

2024 TCS Chapters Committee Work Plan

*Submitted by Andrew Wilson and Kyra Selina Hagge to TCS Executive Committee
(January 11, 2024)*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Andrew Wilson (Co-Chair), Kyra Selina Hagge (Co-Chair)

MISSION: The Chapters Committee has selected the following from the 2024 TCS Strategic Plan-

STRATEGIC GOAL THREE: Promote Communication and Education

Objective One: Cultivate student chapter leaders and members, and assist with their transition into new coastal professions; and,

STRATEGIC GOAL FOUR: Maintain a robust and sustainable organization

ACTION ITEM TWO

- Enhancing TCS marketing, promotion, and visibility
- Strengthening student and chapter connections

Coastal Issues to Address

Nationally and locally, coastal issues appear to be dominating much of the news along the Atlantic coast, the Pacific coast and the “Third Coast”, i.e., the Gulf of Mexico. There are constant headlines related to massive storms, climate change, sea level rise, coastal erosion, offshore and near shore energy, as well as legal issues related to beach and water bottom ownership, endangered/threatened species conflicts such as the whale/lobster gear controversy, as well as over-fishing/permitting, and by-catch. Consequently, there are countless issues and fields offering a world of opportunities for students interested in coast-related occupations.

This is particularly so in Louisiana where: (1) the State has decided to fast-track siting of wind farms in near-shore State waters directly in the path of three of the largest migratory bird flyways in North America with no environmental impact studies and an additional wind farm lease has issued in federal waters; (2) the State is losing an area the size of a football field every 38 minutes and has therefore developed one of the most advanced coastal management and restoration plans in

world history which includes the first massive sediment diversion coastal restoration structure for the Mississippi River with a designed flow rate of 75,000 cubic feet per second (CFS), a flow larger than most rivers in the U.S.; (3) the State has become the largest oyster producer in the U.S., utilizing wild reefs, cultivated beds and off-bottom oyster farming methods; (4) two Universities, LSU and Nicholls State, have established Coastal Institutes, and another, Tulane, has established a Water Institute, while the State has established its own Water Institute of the Gulf in Baton Rouge with its own “gymnasium-sized” working, physical model; (5) the State has charged one or more Louisiana law schools to rewrite all laws related to water including ownership and water bottom use so as to create a new “Water Code”; and, (6) the Governor has established a Task Force to address Climate Change and an Advisory Commission to address Coastal Restoration. The list goes on and on. And similar efforts are going on all along the U.S. coast.

With this backdrop, the Chapters Committee’s strategy is to maintain, expand and establish “clusters” of Student Chapters in specific geographic areas so as to stimulate interaction and synergy *inter sese*. This will also allow for the scheduling of events with greater attendance given the likelihood of multiple Chapter involvement for each area. Such events may also serve as a draw for other individual students at universities where no Chapter currently exists, who might attend such events and possibly spawn yet another new Chapter. Existing and potential Chapter responsibility will be divided by geographic areas between the two Chairs. Andrew will be responsible for RI, LA as well as UNCW, and Kyra will have VA and NC for now, with any universities in other areas to be divvied up as well. These efforts will be directed not only at coastal engineering and science students but law students in coastal law as well, as we have learned anecdotally through interviews that historically many law students lost interest in TCS due to the lack of relevance for them.

As to the specifics, the Chapter Committee intends to proceed as follows:

- Expanding TCS membership by increasing the number of Student Chapters, and at the same time focusing on Chapters within the same existing or targeted geographical areas so as to allow for these Chapters to benefit from synergistic energy generated between and among all interested existing, new or potential Chapters;

- Arranging “clustered” meetings, workshops, and field trips of existing and/or proposed Chapters in regional areas;
- Locating & cultivating new streams of revenue to finance Chapter and/or other local events;
- Enhancing TCS marketing, promotion, & visibility through the use of a new “Chapters” tab on the TCS website to post photos from any events as well as narrative pieces covering Chapter activities to encourage more;
- To consider some type of promotional items such as hats, etc. with the TCS logo as a benefit of Student Chapter membership, which will allow for free advertising on campus;
- To add a “Book Review” tab to the website as another student resource for reviews of recent or significant/classic books which address coastal issues (e.g., Rush, Elizabeth, *“Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore”*, Hawley, Steven, *“Recovering a Lost River: Removing Dams, Rewilding Salmon, Revitalizing Communities”*, Brennan, Summer, *“The Oyster War: The True Story of a Small Farm, Big Politics, and the Future of Wilderness in America”*, and, Davis, Jack, *“The Gulf-The Making of an American Sea”*);
- Developing new & increased partnerships that will assist in promotion and establishment of new Student Chapters.

