Terry Scholars, Class of 2016

The 2016 class of Terry Scholars at UT Dallas includes the following freshmen and transfer students:

2016 Freshmen Terry Scholars

**Austin Bowden Richardson High School, Richardson**

Austin Bowden was a member of the National Honor Society and was the first student appointed by RISD to serve as the advocate for their 5K Spirit Run, which helped raise $90,000 for student and faculty scholarships. Bowden pitched and played first base for his high school’s baseball team; he was captain his senior year. Born in England, Bowden was selected to the National Great Britain Baseball Team and travels internationally to compete against other countries. He will play for the UT Dallas baseball team. Bowden will major in computer science.

**Nolan Brill Providence Classical High School, Spring**

Nolan Brill was president of the National Honor Society, treasurer of Student Council and a member of the National Science Honor Society. Brill was team captain and lead prosecution attorney for mock trial. He received his high school’s Exceptional Achievement Award in algebra II, humanities and physics, as well as Distinguished Scholar awards and the Intellectual Curiosity School-Wide Award. Brill also built houses with The Road Missions and volunteered at a health fair for Bridging for Tomorrow. He will major in computer science.

**Caleb Brown Homeschool**

Caleb Brown was president of Eta Sigma Alpha (National Home School Honor Society). He was a member of the Genesis of Robotics BEST Robotics team and headed the marketing and exhibit team, which won awards at both the local and regional levels. Brown also was a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Mu Eta Sigma (National Math Honor Society) and Phi Theta Kappa. He received the Citation Award from AWANA, a global nonprofit ministry, for completing 10 books of The Bible curriculum. Brown also volunteered at Coppell Bible Fellowship, Make-A-Wish, HopeKids North Texas, Shoes for Orphans, and Christian Community Action. He will major in mechanical engineering.

**Jeffrey Catalano Allen High School, Allen**

AP and National Merit Commended Scholar Jeffrey Catalano was the community service co-leader for Student Council and an A-Crew Leader for the Allen School Spirit Team. He was a member of the Spanish Honor Society, the National Honor Society and the Key Club. Catalano volunteered at the Collin County Community Shelter, where he helped prepare animals for adoption and he put together packages for homeless shelters with Allen Community Outreach. He received the Citizenship Award and Top 2% Award at his high school. Catalano also reached the level of Eagle Scholar. He will major in computer science.

**Ryan Clanton Harvest Christian Academy, Fort Worth**

Ryan Clanton graduated summa cum laude and received the Distinguished Christian High School Student Award for academics. He was co-founder and lead engineer of the Harvest Robotics Club, where he participated in local competitions. Clanton was also a member of the Harvest HAM Radio Club. A pitcher on the varsity baseball team, he won several all-district and all-state awards. Clanton also volunteered at Haven for Hope Rehabilitation Center and San Antonio Food Bank, and repaired damaged church buildings in New York for the Center for Short Term Missions. He will major in electrical engineering.

**Frances Dagohoy Sachse High School, Sachse**

AP Scholar Frances Dagohoy graduated summa cum laude. She was president of the National Honor Society, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta, a math tutor, a member of the Spanish
National Honor Society, and a member of Health Occupations Students of America, where she volunteered at a nursing home. Dagohoy also was a member of the BETA Club service organization. She was a poetry contest winner, Spanish Student of the Year, and Accounting Student of the Year. Her high school teachers awarded her their Triple Crown Award for academic achievement. Dagohoy was also a 21st Century Scholar for distinguished achievement within her district. She will major in accounting.

**Rida Fatima** *MacArthur High School, Irving*

Rida Fatima, an AP Scholar with distinction, graduated summa cum laude from her high school's distinguished honors program. She was a member of the National Honor Society and co-founder and vice president of her high school's UIL debate team. She was founder and captain of her high schools' Mock Trial Team and participated in the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition hosted by the Dallas Bar Association. She was also co-founder and vice president of MacArthur's UIL Debate Club. She was Most Valuable Player at UIL's Lincoln-Douglas Debate and the Texas Mock Trial. Fatima volunteered at the Islamic Center of Irving and the Baylor Surgical Hospital of Las Colinas. She will major in biology.

**Christopher Fogel** *Captain John L. Chapin High School, El Paso*

AP Scholar Christopher Fogel graduated summa cum laude. He was president of the National Honor Society and section leader of his high school's percussion band, earning a one rating at the Texas State Solo-Ensemble competition and lettering four years. Fogel also was a stage manager for Kids-n-Company, a nonprofit community theatre. He was co-captain of the pole vault team and team captain of the Technology Student Association. Fogel received Academic All-Star awards and was a state qualifier for the Technology Student Association. He will major in historical studies.

