



## Sammy Ray Papers, 1964-2003

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### Descriptive Summary and Abstract

<b>Creator:</b>	Ray, Sammy
<b>Title:</b>	Sammy Ray Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1964-2013
<b>Abstract:</b>	Sammy Ray was a Professor Emeritus and longtime employee of Texas A&M University at Galveston. The collection consists of records documenting the establishment of the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas, files on the Pelican Island Development where the Academy would eventually be located, and files on the Curriculum Review Committee for the Department of Marine Engineering. Records include correspondence, reports, slides, pictures, picture CD's, and DVD's. The collection also includes an extensive collection of slides from his research and travel.
<b>Location:</b>	MC028
<b>Size:</b>	21.4 linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Repository:</b>	Jack K. Williams Library, Archives and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston. Phone: 409-740-4560; Email: <a href="mailto:LIBRARY@tamug.edu">LIBRARY@tamug.edu</a>
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	Title of item. Box #, Series #. Sammy Ray Papers. Jack K. Williams Library, Archives, and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX.
<b>Donor:</b>	Family of Sammy Ray

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### Biographical Note

Dr. Sammy Ray was a Professor in the Marine Biology Department at Texas A&M University at Galveston and a world-renowned marine biologist, expert in oysters, and one of the founders of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Ray was born in Mulberry, Kansas on February 25th, 1919. He married his wife, Charlotte Parr, in June, 1943. They have four children, two sons and two daughters, and ten grandchildren. During his senior at Rosedale High School he held a WPA (Works Progress Administration) job with the Mississippi Museum of Natural History where he learned how to collect and mount birds for their collection.

In 1938 Ray enrolled at Sunflower Junior College. From 1940-1942, he began attending Louisiana State University where he studied zoology and specialized in ornithology. After receiving his B.S. from LSU in May of 1942 he enlisted in the Navy. He completed training as a Medical Technologist in Norfolk, Virginia in 1942. In September 1943 Ray shipped out to the South Pacific attached to the 1st Marine Division as a hospital corpsman, 1st class. While on tour in the South Pacific, Ray also worked to collect birds and ship them back to Dr. Wetmore, Director of Collections at the Smithsonian. In 2013, the Smithsonian opened an exhibit of the specimens collected in the Pacific during the war, including some of Ray's birds.

After receiving an honorable discharge in 1945, Ray moved to Rosedale Mississippi. In 1947 he took a field research job with the Gulf Oil Pipeline and Albert Collier of Rice University to identify the source of mass oyster mortality in Southern Louisiana. Impressed with his research, Ray was sponsored by the Gulf Oil Company as a PhD candidate at Rice University in Houston, Texas to complete his research into the disease *Perkinsus marinus*. He received his MSc in 1952 and his PhD in 1954 and went on to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1957 he began working for A&M University at the A&M Marine lab in Galveston, Texas. Ray worked at the Texas A&M Galveston Campus as a professor and researcher until his retirement in 1990. Ray also founded of SEA Camp, a hands on marine environmental camp for school age children, at TAMUG in 1986. During his time at TAMUG he also served as Interim President of TAMUG in 1987. After retirement, Ray continued his research, outreach, and teaching as a professor emeritus. Ray passed away on October 14, 2013 at the age of 94.

1919 Born in Mulberry, Kansas  
1938-1940 Sunflower Jr College  
1940 -1942 LSU B.S Zoology  
1942 Enlisted Military  
1943 Married wife Charlotte née Parr  
1943 Deploys with 1st Marine Division  
1945 Honorable discharge  
1947 Takes field research job, enrolls at Rice  
1952 M.Sc. Biology from Rice  
1954 PhD Biology from Rice  
1954-1957 U.S. Fish and wild life services  
1957-1990 Works for Texas A&M Marine Lab (1986 Establishes Sea Camp; 1987 Interim President Texas A&M University Galveston)  
1990 Retirement from Texas A&M University Galveston Campus  
2013 Death, age 94

#### Sources

George, Cindy. "A&M-Galveston Remembers Founder, Famed Biologist." *Houston Chronicle*. 16 October 2013, Web. 13 November 2015. ,  
<<http://www.chron.com/neighborhood/bayarea/article/A-M-Galveston-remembers-founder-famed-biologist-4899144.php>>

"In Remembrance: Dr Sammy Ray." Guidry News. October 2013, Web. 13 November 2015.  
<<http://www.guidrynews.com/story.aspx?id=1000055981>>

## Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of papers, slides, and videodiscs produced or collected by Ray. The papers primarily document subjects related to the establishment of the Texas Maritime Academy and the activities of committees on campus. The bulk of the collection consists of slides that document Sammy Ray's research and travel, and also a small selection of his teaching and personal activities. The papers mainly consist of correspondence, reports, proposals, news releases, articles, photographs, and maps. Information about Sammy Ray is primarily located in the biographical files, newspaper clippings, videos, photos, and a small selection of his personal correspondence. The collection is divided into eight series: biographical files, correspondence, photographs, clippings, subject files, research files, audio visual materials, and slides.

