

Trying to Teach in Trying Times

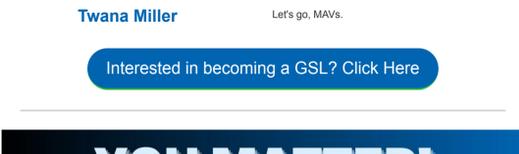
Last week I discussed the topic of school shootings, and this week I happened to come across a news article concerning the termination of a psychology teacher in Florida after he chose to incorporate this same topic in his lesson plan; he asked his students to complete a reflective exercise by writing their own obituaries in light of an upcoming school shooting drill, which was deemed 'inappropriate' by the Orange County School District (Miller, 2023).

How do you feel about this termination? Do you agree with his lesson plan and believe he was wrongfully terminated, or do you think the school district is justified in their decision? Do you fully understand or do you think it's too inappropriate for a school setting where adolescents must learn how to react in the case of a possible school shooting, or does that sound like a paradox to you?

Whatever you may think about this specific teachers' situation, it may remind you of other incidences in which you believe a teacher was wrongfully terminated. Perhaps this is a phenomenon which you may feel passionate about. If so, I encourage you to follow the work of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA) and see how you can contribute to their advocacy efforts for teachers' rights. If you are an out-of-state student, then I recommend using your preferred search engine to find "how to advocate for teachers in [your state of residence]."

As Francis Bacon (1597) coined, "knowledge is power," and if we wish to contribute to the wellbeing of our future generations and foster an environment in which power is ethically wielded by those who have it, then we ought to ensure our youth are granted the educational opportunities which will lead to their most fruitful futures.

[Click here to learn more about the TCTA and their advocacy efforts](#)



Twana Miller

Hello Mav, family! My name is Twana Miller; this is my third semester as a USL and my first semester as a GSL. I am a full-time MSW Health Cohort student, and I graduated in the Spring of 2022 with my BSW from UTA. I have a mission and the heart to help those incarcerated with health disparities within the prison system. I enjoy listening to worship music, volunteering, creating vegan meals for my family & DIYs, reading a good book, and spending time with my husband and three young men. I am thrilled for the opportunity to serve as your GSL this semester. We're a team, and I look forward to growing with you. We're in this together. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"- Nelson Mandela

Let's go, MAVs.

[Interested in becoming a GSL? Click Here](#)



Environmental Justice in Social Work

How would you define nature? To some, many enjoy the outside. You may have enjoyed playing with childhood friends or camping with friends and family members. Others may have been sheltered from the outside.

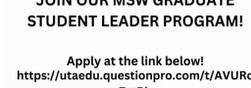
According to Christina Erickson, MSW, PhD, throughout her childhood to adulthood, she loved the environment. She loved to camp outside or ride her bike from home to work and back. Once completing her Masters in Social Work, Dr. Erickson realized her love of planet Earth. Therefore, she incorporated environmental justice within Social Work.

What can you do to improve your environment? How can you improve environmental struggles? How could you advocate for environmental justice once you become a Social Worker?

Best Wishes,
Andwelah Givens
Undergraduate Student Leader
The University of Texas at Arlington

Important Dates

- **April 23:** Co-hort students deadline to drop courses
- **April 25:** Last day to drop 2nd 8-week courses
- **May 02:** Last day of classes
- **May 03:** Student Study Day (No classes)
- **May 04 – May 10:** Final Exams
- **May 12:** Commencement Ceremonies (Tentative)
- **May 24:** Final official transcripts due for courses taken outside of UTA
- **June 05:** Last day to register for Summer & Fall 2023 courses



Opportunities

Take Over Our Social Media

Want to showcase your pride as a UTA Social Worker? Send us clips of your day as a "Social Work Student" for an opportunity to have them featured on our social media channels.

1. Take video of at least 3 daily activities
2. Voice recording of you narrating your day
3. Package all files via WeTransfer or zip
4. Submit files to SSW Marketing Coordinator

For More Information Contact: jobennif@uta.edu

Do you enjoy... Networking with SSW Faculty and Staff? Mentoring Fellow MSW Students? Learning New Advocacy & Communication Skills?

JOIN OUR MSW GRADUATE STUDENT LEADER PROGRAM!

Apply at the link below!
<https://utaedu.questionpro.com/t/AVURoZxrBh>

SOAR Jobs

- **Maryland:** SOAR Case Manager – EveryMind: Meet with consumers experiencing homelessness, case managers, family members, medical support members, etc., to collect information, review medical records, and put together applications to apply for benefits.
- **North Carolina:** Population Health Specialist – DukeWell: Develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive patient plans to ensure that patients receive appropriate overall medical care, therapy, and training services.
- **Texas:** SOAR Specialist – Integral Care: Complete SOAR applications and provide specialized training, advocacy, and assistance to consumers who may be eligible and wish to apply for SSI/SSDI benefits.
- **Virginia:** Behavioral Health Clinician I/PATH SOAR – City of Virginia Beach Behavioral Health Division: Assist in outreach efforts to identify citizens experiencing chronic homelessness and coordinate and prepare Social Security Disability cases using the SOAR Model.

Learn more about these positions on the SOARWorks website. Do you have a job posting you would like to share with the SOAR community? Please submit it to the SAMISA SOAR TA Center!

Events

Calling all Advanced MSW Students

We want to hear from you!

