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Dear Friends,

The academic year 2016-2017 is the Galveston College Golden Anniversary and we are delighted to celebrate 50 years of student success in our community. As we end five decades of service, we renew our commitment to quality higher education and recognize the contributions made possible by your continued support.

Galveston College became a reality when the citizens of this area and the great State of Texas gave of their resources to build a community college. Through the years, thousands of students have graduated from Galveston College and have become productive, taxpaying citizens. Hundreds of excellent faculty and staff have served those students while also contributing to Galveston with their families, their financial resources and their community service.

This 50th Anniversary Commemorative booklet offers a glimpse of Galveston College then, now, and in the future. We invite you to review these pages and we ask that you personally explore all that your community college has to offer.

Sincerely,

W. Myles Shelton III, Ed.D.
As early as 1934, there was local interest in developing a junior/community college. After several false starts, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in 1964 put money and people behind a college movement. In September of 1966, the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Independent School District appointed the Board of Regents of the Galveston Community College District. In December of 1966, a local maintenance tax of up to 27 cents per $100 property valuation was approved by the majority of voters within the junior college district. The college district area matched the independent school district that includes Galveston Island, Port Bolivar, and a portion of Crystal Beach.

In May of 1967, with the help of a $340,000 grant from the Moody Foundation, the original Board of Regents of the Galveston Community College District purchased St. Mary’s Orphanage from the Galveston-Houston Catholic Diocese. On September 18, 1967, Galveston College opened its doors to 703 students. Galveston College occupied Moody Hall, the refurbished orphanage, as its only campus facility. The initial academic offerings were broad in scope, while the vocational programs were minimal but with strong offerings in nursing, office occupations, engineering/drafting and law enforcement.

This December first edition of The Galveston News in 1966 was published two days before the successful election for a community college maintenance tax.
Galveston College's Moody Hall was originally the replacement home for the St. Mary's Orphan Asylum that was located near Green Bayou about three miles west of the current 45th Street in Galveston. The original orphanage was destroyed during the 1900 Storm. The new St. Mary’s Orphanage was built with aid from the Community Chest and Catholic Charities. In June of 1950, the Most Reverend Wendelin Nold, Bishop of Galveston, blessed a new three-story brick building located at 41st and Avenue Q that would be used as an orphanage.

By 1965, the average daily number of children cared for in St. Mary’s Orphanage was only twenty one. Care for orphans in the mid-1960s shifted from orphanages to foster homes. In 1967, Bishop Nold and the Orphan Association of Galveston decided to close St. Mary’s Orphanage.

The buildings were sold to the Galveston Community College District and the proceeds were put into a trust fund to care for children under the direction of Galveston Family Life Services. In May 1967, the Galveston College Board of Regents used the Moody Foundation grant to purchase the building at 41st and Avenue Q from the Galveston-Houston Catholic Diocese and to set up the initial furnishings of Galveston College.
In June of 1972, with the help of a $1,000,000 Moody Foundation grant, Galveston College opened its second facility, the Mary Moody Northen Vocational Center. This facility brought more faculty offices and vocational labs to Galveston College students. In December of 1973, Galveston College acquired a 5.2 acre site with a structure at the former Fort Crockett hospital/armory. Within a year this property, known as the Fort Crockett campus, offered nursing classes, art classes and a theatre.

In 1981, Galveston College grew to occupy the second floor of Shearn Moody Plaza and in September of 1982, the Eudine Meadows Cheney Student Center opened. In 1990, Galveston College opened Regents Hall and the renovation of Moody Hall was completed. A new Fine Arts Center and the Sarah Hermes Fitness Center and Gym opened in 1996. Full relocation of the arts gallery and art programs took place in 2007 with the sale of the Fort Crockett Campus to private interests.

In 2010, the Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation facility was opened using a generous gift of $1,500,000 from the Seibel Foundation.
In September of 2013, the Charlie Thomas Family Applied Technology Center opened with a variety of vocational programs.

Galveston College's future growth includes new parking areas, new student housing, a new nursing and health sciences center, and a potential performing arts center.

(Right) Dedication plaque for Eudine Meadows Cheney Student Center.

(Bottom Left) The dedication of Regents Hall took place in 1990.

(Bottom Right) Charlie Thomas and family joined Dr. Myles Shelton and Regent George Black displaying plaque for the Technology Center.
The ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Fines Arts Center and Sarah Hermes Gym took place in 1996.

