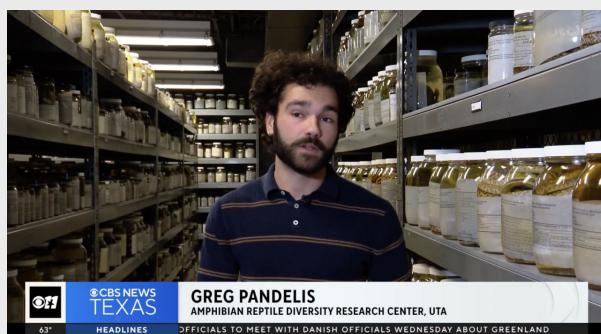


*Delivered to your inbox every Tuesday and Friday***TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026****IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

North Texas garage rattlesnake becomes rare scientific find: Greg Pandelis put on a Golden Globes-worthy performance in expertise in this clever piece by [CBS11](#). [FOX4](#), [The Dallas Morning News](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), [Denton Record-Chronicle](#), [KERA](#), [KRLD](#), [Yahoo!](#), and [MSN](#) published stories about a rattlesnake that became the first of its kind to be discovered in Denton County.

Cold case class students visit the Tamron Hall Show in New York: Their remarkable story is taking the country by storm. Last week, criminology professor Patricia Eddings and two students from her cold case class Preston Schroeder, left, and Jacey Concannon, appeared on the [Tamron Hall Show](#), a nationally syndicated daytime program, along with the victim's daughter Jessica Roberts, second-to-right.



EXPERT INTERVIEWS



LinkedIn is expanding its AI-powered job search features: Daniel Usera (College of Business) spoke with [Fast Company](#) about LinkedIn and interactions and engagement on the platform. Dr. Usera said his research indicates that tagging other people in LinkedIn posts can help boost engagement. "We kind of have this sense of professionalism in terms of how you're supposed to post, how you're supposed to interact, and the topics are generally professional in nature," he said.

A Dallas megadonor, a new nonprofit, and the war on 'housing first': Hannah Lebovits (College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs) spoke with the [Texas Observer](#) about homelessness in Dallas and the narrative that homelessness and crime in the downtown area have led to the loss of business and economic prosperity. Dr. Lebovits said any "downtown-development concerns or economic-development concerns are really unrelated to homelessness directly." [Inkl](#) shared this story.





Texas midterm elections: Brent Boyea (College of Liberal Arts) spoke with [KERA](#) about John Cornyn's U.S. Senate race. Dr. Boyea explained that the \$7 million Cornyn raised in the last quarter of 2025 will help separate Cornyn from his Republican primary opponents. "For Cornyn, he's going to have to kind of play up to the messaging that he's worked for Texas and brought good jobs back to Texas," he said.

MORE NEWS

Smartphone-based interventions show promise for reducing alcohol and cannabis use: A study led by Melissa Lewis (School of Social Work) on web-based intervention for youth and young adults at risk for alcohol and substance abuse was referenced in an article by [Medical Xpress](#) on how mobile behavioral interventions can reduce alcohol and substance abuse among teens. [News Medical](#) and [Medical Dialogues](#) shared this story.

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.

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