Nominate HER Awards
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Twelve years ago, Houston Woman Magazine created and presented the Nominate HER Awards for the first time, to honor excellent role models in our community. Since then, more than 80 women have been recognized in the publication, as well as at a gala luncheon event.

On August 22, seven women were recognized at the 12th Annual Nominate HER Awards Luncheon, held at the Junior League of Houston and attended by 150 guests. All of the award recipients were nominated by readers of Houston Woman Magazine. In their nomination documents, all expressed how much they were influenced and inspired by each of the honorees.

Receiving the 2018 Nominate HER Awards were Michelle Pittenger, geologist at ConocoPhillips, Broad Shoulders Award; Dr. Heather Brown, orthodontist, Community Angel Award; Tracy Faulkner, philanthropist and community volunteer, Evolving Eve Award; Veronica Avila, architect and owner of El Burro and the Bull restaurant, Gutsy Gal Award; Amanda Vasquez, office manager in patient education at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Maximum Mom Award; Demetra Liggins, attorney and partner at Thompson & Knight, LLP, Savvy Sister Award; and Christine Galib, entrepreneur, mentor and teacher, Wise Woman Award.

Others present to receive a special award of appreciation from Denver. Shibeob has been a generous supporter of the annual Nominate HER Awards Program for more than 10 years, always providing the floral centerpieces to the annual luncheon. Other generous supporters this year included ConocoPhillips, Harry Faulkner, Friends of Beverly Denver, Friends of Tracy Faulkner, Carrin Patman, Texas Motor Transportation Consultants, Thompson & Knight, LLP, Wright Pawn & Jewelry, and Wulfle & Co./Wulfle Management.

Photos by Alexander’s Fine Portraits

Sonta White (left) nominated Dr. Heather Brown (center) for this year’s Community Angel award and introduced her to guests of the 12th Annual HER Awards Luncheon. With them is Gloria Ogan (Brown’s mother).

Avila, architect and owner of El Burro and the Bull restaurant, Gutsy Gal Award; Amanda Vasquez, office manager in patient education at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Maximum Mom Award; Demetra Liggins, attorney and partner at Thompson & Knight, LLP, Savvy Sister Award; and Christine Galib, entrepreneur, mentor and teacher, Wise Woman Award.

Beverly Denver, publisher of Houston Woman Magazine, welcomed guests to the luncheon and served as the mistress of ceremonies for the day. St. Jane Meyer, head of school at St. Agnes Academy, gave the invocation. During this year’s luncheon, Nina Shibeob, owner of Flowers by Nina, was called to

Carrie Patman (right), sponsor of the Gutsy Gal Award, took part in the presentation ceremony and presented the award to Veronica Avila.

Avila, architect and owner of El Burro and the Bull restaurant, Gutsy Gal Award; Amanda Vasquez, office manager in patient education at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Maximum Mom Award; Demetra Liggins, attorney and partner at Thompson & Knight, LLP, Savvy Sister Award; and Christine Galib, entrepreneur, mentor and teacher, Wise Woman Award.

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Christine Galib (left) received the Wise Woman Award. With her is Taryn Sims of Wulfle & Co/Wulfle Management, sponsor of the award.

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‘Wise Woman’ teaches entrepreneurship, financial literacy to tomorrow’s leaders

by Deborah Quinn Hensel

Wisdom is defined as having and applying experience, knowledge and good judgment — qualities Christine Galib has demonstrated well. So well, in fact, she was honored recently as the recipient of Houston Woman Magazine’s 2018 Wise Woman Award.

Galib accepted the award at the magazine’s 12th Annual Nominating HER Awards Luncheon, held August 22 at the Junior League of Houston. Galib was nominated for the award by Samantha Desmarais.

Galib is the director of the Entrepreneurship Diploma Program at The Village School, a private Pre-K through Grade 12 school in West Houston. Through the Entrepreneurship Diploma Program — the only one of its kind in the country — Galib teaches high schoolers about entrepreneurship, financial literacy, leadership development, negotiation, private equity and venture capital, marketing and strategy and decision-making. The program also promotes the CHANGE-Driven Entrepreneur’s Mindset, which prepares students to navigate non-linear careers, apply systems thinking to complex challenges and lead sustainable and creative change.

“Entrepreneurship Diploma candidates take core courses and design and implement their own business,” Galib said. “A requirement for graduation is pitching their business, Shark Tank-style, to their peers, their parents, administrators and business leaders in the area.” Current students’ start-ups run the gamut from bread-making to designing apps, she said.

A native of Pennsylvania, Galib graduated from Princeton University and made her way to Houston in 2014, but with many interesting stops along the way. After college, Galib worked on Wall Street, where she co-founded an investment management group to help nonprofits and endowments grow scholarships and fund missions.

“It was 2008, and it was a very stressful time,” Galib said, referring to the economy.

People around her turned to maladaptive behaviors to manage stress. In this context, Galib’s own self-care practices led her, in 2010, to develop Plan My Plate, a health and wellness consulting company that teaches mindfulness, meditation, life-style management, yoga and nutrition.

Galib became an Integrative Nutrition Health Coach to focus on promoting positive health outcomes and lasting behavioral changes in individuals. She then took her work to the classroom, to share with students.

Through Teach for America, Galib taught health and wellness and science, while working toward her master’s degree in education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Galib had majored in English and medieval history, Galib developed some creative methods to teach science.

“I was able to teach in a way that wasn’t your typical lecture style. I’d say things like ‘make your own comic and that’s going to be your assignment to show me you understand states of matter,’” she said.

Galib also drew from her theater background to make learning creative, student-driven and experiential.

Galib commented, “I would say ‘put together a kit that shows you understand.’ And, my students would say, ‘that’s crazy, but we love it.’”

While teaching in Philadelphia, she was approached to reapply her Wall Street knowledge to students, during the school day. Bridges to Wealth can be credited with increasing the investing returns of its participants — many in underserved areas in Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles — by more than eight times.

Bridges to Wealth was also the impetus for the Entrepreneurship Diplomas program at The Village School, where Galib landed — first to create and direct a wellness program — after arriving in Houston to work on a project for the Department of Education.

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Christine Galib to students, during the school day. Bridges to Wealth can be credited with increasing the investing returns of its participants — many in underserved areas in Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles — by more than eight times.

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Galib loves mentoring her young female students in the same way other strong, savvy women mentored her along her own non-linear path. She offers advice when students ask about negotiating their first salary or how to change perceptions and treatment of women in the workplace and world.

“Galib doesn’t know what the jobs of the future will be,” said Desmarais. “But, she is teaching people to be flexible and adaptive so they can succeed in creating their own career paths.”

In Houston’s rapidly growing innovation scene, Galib works directly with the leaders who will continue to change our world for the better.

Deborah Quinn Hensel is a freelance journalist and staff reporter for Houston Woman Magazine.