UT Arlington’s School of Social Work Gets More Trees

-UT Arlington Department of Public Affairs

The hot, Texas sun will beat a little bit easier on the heads of future UT Arlington students, faculty, staff and visitors, thanks to the donation of 100 trees from TXU Energy through the School of Social Work.

The shade those trees create will dot the 420-acre campus for decades to come. About a quarter of the trees will go along Greek Row Drive after reconstruction this summer. Another quarter of the total will go next to Lipscomb Hall. The other half of the tree total will be scattered across the campus.

“We are indebted to TXU Energy for this generous gift and for their work not only with this, but in support of the School of Social Work. We are equally appreciative of Sen. Chris Harris and state Rep. Diane Patrick for their strong support of this effort,” said Dr. Santos Hernández, dean of the UT Arlington School of Social Work. “TXU Energy’s generosity will be felt by students for decades. This living donation strengthens the School of Social Work’s bond with TXU Energy as well as our commitment to the University’s sustainability efforts and the greening of the campus. It’s something that benefits not only the University, but everyone on this planet.”

The estimated value of the 100 trees – which include the varieties of Desert Willow, Red Oak, Bur Oak, Bald Cypress, Lacebark Elm and Chinquapin Oak – is $7,500. But the TXU Energy donation doesn’t include just that.

TXU Energy also underwrote the School of Social Work’s Night of Excellence with a $5,000 donation. The event recognizes accomplishments of students and faculty for the previous year. Any proceeds from the event go toward the alumni scholarship fund. TXU Energy officials also gave another $5,000 at the event. Then the energy company decided on the tree donation.

“TXU Energy is committed to the improvement of the environment,” said Kelli Rod, vice president of community relations for TXU Energy and a member of the School of Social Work Dean’s Advisory Council. “Through signature programs like Committed to Community Growth, we are confident that this effort will have long-lasting results even into the next generation of Mavericks.”

The alliance started because Rod saw that a number of people who worked in agencies that helped distribute aid from the firm’s energy assistance program for at-risk families received their degrees from UT Arlington’s School of Social Work. She was later asked to serve on the School of Social Work’s Advisory Council, and personally experienced that tie between the school and social agencies.

Rod contacted state Sen. Chris Harris and Dr. Diane Patrick, State Senator, District 94, and received strong support from the lawmakers for TXU Energy’s donation to UT Arlington.

The first of those 100 trees was ceremoniously planted on Tuesday, June 3, just south of Science Hall, 502 Yates St.

Present for this event were UT Arlington representatives including President James Spaniolo, Dean Santos Hernández and John Hall, Vice President of Finance and Administration. Also attending were Senator Chris Harris and Representative Diane Patrick. Jon Bennett presented the gift on behalf of TXU Energy in his capacity as Senior Manager of Community Relations for the corporation.
Judith Granger Birmingham Center for Child Welfare Hosts 12th Annual Region 03 Practice Symposium

The UT Arlington School of Social Work Judith Granger Birmingham Center for Child Welfare hosted the 12th Annual Region 03 Practice Symposium on May 14, 2008. Two nationally acclaimed speakers presented workshops to more than 175 participants at the day-long event.

Speakers included Dr. Peter Lehmann, UT Arlington SSW along with other professors representing UT Southwestern Medical School Dallas, University of Illinois, Chicago, and Virginia Community College.

Dr. Kelly Otte, a community activist and president of the Oasis Center for Women and an adjunct professor at Florida State University School of Social Work presented “New Strategies in working with Mother’s and Children Who Experience Domestic Violence”.

Linda Spears, Vice President of the child welfare league of America, located in Washington, D.C., presented “It’s all about YOU”.

The symposium focused on the importance of and honoring the work Child Protective Services workers do for children and families on a daily basis.

The New Connections Programs Receives Health Fellow

The Community Health Fellowship Program matches selected medical students with community-based organizations for the purpose of completing a 9-week research project.

Program objectives for the students selected as fellows include an opportunity to work directly with underserved populations and an introduction to the research process—formulating a hypothesis, gaining IRB approval, and collecting and analyzing data for a presentation at the end of the term. The community based organizations selected for the program benefit by having a program-related research or evaluation project completed at no cost to the agency.

