



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
GALVESTON CAMPUS.

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Winter 2018

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LEAD  
by EXAMPLE

# DEDICATION DAY

## OCTOBER 2018



ASEC builders, Vaughn Construction



An inside view of ASEC



Texas A&M Foundation Director of Development Jason Tieman, Assistant Vice President for Development Rick Kline, Texas A&M University at Galveston Chief Operating Officer Col. Michael E. Fossum, USAFR, (Ret.), Assistant Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Development at Bush School of Government and Public Service Christi Voelkel, and Texas A&M Foundation President Tyson Voelkel

Friday, October 19, 2018 was Dedication Day for our newest additions on campus. Our MAIN building and Aggie Special Events Center (ASEC) were visited by Texas A&M University President Michael K. Young, Chancellor John Sharp, Texas A&M Foundation President Tyson Voelkel and many more main campus dignitaries.

# *Celebrate With*

## **TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON**

**4TH ANNUAL**

# *Endowed Scholarship Reception*

Our 4th annual Endowed Scholarship Reception, held Wednesday, October 24, 2018, was a night for 175 scholarship donors and recipients to come together and enjoy an evening of fellowship in TAMUG's new Aggie Special Events Center.



SeaSpace donors and their scholarship recipients pose for a happy photo.



Dr. Sally Wei Tylawsky & Captain Greg Tylawsky accept a commemorative plaque acknowledging their newly-established endowed scholarship.



Featured donor Captain Jonathan Whitworth speaks about his experiences at TAMUG and what giving back means to him.



Connie Marquez of the Galveston County Aggie Moms Club embraces a scholarship recipient.

# Former Student **Spotlight:**

## JOHN & AMY HARK: HIS & HERS SUCCESS STORIES



By: Andréa Bolt

Leadership is a word that John Hark throws around often in conversation.

He likes sharing news articles in class that focus on aspects of leadership, he is a voracious reader of books about successful leaders and, himself, holds leadership positions within local community college advisory boards, sits on the Board of the Port Houston Partners in Maritime Education program, is the current President of the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association and is the director of North America vessel operations for Bertling, a shipping, logistics and project freight management organization. And he's been an adjunct professor with Texas A&M University at Galveston since 2002, so you could say he walks, talks, sails, charters, plans and leads the talk.

Hark graduated from TAMUG in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Maritime Administration and has been in the Houston maritime industry for more than 25 years. It's safe to say he's seen and experienced a lot at TAMUG - both as a student and a professor.

"When I was a student - how has it been almost 30 years ago? I can't believe it. We had the original Clipper and the new library was there when I was a senior only," Hark explains. "The old library was where PMEC is now, and it was small, when we

needed to study, we most often would go to the UTMB library. There was no gym, and the only dorms were A, B and C. And there are certainly a lot more women on campus now," he remarked, "Which is absolutely great for the campus and industry."

When Hark graduated at the Grand Opera House, he remembers only five other MARA grads walking across the stage alongside him. Similarly, there were only handfuls of marine biology and maritime transportation graduates. Very few of them, he recalls, were women.

Hark is married to Amy, a MARA '95 grad who is the director in global logistics purchasing with Huntsman Corporation. They share a fifteen-year-old daughter named Saylor, and he has been heartened over the years to see gender diversity increase on campus and in his classes.

"I've seen so many more sharp young women come through my class in the last five to six years. It's what I'm encouraged by and gives me hope that if they stay in the industry, these will be the future leaders of

the maritime industry,” he says.

And he does have an agenda - he wants them to succeed in their careers, then come back to TAMUG and act as guest

Shortly after returning to his home state of New Jersey, Hark came back once more to Galveston looking for a role in the maritime industry as a recent grad in the

**“If you have become successful in your field, it is your obligation to send the elevator back down.”**

speakers for the Student Association of Maritime Administrators (SAMA) Club he’s helped resurrect on campus. SAMA aims to link Sea Aggies to future employers in the industry, brings relevant and interesting speakers to TAMUG students and periodically sends students to networking events both in the greater Houston area and afar. Hark has a good group of students in SAMA; they’re some of the same ones he actually teaches.

early 90s. He found work in Houston in logistics, and later worked as a supply chain manager. Hark had guest lectured in a brokerage class, but one day, late professor Dr. Bill McMullin asked him if he’d like to teach the class full time. The rest, as they say, is history.

