Anja Sheppard BS’22, who earned a degree in computer science and minored in philosophy at UT Dallas, is now researching robotic terrain classification and navigation for Mars rovers as she works at the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College at UT Dallas.

The Hobson Wildenthal Honors College at The University of Texas at Dallas, established in 2014, houses 12 programs dedicated to promoting excellence in undergraduate education.

Four programs offer a four-year cohort experience to participating students, with admission generally restricted to incoming college freshmen. The Collegium V Honors Program provides seminar instruction, personal mentoring and an enhanced academic environment. The National Merit Scholars Program provides personal mentoring and an intellectual framework in addition to a generous financial scholarship for National Merit Scholars attending UT Dallas. National Merit Scholars at UT Dallas are eligible for membership in the Collegium V Honors Program. Terry Foundation Scholarships at UT Dallas are awarded to top seniors from Texas high schools. Scholarship recipients take part in the Terry Scholars Program which provides a diverse array of extracurricular experiences with a focus on service and leadership. Liberal Arts Honors is a cohort experience for students interested in reading, writing, and the discussion of ideas. Students connect to faculty from a range of disciplines and engage with their peers in courses expecting a large amount of student participation and discussion.

The other eight programs in the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College enrich the academic experience of matriculated UT Dallas students. The Office of Distinguished Scholarships provides information, guidance, and mentoring to students applying for nationally competitive scholarship and fellowship programs. The Archer Program combines Washington D.C. internship experience with classroom instruction for an intensive semester of political and policy education. The Texas Legislative Internship Program provides opportunities for individuals to intern with State Legislators during the spring semester while the legislature is in session on odd-numbered years. The UT Dallas Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is the local chapter of the nation’s oldest, largest, and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Undergraduate and graduate students are inducted to Phi Kappa Phi each year.

The Hobson Wildenthal Honors College is located in the Cecil and Ida Green Center at the heart of the UT Dallas campus. We invite visitors to stop by our lobby and review the senior research posters from last year.

Hobson Wildenthal Honors College in the News

National Merit Comet Keeps Reaching for the Stars as Phi Kappa Phi Award Recipient

A University of Texas at Dallas alumna has been awarded a fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Anja Sheppard BS’22, an Eugene McDermott Scholar, Goldwater Scholar and recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, was one of only 54 students nationwide to receive an $8,500 National Merit Scholarship. She is now researching robotic terrain classification and navigation for Mars rovers as she works at the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College at UT Dallas.

Anja Sheppard BS’22, who earned a degree in computer science and minored in philosophy at UT Dallas, is now researching robotic terrain classification and navigation for Mars rovers as she works at the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College at UT Dallas.

https://honors.utdallas.edu/home/makepdf
Phi Kappa Phi fellowship this year.

Read the article.

Record 4 UTD Undergrads Earn Prestigious Goldwater Scholarships

Each year, colleges and universities across the U.S. nominate up to four of their most talented undergraduates majoring in science, engineering or math for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation awards. The Goldwater scholarships support sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise to become the next generation of research leaders.

For the first time, all four nominees from The University of Texas at Dallas were named winners of the prestigious award, a significant accomplishment that outpaced the performance of other top-tier research institutions, said Dr. Douglas Dow, coordinator of the Office of Distinguished Scholarships and interim dean of the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College.

Read the article.

UTD Professor, Mediation Team Earn International Recognition

Veda Tsai, an interdisciplinary studies senior at The University of Texas at Dallas, served as team captain for the mediation team who won the advocate-client division of the International Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament held virtually in the fall.

Read the article.

From the Field: Lending a Hand After Hurricane Laura

Elizabeth “Tess” Helfrich, a biology and history senior at The University of Texas at Dallas, is no stranger to lending a hand during natural disasters and medical emergencies.

A certified emergency medical technician who serves with the University Emergency Medical Response team, Helfrich also is a rescue diver and volunteers with Texas Search and Rescue, a first responder organization that helps with ground search, floodwater rescue and dive-team operations.

Read the article.
Political Science, Economics Graduate Earns Prestigious Urann Fellowship

Areeb Siddiqui, a May graduate in political science and economics at The University of Texas at Dallas, has received a prestigious fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi that will further his goal of becoming an attorney specializing in civil rights.

Read the article.

EPPS Professors, Computer Engineering Senior Earn Recognition

Fiaz Bhuiyan, computer engineering senior in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, received the Outstanding Student Award for Region 5 from IEEE.

Bhuiyan serves as president of the UT Dallas IEEE chapter and was appointed this spring as Regional Student Representative for IEEE Region 5, which includes 12 southwestern states. In those roles, Bhuiyan organizes events, workshops and competitions, and works to help students find a sense of community. He also is an undergraduate research assistant in bioengineering.

Read the article.
McDermott Scholar Receives Distinguished Truman Scholarship

Carla Ramazan, a senior at The University of Texas at Dallas, has been passionate about women’s health and reproductive freedom her entire life — and it stems from personal reasons.

Her family is from Romania, which for decades under Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu had outlawed access to abortion and contraception in a bid to boost the country’s population. Ramazan’s aunt died while getting an illegal abortion.

“I wanted to prevent that from ever happening to others,” Ramazan said.

