



Department of Social Work

Volume 6 Issue 1

Spring 2019

Message from the Interim Department Chair

Special points of interest:

Social Work Department Senior Block Application Process

Faculty Updates

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Welcome back to the Spring, 2019 semester at TSU! We hope you all had a wonderful winter break, spending time focusing on family, friends, and self-care. The first week of courses can be stressful and overwhelming; taking care of university paperwork, reading all the syllabi, while balancing family and work responsibilities. There is also a lot happening on the national level as a result of the government shut-down, causing added stress for not only government workers, but also those who depend on a variety of government programs to meet their basic needs.

That being said, during this semester, we encourage all of you to be intentional about strategies to succeed in your courses, actively practice self-care, and help connect others to community resources. It is important to maintain your own wellness as an individual. In addition, one of our core values in social work is *Service*, so we encourage you to help connect others with community resources. This semester, the Social Work department has created a "Student Resources" tab in the Social Work Majors blackboard, in which resources are being posted that help with basic needs, mental health needs, and free community events and services. We encourage you all to browse through this tab of resources each week, to find resources for yourself, or pass-on to others in the community who are in-need. Remember... support and connection to resources is key to bio-psycho-social functioning! Let's focus on being intentional, utilizing our resources/support systems, so that nothing stands in your way of having a successful semester. ¡Adelante!

It's THAT Time of Year! Social Work Block Admission

- ⇒ It's the time of year when junior level students begin the process of applying for Senior level Block. As such, there are a number of steps that must be followed in order to ensure a smooth process.
- ⇒ Applications will be distributed during these visits. Those absent can pick one up from the Social Work Department.
- ⇒ Incomplete grades must be removed before applying for Field, regardless of the course.
- ⇒ Prior to submitting the application, verify your GPA eligibility (2.50) and review your transcript and compare it with the Social Work Curriculum. You must have completed all courses up through the Junior year, with grades of "C" or above in all Social Work, Sociology and Psychology.
- ⇒ Look for an announcement that will indicate it is time to sign up for Field; complete the Field Placement Application; attach a copy of your transcript and Letter of Acceptance to the program – REQUIRED.
- ⇒ The Director of Field Education will visit SOCW 340 and 347 classes to discuss field applications — March 2019.
- ⇒ After class visits, a schedule will be placed on Ms. Omorogbe's door (PAB 302AB). It is your responsibility to sign up for a time and to keep your appointment. Interviews begin in April.

Social Work Faculty & Program Updates— What's New?

Publications:

Loudd, G.A., Willis, N., & Boutté-Queen, N. (in press). Back to college during hurricane recovery: Faculty helping students navigate the new semester. *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping*.

Willis, N., & Molina, V. (2019). Self-care and the social worker: Taking our place in the code. *Social Work, 64*(1), 83-86.

Grants:

Dr. Grace Loudd (PI) and **Dr. Needha Boutté-Queen (Co-PI)** were awarded a \$5,400 TSU Seed Grant, that focuses on improving HBCU student health and wellness, as well as two federal grants through SAMHSA, totaling more than \$3.6 million. The SAMHSA grants are behavioral-health, service-oriented grants that focus on addressing STDs/STIs and substance abuse among minority teens and young adults in the greater Houston area.

Conference presentations:

Dr. Grace Loudd's abstract "TSU SHAPE Initiative: Sex Education in Higher Education" was accepted for presentation at the National Sex Education Conference in Newark, NJ April 4-6, 2019.

New student organization:

Dr. Grace Loudd and **Ms. Ronda Lewis** began serving as the co-advisors for the Phi Alpha Honor Society, Xi Mu chapter; an honor society for students who demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and service. In October, 2018, Dr. Loudd and Ms. Lewis inducted seven social work majors, revitalizing the chapter from years past.

Promotions/Leadership:

Dr. Needha Boutté-Queen was promoted to Interim Dean of COLABS in 2018. **Ms. Ronda Lewis** was nominated in 2018 to serve as Secretary of the TSU Staff Council, and a member of the TSU President's Equity Committee.

Greetings from your hard-working Social Work Faculty!

- ☑ **Leading**
- ☑ **Contributing** to the social work knowledge base
- ☑ **Mentoring**
- ☑ **Teaching** future social workers
- ☑ **Serving** the community



We are so excited that you are back!

Go TIGERS!

Social Work Faculty– New Members of Our Team!



