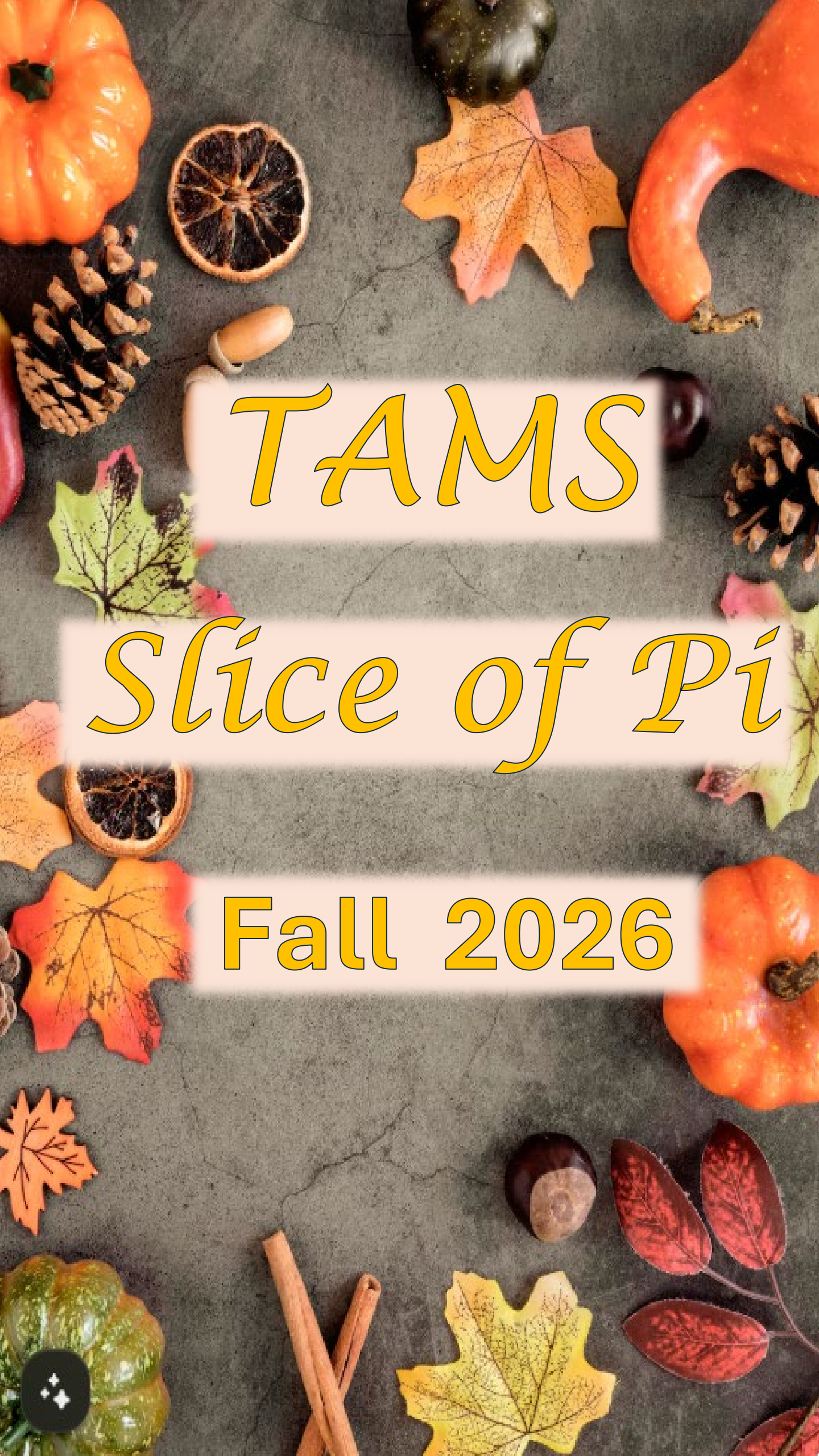

TAMS
Slice of Pi
Fall 2026

Current Student News



Hitaishi C. ‘27 received the Davidson Fellow Scholarship, ($50K!!), for his research in astrophysics. Hitaishi traveled to D.C. in October to receive the award and deliver a few remarks about his research. Click here to read more: https://www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-programs/fellows-scholarship/fellows/current-and-past-fellows/2026-fellows/fellow-hitaishi-chillara/



B.E.A.C.O.N. – Building Experiences And Career Opportunities Now, organizes and hosts ALUMNIGHT. Zoom events featuring alumni that are soaring professionally. These Zoom meet ups are open to everyone in the TAMS family. We’ve had 3 so far and all have been outstanding.







