

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

Provost Newsletter

August 2008

University Community:

Welcome back! It is always exciting to begin a new academic year, but this year promises to be particularly exciting because we are welcoming President Dan Jones to our university family. I am confident you will be pleased with his vision and his understanding of the opportunities for our university to make a difference in the lives of our students.

This issue outlines the accomplishments made during this past academic year as well as pertinent information. I would like to thank you for the many hours you spent last year focusing on our challenges and for all you did individually and collectively to ensure the success of our students.

I have reflected on what has been accomplished this past academic year and ways I can improve my service to you and our students. You will notice in this issue that there are many more opportunities for us to get together both formally and informally. Communication will be critical as we begin implementing our strategic plan and position Texas A&M University-Commerce for growth and further success.

Again, thank you for all you continue to do for our students and our university.



Mary Hendrix
Interim Provost and Vice-President
Academic and Student Affairs

*We make a living by what we get;
We make a life by what we give others*

Accomplishments

- Provided 5% merit pool for all faculty and staff.
- Provided an interim medical plan (thanks to President Dan Jones) for medical coverage for new faculty members.
- Provided an additional \$100,000 for graduate assistantships.
- Provided funding for second year of the Honors College.
- Added seven new faculty positions for those degree programs experiencing significant enrollment growth.
- Provided funding for an additional advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences for AY09.
- Provided \$100,000 in additional funding for faculty in the College of Education and Human Services to place additional courses and degree programs online based on demand for our stakeholders.
- Began the process for development of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan under the capable leadership of Dr. Leah Wickersham and Dr. Rusty Waller.
- Secured approval from the Board of Regents and Coordinating Board to offer four additional programs online.
- Secured approval from the Board of Regents and Coordinating Board to offer two new programs.

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Accomplishments

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- Developed a draft Tenure and Promotion Procedure (thanks to Associate VP Dr. Sharon Johnson) that will be shared with the Faculty Senate and the entire academic community for feedback.
- Revised (thanks to Dean Stephanie Holley) the University Preview Day (now referred to as Mane Event) format resulting in the highest attendance in several years.
- Submitted 78 proposals and received \$2,372,587 (special thanks to Dr. Debbie Porter)
- Hired Conference and Camp Coordinator.
- Implemented (thanks to Assistant VP and Deans of Students Dr. Deborrah Hebert and Dean Stephanie Holley) the We Care Campaign focusing on improving service to our students.
- Increased (thanks to Stephen Garretson) enrollment at our Navarro College/Midlothian site by 111%.
- Implemented the online job search program, Lion Tracks, for students, faculty and employers.
- Expanded Career Development to assist with selecting a major, interest inventories, and career guidance.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
<p>FALL ASSEMBLY DATE: AUGUST 21, 2008 PLACE: UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM TIME: 9:30 A.M.</p>	<p>FALL FACULTY RECEPTION (WINE & CHEESE <i>HOSTED BY FACULTY SENATE</i>) DATE: THURS., AUGUST 21, 2008 PLACE: FACULTY LOUNGE – BINNION HALL 126 TIME: 4:30 P.M. – 5: 30 P.M.</p>
<p>UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY UPDATES DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 – 2:00 P.M. OCTOBER 15, 2008 – 1:30 P.M. NOVEMBER 12, 2008 – 11:00 A.M. PLACE: UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM FERGUSON SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING</p>	<p>FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS DEPARTMENT HEAD TRAINING DATE: MONDAY, SEPT 29; TUESDAY OCT 28 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING DATE: MONDAY, OCT 6; TUES. NOV 4 DATE: TUESDAY, FEB. 24; WED. FEB 25</p>
<p>PROVOST COFFEE & TEA DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 NOVEMBER 6, 2008 PLACE: FACULTY LOUNGE, BINNION ROOM 126 TIME: 1:30 P.M.</p>	<p>MANE EVENT (FORMERLY KNOWN AS UNIVERSITY DAY) DATE: SAT., OCTOBER 11, 2008 THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY, OCT 18, 2008, TAMU-C LIONS WILL BE PLAYING IN THE COTTON BOWL STADIUM.</p>
<p>PROVOST, DEANS & DEPARTMENT HEAD LUNCHEONS DATES: SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 OCTOBER 14, 2008 NOVEMBER 11, 2008 PLACE: BLUEBONNET ROOM TIME: 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.</p>	<p>FALL CONVOCATION DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2008 PLACE: FERGUSON BUILDING – UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM TIME: 10:00 A.M. SPEAKER: DR. P. M. FORNI Topic: Civility <i>(Special thanks to Robert Dotson, Office of Diversity and Cultural Affairs, for securing this speaker)</i></p>
<p>New Adjunct Faculty Orientation Date: September 23, 2008 Place: MSC TIME: TBA</p>	<p>FACULTY DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES GRANTS Proposal Submission Deadline: Fri., Oct 3, by 5 p.m. Where: Provost Office HTTP://WWW.TAMU-COMMERCE.EDU/FACDEV/</p>
<p>SAM RAYBURN STUDENT CENTER Opening Date: Mon., Dec. 1 Grand Opening Celebration in Spring 2009</p>	<p>FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE Proposal Submission Deadline: Fri., Nov. 28 by 4:45 pm Where: Provost Office http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/vpaa/fdl/general_info.htm</p>