

FALL 2017

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# NOTEWORTHY

A Publication of the Graduate College of Social Work

**UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON**

GRADUATE COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORK

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) prepares diverse leaders in practice and research to address complex challenges and achieve sustainable social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global, through exceptional education, innovative research, and meaningful community engagement.

About the Cover: **Social Justice Trailblazers**

Mahatma Gandhi, Harriet Tubman, Nelson Mandela, Harvey Milk,\* Ida B. Wells, Jane Addams, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, Angela Davis

\* (Photo credit: "Harvey Milk at Gay Pride San Jose" by Ted Sahl, used under CC BY 2.0 / Edited from original)

**NOTEWORTHY**

**This, the second annual edition** of *Noteworthy*, comes at a time when the world's eyes have been on the city of Houston. As we were in the last stages of producing our year-end publication, the historic weather event Hurricane Harvey devastated much of the Houston metro area and southeast Texas. As our GCSW network of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners has mobilized for the most vulnerable populations of Houston, we have been humbled by the many offers of support and assistance. **"How can we help?"** you asked. Let me assure you, you already have, more than you know. Your messages have bolstered our spirits and provided the fuel we need to dig into the work ahead of us. I am already looking forward to sharing the story of our community rebounding; for the moment, on behalf of everyone at the Graduate College of Social Work, I offer heartfelt thanks.

In the same way that our GCSW family has infused hurricane relief efforts with social work values, skills, and leadership, our community partners have continually demonstrated their own commitment to our shared values by embracing our College's vision — **to achieve social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global**. We chose to go bold, to let our highest ideals drive every choice and action, and in response we have received tremendous support, including a one-million-dollar gift from the Houston Endowment to implement our strategic plan, which will enhance our national competitiveness and strengthen student success. Such generosity ensures our ability to educate social workers who can and must lead.

Please join me in celebrating this exciting achievement along with examples of outstanding scholarship, leadership, and advocacy in the GCSW community during the 2016–2017 academic year. We have designed our cover to honor social justice trailblazers who inspired our vision. These figures represent those who came before us, who laid the groundwork, who fought, worked, marched, and sometimes died for the belief that we can achieve justice — for all.

Warmest regards,



**Alan Dettlaff, PhD, MSW**

*Dean and Maconda Brown O'Connor Endowed Dean's Chair*

# QUICK **FACTS**

**56%** OF THE GCSW STUDENT BODY COMPRISES ETHNIC MINORITIES AND MIRRORS THE DIVERSITY OF HOUSTON'S POPULATION

**20** DIFFERENT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN WITHIN THE COLLEGE

**42%** OF THE INCOMING CLASS IS BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL

**5** RESEARCH CENTERS

**32** ACTIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

**\$8.07M** IN ACTIVE PROJECTS

## **CHIARA** ACQUATI

### **Assistant Professor**

Dr. Acquati's research examines how psychosocial characteristics and close relationships contribute to individual and dyadic adaptation to cancer. Her research interests include stress and coping, couple-based interventions, and cancer health disparities.



## **JUAN** BARTHELEMY

### **Assistant Professor**

Dr. Barthelemy's research focuses on juvenile delinquency, adolescent aggression, and violence reduction in African American communities. He is also interested in community engagement as a violence reduction strategy.



## **SHARON** BORJA

### **Assistant Professor**

Dr. Borja's research interests include intergenerational adversity and resilience, parent capabilities and child well-being, prevention of child maltreatment, intersectionality, and culturally grounded social work interventions.



# NEW **FACULTY**

This year our search for new faculty focused on selecting those whose research not only augments the diverse interests of our current faculty but also aligns with the GCSW's vision of achieving social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global. To that end we welcome five new faculty members whose research and expertise on health and mental health disparities, juvenile delinquency, and structural inequality will provide necessary context for student learning and will increase opportunities for community engagement and collaboration.

## **REIKO** BOYD

### **Assistant Professor**

Dr. Boyd's research is organized around three areas of inquiry: racial/ethnic disparities in children's services systems, structural inequality and opportunity in African American communities, and health and well-being of infants and adolescents.



## **QUENETTE** WALTON

### **Assistant Professor**

Dr. Walton's research focuses on lifelong wellness, mental health and well-being, and mental health disparities among African American women; socioeconomic status as a social determinant of mental health; and the African American middle class.





