



TAMS

Slice of Pi

Summer 2026



Current Student News

Deven Rohatgi, '27 (pictured in the middle) is at TAMS this summer conducting research 40 hours a week however on the weekends he is making a difference in the community. Partnering with Tango Charities and Feed the City – Deven rallies volunteers to make lunches for those in need. He started this effort last fall and now every 3rd Saturday, he and whomever wishes to help - donates and assembles lunches. Once assembled the lunches go to local organizations that feed those in need. Since November his efforts have prepared over 6000 lunches helping the Denton agency, Our Daily Bread, to reach capacity on meals!

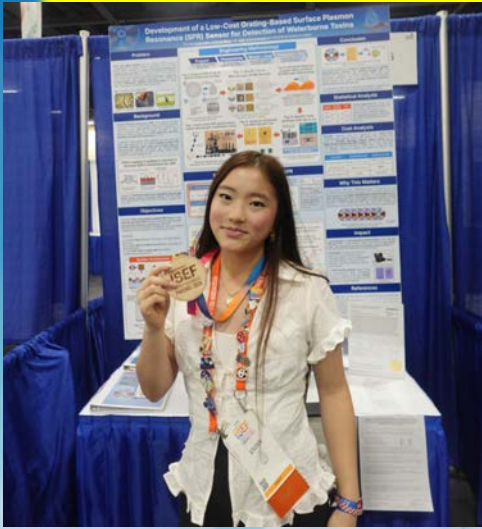
Instagram is: <https://www.instagram.com/feed.the.city.denton/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585536133480>



Janvi Shah and Shriya Tandon, '28, were featured in a Denton Record Chronicle as an “early TAMS researcher”. Janvi is studying how environmental contaminants influence the physiology of aquatic life; specifically, how mercury exposure affects the behavior of fathead minnows. Shriya works in the neuroscience lab of Dr. Fuchs studying primary neuronal cilia or microscopic structures found on the surface of brain cells. The same article was then featured in the National Consortium of STEM Schools weekly newsletter!

Current Student News



Vivian Liu, '27, featured at ISEF – in the Engineering Technology: Statics and Dynamics category which had ~60 projects. She received a 3rd Grand Award for her project on developing a low-cost Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) sensor for the detection of waterborne toxins. She also received a Special Award from the Shanghai Science Association for Young Talents, 1 of 5 given across all categories. Grateful for her mentor Wisansaya Jaikeandee and P.I. Taeyui Choi.



Vivian was also featured on KHOU 11 for the 3rd time, to talk about Future Female Scholars. Vivian and Claire Wang (both TAMS '27). 1,700 current volunteer tutors to help others.



UNT recognizes Aniruth, Pavan and Bradley as the most recent TAMSters contributing to the Goldwater Scholar totals!



<https://research.unt.edu/news/2026/goldwater-scholars.html>

Current Student Request



Aditi is this year's Girl Up Social Media Coordinator at TAMS. Girl Up is starting a monthly spotlight featuring female TAMS alumni and where they are now. They would love to show your journey, what you're doing now, and any advice you have for current students. Interested, send your email to AditiPolsani@my.unt.edu and she will send over a few short questions. Check out Instagram, @tamsgirlup, to learn more about the club.

Current Student Request



Nora N and Saanvi C. – class of '27 are seeking TAMS alumni who own or work with medical companies, healthcare organizations, medical supply companies, or medical sales/supply representatives that might be interested in supporting our mission through donations, partnerships, or even advice. <https://curecousa.org/>



Divya M, class '27, completed an independent project conducting a consumer chemical safety analysis, *Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), PFAS, and Phthalates in Personal Care Products and Popular Clothing Brands*, analyzing 20 commonly sold cosmetic products and clothing brands using the Environmental Working Group's (EWG's) Skin Deep database and publicly available independent testing data. Divya has collaborated with Target's Corporate Responsibility and made a difference. She is wanting share her information and make a larger impact. Help her out!

Faculty Awards

Dr. Bill Acree the recipient of the 2026 CUR-Goldwater Scholars Faculty Mentor Award and honored on June 10

<https://www.cur.org/unts-acree-selected-as-2026-cur-goldwater-scholars-faculty-mentor-awardee/>



Dr. Mann was selected as an outstanding instructor receiving the Inspirational Teachers Award from U. of Washington's Paul Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering. Dr. Allen was nominated by Pratika E., TAMS class '24.



