

IN THE LOOP

A WEEKLY SSW STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Spring Semester | February 10

Welcome Dr. Mansi Patel and Dr. Danielle Klein



Hi, I am Mansi and I am thrilled to be a part of the Student & Academic Affairs team! I am originally from India, but I have been in Texas for 15 years by way of Chicago. A little about me: I was born in India but have lived in the United States since

I was eight years old and have lived on both coasts before moving to the Midwest. Prior to becoming a social worker, I worked in corporate finance and haven't been happier since making the career change. I have been a Professor at UTA for the past four years and graduated with my Master's and PhD both from UTA- Go Mavs!!! When not working, I love anything that involves being outdoors- especially hiking. Although I enjoy cooking, I would rather explore new restaurants and am a self-professed "foodie." My boys and I have visited [almost] every National Park and my favorite one so far has been Sequoia National Forest. I am looking forward to serving all of the students because I understand the transformative power of higher education.

Dr. Mansi Patel
Director of Practicum Education & Professor
PhD, LMSW, MBA



Hi, I'm Danielle and I am so excited to be a part of the SSW team! I am originally from New York, but I come to the DFW area by way of New Orleans. A little about me: I've lived all over the country and I have worked in both high schools and colleges as a student affairs professional and a teacher/educator. I'm an animal lover, so you'll often catch me talking about my pets. I also enjoy planting things (even though not everything survives!), reading just about anything, and exploring new foods—though I'm *definitely* not the one you want cooking a meal. When I'm not working, I love spending time with my husband, our 7-year-old, and all the chaos that comes with it.

Danielle Klein
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
PhD in Educational Leadership, Research and Counseling

OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Social Work Palliative Care Fellowship

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VIRTUAL LINKS
& APPLICATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
Catherine Driggers, LCSW-S
catherine.driggers@va.gov (210) 385-0817
Social Work Palliative Fellowship Coordinator
7400 Merton Minter Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78229

APPLICATIONS
OPEN ON 2/1/25 &
CLOSE ON 2/21/25

[For more information](#)

Fiestas en Laredo

February 13, 12:30 pm-2 pm

Discover the vibrant traditions of Laredo through the eyes of Dr. Norma E. Cantú, an award-winning poet and author. Blending memoir, ethnography, and folkloristic analysis, Professor Norma E. Cantú examines the vibrant traditions of Laredo through an insider's lens, exploring Matachines dances, quinceañeras, and the unique borderlands celebration of George Washington's birthday. Grounded in sentipensante (thinking/feeling) folkloristics and influenced by Gloria Anzaldúa's concept of nepantla, it reflects a deep integration of intellectual and emotional insight. Continuing the Society's century-long tradition of documenting Texas-Mexico border lore, this work honors the region's rich cultural legacy.

[More information](#)

Texas Woman's University Presents: "Helping Hands of the Child Welfare System"

Join Texas Woman's University's conference to see what free trainings they have to offer! They will have many guest speakers, and registration is free.

February 21st, 2025 at 8:30am - 4pm (Online via Zoom)

For more information

Social Work Advocacy Day 2025 - Serving all Texans: Unity through Action

Friday April 11 at Texas State Capitol in Austin

NASW-TX is thrilled to announce the return of Social Work Advocacy Day (SWAD) 2025. Join us for a day of empowerment, education, and advocacy to make a meaningful impact together.

More information



Queer, Sex, and Power

The Queer Social Work Association is hosting an event on February 12th. Join them for queer resources, free STD testing, safer sex kits, and much more!

February 12th from 12pm - 2pm



UTA SurvivorLink & AmeriCorps Tech Based Abuse and Intimate Partner: Violence and Awareness Interventions

Rachel Voht Schrag and Morgan PettyJohn are co-leading our UTA SurvivorLink AmeriCorps cohort this year in which our MSW students will share important information about technology facilitated abuse, digital interventions for survivors of violence, and safety planning in a digital world. The webinar will be February 19th at 4:00 PM.

Join Webinar



INDULGE IN CHOCOLATE. INVEST IN SUCCESS

See's CANDIES

UTA's Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work needs your sweet support! Your purchase will help fund academic resources, professional development, community service initiatives, and member recognition events.

ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 11TH

Scan the QR code to Place Your Order



Thank you for your support!

Indulge in chocolate. Invest in success:

Phi Allnpha Honor Society for Social Work is partnering with See's Candy to sell candy. Help them raise money for academic resources, professional development, and member recognition events!

Order deadline is March 11th

Order here

SOCIAL JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT



World Day of Social Justice

February 20th is the world day of social justice and the United Nations (UN) has announced this year's theme as, **Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future**. The 2025 theme will focus on how inclusive policies can aid in helping climate action to ensure better jobs, reduced inequalities, and more sustainable development.

Social development points to social justice, solidarity, and harmony within and among countries. It also calls out that social justice, equality, and equity are fundamental values of all societies. The UN further shares that, "The observance of the day

should contribute to the further consolidation of the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.”

To get involved or learn more about this year’s World Day of Social Justice, see the website [here](#).

Leah Neal
Graduate Student Leader Intern

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



Mavs for Mental Health Awareness

Mavs for Mental Health is dedicated to supporting students' mental health and wellness through advocacy, education, and leadership opportunities. By offering resources and guidance, especially to those pursuing social work degrees, MMHA is creating a space for students to grow professionally and personally while also engaging in social change, creating a society where mental health is prioritized, understood, and supported. This not only improves individual lives but also strengthens the collective well-being of the entire community. The organization's membership largely consist of social work students, but its meetings and events will be open to the benefit of all UTA students.

ADVISING UPDATES

UTA School of Social Work Advising FAQs can be found [here](#).

We have some changes in our Academic Advising & Practicum Offices, and we want to share those changes with you. For contact information to each person, please click [here for advisors](#) and [practicum specialist](#).

[Former Specialties]	Practicum Specialists	[New] Letters	Advisor
BSW/BSSUT	Dimekia Hicks	<i>no change</i>	Kyleigh Easter; Daisy Jones; Desiree Warren
Foundation	Vanessa Caraveo	A-D	George Jauss
Children & Families	Monica Brown	E-K	Meverlyn Maisonave
Aging, CAP, Health	Cindy Bassey	L-P	Cleondria Marable
MH	Sharon Martin	Q-Z	Tara Harris

We also have a Same Day advisor who can assist BSW, BSSUT, and MSW students and his information is below:

Same Day Advisors: Matthew Williams & Keiana Crain

If you need immediate assistance, please contact the Student Affairs Administrative Assistant, Emily Rappaport (emily.rappaport@uta.edu).

IMPORTANT DATES

- **February 14:** Valentine's Day
- **February 17:** Presidents' Day
- **March 10 - March 14:** Spring Break
- **April 4:** Last day to drop classes; submit requests in MyMav prior to 4 pm
- **April 11:** Social Work Advocacy Day
- **April 7:** Registration opens for Summer 2025 & Fall 2025
- **April 29:** Last day of classes
- **May 1 - May 7:** Final exams
- **May 7:** Last day of term
- **May 9:** Commencement Ceremonies

STUDENT SUCCESS RESOURCE

Office of Financial Aid Scholarships

The purpose of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is to assist students in funding their education at UT Arlington. Our services include personalized financial counseling, FAFSA guidance, and access to tools like the Mav ScholarShop portal for scholarship applications.

Key Programs and Resources:

Grants: Federal and state-funded aid that does not require repayment (e.g., Pell Grants, TEXAS Grants).

Scholarships: Merit-based and need-based scholarships totaling over \$40 million annually.

Work-Study Opportunities: On-campus and approved off-campus employment for eligible students.

Financial Counseling: Assistance with budgeting and financial planning through the Student Money Management Center.

[For More Information](#)

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES

STUDENT SUCCESS

ACADEMIC ADVISING

FIELD PLACEMENT

LICENSURE

UTA RESOURCES

- [UTA Academic Calendar](#)
- [Webinar Library](#)
- [UTA Counseling & Psychology Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [SAR Center](#)

- [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
- [Free Windows Apps with Student ID](#)
- [Emergency Assistance Fund](#)
- [Free & Confidential HIV Testing](#)
- [UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distribution](#)

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