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the utopian

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The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work

From Dean Luis H. Zayas

We've all had the experience. You read something that touches your heart and moves your imagination. You pull out a pen or yellow highlighter and mark the text. Later you might quote the passage in your own writing or call it from memory in the classroom to inspire your students. Thoughts are thus carried far and wide, to places that perhaps the original author never dreamt of. But how many of us are inspired by the author's words to create a work of art?

I recently learned how touching this can be from the author's side. On a lazy Sunday afternoon this past January, I received an email from **Kenny Harmon**, a professor at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was writing on behalf of local artist **Rosalia Torres-Weiner**. Rosalia, Kenny said, had heard me on NPR talking about my book, *Forgotten Citizens: Deportation, Children, and the Making of American Exiles and Orphans* (Oxford, 2015). In the book, I try to put a human face on the fate of children born of undocumented parents in the United States. To do so, I describe some of the cases I have encountered when conducting psychological evaluations of these children for attorneys to present in immigration court.

In the NPR interview that Rosalia heard, I described the case of Virginia—not her real name—a sweet 6-year-old girl born of undocumented Mexican immigrants in Missouri. Virginia helped conceal her parents' legal status as best as she knew: She chose to be mute. Her story opens the book because her psychological symptoms epitomize the life that children of undocumented parents are forced to live: A life of secrecy, circumspection, and wariness to keep their families safe.

Rosalia was so moved by Virginia's story that she produced the painting printed above. Kenny explained in his email that the painting had sold very quickly, and that Rosalia wished to donate part of the proceeds to Virginia's family. She had enlisted his help in locating me, and wanted

to know if she could contact the family and perhaps have a phone conversation with Virginia to see how she was doing.

Needless to say, as I read the email I was blown away by Rosalia's humanity and generosity. I also sat for a while on my chair that Sunday,

amazed at the chain of events that words on a page can trigger.

The ripple effects kept expanding as I contacted the lawyer who had represented Virginia's family and for whom I had evaluated the child about ten years earlier. Within hours, Virginia's mother called me. It was like re-connecting with a dear friend from long ago. She gave me permission to disclose their identity and contact information to Rosalia.

A few days later I received an email from Rosalia, thanking me for making the connection, and including a sentence that moved me deeply and reaffirmed my vocation as a social worker: "Your work inspires me to keep fighting for them through my art."

And so goes the story of a talented, caring artist who didn't stop at marking a passage but went on to create a beautiful work of art that

she shared with the world. In the process, she carried my words to places I never knew they would reach. As the old saying states, a teacher never knows where her influence ends—and neither do any of us in our roles not only as teachers but also as scholars, writers, and activists.

As always, I thank you deeply for your support and generosity that allows us to carry on with the work of our school—work that will have ripple effects that will go well beyond anything we imagine.

Luis H. Zayas, Ph.D.

*Dean and Robert Lee Sutherland Chair
in Mental Health and Social Policy*



Virginia (Silencio), by Rosalia Torres-Weiner, <http://www.artbyrosalia.com/canvas-gallery/>



We Can End Homelessness with More Affordable Housing

by Calvin Streeter

We are seeing a continuing, worrisome trend across the country: Cities are trying to address the problem of homelessness through ordinances that criminalize life-sustaining activities such as sleeping, eating and even sitting on the street, in parks, on the beach or other public spaces.

This is wrong and does nothing to address the problem.

Such measures actually make ending homelessness more difficult because the associated fines and criminal records create additional barriers to finding employment, securing housing, and accessing other public services. Nor do they make sense from a cost perspective. The cost of housing an individual in jail is often three times greater than housing them in a shelter.

A friend once told me that the problem of homelessness is not complex. He said, “People are homeless because they don’t have a place to live. If we give them a permanent safe place to live they won’t be homeless.”

While that sounds naïve, there is an element of truth to that statement.

Prior to the 1980s, we did not have the kind of mass homelessness we now experience. According to the Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness, there was a surplus of 300,000 affordable housing units in 1970. But in the 1980s, the federal government started to cut funding for housing assistance. By 1985, there were 8.9 million poor renters in need of housing but only 5.6 million units available. By 2009, the shortfall in affordable housing units had almost doubled.

Other federal policies, such as deinstitutionalization of persons experiencing mental illness, cutbacks in the social safety net, the rise in incarceration rates, and the failure to adjust the minimum wage to keep pace with the cost of living, have all contributed to the homeless crisis we face today.

Many communities have tried to manage the problem by creating emergency shelters and other temporary services, but have not committed the resources to help transition such people into permanent housing.

If we are serious about ending homelessness, and not just managing the problem, we need to commit greater resources to closing the gap between the supply of and demand for deeply affordable housing units.

One promising approach is “Housing First.” As opposed to traditional approaches that demand that individuals meet certain criteria before they are eligible for permanent housing, Housing First gets people housed as quickly as possible, and then provides the services needed to maintain that housing.

Most people become homeless because of a personal crisis such as the loss of a job, major medical expense, or family violence. For them, Housing First is ideal because it provides the assistance they need to find permanent housing quickly and without conditions. Data shows that the more quickly such individuals and families secure permanent housing, the more likely they are to remain housed in the future.

If the lack of Housing First’s upfront requirements troubles you, take comfort in your wallet. The Department of Housing and Urban

This op-ed piece appeared in the *Austin American-Statesman* and the *San Antonio Express News*

Photo: iStock

Focus: Preventing and ending homelessness

Development estimates that not housing such individuals will cost a community about \$40,000-\$50,000 per individual per year due to the high costs associated with public services such as emergency room visits and incarceration. Housing First is less financially risky for a community than the alternative of not housing those who need housing assistance.

A smaller percentage of the homeless population (about 15 percent) experiences chronic homelessness. Housing First is also a viable approach for them but the expectation is that the need for specialized and intensive services may continue indefinitely. Studies have shown that this approach not only ends homelessness for those with the most severe challenges, but it can also greatly reduce the demand for the costly services mentioned above.

In Dallas, Houston and Austin, homeless advocates are working with Managed Care Organizations to better design programs that link up housing and healthcare, recognizing the impact both have on one another.

We can end homelessness. But only if we address the shortfall in affordable housing and use proven strategies, such as Housing First, to rehouse and stabilize those who are experiencing homelessness. ✧

Calvin Streeter is the Meadows Foundation Centennial Professor in the Quality of Life in the Rural Environment and a member of the board of directors for the Austin based nonprofit Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, ECHO (austinecho.org).

Find more about Housing First at www.endhomelessness.org/pages/housing_first



Mary Dodson, MSSW '96

When Mary Dodson was a social work student, she was set on the clinical concentration. We talked with her about how she declined professor Cal Streeter's suggestion to switch to the community and administrative leadership track, and how she ended up using macro skills many times during her twenty years in homeless services. Dodson is now the Continuum of Care manager at the

Texas Homeless Network, a nonprofit membership-based organization helping communities across the state prevent and end homelessness.

What do you do at the Texas Homeless Network?

