Graduate & Professional Student Association
Executive Board – Declaration of Candidacy
May 2015 – May 2016

Name: Terri Thomas  Department/School: School of Social Work

Select one:  ○ President  ○ Vice President  ○ Treasurer  ○ Secretary

Please list any relevant experience/qualifications for the position:
(GPSCA experience, student government, extracurricular activities, or other interests)
GPSA Council, Social Work Representative, 2013 - Present; GPSA Sponsorship Committee, Summer 2014 - Present; UNLV Commencement Marshal, 2013 - Present; Grassroots Lobby Days, 2015, 2013, 2011; Past President of the University Association of Social Work Students (UASWS), UNLV, 2012-2014; Past President of Phi Alpha Delta (Social Work) Honor Society, UNLV, 2012-2014; National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Nevada Chapter, BSW Practice Representative, 2013-2014; Past President, Nevada State Southern Baptist Women, 2004 - 2006; Actively monitor and advocate legislative issues that pertain to the populations that I represent and serve.

Please explain why you are interested in serving in this position:
The primary function of the GPSA is to assist graduate and professional students with support for their academic endeavors while striving to create and nurture a sense of community among the students. As a social worker, I work with individuals and groups to increase self-worth and cohesion. Additionally, I actively follow Nevada government and its effects on society and diverse populations. My knowledge of Nevada policies and government will be of value in my role of Chair of the Government Relations Committee. Likewise, my past experience as president in various organizations lends to my commitment to and knowledge of responsibilities while serving on an executive board. The role of Treasurer is one that requires dedication, transparency and fiscal responsibility. These are attributes that I hold in high regard and possess.
April 3, 2015

Dear Ms. Becky Boulton,

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Teresa "Terri" Thomas who is running for GPSA Treasurer. I have interacted with Terri in several contexts: as student, as graduate assistant, as a Family Support Services Specialist, and as member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter.

I was first introduced to Terri as President of UASWS, the School of Social Work student organization. At the time, I was the President of the Nevada Chapter of NASW. One of our organizational goals was to foster a relationship with social work student organizations through the state in order to help the students develop practical social work advocacy skills. Terri was vital in the development of the relationship between the two organizations in Las Vegas. She networked with professional social workers in order to create mentoring opportunities for social work students. With Terri's help, we were able to create a working relationship that enabled the two organizations to provide outreach opportunities within the Las Vegas community. That relationship still exists today.

Terri then took my Death and Dying graduate class in the social work program at UNLV. It was during this time that I saw Terri's academic abilities. Terri was enthusiastic and eager to learn new concepts. As soon as I had a position available, I offered Terri a graduate assistantship at Family Support Services. In this role, Terri coordinates the student workers' duties and activities and serves as a valuable resource to the student workers in the field. She not only exhibits an eagerness to learn, but to share her knowledge with others as well.

Terri brings energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to all of her activities. She is extremely conscientious and driven in her academics. She has maintained a high GPA (3.74) while balancing her full-time graduate school workload, practicum duties, extracurricular activities, and personal responsibilities. She has very good time management skills, is extremely organized and has excellent interpersonal skills.

I believe that Terri would be a valuable asset to the GPSA Executive Board and I fully endorse Terri Thomas' candidacy for GPSA Treasurer. If you have any further questions with regard to her qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Esther J Langston

Esther Jones Langston, PhD
Professor Emeritus School of Social Work
Director Family Support Division
Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach-CAEO
April 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Becky Boulton,

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Terri Thomas, who is running for GPSA Treasurer. I have interacted with Terri as a student, as the UASWS School of Social Work student organization president and as the Graduate and Professional Student Association Social Work Representative.

I first met Terri in 2012, when she enrolled in my human behavior and social environment Social Work undergraduate class. Terri immediately stood out from the crowd. She was attentive in class, prepared, submitted well-written and thoughtful assignments, and participated in meaningful ways, such as by bringing up questions that sparked discussion among other students. When placed in group work sessions, Terri easily adopted a leadership role, encouraging her peers to work together as a cohesive group in order to solve problems presented.

