

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER



SALTANAT CHILDRESS, PHD, MSW
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Watch the July 2024 Monthly News Video Update and read the stories below.

Video edited and produced by Doughlas Gutierrez

[**CLICK TO WATCH JULY 2024 NEWS VIDEO UPDATE**](#)



Dr. Saltanat Childress, Social Work Assistant Professor.

Professor receives journal award, federal funding

By Jaelon Jackson

A School of Social Work assistant professor and researcher at the University of Texas at Arlington received federal funding and has been recognized as a leading scholar by Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services and Child and Family Social Work for her service as a peer reviewer, and has published an article in Families in Society.

Dr. Saltanat Childress has been awarded her third round of funding from the U.S. State Department's Title VIII Research Scholar Program to support her research on children and families in Kyrgyzstan.

[CLICK TO READ ABOUT DR. CHILDRESS'S AWARD](#)





Scholars Fund.

STEPHEN SILVA

MSW STUDENT

[Video of News story](#)

Social Work student receives national award

By Douglas Gutierrez

A University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work student was recognized by a national organization for his commitment to native excellence and leadership on and off campus.

Native Forward Scholars Fund, the largest direct provider of scholarships to Native students, announced in June the two winners of the 2023 Students of the Year Award during its annual Empowering Scholars Summit at the University of North Carolina campus in Pembroke, North Carolina.

UTA Master of Social Work student Stephen Silva-Brave received one of the two Student of the Year Awards given out by the Native Forward Scholars Fund. The second awardee was Breckin Horton, a fourth-year medical student at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE AWARD](#)



Alan Kunz Lomelin, SSW Ph.D. student.

Ph.D. candidate defends dissertation about AI technology

By Jaelon Jackson

A Ph.D. candidate in the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington with a master's degree in social work and a master's degree in criminology successfully defended his dissertation.

Alan Kunz Lomelin's defended his dissertation titled "Implementation of Technological Innovations: An Identification and Examination of Opinion Leaders and Advice Networks in Primary Care" June 6.

Kunz Lomelin's academic journey highlights his dedication and expertise.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT ALAN KUNZ LOMELIN'S DISSERTATION](#)



Ricka Mammah, SSW Ph.D. student.

Ph.D. candidate defends dissertation about African immigrants

By Jaelon Jackson

A Ph.D. candidate in the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington has successfully defended her dissertation about African immigrants June 25.

Ricka Mammah's presented her research on the informal support networks for African immigrant survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the United States. Her work explores the cultural, religious, social, and legal barriers these women face, highlighting the role of informal support in their recovery process.



Social Work's new *Blaze the Mic* Podcast - Episode 6 featuring MSW student Stephen Silva-Brave

New Social Work *Blaze the Mic* Podcast now available

The SSW Office of Communications and Marketing released the 6th episode of our student focused podcast -- *Blaze the Mic*.

This episode features MSW student Stephen Silva-Brave - "[Bringing Awareness and Policy to the Underserved](#)"

In this episode, MSW student Stephen Silva Brave takes a deep dive into his research on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and how his cultural roots fuel his passion for Native/Indigenous advocacy.

Our new podcast is available on Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeart Radio, PlayerFM, Podbean App, and soon on Apple.

[LISTEN TO SSW BLAZE THE MIC - EPISODE 6](#)

July SSW Spotlights

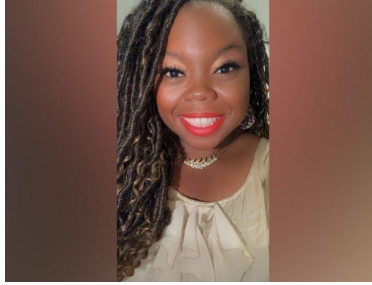
This section highlights the remarkable achievements and contributions of individuals within the social work community.

Join us in celebrating their successes and acknowledging the profound influence they have on the field of social work and the lives they touch.

If you know of any alumni, students, faculty, staff or others in our community that should be recognized, please let us know.

[SUBMIT SPOTLIGHT FORM HERE](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)



Leslee Matthews, lawyer and UTA MSW graduate.

