



Department of Social Work

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WE WELCOME OUR NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS!



On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Social Work Department, Welcome! I am Dr. Nichole Willis and I want to let you know we are excited to share this Fall, 2015 semester with YOU! As the **third largest major** within our college, we have our hands full of work to do and goals to accomplish this semester, the primary of which is to see 100% of our students graduate!

Making it to the undergraduate finish line will take commitment from both students and Instructors. As faculty, we look forward to providing you with challenging coursework, great exploration of social justice issues and opportunities to improve your knowledge and skills through a variety of activities! As students, your commitment to both your education and the profession of social work will best be demonstrated through an organized approach to success which includes completing assignments on-time, engaging in professional activities and discussions, and taking advantage of learning opportunities in and out of the classroom.

Taking time to take care of yourself is also an important part of making it to graduation. Two great online resources are a Self-Care Starter Kit created by the School of Social Work at the University of Buffalo, which has a number of great resources and activities to help you build an individualized self-care plan, and a website that publishes free, family-friendly weekend activities in and around the Houston area. It is a great resource- especially for students who have limited funds due to college costs. This website provides an updated list every weekend of fun activities and events that are FREE! **Check the Social Work Blackboard page for links to both.** We hope you take advantage of these free online resources to help take care of YOU!

Social Work Alumni Making Change Happen

Nathan Maxey is a 2008 Texas Southern University Social Work graduate and also possesses the Master's in Public Administration (2010); he currently serves as the Program Coordinator for a Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration at Change Happens. The program is designed to expand mental health, substance abuse treatment, and HIV services for African American and Hispanic/Latina women, which helps women "connect their own dots" between trauma they have experienced and subsequent mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Prior to working at Change Happens, he served as the Operations Manager at Houston Area Community Services (HACS), and as a health prevention specialist and a board member of the Texas Gulf Coast Community Health Worker Association. As a certified community health worker, his mission to educate and empower the African American community about HIV and mental health related issues. As alumni, Mr. Maxey credits his educational foundation to the social work program because it helped enhanced his public and community service commitment; and passion to fight and improve the quality of life for this disproportionately underserved population. **Thank you Mr. Maxey for Making Change Happen in our communities!!**



TSU SHAPE Initiative Updates

The TSU SHAPE Initiative is gearing up to start offering FREE HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) testing and education services with our partners at the Wesley Foundation Student Center and S.H.A.P.E. Community Center in the coming months! The staff, which includes Daniel Harris, Sr. (*Program Coordinator, TSU Department of Social Work*), Santita Hartsfield and Ariel Jones (*Health Promotion Specialists, Houston Area Community Services*) have already conducted preliminary focus groups and surveys. Currently, staff is busy designing and implementing a marketing campaign which includes internal/external print, radio, and television media. Thus far, their efforts have resulted in Principal Investigators Drs. Grace Loudd, Needha Boutte-Queen and Project Evaluator, Dr. Nicole Willis, being featured on Majic 102.1, and in *The Houston Defender*, and the *TSU E-News*. A social media component, that will include Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter, will be deployed to keep you abreast of events while encouraging TSU students and the 3rd Ward Community to get tested for HIV/HCV. Notification will be sent regarding participating in sponsored programs, and how to receive information/referrals on HIV, HCV, and Substance Abuse. This next phase will also provide several forums where participants will have opportunities to provide feedback, comments, and suggestions on the services the TSU SHAPE Initiative provides. Volunteer opportunities for students are available! The main office is located in room 302Q on the 3rd floor of the Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs Building. For more information, contact 713-313-1975.



Faculty/Department Updates



As part of the NABSW 38th International Education Conference in the Dominican Republic, our very own Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts traveled with conferees to Santo Domingo and presented a workshop on African American families and youth. Because skin color issues are present in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, Dr. Batiste-Roberts conducted research by interviewing TSU students, colleagues, friends and family from the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. She discovered that skin color is still an issue with people of color all over the world and decided to do a workshop titled **Revisiting skin color in African Americans Families: What do we tell our youth?** Dr. Batiste-Roberts discussed her brief research with conferees and asked them to address the importance of racial pride in helping African American youth cope with dark skin/light skin issues that continue to be problematic, based on the responses she received. Because of the impact of the workshop, Dr. Batiste-Roberts has been asked to present the workshop at a local ABSW chapter meeting in December.

