CHAPTER 11: FACULTY

Faculty and Participants enjoy Many Hats of Supervision Seminar at Padre Island, 2011
Faculty: Modeling Leadership in Professional Education

Building on Our Human Strengths

Translating our educational hopes into reality depends on our faculty. They are the craftsmen who take the building blocks of our mission, goals, and objectives, and fashion those elements into a high-quality educational product that students and other constituents can use to improve social services. Our School is fortunate to have a dedicated faculty team which works together well to continuously improve our educational product. The strength of the faculty is accentuated by the fact that, since 2003, the core faculty has grown from 11.5 FTE to the current 21 FTE (though one line is vacant at this point). This tremendous amount of growth in a relatively short time has necessitated that faculty stretch themselves to adapt to many new team members while continuing to move forward to accomplish the School’s mission. These changes have generated some stress, but the faculty is dedicated to operating as a team.

Educational Policy 3.3—Faculty. Faculty qualifications, including experience related to the program’s competencies, and an appropriate student-faculty ratio are essential for developing an educational environment that promotes, emulates, and teaches students the knowledge, values, and skills expected of professional social workers. Through their teaching, scholarship, and service—as well as their interactions with one another, administration, students, and community—the program’s faculty models the behavior and values expected of professional social workers.

Accreditation Standard 3.3—Faculty.
3.3.1 The program identifies each full and part-time social work faculty member and discusses her/his qualifications, competence, expertise in social work education and practice, and years of service to the program. Faculty who teach social work practice courses have a master’s degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program and at least two years of social work practice experience.

3.3.2 The program discusses how faculty size is commensurate with the number and type of curricular offerings in class and field; class size; number of students; and the faculty’s teaching, scholarly, and service responsibilities. To carry out the ongoing functions of the program, the full-time equivalent faculty-to-student ratio is usually 1:25 for baccalaureate programs and 1:12 for master’s programs.

M3.3.3 The master’s social work program identifies no fewer than six full-time faculty with master’s degrees in social work from a CSWE-accredited program and whose principal assignment is to the master’s program. The majority of the full-time master’s social work program faculty has a master’s degree in social work and a doctoral degree preferably in social work.

3.3.4 The program describes its faculty workload policy and discusses how the policy supports the achievement of institutional priorities and the program’s mission and goals.

3.3.5 Faculty demonstrate ongoing professional development as teachers, scholars, and practitioners through dissemination of research and scholarship, exchanges with external constituencies such as practitioners and agencies, and through other professionally relevant creative activities that support the achievement of institutional priorities and the program’s mission and goals.

3.3.6 The program describes how its faculty models the behavior and values of the profession in the program’s educational environment.

Describing Our Core Faculty

Salient factors describing the School faculty are:

⇒ All our full-time faculty are assigned to the School 100% of their time.
⇒ All faculty lines are supported by School monies and are in our continuing budget.
⇒ All our faculty hold the MSW from a CSWE-accredited school.
⇒ All our faculty and adjuncts have at least 2 years of practice experience (in fact, most have considerably more practice background), so faculty who teach our practice courses meet the requirement of two years of practice experience. The practice experience of the vast majority of the faculty occurred in service arenas that address the needs of the most vulnerable populations, which is consistent with the School mission.
⇒ All but five of the faculty hold a doctorate, and two of the MSW-only faculty are currently enrolled as doctoral students.
⇒ The faculty present varied expertise that meshes well with our mission. Dr. Norton’s interest in adventure therapy with disadvantaged youth and Dr. Wisner’s interest in equine therapy with mentally ill individuals...
are only two examples of many ways our faculty prepare students to work with population groups usually served by public agencies.

⇒ All faculty are eligible for licensure as social workers and all are licensed in good standing.
⇒ We have one vacant full-time faculty line, which we hope to fill by January 2012. It will be filled by a person holding the MSW, the doctorate, and a social work license, as these are requirements listed on the job advertisement.

