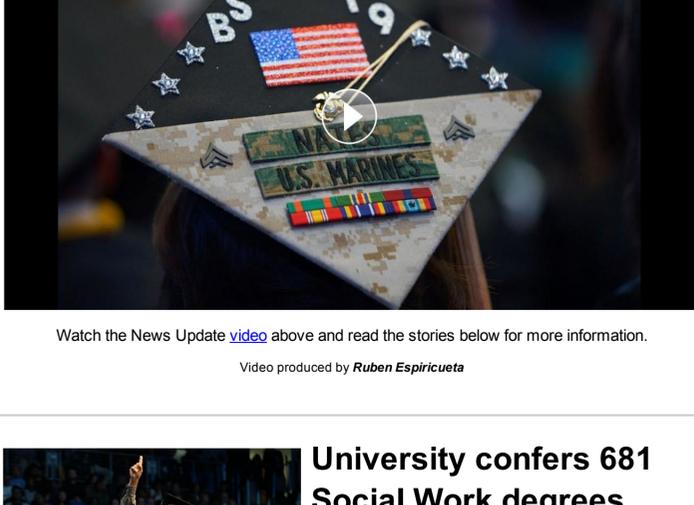
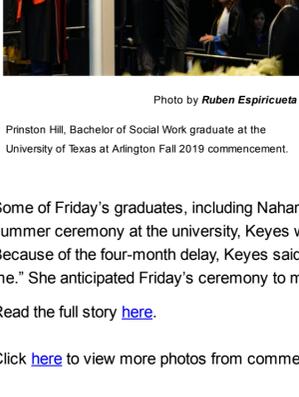


October - December 2019 News Update



Watch the News Update [video](#) above and read the stories below for more information.
Video produced by *Ruben Espiricueta*



University confers 681 Social Work degrees

Story by *Valerie Hill*
The School of Social Work conferred nearly 700 degrees during fall commencement ceremonies Friday at UTA's College Park Center.
The 681 graduates included 133 students who earned a bachelor's degree, 546 who earned Masters and two students, LaTocia Keyes and Shamsun Nahar, who each earned a doctorate in Social Work.
The Social Work graduates are among more than 5,200 students who collected diplomas during the university's three days of ceremonies Dec. 12-14.

Prinston Hill, Bachelor of Social Work graduate at the University of Texas at Arlington Fall 2019 commencement.

Some of Friday's graduates, including Nahar and Keyes, completed their studies in August. Absent a summer ceremony at the university, Keyes waited until December to walk the commencement platform. Because of the four-month delay, Keyes said late Thursday that the finality of her studies "still hadn't hit me." She anticipated Friday's ceremony to make her feel as if "it's now official."

Read the full story [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view more photos from commencement.

UT System Board of Regents approves funding for new SSW building



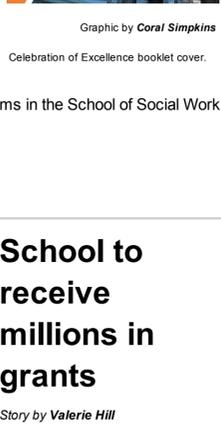
Photo by *Ruben Espiricueta*
An aerial photo of the current School of Social Work building.

The UT System Board of Regents approved \$60 million from the Permanent University Fund to build a new School of Social Work building on Nov. 14. The new building will house the School of Social Work and the College of Nursing and Health Innovation's Smart Hospital with total expected cost of \$76 million.

Planning is underway with University leadership working to identify and provide other funding sources for the remainder of the total cost. Substantial completion of the new building is tentatively projected for December 2022. The photo above shows the current Social Work building built in 1922.

Graduates, student leaders honored at fall celebration

Story by *Valerie Hill*
More than 150 Social Work students earned thousands of dollars in scholarships and other recognitions during a school-wide celebration in November.
Both undergraduate and graduate students were honored during "Celebration of Excellence" held Nov. 19, in the Rio Grande Ballroom of the E.H. Hereford University Center. The event highlighted students' outstanding academic performance, field work, research and leadership.

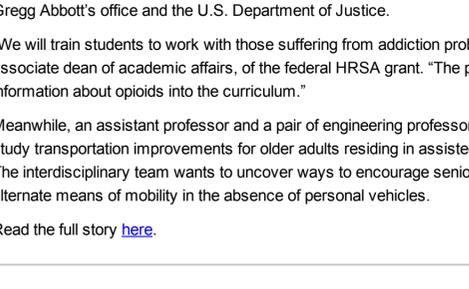


Graphic by *Coral Simpkins*
Celebration of Excellence booklet cover.

"This event is one of the most important events we hold each year, because it allows us to celebrate the tremendous achievements of social work students," said Diane Mitschke, director of graduate programs in the School of Social Work.

Read the full story [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view more photos of this event.



School to receive millions in grants

Story by *Valerie Hill*
The School of Social Work has received nearly \$3 million in grants over the past several weeks. School officials have announced.

In two of the largest grants, faculty members received \$1.3 million to assist mothers battling opioid addiction at the Center for Addiction Recovery and \$1.2 million to extend counseling services for families at the same center.

The \$1.3 million grant was awarded to the School of Social Work by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. The second, the \$1.2 million Life Connections grant, was awarded by Gov. Gregg Abbott's office and the U.S. Department of Justice.

"We will train students to work with those suffering from addiction problems," said Debra Woody, senior associate dean of academic affairs, of the federal HRSA grant. "The purpose is to help us infuse information about opioids into the curriculum."

Meanwhile, an assistant professor and a pair of engineering professors won a \$248,000 national grant to study transportation improvements for older adults residing in assisted living facilities in North Texas. The interdisciplinary team wants to uncover ways to encourage senior adults to use ride shares or alternate means of mobility in the absence of personal vehicles.

