November is the beginning of National Adoption Month. This month helps highlight the need for permanent families in the United States by raising awareness and increasing outreach. This month also recognizes the organizations and families that help make adoption possible with a month long celebration.

For some children, adoption played an essential role in their lives. Some children who were adopted went on to become historical figures. Some that stand out are Edgar Allen Poe, Eleanor Roosevelt, Nelson Mandela, John Hancock, Steve Jobs, Nancy Reagan and Bill Clinton.

How to Observe

- Share your experiences with adoption
- Support journeys to start or expand families
- Visit local adoption agencies or events to volunteer
- Learn about people who have overcome addition
- Visit the Red Ribbon Campaign site below to see more

#NationalAdoptionMonth

Find resources to help with education and start conversations about adoption [here](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/).

Source: [https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/)
YOU MATTER

Self-Righting Not Self-Righteous

You ready for some real talk?...Here it goes... My default mode, when I’m not doing “my work”, when I am not connected to and operating from deeper, more meaningful values, is one of negativity, criticism, judgment, finger pointing (often wagging), and looking for and placing blame and responsibility on anyone and anything but myself. Guess how well that has served me and others in my life?...
That’s a rhetorical question. You know the answer...

There are deep personal, relational, social, and cultural implications for this less evolved behavior and way of being, but I want to think about the professional implications of negativity, criticism, and denying personal responsibility – pretending that I can or should actually separate and silo all of those different aspects of myself and my life experience.

To stay on topic (tangents are my jam), I want to think about this through the lens of Social Work’s Core Values – stay with me, we’ll get there... Let’s start with negativity... I don’t like the way that negativity feels, and if I am not comfortable with feeling those feelings, what do I about that? If I am not mindful, awake, aware, conscious, and connected to something bigger than me, I project that negativity outward and on to someone or something else. Now, that I can rationalize that this negative feeling is not about me – because that’s a hard thing to own up to – judgment, criticism, and negativity can go full throttle because I’m not involved, I’ve done no wrong, or so the story goes... To complicate matters, with judgment and criticism revved up – a.k.a. self-righteousness - I (and all humans when self-righteous) get a blast of dopamine. So now thanks to this neurochemical influence, I am learning that it feels good, very temporarily, to deny responsibility, to be self-righteous, and to project blame, shame, and guilt... Off to a great start, right?!?... Again, if I am not awake, if I am not aware of what’s happening, if all that feels “good” (err... or just feels different than negativity pointed inwards), going harder, being more self-righteous, more often, must feel better... Let me spare you the details, it doesn’t!

A great teacher of mine repeatedly told me and other students that when you point a finger at someone or something, you have 3 fingers pointing back at yourself!... Try it, it’s true!. Therefore, the work that needs to be done is not so much “out there” as it is “in here”. Gandhi didn’t say “be the change you want to see in the world.” Although, it’s a good sentiment. Gandhi said “We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change...We need not wait to see what others do.” If I sense that the world I’m in needs to change, then I have my own work to do.

What happens when I am aware of my feelings, when I sit with my feelings, when I ask what my feelings are about and what I can do with them to better myself and others, and not who my feelings are about and who should bear the burden of my projections? In other words, how might my life and others’ be improved and advanced when my aim is to be self-righting not self-righteous?

Making our way (finally) to the core values, when I don’t take responsibility for my life, my actions, my behaviors, and my feelings, I project the unwanted and the intolerable onto others and other things. From this position nothing positive has been, is, or can be accomplished. I am not of service. I am creating, perpetuating, or making worse social injustice. Dignity and worth of the individual is not realized nor expressed. I am without integrity. And all the relationships I have – professional and personal - suffer. Self-righteousness is nothing more than a wrong to myself and others.

Humanist and client-centered therapist, Carl Rogers, said “the more I can keep a relationship free of judgment and evaluation, the more this will permit the other person to reach the point where they recognize that the locus of evaluation, the center of responsibility, lies within themselves.” We all have our work to do, and that’s not a bad thing! It’s a compassionate reminder that things can get so much better!

Coming back to myself, I will repeat my aim and make it my mantra: what good might be accomplished when my aim is to be self-righting not self-righteous? What good might be accomplished when I take responsibility and do my inner work? Wherever I see, hear, feel, or know that action is needed, I - the feeling, acting, being individual - am involved and take responsibility because I am an integral part in the process and progress of change.
ADVISING

Feeling a bit lost? Already worrying about Fall as you begin Summer? Start with your Graduate Student Leader! Don’t know who that is? Email Julie Henderson or Nicole Ferguson.

• Need to meet with your advisor but there’s no upcoming appointment available? Drop-in either in person or virtually on Wednesdays. To schedule your 30-minute drop-in time, click here. Be sure to select in-person or virtual and your advisor. Remember, drop-in sessions are on a first come basis.
• Another option if your advisor’s appointment schedule is full is to email them for email advising. Please check advising appointments every Monday when new availability opens up for the coming weeks.
• Don’t need a full advising appointment but have general questions? Join your advisor for their weekly Power Hour!

FIELD PLACEMENTS

General

• InPlace has a new URL! All students, agencies, and Field Instructors will need to use the new URL. https://inplace.uta.edu/
• The InPlace fee is $67 per year or $130 for a lifetime. Each student will need to plan to pay the InPlace fee on the first day of class for that semester they are starting field.
• InPlace Training and Logbook Training can be found here!
• Field forms are available here!
• Field FAQ
• If you are having technical difficulties with InPlace please email sswfield@uta.edu and include a screenshot of the issue.
• Are you a CAP student ready for your advanced field placement? Check out the Funding section for paid opportunities!