Our University requires that all graduate courses be taught by doctorally-prepared faculty, except in cases which can be clearly justified. MSW-only faculty, such as Mr. Marks or Mr. Henton, often handle Foundation field, an assignment which is easily justified. Our School, however, truly sees the entire faculty as functioning as both BSW and MSW faculty. We meet as a complete faculty and discuss all issues regarding the MSW degree, making corporate plans and refinements together in order to mine the expertise of all our excellent faculty, which currently includes:

**Dr. Angela Ausbrooks, LMSW, Assistant Professor**
- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1997
  - Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 2007 (Social Work)
- Joined Texas State in: January 2000
- Years in Social Work Practice: 9.5 (as Grant Specialist)
- Years in Social Work Education: 5 in tenure track
- Primary Practice Background: child welfare
- Primary Teaching Fields: HBSE; research; practice
- Primary Research Interests: multiculturalism, child welfare, resilience

**Dr. Amy Benton, LCSW, Assistant Professor**
- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1995
  - Ph.D.: University of California Berkeley, 2010 (Social Welfare)
- Joined Texas State in: 2010
- Years in Social Work Practice: 11
- Years in Social Work Education: 1
- Primary Practice Background: Management and program administration
- Primary Teaching Fields: Policy; Management; Child welfare
- Primary Research Interests: Managing agencies and supporting staff; child welfare; services for at-risk youth

**Dr. Mary Jo Garcia Biggs, LCSW, Associate Professor and MSW Coordinator**
- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: Our Lady of the Lake University, 1997
  - Ph.D.: Texas A&M University, 2001 (Higher Education)
- Joined Texas State in: 2002
- Years in Social Work Practice: 13
- Years in Social Work Education: 9

Several of our faculty are quite artistic and musical. Jerry McKimmey, for instance, plays in a rock band. Dorinda Noble plays church piano. Angela Ausbrooks participates in community theatre. Sally Hill Jones played violin. Mary Tijerina sings.

Dr. Raphael Travis not only teaches how to use hip-hop as intervention; he also dances hip-hop himself.
Dr. Kathy Selber was appointed in October 2011 to the National Advisory Council of Operation College Promise, a national project of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities which supports best practices for supporting student veterans.

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**Dr. Nancy Feyl Chavkin, LMSW-AP, Regents’ Professor and Director of Center for Children and Families**

- **Graduate Degrees:**
  - MSW: University of Illinois-Urbana, 1974
  - Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 1983 (Social Work)
- **Joined Texas State in:** 1988
- **Years in Social Work Practice:** 9
- **Years in Social Work Education:** 24
- **Primary Practice Background:** School social work; Children and families
- **Primary Teaching Fields:** Community organization; Administrative leadership planning and development; School social work; Research
- **Primary Research Interests:** Research utilization; Child welfare; Family involvement in Education; School social work

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**Dr. Anne Deepak, LMSW, Assistant Professor**

- **Graduate Degrees:**
  - MSW: Columbia University, 1993
  - Ph.D.: Columbia University, 2004 (Social Work)
- **Joined Texas State in:** 2008 (tenure-track); adjunct, 2007
- **Years in Social Work Practice:** 3
- **Years in Social Work Education:** 7
- **Primary Practice Background:** Mental health; Diversity and community building
- **Primary Teaching Fields:** Diversity, Macro practice; HBSE
- **Primary Research Interests:** Social capital and technology in social work education; Civic engagement of marginalized populations; Globalization; Postcolonial feminist theory and marginalized populations

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**Dr. Colette Duciaume-Wright, LCSW, Lecturer**

- **Graduate Degrees:**
  - MSW: Our Lady of the Lake University, 1995
  - Ph.D.: Smith College, 2010 (Social Work)
- **Joined Texas State in:** 2010 (adjunct), 2011 (Lecturer)
- **Years in Social Work Practice:** 16
- **Years in Social Work Education:** 2
- **Primary Practice Background:** Children and families
- **Primary Teaching Fields:** Practice; Research
- **Primary Research Interests:** Attachment; Adoption; Child welfare

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**Dr. Catherine Hawkins, LCSW, Professor**

- **Graduate Degrees:**
  - MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1985
Mr. Dave Henton, LMSW, Clinical Assistant Professor and Assistant Field Coordinator

- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1989
  - Other: Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry, Seminary of the Southwest, 2009; Case Western Reserve: approximately 40 hours toward doctorate
- Joined Texas State in: 1995
- Years in Social Work Practice: 6
- Years in Social Work Education: 16
- Primary Practice Background: developmental disabilities and mental health
- Primary Teaching Fields: field education and micro practice
- Primary Research Interests: spirituality and social work; transpersonal psychology; field education

