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Introduction/Welcome for Dean Foster

I am excited to be the new Dean of the UTA School of Social Work. You are the reason I am here and why I decided to move over 1200 miles across the country to join UTA. The rich diversity in our student body and the impact you, our alumni, faculty, and staff make on the region drew me to UTA. Together, we will continue to build on this tradition and make an even deeper impact on the lives of people, communities, and organizations in DFW, across the country, and beyond.

You may want to know a little about me. I was born and raised in a small town in southern Illinois just outside of St. Louis, Missouri. Like many of you, I am a first-generation college student; my mom jokes that once she got me into school (I apparently didn't want to go), I never left! I hold an undergraduate degree in Russian & East European Studies, a Master of Divinity, and of course an MSW and PhD in social work. I served several years as a local church pastor in the greater St. Louis area then went on to get my MSW. My practice area is broadly "macro" but more specifically community development. I have taught community and organizational practice primarily at the MSW level. My research focuses on social capital, collective action, political participation, and policing in urban African American communities. Most recently, I was the Director of the School of Social Work at East Carolina University and prior to that, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of South Carolina College of Social Work. I jumped at the opportunity to join UTA and I look forward to the journey ahead.

You will hear more from me in the coming weeks and months and we will find times and ways to fellowship together. Go Mavs!

Kirk A. Foster, PhD, MSW, MDiv
Dean and Professor
School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Arlington

SOCIAL JUSTICE Spotlight

Out and Proud Because of the Gender-Affirming Care I Received

This week we are featuring an article written by UTA MSW student, Kabir Parikh, for the Washington Blade: America's LGBTQ New Source. He is also our featured student this week in the Student Spotlight! Below is an excerpt from his article:

The risk of taking away gender-affirming rights poses a much bigger risk to youth. Suicidality is already a big issue within the transgender community when compared to the cisgender community. When life-saving medical intervention (i.e. gender-affirming care) is withheld, suicidality and mental health outcomes worsen. According to the Human Rights Campaign, all major health organizations agree with and approve of gender-affirming interventions for treating gender dysphoria. Once again, these are the facts.

Read More About Kabir's Journey Here

Event Spotlight

CALLING ALL FOUNDATION MSW AND BSW STUDENTS

Find your Match (MSW Specialty Information Session)

WHEN IS IT?

- February 21st
- 7:00 - 8:30pm
- Virtual Session on TEAMS

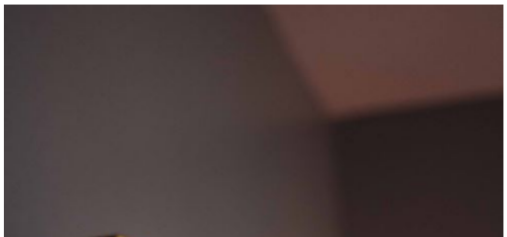
WHO WILL BE THERE?

MSW Alumni from:

- Uplift Summit High School
- Three Oaks Hospice
- Be Natural Music Therapy and Wellness
- WelbeHealth

Important Dates

- **Feb 5th - Apr 5th:** Summer Field Application is open



- **Mar 1st:** Deadline to Apply for Graduation in MyMav
- **Mar 11th-15th:** Spring Break
- **Mar 29th:** Last Day to Drop Classes; Submit in MyMav by 4pm
- **Apr 1st:** Registration for Sum '24 and Fall '24 classes open