## SPRING 2017 AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

Immediately following the first 100 days of the new presidential administration, the GCSW, together with several visionary alumni, held a community event for students, social workers, and advocates for social justice to amplify our voices, challenge injustice, and fight for a society where all people — not just the privileged few — can not only survive but also thrive.



In a true community effort, morning and afternoon sessions tackled the issues head-on with a view toward crafting strategies and solutions. Many GCSW alumni led discussions along with others of Houston's best and brightest. Participants could choose from eight sessions focused on policy issues that affected social work and social workers during the First 100 Days.



Over 200 participants attended sessions titled: Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Healthcare as a Right; Human and Civil Rights; Environmental Protection; Protest with a Purpose: Grassroots Organizing; Safety and the Legal Right to Protest; Media, Messaging, and Online Organizing; and Building Coalition, Building Consensus.



*Amplify Your Voice* Presenters: Dixie Hairston, Mark Humphries, Januari Leo, Mirla Lopez, Erin McClarty, Dr. Bakeyah Nelson, Bich-May Nguyen, Melanie Pang, Virginia Parks, Gordon Quan, Nisha Randall, Kerry Spare, Terrence Thorn, Frances Valdez, Fran Watson, Allyn West, Amanda Williams, Daniel Williams, Gislaine Williams, Aimee Woodall, Ashton Woods



# ACTIVISM & **ADVOCACY**

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOLUTIONS & AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE

**“SOCIAL WORKERS, SIDE BY SIDE WITH OTHER ADVOCATES AND ACTIVISTS, COMMITTED TO ENGAGING IN POLICY CHANGE TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE.” –DR. SUZANNE PRITZKER**

The GCSW is committed to providing leadership and resources for our community to grapple with social justice issues. During the 2016–2017 academic year we hosted two events focused on exploring current issues and developing solutions.

**RACIAL JUSTICE**  
DR. RAYMOND WINBUSH

**SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE**  
DR. STEPHEN KLINEBERG

**POLITICAL JUSTICE**  
WILL FRANCIS, LMSW



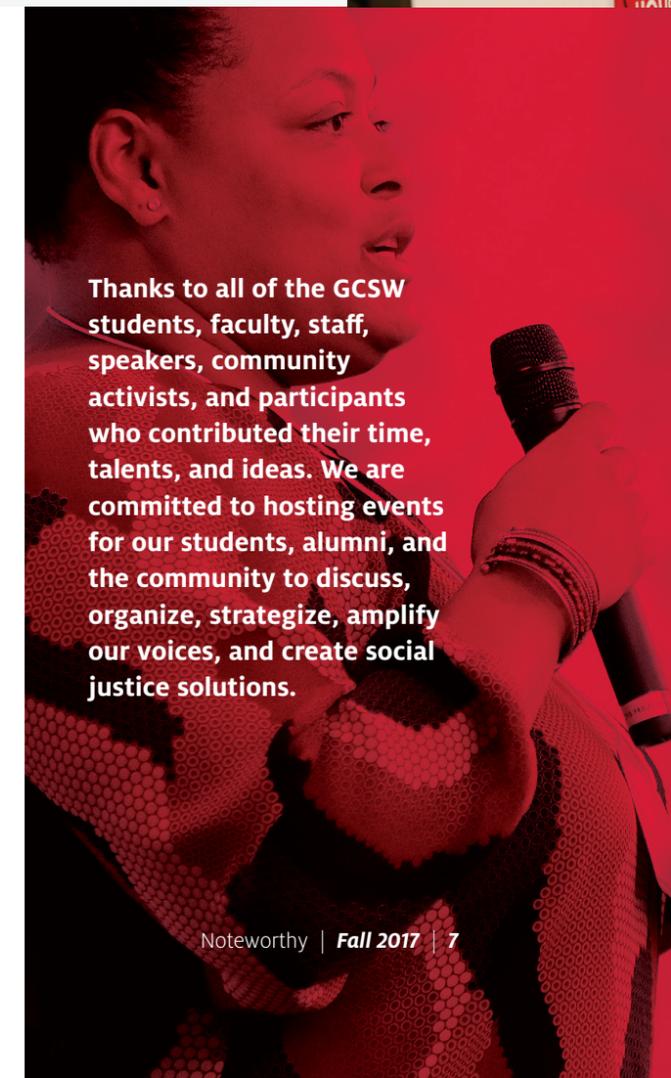
## FALL 2016 SOCIAL JUSTICE SOLUTIONS

In response to the shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile during the summer of 2016, GCSW student Maranda Harris proposed offering a community forum to explore solutions to the issues of deadly force and fatal police shootings of African Americans. The College rallied around the idea, which developed into a three-part series to explore the issue through the lens of racial justice, social and economic justice, and political justice.

