

# the EXPLORER *Newsletter*

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

## CONTENTS

### COST AWARDS CELEBRATION

Page 1

### TSU FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Page 2

### STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Page 2

### RESEARCH WEEK

Page 3

### CONFERENCE ON ROUNDABOUT PLANNING

Page 3

### TOWN HALL MEETING STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAMS

Page 4

### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Page 5

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Page 6

### ALUMNI RAVES

Page 6

### STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Page 7

### SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Page 8

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## COST Family Enjoyed Gala Awards Celebration

The annual College Awards Ceremony was held Thursday May 3. Many awards for scholarship and service achieved over the academic year were celebrated. The College year end celebration attracted a full house to the festivities. President John Rudley interrupted his busy schedule to enjoy a moment with students, faculty, and staff.



Students who achieved high academic averages, especially those who maintained a perfect 4 point average over the past two semesters, were recognized for their achievement of excellence.

The Dean's Student Advisory Council and the COST Student Ambassadors were recognized for their service to the College.

The audience was entertained by the Dance Company, Chop Drummers, the Latin Dancers, and the Argentine Tango dancers. The Joseph Flowers Scholarships were Awarded to five students, Graduate Research Enrichment Scholarships were awarded to ten students, and Undergraduate Research Enrichment Scholarships were awarded to three students. The COST Faculty and Staff Scholarships were awarded to twenty-five students. Each year

the faculty and staff pledge gifts to the University Faculty and Staff Campaign to support the university. The COST faculty specified that their contributions go to support COST students. This strong support is indicative of the commitment that the faculty and staff of the College has to its students.

COST Faculty Excellence Awards were presented to Dr. Willie Taylor for Distinguished Teacher of the Year, Dr. Bobby Wilson for Distinguished Undergraduate



Advisor of the year, Dr. Fengxiang Qiao for Distinguished Researcher of the Year, and Ms. Ursula Williams for Distinguished Staff of the Year. Dr. Shishir Shishodia was awarded the 2012 Distinguished Service Award, and Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu and Dr. Jason Rosenzweig received the Dean's Leadership Award for outstanding contributions to the College.



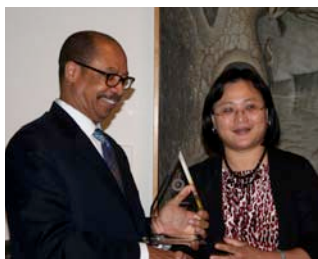
**Xuemin Chen**

MENTORING  
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH/  
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



**Wei Li**

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH/  
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



**Yi Qi**

PROVOST DEPARTMENT  
OF THE YEAR  
TRANSPORTATION STUDIES



**Bobby Wilson**

PRESIDENTIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

# 2012 Texas Southern University Faculty Excellence Awards

This academic year will be remembered by the College family as it dominated the 2012 TSU Faculty Excellence Awards.

On April 11, 2012, President John Rudley presented 4 out of 5 university Faculty Excellence Awards to the faculty members of the COST, showing thanks for the hard work of the faculty of the College. Dr. Xuemin Chen from the Department of Engineering Technologies was presented with the Faculty Award of Excellence for Mentoring, Undergraduate Research, and Creative Activities. Dr. Chen's passion for excellence and unwavering will for success did not go unnoticed, and his

hard work and dedication in mentoring undergraduate research paid off.

This year's Scholarly Research/Creative Activities Award was given to Dr. Wei Wayne Li, from the Computer Science Department. As the PI of the Center of Research Excellence in Science and

Technology (CREST) newly awarded by the NSF in the amount of \$4,887,004 over five years, Dr Li is unmistakably deserving of this award and recognition.

The Provost's Department of the Year Award was presented to the Department of Transportation Studies,

headed by Dr. Yi Qi. The award is much deserved by the hardworking and productive faculty, the exemplary students and the department's brilliant achievements over the years.

"Such a great honor to be the recipient of a presidential award." These were the words of this year's Presidential Achievement Medal, Dr. Bobby L. Wilson, from the Chemistry department. His undisputed accomplishments, service and dedication within academia emanates high standards grand enough to be seen and recognized as extraordinary by the President himself. Such an achievement is an inspiration for all to reach for the stars.