The Fine Arts Center and Sarah Hermes Gym were completed in 1996.

Eloise Meadows Rouse cutting the ribbon for the opening of the Cheney Student Center.

Renderings showing student housing and the performing arts center.
Since the beginning, Galveston College students have been the priority. Student life on a small campus brought dances, billiards, flea markets, festivals, and student government. In the early days, space was limited, but the campus grew to accommodate more student activities. Facilities grew from pool tables and snack machines to a cyber café, lounge areas, a Learning Resource Center, and a student center.

In December 1970, Galveston College, then known as the “Dolphins,” won championships in the sports of bowling and basketball. In 1992, with the help of the Moody Foundation, Galveston College sports were reborn as the “Whitecaps” and baseball, volleyball, and eventually softball, brought pride and a competitive spirit to the Galveston College family of students, staff, faculty, and community.
Student activities have expanded now and for the future. Student clubs have multiplied and many have taken on community service efforts like blood drives, food drives, toy donations, and beach clean-up. The Student Government Association has formed an ambassadors group to help with high school and middle school group tours and other activities. Student athletes on the Whitecaps baseball and softball teams also volunteer for civic and college projects like Oktoberfest, sports camps, and visits to children in Shriner’s Hospital.

(Top Left) Students pose at a Galveston College photo booth during the Fall Festival.

(Left) In 1969 Galveston College students enjoy a college dance.

(Top Right) A banner displays the “Dolphin” name of Galveston College’s original sports teams.
(Top Left) Student Government Association representatives join Galveston College President, Dr. Myles Shelton, in Austin for Community College Student Day.

(Top Right) Students enjoy the surroundings and resources of the Learning Resource Center’s Cyber Café.

(Bottom) Galveston College students, faculty, and staff participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s.
Galveston College endears itself to Galveston

Moody Foundation donates $3 million

Enrollment at GC boosted nearly 18%

Galveston College registration draws record crowds

Galveston College wins awards in competition

Galveston College offers microcomputer course
Whether it’s being ranked as the number one community college in Texas, winning the national baseball championship, providing Universal Access awards or bringing home recognition in theatre arts, Galveston College is all about success. In particular, we are all about our students’ success in the classroom and in their professions.

The following pages highlight some of Galveston College’s successes over the last fifty years. Some of the accomplishments have been with Galveston College since the early days. Some were delivered just in time for the 50th anniversary celebration.

**Ranked #1**

In June of 2015, Galveston College was ranked as the number one community college in Texas by Schools.com. The number one ranking out of a top ten listing was based on the faculty-to-student ratio providing smaller classes, the online courses offered by the college, and the award winning programs recognized locally, statewide, and nationally.

Galveston College students, faculty, and staff celebrated the recognition and the Galveston City Council presented a proclamation recognizing the accomplishment. The college’s billboards and website carried the message of the esteemed designation and prospective students and longtime supporters of the college mentioned the recognition in their daily contacts.

Whitecaps baseball players celebrate winning the 1994 NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.
Nursing

Galveston College has offered nursing programs since its beginning. The nursing programs have provided nurses to regional doctor's offices, hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes.

When Galveston College opened its doors to its initial 703 students in 1967, it was a larger number than expected. It became apparent that the new community college would play a part in preparing students for careers and programs that would make them successful in their lives. Programs like Associate Degree Nursing, Vocational Nursing, and Law Enforcement drew students along with those students seeking transfer credit for academic courses.

The first classes of Vocational Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing were the beginning of a long legacy of healthcare professionals graduating from Galveston College. A quick glimpse of the photos of the 1968 nursing graduates show the diversity in race and age that still represents the student body of Galveston College.

Other healthcare programs at Galveston College include Certified Nurse Aide, Certified Medication Aide, Phlebotomy Technician, EKG Technician, Health Unit Coordinator, RN Refresher, and Medical Coding and Billing Specialist. The variety of short term non-credit healthcare programs provide a building block for students who want to start in continuing education options to get in the workforce and later return to the full two-year registered nurse or one-year licensed vocational nurse program.
Advances in the nursing program area include the addition of simulation mannequins in adult and infant forms that give Galveston College nursing students an opportunity to experience first-hand medical situations. Generous donors, recognizing Galveston College’s efforts to help with the nursing shortage worldwide, have recently contributed money for future scholarships and expanded program operations.

