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. The UT Dallas Terry Scholars Program provides ambitious student scholars the intellectual, social, cultural and financial support necessary for their preparation as the future leaders of Texas and our nation.

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 Prodigy Scholars Program offers bright high school students the opportunity to concurrently enroll in mathematics courses beyond calculus and linear algebra.

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

Students Awarded For Humanitarian
Work in Mexico

At the end of a summer internship, seven students opted to stay for an additional four weeks in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, but Ben Wroblewski, Samee Ahmad, Clisha D'Souza and Linda Schiller embarked on a decidedly bolder course.

The students left Oaxaca and drove five hours outside of the city, on a bus and via mountain roads to the remote Hermanos en el Camino (Brothers in the Road) shelter, where they would stay alongside the migrants, many of who were fleeing violent crimes and terrible conditions in South America. Read the article.

Sophomore Wins Gilman Scholarship to Pursue Passion for Languages

UT Dallas sophomore Vladyslav Wallace moved to Plano, Texas, as a child when his parents emigrated from Ukraine. He grew up speaking two languages, often helping his parents translate their native Ukrainian into English.

Wallace pursued his interest in languages by taking a gap year after high school with the National Security Language Initiative for Youth in Moldova, where he perfected his Russian. A double major in global business in the Naveen Jindal School of Management and international political economy in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, he began learning a fifth language last summer during an internship to Estonia. Read the article.

Political Science Graduate Wins Prestigious Urann Fellowship

Nancy Fairbank, a May graduate in political science at The University of Texas at Dallas, has received another prestigious scholarship that will propel her toward a career in international law.

Fairbank, an alumna of the McDermott Scholars Program, is the third UT Dallas student — and the second in a row — to win the Marcus L. Urann Fellowship of $15,000 from the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Nancy Fairbank BA’17 is the third UT Dallas student to win a Marcus L. Urann Fellowship of $15,000 from the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.
Mathematics Junior Earns Prestigious Truman, Udall Scholarships

Growing up in Wisconsin, UT Dallas junior and McDermott Scholar Matthew Salm gained an appreciation for nature and the environment.

He and his family vacationed in national parks. Salm participated in high school soccer, swimming and track. He has reached the summit of four of the highest peaks in the lower 48 states.

Goldwater Foundation Recognizes Students

Four undergraduate researchers from The University of Texas at Dallas have been recognized this year by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, including three full scholarship winners from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Biology senior Karthik Hullahalli, chemistry junior Gino Occhialini and biochemistry sophomore Justin Raman all received full scholarships.

Alumnus Reaches Top of Medical School Class

A UT Dallas alumnus who is graduating at the top of his class at medical school credits his academic success to his learning experience as an undergraduate.
Derek Nguyen BS'13 is among a handful of students who earned a 4.0 GPA this spring at UT Southwestern Medical School. He will spend his medical intern year at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas before heading to Johns Hopkins Hospital for his four-year residency in radiology. Read the article.

Sociology Study Examines Needs of LGBT+ Communities in Texas

Sociologists in UT Dallas’ School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences are conducting an in-depth study to identify the needs and concerns of LGBT+ communities across the state.

Dr. Richard Scotch, professor of sociology, and Dr. Kara Sutton, a sociology lecturer, were selected to conduct the needs assessment for Texas Pride Impact Funds, a Houston-based nonprofit that supports organizations and projects serving LGBT+ communities throughout the state. Read the article.

McDermott’s $10 Million Gift Establishes New Name for Honors College

The University of Texas at Dallas, in accord with the terms of a gift creating an endowment of $10 million for support of undergraduate research, has announced that its Honors College is being renamed the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, in honor of its long-serving chief academic officer. Read the article.

Senior Joins National Panel Aiming to End Sexual Assault on Campus

UT Dallas psychology senior Kaylie Hartman is one of 28 students selected nationwide — and the only one from Texas — to serve on a student advisory committee for a national initiative that empowers students to help end sexual assault
on campuses.

Hartman will be a liaison between the It’s On Us initiative and college students at UT Dallas and other participating universities in Texas. 

Read the article.

Political Science Graduate Earns Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

UT Dallas alumnus Blake Eaton BA’16 recalls very clearly the moment he decided to pursue a legal career.

“I was in the sixth grade, and it was the first time my mom let me watch ‘Law and Order.’ I remember thinking, ‘That’s where I want to be,’” Eaton said. 

Read the article.

Political Science Senior Publishes Book on Teen Homelessness

UT Dallas political science senior Nancy Fairbank got an up-close look at teen homelessness while working on a high school journalism project.

Her resulting documentary, about a center for youths living on the streets in her hometown of Springfield, Missouri, turned into much more than an assignment. It was the first step in an ongoing effort to advocate for homeless teens.

Read the article.

Students Earn Graduate Research Fellowships

Four years ago, Arden Wells and Melanie Maurer began their UT Dallas experience together as strangers.
Now, the two roommates and Eugene McDermott Scholars will leave the University together, graduating on the same day this spring, each with a 2016 Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. Read the article.

Scholarship Winner Gets Dose of New Medical Skills in South Korea

When Hyunjoo "Eunice" Ko applied for a David L. Boren Scholarship to study in Seoul, South Korea, she knew she would gain advanced skills in the Korean language and experience working in a research lab. She didn't expect to get a firsthand look at how a nation handles a medical crisis. A deadly 2015 outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) left 36 dead and staggered Seoul's economy as people avoided public places with large crowds. Read the article.

Undergrad Receives Emerging Scholar Award from Golden Key Society

UT Dallas accounting junior Naomi D'Amato said her mother taught her early on to focus her life on serving others. When she got to UT Dallas, she was further inspired by the way faculty members such as Matthew Polze, a lecturer in business law, and Dr. Ted Harpham, dean of the Honors College, showed an interest in helping students and shared their passion for learning. Read the article.

Prescription for Success: Med Student Wins Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship

UT Dallas alumnus Raheel Ata BS'15 knew he wanted to someday work in
His specific career niche crystallized during his Archer Fellow semester in Washington, D.C. While doing clinical rotations at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Ata observed investigational clinical trials with veterans, using devices such as robotic arms for amputees.

Read the article.

In Mojave Desert, Engineer Eyes the Sky as Career Takes Flight

The Mojave Desert can overwhelm the senses. The sweltering afternoons and frigid nights make it impossible to dress for any occasion. The unforgiving brightness of a cloudless sky renders sunglasses ineffective. The howling winds kick up dust that coats wind-worn Joshua trees. Only the occasional sonic boom, high-altitude contrails and unidentified object in the sky indicate the history — and the future — of this desolate landscape. Nearly seven decades ago, Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in this Southern California desert, and it is here where many discoveries, first flights and world records have been set.

Read the article.

Three Undergrad Researchers Receive Goldwater Scholarships

A record three undergraduate researchers from UT Dallas have received full scholarships this year from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, a tally that matches top-ranked institutions such as Yale University, the University of Michigan and Rice University.

Read the article.
New College Brings Undergraduate Honors Programs under One Roof

The UT System's Board of Regents has approved the creation of an Honors College at UT Dallas to better coordinate, initiate and promote programs that advance excellence in undergraduate education.

The new college will build on the foundations of the University's existing honors programs, and will raise their status and structure, said Dr. Ted Harpham, an associate provost and professor of political science who has been appointed dean of the Honors College.

Read the article.