## COST Administrative Professionals Staff Appreciation Luncheon

The COST honored its administrative staff for their exemplary contributions and service to the College at a luncheon held Wednesday, April 25, 2012 in recognition of Administrative Professionals Day. The staff has worked tirelessly to

accomplish the objectives and mission of the College. In addition, COST staff continue to represent the College with the highest standards and dedication to students. We salute and appreciate our staff for a job well done ... keep shining with success!



★ COST BURSTS WITH STARS ★



## COST Shines at the 2012 Texas Southern University Research Week Program

The 2012 Texas Southern University Research Week (RW) program was a rousing success complete with a record number of poster presentations and faculty oral presentations. Dr. Jason A. Rosenzweig, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, was invited by the Office of Research to deliver the opening research seminar for the RW program describing his novel experiments characterizing bacterial virulence in a space-like environment. COST faculty contributed to the record number of posters and oral presentations.

Dr. Maruthi Sridhar Balaji Bhaskar, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Technology, was awarded 3rd place for Best Faculty Oral Presentation. Dr. Hyun-Min Hwang, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Technology, won 2nd place for his poster presentation. Additionally, Dr. Yuhong Zhang, Assistant Professor of Engineering Technology, won 3rd place for her poster. In addition to the faculty, the

pride of COST, our students, also represented our college very well and received 2 awards. Christina Randall, Undergraduate Biology major, won 1st place for Student Oral Presentations. In addition to Ms. Randall, Shantell Phillips, Undergraduate Biology major mentored by Dr. Renard Thomas, won 2nd place for Student Oral Presentations.

Not only did our faculty and students represent the COST well but our COST staff were also a source of pride, winning three awards. Latisha Clark, Research Staff in Transportation Studies National Transportation Security Center of Excellence-Petrochemicals, won 2nd place for Staff Oral Presentations. Additionally, Jinhui Wang, Research Assistant Staff in



Transportation Studies mentored by Dr. Qiao Fenxiang and Dr. Lei Yu, won 1st place in Staff Poster Presentations. Fei Tao, Graduate Research Assistant in Transportation Planning and Management mentored by Dr. Lei Yu, won 3rd place in Staff Poster Presentations.

On April 4, 2012, the College of Science and Technology hosted their college specific research program entitled, "Advancing Together Through Cutting Edge Interdisciplinary Research and How That Impacts Research Capabilities and Teaching in the COST."

Attendees, including over 100 undergraduate COST students, were treated to two keynote presentations delivered by Dr. Bobby Wilson (Professor of Chemistry) and Dr. Demetrios Kazakos (Professor of Mathematics). The keynote addresses were followed by a stimulating panel discussion in which Dr. Lei Yu (Dean of COST and Professor of Transportation), Dr. Lila Ghemri (Associate Professor of Computer Science) and Dr. Shishir Shishodia (Associate Professor of Biology) joined Dr. Wilson.



## Conference on Roundabout Planning, Design, and Operation at TSU

The Department of Transportation Studies at TSU, partnering with Traffic Engineers, Inc., successfully hosted a conference on roundabout planning, design and operation at TSU on March 1, 2012. Over 100 attendees from federal and state transportation organizations, local transportation industries,

students, and faculty members attended the conference. Dr. Yu, Dean of COST and Ms. Rachel Carleton, Chairman of Traffic Engineers, Inc., gave opening remarks at this conference. Dr. Qi, the interim Chair of the Transportation Studies Department presided over the conference. Three international and local experts

were invited to give presentations on the planning, design, and operation of the roundabout, an innovative intersection design alternative to the traditional signalized intersection. This conference provided a forum for the exchange of technical and administrative information concerning different aspects of roundabouts.





## COST Student Town Hall Meeting

The COST Dean's Student Advisory Council is comprised of thirteen students representing the ten departments of the College of Science and Technology and other student organizations in the College. The students play an important role as a direct communication line between the students they represent and the College's administration. The Council is encouraged to take the initiative to talk with students about issues and bring suggestions to improve the College. Dr. Yu has emphasized that the value of a student's COST degree increases as the College improves. The committee is co-chaired by Rachel Guthrie, Biology, and Dr. Desirée Jackson, Interim Assistant Dean. Other Council Members are Narada Walker (Computer Science), Alfonso Arteaga (Maritime), Adedeji Adeniyi (Engineering Technology), Terrell Gibson, (Environmental Toxicology), Vernaldo Wright

(Transportation Studies), Aqeeb Sabree (Mathematics), Jermaine Potts (Industrial Technology), Landra Williams (Physics), Olusegun Ogunniyi (Biology), Chi-Tam Nguyen (HOSA), Melody Roberson (Chemistry), and Edgar Moreno (Aviation Science). These students successfully hosted the second COST Student Town Hall Meeting on April 16, 2012 after a series of planning meetings. All COST students were invited to attend along with COST Administrators. Ms. Landra Williams served as Moderator for the question and answer period during which students asked questions of each administrator related to their concerns. Students also voiced their appreciation for the good things happening in the COST. The Dean's Student Advisory Council also conducted a brief survey related to student retention in the College the results of which will be reported to the COST departments.



## Mentoring Program by Houston Medical Forum

Houston Medical Forum was hosted by the TSU Department of Biology Pre-health Professional Club. The event took place on April 19, 2012. The partnership will facilitate mentorship of our students by specialists in various areas, exposing the students to patient/clinical settings and helping them to realize their full potential and career goals. The event was facilitated by Dr. Warren Williams, Interim Chair, Department of Biology and Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe, Assistant Professor of Biology.

The event was attended by Randall Wright, MD, Conroe Regional Medical Center, Latanya Jones Love, MD, UT Health Science Center at Houston, H. Philip Pierpont, DDS, UT Health Sciences Center Dental Branch at Houston, William Hadnott III, MD, Park Plaza Medical Center, Cedric Smith, MD, Real Time Medicine, Charlotte M. Akor, MD, Pediatric Ophthalmology, Tammara Watts, MD, Ph.D, UTMB Health, and James L. Phillips, MD, Baylor College of Medicine.



## Test Drive Your Future

Dr. Jarris L. Taylor, Jr., this year's featured speaker for the Test Drive Your Future (TDYF) seminar, along with Cause 360 Entertainment Group, and Urban Media Solutions (UMS) visited TSU on April 26, 2012, to speak to students in the STEM programs.

Dr. Jarris Taylor serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Strategic Diversity Integration. Spearheading the Obama administration's diversity efforts inside the US Air Force, Dr. Taylor is helping to make a major push for greater diversity in its officer's rank and its expanding civilian job corps in STEM fields. Dr. Taylor provides leadership, strategic direction, and oversight to all levels of the

Air Force to ensure a diverse and inclusive Total Force. TDYF aids the Air Force in that goal.

TDYF was developed as a cause-related initiative to engage and celebrate students who exhibit a strong commitment to academic achievement and leadership. Specifically, TDYF promotes interest in career fields that are heavily underrepresented by minorities, while also promoting and providing assistance for these students and the universities they attend.





## Faculty Spotlight Maruthi Bhaskar

Dr. Maruthi Sridhar Balaji Bhaskar, an Assistant Professor in Department of Environmental Science and Technology, began working at TSU in September of 2011. Before coming to TSU, he worked as a postdoctoral faculty in the Department of Geology at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH. He earned his Ph.D in Forest Resources from Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi and his MS in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry and BS in Agriculture from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, in Hyderabad, India. He has strong research experience and interests in use of Geospatial technology (Remote sensing and GIS) in

monitoring the ecological processes, water resources, human and environmental health and land-use change.

Dr. Bhaskar is an outstanding researcher in the use of satellite imagery to identify and quantify the physical and chemical changes in the watershed drainage basins as a result of point and non-point source pollutants, to monitor the invasive plant species and to map evapotranspiration losses along the agricultural and riparian regions. He developed several satellite models to monitor the soil and water quality, contaminant fate, environmental disasters, invasive plant species and evapotranspiration. His research work has great significance in the field of

environmental sciences and was awarded with one patent and has two other patent applications currently under review for work on remote sensing.

Dr. Bhaskar's research interests include the application of remote sensing and geospatial techniques for environmental planning and management, landscape ecology, human and environmental health monitoring and economic development. He is an active member of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Soil Science Society of America, and American Society of Agronomy. Dr. Bhaskar also published extensively on the use of green plants to clean up metal contaminated



*Dr. Maruthi Bhaskar*

soils and developing a remote sensing methodology for continuous surveillance of the vegetation growing on these toxic metal contaminated sites. He has published 19 peer reviewed research articles, 2 book chapters and made numerous contributions at international and national conferences and meetings. Dr. Bhaskar's remarkable achievements have brought him several academic awards and honors, at international, national and university levels.

## Department Spotlight Transportation Studies

The Department of Transportation Studies has a mission to provide comprehensive transportation education that builds on the latest data, systems and technologies. This mission is exemplified through quality instruction, cutting edge research faculty, and outstanding service to students and community. Currently, the department offers a Bachelor of Science Degree in Maritime Transportation Management and Security, a Master of Science Degree in Transportation Planning and Management, and is affiliated with the Ph.D program in Environmental Toxicology and the Ph.D. program in

Urban Planning and Environmental Policy. It prepares students for careers in a variety of positions in public and private transportation-related agencies and organizations.

The department provided students many opportunities to work with transportation experts and to participate in research activities. Various workshops, seminars, conferences, and field trips have been offered to students to enhance their learning outcomes. Most importantly, the department offers Research Assistantship opportunities to graduate students so that they can engage in research and also provides scholarships

sponsored by the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) to undergraduate students on the basis of outstanding academic performance.

During 2011-2012 academic year, 28 graduate students received research assistantships, and 30 undergraduate students received scholarships from the department, totaling \$763,400. In addition, a high percentage of students in the department have received various external and internal awards, indicative of the quality of the students as well as the academic programs. Recently, through collaboration with four other institutions, the department has successfully won a new

Tier 1 National University Transportation Center (UTC) award, which brings \$600,000 per year to TSU. In this academic year, 100% of the tenured/tenure-track faculty members have received external grants through internal and external collaborations. The department also promoted and established global collaborations with international institutions.

Due to the exemplary faculty and coruscating students, and their brilliant accomplishments, the Department of Transportation Studies has won the Provost's Department of the Year Award for 2011- 2012.

## Staff Spotlight Ursula Williams

Ursula A. Williams joined TSU as the Maritime Program Coordinator in December 2009. Upon arrival, she was given the task of coordinating all aspects of the new program including establishing a Maritime Industry Advisory Board, marketing the program, recruiting students, initiating a scholarship program, and creating a Summer Maritime Academy for high school students. Armed with a can-do spirit and years of project development and initiation

experience in the transportation planning industry, Ms. Williams assisted in starting the program in the fall 2010 with an initial class of 33 students.

Ms. Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Huston-Tillotson College (now University), a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Master of Science in Transportation Planning and Management from TSU. Because of her professionalism

and proven track record of success, Williams was awarded the 2012 College of Science and Technology's Distinguished Staff Member of the Year Award and the 2008 Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award by the Houston Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). Her professional associations include membership in Toastmasters International, WTS, National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,



and Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Prior to joining TSU, she was a Senior Transportation Planner and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Liaison for the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

## Student Spotlight Olusegun Ogunniyi



Olusegun Ogunniyi transferred to TSU from Houston Community College in the spring of 2010. He is a Biology major aspiring to a career as a Physician. In order to serve his community and beyond, he joined the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. He has served in that capacity on the field helping military men in harm's way, and in the hospital setting taking care of retirees, civilians, and

children. While at TSU, Mr. Ogunniyi has been active in Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society as the Vice President between 2010 and 2011. During all his semesters at TSU, he made himself available not only to Biology majors, but all students, for tutorials in various classes including Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry. As part of leadership groups, he has represented the College as

a COST Ambassador, and represented his fellow students on the COST Dean's Student Advisory Council. Mr. Ogunniyi received the award for the 2012 Most Outstanding Undergraduate Student. He received the honor of being the 2012 May commencement Valedictorian because of his outstanding academic performance. He has accomplished an overall GPA of a perfect 4.0.

## Alumni Raves Chukwuma Osuagwu

Chukwuma Jonas Osuagwu, popularly referred to as 'Chuks' graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas Southern University with a degree in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics in May 2000. He moved to Dallas, Texas, where he furthered his education and obtained a Masters' degree in Software Engineering from Southern Methodist

University in August of 2002. Upon graduation, Chuks began working for AT&T in Dallas, Texas where he rose through various managerial positions to become a Director in the Information Technology Organization.

In May 2011, Chuks became an Edward S. Mason Fellow for the Masters' in Public Administration degree in the Harvard

University John F. Kennedy School of Government. Chuks looks forward to synergize his experience in the private sector to bridge the gaps that exist in the public sector in areas of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Politics.

