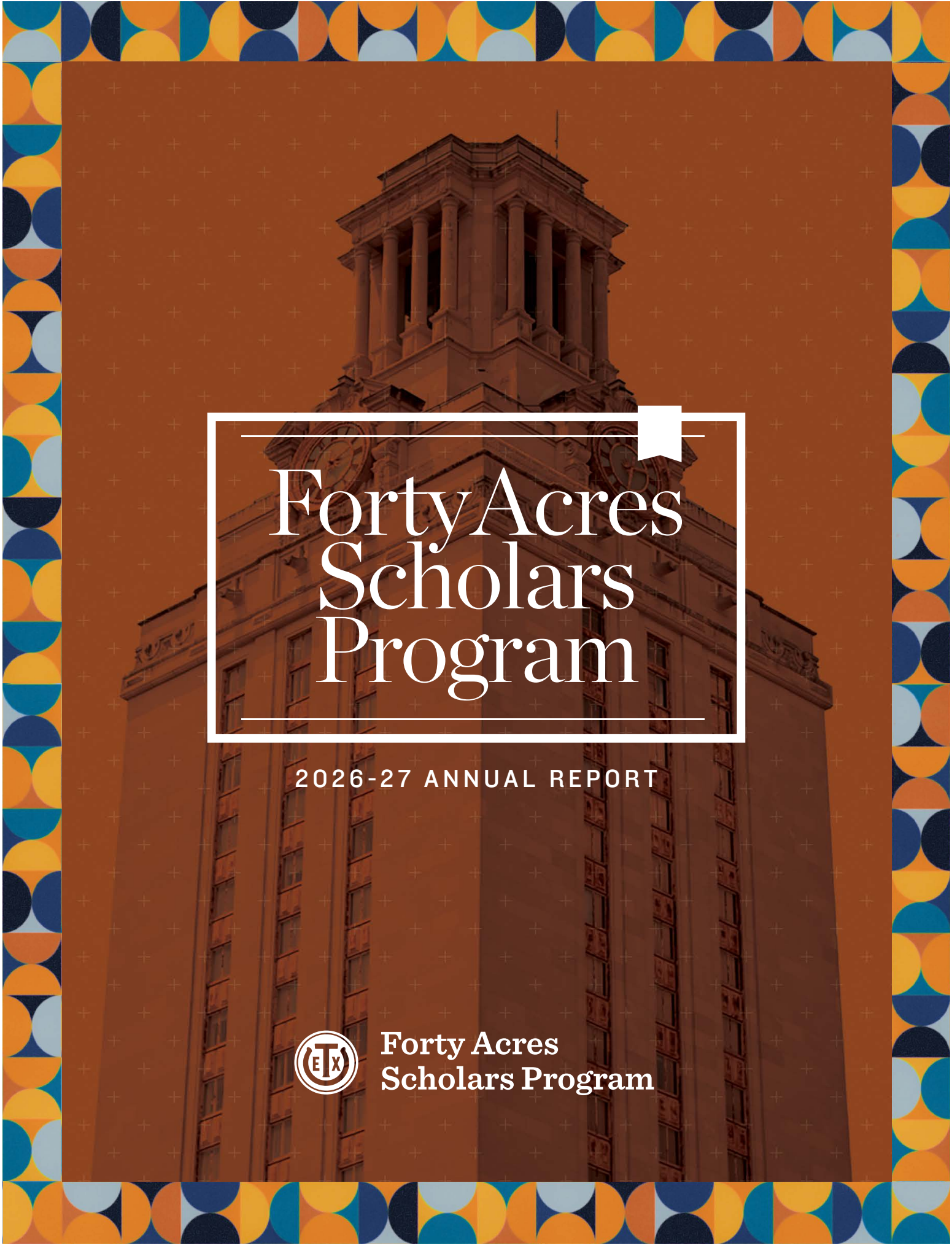
