

UNT SYSTEM™ HR HIGHLIGHTS

S E R V I N G . E M P O W E R I N G . T R A N S F O R M I N G .

UNT System HR Highlights is the Official Newsletter of UNT System Enterprise.



FACULTY & STAFF

Spotlight

GLORIA STREIT OLNESS, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Audiology &
Speech-Language Pathology
College of Health and Public Service
University of North Texas

[Dr. Gloria Streit Olness](#) started at the [University of North Texas](#) in the Fall of 2006. Her specialty is in rehabilitation for communication disorders. Dr. Olness and her team are conducting foundational research within a network they started, known as [The Aphasia Collaborative \(TAC\)](#), to support and collaborate with people whose lives have been impacted by aphasia (trauma to the brain that affects speech, writing, and understanding of written and spoken language) and their co-survivors. If you're curious about how a northern Midwest small-town high school drum major with a love for the quiet outdoors ended up leading a sing-along of a few thousand people at the Toledo Zoo, continue reading. Click the button below and get to know Dr. Gloria Olness, as well as how the lives of Bruce Willis and former congresswoman Gabby Giffords inspire hope for others who have aphasia in their journey toward recovery!

READ MORE

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email communications@untssystem.edu.

This Just In! News, Notes & Resources



June is National Aphasia Awareness Month

Aphasia is a communication disorder affecting over 2 million Americans. Aphasia impairs a person's ability to process language, but does not affect intelligence. Now is our chance to better sympathize and respect those with the condition, and learn how to help them live a better life. We can also gain a new appreciation for the people caring for them. Research is still ongoing. New treatment methods indicate ways to shift brain function, so people can relearn languages. Read our above employee spotlight on Dr. Gloria Streit Olness to [learn more](#) about her work in Aphasia and rehabilitation for communication disorders.

Learn more:

[Observe National Aphasia Awareness Month](#)

Visit the [National Aphasia Association website](#)

Watch [What is Aphasia Video](#)



Boost your allergy season defenses

Allergy season, like an unwelcome guest at your door, is here. Learn how [your pharmacy benefits can help you put up your best defense](#).



Keep an eye on your health — 2022 benefits ending on August 31

The 2022 plan year for participants in the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program (GBP) participants is more than half way over. If you're enrolled in State of Texas Vision, that means the clock is ticking for you to take full advantage of your FY22 benefits before they expire on August 31. Learn how to [use your remaining Plan Year 2022 vision benefits](#).



Don't be unprepared for the unexpected

Benefits available to UNT System faculty & staff

No one anticipates an illness or injury that prevents one from working. The truth is, approximately one-third of Americans will become disabled for 90 days or more before age 65. And if you're not prepared for the unexpected, finances can get difficult. Your UNT System benefits offer [Disability Insurance](#), both short-term and long-term coverage, that will pay up to two-thirds of your monthly salary. If you're not currently enrolled, you can add this benefit during the summer enrollment period (effective Sept. 1, 2022). Scroll down below to see the dates for our [Summer Benefits Enrollment](#) Section. For more information, contact your campus [Benefits Advisor](#).

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 for tips, programs and promotions.



UNT SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS:



UNT Names Economics Professor Dr. Michael McPherson, as New Provost, Appoints Interim CIO to Permanent Roles

The University of North Texas has appointed Dr. Michael McPherson as UNT's next provost and vice president for academic affairs. In addition, interim Chief Information Officer Dr. Adam Fein has been given permanent status in that role, and named VP for digital strategy and innovation as well.

Learn more:

[Dallas Innovates](#)



HSC's Diana Cervantes explains the virus monkeypox

The chances of most Americans contracting it are slim, says an epidemiology expert at [UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth's School of Public Health](#). [Dr. Diana Cervantes](#), an assistant professor and director of HSC's Master of Public Health graduate studies program in epidemiology, has long been involved in community response to outbreaks and infectious diseases. If you do have suspicions you may have been exposed, or if you have a new or unexplained rash, sores or other symptoms, visit your health care provider or local clinic.

Learn more:

[Monkeypox Q&A](#)



UNT Dallas College of Law's Lewis Giles is this year's winner of the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award

Established in 2008, the **Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award** is given to recognize an American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) member or group who has contributed significantly to AALL's advocacy priorities. The award honors the memory of Robert L. Oakley, AALL's Washington affairs representative (1989-2007)

Learn more:

[InfoDocket.com: Library Journal](#)



UNT welcomes Violinist Chloé Kiffer to faculty

The French violinist from NYC is the newest member, where she has been appointed Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas College of Music. Hailing originally from France, Kiffer teaches at Manhattan School of Music's precollege division. Alongside her work in Manhattan, Kiffer has taught and given masterclasses internationally — including at the Miami Music Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute, the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, Chamber Music International in Texas, and MusicAlps in France.

