

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

PRIDE



AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST.

FALL 2007

Our new student body president has coined the phrase, “A great education is more than a degree,” and I think that pretty well sums up what we provide here at A&M-Commerce.

We’ve built a solid reputation for providing relevant degree programs that are second to none. In the process, we are able to provide our students with an education that prepares them for success in the marketplace.

This issue of PRIDE features our College of Business and Technology. As you read about some of your fellow alumni, you will sense two consistent themes. One, that business degrees from this university are highly prized by employers. And, two, how many graduates have developed confidence to compete based on the quality of their education.

The word “confidence” seems to come up a lot in conversations I have with students and graduates. Many express a confidence in the quality of their degree. Others say they were first able to truly define confidence while rigorously working toward their degrees and how that experience prepared them for their careers.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, “An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.” We feel that A&M-Commerce’s College of Business and Technology is proving to be a very good investment indeed. This is

true not only in terms of meeting the varied needs of students but in the quality of graduates it provides to the marketplace.

Many of our business and technology professors have real world experience that they bring to the classroom. Some are former Fortune 500 executives and many others have previously distinguished themselves in corporate life. This sort of hands-on experience means that our graduates are exposed to and taught by some of the best minds from the business world. They bring to academia the applications necessary to make an education relevant.

We take great pride in the fact that Texas A&M University-Commerce graduates from all degree programs, including the College of Business and Technology, are successfully making their way into the rapidly changing global marketplace and doing so with a well-founded confidence.



Keith D. McFarland, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Texas A&M University-Commerce



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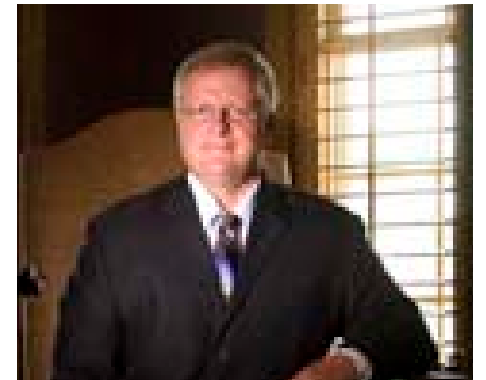
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The mission of Texas A&M University-Commerce is to provide a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

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About the Cover:

“An investment in knowledge,” to quote Ben Franklin, “pays the best interest,” especially in today’s global marketplace. The demand for graduates with well-honed business skills and technical expertise far exceeds supply. The College of Business and Technology at A&M-Commerce is helping meet that demand by providing graduates who are knowledgeable and confident to compete successfully in the world of business and industry.

A Distinguished Honor

The Distinguished Alumni Citation is one of the university's most prestigious awards. Alumni Relations Director Derryle Peace (B.S.'74, M.S. '75) invites you to suggest the next recipient.

To formally nominate someone, download the Distinguished Alumnus nomination form from the alumni relations website at www.tamu-commerce.edu/advancement/alumni.

Meet the most recent Distinguished Alumni.

Mike Cavender is probably best known in business circles as vice president of one of the most successful boot and western wear retailers in the country – the family-owned Cavender's Boot City.



He has maintained close ties to Texas A&M University-Commerce, the community, and to his brothers in the Sigma Chi

Fraternity. An outstanding leader, he has been named a "Life Loyal Sig" with the national fraternity and has received a Grand Consul Citation, one of the highest honors bestowed on a Sigma Chi alumnus.

Mike has many philanthropic interests and epitomizes the fun-loving, knowledgeable, and hard working spirit of the company he heads.

Louis L. Freeman the first African-American Chief Pilot for any major carrier, he entered history as head of the Southwest Airlines flight crew that transported deceased civil rights icon Rosa Parks in 2005.



Louis is the chief pilot for Southwest Airlines and a man of many firsts. His list of "first African-American to ..." began in



high school, continued through his college career, Air Force career and now at Southwest Airlines.

At Southwest Airlines, Louis inaugurated a Chicago pilot crew base with 150 pilots which grew to more than 1,000 pilots, and a staff of four assistant chief pilots.

He resolves issues and concerns with governmental partners, ensures pilots meet the company objectives, effectively manages the crew base budget, and helps determine company policy.

Dr. Otha C. Spencer has devoted a lifetime to



serving Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Otha became part of the university family when he earned both his bachelor's degree in 1942 and his master of science in 1946 from East Texas State Teachers College.

World War II interrupted his studies when he served his country as a pilot for the U.S. Army Air Corps where he flew missions over the North Atlantic and, later in the war, missions over the "Hump" in the China Burma India Theater of operations.

As photography and journalism professor at East Texas State University where he taught under seven presidents for 32 years, his boundless energy and enthusiasm led him to establish the photojournalism program.

In retirement he continued writing and has, over a lifetime of freelance work, more than 300 illustrated magazine articles and published 10 books.

The Commerce Chamber of Commerce named Otha Citizen of the Year in 1991 and, in that year, he helped establish the Commerce Public Library Literacy program.

Otha has also twice won the Spirit of Mayo Award for epitomizing the university founder's credo of ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought and unselfish service to others. ☺

Groundbreaking Work

By Lorraine Pace

Photo by Craig Buck

Amalia "Mella" Lopez is A&M-Commerce's first Hispanic Homecoming Queen, but it's not the sum of her achievements. Who's Who Among Students in U.S. Universities and Colleges, National Deans List, studies at King's College in London, and founder and president of Hermanas United, Mella is also the first person in her family to earn a master's, graduating with an MBA in finance in 2005.

She and her sister are the first in their family to obtain college degrees. "This is a new paradigm for us," says Mella. "No one before my generation has been university educated and we are living a life that no one in my family has led before. I wanted to broaden my mind and learn new things, and you can't do that by staying around the old."

She chose A&M-Commerce because her sister was already there and enjoyed it. "The best thing about the university is the people," she confides. "It became my home and I built a strong support system. Faculty became friends."

While at A&M-Commerce, she established Hermanas United as a network for Hispanic women. The group is now incorporated into Kappa Delta Chi and Mella is recognized as an honorary member.

"Anyone can go to school and not learn or do a thing," she says. "The experience is what you make of it. I wanted mine to be meaningful and to help others. Knowing that Hispanic women now have a support group at A&M-Commerce means more to me than anything."

Today, Mella is a Dallas TXU Energy account service manager for large, commercial and industrial corporations. "My clients spend a huge amount of money and demand the best possible service," she says. "I manage customers' energy demands throughout Texas. I work with a management team to continuously create business growth opportunities, build strong trusting relationships with my customers, and actively support the sales process to gain and retain customers."

She says her MBA provided the foundation she needed to work for Texas' largest electricity supplier.

What's next? "I don't know, but you have to constantly learn, have a positive attitude, and take risks," she says. ☺



An Accredited Online MBA Program That Is Opening Doors Worldwide

By Kate Holt



Texas A&M University-Commerce is opening doors for students worldwide by offering an accredited MBA degree that they can earn on campus or online. The university has gained the reputation for providing a first-rate degree for those who need more available and flexible courses with a more affordable price tag.

Andy Doss, a builder and construction manager, came to A&M-Commerce for his MBA because he has a passion for his career and wanted to increase his opportunities for advancement.

"In order for me to achieve my personal goals, I need to educate myself in the areas of finance, economics, business development, marketing, and operations," said Andy. "I chose A&M-Commerce because it has the prestige of the Texas A&M University System behind it. It also has flexibility in its course load including online programs and a strong commitment to the student body." A&M-Commerce is helping Andy strive for success and is giving him the chance to learn and grow in his company and in his career.

Melinda Anderson currently works in the human resources industry. She believes in continuing her education even beyond the classroom and hopes to be challenged by the opportunity to move forward in her career.

"It is imperative to understand all functions of an organization when working in human resources so you can better serve both departmental and individual needs," Melinda said.

Melinda was offered free tuition to earn her MBA at a different university, but she chose A&M-Commerce because it is accredited and has a wide selection of minors. She also loves that there is flexibility for her degree through distance learning, and she praises the helpful and friendly graduate staff for making her time at our university more personal and hassle-free.

"The graduate staff didn't treat me as though I was just another student or another number. They really made me feel important," said Melinda.

Countless students have chosen A&M-Commerce for their MBA studies because of the individual attention they will receive. "Many students have good relationships with the faculty," said Shanna Hoskison, director, College of Business & Technology Advising Center, "and enjoy the learning experience and feel like they have gained a great deal of knowledge and experience through those relationships."

Our MBA program has acquired a strong reputation in the academic world as it has been around since the 1950's, and it continues to grow in status because it has obtained the highest international accreditation for a business college. A&M-Commerce strives to make the education they give about more than a degree by making students' experiences more personal and rewarding by building relationships even from the other side of the world. ☺



The Best You Can Buy

By Lorraine Pace
Photo by Craig Buck



"We're accredited, we're affordable, and we're available."

Dr. Hal Langford lives and breathes this message. The dean of the College of Business and Technology, who consults to Fortune 500 companies as well as lectures to A&M-Commerce students, is proud that the university has "incredible faculty for a regional university outside of a major city. Our faculty," he says, "are beyond compare."

These are people who led notable careers in industry before obtaining their doctorates and lecturing, bringing a wealth of real-world business knowledge into academic lecture halls. These remarkable researchers have a knack for applying academic theory in a way that fits practice, with A&M-Commerce students reaping the full benefit of their experience.

"They are highly published and cutting edge, and they do a fantastic job for us," says Hal. "We are experiencing incredible growth and we have earned a reputation for being extremely good at what we do. This means we are attracting people who

are very good at what they do, too."

Most people in the MBA program – which is AACSB accredited – are studying part-time while holding down full-time employment. "Some are looking for a mid-career change, others are coming back to get an MBA to move their career forward," says Hal. "We often hear from our graduates about how their degree from us has opened doors for them."

GetEducated.com named the A&M-Commerce MBA as one of the top "Best Buys" in the United States. The MBAs are delivered in Rockwall, McKinney, downtown Dallas and on the main Commerce campus. In addition, the online MBA has attracted students from Europe to the Middle East and even the South Pole.

"If you would like to earn an MBA with an excellent reputation, we would love to have you," Hal says.

Hal Langford, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Business and Technology
Texas A&M University-Commerce ☺

Discovering the Perfect Fit

By Lorraine Pace
Photo by Craig Buck



James “Jay” Champion (BS ’90, MBA ’99) came to A&M-Commerce by fortuitous chance. A last minute change saw him on campus with the intention of transferring, but he found the perfect fit.

“Where else,” he asks, “do you get to be in a class of about 15 people with great instruction from a world-class economics professor? At bigger schools, classes tend to be taught by graduate assistants. The professors at A&M-Commerce view themselves as teachers, rather than as authors or researchers. To them you’re not just a nameless face.”

