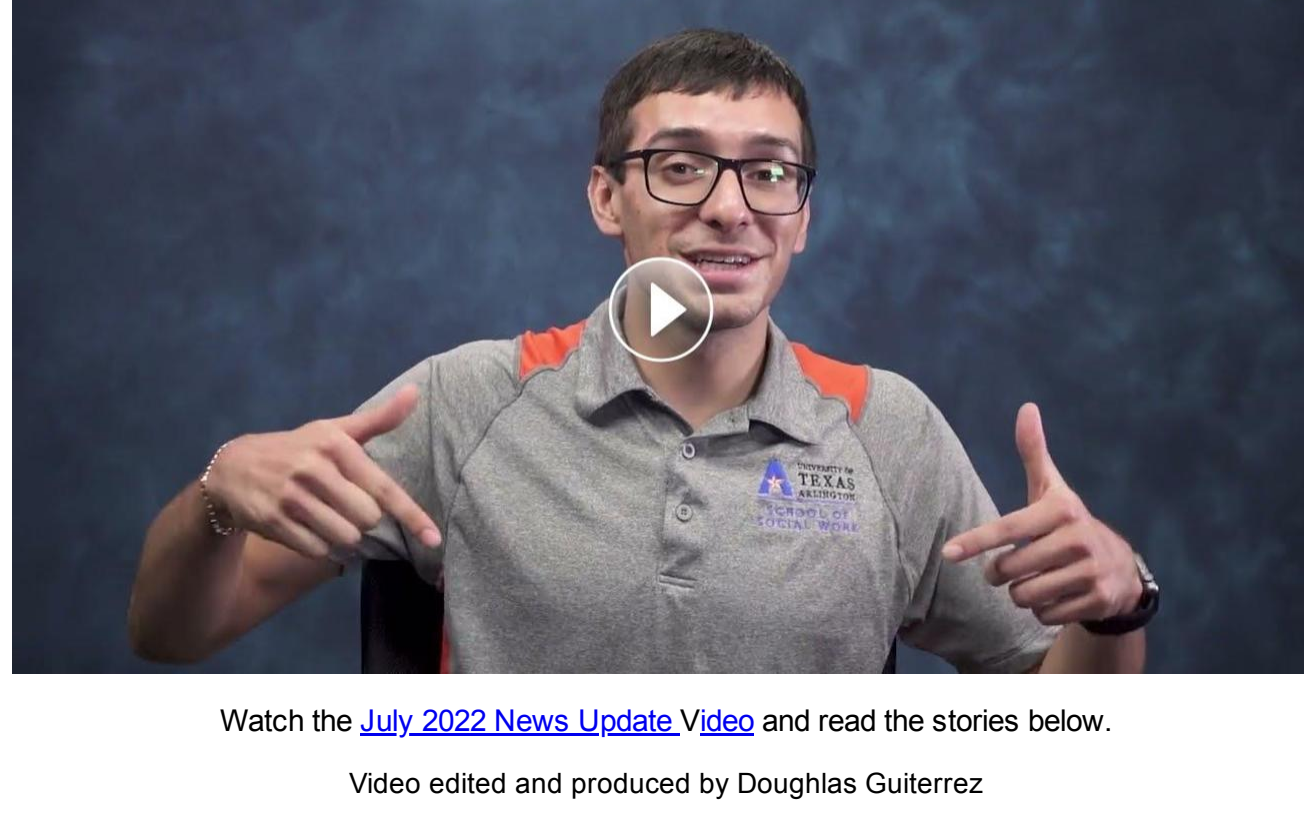
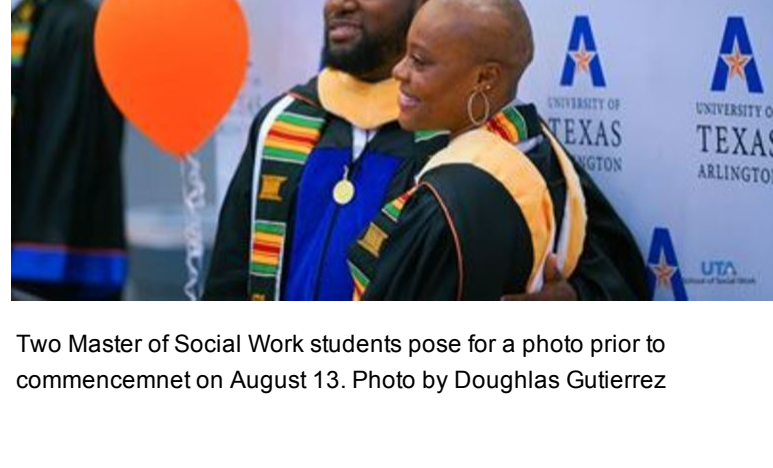


Summer 2022 News Update



Watch the [July 2022 News Update Video](#) and read the stories below.

Video edited and produced by Douglas Guterrez



Two Master of Social Work students pose for a photo prior to commencement on August 13. Photo by Douglas Guterrez

430 Social Work graduates earn degrees

By Valerie Fields Hill

More than 430 Social Work students earned their degrees during commencement ceremonies last month in Arlington.

Commencement began at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, at College Park Center, on the

University of Texas at Arlington campus.

The School of Social Work is among nine colleges conferring degrees during UTA's summer commencement ceremonies.

The colleges of Architecture, Planning, & Public Affairs, Business, Education, Engineering; Liberal Arts; Science and the Honors College and Division of Student Success also will confer degrees with the School of Social Work.

The College of Nursing and Health Innovation recognized and celebrated its graduates during a separate ceremony at 11 a.m. on the same date at College Park Center.