Fall 2021

• See the Fall 2021 Field Education Calendar here.

Spring 2022

• The Spring 2022 Field Application will be open Oct. 01 – Nov. 26, 2021. These dates are subject to change. See the full Spring 2022 Field Education Calendar here.
• Read the Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 Field Accommodations here.

FIELD POWER HOURS

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, similar to Office Hours for faculty!
• Foundation MSW
  • Field Advisor: Natalie Mangham
  • 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 3-4
  • Click here to join the meeting
• CAP & Children & Families
  • Field Advisor: Monica Brown
  • 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-4
  • Click here to join the meeting
• Mental Health
  • Field Advisor: Hector Ramos
  • 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3-4
  • Click here to join the meeting
• Aging & Health
  • Field Advisor: Sharon Martin
  • 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, 3:30-4
  • Click here to join the meeting

LICENSING

• If you’re in your final semester and want to get started on applying to ASWB to take the LMSW licensing exam, click here to request the Dean’s Letter for Licensure, which UTA will send to ASWB. More info can be found on the ASWB site and our SSW licensure page.
• Click here for a recording of our Social Work Licensing Information Session.
• Interested in the LCDC? Scroll to the end of this Licensing webpage and click on the Texas LCDC Licensing 2021 PDF for a chart that shows how different education levels can prepare you for the LCDC.
IMPORTANT DATES

FALL 2021

• Nov. 5 Last Day to Drop Classes by 4:00PM
• Nov. 8 Registration begins for Spring
• Nov 25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
• Nov 26 Spring Field Application Deadline

GET INVOLVED

STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL CHANGE (SGC)

MEETS EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY FOR EACH MONTH (5-6PM) IN TRANSMETAL MEETINGS!

EVENTS

THE CENTER FOR MEXICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PRESENTS CMAS

WE ARE NOT SLAVES

Robert Chase

Crisis Intervention, Criminal Law, and Diversity and Inclusion Studies

Wednesday, November 10
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
University Center: Neches/Pedernales

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT (817) 255-2677 OR VISIT US AT UTAAEEO/CMAS

CELEBRATE WITH US!

NOVEMBER’S THURSDAY TALKS & TREATS

Come to the SSW courtyard with your favorite treats &ジャンル on the go! Enjoy and discuss the state of affairs for a different cultural group each month and how social workers can support them.

November’s celebration is for American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

Thursday, November 18
11 am - 12:30 pm
Come and go event!

The SSW Connections Tutoring Lab is NOW OPEN!

Please see the flyer for information and a link to book your 30 minute session—we have virtual and face to face slots available to meet your needs.
COVID-19 Testing

Beginning Monday, Sept. 13, students, faculty and staff coming to any UTA campus in any capacity will be selected at random for mandatory COVID-19 testing.

Until further notice, 20% of our campus population, regardless of vaccination status, will be selected each week for testing. Notifications will come from covidtesting@uta.edu, and you will have seven days to get tested after being selected. If you have any questions, contact covidtesting@uta.edu.

UTA has a number of on-campus testing options that meet the required criteria and are free. Results received from an on-campus testing option will automatically be reported to the University with no further action required on your part.

Results from off-campus testing sites will be accepted, though you will not be reimbursed for costs. Test results from an off-campus testing site will be uploaded to the COVID-19 Self Report portal in MyMav.

Remember, if you test positive, please follow the CDC's isolation protocols and submit the Personal Diagnosis Form.

UTA’s COVID-19 testing resources are always available to you should you need or want a test; you do not need to wait until you are selected for random testing.

Covid-19 Vaccine

Click to find vaccine opportunity.

Listen to UTA public health experts explain why getting a COVID-19 vaccine is beneficial for you and your community.

Required COVID-19 testing and new protective measures for Fall 2021 (English and Español) (uta.edu)

Classroom density, updated info from university on testing and return to campus

Flu Shots

Health Services recommends getting vaccinated by the end of October to be protected against flu before the start of flu season. Email the Immunization Clinic with your name, date of birth, student ID number, and phone number to schedule your free flu shot.

Dean Ryan's Statement on COVID-19 Health Disparities

FUNDING

Applications for Spring ’22 scholarships are now open through Nov. 12th.

Here is the link to apply. Scholarship Link

CEU OPPORTUNITIES

Free CEU’s from Valdosta State University

For All Licensed Clinical Social Workers

Do you need Continuing Education units? Earn those units from the comfort of your office. Click for more information.
Rental Assistance Program
The Tarrant County Rental Assistance Program assists residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details, email renthelp@tarrantcounty.com or call 817-850-7940.

Emergency Assistance Fund
UTA students with a temporary financial hardship resulting from a sudden emergency may apply for financial help.

Get Microsoft 365, The Wall Street Journal and Other Apps FREE with your student email!

How to gain access to SSW writing resources: Advising & Student Success Canvas

UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distributions
Currently distributing groceries on Thursdays only, from 9-11:45 a.m. and 2-4:45 p.m. To receive these grocery bags you must send an email to utafoodpantry@gmail.com to request a pickup time. Include student name, last four digits of UTA ID, requested grocery pickup time, choice of vegetarian, chicken, or any meat groceries.

If you have any questions or content suggestion for the newsletter, please contact Tuesday Darling: tbd2290@mavs.uta.edu

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Social Work Program
(817) 272-2135

“How do measure your growth? By how much you help.”
– Meir Ezra