**Lirit Fuksman** *Allen High School, Allen*

AP and National Merit Commended Scholar Lirit Fuksman was the founder of her high school's chess club and was a research intern at the Shoulders of Giants lab, where she worked on a microfluidics project. Fuksman was a participant in the Summer Biomedical Experience Program at UT Dallas. She also was a Russian translator for a TED talk and volunteered with Allen Community Outreach. Fuksman was a participant at the Ermitage Art Academy, and was a two-time bronze medal winner in Le Grand Concours, the National French Contest. Fuksman will major in biochemistry.

**Allan Garcia** *Science and Engineering Magnet High School, Dallas*

Allan Garcia is a National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar. He also was cum laude for the National Latin Exam. Garcia participated in the choir and UIL One Act Plays at his high school. He volunteered at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, where he taught children about science. Garcia plays regularly with his band, FLYNN, and performed recently at a Red Cross event. He will major in biomedical engineering.

**Sandra Girgis** *Plano East Senior High School, Plano*

Sandra Girgis graduated from the International Baccalaureate Program and is an AP Scholar and a member of National Honor Society. She was the volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity and an outreach tutor at the Family Gateway Shelter. Girgis also volunteered at the North Texas Food Bank, Shoes for Orphan Souls, and a special needs convention with Archangel Raphael Ministry. She was active in her high school's PAL (Peer Assistance and Leadership) Program, where she mentored elementary and middle school students. Girgis was the class representative in the orchestra at her high school. She will major in neuroscience.

**Marco Henderson** *North Crowley High School, Crowley*

Marco Henderson was the activities coordinator of the Drama Club and tenor section leader of Varsity Choir. He was also varsity debate captain, specializing in politics. Henderson received the National Forensics League Distinction Award, the Texas Scholar Award and the Thespian of the Year Award. He volunteered at Worth Baptist Church, where he taught math and English to orphans in Africa and Guatemala. He also reconstructed houses in Oklahoma for Operation
Blessing. Henderson will major in sociology.

**Broderick Johnson** *Mineral Wells High School, Mineral Wells*

Broderick Johnson graduated summa cum laude and is an AP Statistics awardee. He was team captain of the varsity basketball team and received the District Newcomer of the Year Award. Johnson received Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards for tennis and basketball and was the Chicken Express All-Star Classic MVP. He was first chair of the alto saxophone section and youth president at Bethel Baptist Church. As a member of the National Honor Society, Johnson volunteered at Lamar Elementary’s Fun Fest and the Palo Pinto Fall Festival. He received the Academic History Award for highest GPA and Wendy’s High School Heisman Award for excellence in academics, athletics and community involvement. Johnson will play for the UTD basketball team. He will major in mathematics.

**Kaitlyn Killian** *Whitehouse High School, Whitehouse*

Kaitlyn Killian is an honors and distinguished merit graduate, and a member of the National Honor Society. She was editor-in-chief for the yearbook, secretary of Crime Stoppers, and vice president and secretary of the National Art Honor Society. Killian took first place in the UIL’s Press Conference for secondary coverage. She was part of a competition team for Health Occupation Students of America. Killian received the Rotary Club Youth Leadership Award and the Best of Cats Top Student for American Sign Language and Art. She volunteered at Visual Arts Scholastic Events, Tyler Food Bank, East Texas State Fair, East Texas Special Olympics, and church events. Killian will major in speech-language pathology and audiology.

**Chrisi Mantchev** *James W. Martin High School, Arlington*

AP Scholar Chrisi Mantchev graduated summa cum laude. She volunteered at Cook Children’s Hospital, where she was the Junior Child Life Coordinator and received an award for 100 hours of service. Mantchev played violin and also was the historian and section leader in her high school's orchestra program; the program played at Carnegie Hall in New York City. As historian of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), she helped establish a strong partnership with Open Arms Free Health Clinic and also volunteered with Carepath Home Health & Hospice Services. Mantchev placed second at HOSA's State of Texas conference for Creative Problem Solving, and received the Karri Hickman Barnett Leadership and Service Award. Mantchev will major in neuroscience.

