

DISCOVERY DIGEST

A CAMPUS RESEARCH RESOURCE

JULY 2025

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Museum specimens offer new lens on pollution history

A new study highlights a surprising lens for tracking pollution trends over centuries: preserved plants and animals housed at natural history museums around the world. According to UTA's [Shane DuBay](#), these specimens contain valuable environmental data that can help scientists reconstruct pollution trends spanning more than 200 years. [The Dallas Morning News](#), [MSN.com](#), [The Eagle-Tribune](#), [TheDerrick.com](#), [Inside Climate News](#), [The Daily Gazette](#), and [Patch.com](#) reported on the story.

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UTA trio among inaugural HSRU Postdoctoral Fellowship Program cohort

The [Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities](#) (HSRU) is launching its inaugural Postdoctoral Fellowship Program with a [cohort of 31 fellows](#) from 15 HSRU member institutions. Three of the fellows are from UTA.

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UTA sociology professor, Kelly Bergstrand, interviewed about social movements

UTA sociology Associate Professor Kelly Bergstrand told the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) that social movements expressed through protests take time to gain momentum and influence. Later shared by the [Tyler Morning Telegraph](#), [Hartford Courant](#), [Denver Gazette](#), [Canon City Daily Record](#), [Killeen Daily Herald](#), [Longview News-Journal](#), and [Yahoo! News](#).

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Information Items



NIH Mandates Disclosure of Gain-of-Function Research by June 30th

NIH [requires notification](#) by June 30th of any ongoing gain-of-function (GoF) research (regardless of funding source or status). GoF is [defined](#) as research on an infectious agent or toxin with the potential to cause disease by enhancing its pathogenicity or increasing its transmissibility. Contact regulatoryservices@uta.edu for questions or to report applicable activities. [Read more](#)



National Science Foundation Required Annual Certification

Effective June 7, 2025, all PIs/co-PIs on NSF awards (from May 20, 2024) must annually certify in Research.gov that they are not part of a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program. Only one certification is needed per year. Those in such programs are ineligible for NSF awards and proposals. Faculty can proactively complete the certification by signing into [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov/).



Join DRA Teams channel

Join the Teams channel for Departmental Research Administrators (DRAs) and get the latest information from each other and Pre- and Post-Award staff. The group meets virtually every other month to discuss best practices. Contact [Elissa Williams](#) to be added to the Teams channel for DRAs.



Find Research Funding

Looking for [research funding](#)? UTA's Grant and Contract Services offers tools to help faculty and staff discover funding opportunities, including [custom Pivot-RP searches](#), [limited submissions](#), and [agency-specific programs](#). Contact preaward@uta.edu for help with your search and turn your research ideas into funded projects!



Center for Proposal Development Awards

The [NSF Faculty Early Career Development \(CAREER\) Program](#) submission deadline is July 23, 2025, by 5 p.m. CST.

The Center for Proposal Development's Grant Proposal Specialists are available to develop, review, edit, and provide tailored feedback to help ensure your submission is successful. If you plan to apply for the 2025 CAREER Award, we encourage you to submit a [Grant Proposal Request Form](#) or reach out to the [proposal development staff](#) for support. [View additional award updates](#)

Upcoming Training and Events

Tuesday, July 8, 1 p.m.

July DRA Meeting

Calling all Departmental Research Administrators (DRAs)! Join us for our next virtual meeting and bring your questions, challenges, and insights to the table. Contact [Elissa Williams](#) to be added to the DRA meeting.

Friday, July 11, 11 a.m.

NSF Division of Materials Research Open Hour

Join Germano Iannacchione, director of the U.S. National Science Foundation Division of Materials Research (NSF DMR), and NSF DMR program directors, for our monthly virtual office hour and Q&A session. July's "Open Hour" will focus on the [NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program \(CAREER\)](#) solicitation.

[Registration is required](#) to attend.

If you have an event to promote, submit it to the [UTA Events Calendar](#) and tag "Research."

Regulatory Updates

New Drone Legislation Takes Effect Dec. 22, 2025

New federal legislation impacting drone use will take effect on December 22, 2025. UTA has launched a webpage to help researchers understand and comply with these changes. Visit the site for key guidance and regulatory updates: [Learn more](#)

Accelerated Implementation of NIH Public Access Policy

The NIH is expediting the implementation of its updated Public Access Policy. Originally set to take effect on December 31, 2025, the policy will now be enforced starting July 1, 2025. This update eliminates the previous 12-month embargo period, requiring that final peer-reviewed manuscripts resulting from NIH-funded research be submitted to PubMed Central and made publicly accessible immediately upon publication. This change aims to ensure rapid access to research findings for researchers, students, and the public.

Research Achievements



Champion for Care: UTA's Woo Earns State Honor

UTA Students Take on Public Policy in D.C.

Blown Away: Glass Art World Converges at UTA

Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? See how UTA can help [raise awareness](#) of your research.



Office of Vice President for
Research and Innovation

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