

UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK***Fall Issue***2014**

SOCIAL WORK NEWS

Greetings from the Dean



Greetings! I hope the summer months brought forth rejuvenation and rest to everyone. It is my expectation the fall finds you well and eager to reflect on the School of Social Work's 47-year commitment to groundbreaking research, improving social conditions and the quality of life for individuals and their families, as well as providing students with quality education and expertise from faculty trained to bring possibilities, solutions and coping mechanisms to people in need.

The University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work is looking forward to another productive and exciting academic year of providing resources and

fostering community partnerships, as well as serving as a catalyst of innovative and disciplinary research. Educating future social workers and training individuals to be human service advocates is what the School of Social Work is all about. From improving relationships within families, to helping individuals rebuild their lives as they face mental health challenges, addiction, aging or family violence, social workers are the backbone of and essential resources for people facing hardship. I salute all faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners and sponsors in their daily efforts supporting others and helping the School of Social Work continue to be one of the top leading nationally and internationally recognized social work programs.

Scott D. Ryan

Dean & Jenkins Garrett Professor

John Bricout

*Associate Dean
Office of Research & Community
Outreach*

Debra Woody

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Center for Addiction & Recovery
Studies*

Richard Hoefler

*Professor & Director
Center for Advocacy, Nonprofits, &
Donor Organizations*

Alexa Smith-Osborne

*Associate Professor & Director
Center for Clinical Social Work*

Maria Scannapieco

*Director & Professor
Center for Child Welfare*

Schnavia Smith-Hatcher

*Director & Associate Professor
Center for African-American Studies*

Dorienne O. Reeves

*Communications Assistant &
E-News Editor*

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS & NEWS

Associate Dean Awarded Grant for Robotic Disability Research

The School of Social Work is proud to announce Dr. John Bricout, associate dean in the Office of Research and Community Outreach, was presented a three-year research grant from the National Science Foundation in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Central Florida. The \$119,663 grant will assist in funding a research project entitled



Dr. John Bricout



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Social Learning in Mixed Human-Robot Groups for People with Disabilities. Dr. Bricout's research project will ultimately lead to improvements in the lives of individuals living with disabilities. The purpose of Dr. Bricout's research project is to extend user capabilities around activities of daily living through the creation of a human-robot learning network. The robotic network will have the potential to measure and improve the well-being of individuals living with significant physical disabilities. The School of Social Work will be the testing site where Dr. Bricout and his colleagues will develop and assess human-robot learning evaluation measures, examine user preferences, user receptivity, as well as technology use readiness. Furthermore, Dr. Bricout will examine ethical considerations of robotic users and develop an online behavioral screener.

For more information about this research project, contact Dr. John Bricout at johnbricout@uta.edu.



Juan Melendez-Colon is pictured above speaking to the social work community.



Pictured above from left to right is Kristin Houle and Juan Melendez-Colon.

School of Social Work Features Death Row Survivor in Speaking Tour

The School of Social Work (SSW) and Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty with support from the Harold Simmons Foundation brought corruption in the legal system and capital punishment injustice to the fore with a guest lecture by a death row survivor on September 30, 2014 at the SSW. Juan Roberto Melendez-Colon, the guest speaker and innocent man wrongfully charged and sentenced to death in Polk County, Florida for a murder he did not commit, spoke to the social work community about his horrifying experience of being racially discriminated against and abused by a legal system that was designed to protect and serve justice.

Following his presentation, Kristin Houle, executive director of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, spoke about the injustice of innocent people on death row and discussed ways individuals can become activists through outreach, education, and advocacy.

For more information about Juan Roberto Melendez-Colon's story, visit <http://www.oneforten.com/juan-melendez>. To learn more about the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty or to become a member, visit <http://tcadp.org/>.

Research and Community Outreach Office Presents Brown Bag Series

In an effort to strengthen collaborative partnerships with community agencies and sharing information to help improve the lives of children and families, the Research and Community Outreach Office (RCOO) presented a series of brown bag luncheons. Brown bag luncheons are held in the fall or spring semester for iCAP stakeholders. They typically involve a panel of experts who respond to questions and deliver brief presentations prior to an open dialogue period. Topics for brown bag events are based on feedback from community partners, relevant faculty and their research projects and publications. The brown bag series that was sponsored by RCOO include the following.

- PIVOT Brown Bag: Jason High from PIVOT, an organization that provides connections to strengthen research by exploring avenues for funding and collaboration, kicked off the brown bag series in September. He highlighted potential funding opportunities based on PIVOT profiles, demonstrated how to search databases, save searches and create announcement alerts.
- Corporate and Foundation Giving Brown Bag: Shawn Farrell, director of corporate and foundation relations at UT Arlington, discussed donor writing, the importance of developing relationships with donors, as well as impact measurement in October.
- Open Access and Research Commons Brown Bag will be presented by UT Arlington Librarian Rafiq Mirza, Data and E-science Librarian Clarke Iakovakis and Digital Project Librarian Faedra Wills in November. The presenters will discuss methods to increase outreach and research impact through open access, depositing work into an institutional repository, and sharing scholarship forms.



