

NEW MEMBER PROFILES



URBAN MANAGEMENT ASSISTANTS OF NORTH TEXAS



Name: Misty Simmons

City/Entity: University of North Texas

Title: MPA Student

What led you to this career?

I'd say a bit of fate and irony. I saw an Assistant City Manager position open this past year and as I looked at the job description, I noticed that I had already done a lot of similar duties in previous positions. I knew they were looking for a "servant leader" which that hooked me. I've always wanted to help others and have tried to serve others to the best of my ability. When leading, I feel it is best to lead by example, and to work alongside others as part of the team. Regarding that posting, I knew I wasn't quite qualified yet, but I decided to reach out to a number of area city managers to have some informational interviews. Nearly

all responded back that same day and were wonderfully nice and helpful. Also almost every one suggested I look into UMANT. I immediately looked up UMANT and found that the very next day was a meeting (this past May). I registered and went. Meeting city managers one on one at the meeting and afterwards was confirmation that this would be a perfect career to help others in a meaningful way

What's one thing that surprised you about working in local government?

As I have yet to work in local government (I have worked for the state), I can only speculate. However, I did learn at the UMANT meeting that some of the biggest challenges facing city managers are working with city council, and handling budgetary issues, especially since a large portion of the budget tends to be allocated to infrastructure as well as police and fire departments. I know budgeting is a delicate undertaking, and working as a mediator between people and departments is as well. I look forward to learning what surprised others and how they have adapted. Gaining the wisdom others have faced in local government challenges will only help in embarking on this path.

So far, what's your proudest accomplishment in 2019?

Related to this career, it would be having started on this career path and registering for the UNT MPA program to start this fall. Unrelated to this career, it would be that I finished writing my first novel and am working on trying to get it published.

What are you currently watching on Netflix?

Nothing currently at the moment, but I did just finish watching Stranger Things season 3 and Blown Away. Blown Away is about glass blowing, and is great to see how they make things and the final result of their artistry.

What energizes you outside of work?

I'm a doer, so working on projects or doing activities. I don't like to be idle. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Trying or learning new things. Being active.

What's one thing most people don't know about you?

Things I used to do, namely my creative side. I used to be a forensic scientist (DNA). I used to be an actor and do improv comedy. I write fiction on the side.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Funny you should ask. Having been in acting, I was good at figuring out casting roles. As far as who looks most like me: Lucia Moniz, Flora Spencer-Longhurst or Gena Carano. As far as personality, maybe Gal Gadot, Sandra Bullock or Drew Barrymore.

If you could be any animal, which would you be and why?

Definitely a bird. Probably a falcon, hawk, condor or eagle. Majestic creatures that could travel and see the world from high.

If you could snap your fingers and become an expert in something, what would it be?

Playing guitar.

What question should we have asked? What's the answer?

How would people that know you describe you?

Personable with a happy disposition. Always willing to help others. A problem solver. Someone eager to take on challenges. A trusted friend.