

SOCIAL JUSTICE Spotlight

I am Tired; Are You?

Above is an incomplete list of the 783 gun-related incidences which have occurred in educational settings, ranging from pre-schools to universities, since the earliest recorded school shooting in America; a student shot (and ultimately killed) a law professor, John Anthony Gardner Davis, at the University of Virginia in late 1840 ([Wikipedia, 2023](#)).

That is a large number! And it does not even include the multiple other gun-related incidences we have witnessed occur over the years in other social settings, such as movie theatres, night clubs, places of worship, shopping centers and even homes where toddlers stumble upon and 'play' with unconcealed firearms.

In light of the recent Nashville school shooting which has been featured in many news sources this past week, it seems like an appropriate time to declare I am tired. I am tired of opening my laptop to see a new headline every week concerning gun violence. I am tired of learning about lives lost, both young and old, due to a bullet. I am tired of worrying about the safety of my loved ones when they step outside the house. Are you tired?

As a student body who are dedicated to the advancement of social justice and wellbeing for all, it seems safe to assume we all deem this an issue which demands resolve. What is the proper resolution, though? Is it stricter gun regulations? Greater accessibility to mental health care? Harsher punishment for offenders? Another option which has not been considered yet? Perhaps a combination of all of the above?

Whatever you believe the best answer is, I implore you to use the advocacy skills you have gained through your education in this program to speak up loud and proud for what you believe in. Let's work together to make this a safer world for all of us.



Student Spotlight

Melissa Griffiths

Melissa's formal education includes a Bachelor's Degree from Brigham Young University in Public Relations and an MBA from Stevens-Henager College. She has received Special Education Advocacy Training provided by the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, coursework by Down Syndrome Education International, and has attended conferences and trainings on learning disabilities. As a Texas Partners in Policy Making Graduate, she continues to make strides to improve legislation at the state level. Melissa is especially passionate about education advocacy and actively supports families in navigating the IEP process through the company she founded, DFW Advocacy. DFW Advocacy aims to promote inclusion, person-centered practices and policies, and encourage self-determination for individuals with disabilities. Melissa plans to use her MSW degree to continue to support individuals with disabilities and their families through direct counseling, and local and state advocacy.

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

YOU MATTER!

Good Grief!

The concept of grief has been on my mind a lot lately. I am unsure if any of you can relate, but I sometimes struggle with this concept; I find myself refusing to allow myself to grieve or open up to others about what I am feeling because I think I must be strong and not overwhelm others with what I am going through. How silly is that? I mean as a social work student, what a *great* way to practice what I preach, right? (I hope you recognize my heavy notes of sarcasm).

Anyway, as I have been thinking about this concept, I realize it is such an unhealthy way to go on with life to never allow ones' self to grieve. I also think it may be a common misconception that grief is only associated with the loss of a loved one. I think grief can manifest due to any sort of loss, such as a missed job opportunity, a past which no longer exists, or a hoped-for future which can no longer become.

According to [Lianna Champ](#), if we do not allow ourselves to properly grieve, we can experience physical pain, difficulty sleeping, isolation or over-indulging behaviors.

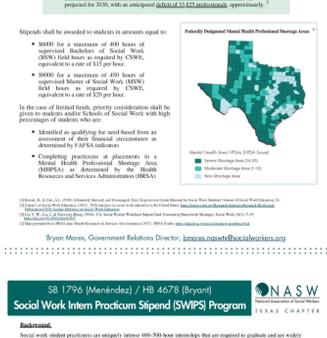
Therefore, if you have experienced any sort of loss recently, I suggest you allow yourself the time to properly grieve and do not be afraid to allow your loved ones to help you through the process. Our periods of grief will not last forever, and once they are done we will dust ourselves off, move forward and accomplish the great things we are all capable of!

Best Wishes,
Jordon Ward
Graduate Student Leader
The University of Texas at Arlington

Important Dates

- **April 03:** Registration Opens for Summer 2023 & Fall 2023
- **April 23:** co-hort students deadline to drop 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

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH DAY OF ACTION



TUESDAY - APRIL 04, 2023

CHILD HELP NATIONAL DAY OF HOPE



WEDNESDAY - APRIL 05, 2023

Opportunities

Academic

Career

Scholarship

Volunteer

Check out this Scholarship Opportunity with Project MMS!

SB 1796 (Mendoza) / HB 4678 (Bryant)

Social Work Intern Practicum Stipend (SWIPS) Program

SB 1796 (Mendoza) / HB 4678 (Bryant) would establish a social work placement and training program with stipend funds to be covered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Under this program, THECB would allocate Social Work Intern Practicum Stipend (SWIPS) to Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited Schools of Social Work for distribution to eligible undergraduate and graduate-level social work students as compensation for their 400-hour practicum. This initiative seeks to address the statewide social work workforce shortage through increased accessibility to social work degrees and careers.

