

DISCOVERY DIGEST

A CAMPUS RESEARCH RESOURCE

FEBRUARY 2025

Top Stories

INQUIRY



The Eureka Moment
The spark of inspiration behind major innovations can sometimes be surprising. UT Arlington researchers share the stories behind their breakthroughs.
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FACULTY ROUNDUP

The Washington Post

"Juneteenth should be celebrated to recognize the symbolic emancipation of African Americans from slavery. Let's celebrate it. But also realize it took much longer and much more than an order from a Union army general to end slavery in this country."
-W. Marvin Dulaney in "Why Juneteenth didn't actually end slavery in Texas" (June 19, 2024)



"When we look at cardiovascular health, Black women really stand out. No matter which metric you look at—incidence, prevalence, mortality—the disparity is there."
-Liao Yue in "Americans Don't Sleep Enough. The Long-Term Effects are Dire, Especially for Black People" (Jan. 29, 2024)



"Law enforcement agencies, often constrained by limited resources and prioritizing cases based on severity and direct impact, might not readily prioritize catfishing cases without substantial financial losses or physical harm."
-Fangzhou Wang "What is Catfishing and What Can You Do if You are Catfished?" (Jan. 20, 2024)



"This virus is a real threat to the global supply of chocolate. Ghana has lost more than 254 million cacao trees in recent years."
-Benito Chen-Charpentier in "Global Chocolate Supply Under 'Real Threat': From Rapidly Spreading Virus: Expert" (April 24, 2024)

POLITICO

"The brutality of the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, and the ruthlessness of the Israeli response, has made some observers wonder if this time, the severity of the violence will finally force Israelis and Palestinians to come up with a real and lasting solution to the conflict over Gaza."
-Brent Saskey in "Israel-Gaza Conflicts End Up the Same. Here's How This Could Be Different" (Nov. 7, 2023)

Newsweek

"This is exciting research because it adds another valuable piece of the puzzle to our understanding of why working memory varies between individuals."
-Matthew Robison in "Eye Change Reveals If Someone's Focused, Scientists Say" (April 24, 2024)



"There are two distinct ethical failures here. There's the failure to notify families, and then there's a failure to respect the wishes of the next of kin when they've gone through the trouble of soliciting those wishes."
-El Shupo in "Military Kept Hundreds of Organs After Performing Autopsies, Watchdog Says" (March 22, 2024)

yahoo!news

"Typically, [obituaries are] reported by newspaper staff and require news judgment: What, or who, would readers find interesting? That value judgment has driven who is considered worthy of an obituary for centuries. And for years, women's exclusion from the public sphere meant they rarely made the cut."
-Erika J. Pribanic-Smith in "Inequality in Life—and Death: Newspaper Obituaries Have Long Discriminated Against Women" (July 11, 2024)

The latest issue of the UTA research magazine [Inquiry](#) celebrates how UTA thrives as a hub of groundbreaking experimentation. Read about how your colleagues are improving lives, such as finding new connections to treat brain disorders, using plastic waste as an ingredient in new asphalt construction, and using state-of-the-art technologies to detect genetic anomalies



Join DRA Teams channel

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



Executive search underway

UTA is in the midst of [filling three executive positions](#) in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, UTA West campus, and at the UTA Research Institute. For detailed information on job descriptions and benefits information, please visit the [UTA Careers website](#).



Summer bootcamp for students

UTA students interested in public health informatics have until Apr. 18 to apply for a two-week program at UTA June 2-13 hosted by [Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics in Technology](#). Contact [Jitenga Knox](#) to learn more about the program that can lead to paid internships.



Free headshots available

UTA provides free headshots to faculty and staff. Visit the Marketing, Messaging, and Engagement [website to schedule a studio portrait](#). If you schedule an appointment, please show up at your allotted time to prevent delays for your colleagues.



Share your field research photos

Let UTA showcase your research in the field! [Email](#) photos of your work to be included in marketing materials and on the website. Your submissions help tell the story of the depth and breadth of research conducted by our students and faculty.



INQUIRY+

Research Newsletter

Introducing *Inquiry+* newsletter

UTA's office of research is introducing a monthly electronic newsletter that will help tell the story of our research endeavors. Campus researchers will receive the newsletter, but you are encouraged to invite interested partners to [sign up](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Training and Events

See more [events](#).

FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 12 P.M.

Research, Security, and You

Edward Gonzales, director of OIT research support, and Garrett Werner, research security manager, will present on the current security environment, including regulatory changes for federal grants and the burden this places on researchers. Best practices will be reviewed to help investigators meet their security responsibilities. Please [RSVP](#) by **Wed., Feb. 12**.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15, 12 P.M.

Apply for SURPINT by Feb. 15

Students have until Feb. 15 to apply for the [Summer Research Program in Integrative Physiology \(SURPINT\)](#), a paid, 10-week research program for students interested to learn what it's like to work in a laboratory. [Apply today](#).

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

Regulatory Updates

Updated responsibilities for researchers using animals

Researchers working with live animal vertebrates are responsible for adhering to the IACUC's [Policy](#) and [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOP\)](#). IACUC has revised several SOPs to add clarification and improve consistency regarding [animal transportation](#), [adoption](#), [anesthesia](#), [cage density](#), [appeals process](#), [screening for biologicals](#), [tumor scoring](#), [euthanasia](#), [pain and distress](#), and [training](#).

Researchers in the Media

Making research more accessible for those with disabilities

Researchers with disabilities, like UTA's Venu Varanasi, who has low vision, are helping make labs and fieldwork more accessible, reported the [Associated Press](#). The story was picked up by more than 150 news outlets, including [U.S. News and World Report](#), [ABC News](#), [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#), [Canadian National Post](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Minnesota Star Tribune](#), [The Denver Gazette](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [WTOP News](#), [Newsday](#), and the UK's [Independent](#).



Studying past hurricanes to mitigate future storm risks

[Research](#) led by UTA's Ricardo Sánchez-Murillo [analyzes past hurricane destruction](#) to help communities prepare for future storms. The story was shared by [MSN News](#), [Smart Water Magazine](#), [Science Daily](#), [Scienmag](#), [Phys.org](#), [Emerging Risks](#), [Environmental News Network](#), [Muser Press](#), and [Water Online](#).



Do you have research news that should be promoted to the media? Contact [Katherine Egan Bennett](#) to see how UTA can help [raise awareness](#) of your research. Promoting your research is important as some grant funders, journals, and collaborators see news stories as signs of the impact of your research on the community.



Office of Vice President for Research and Innovation

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