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

If you're a faculty or staff member at UNT, chances are you know Yumia -- Mia -- Hobbs pretty well, especially after these last 16 months of teaching and working through a pandemic. A graduate of the Mayborn School of Journalism, Mia's UNT career started as a student, and now she manages the CLEAR Faculty Helpdesk. CLEAR stands for Center for Learning, Experimentation, Application, and Research, and the helpdesk provides technical support for UNT faculty and staff for UNT's Canvas learning management system. Talk about a job requiring a calm voice and long-lasting patience. She's a music fan who, pre-pandemic, fashioned vacations by hopping in a car and chasing down music festivals. Hopefully, Mia's good times will roll again this summer. Learn more about Mia by clicking the button.

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

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

EXPERT: James Kennedy, Ph.D., UNT Regents Professor & Director of the Elm Fork Education Center and Natural Heritage Museum; specialization in ecology of benthic invertebrates and ecotoxicology

There's mosquitoes on the river, as the song goes, but there's also mosquitoes in my backyard, my front yard, in fact, everywhere I go -- mosquitoes! Is there anything to do during these hot and humid months to mitigate those little bloodsuckers? Glad you asked. Dr. James Kennedy of UNT's Department of Biological Sciences is here to help us make it through summertime without Texas' most annoying pest driving us insane. Click for an education in mosquitoes.
Chancellor Lesa Roe announces plan to retire in March 2022 after more than four years at UNT System

In case you missed it, Chancellor Lesa Roe earlier this week sent a letter to UNT World employees to announce her plan to retire after more than four years at the UNT System and 33 years as an engineer and executive at NASA. "It has been a great privilege to work with each of you while leading the UNT System in service to our students, the Dallas-Fort Worth region and the great state of Texas," Chancellor Roe wrote. "Thank you for embracing me – I’m very proud of all that we have accomplished together, and I look forward to following the UNT System’s continued progress and cheering you on from the sidelines next year."

HIGH FIVE: TCOM faculty member lands coveted fellowship with the CDC

Dr. Didi Ebert, an Associate Professor in Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, is headed to the Centers for Disease Control after landing the highly coveted Population Health Training-in Place Program Fellowship. The yearlong fellowship, which starts this month, provides formal training in policy analysis and development as well as program evaluation. A 2007 TCOM grad, Dr. Ebert's passion focuses on closing the gap on racial, ethnic and social disparities in health care. "This fellowship is going to give me a skillset that I can evaluate and lead program development around the whole health model for our primary care team," Dr. Ebert said. "I want our team to innovate and lead, using the osteopathic whole health model to create personalized health plans."

HIGH FIVE: UNT College of Music faculty member receives Fulbright Award

Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano Dave Meder has been offered The Fulbright Program U.S. Scholar Award for Visual and Performing Arts. This award will take him to Cairo, Egypt, to teach at the Cairo Conservatoire. Meder, a pianist, composer and educator, has made a name for himself as one of the prominent artists of his generation. His latest release, Passage (2019), is described as "a dynamically interactive piano-trio outing with appearances by generation-defining saxophonists Chris Potter and Miguel Zenón."

UBSC writer goes global by winning the CASE Award’s Best Article of the Year

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the global nonprofit association dedicated to educational advancement, has spoken -- and Erin Cristales of UNT’s University Brand Strategy and Communications (UBSC) has won the 2021 Platinum Award for Best Article of the Year for her long-form feature, "The Past as a Present."

Published in the June 2020 edition of the North Texan, the article tracks the public history research seminar of two professors in UNT's Department of History into a disappeared freedmen's community in Pilot Point, and how it inspired a UNT graduate student to carry that research even deeper. The judges described her article as taking "us on a surprising journey that demonstrated this program’s commitment to a timely and important topic – a history of racial violence and intimidation in Denton County that had long been ignored. The
narrative was immersive, challenging, and made us want to learn more." Her piece was chosen from more than 300 entries from multiple countries.

**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.

**SUMMER BENEFITS ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR UNT:** The summer enrollment period for making changes to benefit elections — insurance, disability, TexFlex — is now open for UNT employees through July 10. For UNT System, HSC and UNT Dallas employees, enrollment runs from July 5 - 17. Be prepared by visiting our HR Benefits Summer Enrollment page.

**ON THE AIR:** Deep Side closed Pride Month with 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. If you missed our latest episode, co-hosts Paul Corliss, UNT System Chief Communications Officer, and DMN editor Rudy Bush, spoke with Mark Phariss, 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.

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

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On-Demand: Employee Assistance Program Orientation

*Video available anytime*

On-Demand: Planning Your Social Security Retirement Age

*Video available anytime*

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.