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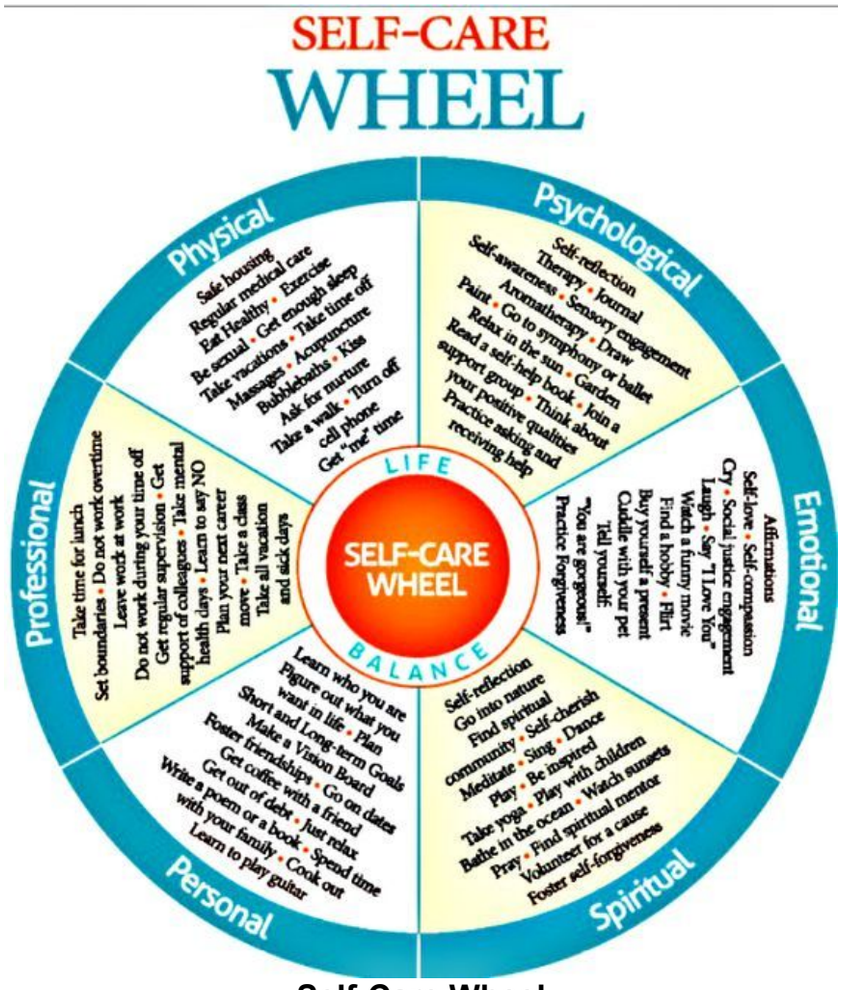
Kabir Parikh

Kabir is a MSW student who is passionate about LGBTQ+ rights and mental health care. His goal post graduation is to pursue Clinical licensure and open his own neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ affirming practice. Kabir lives in Houston with his wife and two cats. Kabir is openly transgender and shares his story to increase representation of South Asian transgender men.



Self-Care Wheel

We are all so busy and live in such a fast-paced, instant-gratification society that tells us if we are not in GO-GO-GO mode then we are not IT!! Because of the demands others put on us and we put on ourselves, sometimes life can feel really overwhelming. This Self-

Care Wheel helps us to focus on the many areas of our lives where we need to return to ourselves and focus on the areas of our lives that bring balance and are important to the essence of who we are by meeting our own basic needs. Will you take a closer look at the different areas of your life today and focus on some of the suggested activities to implement into your own daily life to bring more balance and, quite possibly, even more peace and joy? Not only do You Matter, but YOU ARE WORTH IT!

