



Department of Social Work

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Special points of interest:

Social Work Department Application Process

Faculty Updates

TSU SHAPE Initiative Grant Staff

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Dr. Nicole Willis, Interim Chair Department of Social Work



We are so excited that our 2019 fall semester has started-off full of great learning and leadership opportunities for our faculty and student scholars! This semester, we are celebrating Dr. Boutte-Queen's new leadership roles as Dean of the TSU College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, and President of the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors! Dr. Boutté-Queen also received a "50 for 50" award in August, recognizing her as an alumnus who embodies the UH Graduate College of Social Work's social justice vision. Our social work alumni are also stepping into leadership roles! Class of 2019 graduate, Lucia Salas, was elected to the NASW/Texas Board of Directors, and is currently serving as MSW Student Board Representative. Class of 2016 graduate, Roy Cooper, is currently serving as the Program Chair for the NASW/Texas State Conference. In addition, several of our social work alumni are serving this year as new Field Instructors for our senior students. These are just a few examples of all the great faculty and student leaders that are emerging out of the TSU Social Work program!

In social work, we always say, "*Lean into the discomfort*", and "*Get out of your comfort zone*". For many people, the thought of running for a leadership position, and/or serving in a leadership role, causes some anxiety. However, I encourage students not to let self-doubt or nervousness stand in your way of volunteering/ running for, or serving in a leadership position! Find an organization or a committee with a cause you are passionate about, and go for it! Serving on a board or committee, or even as a Field Instructor, will give you opportunities to learn, grow, broaden your professional networks, as well as use your skills to better influence organizational, state, national, and even international policy and programs. Our social systems need great leaders, and what better leader than someone with a social work perspective? The community will be a better place with social workers in key positions. Get out of your comfort zone, take a risk, and **lean into leadership!**

**Congratulations to Dr. Needha Boutté-Queen,
our new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences!**



**We support our own!!!
UH50 Honoree, Dr. Boutté-Queen**



Social Work Department Updates



Mr. Kenneth Wyche, Adjunct Professor. Mr. Wyche graduated from Texas Southern University in 2009 with BA in Social Work. He then went on to obtain his AM (*artium magister*) in Social Service Administration from the University Of Chicago in 2011. Mr. Wyche has an extensive background working in the health care, education, and criminal justice systems. Well-versed in adolescent/family/community issues, he possesses management, supervision, advocacy and counseling experience. Mr. Wyche is an impactful leader skilled in training, needs evaluation, implementation, and outcome assessment. Mr. Wyche's office at TSU is located in PAB #302Q, and he can be reached at 713-313-7783.

Student Editorial: My Experience at the 2019 Democratic Debate at TSU by Stephani Brodi



Thursday, September 12, 2019, was a historic night I will never forget. The Democratic National Convention debate was held on my campus, Texas Southern University. The much-anticipated event was raffled off to students in a lottery type system and I was fortunate enough to obtain a ticket. The timing couldn't have been more destined; for I am in my senior year with a passion for macro-level advocacy!

The night started with a major debate on policy issues. These included the revision and/or expansion of the Affordable Care Act, comprehensive health care, Medicare and the need to secure private insurance. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren conveyed their passions and action plans towards these topics passionately. Next, the topic of guns was given to candidates. They explained their policies and plans for background checks and automatic assault weapons. The stage was given to Beto O'Rourke due to the recent shootings that had taken place in his hometown of El Paso; his passion towards the topic shone through as he explained his desire to remove automatic weapons from all gun owners. Cory Booker took center stage on the topic of discrimination toward minorities as he explained that he is currently the only candidate who still lives in the inner-city, where he resided before being elected Senator. Kamala Harris continued to be as entertaining as in previous debates with jabs towards Donald Trump and catch phrases for us all to remember; it gave me a sample of what a presidential debate would look like between Donald Trump and herself. However no true vision was articulated by her that night.

The night ended with questions regarding immigration rights, prison reform, climate change and even a few attendees interrupting the debate in protest. I checked my biases at the door and came into the debate with an open mind to enjoy this historic opportunity for what it truly was. I have to admit that the highlight of the evening for me was when former Vice-President Joe Biden pledged to employ social workers to help educate families to advance quality living for children. Social workers have arrived on the main stage and our value towards empowering people on a micro, mezzo and macro field can't be ignored!



Current News and Events

There are a variety of student organizations that social work students can join this year, focusing on leadership and service! These include: the Social Work Student Organization (SWSO), JOLT, ABSW, Phi Alpha Honor Society (Xi Mu Chapter), and Sigma Omega Phi. Students are encouraged to learn more about requirements for/ how to join any of these student organizations for the 2019-20 academic year by visiting their organization tabs in the Social Work Majors blackboard.

