DIRECTOR’S CORNER:
The PhD program is having another great year. Our doctoral students are shining bright in all directions. We have a great new first year cohort that I hope everyone gets to know.

Faculty and Doctoral Student Mixer

Students and faculty opened up the fall semester with a vibrant yet competitive mixer. Teams competed against each other in various games including basketball, volleyball, soccer as well as various table games. In the end team yellow came out on top. We celebrated at the faculty club.

Welcome to the New Doctoral Students

Abdullah Ahmed Alasmari completed his Bachelors of Social Work form Mohammed Bin Saud Islamic University, Saudi Arabia in 2006. He completed his MSW at Western Michigan University in 2012. His research interests are: Domestic Violence, Civil Society, and Human Rights.

He completed a teaching and research assistant at Mohammed Bin Saud Islamic University in Saudi Arabia, an internships at the Hispanic American Council and Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of Race & Ethics Relationships, and completed several workshops and certifications in: Social Symposums Scientific Skills of the Professional Practicing, in Combat Terrorism, Domestic Violence, Social Services Places for Fighting against Drugs, and Project Management. Abdul volunteered at the Prince Salman Charitable Housing.

Alicia Barker, LMSW earned her undergraduate degree in social work from Texas Christian University in 2009. She graduated from University of Texas at Arlington in 2011 with her MSSW. She worked for a nonprofit domestic violence agency where she did case management as well as individual and group counseling. After working in the nonprofit field, she served as a victim advocate program manager with a local police department. Her research interests are in the area of intimate partner violence and crisis intervention.
Dante Bryant is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington’s graduate School of Social Work. Prior to attending UTA he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from South East Missouri State University. During that time his primary focus was cognitive development/processes. In addition, Dante’ pursued graduate studies in Psychometric Psychology, Theology and Western Philosophical Pragmatism. While attending Vanderbilt University he focused on the intersection between religion, social constructionism, cultural development, postmodernity and identity formation. Dante’ is interested in teaching, clinical practice and research. His primary research interest is the normalization (process, impact and solutions) of counterintuitive cultural packages within the African American community. In addition, he is interested in the relationship between media images and identity formation and service issues related to multi-culturalism.

Jacqueline Burse (Jackie) was born and raised in Detroit. She received her MSW from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 2012. She has been working in the field of domestic and sexual violence for over a decade. She was a past Board member of the Michigan Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) and Chair of the MCADSV Women of Color Taskforce. Jackie has gained a wealth of knowledge and experience working with men, women, and children who witnessed or experienced abuse. Jackie’s research interest includes substance abuse, mental illness, intimate partner violence, homelessness, and mentoring.

Rosalind Evans received her BSW and MSW at the University of Oklahoma. During her time at the University of Oklahoma, Rosalind presented a poster presentation at the NASW Oklahoma conference focused on the Good Guides Youth Mentoring Program outcomes addressing youth at risk in Oklahoma City public schools. She also presented on her research findings in the MHICM Program at the Oklahoma City Veteran Affairs. Rosalind was awarded the graduate student of the year by the NASW Oklahoma Chapter, and the Direct Practice Advanced Standing student of the year by the University Of Oklahoma School Of Social Work. Rosalind received the opportunity to be hired at her practicum site (Good Guides Youth Mentoring Program) after completing her BSW. She worked within the Oklahoma City Public School district with youth at risk in the areas of poverty, delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. This opportunity shaped her research interests to focus on youth at risk, LGBTQ youth, teen pregnancy prevention, and service learning.

Pamela L. Fox, M.A., M.Div. LCSW, CCM is a native of Chicago, IL and has lived with her family in Texas since 2006. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN) in 1975 and her Masters of Arts in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago-School of Social Service Administration in 1977. Pamela received her Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1996, and was the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Counseling and the Director of the Synergy Counseling Center at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago (1999-2004). Additionally, Pamela holds a post-graduate certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from the Family Institute of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL). Over the years, Pamela has worked in diverse fields of Social Work practice, including: medical social work, child welfare, mental health, family services, substance abuse/chemical dependence, HIV/AIDS, and military social work. She has been “tri-vocational”, as she continues as a practicing Clinical Social Worker/Behavioral Health Therapist, but now is a retired Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ and is a retired Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves (Social Worker-Medical Service Corps). Her research interests focus on the integration of primary care and behavioral health, in helping persons with living with diabetes to cope more effectively with depression, anxiety, and stress.
Jeyle Ortiz received her Bachelor in Economics from Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon in Mexico. She completed her Master in Economics and Public Policy at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in 2009 (Magna Cum Laude). She has worked as the Head of Analysis and Publications at the Nuevo Leon State Office of Information for Sustainable Regional Development and as Junior Consultant at the Institute for Regional Development of the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education. Her research interests are family, gender, and poverty. Her dissertation will focus on intra-household decision-making regarding women’s labor supply.