Spoiling students in his lab, as Dr. Acree treats them all to the latest Star Wars movie this summer.

McConnell Hall News

The major news is that Mac Café has finally received the long overdue refresh. UNT Housing funded the refresh and a generous TAMS alumnus is funding the Audio/Video upgrades. The goal is to be able to live stream all major programs from the Mac Café to the web. This will allow everyone to tune in to the H.O.P.E. auction, TMS Aid the Cause and many other major performances and programs.



Alumni Gatherings

During the COVID years, three classes had their McConnell Days interrupted. On June 12, a special party was convened at the home of a '95 alumnus/mother of 3 TAMSters. The classes of '20, '21 and '22 were invited to come!

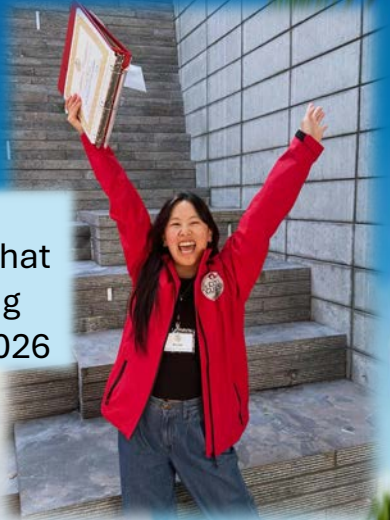


The annual TAMS Reunion reception was held on July 11. All alumni are welcome. We celebrate the 5 year milestones and the Class of '06 turned out! Alumni ranged from 2026 to 1991 and Wendy Boyd Brown made an appearance.

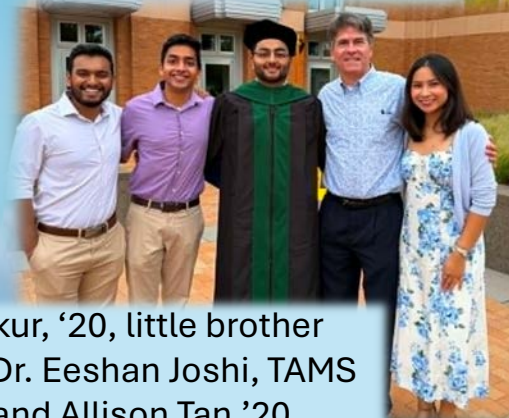


Alumni News

In the San Fran area? ... Annabel Wang, '14, can be your guide. She just Graduated from @sfcityguides - a group that gives free walking tours of San Francisco. She will be giving tours of Golden Gate Park east starting later in summer 2026



Dr. Humaira Islam, TAMS '18 – spring 2026 U of Chicago Rosalind Franklin



Anish Indkkur, '20, little brother Om J. '26, Dr. Eeshan Joshi, TAMS '21, Russ and Allison Tan '20. Spring ceremony at UNTHSC



The Canutillo Independent School District Board of Trustees approved Superintendent Dr. Josue Borrego's selection of Dr. Erika Pasieczny as the principal of Jose J. Alderete Middle School

Anthony Nguyen – TAMS '96 developed and launched the TAMASHI COLLECTIVE - very polished and useful.

Check it out: [The Tamashi Collective | Soul at Work](#)

The 2-minute case study video with Women of the World – CLICK ON IT!



Dr. Katy Huff, (TAMS '04), officially joined NEEP this week as Chair of the department, bringing experience from academia, public service, and national leadership in nuclear energy. Long before serving as Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, she was a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and now she returns to lead.

Support TAMS \$\$

TAMS needs your help as costs have risen and revenue streams decreased

Check out the page:

https://tams.unt.edu/alumni/million_dollar_mission.html

The TAMS IT staff did a great job jazzing it up.

Each class has at least 1 donor = good start. We are shooting for 1000 donors approximately 30 donors from each class.

Most represented classes = 1998, 2001, 2006

We are also shooting for 1000 x \$1K (or more) donations.

The Class of 2001 and 1999 both have 3 each.

Heck, we have 3 staff members that are in the STAR category.