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## Organization of the Papers

- Series 1. Biographical Files
  - Subseries 1. Biographical Information
  - Subseries 2. Interviews
- Series 2. Correspondence
  - Subseries 1. Sammy Ray Personal Correspondence
- Series 3. Photographs
  - Subseries 1. Miscellaneous photos
  - Subseries 2. Smithsonian Exhibit
- Series 4. Clippings
  - Subseries 1. Newspaper Clippings
- Series 5. Subject Files
  - Subseries 1. 3D CAD Program and Tutorial
  - Subseries 2. Biological Safety Committee
  - Subseries 3. Curricula Review Committee, Texas Maritime Academy
  - Subseries 4. Curriculum Review: Marine Engineering
  - Subseries 5. Pelican Island Development
  - Subseries 6. People to People
  - Subseries 7. Texas Maritime Academy Early Documents
  - Subseries 8. Unidentified
  - Subseries 9. Shellfish Sanitation
- Series 6. Research Files
  - Subseries 1. Notebooks
- Series 7. Audio visual materials
  - Subseries 1. Photo CD's
  - Subseries 2. DVD's
  - Subseries 3. Data CD's (documents)
  - Subseries 4. Flash Drives
  - Subseries 5. Cassettes

Series 8. Slides

Subseries 1. Boxes/carousels

Subseries 2. Binders

Subseries 3. Small boxes of slides

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## Restrictions

**Access:** Slide reader required to use slides. Library has a light box and a slide reader available for use. Computer with a disc drive is required to view pictures and videos on cd's and DVD's. Cassette player is required to listen to cassette.

**Usage Restrictions:** Access to fragile materials may be limited. Some materials may not be reproduced and travel to the collection may be necessary. Contact Jack K. Williams library for more information.

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## Administration Information

**Provenance:** Gift of family of Sammy Ray, date unknown.

**Rights:** Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

**Processed by:** Alexandra Mitchell and Samuel Chivers, 2015. Dawn Letson, 2013.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### **Box 1**

#### **Series 1. Biographical Files**

Arranged in two subseries. This is biographical information about Sammy Ray and includes short biographies, announcements and news releases from Texas A&M Galveston about his accomplishments, retirement, and death. There is also the transcript from an oral history interview from 1980.

##### **1.1. Biographical Information**

1.1.1 Biographies

1.1.2. Announcements and News Releases, 1985, 1990, 2002, 2013.

##### **1.2. Interviews**

1.2.1 Oral History Interview, 1980.

#### **Series 2. Correspondence**

One folder of correspondence to and from Sammy Ray. Consists of six letters. Subjects include requests for academic study leave, interim presidency, and congratulations for his achievements. The exhibit correspondence consists of photocopies of correspondence

during WWI between Sammy Ray and Smithsonian Assistant Secretary Alexander Wetmore. At the time, Sammy Ray was collecting ornithological specimens. For more information about this exhibit see: [http://www.tamug.edu/news/2012articles/Sammy\\_Ray.html](http://www.tamug.edu/news/2012articles/Sammy_Ray.html) and <http://siarchives.si.edu/blog/war-correspondents> Correspondence regarding the Texas Maritime Academy and Pelican Island Development is located in Series 5: Subject Files.

### **2.1 To/From Sammy Ray**

- 2.1.1 Sammy Ray Correspondence, 1983, 1985, 1986, 2001, undated
- 2.1.2 WWII Smithsonian Exhibit Correspondence photocopies

### **Series 3. Photographs**

Two subseries. Undated photos do not have descriptions or dates and appear to be of Sammy Ray at events. Smithsonian exhibit photos and photocopies are from the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit on collecting and research during WWII. For more about the exhibit see the links in the Series 2 correspondence description above.

#### **3.1. Miscellaneous Photos**

- 3.1.1. Miscellaneous Photos, 2003, undated
- 3.1.2. Teaching and Research Award Photos
- 3.1.3. Panoramic of the First International Symposium on Animal Toxins, 1966 (**Oversize box 4\***)

#### **3.2. Smithsonian Exhibit**

- 3.2.1. WWII Smithsonian Exhibit Photos
- 3.2.2. WWII Smithsonian Exhibit Photocopies

### **Series 4. Printed Materials**

One subseries, includes newspaper clippings about the development of the Texas Maritime academy and about Sammy Ray or with comments from Sammy Ray. Also includes pamphlets and brochures. Subjects include oysters, Sea Camp, and the Texas A&M at Galveston campus.

