



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
GALVESTON CAMPUS

BOARD OF VISITORS

OCTOBER 1, 2020

ADVISE • ASSIST • ENGAGE • STEWARD • SUPPORT

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON BOARD OF VISITORS

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. Patrick Louchouart
Associate Provost (TAMU)
Executive AVP for Academic Affairs
& Chief Academic Officer (TAMUG)

Dr. Antonietta Quigg
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 Auxiliary Services

Dr. Carol Bunch Davis
Assistant Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Dr. Todd Sutherland
Associate Vice President for
Student Affairs

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
Executive Director of Marine Education
Support and Safety
Acting Deputy Superintendent
(TAMMA)

Ms. Rebecca Watts
Director of Marketing and
Communications

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



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

These are strange times. For over six months now we have been attempting to remain as isolated as possible to avoid the COVID pandemic. All of us are becoming much more adept at online meetings than we really want to be for those things, like our Board of Visitors, we have enjoyed so much in the past in person. Once again, this fall we find ourselves meeting online. I was most impressed with the number of you who joined our Zoom meeting last spring and look forward to another strong turnout for this one. We were new to the medium last spring and I suspect we will be much better at it now.

This is a “new normal” I hope we do not endure long term. Our in-person meetings are just richer when we can interact in person. But we now know we can provide a way for those who cannot make the drive to campus to join us. That is one of the better things to come out of this experience.

I look forward to getting together this fall even if it is online. I look forward to the time we can meet in person and renew acquaintances neglected for way too long. Stay safe until then.

BOARD OF VISITORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS



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



**General
Patrick Gamble**
Chair,
*Legislative &
Community Affairs*



Brandon Neff
Chair,
Industry Relations



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

MEETING AGENDA

OCTOBER 1, 2020

- 8:15 a.m. **Executive Advisory Committee**
- 8:50 a.m. **Virtual BOV Waiting Room Opens for BOV General Meeting**
- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order & Welcome**
Jonathan Whitworth, Vice Chair
- 9:10 a.m. **Campus Updates**
- COL Michael E. Fossum, *Campus Operations*
 - Dr. Patrick Louchouart, *Academic Affairs*
 - Dr. Carol Bunch Davis, *CLIDE*
 - Dr. Todd Sutherland, *Student Affairs*
- 9:40 a.m. **Role of the Board of Visitors Members**
Jonathan Whitworth, Vice Chair
- 9:45 a.m. **Break & Move to Virtual Committee Rooms**
- 9:55 a.m. **Committee Breakout Meetings**
- 11:00 a.m. **General Meeting Resumes**
Jonathan Whitworth, Vice Chair
- Call for Committee Reports**
- Industrial Relations
 - Legislative & Community Affairs
 - Student Affairs
 - Emerging Trends in the Blue Economy
- Approval of September 24, 2019 Minutes**
- 11:30 p.m. **Looking Forward**
COL Michael E. Fossum
- 11:45 p.m. **Closed Board of Visitors Discussion**
- 12:00 p.m. **Q&A with Leadership**

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 §
Billy Greer
Paul Hill
William 'Will' Jenkins
Greg Mitchell

Mike Spiers
Brian Roy
Deepak Varshney
Jim Watson §

EMERGING TRENDS IN THE BLUE ECONOMY

Charles 'Bill' McClain, Campus Co-Chair
Patrick 'Pat' Gamble §, 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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

OPENING

A regular meeting of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors was called to order on September 24, 2019 on the Galveston Campus at 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDEES PRESENT

BOV Members

Greg Binion, Bob Fry, Pat Gamble, Leonard Hale, Amy Hark, Paul Hill, Pete Huddleston, Will Jenkins, Shrub Kempner, Dale Laine, Keith McFatrige, John Michael, Phyllis Milstein, Greg Mitchell, Brandon Neff, Chris Orth, Wayne Prescott, Brian Roy, Bob Sakowitz, Mike Spiers, Todd Sullivan, Kelly Teichman, Andy Tirpak, Jim Watson, Jonathan Whitworth
Absent: C. Cahill, M. Cokinos, T. Farmer, W. Fraser, R. Guenther, J. Hallmark, R. House, C. Jenkins, C. Johnson M. Lyons, B. Massey, J. Mohn, F. Muller, C. Neely, V. Pierson, T. Ray, T. Voelkel, D. Varshney, B. Greer

TAMUG Leadership and Staff

Ken Bailey, Mike Fossum, Rick Kline Patrick Louchouarn Donna Lang, Susan Lee, Bill McClain, Joan Mileski, Allan Post, Antonietta Quigg, Grant Shallenberger, Todd Sutherland, Rebecca Watts, Kathey Walker

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Fry.

COL Michael Fossum welcome everyone and introduced new Board of Visitors members:

- Leonard Hale
- Dale Laine
- Shrub Kempner

Greg Mitchell, long time BOV member, was welcomed back to Texas and to today's meeting. Each member introduced themselves.

The prior minutes were presented for approval. Chris Orth made the motion and Leonard Hale the 2nd – all were in favor.

COL Michael Fossum provided the following briefing:

- Announced letter of resignation from RADM Mike Rodriguez last Thursday and provided a brief overview of the highlights as a result of his tenure.
- Announced the appointment of Capt. Allan Post as Interim Superintendent of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy.
- Ship Update provided by Kerry Kinirons from Governmental Relations in Washington.
- Ship is the number one priority for them. They are still working through the legislative funding process with the National Defense Authorization processes as well.
- There is 8 million set aside for the ship sharing until such time as our Academy has a ship.

- Discussed Disaster Response capability of NSMV and the importance to the Gulf Coast.
- Pelican Island Bridge - Commissioner Laura Ryan is now personally involved and has been to campus twice. A 3rd meeting will be held next month. Work continues to find a solution to the replacement of the functionally obsolete bridge.

BRIEFING DOCUMENT DISCUSSION

- Whitworth asked about the survey mentioned in the Academic Affairs section and asked if it would be possible to get a one pager explaining the background and content. Patrick Louchouart stated that he will provide the information to him.
- Watson asked about the lack of emphasis on what our graduates bring to the table.

