



School of Social Work

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

OCTOBER IN REVIEW

Thrive Here, Thrive Forever!



Watch the Dean's October Pep Talk to Students and read the stories below.

Video edited and produced by Douglas Gutierrez

[CLICK TO WATCH THE DEAN'S OCTOBER PEP TALK VIDEO](#)



The Queer, Sex and Power Event occurred on February 12, 2025 | Photo taken by [Mabel Cruz](#)

UTA School of Social Work Recognizes LGBTQ+ History Month

By Jaelon Jackson

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work is recognizing LGBTQ+ History Month this October, honoring the resilience, achievements and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals while reaffirming its commitment to creating an environment of respect and support for all students.

Established in 1994 by educator Rodney Wilson, LGBTQ+ History Month serves as a time to acknowledge the historical impact of LGBTQ+ individuals and the ongoing pursuit of fairness and understanding. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) describes the observance as “a time to shine the spotlight on people and moments that have changed the course of our history.” The national organization also emphasizes that the month “provides role models, builds community and represents a civil rights statement about the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH](#)



A small group discusses possible solutions to issues facing their communities at the “Reimagining Together: Strengthening Fort Worth’s Nonprofit Future” event. (Photo by Jaelon Jackson)

UTA School of Social Work and the Center for Transforming Lives host nonprofit collaboration event

By Jaelon Jackson

The Center for Transforming Lives and The University of Texas at Arlington’s School of Social Work partnered to host Reimagining Together: Strengthening Fort Worth’s Nonprofit Future, a day-long conversation among nonprofit leaders, educators and community partners on how to create a more connected and compassionate system of care.

The event brought together UTA faculty and leadership, alongside more than two dozen nonprofit executives and practitioners. The focus was clear: listen deeply, learn collaboratively and transform how the region supports its

most vulnerable residents.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE NONPROFIT COLLABORATION EVENT](#)



Participants take part in the “Steps for Hope Cancer Awareness Walk” hosted by the Phi Alpha Honor Society. (Photo by Thomas Johns)

Phi Alpha Honor Society Hosts Cancer Awareness Walk to Support Students and Community

By Thomas Johns

The University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work’s Phi Alpha Honor Society organized a Cancer Awareness Walk to bring students, faculty and community members together in support of cancer survivors and those undergoing treatment on October 21, 2025.

Natasha Sutherland, president of Phi Alpha, said the idea for the walk came from her desire to help the School of Social Work build more community engagement. “A lot of the students at the School of Social Work don’t necessarily have a lot of time for activities, so we had to look at times and dates when students would be able to attend,” she said.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE CANCER WALK](#)



Members of the UTA SSW Office of Student Engagement, Student Association for Macro Social Work (SAMSW) and Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society pose for a photo in front of the Texas State Capitol Building during NASW’s Social Work Advocacy Day. (Photo by Hollie Yang)

Building Community Through Involvement: How

Student Organizations Empower UTA Social Work Students

By Thomas Johns

The middle of the semester presents many opportunities for students to take part in events, observances and celebrations. With so many ways to volunteer and engage in extracurricular activities, student organizations help UTA School of Social Work students navigate campus life, connect with like-minded peers and participate in events that matter to them.

“Student organizations are important as they provide additional space for students to build community,” said Hollie Yang, Director of Student Engagement at the UTA School of Social Work. “Being involved in a student organization provides opportunities for social engagement, skill development, and professional growth.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS](#)



Participants of a Puppy Yoga Event in Spring 2025 give a "Mav Up" hand sign. (Photo by Douglas Gutierrez)

UTA School of Social Work to host Alumni Puppy Yoga with Cowtown Friends of FWACC

By Elizabeth Tejada

The UTA School of Social Work is partnering with Cowtown Friends of FWACC (Fort Worth Animal Care and Control) to host a relaxing and joy-filled Puppy Yoga event for alumni on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 to 11 a.m., offering a chance to unwind, reconnect and support local pet adoption efforts.

This event reflects the school’s growing effort to strengthen its alumni network while building meaningful relationships with mission-driven partners in the community. Alumni will participate in a guided yoga session surrounded by adoptable puppies, blending well-being, philanthropy and relationship-building in one experience.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT PUPPY YOGA](#)

Research and Faculty Highlights



Dr. Darlene Hunter, director of undergraduate programs, associate professor of practice and Paralympic gold medalist, teaches at class at UT Arlington on January 13, 2025.

Recognizing Ability: National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the Work Ahead

By Thomas Johns

Each October, the nation observes National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), honoring the contributions of people with disabilities and emphasizing the need for inclusive, equitable employment opportunities.

For the University of Texas at Arlington School of Social Work, this month is not only a time for reflection but also a call to continue advancing equity in the workplace and beyond.

[CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH](#)

Upcoming SSW Events:

- **Nov. 9-15:** [Homecoming Spirit Week](#)
- **Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day
- **Nov. 15:** [Alumni Puppy Yoga](#)
- **Nov. 19:** SSW & NSA Movie Night: Native American Heritage Month
- **Nov. 27-28:** Thanksgiving Holiday Break

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