**Amber Nguyen** *Rockwall High School, Rockwall*

AP Scholar Amber Nguyen graduated summa cum laude and was vice president of the National Honor Society. As co-captain of the Academic Decathlon, Nguyen received awards in science and math, and their team took third place at state. She tutored students as a member of Mu Alpha Theta. Nguyen was president of the Health Occupations Students of America and vice president of Chain Reaction, a service organization that raises awareness about bullying and suicide. She won the 2016 Rockwall Trustee Award, The President's Volunteer Service Award, and the Cis and Robert Hawk Citizenship Award. Nguyen also volunteered at Ennis Public Library, Lake Pointe Medical Center, and Vietnamese Faith Baptist Church. She plays the viola. Nguyen will major in biochemistry.

**Elianna Paek** *Homeschool*

Elianna Paek is an artist and owns a fine art business, with her paintings in stores in McKinney and Texarkana. She was the secretary of Dallas STEAM Explorers (UT Dallas-based STEM Career Club) and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Paek completed a summer internship with the Collin County District Court and was a math tutor in Plano ISD. She also volunteered with the Allen & Collin County Teen Court, Special Olympics and Mane Gait (non-profit equine therapy center). Paek is certified by the American Sailing Association. She will major in psychology.

**Angel Roberson** *Floresville High School, Floresville*

Angel Roberson is a member of National Honor Society. She was very active in JROTC and was selected to be the Cadet Corps Commander, the highest position of leadership and responsibility. Roberson received the AFJROTC American Legion Scholastic Award and the
Community Service with Excellence Award. She also served as the Commander of Maroon Crew (spirit team flag runners), Cadet Chorale (which earned her over 155 community service hours), the Kitty Hawk Air Society, and the Drill Team. Roberson received the Air Force Association Award her junior year. She received the Academic All-State Girls Cross Country award, and was an assistant football and soccer trainer. Roberson will major in biochemistry.

**Hulon Sherard** *Hallsville High School, Hallsville*
Salutatorian Hulon Sherard is a National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar. He participated in UIL Academics and was a regional competitor on the mathematics team and calculator team. Sherard received first place on the Number Sense mathematics team at the TMSCA State Championship. He also received Outstanding Student Awards in Foreign Language, Fine Arts and Math. Sherard was awarded the Marshall Elks Lodge Student of the Year. He volunteered with First Baptist Church Hallsville, the Boys & Girls Club, and several events at Hallsville High School. Sherard will major in cognitive science and mathematics.

**Emma Tharp** *Smithson Valley High School, Spring Branch*
Emma Tharp graduated summa cum laude. Tharp was captain of her high school’s debate team where she went undefeated, winning 22 tournaments. She also placed third in the UIL Texas Debate her junior year. At Girls State, a political camp for young women, Tharp was selected to present and debate an original bill in the House of Representatives at the Capitol in Austin. Tharp is a member of National Honor Society, and was founder and vice president of Humans of Smithson Valley, an environmental and humanitarian club. Tharp volunteered at Hill Country Day School, San Antonio Food Bank, Bulverde Park, Guadalupe State Park and a local hospital. She will major in neuroscience.

**Matthew Vazquez** *Science and Engineering Magnet High School, Dallas*
AP Scholar Matthew Vazquez is a member of the National Honor Society. He was president of the Environmental Science Club and Guitar Club. Through Big Thought’s La Rondalla program, Vazquez played guitar at the Dallas Museum of Art, The House of Blues, and The Meadows Museum. He also volunteered at the North Texas Food Bank and White Rock Lake. In his spare time, Vazquez has developed a passion for bodybuilding and power lifting. He will major in actuarial science finance.

**Cori Weaver** *Saginaw High School, Saginaw*
Salutatorian Cori Weaver was an AP Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. She participated in UIL academic competitions in math, science and writing. Weaver was the fundamental instructor for her high school band. She also was president of the Key Club, where she raised money for UNICEF. Weaver volunteered at Community Link Food Bank, Cook Children’s Medical Center, Open Arms Women’s Shelter, Girl Scouts and the Central Texas Conference of Youth in Missions. She will major in molecular biology.

**Iman Zidan** *Brighton Horizons Academy, Garland*
Iman Zidan took an active part in bringing the Key Club and the Health Occupations Students of America Club to her high school, where she served as president of HOSA. She also was captain of varsity soccer and cross-country, earning 2nd Team All-District and Academic All-State for soccer. Zidan was sports editor of the yearbook and senior class treasurer. She received the Scholar Athlete Award for soccer and cross-country. Zidan earned the State-Wide Community Service Award for her contributions in raising funds to dig water wells in Africa. She also was involved with UNICEF, and volunteered at Richardson Public Library and Texas Little Cuties for rescued animals. Zidan will major in health studies.