Elizabeth M. Beck, an attorney and U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq, will speak at Commencement. She spent more than eight years in the 223rd Maintenance Company, which was based in Grand Prairie.

In 2005, Beck deployed as a sergeant to Taji, Iraq, a rural town about 30 miles north of Baghdad, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Read the rest of the story [430 graduates](#)

Summer 2022 Celebration of Excellence



Photo by Douglas Guterrez

By Valerie Fields Hill

The School of Social Work honored 232 students for their outstanding academic performance, internship achievements and their service to peers.

The students were recognized Aug. 13 during "Celebration of Excellence," a gathering hosted at the end of each semester by School of Social Work administrators to highlight stellar performances in the classroom and during clinical field internships.

The Summer 2022 celebration and reception were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, at the School of Social Work Complex on the UTA campus.

"The Celebration of Excellence serves as an opportunity to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of our graduating Social Work students," said Dr. Diane Mitschke, associate dean for academic and student affairs.

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

Mental health group awards MSW student \$5,000 scholarship

By Valerie Fields Hill

A University of Texas at Arlington Social Work student has been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to assist her in completing her graduate studies.

Breanna Lee Hazel received the recognition this week from the Ima Hogg Foundation, an Austin-based organization promoting mental health awareness and research.

The Hogg Foundation posted a photo and a video of Hazel and other scholarship honorees to its web site and social media on Thursday.

"This year, 19 graduate Social Work students from across Texas received scholarships of \$5,000 each," the organization said in a statement about the student honorees.

"These students, nominated by the heads of their Social Work programs, were chosen for their commitment to strengthening the well-being of communities as professionals in the Texas mental health workforce."

Hazel is pursuing a master's degree in Social Work with a direct practice in mental health and substance misuse focus. She is scheduled to graduate in August 2023.

Read the rest of the story [\\$5,000 Scholarship](#)

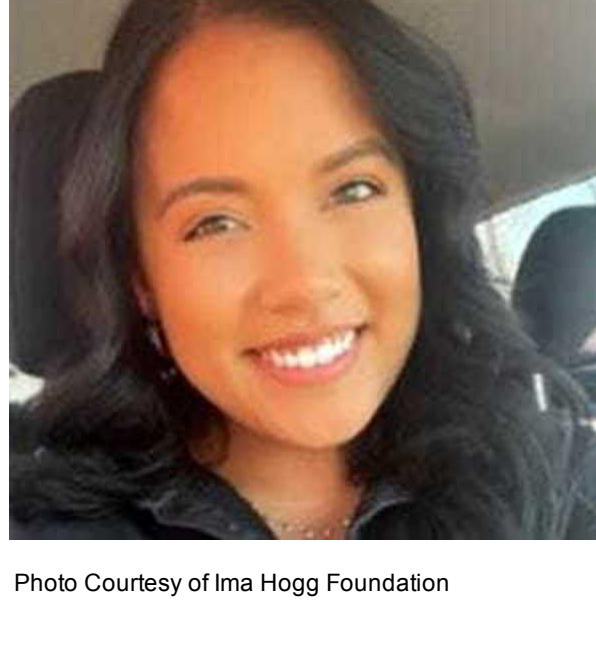


Photo Courtesy of Ima Hogg Foundation



Dean's statement - Roe v. Wade is no more

By Valerie Fields Hill

As is the case with many Social Work organizations and professionals, we are shocked, appalled, and dismayed with the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on abortion rights.

Last week, the Supreme Court of the United States completely overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that allowed federally protected access to abortions.

As a result of this decision, the Constitutional right of pregnant persons to access safe abortions, which we considered a basic reproductive health choice that had been legal for nearly 50 years, has been ruled unconstitutional.

No major Social Work organization supports this ruling. "CSWE does not agree with the Court's decision," the Council on Social Work Education wrote last week, in reaction to the 5-4 Supreme Court vote overturning Roe v. Wade.

Read the rest of the Dean's statement on [Roe v. Wade](#)

Eight new professors join the School of Social Work

By Valerie Fields Hill

Design Eight new faculty members will join the School of Social Work this fall, administrators announced.

We are delighted to have these outstanding new faculty join our School of Social Work," Dean Scott Ryan said. "They will certainly help us grow in the areas of Mental Health, Families and Children, scholarship and teaching."

Among the new faculty will be three accomplished Social Work professors of practice.

Professors of practice bring significant clinical work experience, professional knowledge, and career achievement to the classroom.

They offer teaching in the practical aspects of a field, or the nuances of a profession students otherwise might not gain from theoretical instruction alone.

Read the rest of the story [Eight New Professors](#)



Social Work Professor
Dr. Poco Kernsmith



Dean's statement on recent mass shootings, hate-motivated crimes

By Valerie Fields Hill

On May 14, a mass shooting occurred in Buffalo, New York, at a Tops Friendly Markets store.

Ten people were killed, and three others were injured; 11 of the victims were Black.

The shooter, reportedly an 18-year-old White male, livestreamed the hateful attack on Twitch.

According to news reports, the shooter researched and picked the specific time of day it would be most crowded, and in a neighborhood with the highest density of African Americans.

In the last few years, there has been a reported increase in remote shootings where the motivation was based on the hatred of a person's perceived race, ethnicity, or religion. African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ Americans have been frequent victims.

This we know: Mental health services must be affordable and available to all, particularly the victims. Instruction in basic kindness, respect for others, appreciation for diverse ideas, thoughts, opinions must not continue to be politicized.

Read the full Dean's Statement and the follow-up addendum to the original statement on [Mass Shootings and Hate Crimes](#)



Photo Courtesy: The Guardian

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