Jay soon found many other reasons to stay. This proved to be an especially good move because he met his wife, Dianna, at A&M-Commerce. She has a bachelor’s and two master’s degrees from the university. Their son, Jason, is a toddler.

“I have very fond memories of the university,” he says. “I still work with people I first met there.”

As president and CEO of Texans Commercial Capital based in Richardson, Jay oversees all aspects of commercial lending in 17 states and leads a team of 38 people. He also serves as executive vice president and chief lending officer of Texans Credit Union, a \$2 billion financial services organization.

“If anyone asks me what I do, I tell them I’m a community banker,” says Jay. “Character and trust are very important to our business and the people that we serve.”

Jay says he does not think of himself as a “big company” person. “It’s important to feel that my work helps people, and for me to work with people that I know,” he says.

He admits to “wandering around business school at A&M-Commerce without picking a major and discovering that I had more hours in economics than anything else. I realized I must like economics and it’s proved valuable, as economics provides the basic rules for business.”

What matters most, he says, is being a good communicator with an ability to understand people “as business is about people.” Jay was previously in leadership roles with Heritage Bank and First State Bank of Texas. In addition to his A&M-Commerce degrees, Jay is a graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

Jay returns to the Commerce campus from time to time. “I try to pitch in and help how and when I can. I never lose sight of the fact that what I learned at A&M-Commerce gave me the success I am blessed with today.” ☺

Committed to Learning

by Mary Lou Hazal
Photo by Craig Buck

Dr. Nita J. Clyde of Dallas, a teacher and CPA, has energetically and diligently worked for continuing professional education for accountants.

With 30 years of experience in both fields, this A&M-Commerce alumna teaches an ethics course throughout the state to CPAs and others.

Named from 1996 to 2000 as among the “100 Most Influential People in Accounting” by *Accounting Today*, Nita has been a driving force in a movement to incorporate competence-based continuing professional education into state accountancy board requirements for CPAs. An article she wrote for the *Journal of Accountancy* called

Nita credits A&M-Commerce with instilling in her a commitment to lifelong learning. “The undergraduate and graduate degrees I received taught me that education is not a process that ends upon graduation but is instead a vital part of the lifelong learning process. I love learning.”

Nita earned a doctorate from the University of Texas at Arlington, teaching there and at A&M-Commerce.

Dr. Wendell Edwards, A&M-Commerce accounting professor and former department head, remembers his former student as being “very highly motivated and a super people person dedicated to getting the best grade in each class.”



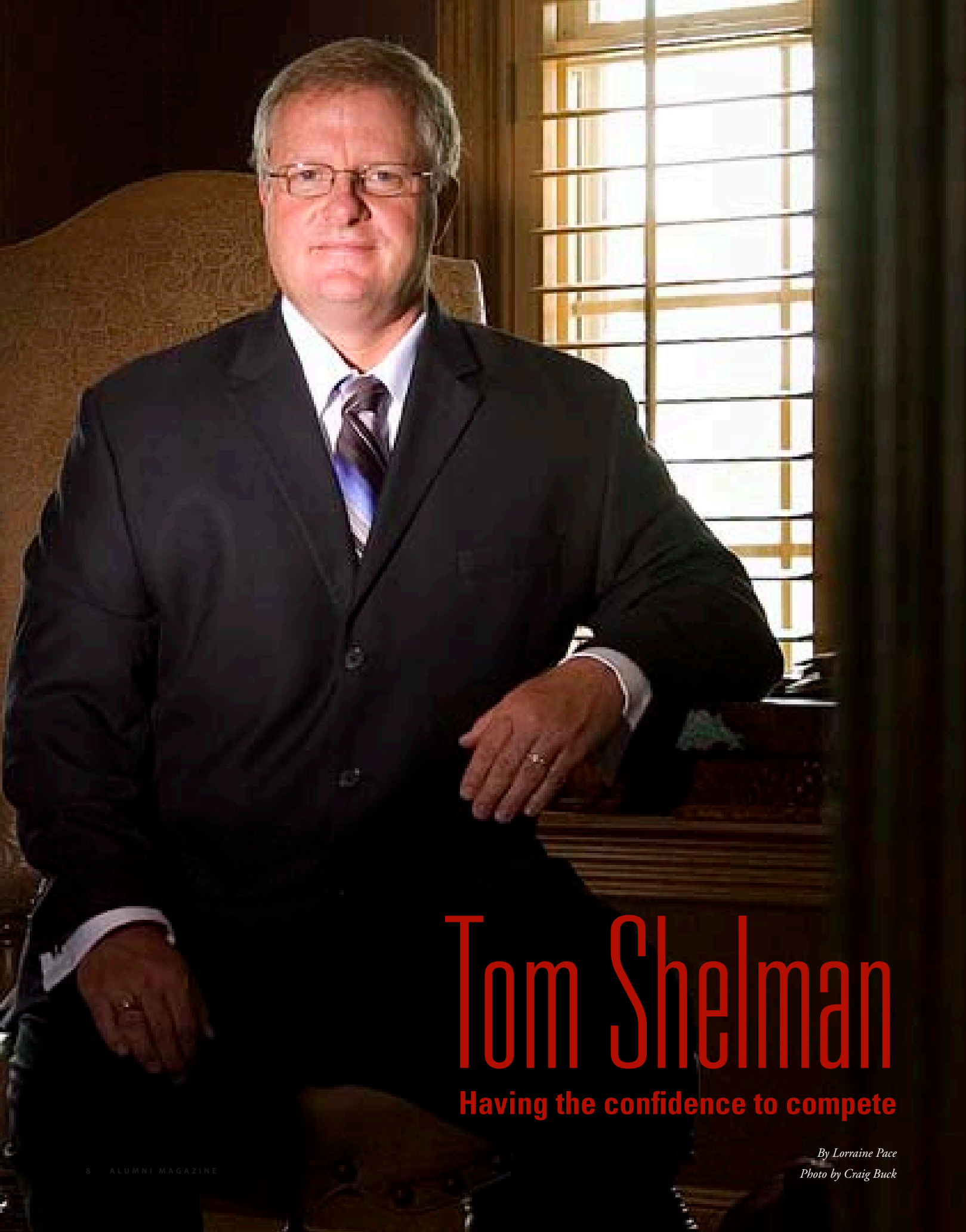
for dramatic changes in continuing professional education and received the publication’s literary award for its best article published in 1998. After earning a bachelor of business administration degree in 1975 from A&M-Commerce and starting work on a master of business administration, this nontraditional student and mother of two got her first taste of teaching. She admits she was not excited about the thought of teaching.

“I will never forget the foreboding I had walking into that first accounting class as an instructor,” Nita said. “It took maybe a week for me to realize that while I still wasn’t sure about everything I wanted to do after I got my master’s, I wanted to teach,” she said.

In addition to providing for education for accountants, Nita urges CPAs to be civic minded.

Active in the American Red Cross, Nita was on its national board of directors from 2003 to 2006, serving as chairman of the Audit Committee during the last two years of her term. She chaired the September 11 and Liberty Fund Oversight Commission from 2003 to 2006. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the A&M-Commerce Foundation.

She anticipates retiring at the end of this year, but no doubt will stay busy with her family and community. ☺



Tom Shelman

Having the confidence to compete

By Lorraine Pace
Photo by Craig Buck

Not many alumni get to head up a billion dollar division for a Fortune 500 company.

By dint of sheer hard work, the good fortune to have the right ideas at the right time, and a sound educational foundation from Texas A&M University-Commerce, Thomas "Tom" Shelman just celebrated his 10th anniversary as chief information officer for Northrop Grumman Corporation. It was he who led the Northrop Grumman information

support. Among his many accomplishments with Northrop Grumman, Tom has standardized the systems infrastructure and executed an integrated IT shared services model that reduced recurring costs.

"The name of the school you go to only counts in your first job," says Tom, "after that it's about what you did in your last job."

And Tom has done a lot. *InformationWeek* named him to



Northrop Grumman is a primary supplier of both enroute and approach control radars, providing the FAA and international customers with affordable long-term Airspace Management System solutions.

technology strategy as the corporation grew from a \$6 billion to a \$30 billion-plus enterprise.

Northrop Grumman is a top aerospace and defense conglomerate, employs about 120,000 people worldwide, and had 2006 annual revenues of more than \$30 billion. Tom manages an IT staff of 2,500 employees.

The company provides defense satellites, submarines, and everything in between. And, Tom ties it together by providing Northrop Grumman with IT strategic direction, leadership and

the Top 100 Innovators in 2005 for his cutting-edge work for Northrop Grumman. He was also selected as a *Computerworld* Premier 100 IT leader, and an integration initiative he led was ranked among *Computerworld's* 12 Best in Class. He has been featured several times in the CIO 100 Awards, too.

"It's difficult to stay ahead," he says of the ever-evolving hi-tech industry. Every year he tries to increase his knowledge to make sure he does not become "obsolete and priced out of the market."



Delta One, the first E-2D Advanced Hawkeye, during its maiden flight over St. Augustine, Fla. on Aug. 3, 2007.



The TouchTable® is a geospatial environment for manipulating data that enables images and live GPS tracks to be used together in a collaborative headquarters setting.



Makin Island (LHD 8) at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' Pascagoula, Miss. shipyard. The ship is the eighth multipurpose amphibious assault ship being constructed by Northrop Grumman.

Northrop Grumman's four business areas - information and services, electronics, aerospace and shipbuilding - are tied together under one IT infrastructure. Tom Shelman oversees the internal IT group that helps the company define the future of defense - from undersea to outer space, and in cyberspace.

Tom graduated from A&M-Commerce with a bachelor's degree in industrial technology. From his very first day as a graduate, Tom was able to use what he learned at A&M-Commerce.

"Whoever put the degree plan together did a good job," he says. "It was a solid, relevant mix of technology and business. I was able to instantly apply what I learned to my job."

Tom literally pulled out his A&M-Commerce college notes and used them to write his first project proposals. "Those proposals got me great kudos," he says.

"Being a graduate gave me the confidence to compete. Prior to that I always felt I was missing some major thing. The day I got my degree my career took off. I was handed things to do that I had not done before."

Tom's business, planning and technology skills were put to the

test in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck Northrop Grumman in the Gulf Coast region. Two of the company's shipyards in Pascagoula, Miss. and Avondale, La. were devastated, displacing 21,000 employees and resulting in a 100 percent loss of computing resources.

"More than 700 Northrop Grumman IT employees, including many located in the Gulf Coast, stepped in to assist with the hurricane recovery effort," he says. "We were at the shipyards the day after the storm assessing the damage and following through on our business continuity plans."

In advance of the storm, Tom and his IT team saved data and shipped it to the backup facility in Dallas. After the storm, they sent in telephones, computer workstations, and printers to reduce the downtime of operations at the two sites.