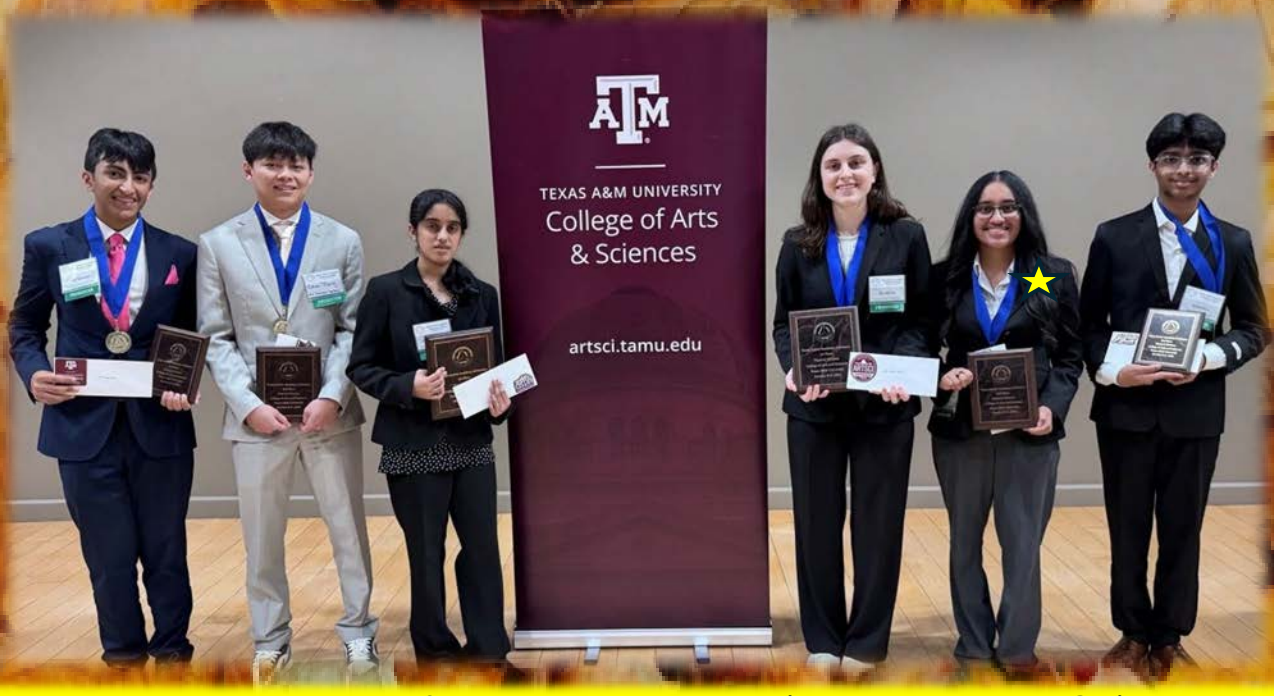
Current Student News



TAMS Medical Society, TMS, organized and presented the annual Dinner with Drs. event in Sept. L – R = Neha K. ‘19, Alex J., Elcy J. ‘93, Sonya R., Eric Z. ’14, James Y. ‘14, Devin T. ‘93, Yixiao C. “05. 2nd photo includes TMS officers.



Current Student News



Students traveled to Tx. A&M for the Texas Junior Academy of Science competition and received many awards. Nora N. '27 earned 1st place in Engineering II and 2nd place overall in the Physical Science Division for her research in Dr. Habibi's BioMedical and Engineering laboratory. She will go on to represent Texas at the 2027 AJAS conference in Chicago.



Dhilan Avula, '28, was in Boston at the Women's Health Conference this month presenting his research on how current cardiovascular prediction models underserve women across socioeconomic and psychosocial contexts.



Vivian L. '27 presented at the IEEE MIT Undergraduate Research Technology Conference

Current Student News



Ishani T. ‘27 was in Austin earlier this month with TXME for the Menstrual Equity Summit.