Terri soon became the School of Social Work student organization president. In this role, Terri was able to utilize her leadership and people skills to increase student membership. She also encouraged students to actively participate in established activities and events. Together as a group, the members developed additional community outreach events. Terri was instrumental in revitalizing the student organization and promoting its work both in the UNLV and Las Vegas communities. In 2013, Terri took on the added duty of serving as the Graduate and Professional Association School of Social Work Representative. In these roles, Terri is utilizing the education that she received in the undergraduate program and the skills that she is learning as a macro and community practice MSW candidate, as well as those skills that she is developing in the Nonprofit Certification Program. Terri is extremely conscientious and driven in her academics. She has maintained a high GPA and is a full-time graduate student in good standing. She has very good time management skills, is extremely organized and has excellent interpersonal skills.

As the GPSA School of Social Work Advisor, I believe that Terri would be a valuable asset as a member of the GPSA Executive Committee. I fully support Terri Thomas’ candidacy as GPSA Treasurer and her potential term in office. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Overcamp-Martini, Ph.D.
Graduate Program Director
Teresa L Thomas, BSW, LSW
5450 South Fort Apache Road # 160
Las Vegas, NV 89148
702.956.7248
territhomas612@yahoo.com

Education
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Master of Social Work Anticipated Graduation May, 2016 GPA: 3.72
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Certification in Nonprofit Management Anticipated Certification December, 2015
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Major: Bachelor of Social Work Minor: Marriage and Family Therapy (Family Studies)
Spring 2013 GPA: 3.92
Truckee Meadows Community College Degree: Associate of Arts Fall 2010 GPA: 3.87
Related Coursework:
Human Development and Family Studies Behavioral Psychology
Aging and Dying World Religions
Sociology

Professional Experience
University of Nevada Las Vegas, The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, Graduate Assistant to the Director of Family Support Services January 2014 – present
20 hours per week
• Conduct research on best practices
• Coordinate the student workers schedules and activities
• Conduct psychosocial assessments on potential clients for partner agencies
• Represent Family Support Services on various community committees
• Conduct workshops on social issues
• Represent the director on various organization meetings in her absence

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (CAEO), Family Support Services Specialist May 2014 – August 2014
30 hours per week
• Co-presented at National GEARUP Conference on wraparound services provided to at-risk middle and high school students
• Conducted workshops on bullying and suicide
• Provided wraparound and crisis intervention services to students participating in the Upward Bound Residential Summer Program
• Interviewed potential practicum student workers
• Created the new hire orientation for in-coming student workers

Club Christ Ministries, Summer Program Center Director, Henderson Learning Center
June 2013 – August 2013
20 hours per week
• Tutored at-risk and under resourced children in Math, Reading and writing skills
• Created and implemented educational programs for grade levels 1st – 6th
• Worked with families to provide better services to meet the needs of the children
• Educated the children in basic biblical principles
• Monitored and facilitated the federal snack program
• Monitored and inventoried all Center supplies
• Trained, motivated and supervised all Summer volunteer teams

Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, Membership Coordinator
September 2006 – August 2008
40 – 60 hours per week
• Collaborated with social agencies to provide memberships for at-risk and under resourced youth and teens
• Created Parent Panel and served as Liaison
• Created Free Membership Day Drive
• Co-created events for parents and families
• Maintained all club memberships
• Granted scholarships for fees
• Collaborated with Youth and Teen Directors and site coordinators regarding programming, events and fees
• Assisted in new-parent orientations
• Assisted parents in applying for financial assistance
• Supervised Front Counter personnel
• Created programming forms, calendars and fees for all club sites
• Received donations for non-profit fundraising
• Represented the Club in media and public relation events
• Served as customer service for the Club
• Performed oral presentations for the Board of Directors

Assistant Human Resources Manager, Club Cal-Neva, Reno, NV
January 1989 – November 1996
40 – 50 hours per week
• Revised company handbook; implemented and created company policies and procedures
• Ensured company compliance of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
• Created ADA job descriptions and all company job descriptions
• Monitored all ADA medical and personal leave of absences
• Investigated and compiled data for all Nevada Equal Rights Commission and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission cases
• Maintained records of, and represented the company in Nevada unemployment hearings
• Created and coordinated the Employee Housing Assistance Program
• Revised the Employee of the Month Program
• Created the Silver Appreciation Award Program (Quarterly Supervisor Program)
• Created and monitored the Employee Board of Review
• Stayed current on all state and federal employment laws
• Researched, attended and represented the company on unemployment cases and hearings
• Monitored and assisted in ensuring compliance of all state and federal employment laws