New Connections Director, Emily West, was notified in mid-May that Kirtan Nautiyal, a first-year medical student with an interest in pediatrics, would be working with the program this summer. While the specific project will not be fully determined until early June, possible investigations include 1) the impact of different drugs, initially and over time, on infant blood pressure, and 2) an examination of the relationship between decreases in maternal depression and improvements in the child’s developmental status.

Participation in UT Southwestern’s Community Health Fellowship Program represents a new collaboration and expansion of research opportunities for the UT Arlington School of Social Work to Dallas.

Dr. Joan Rycraft Steps Down as Associate Dean in August

After successfully serving four years as the Associate Dean for the School of Social Work, Dr. Joan Rycraft will step down, in August. She simultaneously directed the PhD program for the first three years, as well.

Dr. Rycraft will be missed in the Dean’s suite and says she is looking forward to concentrating her efforts on her research and returning to the classroom.

Domestic Violence Cross Cultural Perspective

The UT Arlington School of Social Work and the Muslim Community Center for Human Services in Richland Hills co-sponsored the second regional conference on domestic violence on June 14th. The conference was held in the E.H. Hereford center at the University of Texas at Arlington. Speakers included Dr. Peter Lehmann, UT Arlington SSW along with other professors representing UT Southwestern Medical School Dallas, University of Illinois, Chicago, and Virginia Community College.

Welcome To Our New Staff Member

Chaunté White joined the SSW Admissions department in January as the Recruiter/Admissions Counselor. She graduated from UT-Austin in 2004. Chaunté came to UT Arlington from MHMR of Tarrant County where she worked as a Service Coordinator/Intake Representative for the MR division. Her hobbies and interests include volunteering, painting, party planning, reading, shopping and traveling.

Dr. Fran Danis Appointed Associate Dean for the School of Social Work

On April 1, 2008 Dean Santos Hernandez issued the following statement:

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Fran Danis has been appointed Associate Dean for the School of Social Work effective Fall 2008.

Dr. Danis comes to us from the School of Social Work, The University of Missouri – Columbia. She holds a Ph.D. from Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; an M.S.W. from the School of Social Welfare, Stony Brook University, New York and a B.A. in Social Sciences from Stony Brook University, New York.

Previous to her service at the University of Missouri, Dr. Danis served as Associate Director, Projects Administrator, and Founder & Coordinator of the Diversity Institute for the Center for Social Work Research at the School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin. She also held academic appointment as Lecturer & Research Associate and taught in the areas of community and organizational practice, social policy, cultural issues, and domestic violence.

She has co-authored two books and published numerous journal articles and book chapters in the area of domestic violence and victim services.

She has provided state and national leadership to our professional associations. Dr. Danis is a strong addition to our faculty and administrative team. We eagerly await her arrival in August.
Publications, Presentations

Dr. Catheleen Jordan
PUBLICATIONS:
PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Rebecca Hegar
PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Vijayan K. Pillai
PUBLICATION:
Julia H. Littell, Jacqueline Corcoran and Vijayan Pillai, Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis, January 2008, Not Yet Published
PRESENTATIONS:
Dr. Vijayan K Pillai was among a panel of 20 invited national experts who attended a special session in collaboration with the Population Association of America (PAA) annual meeting held in New Orleans April 16-19. Dr Pillai provided critical feedback on William and Flora Hewlett Foundation funding initiative for the development of reproductive health and reproductive rights in support of their programming in that area and as part of the broad discussion that needs to take place as ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) +25 approaches. A paper was presented at the session based on the views of the panel. The feedback from the meeting will be used to support Hewlett’s thinking on funding strategies.

Dr. Larry Watson & Dr. Donald Granvold
PUBLICATION:
Watson, L. & Granvold, D. - WHOSE BABY IS IT? POST-MODERN INFLUENCE IN ADOPTION PRACTICE IN AMERICA - accepted for publication in the international e-journal, Personal Construct Theory & Practice.

Dr. Donald Granvold
PUBLICATIONS:

Dr. Randall Basham
PUBLICATION:

Dr. Sung Seek Moon
PUBLICATIONS:
Moon, S. “Multiple Predictors of Asian American Children’s School Achievement”, accepted for publication in Early Education and Development.