Rupal Parekh was raised in Oklahoma, where she received her undergraduate degree in Sociology. She completed a dual degree in Social Work and Public Health in May of 2004 from Columbia University School of Social Work. Early in her career, she volunteered at Mother Teresa’s Home for the Dying, organizing homeless rescue teams, facilitating weekly individual-counseling sessions, and collaborating with local non-profit organizations in providing additional services to homeless clients. After completing her master degrees, she worked at Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity in New York City, where she published “Senior Gambling: Risk or Reward.” Rupal comes to the program with years of experiences in non-profit development, hospice, homecare and nursing home management and community organizing. Her research interests include mental health of older immigrant populations and familial caregiving stress and burden.

Leona Peterson, LMSW received her Bachelor’s degree in experimental psychology in 2009 from the University of Texas at Arlington. As an undergraduate, she was a research assistant to two professors in addition to two Ph.D. students whose interests included neuro- and social psychology. She received her MSSW from University of Texas at Arlington in 2012. Leona volunteered at a mental health clinic for individuals with HIV/AIDS, facilitating weekly group-counseling sessions, as well as collaborating with the executive director in grant writing. She was an adult mental health caseworker at Tarrant County MHMR where she discovered her primary research interest was in the area of non-psychotropic interventions in severe and persistent mental illness, especially schizophrenia. Her other research interests include LGBTQ issues, HIV/AIDS+ issues, and the development of psychometrics.

Scott Sainato, LMSW is from Columbus, Ohio. He earned his BSW from the University of North Texas in 2006 and joined Phi Alpha honor society. He earned his MSW in 2008 from Texas A&M–Commerce and was elected as President of the Masters of Social Work Student Association while attending Texas A&M. He worked in areas of at-risk students, foster care, hospice, and was the program director for outpatient geriatric counseling program. His areas of interest include mental health focusing on adolescents to young adults.

Donna Schuman, LCSW, received a BA in Psychology from the University of Maryland in Europe in 1993. She later earned a M.Ed. in Counseling & Personnel Services from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1995 and went on to complete an MSSW at the University of Texas at Austin in 2008. She is certified in Biofeedback and Neurofeedback by the Biofeedback Certification International Alliance (BCIA), and holds a specialty certificate in Heart Rate Variability Biofeedback. Donna has worked for the Army and Veterans Administration as a social worker. She was selected as a 2013 Tillman Military Scholar by the Pat Tillman Foundation. Her research interests are in the area of biofeedback and PTSD interventions with combat veterans.
Many of our doctoral students presented at the 2013 CSWE Convention that was held November 1st-3rd, 2013 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. It’s not too early to start thinking about your own presentation for next year. Presenters from this year’s convention included:

**24 Doctoral Students Attended CSWE; Many Presented**

- **Arati Maleku & Doreen Elliott:** *Human Migration in the 21st century: Implications for the Social Work Profession*
- **Eusebius Small & Cecilia Mengo:** *Rethinking Poverty: Community-Based Participatory Research, Promising Practices*
- **Arati Maleku & Bonita Sharma:** *The Gendered Pattern of Health Care Use Among Immigrants: A Case of California*
- **Kyoung Hag Lee; In Nam Cho; Youseung Kim; Yijin Kim; Sang Ah Chun; Sam Choi; Soonhee Roh; Sung Seek Moon; Dong Yoon:** *Mental Health Among Korean Immigrants*
- **Kathleen Murray Preble & Regina Aguirre:** “God Don’t Like Pretty, and He Ain’t Too Fond of Ugly”
- **Richard Hoefer & Kingsley Chigbu:** *The Motivation and Persuasion Process: An Empirically Based Community Intervention Model*
- **Yi Jin Kim & Jang Hyun Lee:** *Multiple Predictors of Bullying Involvement Among Female Adolescents in Korea*
- **Silviya Nikolova, Cecilia Mengo & Eusebius Small:** *Predisposition to AIDS Resilience: A Comparative Gender Analysis of HIV-Behavioral Differences in Kenya*
- **Sung Seek Moon & Youn Kyoung Kim:** *Assessing Factors of Being Bullied Among Adolescents: A Regression Tree Approach*
- **Gracie Brownell & Randall Basham:** *A Qualitative Study of the Reintegration Experiences of Ex-Child Soldiers in Liberia*
- **Beverly Black, Nada Elias-Lambert & Kingsley Chigbu:** *Controlling Behaviors in Youth Relationships: Prevalence Type, and Reaction*
- **Courtney Cronley & Youn Kyoung Kim:** *Strategic Planning, Technology Access and Service Quality: Organizational Commitment’s Mediating Effects*

**Shannon Graves & Richard Hoefer**
*What Job Skills Are Needed for Promotion? An Exploratory Mixed-Methods Study*

**Cara Wallace, David Jenkins & Harriet Cohen**
*The Impact of a Death and Dying Course in Social Work Education*

**Diana Pryor & Tracey Barnett & Yijin Kim**
*Theorizing in the Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work: An Exploratory Study*

