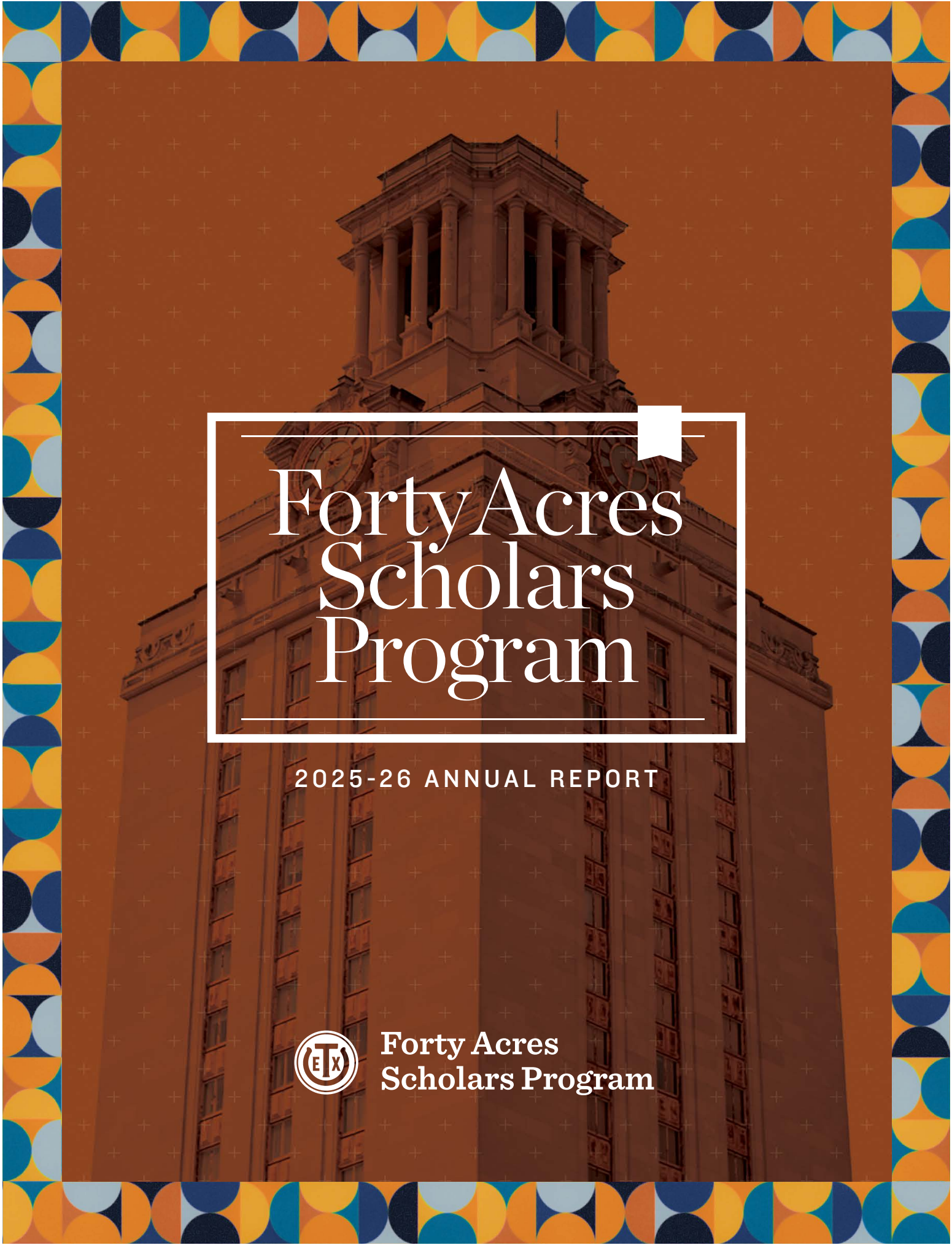