Dr. Ski Hunter
PUBLICATION:

Dr. Diane Mitschke
PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATION:
Mitschke, D.B., “No Rest for the Weary: Caring for the Caregivers of the Chronically Ill”, presented at the Annual Social Work Conference hosted by Parkland Health and Hospital System, in Dallas on May 21, 2008,

Dr. Thomas Watts
PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Jaimie Page
PUBLICATIONS:


Dr. Emily Spence-Almaguer, James Petrovich, and Dr. Jaimie Page
PUBLICATION:

Dr. Maria Scannapieco
PUBLICATIONS:

2008 Special Issue on Child Neglect. (DePanfilis & Scannapieco). APSAC Advisor.


2008 Adult Protective Services: State of the Workforce and Worker Development (Scannapieco & Connel-Carrick) Gerontology & Geriatrics Education, 29 (3).


PRESENTATIONS:


Dr. Peter Lehmann
PUBLICATION:

Dr. Norman Cobb
PUBLICATION:

Dr. Rick Hoefer
PRESENTATIONS:
Dr. Rick Hoefer’s abstract entitled “Program Evaluation for Accountability: What’s Different Now?,” was accepted for presentation at the 8th International Conference of the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) and the EMES European Research Network, July 9-12, 2008, in Barcelona, Spain.


Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne
PRESENTATION:
Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne was recently selected to present research based on her dissertation at the Twentieth National Symposium on Doctoral Research in Social Work at Ohio State University.

Dr. Regina Aguirre
PRESENTATION:
Dr. Regina Aguirre, was interviewed live on an evening segment of Telemundo on May 7th. The topic of the interview was counseling issues for Hispanic families in crisis. Dr. Aguirre was chosen for this interview because of her expertise in disaster relief work with families and because she is fluent in Spanish.

Dr. Santos H. Hernández
PUBLICATION:

PRESENTATION:

New Endowed Scholarship Funds
Initiated
THE JOSEPH, LUCILLE AND REBECCA HEGAR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND
The Joseph, Lucille and Rebecca Hugar Endowed Scholarship Fund was established by the Hugar family following the recent death of Professor Rebecca Hugar’s father. It will provide scholarship support to PhD students of social work at UT Arlington who have successfully defended their dissertation proposals.

THE HONORED FACULTY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND
UT Arlington School of Social Work faculty recently initiated the establishment of the Honored Faculty Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund will be used for BSW, MSSW, and PhD student scholarships. Donors will be able to make contributions to this fund in honor of named faculty.
Faculty Awards and Honors

Dr. Rebecca Hegar
Received a Texas Department of Family and Protective Services contract to administer, monitor and revise the WEB-based certification exam for Licensed Child Care Administrators and Licensed Child Placing Administrators, 1/2008-12/2008. R. Hegar (Pl.) and L. Watson (co-Pl.).

Rebecca Hegar has been appointed to a second 3-year term as U.S. Associate Editor for the British Journal of Social Work. The second term runs from September 2008 through August 2011.

Dr. Vijayan K. Pillai
Vijayan K. Pillai, UT Arlington professor in the School of Social Work, was quoted recently on the topic of South Asian students seeking higher education in the United States in India's The Economic Times. Pillai also was quoted on the topic of opportunities and challenges for India and China in an era of globalization, which appeared in India's Daily News and Analysis.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is developing a funding focus in the area of reproductive rights and health. Based on his scholarship in the area, Dr. Pillai is among 20 scholars invited nationally to assist the Foundation in developing a position paper on the areas of crucial research needs in the field of reproductive rights and reproductive health to guide this program of funding. A discussion of this work took place at the Population Association of America's Annual meeting in New Orleans April 17-19, 2008.

Dr. Pillai has been appointed as an Associate Editor for the International Journal of Sustainable Society.

Dr. Regina Aguirre
Dr. Regina Aguirre was nominated for the Chancellor's Award in Undergraduate Teaching and was selected as the UT Arlington Piper Nominee for 2008. The Piper Award recognizes tenure or tenure-track faculty for outstanding scholarly and academic achievement in teaching, and exemplary service to the University and the community.

The nomination goes forward in the fall to the UT system to be considered for the statewide Minnie Stevens Piper Award. Dr. Elliott will be recognized at the Fall University Faculty meeting.

Dr. Suk-Young Kang
Dr. Suk-Young Kang has been accepted to attend the "Empirical Summer Program in Applied Multi-Ethnic Research (ESPAMR)" at U of Michigan this summer. This program, sponsored in conjunction with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and the Center for Statistical Consultation and Research (CSCAR), will provide a unique opportunity to further develop integrative research skills and gain valuable career advice from leading senior scholars in a collegial setting among other early career scholars.

