



Volume 11

Number 9

February 15, 2006

A publication for employees of Texas A&M University-Commerce

A&M-C seeks apology for 'Glory Road' depiction



LION FACTS — A&M-Commerce men's basketball recently played Northeastern State University. A&M-Commerce "integrated virtually without incident," says President Keith McFarland, reacting to the Disney movie "Glory Road."

An apology is being sought from Disney chair George Mitchell, producer Jerry Bruckheimer, director James Gartner and the writers of "Glory Road" for depicting A&M-Commerce as a center of racism in the Disney basketball movie that purports to be based on truth.

In the movie, fans of A&M-Commerce Lions hurl racial epithets, drinks and popcorn at the African-American players when they run on the court to play the university, which was then known as East Texas State University.

In one of the most chilling scenes of the movie, Texas Western return from the ETSU game to find their local motel room vandalized.

"These events — specifically depicted as taking place at ETSU and in the Commerce area — are completely fabricated and go be-

yond the realms of literary license and decency," says A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland.

"When the ETSU Lions played the Miners, not only was it in El Paso, but we also had three African-American players on the team.

"What is ironic is that our university and community were actually leaders in integrating higher education. We integrated virtually without incident."

"The damage done by the completely untrue account of what took place on our campus and in our community cannot be undone. However, to move beyond this matter, we have asked for an apology," McFarland says.

The story was picked up by AP and has run in 88 news sources nationwide, including Forbes, Sports Illustrated, LA Times, FOX Sports and USA Today.

State Senators visit campus, hear building plans

State Senator Bob Deuell of Greenville and State Senator Steve Ogden of Bryan visited campus on Feb. 9.

A luncheon hosted by President Keith McFarland was held in their honor and then the lawmakers toured the Music Building.

Ogden is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and Deuell is a member of that committee. Ogden asked to visit in Deuell's district and the Greenville lawmaker decided to include A&M-Commerce on that visit.

"Senator Ogden asked me to show him what is important in my district and I immediately thought of Texas A&M University-Commerce for a variety of reasons," Deuell said.

He noted that many teachers and professionals in other fields educated at the university live in the district and that A&M-Com-

merce is poised for growth in the future.

In his remarks at the luncheon attended by university personnel and students, Ogden said the State Legislature will meet in a special session in April and May to look at the financing of Texas' public schools.

The Texas comptroller has announced that the state has a \$4.3 billion surplus, and this means there will be money for a pay raise for public school teachers, Ogden said.

The Finance Committee chaired added that he anticipated there would be funding available for infrastructure projects for higher education institutions in the state.

Ogden said state legislators will be considering the tuition revenue bonds that help to fund building projects for colleges and universities.

Ogden asked about the tuition revenue



FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR VISITS — State Senator Steve Ogden of Bryan, chairman of the Finance Committee, was on the A&M-Commerce campus on Feb. 9.

bond projects for A&M-Commerce and McFarland said money will be requested for a
Senators, page 4

Heart healthy 101

February is Heart Healthy Month, dedicated to creating awareness of cardiovascular disease, the nation's number one killer.

1. Of primary importance in lowering the risk of cardiovascular disease, the American Heart Association urges people to have their blood cholesterol tested.
2. Regular exercise and a heart healthy diet are other keys as well as quitting smoking and avoiding second-hand smoke.
3. Try changing your eating habits.
4. Add foods, like fruits and vegetables, that can help lower high blood cholesterol.
5. Reduce the amount of overall fat intake, especially trans fat, which since January, is available to consumers on nutrition labels.
6. Add plant sterols to your diet. These heart-healthy nutrients are found in some margarines and fortified juices. Sterols are "Omegas," either 3 or 6.
7. Three's are found in fatty fish, like salmon. Sixes are usually found in corn oil, canola oil, almonds, and some other nuts. For chocolate lovers, there is CocoaVia, a new line of cocoa-based snacks that contain plant sterols that can significantly lower LDL or "bad" cholesterol.
8. Increase the amount of fiber in your diet. Dried beans, such as black beans, pinto beans, and kidney beans, are high in a type of fiber that lowers cholesterol.
9. Eat a fish dish twice a week, according to the American Heart Association.
10. Learning to cope with stress is also important. Know your stress limits, when to say no to work and when to relax. Escape from your problems into a hobby like gardening.
11. If you are overweight, speak to your doctor and establish a healthy diet that will help you lose weight.
12. Be aware of your blood pressure This is particularly important if you have diabetes.

Publications

Sherion H. Jackson, educational administration, "Projecting Community in Web-Based Courses: What To Say and How To Say It," *The Texas Journal of Distance Education*, Fall 2005.

Robert Rich, educational administration doctoral student, and Jackson, "Building the Reflective Capacity of Practicing Principals," *The Journal of Scholarship and Practice*, Winter 2006.

Olibe Kingsley, accounting; **Chuck Arize**, business administration and MIS; and **Dipasri Ghosh**, Florida International University, "Does the U.S. Market Overreact to Non-U.S. GAAP Disclosure? A Closer Examination," *The International Journal of Finance*, Vol. 17, 2005.

Serge P. von Duvillard, health and human performance, co-author, "Bone Metabolism in Elite Male Rowers: Adaptation to Volume-Extended Training," accepted for publication in the *European Journal of Applied Physiology*.

Presentations

Don English, **Ed Manton**, and **Jan Walker**, business administration and MIS, "Human Resource Managers' Perception of Selected Business Communication Competencies," Association for Global Business, Miami Beach, Fla., 2005.

Chad D. Smith, art, will be part of a panel, "The Darkroom: Once the Standard, Now the Exception," College Art Association Annual Conference, Boston, Mass., Feb. 22.

Exhibiting work

Smith, art, photographic work on small businesses has become part of the permanent collection in the marketing department of Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. His work will be part of an ongoing exhibition including photographers in the region and Peter Calvin, art grad student.

Smith photographs are included in the TPS Exhibition held in San Francisco at the Calumet Photographic Gallery.

The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 15.

Linek honored by Regents

Wayne M. Linek has been named Regents professor. He joined the A&M-Commerce faculty in 1992 and was promoted to full professor in 2000.



Linek has served in various administrative capacities, including department head from 1997 to 2001. He coordinates the department's doctoral program in supervision, curriculum and instruction.

He has co-authored or co-edited 11 books, numerous refereed journal articles and over 100 proposals and presentations. Linek is a past president of the College Reading Association and has held several leadership positions with the International Reading Association.

In addition, he is co-editor of the *Journal of Literacy Research* and serves as editorial adviser for publications such as *Reading Research and Instruction*.

Linek also is a volunteer for the International Reading Association to Reform Secondary Education in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

At A&M-Commerce, he has been a member of a wide variety of graduate, university, and college committees and has served either as committee chair, member or adviser for over 90 doctoral students.

Linek states that the award reflects the help and collaboration he has received from his colleagues.



STARRY NIGHT — Patrons of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum attended the inaugural shows of the A&M-Commerce Planetarium, enjoyed dinner, and helped raise \$11,850 for the Museum. From left are Patsy Youngs, Museum Board president; A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland; and marypaz, new Museum director who started work last month.

Fast facts

Giovanni to speak Feb. 23

Poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator Nikki Giovanni will highlight Black History Month on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Giovanni's program will be at 7 p.m. in the University Auditorium.

For this Breakout Entertainment Program, students will get in free, but tickets are required for everyone else.

The \$5 tickets are on sale at the Candy Corner in the Memorial Student Center.

One of the most widely read American poets, Giovanni prides herself on being a "black American, a daughter, a mother, a professor of English."

She has written more than two dozen books, including volumes of poetry, collections of essays, and illustrated children's books.

A University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, Giovanni has received 21 honorary doctorates and numerous other awards. She is a graduate of Fisk University.

Welcome Underdue Murph

A reception to honor Yvette Underdue Murph, assistant vice president for enrollment and marketing, will be Friday, Feb. 17.

The reception is from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Founders Lounge of the Memorial Student Center.

Underdue Murph, who started work in January, previously served as director of articulation and institutional image at the University of La Verne in California.

Career Expo set for Feb. 15

As part of its Black History Month observance with the Office of Minority Affairs, Gee Library will host a Career Expo.

The event will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, in Room 211 of the library.

Students and employees are invited to bring their resumes and cover letters and have them critiqued by staff members in the Office of Career Services.

Library staff will have reference material that will be helpful to those entering the job market.

Throughout February, the library is displaying exhibits highlighting Black History Month. The public is invited to view the exhibits featuring materials from the A.C. McMillan African American Museum in Emory.



GOOD JUDGES — The Livestock Judging Team displays awards won during the 2005 season. From left are Chris Ellason, graduate student coach from Tom Bean; Jonathan Larue, Moran, Kan., senior; Johnny Hill, Grand Saline senior who graduated in December 2005; Doug Annuschat, Kingfisher, Okla. senior; Brian Campbell, Colonial Heights, Va. senior who graduated in December 2005; Chris Gilbreath, Winnsboro senior; Tyler Dewey, Poteau, Okla. senior; Randi Knight, Stanton junior; and Byron Housewright, ag sciences faculty coach.



PREACHING SUCCESS — Reverend Jerome R. Milton addresses a group of high school students at the 2006 PAL Conference at A&M-Commerce. PAL (Preparation for Adult Living) is a program that helps children from the state's Foster Care System prepare for entering college. Milton, a former foster care child, stressed the importance of getting an education. "Your best revenge is success," Milton said as he recounted his experiences through college. The high school students spent two days touring the A&M-Commerce campus and getting a first-hand appreciation of college life. This annual event was first held in 1993. Students come from 11 regions around the state of Texas, and include juniors and seniors in high school.



STAYING IN TOUCH — A&M-Commerce alumna Ralonda Dittmar, (center front) has won a Hoffman Award from Biola University. Dittmar, a former Commerce resident, is assistant director of Student Ministries at Biola. Pictured next to Dittmar is her mother, Velma Dittmar, retired Gee Library employee. Also pictured from left are Don Hoffman, Dittmar's uncle and aunt, P.D. and Ada Mae Hill of Bakersfield, Calif.; her father, Rev. Roy Lee Dittmar of Commerce; and Biola University President Clyde Cook.

Zany comedy classic to open Feb.15

The zany comedy classic, "You Can't Take It With You," by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart is set Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 15-19.

Evening performances of "You Can't Take It With You" will run Feb. 15-18 at 8 p.m. with the Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Feb. 19.

Anne Bomar, who starred last fall as Ruby Rose in "Ruby Rose Rides Again," is directing "You Can't Take It With You."

This will be the last play Bomar will direct at A&M-Commerce. In May, at the end of the semester, she will retire.

The play, which is set in Depression era New York, focuses on a secretary, Alice Sycamore, who falls in love with her upper-class boss' son, Tony Kirby, despite the fact that they come from completely different worlds.

Bomar said she is enjoying directing the play. "Since I'm best known here for my work with comedy, I thought the perfect way to go out was with a Kaufman and Hart comedy," she said.

In selecting a play to direct as her finale, Bomar said she debated between "You Can't Take It With You" and "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

"Both are madcap social comedies, full of



CHUCKLES APLENTY — Essie Carmichael (Bree Walton) and "Grandpa" Martin Vanderhoff (Eric Kildow) rehearse a scene from the upcoming play "You Can't Take It With You."

delightful and mostly sympathetic characters and witty one-liners, which depend on split-second timing."

Tickets are \$3 for students, \$10 for adults, and \$8 for senior citizens. For reservations and information, contact the University Playhouse at the Performing Arts Center at 5900.



HOTTICKET—Patrons view the latest planetarium show "Wonders of the Universe" which opened to the public Friday, Feb. 3. The new state-of-the-art planetarium on the campus of A&M-Commerce was well received during the inaugural weekend. Reservations can be made by calling extension 8650 but specific seats will not be reserved. Enjoy the show.

Senators

Continued from page 1

Building and Gee Library renovation.

Ogden said legislators will attempt to address the higher education infrastructure needs in the state and noted he expects there will be more requests for funding than money available. "We are looking at all TRB (tuition revenue bond) requests and evaluating them on merit," he said.

"I look forward to listening to the requests

from Texas A&M University-Commerce and my guess is it is going to score pretty high," Ogden said.

After the luncheon, the state senators and a group of A&M-Commerce administrators and students walked to the Music Building. Music department head Chris White said the building was constructed in the 1950s to accommodate 65 music majors and now the department has more than 150 majors.

Music students directed a tour of the building pointing out cramped facilities and the need for work in the building.

February

- 14 — Roxi McCloskey Exhibit: University Gallery, Main Art Building. Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. and by appointment at extension 5208.
Pianist Rob Gonzalez, 7:45 p.m., Texas Ballroom
- 15 — "You Can't Take it With You" by Kaufman and Hart, Performing Arts Center. For reservations, call the University Playhouse Box Office at extension 5900. Continues through Feb. 19.
Women's basketball, East Central Oklahoma, 6 p.m., in Ada, Okla.
Men's basketball, East Central Oklahoma, 8 p.m., in Ada, Okla.
- 17 — Junior Level Essay administered, 1:30 p.m., Business Administration Building.
Reception to welcome Yvette Underdue Murph, assistant vice president for enrollment management and marketing, 2 to 4 p.m., Founders Lounge.
Junior Level Essay administered, 8:30 a.m., Business Administration Building.
Women's basketball, Southeastern Oklahoma State, 2 p.m., in Commerce.
Men's basketball, Southeastern Oklahoma State, 4 p.m., in Commerce.
- 22 — Spring Job Fair, 9 a.m. to noon, Memorial Student Center ballrooms.
Women's basketball, Cameron University, 6 p.m., in Commerce.
Men's basketball, Cameron University, 8 p.m., in Commerce.
- 23 — Poet Nikki Giovanni, 7 p.m., University Auditorium.
- 24 — Women's golf, Rattler Spring Invitational, The Golf Club of Texas in San Antonio. Continues through Feb. 26.
- 25 — Track and field, Trinity University Invitational, in San Antonio.
Men's basketball, Southwestern Oklahoma, 4 p.m., in Weatherford, Okla.
- 26 — Men's golf, St. Edward's Invitational, Circle C Golf Club in Austin. Continues through Feb. 28.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, March 1. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, Feb. 22. Please send your news to maryl_hazal@tamu-commerce.edu or by fax to 5522.

A&M-Commerce, an equal opportunity university, complies with all federal requirements prohibiting discriminatory activities.