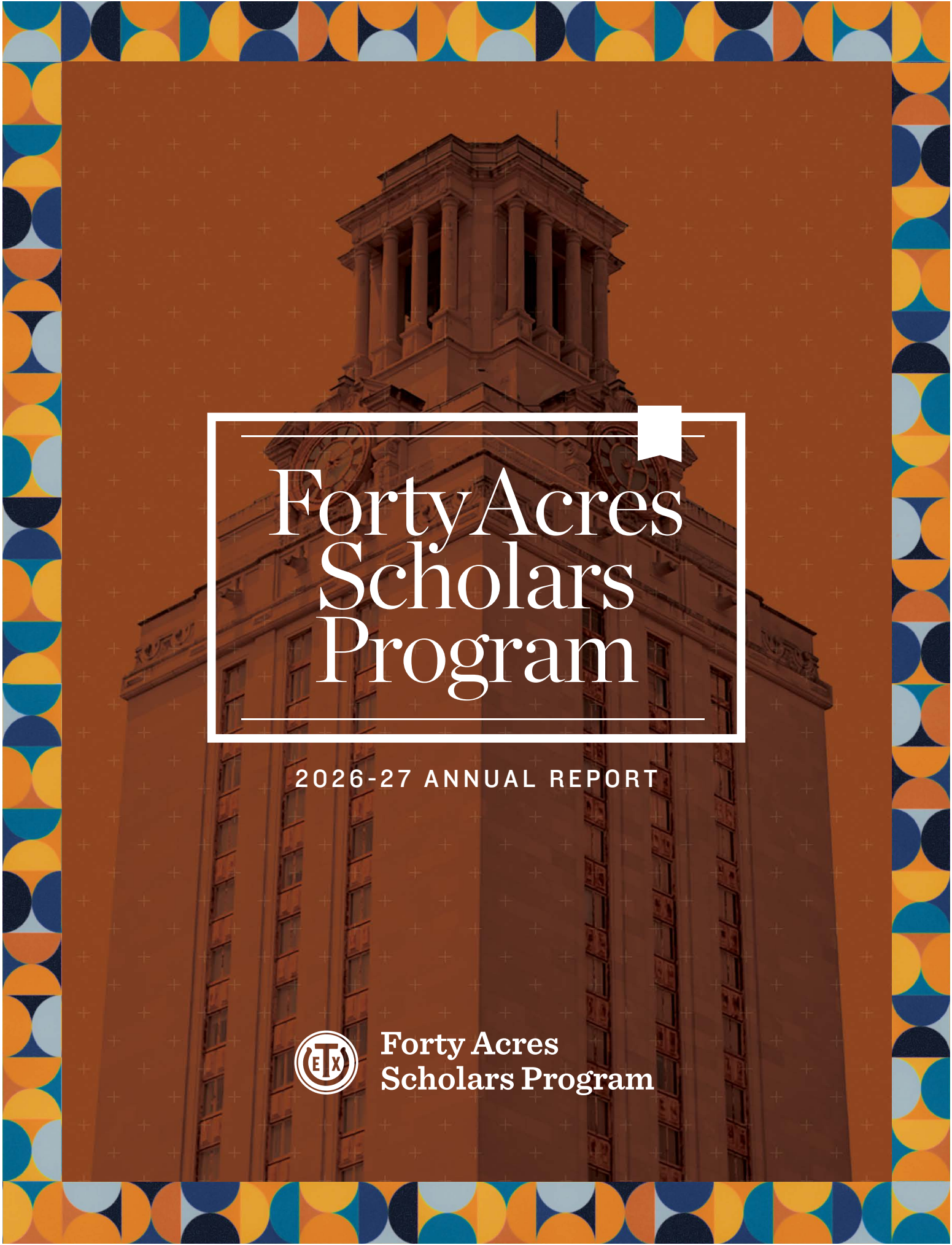




