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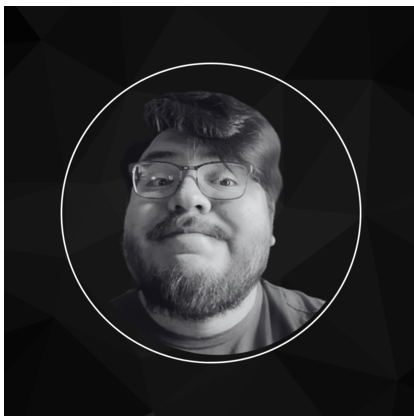
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Summer 2023 News Update



Watch the [July 2023 Monthly Video News Update](#) and read the stories below.

Video edited and produced by Douglas Guterrez



Eddie Jimenez

MSW Student, Ima Hogg Scholar

MSW student receives mental health scholarship

By Jaelon Jackson

A University of Texas at Arlington Master of Social Work student earned one of the state's premier scholarships for students who plan to work in the mental health field.

Eddie Jimenez won the Ima Hogg Scholarship – and \$5,000

Health.

The foundation was founded in 1956 to promote mental wellness throughout Texas. It also aims to increase the number of mental health professionals who work in the state.

“My ultimate goal as a social worker is to be an advocate and source of support for the Spanish-speaking community, particularly immigrants,” Jimenez said.

Jimenez is one of 22 scholars in Texas who received the Hogg scholarship this year.

“It’s a validation of my dedication to the helping profession and a recognition of my commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others,” Jimenez said.

Read the rest of the story: [MSW student receives scholarship](#)

Social Work Introduces Summer Movie Series

By Jaelon Jackson

In June the School of Social Work introduced a monthly Summer Movie Series.

The theme for June’s was “Healing A Legacy of Harm” debuting a film was called “Three Identical Strangers,” a thrilling documentary about identical triplets being separated at birth as a part of an experiment. The documentary provides conversations about issues in child welfare.

The event kicked off with a premiere of the film and was followed up with a discussion on ethics in Social Work.

“We hope students get from this that there are really complicated conversations to be had in Social Work, whether it’s about ethics or it’s about another component of our discipline,” said Director of Undergraduate Programs, Dr. Allison Tomlinson.

Read the rest of the story [Social Work Introduces Summer Movie Series](#)



Summer Movie Series June Flyer



SSW co-sponsors UTA Juneteenth celebration

By Jaelon Jackson

The University of Texas at Arlington hosted its annual Juneteenth celebration with the School of Social Work and several other campus programs co-sponsoring.

Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S. and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. The day of Juneteenth dates to 1865 when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were actually freed.

It's always important to celebrate Juneteenth," said Director of the UTA Center for African American Studies, Dr. Jason Shelton. "It's important that we recognize how far we have come as Black people in the state of Texas, understand our roots in slavery, understand that on the flip side of that we've come a long way but there's still a long way to go."

Read the rest of the story [SSW co-sponsors UTA Juneteenth celebration](#)

Keeping your cool in a warming world

By Karen Magruder

In a world facing environmental challenges unprecedented in human history, it's no

surprise that eco-anxiety – a pervasive worry about the current and future state of our planet – has become an increasingly prevalent mental health issue.

As people witness the devastating impacts of climate change, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, it's only natural to feel overwhelmed and disheartened. I happen to live in Phoenix, Arizona, a “heat apocalypse” city with dwindling water supplies, so I have some skin in the game.

But amid doom-and-gloom predictions, there is hope. As a therapist and clinical social work professor, I have seen firsthand how paralyzing eco-anxiety can be, and I'm dedicated to finding solutions.

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Read the rest of the story: [Keeping your cool in a warming world](#)



Social Work Assistant Professor of Practice
Karen Magruder, LCSW-S

For those with dementia, relief through the power of music

By Neph Rivera

A University of Texas at Arlington researcher hopes to help harness the power of music and technology to improve the quality of life of those living with dementia.

Kathy Lee, gerontologist and assistant professor in the School of Social Work, is helping develop an app that uses music to ease the burdens for people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) and their loved ones.

“Among those who have advanced-stage dementia, their behaviors tend to be very sedentary. They won't move or speak,” Lee said. “But once they hear music, especially music they are familiar with, you'll see them respond to that.”

“There is evidence that music-based interventions benefit older adults living with dementia. But we are expecting that it will also ease the burdens of caregivers providing informal care to loved ones at home.”

With the help of a federal grant from the National Institute on Aging, Lee will work with Kendra Ray,



Assistant Professor Dr. Kathy Lee

assistant research professor and music therapist at New York University and a founder of AutoTune Me LLC, to create SoundMind, an app to help combat the neuropsychiatric symptoms of ADRD. Ray will oversee the app's overall functions and technological components, with Lee optimizing the app's appearance and features to ensure it is best serving its users.

Read the rest of the story: [For those with dementia, relief through the power of music](#)



Study abroad is ‘learning you can touch ... and feel’

By Neph Rivera

Lynzie Ferguson’s recent study abroad experience in Busia, Kenya, with her fellow Mavericks was a chance to experience firsthand whether being a traveling social worker is a career she wishes to pursue.

“Seeing what their culture means to them through the experiences they provided us opened a door into their world that you cannot get from a book or by sitting in a class,” said Ferguson, a graduate student in the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington. “The care and the concern everyone showed for us in our short time there was like nothing I had ever experienced in my travels before. It felt like we became part of their family.”

Ferguson was one of 13 Mavericks who, along with School of Social Work faculty members Eusebius Small, Karla Arenas-Itotia and Tracy Orwig, engaged in a rich exchange of experiences on their trip abroad. The trip was the result of a grant by the U.S. Department of State’s Increase and Diversity Education Abroad for U.S. Students Program that was awarded to UTA last year.

The UTA delegation partnered with the Collective for Orphan Care and Education to provide learning activities, books and supplies to three schools in Busia. For some of the Kenyan students, it was their first experience with technology in the classroom.

“One of our students brought their laptop to school,” Orwig said. “The kids don’t have exposure to that in class. The school I was at had eight tablets for the entire school and some of them didn’t work.”

Read the rest of the story: [Study abroad is ‘learning you can touch ... and feel’](#)



Fall at a Glance:

- SSW Summer Commencement (August 5)
- SSW Fall Welcome Back Event (August 21-22)
- Maverick Stampede: Italian Ice Think Twice (August 30)
- PhD & Faculty Mixer (September 14)
- Fall Harvest Food Giveaway & Trunk-or-Treat 2023 (October 28)
- UTA Homecoming 2023: School of Social Work Pre-Game Party (November 11)
- Social Work Career Day Expo (November 17)
- Fall Celebration of Excellence (December 14)

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