

# Spring 2022 News Update



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Video edited and produced by **Douglas Gutierrez**



Associate Professor Norm Cobb speaking to his class.  
Photo by Douglas Gutierrez

## Professor retiring after 33 years

*Cobb earned Fernando G. Torgerson Teaching Award record 11 times*

By Valerie Fields Hill

Dr. Norman Cobb, associate professor and former head of the School of Social Work's Community Service Center will retire later this summer after serving 33 years, School administrators announced.

Dr. Cobb is among the school's longest serving faculty members. He began teaching and researching at the UTA School of Social Work in 1989.

Dr. Cobb headed the Community Service Center from 2001 to 2012. He taught Direct Practice in Mental Health, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention and Applied Social Work Practice, among other graduate-level courses.

School of Social Work Dean Scott Ryan said Dr. Cobb is among the school's most celebrated professors.

Dr. Cobb earned the Fernando G. Torgerson Teaching Award a record 11 times. The honor is given annually to the School of Social Work professor who offers outstanding classroom instruction, as deemed by both students and peers.

"Norm is the quintessential clinician," said Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs Dr. Katherine Sanchez, who has taught alongside Dr. Cobb for more than a decade.

"His knowledge of mental health diagnosis and treatment is phenomenal, and he shares his knowledge so effectively with students and colleagues," Dr. Sanchez said. "His presence in the classroom, through his many years of service to the university, is a significant contribution to academia."

Read the rest of the story [Norm Cobb retiring](#).

## Spring 2022 Celebration of Excellence

By Valerie Fields Hill

Nearly 150 Social Work students and faculty members will be honored Thursday for outstanding academic achievement and field service work.

The School of Social Work will host its Spring 2022 Celebration of Excellence at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in the Rio Grande ballroom of the E.H. Herford University Center.

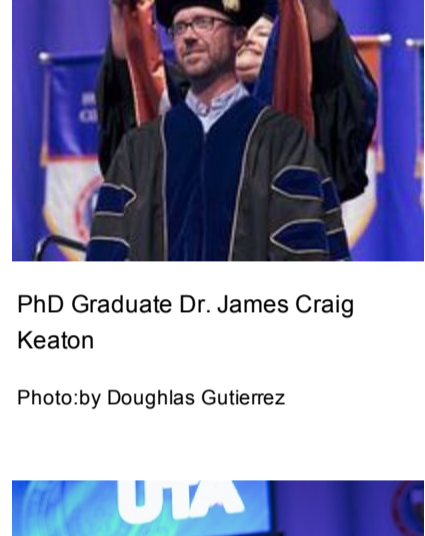
It will include a dinner and an awards presentation – and will be livestreamed for online students.

The event is held three times per year - at the end of every semester - to recognize scholars who serve as student leaders, exemplify outstanding service to the community or achieve the highest levels of academic success in their coursework.

Read the rest of the story [Spring 2022 Celebration of Excellence](#).



Bachelor of Social Work student Stephen Silva Brave. Photo Courtesy Stephen Silva Brave



PhD Graduate Dr. James Craig Keaton  
Photo:by Douglas Gutierrez

## SSW confers 182 degrees including two doctorates

By Valerie Fields Hill

More than 180 Social Work students will receive their graduate and undergraduate diplomas during [commencement ceremonies](#) this week.

Among the 182 Social Work graduates will be two students Erin Findley and James Craig Keaton, who will earn doctoral degrees.

Findley has long wondered how she would feel during Friday's commencement "hooding," the ceremonial placement of academic regalia on doctoral candidates signifying the earning of the degree.

Both Findley and Keaton will both be hooded on Friday by Social Work Professor Dr. Regina Praetorius.

"I am guessing it will feel somewhat surreal," Findley pondered last week about being hooded on stage at commencement. "I'm glad I'll be up there with (Professor) Regina Praetorius and Craig, who both have been an integral part of my journey."

Keaton offered similar feelings of accomplishment and the support he received from faculty and colleagues, and the feeling of accomplishment.

"I have finally realized this life goal and dream and will be so grateful to celebrate with all of the people that have supported me along this journey," Keaton said.

Post-graduation, Keaton hopes to land a position where he can counsel and mentor students in a college setting.



Dr. Regina Praetorius hoods PhD Graduate Dr. Erin Findley at spring commencement.  
Photo:by Douglas Gutierrez

Commencement ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. Friday, May 13, at College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., in Arlington. College Park Center is a 7,000-seat, indoor arena on the University of Texas at Arlington campus. Family members and guests older than two must have tickets to attend.