Forty Acres Scholars Program

2026-27 ANNUAL REPORT



**Forty Acres
Scholars Program**

CONTENTS

1	Welcome
3	Class of 2027
9	Class of 2028
11	Class of 2029
13	Class of 2030
17	The Scholar Experience



AS A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS, THE FORTY ACRES SCHOLARS Program celebrates the remarkable impact of its Scholar alumni. With the Class of 2026 now joining their ranks, the alumni network has grown to 194 exceptional individuals. Across industries, communities, and continents, these alumni are tackling complex challenges, driving innovation, serving their communities, and leading with purpose. Their accomplishments reflect the promise of the Forty Acres Scholars Program and the values at the heart of the Forty Acres community.

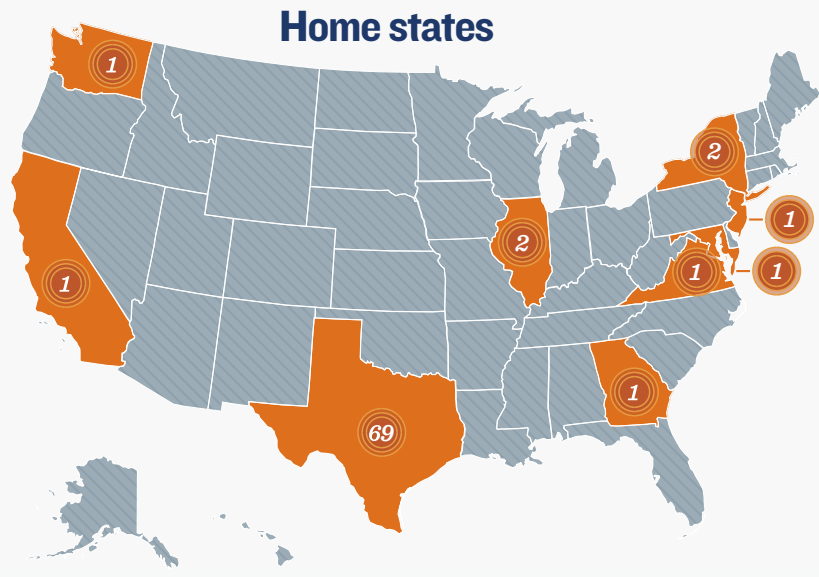
This fall, the program welcomes the Class of 2030, an exceptional group of students who will build on the legacy of those who came before them and help shape the future of the Forty Acres Scholars community. These outstanding students bring intellectual curiosity, a passion for learning, and a record of academic excellence. As the program celebrates this milestone year, it also reflects on its founding and its evolution into one of the University's most impactful recruitment and leadership development initiatives.

At the heart of the Forty Acres Scholars Program are three guiding tenets: community, connection, and discovery. Since its inception, the program has offered a transformational experience that extends far beyond academics—cultivating personal growth, fostering meaningful relationships, and encouraging Scholars to engage deeply with the world around them. These experiences inspire Scholars to think boldly, explore new possibilities, and pursue lives of purpose and impact.

As the only program of its kind administered by an alumni association, the Forty Acres Scholars Program creates a distinctive and lasting connection between Scholars and alumni. From the moment they arrive on campus, Scholars join an extraordinary network of mentors, supporters, and leaders dedicated to helping them thrive and reach their full potential.

None of this would be possible without your support. Thank you for creating life-changing opportunities for Scholars and strengthening the future of The University of Texas at Austin.

Together, this community is creating opportunities, transforming lives, and empowering Scholars to make a meaningful impact on Texas, the nation, and the world.



3.83

Average GPA



79

Total Scholars

Breakdown by college*

Business	27
Civic Leadership	2
Communication	9
Education	5
Engineering	10
Fine Arts	4
Liberal Arts	18
Natural Sciences	12
Nursing	6
Public Affairs	1
Social Work	2

*Totals include students with more than one major.

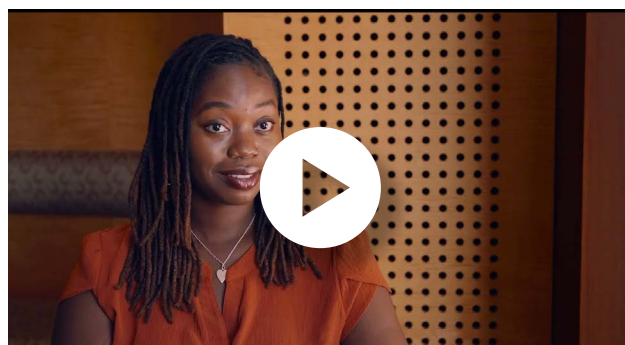


Class of 2027

3

Congrats, Class of 2027!

Throughout their time at UT, the 20 Scholars in the Class of 2027 have embraced opportunities to lead, explore, and serve—founding student organizations, taking on leadership roles, and participating in research, internships, and study-abroad experiences around the world. Along the way, they have built a close-knit community while working toward 25 undergraduate degrees.



JASMINE BÉNAU

AIM Foundation Forty Acres
Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been one of the most meaningful parts of my undergraduate experience. The program has surrounded me with an incredible community of peers, mentors, donors, and alumni who have constantly supported and encouraged me to challenge myself and take advantage of opportunities I never knew existed. I am incredibly grateful and appreciative of the opportunities, relationships, and memories that have shaped my time at UT. As I leave the Forty Acres and prepare to make Texas my ex, I will take with me the lessons I’ve learned by continuing to go beyond my comfort zone and living out the belief that what starts here truly changes the world. ”

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PAMELA CHOW

Sylvie and Gary Crum Forty Acres
Scholarship

“ When I think about the Forty Acres Scholars Program, I don’t think first about the travel or internships—I think about the community it has given me. The friends and lifelong companions who became my roommates and best friends at UT are truly what I will take away from this program. From visiting each other in different countries to being there for each other for presentations or interviews, somewhere along the way these Scholars became my family. As I leave UT, I hope to honor the generosity that changed my life by creating opportunities for future students, just as my donors, Gary and Sylvie Crum, did for me. I will always be grateful to the Forty Acres Scholars Program. ”

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LAYLA CREAR

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship
supported by Aaron & Lara Marie
Thielhorn Charitable Fund

“ The Forty Acres Scholarship Program showed me a side of The University of Texas I'd never experienced before. The opportunities afforded to me have allowed me to imagine a life, both personal and professional, that challenges the bounds I thought possible. I can't say thank you enough to the program staff and my donors, the Stamps Foundation and the Thielhorns. I am forever grateful for this incredible program. ”

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MATTHEW CREIXELL

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

“ This program has connected me to much more than just the alumni of this University, but more so to the University itself. Without this scholarship and my donors, Beverly and Will O'Hara, I would not have had the opportunity to do all of these amazing things, meet such inspiring people, and be connected to what I think is the most special university spirit in the world. Thank you to my donors, mentors, fellow Scholars, and everyone else for being with me along this amazing journey. Hook 'em! ”

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ELLA FOLH

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship
supported by Jeanne L. and
Michael L. Klein

“ This program has blessed me with lifelong friendships, community involvement, enrichment opportunities, and so much more. My favorite part about my cohort is that we all come from different backgrounds and majors, which has allowed me to create relationships in many pockets across campus. As I close this chapter of the best four years of my life, I am proud to walk out as a better version of myself. I couldn't imagine a better college experience. I am so grateful to the Stamps Foundation and the Klein Family for constantly supporting me from the moment I stepped on campus. Your kindness and generosity have been such a blessing to my education, personal development, and future career. ”

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BENJAMIN HOWELL

Jeanne L. and Michael L. Klein
Forty Acres Scholarship

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program challenged me to think bigger, pursue excellence with purpose, and embrace opportunities I never thought possible. The lessons I've learned, the friendships I've built, and the memories I've made will stay with me long after graduation. I leave not only with an immense appreciation for everything this program has given me, but also with a deep sense of responsibility to carry its values forward by serving others, leading with integrity, and creating opportunities for those who come after me. This has forever changed the trajectory of my life, and for that, I will always be grateful. ”

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OLIVIA JACOBY

Waltrip/Texas Exes Fort Worth
Chapter Forty Acres Scholarship

“ Every conversation with a mentor, every challenge embraced, and every opportunity pursued has encouraged me to think beyond my own ambitions and consider the impact I can have on others. This program has shown me that the greatest leaders are lifelong learners who remain curious, lead with humility, and never stop investing in the people around them. I have endless gratitude for the program that made my college experience what it was. The Forty Acres Scholars Program is one of one, and I will always be grateful for the people, opportunities, and experiences that have shaped me. I hope to honor that gift by paying it forward. My greatest aspiration is to live a life that reflects the values this program has instilled in me by leading with purpose, serving generously, and creating opportunities for others. If I can do that, I know I will have honored the investment that so many people have made in me. ”

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KARLA JIMENEZ

Madison Charitable Foundation
Forty Acres Scholarship

“ The program has not only opened doors for me, it has given me the liberty and confidence to believe I have the ability to walk through them. Because of that, I’ve been able to intern in my hometown’s city government, serve nonprofits across Austin, and graduate with two degrees. None of it would have been possible without the people behind it. I’m endlessly grateful to the Madison Charitable Foundation for making this journey possible. My proxy donors, Dan and Andrea Ellinor, have been like family to me these past four years. They’ve shown up for me through regular dinners, catching up over texts and photos, and encouragement I could always count on. The alumni who took me in as a mentee never stopped checking in. I can’t wait to serve others and change this world for the better. Thank you for believing in me. ”

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KYLER LARSEN

Bransford Trust Forty Acres
Scholarship

“ My time as a Forty Acres Scholar has been nothing short of special. I’ve sat in a room with billionaires, studied abroad halfway across the world in Switzerland, and made lifelong friends. From day one, I knew this community was different; the tight-knit community between all Scholars and the staff was a great catalyst early in college and provided me with momentum to achieve my dreams in the later years. Looking back over my time in Austin, I can confidently say that nothing has had a more positive impact on me than this program. I also want to extend a special thank you to the Bransford Trust and my proxy donor, Jacqueline Gibson, for providing me with this wonderful opportunity and guiding me along the way. ”

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JARED LEVY

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship
supported by Lauren and Brad
Morgan Family

“ The Forty Acres Scholars Program is the reason I’m a Texas Longhorn, and I could not be more grateful for the support I’ve received from program donors and staff. Coming from New York City as a senior in high school, I knew no one in Austin and was welcomed into a FASP program that has defined my college experience. My fellow Scholars are incredibly driven and caring, and I’m honored to get to learn from them every day. FASP has enabled me to study in Australia, live in Paris for a semester, and connect with donors, faculty, and alumni who have become trusted mentors and great friends. FASP has made Texas feel like home since my first day in Austin, and I’m so appreciative of the experiences and community the scholarship has introduced me to. ”

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TINA LUO

George Kozmetsky Forty Acres Scholarship

“What a privilege it is to be part of this community of such lovely and inspiring people. Through the Forty Acres Scholars Program, I've found some of my closest friends and had life experiences that would never otherwise have been possible. I've studied abroad in Spain, bonded with fellow Scholars through retreats, volunteering, performing arts, and more, and learned from people with extraordinary careers and stories. Other Scholars continually inspire me with their diverse pursuits and perspectives, and they've been the most wonderful cheerleaders. I'm endlessly grateful to the program staff, donors, and all those who support the program. I know I will continue to watch alumni, current Scholars, and future Scholars inspire me and others with their heart and passion.”

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MARCO MA

Elizabeth Shatto Massey and John H. Massey Forty Acres Scholarship

“My college experience as a Longhorn wouldn't be close to complete without the Forty Acres Scholars Program. When I think about the impact that the program has had on me, it's almost surreal how many formative memories it's played a role in. From giving me my first group of friends in college to enabling me to study in Ireland and the Netherlands, my time at UT has been wildly different than I ever could have imagined when I first stepped on campus. The access to people, places, and knowledge that the program has allowed me has been integral to my development on the Forty Acres, but also in how much more I feel like I can envision my future after college. A special thank you to my amazing donors, the Masseys, for their generous support, and to everyone that has made this program such a life-changing experience!”

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KENNON MCNEW

Friends of Darrell K Royal Forty Acres Scholarship

“This program is simply unlike anything else. I have been provided with an incredible community of fellow students to do life with these past few years. Alongside them, staff, donors, professionals, and many others have supported me so well and been there for me every step of the way—including my amazing proxy donors, Mr. and Mrs. Crow, who have taken me in and served as a second home for me during college. Through the opportunity provided by this program, I was able to study abroad in Copenhagen and travel to other countries throughout Europe—an opportunity that not only taught me valuable lessons but also broadened my worldview and humbled me with the beauty of this world.”

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GRACE OGDEN

Lenora and Walter F. Brown Forty Acres Scholarship

“A free education is a gift in and of itself, but this program extends far beyond that. It has given me an incredible network; I have had the opportunity to attend countless events that are unavailable to most students, meeting university officials, business leaders, and even famous actors. It has given me lifelong memories; I will never forget making ridiculous skits at Camp Texas, playing intramural volleyball with my cohort, or studying Italian history in Florence. Most importantly, it has given me enduring friendships; my fellow Scholars quickly became some of my favorite people. Each day, they both challenge and encourage me, and my life is far richer for knowing them. To the Brown Family, the Texas Exes staff, and everyone else who has made this experience possible for me—thank you. It means more than you could ever know.”

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AKASH PRADEEP

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship
supported by Anne Q. Smith

“ Elsewhere I would likely be another number or statistic, but here, I am seen for who I am. The Forty Acres Scholars Program has been nothing short of a red-carpet college experience—or as I like to say, “a burnt-orange carpet.” The attention and genuine investment that our staff, alumni, donors, and other contributors put toward this program is unparalleled, allowing me to partake in countless new experiences and opportunities that have undoubtedly prepared me for success. From being able to study abroad in Europe and Asia and learning about new cultures and environments to collaborating with various departments and faculty on campus, it is through this program that I have developed the foundation to create meaningful impact and tackle challenges on campus and beyond. ”

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GEORGIA ROCAP

Stuart W. Stedman Forty Acres
Scholarship / Marilyn Marshall
White Enrichment Award

“ My college experience as a Longhorn wouldn't be close to complete without the Forty Acres Scholars Program. When I think about the impact that the program has had on me, it's almost surreal how many formative memories it's played a role in. From giving me my first group of friends in college to enabling me to study in Ireland and the Netherlands, my time at UT has been wildly different than I ever could have imagined when I first stepped on campus. The access to people, places, and knowledge that the program has allowed me has been integral to my development on the Forty Acres, but also in how much more I feel like I can envision my future after college. A special thank you to my amazing donors, the Masseys, for their generous support, and to everyone that has made this program such a life-changing experience! ”

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AKSHAYA SAKALA

Barbara and Alan Dreeben Forty
Acres Scholarship

“ This program is simply unlike anything else. I have been provided with an incredible community of fellow students to do life with these past few years. Alongside them, staff, donors, professionals, and many others have supported me so well and been there for me every step of the way—including my amazing proxy donors, Mr. and Mrs. Crow, who have taken me in and served as a second home for me during college. Through the opportunity provided by this program, I was able to study abroad in Copenhagen and travel to other countries throughout Europe—an opportunity that not only taught me valuable lessons but also broadened my worldview and humbled me with the beauty of this world. ”

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ABIGAIL TOMASKI

Stamps Forty Acres Scholarship
supported by Patrick L. Cook

“ A free education is a gift in and of itself, but this program extends far beyond that. It has given me an incredible network; I have had the opportunity to attend countless events that are unavailable to most students, meeting university officials, business leaders, and even famous actors. It has given me lifelong memories; I will never forget making ridiculous skits at Camp Texas, playing intramural volleyball with my cohort, or studying Italian history in Florence. Most importantly, it has given me enduring friendships; my fellow Scholars quickly became some of my favorite people. Each day, they both challenge and encourage me, and my life is far richer for knowing them. To the Brown Family, the Texas Exes staff, and everyone else who has made this experience possible for me—thank you. It means more than you could ever know. ”

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JAYLEN WAITHE

Cain, Denius, McGill Family
Forty Acres 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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ANDRES YENGLE

Tom and Sally Dunning Forty
Acres Scholarship

“ My college experience as a Longhorn wouldn't be close to complete without the Forty Acres Scholars Program. When I think about the impact that the program has had on me, it's almost surreal how many formative memories it's played a role in. From giving me my first group of friends in college to enabling me to study in Ireland and the Netherlands, my time at UT has been wildly different than I ever could have imagined when I first stepped on campus. The access to people, places, and knowledge that the program has allowed me has been integral to my development on the Forty Acres, but also in how much more I feel like I can envision my future after college. A special thank you to my amazing donors, the Masseys, for their generous support, and to everyone that has made this program such a life-changing experience! ”

