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Texas - Higher Education in the News

[UNT Researcher Works to Make Energy-Efficient Chips](#)

UNT.edu | University of North Texas News
(August 20, 2009)

In five years, charging your laptop or cell phone may take seconds and last for weeks before needing recharged. Saraju Mohanty, an assistant professor in computer science and engineering at the University of North Texas, is working to make the production and operation of electronic chips more energy efficient, which would increase battery life, reduce power consumption and lead to lower costs for consumers.

[UTSA Contributed \\$1.2 Billion to San Antonio Area Economy in 2008](#)

UTSA.edu | University of Texas at San Antonio News (August 19, 2009)

San Antonio and its adjacent communities became \$1.2 billion richer in 2008 because of contributions by The University of Texas at San Antonio. The finding was recently released in "UTSA's Economic Impact: 2008," a research study conducted by the Institute for Economic Development. Economic impacts include expenditures of students, faculty and staff; contributions from visitors to collegiate and

Higher Education in TX: Quick Facts

Number of Higher Education Institutions

Public 4-year: 42
Private nonprofit 4-year: 51
Public 2-year: 66
Private for-profit: 44
Total: 207

Bachelor's Degrees

Conferred: 88,741

Associate's Degrees

Conferred: 39,321

Total Enrollment: 1,188,727

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sporting events; operations, construction and capital expenditures; and the impact the IED has made in helping business owners improve and grow their companies. Lifetime productivity of the 4,600 UTSA students who graduated in 2008 alone is forecast to add another \$4.8 billion to state economic output as they apply their skills in the new knowledge economy.

[From Service to School: UNT Helping Veterans Transition](#)

UNT.edu | University of North Texas News
(August 12, 2009)

At universities across the nation, increasing numbers of these young veterans are enrolling in degree programs, and many veterans have begun to express the difficulty they have in transitioning from military life to starting college. At the UNT, the Veterans Center is helping the nation's service members by easing the transition. The Veterans Center will expand work already being done by UNT's Student Veterans Association, which, since Spring 2009, has helped veterans navigate the university's resources and deal with issues this population commonly experiences.

[Texas Tech Grants Bayer CropScience Exclusive License to Cotton Technology](#)

MyPlainView.com | Plainview Daily Herald (August 13, 2009)
Cory Chandler

Texas Tech University System Office of Technology Commercialization and Bayer CropScience have signed an exclusive licensing agreement to utilize a new cotton technology from the university's International Center for Excellence in Agricultural Genomics and Biotechnology. When fully developed and introgressed into commercial cotton seed lines, the technology is expected to have a significant positive impact on fiber properties.

[Opinion: Texas' Future Hinges on Closing Education Gap](#)

Statesman.com | Austin American-Statesman
(August 17, 2009)
Elliott Shapleigh, Texas State Senator

In July, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the state agency responsible for coordinating Texas' institutions of higher education, released a report showing that Hispanic enrollment at colleges and universities in Texas would need to almost double by 2015 to meet the state's higher education goals. Let us be clear: The future of Texas depends on our ability to educate the next generation — in particular, Hispanic children. And true leaders must understand that each day spent not facing the challenge of Murdock's prophesy is simply another day that Texas falls behind the rest of America.

[UT Gets Parkinson's Disease Research Grant](#)
TexMedCtr.TMC.edu | Texas Medical Center News
(August 14, 2009)

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston has received its first federal stimulus grant. The two-year grant will support efforts by researchers in the university's Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases to develop a therapeutic vaccine for Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease is an incurable brain disorder. Its symptoms include trembling, stiffness and problems with balance. An estimated one million Americans are diagnosed with the neurological disorder. Rowen Chang, Ph.D, professor of protein chemistry, believes he may be able to slow the progression of Parkinson's disease and possibly even prevent it by targeting a protein called alpha-synuclein that is associated with causing the disease.

[University of Texas at Dallas Program Explores the Future of Wireless Technology](#)
DallasNews.com | Dallas Morning News (August 10, 2009)
Robert Miller

We may already feel overwhelmed by the onrush of electronic communications, but the MobileLab is showing how pervasive it could become. The University of Texas at Dallas is looking toward the future as it adds a degree program this fall in emerging media and communications. The centerpiece of what they developed is a bicycle outfitted with a network that uses multiple wireless technologies to monitor the vital signs of an athlete. It streams the data (along with GPS information and much more) to the athlete's coach, who's able to track the rider's location and performance, compare the rider's performance with previous training sessions and deliver information, coaching and other feedback in the rider's ear through a cellphone connection.

[Analog Research Center Awards Funding](#)

UTDallas.edu | University of Texas at Dallas
(August 10, 2009)

The Texas Analog Center of Excellence at UT Dallas has awarded nearly \$3 million to Texas researchers to develop analog technology that enhances public safety and security.