2016 Terry Transfer Scholars

**Mustafa Alrudaini,** *Dallas*
Mustafa Alrudaini attended Collin College and Brookhaven College before transferring to UT Dallas. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. While working with the U.S. military, he was a lead
interpreter and trained other interpreters in proper procedures, culture sensitivity and safety. He plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Gerardo Aguinaga Torres, Dallas**

Gerardo Aguinaga Torres graduated from Dallas County Community College with an associate of science degree. At Brookhaven College, Aguinaga Torres was selected to participate in a summer internship at Argonne National Laboratory, a non-profit research laboratory operated by the University of Chicago for the Department of Energy. He also studied alongside graduate students at San Jose State University for the RUMBA program (Research by Undergraduates using Molecular Biology Applications). He held various leadership positions at Mountain View College; he was a Student Ambassador, Art Club Secretary, and Founding Member/President of the Lion’s Regiment for practicing musicians. Aguinaga Torres was a STEM Ambassador and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Aguinaga Torres plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Maria Arteaga, Mesquite**

Maria Arteaga attended Eastfield College and UT Austin before transferring to UT Dallas. At Eastfield College, she received Academic Recognition awards and was on the President’s and Vice-President’s Honor Rolls for multiple semesters. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Arteaga plans to major in mechanical engineering.

**Koffi Ashorgbor, Watauga**

Koffi Ashorgbor graduated with an associate of arts degree from Tarrant County College. While there, he was treasurer of Phi Theta Kappa (Phi Tau chapter) and a member of the French Club. He also was a French teacher at the Watauga Public Library as well as a French-English translator for Dash Asylum seekers. Ashorgbor received Phi Theta Kappa’s Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship as well as Tarrant County College Distinguished Scholar and Foundation Scholarships. Ashorgbor plans to major in information technology and systems.

**Ezra Calado, Mesquite**

Ezra Calado attended Richland College. She received academic scholarships and was on the President’s Honor Roll for multiple semesters. Calado was also awarded the Amidon-Beauchamp Student Leader of the Year award for leadership, academics and campus involvement. She was vice president for the Richland College Honors Student Organization and for the Student Government Association. Calado also held additional leadership positions in the community at the Dallas Festival of Ideas, Operation Care International and Umphress Road United Methodist Church. Calado is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She plans to major in accounting and global business.

**Nicki Elliott, Dallas**

Nicki Elliott graduated with an associate of arts degree from Brookhaven College. While there, she was the vice president of IGNITE, a women's political group on campus. Elliott also received several scholarships including the Marriott J. Terry Texas IGNITE Scholarship for promising young women who are looking into political careers, Dallas Community College Faculty Association (DCCFA) Scholarship, and the American Association of University Women Scholarship. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Elliott plans to major in political science.

**Stephanie Gilyard, Dallas**

Stephanie Gilyard graduated with an associate of science degree in business at Richland College. While there, she was a mentor for the Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) Program, a member of the Entrepreneurship Club. She volunteered with the Metropolitan Dallas Homeless Alliance as well as Earth Day events. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Gilyard plans to major in accounting.

**Bill Nabors, McKinney**

Bill Nabors received an associate degree in the legal assistant program from El Centro College. He then studied accounting at Collin College before transferring to UT Dallas. Nabors served in the U.S. Air Force. He also volunteered with disaster teams in Florida after Hurricane Andrew and in Oklahoma City after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. In addition,
he volunteered at the Olympics and Special Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. Nabors plans to major in accounting.

**Tina Nguyen, Dallas**

Tina Nguyen graduated with an associate of science degree in 2014 from Dallas County Community College. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Women. Nguyen volunteered at Richland College to help ESL students learn English and volunteered at a Vietnamese church to organize events. She was on the DCCCD Vice President’s Honor Roll and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Nguyen plans to major in economics.

**Jake Wade, Plano**

Jake Wade studied science at Collin College before transferring to UT Dallas. A board member of North Texas USA Weightlifting, Wade was a weightlifting head coach for the youth and junior Olympic weightlifting program. He is also a level 3 CrossFit coach and a Muscle Activation Technique Jumpstart Specialist. Wade is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He plans to major in biomedical engineering.