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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Why Valentine's roses wilt — and how UT Arlington scientists are trying to stop it: [The Dallas Morning News](#) covered the latest research of Rasika Dias, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, that seeks to extend the life of cut flowers—*hello, Valentine's Day!*—but more importantly, fruits and vegetables. "Fruits and vegetables are thrown away when they over-ripen ... people won't buy them," Dr. Dias said. "This is a major issue during shipping, since most food travels long distances." [MSN](#) shared the story.



Weekend Worthy: Skip out on dinner, celebrate Valentine's Day at these Tarrant-area events: Speaking of Valentine's Day, the [Fort Worth Report](#) topped its night-out listings by promoting the Planetarium's Valentine's Day extravaganza, *Romancing the Stars*, which will offer the best stargazing anywhere, complete with appetizers and beverages.

EXPERT INTERVIEWS



Swipe This!—The death of dating apps and ... dating?: [The Fort Worth Weekly](#) took a deep dive into the woes of dating apps, tapping social work Professor Rachel Joy Voth Schrag: "Modern ways of connecting, particularly digitally, can allow individuals to misrepresent themselves in small and large ways," she said. "This makes people wary of forming connections or committing to others, particularly if they have previous experiences of folks they met in online spaces misleading them—kittenfishing—or trying to take advantage of them for money or resources."

New asphalt with garbage can solve two crises at once: Sahadat Hossain's piece published in [The Conversation](#) earlier this week made it to Switzerland: "Researchers in Texas have developed asphalt made from recycled plastics. Road could become more sustainable while reducing plastic waste." Faculty are invited to contact [UTA media relations](#) for more information about getting your research published. Check out UTA's [The Conversation home page](#).



MORE NEWS



Christos Papadelis—University of Texas at Arlington appointed director of UTA Pediatric Brain Health and Neurosciences Center: [DotMed Healthcare Business News](#) shared a [UTA media release](#) announcing Christos Papadelis, a pioneering researcher at UTA and leader Institute for Mind Health at Cook Children's Health Care System, as the founding director of the UTA Pediatric Brain Health and Neurosciences Center.

UT Arlington launches a new center to prepare students for careers in space: The announcement of UTA's new Center for Space and Data Science garnered coverage from the [Fort Worth Report](#) and [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), which was shared by [Government Technology](#) and [NewsBreak](#).

Bob Schieffer's Vietnam legacy: photos, Star-Telegram letters revealed | Opinion: Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Bud Kennedy, [KERA](#) and [KRLD](#) continued coverage of UTA Libraries' *Our Man in Viet Nam* exhibit.

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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