Divya M., ‘27, recently secured an internship with Breast Cancer Prevention Partners based on her research analyzing endocrine disrupting chemicals, phthalates, carcinogens and fragrance allergens in commonly sold personal care products. The organization published Divya’s research here: https://protectourbreasts.org/how-my-sensitive-skin-led-me-to-the-beauty-industrys-best-kept-secret/

Fall Orientation – Junior Jubilee organized by the Ambassadors

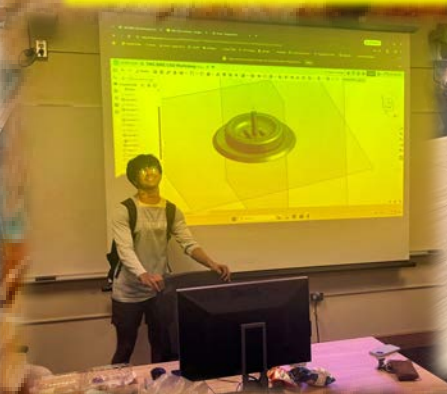


T.A.S. – TAMS Academic Society – sponsored a snack and study event





Teaching students 3D printing and use of autocad





Current Students News

The Green House restaurant sponsors a weekly puzzle night and 4 TAMSters won! They were celebrated as the youngest team ever winning the event. Russ did not get their names....☹





McConnell Hall News



Mac Café is 98% done with a large thank you to Colin M. ’97 and his family. All the tech upgrades were compliments of the Meyer family. The ceiling refresh looks great but with the tile removal, we now need to install sound absorbing material (2%) back on to the ceiling. Looks Fantastic – just echoes a bit.

New cameras, sound bars, giant ViewSonic in the lobby, big screens in the back. We can now live stream from Mac Café!

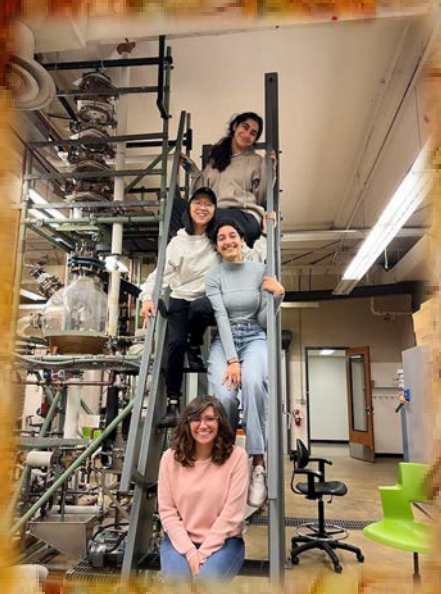
UNT Housing redid the ceilings and lights in the Mac Café and are now motivated to improve the hallways throughout McConnell. McConnell will be ‘off line’ for the Summer of 2027. You all can still visit & tour – just no students and staff will be present. Be sure to give Russ a holler if you swing by this summer.

Alumni News



Cynthia Balusek, ’95, is a featured breakout speaker for the upcoming Data Connect conference this fall – represent!





Dr. Alex Prybutok, ’12, has been named one of AIChE's 35 under 35 in Education and Outreach.
In just four years as a UW ChemE teaching faculty, Prybutok has made a massive impact on the department, the discipline and her students.
Learn more about Prybutok's impact as a professor and what makes her stand out at https://lnkd.in/gGKxadQa



Michayal Mathew, TAMS ‘ 15, is one of Payload’s 2026 Pioneers! Read his full profile here: https://lnkd.in/ga-yVkE7

Alumni Talent





Anand Sitaram – TAMS ‘XY – his Summer Street Quartet is the 2026 Barbershop Harmony Northeastern District Champion.



Coreyanne (Rickwalt) Armstrong ‘94, is performing with Tartanic five weekends at Texas Ren Faire this fall and other bands in Virginia, Maryland and Louisiana between those gigs. A busy piper!



Evelyn Lamb, ‘01, had her time under the spotlights as a contestant on Jeopardy this past month as well. We believe our 3rd TAMSter on the show.

Alumni Talents







Suzannah (Weber) Gusukuma – class of ‘’94 An artisan visiting the Arbors Tent G the weekend of Oct 23-25 makes these very fine bolos, tie pins and scarf sliders. Russ is now a proud owner of a TAMS bolo AND tie clip. Here process video is: https://www.instagram.com/reel/Demw7N7viuo/?mdxt=ZDhwdWhvdHVsMjlj





The world premier of Colin Meye, ‘97 (and friends) documentary was shown at the Newport Beach film festival. Many spent countless years working towards a first treatment for FA patients.