Hark says his class, MARA 401: Brokerage and Chartering, has grown by leaps and bounds and remains a popular elective among students.



“The class is now offered both semesters, but before that there weren’t enough students to warrant having the class in the fall and spring. Now, I have 50 students per semester,” he says.

One of Hark’s favorite quotes is, “If you have become successful in your field, it is your obligation to send the elevator back down.” He’s been a leader in pressing that down button and will only continue to do so, both in his personal and professional lives.

**Continued >**

## Former Student Spotlight:

### John & Amy Hark: His & Hers Success Stories



It wasn't until her second year of college that Amy Hark even thought she knew what she wanted to do with her life - she says that's thanks to engineering calculus and international trade and finance.

"I had this total epiphany," she remarks, "I came to this amazing realization that I was actually good at math - I even made the Dean's List! I really thought, okay, I love this. This is what I want to do when I grow up." So, she did.

Fast forward a few decades and Amy has channeled her aptitude for math and love for logistics into a career working as the director of global logistics purchasing for Huntsman Corporation in The Woodlands. Not only does she get to do what she enjoys and clearly has a talent for, she also gets to work with people and colleagues from all over the world, which she loves.

"I love the diversity aspect of what I do. And it's so cool because we have offices in Singapore and Belgium, but then I get to meet those colleagues here and show them this part of Texas. It's so cool to see and really experience so many cultures," she says.

When she was a teenager, Amy's father hired a local college guy to work on his Hatteras. That guy, John Hark, would become her husband a few years later.

Amy started her Aggie academic journey in College Station, but transferred to TAMUG to pursue maritime administration and to be closer to John and family.

"He used to drive back and forth from College Station (to see me) to Houston for work every weekend," she recalls. After Amy graduated in 1995, the couple were married at Trinity Episcopal Church, had their reception at the beautiful Garten Verein in Galveston and both followed their degrees deeper into the field. (Fun fact: The couple went offshore fishing in Western Mexico for their honeymoon.)

"Amy worked for a Greek tanker company out of college and I think she was the only woman working there who was not in an administrative role," John says. "She hit that glass ceiling pretty early on."

Amy does indeed acknowledge the low number of women attending TAMUG while she was - she says there were four

other women in her graduating group. It's an issue she and John are both glad to see steadily righting itself. Their daughter Saylor has attended quite a few Sea Camps on TAMUG's campus and Amy believes that exposure to the marine sciences and to the global community through Amy's work has greatly benefitted her development and helped frame her cultural and educational mindset.

"I'm a big fan of women going into what are considered non-traditional fields," Amy says.

Amy credits her TAMUG education for many of her friendships and a portion of her success. She has a good circle of friends she studied with who still spend time with each other five to six times per year.

"We really grew up together. I was telling them recently about the progress on campus and we were all just talking about the fact that there's a Starbucks on campus now - it's incredible!" she says with a laugh.

One thing Amy notes about her MARA degree is the fact that though many colleagues in her field have general business degrees, it's still rare to find someone working in a subject their degree touched on.

"I've worked in barging, tankers, ships

and all sides of logistics, which is exactly what I studied. We often talk about 'talent banking' at Huntsman and it's really valuable when you have those same skills and took those classes that directly connect



to what you do every day," Amy explains.

As for getting into the field, itself? Amy's advice is to keep in mind that while MARA may seem like a big network, "So many people know each other. You absolutely cannot be a jerk because word will definitely get around. There's a really great family atmosphere here and if you work hard and keep up, you'll do great."



## Faculty Spotlight:

**Dr. Carol  
Bunch  
Davis**

# Finding Common Ground on the WATER

By Andréa Bolt

**D**r. Carol Bunch Davis knows what many people think when they hear she teaches classes such as Museums and the Construction of Identities and Introduction to African American Literature and Culture at Texas A&M University at Galveston - why and how does that pertain to maritime and marine studies?

Her answer is three-fold; firstly, because in order to be good citizens (and humans), students must learn how to be civically engaged. Secondly, because if students one day hold leadership positions in either the maritime or marine fields, they will likely be helming a diverse crew or team with people from different backgrounds, ethnicities and identities and will need to learn how to work with and lead in diverse environments. Lastly, “African American culture has a direct line to the water,” Dr. Bunch Davis says. “In order for students to become civically literate, they have to be able to understand and navigate different cultures and cultural differences, and African American culture in particular is intertwined with the ocean and maritime industry throughout history. So much of that history is tied to the port and intrinsically to the water.”