"The response from our employees was overwhelming," Tom recalls. "Employees from across the country responded by donating personal vacation time and basic supplies, and by making financial contributions."

The result of Tom's efforts ensured uninterrupted payroll distribution and payroll advances for affected employees. Two weeks after the storm, Northrop Grumman resumed shipbuilding operations.

Tom works with people from all over the world and found the diversity of the A&M-Commerce university population a boon for his teambuilding skills. This diversity also extended to the way the degrees were delivered through several satellite campuses. "Faculty all seemed to have a really good perspective of business and industry, not just academia," he recalls.

A professor who tried to educate his students about taking care of their personal finances particularly impressed Tom. "He took one class and spent his time talking about the different types of loans, how interest is calculated, and how people get in trouble not knowing about it."

"I remember a kid in the class asked if this was anything to do with the final and he replied: 'It wasn't, but it is now.' People don't think about the impact of loans and credit, and the costs that come with the purchase that may not be obvious, like interest rates and taxes. He was serious about making sure we understood."

Tom attributes much of his success to not taking "no" for an answer. "I was fortunate to work with a vice president on a

project that saved hundreds of millions of dollars. The whole time we were working, people who had spent 20 or 30 years in the industry said it would never work.

"The reason for our success is that we did not know we couldn't do it. Had we listened to everyone at the time, our careers would not be what they are, nor would we be in the roles that we are today."

He passionately believes in working with junior and senior high schools to ensure that kids are educated to meet business demands. "As a nation, our greatest issue is failing to graduate enough people with technical majors. We cannot sustain the economy with restaurants and theme parks. We have to develop great things."

Tom is personally committed to working with children to get them to understand why technology is important. There is a rapid decline in the number of engineering graduates in the United States today, presenting a dilemma for companies like Northrop Grumman.

Tom is actively working to improve K-12 science, technology, engineering and math education by participating in a steering committee comprised of leaders from industry and academia. The committee is planning an education summit to exchange best practices, and deploy initiatives in their communities around the country.

"We are educating them for the jobs that don't exist today. If they don't know how to dream, they don't know what is possible." ☺

RISKY BUSINESS

by Lorraine Pace



Texas A&M University-Commerce has educated more graduate level risk managers for the U.S. Military than all three of the military academies combined, and has more online risk management students than all nine universities of the combined A&M System universities.

The military is transforming to ensure that a comrade is not a fallen comrade. The armed forces acknowledge that the risk management process and leader involvement is critical to accident prevention and is increasingly weaving safety management into the fabric of its daily operations.

A&M-Commerce is supporting this effort to protect lives and prevent injuries by serving students from the military.

Photo by Randy Jolly



In a time of war, Craig Mears (right) was constantly mitigating potential hazards on a rapidly expanding base in Iraq. He credits his promotion to the Marine Corps Safety Division headquarters in Washington, D.C. to A&M-Commerce.

These are students who often work from tanks in the middle of Iraq to forward operating posts in Afghanistan, from disaster areas at odd hours in the middle of the night, and sometimes even regular hours from home.

Craig Mears is one of these students. A tactical safety specialist, Craig is a retired Marine now serving as a civilian Marine, and was recently deployed to Iraq where he ensured the ground, explosive, laser, radiation and environmental safety of Al Asad Airbase. This is no mean feat in a time of war, when the population – military and civilian – of the base has grown from 8,000 to 14,000. The base has austere conditions and its rapidly growing infrastructure meant Craig was constantly mitigating potential hazards.

In addition, Craig has been responsible for a slew of recommendations on how to employ the information derived from safety and mishap investigations in the best interest of the entire Marine Corps. He credits his promotion to U.S. Marine

Corps' Program Manager for Tactical Safety, Culture Workshops and Traffic Safety at Commandant of the Marine Corps Safety Division headquarters in Washington, D.C. to his A&M-Commerce mentors, Dr. Ben Cranor and Dr. Bob Collins.

"They were superb facilitators and leaders who engaged and challenged me to excel. They provided coursework I was able to apply to real world situations as I completed various courses," he says.

Michael Mellette is a heavy lift helicopter pilot and company level aviation safety officer for the 1st Cavalry Division. Michael spent the first two years of his career flying missions in South Korea, primarily in non combatant evacuation training. When his unit was redeployed from South Korea to Fort Hood, he led the global logistical movement of equipment and hazardous materials by vessel, air, and road.

As soon as he arrived at Fort Hood, Michael was deployed to New Orleans, where he airlifted supplies throughout the

Risky Business



While others sleep, Michael Mellete dons night vision goggles and flies troops and supplies throughout Baghdad. He is at the controls of a Ch-47D Chinook.

devastated city for two months. It was exhausting work. “I evacuated over 300 personnel from Tulane Hospital’s roof top,” he says, “and filled the industrial levy with 3,000 pound sand bags.”

His experience in New Orleans stood him in good stead as almost immediately after Hurricane Katrina he was sent to assist with earthquake relief in Pakistan. And, throughout all this, Michael diligently continued his online risk management studies at A&M-Commerce.

“My education with Texas A&M has been invaluable to my duties, professionalism, and sanity while deployed.

“As an undergraduate I was highly unfocused, I did not appreciate learning until recently. A&M-Commerce has given me the flexibility to conduct studies from any global location, and to do so at my own pace. The university’s safety and environmental courses have put my knowledge base well above my peers and even seniors. I’m now thinking about earning a doctorate in human factors and ergonomics.”

Michael is currently stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq, where he flies supplies and troops throughout Baghdad.

Tonda Fryzlewicz (MSIT ‘07) is a wife and mother, Air Force Master Sergeant, safety professional and student who finds it challenging to balance her responsibilities. “The flexibility of the MSIT online program allows me to complete my studies no matter where in the world the Air Force sends me. Within a few seconds I’ve logged onto my class from as far away as Guam, about 7,000 miles away from Texas.”

She is currently stationed at the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters Safety Directorate. She is responsible for implementing and assessing safety program management at nine Pacific Rim Air

Force installations. Her programs encompass vast Air Force operations and upwards of 50,000 airmen and family members.

Tonda hopes to fly back to the mainland from Hawaii for her “first” college graduation. “I’ve been deployed on both other occasions – ducking for cover wearing a gas mask during exercise combat operations – and on the other occasion my BS diploma was sent via fax to Operation Northern Watch HQ where the General saw it on the machine.

“He called me into his office. ‘Fryzlewicz did you miss graduation?’ ‘Yes Sir!’ ‘Sorry to hear that but we need you, glad to have on you my team, carry on!’”

Tonda finds it tremendously rewarding to encourage her airmen and families to make smart choices.

“I have taught hundreds of traffic safety and supervisor safety training courses and when people come up to me and say, ‘hey safety lady, you were right, thanks for the advice’ - I know I made a difference.”

She says her experience at A&M-Commerce has expanded her safety knowledge beyond the years of her practical experience within the Air Force. “You have shown me the differences between Department of Labor, EPA and Department of Defense Occupational Safety and Health standards. Whenever possible,



Tonda Fryzlewicz (MSIT ‘07) balances the duties of wife, master sergeant, and finds time to be a great student, too. She has been stationed worldwide and is currently in Hawaii.



Mark Chapman (MSIT ‘07) flies observer controller support for the Joint Readiness Training Center with the 5th Aviation Battalion.

I combine A&M-Commerce courses with my daily activities. Having my master’s completed when I retire from active duty will expand my opportunities no matter where I go.”

Mark Chapman (MSIT ‘07) has served with the army for 22 years and is currently stationed at Fort Polk, La. He flies observer controller support for the Joint Readiness Training Center with the Army’s 5th Aviation Battalion.

While attending a Combat Readiness Center’s career program managers’ course, he learned of A&M-Commerce and sums it up: “I recognized that the online MSIT program was for me. It came down to three reasons: flexibility, strength and prestige of a master’s degree, and, well, Commerce is part of Texas A&M.”

Mark’s experience at A&M-Commerce so impressed him he has recruited three new MSIT risk management students from his unit to apply for the degree. He is hoping to get release time to visit the Commerce campus and meet his personal advocate, Shanna Hoskinson, who saved him “time and frustration through the administrative processes of earning a degree.”

Thanks to A&M-Commerce risk management graduates, the army will lose fewer soldiers to needless accidents. 🙏



Dr. Ben Cranor

Ben is a safety evangelist. As a young mortician, he saw just about every way a person can die and later, as a grief minister, witnessed the impact loss and injury had on friends and family. These powerful experiences awakened in him a passion to protect lives through accident prevention.

“Open up an OSHA book,” he says, “and every sentence on every page is written in the blood of an injury or death. It’s not arbitrary, nor capricious.”

An eclectic collection of eagles from all over the world testifies to the respect this leader has engendered from his students. “I can’t blow smoke,” he says. “What I teach has to work, if I make a mistake someone can lose their life. To get the message across, I localize and personalize it.”

The thriving risk management program was introduced to the Master’s in Industrial Technology following a visionary interview by Ben - then employed by the A&M System Engineering Extension Service - with A&M-Commerce President Dr. Keith McFarland. “After the interview about my experiences teaching at Fort Rucker and requesting authorization to offer graduate courses to military risk managers, he discussed it with others for 20 minutes, and they immediately gave me the go-ahead,” he says. “Other universities told me it would take three to four years to obtain the same approval.”

Ben employs a team he calls his “72 experts” and when he needs in-depth knowledge of a particular hazard, calls on them to aid in his classes. “I find people who know more than I do,” he says. “There is no such thing as common sense in safety.”

Ben is currently working on a customized risk management program for Disney Anaheim and for other cohort groups of USMC NCO’s. 🙏

Making Dreams Come True

by Mary Lou Hazal
Photo by Craig Buck



Kathryn Bryan, executive director of the Higher Education Servicing Corporation in Arlington, has helped make dreams come true for countless students by getting the money they need for college.

Kathryn, who earned a bachelor of science in 1977 and a master of science degree in 1979 from A&M-Commerce, planned to teach in high school or college. Her hopes were dashed, as there were few business education teaching jobs at the time, so she went back to school and earned a master of business administration degree in 1980.

With HESC since 1983, she says she receives a “great deal of satisfaction making a contribution to the education of young people, even though it is not in the form of teaching.”

HESC works with Texas lending institutions to initiate and service guaranteed student loans that the North Texas Higher Education Authority purchases and holds through the repayment period. “Since I became executive director in 1986, the portfolio of loans has grown from approximately \$80 million to \$1.4 billion today,” said Kathryn, who grew up in Paris, Texas.

“As a not-for-profit organization, HESC is not driven by stockholder value, but by stakeholder value - our stakeholders being the Texas students and their families we help,” she continued.

The guaranteed student loan program is a federal program, and Kathryn keeps a close watch on the political scene in Washington, D.C., traveling to the nation’s capital often to keep Texas congressional offices informed of the vital benefits non-profit student loan providers offer students.

