

Official Biography of James D. Spaniolo



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As the University's seventh president, James D. (Jim) Spaniolo has focused on building and strengthening partnerships and instilling Maverick pride among the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who make up The UT Arlington family.

Through this attitude of collaboration and inclusion, he has enhanced UT Arlington's strong academic quality to meet today's global needs - and beyond. Over the next 10 years, UT Arlington aims to become a major national research university and have at highly rated academic programs in every one of its nine academic colleges and schools.

President Spaniolo is emphasizing engagement both in and out of the classroom, leading to a more well-rounded university experience. Under his leadership, UT Arlington has seen dramatic increases in student organizational involvement, leadership opportunities, cultural events, community service activities, and new infrastructure.

Before coming to UT Arlington in February 2004, President Spaniolo was dean of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences. As dean from 1996-2003, he oversaw an enrollment increase of more than 1,000 students and helped establish the James H. and Mary B. Quello Center for Telecommunication Management and Law by raising more than \$3.5 million. He forged a partnership with a newspaper corporation in Mexico and strengthened alumni outreach. He was also a professor in the School of Journalism and taught courses on the First Amendment and communications law.

Before his tenure at Michigan State, he was vice president and chief program officer of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the largest media-related private foundation in the United States with more than \$1.5 billion in assets. In seven years with the Knight Foundation, he directed a program that included major grants and initiatives to support journalism and a free press in the United States and worldwide. He also served as a member of the foundation's Journalism Advisory Committee from 1997-2003.

Before joining Knight Foundation, President Spaniolo was a newspaper executive and lawyer with Knight-Ridder for more than a decade. He was vice president of human resources and assistant to the publisher at the Detroit Free Press and general executive and general counsel at The Miami Herald.

He began his legal career with the Miami law firm of Paul & Thomson, which represented The Herald, and later served as associate general counsel of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, where he established the organization's legal department. He is a member of the Florida Bar and has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the 5th and 11th U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

He graduated with high honors from Michigan State in 1968 with a B.A. degree in political science. As a senior, he was editor-in-chief of the student daily, the State News. Following service in the U.S. Army Reserve, he became an assistant to Michigan State President Clifton R. Wharton Jr. from 1970-72. He earned a law degree from The University of Michigan Law School in 1975 and a master's degree in public administration from The University of Michigan Institute of Public Policy Studies (now the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy).

**The University of Texas at Arlington
Testimony**

**Senate Higher Education Committee
Thursday, August 19, 2010**

- Good Morning, Chairman Zaffirini and members of the committee. I am James D. Spaniolo, President of The University of Texas at Arlington.
- Thank you for the opportunity to discuss HB 51, historic legislation that sets Texas on a path to foster the emergence of more nationally recognized research universities over the next decade.
- It's important to maintain the momentum and positive energy created in the last session by the passage of HB 51 and the voter-approved Proposition 4 that established the National Research University Fund. That was landmark legislation for Texas and our universities, and we're grateful for your wisdom and leadership, which is changing the landscape of Texas.

- As the next session approaches, let me reiterate my strong support for HB 51. The legislature committed to it two years ago, the voters of our state passed it overwhelmingly, and UT Arlington and our six fellow emerging research universities have been working energetically to respond to the opportunities it has made possible.
 - While no legislation is perfect in everyone's eyes, HB 51 represents an enormous step forward for Texas and propels each of the seven emerging research universities into a new trajectory.
 - We all know that achieving so-called "Tier One" will not happen overnight and is necessarily a long-term undertaking. Just as it is essential that the emerging research universities stay the course over the next decade or more in pursuit of becoming a major research university, it is equally important for the legislature to reaffirm its commitment and continue to champion this high priority for Texas.

- In a time of stringent budget constraints for all of us, I hope we will all commit ourselves to staying the course.

- Let me tell you the significant progress UT Arlington has made since the passage of HB 51.
 - We are one of the fastest-growing universities in Texas, and our enrollment has reached an all-time high for three consecutive semesters. We expect our enrollment to exceed 30,000 students for the first time when classes begin next week.
 - We're not just enrolling more students, but better students, too. The preliminary SAT average for entering freshmen in fall 2009 was 1071 compared to 1065 for the same group last fall. About 25 percent of freshmen graduated in the Top 10 percent of their high school class — and more than 60 percent were in the top quarter. UT Arlington is extending more large scholarships to top academic achievers than ever before.

- Our annual research expenditures are also rising rapidly. UT Arlington's restricted research expenditures for the 2008-09 fiscal year were about \$37 million—a record for our university.
- UT Arlington has awarded 130 doctoral degrees, on average, for the last three years. Recruiting top-flight faculty and their research teams is a critical part of increasing Ph.D. production. UT Arlington had 639 tenured or tenure-track faculty in fall 2009. We plan to have 900 by the year 2020.
- This is just the tip of the iceberg of what's possible for UT Arlington. As we continue to work to meet the needs of our state, we are extremely grateful for the opportunities provided by HB 51 and the legislative leadership that made this all possible.

- Let me also encourage the continuation of TRIP funding for 2011 and beyond. This has made such a difference for the emerging research universities. I understand that there are major budget challenges in the new session, but the impact of TRIP funding for research and higher education in Texas cannot be overstated.
 - New innovation and technology—as well as the creation of new high-tech industries (and the highly trained workers to go with them)—will be catalysts for our state. Our great universities will be the leaders in fueling this progress for Texas. And TRIP funding will exponentially help propel us down this road.

- I appreciate the chance to talk with you today, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.