With love,

Heather Rhodes - GSL Intern
The University of Texas at Arlington

Spinning the Self-Care Wheel: Mastering Boundaries for a Balanced Life

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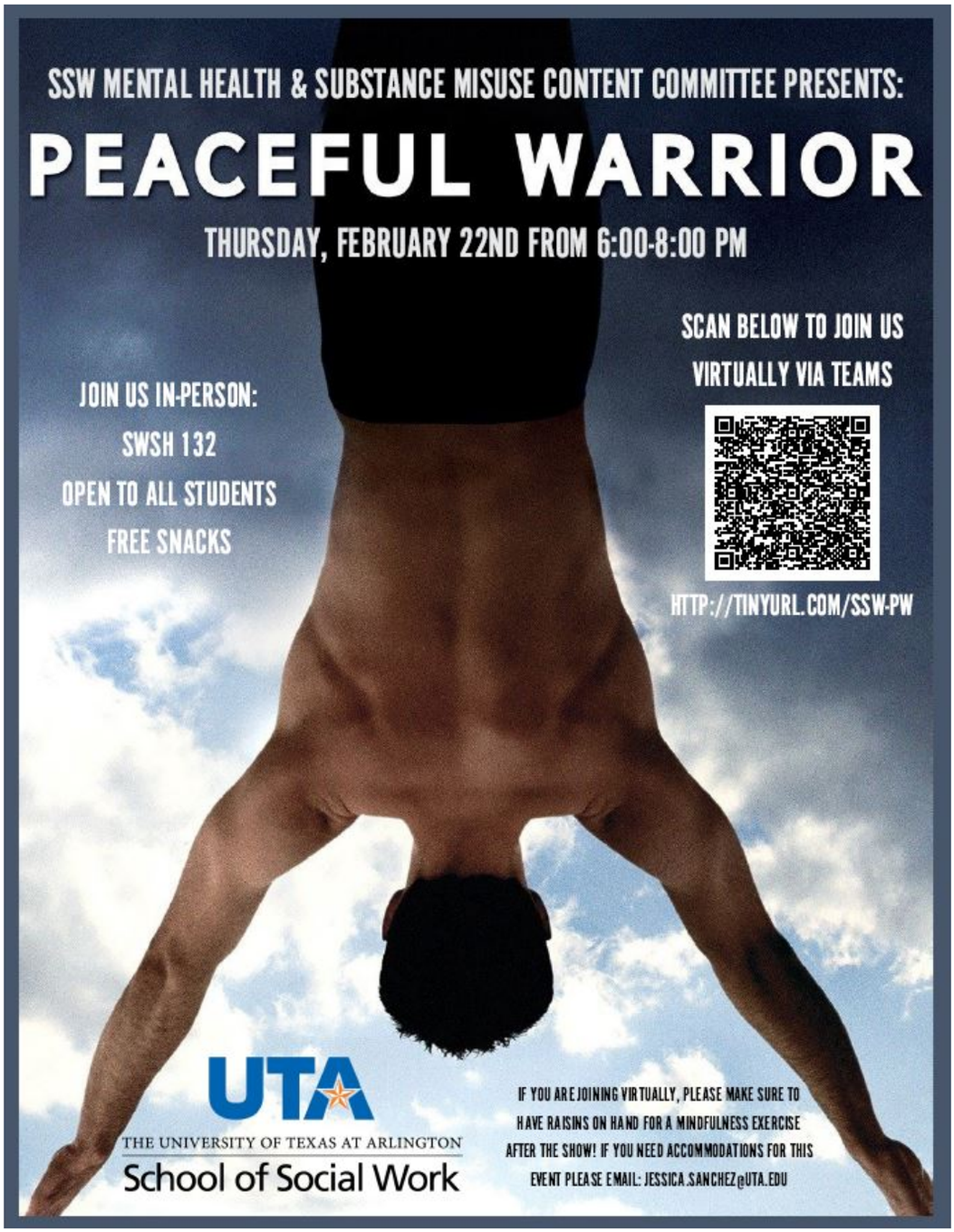
Opportunities

Please complete this **Advocacy Day Interest Form** which contains information about cost, transportation, and logistics if you think you might like to attend. The interest form must be completed by **Monday, February 27th.**

We will provide the official registration form and details about how to reserve your spot to all students who have completed the form after 02/27.



Research Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Latina Dreamers

- Are you a female DACA participant (Dreamer)?
- Are you currently enrolled in a 4-year college or university in Texas?
- Are you interested in discussing how COVID-19 has impacted different areas of your life?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you may be eligible to participate in a confidential research study exploring the experiences of Latina Dreamers during COVID-19.

If you are interested, please go to the link below or scan the QR code to complete the online screening.

https://uhsocialwork.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bl7qCSoyhSvYKIm

If you are eligible you will be contacted within 48 hours by a member of the study team about scheduling an interview that will be conducted by Zoom. Your total time of participation will be about 90 minutes and you will receive a $50 Amazon gift card for you time. Please feel free to share this link with friends/colleagues who may be interested in participating. Funding for this study was provided by the University of Texas at Arlington Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) Faculty Fellowship Program.

If you have any questions about this study, please contact the PI of our research team, Dr. Micki Washburn at Micki.Washburn@uta.edu or at 832-498-14015. This project has been approved by the UTA Internal Review Board (IRB). For questions about your rights or to report a complaint, contact the UTA Research Office at 817-272-3723 or regulatoryservices@uta.edu

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Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention (RVSP) is launching a pilot program to give students opportunities to volunteer on a PRN, or as the situation demands, basis.

What you need to know:

Those who sign up for the program will be required to attend a one-time mandatory workshop that will go over how to be sensitive towards those that have experienced trauma, what services RVSP provides, and how they can be a better ally to the victims and survivors they may encounter. After this mandatory training, volunteers will receive a certificate from RVSP and will be cleared to assist the program whenever they please.

If you are interested in, please fill out the form: Interest Form

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The Ohio State University
College of Social Work

Are you a member of a Latine immigrant family? Do you want to talk about the financial lessons shared in your family?