#### **4.1. Newspaper Clippings**

- 4.1.1. Sammy Ray Newspaper Clippings
- 4.1.2 Pelican Island Development Clippings
- 4.1.3. Matted Thigpin Collection article (**Oversize box 4\***)

#### **4.2. Pamphlets**

- 4.2.1. Grand Canyon National Park Guide (see his notes inside for information about where he took slides at the Grand Canyon)
- 4.2.2. Texas Science Hall of Fame

#### **4.3. Documents**

- 4.3.1. Socio-economic Study of a Purse Seine Fishery for Mackerels

## **Series 5. Subject Files**

Arranged alphabetically by subject in eight subseries. The subject files mainly cover the topics of the creation of the Texas Maritime Academy and committees that Sammy Ray served on. Documents include blueprints, maps, proposals, meeting minutes, course schedules, and correspondence. If a document came as an attachment to a letter or memo, then they were kept together for clarity and context. Otherwise, correspondence is in a separate folder. Biological Safety Committee papers were in a binder and papers have been kept in order and tab labels were transferred to the folders.

### **5.1. 3D CAD Program Tutorial**

5.1.1. CAD Program Manual and Tutorial

### **5.2. Biological Safety Committee, 1990/1991**

5.2.1. Biological Safety Committee Memos, 1990

5.2.2. Members

5.2.3. Policy

5.2.4. Minutes

### **5.3. Curricula Review Committee, Texas Maritime Academy**

5.3.1. Curricula Review Committee: Interim Report, Texas Maritime Academy, 1972

### **5.4. Curriculum Review: Marine Engineering**

5.4.1. Correspondence and Memos, 1966, 1972, 1975-1977

5.4.2. Marine Engineering Degree Plans and Class Schedules

5.4.3. Curriculum Revision Proposals

### **5.5. Pelican Island Development**

5.5.1. Correspondence, 1964-1968, 1971

5.5.2. Correspondence, undated

5.5.3. Committee Meeting Minutes, 1967, 1971

5.5.4. Development Plans and Requirements, 1967, undated

5.5.5. Maps

5.5.6. Expenditures

5.5.7. Deeds, 1967, 1968

### **5.6. People to People**

6.1.1. People to People Delegation Information, 1982-1983

6.1.2. Contact List/Meeting Notes, 1983

## **Box 2**

### **5.7. Texas Maritime Academy Early Documents**

5.7.1. Correspondence, 1970-1971

5.7.2. Appendix, Questions and Answers

5.7.3. Statements and News Releases

5.7.4. TMA Enrollment, 1970

5.7.5. Subsidy Figures for Fiscal Years 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70

5.7.6. Merchant Marine Officer Training, 1970

5.7.7. Graduate Work Study, 1949-1968

**5.8. Unidentified**

8.1.1 Recruitment event (?)

**5.9 Shellfish Sanitation**

5.9.1 Shellfish Sanitation Binder, undated

**Series 6. Research Files**

Consists of one notebook about a research trip to Mexico. There is a set of slides that corresponds to these notes.

**6.1. Notebooks**

6.1.1. Record of Mexico trip with Dr. Henry Hildebrand, 1991

**Series 7. Audio visual materials**

Consists of five subseries, based on format. Each of these formats requires special equipment for viewing, such as a computer or cassette player. Most of these contain information about or pictures of Sammy Ray or his research.

**7.1. Photo CD's**

7.1.1. Sammy Ray-Photographs

Sammy photos (89), Sammy Ray (19)

**7.2. Videos**

7.2.1. Sammy- Video Clips 1:39:22

Biographical talk given by Sammy Ray

7.2.2 Sammy Ray- "Waste Nothing"

Photos and biographical information presented as a video slide show 2 copies

7.2.3. DERMO- procedure to diagnose *Perkinsus marinus* in oysters

2 disks 16 mins each 3 copies

7.2.4 Oyster King – Texas Parks and Wildlife Production 26:40

**7.3. Data CD's (documents)**

7.3.1. Files from Sammy Ray's computer- with printouts

**7.4. Flash Drives**

7.4.1. Smithsonian Pictures and Documents

3 pdfs, a Word Document, 9 photos

**7.5. Cassettes**

7.5.1. Marine Resources, topic 1 activity 1 and topic 12 activity 2

**Box 3**

**7.6 VHS tapes**

7.6.1. DERMO

7.6.2. The Texas Oyster Program, Richard Thompson, Part II

7.6.3. Oyster Biology 101, 60 Minutes

## **Box 5, 6, & 7**

### **Series 8. Slides**

2x2 slides in three different series by storage medium: carousels, binder, or small slide box. Sammy Ray generally labeled the slide boxes with at least a geographic area or the subject of the slides. Most of the slides are related to his travel or research, with a few boxes also focusing on his involvement with Sea Camp at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Many have roll numbers and descriptions of the subjects, geographic area, or activity covered by the slides. The boxes of carousels and small boxes of slides are organized first by roll number assigned by Sammy Ray, and if there is not a roll number they are separated by geographic location or subject. Each box has been assigned a number by the processor in order to more easily identify and pull individual boxes for research. **See spreadsheet for detailed information about location and subjects of each box and binder.**

#### **8.1. Small boxes of slides**

## **Individual Boxes and Binders**

#### **8.2. Carousels**

#### **8.3. Slide Binders**

**\*Oversize documents are housed in Box 4.**