Howdy! Welcome to Texas A&M University’s 33rd annual presentation of the President’s Meritorious Service Awards.

This award program began in 1986 and has recognized hundreds of exceptional staff employees over the years.
Recently, Texas A&M has earned the distinction as a leading research university renowned for its academic excellence. We owe our enhanced reputation to the extraordinary staff members who have demonstrated a deep commitment to the core values that truly set us apart: excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service.

We are very grateful to the thousands of staff members who embody these values and help us fulfill our land-grant mission every day, often behind the scenes and without substantial recognition. For more than 33 years, the President’s Meritorious Service Awards Program has existed as a way for us to honor the hard work and the exceptional efforts of our outstanding staff.

On behalf of everyone at Texas A&M, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your significant contributions to our shared success. To all of this year’s nominees and recipients, we salute you with this well-deserved recognition and thank you for your dedicated service to our entire university community.
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS
Jeanne serves as the first point of contact for all human capital management responsibilities for the Bush School. Re-thinking business procedures, finding new ways to operate, and spending countless hours identifying errors and finding solutions have been Jeanne’s added duties and responsibilities for a full year during process transitions. She continuously treats others with courtesy, kindness, and an open-mind, and has earned the respect of her team and the college members.
CLAY ASHLEY, DVM
Associate Executive Director
Comparative Medicine Program,
Division of Research
12 years of service

The Comparative Medicine Program is starting to flourish and that is in large part to the leadership of Dr. Ashley. His position provides animal care services for the University animals used in research and teaching. He is passionate about ensuring the animals at Texas A&M have the highest standard of care possible and that researchers have the resources they need to provide that care. Dr. Ashley is a strong leader with a positive, solution-focused mindset.
As a Diesel Technician III, Jeremy exhibits respect in the way he responds to directions and how he relates to others. There is no job too large or too small. He responds to every task with the same “can do” attitude, even if it means staying late, lending a hand, or doing the job no one else wants. He demonstrates this attitude over and over, and has earned the respect of the junior technicians, his peers, and his leaders.
Dianne G. Cornett
Executive Assistant III
Dean’s Office, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
16 years of service

Dianne serves as Assistant to the Dean in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Her strong work ethic, positive attitude, and enthusiasm for her job inspires others around her, as she works selflessly to advance the college. She consistently takes initiative and volunteers for various projects and responsibilities. Dianne is a tremendous role model and inspiration to our students, faculty, and staff. Her administrative leadership has influenced the positive working climate at the university for many years.
CHRISTINA A. COURT
Program Coordinator II
Dean’s Office, Mays Business School
8 years of service

Christina manages all logistics for Mays Business School’s signature events. Her integrity, character, and outstanding work ethic is unmatched. She is an excellent listener and provides everyone the opportunity to give input on projects and processes. Christina is extremely trusted by her peers as well as the numerous stakeholders she interacts with each day. She consistently receives praise from our internal and external stakeholders for her positive attitude and willingness to adapt to any situation.
DOLORES GONZALES
Senior Administrative Coordinator
Career Center, Division of Enrollment and Academic Affairs
17 years of service

Dolores serves as a Senior Administrative Coordinator for the Career Center. She is the go to person in an office of 50+ employees. She steps in wherever she sees a need and asks anyone and everyone if she can be of service. Dolores is also someone who continually investigates how to improve processes or experiences. Beyond executing her job with the utmost professionalism, she is extremely compassionate and caring to those in our office.
DENNIS W. GRAY, A.I.A.
Architect
SSC Services for Education
11 years of service

Dennis is an Architect and SSC Team Lead who manages a team of project managers, superintendents, inspectors, and administrative support staff to complete construction projects for Texas A&M University. He assists with his team’s projects, often attending meetings with them, explaining the often-misunderstood construction process to clients and resolving concerns when construction issues arise. Dennis and his team members are often requested by name by many Texas A&M department representatives.
Jules serves as liaison for undergraduates, graduate students and faculty regarding administration of academic policies and procedures, university requirements, and requirements specific to Materials Science and Engineering programs through advising. Her mentorship reaches beyond course selection and registration, as she helps students find their passions, and even find assistance to deal with serious personal issues. Jules works tirelessly to give every student opportunities so that they can gain the experience they need to become leaders.
JULIA CHRISTINA JAKAB
Academic Advisor IV
Dean’s office, College of Liberal Arts
6 years of service

Julia meets regularly with students concerning their educational and career goals, academic requirements, and related personal concerns. She is deeply knowledgeable of college and university policies and is able to interpret them for any given student or situation. Julia exemplifies the true meaning of selfless service because every day she gives everything she has to make a difference in the lives of her students, her colleagues, and her administrators - and she seeks nothing in return.
Sherree D. Kessler ’99, M.S.
Academic Advisor IV
Department of Physics and Astronomy
10 years of service

