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**STAND WITH PRIDE** — Twenty-eight A&M-Commerce graduates have been designated Alumni Ambassadors. The title of Alumni Ambassador is the highest award an academic department can bestow upon a graduate. This honor recognizes career achievements. The 2006 Alumni Ambassadors are (front, left) James Terry, William Tims Edwards, James Archer, Gary Don Grisham, Ken Crutchfield, Russell Graves, and Chris Gage. (Second row, left) Key Poulan, Ralph Dunton, Lisa Reeder, Laura Smith, and Darwin Shaw. (Third row, left) Hong Yin Sun, Carol Farek, Linda Ball, and Jane Smith. (Fourth row, left) Stacey Edmonson, Yan Sun, Toni Jenkins, and Anita Armstrong. (Fifth row, left) James Cory Morgan, Patricia Gentry, and Marvin Crawford. (Sixth row, left) David Giles, and Jason Hudson.



**SPRING FEVER** — The Randy Rogers Band performed at the Morris Recreation Center April 13. The event was sponsored by Campus Recreation and Breakout Entertainment. The band's latest album, "Rollercoaster," received a three stars review in USA Today. This Texas band is in the tradition of Ray Wylie Hubbard, Robert Earl Keen, and Jerry Jeff Walker.

## NSF grant helps students discover science

Ten community college students will discover the frontiers of science this summer at A&M-Commerce's new state-of-the-art \$28 million Science Building.

A&M-Commerce has been awarded about \$200,000 in a National Science Foundation grant that will allow the students to work alongside faculty while gaining hands-on experience in scientific research in chemistry and surface science area. The grant is based on a similar pilot project funded through A&M-Commerce last summer.

They will also visit industrial and academic research laboratories in the Dallas metroplex.

Each student will receive an award valued at more than \$6,000, which includes a \$3,000 stipend, room and board, travel and research supplies.

At the end of the 10-week program, the student researchers will complete a project report and present their findings at a symposium at A&M-Commerce. They will also receive academic credit for their work.

"They will start out with training aimed at building research skills," says Allan Headley, dean of Graduate Studies and Research. "After a week of training in basic research methods, the students will be paired with a faculty research mentor for more advanced research training.

"We will ask them to develop a short research proposal with their mentors, and to complete a research project," says chemistry's Ben Jang, who wrote the grant proposal with William Whaley. "My intention is to help two-year colleges in the surrounding area while building our scientific reputation.

See NSF Grant, Page 4

# Extra Credit



**MELLOW MAN** — Kevin Jefferies is the voice heard on Public Radio KETR-FM 88.9 in the mornings. His day begins at 5 a.m.

The A&M-Commerce employee of the month is Kevin Jefferies, news director at Public Radio KETR-FM 88.9 on campus.

Job duties: Jefferies coordinates news and sports coverage, works in production, and works on the technical side, such as involving the station's recent conversion to digital.

Years as university employee: Started work in May 2004. Prior to that, he worked part time for the station for two years and volunteered on football broadcasts after graduating from A&M-Commerce in December 2000.

What he enjoys most about his job: "The opportunity to bring something to the public they want to hear — something compelling. I also enjoy the technology."

What makes him successful in his job: "I enjoy it. I like coming to work and the good environment."

Where originally from: Born in Dallas and grew up in Quinlan.

What boss Vicki Holloway has to say about him: "I can go to Kevin with any project, and he'll jump right in. His voice has become a staple each morning and Friday evenings during Tiger football season."

"He pretty much knows, or can figure out, a little bit about everything at the station, whether it's technical or administrative. He is my go-to person for all technical inquiries. If he doesn't know, he'll figure it out."

## Publications

**Maria Fernandez-Babineaux**, literature and languages, "El teatro ambulante y sus representaciones de genero en el Peru," *Ciberrayllu*, March 22, 2006.

**Wayne M. Linek**, **Mary Beth Sampson**, **I. LaVerne Raine**, and **Brenda Smith**, elementary education, and **Kimberly Klakamp**, Garland Independent School District, "Development of Literacy Beliefs and Practices: Preservice Teachers with Reading Specialization in a Field-Based Program," *Reading Horizons*, Vol. 46, 2006.

## Presentations

**Chim Ahanotu**, metroplex, and **Joyce Miller**, secondary and higher education, "You and the Law," Academic Passion for Middle and High School Students Workshop, A&M-Commerce Metroplex Center, April 8.

**Don English**, **Ed Manton**, and **Jan Walker**, business administration and MIS, "Human Resource Managers' Perception of Selected Communication Competencies," International Society of Business Disciplines, Las Vegas, March 2006.

**Sue Espinoza**, secondary and higher education, and **Ka Sai Un**, doctoral student in SHED, "Reflections Promote Success in Teaching and Learning," 17th International Conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, Orlando, Fla., March 2006.

**Brenda Moore**, social work, "Community-Based Research in Social Work Education" and "The Effectiveness of Drug Courts in Rural Communities," Southwestern Social Science Association annual conference, San Antonio, April 12-15.

**Nikolay Sirakov**, math and computer science, "Multiple Surfaces Reconstruction from 2D Sections Using and Increasing 2D Vector Flow," accepted for presentation and publication at the 2006 International Conference on Image Processing, Computer Vision, and Pattern Recognition. The conference is in Las Vegas June 26-29.

**Jiaming Sun**, sociology and criminal justice, "Cultural Adaptation Via Global Connections: The Case of Shanghai," Annual meetings of Southwestern Social Science Association, San Antonio, April 12-14.

**Tim Willett**, campus recreation; **Warren Simpson**, Hardin-Simmons University; and **Mike Waldron**, Texas A&M University; "Test Drive Your Interviewing Skills: The Road to Success," National Intramural-Rec-

reational Sports Association National Conference, Louisville, Ky., April 2006.

Also **Willett** and **Simpson**, "Creating Special Events: Something For Everyone By Thinking Imaginatively."

## Career development

**Lamar W. Bridges**, journalism, has been reappointed to the panel of advisers for the national George Polk Distinguished Awards in Journalism, administered by Long Island University-Brooklyn campus.

Also was a judge in the District 3A UIL competition and served as director of the Regional UIL journalism contests on campus.

## Kudos

**Stuart Anderson**, mathematics, has won a teaching award from the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America. Anderson was honored for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. He received the award at the Texas Section of MAA Conference April 6-8 at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls.

**James Conrad**, university archivist, has received a Texas Institute of Letters Award for his co-authored book, *Freedom Colonies: Independent Black Texans in the Time of Jim Crow*. The book won a \$1,000 award for the "Most Significant Contribution to Knowledge." Conrad attended the awards ceremony April 1 in Austin.

**Espinoza**, secondary and higher education, received a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contributions in technology and teacher education from the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. She received the award at the organization's conference in Orlando in March.

**Manton**, **English** and **Walker**, business administration and MIS, and **Steve Avard**, economics-finance, received the Best Paper Award for "What College Freshmen Admit To Not Knowing About Personal Finance," Applied Business Research and College Teaching and Learning Conference, Orlando, Fla.

**Lee Whitmarsh**, art, has received the Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award from the Dallas Society of Visual Communications. She is director of the art department's Communication Arts Program in Dallas. The DSVC gives the award to a college, university or art school professor who is an outstanding educator.

# Fast facts



**UNSELFISH SERVICE** — Among the students who went to New Orleans during spring break to help families who lost their homes in hurricane Katrina were Michael Lewandowski (left), Brad Alexander, and Matt Henderson. With them is Baptist Student Ministry Director Joe Schmidt.

## Students help at Katrina site

A shining example of university founder William L. Mayo's "unselfish service to others" is a group of about 15 A&M-Commerce students who spent spring break helping with the Katrina cleanup in New Orleans.

The students from the Baptist Student Ministry and Campus Crusade for Christ joined other college students and groups from throughout the country.

Helping a family find memorabilia that cannot be replaced is something Houston freshman Frank Steinruck will remember.

Some of the memorabilia found included a graduation diploma, birth certificate, and photos.

Fortunately, they had not been badly damaged by the storm.

Corsicana senior Bradley Alexander said the destruction left by the hurricane made a firm impression on him. "There is so much destruction volunteers will have to make trips back," Alexander said.

While helping the residents clear debris was important, what Alexander thought perhaps more significant was "helping them restore hope and showing love."

The A&M-Commerce students were accompanied to New Orleans by BSM Director Joe Schmidt.

Last fall, two small groups of BSM students made trips to Slidell, La., and Beaumont after hurricane Rita.

A&M-Commerce students will have an opportunity through the State BSM Student Mission to return to New Orleans in mid May, Schmidt said.



**GREEN FINGERS** — Landscape design students install a planter with flowers, trees and shrubs at the east entrance of the AG-IT Building. The 16 students in the class worked on the project throughout the spring semester, from budgeting to installation.



**ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE** — Andrew Jackson, industrial engineering and technology faculty, is honored with the Student Organizations Adviser Award. Presenting the award at right is Sara Hillis of the Memorial Student Center staff. Jackson is adviser to the student organization of the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

## Plays and art on campus

Evenings of one-act plays and an exhibition for seniors graduating in 2006 in the art department will be on campus in May.

"Comedy Tonight!" is set Thursday through Saturday, May 4-6.

Shows are 8 p.m. May 4-5 and 3 p.m. May 6 in the Studio Theatre. Call extension 5900.

The Annual Graduating Senior Art Exhibition will be held Monday, May 8, through Saturday, May 13, in the University Gallery.

Twenty-one students will have work in the show, including photography, ceramics, paintings, drawings, and sculpture.

The University Gallery, in the Main Art Building, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment. The closing reception is after graduation on May 13.



