

# Office of Research Security Newsletter

October 2019

-OCTOBER-

**“UAH INSIDER THREAT AWARENESS” MONTH  
ORS WILL BE OUT VISITING THE DEPARTMENTS TO  
SPREAD THE WORD.**

**WE WILL SEE YOU THEN!**



**UAH**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

**REFRESHER SECURITY  
TRAININGS FOR 2019:**

**Thursday, Oct 24, BJA RSA –  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**- November Movie Month -**

**Location: VBH, M50 - 1:00 pm  
to 3:30 pm**

- Tuesday, November 5, 2019
- Tuesday, November 12, 2019
- Thursday, November 21, 2019
- Monday, November 25, 2019

## **Chinese Government Employees Charged with Participating in Conspiracy to Fraudulently Obtain U.S. Visas**

*Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs September 16, 2019*

The Department announced today the arrest of Zhongsan Liu, who was charged by complaint for his involvement in a conspiracy to fraudulently obtain U.S. visas for Chinese government employees. Liu was arrested today in Fort Lee, New Jersey, and presented this afternoon in Manhattan federal court before the U.S. Magistrate Judge Ona T. Wang.

“We welcome foreign students and researchers, including from China, but we do not welcome visa fraud – especially on behalf of government,” said Assistant Attorney General John C. Demers of National Security. “We will continue to confront Chinese government attempts to subvert American law to advance its own interests in diverting U.S. research and know-how to China.”

To read the full article – <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/Chinese-government-employee-charged-manhattan-federal-court-participating-conspiracy>

## China's Threat to Academic Freedom "Pose Risks" to Foreign Partners

Lack of Scholarly Freedom in China threatens future progress for its universities and harms overseas partnerships, puts Scholars at Risk.

*Times Higher Education, September 2019, by Joyce Lau*

The limits to academic freedom imposed by the Chinese state pose risks for the nation's scholars around the world, for the future progress of its universities and for international institutions linking with Chinese partners, according to the Scholars at Risk network.

*Obstacles to Excellence: Academic Freedom & China's Quest for World Class Universities* was published in English and Chinese on 24 September by SAR, an organization based at New York University, which aims to promote academic freedom worldwide.

To read the full article – <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/chinas-threats-academic-freedom-pose-risks-foreign-partners>

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## White House Officials Will Visit Campuses to Discuss Foreign Threats to Research

*THE CHRONICLE of HIGHER EDUCATION, September 17, 2019,*  
By Nell Gluckman

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Research Universities in the United States have felt increasing government pressure to confront the potential theft of intellectual property and national-security secrets from countries like China. Now White House representatives will visit campuses to discuss that effort.

In the next few months, representatives from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy will hold meetings at academic institutions to speak with researchers and students about “matters of research security,” according to a letter the office’s director sent on Tuesday to universities and professional organizations. The letter warned about some nations’ “increasingly sophisticated efforts to exploit, influence, and undermine our research activities.”

Kelvin K. Droegemeier, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, said he would visit campuses in order to talk to faculty members. “The faculty would benefit by being part of that conversation,” he said. “That’s really the target audience.”

Another goal would be to make sure researchers are aware of the rules and what they mean, Droegemeier said.

University leaders have tried to balance government warnings about spying and theft with researchers’ fears that they are being targeted and stereotyped because of their ethnicity. Collaborations between researchers in the United States and China, as well as government-sponsored talent programs that recruit scholars to China, are under the microscope, straining the closest research relationship between any two countries in the world.

For scholars, the threat that they could be investigated by the government for their contacts in other countries is real. Already this year, scientists at Emory University and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have lost their jobs after the National Institutes of Health wrote letters to their universities highlighting behavior that the agency found suspicious. In May the NIH said it was investigating more than 50 institutions for a range of behavior it saw as questionable.

Some Chinese American researchers have been wrongly accused of spying. In 2015 a physics professor at Temple University was charged with sharing sensitive information with China, but the charges were later dropped. Many U.S.-based scientists of Chinese descent say they are confused and frustrated by the lack of clarity about what they can and cannot do when it comes to working with Chinese colleagues. They worry that government pressure will hamper the free flow of information that is important to research.

To read the full article - <https://www.chronicle.com/article/White-House-Officials-Will/247147>