I work with the Texas Balance of State Community of Care, a group of service providers, advocates, local government officials, and citizens who work to eliminate homelessness in 216 counties across the state. A great part of my work involves helping our partners understand research-based practices like rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing. The idea is that we are preventing and ending homelessness rather than managing it with shelters and soup kitchens. The long-term solution is affordable housing, which most of our communities don't have enough of. Once individuals fall into homelessness it's hard for them to get out of it.

What is your biggest challenge and what gives you hope?

The sheer size of our state is a challenge for sure! We can't be present in person in all the communities we serve. We communicate by email, phone calls, and webinars, but it's not the same as being in the same room. As a social worker, I value the human-to-human connection, and I miss it. It's much harder for me to work virtually.

The fact that recently many people are rallying behind the initiative of ending veteran homelessness gives me hope. This has helped the general public better understand that homelessness affects people with many different backgrounds and experiences. It's veterans, it's single parents with children, it's youth who are kicked out by their families, it's the 65-year old who had a medical issue and lost his job. We are hoping that the recent emphasis on ending veteran homelessness will get systems in place that will allow us to tackle other populations.

How is your social work degree helping you?

I was an undergraduate when Cal Streeter arrived at UT Austin. In graduate school I was on the clinical track but I took a couple of classes in the community and administrative leadership track over the summer and Cal asked a few times, "Are you sure you don't want to do this concentration?" and I always responded, "No, no, I'm clinical." And then a lot of my career in homeless services has been about community planning, assessing organizational capacity, evaluating performance, system mapping... I had to do much on-the-job learning after saying no to Cal! But the truth is that throughout my career my position has constantly fluctuated between administration and direct practice. A great thing about social work is that you can actually do that. And social work in general, with its emphasis in learning how to work with people, that's just invaluable no matter what you end up doing in your career.



Walking the Beat

How community policing is changing a North Austin neighborhood

by Martin do Nascimento

On a bright winter morning, Officer Taber White watches as two squad cars pull up on the opposite side of North Austin's busy Rundberg Ln., lights flashing and sirens shrieking.

The police officers jump out of their cars and move to surround their target: a large black-and-tan German Shepherd trotting across the front yard of a faded-orange Austin bungalow. From across four lanes of traffic, White watches his colleagues trying to get the dog but, other than a quick wave, he doesn't get involved. He's in Rundberg on other business.

White and his partner Officer Ray Kianes are part of the Mobile Walking Beat, a special unit of the Austin Police Department that operates exclusively in Rundberg and is spearheading the city's efforts to confront the area's historically high crime rates.

As many as eight Mobile Walking Beat officers regularly ditch their squad cars and spend the day doing exactly what their title suggests: walking. They are the foundation of an APD's community policing pilot project named Restore Rundberg.

Social work professor David Springer has contributed to Restore Rundberg since 2013, doing everything from measuring and reporting its impact to helping build a coalition of city government, nonprofit, and neighborhood actors to bolster APDs activity in the area.

"The theory is that as officers are out of their patrol cars and walking around in the hotspots of crime, they can approach people that are in the streets and just to get to know them," Springer says. "As they develop trust and relationships, residents are more likely to work collaboratively with APD to problem-solve, to report crime, to even come up with solutions that we haven't thought of before."

Three days a week, the Mobile Walking Beat strolls up and down the neighborhood's thoroughfares. The officers pop in and out of the gas stations and hole-in-the-wall restaurants that line the roadside, wind through hilly residential blocks dotted with humble homes and the odd one- and two-story apartment complex, and all the while they chat with the neighborhood residents that they encounter along the way, trying to build relationships with them and always asking "Do you feel safe?"

Photo by Martin do Nascimento.

“If they do feel safe, we say ‘ok, great,’ and then we can follow up with ‘Do you have any suggestions? Anything that could be better?’” says Officer White. “And if the answer was ‘No, I don’t feel safe,’ then we absolutely want to know why that is.”

According to Springer’s research, when the project began, only 40 percent of Rundberg’s residents responded they feel safe when polled. Nowadays, that number is closer to 75 percent.

Before 2012, when APD won a \$1 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund Restore Rundberg, the neighborhood made up less than 5 percent of the city’s population but accounted for more than twice as much of its crime.

Since then, both violent and property crime in the area have dropped, with reductions of violent crime of up to 45 percent in the most beleaguered parts of the neighborhood and approximately 15 percent reductions in both property and violent crime across the targeted hotspots of crime.

A little further down Rundberg Ln., an elderly neighborhood resident calls White over to his Chevrolet sedan. The man thinks he’s seen some suspicious activity near a motel just up the road.

White is polite and respectful to the man—interactions like this are the bread-and-butter of community policing efforts—but he already knows all about the problems at the motel. Vagrancy, prostitution, drug dealing: the motels along the strip of I-35 that cuts through Rundberg have been a persistent issue for the at least the past several years.

“What do you do with these problems that can’t be fixed with an arrest?” Officer White asks, waving goodbye to the man in the car.

To address these persistent issues, the Restore Rundberg project leadership has created the Rundberg Revitalization Team. Representatives of neighborhood associations, the Austin Independent School District, nonprofit and NGO organizations, the local faith-based community, social workers, health workers, and city officials coordinate with APD and work together to come up with solutions to problems that the police can’t address on their own.

That was the case, for instance, with an entrenched homeless encampment just east of I-35. Instead of a quick but short-lived fix through arrests, APD partnered with local nonprofits to provide needed relocation and mental health services to the individuals in the encampment.

“It took a little bit longer,” says White. “But, unlike a lot of the other initiatives that you see sometimes, it hasn’t come back.”

White and Kianes then head to another Rundberg hotspot on Sam Rayburn Drive, a one-block cul-de-sac that they describe as having been “the most dangerous block in Austin.”

The street has a couple small apartment complexes and some colorfully painted houses. Only ten days prior, a transgender woman named **Monica Loera** was shot and killed there.

Bordering the street, there is a lot the size of a city block dotted with young oak trees.

“This was a vacant property where we were having a lot of crime issues,” says White.

When the Mobile Walking Beat started, APD made a priority to clean up the lot. Since then, the city has allocated \$500,000 to convert it into one of Rundberg’s few parks.

Nearby, children are laughing and playing in the backyard of a brightly painted daycare. The two officers go inside. **Candi Massey**, a soft-spoken woman with a blue pen sticking out of her hair, greets them. She has been working as a teacher at the daycare for the last five years.

“Hey guys, guess who I have out here?” She calls to a group of Pre-K kids in the nearby room. Kianes goes through something of a ritual with them:

“How is everybody today?” he asks.

“GOOD!” responds the chorus.

“You guys behaving yourself? You being good?” Kianes asks.

“YES!” they all answer.

“My mommy likes policemen!” pipes up one of the kids.

“I have a movie about Spiderman!” adds another.

While the officers entertain the class, out in the hallway Massey chuckles softly at the exchange.