**PRETTY SMART PROF** — Joann DiGeorgio-Lutz, political science, has been selected Honors Professor of the Year. Presenting her the plaque is President Keith McFarland. Honors students select the Honors Professor of the Year. DiGeorgio-Lutz received the award at the Honors Day Luncheon April 21.



**LEADING GREEKS** — Willie Edwards, sociology faculty, receives the Greek Chapter Adviser Award from Roy Rasheed (right), coordinator of Greek Life. Edwards is adviser to the Zeta Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He received the award at the Student Organizations Awards Banquet on April 25.

# Transitioning to Banner system

**B**anner is live. The new Web-based student information system replaces the SCT Plus Student Information System that has been used on campus since 1996.

Self-service modules that are included with Banner offer online services, such as registration, transcript ordering, and admission and financial aid status 24 hours a day, seven days a week, said Registrar Paige Bussell, a member of the "Go-Live" Implementation Team.

"The system is faster, offers more functionality, and enhanced features," Bussell said.

For Fall 2006 registration that began April 17, students are using myLeo, which will replace webtrax.

Dallas junior Jarred Davis registered for fall using myLeo. "It's a lot faster and user friendly. I think students are going to like it," Davis said.

Webtrax closes about 11 p.m. at night while myLeo will be available all of the time, said Web Manager Jaime Harper, also on the team. Another advantage of the new system is that it can handle more students using it at the same time, he said.

To register for summer classes, students are using webtrax. The transition from webtrax to myLeo will be occurring this summer, accord-

ing to Harper. "Webtrax will be gone at the end of the summer," he said.

Employee training on how to use Banner started about 18 months ago, said team member and Director of Scholarships Becki Blackwell.

Several offices, including the Registrar, Financial Aid, Scholarship, Admissions, Graduate School, and Financial Services have been attending sessions periodically since training began, Blackwell said.

In the last few months, personnel have received training to prepare for Fall 2006 registration.

In the three weeks prior to April 17, additional training was offered for faculty, staff, and administration. About 170 individuals attended these training sessions, which were led by Beth Durff, Pam Henager, and D.J. High, all from the Registrar's Office and Ana Rhea from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Additional training will be held throughout the summer for those who were not able to attend earlier sessions, Blackwell said.

"Although learning a new computer system is always a challenge, in the long run I believe that the university is able to provide better student services," she said.



*JUST VISITING — Paris High School students relax while on campus for the North East Texas Organization of Language Educators competition. NETOLE, held annually on campus, promotes language teaching and the understanding of different cultures in Northeast Texas.*

## NSF Grant

Continued from page 1

"These students may have limited experience of research facilities that are available here, and I wanted them to know more about scientific research."

A&M-Commerce faculty visited or sent information about this program to community colleges in Mount Pleasant, Texarkana, Paris, Mesquite, Kilgore, Grayson County, Collin

County, and Corsicana, among others.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance, especially for the students in our neighboring areas," says Jang. "Students will be able to focus on scientific research and discover their strengths without having to worry about earning an income over the summer."

The mentors on this project are Anil Chourasia, physics; Headley, chemistry; Jang, chemistry; Howard Richards, physics; Stephen Starnes, chemistry; and Whaley, chemistry.

## May

- 4 — "Comedy Tonight!" produced by the stage directing class, 8 p.m., Studio Theatre. Also May 5, 8 p.m., and May 6, 3 p.m. Call extension 5900.
- 5 — Last class day for Spring 2006.
- 6 — ACT Residual, Testing Center, Business Administration Building, 8 a.m.  
Final Exams begin for Spring 2006. Continues through May 12.  
Track and field, UTA Open, Arlington.
- 8 — Annual Graduating Senior Art Exhibition, University Gallery. Through May 13. Closing reception May 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. following the College of Arts and Sciences graduation ceremony for Spring Commencement.
- 11 — ACT Residual, Testing Center, Business Administration Building, 1 and 6 p.m.  
Track and field, ACU Last Chance Open, Abilene.
- 12 — Payment deadline for May Mini, 5 p.m.
- 13 — Spring 2006 Commencement, University Auditorium, Ferguson Social Sciences Building.
- 15 — Spring 2006 grades due, 5 p.m.  
First class day, May Mini.
- 16 — Registration ends for May Mini.
- 17 — Registration continues for Summer I, Summer II, August Mini and Fall.
- 25 — Track and Field NCAA Division II National Championships, Emporia, Kan. Continues through May 27.
- 26 — Deadline for undergraduate admissions applications for Summer I.
- 29 — University closed for Memorial Day.
- 30 — University employees work 10-hour days this week through June 2.

## June

- 1 — Summer Faculty Meeting, Performing Arts Center, refreshments 9 a.m. and meeting starts 9:30.
- 2 — May Mini grades due
- 5 — First class day for Summer I.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, June 7. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, May 31. Please send your news to [mary\\_hazal@tamuc-commerce.edu](mailto:mary_hazal@tamuc-commerce.edu) or by fax to 5522.

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