When Angie says she’s seen it all at UNT Dallas over the last 15 years, she means it. As the Executive Assistant to UNT Dallas President Bob Mong, she truly has been involved in so much of the behind-the-scenes action as the university has bloomed from a branch of UNT to an independent and beautiful campus university with an enrollment topping 4,100. While she admits to having a number of favorite TV shows, when she talks about her love for the A-Team, she’s not referencing Mr. T. Angie created UNT Dallas’ A-Team to bring together those in all manner of administrative positions. Angie is UNT Dallas through-and-through as she’s married to Tony Castillo, who works in the university's Office of Facilities. Click below to discover why they stand in awe of their 10-year-old son, and the hobby that preserves her family's memories forever.

If you’d like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email communications@untsystem.edu.
HIGH FIVE: Biomedical engineering professor honored for progressive research

Brian Meckes, Ph.D., UNT biomedical engineering assistant professor, received the 2021 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from Oak Ridge Associated Universities for his research toward making pharmaceuticals that treat diseases like cancer more effective. Meckes and his research team are exploring better ways of delivering nanoparticle therapeutics to targeted cells by taking advantage of changes in the cell membrane that occur in diseased cells. They are using nanolithography — the process of creating patterns on the nanoscale to create incredibly small structures — and other tools to study these interactions. They hope by studying these nanoparticle therapies that they’ll be able to help find better treatments for conditions such as cancer, osteoarthritis or fibrogenesis. Congrats, Dr. Meckes!

IN THE NEWS: HSC’s Alzheimer’s study offers hope for diverse racial groups

This first-of-its-kind research into the biological differences that put African Americans at greater risk of Alzheimer’s disease received spotlight treatment recently from The Dallas Morning News. The article features Donna Clemons, an African American woman who is participating in the study, which seeks 1,000 African Americans to participate and help researchers like Sid O’Bryant (pictured), the head of the study, determine the disease’s risk factors. Clemons decided to join the study after watching her mother’s cognitive decline three years ago. “For me,” she told the DMN, "to be a part of research where I can have the power to change the future -- that’s a game-changer."

HIGH FIVE: UNTS communications & marketing team earns prestigious awards

The University of North Texas System’s Office of Communications & Marketing won 10 prestigious Hermes Creative Awards for excellence in marketing and communications, including two Platinum and four Gold honors. Of 6,500 Hermes entries in 2021, just 17 percent won Platinum awards and only 20 percent won Gold honors. The Hermes Creative Awards program is administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP).

UNT System Hermès Creative Awards
PLATINUM: UNT System Organizational Logo Redesign (pictured) | HR Highlights Newsletter
GOLD: We Are North Texas Podcast (full series) | Chancellor’s Annual Report | UNT System Headquarters Building Rebrand | Black History Month Video Series

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.

COVID-19 AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY: The best way to ensure your personal safety with regard to COVID-19 is to obtain a full course of vaccination. Vaccinations have been found to drastically reduce the chance of experiencing severe impacts from COVID-19 and minimize transmission of the disease. You’ll find vaccine options at local pharmacies and other locations. UNT World employees should follow your campus’ guidelines in interacting with students, coworkers and the public. All employees are permitted to make decisions about the use of personal protective measures, as long as those decisions are not
imposed on others. For example, we encourage everyone, especially those who are not vaccinated, to wear masks in accordance with new CDC guidance.

**KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR URGENT CARE? IT COULD COST YOU:** If you’ve ever felt that you or a family needed immediate health care, did you ponder where is the best place to go: an emergency room, a physician’s office or maybe an urgent-care center? In Texas, this question can be particularly confusing because of the state’s many free-standing emergency rooms and urgent-care centers. Do you know the difference between the two? You should or it could cost you. We break down the differences between the two and give you the info you need to make an informed decision about where to seek care for yourself and your family.

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- **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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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.