(Top, page 16) First graduating class in 1968 of Licensed Vocational Nurses.
(Bottom, page 16) The 2016 graduating class of Associate Degree Nurses.
(Top and Left) The Nursing program held a recent open house giving demonstrations of their new simulation mannequins and the future of nursing skills training.
In 1974, Galveston College launched its dual credit program. This program allowed students from Ball High School and O'Connell High School to earn transferrable college credit while they were still in high school. Among the first dual credit students at Galveston College were Mayor Jim Yarborough and Linda Toebelman Venzke.

Yarborough went on to transfer his courses earned at Galveston College to the University of Texas in Austin where he excelled in the classroom and on the football field with championship Longhorn teams. Toebelman (Venzke) came to Galveston College after graduating from O'Connell High School. She earned an Associate Degree Nursing diploma from Galveston College and went on to earn her Masters in Nursing. She has had several distinguished careers in nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch, St. Mary's, and Mainland Center Hospital.

Galveston College has continued its dual credit program and many grateful students and parents enjoyed the fact that the dual credit courses earned at the college transferred to universities in Texas and beyond. Some parents have delighted in the fact that their children have earned enough college credit at Galveston College to transfer with sophomore or junior status.
Galveston College has expanded its dual credit programs with much success. In addition to dual credit agreements with Ball High School, O’Connell High School, and Odyssey High School, Galveston College has also been able to offer dual credit programs to the High Island and Hamshire-Fannett High School students outside of the college’s taxing district, but within the state designated service district.

(Top Left) A dual credit student in the cosmetology program practices manicures.

(Above) Dual credit students in the EMS program practice securing a patient to a back board.

(Left) Dual credit students prepare treats in their culinary arts lab for the animals at Moody Gardens.
Law Enforcement

Since 1967, many notable law enforcement personnel have gotten their start with an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice or have graduated from the college's Law Enforcement Academy. Among the first students in Galveston College's Law Enforcement classes was Freddie Poor, a veteran member of the Galveston Police force who went on to become the Galveston County Sheriff. Freddie Poor was joined by other Galveston police officers like Booker Price, Leon Lewis and Maurice Harr. Maurice Harr went on to be the Chief of Police for the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Criminal Justice students have earned a degree or college credits and then transferred to Texas universities like Sam Houston State to earn their Bachelor's degree. Law Enforcement Academy graduates have gone on to become police officers, sheriff’s deputies, security officers, and state troopers.

The future graduates of Galveston College's Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academy programs will aid in the development of capable first responders. Expansion of facilities will increase the capability for local firearm and crowd control training.
(Top) Law Enforcement Academy cadets perform drills at the Fort Crockett campus.

(Top Right) The new 2017 Law Enforcement Academy cadets pledge allegiance to the flag.

(Bottom Right) Galveston College Police Academy cadets are practicing the art of baton defense.
Allied Health

The variety of allied health programs offered by Galveston College during the past five decades has allowed a steady flow of qualified graduates to join the workforce in area doctor’s offices and hospitals. Places like the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, Clear Lake Regional Hospital, Methodist Hospital, and the Houston Medical Center complex have given Galveston College graduates rewarding careers. Those facilities have, in turn, been successful due to the well-trained graduates that Galveston College provides.

Programs like Radiography, Emergency Medical Services, Surgical Technology, Radiation Therapy, and Medical Coding draw students from all over the United States. Nuclear Medicine Technology offered at Galveston College is an Allied Health program only offered in four other colleges or universities across Texas. Both Computerized Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging are offered online and also draw students from throughout the country.

Galveston College hopes to develop a state-of-the-art Nursing and Allied Health Center in the future. Plans are being made to expand the nursing program, as well as other health science programs.
(Top) Nuclear Medicine Technology Instructor Rebecca Montz congratulates NMT student Amber Rothlauf for her poster abstract displayed at the annual conference of the Southwestern Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging in 2015.

(Top Right) An old x-ray machine is used by past Galveston College students.

(Right) A nuclear medicine machine is used by current Allied Health students at a hospital in Clear Lake.
Universal Access

In 1996, Galveston College’s leadership decided to form the Galveston College Foundation as a separate 501(c)3 organization with its own volunteer board of directors. The primary motivation in organizing this non-profit was the creation of a new program called Universal Access.