Dr. Sally Hill Jones, LCSW, Associate Professor

- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: University of Chicago, 1978
  - Ph.D.: Institute for Clinical Social Work, Chicago, 1993
- Joined Texas State in: 2004 (was an adjunct 2001-2004)
- Years in Social Work Practice: 33
- Years in Social Work Education: 10
- Primary Practice Background: Mental health; Death and dying; Gerontology
- Primary Teaching Fields: Micro practice, Diagnostic assessment
- Primary Research Interests: Trauma; Secondary trauma; Self-care; Hospice; Service learning

Dr. Karen Knox, LCSW, Professor and Field Coordinator

- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1986
  - Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 1994 (Social Work)
- Joined Texas State in: 1995
- Years in Social Work Practice: 20
- Years in Social Work Education: 19
- Primary Practice Background: Victims’ services, Forensic social work, Child abuse, Sexual Assault, Offenders and domestic violence
- Primary Teaching Fields: Field, practice, groups
- Primary Research Interests: Gerontology, Domestic violence, Texas State School of Social Work Russian Initiative
Mr. Andrew Marks, LMSW, Clinical Senior Lecturer and BSW Coordinator

- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: Southwest Texas State University, 1997 (now known as Texas State University-San Marcos)
  - Ph.D.: active student in Benedictine University, anticipated graduate 2014 (Education)
- Joined Texas State in: Senior Clinical Lecturer, 2008 (an adjunct since 2003 and became full-time adjunct in 2006)
- Years in Social Work Practice: 22
- Years in Social Work Education: 8
- Primary Practice Background: Mental health; Criminal justice; Medical social work; Administration; Professional regulation
- Primary Teaching Fields: Love and Relationships; Macro practice; Policy; Field; Supervision
- Primary Research Interests: Professional regulation; Ethics; Medical and disabilities social work

Mr. Jerry McKimmey, LCSW, Lecturer

- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: Our Lady of the Lake University, 1997
- joined Texas State in: 2008
- Years in Social Work Practice: 32
- Years in Social Work Education: 4
- Primary Practice Background: Mental health; Supervision; Program development; Administration
- Primary Teaching Fields: Policy; Practice; Field
- Primary Research Interests: Not required of Lecturer

Ms. Stacie McGee, LMSW, Lecturer

- Graduate Degrees
  - MSW: Our Lady of the Lake University, 1994
- Joined Texas State in: 2007 (adjunct); 2011 (full-time)
- Years in Social Work Practice: 19
- Years in Social Work Education: 4
- Primary Practice Background: children and families
- Primary Teaching Fields: generalist, international
- Primary Research Interests: Not required of Lecturers

Mr. R. Steve Medel, LMSW, Clinical Senior Lecturer

- Graduate Degrees:
  - MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1997
  - Ph.D.: student in doctoral work at Walden University (Education)
- Joined Texas State in: Lecturer, 1999-2002; Clinical Lecturer, 2010
- Years in Social Work Practice: 15
- Years in Social Work Education: 5
- Primary Practice Background: School social work; Criminal justice, Experiential learning; Psycho-educational skills; Prevention programs for at-risk youth
- Primary Teaching Fields: Practice, Policy, and Field

Dr. Dorinda Noble and Andrew Marks regularly offer the state-approved supervision course for LCSWs who wish to become board-approved supervisors.
Primary Research Interests: Children with incarcerated parents; Experiential learning; Psycho-educational skills; At-risk student interventions

Dr. Dorinda Noble, LCSW, Professor and School Director
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: Tulane University, 1972
- Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 1991 (Social Work)
Joined Texas State in: 2001
Years in Social Work Practice: 4
Years in Social Work Education: 33
Primary Practice Background: Child welfare
Primary Teaching Fields: Supervision, Ethics, Legal regulation
Primary Research Interests: Supervision, Ethics, Legal regulation

Dr. Christine Norton, LCSW, Assistant Professor
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: University of Chicago, 1997
- Ph.D.: Loyola University-Chicago, 2007 (Social Work)
- Other: M.S., Minnesota State University-Mankato, 1998 (Experiential Education)
Joined Texas State in: 2008
Years in Social Work Practice: 13
Years in Social Work Education: 7
Primary Practice Background: school social work, juvenile justice, innovative interventions in child and adolescent mental health, adventure and wilderness therapy
Primary Teaching Fields: practice with individuals, families, groups
Primary Research Interests: innovative interventions in mental health, adventure and wilderness therapy, group work, foster care, education