Dr. Maria Scannapieco
Dr. Maria Scannapieco, Director of the Judith Granger Birmingham Center for Child Welfare, testified Wednesday, April 30th before the Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services regarding Child Protective Services retention.

Dr. Debra Woody and Dr. Maria Scannapieco
Dr. Maria Scannapieco and Dr. Debra Woody were recognized by the Office of Research as among UT Arlington's top 10 highest funded faculty researchers for AY06-07.

The list of top 10 highest funded faculty researchers will be published in the 2007 Annual Research Report for UTA.

Don Capps
Congratulations to Don Capps. He has accepted a social work position with Millwood Hospital. Don received his BSW and MSSW with us while working as our Web Specialist.

Retirees
Carol Sundquist
Carol Sundquist, Field Education Counselor, since 1996, retired in May. Ms. Sundquist will assist her husband in the management of their private business.

Dr. Peggy Quinn
Dr. Peggy Quinn was honored at the 2008 Night of Excellence in celebration of her retirement. Dr. Quinn is an alumna of the UT Arlington School of Social Work program, receiving her MSSW in 1980. She went on to receive her Ph.D from Texas Woman’s University. Dr. Quinn joined our faculty in 1990. She says she will relish her new role as a full-time grandmother to her seven grandchildren.

Dr. Wayne Duehn
Dr. Wayne Duehn was honored at the 2008 Night of Excellence in celebration of his retirement. Dr. Duehn was appointed Associate Professor and Chair of the Direct Practice Sequence in the newly formed School of Social Work at UT Arlington in 1970. Dr. Duehn is known internationally for his work and will be missed by all the UT Arlington School of Social Work.
Social Work News

ALUMNI NOTES

Andrea Wright (MSSW ’03 & BSW’00)
Following are excerpts taken from an article found in the Dallas Morning News on May 28th. The article, entitled ‘Navigators’ guide cancer patients was written by Susan Kreimer. Andrea is the daughter of Ellen Murphy (MSSW ’89 & BSW ’88), Director of Field Instruction.

Ms. Wright works in the new American Cancer Society resource room at Parkland. She steers patients and caregivers toward information about all types of cancers, treatment side effects and the importance of proper nutrition.

A grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation lets her provide free wigs, hats, scarves, turbans, breast prostheses, post-mastectomy bras and transportation options to oncology patients.

She also procures medical equipment for those without insurance, and she connects people to support groups. Her goal is for them to “complete their cancer treatment with as few barriers as possible.”

Ms. Wright, 35, joined Parkland as a patient navigator in June 2007. Previously, she had worked at John Peter Smith Oncology Clinic in Fort Worth alongside a colleague in this role. She is certified as a patient navigator by the American Cancer Society. The organization guides cancer patients, survivors and caregivers in overcoming obstacles that face the medically underserved.

Penny Acrey (MSSW ’04 & BSW ’02), associate director of the Office for Students with Disabilities, presented “Disability and Trauma: What all providers need to know” at the Association of Traumatic Stress Specialist’s 15th International Conference in Portland, Maine, on April 5.

Elizabeth Reep (MSSW ’01)
The work of Elizabeth Reep was described in the following article found in MySA.com on May 18, 2008

Their parents have been to war, but the 77 kids who met Saturday at Robert G. Cole Middle School are veterans, too, immersed in a conflict whose wounds often are invisible. With that in mind, counselors Jennifer Cowen and Christiev Alphin introduced eight toddlers to worry dolls, tiny toys the length of a forefinger famed in Guatemala’s highlands for their healing power.

Tell one worry to each doll and put it beneath your pillow. As you sleep, the doll will take that particular worry away.

“This is like the trading post,” said Alphin, wife of country star Big Kenny Alphin. “You tell them, ‘I’m really mad that my dad had to go to Iraq,’ and put it in there and you go, ‘Please take my madness.’”

A few moments later the youngsters threaded strings with “bravery beads” that represented various strategies for coping with their anxieties. The kids probably thought the dolls and beads were a game, but it was a means to an end: helping them deal with a life of war.

That was the idea behind Camp C.O.P.E., a therapeutic day camp to help kids deal with the stress that comes from watching their parents deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, and in some cases see them come home badly wounded.