Each event opened with an acknowledgment of unarmed African Americans who were killed, a solemn reading of names, a moment of silence, or an invitation to raise hands. Next, a keynote speaker set the tone for the day by providing context for the discussions to follow. Then, panelists from various areas of expertise responded to questions posed by a GCSW faculty or student moderator. Finally, all participants were invited to explore the complex questions posed in a community conversation geared toward solutions.

Attendance for the three events exceeded 400 participants in addition to online viewers, with more than a dozen presenters including Houston-area politicians, attorneys, academics, community activists, law enforcement officials, and, of course, social workers.

Thanks to all of the GCSW students, faculty, staff, speakers, community activists, and participants who contributed their time, talents, and ideas. We are committed to hosting events for our students, alumni, and the community to discuss, organize, strategize, amplify our voices, and create social justice solutions.



# RESEARCH **CENTERS**



## Center for Mental Health Research and Innovations in Treatment Engagement and Service (MH-RITES)

Founded by associate professor **Dr. Robin Gearing**, the MH-RITES Center will scientifically focus on improving early and ongoing engagement of individuals in efficacious mental health treatment to support and advance condition management, to reduce symptoms, to strengthen overall functioning, and to promote recovery. Research and innovations in mental health treatment engagement and service utilization will benefit individuals, families, mental health providers, and communities.

“The Center uniquely fills a gap in the existing research on treatment and services engagement. Most typically, engagement research investigates one aspect of engagement failure, whereas the MH-RITES Center recognizes that difficulties in treatment and services engagement are affected by multiple, interacting, and complex factors in the lives of service users. The Center recognizes that larger systemic issues, including social, racial, economic, and political factors, influence treatment engagement and service use,” said Dr. Gearing.



## Center for Latina Maternal and Family Health Research (CLMFHR)

Associate professor **Dr. McClain Sampson** established the Center for Latina Maternal and Family Health Research to improve the health of Latino families through research and service. Prioritizing interdisciplinary collaboration, CLMFHR seeks to improve public awareness, health service delivery, and culturally responsive research for vulnerable populations of Latinas.

The Center’s efforts include a project funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase the number of social workers prepared to serve vulnerable populations in integrated care settings and a large multi-site study in which health workers deliver Dr. Sampson’s home-based intervention to reduce symptoms of postpartum depression among low-income Latinas.

“One of the key goals of the Center is to address disparities in poverty, acculturation stress, and cultural beliefs and stigma, which put Latinas and their families at risk for disparities in mental health. Rigorous, community-based research and training of culturally sensitive professionals are both necessary to improve outcomes,” said Dr. Sampson.

# RESEARCH **HIGHLIGHTS**

“WE CAN'T ACHIEVE **SOCIAL JUSTICE** WITHOUT THINKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THOSE WHO GET LEFT BEHIND IN OUR CURRENT STRUCTURES AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED IN SYSTEMS WE HAVE.”



Assistant professor **Dr. Sarah Narendorf** strives to ensure a successful transition to adulthood for marginalized youth and produce impactful, relevant research for practitioners.

“In terms of achieving social justice, there are multiple levels where I’m hoping my research has an impact in addressing equity and system-level issues,” said Dr. Narendorf.

In 2015, she saw the impact of her work with the passage of House Bill 679. Proposed by then legislator, now Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, the legislation launched a statewide count of homeless youth. Data from YouthCount 2.0, a community-generated project headed by principal investigator Dr. Narendorf to count youth in unstable housing in Harris County, influenced the legislation’s passing.

The study fueled numerous collaborations and publications, such as a detailed strategic plan written to inform lawmakers for the 2017 session of the Texas Legislature about potential ways to address youth homelessness across systems.

“Legislators could take that report and write legislation. I’m hopeful it will continue and there

will be an impact during the next legislative session,” said Dr. Narendorf.

