Hobson Wildenthal Honors College

The Hobson Wildenthal Honors College at the University of Texas at Dallas, established in 2014, houses eight programs dedicated to promoting excellence in undergraduate education. Three 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 as well as to outstanding transfer students. Scholarship recipients take part in the Terry Scholars Program which provides a diverse array of extracurricular experiences with a focus on service and leadership.

The other five 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 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.
From left: Dr. Joseph Izen, professor of physics, and UT Dallas physics students Ian Grey, Holly Choma, Briana Evans, and Victoria Catlett are helping to organize a campus watch party for the transit of Mercury on Nov. 11. Choma, Evans and Catlett are National Merit Scholars.

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.
UT Dallas honors students meet during a recent Java Friday event at the Cecil and Ida Green Center.

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.
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.
Elizabeth 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.
Jeanie Aird (top), Sydney Sherman (bottom)

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.

Emily Luth, BS’17.
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 Scholarship later that year, her bags were all but packed. 

Read the article.

Senior lecturers Dr. Christina Thompson and Dr. Scott Rippel give the mini-Whoosh sign during a successful beehive installation at one of the apiaries on campus.

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.
Aisha Noor BA'12, MPA'13 (left) and Monica Niewiarowski BA’13 (right) and became best friends at UT Dallas and have both chosen careers in the law.

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.

Read the article.

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