“It seems to be getting better,” she says. “We did have that incident the other day,” she says referring to Loera’s murder, “but we haven’t had any incidents here. It’s been really good.” ♦



What Is Kathy Armenta Up To? *by Andrea Campetella*

"I would like to know about what my clinical professor Kathy Armenta is up to these days!" A few variations of this request came with readers' responses to The Utopian survey last fall.

As a member of the clinical faculty at the School of Social Work for the past 19 years, Armenta has accompanied hundreds of students in their journeys to become social workers. One year, students in her cohort pasted photographs of Armenta's smiling face on top of their graduation caps—surely a mighty view from above! We chatted with Armenta about life, books, social work, what she is up to these days, and we condensed all that in the collection of entries below.

She lives with her husband in Manchaca, in a ranch house on three acres that they bought sixteen years ago and named Rancho Mariposa. "When we were looking at the place the monarchs had covered it, and it was gorgeous! It was a sign." The Armentas visit often their two grown children and two grandchildren in Houston.

She loves gardening. She grows some vegetables and has a few fruit trees, but she gets the most enthusiastic when she talks about flowers—day lilies, zinnias, roses. Over the years she has created what she calls a

peace garden. "I have a little Buddhist temple, Our Lady of Guadalupe, symbols from various other worldviews, and I just spend some time out there and offer that time for peace in the world."

She is reading Sandra Cisneros's *A House of My Own*. She is a fan of Cisneros's *Have You Seen Marie?* "It's little tiny book that you would buy and give to someone who is recovering from a recent loss. It's the story of a friend of hers who comes to visit, and when she comes the cat gets out, so they spend time wandering around San Antonio looking

for Marie, but it parallels looking for her mom who had recently died. And the paintings in this little book are beautiful. I love Sandra.”

Her office is very tidy, with filing cabinets arranged in rows and color-coded cards on the front of each drawer. Her Mac’s desktop is unfussy—a monochrome image and a few folder icons. “I like to file things so I can find them later!” she says. But please don’t imagine a Spartan office: Photographs of students, colleagues, friends, and family are everywhere, and conscience-raising stickers cover the door and spill out onto the hallway walls.

She was born in Arizona to a Mexican American family who had been in the same area for seven generations. “I was raised by a single mom and a grandmother in a home where Spanish was spoken. But I was not allowed to speak Spanish for fear of, you know, getting disciplined on the playground. I had to answer in English so I lost the conversational piece. That was the era,” Armenta says.

She defines herself as Mexican American. “My father was a first generation Scott, he gave my brother his red hair and gave me my fair skin, but we didn’t have a connection with his family and he passed away when we were young. So my upbringing and my background are steeped in my mother and grandmother’s Mexican American culture.” At the time of this conversation, Armenta was planning a *tamalada* for Thanksgiving.

She works closely with the Social Justice Action Coalition, a student group at the School of Social Work committed to activism at UT Austin and the community around issues of social justice. Social action has been part of Armenta’s life from early on—after all, she grew up in the 1960s, and to a mother who believed in helping others through church and community activities. During high school, she channeled some of that energy into writing: “I found myself writing op-eds for the school newspaper and that sort of thing. This was before Title IX so I was always upset about injustices like girls not being able to play sports and other issues that we noticed and got riled up about.” In college, she helped with the Robert Kennedy campaign and was active in an organization that raised scholarship funds for Mexican American students.

She majored in social administration at the University of Arizona in Tucson, after realizing that not many journalism jobs would be open to women. “Social administration was then what a bachelor of social work is now. I really loved it.” After a working hiatus, she got her master of social work degree from Arizona State University.

Her first internship was with the welfare department. “I learned so much! Tucson is pretty diverse, 60 miles from the border and surrounded by three Native American reservations. I saw so much need for families and children.”

She was the first school social worker at Round Rock Independent School District. That was in the 1980s, once the Armentas had moved to Texas. “I soon became a field instructor for the School of Social Work and started hosting interns. I got to know Bonnie Bain, Jean Avera, Deena Mersky, Jane Kretzschmar and other individuals from the school.” In 1997 she became a field faculty member at the School of Social Work.

She was ecstatic this past February to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Texas School Social Workers Conference. Armenta has been involved with the organization of the conference since the very beginning, in 1990, and has chaired the conference committee for the past 16 years. “This event is so special to me. I loved being a school social worker for many years and I know by experience that practicing in school settings can be a challenging, humbling and inspiring experience. The folks who attend our conference are excited to learn new ways to help youth, families and teachers and to network with colleagues from all over Texas and beyond. There is a palpable energy that is both fun and exhilarating.”

She is all about forming leaders through field education: “In my days it was not discussed that a big chunk of being a social worker is being a leader: An individual whose opinion is sought after, an individual who can help facilitate and manage things. That was not part of the curriculum but in field, and in every job I got afterwards, that’s exactly what it was. Learning the skill of how to assess what is going on with the interactions, how to intervene, and get people on the same page. Field is the living laboratory for leadership development.”

She tells students from the start that there is a hidden agenda in social work: “Each of you, whether you perceive yourself as a leader or not, are going to be one. You will have to find your leadership skills and use them right away from day one. You will have to find your voice.”

Everyday, she is excited about helping her students realize what an honor it is to accompany clients in their journeys. “Students are surprised, and shocked at times, by the depth of pain and trauma that nearly every individual or family they encounter has experienced. But they are also surprised at how resilient human beings are, and how people learn to cope with and handle adversity. The exciting part for me is when they wake up to realize what an honor it is that we social workers even get to be a part of that: To share some time and energy with this person who has been surviving before we came into the picture, and to walk alongside them even if it’s for a brief period. It’s such an honor. I always look to see if my students get that.” ✧



ACEing It

How does childhood trauma affect health and what can social workers do about it?

by Andrea Campetella

One evening in the summer of 2006, **Seanna Crosbie, MSSW '00**, was sitting in her Austin living room, transfixed by a slideshow playing on her computer screen.

"I was so moved that I don't think I slept for a couple of days. It was like a huge light bulb going off in my head," Crosbie remembers.

At the time, Crosbie worked as a therapist for the Austin Child Guidance Center, a nonprofit that provides mental health services in Austin. She treated children and youth involved with the juvenile court system, some living in the community and some in secure facilities. Most of them came to her with thick case files and diagnoses of conduct and substance-use disorders. During therapy, as they opened up, many eventually shared significant experiences of trauma and abuse.

That evening, Crosbie was looking for answers to a question that had been nagging her for a while: What if the violence in the children's homes and communities was really driving what had been diagnosed as conduct problems?

The slideshow gave her a resounding yes, backed by a decade of evidence obtained through the Adverse Childhood Experience Study (ACE Study), one of the longest investigations conducted to understand associations between childhood trauma and health.

The ACE Study started in the 1990s under **Dr. Vincent Felitti**, a specialist in preventive medicine at a Kaiser Permanente clinic in California, and **Dr. Rob Anda**, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 17,000 individuals who were completing a comprehensive physical examination at Kaiser Permanente clinics chose to participate in it. They provided detailed information about their childhood experiences of abuse, neglect, and family dysfunction through a screening tool, or a set of questions, that Felitti and Anda had put together. Most of the participants were white, middle-aged, and middle- to upper-class California residents.

The ACE study is tracking participants' medical status still today. Over the course of two decades, research results have demonstrated a

strong association between childhood traumatic experiences and poor physical, mental, and behavioral outcomes later in life (see sidebar on page 10).

“I remember that evening watching this video with Felitti and Anda explaining how trauma makes an impact on depression, psychosis, heart disease, cancer... I remember thinking that if we could screen kids for trauma at a younger age and help them, we could actually extend people’s lives,” Crosbie says.

In the last decade, offshoot studies have expanded ACE research into other states and other populations. Scholars are also trying to understand exactly how trauma affects health, drawing from disciplines as varied as neurobiology, developmental psychology, sociology, and medicine. They have found out, for example, that trauma activates a stress response where the body releases hormones that provide energy for “fight or flight.” When this activation is frequent or prolonged during childhood it can lead to what experts call “toxic stress,” which in turn can impair cognitive or executive functions—thought, judgement, self-control—well into adult years.

Adverse experiences and trauma do not dictate the future of a child, however, because they can be mitigated with other experiences that help build resilience.

“We have to be careful about overinterpreting the ACE Score,” says **Beth Gerlach**, a researcher at the School of Social Work. “There is the ACE screening tool but there are also resilience screening tools. As practitioners, we can use both to tell our clients, okay, you had these experiences that might have these adverse effects, but look also at these other experiences and how they can help build your strength.”

“Experts on the topic of toxic stress suggest that we use the ACE screening as a beginning of a conversation about these experiences and how they may be affecting our clients as adults instead of focusing so much on the score they get. Ultimately, it’s about looking at the meaning our childhood experiences have for us as adults, in our health outcomes, our emotional outcomes, our ability to form relationships,” Gerlach adds.

In the aftermath of the ACE Study, moreover, researchers have developed evidence-based, effective clinical treatments to help children who have experienced trauma and adversity. Treatments such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and Parent-Child Interactive Therapy include attention to parenting ability and work on establishing behaviors that promote resilience in the child and the parent.

“Once I felt that I had learned enough, I needed to move to a place of action,” Crosbie recalls. “So I told my boss that we not only needed to offer trainings about the ACE Study and evidence-based treatments to the community, but that we ourselves, as an agency, needed to become trauma-informed.”

By then, Crosbie had moved from therapist to director of program services at the Austin Child Guidance Center. In 2012, she led the center in a year-long process of reviewing their policies, and changing them according to the principles of trauma-informed care (see sidebar).

For instance, the center started to screen all clients for trauma, trained all clinicians in Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, and included trauma-friendly indicators in the feedback they sought from clients. The center also sought to protect staff members against secondary trauma through balanced caseloads where no one has a full caseload of trauma survivors, a generous vacation package, internal clinical supervision, and yoga classes once a week.

“We have seen some amazing changes. Because we are able to identify trauma earlier and provide an evidence-based treatment, clients are getting better faster,” Crosby says.

“Recently, a play therapist who has started to use Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy with clients who had been sexually abused, told me that her clients are getting better in fourteen weeks when it used to take six months!” Crosbie adds.

In 2013, Crosbie also spearheaded the Trauma-Informed Care Consortium of Central Texas or TICC (www.traumatexas.com), which she chairs. TICC serves as a clearinghouse about trauma-informed care, and maintains an updated online calendar of trainings in Central Texas and beyond.



“I remember thinking that if we could screen kids for trauma at a younger age and help them, we could actually extend people’s lives.”

— *Seanna Crosbie, MSSW '00*

ACE Study Major Findings*

Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences

ABUSE

Physical - 28%
Sexual - 21%
Emotional - 11%

NEGLECT

Emotional - 15%
Physical - 10%

TRAUMA IN HOME

Substance abuse - 27%
Parental separation or divorce - 23%
Mental illness - 19%
Mother treated violently - 13%
Incarcerated household member - 5%

The study uses the ACE Score, which is the number of ACEs (adverse childhood experiences) reported by respondents. Study results show that as the ACE Score increases, the risk for the following health problems increases in a strong and graded fashion:

- Alcoholism and alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Depression
- Fetal death
- Illicit drug use
- Ischemic heart disease (IHD)
- Liver disease
- Risk for intimate partner violence
- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Smoking
- Suicide attempts
- Unintended pregnancies

**All ACE Study participants, from information collected between 1995 and 1997.*

Principles of trauma-informed care

1. Safety
2. Trustworthiness and transparency
3. Peer support
4. Collaboration and mutuality
5. Empowerment, voice and choice
6. Cultural, historical, and gender issues

More about the ACE Study:

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy

More about trauma-informed care:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions>

“I realized that many agencies in Austin were doing trauma work but were not necessarily trauma informed. We were all calling each other all the time and I thought that we needed a more formal process for sharing information. We started with the idea of having 15 agencies participating, and we have now grown to almost 70!” Crosbie says.

Gerlach, who represents the School of Social Work’s Child & Family Reaserch Institute at TICC, says that it’s very exciting to see practitioners throughout the state gradually incorporating trauma-informed care in their work with children and families. Gerlach and colleagues Tina Adkins and Monica Faulkner have been working to spread trauma-informed care practices into the foster care system, health care, and schools. Faulkner has also been working on a trauma-informed care curriculum for sex education.

“At a recent training, we provided strategies to social workers for supporting parents and caregivers who have experienced trauma. The goal is to address multigenerational healing,” Gerlach says.

“We already know that caregiver’s behavior is the most important factor to change a child’s experience around trauma. With these trainings we want to help practitioners open this conversation in a way that is time-limited, feasible, and can help remove some of the shame and stigma parents with traumatic childhoods may be experiencing as they themselves navigate parenting,” Gerlach continues.

TICC has also launched a cross-disciplinary trauma conference. The first one took place in 2015 and featured Dr. Vincent Felitti as the keynote speaker.

“It was so exciting to meet him in person!” says Crosbie. “I shared that I get impatient when I go around the state and see that many clinicians are still unaware of the ACE Study. And he said, ‘Seanna, it has taken 20 years for the word to get out in the medical community.’ His advice was to slow down and keep taking baby steps.”

When asked to summarize the significance of the ACE Study for her career, Crosbie doesn’t hesitate.

“It’s probably been one of the most meaningful pieces of knowledge that I have gained in my practice,” she says. “It’s driven all of the work that I have done since that summer evening when I found about it.” ✦

Ask the Expert: Shane Whalley on gender-neutral language

Shane Whalley, MSSW '03, served as education coordinator for the UT Austin's Gender and Sexuality Center for seven years before joining Via Hope in 2014. For the past ten years, ze has also been an adjunct faculty at the School of Social Work, where ze loves to teach courses on social justice. We asked Whalley why should social workers care about gender-neutral language, and this is what ze shared.



“The 2008 NASW Code of Ethics establishes that social workers should obtain education and seek to understand the nature of social diversity and oppression with respect to gender identity or expression. Simply put, caring about gender-neutral language it's part of our code of ethics as social workers.

“Beyond that basic obligation, for me is about being respectful and inclusive of the people we work with, for, and on behalf of. Our names and by extension our pronouns are at the core to who we are, and they deserve respect and inclusion.

“I often hear that gender-neutral or, as I prefer to say, gender-expansive pronouns are hard, don't make sense, or are just made-up. Well, we are inventing new language all the time—we didn't have LOL in our vocabulary a few years ago—and people are learning new

things everyday. As a social worker, being respectful and inclusive means that I learn your language even if I have to struggle to do it. And by the way, the Oxford dictionary has just added the gender-expansive pronouns *ze* and *hir* and the salutation *Mixter* and *Mx*.

“Tip for practice: Don't assume pronouns. When I run groups, I ask people to give their pronouns with their name during introductions. Otherwise, what happens is that we only ask people when we think we don't know, which means we are tagging them. I appreciate when people ask me what pronoun I use because people make all kind of assumptions based on my appearance.

“It's okay to make mistakes but it's not okay to dismiss the issue or avoid the work required to learn someone's pronoun preferences.

“Below is a simplified guide to gender expansive pronouns (be aware that there are other options). There is no good substitute for Sir/Madam. It's best to say, ‘Can I help you,’ ‘Good morning,’ and ‘What would you like today?’ instead of mis-gendering someone.” ✧

Instead of	You may use
He/She	Ze They
Him/Her	Hir Them
His/Hers	Hirs Theirs
Mr./Mrs./Ms.	Mx. or Mixter

*They, them, and theirs are used in singular form, and seem to be the most favored nowadays because they are familiar words and we already know how to conjugate them.

Field Instructor of the Year



Elaine Cavazos, LCSW

Elaine Cavazos, LCSW, has been selected as Field Instructor of the Year for 2014-15. Starting in 1996 she has modeled and taught exemplary social work skills to students at their internships in the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston as well as Con Mi Madre and My Healing Place here in Austin. Cavazos is also actively engaged with the School of Social Work in other ways: She is an adjunct faculty member, volunteers for the advisory council and community partnership development committee, presents at field instructor workshops, and has developed the peer consultation group for field instructors.

Are you #Up4theChallenge?



Three of our faculty members are in the executive committee of the Grand Challenges for Social Work, pictured above. These faculty members are (lower row, from center to right): Diana DiNitto, Yolanda Padilla, and Rowena Fong.

From mass incarceration, climate change, and an aging population to immigration, mental illness and rising income inequality, the most pressing issues facing America have something fundamental in common: the social factor. As a call to action on these and other urgent problems, the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare has launched the Grand Challenges for Social Work. This initiative will promote innovation, collaboration, and expansion of proven, evidence-based programs to create meaningful, measurable progress on solving these and other urgent social problems within a decade.

Learn more and join by visiting aaswsw.org/grand-challenges-initiative

A tablet-based intervention for healthier pregnancies



Despite the damaging effect of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana on fetal health, these three substances are the most commonly abused in the United States among women of childbearing

age. As more than 50 percent of pregnancies are unplanned, many women use these substances in their first trimester without knowing that they are pregnant. **Mary Velasquez** and her research team at the Health Behavior Research and Training institute are testing an interactive, tablet-based intervention that targets preconception women during routine visits for primary care. This intervention is based on CHOICES, an evidence-based intervention developed by Velasquez and colleagues that is currently being disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Speaking of AIDS/ Hablando de SIDA



Latina women in the United States are vulnerable to two intersecting public health concerns: Intimate partner violence and subsequent risk for HIV/AIDS infection. **Michele Rountree** and **Teresa Granillo** are working to

develop a culturally relevant intervention. As a first step, they have conducted focus groups with monolingual and bilingual Latinas who had experienced intimate partner violence. They found that monolingual participants had lower levels of HIV knowledge and spent much time discussing myths of HIV infection. Bilingual participants, meanwhile, discussed specific prevention techniques, including challenges related to the violence in their relationships. Findings of this study were published in *Violence Against Women*.

Understanding campus sexual assault

Campus sexual assault has been in the news often after a study commissioned by the Association of American Universities found that 23 percent of undergraduate women and 5 percent of undergraduate men at the nation's most prestigious universities reported being victims of nonconsensual sexual contact.

The University of Texas System has taken the bull by the horns this past fall with the launch of the nation's most comprehensive study on campus sexual assault ever conducted. For the next four years, social work professor **Noël Busch-Armendariz** and her team at the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault will collect data through online questionnaires, surveys and focus groups, and a four-year cohort study of entering students to identify the psychological and economic impact of sexual violence.

"Sexual assaults are among the most underreported of all violent crimes," Busch-Armendariz said. "Determining the prevalence will help understand how many students face these traumatic events on our campuses and offer suggestions of how to respond to victims."

Learn more: sites.utexas.edu/idvsa

The Utopian is now online!



Visit sites.utexas.edu/utopian to browse main articles online or explore whole issues in pdf format.

Want to go electronic?

We snail-mail The Utopian twice a year, free of charge, to alumni and friends. If you wish to stop receiving

your printed copy of The Utopian via snail mail and receive it only electronically, please let us know by sending us an email to utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

Steer Your Career

Partner with DiNitto Center for Career Services and gain access to a range of tools and services to optimize your career and/or hiring needs.

Free services

- Career advising and resume review (in person and via Skype)
- Career exploration workshops
- Attend career and service learning fairs
- Post your resume on Steer Your Career, an online job portal for social work alumni
- Weekly newsletters (sswcareers@utlists.utexas.edu)
- Post positions in our exclusive online portal Steer Your Career
- LBSW, LMSW preparation and practice testing for alumni up to 6 months after graduation

Fee-based services for alumni (6 months+ after graduation)

- Practice Exam - DSM IV: \$30 per practice test (LBSW, LMSW, or LCSW).
- Study Guide: DSM 5 or DSM IV: \$30 per checkout of the licensing preparation guides (LBSW, LMSW, or LCSW). No extensions will be offered.
- Bundle package: Practice exam and study guide \$50