Dr. Amy Russell, LMSW, Assistant Professor
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: University of Houston, 2004
- Ph.D.: University of Houston, 2007 (Social Work)
Joined Texas State in: 2008
Years in Social Work Practice: 10
Years in Social Work Education: 3
Primary Practice Background: Community mental health
Primary Teaching Fields: Research; Program Evaluation; Policy
Primary Research Interests: Student learning outcomes; Program evaluation; Grounded theory research methods; Creativity in classroom; Lesbian health and families; Cultural oppression

Dr. Kathy Selber, LMSW, Professor
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: University of Houston, 1976
- Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 1997
Joined Texas State in: 1997
Years in Social Work Practice: 10
Years in Social Work Education: 35
Primary Practice Background: Working with veterans and their families; Program development
Primary Teaching Fields: Veterans; Administration; Management
Primary Research Interests: Veterans

Dr. Mary Tijerina, LMSW, Associate Professor
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: University of Texas-Austin, 1977
- Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 2001
Joined Texas State in: 2001
Years in Social Work Practice: 20
Years in Social Work Education: 11
Primary Practice Background: Child welfare; Administering alcohol and drug prevention and treatment programs
Primary Teaching Fields: Administration; Organizational development; Research and evaluation
Primary Research Interests: Behavioral health; Disabilities; Social work education

Dr. Raphael Travis, Jr., LCSW, Assistant Professor
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: University of Michigan, 1997
- D.PH: University of California at Los Angeles, 2007 (Public Health)
Joined Texas State in: 2007
Years in Social Work Practice: 4
Years in Social Work Education: 4
Primary Practice Background: Adolescent mental health; Adolescent court involvement
Primary Teaching Fields: Practice
Primary Research Interests: Public health and practice issues; Positive youth development in out-of-school programs and juvenile justice; Hip-Hop culture

Dr. Betsy Wisner, LMSW, Assistant Professor
Graduate Degrees:
- MSW: Syracuse University, 1994
- Ph.D.: University of Texas-Austin, 2008
- Other: M.A. Psychology, SUNY-Cortland, 1986
Joined Texas State in: 2008
Years in Social Work Practice: 18
Years in Social Work Education: 3
Primary Practice Background: Family mental health
Primary Teaching Fields: HBSE; Practice
Primary Research Interests: Therapeutic interventions with mindfulness meditation; therapeutic interventions with equine-assisted therapy
Faculty Plan, Deliver, Refine BSW and MSW

Our faculty plan, study, evaluate, and refine both the BSW and MSW curricula, though MSW courses are taught by Ph.D. faculty. It is consequently challenging to separate faculty into two camps, because all faculty feel committed to both degree programs. However, the faculty who are most closely aligned with the MSW degree program are:

⇒ Dr. Mary Jo Garcia Biggs, MSW Coordinator and Associate Professor
⇒ Dr. Karen Knox, Field Coordinator and Professor
⇒ Dr. Mary Tijerina, Associate Professor
⇒ Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Professor
⇒ Dr. Sally Hill Jones, Associate Professor
⇒ Dr. Amy Russell, Assistant Professor
⇒ Dr. Dorinda Noble, Professor
⇒ Dr. Kathy Selber, Professor

Faculty who often spend half their time teaching in the MSW program are:

⇒ Dr. Betsy Wisner, Assistant Professor
⇒ Dr. Anne Deepak, Assistant Professor
⇒ Dr. Angela Ausbrooks, Assistant Professor
⇒ Dr. Raphael Travis, Assistant Professor
⇒ Dr. Christine Norton, Assistant Professor
⇒ Dr. Catherine Hawkins, Professor
⇒ Dr. Amy Benton, Assistant Professor

Our Adjunct Faculty and Grant Specialists

The School also hires, as needed, adjunct faculty, who bring a current practice perspective to the classroom. To comply with University policy, we only hire doctoral-level adjuncts to teach in the MSW degree program. Some of the current individuals who teach per-course in our MSW classes are as follows.

⇒ Sister Marian Aguillar, MSW, Ph.D., adjunct, is retired after many years of teaching in social work programs such as Our Lady of the Lake and University of Texas-Brownsville. Holding the doctorate from University of Illinois, she teaches drug and alcohol addiction services, and HBSE.
⇒ Wanda Bracy, MSW, Ed.D., adjunct, is retired from an illustrious career in social work education, most recently at University of Southern Illinois. She holds the doctorate from Northern Illinois University and teaches policy and research for our students.
⇒ Rosamaria Murrillo, MSW, Ph.D., adjunct, works with the Department of State Health Services in developing services for Hispanic women and
holds the doctorate from our Lady of the Lake University. She often teaches policy courses.

