

Captain Jack Houston and Ellen M. Smith Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Marine Biology/Marine Fisheries

Established in 2022 by Captain Jack Harris and Mrs. Jere Smith

Capt. Jack Smith, class of '64, grew up shrimping and oystering in Galveston Bay alongside his father, Capt. Jack Houston Smith, who was one of the first shrimpers in the Gulf of Mexico and pioneered many shrimping techniques that are still used today. To honor his parents and the shrimping industry that has supported his family, Capt. Smith created the Captain Jack Houston and Ellen M. Smith Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Marine Biology/Marine



Fisheries. This gift will support graduate students who are researching the farming and sustainable harvesting of shrimp, oysters and other marine life.

Capt. Smith received a bachelor's degree in marine transportation from Texas A&M-Galveston. The day after graduation, he began working for Lykes Lines as a third mate on their cargo ships, which carried cotton, cars and household goods to Asia. In 1970, he took a job at Todd's Shipyard, here on Pelican Island, for a year before

being selected to become an Apprentice Harbor Pilot. For the next 31 and a half years, Capt. Smith piloted ships in and out of the ports

of Galveston and Texas City. After retiring in 2002, he was asked to return to Texas A&M Maritime Academy, where he taught ship handling, lifesaving, and navigation classes for 11 and a half years before retiring permanently in 2014.

Capt. Smith has 3 children with his wife, Jere

- Charles, class of 90,
- Randall, class of 96, and
- Jennifer.

The two met on a blind date at a football game against Rice University in 1963 and were married 2 years later.