Quick Facts

- In a 2018 study, 82% of social work students participate with stipend funding.
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- A 2018 survey on Social Work Programs found that 28% of baccalaureate social work programs provide stipend funding for students.
- The stipend is for the entire year of the most intense social work placement program for 3000, with an amount of \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Stipend shall be provided to students in increments equal to:

- \$5000 for a maximum of 400 hours of approved hours of Social Work (SWIP) that is required by CSWE.
- \$5000 for a maximum of 400 hours of approved hours of Social Work (SWIP) that is not required by CSWE.

In the case of approved hours, priority consideration shall be given to students under Schools of Social Work with high percentage of students who are:

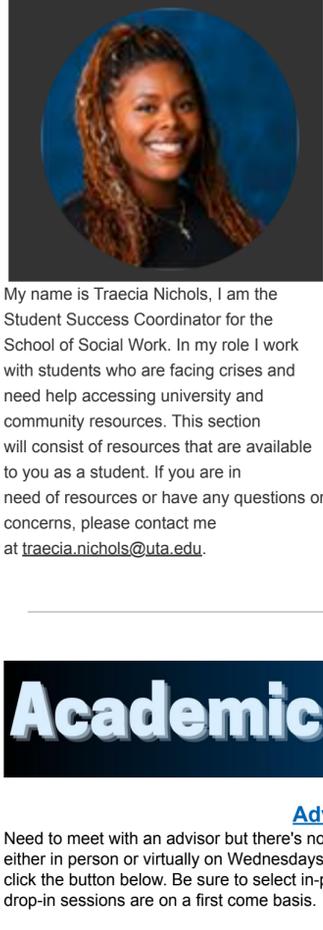
- Identified as qualifying for need based from an assessment of their financial circumstance as determined by FAFSA indicators.
- Completing practicum or placement in a Mental Health Professional shortage area (MSHPA) as determined by the Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA).

Eligible and Ineligible Schools

Eligible Schools: All CSWE-accredited Schools of Social Work that are currently receiving funding from the State of Texas.

Ineligible Schools: Schools of Social Work that are not currently receiving funding from the State of Texas.

Byron Morris, Government Relations Director, byron.morris@socialworkers.org



Camp TE

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS WITH SPINA BIFIDA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

JOIN THE FUN! CAMP 2023 JUNE 10-16 2023

COUNSELORS * SIDEWALKERS * NURSES NEEDED

NEED BUS BUDDIES TO RIDE TO CAMP AND BACK ON JUNE 11

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF NORTH TEXAS

www.camp1c-sbant.com

SB 1796 (Mendoza) / HB 4678 (Bryant)

Social Work Intern Practicum Stipend (SWIPS) Program

Background:

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Background:

This initiative is intended to provide the most qualified and diverse candidates for the Social Work Intern Practicum Stipend (SWIPS) Program. The program is designed to provide stipend funding to students who are currently receiving funding from the State of Texas. The program is designed to provide stipend funding to students who are currently receiving funding from the State of Texas.

Workforce Development:

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Byron Morris, Government Relations Director, byron.morris@socialworkers.org

Events

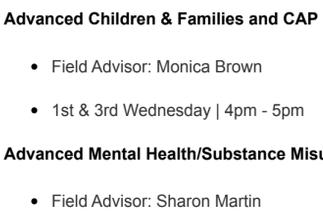


UTA REPORTING TO SUPPORTING: APRIL 12, 2023

SURVIVORS UNITE: APRIL 10-11, 2023

Free Pizza and Conversation! APRIL 12, 2023

Student Success Resource



CONFIDENTIAL ADVOCATE

My name is Traecia Nichols, I am the Student Success Coordinator for the School of Social Work. In my role I work with students who are facing crises and need help accessing university and community resources. This section will consist of resources that are available to you as a student. If you are in need of help accessing university and community resources, please contact me at traecia.nichols@uta.edu.

The RVSP Confidential Advocate, Tiffany Bland (she/her/hers), facilitates a victim-centered, social justice, and trauma-informed approach to facilitate support and advocacy services for victims and survivors of sexual and/or relationship violence.

When seeking support, the confidential advocate's priority is to ensure the student feels safe, is academically successful, and feels supported.

Contact Information

Phone: 817-272-3947

Address: Ransom Hall Suite 301
Arlington, Tx 76019

Website: <https://www.uta.edu/student-affairs/rvsp/contact>

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

Prioritize tasks to avoid procrastination.

Focus on completing assignments that are the most important and/or have the nearest deadlines. Trouble prioritizing? Use the Eisenhower matrix to assess importance and urgency.

["Write for that research class! Tips for effective research writing"](#)

Attend Tutoring Office Hour Monday, April 03, 11am: Use Zotero for all your assignments

[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 sswfield@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 (cgl1385@mavs.uta.edu), Martaya Brown (mmb9972@mavs.uta.edu), Lecia Edwards (lae0269@mavs.uta.edu), Jordon Ward (jxw9372@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 License, 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 Licensing 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/Tri-C Food Pantry Distribution

"We can choose to be hopeful, try and possibly fail or not be hopeful, give up and definitely fail."

- David Hogg, cofounder and board member at March

Follow UTA School of Social Work on:

