

# HR HIGHLIGHTS

SERVING. EMPOWERING. TRANSFORMING.



HR Highlights is the Official Newsletter of UNT System Human Resources.



## FACULTY & STAFF

# Spotlight

**HONGLI WU, PH.D.**

Associate Professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

**UNT Health Science Center**

[Hongli Wu](#) left her homeland China for the United States, specifically the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to complete her postdoctoral training before making her way to North Texas in 2013 when the UNT System College of Pharmacy joined UNT World. This scientist's interests are as complex as her research. Dr. Wu will take on any Texas fisherman, even reeling in the big fish like Blue Marlin. She'll masterfully play a serenade on her accordion; and speaking of music, she blasts this feel-good [rock classic](#) when a grant is funded, and [this one](#) if one's rejected. She learned much about America from watching *Forrest Gump* but being here does have its drawbacks. She dearly misses her parents and authentic Chinese food (by the way, she has a message for you about General Tso's chicken). So, click below and get to know Dr. Hongli Wu.

[READ MORE](#)

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email [communications@untsystem.edu](mailto:communications@untsystem.edu).



## This Just In! News, Notes & Resources

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DID YOU KNOW?



**BLACK**  
HISTORY MONTH  
**FACTS**

UNT SYSTEM CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month, a celebration of Black individuals who -- through their courage, excellence and determination to break down racial and ethnic barriers -- have made significant contributions in civil rights, politics, science, the arts, our communities and other areas over the course of history. UNT World is proud to celebrate these and other heroes in our video series "Black History Month: Excellence in our Community," which debuts in next week's HR Highlights. Each edition this month will feature a new video.

[Learn more about Black History Month.](#)

**DID YOU KNOW?:** [Opal Lee](#) was an honored guest at the June 2021 bill signing that finally marked Juneteenth as a federal holiday because, in large part, it was her decades-long persistence that saw it through. A UNT alumna and retired educator-turned-activist, the 95-year-old annually organized walks to campaign for Juneteenth recognition, culminating at age 89 with a five-month walk from Fort Worth to Washington D.C., making national headlines as she traversed the country. This week, 30 members of Congress signed a letter [nominating Ms. Lee for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize](#). Her unwavering determination is why she will forever be known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth.



### February kicks off the Lunar New Year -- Year of the Tiger

February kicks off the start of the Lunar New Year, which is celebrated by nearly 2 billion people worldwide. Also known as the Chinese New Year -- and as the Spring Festival in China -- this year's celebration marks the end of the Year of the Ox and the beginning of the Year of the Tiger. The tiger embodies courage and bravery, so the new year could symbolize resilience and strength -- even in times of struggle.

[Learn more about Lunar New Year](#)



UNT System HR brings you UNT World experts with this periodic and always timely installation called "Ask An Expert." So, let's ask...

**EXPERT:** [Felecia Epps](#) became the second dean of the [UNT Dallas College of Law](#) in July 2018 with unmatched credentials. Also serving as a professor of law, Epps was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and after graduating Magna Cum Laude from Creighton University School of Law in 1983, she attended The Basic School in Quantico, Va., followed by Naval Justice School (NJS) in Newport, R.I. She Graduated with honors from NJS and was certified as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Navy. She served 10 years on active duty, holding a variety of positions including Defense Counsel, Chief Military Justice Officer and Chief Civil Law Officer. We talk to her today about President Biden's expected nomination of the first Black woman to the United States Supreme Court. Epps shares what it means to her and the impact it might have on the Black community and the next generation.

[READ MORE](#)



***This year make sure you're ready for the tax man >>***

**Benefits available to UNT World faculty & staff**

You recently received an email from the UNT System Office of Finance about your W-2 Form which means it's tax season again. Completing your tax return can be arduous, requiring time, effort and above all else, patience. Your UNT World benefits can help simplify the process and guarantee that they're done right and arrive on time. Visit the [UNT System HR](#) website, hover over "Benefits" and click on "[Perks](#)." Then click on either "Beneplace" or "PerkSpot" and type "taxes" into the search bar. You'll find discounts on tax services from brands such as TurboTax, H&R Block and TaxAct. There's no "I" in taxes, so get the help from a team you can trust and at a savings you'll like.