Dr. Donna Lang discussed the Women on the Water Conference being hosted by Texas A&M University in November. This is a break even event where the students attend at no cost. A circular was provided to attendees outlining the sponsorship support.

COL Michael Fossum discussed the recent Visioning and Strategic Planning Retreat. The primary goal will focus on recruiting and retention. We recently received news that student retention increased by 8% which is encouraging.

Fossum also discussed the need for student internships and ideas on how we can collaborate and communicate with BOV members to improve partnerships in this area.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The general meeting was suspended while members broke into the following committees:

WORKING LUNCH

SST 2019 Briefing provided by Deputy Commander Daryn Taylor. The experience of continuing their education through the summer sea term is much better rather than breaking from your education to go board someone else's ship. Morale has improved dramatically. Instead of working with other groups and their initiatives on the ships, this experience has allowed our cadets to provide input into the process, be involved from start to finish with the entire leadership and faculty from the classroom to the deck. All cadets are growing as leaders. The upper classmen provide leadership to the younger shipmates as they learn and train.

Emerging Trends in Maritime (new committee) met for the first time under the guidance of Patrick Louchouart and Joan Mileski with Pat Gamble. The committee will look into the future 10-15 years with recommendations – divest themselves of current thinking and actions. An example of this thought process included the development of ships operating on natural gas which will not be a retrofit but a new ship. Discussions including applied and theoretical research, pollution (ship and coastal), cyber integration, water management, impact of climate change on ports and navigable waterways and drone support of operations. What is the 'sweet spot' where this university can have an impact? There are students who are yet to arrive who will be living in the world they are trying to forecast. While they can't solve all the problems, the goal will be to identify a narrower focus, refine the ideas, within the big circle and look

at what is relevant for A&M Galveston to address. Patrick Louchouart stated that today was about identifying a vision for the committee.

Development and Fundraising report provided by Rick Kline.

*Attendees: Kempner, Milstein, Huddleston, Roy, Prescott, McFatridge, W. Jenkins, Kline
Committee Chair Vic Pierson was unable to attend the BOV meeting.*

With several new attendees, the committee addressed the role of the Texas A&M Foundation and how it supports TAMUG students, faculty, programs and facilities. The report included a status of Lead by Example campaign with \$3.65B raised against \$4B goal. Kline discussed the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS) status. Of the \$5M goal, \$268,500 had been raised to date. For those interested in giving, the online link is <https://give.am/CTBSEndowment>. The committee should meet to discuss who #3, #4 and #5 fundraising targets should be. Direction from the Board of Visitors is requested regarding additional targets. Kline shared that, to date, the George P. Mitchell Society has 73 members with only 17 BOV members participating. The online giving link for GPMS is <http://give.am/GPMSMembership>. Fund raising efforts for the Aggie Ring Statue are being led by the Maroon Delegates with an \$80,000 target. The giving link is <http://give.am/MaroonDelegateAggieRingStatue>.

The report included a brief discussion of the potential of future Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Educational Outreach Facility. Stay tuned for more details.

Industrial Relations Committee report provided by Brandon Neff. They see their current purpose as one to support the ship initiative. At the last meeting, the committee developed and honed a letter of support. Today, they have developed a list of potential signers to approach. The audience for the letter is decision makers in Washington who affect the outcome of this important legislative initiative.

Student Affairs Committee: Jonathan Whitworth gave an update on the two projects which the Student Affairs Committee focused on last year; the BOV Speaker Series and the Mentoring Program. The Speaker Series is doing very well and has been fully adopted and administered by Ken Baily and the TAMUG Career & Ability Services team. As for the Mentoring Program, we were successful in our pilot program which matched approx. 40 TAMUG alumni up with sophomores and juniors in the same discipline in which they are studying to focus on internships, hiring, resume prep, etc. We received positive feedback from the program and starting later this month, we will canvas the Alumni and the BOV again to see if we can sign up another cohort of mentors/students. In addition, we would like to facilitate younger Alumni (graduated in the last 1-10 years) to assist with freshman students in order to help dealing with entry into the college world and also to assist in retention. We may try the Freshman Mentoring program as a limited pilot program this year, then work with the school to include an industry mentor in the Provost Learning Program aimed specifically at freshman scheduled for fall 2020.

MESSAGE FROM COL. MICHAEL E. FOSSUM

COL Mike Fossum introduced members of leadership and staff present. He provided a recap of the Summer Sea Term 2019 and discussed his upcoming trip to Washington to meet with the Consortium of Maritime Academies, MARAD, and legislators. Everyone was invited to a 4 p.m. reception on October 16 with the astronauts from the Planetary Congress – Association of Space Explorers Reception.

ADJOURNMENT

A MESSAGE FROM COL. MICHAEL E. FOSSUM '80



**COL Michael E. Fossum '80,
USAFR (Ret.)**

Vice President (TAMU)
Chief Operating Officer (TAMUG)
Superintendent (TAMMA)

Dear Members of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors,

Howdy! What a year it's been since our last official BOV meeting in September of 2019. Only in 2020 would a hurricane evacuation have a calming effect, because we know how to handle those kind of storms. I have never been more thankful than now for the gift of technology, which allowed us to continue educating our students through the Spring and Summer when we could not meet face to face. It was hard to see how we would get here, but our campus is once again echoing with the sounds of students' footsteps and voices. While I look forward to hosting in person meetings again, we are hosting this Fall 2020 meeting virtually to support physical distancing while remaining socially connected.

We have begun a new year, very different than anyone would have expected this time last year. FY2021 has brought new challenges and compounded existing ones. We were concerned about the budget impact of declining enrollment leading into this academic year, but there is some good news to share. Our Student Enrollment Services team has done an outstanding job – increasing our freshmen class by ~9% and transfer students by ~15% over 2019 in spite of the fact that recruiting was transitioned to an entirely online format. They successfully hosted our largest spring recruiting event, Aggieland Saturday by the Sea, in a new online format with close to 600 visitors. This was an EXCITING win!

