

welcome to

Slice of Pi

OCTOBER 2024

TAMS Alumni Newsletter





Dr. Travis Williams, (TAMS class 1995), Clay Wang, and their team at the University of Southern California won NOAA's 2024 [Marine Debris Challenge Competition](#), securing \$2M to advance technology that can [recycle trash from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) to make [lifesaving medicines](#) and agricultural biologics for organic farming. The team invites TAMSters to come out to USC and join the effort!

SEA GRANT'S FY 2024-2026 INVESTMENTS IN MARINE DEBRIS



In fiscal year 2024, as part of NOAA's investment in creating a Climate-Ready Nation, \$27 million was awarded through the [Marine Debris Challenge and Community Action Coalitions](#) to address the prevention and removal of debris in coastal, marine and Great Lakes environments throughout the U.S.

This work is made possible by the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), a historic, federal government-wide investment that advances [NOAA's Climate-Ready Coasts, Climate Data and Services](#), and [Fisheries and Protected Resources](#) to address the climate crisis and bolster coastal resilience and infrastructure. In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, \$27 million was awarded through these opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and [Inflation Reduction Act](#).



Alumni News



Albert '99
Published this fall!

**Albert
Ciuksza Jr.**

*"This book is
essential for
anyone involved
in a business
transition."*

► Bud Dunn
President, VXP and
surviving family
successor

**Stepping up
without
stepping in it:**
The ultimate
playbook
for successors

SUCCESSING



John Allen 2000, Steve Brunton '02
Joyce Kao '03 in Aachen, Germany.
Caption competition – send your
best to Russ!



TAMS alums gathered in New York living
the good life. This photo is compliments of
Dave Banerjee, class 2009. Dave claims
there was representation from the classes
of 2021, '22, '23 AND '24! Can you name
them all? If you can, email Russ and he'll
mail you a TAMS Alumni shirt!

News & Current Student Shoutout!

Elliott Slaughter Class of 2025

Elliott was invited to present at the MIT Undergraduate Research Conference this fall!

[Want to read more about Elliott?](#)



A few changes and new staff joined the TAMS team this year. Ben Warren, Aaliyah Navarro, Rachel Ward and Jason Thomas lead student life with many new RA faces. Russ bounced from retirement into the role working with TAMS alumni and fundraising. Cassandre Jean-Ceide and McKenzie Watson have joined Dr. Turnock's team to assist with counseling.

Student Activities



One hundred and seventy-five members of the TAMS Class of 2026 moved into McConnell this fall and the tradition of the senior class and staff hauling boxes continued. Pictured are the team members PRIOR to all the boxes and Texas heat arriving. The surprise that day was McConnell losing electricity for several hours during the move in day process. The MOVERS persevered! Within the fall orientation was a watermelon eating contest, community service day, CSO tower showdown and academic strategies presented by TAS!

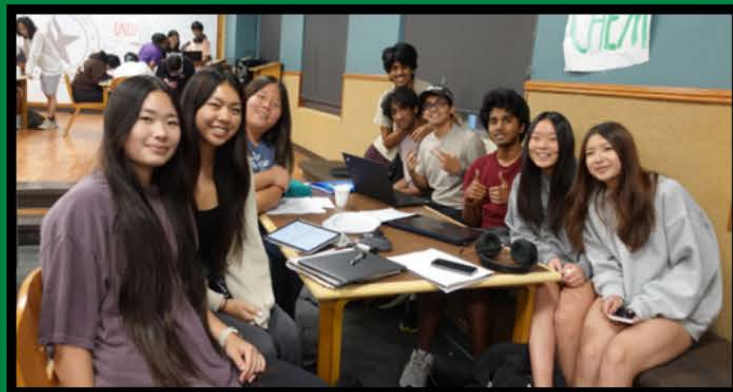
What's up so far...



This semester TAMS has had the Senior Sunrise gathering, the fall blood drive, Casino Night, TJAS trip, FACES Flag Cookie Day, Casino Night, Karaoke Night, TMS committee carnival, Robotics competition, staff program titled, "Life on a Budget", a TAS study night and Garba celebration.



Blood Drive September 12



TAS study party featuring Chemistry

Student Activities

Our Guests



Dr. Neha Khanolkar, D.D.S., is a general dentist who studied at Texas A&M College of Dentistry. After graduating in 2019, she worked throughout the Dallas metroplex before starting her own practice in 2023. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and painting.

Dr. Jayne Coleman, M.D., is a professor of Anesthesiology at UT Southwestern in Dallas. She graduated from University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. She did her residency in anesthesia at the UTSW and has been on faculty there for 27 years. She specializes in the anesthesia care of plastic surgery patients.



Dr. Susan Joseph, CRNA, DNAP is an anesthesiologist doing outpatient surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She received her masters degree from the University of Pittsburgh and doctorate from Missouri State University. She is passionate about traveling, cooking, gardening and volunteering at women's ministry.

