

UTA School of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

"Thrive Here, Thrive Forever"



OCTOBER



MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
School of Social Work

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

Video edited and produced by Douglas Gutierrez

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



From left: Dr. Norman Cobb and Dr. Santos Hernández.

Former dean, professor receive prestigious social work award

By Jaelon Jackson

A former dean and a social work professor have been named National Association of Social Workers Pioneers for 2024.

Dr. Santos Hernández and Dr. Norman H. Cobb, both former University of Texas Arlington professors, received the prestigious recognition for their outstanding contributions to the field of social work.

Hernández is an emeritus dean and former professor at UTA School of Social Work. He has been a social work educator for more than 45 years, holding academic appointments at nine universities and two deanships. He served as dean from 1998 to 2008.

[CLICK TO READ ABOUT THE NASW PIONEERS](#)



Dr. De'An Roper (right) speaking with Punkie Johnson at the Dean's Speaker Series event.

SSW hosts comedian, actress Punkie Johnson

By Jaelon Jackson

A School of Social Work speakers' event held Oct. 22 provided an opportunity to hear from comedian and actress Punkie Johnson, who discussed her journey as a Black lesbian in the entertainment industry.

In a conversation with Social Work Associate Professor of Practice Dr. De'An Roper, Johnson spoke about the influences that shaped her comedy, particularly her mother, who listened to comedy albums by Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor while cleaning.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT EVENT WITH PUNKIE JOHNSON](#)



Dean Kirk Foster (right) and Joel Kim Booster speaking at Dean's Speaker Series event.

School of Social Work hosts comedian Joel Kim Booster

By Jaelon Jackson

A School of Social Work speakers' event held Oct. 2 gave a unique opportunity to hear from comedian and actor Joel Kim Booster, who shared his personal journey as both an Asian American and a gay man in the entertainment industry.

In a conversation with Dr. Kirk Foster, dean of UTA's School of Social Work, Booster talked about the challenges he faced growing up and finding his place in the world, both personally and professionally.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT EVENT WITH JOEL KIM BOOSTER](#)



A volunteer placing food in trunk at the School of Social Work's 5th Annual Food Giveaway and Trunk or Treat Oct. 19.

Social Work to host 5th annual food giveaway, trunk or treat

By Jaelon Jackson

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work hosted its 5th annual food giveaway and trunk-or-treat event, renamed *Ghoulish Goodies and Giving* Oct. 19. The event featured more than 150 volunteers, including students, faculty, staff and alumni, providing food and fun for the community.

The family-friendly event, one of UTA's largest community outreach of the year, supported approximately 1,500 adults and children with a drive-through food giveaway co-sponsored by the Tarrant County Food Bank. Volunteers distributed fresh produce and canned goods while kids enjoyed a decorated trunk-or-treat experience, bounce houses, face painting and balloon animals.

[Click here to view photos from the event!](#)



Social Work's new student-focused *Blaze the Mic* Podcast - Episode 9 featuring BSW student Kai Santos.

New Social Work *Blaze the Mic* Podcast now available

The SSW Office of Communications and Marketing released the 9th Episode of our student focused podcast -- *Blaze the Mic*.

This episode features BSW student Kai Santos - "[Creating Awareness for Domestic Violence in LGBT+ Communities](#)"

As LGBT History Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month come to a close, we speak with social work student, Kai Santos, on the underrepresented issues of DV within queer communities while navigating her traditional Hispanic culture.

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 9

October SSW Spotlights

[Alumni Spotlight](#)



From left: Cassidy and Kay Brady-Hatfield.

Alumni Spotlight: Cassidy and Kay Brady-Hatfield

Today, we spotlight Cassidy and Kay Brady-Hatfield, both Licensed Master Social Workers, who continue to apply the skills and knowledge gained during their time at University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work. In this candid conversation, Cassidy and Kay share their journey, experiences at UTA and advice for future social workers.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT CASSIDY AND KAY'S EXPERIENCE](#)

Student Spotlight



**CONGRATULATIONS
PHI ALPHA INDUCTEES!**

**Φ
Α** *Being inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society recognizes top academic excellence and dedication in social work. It's the highest honor in the field, celebrating humanitarian goals and achievements. Congratulations to our newest members!*