Dr. Bunch Davis, the assistant department head for Liberal Studies and an associate professor, has been teaching at TAMUG for fifteen years. She began her formal education as a communication major at Trinity University, earned her M.S. at the University of Houston at Clear Lake, then tackled her Ph.D. at USC. She took a non-traditional route and worked as

a journalist in radio and at local news station KPRC Channel 2 directly after earning her undergraduate degree.

“It never occurred to me that I could be a professor, but I always wanted to be a reporter since I was a kid, so I did that - it was great and there were aspects I really enjoyed, but I wanted to be working more closely with literature, particularly thinking and reflecting critically on African American literature and cultural production,” she explains. Turning her additional experience in public relations with the Houston Public Library and extensive community relations and community development work, she went back to further her education.

She was always drawn to literature and feels deeply about the power critical thinking and writing skills ascribe to one’s ability to comprehend, understand and interpret life and the experiences we all have. Channeling her love for literature and its power, she conceptualized and began the Common Reader Program at TAMUG just last year. The class, ENGL 104—Team Taught/Common Reader Rhetoric and Composition, consists of all students reading one common book and then delving deep into its thematic aspects, ideologies, character makeup, and more. Even faculty and staff were encouraged to participate.

This year’s chosen novel was “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis,” by J.D. Vance. Dr. Bunch Davis chose this work very purposefully and enjoys helping students

contextualize and unpack all the varying issues and elements involved in the novel.

Dr. Bunch Davis' progressive work has not gone unnoticed. One of the many recognitions and awards she's won was announced in August - she was chosen to receive the prestigious Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement College Level Award. And she was absolutely shocked.

"I was so overwhelmed, I literally cried! Dr. Louchouart planned this whole surprise, and my parents came, my husband and daughter came, it was just so incredible. I was already crying, and then my whole family was suddenly there, it was like slow-mo in a movie," she says with a laugh. "I just felt rewarded but vindicated in that I was doing the right things in classroom, it was satisfying and moving, and you don't ever do this because you expect an award."

While that moment was a memorable one, she says her proudest moments thus far have come from her former students and having them tell her that her class was their favorite from their entire college career.

"I have one former MARA major in mind. She's doing great in her career and she messaged me on Facebook. She told me, 'Your class was the best class I had on campus. Period.' We don't even have an English major, but that's happened several times and it makes me think students find value in learning about other cultures. Across the board, after taking my class, I hear people say, 'Wow I haven't thought about those issues in that particular way.'"

Though she's proud of where she's come and how the university itself has progressed, there's always room for improvement and growth. She would very much like to see TAMUG create more spaces for more diverse student populations and those in the LGBTQIA community.

"For our liberal studies department, we would like to have a synergy space where we can work on all kinds of projects and



Dr. Bunch Davis and Dr. Katherine Echols discuss the Common Reader Program book, "Hillbilly Elegy."

studies, Model UN, the Common Reader Program and more. The more spaces we have to accommodate our richly diverse students, staff, faculty and campus community we have, the more we signal to the community and external observers that we are going to be an open, inclusive campus where everybody feels they belong," she says. "There's entire studies done on the politics of race, space and identity."

Up next for Dr. Bunch Davis, projectwise, is a book project focusing on the African American history of Galveston. Though many of her and the campus' studies focus on the water, she says one of the most important things she teaches students is in fact how to find common ground.

"It's important for us be able to bridge all sorts of cultural gaps and biases, whether they relate to the water or not, to be able to understand one another and find some common ground," she says. "I want students to think about intersectionality in terms of identity and environment. I would also like to see us explore different avenues of educating students, not necessarily change the curriculum, but think more creatively about the connections in, on, and even near the water because it affects us all."

## Donor Spotlight: Captain Jack & Mrs. Jere Smith



## A BUOY FOR GALVESTON'S SEA AGGIES

Jere and Jack Smith '64 created a testamentary unitrust using an IRA account to benefit Texas A&M Galveston's marine transportation students.

By Kara Bounds Socol  
Originally published September 2018

In 1962, Jack H. Smith '64 was like many college sophomores, jumping from major to major as he tried to find his place. Then serendipity intervened when The Battalion announced the opening of the Gulf Coast's first maritime academy.

Smith switched his major for the last time to marine transportation, moved back to his hometown of Galveston, and, as he put it, "went from scholastic probation to the dean's list." In 1966, he not only graduated in the Texas Maritime Academy's inaugural class, but also earned a bachelor's degree and a U.S. Merchant Marine license. "I knew I'd found where I belonged," Smith recalled.

Decades later, that feeling returned when Smith, by then a seasoned ship pilot, accepted a lecturer position at Texas A&M University at Galveston. This move put him back where he

started, as the Texas A&M Maritime Academy was by then incorporated into the university's marine and maritime studies campus. "I agreed to work for Galveston for one semester and ended up staying 11-and-a-half years," he said with a laugh.

Even though the now-retired Smith is no longer in the classroom, he and his wife, Jere Cyrus Smith, are still focused on the academic success of Galveston's Sea Aggies.

The Smiths already endowed three scholarships for Galveston students, but they wanted to do more. After contacting the Texas A&M Foundation, they decided to create a planned gift through a testamentary unitrust, or "give it twice" trust. This is a unique method of giving that allows individuals to use an asset—an IRA account in the Smiths' case—to fund a trust after their lifetimes. Invested by the Foundation, the Smiths' trust will then make annual lifetime payments to the couple's three children, plus payments to their two grandchildren for a term of 20 years. At the termination of the trust, the remaining assets will support Texas A&M Galveston. The Smiths can also add to the trust to increase its long-term value.

While the couple is fond of all Galveston students, they have a special place in their hearts for marine transportation program students—those striving to become deck officers aboard seagoing vessels. Through their planned gift, the Smiths will perpetually provide scholarships for these students long after they're gone. Their gift will also help with the upkeep of Galveston's vessel training simulator, which offers a moving, virtual reality experience for aspiring ship officers.

As one of only six such institutions in the nation, the Texas A&M Maritime Academy trains officers in both marine transportation and marine engineering to serve on oceangoing and inland waterways vessels. Upon passing the U.S. Coast Guard examination, academy students become licensed members of the U.S. Merchant Marine as either third mates (deck officers) or third assistant engineers.

Jere noted that despite the critical roles played by mariners, “most people don't even know about them.” The Merchant Marine moves imports and exports during peacetime and serves as a naval auxiliary during wartime, transporting weaponry and troops—a duty Jack undertook during the Vietnam War. Licensed mariners are also in high demand in offshore oilfields, where they operate tugboats and pilot massive drillships.

Mariners can likewise be found on naval supply ships, oceanographic vessels and even cruise ships. Jack used his marine transportation education first in the Navy and Merchant Marine, and then in a 31-year career piloting ships through congested Galveston-Texas City ports.

During the 2017-18 academic year, 579 of Galveston's roughly 2,500 students were

maritime academy participants. As such, they were members of Galveston's Corps of Cadets and crew members on three required summer training cruises, where they learned skills in seamanship, navigation and engineering operations.

For more than 11 years, Jack lived and worked on the training cruises alongside these student crew members, teaching them everything from navigating and standing watch to maneuvering and maintaining the ship. During his last four years, he served as captain of the Texas A&M Training Ship General Rudder. Along with imparting practical skills, Jack used the cruise experiences to stress the commitment intrinsic to a maritime career. “These are 24-hour jobs,” he explained. “You can't call in sick, and you can't call a repairman. You have to do whatever is needed.”

While the highly specialized education and training offered on these cruises is unmatched, the price tag is upwards of \$10,000—a cost the Smiths' planned gift will also help offset



Capt. Jack & Mrs. Jere Smith are pictured at the 2018 Endowed Scholarship Reception with their scholarship recipients, Cadets John Costello and Jesse Smith.

for several students each cruise. “It's a very expensive education,” Jack said. “I was the first in my family to go to college, and I couldn't have done that without a little help. Supporting these students is important to us.”



ExxonMobil Visit  
August 2018

Sea Aggie Former Student  
Reunion  
September 2018



Ring Day September 2018





## Levy Scholars Reunion September 2018



Ms. Sara Wetegrove visited TAMUG to be the subject of an interview by our own Dr. Stephen Curley. Ms. Wetegrove is the daughter of the late Captain Wesley A. Walls. Capt. Walls was one of the original Board of Visitor members and founders of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy.