Dr. Jane Hickerson greets students at MSW Orientation.

School of Social Work Welcome Graduate Students at MSW Orientation

The School of Social Work welcomed Master of Social Work (MSW) students to the new academic year at a student orientation that was held on August 20, 2014 in Social Work Building A.

The orientation was commenced with welcoming greetings from Dr. Scott Ryan, social work dean and Jenkins

Garrett Professor, and Dr. Debra Woody, director of the Center for Addiction and Recovery Studies (CARS). Dr. Randy Basham, MSW director and associate professor, followed with an overview of the MSW program and Dr. Jane Hickerson, associate dean

of field education, outlined the field education curriculum. Jennifer Malone, office of advising and student success coordinator, joined in by presenting resources available to students as they complete the MSW program. Dr. Regina Aguirre, associate professor and chair of the Professional Standards Committee, discussed the ethical code of conduct.

Applicants with an undergraduate degree in social work who qualify for advanced standing may apply for a fall, spring or summer semester. Candidates with an undergraduate degree in a field other than social work may apply for fall or spring semesters only. For more information about the MSW program, visit <http://www.uta.edu/ssw/academics/msw/index.php>.

CAN-DO Director and Professor Offers Blog Expertise on Professional Development

The Network for Social Work Management, an international organization advancing professionals in social work management, featured Dr. Richard Hoefer on a new blog series entitled the Monday Morning Manager. Dr. Richard Hoefer is the Roy E. Dulak professor for community practice research and director of the Center for Advocacy, Nonprofits, and Donor Organizations (CAN-DO) at the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work. In the blog, Dr. Hoefer discussed the importance of leadership, management, team building and networking in goal attainment and professional development.



Dr. Richard Hoefer

For more information on Dr. Hoefer's discussion on the Monday Morning Manger, visit <http://socialworkmanager.org/richard-hoefer-roy-e-dulak-professor-for-community-practice-research/>.

Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxEz57SOfo> for additional information on CAN-DO and services offered to nonprofit organizations in the areas of staff development, training, website reviews, grant writing and program evaluation services.

Students Chosen for Civil Rights Celebration

The Center for African American Studies (CAAS) sponsored a trip to Washington, DC for the Civil Rights Celebration for three students on July 2, 2014. Biology senior Iriel Hampton, broadcast communication junior Nadajalah Bennett and Christian Vasquez, film and video sophomore, were chosen by the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



Pictured left to right is Iriel Hampton, Christian Vasquez and Nadajalah Bennett

According to Iriel Hampton, the celebration consisted of networking with civil rights activists and leaders, exchanging information, a welcoming ceremony, and artistic performances. One highlight of the Civil Rights celebration included students being placed on different busses and driven from the U. S. Department of Education in Washington to

the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond, VA. This experience gave the students an opportunity to sing freedom songs in context of social equality, as well as learn history of the Civil Rights Movement from perspectives of freedom riders. After the buses reached the Virginia State Capitol, the group was greeted by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Virginia Senator Mark Warner, and Catherine Lhamon, Department of Education assistant secretary for Civil Rights.

Iriel Hampton, Nadajalah Bennett, and Christian Vasquez presented their experiences at the third Freedom Ride Opening Lecture on October 1, 2014 at Rosebud Theatre, E.H. Hereford University Center.

Centers for African American and Mexican Studies Begin Academic Year Celebrating Diversity and Programs

The Centers for African American and Mexican American Studies welcomed faculty, staff and students back from the summer break in a celebration of diverse culture and community outreach. In doing so, the centers held an Open House on August 27, 2014 at the Swift Center. Representatives from student organizations on campus joined staff in welcoming guests. University of Texas at Arlington's Dr. Ronald L. Elsenbaumer, provost and vice president for academic affairs, spoke on the importance of both centers and their roles in serving students.

The Center for African American Studies also presented its meet-up event on September 10, 2014 at Red River/Concho (UC). The meet-up served as an informational session and mixer for the Emerging Scholars Program and Emerging Leaders Initiative, two CAAS programs that build leadership skills, provide educational, cultural, and social support models.

For more information about CAAS and its programs, call 817-272- 9642 or visit <http://www.uta.edu/caas/>.

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS (iCAP)

Social Work Researchers Evaluate Nonprofit Leadership Skills in Administrative Skill Project

The School of Social Work in collaboration with ACH Child and Family Services of Forth Worth, an organization that works to prevent child abuse, neglect, family separation and provide aid to victims of these tragedies, developed a program to assess administrative skills of nonprofit managers and leaders. The project is entitled Triple-A Project: Assessing and Augmenting Administration Skills in Nonprofits and is steered by Dr. Richard Hoefer, professor and director of the Center for Advocacy, Nonprofits, and Donor Organizations, Assistant Professor Dr. Larry Watson, and PhD student Shannon Sliva.

