

## Prof Emerita crowns career

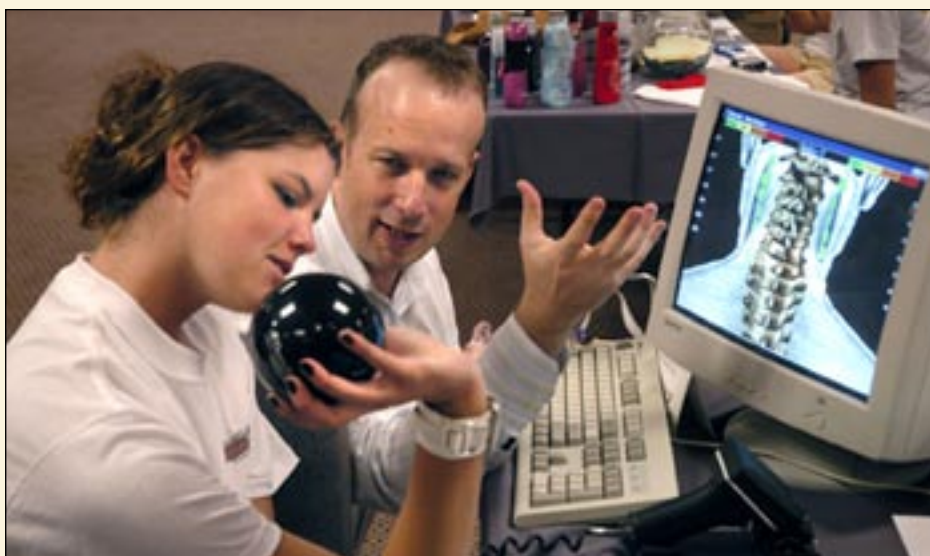
Ruth Ann Stephens has been honored for her 27-year career at A&M-Commerce. Stephens, who is retiring at the end of the fall semester, has received the title of Professor Emerita of Educational Administration.

Coming to A&M-Commerce in 1978 after working in the Stephenville Independent School District, she was the first woman faculty member in her department. "Dr. Ruth Ann Stephens was a trendsetter in that respect," A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland said at a Sept. 14 reception on campus for the honoree.

Receiving her bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University and master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M University in College Station, Stephens said in her remarks that she was the second woman in an educational administration department in higher education in the nation.

In the late 1970s in educational administration, "there just weren't any women, and there were few women at Texas A&M when I was a student," she said.

In presenting her a framed certificate for



*HEALTH MATTERS — The 21st Annual Merchants Fair made for a busy Memorial Student Center on Sept. 14. Here, Grand Junction, Iowa student Jayleen Gunn talks with Eric Russell of Beacon Chiropractic of Commerce. The fair gives students, faculty and staff an opportunity to learn about local and area businesses and organizations. This year's fair attracted 31 merchants, according to student center staffers.*

the honor, which was approved by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, McFarland said, "Thank you for all your years of service to the university and the students."

A Stephenville resident, Stephens is in her fourth year on the Stephenville Independent School District Board of Trustees. "That's great service to the community," McFarland said.

Since 1996, Stephens has taught part time and is currently teaching a distance learning course offered by the Region 10 Education Service Center and A&M-Commerce.

"This has been a wonderful place to be," she said, noting she has gained many friends at A&M-Commerce. "I will be sad to end my teaching."

## A&M-Commerce leads system in teacher certification

A&M-Commerce has a reputation for excellence in producing teachers and for those professionals interested in teacher training, A&M-Commerce offers alternative teaching certifications that fast tracks qualified candidates to a teaching career.

According to Texas A&M University System figures, 227 "teachers of record" have been placed in local education agencies by A&M-Commerce, exceeding expectations.

A&M-Commerce has the highest alternative teaching certification production rate in the A&M System. A&M-Commerce has also exceeded targets in critical teaching areas such as mathematics, science and special education.

"Alternative teaching certification can be completed in a shorter time frame than traditional degree programs, and may also be more affordable," says Donna Tavener, director of

the alternative teacher certification program at A&M-Commerce.

One of the benefits of an alternative teaching certification through A&M-Commerce is that it meets many of the requirements towards a master's degree, halving the time needed to obtain a postgraduate qualification in education.

Other alternative teaching certification programs may not offer this benefit.

# Photography 101

While many love taking photographs, there are those who dread it, fearing they will create yet more distorted images where heads have been cut from the subject's body. Try these tips from the university's photographer Craig Buck for pictures you will want to keep.

- 1- Be aware of what is happening with the light.
- 2- Look at your background.
- 3- Move in close. Don't be afraid to get closer.
- 4- Try shooting the same picture but turn the camera vertically.
- 5- Try using your flash even though you are outside.
- 6- Change your composition by not having the subject centered.
- 7- Always carry your camera. You never know when you will see something.
- 8- Try different angles. Get lower or higher. Look up, look down.
- 9- Be patient and take your time.
- 10- Read the camera manual BEFORE you want to capture that all important moment.

## Publications

Allan D. Headley, graduate studies and research and chemistry professor, "Effect of Hydrophobic Side-Chains on the Solvation of Imidazolium Salts," *Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry*, June 2005.

Brenda Moore, social work, and Robert McFadden, Marilyn Herie, and Dick Schoech, editors, *Web-based Education in the Human Services: Models, Methods and Best Practices*, Haworth Press, 2005.

Fred Tarpley, professor emeritus of literature and languages, essay, "Names in the Fiction of John P. Marquand," *Essays on the Literature of American Novelist John P. Marquand (1893-1960)*, Robert D. Whipple Jr., editor, Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston, N.Y.

Leah E. Wickersham, secondary and higher education, Shau Eve Sue, doctoral student in secondary and higher education, "Reversing Roles to Create an Online Course," *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, Fall 2005.

## Kudos

Ted Hansen, music, has been selected for his eighth consecutive ASCAP Standard Panel Award for his work as a composer.

Recent performances of Hansen's work include "Cantilena for Violin, Viola, and Piano," A&M-Commerce and Mesquite Arts Center, March 2005 World Premiere.

Also "Crystals for Violin, Cello, and Piano," Lake Chamber Music Series, Dallas, March 2005 World Premiere; "Reflections for Violin, Viola, and Cello," Killington Music Festival, Killington, Vermont, August 2005; "Elegy for Alto Saxophone and Piano," Faculty Recital, Brookhaven College, Dallas.

Jim Vornberg, educational administration, will receive the James A. Vornberg Distinguished Service Award. This award will be the highest honor that the Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration can bestow. This organization will present the award to Vornberg at the Texas Association of School Administrators and Texas Association of School Boards meeting.

This new award honors Vornberg, who has 30 years of service to the organization.

## Presentations

Wickersham and Sharon Chambers, secondary and higher education, "Electronic Portfolios: Using Technology to Enhance and Assess Student Performance," CREATE Conference, San Antonio, Sept. 16.

## New chef adds spice to campus

Chef Diane Shannon, a Sodexho employee, has always wanted to work for organizations like Greenpeace and Amnesty International.

However, Sodexho meets those social service needs. The company, she says, strives to improve the quality of life for people whenever and wherever they come together.

Sodexho is engaged in a host of activities, including feeding the hungry all over the world. "It's not just lip service," Shannon says, detailing some of the activities she and colleagues have participated in, like fundraising for Hurricane Katrina relief.

"My job is to make people want to eat," she says. "We use recipes that are tested, tried and true not just for the everyday, but also for special events.

"People eat not only because they are hungry, they eat because it meets an emotional



**OVEN FRESH**  
— Diane Shannon, part of the new Sodexho management team, says her staff bake daily and are insulted at the thought of using something like muffin mix.

need," she says. "The chocolate cake that looks like the one grandma baked when you were 12 is difficult to refuse."

According to Shannon, A&M-Commerce students ask questions like "Why can't I have

Fruit Loops every day?" or "Why can't I have bacon with every meal?" Requests are placed on the menu rotation, so they are available on a regular basis.

Sodexho prides itself on providing a full line of good, showy items, with interesting new additions daily.

They handle special requests and dietary needs, and have rustled up meals for vegetarians. "If we can make it without a long wait before serving, then we accommodate requests."

While the A&M-Commerce cafeteria also offers a range of fresh, raw vegetables and salad, burgers and fries nevertheless continue to be the most popular meal.

Shannon inherited a talented and experienced staff, with families that have worked at A&M-Commerce for generations.

"These are the people who make it happen," she says.

Catering director Scott Davenport, retail and concessions manager Danny Shumway, and director of dining services John Offerle complete the Sodexho management team.

# Fast facts

## Greet new Mayo Professor

A University Convocation honoring Richard Fulkerson, literature and languages faculty, as a Mayo Professor is set for Thursday, Oct. 6.

The Convocation will be at 11 a.m. in the University Auditorium. All 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. classes will be dismissed, and faculty are being asked to participate wearing academic regalia.

A reception honoring Fulkerson will be at 3 p.m. in the Founder's Lounge of the Memorial Student Center.

Fulkerson has focused on teaching composition and argument although his doctorate is in British literature, and early in his career he did research and publication writing on Charles Dickens and Anthony Burgess.

In his career, he has written one book, *Teaching the Argument in Writing*, a National Council of Teachers of English bestseller, and numerous articles and review essays in refereed or invited publications.



**KEY PEOPLE** — Public radio KETR 88.9 FM general manager Vicki Holloway presents Bill Ogden, host of popular program "The Bluegrass Special," with keys to the station at its 30th anniversary celebration. The event was held recently at Chandlers Landing Yacht and Tennis Club, on the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard in Rockwall. KETR is a service of A&M-Commerce.

## Bring your secret recipe

Its chili cookin' time again and Alumni Relations is gearing up for the 2005 A&M-Commerce Annual Chili Cook-off. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29.

Awards will be given for the first three places and also for Best Showmanship. Each participating team will receive a t-shirt and two tickets to the A&M-C Lions football game.

The cook-off will begin at 7:30 a.m. with judging beginning at 11:30 a.m. Chili tasting for visitors will begin after the judging — while quantities last.

The university tailgate party continues at noon for \$6.



**HORRORSTORM** — On the evening *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* was due to be screened at the Morris Recreation Center's Great-Outdoors, a storm blew in unexpectedly. Finding shelter is Commerce resident Mike Haas, aka Eddie, with *The Lips*. The show was screened indoors in the center's gym. The luscious lips red velvet cake was baked by rec center patron Brooke Brooks, a Dallas resident.

## See 'Ruby Rose' this week

"Ruby Rose Rides Again," opens Wednesday, Oct. 5, and will continue through Sunday, Oct. 9.

Written by theatre's Jim Tyler Anderson and directed by theatre's Gary Burton, the play will be on the Main Stage of the Performing Arts Center.

"Ruby Rose Rides Again" is about a self-described rodeo, radio and real life star, Ruby Rose Lassiter.

Her weekly radio/rodeo program is about to be cancelled, and she must fight to preserve the cowgirl way and to save her Dutch Oven Ranch.

Ruby Rose will be played by theatre's Anne Bomar. This show will be Bomar's last on stage performance at the University Playhouse before she retires in May.

The play will feature live western music played by musical director Ken Dickinson, Delbert Wayne, Celia Stogner, Deborah Lou, Christy Griser, Doris Jean, Donny Joe and Harry Fullwood.

The Oct. 5 through Saturday, Oct. 8, shows will be at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Oct. 9, there will be a matinee at 3 p.m. For this season of plays, the Playhouse is planning more productions but fewer performance dates with the shows not presented on a second week as has been the case in recent years.

For ticket information for "Ruby Rose, Rides Again," call the Playhouse Box Office at extension 5900.

**HIGH NOTE** — Music education major Kenneth Thompson of Rowlett is distinguishing himself as a top college saxophonist. At the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention held



recently in San Antonio, he was awarded the prestigious Malcolm Helm Scholarship. This scholarship is designated for outstanding wind or percussion players at a college or university in Texas. Only one scholarship is awarded each year. Thompson, a senior, plans to graduate in the spring of 2006. After graduation, he wants to become a band director for a 5A high school, and he also plans to get his master's degree in conducting or education.

## UPA membership drive

Thirty years ago, a "secretary club" was established for A&M-Commerce staff. Today, the University Personnel Association has evolved to include all university employees.

It offers scholarships to its members and their dependents and presents a united voice for university employees.

It has positively influenced policy, offices and departments.

This year, UPA will have four luncheons with informative speakers.

To find out more about the benefits of belonging to UPA, call extension 5893. Membership is \$10.



**SHOWSTOPPER** — This teapot by Sam Chung of Michigan will be on exhibit in the Ceramics Invitational 2005 at A&M-Commerce. Chung teaches ceramics in the Department of Art and Design at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich. The teapot pictured is a soda-fired porcelain. The exhibition runs through Wednesday, Oct. 21. Curated by Barbara L. Frey, professor of ceramics, the work of the selected artists represents a cross-section of current trends in ceramic art. Exhibited works include sculpture, figurative work, functional pottery, and one-of-a-kind vessels. A variety of forming techniques such as handbuilding, modeling, casting, and throwing are in evidence as well as a variety of firing and finishing techniques.

# Printing quality color work



**STOP PRESS** — Press operators Greg London (left) and Blake Shaw display samples of the color work produced by the A&M-Commerce print shop. The shop acquired a Heidelberg GTO four-color press, which has proven to do “exceptional color work,” according to David McKenna, director of administrative services. “It has enhanced our ability to produce quality four-color printing in a cost-effective manner and at a reasonable price,” he says. A&M-Commerce Today is produced at the university print shop, which handles university-related materials. Look for a 2006 university calendar from the print shop later this year.

## Partnership model is award finalist

The Navarro Partnership is a finalist for the Fifth Annual Texas Higher Education Star Award, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

This award recognizes exemplary contributions toward closing the educational gaps that challenge the state.

Established in the Fall 1999 Semester, the Navarro Partnership is a joint project of A&M-Commerce and Navarro College in Corsicana. Students in the Central Texas region can graduate from the two-year Navarro College and earn a bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies degree in elementary education from A&M-Commerce without leaving the Corsicana campus.

Also available is the A&M-Commerce Post Baccalaureate Certification Program for elementary education. This is designed for those who are currently teaching or considering a position and want to pursue teacher certification on emergency permit.

Students can take undergrad courses leading to a bachelor of science in criminal justice.

At the graduate level, courses for master's and doctoral degrees in special education and secondary/higher education are offered.

Mary Hendrix, associate vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, said, “We are honored the Navarro Partnership has been recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as a finalist.

“This partnership is a model for how community colleges and universities can collaborate to meet the needs of underserved student populations. Director Bill Humbert and his staff are to be commended for their leadership in making this partnership successful.”

This semester 520 students are enrolled at the Navarro Partnership.

“The Star Award is a special honor and tribute to the people on our college campuses who have the foresight, knowledge, and skill to build and administer these successful efforts,” Commissioner of Higher Education Raymond A. Paredes said.

The state's Closing the Gaps by 2015 higher education plan has four goals – closing the gaps in student participation, student success, excellence, and research.

The Star Award winners will be announced on Monday, Oct. 10, in conjunction with the Coordinating Board's Governing Board Conference in Austin. There are 10 finalists statewide for the award.

## October

- 5 - Ceramics Invitational 2005 under way, University Gallery, first floor of Main Art Building. Continues through Oct. 21. Gallery hours Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m., and by appointment.  
“Ruby Rose Rides Again,” Performing Arts Center, 8 p.m., Oct. 5-8, and 3 p.m., Oct. 9. For reservations, call the University Playhouse Box Office at 5900.
- 6 - Volleyball, against Cameron University, 7 p.m., in Lawton, Okla.
- 7 - Backpack the Ouachita Trail with the Morris Recreation Center. The trip continues through Oct. 9.  
Men and women's cross country, Tarleton State Invitational, 9 a.m., Stephenville.  
Lions soccer against Northeastern State, 4 p.m., in Commerce.
- 8 - Lions' football, open date, no game.  
Volleyball, against University of Central Oklahoma, 7 p.m., in Edmond, Okla.
- 9 - Lions' soccer against East Central, 1 p.m., in Commerce.  
Women's golf, Tarleton State University, TSU Fall Invitational at Harbour Lakes Golf Club in Granbury. Continues through Oct. 11.  
Men's golf, St. Mary's University, The Rattler Invitational at The Golf Club of Texas, in San Antonio. Continues through Oct. 11.
- 14 - Lions' soccer against Southwestern Oklahoma State, 4 p.m., in Weatherford, Okla.  
Volleyball, Lone Star Conference Crossover, in Denton. Against Angelo State University, Oct. 14, 9 a.m.; Eastern New Mexico, Oct. 14, 5 p.m.; Tarleton State, Oct. 15, 11 a.m.  
Junior Level Essay administered, 1:30 p.m., Testing Office, Business Administration Building.
- 15 - Lions' football, Southeastern Oklahoma, 2 p.m., in Durant, Okla.  
Lions' soccer against Central Oklahoma, 3 p.m., in Edmond, Okla.  
Junior level Essay administered, 8:30 a.m.
- 17 - Registration and drop/add begins for graduate students for Winter Mini and Spring 2006.  
Homecoming 2005 Week begins, continues through Oct. 22.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, Oct. 19. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, Oct. 12. Please send your news to [mary\\_hazal@tamuc.edu](mailto:mary_hazal@tamuc.edu) or by fax to 5522.

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