



# Department of Social Work

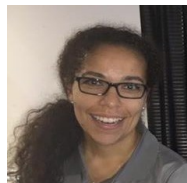
Spring, 2020 (Volume 6 Issue 1)

Edited by Ms. Ifueko Omorogbe, Field Director

## Message from the Interim Department Chair

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## Welcome to *SPRING 2020!*

We are so excited in the Social Work Department to welcome our returning students, transfer students, and new faculty to the Spring 2020 semester! I hope all students and faculty had a great start to the Spring 2020 semester! One area that social workers are very good at is finding resources for our clients. We are skilled at helping others get their needs met, but also must focus on finding resources for our own needs!

I would like to encourage our future social work majors to spend a moment to become familiar with, and utilize, resources for YOU, while you are students at TSU! Many of these resources are found within the Social Work Department, and in the Social Work Majors Blackboard! Did you know that TSU offers free in-person, and online **tutoring**? Did you know there are many **scholarships** available through TSU and external organizations? Did you know there are great **resources** both on campus and in the community, to help you if/when you have financial, mental, social, or health-related challenges? The Social Work Faculty work hard to maintain these current resources in the Social Work Majors Blackboard for **YOU!** I want to also stress the importance of getting **regular, academic advisement** during pre-registration at the end of each semester. In-person, academic advisement will help keep you on-track with your graduation plan. Utilize YOUR resources, so that you can minimize any barriers standing between you and one of the most important days of your life: **GRADUATION!**

### 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.
- ⇒ 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 courses.
- ⇒ Incomplete grades must be removed before applying for Field, regardless of the course.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ After class visits, a schedule will be placed on Ms. Ifueko'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?

Dr. Boutte-Queen (COLABS Dean) co-wrote a manuscript entitled, “The Role of the US Baccalaureate Social Work Program Director: A National Survey”, that was accepted for publication in the journal, *Social Work Education: The International Journal*.

Dr. Willis co-authored a poster presentation proposal that was accepted for presentation this summer at the NASW National Conference in Washington, DC.

Dr. Loudd will serve as Program Evaluator on a \$1 million, 2-year grant through a partnership with University of Houston from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish academic clinical partnerships with federally qualified health centers (FQHCs).

Highlights from the Social Work Department’s TSU Shape Initiative **YES!** and **CHANGE!** grant activities: Working to prevent HIV, Hepatitis-C, and substance abuse in the Greater Houston area!



### Social Work Student Organizations’ Community Service!



Aids Foundation Houston

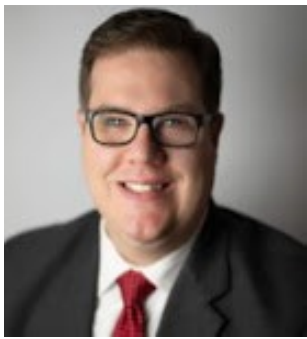
### Houston Food Bank



## Social Work Faculty– New Members of Our Team!



Ms. Nauls is a Licensed Master Social Worker with over 27 years of experience working in the social service field. She has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Houston. Extensive experience in guardianship, probate courts, home health agencies, personal care homes and social services and expertise in working with diverse populations - geriatrics, mental health, people with disabilities, veterans and homeless. Presently, she has been with Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at Adult Protective Services for 23 years. During this tenure she has been a caseworker and field trainer. She is currently the Evidence Driven Investigations Subject Matter Expert in the Houston District. In this position, Ms. Nauls reviews and performs advanced consultative and investigative work in complex cases of financial exploitation and other evidence driven cases.



Mr. Ryan Dollinger and his wife, live in Beaumont, Texas with their two children. Mr. Dollinger completed his Bachelor of Social Work at Lamar University, Master of Public Administration and Certification of Urban Non-Profit Management at The University of Texas at Arlington, and Master of Social Work at Texas State University. Mr. Dollinger's work experience includes substance abuse, behavioral health, crisis intervention, aging, and healthcare. Mr. Dollinger's research interests include health disparities, behavioral health, and child welfare policy. He is active within the community and state as a member of Lions Club, Southeast Texas Young Professionals, Board Member for CASA of Southeast Texas, Inc., and Advisory Board Member for Lamar University. Additionally, Mr. Dollinger was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to serve on the Texas Juvenile Justice Advisory Board.

