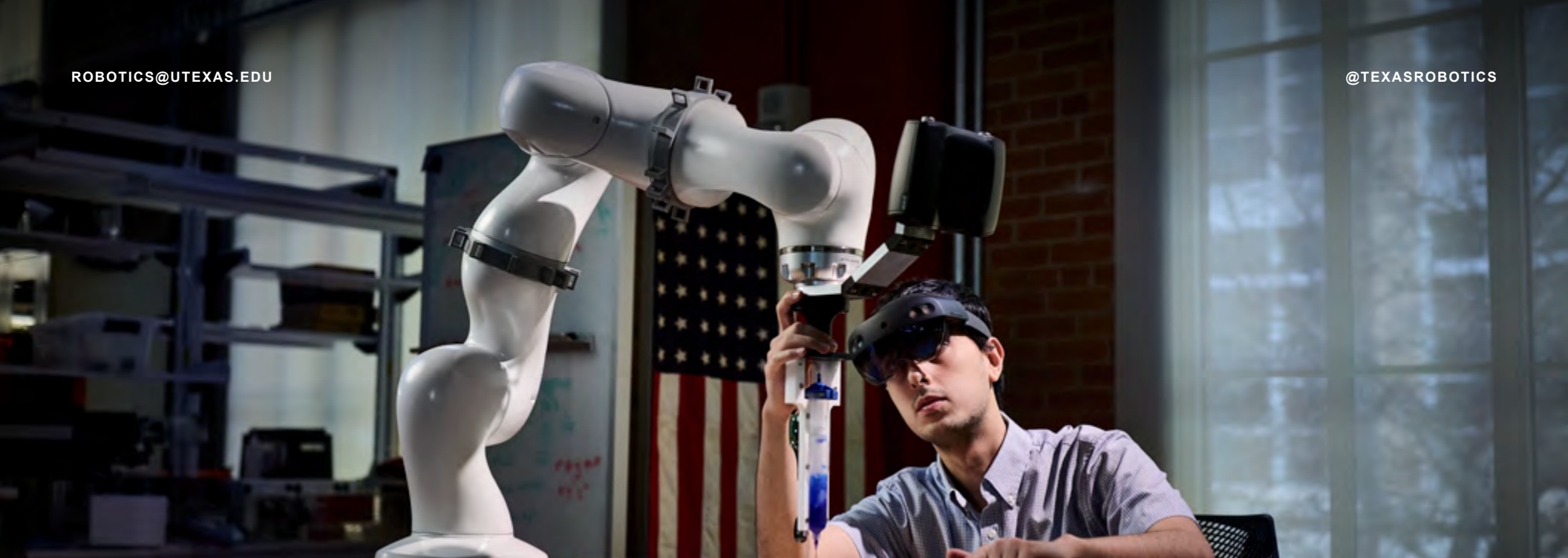




TEXAS ROBOTICS

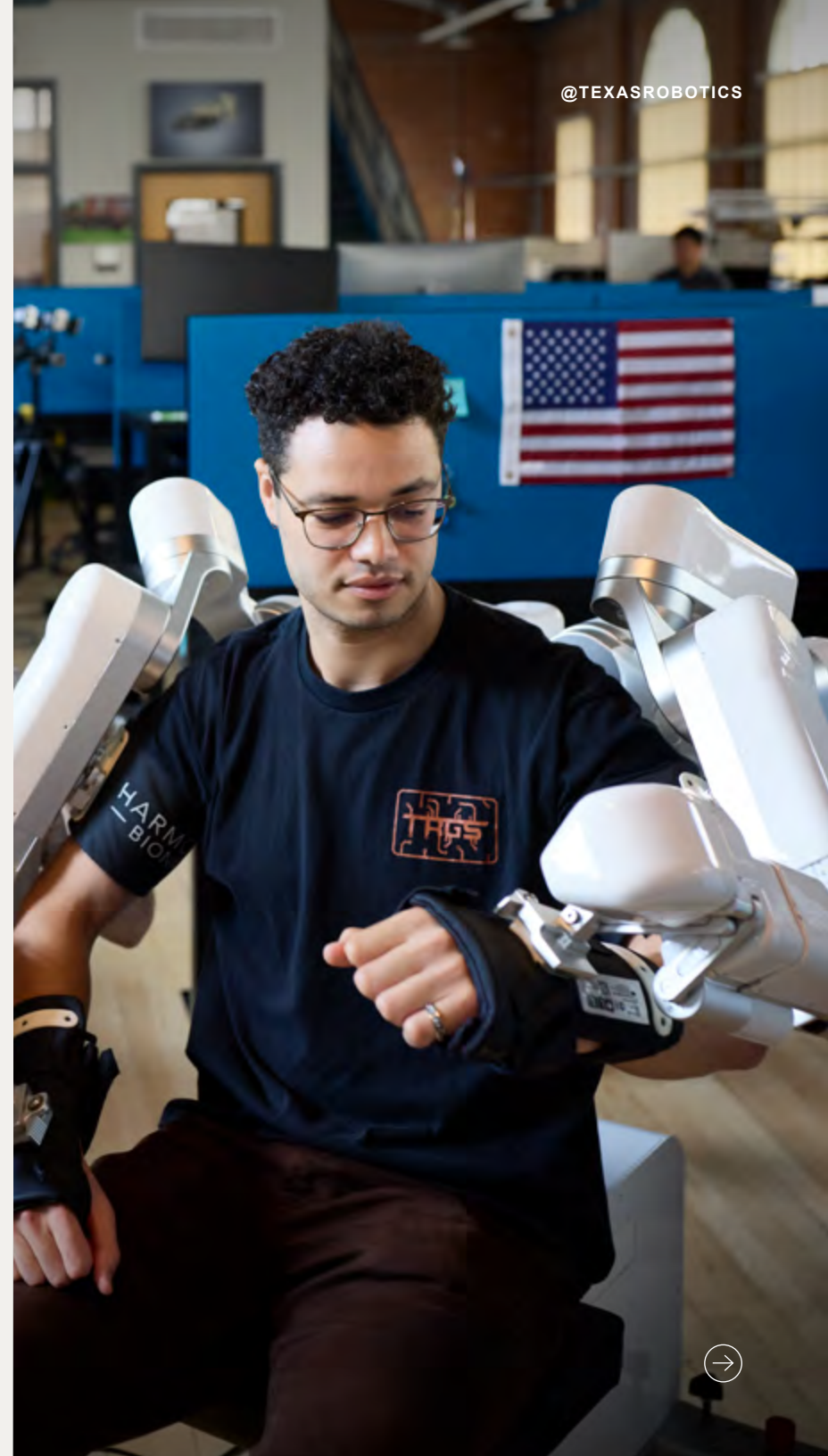
IMPACT REPORT

FALL 2025 - SUMMER 2026

**WE'RE SHAPING THE FUTURE
OF ROBOTICS ACROSS THE
UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND**

CONTENTS

ABOUT TEXAS ROBOTICS	04
YEAR IN REVIEW	06
COMMUNITY	08
EDUCATION	13
INDUSTRY	17
RESEARCH	19
WHAT STARTS HERE	21



ABOUT TEXAS ROBOTICS

The mission of Texas Robotics is to unite world-class faculty, students, researchers, and industry leaders to shape the future of robotics at UT Austin and beyond.

At Texas Robotics we perform groundbreaking research, deliver transformative education, and make a broad positive impact through community outreach. We are passionate about advancing key areas such as long-term autonomy, robot manipulation, medical robotics, and human-robot interaction, with crosscutting emphasis on artificial intelligence, machine learning, and societal impacts—all while drawing on the breadth of expertise at UT Austin.

By fostering strong partnerships with industry and connecting academic innovation with real-world challenges, Texas Robotics is driving progress and striving to become the most impactful university in robotics.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Texas Robotics is organized around four strategic pillars that guide our work across research, education, industry, and community.