Sherree is a strong and passionate ambassador for her students. She is straightforward with students regarding expectations and responsibilities, but at the same time her advice is always constructive, inspiring, and motivational. Students highly value her mentorship and advising. Sherree has also been amazing in her ability to engage students as ambassadors of the department and the university for various events. Her commitment to student success and well-being goes far beyond her job duties.
MCKENSIE D. LE FEVRE, ‘14
Software Applications Developer I
Department of Biology
6 years of service

McKensie designs, develops, and maintains the department’s website and social media presence. She also manages the Biology Department’s front office, which includes training and supervising multiple student assistants. McKensie volunteers to help our graduate student organization with their outreach projects to local elementary and middle schools. Her actions and attitude have, and continue to have, a transformational impact on her student assistants, her coworkers, and the department as a whole.
Melissa supervises three unique work groups: Water Production, Wastewater Treatment, and Water Quality Services. She has managed her teams, even with reduced staff and less experience, to maintain compliant operations and has improved many operations. Melissa plans, organizes, and encourages many team building opportunities among her work group. She works side by side with her employees to understand their needs and encourages open dialogue with her, her supervisors, and other team members.
GLORIA MASSO  
Senior Administrative Coordinator  
Office of Admissions, Division of Enrollment and Academic Affairs  
22 years of service

Gloria has worked for the Office of Admissions for twenty-two years. She puts her loyalty and the passion for the betterment of her colleagues and students ahead of her own career. She has trained and developed dozens of employees who are still serving the university today in many different capacities. She takes time to instruct new advisors and coordinators from other offices on a regular basis. Gloria follows the Golden Rule; “Treat others the way you want to be treated.”
Stephen serves as a lead designer in creating research-related equipment used by experimenters and students for research programs at the Cyclotron Institute. Much of the experimental equipment is custom-made and has to be designed using CAD techniques before fabrication. Stephen possesses extreme attention to detail and the ability to see how equipment fits in larger systems. The design of machine and experimental equipment cannot fail. He has a zero defect philosophy that contributes to successful operations.
Sergeant Mullins is the supervisor over the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. He is responsible for maintaining 24-hour security with a staff of 16 security officers. Sergeant Mullins has worked for Texas A&M for nearly 30 years. He has worked with many secret service agents, representatives of the Bush Foundation, and the museum staff in ensuring that the Presidential Library and Museum is a highly respected tourist attraction and a “must see” when coming to campus.
Sharli serves as chief of staff in the department. She is effective in dealing with a vast number of important operational and visionary initiatives. Sharli deals with faculty, staff, students, donors, and advisory council members with dignity, civility, and fairness, no matter their level. She is well recognized by her peers in other departments, and by the Dean’s office, that she is extremely professional, with integrity, and strives for excellence.
Taylor Paladini
Supervisor
Chartwells Dining Services
3 years of service

Taylor is a Supervisor for Chartwells. She always positively influences team morale and takes initiative to help in all areas of the business. Taylor has consistently put the needs of her store and coworkers above her own. She works hard to improve and promote the quality experience for the customers and her coworkers. Her commitment is unmatched by all and is noticed straight away by her team including new members.
As an Associate Director in Scholarships & Financial Aid, Erin wears many hats. She is truly one of the most dedicated team members in the office. She will do what it takes to complete tasks and provide high quality support to customers and coworkers. Erin has been noted for her friendliness, helpfulness, sincerity, and ability to remain solution-focused. She takes the time to understand and anticipate needs and is a true advocate.
LINDA BREM SÁENZ, CAP
Senior Administrative Coordinator I
Texas A&M Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Health Science Center
3.5 years of service

Linda takes it upon herself to provide exceptional support and service to faculty and staff in the Center for Genomic and Precision Medicine, as well as the Institute of Biosciences and Technology. She quickly discerns individual needs and moves efficiently to provide key information, recommendations, or direction. Most importantly, Linda has a warm and sincere heart and is always prepared for giving help. Her professionalism with humanitarian spirit represents the Aggies values and traditions.
The Hagler Institute’s work is implemented by 2.5 full-time equivalent staff, and, as a consequence, Amanda commonly juggles a multitude of tasks. She does everything to near-perfection and is frequently looking “over the horizon” to anticipate and pre-solve problems to avoid last-minute stress. Through her combination of charisma and competence, she engenders respect for herself and the Institute. Amanda radiates warmth and a “how-can-I-help approach” that are crucial assets to Texas A&M University.
Stacie is proud to be a member of Financial Management Operations for the past 20 years. She promotes open communication whether it is good or bad, but she is careful not to let anyone dwell on the negative. Stacie is admired, respected, and appreciated System wide. She successfully builds a rapport with her customers based on trust and open communication. Her extensive knowledge base, welcoming nature, and willingness to teach others are true strengths.
Besides her given duties as Administrative Associate V, Ann saw a need for more academic coaches in the Academic Success Center, so she voluntarily sought the training necessary. With her expertise and guidance, numerous students have moved on to excellence. In addition, Ann’s strength lies in her team mentality. She works alongside members of the team in various department activities, willing to step in where needed to make an event work.
Wanda Vinton