In the meantime, she is leading several new projects that align with the core of her work, mental health issues for young people. One is an initiative funded by a University of Houston GEAR grant to study interventions using cell phones for youth recently discharged from the psychiatric emergency room. Another is a publication about the relationship between discrimination and mental health outcomes using data from a seven-city collaborative, a unique partnership of motivated researchers who collected risk and resilience factors for over 1400 homeless young people across the country. Dr. Narendorf led the Houston site.

“Increasingly I’m convinced of the role housing plays as a social justice issue through the work I do around homelessness. I’ve come to understand that in a whole new way in terms of how having a place to sleep at night, a stable place, is such a basic human right that our policies don’t facilitate,” said Dr. Narendorf.



# HOUSTON ENDOWMENT **GIFT**

\$1M TO EDUCATE SOCIAL WORK LEADERS

**The end of the 2016–2017 academic year** brought the boon of a one-million-dollar grant from the Houston Endowment. This generous gift provides funding to implement the GCSW’s 2017–2021 strategic plan.

“In addition to outlining the strategies that will move us forward over the next five years, the most exciting aspect of our strategic plan was establishing our vision — to achieve social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global — which has inspired the entire GCSW community. The support of the Houston Endowment will provide much-needed resources to help us do the important work necessary to achieve this vision. I am incredibly grateful to them for their trust in us and for all they do for the greater Houston community,” said Dean Alan Dettlaff.

Such significant funding acknowledges the need for social workers and demonstrates confidence in the GCSW’s mission to educate and prepare the next generation of social work leaders.

“Houston Endowment is proud to support the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. At the foundation, we envision a vibrant region where all have the opportunity to thrive. We want to ensure that the social ‘safety net’ systems of support are available and accessible for any members of our community who need them when they need them. One way to do that is to increase the number of social workers in Houston,” said Ann Stern, Houston Endowment President and CEO.

The College will feel the grant’s initial impact in Spring 2018 with the beginning of our building renovation project, a key component of the strategic plan, which will ensure a dynamic and technologically advanced learning environment. *(See story page 15)*

In the words of clinical professor Aabha Brown, who was voted to hood the 2017 MSW candidates at commencement exercises, “Achieving social justice is a challenging pursuit that requires skill, endurance, and professional competence — cornerstones of effective social work practice. This gift is a bold investment that demonstrates the recognition of social work as a dynamic partner in the Houston Endowment’s commitment to transforming our region.”

You can learn more about the GCSW strategic plan on our website.

“**GCSW** IS PERFECTLY POSITIONED TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS TO ADDRESS COMPLEX SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN **OUR CITY.**”

–**ANN STERN**, HOUSTON ENDOWMENT PRESIDENT & CEO

2017 Interns: Serena Ahmed, Tyler Anderson, Fabeain Barkwell, Melissa Davila, Arielle Day, Mimi Duong, Andrea Elizondo, Erin Eriksen, Chenelle Hammonds, Elizabeth Hann, Kate Kirages, Joel Kissell, Kylie McNaught, Elsa Mendoza, Tiffany Williams

“AS SOCIAL WORKERS, IT IS OUR ETHICAL DUTY TO BE **POLITICALLY ENGAGED** AND TO BE SOCIALLY ACTIVE ON BEHALF OF OUR CLIENTS.”  
 –**ANDREA ELIZONDO**



# AUSTIN LEGISLATIVE **INTERNS**

**This spring, a group of fifteen GCSW student interns had a seat at the very table** where policy was created during the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session.

“The GCSW Austin Legislative Internship Program offers a unique opportunity for social work students to work within a state legislature,” said Dr. Suzanne Pritzker, program director. “By working on the front lines of the policy-making process, students gain knowledge of how policies are made along with the confidence and skills to impact policy.”

Student interns work as full-time staffers in the Legislature, either as policy analysts with the Legislative Study Group (LSG), a Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives, or in legislators’ offices. For over twelve years, the program has been one of very few opportunities nationally for social work students to participate full-time in the legislative policy-making process.