The camp, in San Antonio for the first time and now in its third year, focused on the themes of courage, optimism, patience and encouragement — qualities that come in handy even when troops return home unscathed by combat.

“Because of its setting, it’s not confidential counseling,” said Elizabeth Reep, co-founder of the camp and the wife of a Texas Army National Guard staff sergeant badly wounded in Iraq. “We’re not really trying to draw out their deep, dark issues, but it’s like a form of group therapy, or a support group would probably be a better way to describe it.”

The camp came as 30 or so Army Reservists assigned to the 208th Readiness Support Group left Fort Sam Houston for Afghanistan.

Annette Himmelreich, MSSW 2007
Annette is doing Child Welfare work in Russia with Orphan Outreach.

Following are excerpts from an article written by Annette on January 9th, 2008.

HOW I BECAME AN ORPHAN OUTREACH INTERN

This is my 4th trip to Russia since 2003. I taught English in a small village called Pudozh in the Karelia region in the summer of 2003 and then came back to teach English for a full year in St. Petersburg during the 2004-2005 school year. While I was in St. Petersburg teaching for my full year trip, I also worked in orphanages #2 and #60 that are affiliated with Buckner. I also taught English on Saturdays with a program called Road of Life which is a transitional orphan program. Transitional orphans are those who come out of the orphanages at age 15 or 16 years of age; they are also called orphan graduates. They can apply for Road of Life’s program, but must follow certain criteria. They learn to get on their feet as well as form relationships with other orphans.

I was called to orphan ministry 10 years ago, and then to Russia specifically when I was getting my teaching degree at Southwestern A/G University. While I was in St. Petersburg, I explored what I could do to help orphans. After several conversations, a friend from Gladney, Scott Brown, said that a Master’s degree as a social worker was just the ticket for where I was heading.

I returned to Texas and did just that. I did my degree at the University of Texas in Arlington, and worked two very good internships: the 1st for Buckner’s International Adoption program, and the 2nd for Parkland’s Intervention and Rape Crisis Center. Both of these internships were very helpful in understanding requirements for adoption, counseling skills, and how to help those who have been abandoned, neglected, and/or abused.

During those two and half years, I was also able to attend a Commission for Children at Risk summit in Vladimir, Russia, where I met many contacts in the world of Russian transitional orphan programs. All of the contacts along the way have been very educational beyond just the classroom setting. I’m a younger sister who loves to glean from other people’s wisdom, so these contacts have been valuable in understanding the life of orphans after they leave the orphanage system.

I met with Mike Douris and his team this past summer. I had hopes of coming to Russia for a small visit to learn Russian. The Orphan Outreach team was looking for someone who could do research. I have been allowed the opportunity to research a new non-residential program for Orphan Outreach. The hope is to create a mentorship program that will help orphan graduates who need help with life skills.

Leonard C. Long, MSSW 1975
Leonard Long was honored at a luncheon on March 14, 2008, by the Dallas Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers as he retires from his long-held position as Executive Director for the West Dallas Community Centers. Mr. Long continues to support the UT Arlington School of Social Work through his membership on the Dean’s Advisory Council.
data related to the BSW and MSSW program year we will be collecting a large amount of more intensive, program assessment cycle. Every Dr. Phil Popple, the School is launching a new, Dr. Beverly Black, and BSW Program Director Under the direction of MSSW Program Director and Liz Nowicki celebrate Dr. Wayne Duehn’s Retirement David Cory ’78, Dr. Catheleen Jordan ’79, Jack Nowicki ’79 and Liz Nowicki celebrate Dr. Wayne Duehn’s Retirement

Alumni Updates

Sandra Ward Slocumb (MSSW ’74)
Post masters degree, Sandra Slocumb, LMSE, worked 7 years with Child Protective Services, Dallas County; 5 years with Hope Cottage Adoptions; and 14 years as Director of Social Services at Baylor Medical Center at Irving, Irving, TX. She and her husband Charles have retired to the Hill Country of Texas and live in Llano, TX. Sandra is active in her church, Grace Episcopal, as editor of the newsletter. She is an active member of Friends of the Llano Library in charge of corporate fund-raising. She is a member of the Military Order of the World Wars and recently published an article in the Officier Review on Vietnam. She and her husband participate in the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Kerrville.