**Adequacy of Faculty-Student Ratio**

The median size of our MSW courses is about 25, and we attempt to keep graduate classes at no more than 30 students. Practice classes, such as SOWK 5316 Practice III, are best taught to smaller groups of about 20 students, so we keep those courses smaller. Policy and research classes typically have 25-30 students, and Field classes have about 15 students per section. So we take into account the type of material in each course as we set the maximum enrollment in that course.

Currently we have 221 MSW majors. (We also serve a number of students who take elective courses in our program, but they do not require a full-time commitment). In the course of our normal events as a School, we do not make any strong distinction about which faculty are assigned to the BSW program and which are assigned to the MSW. All faculty make decisions about and are invested in both programs. For the purposes of this study, however, we have assigned to the MSW program a total of 11.5 full-time faculty (8 assigned full-time and 7 assigned 50%). Using our total MSW population and designating 11.5 faculty to the program, our faculty-student ratio is 1:13. Clearly, the School meets the criterion of having at least six full-time, qualified faculty assigned to the MSW program. All of our doctoral faculty are members of the Graduate Faculty, and when the School needs to use an MSW-only faculty member to handle MSW field, we also petition to have that person assigned Graduate Faculty status.

**Resources for Faculty**

The University is quite supportive of faculty development and faculty success.

- We give new tenure-track faculty a one-course release each of two semesters so that they have time to jump-start their research agendas.
- New tenure-track faculty are included in a master pedagogy course which, over the course of nine months, helps beginning faculty learn about teaching methods and strategies while making connections with other new faculty across campus.
- All tenure and tenure-track faculty are eligible for funding to travel to national conferences to present their research and explore opportunities for grants. This year, for instance, the School is contributing about $2000.00 to each tenured and tenure-track faculty to travel and make presentations.
- The University offers internal competitive grants to faculty of up to about $17,000.00 (called Research Enhancement Funds). A number of our faculty have been successful in competing for these grants.
- The School is able to support work study students and Graduate Instructional Assistants who assist faculty.
- The School and the Dean’s Office each contribute half the salary to hire several Graduate Fellows, who are specifically assigned to faculty doing major research projects.
Faculty have private offices, new or recent computers and printers, and other supplies as needed, including long distance services. These resources are distributed equitably.

The Faculty Advancement Center (FAC) offers both general training and individualized support to university faculty members to enhance curriculum delivery, computer skills, and professional development.

The Instructional Technology Support Office (IT) offers technology training and equipment maintenance to both individual faculty members and academic units.

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) provides energetic and individualized assistance in crafting and procuring grants. OSP notifies faculty of pertinent grant opportunities, helps us develop proposals, and assists us in administering grants.

The Educational Testing Center (ETC) helps us develop, score, and analyze tests.

Teaching, Service, Scholarly Responsibilities

Our faculty are actively engaged in research and scholarly activities. They regularly publish their work in peer-reviewed journals and books, as their curriculum vita reveal. They have presented their scholarly and professional material literally hundreds of times in state, national, and international forums. Our faculty are also extremely active in local, state, national, and international organizations that further the health and welfare of society and of the profession.

Teaching Workload. Full-time faculty at Texas State must earn at least 12 workload credits per semester.

- MSW courses equal 4 workload credits each, with the exception of Concentration Field courses, which earn 6 workload credits.
- Faculty receive workload credit for programmatic work; for instance, the MSW Coordinator receives 6 workload credits for program leadership, while the Field Coordinator, who works closely with MSW field, receives 6 workload credits for that task. (The BSW Coordinator receives 6 workload credits, while the Assistant Field Coordinator receives 3.)
- Tenured and tenure-track faculty who have viable research agendas—and that is all our faculty in those categories—are granted a 3-credit workload release for scholarship.
- Faculty who are managing external grants, such as Dr. Nancy Chavkin and Dr. Christine Norton, can receive work-load credit for those efforts.
- Given these variables, tenured and tenure-track faculty typically teach 2-3 courses per semester.
- With the occasional exception of teaching field placement, clinical faculty and lecturers, who teach 4 courses and have no scholarship expectations, do not teach in the MSW degree program.
- Faculty are on 9-month contracts. The School offers summer courses, most of which are MSW courses. The MSW Coordinator works in the summer on a summer contract in order to oversee the MSW program.
- As necessary, the School Director may assign workload credit for special tasks which further the School’s mission.
The School’s workload policy is a well-ordered, reasonable way to organize faculty’s work and ensure that the School is able to deliver its curriculum, as well as encourage faculty scholarship and service. The policy, which complies with the University Workload Policy and has been approved by the College, the University, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, helps the School meet its mission. It also keeps us accountable to the state’s taxpayers.