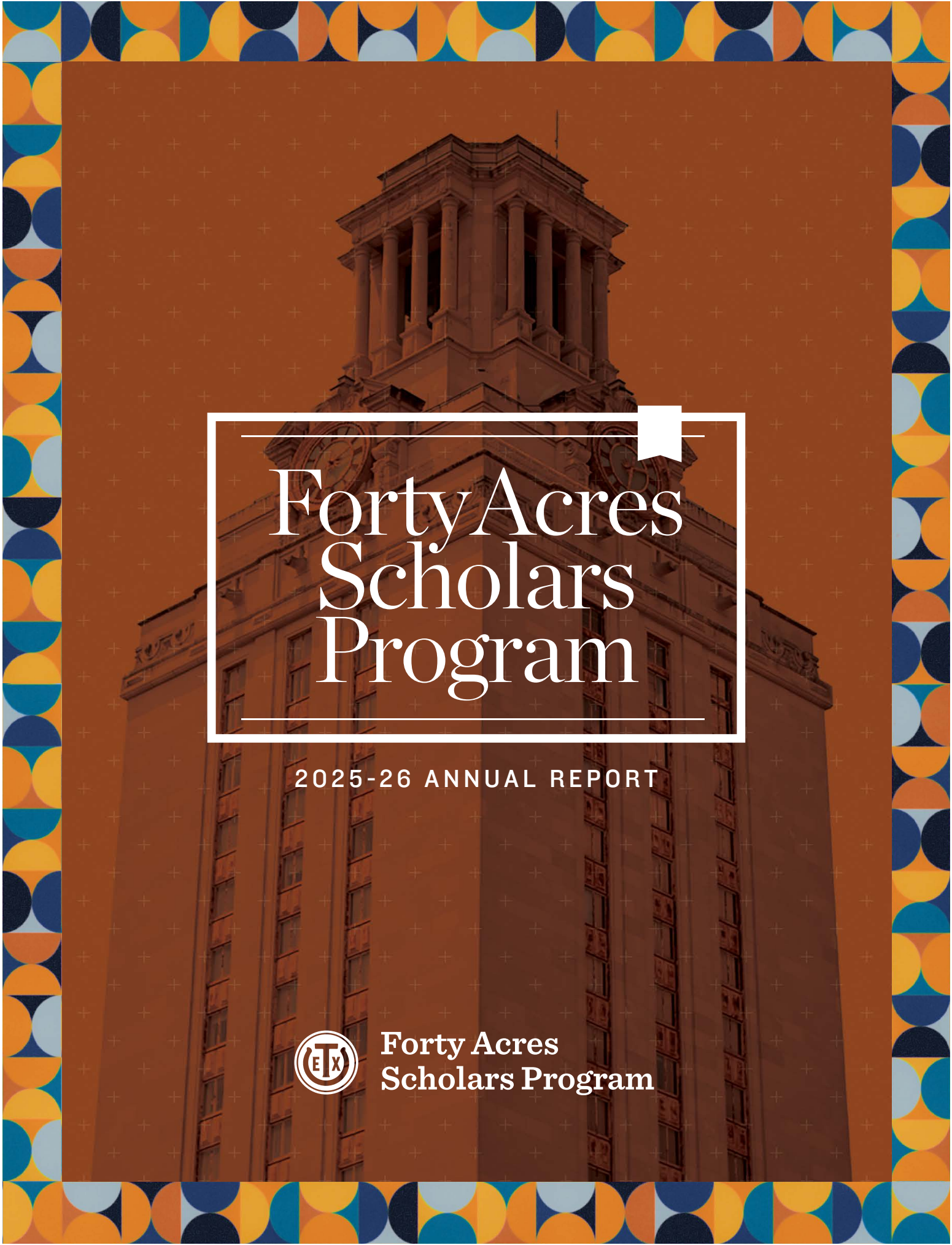