Take this quick survey to help us improve the MSW Specialist!

<https://utaedu.questionpro.com/03/AXYMEZK478>

For more information, contact
Hannah Hensley H90749@mavs.uta.edu

'OUT OF AREA' STUDENTS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you live outside of the UT Arlington? Would you care to share your experiences with the UTA MSW program?

Contact via Email: outofarea@mavs.uta.edu

Click here to apply for a focus group: [Click here to apply for a focus group](#)

Don't have time to meet? Take our short survey here: [Click here to take our short survey](#)

Survivors Unite Webinar Series

What is IPV?

APRIL 12th: Identifying
APRIL 19th: Assessment
APRIL 26th: Planning

Presented by: MHTTC, AAABH, UTA School of Behavioral Health & Human Services

Black and Latino Communities: Addressing Mental Health, Social Histories, and Collective Trauma

April 19 – 20, 2023
Embassy Suites by Hilton Dallas Market Center

Scan to reserve spot

Student Success Resource

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

The Crime Victim Services program has been implemented to provide assistance to students, faculty, staff, and visitors of UTA's campus. You do not need to have an open police case for our office to help. We want to support you the best we can during this process, and our department can offer you a variety of services:

- Crisis counseling – including on-scene response
- Medical accompaniment if needed, including but not limited to SANE examinations
- Criminal justice support and information, status of case process, and court accompaniment
- Coordination with on-campus services including but not limited to Title IX, Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention (RVSP) office, Student Affairs, Student Conduct, and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Information and referral to local social service providers
- Notification and assistance applying for Crime Victims' Compensation
- Assistance with evidence return
- Personal advocacy
- Training to police officers, campus groups, and community resources

Contact Information

Phone: 817-272-9254
Address: Center for Innovation Building (CFI) 202 E. Border St. Arlington, TX 76010

Academic Resources

Advising

Need to meet with an advisor but there's no upcoming appointment available? Drop-in either in person or virtually on Wednesdays. To schedule your 30-minute drop-in time, click the button below. Be sure to select in-person or virtual and your advisor. Remember, drop-in sessions are on a first come basis.

[Schedule your appointment here](#)

Connections Lab

Try a workout before that study session!

Exercise generates new brain cells. It's most effective at creating new brain cells when it's directly followed by learning new information. Physical activity also helps your brain wake up before studying.

["APA Style for everything social work"](#)

[Attend Tutoring Office Hour Thursday, April 20, 12pm: Google Scholar & Citation fun!](#)

[Schedule your tutoring session here](#)

Field Placements

- **InPlace has a new URL!** All students, agencies, and Field Instructors will need to use the new URL. <https://inplace.uta.edu/>
- The InPlace fee is \$67 per year or \$130 for a lifetime. Each student will need to plan to pay the InPlace fee on the first day of class for that semester they are starting field.
- [InPlace Training](#) and [Logbook Training](#) can be found here!
- [Field forms are available here!](#)
- [Field FAQ](#)
- If you are having technical difficulties with InPlace please email swfield@uta.edu and include a screenshot of the issue.

Field Power Hours

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, similar to Office Hours for faculty!
Advanced Aging and Advanced Health

- Field Advisor: Natalie Mangham
- 1st & 3rd Thursday | 2pm - 3pm

Advanced Children & Families and CAP

- Field Advisor: Monica Brown
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday | 4pm - 5pm

Advanced Mental Health/Substance Misuse

- Field Advisor: Sharon Martin
- 1st & 3rd Thursday | 3pm - 4pm

Foundation

- Field Advisor: Andrea Jameson

[Join your advisors' Power Hour here](#)

Graduate Student Leader (GSL)

GSLs serve as advocates and communication facilitators for MSW students, fielding questions about all aspects of the graduate experience, including advising, field, registration, orientation, scholarships, deadlines, program policies, and more. You may reach out to your GSL by email or Teams.

If you do not know who your assigned GSL is, you may email Mary Bell (mxb8093@mavs.uta.edu), Chloe Glenn (clg1385@mavs.uta.edu), Martaya Brown (mmb9972@mavs.uta.edu), Lecia Edwards (lae0269@mavs.uta.edu), Jordan Ward (jw9372@mavs.uta.edu) or Reagan Leslie (reagan.leslie@uta.edu).

[Click here to meet our GSL's](#)

Licensing

- If you're in your final semester and want to get started on applying to ASWB to take the LMSW licensing exam, [click here](#) to request the Dean's Letter for Licensure, which UTA will send to ASWB. More info can be found [on the ASWB site](#) and our [SSW licensure page](#).
- **There's lots of great updated information about licensing in the Student Success and Advising Course on Canvas—Check it out!**
- Interested in the LCDC? Scroll to the end of this [Licensure](#) webpage and click on the Texas LCDC Licensing 2021 PDF for a chart that shows how different education levels can prepare you for the LCDC.

UTA Resources

- UTA Academic Calendar
- Evidence-Based Research Guide
- Webinar Library
- UTA Counseling & Psychology Services
- SAR Center
- Free Windows Apps with Student ID
- SSW Writing Resources
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- Emergency Assistance Fund
- Rental Assistance Program
- Survivor Support Group
- Free & Confidential HIV Testing
- UTA-Tr-C Food Pantry Distribution

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."
- Malcolm X

Follow UTA School of Social Work on:

