



# BOARD OF VISITORS

APRIL 2021



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
GALVESTON CAMPUS®

# EXECUTIVE TEAM

## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON

**COL Michael E. Fossum '80,  
USAFR (Ret.)**  
Vice President (TAMU)  
Chief Operating Officer (TAMUG)  
Superintendent (TAMMA)

**Dr. Antonietta Quigg**  
Acting Chief Academic Officer  
Senior Associate Vice President for  
Research & Graduate Studies

**Dr. Donna Lang '88**  
Associate Vice President for  
Academic Operations

**Ms. Susan Lee**  
Associate Vice President for Finance  
& Compliance Officer

**Mr. Grant Shallenberger '86**  
Associate Vice President for  
Administration and Auxilliary  
Services

**Dr. Carol Bunch Davis**  
Assistant Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

**Dr. Todd Sutherland**  
Associate Vice President for  
Student Affairs & Assistant  
Superintendent of Cadets

**Mr. Jeffrey Boyer**  
Executive Director of Human  
Resources

**Mr. John Kovacevich**  
Director of Information Technology

**Major General Charles McClain '62,  
USA (Ret.)**  
External Relations Officer

**Captain Allan Post '16**  
Acting Deputy Superintendent  
(TAMMA)  
Executive Director of Marine  
Education Support & Safety

**Ms. Rebecca Watts**  
Director of Marketing and  
Communications

**Mr. Richard Kline**  
Assistant Vice President for  
Development  
Texas A&M Foundation

Hello Fellow Board Members:

What a year! Who would have expected that our last in person meeting would have occurred eighteen months ago in the Fall of 2019? The institution we love and support with our time and talents has gone through dramatic trials no one could have predicted. With hope and renewed confidence that the COVID pandemic is close to ending, if perhaps long and drawn out, it is time for us to begin the process of helping where we can for the return to normalcy on campus. We know things will now be different. One goal will be to discuss our best guess of what these changed



circumstances will be and how we can assist COL Fossum, his faculty and staff in meeting them. I urge all of you to make plans to be part of our Spring meeting. It shows every indication of being one of the more important meetings for this Board.

**Bob Fry**  
Chairman,  
*Texas A&M University at Galveston*  
*Board of Visitors*

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## BOARD OF VISITORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**Jonathan Whitworth '89**  
Vice Chairman,  
*Board of Visitors*  
Chair, *Student Affairs*



**Vacant**  
Chair,  
*Legislative &*  
*Community Affairs*



**Brandon Neff**  
Chair,  
*Industry Relations*



**Amy Hark**  
Chair,  
*Emerging Trends in*  
*the Blue Economy*

# APRIL 21, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

8:45 a.m. **Arrival** (*In-Person BOV Attendees*)  
ASEC 204

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8:55 a.m. **Virtual Waiting Room Open**  
On-Screen in ASEC 204

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9:00 a.m. **Call to Order & Welcome**  
*Mr. Robert Fry, Chair*

**Welcome**  
*COL Michael E. Fossum*

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9:15 a.m. **Break & Move to Committee Rooms**  
ASEC Business Center & Virtually

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9:25 a.m. **Committee Meetings Open**

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10:25 a.m. **Committee Meetings Adjourn**  
**Break & Return to General Meeting**  
ASEC 201 & Virtually

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10:35 a.m. **General Meeting Resumes**

**Student Success Feature**  
*Mr. Jesus Castro*

**Departmental Success Feature**  
*Dr. Alok Verma*  
*Department Head, Marine Engineering Technology*

**Committee Reports**  
*Jonathan Whitworth, Vice Chair*

- Industrial Relations
- Legislative & Community Affairs
- Student Affairs
- Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy

**2021 & Beyond**  
*COL Michael E. Fossum*

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11:50 a.m. **Q&A with Leadership**

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12:00 p.m. **Closed Board of Visitors Discussion**

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12:30 p.m. **Lunch**  
Mary Moody Northen Banquet Room



# BOARD OF VISITORS COMMITTEES

§ Executive Committee Members

**Ken Bailey, Campus Co-Chair**  
**Brandon Neff §, BOV Co-Chair**

Robert 'Bob' Fry §  
John Hallmark §  
John Michael  
Jerry Mohn  
L.C. 'Chaz' Neeley

Robert Sakowitz  
Todd Sullivan §  
Kelly Teichman §  
Andy Tirpak



## INDUSTRY RELATIONS

**Todd Sutherland, Campus Co-Chair**  
**Jonathan Whitworth §, BOV Co-Chair**

Greg Binion  
Michael Cokinos §  
Will Fraser  
Leonard Hale  
Peter Huddleston §

Charlie Jenkins  
Frank Muller §  
Chris Orth §  
Phyllis Milstein §  
Betty Massey



## STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Joan Mileski, Campus Co-Chair**  
**Amy Hark, BOV Co-Chair**

Tom Farmer §  
Paul Hill  
William 'Will' Jenkins

Greg Mitchell  
Brian Roy  
Jim Watson §



## EMERGING TRENDS IN THE BLUE ECONOMY

**Charles 'Bill' McClain, Campus Co-Chair**  
**Vacant, BOV Co-Chair**

Chris Cahill §  
Roger Guenther §  
Randy House  
Chris Johnson  
Shrub Kempner  
Dale Laine

Mark Lyons  
Keith McFatridge §  
Victor 'Vic' Pierson §  
Wayne Prescott §  
Terry Ray



## LEGISLATIVE & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

# PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 1, 2020

## OPENING

A regular meeting of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors was called to order on October 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was hosted virtually through ZOOM.

## ATTENDEES

### BOV Members

Greg Binion, Will Fraser, Pat Gamble, Leonard Hale, John Hallmark, Amy Hark, Pete Huddleston, Charlie Jenkins, Shrub Kempner, Dale Laine, Keith McFatrige, John Michael, Phyllis Milstein, Greg Mitchell, F. Muller, Brandon Neff, Chris Orth, V. Pierson, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Robert Sakowitz, Mike Spiers, Todd Sullivan, Kelly Teichman, Andy Tirpak, Jim Watson, Jonathan Whitworth

*Absent:* C. Cahill, M. Cokinos, T. Farmer, , R. Fry, R. Guenther, P. Hill, R. House, Will Jenkins, C. Johnson, M. Lyons, B. Massey, J. Mohn, , C. Neely, T. Ray, B. Greer, D. Varshney

### TAMUG Leadership and Staff

Ken Bailey, Carol Bunch Davis, Mike Fossum, Rick Kline, Patrick Louchouarn, Joan Mileski, Allan Post, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Rebecca Watts, Kathey Walker

## BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by vice-chair, Jonathan Whitworth.

COL Michael Fossum welcomed Michael Hardy from the Governmental Relations Office as well as Andy Acker from the Texas A&M Foundation to the meeting.

COL Fossum provided a campus update on the following topics:

- COVID-19 counts include nine students who have come down positive and no transmissions on campus.
- TAMMA was the only academy to complete a summer sea term in 2020 allowing 47 seniors to complete their requirements Shrub Kempner
- Budget impacts - return of 5% to the state for 2019/20, refunding of campus housing and meal plans in spring when the campus closed, reduction in force decisions and early retirements
- Weather – the campus evacuated during Hurricane Laura moving students and the Command Team to College Station and issued a Tropical Shelter in Place during TS Beta
- The Texas A&M Maritime Academy was re-organized following the departure of Superintendent, RADM Michael Rodriguez to include COL Michael Fossum assuming the Superintendent's role and addition of multiple new staff members

Dr. Patrick Louchouarn provided an academic briefing on the following topics:

- The Galveston campus' focus is on increasing/offering the highest number of in-person classes to incoming students (80% of those are first generation or transfer students). The campus is intentional about the use technology to provide a sense of community. Students are feeling the strain. The spring academic planning is slightly different and increasing pure in person classes with the intent to reduce the restraints that faculty and students are feeling.
- The Student Enrollment Services/recruiting teams quickly moved to a virtual format in the spring creating a great deal of uncertainty and concern about enrollment numbers. There is a decrease in headcount but the freshman class is larger than the previous four years, graduate students have grown by almost a 100%, and – for the first time –transfer student numbers are growing.
- Dr. Louchouart is working with the College of Engineering creating new partnerships and the campus has a number of growing graduate programs, a new PhD program and a new pre-health program, which has grown 120%. The Oceans and One Health/pre-health program creates a significant opportunity for growth.
- The campus is home to the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT), one of eight on the Gulf Coast, under Dr. Sam Brody and is critical to one of the new PhD programs doing research in disaster management and coastal resiliency.
- He introduced Dr. Carol Bunch Davis, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs. Her focus will be on faculty affairs.

Dr. Carol Bunch Davis provided discussed the Civic, Literacy, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (CLIDE) Committee, which provides programs and initiatives educating the campus community on the value of diversity. CLIDE is responsible for development of the annual Diversity Accountability report for the Galveston campus, which is evaluated by the TAMU – President's Council on Climate and Diversity. The Galveston campus was awarded funding to support our efforts and initiatives on this campus. The committee provides seed grants for campus diversity initiatives and has implemented the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) on campus, which measures ones capacity to shift behavior based on cultural differences and commonalities. The 1973 Multicultural Center opened this semester providing a space for students who are members of cultural affinity groups to gather and fellowship.

Dr. Todd Sutherland provided a Student Affairs brief:

- Student Affairs programs began rethinking how to safely conduct activities with the return of students to campus and transitioned to an online format focused on turning students into Aggie leaders, instilling the campus culture, and helping students connect and build relationships
  - ▷ Exercise programs moved to an online format providing online counseling
  - ▷ Hosted Howdy Week which established the expectations of mask wearing and physical distancing
  - ▷ Muster and the fall Career Fair were conducted online
- Sea Aggies Learning Traditions (SALT) Camp was conducted in person in summer 2020

with smaller cohorts and maintaining physical distancing while socially connecting. The programs were run through medical staff and epidemiologist. We had no infections or spread of COVID.

- In person activities have included
  - ▷ Outside YELL Practices
  - ▷ Drive in movie night and football watch parties
  - ▷ Student organizations are meeting and engaged

Student Affairs is fighting some isolation and loneliness with the student population but overall are doing very well.

Jonathan Whitworth thanked our speakers and encouraged BOV members to review the briefing book and the good information included. He provided an update on the reconstitution of the committee format with the Development and Fund-raising Committee being place on hiatus and the implementation of a new committee, Legislative and Community Affairs. He restated the importance of all BOV members providing support for the campus rather than the few on the Development and Fund-raising Committee. He shared that questions/issues posed to each of the four committees:

- **TAMUG BOV Legislative & Community Affairs Committee Question/Issue co-chaired by Pat Gamble (BOV) and Bill McClain (TAMUG)**  
How to best to raise \$45M from the Texas State Legislature for necessary dock improvements and campus infrastructure to support the arrival of an interim training ship at the Texas A&M @ Galveston Campus in 2023 and a permanent new vessel in 2025. The legislative outreach would work in concert with the Texas A&M Systems government relations team.
- **TAMUG BOV Industry Relations Committee Question/Issue co-chaired by Brandon Neff (BOV) and Ken Bailey (TAMUG)**  
COVID-19 has created significant anxiety among students seeking jobs after graduation and internships while still in school. What are ways the Industry Relations Committee can improve contact and relationships with relevant businesses to enable hiring of TAMUG graduates? Items may include meetings, events, site visits, and various types of virtual sessions.
- **TAMUG BOV Student Affairs Committee Question/Issue co-chaired by Jonathan Whitworth (BOV) and Todd Sutherland (TAMUG)**  
Establish a mentorship program similar to the one established in 2018, but this program is directly aimed at the 15 graduate students currently enrolled in the Maritime Business Administration and Logistics (MAAL) who are also License Option. These men and women are older than the undergraduates are and although they will graduate with a master's business degree, they will also obtain an unlimited Third Officers license. This group is eager to connect to industry, and we are hoping the Student Affairs Committee could come up with a program to assist.



- **TAMUG BOV Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy Question/Issue co-chaired by Amy Hark (BOV) and Joan Mileski (TAMUG)**

What movements / trends / disruptors do you see affecting the Blue Economy over the next 10 years and how do you see those events affecting our graduates based on the current programs & initiatives? What do you think the university should be doing differently to prepare?

What careers / jobs are we currently populating with graduates that you see going away in the next 10 years & what are your ideas on addressing this challenge? Alternatively, what new careers do you see coming in the next decade and what can we be doing to best position our graduates?

The MARA program is working on two big initiatives - a minor in Cyber Security and a minor in Maritime Entrepreneurship. Do you agree this is the right direction to position our students for the future? Why / why not and what alternatives do you suggest?

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The general meeting was suspended while members broke into their respective committees.

## BUSINESS MEETING, Cont'd

Jonathan Whitworth welcomed everyone back to the general meeting and asked that a representative of each committee provide a brief on what was discussed and what are the next action steps.

## Committee Reports

- **Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy Committee** – *report provided by Amy Hark*  
The committee had good engagement but needs to follow-up by phone and email with the missing committee members to obtain feedback on their question/issue. The committee will need additional meetings before they have an action step.
- **Industry Relations Committee** – *report provided by Ken Bailey*  
The committee engaged discussed how to engage students in industry and career opportunities where COVID has taken away traditional vehicles. The committee also discussed re-introducing themselves through a virtual information session and to create virtual mock interviews and information sessions to engage students as they prepare for interviews. The committee also discussed avenues to combat student apathy and improving engagement and enthusiasm. Wayne Prescott asked if there are metrics, by which the committee could gauge their efforts.
- **Student Affairs Committee** – *report provided by Jonathan Whitworth*  
The committee was asked to take the mentoring program rolled out to UG's and develop a targeted program for specific Graduate students who are older and pursuing a business logistics degree. The committee discussed:

Set up of a small team comprised of staff and a few industry members (likely from this committee) to conduct one on one conversations with each student to learn what they want, and are they ready and prepared to be in a mentor program.

The group will also conduct one on one conversations with a select group of mentors who can be matched, based on the qualifications of what the student is looking for and who we know in the industry that would be good potential mentors for them.

The committee will articulate a clear set of expectations so as not set them off on failure,

A key component, different from the prior mentoring program, is that one of the team members would sit in and facilitate the first meeting between the student and the mentor to articulate the rules of engagement, setting them up for success.

- **Legislative and Community Affairs Committee** – *report provided by Pat Gamble.*

Shared the committee's request for assistance & guidance in how best to raise \$45M from the Texas State Legislature for necessary dock improvements and campus infrastructure to support the arrival of an interim training ship at the Texas A&M @ Galveston Campus in 2023 and a permanent new vessel in 2025. The committee report stated:

There are a number of subjects bringing up additional questions to which we may not have answers.

They need to be brought up to date on the work that has already been done

They need to understand the University's plans regarding the application of the funds raised – with regards to use of the funds and the arrival of the ships?

It's important that they committee stay up to day on a week by week or day by day basis

They need to clarify the dividing line between TAMMA using the ship and someone else using the ship.

They need to determine what we need to know that we do not already know.

There will be difficulties in the face of the current budget situation as well as political problems from the state level all the way to the national level. He stated that working with Mike Hardy in the Governmental Relations office would be very important.

In summary, the committee must quickly access information on past work, clarify their mission, break it down into understandable components, and establish lead times because their work will need to begin very quickly. They need to have answers – elevator speeches – answering the questions that will come, make an impact and be smart about it. The committee must meet on a more frequent basis, determine who will go after which pieces, and be willing to form those relationships with those they need to go after – eyeball to eyeball.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Col. Michael Fossum discussed the storms that have hit campus with the global pandemic followed by a fiscal storm, the racial storm and two hurricanes followed by an expression of thanks to the BOV members who have reached out in support. He provided an update on Pelican Island Bridge project and the importance of maintaining a 1,000 ft. safety barrier between the hazardous material route and the campus residence halls.

Members of the George Mitchell Society were thanked for their financial generosity.

Col. Fossum was asked about the certainty of the University's \$10 million contribution for the bridge to which he responded that more details are pending on the justification of the cost of a bike lane addition, discussions with the Port of Houston, and the appraisal of the roadway through campus but the University (TAMU) understands the importance of ensuring safety and that the commitment is solid.

Dr. Patrick Louchouart discussed plans underway with the TAMU College of Engineering to expand their 4-year programs onto our campus, which would bring additional tenure track faculty doing research in those areas. From his perspective, this would allow the Engineering Technology degree to be changed to a Marine Engineering bachelor degree, which will need to be justified through the Coordinating Board. Another benefit of the expansion of the Engineering programs is an increase in grant funding to the campus. The campus is also working to build the base to justify the change. Leonard Hale expressed the importance of offering a Marine Engineering degree as opposed to the Engineering Technology degree, which raises eyebrows in the industry.

The 2021 meeting dates of April 21 and October 14 were announced.

Minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Keith McFatrige made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Pete Huddleston made the second. All were in favor.

The general meeting of the BOV adjourned. Campus leadership and faculty and staff attendees disconnected and the Board of Visitors continued with a private members only discussion.







# EXECUTIVE NEWS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Antonietta Quigg, Regents Professor and Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, as the Acting Chief Academic Officer for the Galveston Campus of Texas A&M University. Dr. Quigg will assume duties of this position on March 10, 2021. As Acting Chief Academic Officer, she will have a dual reporting line to the Provost & Executive Vice President (TAMU) and COL Michael E. Fossum, Vice President (TAMU) and Chief Operating Officer (TAMUG).



An internal search for the permanent replacement will begin in spring 2021.

Please join us in thanking Dr. Quigg for her willingness to serve Texas A&M University and the Galveston Campus in this role.

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## THE COLLABORATIVE FOR TEACHING INNOVATION

The Collaborative for Teaching Innovation is a faculty-led initiative that sustains teaching excellence and student success by facilitating institutionally supported faculty opportunities to reflect on teaching pedagogy with their peers. CTI provided Faculty Forum workshops in the Fall and Spring semesters to enrich student engagement, including a three-part series on 33 Simple Strategies for Faculty: A Week-By-Week Resource for Teaching First-Year and First-Generation Students facilitated by Katie Slatton, Instructional Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and CTI team member.



## CENTER FOR ACADEMIC LEARNING & SUPPORT

### HULLABALOO U

After a year of piloting with a small group of students, Fall 2020 marked the full-scale launch of the Hullaballoo U (HU) program! This first year experience program provides incoming freshman with a small HU class based on a common interest. In these small groups, students meet weekly with a faculty, staff, and peer mentor to develop foundational skills, build community, and get connected with campus resources. Here on the Galveston Campus, we hit a participation rate of 99% of all incoming freshman (and 37% of incoming transfer students).



### FIRST

The F1RST Program serve Texas-resident, first-generation students in the transition to the university by offering research-based, multilevel support to address their unique challenges. The program was launched in 2017, so this upcoming May we will have our first graduating class of students that spent their full four years in the program. Correspondingly, we were able to implement new programming connecting our senior students with our first year students for enhanced mentorship opportunities. We additionally expanded support beyond the F1RST Program this year, hosting a variety of events open to all first-gen students on campus.





## EARLY ALERT

Utilizing the recently implemented EAB Navigate student success management system, we were able to launch an early alert process at the outset of the Fall 2020 term. Targeting 35 courses with high failure rates or that were deemed critical foundation courses, progress report requests were sent to faculty at four strategic points during the term.

Any students marked at risk were then connected with an academic coach or peer coach to develop an improvement plan. Over the course of the Fall, 17,536 evaluation requests were sent, and 246 “at-risk” alerts were issued.

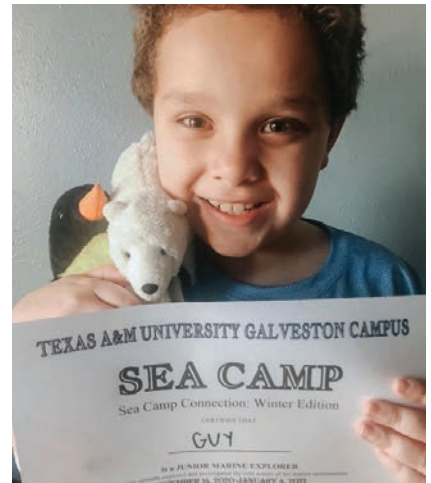
## JACK K. WILLIAMS LIBRARY

Texas A&M University at Galveston is committed to providing an inclusive and affordable education to our students. The Jack K. Williams Library, with support from the Galveston County Aggie Moms Club, has implemented the Textbook Access Program (TAP). The TAP provides a minimum of one copy of every required textbook and educational resource for a 4-hour checkout through the Library Reserves service. Print textbooks are purchased before the start of every semester and are immediately accessible for those students that do not have access to, or cannot afford, the required textbook.

## SEA CAMP CONNECTION SUCCESS: WINTER EDITION

Winter camp was organized in 3 thematic weeks: Deep Sea, Antarctic, Arctic.

Engaging activities were provided virtually using platforms such as YouTube, Flip Grid, Google Docs. Topics for virtual adventures included: Layers of the Ocean, Deep Sea Adaptations with Dr. Richards, Borax Ornament Experiment, Isn't it Symbiotic, Ocean Food Chain and Plankton Lab with Dr. Steichen, Plankton Worksheet, Marine Mammals of Moody Gardens, Marine Mammal Skulls, Baby Beluga, Blubber Lab, Polar Bear Craft, Penguins of Moody Gardens, How do Fish NOT Freeze in Antarctica??



# DIVISION OF FINANCE & BUDGET

## **SUCCESSSES**

Completed Legislative Action Request for 2022-2023 Legislative Session. One big ask is a \$45M request to construct infrastructure needed to accept, house and moor a large vessel now authorized by the Federal Budget. We have the attention of the legislative committees and are still working with several legislators to emphasize the extent of this need.

Received and spent CARES ACT I funding. The student portion (\$589K) approved by the federal government was distributed as student awards. The Institutional portion, also \$589K, approved by the federal government has been utilized as follows:

- \$250K -upgrades to faculty and classroom equipment to accommodate on-line classes and other IT upgrades to enhance COO zoom meetings.
- \$26K – installation of plexiglass in classrooms and work stations to shield lecturers and staff having face-to face interaction with students on a daily basis.
- \$250K – cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in classrooms, offices, dining areas and meeting rooms
- \$20K – testing needs
- \$43K – contingency

Received CARES ACT II funding and are in the process of planning for use of these funds through end of calendar year 2021.

TAMUG has experienced a total of 4 Emergency Management Incidents. While all incidents resulted in incurred costs, only three will have actual FEMA claims. Beta was not considered a county emergency.

The Incident Command Team has been greatly taxed this year. Emergency response was required for the following incidents:

- Covid 19 Pandemic Command has meet the entire year - \$3M (most of which will be covered by CARES ACT funding)
- Tropical Storm Laura - \$100K
- Tropical Storm Beta - \$10K
- Winter Storm 02/11/21 – Currently at \$1M

The Compliance unit has completed three internal compliance reviews since our last update and made recommendations for enhancing internal controls and assuring management of compliance with policy and process.



## **CHALLENGES**

### **COVID-19 Budget Impacts**

TAMUG has experienced revenue losses in tuition and fees as well as losses from housing refunds, meal plan and parking losses and cancellation of all summer camps. Summer term losses are primarily due to occupancy downturn and a significant impact to over 250-300 cadets who did not receive required summer sea term training. We experienced project losses and expenses through FY 2020 at approximately \$7.0 million across all funds. FY2021 looks better. This is due primarily to CARE ACT funding assistance and lower spending in general. We anticipate full return to the classroom in the fall 2021 and look forward to a “normal” Summer Sea Term aboard a large ship this summer.

### **Legislative Concerns**

Base Budget Reduction of 5% from the State

In partnership with Mike Fossum, Patrick Louchouart and Susan Lee, all departments contributed to a planned budget reduction for FY2021 in order to prepare for the same cut in the 2022/23 session.

Each unit was asked to determine priorities for their programs to address the 5% reduction. Based on these priorities, we determined where program expenses could be cut by adding efficiencies (such as combining administrative support for multiple programs). Five to six vacant faculty positions and 3-4 vacant staff positions were eliminated; instituted a hiring freeze coupled with a rigorous exception process.

No permanent merit increases for FY2021 were awarded. However, we were able to distribute one-time merits awards effective March 1, 2021.

# MARINE EDUCATION SUPPORT & SAFETY OPERATIONS

Our mission is to facilitate experiential learning in marine education both on and under the water and to provide a risk managed environment for education in the classroom and in the field. Texas A&M University at Galveston's Marine Education Support and Safety Operations (MESSO) is an energetic hub of activity, using a multi-mission mix of education and training tools that the diverse water-related campus and community have available seven days a week throughout the year. The Marine Education Support Operations hosts numerous waterborne research projects, labs, training opportunities, continuing education programs, Sea Camps and safety programs.

## **VESSEL OPERATIONS**

RV Trident repair due to damage caused by Hurricane Laura.

Two compliance reviews conducted in fall 2020. TAMMA/MESSO Incidents Reviews Improvement and Implementation Plan created with recommendations forthcoming.

Vessel trips with implemented COVID procedures resumed for academic coursework and research activities.

Improved communication with Principle Investigators to align their needs into operations of the unit.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

In addition to maintaining compliance with all existing duties, the EHS office has taken on the additional task of coordinating the COVID response on campus to include:

- COVID testing
- COVID case management
- COVID contact tracing

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Continuing to work with TDEM and FEMA for COVID reimbursement request.

Activated the Incident Command Team (ICT) to respond to Hurricane Laura. Continuing to work with TDEM and FEMA for reimbursement requests for evacuation, property damage, and dredging.

Activated the ICT to respond to Hurricane Beta.

Activated the ICT to respond to Hurricane Delta.

## **STAFF UPDATES**

Staffing levels brought to 100% during the pandemic to meet mission.

Eliminated one captain position due to 23% university implemented budget cut.

Froze one deckhand position due to 23% university implemented budget cut.

One captain position vacated in fall 2020 remains vacant as Vessel Operations completed compliance review.

Administrative and business support transitioned to TAMMA and leaving minimal support to MESSO.

# DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In FY20, the entire Information Technology Department (15 staff) responded to COVID by supporting the transition to on-line instructions and learning. IT upgraded over 65 classrooms on-campus with new cameras, microphones, computers, and Plexiglas shields so that the rooms supported Hyflex style education.

IT personnel developed and presented custom training to over 75 faculty members, both in-person and remote, to support the transition to on-line remote teaching.



## **VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON FACULTY TRAINING**

IT purchased 10 High-Performance Servers to be accessed remotely by engineering students allowing these students to run several different computationally intensive programs like ship hull analysis simulations as part of their course work while at home or in the residence halls.

## **HIGH-PERFORMANCE BLADE SERVER UPGRADE**

IT configured an additional 25 computers so students could access them remotely through our Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) giving students access to programs like IBM's SPSS, which was previously only available in campus computer labs. Our VDI system currently provides remote access to programs like ARC GIS to over 200 students. This VDI system has been in place for four plus years.



## **RENOVATIONS TO THE SERVER ROOM IN BLDG. 3007**

The renovations to the server room increased the tech shop area by 350 sq. feet and provided much-needed storage space. The reduced the footprint of the server room, allowed us to install a secure cage to protect the server infrastructure from unauthorized physical entry and provide better cooling for the equipment.



# DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION & AUXILIARY SERVICES

## SUCCESSSES

TAMUG won the 2020 Houston Business Journal Landmark Award for Best Public Assembly Project for Texas A&M University at Galveston Academic Complex (MAIN and ASEC). PGAL was the architect and was also recognized.

Contract for production and installation of new, larger donor wall on the 2nd floor of ASEC has been approved.

Design of a Galveston history timeline is nearly complete. Production and installation anticipated by end of the summer.

Refreshed logo in the Atlantic/Pacific Hall courtyard.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

Continue repairs of damage incurred during winter storm. Current damage estimate exceeds \$1,000,000.

Aggie Ring Statue composition recently approved. Project has now moved to the creation of renderings and a model to support fundraising.

Energy conservation project underway with Ameresco. Water conservation improvements are complete, boiler replacements and building automation upgrades are scheduled to begin shortly and, by the end of the year, interior and exterior lighting retrofits and chiller replacements in the central plant will be complete.





# OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

## SUCCESSSES

A report on campus fundraising and gift usage is published monthly, with the support of the Texas A&M Foundation. In FY 2020, \$2.47 million was raised for TAMUG, in comparison to the 3-year average of \$3.97 million/yr.

In partnership with TAMUG's Department Heads, Development is assembling a campus "Wish List" in order to focus fundraising efforts and assist each department with their own unique goals.

The Class of 1971 will be celebrating their 50th class reunion this year! They will be visiting campus on April 22 to take in the sights and enjoy their alma mater with good friends.

The Texas A&M Foundation's 8-year Lead by Example campaign officially closed Dec 31, 2020. It raised a staggering \$4.25 billion vs. their \$4 billion goal (106% of campaign target) for the TAMU system, with TAMUG raising \$42 million of that total against a \$22 million goal (190% of target).

November 2020 saw the success of the Development Office's first virtual Endowed Scholarship Reception. This year's reception will be held in-person on October 27, 2021 at 6pm. Save the Dates have gone out, official invitations to follow soon.

The Sea Aggie Former Student Network's Annual Golf Tournament & Crawfish Boil will be held April 29th, at Wildcat Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit TAMUG Endowed Scholarship.



# DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Buck Weirus Recipients

Five TAMUG students were selected as recipients of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award. The Buck Weirus Spirit Award honors 55 students each year who demonstrate high involvement, create positive experiences throughout the Aggie community, impact student life at Texas A&M and enhance the Aggie Spirit. Unlike other awards, the Buck Weirus Spirit Award recognizes those students who make contributions to the university through participation in student organizations, Aggie traditions and university events. The Buck Weirus Spirit Award, named for Richard “Buck” Weirus ‘42, recognizes students for their outstanding contributions to student life programs at Texas A&M University. Weirus served as executive director of The Association of Former Students from 1964 to 1980. Because of his unique leadership, vision, and support of student involvement, this award was established by The Association’s Board of Directors in 1982 in his honor.

This year’s recipients from the Galveston campus include Laura Westerlage ’21, Calley Nixon ’21, Cade Ingram ’21, Wesley Ide ’22, and Jensen Smith ’23.

### Big Event

Big Event had 250 students show up for 22 sites on March 27th. Here is some of the feedback we got from students upon completion of the event. After scanning the QR code, they were asked if Big Event helped them learn about social issues or other problems in the community and if it gave them an opportunity to make a difference. Below are some of the responses:

“Had a great time working with Greg Hall at the Artist Boat Wildlife Preserve, I didn’t know there was even a preserve on the island so that was a cool experience.

I learned that Galveston is the oleander capital of the world and I was able to help the oleander society make Galveston beautiful and clean up a street corner to plant more oleanders.

“We really enjoyed interacting with the COTLG to learn more about church programs and community events.”



### “Spring Break” Events

Spring Break was reduced to one day due to CoVID. The Office of Student Activities hosted a week of fun events for students during what would have traditionally been spring break. Monday included a campus-wide crawfish boil where 1200 lbs were served up to faculty, staff and students. Tuesday night the campus hosted mentalist/illusionist Wayne Hoffman. Thursday night, students gathered to enjoy the comedy of Trey Mack.