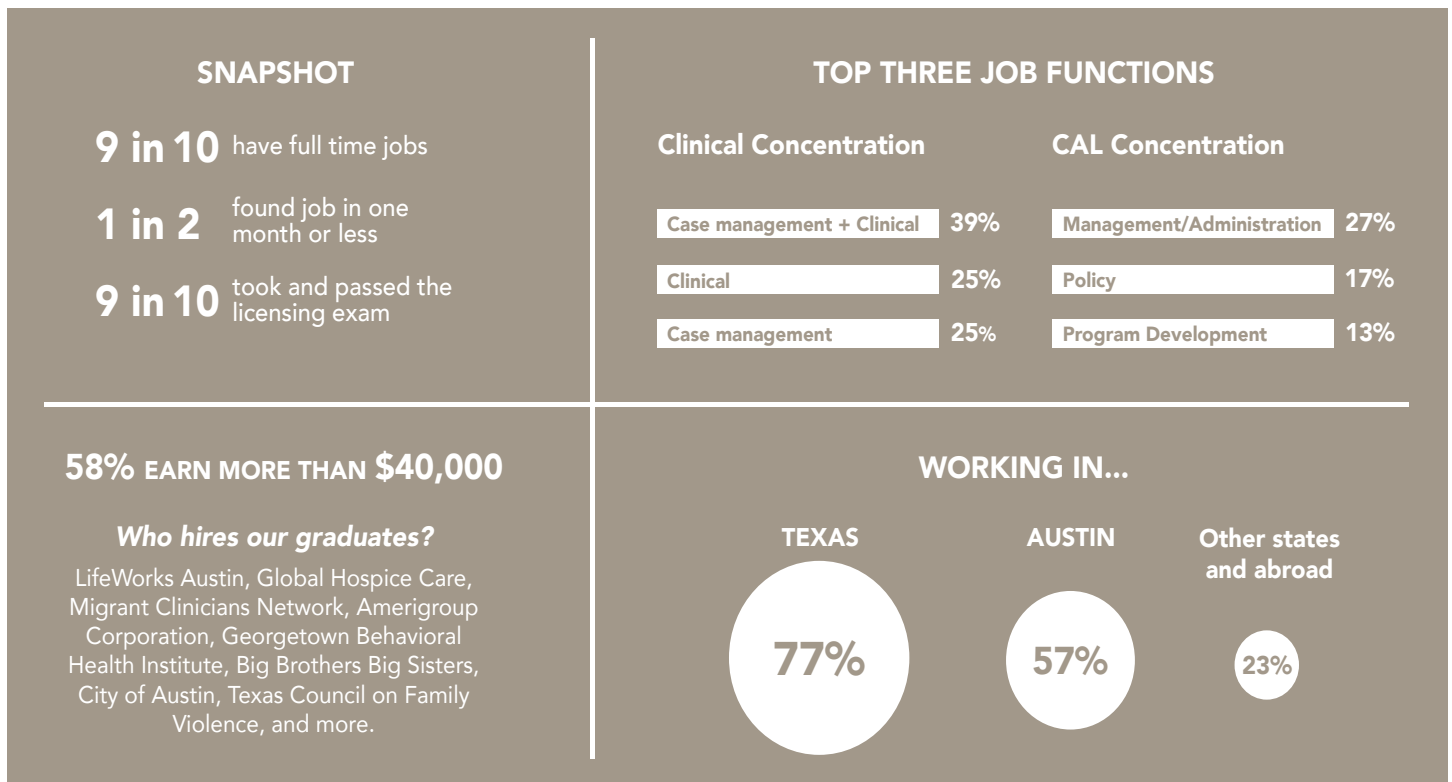
Contact the DiNitto Center: (512) 232-7362

web: socialwork.utexas.edu/dccs email: dccs@austin.utexas.edu

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Where did the graduates go?

CLASS OF 2014 GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DiNitto Center for Career Services



Based on 127 responses (70% response rate) from 2014 master's level graduates. 74% respondents from the Clinical Concentration. 23% respondents from the Community & Administrative Leadership (CAL) Concentration.

Texas girls are jailed longer



Females in the Texas juvenile justice system are often at greater risk of serving longer sentences and having a mental health need than their male counterparts, according to a new article by **Erin Espinosa**, a research associate at the Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health.

Espinosa looked at 5,019 juveniles across three large urban counties in Texas during a two-year period. Results, published in *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, show that female juveniles serve significantly longer periods of confinement in local facilities than their male counterparts. Findings also show that females with histories of traumatic experiences such as sexual abuse are kept in out-of-home care for longer periods than males.

“Oftentimes aspects of juvenile incarceration like the sound of footsteps down a hallway or being physically restrained can trigger memories of past sexual trauma especially for girls. As a result, they may bite, kick or slap, resulting in new charges that lead to extended stay or commitment to state care,” Espinosa said.

How do immigrant teens behave?



Immigrant teens are 33 percent less likely to commit violent crimes than U.S.-born youths, according a new study by assistant professor **Chris Salas-Wright** published in *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*. The study also found that young immigrants are 50 percent less likely to binge-drink or use and sell illegal drugs.

“Our research adds to the growing body of evidence indicating that, despite experiencing adversity on multiple fronts, immigrants are substantially less likely than those born in the United States to be involved in antisocial and risky behaviors,” Salas-Wright said.

Save these Dates!

Spring 2016



April 6

King Davis, PhD

Otis Lecture:

New Directions:

Bringing Policy

Change in the Post-Obama Era



April 8

Shelley Imholte,

LCSW

Gerontology

Resources

Symposium: Issues in Aging and Sexuality



September 26-28

Fourth Annual Military Social

Work Conference

To receive further information and invitations to these events, send us your updated email address to utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

Class Notes

What's new? If you have personal or professional news to share with other alumni and the School of Social Work community, please send us an email to utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

'60s

Leslie "Les" Letulle, MSSW '69, has enjoyed a twenty-seven year career with the Menninger Clinic after social work professor George Thorman sparked his interest in family therapy. When Menninger relocated to Houston, Mr. Letulle served an additional ten years at the Family Service and Guidance Center in Topeka, KS. In addition to professor Thorman, he feels special gratitude to Martha Williams and Lou DeMoll, among others, for their tutelage and support.

'70s

Joan Framo Runfola, MSSW '75, is a private psychotherapy practitioner and oncology social worker in northern New Jersey. She is also the director of CANHELP, an information and support service for people with cancer to help them find and choose evidence-based cutting edge, complementary and alternative treatments.

'80s

Libby McKnight, MSSW '81, has recently joined the team at Deaf Access Solutions in Washington, D.C., as a staff interpreter.

Debra Rimmer, MSSW '88, is the owner and director of Ottawa-based Compassion Wise, which provides support for stressed caregivers, professionals, and employees, and provides them with tools and plans to master the delicate balance of caretaking and self-care.

90's

Libby Kuffner Nealis, MSSW '96, currently serves as the director of policy and advocacy for the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) specializing in federal education and mental health policy. She also supports policy and programming for behavioral and mental health services in schools for the NEA Healthy Futures.

Linda E. Benavides, MSSW '99, is an assistant professor at Widener University.

00's

Allison Behr, MSSW '03 currently works as care manager for Amerigroup conducting clinical reviews to aid psychiatric hospitals in determining the medical necessity of treatments such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, inpatient detoxification, psychiatric residential treatment, partial hospitalization, and intensive outpatient care. She also supervises Austin-area LMSWs

training to become LCSWs. She can be contacted at allisonbehr@att.net

Kathryn "Katie" Grant Dilley, MSSW '05, currently works as the program director of Forest Side Assisted Living but is transitioning to the eastern shore of Maryland in February, where she will assume the role of deputy director of mid-shore mental health.