GOALS

The Chapters Committee intends to develop and implement short-term (3-month), mid-term (6-month), & long-term (12-month) plans that detail explicit target activities to accomplish internal TCS goals, as follows:

3-Month

1. Contact all existing Chapters in the third week of January, 2024, after classes start and are well underway to determine Chapter status and needs and arrange in-person meetings.

These include:

URI (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jesse Reiblich; Student Contact: Noah Hallisey)

ECU (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rosana Ferreira; Student Contact: Allyson Ropp)

Duke (We only have alumni, namely Kathryn Lienhard and Nat Blackford.

However, the Chapters Committee currently does not see much value in putting in additional effort to re-instate the Duke Chapter, because students

at Duke seem to not get much additional value from joining TCS (they have other organizations they want to join and are only at Duke for a year)).
UNC-Wilmington (Faculty Advisor: JennyBiddle and Larry Cahoon, assisting);
Student Contacts: Kaitlyn Wilson, Sam Boyce and Anika Pruum)

2. Contact potential new Chapters in the third week of January, 2024, to arrange in-person meetings with advisors and organizational meetings with students, for the following:

Loyola University of New Orleans

(Faculty Advisor: Alessandra Jerolleman Student Contact: Abby Wallace)

UNO (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mark Kulp)

Tulane (Faculty Advisors: Mark Davis/Dr. Donata Henry)

Nicholls State (Faculty Advisor: Gary LaFleur)

Roger Williams (Faculty Advisor: Jonathan Gutoff)

Maine Multi-University Chapter (Faculty Advisors: Susan Farady/Matt Nixon)

Western Carolina University (Student Contact: Kathryn Lienhard, Daniel Reed)

Elizabeth State University (Faculty Contact: ? – Elizabeth State University is collaborating with ECU at the Coastal Studies Institute and we will go through CSI to get the contact information).

6-Month

Generate sufficient interest to establish at least two (2) new chapters among the contacted institutions (preferred three (3)).

12-Month

Have six (6) active chapters in two(2)-three(3) geographical focus areas: The Gulf (LA), Southeast (NC) and Northeast (RI).

Arrange a workshop/conference/event in Louisiana in November 2024 ?

2025

- Arrange a GOM and /or RI/Northeast workshop/conference/event
- Pursue new Student Chapter in Louisiana at LSU/Louisiana Sea Grant/Coastal Institute in Baton Rouge

- Pursue new Student Chapters at Xavier University of Louisiana (Xavier) and Southern University on campuses in both New Orleans and Baton Rouge (Southern) (both are HBCU's and now part of the Gulf Louisiana Offshore Wind ("GLOW") Propellor Technology and Innovation Hub Program which just received a large federal grant)
- Pursue new Student Chapters in southern Alabama (Mobile, Dauphine Island Sea Lab, etc.) to include coastal programs at Auburn, Spring Hill, University of So. Alabama (Civil, Coastal, and Environmental Engineering Department (CCEE)), and University of Alabama
- Pursue new Student Chapters at Marine Dept.'s at University of Texas, Galveston and Corpus Christi

CONCLUSIONS

We are hopeful that we will be able to establish at least two new Chapters from the contacts we have and will be able to maintain the existing chapters. The possibility of scheduling a RI or GOM event should also be considered in 2024 for recruitment purposes so as to increase the likelihood of success with the potential new Chapters. We will need help in doing this. Perhaps in November, 2024, well before student exams, we could repeat what Tom Bigford oversaw at the end of 2022 in St. Bernard Parish, which was well received. We also believe greater advance notice needs to issue for these types of events as potential attendees' schedules may well fill with other commitments before the TCS notice even issues.

Lastly, and as an aside, both Chairs feel that Kyra is being caught betwixt and between on what is going on since she is not on the Board and therefore is not privy to all that goes on but is assumed to know about developments for both the separate Development Committee and TCS generally. In this regard, she should be receiving more information directly on what is going on, including Board postings and Minutes, as Andrew does not have time to brief her in detail, although we do communicate regularly and have equal input on all our Chapter Committee efforts.

