



# Fall 2017 News Update



## **School of Social Work celebrates 50 years of educating leaders, community engagement**

By Antwan C. Williams

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and owes its existence to the support of several community organizations that advocated and lobbied the Texas legislature to establish the School.

"Social work is inherently community and people focused, so it's quite fitting that we are

celebrating our 50th anniversary due in large part to the unwavering support and hard work of local leaders and social services organizations," said Scott D. Ryan, dean of the UTA School of Social Work. "We owe these community organizations and early pioneers a debt of gratitude and thanks for pushing to get our School established."

The Community Council of Greater Dallas, the Dallas Council of Jewish Women, the Women's Council of Dallas County and the Junior League were involved in the lobbying process as early as 1956.

Within a couple of years the Tarrant County Community Council, the Rotary Club, Dallas County Child Welfare Division, Tarrant County Mental Health Association, Dallas Medical Board of Baylor University and the Dallas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers joined the movement supporting the establishment of the School of Social Work.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, under the leadership of the Executive Director Roy Dulak and with the help of staff members Peter Gaupp and Ed Protz, the Community Council of Greater Dallas conducted community surveys to assess the need for a school of social work in the north Texas area.

Read the rest of the story [School of Social Work celebrate 50 years](#)

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Dr. Noelle Fields

Social Work Assistant  
Professor



Dr. Cathleen Jordan

Social Work Professor

## **Professors receive recognition as mentors to women students**

Dr. Noelle Fields and Dr. Cathleen Jordan were recognized and honored as mentors through the Council on Social Work Education's Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education Mentor Recognition Program at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting Conference held in Dallas Oct. 21.

The Mentor Recognition Program honors mentors who make a difference and supports the activities of the CSWE Women's Council.

UTA Social Work doctoral student Vivian Miller recognized Dr. Fields writing that she “serves as an incredible, influential mentor while I am in my third year as a social work doctoral student. Dr. Fields’ friendly, yet professional-approach, in addition to her research focus, was a strong determining factor in my choice in attending UTA. Her continual dedication to my education, Dr. Fields’ contributes to social work education as supervisor, coordinator, and lead Co-PI on an IDT project overseeing the participation of three MSW-level women students and three doctoral-level women students. Dr. Fields’ continues to contribute to scholarship, working consistently with other women professors at UTA. Finally, Dr. Fields’ continues to encourage and empower me to become the best version of myself, as an up and coming gerontology-focused social work scholar. Overall, Dr. Fields deserves recognition as she plays a very important role in my work and my life.”

Read the rest of the story [Professors Receive Recognition as Mentors to Women Students](#)



Kris Hohn  
PhD Student



Rupal Parekh  
PhD Student



Vivian Miller  
PhD Student



Erin Murphy  
PhD Student



Craig Keaton  
MSW Student

## **Five SSW students awarded fellowships by national institute**

**By Antwan C. Williams**

The National Institute for Transportation and Communities awarded five University of Texas at Arlington social work students with funds to support their dissertation and thesis work.

Four School of Social Work doctoral students, Kris Hohn, Rupal Parekh, Vivian Miller and Erin Murphy, received fellowships of \$4,000 issued by the National Institute for Transportation and Communities.

Additionally, one master's student in the School of Social Work, Craig Keaton, also received a fellowship of \$3,000 by the National Institute for Transportation and Communities.

The National Institute for Transportation and Communities is a transportation research center funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The University of Texas at Arlington is a university partner member of this center, and the funding mechanism under the center is the Student Fellowship Program.

Read the story [Five School of Social Work Students awarded fellowships by the National Institute](#)

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A makeshift memorial for victim Heather Heyer on Aug. 13

Courtesy of TIME

## **Dean's Statement on recent events in Charlottesville**

**By Dean Scott Ryan**

First, I want to welcome our new and returning social work students. In addition to welcoming our largest class ever, we are welcoming 10 new full-time faculty members and one staff member.

Welcome to the fall semester and a new academic year. This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary and each of you are here at an historic time for our school. I'm excited about the upcoming year and look forward to opportunities to re-connect with alumni and interacting with faculty, staff and students.

However, I would be remiss, if I did not share with you my thoughts on the recent events that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia.

As social workers, more than any other profession, we recognize the importance and strength of diversity and inclusion. We understand the importance of standing up against hatred and bigotry.

I know many of you are rightfully upset about the incidents in Charlottesville, Virginia and about other similar events happening in our country. Racism, discrimination, white nationalism, neo-Nazism, violence and hate in any form is unacceptable behavior and must be immediately and strongly denounced.

When confronted with this evil and disturbing ideology, silence is not the answer.

We should all be reminded of the following often quoted statement from Martin Niemöller:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Read the rest of the Dean's statement on [recent events in Charlottesville](#).

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# **Dean's Statement on Hurricane Harvey**

**By Dean Scott Ryan**

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work joins our fellow Texans and the country in mourning the loss of life and devastating destruction in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Our thoughts go out to the millions who are affected by the hurricane and the resulting rain storms and flooding. We are reaching out to other Social Work programs and schools affected by this natural disaster. We stand ready to assist our fellow Texans and UTA alumni, students, staff and faculty with loved ones living in the affected areas.



Photo Courtesy of Journal of Emergency Medical Services

As the UTA President stated in his statement released today, we will do everything we can to help. Mavericks who need assistance or counseling are encouraged to visit the UTA Community That Cares website for resources. If you would like to take advantage of counseling services UTA offers for students, please call 817-272-3671 during office hours and 817-272-TALK (8255) for after-hours care.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends to those who want to help, to visit the following website -- <https://www.nvoad.org/join-the-movement/>.

Read the rest of the Dean's statement on [Hurricane Harvey](#).



Dr. Beverly Black

Social Work Professor

## Professor receives educational leadership award

By SSW Staff

Dr. Beverly Black was selected as the winner of the Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work Award for Educational Leadership in Doctoral Education and received a certificate and \$1,000 at the Doctoral Student Award Breakfast held at the Council of Social Work Education's Annual Program Meeting held in Dallas last week.

She was selected, in part, due to her "significant contributions to doctoral education in social work at the national or international level through policy or program development, research or training on social work doctoral education, development and/or promotion of innovative models of doctoral education, or other activities that have had demonstrable impact."

This is an impressive accomplishment and the School of Social Work is so very proud to have her as part of its faculty.

Read the story: [Professor Black Wins Educational Leadership Award](#)

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