This year when the 2017 class of interns was not busy working during the Session, they were blogging their experiences. Here’s where social work meets policy in the words of a few of our Austin Legislative Interns:



“I didn’t fully anticipate how instrumental the impact of participating in this internship program would be in teaching me about myself as a social worker.”  
 –**Fabeain Barkwell**

“I do not think the state legislature can afford another person who has lost heart. The holistic perspective and critical thinking skills that social workers are taught act as valuable tools when seeking solutions to complex issues. After observing the game from the sidelines, I am ever more convinced that there is no better time in our country for social workers to be knee-deep in the political process.”  
 –**Tiffany Teate Williams**

“At a time when I feel that many of our political leaders aren’t necessarily governing with social work values like dignity and worth of the person in mind, it’s humbling to have an influence, however small it may be, as I’m advocating for working Texas families.”  
 –**Tyler Anderson**

“After this... I know I can do anything. The sixty-hour (and sometimes more) work weeks, the high-stress situations, the anxiety-provoking phone calls, and the inevitable bonding that took place within the group give cause for renaming this internship Social Worker Boot Camp. In accordance with the desired outcome of this social worker boot camp — and the mission of the Graduate College of Social Work — I now feel that I have obtained the necessary skills and training to promote and achieve sustainable social, racial, economic, and political justice.”  
 –**Arielle Day**

# RISING STRONG **LUNCHEON**

For the GCSW's 2017 Scholarship Luncheon, *Rising Strong*, we tapped none other than Brené Brown, GCSW alumna and Huffington Endowed Professor, to deliver the keynote address to an audience of social workers, donors, and community partners. As a true ambassador of the profession, she leapt at the opportunity to galvanize social workers to lead in a time of increasing divisiveness.



Over 350 attendees collectively donated more than \$200,000 as we gathered to celebrate the profession and to salute the work of Terry Huffington, recipient of the Bobbi & Vic Samuels Spirit of Social Work Award, and GCSW alumna Elizabeth McIngvale, PhD, who received the Social Work Excellence Award.

Special thanks to luncheon co-chairs Karen Winston, LCSW, and Trini Mendenhall, and to Honorary Chair Tiffany Smith, for their vision and leadership. The luncheon inspired us all to Rise Strong as social work leaders in meeting the challenges before us.

2017

**“We** have to find a way back **together.**

And I don't know a profession that can lead us there **better** than social workers.

To find a way back to each other will require us social workers to **stand up.**”

–Brené Brown



# BUILDING **RENOVATIONS**

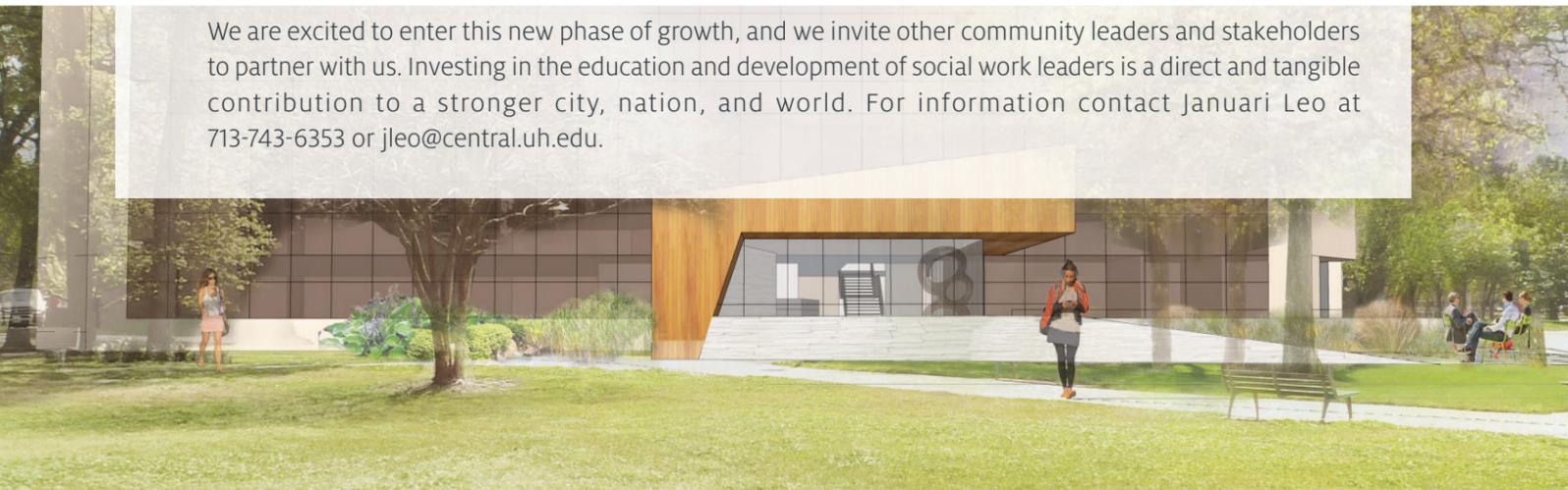
**Thanks to the generosity of donors and friends,** we are happy to announce that the GCSW will begin Phase One of our building renovation project in Spring 2018. On the heels of the pledge from Rahul Mehta and the Mehta Family Foundation that launched the project, this year Houstonians answered the call to invest in the next generation of social work leaders.