The Social Work Department will begin accepting applications from social work juniors this Fall semester from October-November, 2019. Ms. Lewis, Administrative Assistant for the Social Work Department, will visit the junior level classes to discuss the application process. Specific dates will be posted on blackboard.



The TSU Department of Social Work sends a special “welcome back” to the NABSW Student Chapter! We want to recognize the NABSW student chapter Officers for engaging in the *mobilizer* generalist role, for organizing and energizing this student chapter!

The NABSW Student Chapter elected officers and Advisors include: (L-R) Ms. Sondera Malry (National member at-large), Stephanie Brodi, Brenda Jones, Marcus Bell, Ngole Ejedepang-Koge, Erika Minniefield, Da'Tavia Martin, and Mr. Byron Parker (Off-campus Advisor).

2019-2020 Social Work Seniors: Reaching Goals

The 2019-2020 senior social work class consists of more than 30 of the brightest students TSU has to offer! These future social workers have worked hard for the last 2-4 years to reach their Block year, and are excited about all they have, and will continue to, accomplish in academics and career!

Their field placements include a variety of agencies that include services to children, families, older adults, people living with HIV/HCV, addressing issues such as substance use education and intervention, homelessness, and domestic violence.





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Mr. Kenneth Wyche, & Mr. Byron
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**Ms. Ronda G. Lewis,
Administrative Assistant,
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The TSU S.H.A.P.E. Initiative

The Texas Southern University S.H.A.P.E. Initiative (TSI) is a university and community-based partnership established in 2014 by faculty of the Texas Southern University Department of Social Work. The initiative offers free HIV and HCV testing, as well as drug and alcohol screenings, and education for TSU enrolled students and Greater 3rd and 5th Ward community members. In 2018, TSI expanded by establishing the CHANGE (Change through Healing, Awareness, Networks, and Gateways to Empowerment) and YES (Youth/Young Adult Empowerment Services) programs providing services to more diverse groups.

CHANGE & YES Project Staff



Vaughn P. O'Neal, LCSW – TSU S.H.A.P.E. Initiative CHANGE Project Coordinator
Mr. O'Neal is a 1994 MSW graduate of the Tulane School of Social Work. His primary responsibilities as Project Coordinator are to lead and supervise the program's service administration and community-based partnerships throughout the Greater 3rd and 5th Ward communities, as well as provide clinical assessments, diagnoses, care plan integration, and ongoing case management services for persons at-risk for HIV, Hepatitis, substance use, and co-occurring disorders. *Location: Public Affairs Building, Office #302AC, 713-313-7426*



LaZena Barrett, MSW – TSU S.H.A.P.E. Initiative CHANGE Case Manager
Ms. Barrett is a 2017 BSW graduate of Texas Southern University and a 2018 MSW graduate of the University of Houston. She works in collaboration with the University Counseling Center (UCC), the Student Health Center Executive Directors, and also in conjunction with the UCC Licensed Professional Counselors and psychiatrist to deliver intensive case management services for campus and community-based participants identified as having SUD and/or COD that are also at risk for HIV and viral Hepatitis within both Greater 3rd and 5th Wards. *Location: Public Affairs Building, Office #302AC, 713-313-7426*



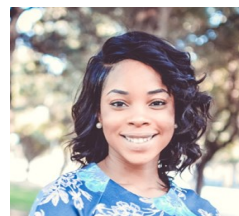
Alicia Vittone, MD—TSU S.H.A.P.E. Initiative CHANGE Psychiatrist
Dr. Vittone is a licensed psychiatrist having receiving her medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires. She has been in practice for more than 20 years specializing in mental health and substance use. In collaboration with the University Counseling Center and Student Health Center, she provides clinical consultation, psychoeducation, and treatment planning for TSU enrolled student, faculty, and community members. *Location: University Counseling Center, Office # 108C, 713-313-1125*



Nichole Akinbohun - TSU S.H.A.P.E. Initiative YES Project Coordinator
Ms. Akinbohun is a Psychology/Biology Graduate of Texas Southern University. She is responsible for all day-to-day project operations related to ensuring accountability, marketing, social media awareness, HIV and viral Hepatitis testing and education sessions, activity/outreach design, establishing and/or maintaining community-based partnerships, and in-house reporting. She is also responsible for providing regular updates to project directors regarding program initiatives; compiling program assessment and evaluation data and distributing information and materials to various constituencies including faculty, advisory board members, staff, clients, students, and other areas as directed. *Location: Public Affairs Building, Office #302Q, 713-313-1975*



**Akayla Jones, BA
TSU S.H.A.P.E. Initiative
CHANGE Health Promo-
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