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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025**

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NBC NEWS U.S. NEWS POLITICS WORLD LOCAL SPORTS HEALTH BUSINESS CULTURE SHOPPING TIPLI



DEVELOPING NOW COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP BREAK DECADES-OLD COLD CASE NBC NEWS



**College students help break decades-old murder mystery:** With the help of the UTA

media relations team, numerous outlets continue to report on the Arlington Police Department's announcement on Monday, Nov. 17, of an arrest in a 34-year-old murder case, thanks to UTA students in a new course that started this semester. Arlington PD arrested 63-year-old Janie Perkins for the murder of Cynthia Gonzalez in 1991. Patricia Eddings (COLA) and her students took on the cold case at the start of the semester and began combing through witness statements, evidence and crime scene photos, and police and detective reports. The students worked closely with APD detectives in hopes of finding new leads. [NBC Nightly News](#), [Top Story with Tom Llamas](#), [The New York Times](#), [NewsNation](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [MSN](#), [the Daily Mail](#), [Al dia Dallas](#), and affiliates across the country shared this story.

The New York Times

## Arrest Is Made in 1991 Texas Murder After Students Step In

Criminology students from the University of Texas at Arlington re-examined the case of Cynthia Gonzalez, whose body was found south of Fort Worth. Their work led to an arrest this month.

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An arrest this month in the September 1991 murder of Cynthia Gonzalez, 25, came after the students in a criminology class at the University of Texas at Arlington re-examined the evidence in the case. Arlington Police Department

By [Christine Hauser](#)

Nov. 20, 2025, 5:03 a.m. ET

For more than three decades, there were no arrests in the killing of Cynthia Gonzalez, a 25-year-old whose body was found decomposing in a rural area south of Fort Worth in 1991. She had been shot several times.



**Solved cold case shows how UT-Arlington students serve the community | Opinion:** President Jennifer Cowley wrote an op-ed for the [Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#) about how experiential learning opportunities, like UTA's new cold case class, strengthen the connection between classrooms and careers. Dr. Cowley said the faculty and students at UTA are "making impacts during their time here and

gaining experiences so they can launch meaningful careers that advance our region." [Yahoo! News](#) shared this op-ed.

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## MORE NEWS

**UTA and Fort Worth ISD announce 'Direct to UTA' Program:** [CBS Texas](#) aired pre-event coverage of a new partnership announcement between UTA and Fort Worth ISD. The program "Direct to UTA" guarantees admission to UTA to qualifying Fort Worth ISD seniors.

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**Status of rural health care, hospitals probed in study:** [Medical Xpress](#) shared a [UTA news release](#) on how researchers at UTA are analyzing how the Rural Emergency Hospital model is shaping access to care in vulnerable Texas communities.

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**These breast cancer facts could save your life:** [SciTech Daily](#) shared a [UTA Q&A](#) with nursing professor Zholi Liu dispelling myths and explaining the risks of breast cancer and highlighting promising new treatments for patients.

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

This briefing is prepared by [UTA Media Relations](#). Send questions or comments to Joe Carpenter, chief communications officer, at [joe.carpenter@uta.edu](mailto:joe.carpenter@uta.edu), or Jeff Caplan, director of media relations, at [jeff.caplan@uta.edu](mailto:jeff.caplan@uta.edu).

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