College of Social Work. Active participation allows you to remain connected to those graduating with you today while having the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with those who have graduated before you.

Again, it is my honor to welcome you as one of the newest GCSW alumni members. I wish you the best in all you pursue. Feel free to contact me at 713.882.9373 for more information about the alumni association or any other assistance I or the board members can give you as you embark on your social work professional journey.

Very Sincerely,

Tony Fernandez, LCSW, CCM
2013-2015 UH GCSW Alumni Association President