Mary Ann Davis (MSSW ’71)
Worked as a Social Worker, from 1971-2006. Received her PhD from Texas A&M in 2006. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Alisha Ferguson (PhD ’05)
Recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She will begin in Fall 2008.

Dr. Iran Barrera (PhD ’08)
Recently accepted a faculty appointment as Assistant Professor with the Social Work Program at UT-Pan American effective Fall 08.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors
This is the list of donors who have contributed to the UT Arlington School of Social Work during the calendar year 2008. If your name has been omitted, or some other error exists, we apologize and ask you to contact Donna Pope at 817.272.0924.

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Program Assessment
We Need Your Help

Under the direction of MSSW Program Director Dr. Beverly Black, and BSW Program Director Dr. Phil Popple, the School is launching a new, more intensive, program assessment cycle. Every year we will be collecting a large amount of data related to the BSW and MSSW program foundation curriculums, and the MSSW concentration. Assessment data will be collected on an annual basis. It will consist of the revised Field Performance Evaluation instruments, transcripts of focus groups to be held each spring, final assessments of key assignments including every student’s policy analysis assignment and agency structure assignment, the Integrative Seminar Evaluation Form and, last but not least, an annual alumni survey.

It is this last item, the alumni survey, with which we need your help. Past experience has shown that paper and pencil surveys, sent out and returned via the U.S. mail, are cumbersome to administer and result in a very low return rate. Surveys distributed and returned via email and the web are much more successful. So, we plan to use the electronic method. We are making a major push to update and increase our list of alumni email addresses. Please take a few moments and send your current email address to joseph.talkington@uta.edu (be sure to send your complete name). Thanks for helping with this very important project.
contributions welcome

Alumni and friends of the School are invited to submit contributions to the UT-Arlington School of Social Work. Your funds provide support for student scholarships and augment the School's programs in areas not supported through state funds.

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In Memoriam


Michael Lucas, MSSW 2007, passed away May 18, 2008 in Dallas, TX. Michael was born on January 6, 1955 in New Orleans, LA. He received his B.S. degree summa cum laude from Southern University in New Orleans. Michael was accepted to the UT Arlington MSSW program as an emergency transfer student as a result of Hurricane Katrina. He was employed by the Urban League of Dallas at the time of his death.

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In Memoriam


Michael Lucas, MSSW 2007, passed away May 18, 2008 in Dallas, TX. Michael was born on January 6, 1955 in New Orleans, LA. He received his B.S. degree summa cum laude from Southern University in New Orleans. Michael was accepted to the UT Arlington MSSW program as an emergency transfer student as a result of Hurricane Katrina. He was employed by the Urban League of Dallas at the time of his death.

ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE TO YOUR SCHOOL

The Randall's/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program: #11645
Give that number to the cashier as you check out and a contribution (1% of your total amount) will be made to The UT Arlington School of Social Work.

OR

Call the School (Roshanda Marks 817.272.3181) and we will send you a Kroger reward card to scan at check-out for a similar contribution.

SSW Alumni Update Form Now On-Line

If you are a SSW Alum, please take a few moments to update your information on our new alumni update form found at www.uta.edu/ssw/alumni. While you are there, go to the main webpage for current pictures and notices of upcoming events.
Students Honored at Recognition Ceremony during Academic Excellence Week

On April 14, 2008 the UT Arlington School of Social Work recognized students for their achievements during the 2007-08 academic year. Recognitions included those who were recipients of scholarships, outstanding baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral students and members of the Social Work Constituency Council and Phi Alpha Honor Society.

Amy Sarah Ward, Iran Barrera, Joy Dale Patton and James Christian Petrovich were recipients of the Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges.

Dr. Jaimie Page, Assistant Professor presented the following:

**UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS**
Cynthia G. Buentello  
Joo Yang Cha  
Kay Denise Colbert  
Sunny Jean Culp  
Mechelle Marie Deckard  
Shanna G. Grimes  
Malaina Frances Hickey

**MCNAIR SCHOLAR**
Ranita Norwood

**Students Inducted Into Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society**

The spring induction ceremony of the honorees of Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society: Iota Omega Chapter was held at the prestigious Carlisle Suite, of the Hereford Student Center, at the University of Texas at Arlington on Friday April 4th, at 7:00PM. Twenty one students with two transfers from other chapters, and with two of the student inductees from our affiliate program at McLennan Community College were inducted. Honorary lifetime membership was extended to the new Phi Alpha faculty advisor, Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne and to the new administrative advisor Ms. Annette Scott, also from McLennan Community College. Dr. Norman Cobb, will continue as the organizations senior faculty advisor.

