Patrick Pluscht joined UNT World from the University of Alabama System in 1997 to help Dr. Philip Turner (retired) start distance education at UNT. Since then, Pluscht has served in various leadership positions at the university, on the boards of professional organizations and on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board advisory committee related to learning technology. At UNT, he currently serves on a small, but mighty, team known as DSI Growth that identifies and promotes programs ready to grow online.

Q&A

What is your favorite aspect of your job?
I’ve always enjoyed opportunities to connect people and ideas across an organization to accomplish outcomes that otherwise wouldn’t be possible. My current supervisor in DSI Growth is convinced that I’m friends with most people on the UNT campus, which can be partially attributed to my longevity at UNT and my native extroversion. But it’s also a reflection of my passion for being a connector. I’m a strong believer in “We’re better together” and that makes my current role promoting online enrollment growth a really good fit.

What employee benefit or activity would you like to see added to UNT World?
I’d like to see more mentoring opportunities for staff across UNT World. I’m amplifying this idea from Dr. Adam Fein, UNT Vice President for Digital Strategy & Innovation, who is exploring mentoring possibilities for our division with the recognition that we have robust mentoring programs for faculty and students at UNT, but not for our staff.

What is your proudest work moment?
Awards and recognition are really nice, but my proudest moments have been related to creating experiences where individuals can share their stories with community members – whether to challenge them, enlighten them or inspire them.

What is your proudest non-work moment?
My proudest non-work moments are related to my three children. Lydia, Caroline and Julian each have academic, athletic and creative accomplishments they’ve worked hard to achieve, but what makes me most proud is when I witness them being kind and generous and standing up for social justice and for those without a voice. It gives me hope for the future.

What fact about you might surprise your colleagues?
I’m kind of an open book, but maybe not everyone knows I am an amateur magician, I shot coaches’ film for the Alabama Crimson Tide Football program under Gene Stallings in the early 1990s, and I have fond memories of skydiving and scuba diving while at the University of Alabama.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE...

Place to visit?: San Francisco Bay Area or most anywhere in Europe
Hobbies?: Collecting vinyl records (since high school) and taking sunset photos

Thing to do?: Attend live music shows or festivals with friends

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

This Just In! News, Notes & Resources

DEADLINE FRIDAY: Complete the Gallup Survey and be a Voice for Positive Change
We've had steady submissions across UNT World, but we're still short of last year's participation rates. We want to end this Gallup Engagement Survey period with record engagement. Remember, this survey gives UNT World leadership perspective into how you perceive your workplace, and how you would improve it. Your responses are 100% anonymous and can make a real difference. The survey was delivered to your inbox on Oct. 26. It literally takes minutes to complete, so if you haven't yet, please submit your survey by Friday.

/high five: Health Science Center Professor Connects People in Need
Professor Ronald Schumann's four-year collaboration with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth (CCFW) has resulted in an invaluable service during COVID-19 that helps CCFW staff locate food assistance programs near their client's neighborhood. Schumann, an emergency management and disaster science professor, worked with alum Josh Covas to create an interactive food pantry map. READ MORE about this terrific, community-minded accomplishment.

Take Time to Pause and Honor Our Veterans for Their Sacrifices on Nov. 11
On Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, we honor our country's heroes for the sacrifices they have made to protect our freedoms. Please take time to thank those who have served on our behalf. Our veterans are an important reason for us to be thankful in this month of giving thanks. Take a deeper dive into the history of Veterans Day.

Native American Heritage Month: Celebrate the First Inhabitants of This Land
November is Native American Heritage Month, which pays tribute to the rich history and culture of the Native American tribes. The celebration has evolved from its beginnings as a week-long celebration in 1986 when President Reagan proclaimed the week of Nov. 23-30, 1986 as "American Indian Week." Every President since 1955 has issued annual proclamations designating the month of November as the time to celebrate the culture, accomplishments and contributions of people who were the first inhabitants of the United States.
**Fitness for Free: Join in November and Your Enrollment Fee is Waived**

The Well onTarget Fitness Program is available to all HealthSelect participants and their covered dependents, ages 16 and older. The enhanced Fitness Program features flexible membership options and access to more than 11,500 participating gyms, all with no contract. During the month of November, employees can join using promo code FallFit2020 to waive the one-time $19 enrollment fee. [LEARN MORE](#) about the program's options that fit your budget and lifestyle.

**Get Ready: Skype for Business Is Migrating to Microsoft Teams**

In preparation for UNT World's [transition to Microsoft Teams](#), Skype for Business is scheduled for migration on Nov. 12-15. If you have sent out Skype for Business appointments, they will be converted to Microsoft Teams appointments. Weekly [online workshops for Teams 101 training](#) are offered at 9:30 a.m. every Thursday, and are recorded for later viewing. For questions, contact your local service desk or the UNT System Service Desk at 940-565-HELP or [ITHelp@untsystem.edu](mailto:ITHelp@untsystem.edu).

**HR Launches New Compensation eForm, Plus Several Upgrades to the ePar System**

Making your life easier is what UNT System Human Resources is all about. Two recent launches will do just that. A new [Compensation eForm, the Staff Job Classification/Reclassification Request Form](#), will ensure an efficient and consistent staff classification/reclassification process. Also, [several ePar upgrades launched last month](#) will enhance multiple existing processes. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these improvements.

**Back in the Office or Officing From Home Due to COVID-19, Coping with Work-Related Stress is Job 1**

We say it a lot these days because it's true: Dealing with the stresses of COVID-19 on top of all of our other responsibilities is practically a job unto itself. So, it's more critical than ever to recognize what stress looks like, take steps to build your resilience and manage job stress. We can all use advice when it comes to coping with stress. Take a moment to check out the resources available through your [Employee Assistance Program](#). We really can help.

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**Staying In The Green. UNT World Well-Being.**

**Upcoming well-being opportunities from In The Green.**

*Follow us on Twitter: [@UNTWorld](https://twitter.com/UNTWorld). Visit our website: wellbeing.untsystem.edu*

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Put Your Debt on a Diet</td>
<td>Nov. 6 at noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talking to Your Kids About Internet Safety &amp; Cyberbullying</td>
<td>Nov. 10 at 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Making Financial Gifts to Loved Ones and Charities</td>
<td>Nov. 10 at 11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>When Income Decreases ... But the Bills Don’t</td>
<td>Nov. 10 at noon</td>
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<td>Money at Work: Investing</td>
<td>Nov. 10 at 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>The Power of Saving</td>
<td>Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Kicking the Habit: Tobacco Free for Me</td>
<td>Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Retiring in the &quot;New Normal&quot; -- Saving</td>
<td>Nov. 12 at 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>What is Naturally Slim</td>
<td>Nov. 12 at 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Tobacco Cessation Introduction to Quitting</td>
<td>Nov. 17 at 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Suicide Prevention Webinar</td>
<td>Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Healthy Holiday Mindset</td>
<td>Nov. 19 at 10 a.m.</td>
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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.