The program was designed to provide tuition assistance to all eligible local Galveston high school graduates, home-schooled graduates, and GED graduates, regardless of their income level. The fundraising efforts to create an endowment fund for Universal Access started in 1997 and by 2001 an estimated $3.1 million had been raised.

The Universal Access program was implemented in the fall of 2001 using private Foundation funds or federal Pell grants if the students’ parents qualified for that aid. The Universal Access program was featured on the local, state, and national print and television news. By 2014, the Universal Access Endowment had grown to $6.2 million with the help of community-wide grassroots fundraising and area and regional foundations like the Moody Foundation, the Kempner Fund, the Mary Moody Northen Fund, and the Moody Methodist Permanent Endowment Fund.
After the Galveston College Foundation was formed in 1996, it kept the Universal Access program as the flagship effort of its attention. But as time went on, the staff and board of directors emerged as a full fundraising arm of Galveston College under the guidance of the college president.

The scholarship funds previously held by the college business office were transferred to the foundation to allow further development of scholarship resources. Donations and special events management became a primary focus while Universal Access remained a priority.

The Galveston College Foundation’s twenty-one board members and the Foundation staff have engaged in various fundraising efforts like the Five Fabulous Chefs events, the Ungala, and the 50th Anniversary Gala in 2016.

(Top) The Galveston College Foundation coordinated the 2016 Five Fabulous Chefs event over two nights to the delight of guests.

(Bottom) Nursing and Allied Health scholarship winners pose with their benefactors Jim and Suzanne Little.
Galveston College’s Learning Resource Center is home to the David Glenn Hunt Memorial Library, the College Testing and Assessment Center, and the Cyber Café.

David Glenn Hunt was the founding president of Galveston College when the college opened its doors in 1967 and he passed away during that first year of college operation. The library is named in his memory.

In the initial days of Galveston College, the library was housed in the former chapel of St. Mary’s Orphanage on the second floor of Moody Hall. The library had a winding staircase to the second floor. Space and resource materials were limited.

The current David Glenn Hunt Memorial Library provides a broad selection of print and electronic materials organized for use by faculty, students, staff, and the community. The library is open to the public and provides a state-of-the-art computer catalog system along with videos, magazines, and a special computer lab for use by students doing research and class papers.

Future plans call for expanding the 45,000 printed materials and the 100,000 electronic books and materials now on hand.

The college Testing Center is a controlled environment for students to take all kinds of tests including GED, makeup tests, LSAT, distance learning, correspondence, CLEP, and CastleWorld Wide.

The Student Success Center, within view of the library, is a free service for Galveston College students that offers tutoring and mentoring for classwork and research projects. Galveston College students and members of the community work with students in the Student Success Center on specific course study and test-taking skills.
Galveston College’s Culinary Arts program began in 1987 after a portion of the first floor of the Mary Moody Northen Vocational Center was converted to a kitchen. In partnership, the Houston Lighting and Power Company provided Galveston College with funds for electric appliances and stoves. As the focus of the program changed from maritime to the hospitality industry, the stoves were converted to gas.

Galveston College’s Culinary Arts program was popular from its earliest years and attracted students from all over the United States. Part of this attraction was generated by a partnership with the National Maritime Union to train all of their offshore platform cooks. Other partnership contract training was developed to generate a steady flow of students into the Culinary Arts kitchen.

Culinary Arts has been offered as a dual credit option for Ball High and O’Connell High School juniors and seniors. Many of the Culinary Arts graduates from certificate and associate degree programs have gone on to careers as chefs and two have even gone on to compete in the television show “Cutthroat Kitchen.”

Culinary Arts students have prepared and served a lunch for the general public that raises funds for culinary scholarships. They have participated in each of the Five Fabulous Chefs events. The community has responded in unison with the Galveston Restaurant Association giving a $100,000 gift for the Paco Vargas scholarship. Additional scholarship funds were raised for culinary scholarships in memory of radio personality and civic leader Vandy Anderson.
Galveston College has a five decade history of outstanding programs in fine arts and music. Painting, drawing, and ceramics classes began in the 1970s and they found a home at the Fort Crockett Campus in 1974. The Fine Arts building, completed in 1996, has classrooms and display areas on the third floor for painting, drawing, ceramics, and photography. Fine Arts faculty manage the art gallery that hosts visiting artists, Galveston College art students’ work, and the works of Ball High School art students.

