

HR HIGHLIGHTS

SERVING. EMPOWERING. TRANSFORMING.



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



FACULTY & STAFF

Spotlight

SONY SIMON

Sr. Employee Engagement Coordinator
Human Resources

University of North Texas System

Anyone who has met [Sony Simon](#) (above: center with sunglasses) through the leadership programs she coordinates or during volunteer outings knows she's the real deal. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Sony is the epitome of a team player who cares deeply about her work and the impact she can have on others. She joined UNT World in July 2019 to coordinate programs that enhance leadership and supervisory skills of faculty and staff. There are so many great things to know about Sony, but perhaps one of the more interesting is -- and if you know Sony you might have noticed this -- she never wears the same two earrings. Why? It goes back to her time in the Navy and her love for her mother, a Civil Rights activist who taught her that one person can change the world. Click below and get to know Sony Simon.

[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



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

EXPERT: [Brian McFarlin, Ph.D.](#), Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies & Research in UNT's College of Education. The start of the new year means many of us are making resolutions to do things that will improve our lives. And yes, that means trying to (re)commit to eating healthier and smarter, which can help manage stress better, sleep better and work better. By being healthy, you'll also help to reduce health insurance costs for all members of the State of Texas ERS System. However, in the quest to eat better, we often sabotage ourselves by trying fad diets or setting unrealistic goals. We get frustrated and give up. That's why we've enlisted Dr. McFarlin, a nutrition expert who provides simple steps and advice that can provide big results as we seek an improved nutritional outlook for ourselves and our families. If you're looking to make smarter choices when it comes to your diet in 2022, click below.

[READ MORE](#)



**YOUR
BENEFITS
DID YOU KNOW?**

We want ... to pump you up -- for less! >>

Benefits available to UNT World faculty & staff

You don't have to be Hans & Franz to get pumped up. In fact, it's a lot easier to achieve your New Year's fitness goals by simply taking advantage of your UNT World benefits. As a Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Select participant, you and your covered dependents (ages 16 and older) are eligible to join a [low-cost fitness program](#) -- either at a fitness center near you or one that's fully virtual and includes access to hundreds of on-demand workout videos. [Log in and enroll today](#). Or you can turn your fitness training over to those guys in the video.



WELCOME: UNT Dallas names new Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology

In the age of COVID, distance learning is more critical than ever. UNT Dallas made a significant hire recently, bringing in [Georgianna Laws, Ph.D., as its new Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology](#). A passionate online higher-education leader, educator and researcher, Dr. Laws brings 20 years of experience to the position. She most recently served as Director of the Office of Distance Education at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), in Montgomery, Ala. Dr. Laws has dedicated her career to the advancement of online education, believing that affordable access to education can help adults transcend work and family obligations as well as time and geographic boundaries in pursuit of their academic aspirations and in preparation for the career of their dreams.



HIGH FIVE: HSC taps first School of Public Health Assoc. Dean for Research & Faculty Advancement

[Melissa A. Lewis, Ph.D.](#) recently was named the [first Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Advancement at the HSC School of Public Health](#). Her new role will encompass a myriad of responsibilities, including providing strategic guidance in identifying and communicating opportunities for public health research funding; providing research coaching and mentorship for School of Public Health tenure track faculty; establishing internal pre-review mechanisms to ensure the strongest possible grant applications are submitted for review, among other duties. Dr. Lewis joined the HSC School of Public Health as Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Systems, in 2018. As a core faculty member in the Public Health Sciences Ph.D. program in Health Behavior Research, Dr. Lewis provides world-class mentorship to doctoral students and shares her expertise in grant writing.



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.

>> AVOID GETTING CAUGHT BY A PHISHING SCAM: Phishing attacks are prevalent and account for over 80% of all reported security incidents. Conducted through any form of communication such as text message, voicemail and email, attackers use phishing scams to impersonate employees and organizations in order to obtain confidential information or to steal resources. Be prepared and avoid being reeled in by a phishing scam by [following these tips](#).

>> EIS FINANCE PORTAL ENHANCEMENTS COMING: IT Shared Services has started a major overhaul of the Enterprise Information System (EIS) Finance portal ([myfs.unt.edu](#) -- use VPN if working remote) that will make it more convenient and efficient to use. Rethought and redesigned, among the portal's many improvements is the ability to create a personalized homepage that can be customized to feature your most-used functions for superior organization and navigational ease. The revamped site is expected to be in February. We'll share more details before then, but if you've got questions, email [FIST@ad.unt.edu](#).

>> WELLNESS WEBINARS BY BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD: On the third Wednesday of the month beginning Jan. 19, join [wellness webinars](#) -- a great way to learn about: [the Well on Target wellness portal](#) | [Health Assessment](#) | [Self-management programs](#) | [Fitness programs](#)



ON THE AIR: The Two UNT digital experts who helped the Dallas Cowboys think they can benefit kids, too

[The Deep Side of Dallas](#) podcast is a collaboration between UNT System and *The Dallas Morning News* that dives into local news and issues, and explores the past, present and future of Dallas and North Texas. In our [latest episode](#), co-hosts [Paul Corliss](#), UNT System Chief Communications Officer, and DMN editor [Rudy Bush](#), talk to UNT digital strategy and innovation experts, [Adam Fein](#) and [Rudi Thompson](#) about the Dallas Cowboys came calling to help them become better teachers as COVID-19 forced them into online meetings. But that's not all. Fein and Thompson think that what they taught the Cowboys coaches could make online school better for kids who fared poorly in the Zoom era of the pandemic. What they say is practical and potentially crucial to a future of hybrid work and learning.

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](#)

Los Secretos del Dinero: Cómo Gestionar los Ingresos y las Deudas

[Jan. 13, 3 -- 4 p.m.](#)

1° of Difference: Changing One Habit Can Change Your Life

[Jan. 20, 10 -- 11 a.m.](#)

Social Security Considerations

[Jan. 20, 11 a.m. -- 12 p.m.](#)

Turn Your Retirement Savings Into a Paycheck for Life

[Jan. 25, 12 p.m. -- 1 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.