Chuks is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and is actively involved in various community outreach

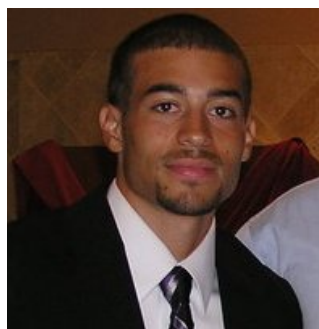


projects and affiliated with several Christian religious organizations.

# Student Accomplishments

Sascha S. Sabaroche and Garlin D. Wynn, graduate research assistants in the CTTR, successfully defended their graduate theses in April to complete their MS Degree in Transportation Planning and Management. Sascha's thesis research, *The Application Of Traffic Software: Assessing Effectiveness of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Addressing Congestion in a Freeway Corridor*, determined that BRT is viable in the SH288 corridor. Garlin's thesis research, *An Assessment Designating Minimum Path Routing From Zone A (Galveston)* found that a management strategy that blocks IH45 at a designated hour after the call for mandatory evacuation is a feasible strategy for incentivizing early evacuation.

Anthony Flenoy II is a proud student-athlete in the Maritime Transportation Management and Security program at TSU. He has been awarded the Hustle Award, Tiger Award, and Dirt Bag Award by the baseball team and coaching staff. Anthony was selected as one of the first Maritime Transportation



Scholarship recipients. Anthony is most interested in the security aspect of the degree plan and plans to pursue a career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection or other regulatory agency. He will obtain valuable work experience in the maritime industry by working as an Operations Assistant this summer at the Port of Houston Authority.

Jun Wen defended her MS thesis entitled *Synthesis and characterization of platinum (II) complexes with sulfur- and nitrogen-containing ligands* and Jyothi Mallepally defended her thesis entitled *Synthetic and chemical studies on platinum(II) complexes with 4-aminomethylbenzenesulfonamide*. Both these students were supervised by Professor Yuanjian Deng

## Taylor Family Awards Scholarships

Three Mathematics majors, Ariel Bowman, Jose Cabrera, and Jazmine Irving were awarded the Adrienne Elaine Taylor Memorial Scholarship on May 3, 2012. Each student received \$500.00 to use toward their educational endeavors. Professor Willie Taylor and wife, Gwendolyn L. Taylor made the donation for the

awards. Professor Taylor's daughter, Adrienne, was a Mathematics major at Texas Southern University when she passed away in January, 1997. The students receiving the awards impressed Professor Taylor with their willingness to share their knowledge of Mathematics with others.

## HAMP Group Scholarships

The HAMP group consists of four professors in the Mathematics department. They are Joan Evans, Roderick Holmes, Robert Nehs and Willie Taylor. Professor Taylor created this group believing that High Achievement in Mathematics is Possible and hoping to raise awareness about college teaching as a career for underrepresented minority students. Certificates of excellence were given to 5 students. The students were Ariel Bowman, Jose Cabrera, Jazmine Irving, Ruqiah Muhammad, and Aqeeb Sabree. Additionally, graduate student Jessica Poole received a HAMP Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 as well as a certificate of excellence.

## COMTO Scholarships



Two Transportation Studies graduate students, Haixia Liu and Peggy Adolph, received scholarships from the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) at an April 26, 2012 event. Haixia received the Shirley A. Delibero Leadership award of \$2500.00 and Peggy received the College Scholarship of \$1000.



## Maritime Students Celebrating Excellence in Achievement

The 85th Honors Day Convocation took place on Thursday, April 5, 2012 and the Maritime students of the Transportation Department had multiple reasons to celebrate, as their efforts were recognized for great accomplishments.

Maintaining top grades in every semester is not an easy task, yet it is gratifying to know that the Maritime students are not just doing the minimum, but are performing far and beyond. Some students have managed to maintain up to a perfect score of a 4.0 GPA for more than one semester in a row, whereas others have maintained the 4.0 GPA for the entire time they have been at TSU.

The TSU Maritime Transportation Management and Security Program was first launched in Fall 2010. In less than two years, the first generation of its senior students will be graduating in May and December 2012. With all these firsts, no wonder Dr. Qi and the Transportation Department obtained the prestigious "Department of the Year" Award!





# Scholarly and Creative Activities

## Publications

Hillar, M., Lelio et Faust Socin: fondateurs du socinianisme, leurs vies et théologie, traduit en français par Christian Callas. Published in Cahiers Michel Servet, No. 16, février 2012, pp. 1-26.