Forty Acres Scholars Program

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT



**Forty Acres
Scholars Program**

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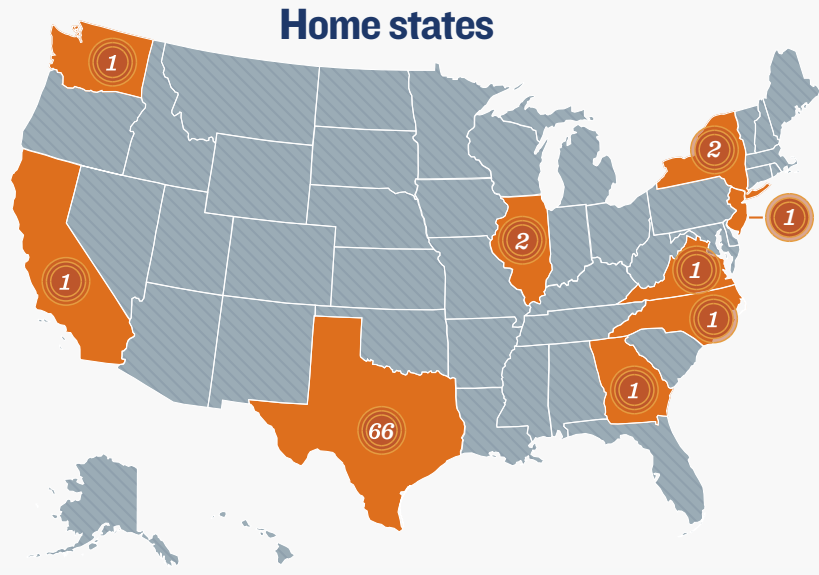
AS WE WRAP UP THE YEAR CELEBRATING THE GRADUATION OF THE 10th cohort, we are filled with pride and admiration for the remarkable impact our Scholar alumni continue to make in the world. With the Class of 2025 now joining their ranks, our alumni network has grown to 176 exceptional individuals. From physicians and attorneys to nonprofit founders, educators, startup CEOs, climate researchers, investigative journalists, and beyond, these bright young leaders are shaping a better future across every field.

We are thrilled to welcome our new cohort, the Class of 2029, to campus to continue this legacy. They all demonstrate intellectual curiosity and have a track record of outstanding academic success. In this milestone year, we're reflecting on the program's founding and its evolution into a powerhouse recruiting tool for the University.

At the heart of the program is its three tenets: community, connection, and discovery. Since its founding, FASP has offered a transformational experience that goes far beyond academics—fostering personal growth, meaningful relationships, and a broader perspective on the world.

As the only program of its kind administered by an alumni association, the Forty Acres Scholars Program continues to foster a unique connection between Scholars and alumni. From the moment they step onto campus, they join an extraordinary network that helps them reach their full potential.

As always, we have so much to celebrate. Thank you for being a part of this success and for helping these Longhorns change the world!



3.85
Average GPA



77

Total Scholars

Breakdown by college*

Business	31
Civic Leadership	1
Communication	7
Education	7
Engineering	7
Fine Arts	3
Geoscience	1
Liberal Arts	13
Natural Sciences	12
Nursing	5
Social Work	1



Class of 2026

3

Congrats, Class of 2026!

Throughout their three and a half years on campus, the 19 Scholars in the Class of 2026 have founded student organizations; held key leadership positions on campus and in the community; and researched, interned, and studied around the world—all while supporting one another and working toward a combined total of 22 undergraduate degrees.



ANGELINE ALOYSIUS

Martin Dies, Jr. Forty Acres
Scholarship

“ Being from California, I didn’t know much about UT until I attended the Forty Acres Scholars Program’s Finalist Weekend. Having moved several times before college, finding a community I wanted to surround myself with in new places has always been a priority for me. Seeing the tight-knitted nature between the scholars present at my finalist weekend, I knew this program was a community I could have going into this new chapter of my life. Over the last three years, The Forty Acres Scholars Program has given me that and so much more. Through my fellow scholars, I have found lifelong friends and cheerleaders. I’ve been connected with a network of mentors and opportunities that have helped shape my drive towards my future academic and professional goals. Through this program, I’ve also had the life-shaping experience of solo travelling for the first time, which led to adventures that had me push myself beyond my known limits while exploring another continent. I didn’t know what to expect of my college experience, but my time as a scholar and a Longhorn has been like nothing I could’ve imagined for it. I’ve grown and learned so much about myself and my potential. For this, I am grateful to my donors and the Forty Acres Scholars Program for bringing me to UT. ”

