

NOTEWORTHY

Dean's Update

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

Explore the *Possibilities*

GCSW students, faculty, and staff have put the finishing touches on another productive semester. Set against the backdrop of a presidential election that challenged our nation, I think we all feel a particular sense of urgency as the values social work champions seem to be under attack.

Yet we forge on. I'm proud of the work of our College and other social work programs across the country and for leadership informed by a determination to challenge ideas that do not reflect the social work values we all hold dear.

I am particularly proud of the way our GCSW community organized forums, conferences, voter registration drives, and panels throughout the semester, creating spaces for valuable information and dialogue to push social justice to the forefront. Our community continues to inspire me with the ideas, hard work, and dedication to supporting our vision of achieving social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global.

As we prepare to begin a new year and new semester with a new administration, let us all continue to work towards this vision. In the meantime, I am thrilled to share some of the highlights of our Fall 2016 semester at the



Faculty Achievement



[Dr. Susan Robbins](#) received the highest award bestowed upon an individual by the National Organization of Forensic Social Work. The honor is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the forensic social work profession, public welfare, and humankind. [Read more.](#)

The outgoing Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Social Work Education, Dr. Robbins has had a very successful tenure. She has written widely read editorials including [From the Editor — The Future of Social Work Education](#) which, to date, has over 700 reads.

[Dr. Jodi Berger Cardoso](#) received the Pro Bono Award for Excellence in Mental Health by the [Tahirih Justice Center](#) for her role as an invaluable resource to the Center's clients, providing critical expert witness testimony in some of Tahirih's toughest legal cases, particularly those involving children. And at the invitation of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Dr. Berger Cardoso joined The [Welcoming Houston Task Force](#), a recently launched initiative that aims to enhance inclusion and lasting economic integration of new Americans through public policy and by implementing community-based initiatives.

[Read more.](#)



College News

This fall, the GCSW received two groundbreaking grants which will propel research and student success to new heights. The **Latina Maternal and Family Health Research Center** funded by a \$500,000 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation will support a new effort for Latina mothers and their families. [Read more.](#)

A new four-year grant funded 26 full-time students in a program called **SHINE**, Students in behavioral Health INcreasing diversity in Education and the workplace. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded the College \$2.6 million to fund scholarships to support graduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they work to become social workers. [Read more.](#)

[Dr. McClain Sampson](#) is the Director of the GCSW's newest research center, The Latina Maternal and Family Health Research Center. [Read more.](#) Dr. Sampson has served as the Project Director of Global Leaders of Behavioral Health Education (GLOBE)-Youth, a program funded by the Health Resource Service Administration of the Dept. of Health and Human Services. [Read more.](#) We are looking forward to her continued leadership.





[Dr. Monit Cheung](#) has been appointed the Director of the Child and Family Center for Innovative Research. Dr. Cheung served as the Associate Director of the CFCIR for many years and is nationally known as an expert in child and family research. As Director of the CFCIR, Dr. Cheung will be responsible for building a portfolio of externally-funded research operating through the Center, collaborating with and mentoring faculty and PhD students whose interests align with the Center, and promoting the work of the Center to a national audience.



Save the Date!

Our 2017 Spring Scholarship Luncheon will feature keynote speaker, [Brené Brown Endowed Chair](#) in the Graduate College of Social Work, Dr. [Brené Brown](#).

Join us on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Registration begins at 11:30. Lunch and the program starts at noon. This year we are proud to honor Terry Huffington with the 2017 Bobbi & Vic Samuels Spirit of Social Work Award and Elizabeth McIngvale, PhD with the Social Work Excellence Award.

Special thanks to our Chair, Karen Winston, LCSW, Co-Chair, Trini Mendenhall, and Honorary Chair, Tiffany Smith.

[Reserve your tickets today!](#)



GCSW Student Advocacy

Our students showcased a deep commitment to social justice values inside and outside of the classroom. Students in Social Work and Global Justice Issues taught by Nobel Peace Laureate [Jody Williams](#) and Professor [Aabba Brown](#) applied organizing strategies and tools to advocate and raise awareness on the UH campus and beyond. Advocacy project topics included Ending State Sponsored Violence Against the LGBT Community, Syrian Refugee Awareness, Comprehensive Sexual Education, Project Safe Campus (Campus Carry Policy), and Redefining Masculinity. View [highlights via Storify](#). A number of students saw their op-eds gain an audience in publications including the Houston Chronicle, the Texas Tribune, The Light & Champion, and The Daily Cougar. View links to the op-eds on the [Student Advocacy page on our website](#).