There are many challenges ahead that keep me awake at night. Some of these, I will discuss in greater depth during the general meeting. Intense conversations continue about replacement of the Pelican Island Bridge. As a campus, it is imperative that we ensure the new bridge access takes it around our campus. Another topic rose to a high priority this summer came when we learned that the 4th NSMV tagged for Texas had successfully been included in the congressional budget thanks to a significant

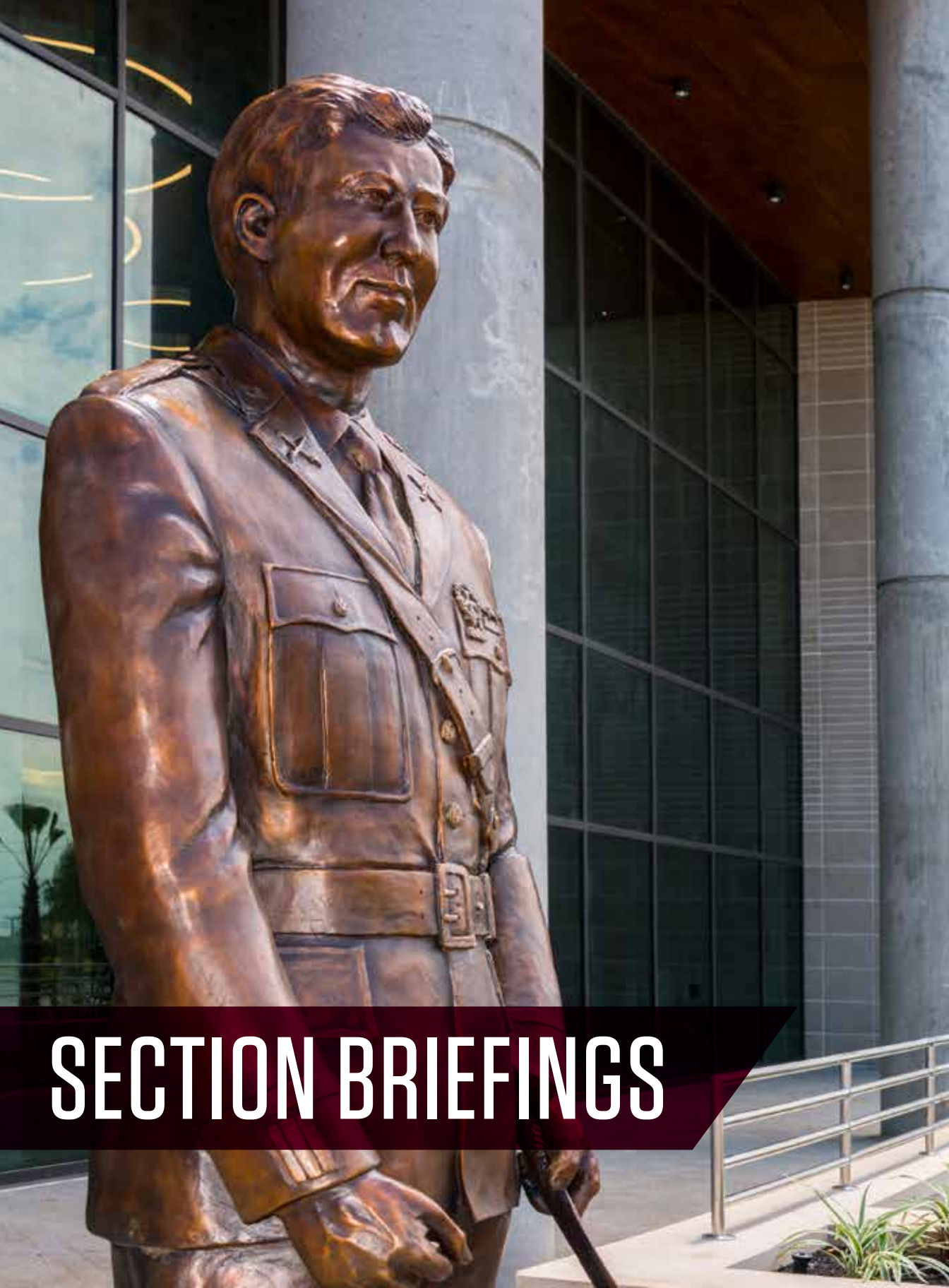
initiative started by our Industrial Relations Committee to get numerous industry leaders to sign a letter of support. Our funding made it through the House and we remain hopeful it will also be passed by the Senate. In the meantime, we must be ready for the TS Kennedy from Massachusetts to be transferred to Galveston in 2023, so we are working a significant budget request to the Texas Legislature for dock and infrastructure improvements in the next session. Due to COVID, we were unable to use the TS Kennedy this summer as part of the ship-sharing agreement. We were successful using the TS General Rudder to get 47 graduating seniors their last sea term, but have a lot of work ahead getting our remaining cadets caught up with minimal delays in graduation.

Our nation felt the impact of the George Floyd killing and continued protests this summer and our campus was no different. This has opened up necessary discussions about how we are taking care of our students, especially those who are often first-generation college students from minority groups. The first bystander training was very helpful in helping us all increase our awareness so we are better prepared to engage and support each other when we encounter a problem. I'm happy to report, while the work had already begun long before June of this year, our campus recently opened the 1973 MultiCultural Center so our students have a place to congregate with our support network. This work is far from complete, but we are having the tough conversations while we seek to understand and support every one of our Aggies from all different backgrounds.

It is a year of change. As you may have heard, President Michael K. Young will step down at the close of this academic year. Operating and learning to overcome the challenges presented by functioning in a virtual world are likely to continue for many months ahead. The budget impacts from the impact of the pandemic on the economy will be felt far into the future. Although leaner than is comfortable, we look forward with the confidence we will weather this storm and come out stronger in the years ahead.

Your presence, your engagement and your support has never been more critical than it is today. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, reading "Mike Fossum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



SECTION BRIEFINGS

TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY

The global pandemic radically altered our plans for a Summer Sea Term in summer of 2020. To accomplish the sea term we opted to take the General Rudder out and were able to embark 47 class of 2020 seniors allowing them to complete their program requirements. To ensure that COVID-19 did not find its way aboard the ship, a strict 7 day quarantine was established where all cadets and crew were isolated ashore. Everyone was tested twice prior to embarkation (with assistance from TAMU Student Health Services) clearing our cadets and crew to board. We then created a “clean ship” citadel around the General Rudder with strict disinfection and access control. As a result, we were successful in completing the sea term and getting our class of 2020 across the graduation line. We were the only academy in the country to complete a full sea term!

