

YEAR IN REVIEW

Thrive Here, Thrive Forever!

As we reflect on 2025, the UTA School of Social Work is proud of a year marked by growth, impact, and meaningful connection. From research and community engagement to student achievements and alumni highlights, this year showcased the strength of our mission and the people who bring it to life. We're excited to look back on some of the biggest stories from 2025 and celebrate the work that continues to move our school forward.



Volunteers loading up a vehicle for 2025 Trunk or Treat and Food Giveaway

UTA School of Social Work Hosts Trunk-or-Treat and Food Giveaway to Support Families

By Jaelon Jackson

What began as a rainy morning turned into a bright afternoon of community connection as the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work hosted its annual Trunk-or-Treat and Food Giveaway.

The event blended family fun with social impact, offering candy, games and decorated car trunks alongside free food boxes provided through the school's partnership with the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

"Our goal is to create a welcoming and supportive environment where all individuals and families can come together to enjoy a day of fun, obtain essential food resources, and connect," said Jobanet Flores, UTA School of Social Work marketing manager. "We hope that everyone joining us can find meaning in connecting, giving back, and building a stronger community for all."

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE 2025 ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT](#)



Kelli Rogers, Assistant Professor of Practice and Antong Lucky, President & CEO of Urban Specialists

SSW Professor Hosts Community Dialogue on Urban Leadership

By Jaelon Jackson

The path to lasting community change doesn't start with a policy. It starts with the people.

That's the belief driving the work of Antong Lucky, president and CEO of Urban Specialists, a Dallas-based nonprofit focused on disrupting cycles of poverty and violence in urban communities. In a recent conversation with Dr. Kelli Rogers, assistant professor of practice at the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work, Lucky emphasized the power of lived experience, collaboration and empathy in driving social impact.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT ANTONG LUCKY AND WHAT HIS WORK](#)



Dean Foster speaking at Social Work Alumni Breakfast

President Cowley speaks at social work alumni breakfast

By Jaelon Jackson

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work hosted its annual Alumni Breakfast March 20, bringing together more than 100 alumni and community members to celebrate Social Work Month and share in the school's achievements and upcoming initiatives.

The event was emceed by award-winning speaker, poet, and UTA alumnus Michael Guinn, who energized the crowd with his storytelling and poetry.

"It's more than a breakfast — it's a reunion of purpose," Guinn said. "Social workers are the unsung heroes of our communities and today was about honoring that passion and legacy."

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT 2025 ALUMNI BREAKFAST](#)



MSW students receive new Serena Connelly Fellowships

By Jaelon Jackson

Four Master of Social Work students from The University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work have been selected to be the first recipients of the Serena Connelly Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship based on their academic achievement and interest in advocacy and policy work.

Kelly Coleman, Beth Kohlmetz, Destiny Proulx-Kier and Morgan Horan were named recipients of the fellowship, with each receiving a \$5,000 award to support their educational and professional development.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE NEW SERENA CONNELLY FELLOWSHIPS](#)



From left: Dr. Debra Woody, Dr. Jandel Crutchfield, and Dr. Pamela Fox

UTA Social Work Leaders Recognized at NASW/TX Awards Banquet

By Jaelon Jackson

The National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter - North Central Texas—Fort Worth Branch hosted its 2025 Social Work Month Awards Banquet on Tuesday, March 25, at the Kathryn Wilemon Lake House Event Center, honoring outstanding leaders and changemakers in the field of social work.

The National Association of Social Workers, founded in 1955, is the world's largest organization of professional social workers. Its Texas Chapter, with nearly 6,000 members, is the state's leading professional social work association. NASW/TX advocates for the profession, advances social justice policy, and supports members across practice areas including healthcare, education, government, and private practice.

Research and Faculty Highlights



Dr. Noelle Fields from the School of Social Work, Dr. Tracy Greer from Psychology and Dr. Denise Hernandez from Kinesiology and Public Health.

Building a Healthier Mind: UTA Researchers Unite to Strengthen Brain Health in Arlington

By Thomas Johns

Three University of Texas at Arlington researchers have joined forces to create a new community-based initiative that aims to strengthen brain health research, education and outreach in Arlington.

The Arlington Healthy Brain Collaboratory, led by Dr. Noelle Fields from the School of Social Work, Dr. Tracy Greer from Psychology and Dr. Denise Hernandez from Kinesiology and Public Health, was launched through a planning grant from UT Southwestern's Clinical and Translational Science Award Program.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH ON BRAIN HEALTH](#)



Professors, students present research at social work conference

By Jaelon Jackson

At the Society for Social Work and Research 2025 Annual Conference in Seattle Jan. 15-19 the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work made its mark, with over 20 faculty members, doctoral students, and post-doctoral fellows showcasing their innovative research.

From tackling critical social issues to proposing solutions that impact communities worldwide, the school's presence at the annual conference shows its commitment in advancing the field of social work.

Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Jan. 16:** Last day for late registration
- **Jan. 19:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

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