Business Coordinator I
Offices of the Dean of Student Life
20 years of service

Wanda is a Business Coordinator I and provides support to a department of 49+ staff. Her work ethic has always been top notch and she is an essential piece of the puzzle at Student Life. Wanda treats everyone she encounters with dignity, civility, and fairness. Wanda’s years of experience have allowed her to create an impressive portfolio of skills and knowledge which serve her well, and in turn, help her serve others even better.
Marisa Winking
Administrative Coordinator
Department of Sociology
5 years of service

Marisa is often seen as the face of the department because her workplace is at the front of the office. She fields questions from undergraduates, graduate students, student workers, parents, and service workers professionally, warmly, and with a smile. Marisa’s contribution to diversity and positive department climate is incalculable. Many students of color, especially graduate students, have mentioned they feel welcomed and included by her from their very first day, greatly increasing their feelings of comfort at Texas A&M.
Sally manages around 60 employees at Help Desk Central and genuinely cares about every single one of them. Not only does she assist with work duties, but she cares deeply about everyone’s education and personal lives. She always remains professional and hard-working. Her excellence binds the office staff together. Anyone that has a conversation with Sally or observes her daily activities will see that she is dedicated to her job and employees.
SUPERVISOR AWARDS
In the 22 years that Belinda has worked for the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), she has demonstrated selfless service and loyalty through her impeccable work ethic and dedication. Belinda has consistently been looked upon by faculty and staff as someone they can turn to for routine and confidential matters. Her leadership style is one of organization, transparency, efficiency, innovativeness, and effectiveness to the business and finance components of the CVM, which then have a tremendously positive impact on the university, as a whole.
Julie Ann Orzabal ‘91

Director
Executive MBA Program,
Mays Business School
28 years of service

Julie started with the Executive MBA (EMBA) Program in its design phase, guided the launch, and has directed its success for 22 years. A former student said: “Julie endears herself to students and staff by focusing on little things that create a positive ‘customer experience’. Her consistency and actions demonstrate respect for the program, students, the learning process, and the administrative team.” Julie has directly influenced over 850 former students and countless professionals worldwide via the Aggie executives who are EMBA graduates.
TEAM AWARDS
The International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) travel team work tirelessly to not only book flights, hotels, and sort through visa issues, but also to proactively intervene and rebook travelers when issues arise. The travel team repeats this exercise four to five times a year, adding up to thousands of bookings over the life of the drilling program. Kathy, Diane and Beverly perform their work with the highest level of professionalism. Even in the midst of travel chaos, when frustrations are running high, the travel team will always greet you with a smile and with that special calm that only a skilled professional can provide as they start to work their magic.
The Veterinary Emergency Team (VET) is the only state-level veterinary medical care provider in the state of Texas Emergency Response Plan. The VET staff members load and drive heavy trailers into emergency zones (floods, fires, disasters), set up the mobile hospital, establish communications, join with other local and state emergency services, and assist the veterinarians, community, and injured animals during every disaster. The VET understands how powerful and important the human-animal bond is, and they have the utmost respect for this mutually beneficial relationship. After the VET has deployed, we receive countless letters, notes, emails, and phone calls commending their courage, service, and respectfulness.

(Photos on next page)
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY VETERINARY EMERGENCY TEAM
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Laura Beach,
Program Manager,
4 years

Elizabeth Bernardo, B.S.,
CVA, Oncology Tech. II,
2 years

Garrett B. Carr,
Logistics Supervisor,
3 years

Brooklyn Shay Cupps,
LVT, Small Animal Anesthesia Tech.,
2 years

Sandra Salazar Daniels
‘06, Veterinary Tech. III,
9 years

Noberto F. Espitia, PhD,
Manager,
45 years

Megan Colleen Hackman,
Veterinary Anesthesia Tech. II,
5 years

D’Lisa Hope Hidalgo ‘99,
Veterinary Tech. III,
15 years

Warren Hohertz,
Program Coordinator,
7.5 years

Susan Lobit,
Veterinary Tech. III,
10 years

Cynthia Schocke,
Veterinary Tech. II,
11 years

Stuart Slattery ‘11,
Senior IT Professional II,
9 years

Jennifer J. Wier,
Pharmacy Technician/
Logistics Assistant,
13 years

Jennifer A. Wilson,
Program Coordinator,
5 years
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