ACTIVITIES & SUCCESSES

USCG License Exams

As a result of the global pandemic the USCG National Maritime Center closed all regional exam centers, putting an end to license testing, which impacted 67 of our graduating cadets. TAMMA coordinated with the USCG to offer licensing in the ASEC ballroom over the summer.

Summer Sea Term

The global pandemic radically altered our plans for a Summer Sea Term 2020. To accomplish the sea term, we downsized to the General Rudder and were able to embark 47 seniors of the class of 2020 in order to complete their program requirements. To ensure that COVID-19 did not find its way aboard the ship a strict 7 day quarantine was established where all cadets and crew were isolated one to a room ashore, with meals delivered. TAMU Student Health Services assisted in testing everyone twice and clearing our cadets and crew to board. We then created a “clean ship” citadel around the General Rudder and had strict disinfection and access control. As a result we were successful in completing the sea term and getting our class of 2020 across the graduation line. We were the only academy in the country to complete a full sea term!

USCG Program Approval

In the Fall of 2019 the United States Coast Guard Approved our license program for another 5 years.

Training Ship

We are receiving positive indicators that the upcoming federal budget will include the funding for our new NSMV training ship with an expected delivery in the fall of 2026. In order to accommodate the new larger ship, we are currently requesting support for necessary capital improvements to infrastructure.

2019-20 Personnel Changes

October of 2019

- RADM Michael Rodriguez stepped down as Superintendent

November of 2019

- COL Michael E. Fossum assumed the duties of Superintendent
- Capt. Allan Post was appointed acting Deputy Superintendent

2020 Staff Hires & Reorganization

- Cori Crawford, Executive Assistant
- Eric VanVelsen, Commandant
- Patrick Zimmer, Director of Administrative Operations
- Atilla Gok, Assistant Commandant
- Andrea Jaszczuk, Business Coordinator and Ships Purser
- Bryce McAndrew, Third Mate
- Courtney Geiger, Program Coor.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES

RESEARCH

For the last fiscal year (9/1/19-8/31/20), TAMUG has almost \$8 million in research-related expenditures. A total of 30 new grants and contracts have been received, funded by NSF, NOAA, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas General Land Office, Department of Energy, and others. The new Institute of Disaster and Resilient Texas and the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research have hit the ground running, bringing in research dollars, new students and staff and prestige to the campus.

GRADUATE STUDIES

In the last fiscal year (9/1/19-8/31/20), TAMUG had ~200 graduate students spread amongst its Galveston and College Station based programs with 85% being Galveston programs. We graduated 47 MS and 8 PhD students. The office also had two firsts: (A) we supported all research based graduate students over the summer and (B) we welcomed our largest cohort of new graduate students – a total of 95 - for the Fall 2020 semester!

SEA LIFE FACILITY

In the last fiscal year (9/1/19-8/31/20), the Sea Life Facility supported 17 research projects and six marine biology courses, interacting with 308 undergraduate students. During the last year, a generous donation from the Mitchell Foundation supported 8 undergraduate student technicians in the Sea Life Facility.

NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD

(Additional information available in Appendix)

Dr. Alok K. Verma was hired as head of the Marine Engineering Technology department.

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

(Additional information available in Appendix)

- Marine Engineering Faculty Research
 - ▷ Clean and Resilient Energy Systems (CARES) Lab
- Liberal Studies Faculty Research
 - ▷ Publications
 - ▷ Research grants
- Center for Texas Beaches and Shores Faculty Research
 - ▷ Contracts and grants
 - ▷ TX Disaster Information System
 - ▷ Book contract
 - ▷ Program-level research partnerships
 - ▷ Space in new TAMU Houston campus
- Marine and Coastal Environmental Science Faculty Research
 - ▷ Ashley Ross research
 - ▷ David Retchless research
 - ▷ Peter Santschi research
- Marine Biology Faculty Research
 - ▷ Professor research list and tenure
- Ocean Engineering Faculty Research
 - ▷ Galveston Beach Rainwater Runoff Investigation
 - ▷ South Padre Island Sand Tracer Study
 - ▷ Impacts of Ship Channel Geomodification on Hydrodynamics and Ferry Operation of Port Aransas



1 Members of Wells lab taking a blood sample from a blacktip shark for an ongoing post-release survival study to measure the physiological stress after these sharks are caught by recreational anglers.

2 Ph.D. student Mariah Livernois of the Wells lab tracking fish movements throughout the Galveston Bay. Photos with juvenile bull shark and alligator gar.



3 Sea turtle tagging work conducted by Marshall lab.

4 Graduate student researchers Anika Agrawal and Emily Hubbard of the Jurgens lab, in partnership with the Galveston Bay Foundation, monitoring restored oyster reefs off Galveston Island.



5 In collaboration with Dr. Anderson Oliveira from the University of Sao Paulo, Dr. Anja Schulze and Ph.D. student Mary Colleen Hannon are researching bioluminescent marine worms. In July, they traveled to Panama City, FL where they retrieved multiple specimens of a large, tube-dwelling species, *Chaetopterus variopedatus*, from a muddy intertidal area. The worms now live in the TAMUG Sea Life Facility. When removed from their tubes in a dark room, they glow bright blue. The researchers are interested in the underlying molecular pathways and the ecological significance of this bioluminescence. While bioluminescence is known from a number of marine organisms, marine worms seem to have unique molecular mechanisms that could have future applications in biomedical science.



PROJECTS

Current Projects

- [NSF Pire](#)
- [Ike Dike](#)
- [Measuring, Mapping and Managing Flood Risk](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Project to Develop a Rapid, Accurate and Scalable Digital Methodology to Determine Building \(First Floor\) Elevation Survey for Hazard Mitigation Planning Efforts](#)

Past Projects

- [Innovative Technology Seaweed Prototype Dunes](#)
- [NSF Hazard Enabling Project](#)
- [Survey of Preferences for Wave-Based Flood Risk Reduction Strategies in Harris County, TX](#)
- [Flood Risk Reduction Colloquium with Delft University, Netherlands](#)
- [Examining the 100-Year Floodplain as a Metric of Risk, Loss and Household Adjustment](#)
- [Advancing the Resilience of Coastal Localities: Developing, Implementing and Sustaining the Use of Coastal Resilience Indicators](#)

INSTITUTE FOR A DISASTER RESILIENT TEXAS

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The occurrence of regular billion-dollar disaster events have placed Texas at the center of a national debate on the need to more effectively reduce risk and foster the development of healthier and more disaster-resilient communities. The formation of this entity fills a critical need for an A&M System-led collaborative initiative that collects, stores and disseminates data, develops analytical tools, and promotes the use of web-based technologies to inform decision makers, residents, and other interested parties on reducing the adverse impacts of disasters.

One of the main objectives for the Institute will be to develop a Texas Disaster Information System that collects, stores, analyzes, and predicts disaster impacts to inform stakeholders at multiple scales. This system would create a multi-level, multi-sourced repository for disaster-related data that can be utilized to address queries from state agencies, regional entities, local governments, and individual residents. The Institute will provide a virtual and physical hub for data analytics and applied research that will engage and benefit local communities across Texas. This entity will act as a living laboratory that brings together and leverages the research activities and partnerships already taking place across multiple campuses within the TAMUS, including TAMU Galveston, College Station, Prairie View, and Corpus Christi, and Tarleton State.

PARTNERS

The Institute will also partner and work with key TAMUS extension-focused agencies across the state, including the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), the Forest Service, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and Texas A&M AgriLife. Collaboration will also be sought with other universities in Texas with substantial disaster research programs, beginning with existing partnerships with the University of Texas, University of Houston, and Rice University.



MARINE EDUCATION SUPPORT & SAFETY OPERATIONS

VESSEL OPERATIONS

Full replacement of the Earl Milan's back deck in February 2020 which is the final large project from her overhaul in 2016.

Split the unit into two teams to allow business continuity during the COVID pandemic in March 2020. The team continues with this operation and no loss time thus far as a result of COVID.

Implemented cost saving measures in response to COVID and University budget reduction requests in May 2020. Some vessels have been placed in long-term storage to accommodate budgetary needs.

Created a procedure and protocol to allow for safe operations aboard all vessels during COVID in June 2020.

Partnered and executed with an external charterer to provide vessel services to deploy and recover research equipment off the coast of Corpus Christi in July 2020.

Partnered with a federal agency to provide vessel services to retrieve equipment previously deployed. This project is currently on hold due to COVID.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Partner with TAMUS members and agencies to ensure effective and cohesive response to COVID.

Created process and system to track COVID cases and communicate safety protocols for presumptive or confirmed positive cases.

Developed and implemented campus COVID testing plans

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Actively working with TDEM and FEMA to receive reimbursement of COVID response expenses.

Hosted the campus' first virtual hurricane tabletop in summer 2020.

Transitioned entire Incident Command Team to a virtual platform to successfully evacuate the campus in the potential path of Hurricane Laura in August 2020.

STAFF REALIGNMENTS & NEW HIRES

October 2020

Vernon Camus reclassified as Director of Marine Education, Safety and Support Operations

February 2020

Hired Christopher Trandell, Captain (Near Coastal)

March 2020

Hired Brian Hopkins, Boatswain

DIVISION OF FINANCE & BUDGET

SUCCESSSES

Developed comprehensive and detailed budget for the Texas A&M Maritime Academy as a transition tool for the new Superintendent and Acting Deputy Superintendent. In partnership with the Acting Superintendent developed a 5-year strategic plan to accept, moor, and operate new larger vessel. Out year budgets will average \$5.6M per year. Completed Legislative Request and accompanying testimony before the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

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. The Compliance Unit completed 3 internal compliance reviews and made recommendations for enhancing internal controls and assuring management of compliance with policy and process.

Successfully managed to return over \$1.4M in state appropriations to the State of Texas as a result of COVID19 economic impact.

Successfully developed FY2021 within the constraints of a reduced state appropriation as noted above and in planning for a possible reduction in state appropriations in 2022-2023.

Compliance unit has completed 3 internal compliance reviews and made recommendations for enhancing internal controls and assuring management of compliance with policy and process.

CHALLENGES

COVID-19 Budget Impacts

TAMUG has experienced spring and summer revenue losses in tuition and fees, as well as losses from refunding housing, meal plans and parking and losses from cancellation of all summer camps. Summer term losses are mainly due to occupancy downturn and a significant impact to over 250-300 cadets who did not receive required summer sea term training. We project losses and expenses through FY 2020 to be about \$7.0 million across all funds. Possible new losses and/or expenses related to response to COVID19 may be incurred in FY2021 as well. These will be directly related to our stringent safety measure and classroom delivery expenses we continue to need.

Losses include:

- \$2.7 million in Summer Sea Term loss
- \$1.4 million in housing refunds
 - » An additional \$425,000 in lost revenue due to summer occupancy downturn
- \$519,000 in dining refunds
 - » An additional \$282,000 from loss of dining commissions due to summer downturn
- \$350,000 in estimated Tuition losses across all funds
- \$70,000 in parking refunds
 - » An additional \$50,000 for loss of parking for summer occupancy
- \$200,000 in small Vessel Operations losses for Spring and Summer
- \$1.0 million in Sea Camp losses due to cancellation of all camps
- We continue to be diligent in watching expenditures and communicating to our units

CHALLENGES, CONT.

7.5% Budget Reduction Planning

In partnership with Mike Fossum, Patrick Louchouart and Susan Lee all departments contributed to a planned budget reduction for FY2021.

- We asked each of our units to determine priorities for all programs to address the 5% reduction. Based on these priorities we determined where we could cut program expenses by adding efficiencies such as combining administrative support for multiple programs. We have eliminated 5-6 vacant faculty positions and 3-4 vacant staff positions; instituted a hiring freeze coupled with a rigorous exception process.
- Lastly, there will be no permanent merit increases for FY2021 and we have delayed any possible one-time merit consideration for all employees. Because our faculty and staff have responded to this pandemic with a no less than herculean effort to resume spring classes totally on line in less than 3 weeks and to build a suitable fall semester with proper social distancing and a hybrid of on-line and face-to-face classes, we hope to determine at some point in FY2021 whether we have funds to provide possible one-time merit awards.

Texas A&M Maritime Academy

Summer Cruise

- FY2020 Summer cruise aboard the T/S Kennedy cancelled due to COVID-19

Hurricane Laura Impact

Expenses were incurred to address the safety and security of students, faculty and staff and include:

- Evacuation costs to move students and staff responsible for students to college station, house them and return them to campus
- Costs to move and man Incident Command Center to College Station and return
- Additional costs incurred in order to maintain COVID-19 protocols as well
- Costs for storm ride-out crew for the General Rudder
- Costs to move Trident vessel to Corpus Christi

STAFF UPDATE

December 2020

Dora Rogers retirement

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION & AUXILIARY SERVICES

SUCCESSSES

Updated master plan completed
(Additional information available in Appendix)

Installation of new art fixtures in MAIN 1st floor lobby, hallway and gathering stairs

Academic Complex (Main and Aggie Special Events Center) received the Houston Business Journal 2020 Landmark Award for Public Assembly space

Completed planting of 31 live oak trees in several locations around campus, including 12 Century Oak saplings grown and donated by BOV member Brian Roy and 19 provided through a grant from the Apache Corporation

Oceans and Hullabaloo Halls re-roofed

KEY ACTIVITIES

Moving forward with the design of our very own Aggie Ring Statue

Pending Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval in October, campus will engage with Ameresco to improve operating efficiencies and environment through upgrading lighting systems, building automation system controls, HVAC improvements, and water fixtures.

AWARDS

Jeff Boyer, Executive Director of Human Resources, awarded the COO's Meritorious Service Award for outstanding staff service

NEW HIRES

Hired January 3, 2020
Jason Tice, Police Officer
Tyler Moore, Police Officer



OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

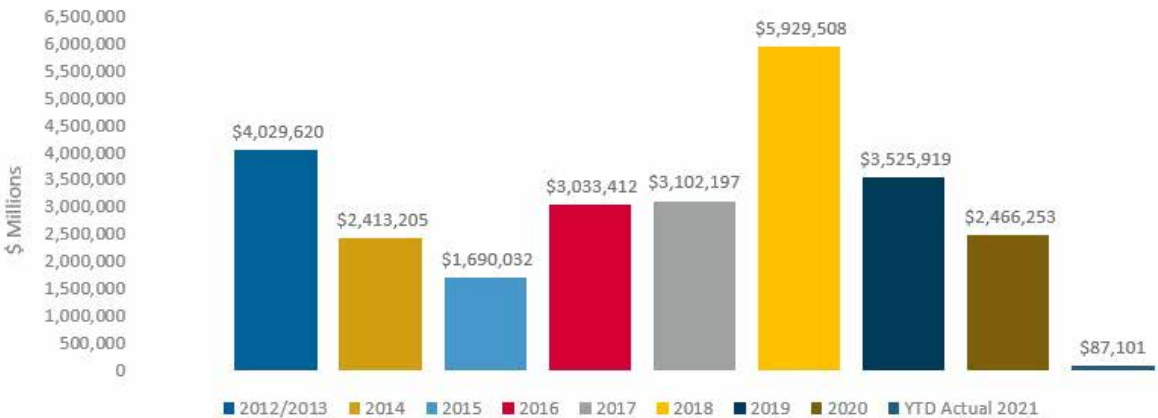
LEAD BY EXAMPLE CAMPAIGN TOTAL: \$4,122,936,604.97

(Additional information available in Appendix)

The Lead by Example campaign has reached its truly extraordinary goal of \$4 billion. Some may incorrectly perceive that the \$4B is made up of “discretionary money” of which the various entities doing fundraising for Texas A&M University may appropriate the funds as desired. Contrary to that perception, every dollar is accounted for and designated towards a specific project or goal as directed by our generous donors. The objective of the TAMUG Development Office is to enable partnerships with donors who want to build a brighter future for our campus by supporting students, faculty, programs, and facilities.

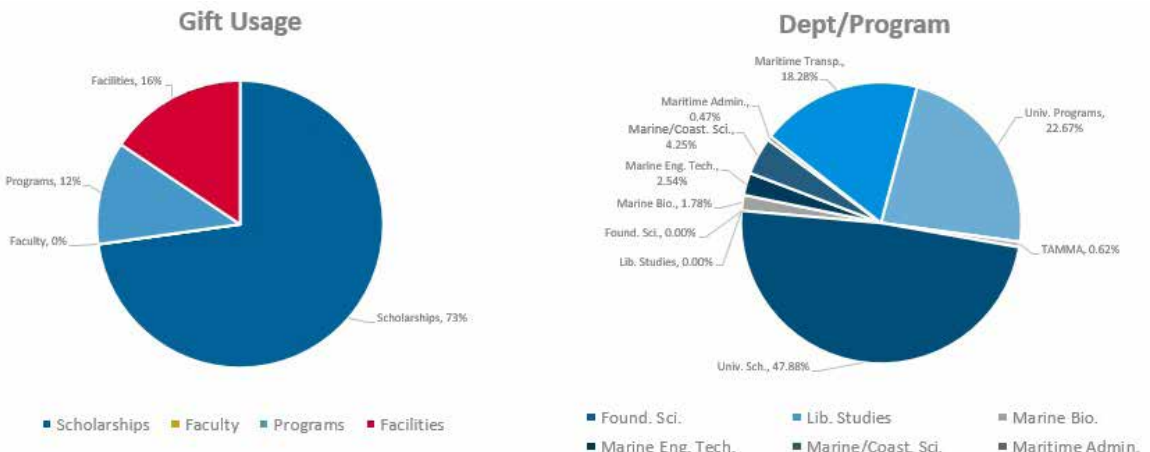
TAMUG LEAD BY EXAMPLE CAMPAIGN TOTALS*

(Additional information available in Appendix)



LEAD BY EXAMPLE TAMUG BREAKDOWN

(Additional information available in Appendix)



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

As with many departments across campus, Student Affairs was impacted greatly by the CoVID virus. A significant population of students left the residence halls for Spring Break and then did not return as the university shifted to remote learning. Since that time, we have expended considerable time and resources toward examining how we might still offer those programs that are critical to student success with a special attention to creating and maintaining a safe environment.

SUCSESSES

Residence halls, our Department of Campus Living and Learning developed an extended move in process over a period of six weeks that allowed over 1100 students to move back into the residence halls in a physically distant environment. They moved many processes on line and developed a sick student quarantine protocol that has been extremely effective.

Department of Student Diversity Initiatives successfully opened the 1973 Center to focus on the needs of underrepresented student populations. The 1973 Center's mission is to serve students and provide a brave space to find support and belonging on TAMUG's campus. Named after the year that forever changed TAMUG's inclusion efforts where the first female students and African American students were admitted to the university, The 1973 Center will soon display the faces of those first students who impacted future success measures for diverse student populations. Housed within the center are the offices for Student Diversity Initiatives, a Lounge Space for students to find and build community, a group study room, a conference meeting space, a kitchen, and a CLIDE faculty member office. Each space within the center has a specific tie back to the overall mission to enhance and support TAMUG's efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Student Activities utilized a new software to facilitate a completely on line new student conference that still allowed new students and their families to engage with faculty, advisors, staff, current students and each other. They also brought over 400 students of the new class to campus for a week in groups of 100 to go through Howdy week and SALT Camp, two programs that greatly help students connect and transition into college. These programs were led by over 100 current students and were critical in setting the expectations for a core group of new students as we started the new academic year. Students reported overwhelming positive experiences from the program. The Office of Student Activities also leveraged our current TAMUG phone app to be used for contact tracing to assist the university in tracking which students were in which seats at any given time, in case notification of potential exposure was necessary.

Student activities has also continued with physically distanced face-to-face activities:

- Organizations Night hosted about 600 visitors over 4 nights
- Student organization meetings
- Outdoor Midnight Yell
- Voter Registration Event
- Drive-In Movie Night
- Aggie Football watch parties

Career Services has transitioned well with industry. Employers continue to visit campus virtually to conduct informational sessions and even interviewing. Crowley Maritime Services, Military Sealift Command, Pacific Seafood, Mercy Ships, American Maritime Officers (AMO), Duke Marine, and Intrepid Offshore Construction are just some of the companies that have presented to students over the past few months with many conducting follow up interviews. We will hold our second virtual Career Fair on October 26.

The Corps of Cadets brought in their new class over two weeks in August. The new Commandant has brought a new set of eyes to the program and is modifying many of their programs to raise the level of expectations and add consistency throughout the program. He has partnered with an excellent group of cadet leaders and is really focusing on the leadership development of the cadets, including on-going meetings with College Station's Center for Leadership. We have also partnered with College Station to implement their cadet management system at our campus to improve the transparency and better usage of our cadet data.

The Department of Campus Recreation moved many of their exercise and wellness programs on line and changed the work out area to appointment only to space out patrons. They have also modified many of the intramural sports to have modified rules to lessen chance of virus transmission. Students are participating and enjoying how some of the adaptations have put a new spin on some of the sports.

We are seeing increases in students with mental health/wellness issues with significance in themes related to isolation, loneliness, and difficulties/stress with the on-line platform, depression and anxiety. We have had 4 cases related to suicidal ideation to include 2 hospitalizations and 2 university withdrawals. The Department of Counseling works closely with these students and has added Simple Practice, a HIPPA compliance platform for telehealth which has allowed us to expand our office hours for counseling (Virtual Appts Wednesday evenings 4:00PM-8:00PM and Every Other Saturday 4:00PM – 8:00PM) and we are seeing both undergraduate and graduate students taking advantages of these counseling availabilities.

DIVISION OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

The Division of Marketing and Communications will continue to mature as an operation and expand services as more infrastructure is developed to house the tools necessary to meet coming needs and as additional resources are secured. This includes providing much more robust web capabilities such as a university-wide calendar, extension of the mobile app to be more useful to faculty and staff, and scheduled website maintenance support to ensure marketing compliance and staffing resources.

With considerable feedback from various campus stakeholders and the College Station campus, we now have a defined brand, encapsulated by a set of crucial standards to better articulate who we are and what we do. These “pillars” aid in guiding strategic operations, projects, and experiences. Further, we have developed brand guidelines in collaboration with the College Station campus to correct a long-neglected area of brand management. This is an ongoing process that we aim to roll out over the next year to encompass additional areas, including the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. These are available on the newly developed tamug.edu/marcom website.

Additionally, through the strategic planning process, we have established our unique identifier with the Blue Economy, an emerging concept that unifies our areas of specialty across the Galveston Campus and Texas A&M Maritime Academy.

BRAND POSITIONING

Texas A&M University at Galveston is fulfilling a critical component of Texas A&M University’s sea-grant mission and driving the Blue Economy in the Gulf Coast region. In alignment with Texas A&M University, we have developed branding pillars to aid in guiding and amplifying our messaging.

DISCOVERY & INNOVATION FOR THE WORLD

We are innovating for the future with impactful research and discovery that explores the broad impacts of humans and the environment along our coast and in our oceans to safeguard our planet’s most valuable and unexplored resource: our oceans.

TRANSFORMATIONAL EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

We are educating for the future with adaptive scholarship and academic programs that prepare our students to pursue their field of passion.

IMPACT ON THE STATE, NATION & THE WORLD

We are supporting the Blue Economy through integration of research and scholarship in our specialized fields with a steadfast commitment to serve the greater good near and far.

We completed a communications audit in early fall last year that, while unsurprising, identified the full breadth of the digital footprint of the Galveston Campus. Again, long-neglected, it has needed and will continue to need considerable attention and resources to gain trust and credibility among our audiences. We have created social media guidelines and established a connection to social media managers across campus to better enable us to share best practices. The goal with social media management on the Galveston Campus is not to stifle the diverse voices, but to provide much-needed support in the development of their authentic voices and content.

Our engagement levels have tripled across all platforms, organic viewership has doubled and actions taken on our platforms as a result of digital ads are increasing daily.