Looking back on her college days, Kathryn says, “My degrees from A&M-Commerce are the most significant reason for my success today. They were stepping stones that allowed me to walk through doors that would have otherwise not opened for me. I would definitely say the experience was life-changing.”

Dr. Donald English, professor and head of the A&M-Commerce business administration and MIS department, remembers Bryan as a conscientious student who strived to do her best. “Kathryn’s attitude and dependability always placed her well above other students. There was never a doubt in my mind that she would be successful,” English said.

The business principles she learned in the M.B.A. program have steered her decision-making during her 21 years in executive management, Kathryn says. Current A&M-Commerce M.B.A. students gain an important foundation in their studies. “These skills will guide today’s future executives,” she said. ☺

Giving Something Back

By Lorraine Pace
Photo by Craig Buck



Some people call it retirement. Dan Farell (BBA '72) calls it his “giving back” phase.

Having spent a career that helped guide TXU Corporation through transformational changes at home and abroad in Australia, Dan is now using his impressive skills and background as a former Fortune 500 chief financial officer and operational head in a new career to help people with financial planning.

And, Dan works on a pro bono basis for those unable to pay.

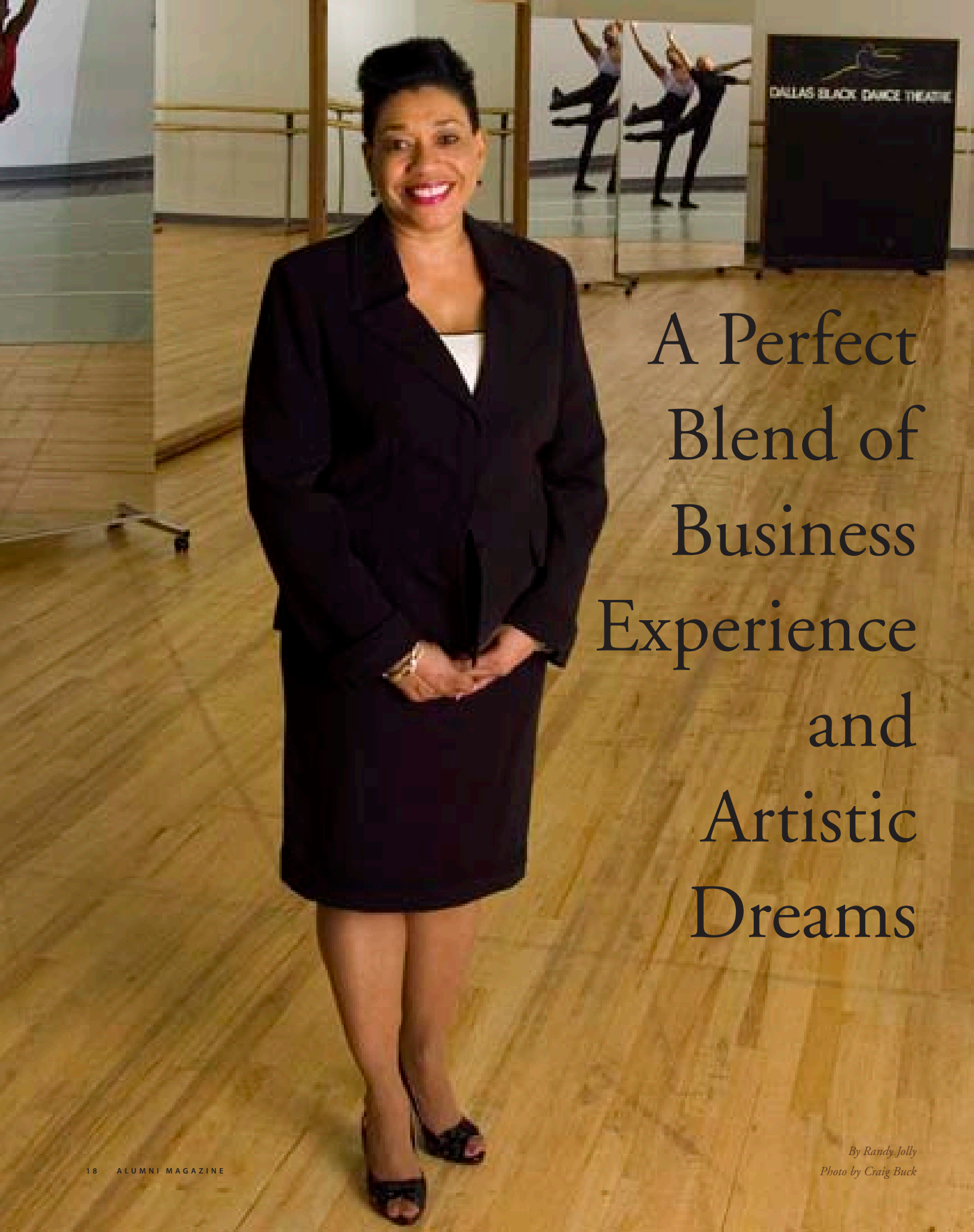
A CPA and a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School, Dan recently went back to school at Southern Methodist University to obtain a certificate in financial planning primarily to assist others. His sense of community service is rooted in his deep sense of family and faith.

His father farmed crops during the depression years and while he never finished high school, he proved to be a wise businessman who was amply able to provide for his three children. Dan says he learned valuable life skills, including how to manage money, from him. “My father never borrowed a dime,” says Dan. “My true calling is to help other families exercise financial stewardship and prepare their own financial legacies.”

He was attracted to finance because, he says, it’s the heart of business. “You need product, operations and marketing, but it’s in finance where it all comes together.”

Dan is a sought-after adviser and community resource whose planning, communication, leadership, and people management skills have served others well. He serves as chairman of the North Texas Commission, which is the regional advocacy body that played a large role in securing Super Bowl XLV for the DFW area in 2011, as well as the North Texas Future Fund and the Texas A&M University-Commerce Foundation Board. He also serves as a deacon in his church, First Baptist Dallas.

Dan is happily married to Linda, a Hardin Simmons University graduate, who grew up in Argentina. They have five children and four grandchildren, with a fifth on the way. In what little spare time he has, Dan intends to learn Spanish, and perhaps pick up the banjo that was bought at a garage sale 30 years ago but sits collecting cobwebs in a corner. “I won’t let Linda throw it away,” he laughs. “Nor have I given up on the piano.” ☺



A Perfect Blend of Business Experience and Artistic Dreams

By Randy Jolly
Photo by Craig Buck

When you walk through the doorway of the ordinary looking white warehouse building in southeast Dallas that houses the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, there is a palpable feeling of artistic energy.

Off to the right of the main entryway is an enormous room where the polished wood floors are reflected by surrounding mirrored walls. Standing shoulder to shoulder, silently around the periphery of the room are some of the most beautiful, lithe and athletic young performers imaginable. The scene of these perfectly sculpted, ebony toned dancers could easily be a modern rendition of Edgar Degas' painting Ballet Rehearsal. They are a still life of what poetry must surely look like if it could be visualized.

These performers make up the soul of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, which celebrates its 31st season as the oldest, continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. It has performed at the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival in Atlanta, the Lincoln Center in New York, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and several international venues.

If the soul of the company is the brilliance of its performers, then its spirit is the vision and commitment to art nurtured by Ann M. Williams, founder and artistic director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

And, if Ann is the spirit of the company then the very strong and steady heartbeat of the organization is its Chief Executive Officer, Zenetta S. Drew (BBA, Accounting '74).

Zenetta's force of character, astute business sense and confident mien has helped put the Dallas Black Dance Theatre on a continual upward arch of success and a legacy of achievement.

"My job," she says, "is the perfect blend of business experience and artistic dreams."

When you meet Zenetta, you are immediately impressed with her confidence, her clear and well articulated

vision and her unwavering commitment to make a difference in everything she does.

Those are not newfound traits but rather elements of character that have been honed to perfection since childhood.

"My freshman year of high school in Kilgore was the first integrated class and of the top ten students graduated my senior year, six of us were black," Zenetta recalls. And of those high achieving students, Zenetta was valedictorian. "That gave me a high level of confidence. It helped me define the meaning of confidence and what having confidence in yourself could accomplish."

Not going to college was not an option. Zenetta remembers her father expecting her to go to any college as

