

Jonathan and Julie Whitworth - Greater Texas Foundation Removing Educational Barriers Scholarship

Established in 2008 by Jonathan and Julie Whitworth

Congratulations! We're very pleased to know you are the recipient of the Jonathan & Julie Whitworth - Greater Texas Foundation Removing Educational Barriers Scholarship. My wife Julie and I established the scholarship in 2008 as a small way to give back to a school which gave so much to us. Our family loves Aggies! Julie's uncle is class of 1950, her father is class of 1960, and our son class of 2020, are all Texas A&M University College Station graduates in Engineering.

I graduated from TAMUG in 1989 with a degree in Maritime Transportation and was a member of the Corp of Cadets. Not only did A&M at Galveston provide me with the education, hands-on experience and the skills to later become a CEO in the shipping business, perhaps the most important thing it provided was a girlfriend who later became my wife and life partner. In the summer of 1988, while I was about to start my senior cruise aboard the T/S Texas Clipper, I met a freshman "prep" cadet who joined the ship as part of a summer school at sea program. We were married five years after that first encounter on the quarterdeck of the Clipper, and we've been together ever since.



After graduation from TAMUG, I sailed aboard tankers in the international market for six years while also going back to school at the University of North Texas to work on my MBA. Julie also attended UNT and later graduated with a BA and MA in Speech Pathology. We both had successful careers and were fortunate enough to raise two wonderful children. I ended my career in Vancouver Canada as a CEO of a large shipping and ship building company, but after helping the company deliver on its strategic plan, I fulfilled my lifelong ambition of retiring early and retired at 50 in 2017. Both of our children decided to return to the US for college, and we decided to return to Galveston to be closer to family, friends, A&M at Galveston and the ocean.

When our family was just beginning, we identified several core values that were important to us. One of those values was service to others and our community. Whether it was helping at our children's schools, our church, youth sports, or supporting other local organizations, we have both been very involved in giving back. I have always had a passion for mentoring high school and college students and for four years was an adjunct professor at TAMUG teaching Brokerage & Chartering. I've also been extremely lucky to have been a Board of Visitor member at TAMUG for almost 15 years. Julie became certified as an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant in 2015 and dedicates much of her time to providing free breastfeeding help to community support groups. She also volunteers locally with Junior League of Galveston County and Galveston County Aggie Moms' Club. We continue to strive to model the importance of giving back to our children and the Jonathan and Julie-Greater Texas Foundation Removing Educational Barriers Scholarship is just one way that we can leave a lasting legacy that will benefit students for generations to come.

Congratulations! We hope that receiving this scholarship eases some financial burden for you. Your college years are special, and we consider TAMUG the jewel in the Texas A&M system crown. Julie and I hope you also find your passion for the sea and love for TAMUG just as we did, and we wish you the very best in your journey both during school and after graduation.

Jonathan & Julie Whitworth