The synopsis of the film: Kyle Bryant and Sean Baumstark, disabled by a rare disease, embark on a grueling 200-mile ride up Umling La, the world’s highest road. Supported by a dedicated team, their epic ride mirrors their community’s 30-year battle for a breakthrough drug approval. As the team pedals, they carry the hope of thousands fighting for time, treatment, and a future.

If you are in or around LA and can come, you can get the details here: **https://nbff2026.eventive.org/films/6aa310241699924621fc6e70**

Alumni Gatherings



TAMS partnered with the UNT Alumni Association and we gathered at Woodrow's in Ft. Worth. Abi Kumar '21, Boah Chung, '06, John Black '92, Russ, Piotr Blaszczak, '06. Why post the polished photo when this captures the night, Boah giving us instructions that we were not holding the banner correctly....;)

Anagha Krishnan, 16 and James celebrated their engagement in Houston and Russ crashed the celebration. While in Houston he met up with a collection of TAMS alumni Houstonians.





Jordan Smith, '06 and Russ.



L – R. Daughter of TAMS grad – future TAMSter?, Jaclyn Ocumpaugh, 96, Owen Hehmeyer '98, John, Supicha Sookanan '96, Evelyn Lamb '01, another John and Russ

Alumni Gatherings

TAMS in Austin Oct 24 for a Preview Day and Alumni gathering in the afternoon. 2pm at Easy Tiger North – great location thanks to Shan. Special thank you to Xavier Patterson's '26 family – who hosted us on the UT campus. Kurtis Carsch '12 and Om Joshi '26 both spoke and Russ forgetfully did not photograph the moment. Hopefully you can recognize a few of the faces in these photos. In no particular order: Arjun Mathane '27, Shrey Gandhi '27, Sharon Vann ' 90, Wendy Chen '27, Anshika Janumpally '27, Jordan Owens '02, Shan Wang '03, Kristi Rokyta Owens '98, Math Krenik '11, Stephanie Pan '08, Lucille Tagnon '25 (and her mom came!), Neelesh Chevuri '25, Sameer Agarwal, '25, Ben Huang '11, Mina Phipps '21, Andrew Abraham, '21, Gavin Buchanan '17.









a russ reflection…

A TAMS Confluence….

The education mantra, “we should be investing more in students”. TAMS ceaselessly delivers with the myriad of staff, services and procedures focusing on student safety and success. Even UNT engages in this euphemistic boast pointing to the resources bountifully available. I cannot imagine a university NOT tossing about similar language in a mission statement. Cynically I wonder if this vocabulary gymnastics is perpetrated to counter the obvious: families pay incredible sums of money for higher education…. but I digress.

Investing in students has taken on a new meaning for me. Many TAMS grads have created and sold businesses, with a few creating and selling multiple. TAMS is now featuring these alumni through the ALUMNIGHT program, alumni receptions, live speaking gigs at TAMS and highlights in the Slice of Pi. TAMS alumni are now more than ever being celebrated for their professional accomplishments. Fascinated and inspired, current students desire to start their own businesses **now** and covet networking with alumni – BEFORE graduating TAMS.

During more than one of these alumni features, mention will be made of another company or initiative and Russ can say, ‘yea, that’s a TAMS grad’ and the alumni will respond, “REALLY! I had no idea…. put me in contact with that alumnus or give me their information”.

This fall I was contacted by an alumnus who created and sold a company before turning 25 and is now partnering with another TAMS grad to develop a coffee shop in Austin, Tx. “you interested in joining us Russ, we are gathering **INVESTORS?**”. Ah…my chance to literally put money into TAMS student initiative. A heartwarming detail was that there were 15 or so other TAMSters on board to invest. TAMS grads investing in TAMS grads = Force multiplier at its best.

Another goal is now upon me. How to develop a repository of TAMS alums and current students that are creating businesses, involved with venture capital, and have an acumen for financial success? TAMS students have an abundance of ambition, creativity and adventurousness. There are several alumni who are also beginning to accumulate wealth. Resources that could be shared to spawn more TAMS success. **WIN $$ WIN.** Current students are telling me a ‘Dashboard “could quickly be developed to solve this however Russ has no tech game and is anything done quickly done well? Let’s bring together these **DIFFERENCE MAKERS**

