









## Letter from the Dean

Dear Social Work Graduates:

Congratulations on your graduation today from the faculty and staff at the Graduate College of Social Work. This celebration marks the end of at least two years of hard work and the beginning of a career in one of the most honorable professions in the world. We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge, not only your accomplishments, but also the support of others: parents and family members, significant others, and classmates

who have helped along the way. Certainly the encouragement and counsel of Faculty and staff have also contributed to your success. Your motivation and perseverance to complete this professional degree have prepared you to be of service to those who in need, both in our society and throughout the world.

I, along with the faculty and staff of the Graduate College of Social Work, wish you every success in the coming years and we look forward to your continued support through our Graduate College of Social Work Alumni Association. We honor you today on your achievement and hope that your future is enriched through a successful and significant social work career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. R. Raffoul'.

Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D.  
*Interim Dean and Professor Emeritus*

**University of Houston**  
**Graduate College of Social Work**

**Convocation**

Thursday, May 14, 2015, 2 p.m.  
Cullen Performance Hall

**OPENING PROCESSION**

**WELCOME** Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D.  
*Interim Dean and Professor Emeritus*

**AWARDS**

**SPEAKER** Angela Blanchard  
*President and CEO at Neighborhood Centers, Inc.*

**PRESENTATION OF  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATES**

**HOODING OF PH.D. CANDIDATES**

**PRESENTATION OF  
M.S.W. CANDIDATES**

**HOODING OF M.S.W. CANDIDATES**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**RECESSIONAL**

## Graduate College of Social Work

### CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

#### Spring 2015

---

##### Doctor of Philosophy

Mark Herrick Trahan

The Role of Paternal Self-Efficacy in Father Involvement

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Dr. Monit Cheung

Alicia R. LaChapelle

Capping Back: A Grounded Theory on African American Adolescent Males and Emotional Self Protection

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Dr. Susan Robbins

Melissa Irene Maldonado Torres

Latinas/os and the Sex Trade: A Qualitative Study on the Perceptions of Customers, Victims and Service Providers

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Dr. Luis R. Torres

Ginger Silloway Gummelt

Children's Perception of Violence:  
A Thematic Analysis of Students Essays

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Dr. Monit Cheung

Robertta Marie Leal

Examining the Relationship Between Socio-Demographic Factors, Perception of Health and Physical Activity among Hispanic Adults with Comorbid Diabetes and Depression

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Dr. W. Andrew Achenbaum

Ozge Coskun Yetistirici

Reflections of Turkish Immigrants on Their Adaptation to the United States: A Qualitative Study