COMMUNITY

Expand access and exposure to robotics on and off campus, bringing faculty, students, staff, and the broader public together to cultivate a strong and inclusive community around Texas Robotics.

EDUCATION

Develop tomorrow's leaders in robotics through holistic graduate and undergraduate programs that deepen the integration between instruction and experience, research, and service.

INDUSTRY

Collaborate with industry and entrepreneurs to expand the practical applications of our robotics research for society and to connect our students to fulfilling careers.

RESEARCH

Perform groundbreaking, high-impact robotics research that advances the frontiers of the field and changes the world by solving pressing technical and societal challenges.



YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year marked significant growth across every area of Texas Robotics. From expanding educational opportunities and research excellence to strengthening community engagement and industry partnerships, these highlights reflect another year of meaningful impact.

3,973

**PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH CAMPUS
EVENTS AND TOURS**

7,604

**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS ACROSS
CHANNELS**

3,516

**TOTAL APPLICANTS
TO TEXAS ROBOTICS
PROGRAMS**

Note: These numbers are likely underreported, as not all visits or grants may have been captured.



COMMUNITY

Bringing people together is central to our mission. Throughout the year, Texas Robotics hosted events that connected students, researchers, industry leaders, and the broader community while showcasing the transformative work happening across our program.



MAJOR EVENTS



ROBOT PARADE

November 2025

Texas Robotics hosted its third annual Robot Parade showcasing 26 of our mobile and stationary robots. The event featured a choreographed robot dance, a robotics-inspired fashion show and live demonstrations promoting our innovative research on campus and interdisciplinary programming composed of UT Austin's four top-ranked departments.

AUDIENCE: 500



TEXAS SYMPOSIUM ON MACHINE LEARNING, RESPONSIBLE AI, AND ROBOTICS

March 2026

Organized in partnership with Good Systems and the Machine Learning Lab, Texas Robotics hosted a two-day symposium showcasing research across the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics. The event gathered experts from industry and academia and featured keynotes from Dr. Gregory D. Hager (Johns Hopkins University), Dr. Kilian Weinberger (Cornell University), and Dr. Alice Xiang (Sony AI) among its 20 technical talks, 4 interdisciplinary panels, and networking and poster session.

AUDIENCE: 636



TEXAS ROBOTICS HONORS END OF THE YEAR DINNER CELEBRATION

April 2026

Texas Robotics welcomed its first robotics honors cohort and hosted many program events for our first year robotics students. One of which was the end of the year celebration with Bill Gurley and Omead Afshar at the Innovation Center in EER, where our students got to hear an interactive discussion about innovation, entrepreneurship and the robotics industry.

AUDIENCE: 65

TOURS

183

COMPLETED TOURS

1,297

TOTAL VISITORS

VIP TOURS INCLUDED:

This year, Texas Robotics welcomed 1,297 visitors across 183 completed tours, including a number of high-profile delegations from government, academia, industry, and civil society. Notable visits included Matthew McConaughey, Marc Benioff (CEO of Salesforce), Bill Gurley, Hugh Forrest (formerly Chief Program Officer for SXSW), and the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.



VISIBILITY & REACH

7,604

TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWING

56% INCREASE FROM FY24-25

3,416

LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS

89% INCREASE FROM FY24-25

2,636

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

50% INCREASE FROM FY24-25



TESTIMONIALS

The impact of Texas Robotics extends beyond numbers. These reflections from students, educators, partners, and visitors illustrate how our programs are shaping experiences, fostering curiosity, and building lasting connections.

“The level of cutting edge research and hands-on experiments happening in the lab was certainly a wow moment for the kids, teachers and parents alike. It definitely inspired the kids in the Vista Ridge Robotics club to look forward to an opportunity to study at UT Austin and to pursue the honors program in Robotics”

K-12 Parent

“We are a community-based FTC team here in Austin. We lack a proper shop needed to work on a robot so we use a community hall as our makeshift shop. I loved seeing all the robots, tools and machines UT Robotics has in their lab for students to work with. I aspire to build a small makerspace / workshop for ourselves and I wanted to show the kids what capabilities a fully fledged robotics program can have.”

