Born in England and raised in Germany and Italy, Dr. Heap learned a thing or two about making homemade gnocchi and Italian motorcycles. But wherever she's lived, including just 10 years in the United States (not yet three in North Texas), above all she's a people-person, motivated to serve others and make their lives easier. That's exactly what she does at the Center for Learning, Experimentation, Application and Research (CLEAR). Never was it more apparent than during the early stages of the pandemic when demand for developing online courses for scrambling faculty tripled and making those courses accessible for all was of urgent importance. Along those lines, her proudest work moments will warm your heart and make you happy she's on our team. So, click below and get to know Dr. Heap (including her favorite headbanging bands).

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: Ko Maeda, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Graduate Placement Director in UNT’s Department of Political Science, is a Japanese citizen and holds permanent residence in the United States. The Tokyo Olympics is underway after being postponed one year due to COVID-19. Yet, as the Games go on, COVID is again surging through Japan and much of the world, the Olympic athletes are restricted to operating in a bubble, fans are prohibited from attending the competitions and the city faces significant financial shortfalls after spending billions to host the Games. Dr. Maeda takes us behind the scenes to examine how the Japanese public feels about these Games, why the Japanese government was adamant that the Games must go on and what the future holds for future Games in the country.
HIGH FIVE ALUMNI FACULTY EDITION: Professor of Music gains top Texas honor

Professor Emeritus Dennis Fisher, a faculty member from 1983 - 2019, was inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame during the recent TBA conference. This is the highest honor granted by the organization. He was formerly the Conductor of the Symphonic Band, Associate Director of Wind Studies and Professor of Music in Conducting and Ensembles. Fisher has conducted extensively and lectured in 32 states along with international appearances in Thailand, Japan, China, Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, Canada, Greece, Brazil, Cuba and Russia. He was appointed principal guest conductor of the Volga Band, Professional Wind Band in Saratov, Russia, and has served in that capacity continuously since 2006.

HIGH FIVE: UNT professor's research could be disease-diagnosing game changer

Guido Verbeck, Ph.D., and his team in the Department of Chemistry are conducting mind-blowing research, developing sensors that can detect chemical weapons, seek out respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 -- including creating a rapid COVID breathalyzer test -- as well as detect early-stage cancer markers, all areas that can make us humans breathe a little easier. Dr. Verbeck's research was recently featured in an article in Dallas Innovates, which included him in its 2021 Future 50 Dallas-Fort Worth. Check out the article for an in-depth look at Dr. Verbeck's fascinating 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.

ONE BRIDGE FOR ALL: Last week we informed you that UNT's Business Operations Training team is streamlining the Bridge learning management system. Now, UNT System, UNT and UNT Dallas have merged their learning management systems under one Bridge portal where you will find a library with a large assortment of courses available to everyone with the ability to choose courses specific to your workplace. Users of the UNT Health Science Center's Bridge learning management system (LearnHSC), you'll continue to use it. However, you'll log in to just one portal with no need to use multiple platforms to locate HR training. The LearnHSC Bridge will not merge into UNT Bridge platform. For more information, please visit our Merged UNT Bridge | UNT World Learning web page.

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 Dallas and North Texas. In our latest episode, co-hosts Paul Corliss, UNT System
Chief Communications Officer, and DMN editor Rudy Bush, explore how live music all but died during the pandemic, retreating to social media or small gatherings. Dallas music promotor Josh Smith joined the podcast to talk about bringing the music back and discuss his pandemic side project – a 21,000-member Facebook group, DFW Corona Connection, aimed at delivering factual information about the virus and real debate about the response. The Deep Side of Dallas podcast is available on Spotify and Apple podcast platforms.

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

**Upcoming well-being opportunities from UNT World HR.**

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- **Fitness Connect Community Meet up: Getting Comfortable with being uncomfortable**
  - **Aug. 3, 10 - 11 a.m.**

- **Personal and Professional Resilience**
  - **Aug. 6, 2 - 3 p.m.**

- **Grief, Loss and Renewal**
  - **Aug. 12, 10 - 11 a.m.**

- **Mental Health Awareness**
  - **Aug. 17, 2 - 3 p.m.**

- **Finding Balance**
  - **Aug. 25, 2 - 3 p.m.**

- **Handling Your High-Stress Job**
  - **Aug. 31, 2 p.m.**

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### We Are North Texas. Campus News.

Click our member institutions' logos for the latest news:

- [UNT](#)
- [hsc](#)
- [UNT Dallas](#)

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If you have an HR question or topic you'd like covered in the newsletter, please email [HR@untsystem.edu](mailto:HR@untsystem.edu).

Miss an issue of HR Highlights? [CLICK HERE](#) to catch up.