Johnson, J., D. Lee, R. Farzaneh, J. Zietsman, and L. Yu. Characterization of Exhaust Emissions from Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles in the HGB Area. Project Report for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) 0-6237, Texas Transportation Institute, 2011 (74 Pages).

Qi, Y., L. Guo, L. Yu and H. Teng, "Estimation of Design Lengths of Left-turn Lanes", ASCE's Journal of Transportation Engineering, Volume 138, Issue 3, 2012.

## Grants

Lei Yu (PI) and Fengxiang Qiao (Co-PI). "Tier One National University Transportation Center, TranLIVE: Transportation for Livability by Integrating Vehicles and Environment" (U.S. DOT, \$600,000, 1/1/12-12/31/13).

### COST FACULTY RETREAT

**AUGUST 10, 2012**

**HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA  
NEAR RELIANT STADIUM**

**GIFTS FOR ALL FACULTY  
MEMBERS IN APPRECIATION  
FOR THEIR GREAT SERVICE TO  
THIS COLLEGE**

**DRAWINGS FOR SEVERAL iPADS**

## Thesis

Fei Tao, advised by Dr. Lei Yu, "Effects of Driving Behaviors on Vehicle Emissions," April 27, 2012.

Garlin Wynn, advised by Dr. Carol Lewis, "An Assessment of Designating Minimum Path Routing from Zone A," April 15, 2012.

Min Zhang, advised by Dr. Yi Qi, "Evaluation of the Safety Performance of the Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) Signal Indication," Feb 27, 2012.

Sascha Sabaroche, advised by Dr. Carol Lewis, "The Application of Traffic Software: Assessing Effectiveness of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Addressing Congestion in a Freeway Corridor," April 2, 2012.

## Top Dollar Award

The faculty and staff of COST were awarded the Top\$ Award for their support of the 2012 Annual Faculty-Staff campaign. The funds raised by the Faculty-Staff Campaign go toward supporting student scholarships. The COST campaign ambassadors are to be commended for their work in facilitating the contributions. The COST ambassadors are Paula L. Eakins, Nia Eakins, Tioka L. Freeman, Shirley L. Harris, Nadereh Jahed, Rachel Mizzell, Lulueua A. Nasser, Helen Pittman-Cockrell, Delois Smith - Johnson, and Charlotte S. Whaley. Dr. Oscar H. Criner is the COST representative on the University Faculty-Staff Campaign Committee and Dolly Spencer is the University ambassador for COST.

## Maritime Faculty Honored by US Coast Guard

The leadership of the Coast Guard Eighth District has awarded to Dr. Marcy-Maria Burns, Faculty of TSU's Maritime Transportation Management and Security Program an Honorary Membership in the Coast Guard Aux.

The Award, ceremonial in nature, was offered to Dr. Burns in recognition of her "conspicuous efforts" in developing the content of the new Maritime Certification Courses approved by the U.S. Coast Guard- National Maritime Centre. Dr. Burns joined TSU Maritime Program in September 2011, with the purpose of producing Maritime Courses in line with the International Maritime Organization, and approved by the National Maritime Centre, as well as being an Instructor at TSU's Maritime Program.

Her Doctoral research investigates the strategic development of ports, and the methods of effectively preventing port pollution through legislation and technology. She has a Masters Degree and Diploma in International Trade & Transport from the London Metropolitan University. Her research has obtained the Best Dissertation Award from the Publishers of the Maritime Policy Journal of Taylor & Francis, London. Before embarking on an academic career, she was a Senior Maritime Consultant and Senior Trainer at the

American Bureau of Shipping. She is a Certified Maritime Auditor in ISM, ISPS, OHSAS/OSHA, ISO 14001, VGP, and has produced advanced maritime courses approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and/or the American Bureau of Shipping. Her global clients have included port state control, port authorities, government officials, oil majors and global shipping lines. She has been a Ship Sale & Purchase Specialist and Chemical Tankers Operator for Peter G. Livanos, the shipping tycoon of 180 ocean going vessels.

The new Certified Courses are scheduled to be taught at TSU Campus as of the Summer of 2012. The launching of TSU's new advanced Maritime Courses aims to enhance the skills of maritime professionals in the dynamic Eighth District of the U.S. Coast Guard, which covers 26 states throughout the Gulf Coast and heartland of America.



Photo (from left to right): USCG Aux. CWO4 Charles Reynolds; Dr. Marcy-Maria Burns, Allen Harding, District Captain Central; Chuck Maricle, Division Commander