High School Robotics Teacher



EDUCATION

Preparing the next generation of robotics leaders remains at the heart of our mission. Through innovative academic programs, interdisciplinary learning, and hands-on experiences, Texas Robotics continues to equip students with the skills needed to lead the future of robotics.

MINOR IN ROBOTICS

The Minor in Robotics provides undergraduate students across UT Austin with a foundation in robotics theory, design, and application, drawing students from a wide range of disciplines and degree programs.

219

APPLICATIONS
IN 2025-26

22% INCREASE FROM
FY24-25, 50% INCREASE
FROM FY23-24

72

STUDENTS
ACCEPTED

20% INCREASE
FROM FY24-25

16

GRADUATES
IN 2025-26





GRADUATE PORTFOLIO PROGRAM

The Graduate Portfolio Program serves graduate students across UT Austin who want to formalize their robotics training alongside their primary degree, connecting them to a broader research community and a robust speaker series.

150+

**TOTAL GRADUATE
STUDENTS SERVED**

60

**STUDENTS
CURRENTLY
ENROLLMENT**

13

**NEW APPLICATIONS
IN 2025-26**

3

**COMPLETIONS
IN 2025-26**

22

**SEMINAR
SPEAKERS**

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM

The Robotics Honors Program is the first undergraduate robotics program in the country to admit entering freshmen, offering a rigorous and immersive experience for the next generation of robotics leaders.

3,284

APPLICATIONS
IN 2025-26

118

STUDENTS
ACCEPTED

60

STUDENTS
ENROLLED

51% YIELD

25

STUDENTS OPTED IN
FOR ROBOTICS LLC

32% INCREASE FROM FY24-25



INDUSTRY

Strong partnerships with industry ensure that our research addresses real-world challenges while creating valuable opportunities for students and faculty. This year, Texas Robotics continued to expand its network of collaborators across a broad range of sectors.



INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

This year, Texas Robotics welcomed Meta, Nuro, Roboligent, Brain Robotics, Tesla, LG Electronics, Gravis Robotics, and Appteronik to the Industry Affiliates Program (IAP) and now has 13 industry partners.

Texas Robotics also connected with other industry leaders, including NVIDIA, BMW, Honda, Cisco, and ARM, through events, VIP tours, and meetings.





RESEARCH

Research is the foundation of Texas Robotics. Our faculty continue to push the boundaries of robotics through groundbreaking discoveries, competitive research funding, and innovations that advance science while addressing society's most pressing challenges.

TEXAS ROBOTICS AT ICRA 2026

Texas Robotics core faculty were co-authors on 36 papers presented at ICRA 2026 in Vienna, Austria. The IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation, organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, is the world's premier gathering in robotics and automation research.

Three papers were named Best Paper Award Finalists, and one went on to win the Best Paper Award in Medical Robotics. "Geometry-Aware Visual Odometry for Bronchoscopic Navigation via High-Gain Observer Fusion," led by Texas Robotics core faculty member Farshid Alambeigi in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, was recognized for advancing vision-only navigation for bronchoscopy, a meaningful step forward for medical robotics.

The 36 papers spanned more than 10 research areas and represented collaborations with 25+ partner organizations worldwide, reflecting the depth and global reach of the Texas Robotics research community.

36

PAPERS PRESENTED

3

BEST PAPER AWARD FINALISTS

1

BEST PAPER AWARD WIN

WHAT STARTS HERE

The work reflected in this report represents more than a year of research, education, and community building. It represents the collective effort of faculty, students, staff, and partners who believe that robotics has the power to change the world.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 academic year, Texas Robotics remains committed to pushing the boundaries of what is possible, developing the next generation of robotics leaders, and building the partnerships that will define the future of the field.

What starts here changes the world.





The University of Texas at Austin
Texas Robotics