Read the rest of the story about [SSW Spring Commencement](#)

## MSW student, professor receive NASW awards

By Valerie Fields Hill

A UTA Master of Social Work student who enrolled in graduate school after working decades in pharmaceutical sales has been named one of the region's top graduate-level Social Work students.

Diana DiCesare won the North Central Texas Fort Worth Branch of the National Association of Social Workers "MSW Student of the Year" award. She was recognized by the organization's members March 24.

DiCesare was among two UTA-affiliated individuals who were lauded by the professional Social Workers group.

North Central Texas Fort Worth Branch is one of 26 local units of the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The Texas branches represent about 5,000 professional and student Social Workers.

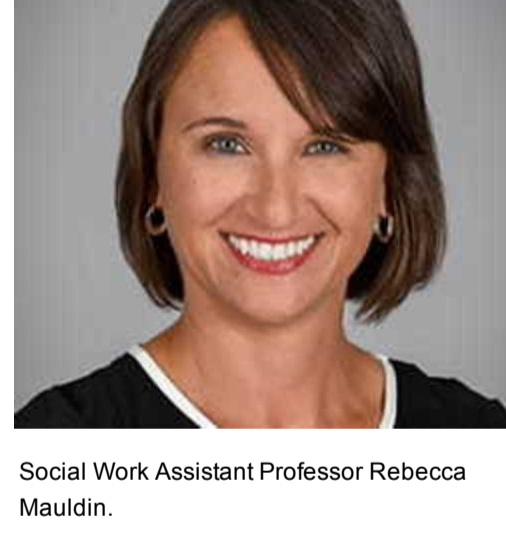


Dr. Jan Finch (center) was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award by NASW North Central Texas Fort Worth branch.  
Photo by Valerie Fields Hill



UTA Master of Social Work student Diana DiCesare (right) was named MSW Student of the Year by NASW North Central Texas Fort Worth branch.  
Photo by Valerie Fields Hill

Read the rest of the story [MSW student, professor receive NASW awards](#).



Social Work Assistant Professor Rebecca Mauldin.  
Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Mauldin

## Professor honored with UTA President's Teaching Award

By Valerie Fields Hill

For the second consecutive year, a Social Work professor has won a campus-wide award for outstanding classroom teaching.

Dr. Rebecca Mauldin, an assistant professor of Social Work, will be recognized next month with the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching – Untenured. She was selected by a panel of peers at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Mauldin, who comes from a family of educators, will be honored at 4 p.m. April 26 in the Rio Grande Ballroom of the E. H. Herford University Center. The award will be given during the University Faculty and Associates spring meeting.

"I was always involved with training or mentoring," said Dr. Mauldin, who taught in a neuromuscular therapy institute prior to becoming an assistant professor at UTA. "I come from a long line of teachers. So, it wasn't a surprise when I became interested in teaching."

The Award for Excellence in Teaching – Untenured is given annually by UTA Interim President Teik Lim to a non-tenure track instructor who has taught for at least three years and has demonstrated effectiveness and innovation in the classroom.

This year, for the second straight year, a School of Social Work professor has earned a UTA teaching recognition. Last year, Dr. Lim named Social Work Associate Professor Diane Mitschke to the UTA Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Read the rest of the story [Professor Mauldin receives award](#).

The flyer for the Social Work Takeover University Center event March 29, 2022. Image created by Coral Simpkins.

## SSW hosts Job Fair, Addiction Conference

By Valerie Fields Hill

Students should become aware of social justice issues, including racism and maltreatment against blacks by police, then join movements to end such injustice, a Social Work professor said.

Activists working to obliterate systemic and historic racism need support from others to combat those ills, said Pamela Fox, an assistant professor in practice, during a recent presentation to UTA students, faculty and others.

"What I want you to think about...is that issues of racism and sexism are vitally important," she said to the gathering. "We need allies..."

"What needs to be different for things to be better?" Dr. Fox asked, rhetorically, to the group.

"What are you willing to do and change today?"

Dr. Fox made the statements during the Center for African American Studies' November "Power Hour" event.

The one-hour event was held Nov. 13 in the Rosebud Theater at the E.H. Herford University Center on the UTA campus. The Center for African American Studies hosts Power Hour each month to raise awareness of contemporary or historical issues affecting African Americans. The November event drew nearly 100 students, campus employees and others.

Read the rest of the story about the [Social Work Takeover UC event](#).

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