The induction was presided over by Phi Alpha: Iota Omega Chapter officers; Ms. Anita Weaver, President, Ms. Mary Carter, Vice President and Mrs. Karen Kramp, Secretary and Treasurer. Dr. Joan Ryczak, Associate Dean of the School of Social Work, delivered the keynote speech and Dr. Randy Basham, outgoing faculty advisor, delivered a farewell address. In this past academic year of 2007-2008, the Phi Alpha: Iota Omega Chapter was nominated as an Outstanding Student Organization, and though the organization was not chosen, it was among the university’s three finalists for the award. The Phi Alpha Honor Society: Iota Omega Chapter was founded in 2001, and to date has inducted more than 350 students, honorees, and alumni, whom have met the rigorous academic criteria for membership. The organization has distinguished itself with high standards of student conduct and community service.

**Project Makes Impact on Students and on Immigrants and Refugees**

In Spring 2008 Dr. Diane Mitschke’s Social Work 5317 class had a special opportunity to engage in a partnership with Agape Clinic, a community-based clinic in East Dallas serving low income immigrant families due to the receipt of a Service Learning Grant from the UTA Graduate School. The service learning project was a semester-long effort involving each of the 28 graduate students in the class and involved two major stages of development. During the first part of the semester, the focus was on developing a knowledge base. Students were divided into groups/pairs and were responsible for gathering information about their assigned topic areas and presenting this information to the class in a 10-20 minute PowerPoint presentation in order to provide background knowledge about the project and its target populations.

In addition to conducting research and presenting the information to the class, students were also required to visit the Agape Clinic and wrote a reflection paper about their visit. Three students were selected to present various aspects of the project at the annual ACES conference at the University of Texas at Arlington on March 28, 2008.

The service learning project provided a valuable resource to the Agape Clinic as well as the immigrant and refugee community in East Dallas. Funding was provided by the Graduate Division and enabled this project to have a significant impact on the lives of students and those in the immigrant and refugee community.

Leigh Johnson
Ms. Leigh Johnson, a student in our PhD program, recently received notification that her paper entitled “The Relationship Between Reproductive Rights and Prevalence of HIV among Women in Developing Countries” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of comparative social welfare. This is a single authored paper and an excellent achievement for a second year doctoral studies student.

James Petrovich, Ph.D. candidate
James Petrovich, Ph.D. candidate was recently awarded a Veteran’s Administration pre-doctoral fellowship. This award provides funding for the year allowing James to work on his dissertation under the mentorship of Dr. North, an acclaimed researcher in the metroplex.

Robert Veigel
Graduate student intern, Robert Veigel, helped Morton Elementary School obtain a grant this semester. The funding will be used to start a crocheting club at the school. See the Star Telegram article at: http://www.star-telegram.com/arlington_news/story/664474.html for the complete story.

Student Day at the Legislature

Dr. Doreen Elliott accompanied more than 40 UT Arlington SSW students this spring to participate in the 80th Session of the Texas Legislature. Student Day at the Legislature is highly attended by numerous university students from around the state. Our representation was among the highest of all universities. The experience allows students to see our legislative process in action.
Night of Excellence 2008 Enjoys Record Attendance

A record number of attendees and the highest level of proceeds helped make Night of Excellence 2008 the most successful event to date. With 196 registrations, the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton Arlington was at near capacity on April 19, 2008. The room was filled with our friends from the North Texas community; our Donors, Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff who have made it possible for our school to advance social work education for forty years. They joined us for this momentous celebration to honor the retirement of Dr. Peggy Quinn and Dr. Wayne Duehn.

For the first time in the event’s four year history, it was completely underwritten by our corporate friends through sponsorships and the purchase of advertising. Proceeds from this event will fund our Alumni Scholarship Fund and the newly announced Honored Faculty Fund.

THANK YOU to our Night of Excellence 2008 Corporate Friends

TXU Energy  •  Star-Telegram  •  Parkland Community Health Plan, Inc.  •  Kindred Healthcare Arlington