Graduates of Galveston College’s Fine Arts program have gone on to become college art professors themselves and many students have achieved artistic acclaim throughout the United States. Eddie Filer, an accomplished Galveston College art student, now serves as adjunct faculty for painting and drawing classes.

Music classes of all kinds take place on the second floor of the Fine Arts Center. The Galveston College Community Chorale is made up of many Galveston citizens and local professionals. They perform publicly several times a year. Other music classes include piano, violin, ukulele, and guitar.
Galveston College has always been big on drama classes and theatre.

In 1974, the Upper Deck Theatre was in operation as a community theatre on the third floor of Galveston College’s Fort Crockett campus at 5001 Avenue U. It gave drama students and local community actors a chance to participate in the production and performance of many plays.

The Upper Deck Theatre was closed and the entire Fort Crockett campus eventually sold to a private developer in 2007.

In 2014, that theatre interest was reborn. A full-time drama instructor was hired and play production and drama instruction returned to Galveston College in a successful way.

Under the direction of faculty member and program director Liz Lacy, Galveston College competed in a six-state regional competition known as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and came home with many awards for acting and production.

The future of theatre at Galveston College is promising. A plan for a new performing arts center is under consideration. The new theatre director and drama instructor plans to continue the success of the theatre productions and drama classroom instruction.
At the outset, Galveston College was fortunate to draw a large number of faculty with expert skills in their respective areas. Instructors like Jack Roof, Randy Langford, John Rimar, and Beth Johnson have given countless hours of teaching students from the county and beyond.

A new emphasis on STEM or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math has renewed the motivation of those faculty who remain and who have joined Galveston College in recent years.

Galveston College was successful in receiving a Hispanic Serving Institution-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math grant in 2011. It has provided over $4 million during the five-year life of the grant. The grant allowed development of a multifaceted engineering curriculum and associate’s degree, a full renovation of science laboratories, an emphasis on math curriculum, and an entry into technology instrumentation.

The subjects of science, technology, engineering, and math give Galveston College students an opportunity to develop knowledge and training that will lead to a variety of careers.

(Top Right) Renovated science labs offer a good environment for experiments.
(Bottom Right) Students set up a demonstration in Engineering class.
Galveston College had competitive and championship sports teams in basketball and bowling in the 1960s and 1970s. But in 1991, at the request of Robert L. Moody, Galveston College began the development of a men’s baseball program and a comparable women’s sports team.

In 1992, with a grant from the Moody Foundation, Galveston College launched their sports teams under the name of the Galveston College Whitecaps. The Whitecaps name was taken from a semi-pro baseball team that was in Galveston in the 1940s and owned by Robert L. Moody’s father.

The Whitecaps baseball team entered the toughest conference of community/junior college baseball in the nation. By their third year, in 1994, the Whitecaps baseball team claimed the NJCAA national title in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Whitecaps volleyball team was competitive and won several regional titles and conference awards.

Galveston College added women’s softball to the Whitecaps lineup in 1998 and the Whitecaps softball team is typically ranked in the top ten teams in the nation each year. The Whitecaps men and women have excelled in sports and in studies. Many of the men have gone on to universities and then to major league baseball. The women have gone on to play at the university level and completed their higher education goals.

(Top) Athletic Director and Head Softball Coach, Ken Delcambre at right, gathers with his team to celebrate his 600 victories.

(Bottom) Whitecaps Head Baseball Coach Chris Joblin poses with Rob Brasier’s family as they present the Rob Brasier Memorial Award to player Tyler Webb in 2016.
1967
For many years, Galvestonians contributed time and energy toward the establishment of Galveston College and in 1967, with the help of a grant from the Moody Foundation, organizers purchased the St. Mary’s Orphanage from the Catholic Diocese. Dr. David Glenn Hunt was selected as the first Galveston College President in February of 1967.

On September 18, 1967, Galveston College opened its doors to 703 students. The college entered into a cooperative agreement with UTMB for clinical support of the Associate Degree Nursing program. David G. Hunt died in 1968 and the President’s position was filled by Melvin Plexco.

1969
Galveston College received its initial accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1970
Galveston College’s second building, the Mary Moody Northen Vocational Center, opened in June of 1972. The facility was built and equipped using a $700,000 grant from the Texas Education Agency and a $1,000,000 grant from the Moody Foundation.

In 1973, Galveston College acquired over five acres of land and a large building in the old Fort Crockett army hospital complex.