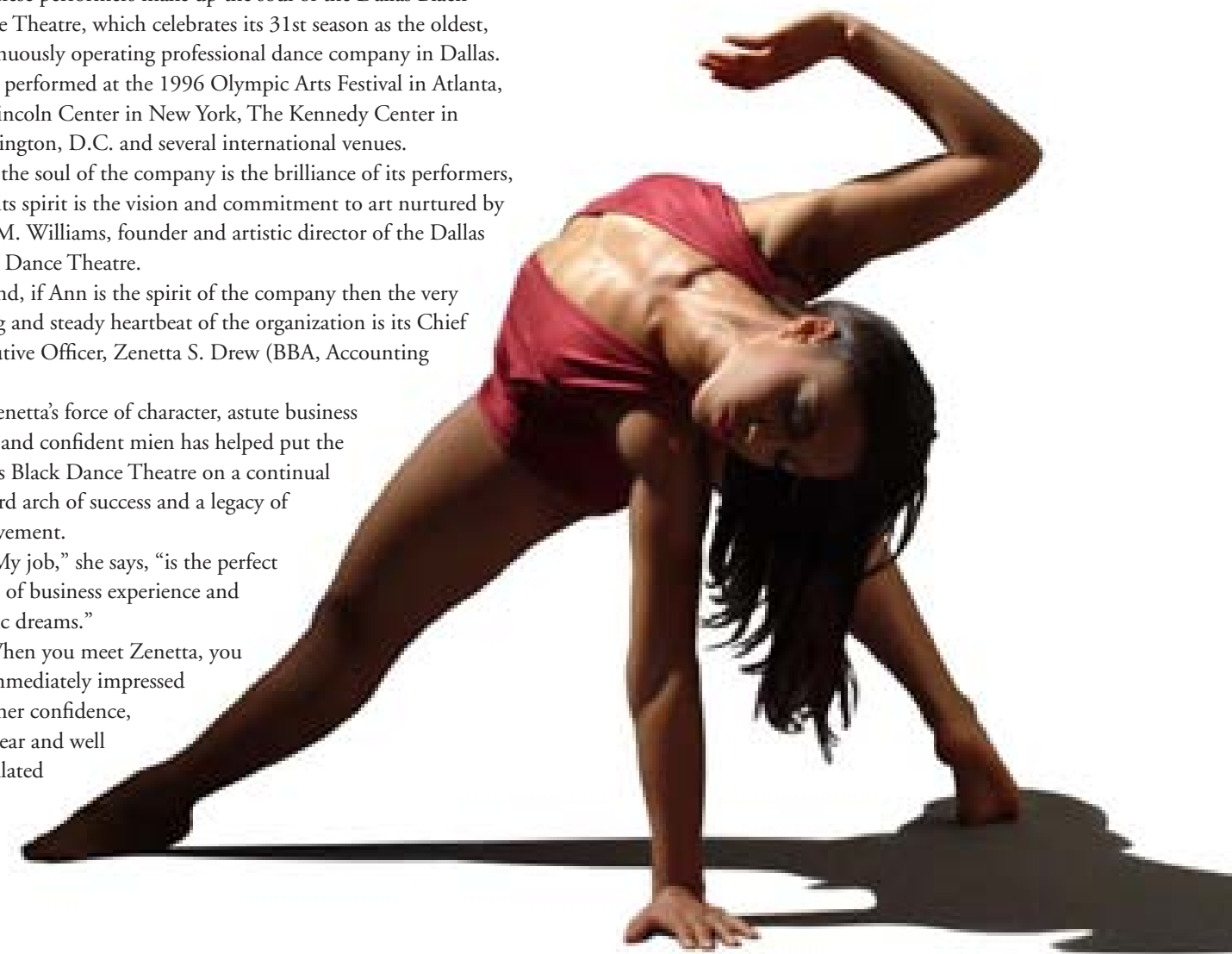


Photo by Brian Guillaux



Built in 1930, the original Moorland YMCA building served as a social and cultural centerpiece for Dallas' African-American community for over 40 years. It remains one of only three buildings in downtown Dallas built by and for the African-American community. DBDT's new headquarters, with three rehearsal studios, training classrooms, administrative offices and space for community meetings and events, will increase its current student capacity from 300 to 1,000 students per week.

long as it was no more than two hours from home. "My father was college educated," she says proudly, "and his father was college educated...and his father was a slave." With that pedigree of determination, it is no wonder that Zenetta's confidence and hard work has placed her in a position to accomplish so much and serve as a role model for other women in general and African American women in particular.

"When I first came to East Texas as a

freshman," Zenetta says, "I really didn't know what I wanted to major in. As I walked around the room looking at the different tables and seeing what was available, Dr. Kenneth McCord asked if I wanted to sign up as an accounting major. I didn't know much about accounting but I knew I liked numbers. Dr. McCord suggested I try accounting."

Her first business class as a junior was principles of accounting. "The first day of class the professor asked how many had taken bookkeeping in high school. Of the hundred students in the class, I was the only who didn't raise my hand and the professor suggested I drop the course. Well, I have never dropped anything in my life and I stayed in that class and finished the course with a 3.93 grade point."

Zenetta was on a three-year program to get her degree. "Back then," she says, "with four younger siblings, there was no money available to attend college and you worked as hard as you could to get your degree as quickly as possible." Not only did she get her degree and graduate at the top of her class she, along with two others, was the first African Americans to receive BA degrees in accounting at East Texas.

"In those days, ET had focused on business and the school was known to be one of the toughest business related schools around and that opened a whole new world for me," Zenetta remembers, "and it created another level of confidence that energized me for the rest of my life. I became very focused. I

realized that part of an education is realizing who you are and having the confidence to compete. Because of the quality of my education at ET, I felt like I was attending an elite institution that was providing me with advantages that other schools could not."

The business skills and fundamental level of training she received during her three years at the university taught her how to operate as an adult in a brave new world where college educated African Americans were just beginning to enter the marketplace.

Her business experience is a matter of record. Prior to joining Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1987, Zenetta's professional background included 12 years of accounting and management experience with ARCO Oil and Gas Co. During her 11-year tenure at ARCO, Zenetta held nine positions of



Photo by Sharon King Bradford

increasing management responsibility. Most notable was her assignment as accounting manager for offshore oil projects in the Gulf of Mexico that generated more than \$300 million in revenues monthly.

When DBDT founder Ann Williams was seriously injured in 1986 and unable to manage the company, Zenetta stepped in to help after retiring from ARCO. The financial condition of the dance company was a far cry from where it is today; there were no grants pending, no business plan, ten part-time dancers and over \$100,000 in debt. "All I brought with me," Zenetta says, "were solid business skills and the appetite for a challenge."

She is being modest, of course, because she also brought a drive and determination to fix the problems and set a course for excellence and long-term success.



Photo by Sharon King Bradford

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a contemporary modern dance company, consisting of 12 professional dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers. The company's dancers have studied, trained and performed with some of the pre-eminent performers and teachers in the American dance world.

Not only is the Dallas Black Dance Theatre known far and wide today for its artistry and professionalism, evidenced by the performances at the Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center and more than a dozen countries, but also for its financial stability and purpose. The budget has grown to over \$1 million with 12 full-time dancers paid for 11 1/2 months a year (the longest salary contracts in the nation), has a board of directors made up of 50 influential corporate and community leaders, and annual audiences have grown to more than 150,000 worldwide. This level of professionalism and growth has propelled DBDT to be Dallas' only full-time professional dance company and a resident company in the new Wyly Theatre – considered to be one of the world's most innovative theatres and performance spaces – in the new Dallas Center

for Performing Arts.

In December 2007, DBDT will move into its newly renovated, permanent facility in the downtown Arts District at 2700 Flora Street, the location of the former Moorland YMCA building.

This new venue will be a tribute to the dreams and hard work of many people. An unflinching commitment to the arts is certainly the underlying reason for the success of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Making it all possible, though, is a sound business plan and strong leadership provided by Zenetta Drew. She is a proud, dignified, confident African American woman who has proven that a great education is more than a degree – it is the foundation on which great things can be built. ☺

Making It in the Big Apple

By Lorraine Pace
Photo by Ryan Dorsett

It reads something like a movie script - small town boy goes to the big city and, despite incredible odds, conquers it.

Nor is it just any old city, it's the Big Apple.

Clinton Hart (BBA, '05) was driven by an unusual dream for a Texan from Sulphur Springs - after graduating from A&M-Commerce with a degree in finance, he would work as a trader in the New York commodities or stock exchange.

His big break came through an unexpected source: Dr. Robert "Bob" Collins, one of his A&M-Commerce professors and head of the industrial technology department. By chance, Clinton confided his ambition to Bob, not knowing that Bob's son, Robert "Bo" Collins Jr., was then president of the New York commodities exchange.

"At first Bob was a little cautious," says Clinton of his mentor. "He warned me that the commodities business is very tough to break into and is an exceptionally demanding career. I think he wanted to be sure that I was prepared to make the sacrifices that come with the job."

Bob Collins, says Clinton, "helped me to get my foot in the door. Bob spoke to his son who provided some names for interviews."

Armed with what he thought was a fistful of dollars, and the blessings of his friends and family, Clinton moved to New York. He quickly found that what money he had didn't stretch far. "My first apartment cost \$1,000 a month and it was in China town, which is located

on Manhattan's lower east side and has about 150,000 people living in a two square mile area. There were five of us sharing a place with one bedroom. It was rough."

Clinton had a vision of New York that proved to be a quarter of reality. The soaring buildings were three times bigger and closer together than he had expected, and the flood of people surprised him. Clinton, however, was not going to let such minor details get him down. He went on a series of interviews and landed a job as a phone clerk in the pit of the New York Mercantile Exchange. "People go for years trying to find a job like that," says Clinton. "I was lucky."

In the New York commodities exchange, everyone is in large pits or rings on the floor with traders facing each other, in colored jackets and they communicate with hand signals in an open outcry system.

"While the place appears chaotic to the alien eye, it's highly organized. It's noisy, there's a lot of energy, and it's a very exciting place to work." It's in the pits that you learn all kinds

of trading vocabulary, and it's in the pits where you find out how everything works.

In just a few years Clinton has become a commodities trader, trading in gold and crude oil. He trades on a desk for Flett Futures, a highly touted private commodities group located at the exchange and across the Hudson River in nearby Jersey City.

"Commodity trading is a very specialized business," Clinton says, "I was attracted to it because not too many people know much about it which gives you an opportunity to stand out, and it also offers a chance to make an ambitious individual a lot more money. On a good day, a trader can make millions."

People can also lose a lot of money in a very short time. "Mistakes?" he says. "Man, I've done my fair share of those."

"When I was a phone clerk, a very large option trader gave me the hand signal to buy 150 spreads and I thought he said "sell," as the hand signals can sometimes be fast and confusing. When it was time to have the trade verified the trader yelled "no, it was buy."

"I asked the other trader to fix it, but he wouldn't because it was such a profitable buy. My boss and the option trader each agreed to split the loss, which came to \$50,000 each.

"My boss was very understanding, he took the cut. He said "Just don't do it again." I thanked him. That was a really bad day." Everyone knows in the open outcry system small mistakes can and will happen. "It's the large trading mistakes that lead to losses of over \$10,000 that you need to cut out."

One of the most appealing things about the job is the camaraderie Clinton has found in groups of people his age. "You stand next to them in the circle, you elbow each other all day and even get into fights. I've formed a group of friends and we all keep in touch with each other. There aren't very many people from Texas here on the exchange," he wryly notes. "I really stand out."

Clinton wholeheartedly believes that the education that A&M-Commerce provided became a strong foundation that helped him develop skill sets needed to maneuver through the dog eat dog world of trading. "I'm continually grateful for the helping hand of every professor that guided me to the graduation ceremony, and my utmost thanks goes to Dr. Robert Collins for his special guidance and encouragement that made my career a reality: I became a commodities trader." ☺

Meet Your 2007 Alumni Ambassadors

Texas A&M University-Commerce, once known primarily as an institution that primarily trained teachers, is now known for producing outstanding graduates in a host of disciplines. This year's 29 Alumni Ambassadors represent many walks of life and career choices.

This diverse group includes Ph.D.'s, counselors, teachers, school administrators, a president of a college, several who work for large, internationally known companies, an entrepreneur or two, a newspaper editor, a poet, an attorney and a county official.

The Alumni Ambassador award was first given in 1983 and so far 613 alumni have been honored for their career achievements.

Earlier this spring, the ambassadors returned to campus to be recognized for their achievements and spent the day visiting with students who are majoring in fields of study represented by the Alumni Ambassadors.

This year's Alumni Ambassadors are:

College of Education & Human Resources

Dr. Susan Adams earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education in 2000. Dr. Adams is currently employed as an assistant professor at Texas Woman's University.

Diane LaFerne McDowell is a public school counselor at Plano West Senior High. Diane is a 1969 graduate receiving her bachelor's degree in psychology.

Linda Milton graduated in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and received her master's degree in 1975. Linda has taught kindergarten, first grade, and Title I Reading. She has been with the Greenville Independent School District since 1973.

Dr. Julie P. Combs received her master's degree in educational administration and her doctorate in 1994 in education administration. She is currently assistant professor of Educational Leadership at Sam Houston State University.