SOCIAL STATS

We have had much fun as a team working with students, faculty and staff to create experiential marketing events, activities, and brand awareness opportunities including the Floatilla for SST19, Mardi Gras, Chamber of Commerce Event, campus branding, and student organization support. These opportunities are the life-blood of our creative endeavors and we hope to have more opportunities in the coming year, as well as increase our collaborative efforts with brands, businesses and organizations in the community.

UPCOMING MAJOR INITIATIVES

- Modernization of the website, secured by funding through staff cost-savings to obtain majority ownership and provide support to IS in developing and maintaining content continuity, reinforcing content and design architecture, and providing the entire campus with the tools needed to support their areas.
- Expanded content and social media strategy development with reinforcing campaigns across recruiting - both undergraduate and graduate - and departmental efforts.
- National, targeted campaigns under the umbrella of “Fueling Your Field of Passion” (recruiting) and ownership of “Driving the Blue Economy” (strategic branding) to highlight research and scholarship. There is overlap between these two areas and a full, two-year strategy is necessary to ensure resources are effectively driven.
- Texas A&M Maritime Academy Brand Guide



15,183
FOLLOWERS

(9% GROWTH SINCE
SEPT. 2020)



3,710
FOLLOWERS

(9% GROWTH SINCE
SEPT. 2020)



4,163
FOLLOWERS

(51% GROWTH SINCE
SEPT. 2020)



10,330
FOLLOWERS

(4% GROWTH SINCE
MARCH 2020)

TOP OF THE NEWSROOM

TEXAS A&M-GALVESTON TO OPEN ON-CAMPUS SEA TURTLE HOSPITAL
Sept. 18, 2020, 1.1K Shares

TEXAS A&M-GALVESTON SHARK STUDY AIMS TO HELP ANGLERS AVOID ACCIDENTAL ANIMAL DEATH
June 10, 2020, 999 Shares

THIRTY-YEAR-OLD 'SNAIL MAIL' LEADS TO COLLECTION OF EXTINCT SPECIES DISCOVERED BY TEXAS A&M-PROFESSOR
May 21, 2020, 549 Shares

TOP POSTS



1. **Hurricane Laura Evacuation**, Aug. 24, 150K Reach
2. **TAMUG CLL Hurricane Post**, Aug. 25, 30.2K Reach
3. **May Graduation Presentation**, May 9, 25.6K Reach



1. **MAIN Blue Wall Decor**, July 13, 186 Likes, 24 Retweets
2. **Gen. Rudder Summer Sea Term**, July 20, 170 Likes, 20 Retweets
3. **Hurricane Laura Evacuation**, Aug. 24, 130 Likes, 68 Retweets



1. **Hurricane Laura Bus Video**, Aug. 25, 2,758 Views
2. **TAMUG Lacrosse Team Video (Submission)**, May 15, 1,661 Views
3. **Col. Fossum Ring Day Video**, April 15, 1,475 Views



1. **NSMV Announcement**, July 31, 29 Comments, 431 Likes
2. **Texas Clipper Video**, June 11, 28 Comments, 147 Likes
3. **Gen. Rudder Summer Sea Term**, Aug. 18, 3 Comments, 193 Likes

AGGIES IN THE NEWS

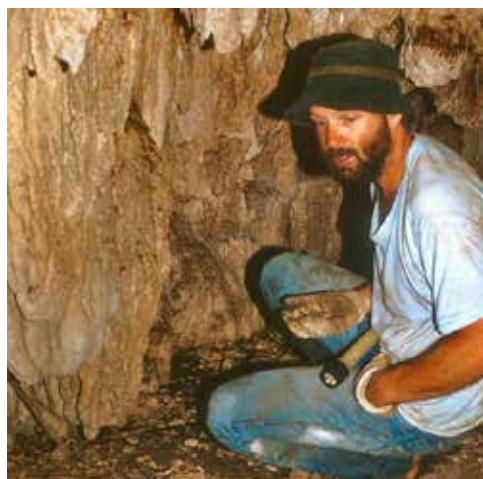
[Drones, Homes & Flood Damage: A&M-Galveston Researchers Map Ground Elevations from the Sky, Dec. 12, 2019](#)

[Distance Learning to Go the Distance: TAMUG Beta Test for Virtual Simulator Learning, April 10, 2020](#)

[A Galveston Dolphin Tale: TMMSN, TAMUG Relationship Ideal for Students & Animals, May 6, 2020](#)

[Thirty-Year-Old 'Snail Mail' Leads to Collection of Extinct Species Discovered by Texas A&M-Galveston Professor, May 21, 2020](#)

[Texas A&M-Galveston Shark Study Aims to Help Anglers Avoid Accidental Animal Death, June 10, 2020](#)



2020 VP MERITORIOUS AWARDS



Outstanding Classroom Teaching

Dr. Kristin Jøsvoll
Instructional
Assistant Professor,
Liberal Studies



Outstanding Staff Service

Mr. Jeff Boyer
Executive Director,
Human Resources



Outstanding Staff Service

Ms. Krista McBrien
Program
Coordinator I,
*Center for Academic
Learning Support*



Outstanding Classroom Teaching

Ms. Daisey McCloud
Director,
Counseling



Outstanding Facilities/Dining Services

Ms. Michelle Kirkland
Custodial Manager
SSC

WILLIAM PAUL RICKER AWARD



Outstanding Faculty Award

Dr. Wesley Highfield
Associate Professor,
*Marine & Coastal
Environmental Science*



Outstanding Staff Award

Ms. Cherie Coffman
Senior Administrative
Coordinator,
*Center for Texas
Beaches & Shores*



GEORGE P. MITCHELL
SOCIETY

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR
GEORGE P. MITCHELL SOCIETY MEMBERS**

Michael E. Fossum '80

Frank Muller, Jr. '65

Robert Fry

L. C. Neely '62

Patrick Gamble '67

Brandon Neff '99

Amy Hark '94

Victor Pierson

Richard Kline

Todd Sullivan '99

Keith McFatridge

Kelly Teichman '91

Phyllis Milstein

James Watson

B. Greg Mitchell

Jonathan Whitworth '89

THE OCEAN IS OUR CLASSROOM

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.

RESOURCES

409.740.4414

877.322.4443

admissions@tamug.edu

tamug.edu/admissions