KELLY COLEMAN	BERTINA MATA
KEVIN CUMMINGS	CHERYL MOORE
JOANNA DIAZ	CAITLIN REMINGTON
ASHLEY FHOUMAN	ADDISON ROYAL
MARIA D. GARCIA	ANGIE RUVALCABA
KATHY GOMEZ	CATHERINE SHURTLEFF
SARITA HAYWOOD	NATASHA SUTHERLAND
JORDAN E. HAWA	TANYA WARDELL
GRACE HUFFMAN	TIFFANY WATSON
DEVA KELLAM	ALISA M. WILLIAMS

Student Spotlight: Phi Alpha Inductees

Congratulations to the newest members of the Phi Alpha Honor Society! Your dedication and excellence in social work has earned you this prestigious recognition. Keep up the inspiring work and commitment to humanitarian goals. Well done!

Important Upcoming Events



PHI ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY

Toy Drive

Accepting Donations Through
Friday, December 6th

Please donate new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages (infants to teens)

Drop-off Location:
School of Social Work
Admissions, Advising, and Communications, room 203

Scan here for Amazon Wish List!



Harbor of Hope
Foster Care and
Adoption

Phi Alpha Honor Society Toy Drive

Friday, Dec. 6 | SWSH Building, Room 203

The Phi Alpha Honor Society is hosting a Toy Drive to spread holiday cheer and support *Harbor of Hope Foster Care and Adoption*. We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages, from infants to teens. Donations can be dropped off at the School of Social Work in the Admissions, Advising, and Communications office, SWSH Building, Room 203 until Friday, Dec. 6. For those who prefer to donate online, simply scan the QR code on the flyer to access our [Amazon Wish List](#) and have items shipped directly. Join us in making this holiday season a little brighter for children in need!

[CLICK FOR AMAZON WISHLIST](#)



**ATTENTION
BSW STUDENTS**

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
IS RECRUITING
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
LEADER (USL) VOLUNTEERS
FOR SPRING 2025

Volunteers

- Work directly with the BSW Program Directors
- Serve as advocates and communication facilitators for BSW students
- Connect students to service and resources

For more information contact a USL Intern:
Ashley Hensley: ahen33@msw.uta.edu
Isabella Meyer: ism108@msw.uta.edu
Jasmine Dean: jdean@msw.uta.edu

**DEADLINE TO APPLY:
NOVEMBER 17, 2024**

Become an Undergraduate Student Leader

Are you a BSW student with interest in advocacy and community building? Join the USL team where you can serve as an advocate for BSW students, facilitate the exchange of accurate and timely information, and connect students with services and resources that will enhance their undergraduate student experience.

[BECOME A USL](#)



**MSW STUDENTS
BECOME A GRADUATE STUDENT LEADER**

The School of Social Work is recruiting Graduate Student Leader (GSL) Volunteers and interns for Spring 2025

- Work with the MSW Director and Faculty
- Connect other students to services and resources they need
- Act as an advocate for other MSW students
- Take on roles for special projects

JOIN US

For more information:
Tracie Prosser: tprosser@mavs.uta.edu
Leah Neal: lgn3154@mavs.uta.edu
Natasha Sutherland: nsutherland@mavs.uta.edu

Become a Graduate Student Leader

GSLs serve as advocates and communication facilitators for MSW students, fielding questions about all of aspects of the graduate experience, including advising, field, registration, orientation, scholarships, deadlines, program policies, and more. They can track down accurate answers to questions quickly by reaching out directly to program administrators and connecting students to services and resources. A student's questions and concerns are resolved within minutes or hours of posting.

[BECOME A GSL](#)

Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Nov. 4 - Jan. 12:** Registration for Spring 2025
- **Nov. 7 - Dec. 6:** Phi Alpha Holiday Toy Drive
- **Nov. 28 - 29:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Dec. 3:** Last day of classes
- **Dec. 5:** SSW PhD Virtual Information Session
- **Dec. 5 - 11:** Final Exams
- **Dec. 11:** Last day to earn field hours
- **Dec. 13:** Fall 2024 Graduation Ceremony

Other SSW News Products:

- [News Stories and News Releases](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Monthly News Video Updates](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Monthly Newsletters](#)
- [Courtyard Conversations - SSW Talk Show](#)
- [SSW in the Media](#)
- [Photo Gallery](#)

Contact the School of Social Work

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