Dr. Bruce Ray Ellis is executive director of instructional technology for the Dallas Independent School District. Bruce received his master's degree in 1997 and his doctorate in curriculum, instruction and supervision in 2003.

Dr. Al Hambrick received his doctoral degree in 2000 in education and human services. He is currently interim superintendent of the Sherman Independent School District.

Dr. Linda Henrie received her doctorate degree from in 1992 in educational administration. She has spent the last 35 years with the Mesquite Independent School District and currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Gregory Powell, President of Panola College since June 2000, earned his doctorate degree in curriculum and instruction in 1992.

Dr. Henry Scott has been with the Denison Independent School District for 44 years. Henry received his doctorate degree in 1980.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Burnett is a 1995, 1998 and 2001 graduate. Jeff received his BS and MS in physical education and his doctorate in health and physical education. He currently is an assistant professor at Fort Hays State University in the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Ray McCall graduated in 1982 with his bachelor's degree in health and physical education. He began his teaching career in athletics at Lamesa Independent School District and has been working there for the last 24 years, and is currently the head athletic trainer.

Dr. Elizabeth Penland is in private practice in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she specializes in the treatment and assessment of children and adolescents with a variety of psychological and emotional disorders. Elizabeth received her doctorate degree in psychology in 1996. She also completed two master's, one in psychology and the other in counseling at A&M-Commerce.

College of Business & Technology

Jimmy L. Talley is a CPA and managing partner of Talley & Associates CPAs and Professional Consultants. Jimmy received a bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1974 from East Texas State University.

Kendra L. Ingram is a member of the A&M-Commerce faculty. She was awarded her Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration in May 2001 and a Master's of Business Administration in May 2002.

John E. Cothran, 2005 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Texas A&M University Commerce, received his bachelor's degree in applied arts & sciences and his master's of Science degree in Management in 2006 also from A&M-Commerce. John is currently a network security engineer for Verizon Internal Network Services.

College of Arts & Sciences

Dwight D. York received his undergraduate degree in economics and agriculture in 1976 and a master's degree in business administration in 1995. Dwight is a senior vice president of Bank of America Global Technology & Operations.

Suzy Jones received her Fine Arts Degree in 1992 and is the executive director of the ArtCentre of Plano.

Jason Chessher is the environmental health administrator for the City of Garland Health Department. He received his bachelor of science degree in biological sciences in 1997.

Lui Barkkume is currently the president, business and senior project manager for Arkose Environmental, Inc. She earned her BS in earth sciences in 1998.

Earl W. Turns received his BS in chemistry in 1950. After retirement from General Dynamics in 1994 he created Earl W. Turns and Associates.



This year's Alumni Ambassadors are: Front Row (left to right): Lui Barkkume, Linda Milton. Second Row (left to right): Dr. Susan A. Adams, Diane McDowell, Bruce Ray Ellis. Third Row (left to right): Dr. Al Hambrick, Ray McCall, Dr. Linda Henrie, Brenda Hass, Julie Combs. Fourth Row (left to right): John Cothran, Kendra Ingram, Dwight York, Suzy Jones, Paula Grier, Cheri Shipman, Dr. Greg Powell, Dr. Elizabeth Penland. Fifth Row (left to right): George Gray, Earl Turns, Stephen Campbell, Jason Chessher, Angeline Hawkes Fulbright, Maggie Williams, Marialyn Barnard, Dr. William Henry Scott. Final Row, to the right of the lion: Jimmy Talley, Hoyle Julian, Dr. Jeff Burnett

Cheri D. Shipman is the advisor for *The Battalion*, the Texas A&M University college newspaper. She earned her bachelor's in journalism in 1994.

George W. Gray received his bachelor's degree in 1981 in computer science. George is employed by IBM as a software IT Architect.

Angeline Hawkes Fulbright is a 1991 graduate with her bachelor's degree in composite English. Angeline is an accomplished novelist, poet and storyteller.

Paula Elaine Grier is

the director of Spanish and cultural initiatives at Dallas Independent School District. She is a 1999 graduate and received her bachelors' degree in Spanish.

Hoyle Julian graduated from East Texas State in 1960 with a BS in math, 1965 with an MS in math/physics. Since 2000 he has been a member of the A&M-Commerce faculty. Before teaching, he worked as the director of Large Systems Planning for Arco Oil and Gas, and retired in 1992.

Brenda Bozeman Hass received her bachelor's

degree in music education in 1977. She is currently the fine arts coordinator for Garland Independent School District responsible for elementary music, elementary and secondary art and theatre staff.

Stephen W. Campbell, J.D., received his bachelor of science in physics and MBA. He worked with 3-M Company. He now owns two companies, Technology Asset Services, Inc., and TAS Electronics, LLC.

Marialyn Barnard received her BA degree in political science in 1983, and

her law degree from St. Mary's University Law School. She is an attorney with the Prichard Hawkins McFarland & Young law firm.

Maggie J. Williams received a bachelor of science in criminal justice in 1978 and a master of science degree in counseling in 1992. She has served the Juvenile Justice System and the community as a caseworker, probation officer, youth advocate, and assistant supervisor for field probation officers. Her current role is drug court coordinator for Dallas County.

Gold Blazer Award



Renee Castilla and Ann and Hoyle Julian are very special people. They work quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes to help the alumni and students of A&M-Commerce, and the university.

Their unselfish service to others is legendary so it came as no surprise when - surrounded by family and friends - they were honored with the A&M-Commerce Alumni Association famed Gold Blazer Award.

“Our Gold Blazers are people who give of their time and resources with great generosity,” says Dr. Keith McFarland, A&M-Commerce president. “They provide leadership and have built special relationships with those they work with. We are proud to call these devoted people alumni.”

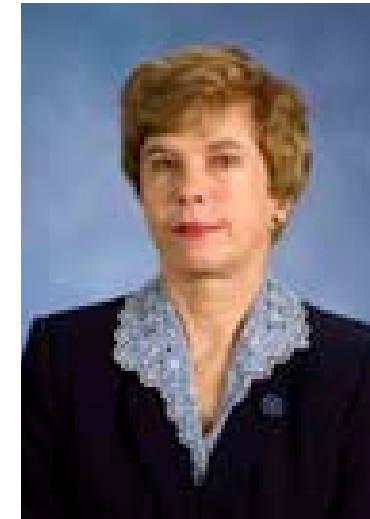
The Alumni Association plays a key role in the development and implementation of policies to increase our graduates’

participation in university life. The first Gold Blazer was presented in 1984.

“Their involvement with the Alumni Association and passion for the university has had an overwhelming effect on its ability to re-connect with alumni and provide positive avenues for their interaction with A&M-Commerce and the student body,” says Derryle Peace, director of alumni relations.

“I’m linked to this university heart and soul,” says Ann, one of six siblings who graduated from A&M-Commerce. “We love it and are passionate about its success.”

Says Hoyle, “The most important thing I ever did was earn my degree – without it my wife would not have married me. This university gave everything to us – we like to give a little back.”



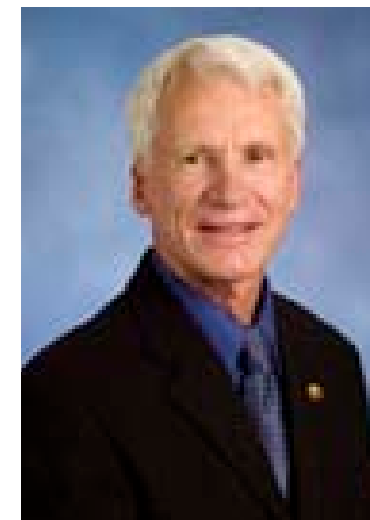
Ann Julian - Her love for the university is unparalleled.

Ann earned her B.S. to teach before returning to the university to earn her M.S. in 1962. She also earned her library certification from East Texas State, retiring from Garland ISD in 1992.

Ann is listed in Who’s Who in Texas Educators and Who’s Who in American Librarians. She was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Educators and President of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers

Association, as well as a member of the Louise Drake Garden Club.

After earning his B.S. in math in 1960, Hoyle served in the Army and taught before returning to East Texas State to earn his M.S. in math and physics. “The university took away the wonderful career I had ahead of me as a laborer in outdoor construction,” he says.



Hoyt Julian - A man of many talents and a generous heart.

His career spanned teaching at Southern Methodist University, working on Black Hole Projects for E-Systems, and directing large systems programming for Arco Oil and Gas. In retirement Hoyle volunteers his time as an adjunct math teacher and field supervisor for secondary education.

The couple has endowed seven scholarships. They have also been inducted into



Renee Castilla - A&M-Commerce helped prepare him for a stellar career.

the Founders’ Circle, Heritage Society, Rayburn Society, Society of 1889, and have had a science laboratory named in their honor in the new Science Building. In 2005, Dr. McFarland honored the Julians with the Spirit of Mayo Award for their dedication and devotion to A&M-Commerce.

Rene Castilla, executive dean and director of the South Irving Center for North Lake College, and former

education reporter for KERA Channel 13 and WFAA-TV Channel 8, says, “A&M-Commerce thoroughly prepared me for the career I pursued. I learned the analysis and opinion skills that I apply in my work from this university.”

Renee received his M.A. from East Texas State University in 1973. He also served seven years as a member of the Dallas Board of Education, four years as board president.

He has won several civic awards, including the Doers and Dreamers Award from the Dallas Real Estate Council and the Excellence in Education Award from the Dallas Historical Society.

Renee’s public service in Irving includes serving as chair of the Arts Task Force appointed by Irving Mayor Morris Parrish, president of the Irving Symphony Orchestra Association, chair of the Irving Heritage Festival International Boulevard Committee, and chair of the Irving All America City Campaign Committee. Renee was also vice chair of the Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, recipient of the Irving High Spirited Citizen Award, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee City-Wide Dialogue on Diversity in Irving and chair of the 2006 Irving Citizens Bond Committee Task Force.

Renee says that his first love has always been education. “I send students to A&M-Commerce,” he says. “It’s a great place to get an education.”

Class Notes

1930's

Chris Long (BS '39) received the Paul Harris Fellow award, the honor is the highest award made by the Rotary Club in Mount Vernon.

1940's

Dr. Wesley Leon Bewley (BS '49) was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the James Bowie Alumni Association in May. *** Jane Haywood Kendrick** (BS '49, MED '53) passed away May 2, 2007. She is survived by her husband **Dr. George S. Kendrick** (BS '49).