Practicum Experience

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (CAEO), Family Support Services Division, Macro and Community Practice concentration
August 2014 – present
20 – 30 hours per week
• Revised all division paperwork in compliance with NASW Code of Ethics and Nevada Revised Statues
• Revised employee job descriptions
• Co-trained all direct practice student workers in policy, procedures and best practices with focus on trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, grief and loss, cognitive behavioral therapy and social work theories
• Coordinate with CAEO inter-departmental staff to provide wraparounds services to various department’s clients in need
• Represent CAEO Family Support Services in community outreach activities
• Network with outside agencies
• Collaborate with community partners in providing services to people in need
• Conduct grant research
• Serve on CAEO Succession Committee

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (CAEO), Family Support Services Division, Direct Practice
August 2013 – May 2014
15 – 20 hours per week
• Worked with Clark County School District personnel to determine teens in need of wraparound services
• Conducted psychosocial assessments on teens referred for services
• Conducted individual and group sessions for teens in crisis, with truancy problems and/or behavioral health issues
• Coordinated with department personnel to conduct college tours and outreach fairs
• Represented Family Support Services Division in community agency outreach fairs
• Worked with disciplinary teams in assigned Clark County Title I middle and high schools

Club Christ Ministries, Intern
August 2012 – May 2013
20 - 30 hours per week
• Tutored at-risk and under resourced children and teens in all school subjects
• Created a leadership curriculum for children in Kindergarten through sixth grades
• Researched grants for funding
• Wrote grant applications for potential funding
• Ensured that grant monies were properly allocated
• Worked with families to provide better services to meet the needs of the children and teens
• Collaborated with various organizations to establish sponsors and donors for funding
• Collaborated with various organizations to provide for the needs of the families
• Educated the children and teens in basic biblical principles
• Served as Youth Center Director on an as-needed basis
• Taught the leadership program
• Monitored and facilitated the federal snack program
• Monitored and inventoried all Center supplies
• Recruited, trained, motivated and supervised all Center volunteers
• Coordinated and staffed fundraisers for the non-profit organization
• Sought donations for the non-profit organization fundraisers

Volunteer Experience

Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), School of Social Work Representative
August 2013 – present
5 – 10 hours per week
• Represent graduate social work students on the GPSA Council
• Communicate university activities to social work students
• Advocate for social work student concerns regarding proposals on fees, policies and personnel
to university representatives
• Serve on the GPSA Sponsorship Committee
• Review, approve, deny, amend and/or grant funding requests from graduate and professional
students
• Serve on UNLV Dining Advisory committee
• Serve as Commencement Marshal at Fall and Spring Commencement ceremonies
• Write articles for the Luminary Newsletter

Phi Alpha Delta (Social Work) Honor Society, President
December 2012 – December 2014
10 - 15 hours per week
• Oversaw all events both on and off campus
• Facilitated all meetings
• Oversaw all officers in their duties
• Ensured that the organization is adhering to the mission and purpose statements
• Ensured that all applicants are processed accordingly
• Ensured that the budget is maintained
• Kept all members informed regarding organizational duties and events

University Association of Social Work Students, President
December 2012 – December 2014
10 - 20 hours per week
• Increased membership and participation by 25%
• Oversaw all events both on and off campus
- Ensured open communication between the organization, the School of Social Work, and outside entities
- Served as the liaison between students, staff and outside entities
- Oversaw all officers in their duties
- Facilitated all meetings
- Ensured that the organization is adhering to the mission and purpose statements
- Ensured that all budgets are being maintained
- Ensured that all events are properly funded, staffed and operational
- Kept all members informed regarding organizational duties and events

National Association of Social Workers (NAWS), Nevada Chapter, Board of Directors, BSW Practice Representative
June 2013 – October 2014
10 – 15 hours per week
- Increased the presence of BSWs at events and activities in the state of Nevada
- Co-created BSW-focused CEU events
- Networked with community agencies to promote and BSW focused training and events
- Created an email database of all BSWs in the state
- Co-organized the Social Work Appreciation Dinners
- Co-organized the Reno conference
- Served on the conference committees
- Fundraised for the Reno conference
- Represented the NASW Nevada Chapter and the Board of Directors at events and activities