Domestic Violence Action Center welcomes Leslee Matthews as its VP of Legal Services

The Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to alleviating domestic abuse in Hawai'i, welcomes attorney and social worker Leslee Matthews of Maui, as its vice president of legal services.

In this role, she will work alongside CEO Monique Ibarra and with staff and community stakeholders to providing trauma-informed legal services to survivors of domestic violence.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ON MAUINOW](#)

Awards & Recognitions

Assistant Professor of Practice Karen Magruder - has been appointed as a founding member to CSWE's newly created Council on Environmental Justice and Human Rights (CEJHR) and was a guest on the Australian research organization KPI Institute's podcast "On the House", for an episode about fostering eco-friendly communities!

Assistant Professor of Practice Dr. Kelli Rogers - has been appointed as a member of the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Council on Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Diversity (CRECD).

Ph.D. student Ricka Mammah - Successfully defended her dissertation titled "Exploring the Process of Seeking Informal Social Support for Intimate Partner Violence among African Immigrants Residing in the United States." Ricka has accepted a job as an assistant professor at the University of Kansas in the fall. Congrats Dr. Mammah!

Ph.D. student Swasati Handique - has been accepted into the AGESW Gerontological Social Work Pre-Dissertation Fellows Program and was awarded the Mary Ryan Social Work Scholarship from Baylor Scott & White.

Associate Professor of Practice Kiva Harper - is being recognized by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault this August for Excellence in Media. SSW Associate Professor and our new Ph.D. Program Director Dr. Rachel Voth Schrag nominated Kiva and will be presenting at TAASA's conference.

Ph.D. student Soeun Jang - Under the mentorship of faculty member Dr. Kathy Lee, has been awarded the Dallas Area Gerontological Society Scholarship recognizing the importance of senior care education.

Assistant Professor Dr. Morgan PettyJohn - UTA [news story](#) published about Dr. PettyJohn and her previous work on men's sexual violence experiences in light of the release of Baby Reindeer on Netflix.

SSW Web Developer John Sevier Jr. - With the help of Daniel Evilsizor (UTA OIT), and special assistance from Jessica Davis, Dr. Regina Praetorius, Antwan C. Williams, Darlene Santee, Dr. Allison Tomlinson, Dr. Diane Mitschke and Chris Haskell (UTA OIT) completed the [SSW State Licensure Heat Map](#).

Associate Professor of Practice Karla Arenas-Itotia and Assistant Professor Dr. Jaclyn Kirsch - Partnered with modern languages Associate Professor Alicia R. Rueda-Acedo, and CoNHI Assistant Dean of Simulation and Technology Jennifer Roye for their project “[Increasing Access to Health Services for Limited English Proficiency Patients Using Simulation-Based Learning: A Pilot Study.](#)”

Ph.D. student Megan Rose Westmore - has been awarded the Norman Pauling Fellowship by UT System, in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments during her graduate studies.

Assistant Professor of Practice Dr. Joyce White - has been selected as one of the 2024-2025 EDGE Faculty Fellows. This is a Title V, U.S. Department of Education grant supporting faculty as they incorporate high-impact strategies into their courses to support the success of Hispanic graduate students.

Assistant Professor Dr. Sophia Fantus, Assistant Professor of Practice Dr. Darlene Hunter and Associate Professor of Practice Tracy Orwig - Completed the Team STEPPS Master Trainer Course. Team STEPPS is evidence-based set of tools to improve communication and teamwork. Find out more about TeamSTEPPS.

Assistant Professor Dr. Catherine LaBrenz - has been selected to serve on CSWE's Katherine A. Kendall Institute for International Social Work Advisory Board for a 3-year term.

Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Aug. 16** - SSW Undergraduate Celebration of Excellence at 3 p.m.
 - **Aug. 16** - SSW Graduate Celebration of Excellence at 5:30 p.m.
 - **Aug. 19** - Fall 2024 Classes Start
 - **Sept. 5** - [UTA Night at the Rangers](#)
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Other SSW News Products:

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