

# UTA School of Social Work

## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



**CHRISTINE SPADOLA, PHD, LMHC**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**MICKI WASHBURN, PHD, LMSW, MA, LPC-S**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

## Watch the September/October 2023 Monthly Video & News Update

Video edited and produced by Douglas Gutierrez

[WATCH SSW NEWS VIDEO UPDATE](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



## Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

In September, The School of Social Work recognized Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15th to October 15th every year.

The observation of Hispanic Heritage Month started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage (Week) under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15.

It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

September 15 is a significant date because it commemorates the anniversary of independence for multiple Latin American countries such as, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.



Derrelynn Perryman, SSW Adjunct Assistant Professor.

## Beloved adjunct professor for 22 years, state board member dies

By Antwan C. Williams

A longtime University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work adjunct assistant professor and Tarrant County victim services advocate died earlier this week.

Derrelynn Perryman, who was appointed in 2015 by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to a six-year term on the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, was found dead in her home.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT PROFESSOR PERRYMAN](#)



## Former dean receives prestigious award

By Jaelon Jackson

A social work professor and former dean has been named a National Association of Social Workers Pioneer.

Dr. Elizabeth Merwin (left), Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and Dr. Scott Ryan at our new building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony April 14, 2023.

Dr. Scott Ryan, who stepped down in May after 14 years as the School of Work dean received notification this summer. Ryan served as dean from 2009 to 2023. He has now resumed his role as a faculty member and researcher.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT FORMER DEAN](#)



## Sleep knowledge, deprivation in social work students

By Jaelon Jackson

Sleepless nights have long been a part of the college experience, but a recent study by a University of Texas at Arlington professor and sleep researcher has brought to light a pressing issue among social work students: chronic sleep deprivation.

Busy student sleeping in library surrounded by books.

Dr. Christine Spadola's [recent](#) research represents the first in-depth study of sleep and sleep beliefs among social work students. Findings highlight important sleep knowledge gaps and the need for improved sleep education in social work programs.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT SLEEP DEPRIVATION](#)



Kenya celebration with villagers.

## Study Abroad, adjunct professor donates funding

By Jaelon Jackson

Faculty and students completed a Study Abroad Trip to Kenya, organized by UTA's School of Social Work. The participants, three faculty members and 13 UTA students from various disciplines, were in Kenya June 11 through July 2.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT STUDY ABROAD](#)

## Upcoming SSW Events

- **October 26-29** [SSW Presentations](#) at 69th CSWE APM in Atlanta, Georgia
- **October 28** 4th Annual SSW Fall Harvest, Food Giveaway & Trunk-or-Treat 2023
- **November 11** UTA Homecoming 2023: School of Social Work Pre-Game Party
- **November 17** SSW Mini Conference & Social Work Career Day Expo
- **December 15** Fall Celebration of Excellence

[CLICK FOR FULL LISTING OF SSW UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[VIEW PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS](#)

[VIEW PREVIOUS VIDEO NEWS UPDATES](#)

### Contact the School of Social Work

**Address:**

The University of Texas at Arlington  
School of Social Work  
501 W. Mitchell Street  
Arlington, TX 76019-0129

**Phone:** 817-272-3181

### Follow Us on Social Media



Published by [SSW Office of Communications and Marketing](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.