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Dr. Luis R. Torres

#### Fall 2014

---

##### Master of Social Work

Lujain Munir A. Alshaikh Abdallah

Oree Shirelle Anglin

Meredith Christine Atkinson

Kelly Glenn Boothe

LaQuasha Quinshell Burke

Carlos Guadalupe Diaz

Petria Christine Ellis

Jennifer Emokpaire

Daniela M. Fragoso

Whitney Janeé' Garrett

Esther Marie Garza

Angela Gomez

Jessica Narvaez Gonzalez

Deshara Latoi Goss

Samantha Hendricks

Becca Keo-Meier

Caitlin C. Lyons

Travis Macher

Alisha Johnese Matthews

Sarah Moi Mawa

Lindsay M. McCallum

Katherine Elizabeth Meserve

Ashley Monie Smalls

Olivia Ramsey

Lisa Marie Richardson

Amelia Vazquez Rivera

Le' Teshia Rockwell

Jennifer Marie Hanson Sailor

Esmeralda Sotelo

**Graduate College of Social Work**  
**CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION**

**Spring and Summer 2015**

---

**Master of Social Work**

Allison Jane Abdias  
Teresa Ann Adcock  
Shirley Ann Addicks  
Pamela Lopez Alaniz  
Sheela Monique Anderson  
Carolina Arenas  
Ali Ilyse Aronowitz  
Michael Ator  
Moureen C. Azagidi  
Angela D. Bailey  
Mallory Jill Balkin  
Emmanuel Ben-Edet  
Alayne Kay Billingsley  
Anna Elizabeth Billingsley  
Robinson David Block  
Ashley Brown  
Franchesca Isabella Calhoun  
Jensy Claude  
Carolina Coronel Bertero  
Ariadna Cossio  
Jaysa Michele Curry  
An Hoai Dang  
Luana Meireles Da Silva  
Kandi Rokeysha Deshotel  
Thu-Trang Thi Dinh  
LaKia Cherie Dixon  
Ashley Stout Duplantis  
Fairly Virginia Edrington  
Chinyere Yvonne Eigege  
Tecelia Esters-Spence  
Shay Allison Everitt  
Hannah Michelle Foshee  
Kristin Ann Francklow  
Marisela Gomez  
Candi A. Gonzalez  
Allison Ann Gray  
Denise Marie Greenwood  
Lynn Ann Hajdik  
Chrystal Hamilton-Dorelien  
Andrea Harrison  
Madeline Hartmann Vaughn  
Rita Holliday  
Holly Ann Horan  
Clifford Hunter  
Tabeen Karisma Islam  
Rhonda Kaye Jackson  
Ke'Sha Nicole Jacobs  
Anna N. Johnson  
Lesa Georgette Johnson  
Torey Beth Johnson  
Ela Karacevic  
Priscilla Patrick Kennedy  
Brittany Janell Kibbe  
Angela Michele Killian  
Antoinette King  
Lorie Owen Kosarek  
Glendy Lara  
David Michael Latini  
Brittany Erwin Lawnin  
Princess Leggington  
Zachary Earl Lessig  
Jennifer Lynn Lombardi  
Jacki Lynn Long  
Daniella Elizabeth Lopez  
Zelda Martinez  
Margaret Elizabeth McGuire  
Rachel Mary McMillen  
Yvonne Anette Mendoza  
Tiara A. Mikell  
Hazzel Tatiana Monterroza  
Francis Marie Moreno  
Diana Flores Munoz  
Samantha Leigh Myers  
Andre L. Napier

## Graduate College of Social Work

### CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Katherine A Nazaroff  
Lynn Luzum Nwadei  
Kellie Renee O'Quinn  
Amy Marie Odin  
Kendra Deneen Oglesbee  
Jorge Eduardo Olvera  
Michele Parker-Schauer  
Jamie Patin  
Courtanie M Penson  
Garreth Llyod Pfennig  
Jessica Poku  
LaPatria R. Porter  
Holly Gwynn Pryor  
Meghan Ailish Quinn  
Paige Nicole Reitz  
Stephanie L. Robson  
Matthew W Rogers  
Sharee Lynn Rogers  
Wythel Uvette Rogers  
Tracey L. Rubio  
Melissa Sanchez  
Christine Marie Schieszler  
Kendolyn F. Shankle  
Chiquita Shenea Sherman  
Wendy Shull

Ja-naé M. Simon  
Ebony Ashante Sims  
Yolette Lynel Sneed  
Mai Spickelmier-Engel  
Katie Elizabeth Stavinoha  
Teshia Stevenson  
Alexa Taylor  
Reena Thomas  
Philma Thomas Maclorraine  
Constance Leigh Thompson  
Kaitlin Sarah Throgmorton  
Leigh Alanna Todd  
Julie Katherine Troegel  
Firoozeh Tuller  
Pilar Valenzuela Silva  
Bonnie Francene Vegiard  
Xin Wang  
Chandre Martell Ward  
Tennille L. Whitlock  
Jessica Ray Wight  
Britney S. Williams  
Sayra Evelyn Jimenez Williams  
Grace Yah Wilson  
Yen- Chun Wu  
Akua Bahati Zellner



## Graduate College of Social Work

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Agencies for Gerontology Intercultural Field Training Fellowship (AGIFT)

Allison Abdias  
Alayne Billingsley

Kendra Oglesbee  
Jorge Olvera

#### Barbara and Ernest Henley Endowment for Family Health Scholarship

Pilar Valenzuela Silva

#### Barbara Winston in honor of Katherine White Scholarship

Chinyere Eigege  
Paige Reitz

Kendolyn Shankle

#### Child Welfare Education Project Stipend (CWEP)

Oree Shirelle Anglin  
Meredith Atkinson  
Jaysa Curry  
Carlos Diaz  
Ke'Sha Jacobs  
Lesa Johnson  
Angela Killian

Jennifer Lombardi  
Travis Macher  
Alisha Matthews  
Ashley Monie Smalls  
Yolette Sneed  
Tennille Whitlock

#### Dean's Advisory Scholarship

Sheela Anderson  
Chinyere Eigege

Katherine Meserve  
Teshia Stevenson

## Graduate College of Social Work

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### GCSW Graduate Student Worker Scholarship

Anna Johnson

Meghan Quinn

#### The George Foundation Scholarship

Carolina Coronel Bertero

#### GLOBE: Training Mental and Behavioral Health Bilingual Social Workers Stipend

Luana Meireles Da Silva

Sayra Jimenez Williams

#### GLOBE Youth: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals Stipend

Teresa Adcock

Ali Aronowitz

Anna Billingsley

Jensy Claude

Ariadna Cossio

Fairly Edrington

Esther Garza

Marisela Gomez

Lynn Hajdik

Tabeen Islam

Brittany Kibbe

Zachary Lessig

Jacki Long

Daniella Lopez

Andre Napier

Michele Parker-Schauer

Jamie Patin

Garreth Pfennig

Holly Pryor

Meghan Quinn

Wythel Rogers

Kendolyn Shankle

Chiquita Sherman

Wendy Shull

Mai Spickelmier-Engel

Katie Stavinoha

Teshia Stevenson

Kaitlin Throgmorton

Xin Wang

Jessica Wight

Yen-Chun Wu

Akua Zellner

## Graduate College of Social Work

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Hammill Foundation Scholarship