October 2018



## Association of American Pilots Conference October 2018



## Conoco Ship Model Donation October 2018



## ABS Scholars Luncheon November 2018

EVENTS

# Maroon Delegates



Our newest class of Maroon Delegates celebrated their coating ceremony in September. Give a whoop to these wonderful campus ambassadors: Robyn Battles '20, Sydney Carbajal '19, Grant Lincecum '18, Connor Lowe '20, Reagan Micheli '19, Elizabeth Schneider '20, and Tory Templin '21.



Texas A&M Foundation President Tyson Voelkel '96 and his wife Christi, along with Texas A&M University at Galveston Chief Operating Officer, Col. Michael E. Fossum, USAFR (Ret.), Assistant Vice President for Development Rick Kline, and the Maroon Delegates, surprised Pete '80 and Kathy '81 Huddleston with Maroon Delegate coats of their own at their annual tailgate in College Station in November.



# JOIN TODAY!

The GPMS is comprised of individuals and organizations committed to the well-being of our oceans by supporting marine and maritime research, education, training, and more at the Gulf Coast's maritime university, Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Established in honor of George Phydias Mitchell, fighting Aggie class of 1940; the spirit of the GPMS is to enhance the growth of the Galveston campus at Texas A&M University.

Funds are to be designated for student scholarships, maritime research, excellent faculty and student recruitment, campus beautification, and for discretionary purposes as designated by the COO. For more information or to join, please visit: <https://www.tamug.edu/develop/Campaigns/MitchellSociety.html>.

Membership to the society is an annual donation spanning the current calendar year. Membership levels are described below:

- General Membership: \$1,000 minimum (Membership consists of GPMS specific gift or gift(s) of \$1,000 or more to TAMUG.)
- Faculty/Staff Membership: \$500\*
- Student Membership: \$50\*
- Corporate Membership: \$5,000 minimum\* (The donor may name three individuals to GPMS membership, but only the corporate name will be published in membership rolls.)

\*All funds at these levels must be directly dedicated toward GPMS membership.



GEORGE P. MITCHELL  
SOCIETY

# A message from your TAMUG Development Office:

## Greetings!

With the Holiday Season upon us, on behalf of the Texas A&M Foundation and the Texas A&M University at Galveston Development Office, I'd like to pause to wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season. 2018 has been a very special year for Texas A&M University at Galveston's students, faculty, staff and programs. Through the generosity of so many of you, we indeed do have a lot for which to be thankful.

The last quarter of 2018 kept everyone on campus super busy. The Dedication of the Aggie Special Events Center (ASEC) welcomed many of you to campus to view this incredible new space. If you haven't seen our newest building yet, call the Development Office for a tour.

Another highlight of the quarter included TAMUG's fourth annual Endowed Scholarship Reception. This year, we celebrated with 175 donors, scholarship recipients and guests in the ASEC Ballroom. In addition to the opportunity for endowed scholarship donors to spend time with their scholars, the other high point of the evening was introducing the donors who this year established seven new endowed scholarships specifically

for our TAMUG students. We also heard some very inspirational words from donor Mr. Jonathan Whitworth and current scholarship recipient Ms. Laura Hurt.

In closing, if you are looking for a way to support TAMUG, let me encourage you to consider a Planned Gift (such as a bequest, trust, or charitable gift annuity). Often while in discussions with visitors, I'll hear comments like, "I really wish I could provide financial support for a student (*or program, or faculty member*) at TAMUG, but I just cannot afford to do something today." If that's your situation, why not consider a Planned Gift? A Planned Gift allows you to plan for TAMUG in your future. Contact the Development Office (<https://www.tamug.edu/develop/>) to learn more.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS** and enjoy our latest TAMUG Development Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Rick Kline  
Assistant Vice President for Development  
Texas A&M Foundation

For newsletter inquiries, please contact Andréa Bolt, development communications coordinator, at:  
[a\\_bolt@tamug.edu](mailto:a_bolt@tamug.edu).



From L- R: Business Administrator Alice Maffay, Director of Development Jason Tieman, Assistant Vice President for Development Rick Kline and Development Communications Coordinator Andréa Bolt



The Development Office would like to give a special shoutout to our student worker of four years, Kathy Hutton. Kathy is graduating this December and though we are sad to see her go, we can't wait to see all the amazing things she will accomplish! Thanks for all of your hard work - we are so grateful for all you've done for us, Kathy.