Tiffany Kay Carpenter, MSSW '06, was recently promoted to the position of director of clinical intervention services at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in Oldham County, Texas. She comes to the position with five years' experience as a clinical intervention specialist at the same facility.

Shamyla Tareen, MSSW '06, is a therapist in private practice in Columbia, MD, a counselor at Montgomery College, and a clinical supervisor at the International Cultural Center in Gaithersburg, MD. Shamyla misses the sunny and relaxed vibe of Austin but is enjoying her challenging and amazing three part-time jobs back in her home state.

Tracy Bannister, MSSW '08, is a special education teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools near Alexandria, Virginia. She completed her field placement in Hawaii before moving to the Washington, D.C. area, where she previously spent two years with the IAFF Foundation.

Amelia Popham, BSW '08, is a social science research analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she currently evaluates anti-poverty, employment and training programs funded by Health and Human Services.

Meredith E. Bagwell-Gray, MSSW '09, is excited to be completing her dissertation, a qualitative descriptive study of sexual health among women who have experienced intimate partner violence. She also holds a position at Chrysalis Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence and loves working in direct practice as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence.

Tiffany Oscar, MSSW '09, is currently completing her MPA at American University and works as a training coordinator at Lutheran Social Services in Washington, D.C.

10's

Yolanda Rodriguez-Escobar, PhD '10, was recently promoted to the position of associate professor at Our Lady of the Lake University's Worden School of Social Service in San Antonio. She served as the director of the BSW program for two years. She loves to mentor non-traditional/ first-generation Latino students, and her passion is to teach both policy and practice courses.

Katherine Sanchez, PhD '11, MSSW '92, was recently awarded two prestigious research grants: \$400,000 from National Institutes of Health to reduce mental health disparities among Hispanic populations and \$200,000 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to screen Hispanic patients for depression and connect them with education and treatment options. She is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, where her research focuses on integrated health care and the provision of socio-culturally, linguistically adapted models for the treatment of co-morbid mental and physical illness.

Amanda C. Baker, MSSW '12, BSW '09, is a clinical social worker for the Children's National Medical Center. She was recently appointed as the chair of D.C.'s Human Trafficking Task Force direct service committee. Amanda is working to create D.C.'s only housing program for survivors of human trafficking by utilizing and mobilizing faith communities. She recently returned from working with the A21 campaign at the Greece/Macedonian border to provide refugees with crisis intervention.

Mark Elliott, MSSW '12, opened a private practice and facilitates an intensive outpatient psychotherapy group with UT undergraduates at the Counseling and Mental Health Center.

Emily Knox, MSSW '13, BSW '09, works for the City of Austin as a crisis intervention social worker, where she assists individuals in crisis situations including natural disasters, post-trauma, and housing displacement. Emily comes to the position from Harbor Hospice, where she counseled patients and families planning end-of-life care.

Rebecca Lengnick-Hall, MSSW '13, is a PhD student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Her research seeks to identify organizational factors that affect the implementation of evidence-based practice.

Marissa Bortenstein, MSSW '14, serves as the director of social services at Brush Country Nursing and Rehabilitation, a skilled nursing facility providing hospice and long-term care and rehabilitation therapy in Austin.

Shanté Johnson, MSSW '14, is a partnership specialist at Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star in Dallas. Ms. Johnson is an indispensable administrator in the mentor2.0 program, Big Brothers Big Sisters' technology-enriched, email supported one-to-one youth mentoring program targeting high school students. Facilitating partnerships between Big Brothers Big Sisters, schools, companies and individuals, mentor2.0 supports high-impact mentoring relationships, providing high school students with the support and guidance they need to graduate high school and succeed in college and the workforce.

Katherine Keegan, MSSW '14, manages the AmeriCorps VISTA Program at the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas in Austin, where she provides support for twenty AmeriCorps VISTA members at seventeen different Texas non-profit agencies. VISTA is a national service that supports community efforts to overcome poverty in America.

Tara Powell, PhD '14, is an assistant professor at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign where she has developed a school-based psycho-educational program to help children develop positive coping strategies in response to trauma and stress after a disaster. Tara also just completed a pilot study of post-disaster intervention for health care workers in Saipan and is commencing research on the impact of a post-disaster mental health program in Nepal.

Paula Yuma, PhD '14, just finished her first semester as an assistant professor at Colorado State University and is expecting baby number two! She studies the effects of environmental, economic, and social characteristics of neighborhoods on the health and well being of individuals. Her dissertation examining the effects of

community characteristics on physical activity in mothers and children received the Outstanding Dissertation Award at the University of Texas in 2015. Currently, she is working with the North Austin community and the Austin Police Department on a community revitalization initiative known as Restore Rundberg. She has published most recently in *Pediatrics* and the *Journal of Trauma and Critical Care Surgery*. She has teaching experience in the areas of research methods and theory and enjoys taking social work students into the community for service learning.

Samuel Elder, MSSW '15, is a community support specialist for Thresholds of Chicago, an agency that provides health care, housing, and other assistance to people with mental illness.

Bar Lehmann, MSSW '15, is a community support specialist for Community Connections and a part-time research assistant for UT Austin's Center for Addiction Research.

Evelyn Marquez, MSSW '15, BSW '13, recently contributed to *Women on the Run*, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee's report on refugees fleeing El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. Evelyn currently works as a social worker at Austin's People's Community Clinic, where she provides screening, assessments, crisis management, and therapy for individuals with depression and anxiety.

Claire Riesenberg, MSSW '15, is a family assessment social worker with Child Protective Services at the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency in Washington, D.C.

Elyssa Schroeder, MSSW '15, is a survivor and program advocacy policy analyst with the Texas Council on Family Violence in Austin. Her professional interests include policy, program development, and aftercare facilities for victims of gender-based violence.

In Memoriam

Faculty

Ronald C. Bounous died June 25, 2015. He taught at the School of Social Work for over 20 years, helping establish the doctoral program. He maintained a psychotherapy practice, making the teaching of his students as rich and real as he could make it.

Louis Edward DeMoll, Jr. died August 29, 2015. He was a beloved professor at the School of Social Work, from where he retired in 1987, concurrent with the establishment of the Louis DeMoll Scholarship. He was named a Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers for planning and directing the development of community mental health services throughout Texas.

'00s

Pam Lawrence, MSSW '00, BSW '96, died September 10, 2015. She was a consultant implementing medical software in healthcare facilities across the country. She utilized her social work skills both professionally and in her everyday life. Pam was passionate about the missions of OutYouth, the UT School of Social Work, and Austin Pets Alive. She consistently gave her time and money generously to these causes.

Toni Johnson, PhD '05, MSSW '90, died January 7, 2016. She was an associate professor at the University of Kansas, specializing in children's mental health. She was deeply committed to social justice and helped form the National Leadership Conference on African American Mental Health.