Tecelia Esters-Spence  
Kellie O'Quinn

Tracey Rubio

#### Hogg Foundation Scholarship

Hazzel Monterroza

#### Isla Carroll Turner Fellowship in Gerontological Social Work

Shirley Addicks  
Pamela Alaniz

Carolina Arenas  
Rhonda Jackson

#### Mehta Foundation Scholarship

Lujain Alshaikh Abdallah

#### Presidential Matching DAC

Jensy Claude  
Angela Gomez

Christine Schieszler

#### R.J. DeBottis Scholarship

Allison Abdias

Alayne Billingsley

#### Ruthmary A. Goldman Scholarship

Shay Everitt

**Graduate College of Social Work**  
**GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS**

### **Barbara Jordan Unity Award**

This award is in the name of the first black woman elected to the Texas Senate and the first W. S. Representative for Houston's 18th District, known for her tenacity and perseverance. The recipient of this award is a part-time or Advanced Standing student who has demonstrated discipline, determination, and a high standard of excellence.

### **The Jane Adams Award**

This award is named for one of the Social Work profession's founders and examples of conviction put into practice. This award is given to the student who best demonstrates service to the GCSW, professionalism, scholastic achievement, leadership, and the ability to establish and maintain faculty-student support and rapport.

### **Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award**

Gandhi provides the inspiration for the GCSW's un-official motto, "We must become the change we want to see," and this award is given to the student who most exemplifies the power of this principle. This student is innovative in leadership style, thought, and character and is known as someone who embodies the change they work to achieve.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award**

This award is named for one of society's greatest contemporary examples of advocacy, empowerment, and the championing of social justice and is given to the student who embodies these same principles. As a leader, this award recipient has shown the power to cooperatively determine goals and unite others behind their causes.

### **Mary Richmond Award**

This award is given in honor of one of the Social Work profession's community practice pioneers. The student who receives this award has performed exceptional community service beyond employment or field practicum. Additionally, the recipient of this award represents the epitome of social work values and ethics and supports a traditional casework philosophy.

**Graduate College of Social Work**  
**GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS**

### **Community Organization and Change for Social Justice Faculty Award**

This faculty has demonstrated dedication to building a movement of vulnerable population by working with the people to effect change. Through education, this faculty has engaged students and inspired commitment and action to attain social justice.

### **Outstanding Faculty Award**

This award was initiated by the Student Association to honor and recognize a member of the GCSW faculty who demonstrates exceptional class performance, supportive student interaction, professional role modeling, and advocacy on behalf of students. The faculty member chosen for this award will have the honor of placing Master's degree hoods on candidates for graduation at today's ceremony.

### **Outstanding Staff Award**

This award is given to honor a staff member who has provided outstanding friendship and support to students throughout the academic year. Although this person may not have instructional interaction with students, he/she is chosen based on their commitment to the GCSW and the promulgation of social work education, values, and ethics.

### **Humanitarian Award**

This award is given to an individual from the community that exemplifies social work through their dedication and efforts to promote social justice and equality. This community leader embodies the core components of social work by promoting the well-being of individuals and communities through social change and honors people's right to self-determination.

## Faculty

---

W. Andrew Achenbaum, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

Amtsberg, Donna  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Steven R. Applewhite, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

Jodi Berger Cardoso, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor*

Patrick Bordnick, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

Aabha Brown  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

C. Brené Brown, Ph.D.  
*Research Professor*

Monit Cheung, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

Ira Colby, D.S.W.  
*Professor*

Larry Eugene Hill, Ph.D.  
*Research Professor*

Sheara Williams Jennings, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

Rev. William Lawson  
*Distinguished Community Scholar in Residence*

Roberta Leal  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Patrick Leung, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

Virginia Lucas  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Sarah Narendorf, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor*

Jamie Parker  
*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Danielle Parrish, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

Suzanne Pritzker, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor*

Paul R. Raffoul, Ph.D.  
*Professor Emeritus*

Susan Robbins, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

Allen Rubin, Ph.D.  
*Professor*

McClain Sampson, Ph.D.  
*Assistant Professor*

Isabel Torres, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

Luis Torres, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

Jody Williams, Ph.D.  
*Distinguished Professor of Social Work  
Nobel Laureate for Peace, 1997*