New supporters of the initiative include Nancy Frees Fountain of The Frees Foundation, who made a generous pledge toward the initiative and hosted a luncheon that enabled other local foundations, including the Houston Endowment, to learn more about the project. During the luncheon, Dean Alan Dettlaff presented the GCSW's newly adopted vision — to achieve social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global — as a key component and guiding principle of the 2017–2021 strategic plan. The plan includes an objective of raising two million dollars to improve the GCSW physical and technological environment in order to ensure a dynamic and technologically advanced learning experience.



At the end of the 2016–2017 academic year, the GCSW received news of a one-million-dollar grant from the Houston Endowment to implement the strategic plan. (See story page 11) The award will help to fund Phase One of the renovation project, which will begin a needed upgrade of facilities from predominantly lecture-style instruction halls to a research-centered, highly technological interactive learning space suitable for the twenty-first century.

We are excited to enter this new phase of growth, and we invite other community leaders and stakeholders to partner with us. Investing in the education and development of social work leaders is a direct and tangible contribution to a stronger city, nation, and world. For information contact Januari Leo at 713-743-6353 or [jleo@central.uh.edu](mailto:jleo@central.uh.edu).



Concept drawings by Brave Architecture

## GCSW P.R.I.D.E.

They asked; we answered:  
**What do you want the world to know about you?**

“As a friend of members of the LGBTQ+ community, I want the world to know that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and worth. I want the world to know that when my friends are treated harshly because of their identity my heart breaks. My heart breaks because I know the worth and value of my friends. I wish others could see it too.”

—Aloura Alcantar

“In the face of adversity, when they go low, we go high, we stick together and continue to fight for equal rights. Every human being deserves to be treated with the same dignity and respect!”

—Naiyolis Palomo

“HATE IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE AND **LOVE CONQUERS ALL**. MY JOB IS TO WORK MYSELF OUT OF A JOB – LIVING THE EXAMPLE AND TEACHING BY EXAMPLE.”

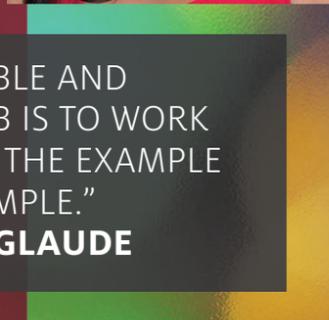
—DR. MAURYA WALKER GLAUDE

“Always an ally for equality.”

—Dr. Susan Martin Robbins

“Houston raised me to believe in diversity and equality. As a queer Texan, I know my state government is on the wrong side of the fight for equality and justice. I will continue to speak up and VOTE!”

—Jamie Parker



# P.R.I.D.E. **PORTRAITS**

**Nationally acclaimed P.R.I.D.E. Portraits** visited the GCSW to provide an opportunity for faculty, students, and staff to participate in a project that champions inclusion and equality and promotes the values of the College and the profession. The mission of P.R.I.D.E. (Photographs Representing Individuals Deserving Equality) Portraits is to visually represent the LGBTQIA community and its allies one photograph and story at a time.

The experience allows participants, including allies, to share with the world who they are and what they believe to be true about themselves. (See page 16 for some of GCSW's best responses) The project has featured celebrities, such as Lance Bass and Melissa Etheridge, alongside everyday people on its website, in social media, in print publications, and even at Houston City Hall, where Dean Dettlaff's portrait was one of ten portraits displayed during Pride Month.