Ashlynn Joseph is an MS4 from UTMB. She is interested in and applying for anesthesiology in the upcoming match cycle. She loves to play sports and stay active!



Devin M. Trousdale, M.D., is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where he has been teaching at Parkland Hospital since 2016. After graduating from TAMS in 1993, he received a BA in Biology at Austin College, followed by a year abroad as a Thomas J. Watson Fellow.



Dr. Linh Ho, M.D., is a general pediatrician at a private practice in Frisco. After TAMS, she graduated from Texas A&M then went on to medical school at UTMB in Galveston. She completed her Pediatric residency at SUNY Stony Brook in Long Island before returning to TX. Dr. Ho also teaches at TWU and occasionally at the Burnett School of Medicine at TCU.

Dr. Thuan Pham, D.D.S., is the owner of America Dental in Lake Dallas. She received her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and graduated from the Indiana University School of Dentistry in 2005.



Dr. Eric Zhang, M.D., is a resident at UT Southwestern with a specialty in anesthesiology. After graduating TAMS in 2014 as a TMS executive, he attended UC Berkeley for his undergraduate degree and the UCLA School of Medicine. He enjoys basketball, video games, and spending time with his cat.

Julia R. Fielding, M.D., is a radiologist with experience in academic medicine, most recently as a professor of radiology at UT Southwestern. She received her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and has been a member of the admissions committees for medical school, radiology residency and fellowships at Harvard, UNC, and UTSW. She also has mentored nearly 100 women in medicine.



Dr. Simisola Williams, M.D., is an internal medicine and pediatrics physician. She attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine 6 year BA/MD for medical school, and the University of Alabama Birmingham and the University of Texas at Austin for her residencies. She currently works in primary care and hospital medicine, and as an assistant professor of pediatrics at TCU Burnett School of Medicine.

Dr. Andrew Ho, M.D., graduated from the St George's University School of Medicine in 1997. He specializes in internal medicine and emergency medicine. Dr. Ho is affiliated with UT Health East Texas Quilman Hospital and works with many other doctors in the group Acs Primary Care Physicians Southwest Pa.



Vraj Shah, is a medical student at UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He went to UT Austin for his undergraduate education majoring in Public Health. He is currently interested in surgery and dermatology. In his free time, he likes to play tennis, watch formula 1, and bake.

September 14, TAMS Medical Society, (TMS), organized the now annual "Dinner with Doctors" catered by the TAMS Culinary Society, (TCS). Family physicians and dentists were invited along with TAMS grads. Take a look at the program below to see all that were invited.

TAMS classes represented were '93, '95, 2011, '12, '14, '18 and '19. A great collaboration with TAMS clubs and alumni!



Dr. Neha Khanolkar, TAMS class 2012, was the host for the table of students shown.



Russ has the green light to celebrate Universities of where TAMS graduates have attended. The goal is to have the SAC lined with these and then when YOU (& others from your post TAMS U) come to visit, you all get to sign the back so current students can see which TAMS students have attended that Institution. Desire to be the first?? Purchase a 12"x30" pennant from your post TAMS U and mail it or have it shipped to Russ = 1155 Union Circle #305309 Denton Texas 76203. I'll share photos as this project progresses.

Ways to give back!



Russ just posted a survey to capture data on TAMS grads that have or are starting businesses. The plan is to brag on each of you and especially highlight those businesses located in Texas or doing business with the state. We will be taking this information to Austin when TAMS visits to seek a **boost in funding**. SEE THE AMBITION AND TALENT coming out of TAMS? Now (Texas legislators..) Fund TAMS APPROPRIATELY! Here is the link in case you missed it on the TAMS Alumni page: [Latest survey about created businesses](#)



TAMS partnered with Growing Leaders and utilizes the Habitudes curriculum for small weekly leadership seminars with students. Each week small groups of students gather with a staff member to

cover topics of leadership. While the curriculum is incredible having a TAMS alum show up and echo the same principles impresses the students. Amit Banerjee '16 spoke with a group last spring and this fall Suzanne Smith '94 has passed along some pearls. Habitudes groups meet Monday – Thursday typically between 4p-6p so if you are in the area and would like to speak to a small group – we can make it happen!

Saturday Preview Days are scheduled for interested students and families. TAMS staff present information with the goal of enticing students and families to join the TAMS family. The highlight of the Preview Day is when TAMS alumni speak about their experiences and share how TAMS positively impacted who they are today. Interested in speaking? Here are the upcoming dates: Nov. 16, Jan 25 2025, Feb. 22, March 29, April 12. Shoot Russ a message so he can add you to the agenda.



A Slice of π



a TAMS Alumni Newsletter

Connect with us!