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LEO ANDRADE

AIM Foundation Forty Acres
Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program gives you an amazing community full of smart, driven leaders that allows you to build upon each others ideas, create exciting things, and most importantly, create lifelong friendships and memories. FASP has opened doors that I never thought could be possible, all while relieving the financial stress of a great education with amazing experiences. In my case, I got the chance to study a semester in Singapore which allowed me to travel around Asia, meet very cool people, and immerse myself in a culture I had no prior connection to. One word of advice for everyone interested or already in the program is to really use the resources available, from the alumni network to the amazing staff, everything in this program helps you grow and not lose sight of your big dreams. I’m beyond thankful to God, the Forty Acres Scholars Program, and the AIM Foundation for this incredible opportunity. ”

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DEISIREE DE JESUS

Mary John and Ralph Spence
Forty Acres Scholarship

“ Being a part of the Forty Acres Scholars Program has been one of the most gratifying and fulfilling experiences of my time here at UT. The resources that this program has offered me, from mentorship to service, have helped me grow into the learner I am today. I have met inspiring alumni, connected with mentors within the education field, and explored corners of the world that have opened my eyes to new perspectives that inform my own. Additionally, the scholars and staff have been a core community for me on the Forty Acres. My fellow scholars have become my lifelong friends who are part of memories that I will look back on no matter how much time has passed, and the staff have been essential in helping me navigate the challenges that college and life has had in store for me. It is these aspects of the program that have turned me into a more confident leader who is ready to “take the world by the horns” wherever I go. I am incredibly grateful to the program and the people involved for all the amazing opportunities I have been a part of. Thank you also to Mr. and Mrs. Tate for your generosity and endless support. It has been an honor getting to know you both, whether it is through talking at dinners or watching UT football games. Your mentorship and giving has transformed my UT experience and will be memories I cherish for a lifetime. Hook ‘em forever! ”

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MOLLY HUNTER

Stamps Forty Ares Scholarship,
supported by the Wood Family

“ My experience with Forty Acres is impossible to put into words, but here's my best effort. Forty Acres has given me countless memories, experiences, friendships, and laughs that have shaped me into the person I am—the person I wanted to become when I stepped on campus for the first time 3 years ago. As an out-of-state student from North Carolina, I wanted college to be a time of enrichment, community, fellowship, and ultimately feeling deep passion towards what I would like to do with the rest of my life. With Forty Acres, I have had the opportunity to travel far more than I could have ever dreamed, and I am so grateful. In Kenya, I taught at a local school and returned home to fundraise for the school to allow students from that local community to break the cycle of poverty by having local, affordable, quality education. Last summer, I worked at a Young Life camp in the Dominican Republic. There, I grew in my faith while speaking completely in Spanish, working with teen moms and their babies. And last semester, I studied abroad in Barcelona where I traveled to 19 countries across Asia, Africa, and much of Europe. Abroad, I gained a fuller perspective of our world, people and cultures. Leaving college, I am forever grateful to Forty Acres for encouraging my passion for working with young people in a variety of different communities through my study of education and social work. As I prepare for my senior year, THANK YOU! Thank you to those who encouraged me as an education major. I will walk across the stage in a few months excited about a future working in foster care with children and families around the world, and I will feel equipped and eager. Thank you to Forty Acres for believing in my dreams and making them come true! ”

[READ MORE](#)



RYAN KARKOWSKY

John and Cynthia Adkins/Texas
Exes Houston Chapter Forty
Acres Scholarship

“ In one of my first letters to my donors John and Cynthia Adkins and to the Houston Texas Exes Chapter, I recall thanking them for giving me the opportunity to “find comfort in my own discomfort, for that vulnerability allows me to grow.” That quote still remains a testament to the experience I have had throughout my time at the University of Texas in the Forty Acres Scholars Program. With respect to discovery, I have had the privilege of exploring Europe and East Asia through study abroad opportunities in Copenhagen and Seoul. With respect to community, I have shared countless laughs and memories with friends in my cohort, riding water slides at Kalahari, making pasta in a cooking competition, and painting the Austin skyline. With respect to connection, I have met numerous donors, UT leadership, government employees, and alumni, who have all helped guide me into the person I want to become. In every essence, some of the most influential lessons I learned and memories I shared were from experiences that pushed what I believed at the time to be my bounds and limits. Thank you, to the Forty Acres Scholars Program, for inspiring me to continually embrace challenge, to seek growth beyond my comfort, and to carry forward a commitment to curiosity in everything I do. Hook ‘em! ”

[READ MORE](#)



BRADLEY KLINCK

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship,
supported by Lana Jones O'Hara
and Will O'Hara

“ If it weren't for the Forty Acres Scholars Program, I might not have even ended up as a Texas Longhorn. As an out-of-state student, I immediately arrived on campus with a community that made this school, city, and state feel like home. Through the generosity of this program I have not only been able to study at the greatest university in the world and meet countless great people, but I was also able to attend an international film festival and spend a semester in Spain. Everything I was able to accomplish during my time in college is because of FASP and my gratitude has no bounds! ”

[READ MORE](#)



RUDY LEA

Susie and John L. Adams Forty Acres Scholarship

“ I came into college with a tailwind: the Forty Acres Scholars Program. FASP has truly changed my life. The incredible support from alumni, programming, and networking opportunities fueled my ability to explore and grow. But more than that, the most powerful part of this program is the way it fosters optimism, courage, and leadership. I stepped onto campus determined to make the most of the opportunities granted to me through FASP. Three years later, I've been blessed to study abroad in Singapore for five months, start a student organization (TUCG) that uplifts my peers and community, work with dozens of businesses across Austin, and pursue a career path I didn't even know existed before college. It's impossible to list all the ways this program and the people in it have shaped me. FASP has opened the door to a life-changing mindset and incredible opportunities. Thank you to my donors, John and Susie Adams, as well as the dedicated program coordinators, my cohort, and the FASP alumni network. ”

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CHELSE LOPEZ

AIM Foundation Forty Acres Scholarship

“ I can truly say that the Forty Acres Program changed my life. Attending UT was always a dream of mine and my experience here has exceeded every expectation. I came in with a beautiful supportive community that genuinely cares about me and wants to see me succeed. I'll forever be grateful to everyone involved in this program—from the servers at dinners to the staff to the scholars to the board, and everyone in between. Coming to UT and being a Longhorn was already a dream come true, but being a Forty Acres Scholar has been an incredible blessing. I've grown so much professionally and personally, and this school, these people, and this program have all played a part in that. It's hard to put into words how much this program means to me, but I know I will be grateful forever. As I enter my last year, I look back at how far I've come—from a shy girl with imposter syndrome to someone confident in who she is and with big dreams for her future. Thank you, Forty Acres, for giving me the best college experience ever! Not only has my time at UT been unforgettable, but this program also gave me the chance to study while exploring the world ... it doesn't get better than that. I'm excited to see what my final year holds and all that God has planned for me next. ”

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SOPHIA MAYNARD

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship, in memory of Ben Thomas Featherston

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been so much more than a scholarship it's been a support system, and a family during a time of immense change and growth. It's given me endless opportunities to network, collaborate on teams, grow as a leader, and even experience life abroad. I'm so thankful for the people, the moments, and the confidence this program has given me to chase big aspirations following graduation. ”

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ANDREW MCALINDEN

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship, supported by Joanie & Doug Aron and Rebekah & Gary Reaves

“ My time at The University of Texas was defined by the incredible opportunities and community provided by the Forty Acres Scholars Program. It not only gave me a tight-knit group of friends from day one but also the confidence and resources to pursue my dreams of studying abroad in both Australia and Switzerland. These global experiences were life-changing, and I will forever be grateful for the memories made and the bonds formed, especially during our scholar retreats. A special thank you to my donors, Doug Aron and Gary Reaves for their endless support and mentorship. ”