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Class of 2028

9



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

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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

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CHIAMAKA UWALAKA
Houston, TX

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LANDON VON MINDEN
La Grange, TX

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Class of 2029

11



**ISABELLE GRACE
BALLARD**
New York, NY

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SIENNA DIERKES
Frisco, TX

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ELLA DILLINGER
Boerne, TX

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BETTY FALVO
San Antonio, TX

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ANNABELLE JUDSON
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KARYS KARLOW
Plano, TX

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**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

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Class of 2030

13

The Forty Acres Scholars Program is pleased to introduce 22 extraordinary new Scholars. This accomplished class includes innovators, leaders, and changemakers—founders of community service programs, school clubs, and businesses; high school valedictorians; AP Scholars with Distinction; National Merit Scholars; and Presidential Volunteer Service Award recipients. Many have also earned recognition as varsity athletes, team captains, club presidents, musicians, and entrepreneurs.



DEBRA-JUL AKANMU

Dallas, TX

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CAROLINE BEST

Chevy Chase, MD

[READ MORE](#)



CAROLINE BONNER

Houston, TX

[READ MORE](#)



ELLIOTT DAY

Austin, TX

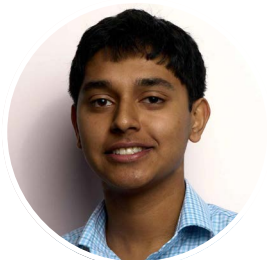
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GRACIELA GARCIA

Arlington, TX

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JACOB GEORGE

Pearland, TX

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SARA GUEDEZ

Mission, TX

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SYRUS GUPTA

Dallas, TX

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**CORINNE HAMPTON**

Austin, TX

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Denton, TX

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Austin, TX

[READ MORE](#)**AVA NEWBURY**

Frisco, TX

[READ MORE](#)**IFEOLUWA OLADIMEJI**

McKinney, TX

[READ MORE](#)**SONIA ONYEAGBA**

Milton, TX

[READ MORE](#)**RORI REYNOLDS**

Austin, TX

[READ MORE](#)**ANIRUDDH
SUBRAMANIAN**

Flower Mound, TX

[READ MORE](#)**ABIGAIL TRAHAN**

Tyler, TX

[READ MORE](#)**ANNIE TSANG**

Bellaire, TX

[READ MORE](#)**DANIEL VASSILIEV**

Houston, TX

[READ MORE](#)**COLE WAKEFIELD**

McKinney, TX

[READ MORE](#)



AARON WU

Austin, TX

[READ MORE](#)



ELI YORIO

Houston, TX

[READ MORE](#)



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2030

SEMIFINALISTS

165



FINALISTS

60

AMONG THE RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 4 National Merit Recognition recipients | 7 Musicians |
| 13 AP Scholar Recognition recipients | 15 Presidents of school clubs |
| 6 Service award winners | 8 Athletes |
| 8 Founders of nonprofits, businesses, or school clubs | 4 High school valedictorians |

22
Recipients

The Scholar Experience

17



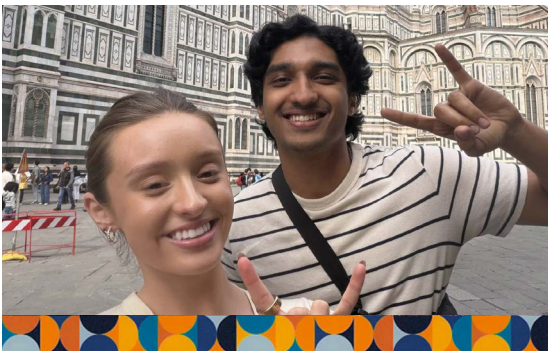
Community

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 interests and opportunities outside 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 the generous and dedicated donors whose support makes this world-changing program 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

We are deeply grateful to the
volunteers who contributed
their time and expertise during
semifinalist and finalist interview
weekends. Their support is
instrumental to the Forty Acres
Scholars Program and helps make
this experience truly exceptional.