## CAMPUS LIVING & LEARNING

### Galveston Freeze

CL&L staff were critical in supporting 300-500 students housed on campus during the freeze after losing water, heat, and power. Morale was high among the students even though the temperatures were not.

### Award Winning Staff

Sarah Schendzelos, Assistant Director of CL&L was named the Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers Mid-Level Professional of Distinction 2021

Carrie Rowland – recently promoted to Assistant Director was named employee of the quarter. She was also appointed to Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers Executive Staff.

Marishika Wright advises our Residence Hall Association who won the Spirit Challenge for the entire Region (RHA) and individual awards including the Boardroom Pins to two members as well as the coveted “Golden Duck” award for outstanding performance and positivity.





## **STUDENT DIVERSITY INITIATIVES**

### **1973 Center**

Finished the renovation of space that is now known as the 1973 Center with lots of input from students that adds another welcoming space for faculty, staff and students to gather. Two faculty fellows were selected from numerous applicants:



Dr. Jamie Steichen is focused on STEM faculty development around DEI work. Her time in the center will conclude with a development of faculty workshops for DEI work. She is also working with our department to continue conversations around equity and inclusion with our police department. Different populations on campus who tend to be stopped more than other populations by the police on campus sparked this initiative. Note: The police department is working with our office to become more culturally aware. We are planning workshops to take place this summer.

Captain Dan Askins' tie with the maritime academy students is proving to be a wonderful addition to our office. We are working with him and a few other departments across campus to develop better connections with our cultural programming outside of the classroom targeted to our corps members. We are also working with department heads of academic departments to create a 3-hour course "Culture at Sea" - A Maritime focused course on human rights surrounding the maritime field.

### **Intercultural Development Inventory**

Worked with the Texas A&M Maritime Academy to assess every new cadet using an internationally acclaimed assessment tool for cultural competence. Each cadet was offered the opportunity to meet 1 on 1 with a coach to enhance this important skill set before starting their career at sea.

## **CAREER & ABILITY SERVICES**

### **GUMBO**

A new group, Galveston Undergraduate Marine Biology Organization (GUMBO), was initiated that brings graduates of the science degrees back to campus to hold panels and workshops. Speakers are coming from the mentor volunteer list created from one of the BOV initiatives. Interest is huge in this group.

### **Internships Surging**

Increase in internships in Marine Biology and Maritime Business Administration have shown a significant rise since the COVID pandemic began.



## **COUNSELING & WELLNESS SERVICES**

### **Blood Drives**

Counseling Services hosted two very successful blood drives at critical times during COVID in response to direct requests from local health care providers. Our Aggies stepped up and far surpassed what the blood drive had set as their goals

### **Continued Outreach**

Worked with the Texas A&M Maritime Academy to assess every new cadet using an internationally acclaimed assessment tool for cultural competence. Each cadet was offered the opportunity to meet 1 on 1 with a coach to enhance this important skill set before starting their career at sea.

## **CORPS OF CADETS**

### **Spring O-Week**

Held "Spring O-Week" for new freshmen for the first time in many years. The cadets were housed in the GENERAL RUDDER to give the cadets an early exposure to shipboard life.

### **CorpsApps Initiated**

TAMUG Corps of Cadets worked closely with College Stations Corps and IT services to bring the new CorpsApps Cadet Management System to Galveston. This new system greatly improves cadets' ability to track merits/demerits and special requests in a single, online database that goes a long way to automating many of our cadet processes. Initial feedback from cadets and staff is overwhelmingly positive

### **Mike Evans Parade**

Cadet Drill Team, Hearn Honor Guard and Cadet Leadership joined the Maroon Delegates in the "Hometown Hero" parade honoring Galveston Ball and Texas A&M graduate and Super Bowl hero, Mike Evans.



# TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY

## HIGHLIGHTS

Funding for the new Training Ship NSMV-4 the *Lone Star State* has been awarded by Congress. Construction of NSMVs-3 and -4 is expected to commence in 2022 with planned deliveries in 2024. Last year, the Philly Shipyard received a contract for the first two vessels in the NSMV program. The newest award for NSMVs-3 and -4 is valued at approximately \$600 million. If all ships are ordered and built in series, then the total contract value of the five-ship program would be approximately \$1.5 billion. The five NSMVs will be berthed as follows: NSMV-1 will be at State University of New York (SUNY), NSMV-2 at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and NSMV-3 at the Maine Maritime Academy. NSMV-4 and NSMV-5 will be berthed at Texas A&M Galveston and California Maritime Academy respectively.

Congratulations to all of our cadets who passed their licensing exams! And a special WHOOP to our engineers for going 8 for 8 on licensing!

A huge thank you to Corps Commander Nelson Chiaravallotti and the team of cadets who assisted in providing essential services to the campus during the winter storm.

Gig 'em to Shea King '21 & Colin Cargol '22 (center L-R) and Dillion Cockrum '22 selected to participate in the new Cheniere Energy Inc. and Gaslog LNG Pilot Cadetship Program





THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 11, 2020

Rear Admiral Michael E. Fossum, USMS  
President  
Texas A&M Maritime Academy  
200 Seawolf Parkway  
P.O. Box 1675  
Galveston, TX 77553

Dear Admiral Fossum:

I write with a great deal of pride to confirm the designation of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy as an American Maritime Center of Excellence. American Maritime Centers of Excellence were established by the Congress of the United States under Title 46 of the U.S. Code, and the authority to designate your Academy is a great honor.