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ABIGAIL MIMBELA

Barbara and Alan Dreeben Forty Acres Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has helped me realize dreams and goals I never knew I had or could attain. Thanks to the generosity of the Dreeben family and the dedication of the Forty Acres staff, I have had the privilege to attend this world-renowned university, study abroad on the other side of the world, and pursue my dream internship across the country. As far as I have been, I am grateful to say that the helping hand of a program alumni or member, has never been out of reach. Additionally, every gathering and interaction with my fellow scholars has been inspiring, and for everything this program has given me, I am most grateful for the chance to know them. A dream come true, the Forty Acres Scholars Program is something I will treasure for the rest of my life. This honor will never be lost on me and I strive to carry forward this legacy of community, connection, and discovery. ”

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LUCIENNE MORAN

Charline and Red McCombs Family Forty Acres Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has truly defined my time at UT Austin. From the very beginning, this program felt like home. It has transformed my life, my education, and my future trajectory. It is because of the inspiring and accomplished people this program connected me with that I had the courage to pursue my dreams in physics, engineering, and business. It has opened incredible doors and provided me with experiences I could have never imagined when I first set foot on campus. My donor, Marilyn White, has been an incredible mentor and source of support, and I am deeply grateful that this program brought her into my life. My fellow cohort members are not only wonderful friends, but they also inspire me to keep raising the bar. This program's enrichment opportunities have allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. Studying abroad in Barcelona for a semester gave me the chance to explore Europe and the Caucasus, immersing myself in cultures completely different from my own. I was also able to study abroad in Madrid for a summer, where I had the incredible opportunity to intern at a venture capital firm. These experiences changed me— broadening my worldview and challenging me in new ways. Thank you to my wonderful donors, Red and Charlene McCombs and Marilyn White, for this amazing opportunity. I am eternally grateful to them and this program. In the future, I hope to be able to give back to this program by sponsoring and mentoring a scholar. Hook 'em forever! ”

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YAHIR OLIVARES

Sylvie and Gary Crum Forty Acres Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been so much more than a scholarship it's been a support system, and a family during a time of immense change and growth. It's given me endless opportunities to network, collaborate on teams, grow as a leader, and even experience life abroad. I'm so thankful for the people, the moments, and the confidence this program has given me to chase big aspirations following graduation. ”

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AKSHITA RAWAT

Hobby/Beckworth Forty Acres Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been so much more than a scholarship it's been a support system, and a family during a time of immense change and growth. It's given me endless opportunities to network, collaborate on teams, grow as a leader, and even experience life abroad. I'm so thankful for the people, the moments, and the confidence this program has given me to chase big aspirations following graduation. ”

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COREY'L SAMS

John and Cynthia Adkins/Texas
Exes Houston Chapter Forty
Acres Scholarship

“ I knew that in college I wanted to go all in. All in on building meaningful connections. All in on pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors. And all in on exploring my educational and career interests.

The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been an incredible platform to do so. It has given me and the rest of our cohort the support to go all in during our four years at UT Austin; so we can not only become change proof in a fast changing world, but also design our own unique paths for the future and one day pay it forward. ”

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ISABELLA SOARES

Erin and Thomas A. Bunkley Forty
Acres Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has truly been the cornerstone of my UT experience. From the very first day I stepped on UT's campus, I was surrounded by support and brilliant peers that have pushed me to grow in ways I would have never imagined. Through this program, I have travelled throughout Europe, met some of my best friends, and connected with awe-inspiring sustainability experts and researchers across the nation. The professional and personal growth I have experienced in these past four years has been extraordinary, and I am so grateful for all of the opportunities, connections, and memories I've been able to make through this program. Thank you to my family, my amazing donors Mr. and Mrs. Bunkley, and the Texas Exes staff for their endless encouragement and belief in me. I'm excited to carry the lessons and experiences I've gotten through the Forty Acres Scholars Program beyond my time at UT and truly embody the spirit of 'what starts here changes the world'. ”