1950's

Ruby Hall Baker (BS '50) was named the 2007 Zeta Woman of the year for the Upsilon NU Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. *** Jake and Juanita Blalock** (BS '58) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 19, 2007. A family dinner to honor the occasion was hosted by their two sons on January 6, 2007. *** Mollie Jo** (BS '54) and **Bob Hyepock** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. Jo taught in Sherman, Lubbock, and Garland. She retired after 38 years in 1993. They have one daughter and three grandchildren. *** Loraine Wright McElrath** (BS '52, MS '60) was installed into a Las Vegas, Nevada chapter of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Loraine is a retired Clark County School District teacher and also taught in Lamasco, Hilger (one-room school house), Dumas, and Dallas, Texas before finishing her career in Las Vegas, NV. *** Roy** (BS '56) and **Dorris Perry**

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at the Windom Baptist Church. After retirement they now enjoy spending time with family and friends and working on the Perry Ranch which has been in operation since 1858. *** Reba Sorrells** (MED '59) was honored by the "Women in Tyler Day" celebration on Thursday, March 22. *** Ruth Ann Stallings** (BS '56), wife of famed Texas A&M University player and nationally known football coach Gene Stallings, entertained a gathering of about 80 Aggie mothers. Stallings spoke to a combined District 1 and District 2 meeting of the Federation of Aggie moms.

1960's

Dona Julian Cassel (BS '67, MS '71) has retired from teaching at Mount Pleasant High School. *** Rebecca (Becky) Barnum Cotton** (BS '68, MED '71) was recently named senior vice president and trust officer of the Wealth Management Division of Broadway National Bank in San Antonio. *** Elmer G. Ellis** (BA '64, MBA '69) has been named the 2006 recipient of the Texas Hospital Association's Earl M. Collier Award for Distinguished Health Care Administration. *** Louise W Hagood** (MA '66) and **Colonie Thomas Hagood** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Feb. 3, 2007. *** Larry Hazal** (BS '65, MS '66) has received the 2007 Jim Bailey Memorial Educator of the Year Award from the Arkansas Water Environmental Association. *** Bobby L. Herring** (BS '62) was named Official Artist for the State of Texas for 2007

by The Texas Commission on the Arts. *** John C. Hopkins** (BS '67, MS '68) was married to Karen Lyn Underwood at Green Acres Church in Tyler. *** Samuel "Sam" McCord** (BS '60, MED '60) was recently inducted in the Lone Star Conference Hall of Honor. Sam played quarterback for three years after transferring from Paris Junior College where he had played for future Lions head coach Ernest Hawkins who is also a member of the LSC Hall of Honor. Sam also served the university as alumni director and as director of security. He was the primary organizer of the Lions Athletic Hall of Fame which inducted its first class in 1978 and was himself inducted in 1981. *** Linda Priddy Vaughan** (BS '66, MED '69) will be retiring from Tisinger Elementary School in Mesquite this May after 38 years of teaching. *** Jerry Williams**, Ph.D. (BS '61, MS '66) recently retired from Middle Tennessee State University after 37 years service as professor and director of the horse science program in the School of Agriculture of Science and agriculture business. He authored two text books covering horse production and management topics and basic horse care; he also authored numerous magazine articles about equine health and nutrition.

1970's

Carol Ann Davis (MED '75) retired after teaching first grade for 30 years with the Grand Saline Independent School District. *** Carolyn Elliott** (BS '70 MS '76) retired after teaching in the Grand

Saline Independent School District since 1986. *** Marcia Cooper Johns** (BS '74 MS '75) was the featured speaker at the Red Oak Baptist Church Retired Educators reception in Longview. *** Jo A. Johnston** (BS '75, MED '79) was honored with the First Lady of Waxahachie award on March 25, 2007. *** Guadalupe R. Guajardo** (MED '72) was honored with the 2007 Jefferson Award sponsored by the Institute of Public Service. *** Danny H. Rose** (BS '72, MED '77) was named Outstanding Citizen from the Hawkins Chamber of Commerce. *** Steve H. McFadden** (BS '73, MS '75) will retire in February, 2007, from the Lewisville Police Department where he has served three decades as police chief. *** Dorla Martin Salling** (BS '75) presently serves as chairman of the Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners. *** Allen Sanderson** (BS '75) has been named executive vice president of First National Bank of Bells/Savoy. *** Jimmy L. Spann** (BS '76, MED '81) was recently name Principal of McKinney North High School. *** Judith Cranford Summers** (BS '74) has been named executive director for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in Portland, Or. *** Milton D. Wallace** (BS '75, MED '79) was selected as the Region 7 High School Principal of the Year for 2007. He is the principal of Longview High School in Longview. *** Carolyn K. Williams** (BA '72) received her EdD from Nova SE University in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in March, 2006. She specialized in organizational leadership.

1980's

Sarah L. Barger (MED '89) was named Educator of the Year at the 11th annual Van Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. *** Keith D. Boles** (BS '87, MS '92) will be the new superintendent of Connally ISD. *** Dr. Jerry J. Butler** (EdD '88) has been promoted to a full professorship at Oklahoma Panhandle State University where he has worked for the past 17 years. *** Michael Collinworth** (MED '81) has been named the area assistant superintendent for the Central Cluster in the Plano Independent School District. *** Chris Cronin** (BS '87) regional VP for Collin County of the American National Bank of Texas, was recently recognized as one of the 2007 "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" for Collin County. *** Jim D. Cummings** (BS '82) engineer, inventor and owner of Wylie Sports and Apparel has designed classified defense products used by the U.S. military. While in college he invented a product called "the people mover," a skateboard that hovers above the ground. *** Stacy Gist** (MM '89) directed the Lexington High Band to four consecutive Sweepstakes Awards at the UIL contest this spring. *** Roy Nell Johnson-Jones** (BS '83) and Rodney D. Durham were united in marriage. The couple will make their home in Oakwood. *** Elizabeth "Libby" Horton** (MED '86) plans to retire after 31 years of education from Mabank Independent School District. *** Christopher Sean Long** (BS '89) is now teaching science at Webb Middle School in Garland. He is married and recently welcomed a son into

the world. *** Joe May** (EdD '80) was honored as a Martin High School "Tiger Legend." He passed away February 10, 2006 in Dallas. *** Karen McPherson McBride** (BS '94, MS '06) is a contract negotiator for the Southeast Region for Aetna Behavioral Health. She is married to **Steve Mc Bride** (BS '89, MS '93) who is in his 10th year as the head track and field and cross country coach at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas. *** Oscar J. Peña** (BA '54) would like to hear from his old friends from the 1951, 1952 and 1953 football teammates. You can email him at oscarpenas@yahoo.com. *** Stephen B. Rainwater** (MS '87, EdD '89) has been elected as computer science representative on the Board of Directors of the International Society for Technology in Education. *** Kia Richmond** (BS '89, MA '97) was recently selected to receive the Northern Michigan University's 2006 Excellence in Professional Development Award. She and her husband David make their home in Marquette, Michigan. *** Lee Sanders** (BS '87, MS '99) was named President and CEO of Johnny Rockets chain of all-American diner-style restaurants in May. *** Mark Seaman** (BMED '88) recently obtained his doctorate and has joined the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University. His wife is the former **D'Ann Hall** (BS '88) who works in the home health industry as a physical therapist. *** Nathan Shea** (BS '82) and wife Bonnie recently renewed their commitment at Berkner High School where they met in chemistry class in the 1970's and married at

the Richardson Woman's Club in 1984. *** Betty P. Tatum** (BS '80) and Herb Tatum celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a dinner at the Merry Heart Tea Room in Granbury. *** Alan S. Veingrad** (BS '86) was recently inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at A&M-Commerce.

1990's

Barbara J. Barker (MED '93) was named principal of Green Elementary School in Allen. *** Kristin R. Barker** (BS '99) and Greg Hames were married on July 16, 2006. She is the head band director at Richardson North Junior High and was named Richardson ISD Teacher of the Year. *** Joe Castillo** (BS '97, MS '99) and wife **Angie Nunez Castillo** (BS '99) announced the birth of their second child, William, born April 10th, 2001. William has a four-year-old sister, Mary Jo. *** Thomas G. Collins** (MED '93) will be the new superintendent of Waxahachie ISD. *** Gary L. Compton** (BBA '90) was recently inducted in to the Athletic Hall of Fame at A&M-Commerce. *** Bruce Congleton** (MED '96) was named the Fruitvale Independent School District superintendent. *** Rusty O. Fox, Jr.** (MS '91) is the VP for Student Development at Tarrant County College Southeast Campus and has been selected to receive the 2007 National Academic Advising Service to Commission Award for the Two-Year Colleges Commission. *** Katrina C. Horn-Hasley** (MED '99) was named principal of Sharon Shannon Elementary School in Rockwall.

*** Michelle L. Liebreich** (BSIS '96, MS '02) and Matthew A. Madden were married on March 9, 2007. *** Matthew G. Mumford** (BS '64) is the executive director of Network Services for Acuity Specialty Products located in Atlanta, GA. Matt lives there with his wife Dawn and their 9-month-old daughter. *** Kok-Mun Ng** (Ph.D. '99) was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the National Board for Certified Counselors Inc., and Affiliates (NBCC) in Greensboro, NC. He will serve a three-year term. *** Steven R. Stapleton** (BS '93) received the 2006 Midwest Game Warden of the Year award. After earning degrees in journalism and agricultural science from A&M-Commerce and in wildlife biology from Colorado State University, Stapleton and graduated from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's warden academy in 2000. He has been a warden stationed in Van Zandt County ever since. *** Harvey Oaxaco** (MED '95) has been selected as the principal of the McKinney Learning Center. *** Berri Joy O'Neal** (BS '96, MS '98, EDD '02) was recently named executive director of the Universities Center in Dallas. *** Dr. Randy Reid** (MED '91, EdD '06) has been named Tyler Independent School District's new superintendent. *** Tanya Redic** (BSW '97) received her broker license in real estate and is currently the office manager for Harold Carter, Realtors in Tyler. *** Thomas G. Tallach** (MS '94, EdD '97) has been named athletic director at Centenary College.

Class Notes

* **David J. Tarver** (EDD '91) received the Angelo State University Alumni Association, College of Education Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award at their fall homecoming ceremonies. David is a tenured, associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, where he trains future school teachers, counselors, and student personnel administrators. * **Dwight D. York** (BS '75, MBA '95) was recently promoted to senior vice president of Bank of America Global Technology & Operations.

2000's

* **Kenneth I. Caldwell** (BS '01) was married to Elizabeth Mae Jennings on December 30, 2006, at the Central Presbyterian Church in Clayton, MO. * **Amanda Martinez Chadwick** (BS '06)

was married to Mark Chadwick on December 16, 2006. * **Tracy D. Chesney** (BS '04) award-winning photographer, recently exhibited her work in a special display in Greenville, TX. * **Dr. Molly M. Clark** (BS '01, MS '02) recently published a chapter "Engaging Leaders as Builders of Sustainable Rural Communities: A Case Study in New Directions for Community Colleges." * **Kenneth Davenport** (BS '03, MS '05) is the new district executive for the White Oak District of the Netseo Trails Council. * **Stephanie A. Fisher** (BSIS '04) announced her engagement to Jeremy C. Kirk of Rockwall. * **Mary Elizabeth Golden** (BS '06) was united in marriage to Kenneth D. Musick in Paris, on January 20, 2007. * **Dr. Daniel Holt** (MBA '06) has been named the

new vice president for business services for Blinn College. * **Blake R. Jackson** (BBA '00) announced his engagement to Jenny Ellis of Commerce. * **Cody D. Johnson** (BS '02) announces his engagement to Lauren B. Betts of New Boston. * **Brian Knox** (BS '00) and wife **Amanda Seigler Knox** (BS '99) are proud parents of Audree Cate Knox, born March 29, 2007. * **Dennis R. Lind** (MS '05) recently assumed the role of principal at Quitman ISD. * **Lawrence Lee** (BFA '02) was named by *The Dallas Morning News* as one of the top five to watch in the Visual Artists field. * **Daniel Lopez** (MS '01) was named principal of Good Creek, Crockett ISD in Chambers County, Texas. * **Melinda F. Townsend** (BS '05) was married to Zarnell Fitch, II on December 9, 2006, at the

Robert Carr Chapel in Fort Worth. * **Christy R. Palmore** (BBA '05) and Adam D. Miller (BBA '00) were married July 24, 2006. Following a wedding trip to Monte Carlo Resort in Las Vegas, the couple will reside in Greenville. * **Jamie Heddin** (BAAS '06) and Kip Schwoyer were united in marriage on September 4, 2006 in Cozumel, Mexico. * **Michael J. Plata** (BS '06) and Regan Garrett were married on December 16, 2006, at the First United Methodist church in Paris. * **Jarrold M. Robinson** (BS '06) a 2006 Magna Cum Laude graduate, graduated from the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School July 7, 2007, in Quantico, VA. * **Amy R. Williams** (BSIS '04) and Justin Michael Stout were married on July 12, 2006, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. ♣

In Memory

1930's

* **Arnold Armstrong, Sr.** (B.A. '31) 4-12-06 * **Rosemary Glass Alexander** (B.A. '36) 4-15-06 * **Malvin Bond** (B.S. '39) 6-26-06 * **Oliver Diggs** (B.S. '37) 5-7-06 * **Dr. James Filbeck** (B.S. '37, M.S. '38) 3-29-06 * **Ernestine Gresham** (BS '39) 8-20-06 * **Tom O'Neil** (BA '36, MED '52) 5-21-07 * **Eileen Browning Pirtle** (BA '39, MA '69) 03-11-07 * **Ruth B. Riddlesperger** (BS '36, MED '59) 5-02-07 * **Martha Jane Webb-Welch** (BS '38) 4-15-07

1940's

* **Ernestelle Traylor Berry**

(BA '49, MA '51) 5-10-07 * **William (Mont) Montique Coffey** (BS '49, MED '58) 2-26-2007 * **LJ Fite** (BS '40) 04-20-2007 * **Vaulter F. Hickman** (BS '40) 4-11-07 * **Jane Haywood Kendrick** (BS '49, MED '53) May 2007 * **James R. Icenhower** (BS '49, MED '52) 4-29-07 * **Howard J. McMillan** (BS '48, EDAD '49) 4-15-07. * **Carroll Day Nichols** (BS '43) 2-21-2007 * **Joyce Gantt Richardson Patton** (BS '41, MS '50) 3-22-2007

1950's

* **Federico Ayala** (BS '58) 3-21-07. * **John Herman**

Epperson (BS '51, MS '53) 4-18-2007 * **Anne Chapman Kimberlin** (BS '51, MED '73) * **Marshall W. Mabry** (BS '50) 4-14-2007 * **Kenneth Pharr** (BBA '49) 4-18-07. * **Edmond E. Raiborn** (BS '57) 4-5-07. * **Cloyd Rowell** (BS '58) 3-13-2007 * **William Stanley Walker** (BMED '59) 3-15-2007

1960's

* **Gloria B. White** (MS '62) 3-30-2007

1970's

* **Joe C. Buice** (Ph.D. '70) 4-8-2007 * **Edna E. Cook** (MED '76) 5-17-07. * **Edwardine**

Cordell McCoy Fox (EDD '72) 4-15-07 * **Virginia F. Kennedy** (EDD '79) 3-12-2007 * **Nicky Lynn Ragsdale** (BS '71) 3-17-2007 * **Dr. J. David Williams** (EDD '78) 3-26-2007

1980's

* **Dr. Anacleto Cuellar** (EDD '81) 4-24-07 * **William Homer Fuller** (BS '82) 3-25-2007

1990's

* **Byron V. Black** (BS '95) 3-25-2007 * **Dee Kelley Acker** (MED '92) 5-14-2007 ♣

A new look



We all represent the university whether we are alumni, students, faculty or staff. People also form an opinion of the university by the look of our campus, what they see and read about us, and by the way we communicate the university in print and other media.

Beginning in September 2007, the university will embark on a new branding campaign that involves a new visual identity.

When you talk about a visual identity for an institution that has been around for over a hundred years and has generations of alumni and a demographically broad student population – just about everyone has their own idea of what a visual identity should be.

It's an especially sensitive subject when you're talking about a great university like Texas A&M University-Commerce as nearly everyone has a different interpretation of what this place means to them personally. The task is made even more difficult when you try to articulate those feelings, memories and aspirations into a single symbol that can also be used effectively in today's global marketplace.

To many of our alumni, the university will always be, "Old ET." To others it will simply be known as A&M-Commerce. And some, who don't know much about the A&M part, are confused as to why the university is situated in Commerce and

not in that other town down the road a ways.

What we've tried to do is come up with a very clean, classic, highly professional look that can be universally used and be easy to read, easy to identify and, most of all, easy to remember.

Uniformity in the university's image will allow the colleges and their departments and programs to reinforce each other to create an image that is greater than the sum of the parts.

Versions of the word mark and spirit logo were developed and presented over several months to groups that included students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni.

The new visual identity program includes the new word mark, or logo, for use with university stationery, business cards, brochures and other media. The new spirit logo will be used with student organizations and activities including Athletics.

"I am pleased," said President Dr. Keith McFarland, "that we have come together to create this new visual identity program that reflects the University's pursuit of excellence and will enable us to speak in one visual language." ♣

Playing the Game the Ethical Way



By Lorraine Pace & Bill Oliver
Photo by Craig Buck

Carlton Cooper is a man with a compelling vision: to strive to make A&M-Commerce a national leader in college athletics.

The athletics director, a former student athlete and University of Texas graduate who was drafted for the Mavericks, says he will reach out and “recognize our past while we build on our future.”

Carlton’s appointment follows a nationwide search. The Paris, Texas native served as the senior associate athletic director for internal operations at Southern Methodist University. “The time had come,” he says, “for me to head my own program. I’m very honored and excited to be with A&M-Commerce.”

Carlton’s purpose is to ensure the athletic department will be recognized nationally for academic and athletic excellence, while professionally and personally developing each and every one of the student athletes and staff.

“The foundation of the core values throughout our department will be integrity, trust, loyalty and commitment that

will be characterized by pride, enthusiasm and teamwork,” he noted at a press conference following his appointment.

“We will create a family environment in our athletic department, and that family environment will consist of a lot of collaboration between the athletic department, our campus family, our alumni, the City of Commerce, and the extended communities in Texas.

“Our goals for the department are to educate and graduate our student athletes – educate, not just graduate,” he emphasized, “win championships, increase revenue, increase community relations, and increase attendance.

“I believe that if we increase community relations, we can increase attendance, and thereby enhance our facilities.”

In welcoming Carlton to the campus, A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland noted that Carlton “is a man with high ethical and moral standards, who will make sure we continue to maintain a squeaky clean athletic program underpinned by academic success.”

A&M-Commerce has a well-earned reputation for producing a staggering number of highly effective educators, superintendents and college presidents. In this issue you have been provided a glimpse of the qualitative programs offered in the College of Business and Technology. You have also been exposed to a small sample of graduates from the college who have moved on to extraordinary professions and are making valuable contributions to industry and to the world.

I have been fortunate to meet many outstanding alumni over the past few years, and there seems to be a common theme in our discussions. Each person has indicated that they left this institution fully prepared to compete for jobs in the global market. It is not until we leave and compete with others that the true value of the relationships developed and the knowledge we attained is revealed.

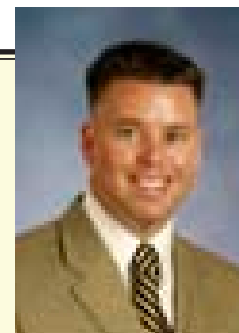
I am impressed and somewhat envious of the opportunities that are available to our students and the variety of classroom environments that are offered. The traditional classroom setting has been transformed over the years, and our efforts are accommodating a large number of students involved in distance learning.

I am equally impressed with our alumni who are

involved in careers in business and technology that are on the cutting edge. They are leading the way and helping to develop new systems and technology that will employ our future alumni in jobs that do not yet exist. We have such a bright future ahead of us.

I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your efforts that are paying dividends now and in the future.

Derryle G. Peace (BS '74, MS '75)
Director, Alumni Relations



Director of Major and Planned Giving seeks Alumni Ownership

Gerald Lunday (BBA '06) has joined Texas A&M University-Commerce as Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving.

Prior to his academic studies in accounting at the university, Gerald served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 11 years initially as “a way of seeing the world.” He says his experience in teamwork and building lasting relationships translates well into his new position. “I look forward to building positive relationships with alumni and friends as well as faculty and staff. There are great people doing great things that have ties with the university. My goal is to share the ownership of our programs.”

“What drew me back to A&M-Commerce is the closeness of this community. It’s something you want to be part of - there are a lot of good things happening here.”

One of Gerald’s major projects is raising \$3 million in gifts for the new Music Building. He will also be managing planned giving, such as bequests, wills and annuities, for the university.

Gerald is married to Deborah (BS '06) and has three children - Faith, Garrett and Grant.



RIDE WITH PRIDE HOMECOMING 2007

You have a special invitation to return to your alma mater and feel the excitement in the air at Homecoming the week of Oct. 15. You can tour the new Science Building and catch a great show at the A&M-Commerce Planetarium, walk across the street to see the construction site of the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center, and hear about plans for a new Music Building.

During Homecoming Week, we'll have the popular Hotdog Spirit Rally where the Homecoming Court and fall sports teams will be introduced. Play some golf at the Alumni Golf Scramble.

Spirits will be high at the pep rally and bonfire, and we'll have the Training School Reception and Luncheon, and tailgate party with food, fun, and the authors and artists fair.

Also planned are the alumni receptions, Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, and football game with Angelo State at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20.

"Everyone is encouraged to come back 'home' to renew old acquaintances, make new friends, and see the remarkable changes that are occurring on campus," said Derryle Peace, alumni relations director. Call 903-886-5765 for more information.



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