### Staff

---

Melanie Barr-Fitzpatrick  
*NLA Program Director*

Patrick Bordnick  
*Associate Dean for Research*

Renee Brooks  
*Ph.D. Academic Advisor*

Renia Butler  
*Constituent Relations Event Coordinator*

Yasiva C. Canga-Gonzalez  
*Researcher*

Nicholas Cavallaro  
*Career Development Specialist*

Marsha Christ  
*College Business Administrator*

Cynthia Crews  
*Receptionist*

Barbara Dwyer  
*Research Study Coordinator*

Krista Ellis  
*Graphics Designer*

Evelio Escamilla  
*Research Administrator*

Sonia Ewing  
*Dean's Office Executive Administrative Assistant*

Jacqueline Griffin  
*Field Education Office Administrative Assistant*

Sheara Williams Jennings  
*Ph.D. Program Director*

Jan Leger  
*Director of Student Affairs*

Brunessia Lewis  
*CWEP Student Affairs Coordinator*

Ann Liberman  
*Director of Alumni & Career Services*

Sheila Lindsay  
*Financial Coordinator*

Connie Loyd  
*Director of Development*

Lisa Martinez  
*Research Administrator*

Kasey McKee  
*Academic Advisor*

Amber Mollhagen  
*Director of Recruitment and Admissions*

David Nguyen  
*IT Support Manager*

Emilio Ontiveros  
*CWEP Program Assistant*

Jamie Parker  
*Director of Field Education*

Paul R. Raffoul  
*Interim Dean*

Amber Rangel  
*NLA Program Coordinator*

Haydee Rodriguez  
*IT Assistant*

Vanessa Shippard  
*CWEP Field Coordinator*

Daniel Uribe  
*GLOBE Youth Project Coordinator*

## Graduate College of Social Work

### ADJUNCT FACULTY

Tara Villasenor  
*Advising Assistant*

Arnitia Walker  
*CWEP Director*

Rosalind Walker  
*Admissions Assistant*

Connease Warren  
*Communications Manager*

Yolanda Williams  
*Assistant College Business Administrator*

Maria Wilson  
*CDSRP Researcher*

### Adjunct Faculty

---

Bella Alex  
Christine Bakos-Block  
Melanie Barr-Fitzpatrick  
Jennifer Battle  
Bonnie Byrne  
Ada Cheung  
Janice Chilton  
Meryl Cohen  
Travis Courville  
Will Dickey  
Mary Harlan  
Lynn Lenert  
Januari Leo  
Brunessia Lewis

Elizabeth McIngvale-Cegelski  
Amber Mollhagen  
Lillian Ortiz  
Cynthia Reibenstein  
Yi Ren  
Beverly Rodgers  
Alexis Rose  
William B. Schnapp  
Paul Swank  
Jennifer Swantkowski  
Michael Taylor  
Patricia Taylor  
Jacinda Tucker

### Emeritus Faculty

---

Dale Alexander  
Florence Clemenger  
Gerson David  
Maxine Epstein  
Karen Holmes  
Daniel Jennings

Jean Latting  
Mary Lewis  
George Magner  
Paul Raffoul  
Ellen Stevens-Roseman  
Alexander Zaphiris





## Letter from the Alumni Association President

Dear 2015 GCSW Graduate,  
As President of the GCSW Alumni Association (GCSW AA) and its Board of Directors, I am thrilled to congratulate you on this momentous accomplishment.

Today marks an incredible milestone in your life. You set the goal to earn a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree and you have sacrificed, endured, and persevered to attain the goal. It is an honor to welcome you to the social work community as an alumnus of the Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW). You are indeed joining the ranks of a prestigious group of more than 3,000 individuals. You should be extremely proud of yourself!

As you begin this next chapter in your life, I encourage you to embrace the wonderful opportunities that are presented to you. Keep an open mind. There are so many ways to do work that is personally gratifying while financially rewarding, making positive impacts on the community and promoting the values and ethics of the social work profession. Although there may be some uncertainty regarding what you will do next, be confident in the fact that the education and experiences you acquired during your time at the GCSW have prepared you to succeed.

In order to remain connected, I personally invite you to become an active participant in the GCSW Alumni Association. Each graduate no longer needs to join the Alumni Association but automatically becomes a member just by graduating. Remember that as a new graduate, you will need to take the next step in becoming actively involved in the Alumni Community by reaching out to the UH GCSW Alumni Association to assist the group in giving back to the Social Work Community, Students, and all UH Alumni members. The alumni association enhances alumni loyalty and pride by developing life-long relationships with one another and the Graduate College of Social Work. Active participation allows you to remain connected to those graduating with you today while having the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with those who have graduated before you.

Again, it is my honor to welcome you as one of the newest GCSW alumni members. I wish you the best in all you pursue. Feel free to contact me at 713.882.9373 for more information about the alumni association or any other assistance I or the board members can give you as you embark on your social work professional journey.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Fernandez'.

Tony Fernandez, LCSW, CCM  
2013-2015 UH GCSW Alumni Association President





