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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

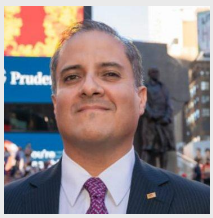


A portion of a $4 million plus grant will improve road safety in Pawnee Nation: Facilitated by the media relations team, 2 News in Tulsa, Oklahoma, reported on a $4.6 million grant awarded to Kate Hyun, associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. The federal grant will fund road safety improvements in Pawnee Nation, Oklahoma, and tribal communities in Nevada and Arizona.

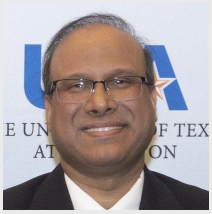


Study tracks stress in real time: Facilitated by the media relations team, The Scripps Company aired research from Yue Liao, associate professor of kinesiology, on a number of its affiliates, including Cleveland's News 5, as well as in Denver, Detroit, West Palm Beach, and more. The Odessa American also published the story.

EXPERT INSIGHTS



Are Tarrant Latino voters a swing group for 2026 midterm elections?: Facilitated by the media relations team, Xavier Medina Vidal, associate professor of political science, provided his expertise to the Fort Worth Report, which examined the potential of Latino voters being a key swing group in Tarrant County's 2026 midterm elections.



Plano ISD pledges up to $250 million for Dallas Stars arena, raising school funding questions: Sriram Villupuram, associate professor in finance and real estate, spoke with CBS Texas for this story.



Out-of-state universities are choosin' Texas. Tarrant-area colleges hope students do, too: Facilitated by the media relations team, Luisa Havens Gerardo, vice president of enrollment management, spoke to the Fort Worth Report about recruitment tactics by out-of-state universities seeking Texas students.



Kelly Clarkson's Art of Play feud turns a $15,000 bird into a $15 million crisis: Shelley Wigley, associate professor of communication and a crisis communications expert, shared her knowledge for an article in First for Women, which was shared by Yahoo!



Sexual violence concepts launched online are spilling into the real world–harming women and young men and overwhelming counselors: Morgan Pettyjohn, assistant professor of social work, co-authored a piece on this topic for The Conversation. The article was republished by Yahoo!, the Houston Chronicle, and more.



Flu season is here: Expert explains vaccine safety, effectiveness, and why getting vaccinated matters: Medical Xpress shared a UTA news release featuring Denise Hernandez, assistant professor of kinesiology, providing insight into the flu vaccine as flu season arrives.

MORE NEWS

Why do we love fiery foods if they hurt?: An article that originally published in New York Daily News, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Boston Herald and more. It explores why we love spicy foods even if a measure of pain is involved.

Some websites require registration or subscription before viewing the entire story.

This briefing is prepared by UTA Media Relations. Send questions or comments to Jeff Caplan, director of media relations, at jeff.caplan@uta.edu.

UTA News Center



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