

HR HIGHLIGHTS

SERVING. EMPOWERING. TRANSFORMING.



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



FACULTY & STAFF

Spotlight

SYLVIA LITTLETON

Executive Assistant
Office of Human Resources
UNT System

Sylvia Littleton joined UNT World in 2014 serving as the assistant for Royal Furgeson, the inaugural dean of the UNT Dallas College of Law. Helping to launch the law school was so special that she still counts the first graduation as her proudest work moment. Now she's indispensable as a master of organization and coordination for UNT System HR head Sheraine Gilliam. A proud wife and mother, Sylvia's retired from the Dallas Police Department as a civilian and worked in several departments at DFW Airport. During the pandemic, she took up gardening with mixed results (tomatoes, good; bugs, bad). For us, the big question is which came first: Her love for Anita Baker or her time working at Motown? Click the button below and get to know Sylvia Littleton.

READ MORE

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email 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 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 present throughout the month our "Did You Know?: Black History Month Facts" series and "Black History Month: Excellence in Our Community" video series. [Learn more about Black History Month.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?: Conveniently located on the west side of Fort Worth, the [Como community](#) attracted new homeowners who worked in the nearby areas of Arlington Heights or affluent River Crest. That is, until determined African Americans started moving in. Funding began to decrease for schools and community developments and Como since is a predominantly Black, low-income community. Its residents are not without pride or leaders, most notably the late [Ms. Viola Lee Pitts](#), who advocated for positive changes like street improvements and school funding. Her legacy lives on in places like the Viola Pitts-Como Community Health Clinic.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION EVENT: The UNT System Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) presents our inaugural Black History Month celebration featuring special guest [Kaplan Mobray](#), a best-selling author, motivational speaker, career consultant and acclaimed innovator. Join the charismatic Mobray for this virtual event on Thursday, Feb. 24 from 1 -- 2:30 p.m. by using this link: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/83802589283>. Wharton-educated, Mobray draws from extensive corporate experience as a successful business executive who led corporate marketing, advertising, brand development and workforce diversity initiatives for Fortune 500 companies.

EXCELLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY VIDEO SERIES: A lieutenant for the Arlington Police Department, Johnny McGee earned his bachelor's degree from UNT and his time in Denton helped him understand how to serve diverse communities. A lifelong learner, he also earned a master's and doctoral degree and was recently promoted to lead recruitment and training of new officers. Watch below as Lt. Dr. McGee tells his story.



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

EXPERT: [John Ishiyama, Ph.D.](#), professor and graduate advisor in UNT's Department of Political Science, is an expert in international politics with an emphasis on Russia. Even casual observers of current world events know that Russian President Vladimir Putin has amassed more than 100,000 troops on the border with Ukraine, a country tied to Russia since the 9th Century. The U.S. has repeatedly warned that an attack on Ukraine could be imminent, perhaps even being launched during the Winter Olympics in Beijing. We sought Dr. Ishiyama to better understand what's at the root of this crisis, what Putin hopes to accomplish by

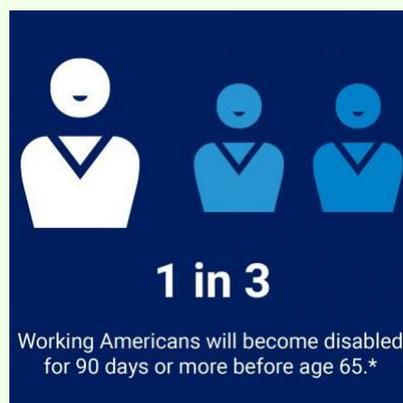
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Don't be unprepared for the unexpected >>

Benefits available to UNT World faculty & staff

No one anticipates incurring an illness or injury that prevents one from working. 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 World 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 enrolled in Disability Insurance, you can add this benefit during the summer enrollment period (effective Sept. 1, 2022). Summer enrollment dates will be announced in this space soon. For more information, contact your campus [Benefits Advisor](#).



HIGH FIVE: Physics professor receives distinguished 2022 UNT Regents Professorship Award

UNT's College of Science recently announced that Physics professor [Marco Buongiorno Nardelli](#) has received the [2022 UNT Regents Professorship Award](#), recognizing faculty at the rank of professor who have performed outstanding teaching, research and service to the profession, and who have achieved a high level of national and international recognition. Calling it a "very high point" of his career, Dr. Buongiorno Nardelli is a computational physicist and composer with appointments in Physics, Chemistry and Composition, a member of iARTA, the Initiative for Advanced Research in Technology and the Arts, and of CEMI, the Center for Experimental Music and Intermedia. He has published more than 200 papers that have garnered more than 19,000 citations. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and of the Institute of Physics, an External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute, and a Parma Recordings artist. Congratulations, professor.



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.

>> **GET YOUR 8 HOURS OF WELL-BEING PAID LEAVE:** It takes just two easy steps: 1) Complete an annual physical exam and 2) complete the Health Risk Assessment in the Health Select of Texas Blue Cross Blue Shield "[Well onTarget](#)" portal. Then provide proof of these two steps to your campus [Benefits Advisor](#) via email. When you take the health risk assessment in the portal, you accrue "Blue Points" that can be used to purchase items in an online shopping mall including fitness gear, electronics, camping gear and more. Get [full instructions](#) on how to start toward your well-being paid time off.



innovate
fort worth
UNT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

ON THE AIR: Prior to becoming Chancellor, Dr. Williams discussed innovation and entrepreneurship, and how he brought both to HSC

Despite being an accomplished MD, DO and MBA, Dr. Michael Williams, UNT System Chancellor and President of the UNT Health Science Center, is an entrepreneur at heart. He told the HSC's [Innovate Fort Worth podcast](#) how he's used his background and position to transform Fort Worth into a hub of entrepreneurial activity, not only through the work of HSC, but also through his work in the community to solve complex problems and bring new innovations to market. He's not only creating solutions for healthier communities but creating economic opportunity for our region. Great insight into UNT World's new leader.



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](#)

Unpacking the Black Wealth Gap

[Feb. 22, 1 -- 2:30 p.m.](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Start with Tiny Habits

[March 8, 10 a.m.](#)

Saving in a 529 College Plan

[March 8, 11 - 11:30 a.m.](#)

Halfway there: A Retirement Savings Checkup

[March 9, 11 a.m. -- 12 p.m.](#)

Beneficiary Designation Considerations

[March 10, 1 - 1:30 p.m.](#)

Money at Work 1: Foundations of investing

[March 17, 3 -- 3:30 p.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.



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