If you don't know Jack, well, you're missing out on a multifaceted and charismatic colleague whose legacy at UNT Dallas is forever cemented as the man who delivered intercollegiate athletics to southern Dallas. Hired more than five years ago, it took two school presidents, more than a few fits and starts, and immeasurable patience before the dream became reality -- The Trailblazers began competing in men's and women's basketball and cross country in the fall. "My friends called me Sisyphus, as it seemed I was pushing a rock uphill," Jack says. "But, we finally got it done and are now up and running."

Jack recently turned 80 and has the life stories to prove it. One was recently published as a first-person account in the Dallas Morning News: "I celebrated the most meaningful Christmas of my life as a soldier in Vietnam." But, one look at Jack's photo above, and it's clear he has lighter side. He started playing the drums at age 15 and formed a band -- The Nightcaps -- at 18, a group that recently was voted into the Dallas Songwriters Association Hall of Fame.

So, click the button and get to know Jack.

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

UNT WORLD MOURNS THE PASSING OF CAROLYN HANNA

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Carolyn Hanna, a valued UNT System employee for 25 years. Carolyn joined the Health Science Center Payroll team in 1996, and in 2011 transferred to the UNT System Payroll team, where she was promoted to Payroll Manager last August. Please keep Carolyn's family in your thoughts as they go through this difficult time -- she will be deeply missed. Those wishing to pay tribute to Carolyn are encouraged to make a donation in
The Payroll team is creating a book for the family containing memories from her colleagues. If you would like to share a memory and pictures, please email Katie.Scoles@untsystem.edu by Friday, Feb. 5. Any colleagues who feel overwhelmed by grief may visit with counselors through our Employee Assistance Program.

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

EXPERT: Charlotte Russell, Chief Information Security Officer & Sr. Director of Management and Risk Services

EXPERTISE: Information Security and IT Compliance

Today is Data Privacy Day, so what better time to talk about protecting your identity and shielding yourself from online fraud? And, there's no one better to consult than Charlotte, who has worked for more than 25 years in information technology and has spent most of that time working in information security. Online fraud, scams and phishing attempts are prevalent, and especially so during COVID-19. In fact, UNT System has been dealing with attempts at unemployment benefits fraud using the identities of our employees. It's crucial that you take the proper steps to protect your data -- whether it's your personal information or work-related information. Click the button and let Charlotte show you how. #PrivacyAware

UNT announces organization changes to strengthen efficiency, service

Guided by stakeholder input across UNT World, this week we announced organization changes in Human Resources and Procurement that go into effect on Feb. 1. The HR realignment will better serve our institutions with a renewed focus on providing services specifically tailored to the unique needs of each campus. The Procurement restructure is designed to modernize processes and streamline functionality across our campuses and UNT System headquarters in order to create sustainable efficiencies.
HIGH FIVE: Mean Green team member hits double jackpot in big week
We should all experience the rewarding week that Ryan Peck (photo: right) just had. He earned a promotion in the UNT Athletics Department, taking on the title of Deputy Athletics Director for External Affairs. Since his arrival at UNT in 2016, Peck’s leadership has helped to deliver 12 of the 20 largest gifts in athletics history and set numerous fundraising and attendance records. Such success has also earned him recognition on the distinguished list of Silver Waves Media Top Assistant Athletic Directors. Yep, that’s some week. Congratulations, Ryan!

If you’d like to give a HIGH FIVE to a UNT World member, email communications@untsystem.

HIGH FIVE: These 2 professors are 1-percenters
Respect: UNT College of Science professors Shengqian Ma (left), Welch Chair of Chemistry, and Richard Dixon, a world-renowned plant scientist, were recently listed among the top 1% of researchers in their field to be cited by other researchers, according to Clarivate Analytics. Ma and Dixon are testaments to the caliber of the research faculty who have cemented UNT as a Tier One Research Institute. To find out how many thousands of times these men have been cited, CLICK HERE. Caution: It might blow your mind.

HR UPDATE

Enhancements have been made to TexFlex spending accounts. Learn how they affect you.

Whether working on campus, in the office or at home, get up, stand up and take a break! Helpful tips to help you break free from your desk -- even if it's for just 5 minutes.

You've seen the Cortana "Your daily briefing" email in your inbox. We let you know why it's such a bright idea and how it can help you plan and organize.

If you haven't signed up for the 2021 Get Fit Texas Challenge, it's not too late. Register today and compete against other state agencies.

Early detection is the best medicine to help you find undiagnosed medical problems. Take advantage of HealthSelect's preventive screenings.
COVID-19 INFORMATION: All ERS health plans fully cover vaccination
The Employee's Retirement System of Texas encourages everyone to get vaccinated as soon as it made available to you. For information on when and where you can get a COVID-19 vaccination, contact your health plan, primary care provider, other health care provider or the county links below. You may register to receive the vaccine in any county, not just the one you live in. The Texas Department of State Health Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have more information.

- Collin County
- Dallas County
- Denton County
- Tarrant County
- Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations
- OptumRx Prescription Drug Program Vaccine and General COVID-19 Information
- Avoid COVID-19 Vaccination Scams

Staying In The Green. UNT World Well-Being.

Upcoming well-being opportunities from In The Green.
Follow us on Twitter: @UNTWorld. Visit our website: wellbeing.untsystem.edu

Video: Emergency Savings
Jan. 29 at 11 -- 11:30 a.m.

Building Savings: Ready for the Road Ahead
Jan. 29 at 4 -- 4:30 p.m.

For Kids! Making Sense - Eating Out vs. At Home
Feb. 1 at 4:30 -- 4:45 p.m.

Video: The Basics of Budgeting
Feb. 3 at 11:30 a.m. -- noon

For Kids! Making cents - Saving Over Time
Feb. 5 at 5:30 -- 5:45 p.m.

Video: Enroll in Texa$aver
Feb. 8 at 11:30 -- 11:45 a.m.

Ask Fidelity: Identify and Prioritize Savings Goals
Feb. 9 at 1 -- 2 p.m.

Aproveche Los Ahorros Fiscales Adicionales Para Quines Más Lo Necesitan
Feb. 9 at 6 -- 6:30 p.m.

Video: 5 Questions to Ask Before Investing
Feb. 11 at 11:30 -- 11:45 a.m.

Money at Work: Investing
Feb. 16 at 2 -- 2:30 p.m.

Lifetime Income: Secure Your Retirement
Feb. 17 at 11 -- 11:30 a.m.

Inside Money: Income and Debt
Feb. 17 at 2 -- 2:30 p.m.
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.