



## In the News



**"The Graduate College of Social Work gave me the chance to broaden and grow the educational and research program in health disparities and palliative care."** - Dr. Isabel Torres

Recently tenured GCSW faculty member Dr. Isabel Torres is featured in the latest edition of the University of Houston's newsletter. The profile shares the inspirations behind her illustrious career in palliative care and health disparities. [Read the story here.](#)



**"The GCSW Austin Legislative Internship Program offers a unique opportunity for social work students to work within a state legislature."** - Dr. Suzanne Pritzker

It's that time of year again! Another group of GCSW students are preparing to head to Austin for the 84th Texas Legislative Session. [Read more about the unique opportunity offered to GCSW students to have an impact on public policy.](#)

\*Pictured: *Back row:* Rep. Garnet Coleman; Amanda Foster, MSW (Deputy Director of the Legislative Study Group (LSG) and GCSW alumna); Cat Taub, Nakia Winfield, Maia McCoy, Rob Block. *Front row:* Brittany Reyes, Lorette Blagg, Paige Reitz, Marisela Gomez, Dr. Suzanne Pritzker

## Alumni News



A message from your **GCSW Alumni Association President, Tony Fernandez**: Attention GCSW Alumni: Please contact Tony Fernandez at [tony@bridgesolutionshealth.com](mailto:tony@bridgesolutionshealth.com) or 713-882-9373 to learn more about the GCSW AA, volunteer opportunities, events and more ways to get involved. We look forward to hearing from you!

## GCSW News

We are proud to announce a new, innovative PhD Program in Social Work. While continuing our tradition of preparing students to become independent researchers and social work educators, we now have a curriculum oriented towards evidence-based social work (EBSW). Students are trained to generate and use valid research evidence to inform the decisions social workers make at all levels of practice and policy. By training our students in EBSW, we increase the capacity of our profession to build interdisciplinary partnerships in both research and practice. Our new curriculum emphasizes:

- Evidence-based micro and macro social work
- An opportunity to tailor coursework and research activities to individual student interests and career goals
- Access to local health and behavioral health, and social service settings for research internships and dissertation research, thereby supporting the goal of bridging the gap between social work practice and research

[Read more details about these exciting developments on our website.](#) Questions? Contact: Director of Recruitment and Admissions: **Amber Mollhagen**, [amollhagen@uh.edu](mailto:amollhagen@uh.edu) PhD Program Assistant and Academic Advisor: **Renee Brooks**, [crbrook2@central.uh.edu](mailto:crbrook2@central.uh.edu) PhD Program Director: **Dr. Sheara Williams Jennings**, [swilliams3@uh.edu](mailto:swilliams3@uh.edu)  
**The application deadline for the PhD Program is January 15.**

## Kudos



Congratulations Dual degree (MSW/PhD) student Becca Keo Meier who has been named one of fourteen Texas "Change Makers" by The Texas Observer. [Read more about her contributions to social justice.](#)

### OPPORTUNITY:

**Dr. Danielle Parrish** and Ph.D. candidate, **Micki Washburn** are conducting a study evaluating two exposure treatment interventions for adolescents with social anxiety.

The study is a resource for youth who may be struggling with social anxiety disorder, which is a strong fear of being judged by others or excessive embarrassment that significantly interferes with every day activities that persists for at least 6 months. Youth with social anxiety frequently experience social anxiety in public speaking situations, which can also include speaking in front of their classmates or peers during normal conversation.

One utilizes virtual reality exposure and the other uses in-vivo exposure. Exposure therapy has been identified as an effective approach for treating social anxiety. The interventions are **FREE**, provided by a licensed counselor with 10+ years of practice experience, and qualified participants will receive **FREE PARKING** and up to **\$175 in GIFT CARDS** for participation. This project has been reviewed by the University of Houston Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (713) 743-9204. If you know of any students ages 13-18 who may benefit from these interventions, [please visit our website for details.](#)

### Registration is Now Open!

**Clinical Supervision in Social Work\*** Dates: January 28-29, and February 5-6, 2015.

Times: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Place: University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work

Course Fee: (Early Bird Registration) \$550. After January 16, 2015 \$600

Brief Description: This 40- hour course fulfills licensing requirements to be an approved LCSW supervisor (as set forth by the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners 781.102). Course consists of 5 modules and 12 hours of structured, independent work to be completed throughout the course period.

This class will fill up almost immediately. [Visit our website to register today!](#)

**\*The Clinical Supervision in Social Work (40 ceus/includes 6 hrs. Ethics Training) is open for registration to meet TX State Licensure Board audit deadline on the following dates: January 28 - 29 and February 5 - 6.**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming GCSW events.

### January

**1/16:** Intermediate/Clinical Level Exam Part I

**1/23:** Intermediate/Clinical Level Exam Part 2

**1/28-1/29:** Clinical Supervision in Social Work\*

### February

**2/5-2/6:** Clinical Supervision in Social Work\*

## Community Events

[Visit the Community Events page on our website](#) for details and information on how to submit your event to be included in these listings. Current listings include: **Jan 8: Brain Growth and Repair at Any Age**, **Feb 12: Real Life Situations That Social Workers Face in Health Care Today**, **Mar 3: Social Work Advocacy Day 2015** **ONGOING: Adolescent Social Anxiety Study Recruitment** Visit our website for even more listings.

Please use the links to our calendar and website to stay current with all the exciting happenings at GCSW!

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## Featured Events

### Continuing Education Courses

Visit our website for a full listing of opportunities:

### Upcoming CE offerings:

- **Jan 16:** [Intermediate/Clinical Level Exam Part 1](#)
- **Jan 23:** [Intermediate/Clinical Level Exam Part 2](#)
- **Jan 28-29:** [Clinical Supervision in Social Work](#)
- **Feb 5-6:** [Clinical Supervision in Social Work](#)
- **Mar 27:** [Why Conversations? Why Now?](#)



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