The enabling legislation requires American Maritime Centers of Excellence to develop and prepare students for careers afloat on board U.S. vessels or ashore, supporting our critical maritime industry. Over the storied history of Texas A&M Maritime Academy, your graduates have done both with tremendous success. This achievement speaks well of the academic and professional education provided by your great institution.

Congratulations on your well-deserved success. I look forward to Texas A&M Maritime Academy's continued excellence in the field of maritime education.

Sincerely,

Elaine L. Chao



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION

The Maritime Administrator hereby designates

**Texas A&M Maritime Academy**

as an

**American Maritime Center of Excellence**

Since its founding, Texas A&M Maritime Academy has educated and graduated outstanding merchant marine officers who served onboard U.S. vessels, in the Armed Services, and across the U.S. maritime industry in exemplary manners. As an American Maritime Center of Excellence, the Academy and its graduates continue to contribute directly to the economic and national security of our great Nation, and are critical to our maritime sea power. (Authority: 46 USC Ch. 515 Sec. 51501)

January 8, 2021

Mark H. Buzby  
Maritime Administrator

# DIVISION OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

 **15,183 FOLLOWERS**  
+4% GROWTH SINCE OCT. 2020

 **3,781 FOLLOWERS**  
+2% GROWTH SINCE OCT. 2020

 **4,787 FOLLOWERS**  
+15% GROWTH SINCE OCT. 2020

 **10,705 FOLLOWERS**  
+4% GROWTH SINCE OCT. 2020

## TOP OF THE NEWSROOM

**TEXAS A&M AT  
GALVESTON AWARDED  
NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART  
VESSEL BY FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT**  
Dec. 22, 2020, 5.8K Shares

**BLOOD, SWEAT & SALT-  
WATER: JORDAN LYNCH  
'20 IS ON A MISSION**  
Dec. 9, 2020, 1.4K Shares

**TEXAS A&M-  
GALVESTON CAO DR.  
PATRICK LOUCHOUARN  
NAMED REGENTS  
PROFESSOR**  
Nov. 19, 2020, 696 Shares

## TOP SOCIAL POSTS



1. **TMMSN Dolphin Calf Update**, Nov. 21, 21.7K Reach
2. **Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research Cold Stun**, Feb. 18, 15.6K Reach
3. **NSMV Federal Funding Announcement**, Dec. 22, 7K Reach



1. **NSMV Federal Funding Announcement**, Dec. 22, 122 Likes
2. **Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research Cold Stun Video**, Jan. 15, 66 Likes
3. **Spring Aggie Ring Day**, Apr. 9, 41 Likes



1. **Miss Rev 7th Birthday**, Nov. 23, 1,055 Engagements
2. **NSMV Federal Funding Announcement**, Dec. 22, 936 Engagements
3. **Col. Fossum Sea Turtle Release**, March 13, 849 Engagements



1. **NSMV Federal Funding Announcement**, Dec. 22, 26K Reach
2. **Class of 1960 Aggie Rings for Student Vets**, Oct. 20, 4K Reach
3. **Dr. Louchouarn Regents Professor**, Nov. 19, 28 Comments, 4K Reach





# AGGIES IN THE NEWS

## [Growing for the Future: 5th Annual Small Event Saturday, Nov. 7](#)

*November 5, 2020*



## [New 1973 Center to Further Diversity & Inclusion Resources on Texas A&M-Galveston Campus](#)

*November 18, 2020*

## [Texas A&M-Galveston CAO Dr. Patrick Louchouart Named Regents Professor](#)

*November 19, 2020*



## [Blood, Sweat & Saltwater: Jordan Lynch '20 is on a Mission](#)

*December 9, 2020*

## [When Fate has Flippers: Ayaka Asada '20 Ph.D.](#)

*December 11, 2020*

## [Texas A&M at Galveston Awarded New State-of-the-Art Vessel by Federal Government](#)

*December 22, 2020*

## [Texas A&M-Galveston Marine Biology Ph.D. Program Now Fully Run by Galveston Campus](#)

*December 23, 2020*



## [Sailing Forth: Cole Masington '21](#)

*December 29, 2020*

## [Acoustic Award Another Accolade for Dr. Ana Širovic](#)

*February 23, 2021*



## [Full Steam Ahead for New Pilot Cadetship Program](#)

*March 4, 2021*

## ['Glow Up' & Growth: 1973 Center Expands to Serve More Students](#)

*March 31, 2021*

# THE **OCEAN** IS OUR **CLASSROOM**

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Texas A&M University at Galveston has the salt air, warm sand, Gulf Coast sun, and so much more! On the Galveston campus you'll hear the hum of a campus alive with discovery, creativity and excellence. Our students are a part of something that spans the horizon, and that fabled Aggie Spirit will be as tangible as the sea breeze. We are Aggie.

Texas A&M University at Galveston is situated in a vibrant coastal urban environment that blends access to natural ecosystems with one of the largest international hubs of maritime industry. The campus draws world-renowned scientists, thinkers and leaders to a campus perfectly sized to maximize our students' potential. They are challenged... to think critically, to solve problems, to work as a team, to lead with integrity... and to grow. When the time comes for them to take their knowledge and skills into the world, it will not be the end... but the beginning of a journey down the road of long-traveled Aggie excellence and tradition.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

OCTOBER 14, 2021

APRIL 14, 2022