[Prairie View A&M Scientist Raul Cuero Develops Breakthrough Technology to Prevent Skin Cancer](#)

KBTX.com | KBTX TV News (August 5, 2009)
Bryce Kennard

Prairie View A&M University scientist Raul C. Cuero is one step closer to finding a prevention agent for human skin cancer. Cuero, a research scientist in the PVAMU College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, used funding from NASA to develop his breakthrough discovery concerning a natural blocking agent for ultra-violet (UV) radiation to prevent skin cancer. A patent for the invention is pending.

[Opinion: Energizing Clean Energy](#)

DailyTexanOnline.com | Daily Texan (August 7, 2009)
Drucilla Tigner

RE-ENERGYSE, President Obama's proposal for catapulting the United States into a clean energy future, has recently been shot down by the infamous enemy of all innovative initiatives, the U.S. Congress. RE-ENERGYSE, or Regaining our Energy, Science and Engineering Edge, is a higher education program designed to enhance our math and science curricula and guide science and engineering students toward a career in new, clean energy. If it had received funding, the program would have potentially prepared up to 8,500 new students to enter and lead the clean energy workforce by 2015. This would have been the catalyst needed to bolster our slowly deteriorating math and science programs throughout the country by preparing students to enter a new field and ensuring the U.S. is a global competitor in the new energy economy. It is no secret that education is the key to change in our country, and without the properly trained workforce, there will be little, if any, potential to make drastic change for a cleaner energy future.

[TCU to Collaborate with International Research Organization to Help Improve Health Care](#)

TCU.edu | Texas Christian University News (July 7, 2009)

TCU's Center for Evidence-Based Practice and Research (CEBPR) has been accepted as a collaboration center with the Joanna Briggs Institute, an international non-profit research organization for health care professionals. TCU is only the fourth university in the U.S. to be accepted as a collaboration center. This collaboration will help both the CEBPR and JBI further extend their reach. The practice of nurses and other health care professionals will be enhanced and the quality of care delivered by agencies affiliated with the CEBPR JBI Collaborating Center will be enhanced.

[U of Houston Hopes to 'Stimulate' Growth in Energy IP](#)

IPMarketingAdvisor.com | Intellectual Property Marketing Advisor (July 21, 2009)

Steve Lewis

Ever since the Obama administration announced its stimulus package, TTO leaders have been scrambling to get in on the action and bring much-needed funding to promising early-stage research. The University of Houston (TX) is hoping its recent application will have even more long-lasting effects, helping to launch the school's plans to become an alternative energy research hub. University president Renu Khator says the school is applying for \$25 million in stimulus funds to help develop a 70-acre research park focused on wind and solar power, as well as other alternative energy innovations. The university already has 70 faculty members working on diverse energy research projects.

[Immune System Gene Discovery Sheds Light on Staph Infections](#)

NewsChannel10.com | KFDA TV News (July 21, 2009)

Researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have figured what genes turn on and off in a person's immune system when he or she has a severe staph infection. The work, done on children with severe Staphylococcus aureus infections but applicable to all people, could lead to better treatments for these diseases, including the methicillin-resistant (MRSA) version known as the "super bug" because most antibiotics do not work on it.

[U Texas-Arlington, UT Southwestern Ink Deal on Magnetically Controlled Surgical Instruments](#)

TechnologyTransferTactics.com | Technology Transfer Tactics (July 15, 2009)

Marie Powers

An agreement between the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, and Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc. of Cincinnati will provide the two universities with financial support to continue developing a platform of magnetically controlled surgical

instruments. The instruments provide surgeons with greater maneuverability and range of motion while reducing the number of intrusive incisions in the abdominal cavity.

[UNT Program Partners with Area Workforce Solutions Boards to Provide Free Job Skills Training to Qualified Applicants](#)

UNT.edu | University of North Texas News (July 17, 2009)

In response to the global economic slowdown and record unemployment rates, the University of North Texas partnered with the National Business Services Alliance to create a job skills training program, known as the UNT Career Success Programs. UNT has now formed partnerships with area Workforce Solutions Boards to make the program free for many applicants.

[Opinion: UNT Poised for Progress](#)

DentonRC.com | Denton Record-Chronicle (July 1, 2009)

Gretchen M. Bataille, President, University of North Texas

Giving Texas universities the tools to transform themselves into top-tier institutions will reap many rewards. The bigger the state's pool of national research universities, the more competitive Texas universities will be in attracting highly qualified students, top faculty and high-dollar research funding — and the stronger the state will be. All told, this session yielded many positive outcomes for Texas universities and college students that will keep us on the path to prominence.