Her passion and leadership in organizing students at UT Dallas and elsewhere to advocate for reproductive rights has now been recognized with the distinguished Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

Read the article.

Neuroscience Researchers Earn Prestigious Goldwater Scholarships

Two undergraduates in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas have been recognized with awards from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

Neuroscience seniors Patrick Nnoromele and Jennifer Jenks have received the prestigious scholarship. Both are Eugene McDermott Scholars and National Merit Scholars.

Read the article.

UTD Goes to the Dogs

UT Dallas junior Aubrey Rowan has a constant companion while she pursues a degree in business administration.

Wherever she goes, she is shadowed by Colby, a 4-month-old Labrador puppy who is training to become an assistance dog for people with disabilities.

Colby lives with Rowan in her apartment on campus and even accompanies her to class. His service vest indicates he is officially on loan from Canine Companions for Independence.

Read the article.
For Physics Groups, Love of Astronomy Was Always Written in the Stars

Victoria Catlett’s father bought The University of Texas at Dallas junior a telescope at the age of 9, thus igniting a love of astronomy that has continued since childhood. The two would spend evenings searching for constellations in the evening sky.

Now a physics and mathematics double major, Catlett is the business chair and unofficial “astronomy officer” for the Society of Physics Students (SPS) at UT Dallas. As such, Catlett is part of a team of students who are instrumental in organizing star parties, telescope training and watch parties for events such as solar and lunar eclipses.

Read the article.

Hobson Wildenthal Honors College’s Appeal Grows Brighter

National Merit Scholar Anu Emmandi BS’19 had already been accepted into an engineering college in Michigan when a friend told her about the honors program at The University of Texas at Dallas. On a whim, Emmandi decided to visit the campus.

She came away with a good feeling about being an honors student at a smaller school. As an out-of-state student, she especially looked forward to having a built-in peer group that was academically engaged and culturally diverse.

Read the article.

Biomedical Engineering Grad Becomes First Phi Kappa Phi 1897 Fellow

Sydney Sherman BS’19 has been named the first 1897 Fellow of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. The new national award recognizes the highest-scoring applicant in a STEM discipline.

Sherman, a Eugene McDermott Scholar and a National Merit Scholar, graduated in May from The University of Texas at Dallas’ Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science with a bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering. The 1897 Fellowship provides $35,000 to support her next step: pursuing a PhD.
through the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology. Read the article.

McDermott Scholar Will Further Her Arabic Studies as Boren Scholar

Elizabeth "Tess" Helfrich, a biology and historical studies junior at The University of Texas at Dallas, hopes a distinguished scholarship will provide the next step in her journey toward practicing emergency medicine overseas.

Helfrich is the first Eugene McDermott Scholar to receive a Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program. She will spend the next year studying modern standard Arabic as well as the local Ammiya dialect at the Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman, Jordan. Read the article.

Jonsson School Students Earn National Graduate Research Fellowships

Two University of Texas at Dallas students and two alumni will receive support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as they pursue their graduate studies.

Mechanical engineering senior Jeanie Aird and bioengineering senior Sydney Sherman each were chosen this year for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Read the article.
How UT Dallas Helped Emily Luth BS’17 Find Her True Passion

When El Paso native Emily Luth BS’17 first came to The University of Texas at Dallas for a soccer tournament during her senior year of high school, it was love at first sight. She fell for the close-knit feel of the campus, the many amenities and the esteemed engineering program. When she was admitted and was offered the Terry Foundation Scholars hip later that year, her bags were all but packed.

Read the article.

Bees & Butterflies

Most people would be somewhat wary around a beehive buzzing with thousands of stinging insects. Scott Rippel MS’96, PhD’99 practically goes into Zen mode.

For Rippel, a senior lecturer in biological sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas, working with honey bees is more than a way to educate the campus community about the importance of pollinators — it’s an experience.

Read the article.

Global Business and Marketing Senior Named Schwarzman Scholar

Global business and marketing senior Carlos Rodriguez-Cruz y Celis says he gained an "analytical lens" from the Naveen Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas that will help him develop policy solutions for global challenges.

His perspective will be further enhanced when he travels to Beijing in June as the second UT Dallas recipient of the prestigious international Schwarzman Scholar award.

Read the article.
Friendship Sustains Comets Pursuing Legal Careers

During an introductory course in 2009, freshmen were asked to lead presentations on topics in which they consider themselves experts. Aisha Noor BA’12, MPA’13 decided to demonstrate her method for wrapping a hijab and chose Monica Niewiarowski BA’13 to be her model.

This moment launched a friendship that has allowed Noor and Niewiarowski to push each other to excel along parallel life paths, including a move from UT Dallas to Washington, D.C., to law school and back to Dallas, where they are enjoying their first year of professional law practice.

New Group of Terry Scholars Joins the University This Fall

The University of Texas at Dallas welcomed 22 new Terry Scholars this fall: 14 freshmen and eight transfer students.

Overall, the 99 Terry Scholars enrolled at UT Dallas will receive combined awards of more than $2.2 million this year. Since 2006, the Terry Foundation has given more than $17 million to the University’s 300 scholars.

Among this year’s new Terry Scholars are 14 freshmen, including two valedictorians, four AP Scholars and one National Hispanic Scholar.