## Current News, Events, & Resources– Getting Connected!

- ⇒ March is **national social work month!** The Social Work Month (NASW) theme for this year is “Social Workers: Generations Strong”! Want to help educate others about what social workers do? See this website for resources and tools: (<https://www.socialworkers.org/news/social-work-month>)
- ⇒ The ABSW-Houston chapter celebrates Social Work month (March) with a prayer breakfast.
- ⇒ 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/](https://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/education--credentials/Loan_Forgiveness_Eases_Debt_Burden_for_New_Social_Workers/)
- ⇒ In Fall 2020 there will be a Presidential election... Are you a **registered voter**? If not, go to <https://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo?lang=en-US> to get more information about how to register to vote. Make your voice count!
- ⇒ Adelene Ruiz (social work senior) was awarded the **COLABS Scholarship** for Spring, 2020!
- ⇒ Konterria Sibley and Jonai Fullard (social work seniors) were awarded the **Dasgupta Scholarships** for Spring, 2020!
- ⇒ Geana Lewis was recognized as the Department of Social Work outstanding COLABS student for 2020!
- ⇒ Did you know the best way to improve writing skills is by **READING!** This summer, spend lots of time reading books on your “want to” list, for **NO COST!** Get a library card at the **Houston Public Library** and/or the **Harris County Public Library** (each has a variety of locations). These libraries often have summer programs that give you rewards for reading more! See their websites for more information!



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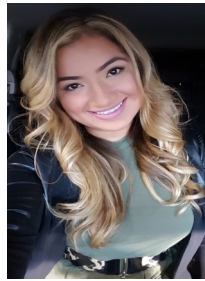
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**Social Work Student Achievements— Celebrating Milestones!**



**Message from Ms. Adelene Ruiz (Spring 2020 graduating senior)**

As quoted by Sylvester Stallone in Rocky, “it’s not about how hard you can hit, it’s about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward, that’s how winning is done!”. Personally, this quote has not only applied to my personal life, but also my academic journey throughout the Bachelor of Social Work program. From sharing experiences with peers in the program, I can almost assure they would agree with this statement. The truth is, challenges and setbacks are almost inevitable during the road to success, but the key is to keep moving forward!

Pursuing my academic goals have been far from easy, however, my academic journey at TSU has been life-changing. Discovering skills, strengths, and passions I would have never known existed if it had not been for TSU. In specific, the Social Work Department faculty and staff, which have honestly been my support system since day one.

In the beginning of my undergraduate studies, I was under the impression I was educating myself on how to enhance the well-being of others. While true, I have also learned more about myself and find that each semester continues to add to my own personal and professional development. Social work has challenged me to be a better person and change anything that would hinder serving others. Consequently, I am not the same person that I was when I first started this program, there has been much improvement.

To conclude, I would encourage everyone to embrace the process, the transformation, or metamorphosis that will take place throughout this program. Although some will challenge the "unrealistic or unnecessary expectations" at first, it is preparation for the next phase as a future social worker. As cliché as it may sound, I can confidently step into the next phase of graduate school, with the butterfly wings of a TSU Social Work graduate.

**TSU Social Work Alumni Spotlight!**

***Our alumni come back to inspire and mentor the senior class!***



**Patrina Green (CPS Caseworker)**



**Takerian Reed (MSW-UTA)**



**Byron Parker**, an alumnus of the TSU Social Work program, was awarded the ABSW “Social Worker of the Year” for 2020! He is pictured here with **Dr. Burrell and Dr. Lewis** (Co-founders of the TSU Social Work Program), **Ms. Mamye Ardis** (Mentor and former TSU Field Instructor), and **Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts** (Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, and TSU Debate Team Coach).

**TSU SOCIAL WORK FACULTY & ALUMNI TRULY BELIEVE IN  
THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP!!!**