The purpose of the Triple-A Project is to test the effectiveness of an onsite training program in improving the leadership skills of managers at ACH Child and Family Services. Supervisors and employees were asked to complete an administrative job skill assessment, which was developed by the Center for Advocacy, Nonprofits, and Donor

Organizations (CAN-DO). The inventory assessed the relevance of leadership skills to employees' current job positions, promotion opportunities and employee level of job skill mastery. Researchers from CAN-DO used this data to identify areas in which the gap between relevance and skill level was prevalent.

Instructors from CAN-DO were guided by assessment results as they provided a series of training sessions on selected leadership skills and individual consultations with an experienced management consultant. Sessions and consulting opportunities were provided monthly over an eight month period in recognition of daily demands of working in a human services agency.

The Triple-A Project was significant in several ways. First, the project increased leadership skills among participants. Secondly, the project resulted in an increased awareness, providing training and development exercises in an organizational setting. Also, agency administrators expressed an increased need for strategic leadership development and cross program training. Finally, CAN-DO researchers improved their ability to accurately assess skills and to provide training in an organizational setting where daily events interfered with the planned research process.

FACULTY AWARDS, HONORS, & PROMOTIONS



Dr. Vijayan Pillai, professor in the School of Social Work, was awarded the 2014 Doctoral Student Mentoring Award. Recipients of this award receive a commemorative plaque and monetary award of \$3,000. The Doctoral Student Mentoring Award is presented to faculty members who have a strong record of excellence in mentoring graduate students and enables the UT Arlington community to publicly acknowledge outstanding mentors. The School of Social Work faculty, staff, and students are honored to pay tribute to

Dr. Pillai for his work and dedication to education and service.

Dr. Regina T. P. Aguirre, School of Social Work associate professor, was selected to participate in the Faculty Fellows for Service Learning Program that will meet from September to April.

The program seeks to provide faculty with resources and skills needed to successfully integrate service into their curriculums. Faculty fellows build relationships with other faculty members and various communities, as well as present their work at national, state and local conferences.



As a Faculty Fellow, Dr. Aguirre will be actively participating in seminars, activities, program evaluations and analysis reflections. In addition, Dr. Aguirre will be teaching and

integrating the service learning concept into her courses, as well as plan data analysis and conduct community-based research for publication.

Service learning is a teaching method that promotes student learning through active participation in meaningful and planned service experiences in the community. It is directly related to course content. Through reflective activities, students enhance their understanding of course content, general knowledge, sense of civic responsibility, self-awareness, and social commitment.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Emily Wilson

Ima Hogg Foundation Scholarship Winners Announced

The Hogg Foundation announced this year's recipients of the Ima Hogg Scholarship award, a scholarship worth \$5,000 to support graduate social work students in Texas. Emily Wilson, along with nine other social work graduates from other Texas universities, was a recipient of this award. Emily Wilson is a masters student in the University of Texas at Arlington's School of Social Work and is studying mental health practice.

The Ima Hogg Scholarships are awarded to second year graduate students who demonstrate a strong commitment to providing mental health services after graduation in Texas. Award recipients must attend one of 12 Texas graduate schools of social work that are accredited or pending accreditation by the National Council of Social Work Education. The Ima Hogg Scholarship was established in 1956 to address the need for more trained social workers in hope of providing quality mental health services for Texas residents.

MSW Student Earns Award from Korean American Scholarship Foundation

The School of Social Work is proud to announce Hoonho Cho, a Master of Social Work (MSW) student, was selected as one of 25 students to receive a scholarship from the Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) for 2014. The \$1,500 scholarship is granted to graduate, undergraduate and high school students enrolled full-time during the scholarship application year. To qualify for a KASF scholarship, students must be of Korean heritage studying in the United States and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.



Hoonho Cho

In honor of Hoonho Cho's accomplishment, he was invited to attend the KASF Southwestern Scholarship Awards Banquet on October 5, 2014 in Houston, TX. Hoonho Cho had the opportunity to network with other scholarship winners and prominent Korean-American professionals at the banquet.

Congratulations Hoonho Cho for your outstanding academic achievement and honor.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Scott Ryan, social work dean and Jenkins Garrett professor, announced the appointment of five non-tenure track assistant professors in practice. The new appointees are Marcela Gutierrez, Kiva Harper, Pamela Johnson, James Langford, and Donald Schuman. The School of Social Work also congratulates Ashley Warren for being appointed special events coordinator in the School of Social Work and Ann Hunt for serving as administrative assistant in the Center for African American Studies. Welcome new faculty and staff!



SCHOOL-WIDE INITIATIVE



School of Social Work Gathered Donations for Immigrant Children

The School of Social Work collected donations for unaccompanied immigrant children in the summer. Approximately 60,000 unaccompanied children are expected to come to the United States from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. According to Kids in Need of Defense, a leading organization for protection of unaccompanied children who enter the United States' immigration system, increasing violence in their home communities and a lack of protection against this violence spurred them to flee to the United States. As a result,

many children are living in shelters. The School of Social Work was honored to be a part of this initiative and expresses gratitude to everyone who was a part of this effort.

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