The Fort Crockett campus opened in 1977 for multipurpose use including nursing, theatre, art, and general classrooms.

The Fort Crockett Campus at 5001 Avenue U, served many needs of the College and contained a theatre, fitness center, tennis courts, and racquetball facilities.
Galveston College

THEN, NOW, AND THE FUTURE - TIMELINE

1980
In 1981, the second floor of Shearn Moody Plaza on the Strand became the third campus of Galveston College. Dr. Jack Stone assumed the presidency.

In 1982, the Eudine Meadows Cheney Student Center was opened.

Dr. John Pickelman became the fourth President of Galveston College in 1983.

1990
In 1990, a new $7.3 million Regents Hall was completed with a new library, an atrium, nursing faculty offices, science labs, and classrooms. In 1991, the college’s original building, Moody Hall, was totally renovated with a new lecture hall, counseling center, bookstore, admissions, and financial aid offices.

In 1991, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Marc Nigliazzo assumed the presidency and the Moody Foundation began conversations about funding baseball and other sports programs.

The Whitecaps Baseball team claimed the NJCAA Division I National Championship in 1994.

In 1996, the Galveston College Fine Arts building was completed. The building included an art gallery and studios, fitness center, gymnasium, locker rooms, music rooms, and lecture hall with stage. Dr. Carlisle Rathburn assumed the presidency and the Galveston...
In 2001, Dr. Elva LeBlanc was named the seventh President of Galveston College. The idea of the 21st Century Learning College was promoted and the vision statement of “A Beacon of Light Guiding Lifelong Learning” was adopted by the Regents. The vision statement culminated in the placement of the South Jetty Lighthouse Cupola on a structure at 39th and Avenue Q. This area became known as “Beacon Square” in 2006.

Dr. W. Myles Shelton became the eighth sitting President of Galveston College in 2007.

The Fine Arts and Fitness Center contains the weight training facility, gym and locker rooms, art gallery, music rooms, and performance room.

College Foundation was formed as an arm of the college to manage scholarships, gifts, and a new tuition assistance initiative for local graduates called Universal Access.

The Universal Access program began in the Fall Semester of 2001 offering tuition assistance to all Galveston high school, home-schooled, and GED graduates. The Universal Access program received local, regional, statewide, and national acclaim, and received an Innovation Award from the U.S. Secretary of Education.

In 2000, the College Foundation was formed as an arm of the college to manage scholarships, gifts, and a new tuition assistance initiative for local graduates called Universal Access.

President Rathburn poses with the Galveston County Daily News family following the largest Universal Access corporate gift of $250,000.

Dr. Carlisle Rathburn

Dr. Elva LeBlanc

Former Regent Chick Dibrell and former Galveston Daily News Publisher Dolph Tillotson stand with a group of students from the first Universal Access class in fall 2001.

Dr. LeBlanc poses with Foundation “Breakfast for Champions” dignitaries.

Dr. LeBlanc poses with Foundation “Breakfast for Champions” dignitaries.

Dr. W. Myles Shelton
The Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation Wing provides a state-of-the-art meeting facility.

2010
In 2010, the Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation Wing was built as a large multipurpose facility connected to the Cheney Student Center. The structure was built with a $1.5 million gift from the Seibel Foundation.

Dr. Myles Shelton joins Regents, the Chamber Honor Guard, and Seibel family members for ribbon cutting ceremonies.

In September of 2013, Galveston College opened the Charlie Thomas Family Applied Technology Center. Students now had options to be trained in rewarding vocational/technical careers including welding, cosmetology, pipefitting, electrical/electronics, medical coding, and heating ventilation air conditioning, and refrigeration.

In late 2014, the Moody Foundation donated $3 million to the Universal Access endowment fund.

The 50th Anniversary logo was unveiled in January 2015 and plans were made by the anniversary committee to continue celebration events for an 18-month period.

In June 2015, Galveston College was reaccredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and was ranked as the number one Community College in Texas by Schools.com. There were 2,130 students enrolled in the fall 2015 Semester.

2017
Events and recognition of the college’s 50th Anniversary will continue through the May 2017 commencement ceremonies.
In 2001, the Board of Regents of the Galveston Community College District met in a retreat and adopted the vision statement of “A Beacon of Light Guiding Lifelong Learning.” Regent John L. Sullivan convinced the Regents that the college needed a symbol at the entrance of the college at 39th and Avenue Q. John L. Sullivan knew that the actual South Jetty Lighthouse cupola was rusting away in Sonny Broome’s welding yard, having been placed there after being salvaged by George P. Mitchell’s company.