We have a ways to go – any donation is welcome and check with your employer if a matching program is in place which doubles your contribution.

2002 V 2003

Update

The classes of '02 and '03 each have their own endowment and are in direct competition. This showdown was started by Travis and Shan. Which team are you on and have you shown (\$\$) your support. Don't let your class down.

Current totals show the Class 2003 ahead of the 02s.

Other Class Endowments

Each class can have their own endowment. These classes have generously rallied: '93, '94, '95, '96, '98, '99, 2000, '01, '02, '03, '06. Don't see your class represented...reach out to Russ. Wish to contribute to your Class endowment -

<https://one.unt.edu/giving/texas-academy-of-mathematics-science> and look for your Class year in the drop down. Leave

Russ a note in the comments section and he'll put something in the mail for you.

Alumni News



On International Women in Engineering Day, Hobas was proud to recognize Leslie Ibikunle, TAMS '01, Applications Engineer.

Leslie's path into engineering started early. She finished high school at 15, starting college at 16. A first-generation Nigerian American, she said her parents strongly emphasized education and, like many Nigerian families, assumed she would become "a doctor, a lawyer, or an engineer."

She followed her strengths in math and hands-on problem-solving into mechanical engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. The decision was both practical and personal. She was good at math. She liked working with her hands. Mechanical engineering gave her a way to bring both together in one field. Today, her role at Hobas gives her the chance to stretch both technically and creatively. As Leslie puts it, "Every project is a different opportunity to find a solution."

In her work, that can mean reviewing technical specifications, developing layouts and submittals, coordinating with contractors and engineers, and helping solve real-world project challenges involving large-diameter fiberglass pipe. That mindset has carried through a career spanning pumps, valves, oil and gas, and now infrastructure. Along the way, Leslie has developed a broad perspective on engineering and the value of staying open-minded. Reflecting on what the profession has taught her, she said, "The most important thing we learned in engineering is to find solutions." Whether helping incorporate field data into a design or thinking through constructability issues, Leslie is focused on helping projects move forward with clarity. She also values what it means to see women in leadership. Speaking about working at Hobas with Kimberly Paggioli, P.E., Vice President of Engineering, Leslie said: "It is very empowering to see a woman—a brilliant woman at that—in a leadership position."

Asked what she would say to girls and young women considering engineering, her answer was simple: "Go for it." She encourages young women to stay open-minded and recognize just how many paths an engineering degree can open. For Leslie, it is a field that develops not only technical knowledge, but also confidence, resilience, and a lifelong problem-solving mindset. Hobas is proud to celebrate Leslie and the women whose talent, perspective, and leadership continue to move engineering forward.

Alumni News



Dr. Badar Patel – TAMS ‘12 – cardiology heading to California to work at Kaiser Permanente in S.F. Badar could even remember his actual McConnell room.



In the middle Proud parent (Chi Trreu, '93) with her son, Beckett, who will start UNT this fall. TAMS gathering to celebrate – L-R = Sarah Lake '93, Veronice Criado '93, Devin Trousdale '93, Brad Smith '92, and Jay Small '93. Fun party at Chi's house!

Alumni Writers



Emily Reiter, '96 has a few ebooks available at
<https://fiatfiberarts.gumroad.com/>

Adrienne Carmack, '96 – *Reclaiming my Birth Rights*

Know of any other TAMS authors, pass them along. If you are an author, autograph a few copies and send them to TAMS.

Care to write and submit an item for the Slice of Pi ? Just email Russ – stukel@unt.edu and you can be featured in the next edition.

*First day of Classes for the
TAMS Class of 2027 & 2028
August 17
How fast the years fly!*

A vibrant tropical beach scene. In the foreground, two coconuts are partially submerged in shallow, splashing water. The coconut on the left is yellowed with age, while the one on the right is green. Both have had their tops removed and are fitted with bright pink drinking straws. Each coconut is topped with a small, open paper umbrella; the left one is orange with a dark pattern, and the right one is yellow with red floral designs. The background features a clear, bright blue sky filled with soft, white cumulus clouds. The horizon line is visible in the distance. In the upper right corner, several long, slender palm fronds hang down, partially obscuring the sky.

a hui hou