**DIRECTOR’S CORNER:**
The PhD program had another great year. We had a record number of students presenting at CSWE-APM and SSWR. We are really looking forward to greeting the new 9 students that will be joining the program in the fall.

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**Night of Excellence**

On April 2nd, the School of Social Work celebrated students on their academic excellence and achievements.

**Outstanding Doctoral Students:**
- **1st Year Cohort:** Donna Schuman
- **2nd Year Cohort:** Jeyle Ortiz-Rodriguez
- **3rd Year Cohort:** Shannon Graves

**Student Relations Committee:**
Marcella Smith

**Charles H. Mindel Graduate Research Fund:**
Pamela Hancock Bowers and Jeyle Ortiz-Rodriguez

**Search Committee:**
Alicia Barker

**Field Content Area Committee:**
Kathleen Preble

**Subcommittee CUGS/COGS-MSW:**
Shannon Graves

**Periodic Review Committee:**
Cecilia Mengo

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**ACES 2014**

The Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students (ACES), a university-wide symposium that showcases the best of UTA’s undergraduate and graduate students’ research and creativity. Some of our very own helped judge the Showcase including: Tracey M. Barnett, Kingsley Chigbu, Jacqueline Buse and Bonita Shama. Others submitted presentations including:

- **Tracey M. Barnett**
  - Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors and Mental Health Status of Military and Non-Military Women: Results from a National Longitudinal Survey

- **Heather Peterson**
  - Perceptions of Gender Identity Formation: A Phenomenological Study of Age versus Distance in a Sample of Lesbian and Gay Individuals

- **Jacqueline Buse, Abdullah Alasmari, Alicia Barker**
  - A Review of the Theoretical Frameworks within the Journal of the Society of Social Work and Research

- **Rupal Parekh, Jeyle Ortiz, and Scott Sainato**
In the Spotlight:
Pamela Foxx

Presented Healthy Coping: Diabetes, Depression and Stress at the 28th Annual Society for Transplant Social Workers Conference which was held in Dallas, TX at the Marriott City Center. Following this presentation, Pam was invited to submit a manuscript to ‘Progress in Transplantation: The Journal for Procurement and Clinical Transplant Professionals’.

Doctoral Student Presentations:

In January, Kingsley Chigbu submitted a paper entitled “Does Corruption Impact Sustainable Development? A Hierarchical Linear Model” at the 10th International Conference on Sustainable Development (at Imo State University, Nigeria).

In February, 2014 Tracey M. Barnett presented a paper entitled “The effectiveness of school-based obesity prevention programs for African American children compared to the general population of children” at the Twelfth Annual Miss. Child Welfare Institute Conference, Jackson, MS.

Doctoral Student Association

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 Brandi Felderhoff at brandi.felderhoff@mavs.uta.edu.

DSA would like to recognize and thank the outgoing leadership for all their work to enhance the experiences of Ph.D. Students. Outgoing DSA leadership: Tracey M. Barnett, President, Brandi Felderhoff, Vice President, Shannon Graves, Secretary/Treasurer, Kathleen Preble, Newsletter Committee Chair and Marcella Smith. We would also like to welcome in our 2014-2015 leadership: Brandi Felderhoff, President, Alicia Hawley, Vice President, Donna Schuman, Secretary/Treasurer, Leona Peterson, Newsletter Committee Chair, Rosalind Evans, Historian and Scott Sainato, Ambassador.

Donna Schuman, Rosalind Evans, Dante Bryant, Pamela Fox-Bridging the Gap: The Use of Explicit Theory in Research on Social Work Practice

Alicia Hawley Barker-Comparative theoretical perspectives: Intimate partner violence through the lens of feminist and empowerment theories

Dante Bryant-Suicidality and Health Risk Behaviors among Youth in Juvenile Detention

Brandi Felderhoff-The impact of pre-entry factors on veteran’s success in a Compensated Work Therapy program

Heather Peterson-Gender vs. sexual identity development in a sample of transgender individuals accepted into the book "Gender Identity: Disorders, Developmental Perspectives and Social Implications" with NOVA Science Publishers.
Other News:

In early April, Doctoral students attended a nursing event hosted by UTA’s College of Nursing and The Research Institute. Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho who is the Army’s first female surgeon general as well as nurse and commanding general, discussed issues related to healthcare and promoted the benefits of “The Performance Triad.”