[READ MORE](#)



ASHLEIGH TRUJILLO

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship,
supported by Gregory Nance Moore in
memory of Kathleen Cavanagh Moore

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program was truly a dream come true. It offered me opportunities that once felt unattainable and gave me lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories. Grounded in the pillars of Community, Connection, and Discovery, the program provided a community that believed in me, celebrated my accomplishments, and encouraged me to always reach higher. It taught me to be proud of who I am and where I come from. Without the Forty Acres Program, I wouldn't have the incredible opportunities I have today. This program not only opened doors for my education, but also helped me grow into the person I am now. ”

[READ MORE](#)



WESLAND UNG

Texas Exes Dallas Chapter Forty
Acres Scholarship

“ Four years ago, I was daunted by the idea of independence as a student in a place that seemed so foreign to me. However, being a part of the Forty Acres Scholars Program cultivated my experience to where I can call Austin and the Forty Acres my home. The scholars in my cohort quickly became some of my closest friends - some even my roommates for years. Despite our diverse aspirations, the unwavering support and genuine care we have for one another has not only fostered my academic and professional growth, but has - more profoundly - created some of my most treasured memories that I am fortunate enough to carry forever. From learning of my fellow scholars' diverse cultures and backgrounds to leaning on them in times of adversity, FASP became the quintessential embodiment of family. Beyond that, this program allowed me to experience some of the most incredible highlights and encounters of my college experience abroad - from observing surgeries with some of the most humorous physicians I've met in Italy to paragliding above the French Alps. With all of these experiences, I am endlessly grateful for this program as it not only shaped a unique and heartfelt experience at UT, but furthermore wove me into a lifelong community of extraordinary people that I associate with the meaning of home. ”

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SAHAN YERRAM

Karen and Charles Matthews, Jr.
Forty Ares Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been so much more than a full-ride scholarship to me. It gave me my first true sense of community at UT, with fellow scholars and staff providing an invaluable support system as I navigated living on my own for the first time. I am forever grateful for the opportunity the program has given me to pursue both my professional and personal interests completely free of financial worry. Entering college, I never would have imagined that I'd have the chance to learn and explore across six continents. I hope to one day give back to the program and help transform the lives of future Longhorns, just as it has transformed mine. ”

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Class of 2027

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JASMINE BENU

Houston, TX

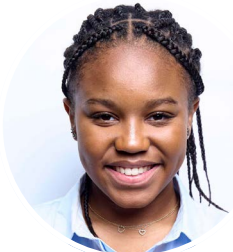
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PAMELA CHOW

Spring, TX

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LAYLA CREAR

Houston, TX

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MATTHEW CREIXELL

Dallas, TX

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ELLA FOLH

Sugar Land, TX

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BENJAMIN HOWELL

Georgetown, TX

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OLIVIA JACOBY

Southlake, TX

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KARLA JIMENEZ

Brownsville, TX

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KYLER LARSEN

College Station, TX

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JARED LEVY

New York, NY

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TINA LUO

Flower Mound, TX

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MARCO MA

Sugar Land, TX

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KENNON McNEW

Robinson, TX

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GRACE OGDEN

San Antonio, TX

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AKASH PRADEEP

Plano, TX

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GEORGIA ROCAP

Lubbock, TX

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ABIGAIL TOMASKI

Houston, TX

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JAYLEN WAITHE

Virginia Beach, VA

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**ANDRÉS ALEJANDRO
YENGLE-TERR**

Houston, TX

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Class of 2028

11



ASHLEY ABRAHAMS

Prosper, TX

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ANJUM ALAM

Houston, TX

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ANNA KATE ALBRITTON

Dallas, TX

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MYSHAE ALLEN

San Angelo, TX

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AWAS AMIN

Southlake, TX

[READ MORE](#)



