

Underdue Murph heads enrollment/marketing

Yvette Underdue Murph has joined A&M-Commerce as assistant vice president for Enrollment Management and Marketing.

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

She worked in various posts at the University of La Verne, a private institution with an enrollment of over 9,000 students, for eight years. Underdue Murph had been special projects manager in the Office of the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs and director of admissions and marketing at the university's College of Law San Fernando Valley Campus.

While in California, she also worked as enrollment manager at the University of Redlands Torrance Campus.

"Dr. Underdue Murph comes to Texas A&M University-Commerce with a good range of experiences from California institutions, both private universities, where



FRESH OUTLOOK — Underdue Murph is attracted by the exceptional potential of A&M-Commerce.

marketing and enrollment are critical to the success of the institution," said Joyce Scott, provost and vice president of Academic/Student Affairs.

"We appreciate the fresh outlook and special expertise she will bring to her position here and look forward to working with her to develop greater effectiveness in our student recruiting and retention," Scott said.

Underdue Murph said what attracted her to A&M-Commerce was the "exceptional potential and opportunities that exist at the institution — a wonderful challenge which I welcome."

A&M-Commerce's commitment to student success wholeheartedly resonates with my personal educational philosophy of promoting student access toward higher achievements and aspirations through a collaborative and supportive environment," she said.

She is enjoying getting acquainted with A&M-Commerce employees and the people of Commerce. "Everybody has embraced me with such warmth and kindness," Underdue Murph said.

She has been pleased that employees have
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Disney responds to 'Glory Road'

Walt Disney Studios has faxed a letter to A&M-Commerce in response to the university's request for an apology from Walt Disney Co. and the makers of the movie "Glory Road" for inaccurately linking the university to racially charged scenes.

An excerpt from the Disney communication, signed by Richard Cook, chair of Walt Disney Studios, states: "Since "Glory Road" is not a documentary, it was sometimes necessary to consolidate events in order to convey the life and times of the story in a roughly two-hour period.

"It was never the intention of Walt Disney Pictures or the "Glory Road" filmmakers to unfairly depict any particular group, individuals, community, or institution and we regret any misunderstanding this might have caused."

A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland is not satisfied with the response.

"It appears," says McFarland, "as if the six individuals that we contacted chose to let Richard Cook, chair of The Walt Disney Studios, respond for all of them.

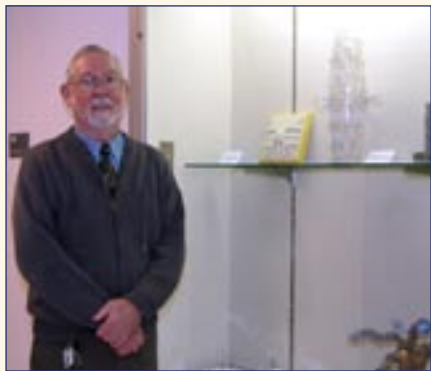
"To me it reads more like an explanation

and justification than an apology.

"Our institution and community were specifically singled out in a very negative way in the movie; therefore, to maintain the filmmakers had no intention of unfairly depicting any particular group or institution seems to be a contradiction in what the filmmakers actually did, and what Cook says they did."

The story continued to generate stories nationally, resulting in an interview with a national newswire that feeds to 2,000 radio and television stations nationwide, an inquiry from a nationally syndicated talk show host, columns by the *Dallas Morning News'* James Ragland, an A&M-Commerce alumnus, and an Op-Ed in *The Greenville Herald Banner*.

Extra Credit



ART KID — In high school in Michigan, Jerry Dodd was known as the “art kid.” Dodd took art classes and had a “wonderful” teacher and then studied art in college. He has been passing on his love of art to A&M-Commerce students for nearly 30 years. In the display case in the Main Art Building, are examples of his students’ work.

The A&M-Commerce employee of the month is Jerry Dodd, art professor.

Years as a university employee: 29 and will retire in May with nearly 30 years at A&M-Commerce.

What he enjoys most about his job: “Interacting with young people and our excellent art majors.”

What he thinks makes him successful in his job: In regards to his teaching, he says, “You have to be patient, have an outgoing personality, and be persistent.”

In his artwork, he says he is “disciplined and sometimes impatient. I demand more of myself than my students.”

What he teaches: Sculpture, 3-D design, and drawing.

Where originally from: Michigan

Where his degrees are from: Bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University, master of fine arts degree from University of Oregon.

What boss Stan Godwin has to say about him: “Jerry has been one of the most solid professors we have had in art for nearly 30 years. His students speak very highly of him, and he continuously has one of the highest evaluations within the department. Jerry’s wit and sense of caring will be sorely missed after his May retirement.”

Publications

R.N. Singh, sociology and criminal justice, and **Amir Abbasi**, counseling, “Toward Developing a Profile of Suicide Terrorists: A Sociological Analysis,” *Journal of Creative Sociology and Critical Thinking*.

Tara Tietjen-Smith, **Sandy Weeks**, and others, health and human performance, “Grip Strength in Relation to Overall Strength and Functional Capacity in Very Old and Oldest Old Females,” *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*, Vol. 24.

Leah E. Wickersham and **Sharon M. Chambers**, secondary and higher education, “ePortfolios: Using Technology To Enhance and Assess Student Learning,” *Education*, Spring 2006.

Wickersham, Sue Espinoza and **Jason Davis**, secondary and higher education, “Teaching Online: Three Perspectives, Three Approaches,” *AACE Journal*, Spring 2006.

Presentations

Sharon M. Chambers and **Wickersham**, secondary and higher education, “The Electronic Portfolio Journey: A Year Later,” Southwest Educational Research Association Annual Conference, in Austin, Feb. 8.

Chambers and **Wickersham**, “Assessment, Accreditation and Accountability: Are ePortfolios the Answer?,” Lilly South Conference on College and University Teaching, in Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 17.

Ed Manton, **Don English**, **Jan Walker**, business administration and MIS, and **Steve Avard**, economics and finance, “What College Freshmen Admit To Not Knowing About Personal Finance,” Applied Business Research Conference, Orlando, Fla., January 2006.

Tammy B. Nichols and **Jeffery G. Kopachena**, biological sciences, “The Incidence of American Swallow Bugs in Barn Swallow Colonies in Northeast Texas,” poster presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Feb. 16-18.

Derek Parker Royal, literature and languages, “(Re)cycling Tradition: Uses of the Short-Story Cycle in Recent Jewish Ameri-

can Fiction,” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., December 2005.

Also “Composite Sketches of Ethnic Identity: Will Eisner’s A Contract with God as Cycle Narrative,” to be presented at the Southwest/Texas Regional Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Albuquerque, N.M., February 2006.

Jade M. Richardson, **Aron A. Flanders** and **Kopachena**, biological sciences, and **Derald A. Harp**, agricultural sciences, “Analyses of Soil Properties Associated with Nest Sites in Interior Least Terns,” poster presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Feb. 16-18.

Heather Rogers and **Kopachena**, “A Herpetological Survey of the Cowleech Prairie Preserve in Northeast Texas,” poster presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Anna M. Salinas, **Aron A. Flanders**, and **Kopachena**, “Breeding Ecology and Management of Interior Least Terns on a Northeast Texas Reservoir,” poster presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Career development

Mary Lou Hazal, media relations and publications, attended the Texas Public Relations Association Conference held Feb. 24-25 in Austin.

Lorraine Pace, media relations and publications, attended the Public Relations Society of America Conference held March 2-3 in Fort Worth.

Kudos

Tammy Nichols won second place among graduate posters at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society for her poster, “The Incidence of American Swallow Bugs in Barn Swallow Colonies in Northeast Texas.”

Cameron Plunkett, media relations and publications, won a Silver Award in the Texas Public Relations Association Contest. He won in the Brochures Category for the A&M-Commerce Viewbook. The award is the highest in the Best of Texas categories.

Fast facts

Hear Linek at convocation

New Regents Professor Wayne Linek will be the speaker. A professor in the Department of Elementary Education, Linek will be honored by the university community. He recently was honored by The Texas A&M University System.

The 11 a.m. classes will be dismissed for the event in the University Auditorium. Faculty are encouraged to dress in academic regalia.

National athletic certification

The Athletic Training Education Program is in full compliance with the standards established by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied-Health Education Programs.

The program submitted a required progress report, which was required after a site visit in 2004.

"This is not unlike SACS and their review of the university," said Ed Sunderland, director of the Athletic Training Education Program.

The Athletic Training Education Program is fully accredited until 2009-2010. "I am very proud that A&M-Commerce can provide our students the opportunity to pursue national athletic training certification," Sunderland said.

"I extend special thanks to the athletic training faculty—Brad Abell, Anthony Lungstrum, Barri Mulkey, Greg Hulsey, and our team physicians, Pat Prapan and Jeff Wallace, for selfless effort to make this happen and to our department head, Ken Alford, for his support and confidence in us," he said. The Spring Convocation is set for 11 a.m. Thursday, March 2.

Volunteer for Big Event

The Big Event, a day of work and celebration in Commerce, will be held on Saturday, March 25.

This is the eighth year that the university and City of Commerce have come together to improve the appearance, facilities, and safety of Commerce.

A stew luncheon will be served in City Park at noon for all volunteers who participate in a project.

A&M-Commerce students and organizations that have not selected a project can pick up a Project Proposal Form at the Chamber Office at 1114 Main, complete it, and return it by Monday, March 20.



Winter Conference in Austin. Jim Vornberg, back row left, received the Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration Living Legend Award from the Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration. Educational administration faculty gathered for a photo. From left are Timothy B. Jones, Casey Brown, Julie Combs, Danna Beaty, Sherion Jackson, Charles Blanton, Mary Ann Gaines, David Standfield, and Robert Grant, A&M-Commerce Distinguished Meadows Professor, Professor Emeritus of the University of Arizona and mentor of Vornberg



FUTURE EDUCATORS — The Collegiate Middle Level Association of A&M-Commerce is open to all students who are seeking teacher certification in grades four to eight or any student who at some point may be interested in teaching these grades. CMLA is an affiliate of National Middle School Association, the largest national education association dedicated to middle level educators. A&M-Commerce is one of three Texas institutions with a local chapter. Pictured are Rae Davidson, Katie Wilson, Jackie Nenniger, Marcus Edwards, Lauren Cheshire, Ginger Drain, Robbie Wagner, Heather Wheeler, Amanda Rollins, Isabell Robles, Becky Adams, Trecia Benner, Joe Herrera, Josh Fendley, Melissa Kerry, and Nancy Duggan.

DIRECTOR AND ACTRESS — Anne Bomar, who directed the comedy classic, "You Can't Take It With You," is also a talented actress. Bomar has played numerous roles at the University Playhouse. "The feeling is bittersweet," says Bomar of her



retirement in May. "I am nervous and anxious, all at the same time."

Visit student art exhibition

The Department of Art is sponsoring the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition.

The exhibition is running through Friday, March 24, and features student work produced during class in all media including photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, design, and digital media.

Lee Baxter Davis, retired art professor, is the juror for this year's event. Winning entries received monetary awards.

University Gallery hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and by appointment. For more information, contact Bill Wadley at extension 5203.

Morales awarded Microsoft grant



PROTECTING INFORMATION — Linda Morales speaks to students in a classroom at the university's new \$28 million Science Building, scheduled to be dedicated April 4. She was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant by Microsoft.

Computer science is young, but already it runs our world. It has grown so quickly that the questions on how to protect its security have yet to be fully answered.

The U.S. is losing hundreds of billions of dollars a year from viruses, hackers, computer corporate espionage, computer crashes, sabotage, and other kinds of information crime.

Linda Morales at A&M-Commerce is one of the people seeking answers. She was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant by Microsoft to prepare curriculum materials for ethics in computer security.

"There are people in this world who think it a challenge to write a virus," says Morales. "And there are also those who hack into computers. They feel no responsibility for the havoc they create."

Morales hopes that the materials she is creating will help to change those attitudes.

While there is a well-acknowledged need for some way to teach ethics in computer security

because of the critical nature of the work students will do after graduation, the established codes of ethics are for the computing profession in general.

Morales is, however, developing a curriculum package in ethics for computer security that can be handed to an instructor. It will introduce and deal with the various laws that deal with privacy and digital rights, among other topics.

This work will also be disseminated through organizations like the National Information Assurance Training and Education Center and the Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance Curriculum Repository, a digital library.

Later this year, Morales will also attend the Trustworthy Computing Curriculum Workshop at Microsoft Research in Redmond, Wash.

Morales is the recipient of several National Science Foundation grants for research and education in computer science.

Underdue Murph

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been open to "embracing new ideas and looking at opportunities with a fresh eye."

Underdue Murph will use the Deans' Council and university committees as a vehicle to stimulate the university community to look at key issues in student recruitment, retention and marketing.

She spent her youth in the South Bronx of New York City and in Springfield, Mass.

She earned her certificate of undergraduate studies from Cambridge College in 1992 and then received a master in education from Cambridge College in 1994.

Underdue Murph earned a doctorate in public administration from the University of La Verne in 2005.

She also served as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Business and Public Management teaching in the Master of Science in Leadership and Management Program.

March

- 1 — Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, University Gallery, Main Art Building. Gallery open from 1 to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays and by appointment. Continues through March 24.
- 3 — Women's basketball, Lone Star Conference Tournament. Time and location to be announced. Continues through March 4.
Men's basketball, LSC Tournament Semifinals. Time and location to be announced. Continues through March 4.
Wind Ensemble Concert, Concert Hall, Music Building, 7:30 p.m.
- 4 — University Day open house for prospective students and their parents.
- 5 — Men's golf, Pepsi Crawford/Wade Invitational, Tanglewood Resort, in Pottsboro. Continues through March 7.
- 6 — Symphonic Band Concert, Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 7 — Choral Concert, Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 — Chamber Winds Concert, Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 — Track & field, Tarleton State Invitational, in Stephenville.
- 10 — Residence halls close for Spring Break, 5 p.m.
Mid-term grade reports available on WEBTRAX.
- 13-17 Spring Break.
- 14 — Track & field, ASU Multis, in San Angelo. Continues through March 15.
- 19 — Residence halls open, 2 p.m.
Women's golf, Pepsi Lady Lion Invitational, Tanglewood Resort, in Pottsboro. Continues through March 21.
Men's golf, Oak Hills Spring Classic, Oak Hills Golf and Country Club, in Ada, Okla. Continues through March 21.
- 20 — Classes resume following Spring Break.
Guest Trombone Recital, Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 23 — Roger Bryant and Dee Ann Gorham Faculty Voice Recital, Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 29 — Registration and drop/add begins for seniors and second bachelors for May Mini, Summer I & II.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, April 5. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, March 29. Please send your news to mary_hazal@tamu-commerce.edu or by fax to 5522.

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