

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

In Memoriam

"I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom...I want to be remembered as someone who tried." Dr. Dorothy I. Height



This week we were saddened to learn of the passing of **Dr. Mary Lewis**, GCSW Faculty Emerita and champion for social work, children and families.

From Interim Dean **Dr. Paul Raffoul**: "In 1980, then Dean Dan Jennings hired a new faculty person from the University of Alabama to develop the Children and Family concentration in the GCSW's MSW curriculum. Professor Mary Lewis was her name and for the next 20+ years she was a strong, thoughtful and independent faculty member in the college. Her presence in the college was instrumental in the strength of our policy content on children and family issues. Her voice was loud and clear on issues she felt strongly about. Even after retirement, Dr. Lewis maintained her support of the college (including our development office) and the faculty, and was looking forward to attending yesterday's scholarship luncheon. While details have not been finalized for her funeral, please join me in remembering her and her legacy in the GCSW.
Thank you." Paul R. Raffoul, Interim Dean

We will post details on arrangements as soon as they are available.

Commencement News



On **Thursday, May 14 at 2:00pm** at Cullen Performance Hall on the UH campus, the GCSW will hold its **College Convocation**. We are excited to announce that our students have selected **Angela Blanchard**, CEO of Neighborhood Centers, Inc. to deliver the commencement address to our graduating MSW and PhD students. This nationally known champion of communities and social justice is sure to present a meaningful message to our students as they embark on the next phase of their journey to *change the world!*

Also, the University of Houston will hold its first ever **University Commencement** on Friday, May 15, at TDECU Stadium. Texas native Matthew McConaughey will deliver the commencement address.

Alumni News



Last week, we received word that recent GCSW alumna, **Natalie Powell** has been selected as a 2015 Presidential Management Fellow (PMF). PMF is an intensely competitive and prestigious program for those seeking management positions within federal agencies. Learn more about the [Presidential Management Fellow program](#).

Congratulations, Natalie!



GCSW alumna and dear friend **Laurie Glaze, LMSW** has announced her upcoming retirement as **Executive Director of One Voice Texas** this coming June 2015. Widely known throughout the social work community, Laurie has been the recipient of many honors including, 2007 NASW - **Texas Social Worker of the Year**, 2009 Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children (HAAEYC) **Advocate of the Year** and the 2009 Houston Woman Magazine's **Savvy Sister**.

As an alumna she has maintained a close and collaborative relationship with the College most recently through the **Policy Insiders Series**. Policy Insiders has been an effective platform to inform our students, faculty, alumni, staff and community on policy issues. The series has inspired many to become more involved in advocacy efforts for the benefit of Texas communities. A huge **thank you** from the GCSW and best wishes on your next adventure!

Speaking of Policy Insiders...Please join us for the next installment: **Jail Diversion Policies and Programs: A Social Worker's Perspective** a Panel Presentation with: **Jeannette Kolarik, LMSW** - Clinical Supervisor of the Felony Mental Health Court, **Kim Kommayer, LCSW** - Assistant Deputy of MHMRA's Comprehensive Psychiatric Program, **Ashley Ochoa, LMSW** - Executive Assistant of Houston Recovery Center, **Katherine Little, LMSW** - Houston Recovery Center

DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2015

TIME: 11:45pm-1:00pm

PLACE: GCSW Building Room 110J

RSVP: Policy Insiders Advisory Committee: PIAC.gcsw@gmail.com

CEU's: Free! Sponsored By INTRACARE

Opportunities



Don't miss these upcoming GCSW Continuing Education opportunities! [Register and get more information on these courses and other upcoming offerings on our website.](#)

Friday, April 17, 2015: **8 Guiding Principles for Professional Growth and Supervision**

Wednesday, April 29, 2015: **Sexuality: Values and Ethics in Social Work Practice**

Community Events

Visit the [Community Events page](#) on our website for details on the events listed here as well as information on how to submit your event. Current listings include: **Apr 12-14:** Keeping Our Communities Healthy Conference, **Apr 17:** The Ethics of Grief: Grieving, Suffering and Making Meaning, **Apr 18:** Crime Victims' Right Week, **Apr 30-May 2:** Houston Group Psychotherapy Society Annual Institute [Visit our website for more!](#)

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