Read the full story [here](#).

Waggin' Wednesdays

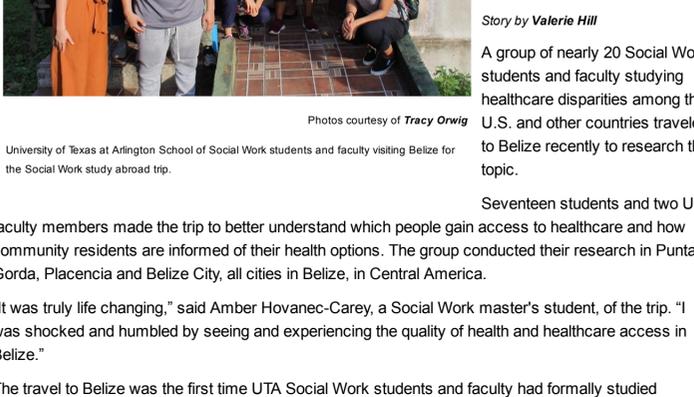
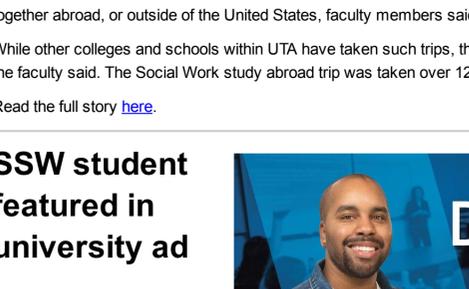


Photo by *Ruben Espiricueta*
Dean of the School of Social Work Dr. Scott Ryan brings his pet therapy dog Moose to meet students on the UTA campus.

Moose is Dean Ryan's certified pet therapy dog. He was featured at "Tail Waggin' Wednesdays" on Oct. 2 in the Central Library at UTA. There were four different therapy dogs for students to relax with and take selfies!

See more pics of the therapy dogs [here](#).



Students, faculty complete first study abroad trip

Story by *Valerie Hill*
A group of nearly 20 Social Work students and faculty studying healthcare disparities among the U.S. and other countries traveled to Belize recently to research the topic.

Seventeen students and two UTA faculty members made the trip to better understand which people gain access to healthcare and how community residents are informed of their health options. The group conducted their research in Punta Gorda, Placencia and Belize City, all cities in Belize, in Central America.

"It was truly life changing," said Amber Hovanec-Carey, a Social Work master's student, of the trip. "I was shocked and humbled by seeing and experiencing the quality of health and healthcare access in Belize."

The travel to Belize was the first time UTA Social Work students and faculty had formally studied together abroad, or outside of the United States, faculty members said.

While other colleges and schools within UTA have taken such trips, the School of Social Work had not, the faculty said. The Social Work study abroad trip was taken over 12 days in late October.

Read the full story [here](#).

SSW student featured in university ad

Story by *Valerie Hill*
A School of Social Work student is featured in a new university advertising campaign that officials hope will encourage more males, racial minorities and first-generation college students to study the profession.
Treston Shaw, 24, of Fort Worth, appears on the new postcard advertisement. A junior, he transferred to UTA from Tarrant County College.

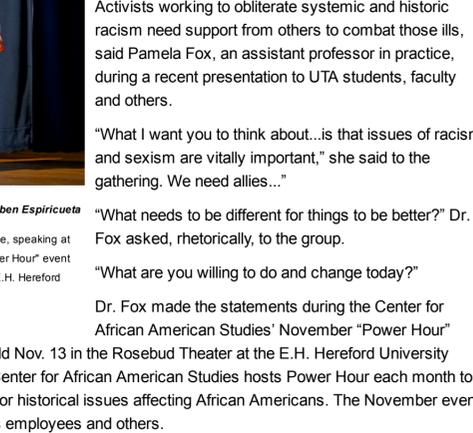


Photo by *UTA Office of Admissions*
Treston Shaw, UTA School of Social Work Bachelor of Social Work student, is featured in a university advertising campaign in the form of a postcard to be mailed out to prospective students.

On the postcard, Shaw is dressed in a rugged denim jacket with a white tee shirt underneath. He wears a scruffy beard and a wide smile. The ad's headline reads "DRIVEN TO HELP OTHERS." The headline is printed in all capital letters. On the card's back side, a brief story tells the reader that Shaw chose to attend UTA "so that he could maximize his opportunities to help others succeed."

"UTA is helping me get where I want to be by providing support and connecting me to people in my prospective field," Shaw states on the postcard. The postcard offers an electronic link and suggests that readers apply for admission.

Read the full story [here](#).



Bothered by racism? Wake up, get involved, professor says

Story by *Valerie Hill*
Students should become aware of social justice issues, including racism and maltreatment against blacks by police, then join movements to end such injustice, a Social Work professor said.
Activists working to obliterate systemic and historic racism need support from others to combat those ills, said Pamela Fox, an assistant professor in practice, during a recent presentation to UTA students, faculty and others.

"What I want you to think about...is that issues of racism and sexism are vitally important," she said to the gathering. We need allies..."

"What needs to be different for things to be better?" Dr. Fox asked, rhetorically, to the group.
"What are you willing to do and change today?"
Dr. Fox made the statements during the Center for African American Studies' November "Power Hour" event. The one-hour event was held Nov. 13 in the Rosebud Theater at the E.H. Hereford University Center on the UTA campus. The Center for African American Studies hosts Power Hour each month to raise awareness of contemporary or historical issues affecting African Americans. The November event drew nearly 100 students, campus employees and others.

Read the full story [here](#).

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