What is the study about?

The College of Social Work is conducting a study to explore the financial conversations and lessons shared in Latine immigrant families. We will complete separate interviews with one parent/caregiver and one adult child who is a college student from 15 families. The interviews can be completed in English and/or Spanish.

We are looking for:

- Undergraduate college students (18-24 yrs old) from Latine immigrant families
- Parents/caregivers from Latine immigrant families

Earn $33 for participating!

Note: Participants' personal information, including immigration status, will not be shared, or connected to the study results.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Yesenia Alvarez Padilla
alvarezpadilla.1@osu.edu
(775) 345-5602

This study has been approved by the Institutional review board at the Ohio State University. IRB #2023B0381

¿Eres miembro de una familia inmigrante? ¿Quieres hablar sobre las lecciones financieras compartidas en tu familia?

¿De qué se trata el estudio?
La Facultad de Trabajo Social está llevando a cabo un estudio para explorar las conversaciones financieras y las lecciones compartidas en las familias inmigrantes. Realizaremos entrevistas separadas con un padre/cuidador y un hijo/a que es estudiante universitario de 15 familias. Las entrevistas pueden ser completadas en inglés y/o español.

Buscamos a:

- Estudiantes universitarios latinos de pregrado (18-24 años de edad) de familias inmigrantes
- Padres latinos de familias inmigrantes

Recibe $33 por participar

Nota: La información personal de los participantes, incluido el estado migratorio, no se compartirá ni se conectará con los resultados del estudio.

Si estás interesado comunícate con:

Yesenia Alvarez Padilla
alvarezpadilla.1@osu.edu
(775) 345-5602

Este estudio ha sido aprobado por la junta de revisión institucional de la Universidad Estatal de Ohio IRB # 2023B0381

Register today for the upcoming Stop Violence Conference: Emerging Trends and Innovative Strategies Conference!

March 26 & 27, 2024
Hurst Conference Center
1601 Campus Dr.
Hurst, TX 76054

One Safe Place presents:

STOP VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

Four Training Tracks

Interrupting the Pathways to Violence
Crime & Technology
Intersection of Domestic & Community Violence
Emerging Trends and Topics

Registration is open:
https://www.onesafeplace.org/stopviolenceconference

2024 Stop Violence Speakers and MORE TO COME!

Rick Calvert, US Attorney's Office
Keynote Speaker: Case study United States v. Jennifer Faith

Callie Crow, Drews27Chains
Keynote Speaker:The Opioid Crisis
Breakout Session: Emerging Trends & Topics -Administering Naloxone

Fredericka Sargent, Tarrant County District Attorney
Keynote Speaker: Case study United States v. Rahimi

Michelle Morgan, EVP and Director of the Family Justice Center
Breakout Session: Intersection of Domestic & Community Violence - Strangulation

Ken Shetter, President & General Counsel at One Safe Place
Breakout Session: Interrupting Pathways to Violence - Children exposed to DV

Julian Rangel, RN
Breakout Session: Intersection of Domestic & C ommunity Violence - IPV & HIV

Pastor Bishop Rodney McIntosh, VIP Program
Breakout Session: Interrupting Pathways to Violence - VIP Fort Worth Program

Ty Bowden, The NET
Breakout Session: Crime & Technology - overview of The MASE program

Commander Antione Williams, FWPD
Breakout Session: Interrupting Pathways to Violence - Handle with Care Program

Continuing Education Credits will be provided for TCOLE, LPC, LCDC, and Social Work.
For registration questions please contact Jessica Ellis, Director of Crime Prevention, 817-502-7106, jellis@onesafeplace.org

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KRISPY KREME DOZENS TO SUPPORT

Student Association for Macro Social Work

$15 PER DOZEN

OVER 50% DONATED BACK

ENDS March 5

ORDER https://grouprai.se/krispykreme38518sb

GroupRaise

Join the Social Workers for Children

+ Families Student Organization

- Network with other UTA students
- Hear from professionals within the social work field

To join, scan the QR code or email Dr. LaBrenz (catherine.labrenz@uta.edu) or Dr. Okoruwa (tiara.okoruwa@uta.edu)

Volunteer

With Down Syndrome Partnership of North Texas

We are looking for volunteers who are:

Reliable and compassionate	Love having Fun	Want to make a difference

DSPNT is a non-profit that works with people of all ages who have Down syndrome. We need volunteers for special events, programs, and much more. Be a part of a great organization with great people.

Come find out more on:

Tuesday, Feb. 20

9:00 am-3:00 pm

1st Floor Social Work Building

Visit our website for more information
www.dspnt.org

DSP Down Syndrome Partnership of North Texas

SAVE THE DATE

CMAS PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

JULISSA NATZELY ARCE RAYA

NATIONAL BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

https://julissaarce.com

04.17.2024 | 6 PM

University of Texas at Arlington
Central Library
702 Planetarium Pl, Arlington, TX 76019

Questions or Requests For Special Accomodations
Contact: cmas@uta.edu | 817-272-2933.

CONNECTION-SEEKING AND MENTAL HEALTH

A WEBINAR FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS WHO SERVE CIS AND TRANS GAY, BI, QUEER GUYS

SPEAKER: RAHIM THAWER, MSW, RSW

THIS WEBINAR WILL EXPLORE:

- INNOVATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN QUEER RELATIONSHIPS
- THE EXPERIENCES OF APP AND HOOKUP CULTURE
- BEST PRACTICES FOR STBBI COMMUNICATION
- HELPFUL WAYS TO TALK ABOUT SHAME, ENVY, ISOLATION, AND SUBSTANCE USE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2024
11 :00 PST - 12:00 MST - 1:00 CST - 2:00 EST - 3:00 AST - 90 MIN

REGISTER NOW HTTPS://CSMH-SERVICEPROVIDERS.EVENTBRITE.CA

cbrc
Community-Based Research Centre

YERUSHA ACADEMY

The Unique challenges of Aging Alone

About The Event

An innovative conference aiming to reevaluate our perception of aging in Today's Western culture. Seeking to empower individuals across various cultures to acquire a holistic understanding of the challenges encountered by elders.

When:

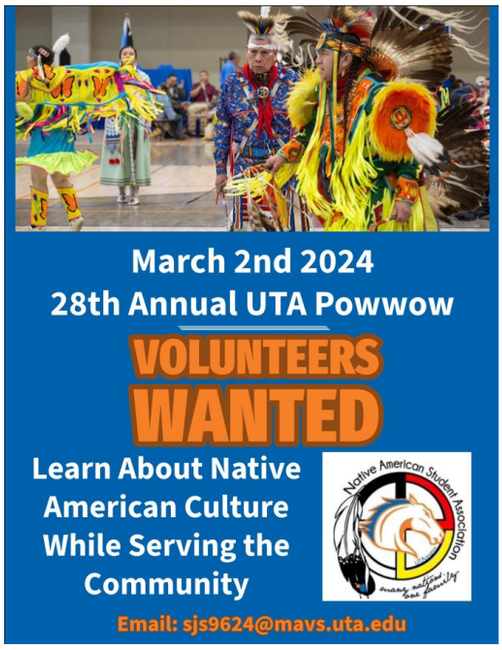
Wednesday February 21, 2024

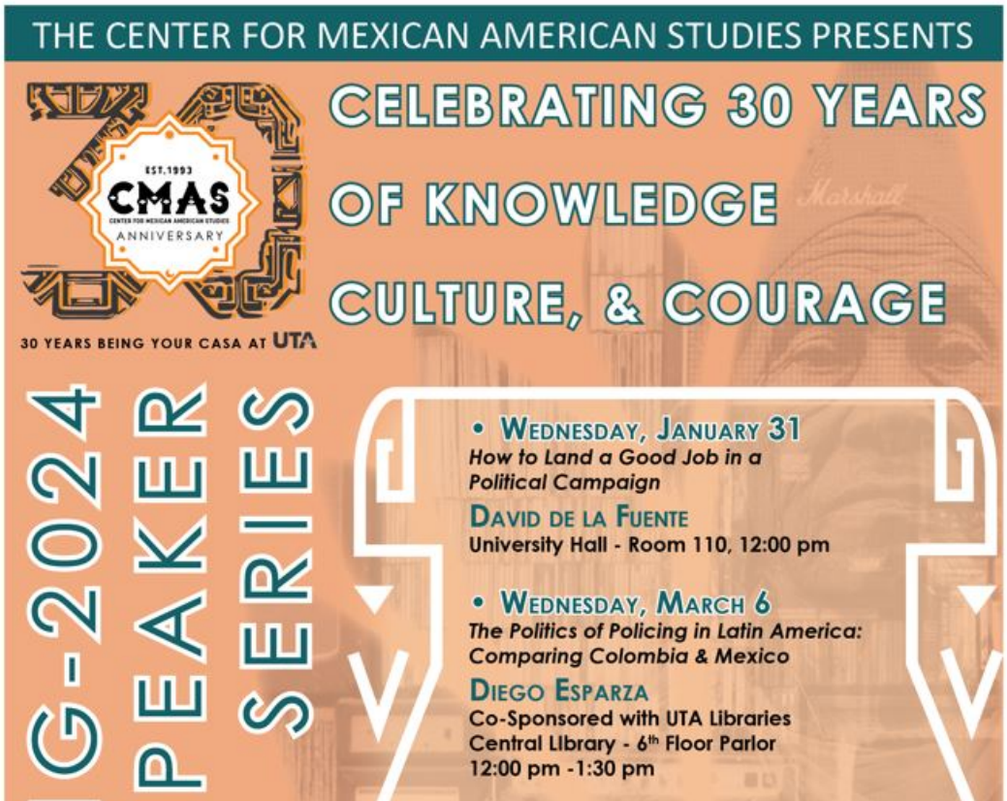
&

Thursday February 22, 2024

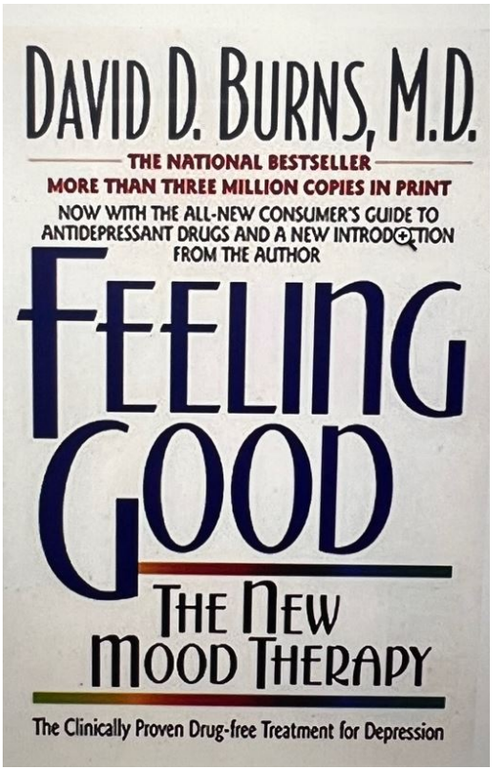
Location:

Online- Zoom link will be sent before the event





Book of the Week



Feeling Good
by David Burns

The good news is that anxiety, guilt, pessimism, procrastination, low self-esteem, and other 'black holes' of depression can be cured without drugs. In Feeling Good, eminent psychiatrist David D. Burns, M.D. outlines the remarkable, scientifically proven techniques that will immediately lift your spirits and help you develop a positive outlook on life.

Now, in this updated edition, Dr. Burns adds an all-new Consumer's Guide To Antidepressant Drugs, as well as a new introduction to help answer your questions about the many options available for treating depression.

Recognize what causes your mood swings.
Nip negative feelings in the bud.
Deal with guilt.
Handle hostility and criticism.
Overcome addiction to love and approval.
Build self-esteem.
Feel good everyday.

Available on Amazon

My name is Traecia Nichols, I am the Student Success Coordinator for the School of Social Work. In my role I work with students who are facing crises and need help accessing university and community resources. This section will consist of resources that are available to you as a student. If you are in need of resources or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at traecia.nichols@uta.edu.

Social Work Advocacy Day
Mar 21st & 22nd

Are you passionate about advocacy and making a difference in your community? Here's your chance to get involved!
We're inviting you to join us for Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on March 21-22.

This is an incredible opportunity to engage with lawmakers, advocate for important causes, and be a voice for change.
To participate, simply follow the link on the flyer and complete the interest form by February 27th. By signing up, you'll join our email list and receive more details about the event as we get closer to the date.

Don't miss out on this chance to make your voice heard and impact policies that matter to you. We look forward to seeing you at Advocacy Day!