**Cecilia Mengo, Randall Basham & Kathleen Murray Preble**
*Human Trafficking: A systematic Review of Online Training Videos*

**Kingsley Chigbu & Beverly Black**
*Organized Violence: Ngwa Peoples’ Perception of cause, Type and Community Impacts*

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**66th Gerontological Society Annual Meeting**

Cara Wallace presented two presentations in New Orleans at the Gerontological Society of America’s Annual Scientific Meeting, November 21st and 22nd. Which includes:

- **Wallace, C.L. (Poster, 2013).** End-of-life Care in Nursing Homes: A Qualitative Interpretive Meta-Synthesis. Gerontological Society of America, 66th Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

She was also elected to be a student representative on the AGE SW (Association for Gerontological Education in Social Work) board.
SSWR Conference Presentations

Many of our doctoral students have been accepted to present at the SSWR Annual Conference being held in San Antonio, TX on January 15-19, 2014. Come and support your fellow cohort students!

Kathleen Murray: Creating Trust Among The Distrustful: A Phenomenological Examination Of Supportive Services For Former Sex Workers

Yi-Jin Kim: Influential Factors on Bullying Among Korean Female Adolescents: A Mediation Model


Erika Ruiz & Marcella Smith & Aguirre, R.: Latina Youth Suicide: Understanding Why?

Arati Maleku & Bonita Sharma The Changing Face of Immigration: A Gendered Perspective

Bonita Sharma & Arati Maleku & Silviya Nikolova: Internally Displaced Children in Nepal: Global Implications on Data Inconsistency and Methodological Implications Challenges

Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors!

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Got Some News?
You can send any news or upcoming events that you would like published in the newsletter to ssphd@uta.edu

Congratulation to Our Recent Graduates!

Latoya Smith: July 23rd, 2013
“Ecological Correlates Associated with the Academic Achievement of African American Youth”

Silviya Nikolova: August 27th, 2013
“Geography of Disability: An Analysis Based on the Socioeconomic Levels of Two Metropolitan Area: Monterrey, Nuevo Leon and Dallas, Texas.”

Tyler Dumars: October 11th, 2013
“Deterrent Effects of Reliable Structured Decision-Making Protocols on Spouse Abuse Perpetration and Re-Offense in the U.S. Army”

Amy Strong-Blakeney: October 21st, 2013
“Systemic Components of Care that Affect Self-Sufficiency for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care”

Gracie Brownell: October 28th, 2013
“The Reintegration Experiences of Ex-Child Soldiers in Liberia”

Aarron Robb: November 15th, 2013

Pamela Bowers: November 25th, 2013
“Development of an Adaptation Model for Health Interventions for Sexual and Gender Minorities: A Grounded Theory Study”

Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors!
Brown Bag Events:

Brown bag events are interactive lunches with other doctoral students to discuss topics and tips for the future. Professors and students share their knowledge. This semester, we held 3 Brown Bag Lunches. On Sept. 17th, Dr. Cimino, Dr. Hoefer and Dr. Fields discussed “How to get your dream job: Tips on interviewing”. On Oct. 29th Dr. Norman Cobb and Dr. Diane Mitschke led a discussion on “Teaching: Tips for the Classroom and Online Instruction”. On November 12th, Dean Ryan provided invaluable advice to students on how to negotiate salary when on the job market.

UANL Guests Speaker

On October 21st, Guest speaker Maria Elena Ramos spoke to UTA students and faculty about “Mexican Migrants in the U.S.” We shared a Texas Barbecue with the student and faculty visitors following the presentation.

Half Marathon Charity Run

On October 26th, Doctoral students Arati Maleku, Cara Wallace and Tracey Barnett participated in the All-State Life Insurance Half Marathon Charity Run that took place in Dallas, Texas. Funds raised thru the marathon will go toward clean water projects that are changing people’s lives in Kenya and Malawi.
Doctoral Student Association “First Thursdays”

Doctoral Student Association encourages students to get to know other doctoral students and faculty to gain a solid support system during their years completing their degrees. During DSA’s mixers, students and faculty get to relax in a more casual setting to socialize and exchange advice and ideas. The DSA meets the first Thursdays of every month at 5pm at the Old Pizza and Subs Restaurant. If you have any questions please email Tracey Barnett at Tracey.Barnett@mavs.uta.edu.

Please Join the DSA Organization page to keep up to date on upcoming events and news! [https://mavorgs.collegiatelink.net/organization/DoctoralStudentAssociationforSocialWork](https://mavorgs.collegiatelink.net/organization/DoctoralStudentAssociationforSocialWork)

### December 2013

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**January 2014**

- **First day of Classes**: January 13
- **SSWR Conference**: January 15, 16, 17, 18
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**: January 20