

UTA School of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Video edited and produced by Doughlas Gutierrez

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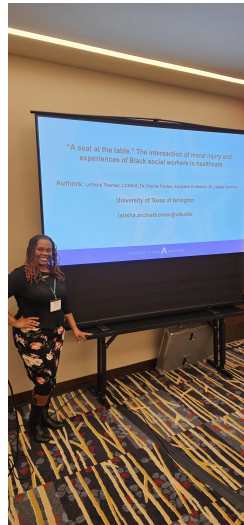
Dean Kirk A. Foster, PhD, MSW, MDiv

Welcome Kirk A. Foster, new School of Social Work dean

Dr. Kirk A. Foster's tenure at UTA begins Feb. 1. As dean of the School of Social Work, Foster will lead one of the largest and most diverse social work programs in the nation.

We are proud of our history, and we look forward to Foster joining us as we continue our commitment to social justice and furthering our success in developing partnerships for a just society.

[SEE NEW DEAN'S CURRICULUM VITAE](#)



Latisha Thomas MSW, LCSW-S, Social Work doctoral Student at SSWR

Faculty, students lead the way at social work research conference

By Jaelon Jackson

Professors and students from the University of Texas at Arlington participated in the 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference held in Washington, D.C., Jan. 10-14.

The UTA delegation, consisting of 40 dedicated students and faculty members, not only participated actively but left an indelible mark on the diverse array of presentations, solidifying the university's standing as a beacon of innovative social work research.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT 2024 SSWR](#)



Tracy Orwig, LCSW, Associate Professor of Practice



Dr. Noelle Fields, PhD, LCSW, Associate Professor

Two professors to be named Distinguished Fellow by organization

By Jaelon Jackson

Two social work professors will receive the title of Distinguished Fellow by the National Academies of Practice this semester.

Dr. Noelle Fields, associate professor, and Tracy Orwig, associate professor of practice will be recognized at the organization's annual meeting March 15-16 in Jacksonville, Fla.

This recognition reflects their outstanding contributions to social work research, education and their leadership in interprofessional practice.

"My career has allowed me the opportunity to work closely with interprofessional teams to collaborate and provide patient-centered care," Fields said.

"I have seen firsthand when individuals on a healthcare team have not collaborated well due to communication barriers, not knowing one another's roles or responsibilities, or due to ethical conflicts" Fields said.

Orwig echoed the significance of interprofessional collaboration.

"Interprofessional collaboration is fundamental to my experiences in gerontological social work. As a clinical social worker with older adults, I collaborated with colleagues in medicine, nursing, and physical/occupational therapy/speech therapy," Orwig said.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT DR. FIELDS AND PROFESSOR ORWIG](#)



Kiva Harper, MSSW, LCSW, Associate Professor of Practice

Preventing violence against social workers - advocating for change

By Nina Chamlou

Famed social worker Frances Perkins once said, "The people are what matter to government and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life." Today's social workers still share Perkins' same drive for justice for society's most vulnerable people. But who is ensuring that social workers *themselves* are guaranteed quality of life?

As essential frontline workers, social workers directly interact with individuals in various settings, such as schools, hospitals, mental health centers, prisons, and private homes.

[CLICK TO READ FULL STORY ABOUT ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE](#)

MENTAL WELLNESS **GUEST: DR. GENEVIEVE GRAAF**

HOSTED BY JAELOON JACKSON
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



Courtyard Conversations: Mental Wellness with Dr. Genevieve Graaf

Hosted by Jaelon Jackson

In this episode of Courtyard Conversations, we discuss mental wellness during and post-holiday season. Our guest for this episode is a distinguished expert in the realm of policy and services, Social Work Assistant Professor Dr. Genevieve Graaf.

Dr. Graff is a seasoned policy and services researcher whose work not only contributes significantly to the understanding of mental health issues, but it also plays a crucial role in shaping policies and interventions.

[CLICK TO WATCH EPISODE 3 - SEASON 2 OF COURTYARD CONVERSATIONS](#)

Upcoming SSW Events:

- Empowerment Pathways: Student Success Series Welcome Event (Feb. 1)
- Texas University and College Counseling Center Conference (Feb. 1-2)
- UTA Center for African American Studies Annual Conference (Feb. 7)
- A College Student Guide to Better Nutrition (Feb. 15)
- March is Social Work Month
- UTA Spring Break (March 13-17)

- [SSW Social Takeover \(March 26\)](#)

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Contact the School of Social Work

Address:

501 W. Mitchell Street
Arlington, TX 76019-0129

Phone: 817-272-3181

Email: socialworknews@uta.edu

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