Learn more at [prideportraits.org](http://prideportraits.org)

Photos: Claudia Aguilar, Aloura Alcantar, Samira Ali, Donna Amtsberg, Kamah Asha, Melanie Barr Fitzpatrick, Nicole Bromfield, Nicholas Cavallaro, Elizabeth De Los Rios, Alan Dettlaff, Maurya Glaude, Ann Liberman, Leticia Luna, Amber Mollhagen, Naiyolis Palomo, Jamie Parker, Kelsey Reynolds, Susan Martin Robbins, McClain Sampson, Nivisha Shah, Connease A. Warren

# TIERRA

## SOCIAL **ENTREPRENEUR**

A singular question followed Yvonne Mendoza while she pursued her MSW degree at the GCSW. Courses in Global Justice and Empowerment, as well as a unique fellowship opportunity, inspired her to answer not only by thinking critically about local and global issues, but also by taking action and creating **Tierra de los Artesanos**.

"I remember in Global Justice, I started thinking about the Mexican community. Immigration issues. Problems in the workplace with work theft and exploitation of immigrants. I asked myself, **Yvonne, what are you going to do about it?**"

During her final semester the question echoed louder. Then, having been awarded a fellowship from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), she attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. She said of the experience: "Going to the UN was powerful. It grounded me. Most of the people I encountered were normal, passionate people who wanted solutions."

She returned to Houston with a clear thought: *Something can be done.*

The idea for Tierra was born. But first there was graduation, and next came a job as a school social worker. All the while she continued to work on the idea through conversations with her family and friends. Now there were new questions to answer: *How do I create a company while following my code of ethics? — How do we use the strengths of a community? — How do you sell a 'people first' concept?*

Those answers can be found at a quaint and colorful shop in Houston's East End where customers can buy Mexico-inspired goods at an ethical marketplace that provides work and fair wages for Mexican artisans living in Mexico and Mexican immigrants living in the United States.

For Mendoza, who still works full-time as a school social worker, owning a social enterprise whose mission is economic empowerment is yet another way to practice social work. She uses the skills, values, and perspective of the profession to guide business decisions from engaging with artisans and employees to choosing when and how to grow her company. To those who wonder if she has left social work to run a business, she answers: never.

"I'm indebted to my profession. I always say I'm a social worker because it really did start there. My social work profession is me. It's my standard for living," said Mendoza.



**"Tierra was an idea born out of an innate desire to create a place where things can be fair."**

The GCSW is proud to support alumna Yvonne Mendoza, LMSW. Each visitor to GCSW's booth #513 at APM 2017 will receive our gift of a leather *huichol* bracelet handcrafted by artisan Herbert Rebolledo from Merida, Yucatan. [tierradelosartesanos.com](http://tierradelosartesanos.com)



Pictured: Yvonne and Herbert

## SPEAKING OF **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

MACONDA BROWN O'CONNOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

The GCSW welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winner

Matthew Desmond, author of **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City**, for the inaugural Maconda Brown O'Connor Distinguished Lecture.

It was a fitting capstone for an academic year that began with GCSW students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends reading Desmond's book for the inaugural Dean's Summer Social Justice Reading Series.

"With **Evicted**, our community read and explored together issues in keeping with our vision of achieving social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global. Our goal, for both the lecture and our annual Summer Social Justice Reading series, is to heighten awareness and spark the conversations necessary to achieve real and lasting change," said Dean Alan Dettlaff.

Addressing over 200 attendees, Desmond, who won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction, delivered a lecture that echoed the stark, unflinching style of **Evicted** peppered with humor. He shared even more details from the lives of those portrayed so intimately in his book, which examines poverty and other social justice issues through the lens of housing for eight families in Milwaukee.

"Eviction is a cause, not just a condition of poverty," said Desmond.

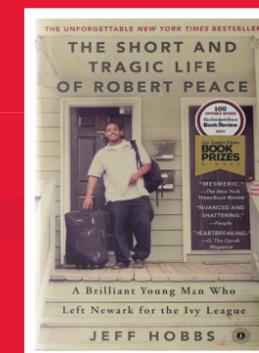
During the post-lecture Q&A he explored solutions with the audience. Underlying the hard truths was a message of hope.

"By no American value is this situation justified," said Desmond. "This doesn't have to be us."



**SAVE THE DATE**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maconda Brown O'Connor Distinguished Lecture, November 2, 2017

**The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace**  
Jeff Hobbs



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
**GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

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