Confluence continues…

What ideas do alumni have for me? How can we (TAMS) get this off the ground? [Development director Russ' brain] = How can TAMS receive a small %tage off the top from all these matches made in heaven to contribute to the TAMS revenue boosting scholarships? Dr. de Oliveira and Russ kicked around the idea of developing an entrepreneurial summer experience, 6-8 weeks bringing alumni and current students together to build ideas. Ideas and businesses spawned from this effort would agree to contribute X%tage to TAMS**. WIN $$ WIN.**
I'm naïve and Panglossian (look it up). Are individuals with wealth beaten down by requests to invest in new ideas? An interaction I had with a successful and generous alumnus years ago…. "Russ, I built and sold XYZ company – great experience we talk for 2 hours b/c Russ has a ton of questions. "Russ here is my GENEROUS donation to TAMS, (**DAMN** Russ subconsciously shouts and my lame poker face must have expressed the same). "Don't worry I can afford this…and if my next idea/company hits, I'll just move the decimal place for my next donation. With the money I made on this sale, I have 4-5 other irons in the fire." Amazing from my perspective…. but now I ask. Will this alumnus be open to be listed on the magical 'dashboard' of **DIFFERENCE MAKERS**? Could Russ recruit him for the summer entrepreneurial camp?

This idea…. help Russ and TAMS make it happen. What drawbacks lurk or pitfalls exist that we should anticipate? **Let's INVEST IN TAMS!!!**

ENDOWMENT UPDATES

Million $$ Mission

Donations have slowed a bit. TAMS needs 1000 donors x $1K and that is less than $100 a month – put it on a credit card – make it reoccurring. Be one of the **shing points of light**. Many of us have given. This month's hero = Ashley Womack class of '98.

GREAT CLASSES = '94, '93, '98 (top 3)

Laaaame classes = '10, '11, '17, 2000, '23
Let's get with the program.

2002 v 2003 endowments – The class of '03 has a good size lead on the class of '02. Not sure what keeps '02s from donating??

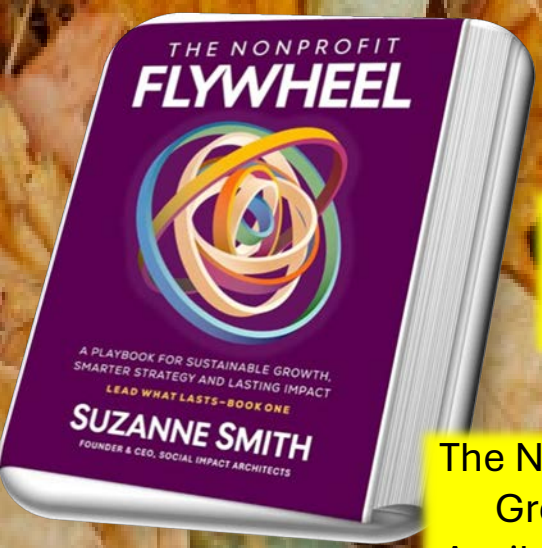
Link to give: https://one.unt.edu/giving/texas-academy-of-mathematics-science

Alumni Authors

Jed Todd ‘92, Jeff Oberg ‘93‘Jon Black ‘92 and Anthon Draw (Ed O’Casey ‘92) joined forces to author books and have their own press site J3E Press – check’em out here: https://www.j3epress.com







Suzanne Smith, ‘94, has a book coming out this month.



The Nonprofit Flywheel: A Playbook for Sustainable Growth, Smarter Strategy and Lasting Impact Available on Amazon and via free digital download: www.meetsuzanne.com/nonprofitflywheel



Ellie Rose Matton, ‘20 just completed her 1st novel to be released on November 10, 2026.



https://krieger.jhu.edu/ursca/2026/10/05/meg-walsh-awardee-ellie-rose-mattoon-publishes-the-mavericks-midwife/?fbclid=IwY2xjawVMZV1leHRuA2FlbQIxMQBwZG9mBXNydGMGYXBwX2lkEDIyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR47_WBzyEOnnE-I9AtjWxKsmFg-WkUel3pZw5dGg_dEupujfLuZ5MsTUBefEg_aem_liXUYW-ZzEOAugkSQGH57Q

Serendipitous Sightings



Pooneh Bagher, ‘00 and Jack Eudy, ‘01 fortuitously connect at the American Physiological Society Comparative Physiology Conference in Sept.



Melissa (Rokyta) Bradbury, ’02 and her daughter visited TAMS for a Preview Day in Sept.







Jon Allen, ‘00 riding Falkor to Paris to meet up with Joyce Kao, ‘02, Alicia Allen, ’00, Kye (Kanny) Kim, ‘00 and a few UT buddies. I think Jon started the trouble…








Beannachd
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