When Susan Ross visited a friend in Texas in the spring of 1989 from still-snowy Detroit, Mich., she enjoyed the sunny, warm weather so much she got to thinking about relocating. A return trip during hot, humid August did nothing to dissuade her, and soon she moved to North Texas and never looked back. Same as when she joined HSC in August 2001 as executive associate to the senior vice president for finance and administration. By October 2013, she assumed her role in the Office of the President and became Chief of Staff in 2017. And now, as she approaches her 20th anniversary, she’s calling it a career. Her final day at HSC is June 30. Over two decades, Ross has played key roles in helping HSC grow its physical campus, its stature and its impact in Fort Worth, Tarrant County and beyond. With a foodie's palate and an adventurer's spirit, you'll find her discovering new restaurants and exploring far-off trails -- and hopefully soon, that Alaska cruise that the pandemic postponed. Happy retirement! Please click the button to read more about Susan, her career and what comes next.

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

As Pride Month winds down, our experts examine how their UNT institutions have expanded LGBTQ+ inclusiveness and affirmation, evolving societal views, the biggest issues facing the LGBTQ+ communities on our campuses and workplaces, and more. Join the discussion by clicking the button.
ON THE AIR: *The Deep Side of Dallas* Pride episode explores Texas man’s fight for marriage equality

*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 the City of Dallas. In the latest episode, available now, co-hosts Paul Corliss, UNT System Chief Communications Officer, and DMN editor Rudy Bush, welcome guest Mark Phariss (left in photo), who along with his husband Vic Holmes, a professor at HSC’s School of Health Professions, signed on in 2013 as the lead plaintiffs in the fight to legalize same sex marriage in Texas. Phariss speaks about his journey from a child who wished he would die in his sleep, to his life as a closeted gay man, to his decision to become a face in the fight for marriage equality.

HIGH FIVE: UNT prof selected for EPA’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

Dr. Alexandra Ponette-González is one of seven environmental experts recently selected for membership of the EPA’s Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. Ponette-González, an associate professor in UNT’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Department of Geography and the Environment, was selected from a pool of 100 candidates. Earlier this month, UNT touted Dr. Ponette-González’s ecosystems research that reveals a diverse community of organisms and non-living materials in a single rain drop that could have major implications for understanding how ecosystems work. Congrats on your appointment to the advisory committee, Dr. Ponette-González!

HIGH FIVE: UNT gains designation as Texas Mother-Friendly Worksite

Named a Texas Mother-Friendly Worksite by the Texas Department of State Health Services, UNT is now part of a group of 3,100 worksites across the state that support breastfeeding employees by providing privacy and flexibility to express and store breastmilk. Spearheaded by UNT HR Executive Director Katy McDaniel, achieving the designation was a collaborative effort of multiple departments across the UNT campus from designing facility renovations to supervisors and employees working together to allow for scheduling of lactation breaks. This nationally recognized designation demonstrates to current and prospective employees the value that the university places on overall employee wellbeing, a key element toward becoming a best place to work.

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.

WHAT IS -- AND ISN'T -- A UNT WORLD BENEFITS WEBINAR: When you receive email invitations to benefits webinars on retirement, social security, savings plans and more, know how to make sure it's a UNT World webinar and not an imposter.
READY FOR SUMMER BENEFITS ENROLLMENT?: The ERS Summer Enrollment period starts soon. Get prepared by visiting our HR Benefits Summer Enrollment page and watch the video above for all the information you need to know.

ON THE AIR: UNT AD Wren Baker has had his successes, but he’s hardly satisfied
Did you miss our latest episode of the We Are North Texas podcast featuring UNT Director of Athletics Wren Baker? During his five years at the helm, Baker has guided a program that is accelerating at all levels and is poised for a bright future. The AD, however, isn’t satisfied. Hear what Baker has to say about the state of UNT athletics, and listen to all of our episodes here.

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Follow us on Twitter and Facebook; Visit our website

On-Demand: Employee Assistance Program Orientation Video available anytime
On-Demand: Planning Your Social Security Retirement Age Video available anytime
The Great Outdoors with Rodney Franklin June 24 from 1 - 2 p.m.

Alzheimer's Dementia Family Care Partner Training July 1 from 11 a.m. - noon
Alzheimer's Dementia Family Care Partner Training July 8 from 11 a.m. - noon
Alzheimer's Dementia Family Care Partner Training July 15 from 11 a.m. - noon

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.