The Society for Prevention Research 22nd Annual Meeting in Washington, DC has accepted Marcella Smith and Erika Ruiz’s Poster titled: “Knowledge and Awareness about Sickle Cell Disease: A review of the Literature to inform Prevention Development and Implementation.” The poster will be presented during the conference, May 27th -30th. Congratulations and good luck!

Brandi Felderhoff and Dr. Hoefer will present a paper in July 2014 entitled, Political Activity and Engagement of Texas Social Workers at the 2014 National Association of Social Workers National Conference, Washington, D. C.

Brown Bag Series

Brown bag events are interactive lunches were doctoral students and faculty can discuss topics and tips for the future. This semester, we held 3 Brown Bag Lunches. On Feb. 18th, Dr. Small, Dr. Bain-Nordberg, and Dr. Nagoshi discussed “How to craft your CV.” On April 15, Dr. Mitschke and Dr. Xi presented on how to write abstracts for SSWR. Dr. Hegar and Dr. Cronley provided valuable information regarding authorship and publications on April 17.

“In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.”
- Bill Cosby

Social Work Research Network

Stay updated with SWRNet! SWRNet provides a weekly update about new research funding opportunities, calls for papers and proposals, conferences and trainings, new data and research, and news for the social work research community. Subscribe now to get the latest updates! http://www.bu.edu/swrnet/
Congratulations to Arati Maleku on her marriage that took place in Austin on April 18th. Many doctoral students and faculty joined her for the special day.

**Jose Carbajal, Ph.D.**
Presented his dissertation defense Monday, April 7th, 2014 titled: “Trauma Treatment: The influence of Social Workers’ Knowledge, Perceived Self-Efficacy, and Use of Evidence-Based Interventions” His committee members included: Dr. Regina Aguirre (Chair), Dr. Randy Basham, Dr. Norman Cobb and Dr. Beth Shelton.

**Warren Ponder, Ph.D.**
Presented his dissertation defense, April 21st, 2014 titled: “Communication in Combat through the Optics of Internal Working Models.” His committee members included: Dr. Regina Aguirre (Chair), Dr. Vijayan Pillai, Dr. Catheleen Jordan, Dr. Norman Cobb and Dr. Shelly Riggs.

**Janet Appleby, Ph.D. (almost)**
Will present her dissertation defense titled “Resilience in Families of Children who have Disabilities” on May 14th, 2014. Her committee members include: Dr. Alexa Smith-Osborne (Chair), Dr. Doreen Elliot, Dr. Vijayan Pillai, Dr. Gail Adorno and Dr. Heather Jacobson.

**Yijin Kim, Ph.D.**
Presented his dissertation defense, April 21st, 2014 titled: “Suicidal Ideation among Korean Adolescents” His committee members included: Dr. Sung Seek Moon (Chair), Dr. Randy Basham, Dr. Vijayan Pillai, Dr. Eusebius Small and Dr. Seok Jin Jeong.

**Beverly Black (Chair), Dr. Regina Aguirre, Dr. Randy Basham, Dr. Norman Cobb and Dr. Beth Shelton**

**Dr. Heather Jacobson Jeylle Ortiz-Rodriguez got married on April 26th in Mexico. Best wishes to the happy couple!”**
Baby News

Jin’s baby girl was born on February 13th at 1pm. The healthy and precious baby girl is named Kaitlyn. Jin has accepted a faculty position at Indiana University. Congratulations and Good luck!

(What will we do for a photographer?)

Publications:


Wallace, C.L (In press). Family communication and decision making at the end of life: A Literature Review. Palliative and Supportive Care.