Mr. Byron Parker, BASW, MSW, LMSW, ACSW, CATC, RAS has worked in the human and social service arena for over 30 years. He has served on the faculty of California State University Northridge Graduate School of Social Work and he worked for 10 years as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Texas Southern University (TSU) from 1999 to 2009. Byron is both a TSU alum and a UH alum. In 2007 he was accepted into the Doctoral program at the UH--GCSW where he completed two years of course work as a Ph.D. social work student, prior to withdrawing from the program in good standing to relocate to California. During his time in Los Angeles he worked in the nonprofit sector serving as a Program Director with the City of Los Angeles' Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Program in South Central, LA. Other professional activities included work

with the juvenile justice system, gang intervention, adolescent substance abuse treatment, human trafficking, violence prevention and social work education. Byron is a veteran social worker, psychotherapist, Community organizer and educator. In 2018, Mr. Parker returned to TSU as an adjunct professor in the Department of Social Work.



Priscilla R. Gilbert, LMSW received a BSW from UHCL in 2010, and MSW from UH GCSW in 2012. She has been a LMSW since 2012. As a student, her focus was working with communities and health disparities. Although she initially worked with cancer patients, she quickly realized that in the professional realm, the issue was too close to her personal experiences, so she evolved to working with transplant education. This led her to working with kidney patients. Priscilla began at UTMB as a Renal Specialist working with patients and families affected by End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), and being a part of the multi-disciplinary teams serving them. In her role as part of the interdisciplinary team, she educates Residents and Fellows on empathy skills with patients facing medical crises. In 2015, she started a worked at DaVita Kidney Care, assisting patients on dialysis, and was able to utilize skills working with patients one-on-one. Currently, Priscilla serves

as the Case Manager for a small surgical hospital in the Pasadena area working with patients and implementing processes and systems needed to reach Level 1 hospital status, utilizing administrative skills!

Current News and Events– Getting Connected!

Alumni:

Roy Cooper is serving as the 2019 *Program Chair* for the NASW/Texas State Conference, which will be held in Galveston on October 3-5!

Current students:

Kenneth Bourghs is serving as the 2019 *Marketing Chair* for the NASW/Texas State Conference, which will be held in Galveston on October 3-5!

Stephani Brodi is running for the 2019 *BSW Student Board Representative* position on the NASW/Texas Board of Directors.

Opportunities for student leadership:

'New Leadership Texas' is a new program for undergraduate women, to train more women to be leaders in politics! Deadline to apply for this program is March 20! See link for details: <http://www.tsu.edu/about/administration/division-of-academic-affairs-and-research/pdf/2014-faculty-manual.pdf>

⇒ The **Social Work Month** (NASW) theme for this year is "**Elevate Social Work**"

⇒ The NABSW-Houston chapter celebrates Social Work month (March) with a prayer breakfast.

⇒ Check out the NASW updated cultural competence standards at

<https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PonPTDEBrn4%3D&portalid=0>

⇒ Get more info on loan forgiveness program for social workers at https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/education--credentials/Loan_Forgiveness_Eases_Debt_Burden_for_New_Social_Workers/



**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL WORK**

Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland
School of Public Affairs &
College of Liberal Arts and
Behavioral Sciences Building
Suite 302X
3100 Cleburne
Houston, TX 77004

Phone: 713-313-7783
Fax: 713-313-1960

**Department of Social Work
Faculty & Staff**

Dr. Nicole Willis, Interim Chair, Associate Professor,
713-313-7320

Dr. Needha Boutté-Queen
Professor, Interim Dean for COLABS
713-313-1329

Ms. Ifueko Omorogbe,
Director of Field Education
713-313-1196

Dr. Grace Loudd,
Assistant Professor,
713-313-1194

Dr. Alicia LaChapelle-Friday,
Visiting Professor,
713-313-4806

Dr. Orlando Milton, Jr., Visiting Professor,
713-313-1195

Dr. Gloria Batiste—Roberts,
Adjunct Faculty, 713-313-7205

Mr. Philip Lewis,
Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Byron Parker,
Adjunct Faculty

Ms. Priscilla Gilbert,
Adjunct Faculty

Ms. Ronda G. Lewis,
Administrative Assistant
713/313-7783

Social Work Student Achievements— Celebrating Milestones!



Social work scholars at the 2018 Honor's Day Convocation!



Social work graduates featured on TSU Social Media!



Our alumni come back to visit and share the great work they are doing as professional social workers!



Our new social work 2018 Phi Alpha Honor Society inductees!



The 2019 senior social work graduating class!



Our social work seniors volunteering at the 2018 NASW/TX State Conference!!