Learn more:

[TheViolinChannel.com: Violinist Joins UNT](#)



Governor Abbott Appoints UNT System Student Regent to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

UNT student Andy McDowall, a computer science and engineering major and political science minor, has been appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to serve as the UNT System's student regent from June 2022 through May 2023. While not a voting member of the nine-member UNT System Board of Regents, McDowall may serve on task forces, committees, and special commissions. McDowall will attend Board of Regents meetings and participate in other activities required by the Office of the Governor and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Learn more:

[Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#)



IMPORTANT UPDATES

• New “MyTRS” portal is now updated YOU WILL NEED A NEW USERNAME & PASSWORD!

TRS has launched an updated “MyTRS” portal ([featured in your June TRS e-newsletter](#)).

Note: Due to new security enhancements, when visiting the newly launched *MyTRS* for the first time, you must create a new username and password, via [“MyTRS” portal on the TRS homepage](#):

Click this link to [establish your account](#)

1. Create a new login
2. Security questions
3. Redesignate your Beneficiary online

In the portal, you’ll see your service information but can also use the Planning Tools, including the [“Benefit Calculator”](#) to estimate your retirement. And, you have a personal resource in your [HR Benefits Advisors](#). They can help you plan ahead by meeting with you to help you navigate your TRS account, understand future benefits, and discuss other benefits such as health insurance. *Beware of imposters – outside companies indicating they can consult with you about your TRS benefits may be trying to get sensitive financial information from you.*

TRS and your [HR Benefits Advisors](#) are your true resources. Whether you are just planning ahead or it’s time to start your retirement process, your Benefits Advisors will meet with you and help you one on one so that you are well-prepared.

UNT SYSTEM™

Office of the Controller

Members of the UNT System:

• FY 2022 UNT System Campuses Year-End Processing Deadlines

The new academic year is quickly approaching, and with that brings the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

Please click the following link for the [FY 2022 Year-End UNT System Controller Year-End Processing Calendar](#), also available on the UNT System website [FY 2022 Year-End Processing Deadlines](#) at the bottom of the page. This schedule does not apply to the Strategic Sourcing Team (Purchasing/Contracts/Accounts payable).

We greatly appreciated your assistance in processing documents, monitoring your budgets and purchase orders, and adhering to deadlines. Your collaboration will help ensure our records are timely and accurate as we close out another tremendous year for the UNT System.

If you have any questions, please contact your campus Controller Office:

- **UNT:** Rafiu Fashina, Rafiu.Fashina@untsystem.edu
- **HSC:** Tom Spencer, Tom.Spencer@untsystem.edu
- **UNT Dallas:** Victor Aimuyo, Victor.Aimuyo@untsystem.edu
- **UNT System:** Brittany Wisdom, Brittany.Wisdom@untsystem.edu
- **UNT System Payroll:** Ashley Penny, Ashley.Penny@untsystem.edu

**** Please note:** The FY 2022 year-end processing deadlines apply to all University accounts, including grants. We recognize certain grants may be multi-year grants or have a fiscal year that does not coincide with the University’s fiscal year; however, year-end audit requirements mandate that the University report all of its activity, including grants, on an August 31 basis.



Save The Date. Well-Being Calendar.

Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT System.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#); Visit our [website](#)

Coping During Uncertain Times.

Organized by ComPsych EAP:

[Wednesday, June 22, 2022. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)

Men's Health and Human Performance Webinar.

Organized by ERS:

[Thursday, June 23, 2022. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM \(CDT\).](#)

Mental Health Awareness.

Organized by ComPsych EAP:

[Wednesday, June 29, 2022. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)

Nature & Your Health with Heather Kuhlken.

Organized by ERS:

[Thursday, June 30, 2022. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM \(CDT\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: What Moves You?

[Tuesday, July 12, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CDT\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Fitness on a Budget.

Organized by BlueCross BlueShield of Texas:

[Tuesday, August 9, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CDT\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Fitting Fitness into Your Workday. Organized by BlueCross Blue Shield of Texas:

[Tuesday, September 13, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CDT\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Fitness for Self Care. Organized by BlueCross Blue Shield of Texas:

[Tuesday, October 11, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CDT\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Keep Moving Through the Holidays. Organized by BlueCross Blue Shield of Texas:

[Tuesday, November 8, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CST\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Look back on the Year and Get Ready for Next Year! Organized by BlueCross Blue Shield of Texas:

[Tuesday, December 13, 2022. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM \(CST\).](#)

Summer Benefits Enrollment!

Save the date!

UNT: June 27 to July 9

UNT Dallas: July 4 to July 16

UNT Health Science Center: July 4 to July 16

UNT System: July 4 to July 16

- Summer Enrollment is the annual time when you can make changes to your benefits (example, change Dental plans or drop Vision insurance).
- Changes made during Summer Enrollment are effective Sept. 1, 2022.
- Much more information will be coming to you via mail (from [ERS](#)), your campus news (watch your email), and from your [UNTS HR Benefits team](#).

New! We've posted the new rates (nominal changes for the new plan year that starts Sept. 1st). Check out the Summer Enrollment page: <https://hr.untsystem.edu/benefits/summer-enrollment/index>, and be sure to bookmark it for future updates!

Questions? HRBenefits@untsystem.edu and your [campus benefits advisors](#) are always glad to help.



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@untssystem.edu.



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