In response to the shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, GCSW student Maranda Harris set out to organize a community forum. The College rallied around the effort and Maranda's initial idea developed into a series that explored solutions to the issue of African Americans and police violence through the lens of racial justice, social and economic justice and political justice. The events were attended by over 400 participants (plus those who logged in online) and more than a dozen presenters, including Houston-area leaders from the police department, politicians, attorneys, academics, community activists, members of the community and of course social workers. Participants explored the complex questions posed by the issue in a search for solutions.

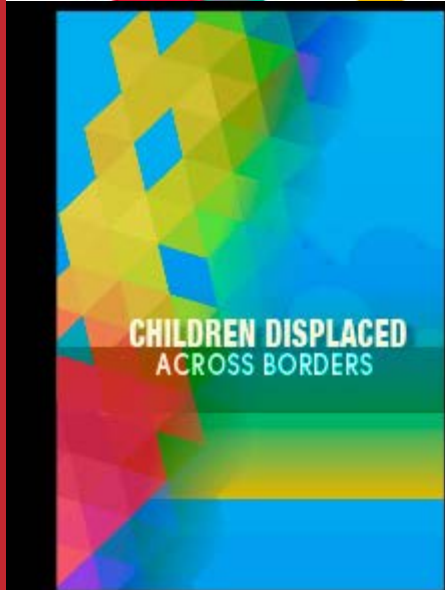
View [coverage](#) from the series and highlights from [Twitter via Storify](#).

View photos and videos from the events on the [Student Advocacy page](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOLUTIONS

A Community Activist Forum Series

Unusually low and fatal police shootings
Americans. We invite you to come out and
voice as we work from a community and stre
activ



College Events

On November 18-19, 2016, the GCSW hosted a **Children Displaced Across Borders**, a binational conference with Swansea University in Wales.

Over 300 practitioners, attorneys, advocates, researchers, and students in both Houston and Wales came together to discuss challenges faced by immigrant, refugee, asylee, and trafficked children and youth.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) served as the conference's organizing framework. Conference speakers and panelists examined how the UNCRC's human rights lens can inform practice, policy, and research impacting children who have been displaced from their home countries.

See conference highlights on [Storyfy](#). View [photos](#) from the event.

Thanks to Dr. [Suzanne Pritzker](#) for her leadership in organizing this important event!



GCSW Reception at APM 2016

A sincere thank you to all who attended our reception in Atlanta. It was wonderful to see so many of our social work colleagues from around the country for a night of food, music, networking, and fun. We are already looking forward to seeing you next year at APM 2017 in Dallas! [View photos from the event.](#)



Highlighting social justice issues in the media help inform the public about the role of social work in addressing the complex challenges we face. We are proud to share these stories and media releases featuring GCSW faculty and students.

[Social Work Professors Lead Evaluation of Community Program](#)

[Faculty, Staff Among 49 Houstonians Selected to Serve on](#)

[City's LGBT Advisory Board](#)
[Asylum Realities are Stark Against Harsh Political Rhetoric](#)
[New Book Examines Culturally Responsive Ways to Support](#)
[Immigrants, Refugees](#)
[LGBTQ Panel Discussion Urges Allies to Vote](#)
[Graduate College of Social Work Dean Strives for LGBTQ](#)
[Equality](#)

Faculty Scholarship

GCSW faculty published over 25 articles this fall in a continued effort to produce sound research that informs policy and practice. View the [Faculty Publications page on our website](#).



What a semester! Thank you for your interest in the GCSW as we share our continued growth and progress. We invite you to stay connected as there are more developments in the works and on the near horizon. I am always excited to share our news as it represents the continued strides by all of us in the profession.

Warm regards,

Alan J. Dettlaff

Dean and Maconda Brown O'Connor Endowed Dean's Chair

STAY CONNECTED!



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