**Scholarship.** The School’s tenured and tenure-track faculty are expected to engage in producing and disseminating scholarship, an expectation which is part of their yearly evaluations. As a general rule, we expect tenured and tenure-track faculty to produce a refereed publication a year, and/or national presentations, and/or a grant proposal. And we expect that this work will filter back into the classroom, involving students in scholarship. Here are a few of the many examples of recent faculty scholarly endeavors:

- Dr. Nancy Chavkin has brought in about $18 million dollars of external funding to the University. As Director of the Center for Children and Families, she has also been a strong mentor to other faculty to assist them in securing grants.
- Dr. Karen Knox and Dr. Betsy Wisner have been involved in developing and researching the School’s partnership with a Russian university social work program.
- Dr. Christine Norton received, in 2011, a $90,000 state grant to work with students who grew up in foster care.
- Dr. Raphael Travis recently won a Robert Wood Johnson grant.

**Service.** All full-time faculty also participate in service efforts, such as working on School and University committees, as well as community and professional efforts which enhance the common good and further the School’s mission. Here are a few of the many examples of how the faculty serve:

- Dr. Nancy Chavkin is a grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education and is considered an expert in proposals involving parent training partnerships.
- Drs. Christine Norton, Mary Jo Garcia Biggs, and Dorinda Noble are recognized by the state as board-approved supervisors.
- Andrew Marks served on the 2008-2010 Practice Analysis Task Force of the Association of Social Work Boards, a process which sets the blueprints for professional licensing tests. Dorinda Noble served on the same commission in 2002-03.
- Dr. Mary Tijerina is a member of the CSWE Commission on Diversity and Social and Economic Justice, and chairs the CSWE Council on Disability and Persons with Disabilities.
- Andrew Marks and Dr. Karen Knox regularly provide licensing test preparation workshops for groups across the state.
- Dr. Amy Russell has been active in various policy initiatives of NASW.
- Dr. Mary Jo Garcia Biggs was honored with the 2011 Distance Learning in Hispanic Education Award by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.
Dr. Dorinda Noble was recently selected as a member of the Leadership Academy of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Modeling Professional Behaviors and Values

As the preceding examples of service and scholarship show, Texas State Social Work faculty are committed to this profession, and model this commitment for students. Faculty discuss their involvement in research and service with students. As licensed professionals, faculty all participate in at least 15 hours yearly of continuing education, including 3 hours of ethics, but that is just the baseline for their professional development activities.

Faculty study professional theory and evidence, and work to present that material in ways that interest and engage students. They participate in University training on how to use technology in teaching and how to integrate multi-cultural content into courses. Several of them have gone through an intensive two-week training to translate a course to multicultural designation. The faculty have also learned a great deal about creating web-assisted courses, which has enriched their teaching skills in face-to-face classes as well.

Faculty engage in research and are deeply involved in community and professional endeavors, creating opportunities for students to be involved in service as well as research. Here are a few examples:

- Dr. Christine Norton is one of two U.S. representatives to the International Adventure Therapy Congress.
- Dr. Nancy Chavkin is a grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education and is considered an expert in proposals involving parent training partnerships.
- Drs. Christine Norton, Mary Jo Garcia Biggs, and Dorinda Noble are recognized by the state as board-approved supervisors.
- Andrew Marks served on the 2008-2010 Practice Analysis Task Force of the Association of Social Work Boards, a process which sets the blueprints for professional licensing tests. Dorinda Noble served on the same commission in 2002-03.
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- Dr. Mary Jo Garcia Biggs was honored with the 2011 Distance Learning in Hispanic Education Award by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.
- Dr. Dorinda Noble was recently selected as a member of the Leadership Academy of the New York Academy of Medicine.
- Dr. Raphael Travis is a member of the United Way Capital Area Youth Leadership Council.
- Dr. Dorinda Noble sits on the Board of Directors for the Association of Social Work Boards.