

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

DANIELLA SMITH, PH.D.
Professor, Hazel Harvey Peace Endowed Professor
Information Science
University of North Texas

[Dr. Daniella L. Smith](#), is a professor in the Information Science Department, a Hazel Harvey Peace Endowed Professor in Children's Library Services, and the Information Science Ph.D. program director. She has been a faculty member since 2010 and is a versatile researcher and educator in library and information science. Dr. Smith's previous experience includes being a youth services librarian, a school librarian, and a public school social studies and reading teacher. Click the button below and get to know more about Dr. Smith and her role at UNT.

[READ MORE](#)

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



Learn about education benefits such as scholarships for staff, dependents, and retirees

Did you know your UNT System benefits include an educational scholarship for faculty, staff, retirees and dependents at UNT and UNT Dallas? The UNT Health Science Center also offers two scholarships for employees and dependents. To explore these excellent cost-saving opportunities, [click here](#). This educational scholarship benefit and program are managed by Student Accounting.

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.



Free, excellent wellness resources are available – part of your UNTS employee health insurance benefits

- [Weight management](#) – Two free programs to choose from – explore which plan is best for your needs
- [Tobacco Cessation](#) – Two free programs to choose from – depending on where you are in your quit journey
- [Maternity Resources](#) – Learn about your HealthSelect benefits provided coverage for pregnancy and maternity care
- [Well onTarget®](#) – Tools for enhancing your wellness – earn points as you do and shop for fitness equipment with your points!

Additionally, there is a low cost fitness program benefit – [learn more about joining](#) and using the program to achieve your fitness goals.



Free legal resources - part of your Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

- Landlord or Tenant Issues? • Divorce? • Bankruptcy or Debt Issues?

These are just a few of the topics covered by legal as part of your Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Get help creating a will, creating an estate, or with a real estate transaction. Maybe you need advice or are seeking a lawyer. Your EAP has free resources available and can connect you with a legal professional at a discount.

Explore your EAP's legal resources to see how they can help you!

[Log in to the EAP and click on "Legal" to learn more.](#)



After-school care resource available through your EAP benefits

Your [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) is a great resource if you are experiencing stress, grief, or interpersonal issues. It provides free resources that can support you, including free short-term counseling sessions. This resource includes much more, including help finding an after-school care program that

suits your needs. When you log in to the EAP, click on "Relationships" and choose "Child Care" and then "Finding an After School Program." There are also many other child care topics and resources available to explore.

As the first day of school approaches, if you are needing help with school supplies [United Way has these resources available](#) for our area's schools and families. Additionally, [Serve Denton](#) is a great one-stop shop for all kinds of assistance in the community. In the Dallas area, find resources [here](#) and in greater Fort Worth, [here](#).

UNT SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS:



UNT IPACS welcomes new faculty member Dr. Schenita Floyd

As a new Clinical Assistant Professor, [Dr. Floyd](#) already sports the Mean Green as an alumna who received her doctorate from UNT. She is excited to start this new chapter of her career with the UNT College of Science's Interdisciplinary Program of Analytics and Computational Science (IPACS).

Learn more: [IPACS New Faculty Member](#)



UNT welcomes Brandon Buzbee as vice president for university advancement

As chief advancement officer, Brandon will develop and implement advancement strategies that align with the UNT strategic plan to significantly increase constituent engagement and fundraising outcomes. He will oversee UNT's philanthropic initiatives, including major and annual gifts, corporate, foundation, private endowment development, gifts, and the UNT Alumni Association.

Learn more: [UNT News](#)



UNT Dallas welcomes Lisa Fields as the inaugural Director of Special Projects and Outreach

Lisa Fields reports to the Office of Sponsored Projects, a department of University Advancement. Her responsibilities include special projects, sponsored project activities, outreach initiatives, development activities, and stakeholder communication. Fields will play an important role in advancing the mission and vision of UNT Dallas.

Learn more: [UNT Dallas News](#)

UNT SYSTEM CONGRATULATIONS:



UNT's Dr. Newly Paul was selected for the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Outstanding Early-Career Woman Scholar Award

Congratulations to [Dr. Newly Paul](#), assistant professor at the Mayborn School of Journalism. The prestigious award is sponsored by the [Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication](#) at Florida International University and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Commission on the Status of Women. The award ceremony will be in Detroit, August 3-6, 2022, at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication ([AEJMC](#)) [Conference](#).



UNT Dallas's Dr. Mara Vaughn appointed as a USCIS citizenship ambassador

Meet [Dr. Mara Joseli Queiroz Vaughn](#), Spanish Program Coordinator, who runs a very successful citizenship program at the [UNT Dallas](#) Campus. Where she assists immigrant populations by creating outreach programs that foster citizenship and bring forth socioeconomic mobility. As one of eight citizenship ambassadors, she will serve on a voluntary, unpaid basis and coordinate with the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#) staff at the local level to promote and encourage others in their communities to apply for U.S. citizenship.



HSC and Sparkyard launches Spanish-language website

What is [Sparkyard](#)? It's a *free* platform that connects entrepreneurs with resources and provides information about the local startup community through data analysis, guest blog posts and other informational sources. After UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth received a \$562,500 grant, a top initiative was to translate Sparkyard into Spanish, reach out to the Spanish-speaking entrepreneurial community and help new and existing companies connect with the right resource. The [HSC Next team](#) behind Sparkyard is also working in translating the site into Vietnamese, the third-most commonly spoken language in Tarrant County after English and [Spanish](#).

Learn more: [HSC News](#)



HSC and Vivonics, Inc. have been granted a U.S. patent on a system for measuring and controlling foot temperature

[UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth](#), with their collaborators at [Vivonics](#), has developed a novel type of diabetic footwear that will monitor temperature and provide cooling therapy when needed in order to prevent diabetic ulcers. Patent No. 11357282 is for a system consisting of a pumping heating or cooling device in or on an article of footwear or a sock.

Learn more: [Dallas Invents](#)



UNT Dallas College of Law basement adds a new JFK exhibit

A new exhibit at the UNT Dallas Law School depicts the history of the building while relating to the Kennedy assassination and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's death. The space is where Oswald was incarcerated and later where he was shot to death by strip club operator Jack Ruby. The search continues to find a partner to have it staffed and open on weekends for tours and special events.

Learn more: [The Dallas Morning News](#)

REMINDER UPDATES:



Did you make summer enrollment benefits changes?

If employees made summer enrollment changes, they need to carefully review their confirmation letters received by email from ERS to make sure the appropriate changes were made. Any errors must be reported to your [benefits advisors](#).

UNT SYSTEM™ Office of the Controller

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: FY 2022 UNT System Campuses Year-End Processing August 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](#)

[Wednesday, August 3, 2022. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)

Fitness Connect Community Discussion: Fitness on a Budget

Organized by BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

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

Becoming a Better Listener

Organized by ComPsych EAP

[Wednesday, August 10, 2022. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)

Caring From a Distance

Organized by ComPsych EAP

[Wednesday, August 17, 2022. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)

The Sandwich Generation: Balancing Your Personal Life With the Needs of Your Older Parents or Loved Ones

Organized by ComPsych EAP

[Wednesday, August 24, 2022. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)

Motivating Change in Others

Organized by ComPsych EAP

[Wednesday, August 31, 2022. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM \(CDT\).](#)



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.