The Social Work Department welcomes Mr. John C. Bettison as our new adjunct faculty. Mr. Bettison is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) in Houston, Texas. Mr. Bettison began practicing the “Healing Arts of Psychotherapy and Substance Abuse Services” in Chicago, Illinois in 1995. Prior to relocating to Houston in 2003, he worked as a Chief Executive Director for several mental health agencies in addition to being a frequent lecturer at University Park University, University Park Illinois and Kennedy King College in Chicago, Illinois. During his 12 years here in Texas, he has maintained 2 thriving offices in Houston and Austin. In addition to clinical work, he has presented numerous workshops for the Texas Department of Health and Human Services and lectured on the “12 Core Function of addiction” at the Institute of Chemical Dependency Studies in Austin, Houston and Fort Worth, TX. He is a family man who is active in the community who believes in the power of education.



Current News and Events



The **Student Work Social Organization (SWSO)** is the formal body through which YOUR concerns and feedback regarding the program can be addressed. In addition, the organization is planning several activities and opportunities through which you can become engaged as a participant, advocate, and or leader. The **SWSO** is looking for **NEW MEMBERS** to join for the Fall 2015-Spring 2016 academic year! Want more information about SWSO events, activities and **MORE?** Visit the SWSO tab in the Social Work Majors blackboard. Click on the "SWSO Fall 2015-Spring 2016" folder to access membership forms, t-shirt order forms, event pictures, meeting schedules and officer information! Success is only truly achieved if YOU are included!

Showing the face of professionals in the making! **Mr. Roy Cooper** and **Miss Courtney Williams** represented The Social Work Student Organization well in the 2015 TSU Coronation. Thank you to these current and future leaders for participating in the events and making us TSU Proud!

NASW-TX is encouraging STUDENTS to serve as volunteers for the annual conference in Galveston on November 12-14 this semester! Check out the flyer (located in the 'Student Resources' tab in blackboard) for more information! **DEADLINE FOR STUDENT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION IS 10/15!**

The social work department will begin accepting application from social work juniors **October 19 – November 13, 2015**. Ms. Lewis, department assistant will visit the junior level classes prior to this date. Please do not request for the application until October 19, 2015.

Recent Social Work Alumni in Action

Several of 2015 graduates of the Social Work program had poster proposals accepted for the Student Poster Presentation at the upcoming NASW-TX Annual State Conference in Galveston, November 12-14, 2015. Specifically,

Arthur Dewberry (2015 Alumni) and Sharron Benavides (Alumna and Field Instructor), "Enhancing Engagement Skills Through Virtual Human Interaction"

Novella Bean, Belinda Stubblefield and Nakiesha Pellerin (2015 Alumnus), "Community Garden and Humanitarian Needs"

In addition, Novella Bean, Belinda Stubblefield and Nakiesha Pellerin are being recognized by the Mayor's Keep Houston Beautiful organization. They were placed at Neighborhood Community Development Corporation during the 2014-2015 academic year. Their innovative and forward-thinking field instructor was Ms. Gwendolyn Fedrick.

Congratulations for these wonderful recognitions!!!!!!!



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Program Assessment Findings—AY 2014/2015

COMPE- TENCY	COMPETENCY BENCHMARK	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK
Identify as a Professional Social Worker	For all competencies: 80% of students will receive average ratings of 3 or higher on a 0-5 scale, where 0 = student did not meet expectations and 5 = student consistently excelled	95% of students (n=21) received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations. All students (100%) received ratings of 3 or higher from Field Instructors. Overall, average ratings indicated 97.5% of students met the benchmark. Target Met.
Apply Ethical Principles		95% of students (n=21), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Overall, average ratings indicated 95% of students met the benchmark. Target Met.
Apply Critical Thinking		100% of students (n=22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Target Met.
Engage Diversity in Practice		100% of students (n=22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Target Met.
Advance Human Rights/ Social and Economic Justice		100% of students (n=22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations. Overall, average ratings indicated 97.5% of students met the benchmark. Target Met.
Engage Research Informed Practice/ Practice Informed Research		100% of students (22 of 22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Target Met.
Apply Human Behavior Knowledge		95% of students (n=21), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Overall, average ratings indicated 95% of students met the benchmark. Target Met.
Engage Policy Practice to Advance Well Being and Deliver Services		95% of students (n=21), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations. All students (100%) received ratings of 3 or higher from Field Instructors. Overall, average ratings indicated 97.5% of students met the benchmark. Target Met
Respond to Practice Contexts		100% of students (n= 22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Target Met.
Practice Engagement		100% of students (n= 22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Target Met.
Practice Assessment		100% of students (n= 22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and 97% received ratings of 3 or higher from Field Instructors. Overall, average ratings indicated 98.5% of students met the benchmark. Target Met.
Practice Intervention		82% of students (n= 18), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and 95% received ratings of 3 or higher from Field Instructors. Overall, average ratings indicate 89% of students met the benchmark. Target Met.
Practice Evaluation		100% of students (22 of 22), received ratings of 3 or higher on self-evaluations and from Field Instructors. Target Met.

**Accredited by the Council on Social
Work Education through 2016**