

# HR HIGHLIGHTS

SERVING. EMPOWERING. TRANSFORMING.



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



## FACULTY & STAFF

# Spotlight

### DR. IFTEKHAR AMIN

Associate Professor  
Department of Counseling and Human Services  
**UNT Dallas**

Over his 10 years at UNT Dallas, Dr. Iftekhar Amin has seen the university's rapid growth while teaching Applied Gerontology and Human Services Management and Leadership (HSML) courses. He works closely with organizations that serve the Greater Dallas geriatric population. When he's not teaching and working in the community, the husband of UNT Dallas Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Syeda Jesmin, and the father of one daughter, enjoys gardening and growing vegetables.

### Q&A

#### What is your favorite aspect of your job ?

At UNT Dallas, I have the privilege to positively influence students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is highly rewarding to see our minority and first-generation college students with their families on graduation day, and see them grow professionally.

#### What employee benefit or activity would you like to see added to UNT World?

More opportunity to learn and more professional training.

#### What is your proudest work moment?

In 2008, I got my first job as assistant professor at University of Louisiana at Monroe. I was awarded the Endowed Professorship of Gerontology for three years and later was appointed as a member of the Louisiana Governor's Encore Commission. This afforded me opportunities to engage in research, while gaining exposure to the major aging-related agencies in the region. I am proud that I have ties with most aging-related agencies in the DFW area as well, and routinely receive invitations to serve on their boards.

#### What is your proudest non-work moment?

Limited in-person social interaction has created the opportunity for me to connect with friends and family members from different parts of the world.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE...

**Movie?:** *The Godfather* and *Forrest Gump*

**Places to visit?:** Guadalajara, Mexico; Turrialba, Costa Rica; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Bern, Switzerland

**Hobbies?:** Gardening, traveling, cooking and watching movies

If you'd like to nominate a faculty or staff member to spotlight, please email [communications@untsystem.edu](mailto:communications@untsystem.edu).

# This Just In! News, Notes & Resources



## HIGH FIVE: UNT's Biological Conservation Program led by Dr. Ricardo Rozzi Earns International Top Prize

Big news came down this week from South America as UNT's [Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program](#) (SBCP) led by Director and founder Dr. Ricardo Rozzi has won the Strait of Magellan Award. The program was nominated by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of Magellan's discovery and recognize innovation in scientific research. The SBCP's innovation is titled, "Ecotourism with a Hand Lens in the Omora Park." The SBCP aims to approach conservation by coupling the social and ecological dynamics within policy making in Chile's UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve at the southern tip of South America. [Watch Dr. Rozzi in this Southern Network TV interview](#) about the Strait of Magellan Award (spoiler alert: the interview is conducted in Spanish).



## Do You Binge Watch?: UNT's Dr. Sanjukta Bhowmick's Work Will Keep You Glued

If you're a binge TV watcher, avid online shopper or love you some social media, then UNT [Department of Computer Science and Engineering](#) Associate Professor Sanjukta Bhowmick's research should get a big "like" from you. She received a new \$320,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop theoretical foundations and software to more effectively analyze large multilayer networks like those used by Netflix, Amazon and Facebook to determine user recommendations. Yes, this is complex stuff, so please [READ MORE](#) about her research.



## HIGH FIVE: HSC's Dr. Janice Knebl Honored with Award of Excellence

We love nothing more than making meaningful connections within our communities, and Dr. Janice Knebl of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine at HSC has been acknowledged for her efforts. She was honored with the 2020 Excellence in Research and Education award by the James L. West Center in Fort Worth, a provider of specialized and life-enhancing Alzheimer's care. UNT World salutes Dr. Knebl for the work she is doing to meet the needs of older adults in Tarrant County and beyond.



## Hispanic Heritage Month 2020 Brought Insight into Many UNT World Employees

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, which came to a close last week, UNT World celebrated its many Hispanic employees with an insightful video series. In each video, faculty and staff at UNT, UNT Dallas, UNT Health Science Center and UNT System, shared what Hispanic culture means to them. If you missed any of these videos, please take a moment and [watch them here](#).

## Time Is Running Out to Contribute to a Worthy Cause at a Difficult Time

Less than two weeks remain to make a collective difference in our communities through the [State Employee Charitable Campaign](#) (SECC). The deadline to give is Oct. 31. To donate online, [click here](#) and follow the easy, step-by-step

instructions. Please note that one of the SECC's included charities is the [University of North Texas Foundation](#), which is [searchable on the SECC website](#) and has been assigned the code 286014.

### **REMINDER: Maximize Your Knowledge of Microsoft Teams with Weekly Training**

Desk telephones are so yesterday. UNT World is transitioning to Microsoft Teams for all your communications needs. To take full advantage of this technology, join us every Thursday from 9:30 -- 10:30 a.m. for Teams 101 virtual workshops for all UNT World employees. Each week, training will focus on getting the most out of Teams in the areas of productivity, better meetings, accessibility and all the basics. All skill levels are encouraged to participate. For easy instructions to access these live online workshops, please [click here](#).

### **Gallup Survey Drops in Your InBox on Oct. 26; You'll Have Faster Access to Results**

The Gallup Q12 Engagement Survey will appear in your inbox on Monday, Oct. 26, with the subject line "[EXT] You're Invited to Participate." You will have until Nov. 6 to complete this important, 5-minute survey. Everyone will have a unique link to the survey so please do not forward the link to anyone. New this year is faster access to results through the new Gallup Portal. The Office of Organizational Development & Engagement (ODE) has set up informational sessions to learn more about the new platform. Catch one of these helpful sessions: [Nov. 20 from 2 -- 3 p.m. \(Zoom\)](#); [Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. -- noon \(Zoom\)](#); [Dec. 1 from 2 -- 3 p.m. \(Zoom\)](#). For questions about enrolling, contact [ode@untsystem.edu](mailto:ode@untsystem.edu).

### **Your Employee Assistance Program is Here to Help -- In More Ways Than One**

We know it's not always easy trying to maintain a work-life balance during this time that for many includes the additional challenge of remote working and/or virtual learning with kids at home. [Please check out these tips and resources](#) that might provide a different approach to working solutions.



## **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](http://wellbeing.untsystem.edu)

**Dealing with Difficult Employee Behavior**  
[October 23 \(last day to view\) - CLICK FOR WEBINAR DETAIL](#)

**Effective Listening**  
[October 23 \(last day to view\) - CLICK FOR WEBINAR DETAIL](#)

**HealthSelect Medicare Advantage Plan Q&A**  
[October 26 at 1 p.m. - CLICK FOR WEBINAR DETAIL](#)

**Parenting in the 21st Century (webinar)**  
[October 28 \(available through Nov. 30\) - CLICK FOR WEBINAR DETAIL](#)



## **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](mailto:HR@untsystem.edu).*



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