**All UNT System offices and campuses will remain closed on Friday, Feb. 4**

All UNT System offices, as well as our three member institutions – UNT, UNT Dallas and UNT Health Science Center – will remain closed on Friday, Feb. 4 due to continued inclement weather across the North Texas region. All locations will reopen at their regular hours on Monday, Feb. 7. Each UNT System member institution will communicate additional details to their respective campus communities regarding weather-related closures, as conditions and circumstances vary by location. If you are a UNT System Administration employee based on a campus, please follow guidance for your respective locations. Employees may contact their supervisor with any questions. Any further announcements will be sent via email and posted to our [@UNTSystem](#) Twitter account.



## HR UPDATE

UNT System Human Resources has numerous programs and tools available at no cost to assist you with health or well-being issues, work-life balance, financial issues and more. Explore your [UNT System benefits](#), and follow this space weekly for tips, programs and promotions.

>> **EPIC ADDS FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS:** Have you explored [EPIC](#) -- Empowering Professionals to Inspired Careers? A career development program recently launched by UNT System's Office of Finance, EPIC is designed to empower professionals across UNT World to reach their career goals through mentoring opportunities, talent share/exchange rotations, career path resources, networking opportunities and events. Two new events for all UNT World employees -- "Creating a Career Plan" and "Building Your Personal Brand" -- available over four sessions (one on each campus plus a virtual session) are [now on the schedule](#). Click the link for information and registration.

>> **ACCESS YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE TAX FORMS:** If you are enrolled in the Employees Retirement System (ERS) health plan, BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS), the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires you to have two forms: 1095-B (mailed to you from ERS and verifies that you have insurance) and 1095-C (mailed to you from UNT System Administration and verifies that the university system has met its obligation to provide health care benefits that meet ACA standards and affordability). Both forms are for recordkeeping only and do not need to be submitted with federal income taxes. When you file tax returns, you simply must indicate that you have insurance. Both forms have been mailed to your home address and should arrive in the coming weeks. If you'd like to access your 1095-B form, log in to your [HealthSelect BCBS](#) employee portal and select the "My Coverage" tab to view or print a copy. For assistance, contact your [Benefits Advisors](#).

>> **SIGN UP FOR THE GET FIT CHALLENGE YET?:** Join the UNT System team in the Get Fit Texas Challenge through March 21. The challenge is to be physically active for 150 minutes per week for at least six of the next 10 weeks. We compete against other Texas agencies to claim the title of *Fittest State Agency*. [Register now](#) and begin logging your activity. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will track the percentage of completion of each state agency and recognize agencies in each size group with the highest completion rate.

## WE ARE NORTH TEXAS PODCAST™

### ON THE AIR: Forever young, 81-year-old Jack Allday is building UNT Dallas' athletics program

At an age when many are well into retirement, Jack Allday is working tirelessly on building on an intercollegiate athletics program from the ground up at the University of North Texas at Dallas. The Trailblazers began competing in men's and women's basketball, cross country and track and field in 2020, and Allday says the university is moving toward the launch of additional sports in the future. [We are North Texas Podcast](#) host and UNT System Chief Communications Officer [Paul Corliss](#) talks to Allday, who has done a little bit of everything in his life -- won a Texas state football championship at Highland Park High School in 1957, toured as a musician and had a hit record in 1959, served in the Army during the Vietnam War, built a successful advertising business in Dallas, taught college courses and raised a family. [Now hear how he's building an intercollegiate athletics program at UNT Dallas.](#)

 **Save The Date.** UNT World Well-Being Calendar.

Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT World HR.  
Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#); Visit our [website](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Excuses Debunked  
[Feb. 8, 10 -- 10:15 a.m.](#)

Weight Management Benefit Highlight: What is Real Appeal?  
[Feb. 9, 11 -- 11:30 a.m.](#)

Matters of the Heart with Michael Harper M.Ed.  
[Feb. 10, 10 -- 11 a.m.](#)

# We Are North Texas. Campus News.

Click our member institutions' logos for the latest news



If you have an HR question or topic you'd like covered in the newsletter, please email [HR@untsystem.edu](mailto:HR@untsystem.edu).



Miss an issue of HR Highlights? [CLICK HERE](#) to catch up.