Hospital Visitations
January 1997 – Present
5 hours per week or more as needed
- Assists the family in coming to terms with the illness and/or impending death
- Educates the family in meeting the needs of the patient
- Visits with the patient; provide emotional comfort
- Assists family members in completing necessary paperwork
- Serves as family gatekeeper
- Conducts aftercare home visits

ESL Instructor
January 2012 – Present
2 - 10 hours per week as needed
- Teaches English to non-native English language adults
- Assists students in assimilating into American society and culture
- Assists students in completing job applications and routine paperwork
- Helps students study for citizenship tests
- Reinforces the necessity to maintain cultural customs

Senior Adult Ministry Co-leader, Summerlin Community Baptist Church
September 2010 – December 2012
5 – 10 hours per week
- Communicated with senior adults
• Provided transportation to appointments
• Assisted the senior adults in completing necessary paperwork
• Ensured that the senior adults applied for and received needed services
• Facilitated and planned senior adult social groups

Nevada State Southern Baptist Women’s President
January 2004 – December 2006
20 - 30 hours per week
• Assisted the Southern Baptist churches in implementing and updating women and children’s programs
• Served as a Board member on the National WMU Board of Directors
• Visited Southern Baptist churches
• Represented the organization in the media and at public relation events
• Served as a public speaker
• Coordinated and facilitated city, state and national events and conferences
• Wrote articles/devotions/prayers when requested
• Oversaw the Nevada Women’s Resources Executive Board
• Assisted the Women’s Resources Director when needed
• Represented the state of Nevada on the national Southern Baptist level
• Trained women as teachers and leaders in missions education
• Recruited women to serve as leaders and facilitators

Nevada State Children and Youth Missions Camps Director
February 2000 – September 2005
10 – 50 hours per week
• Created schedules
• Created devotions
• Maintained budget
• Located and enlisted volunteers to lead activities; coordinated with the missionaries
• Compiled and created all necessary paperwork
• Oversaw all activities
• Ensured the safety and well-being of campers and staff

Las Vegas Rescue Mission Meal Server, 2010 – Present, 2 - 4 hours per month

Missions Education Leader and Teacher, Summerlin Community Baptist Church, 2011 – 2012, 3 hours per week

Sunday School Teacher, Preschool- Senior Adults, 1996 – 2012, 3 hours per week

Home-school Educator, 1997 – 2009, 35 hours per week

National WMU Endowment Committee member, 2005 – 2006, 2 – 5 hours per week

Pastor’s Wife, Sparks Baptist Church, 2005 – 2007, 24 hours per day

Senior Adult Ministry Leader, Granite Hills Baptist Church, 2000 – 2003, 5 – 10 hours per week
WMU/Women’s Ministry Director, Granite Hills Baptist Church, 1999 – 2003, 5 hours per week

Hospitality Chairperson, Granite Hills Baptist Church, 1997 – 2003, 15 hours per week

Presentations
FSS Wraparound Services, National GEARUP Conference, Washington DC, July, 2014
Bullying Awareness Workshop, Upward Bound, UNLV, June 2014

Licenses and Certificates
Nevada State Licensed Social Worker, 2013 - present
ESL Instructor, 2003- 2013
CPR/First Aid Certification, 2007 - 2011
Training Effective Leaders, 2000 - 2005

Memberships
National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Nevada Chapter
The National Society of Leadership and Success, UNLV Chapter
University Association of Social Work Students (UASWS), UNLV Chapter
Phi Alpha Delta (Social Work) Honor Society, UNLV Chapter
Golden Key International Honor Society
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
UNLV Alumni Association

Scholarships and Awards
UNLV School of Social Work Student Scholarship, 2015, 2014, 2013, $4,000 each year
UNLV Graduate School Grant, 2015, 2014, 2013, $2,000 each year
Nevada’s Women Lobby, Grassroots Lobby Days 2015, $100
Magna cum Laude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Social Work, 2013
Dean’s List, Truckee Meadows Community College, 2010, 2009

Special Skills
Grant writing
Administration skills
Design and implementation of programs and events on the micro, mezzo and macro levels
Organizational assessment
Organizational skills
Interpersonal skills
Leadership skills
Teaching/training
Recruitment
Advocacy
Multicultural awareness
Goal setting

References available upon request