ALISON BEANBLOSSOM

Winnetka, IL

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EMMA CORBELL

Frisco, TX

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CATHERIN GUERRA

Rio Grande City, TX

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LINDSEY KARKOWSKY

Houston, TX

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LUCY KATZ

Houston, TX

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WALTON KUNU
Missouri City, TX

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MACY McAFEE
Houston, TX

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AUBREY MENZ
Boerne, TX

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MICHAEL O'CONNOR
Arlington Heights, IL

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**EESHWAR
PARASURAMUNI**
Frisco, TX

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LUKE SOTELO
San Antonio, TX

[READ MORE](#)



CHIAMAKA UWALAKA
Houston, TX

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LANDON VON MINDEN
La Grange, TX

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Class of 2029

13

We are thrilled to introduce you to our 20 new and exceptional Forty Acres Scholars. Among the incoming class are founders of community service programs, school clubs, and businesses. Also in the mix are five high school valedictorians and six AP Scholars with Distinction. Many more are decorated varsity athletes, team captains, club presidents, musicians, and entrepreneurs.



**ISABELLE GRACE
BALLARD**

New York, NY

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SIENNA DIERKES

Frisco, TX

[READ MORE](#)



ELLA DILLINGER

Boerne, TX

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BETTY FALVO

San Antonio, TX

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SEAN GELMAN

Marlboro, NJ

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CADEN GEORGE

Fort Worth, TX

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MITUL GOUNI

Allen, TX

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ABBY HAYDON

Frisco, TX

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**SHIVANI JAYARAJ**

Frisco, TX

[READ MORE](#)**ANNABELLE JUDSON**

Austin, TX

[READ MORE](#)**KARYS KARLOW**

Plano, TX

[READ MORE](#)**HAYDEN KRAMER**

Bellaire, TX

[READ MORE](#)**LONDON LEE**

McKinney, TX

[READ MORE](#)**GABRIEL MELO**

Georgetown, TX

[READ MORE](#)**JAWAAD MERALI**

Pflugerville, TX

[READ MORE](#)**PAARI PALANI**

Allen, TX

[READ MORE](#)**JUSTIN POLLACK**

Irvine, CA

[READ MORE](#)**TREY ROLSTON**

Midland, TX

[READ MORE](#)**ANNIKA SAWANT**

Carrollton, TX

[READ MORE](#)**NOLAN YEE**

Katy, TX

[READ MORE](#)



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2029

SEMIFINALISTS

153



FINALISTS

65

**AMONG THE
RECIPIENTS**

4 Service Award Winners

6 Presidents of School clubs

3 Researchers

3 Musicians

5 High School Valedictorians

7 Athletes

20
Recipients

The Scholar Experience

16



Community

Scholar cohorts are made up of gifted and passionate students with diverse backgrounds, interests, and majors. Over the years, this group forms a tight bond outside of the classroom through retreats, dinners, and events. The end result is leaving the Forty Acres with a shared experience that can never be recreated.



Connection

Forty Acres Scholars develop a unique connection with their alma mater and its leaders. They have opportunities to meet, discuss, and forge connections with deans and leading faculty, donors, University staff, and influential alumni.



Discovery

A generous enrichment stipend means Scholars have the freedom to pursue the interests and opportunities outside of the classroom that will positively impact their personal and professional growth. From studying abroad and philanthropic service, to cutting-edge research and participating in real-world experiences in their field of study, we believe their potential is unlocked through experiences both in and out of the classroom.



Thank you

to all those who make the program possible.

Donors

Thank you to our generous and dedicated donors, without whom this world-changing program would not be possible.

View list of Donors
([Download PDF](#))

Advisors

Thank you to our 2025–26 Scholarship Advisory Committee members: Nancy Seliger (chair), Andrea Anderson, Diane Begala, Maria Garate, Ben Howell, Dr. David Jones, Jimmy Ogden, Ann Seals, Anne Smith, and Carl Tippen.

Volunteers

And thank you to all our volunteers who participated in semi-finalist and finalist weekend interviews. Your dedication and service to the Forty Acres Scholars Program is what sets our program apart from all others.