10's

David Randall Dunkin, MSSW '13, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Giddings, TX, December 29, 2015. He served as a substance abuse counselor at Bluebonnet Trails and was a longtime volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

SWAN News

*by Marian Mahaffey, President of Social Work
Alumni Network (SWAN)/Austin chapter*

Save the date: First Alumni Reunion

May 3, 2016, 5:30-7:30pm
Austin (location TBD)

SWAN Austin Chapter is planning its first annual alumni reunion this coming May. Come join us for food, fun, and networking with your peers, faculty, and staff of the School of Social Work. More details coming soon via email.

Nominate a fellow alumnus/a

We are requesting nominations for the 2016 Charles I. Wright Distinguished Alumni Award. Submit your nomination by completing this online form: <http://socialwork.utexas.edu/deansoffice/alumni/wright.php>

The awardee will be recognized at the First Annual Alumni Reunion in May. **Deadline: March 31, 2016**

Unleash your creative self: T-shirt contest

Let your creativity flow and help raise money for student scholarships by entering the upcoming SWAN T-Shirt Design Contest.

Theme: School of Social Work Pride. Show us what being alumna/us of our school means to you!

Prize: The winning design will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Lasting impact: T-shirts will be sold at SWAN events and all proceeds will go to student scholarships

Rules: 1) Participants must "Like" the UT School of Social Work Facebook page (www.facebook.com/utssw); 2) Design must: be original, include the School of Social Work logo somewhere, and be created digitally (not hand-drawn).

Submission: Send to marianmahaffey@email.utexas.edu by 11:59pm, March 30, 2016.

Questions: Find out more and stay up to date by following the School of Social Work Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/utssw>) or email Marian at marianmahaffey@mail.utexas.edu

Have questions for SWAN? Contact Marian, marianmahaffey@mail.utexas.edu

We're coming to see you!

Please be on the lookout for future visits from School of Social Work faculty and staff at the following events and locations:

- June 22-25, 2016: NASW National Conference, Washington, D.C.
- October 6-8, 2016: NASW Texas Conference, Arlington TX
- November 3-6 2016: Atlanta, GA. Council on Social Work Education Conference
- San Francisco, CA. Society for Social Work Research Conference, January 11-14, 2016

We would love to see you when we visit! To make sure you receive an invitation, send us your updated contact information at utopian@utlists.utexas.edu

Dean Zayas and Steve Wernet in Denver.



Allan Cole, Jennifer Luna-Jackson and Claire Riesenber in Washington, D.C.



Lisa Ramirez-Branum, Paul Branum, and Claudia Kayatani in Washington, D.C.

Did you know about TDS?

According to Ramón Gómez and Robin Smith, TDS stands for Tailgate Defficiency Syndrome. It affects social work alumni who miss the annual tailgate in the fall, and its symptoms are longing for burnt orange, games, the School of Social Work lawn, and good old fun. See the pictures for happy alumni who prevented TDS by coming to last fall's tailgate.

Prevent TDS! Mark your calendars now for the 2016 fall tailgate:

Saturday September 10

Longhorns vs. UT-El Paso Miners



The Elizabeth Ann Adkins Endowed Scholarship in Social Work



Marjorie Bintliff Johnson, Elizabeth, BSW '13, MSSW '14, and Raleigh W. Johnson, Jr.

Marjorie Bintliff Johnson and Raleigh W. Johnson, Jr. established this scholarship to honor their granddaughter Elizabeth, BSW '13, MSSW '14. "Elizabeth has been a delight all of her life and always friendly and helpful to everyone with whom she comes in contact." One of 15 grandchildren, she was the one "who would always come up from behind to give us a big hug and kiss amid any confusion going on." The Johnsons want to ensure others have the opportunity to pursue the field of social work.



Save the dates: April 12 & 13

A collective, 40-hour campaign to raise awareness and support for The University of Texas at Austin. You can give to ANY school, college, or area of interest but we hope you will give to social work!

School of Social Work example initiatives you can give to:

Social Work Alumni Network (SWAN) Scholarship
Jane Addams Endowment for Field Education
Social Work Council

Join your fellow alumni and Longhorn friends—the 40 hours may come and go but your collective impact will last forever!

John F. Yeaman Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Community and Administrative Leadership



John F. Yeaman, MSSW '72

Created by John F. Yeaman, MSSW '72, this fellowship will benefit graduate students preparing to organize and work with groups and communities. John's first job after earning his MSSW was in the War on Poverty, where he saw first-hand the power of organizing people and then working with them to accomplish their goals. John took a 20-year retirement as a Methodist pastor to earn his MSSW, and sees social work as a vital part of faith in action—faith of both the religious and non-religious who are committed to social justice.

The Torbert Family Endowment for Excellence in Eldercare



Vincent R. Johnson and Jill Torbert, BA '79.

Jill, who highly values her social work training in her current work as a county attorney, discovered a severe lack of quality services for her parents while caring for them over the past eight years. With the elderly population growing, she recognizes a need for more training and support. "We tend to keep them out of view and they become the forgotten generation. Older adults should remain fully integrated into society and be a part of the community." Jill and Vincent hope this endowment will help give people the skills and knowledge to help the elderly have more fulfilling lives.

Cathy and Morris Bart Endowed Scholarship in Social Work



Morris and Cathy Bart

have also chosen service-oriented fields—teaching and social work. In this spirit of helping others, Cathy and Morris are proud to establish an endowment at The University of Texas at Austin.

Cathy attended UT Austin from 1976-78 and Morris, a New Orleans attorney with several offices located throughout the South, attended the “other UT”—the University of Tennessee. Both are very proud that their daughter **Jennifer Bart**, a junior at the School of Social Work, has such a strong desire to help people. In the Jewish faith this is known as *Tikkun Olam*, which literally means to “repair the world.”

Their other two daughters

Why I Give



I choose to give each year to the School of Social Work because it gave me a lot of opportunities and opened doors—I want to help give the same opportunities to today’s students.

I appreciate that the UT Austin School of Social Work excels in research as well as in teaching. By supporting it, I feel like I’m helping advance our profession and making sure students and practitioners in the field have access to the best research-based practices and trainings.

— **Pam Lincoln, MSSW ’99**



The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work

The Utopia Society

Thank you for making the world
a better place!

Membership Benefits:

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- Listed in Utopian Magazine
- Subscription to quarterly e-newsletter
- Posted on Annual Donor List in School

Advocate (\$250-499)

Benefits listed above plus:

- 2 tickets to annual tailgate
- 1 free CEU webinar

Visionary (\$500-999)

Benefits listed above plus:

- 2 tickets to annual alumni reception
- 1 free half-day CEU workshop (*up to \$55 value*)
- Validated parking for lectures (*based on availability*)

Ambassador (\$1,000-4,999)

Benefits listed above plus:

- 2 tickets to annual donor Celebration Event

Champion (\$5,000+)

Benefits listed above plus:

- Invitation to a private dinner with the dean





The University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work

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WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