[Site tied to UTA will Promote Inventions](#)

Dallas.BizJournals.com | Dallas Business Journal (July 10, 2009)

Manufacturers who are looking for the next great invention can access a research Web site that contains full reports on inventor-patented products, which is provided by the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center at the University

of Texas at Arlington. The site, which is called The Innovation Marketplace, was created and is operated by Eureka! Ranch. The Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center at UTA is a partner of the National Institute of Standards & Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership which launched Eureka! Ranch's invention nationwide to connect inventors and manufacturers through a network called the USA National Innovation Marketplace. Manufacturers can log on to the Web site for free and sort through an estimated 20,000 inventions listed by entrepreneurs on the site.

[Rice University Team's Award-Winning Device Could Benefit Treatment of Hand Injuries](#)

GenEngNews.com | Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News (July 7, 2009)

A team of Rice University bioengineering students who invented a device to measure intrinsic hand muscle strength has won two prestigious honors for their patent-pending creation, PRIME. The device could revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of hand injuries and neurological disorders, specifically carpal tunnel syndrome.

[University of Houston Research Team Aims to Help Caregivers Monitor Patient Health and Whereabouts](#)

dBusinessNews.com | Daily Business News (June 29, 2009)

For those who are caring for elderly parents, peace of mind is hard to come by. And, for their parents, dignity is hard to retain. But a team of University of Houston researchers hopes to ease worries and frustrations by designing an affordable in-home health-monitoring system that will notify caregivers, via smartphones or PDAs, if their loved ones need attention.

[UT Arlington Researchers' Work Could Lead to \\$35-a-Barrel Oil](#)

DallasNews.com | Dallas Morning News (June 28, 2009)

Robert Miller

After a year of trying, University of Texas at Arlington researchers say they have succeeded in producing Texas intermediate-quality crude oil out of lignite. In a few years, the researchers predict, their discovery could lead to oil that costs \$35 a barrel instead of the current \$65 to \$70. This could translate into a Lone Star bonanza. Texas sits on a 200-year supply of lignite that's easily accessible because it lies near the earth's surface. Lignite, one of the lowest and cheapest grades of coal, is now used to fuel steam-electric power generation.

[Researchers Develop New Way to Create Quantum Dots](#)

AZoNano.com | The A to Z of Nanotechnology
(June 26, 2009)

Quantum dots (QDs), nanoparticles that shine with extraordinary brightness when excited by light energy, have shown promise as new tools for detecting cancer at its earliest appearance, but concerns about potential toxicities have limited their clinical development. Researchers at the University of Buffalo may have found an answer to this limitation with their development of a new way to create QDs. Their work comes at an opportune time, because a team of investigators from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) has shown that QDs can function as nanoscale thermometers to guide the numerous nanoparticle-based thermal therapies being developed to treat cancer.

[New UTEP Center to Push Technology, Research in Business Sector](#)

ElPasoTimes.com | El Paso Times (June 25, 2009)
Vic Kolenc

Gary Williams spent the past four years helping Mayan Pigments, the first company incubated at the University of Texas at El Paso, to become a viable operation. Now, Williams, 62, a former chemical industry executive and former CEO of Mayan Pigments, will use his years of startup experience at Mayan and at two large chemical

companies to help hatch other startups at UTEP. He'll also help to bring companies to UTEP to collaborate on research projects that could result in new products or advance ones already being developed by a company.

[Tarleton Student Changing the Future of Astronomy](#)

Tarleton.edu | Tarleton State University News
(June 17, 2009)

For a relatively small school, Tarleton has made huge strides in the area of research and development. One project, in particular, may one day change the way astronomers study stars. Tarleton student Katherine Leaveck is working to develop a program that will sift through large amounts of data and allow scientists to more easily and efficiently study groups of stars. Recent technological advances have made it possible for astronomers to accumulate large amounts of data on binary star systems.

[Window to the Future: UNT Researchers Plan to use Grant to Further Study of Bioactive Glass](#)

DentonRC.com | Denton Record-Chronicle (June 14, 2009)

Candace Carlisle

The term regeneration may seem like science fiction to some, but researchers at the University of North Texas are hoping their material research of bioactive glass can help other research studies in using glass to regenerate tissues, fibers and load-bearing bones.

[Opinion: A Victory for Higher Education](#)

Statesman.com | Austin American-Statesman
(June 5, 2009)

James R. Huffines, Chairman, University of Texas System of Regents

As our nation's economy continues to struggle — and its impact has rolled higher education to sometimes painful extremes — there is a bright spot in Texas. In fact, Texas might well be in the higher education driver's seat for the entire

nation after the 2009 legislative session wrapped up. Lawmakers made a bold decision to invest significantly in higher education, putting the state's public universities in a position to gain a competitive edge against their peers. The University of Texas System is grateful that the members of the Legislature, who recognize the fundamental importance of higher education to our state's future and, in response, have made forward-thinking decisions. Let's pledge to continue to work diligently to ensure that Texas has the best academic and health institutions in the country.

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