

UTA School of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER



MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
School of Social Work

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

Video edited and produced by Doughlas Gutierrez

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



Donors honor alumna's memory through \$1 million gift

By Brian Lopez

A \$1 million gift from the Harold Simmons Foundation and Thomas Connelly will help students in [The University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work](#) earn their graduate degrees and embark on successful careers as champions of social justice.

The gift will create the Serena Simmons Connelly Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship in memory of the late Serena Simmons Connelly, a UTA alumna and noted social activist. The fellowship will support full-time social work graduate students with financial need who demonstrate academic excellence and a strong interest in advocacy/policy work.

[CLICK TO READ ABOUT MILLION DOLLAR DONATION](#)



Dr. Christine Spadola, Social Work Assistant Professor.

SSW researcher advocates for sleep education

By Neph Rivera

As a mental health professional, Christine Spadola has seen the power of sleep firsthand.

“As a practicing psychotherapist, I remember noticing how my clients’ mental health improved when they slept better. I also remember reflecting on how sleep health promotion was not a part of my graduate school training.”

But despite what a good night’s rest can do for both clients and the social workers who serve them, lessons in the benefits of sleep are not part of required social worker curricula, according to Dr. Spadola. It’s a fact that she wants to change.

[CLICK TO READ ABOUT DR. SPADOLA'S RESEARCH](#)



Dr. Rebecca Cole, PhD Graduate

Online Romance Scams in PhD Dissertation

By Jaelon Jackson

In July a PhD candidate in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington, successfully defended her dissertation.

Rebecca Cole defended her dissertation titled “Online Romance Scam Victimization in the United States.”

Cole’s academic journey reflects her dedication to understanding and addressing the complex challenges faced by victims of online romance scams. She earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and psychology from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Cole earned her master’s degree in social work from the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. She began her PhD in Social Work studies at UTA during the height of the COVID pandemic in Fall 2020 with a focus on contributing to social work practice through rigorous research.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT REBECCA'S DISSERTATION](#)



Blog: The Growing Need for Social Work in Sports

By Jaelon Jackson

As school sports and professional sporting seasons kick off, it’s essential to shine a light on the often-overlooked aspects of sports that impact athletes deeply: mental health and the physical toll of injuries, like chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

The rise of social work within sporting organizations is addressing these critical issues, yet this vital support system has not yet reached mainstream recognition. Understanding why social work in sports is on the rise and why it matters can help elevate this conversation.



Blog: Social Workers in Schools

By Jaelon Jackson

As the new school year begins across the country, schools face increasing responsibility not only to ensure students' academic success but also to address the growing mental health concerns of today's youth. Social workers in schools play a critical role in bridging these gaps, providing essential support that helps students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. But what exactly can a social worker do in a school setting?

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT SOCIAL WORKERS IN SCHOOLS](#)



Social Work's new *Blaze the Mic* Podcast - Episode 7 featuring BSW student Julian Jimenez

New Social Work *Blaze the Mic* Podcast now available

The SSW Office of Communications and Marketing released the 7th episode of our student focused podcast -- *Blaze the Mic*.

This episode features BSW student Julian Jimenez - "[Health Care and Social Work](#)"

In this episode, BSW student, Julian Jimenez, shares his story of how working in a hospital setting spurred his passion in becoming a Health Care Social Worker.

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 7](#)

September SSW Spotlights

[Alumni Spotlight](#)



Tiffany Tate, CEO of The Family Place and UTA graduate.

Alumni Spotlight: Tiffany Tate

Today, we spotlight Tiffany Tate, CEO of The Family Place, the largest domestic violence service provider in Texas. In this interview, Tiffany shares her journey, experiences at the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work, and valuable advice for the next generation of social workers.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT TIFFANY'S EXPERIENCE](#)

Faculty/Staff Awards & Recognitions

Associate Professor Dr. Kathleen Preble - along with her collaborator Dr. Andrea Nichols from Washington University in St. Louis, were selected as the recipients of the Healing Action Network "Community Impact Award" for this year!

Assistant Professor Dr. Christian Vazquez - was awarded the 2024 RCMAR Minority Serving Institution Fellow by the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research National Coordinating Center. Dr. Vazquez along with Dr. Sohyum Kim from CONHI are two of the five fellows selected nationally.

Director of Interprofessional Education and Associate Professor of Practice Tracy Orwig - was selected as the winner of the Torgerson Award for excellence in teaching at the MSW level for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

DSW Program Director (Proposed Program) and Associate Professor of Practice Karen Magruder - was selected as the winner of the BSW Teaching Award for excellence in teaching at the BSW level for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Cindy Bassey, George Jauss, and Jobanet Flores - completed the Aspiring Leaders Program offered by the Office of Talent, Culture, and Engagement.

Assistant Professor Dr. Christine Spadola - was featured in a UTA news story for her advocacy in sleep education.

Assistant Professor of Practice Ann Hunt-Rodgers - recently earned her Doctor of Social Work degree from Simmons University. Congrats!!!

Assistant Professor of Practice Elisha Tones - recently earned her Doctor of Social Work degree from Simmons University.

Assistant Professor of Practice Dr. Dianna Jones, Associate Professor Jandel Crutchfield and Associate Professor of Practice Dr. Ann Hunt-Rodgers - supported students in their advocacy to reverse the decision to remove the early voting site from UTA's campus, with Tarrant County Commissioners voting to approve funding for early voting sites.

Professor Dr. Scott Ryan - gave the welcome at the Challenging Addictions Stigma with Science Event.

[SUBMIT FORM FOR FUTURE SPOTLIGHTS HERE](#)

Important Upcoming Events



Ghoulish Goodies & Giving

October 19 | UTA Lot 49

We anticipate this year's food giveaway and trunk-or-treat will be our largest yet! All are welcome to drive through and receive a food giveaway. Guests are welcome to stay and enjoy the mini carnival with bounce houses, face painting, and candy from decorated participating vehicles.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)



Queer Talk with Punkie Johnson

October 22 at 6:30 p.m. | Texas Hall

Please join us for this FREE event. Associate Professor of Practice Dr. De'An Roper will lead a discussion with SNL alum and comedian Punkie Johnson. Doors open at 6 p.m.

[WILL WE SEE YOU THERE?](#)

Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Oct. 19** - Ghoulish, Goodies and Giving - Food Giveaway and Trunk or Treat
- **Oct. 22** - Punkie Johnson - Texas Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 25** - CSWE Reception in Kansas City - [RSVP Here](#)
- **Nov. 1** - Social Work Career Day Expo

- **Nov 7.** - [NASW Texas Conference](#)
-

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](#)
-

Contact the School of Social Work

Address:

501 W. Mitchell Street
Arlington, TX 76019-0129

Phone: 817-272-3181

Email: socialworknews@uta.edu

Follow us on Social Media:



This email is a product of the School of Social Work's [Communications & Marketing Office](#).

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

501 W. Mitchell Street Box 19129 | Arlington, TX 76019 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma™

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.