In 2003, the United States Coast Guard granted a loan of the cupola to Galveston College, and John and Cindy Sullivan provided a donation of over $20,000 to have Sonny Broome restore it. Architects were hired to design an area known as “Beacon Square” that would feature a replica of the South Jetty lighthouse that used to stand on Galveston Island’s east end.

In November of 2006, a public ceremony that included the U. S. Coast Guard color guard dedicated Beacon Square and the lighthouse replica, complete with the restored lighthouse cupola. Subsequent improvements allowed a fundraising engraved brick project to surround the lighthouse with nine oak trees available with naming rights.
Since the beginning of Galveston College in 1967, it had always been difficult to hold large group meetings of the entire Galveston College staff and faculty on the main campus. When the Fine Arts and Gymnasium complex was completed in 1996, the gym was used as a gathering place for large groups.

In 2006, with the help of Foundation board member Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, Galveston College secured a $1.5 million grant from the Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation. The plan was to build a large extension on the Eudine Meadows Cheney Student Center that had been partially funded by the Meadows Foundation and dedicated in 1982.

In 2010, the Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation Wing was dedicated with the Galveston Chamber and members of the Seibel family in attendance. The premier structure sits at the front of the college campus adjacent to Beacon Square and it has been used for large college and community events since its opening.
Vocational programs were important at Galveston College right from the beginning. Automobile mechanics and air conditioning repair students were trained on the ground floor of the Northern Center. Culinary arts was added in 1987.

After Hurricane Ike hit Galveston Island in 2008, the Galveston Recovery Committee was formed. One of the most important requests that came from the committee was to ask Galveston College to expand its workforce and vocational programs, so citizens could recover and continue to live on Galveston Island with marketable job skills. A deal was struck with Charlie Thomas to purchase the former Ford dealership for a price of $1.2 million. This gave Galveston College a new option to house both existing and future workforce programs.

In September of 2013, over 200 dignitaries, college staff and faculty, and excited citizens joined the college Regents and the Charlie Thomas family to dedicate the new Charlie Thomas Family Applied Technology Center. The facility currently houses the cosmetology, electrical and electronics, HVAC, welding, and medical coding programs. The site has multiple buildings and classrooms, as well as space for future expansion.
Galveston College employees, wearing their 50th Anniversary polo shirts, display the number one ranking among Texas community colleges.
Master Plan
The Galveston College regents, president, and senior staff have worked on master plans over the five decade period since Galveston College first opened its doors. The current master plan includes new parking, new buildings, and expanded grounds.

In some cases the funds have been secured from generous donors to aid in the expansion plans. Other large fundraising efforts will be launched to help make new facilities a reality at Galveston College.

Preliminary plans call for student housing, nursing/allied health center, and possibly a performing arts center. Additional parking facilities will be needed to accommodate the main campus expansion. Expansion of facilities and programs are also expected at the Charlie Thomas Family Applied Technology Center.
Galveston College is an equal opportunity institution in education and employment. It is the policy of Galveston College to provide equal opportunities without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.
The Board of Regents of the Galveston Community College District consists of nine publicly elected individuals who serve six-year terms without monetary compensation. The college taxing district includes Galveston Island, Port Bolivar, and Crystal Beach. The service district extends to High Island and the Hamshire-Fannett communities.

The Board of Regents sets policies and votes on action items presented by the college president during monthly board meetings.

The president’s staff consists of the president and three vice presidents who manage the areas of instruction, administration, and student services.

(Top: Left to Right) Galveston College’s Board of Regents: George F. Black; Tino F. Gonzalez; Carroll G. Sunseri; Karen F. Flowers, Vice Chairperson; Raymond Lewis, Jr., Chairperson; Fred D. Raschke, Secretary; Armin Cantini; Michael B. Hughes; and Carl E. Kelly.

(Bottom: Left to Right) Galveston College’s president’s staff: Ron Crumedy, Acting Vice President of Student Services and Director of Financial Aid; Dr. Myles Shelton, President; Dr. Gaynelle Hayes, Vice President of Administration; and Dr. Cissy Matthews, Vice President of Instruction.