Sign Up Here for Social Work Advocacy Day

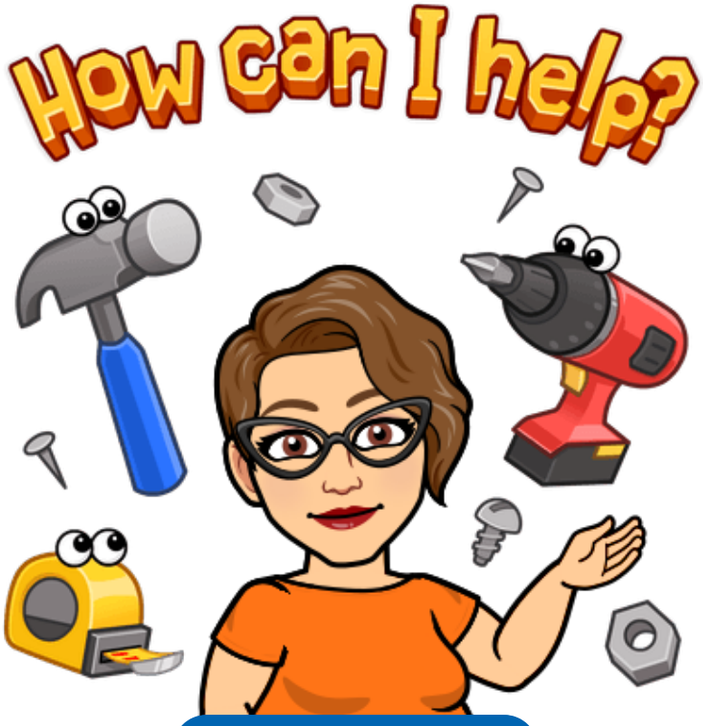
Academic Resources

Graduate Director Office Hours

Meet Dr. Regina Praetorius, LMSW-AP-S, the Director of Graduate Programs at UTA's School of Social Work during her new open office hours.

Options are listed below:

- Wednesdays 2-3pm (SWSH Suite 203/204)
- Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm (virtual)



Thursday Virtual Meetings

Academic Advising

Need to meet with an 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 the button below. Be sure to select in-person or virtual and your advisor. Remember, drop-in sessions are on a first come basis.

No drop in appointments available? **Visit this page** to find your advisor's power hour where you can always drop in and ask questions, no appointment needed.

Apr 1st: Summer 2024 and Fall 2024 class registration opens

Schedule your appointment here

Field Placements

- **Feb 5th** - Summer Field Application opens.
- **Apr 5th** - Summer Field Application closes.
- Field forms are available here!
- Field FAQ
- If you are having technical difficulties with Tevera please email sswfield@uta.edu and include a screenshot of the issue.

Field Advising

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, similar to Office Hours for faculty!

BSW and BSSUT Students

- Field Advisor: Vanessa Caraveo
- 1st & 3rd Thursday | 3pm - 4pm
- **Join your field advisors' power hour here**

Advanced Children & Families, Advanced CAP, Advanced Aging & Advanced Health

- Field Advisor: Monica Brown
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday | 4pm - 5pm
- **Join your field advisors' power hour here**

Advanced Mental Health/Substance Misuse

- Field Advisor: Sharon Martin
- 1st & 3rd Thursday | 3pm - 4pm
- **Join your field advisors' power hour here**

View all field advisors and power hours here

Undergraduate & Graduate Student Leader (USL/GSL)

USLs & GSLs serve as advocates and communication facilitators for BSW & MSW students, fielding questions about all aspects of the school experience, including advising, field, registration, orientation, scholarships, deadlines, program policies, and more. You may reach out to your USL / GSL by email or Teams.

If you do not know who your assigned USL is, you may email Emily Rappaport (emily.rappaport@mavs.uta.edu) or Jackie Flores (jackie.flores@mavs.uta.edu).

If you do not know who your assigned GSL is, you may email Makita Johnson (mxj1622@mavs.uta.edu) or Andrea Moreno (axm7516@mavs.uta.edu).

Click here to meet our USLs

Click here to meet our GSLs

Licensing

- If you're in your final semester and want to get started on applying to ASWB to take the LBSW or 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.
- **There's lots of great updated information about licensing in the Student Success and Advising Course on Canvas—Check it out!**
- Interested in the LCDC? Scroll to the end of this Licensure 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.

UTA Resources

UTA Academic Calendar
Evidence-Based Research Guide
Webinar Library
UTA Counseling & Psychology Services
SAR Center
Free Windows Apps with Student ID
SSW Writing Resources
Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Emergency Assistance Fund
Rental Assistance Program
Survivor Support Group
Free & Confidential HIV Testing
UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distribution
CAPS

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
- John F. Kennedy

Follow UTA School of Social Work on: