



## Highest fall enrollment in 26 years

Full enrollment at A&M-Commerce has climbed to 8,757, the highest in 26 years. Highlighting the growth is an increase in Graduate School enrollment with increases marked in both master's and doctoral students.

With 2,190 students, the master's level jumped 234 students or 11.96 percent compared to a year ago while doctoral students climbed to 307 students, up 12 students or 4.07 percent. The senior classification was also up significantly. With 2,060 students, seniors jumped 13.19 percent.

Of the enrollment increase, President Keith McFarland said, "The increased enrollment energizes the campus community. The growth is evident at events, such as the Homecoming 2005 Hotdog Spirit Rally last week."

Another area up is Hispanic students, this semester by 15.86 percent. "University staff members and faculty have been working to attract more Hispanic students, and the 600 students in this category are very encouraging to us," McFarland said.

There were decreases in the numbers of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

With 1,069 students, freshmen were down 1.47 percent, and sophomores, at 829 students, were down 16.68 percent. Juniors at 1,306 students dropped 4.32 percent.

A&M-Commerce soon expects to have a new Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing and will begin initiatives to recruit more freshmen and transfer students, McFarland said.

Regarding the increase in graduate students,

Graduate School Dean Allan Headley said several factors are responsible for the growth, such as the affordable cost of A&M-Commerce and the excellent faculty.

"Students can get a quality education for a relatively low cost, and this is especially true in business compared with other universities in the area," Headley said. "Our business students see it as a real value."

A&M-Commerce faculty develop good relationships with students, and students tell other prospective students about this, which is helping to boost enrollment, he said.

"The faculty also does an incredible job of recruiting students if they show interest."

Compared to last fall when 8,547 students were attending A&M-Commerce classes, Fall 2005 enrollment is up 2.46 percent.



*GLOWING WITH PRIDE — Homecoming 2005 set the campus afire with spirit as alumni, students, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the best of A&M-Commerce in a week of festivities, culminating in the football game on Saturday, Oct. 22. Lions won 31-10 against Northeastern State University. For more coverage of the week's events, see Fast Facts on Page 3.*

## Rent a car from Enterprise

With the price of gasoline high, A&M-Commerce has negotiated a favorable contract that offers state pricing with Enterprise Rent-a-Car based in Sulphur Springs.

David McKenna, administrative services director, says that it can be more economical to use Enterprise than personal or university vehicles, depending on the mileage traveled over a short lease.

"Departments can sign up at any time. Getting an account number takes just a few days and after that you deal directly with Enterprise. They deliver and pick up. It's a very convenient option."

Contact extension 5024 to sign up today.

# Extra credit

## Better motor skills for children

Sandy Kimbrough of health and human performance offers these suggestions on how best to help your child develop great motor skills.

1. **Birth to one year:** As a baby gets ready to reach and grasp, provide toys and objects that are safe — not too small — and easy to see. Most objects will end up in the baby's mouth. As the baby gets ready to explore on tummy and knees, be sure the surface is clean and safe. Babies need exploring time on the floor with Mom and Dad.
2. **One year old:** Play games like peek-a-boo and "where's the toy?" with baby. The baby is learning about the world through the integration of information from different senses.
3. **Two years old:** Avoid too much television time and let the baby interact with his peers through play. The child is probably not ready for cooperation during play, but will imitate and interact with others. Provide a structure to the day and be sure to include reading time.
4. **Three years old:** As the brain continues to develop, provide as many different movement experiences as you can. Visit playgrounds, parks, museums, and zoos. This is a critical time for the development of gross motor skills.
5. **Four years old:** Do things that your child enjoys; just about anything can become a game when approached from your child's point of view. Model healthy habits for the child - if the parents are active, the child will be active, too.
6. **Five years old:** As the child is entering sports programs, avoid focusing on winning and competition. Encourage the development of skills in general — throwing, kicking, jumping, catching, for example — and encourage participation as a way to have fun and be healthy.

## Publications

John Humphreys, marketing and management, "Developing the Big Picture," MIT's *Sloan Management Review*, Fall 2005.

Heliodoro Sanchez, student in educational administration, "Looking for America: The Disassociation of Urban Youth," *The Educational Forum*, Fall 2005.

## Kudos

Charles Embry, political science, has received a fellowship award from the Earhart Foundation to complete his work on "*The Time of the Tale: Eric Voegelin and World Literature.*"

Born in Cologne, Germany, Voegelin was a political philosopher who taught at the University of Vienna prior to World War II. In 1938, he and his wife fled from Nazi Germany, immigrating and becoming citizens in the U.S.

Voegelin spent his academic career at Louisiana State University, University of Munich, and the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. He died in 1985.

Michael Copeland, educational administration, was recently appointed president of

the Re-Inventing Schools Coalition which is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Educational Foundation.

## Presentations

Gerald Duchovnay, literature and languages, "Two Takes on Food in Americas," keynote lecturer, 2005-2006 Latin American Studies Lecture Series, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa., Oct. 24.

Don English, Ed Manton, and Jan Walker, business administration and MIS, "Business Communication Instructors Perceived Value of Selected Communication Competencies," National Association for Business Communication Conference, in Irvine, Calif., Oct. 21.

Derek Parker Royal, literature and languages, "Looking at Bellow, Reading the Academy," and "What Nathan Knew; or Narrative Secrets in 'The Human Stain,'" ALA Jewish American and Holocaust Symposium, in Boca Raton, Fla., Oct. 19-29.

Pamela Webster, mathematics, "How Does a Math Tutoring Center Stack Up?," First Annual Math Labs Conference, in Bowling Green, Ohio.

## Lion Card at off-campus vendors a success

The university's adoption of the Lion Card, one card offering purchasing power and identification, has been a roaring success.

"We accept Lion Ca\$h" signs can be seen at merchants like Chicken Express, Flying L FastMart, Domino's Pizza, Don's Firehouse and Grill, and Sweeties Donut Shop.

"I'm amazed at how much trade we are getting. The concept has really caught on.

"We are also continually getting interest from new merchants," says financial services' Sharon Smith.

The Lion Card can also be used at Student Health Services, at the University Police Department, the Morris Recreation Center and the Lions Lair.

"Parents love it because they can put money into a student's account," says Smith. "And faculty are also finding the Lion Card useful."

The Lion Card and Lion Ca\$h can also be used for all campus food services, library checkout, and student activities and events.

Lion Ca\$h can be placed on the card at the Mane Card Office, using links from the university homepage online, the cashier's window in the McDowell Business Administration Building, or the Cash Management Center walkup in the Gee Library.

It's important to protect your card and know where it is at all times. If a Lion Card is discovered missing or stolen, report it immediately either to the Mane Card Office or on the Online Card Office.

If depositing funds online, be aware: the Lion Card pin number is different from the one used to access Webtrax. Contact the Mane Card office on extension 6022 for guidance.

Students, faculty, staff and patrons qualify for a Lion Card.

Students, faculty and staff will require their Campus Wide ID number when entering the system.

If you don't already have a Lion Card, pick one up today.

# Fast facts



**COFFEE JUNKIES** — The Bistro is now open in the Gee Library. The only location between Rockwall and Texarkana to offer a full line of Starbucks coffee, the coffee shop also offers smoothies, cream ice, sandwiches and pastries. "Every time you serve you make a first impression," says David McKenna, administrative services director. "You want to make sure it is the right impression." The building contractor was We Build of Paris, and the company has transformed the location into a vibrant meeting place. The Bistro also accepts Lion Ca\$h. If the line of people waiting to be served is an indicator of success, The Bistro will be popular.



**ARCH-ITECT** — Barry Willbern, who sculpted The Arch, is pictured with his work that has become a campus landmark since its erection in 1974. Willbern recently was honored by President Keith McFarland. On a side of The Arch is a small plaque giving details about the sculptor and the project. This 1964 and 1975 graduate of the university sculpted The Arch for his master's thesis in art. Created of wood, steel, mesh and cement, this 14 foot tall sculpture is a gathering place for students between classes. "I knew it would last a long time," Willbern said of The Arch. While working on the sculpture, he said a lot of people stopped and asked what he was building and that Dr. Lawrence McNamee of the literature and languages department stopped by on a regular basis. Willbern is a Commerce resident.



**HOMECOMING CHEER** — Kappa Delta sorority members show their school spirit during the Hotdog Spirit Rally. An event for Homecoming 2005, the annual rally was well attended with numerous faculty, staff and students dressed in blue and gold.



**HOMECOMING ROYALTY** — Celeste senior Michelle Wentzel is the 2005 Homecoming Queen at A&M-Commerce. With her is Homecoming King Jason Williams, a Fort Worth senior. The king and queen were crowned at halftime of the Oct. 22 football game against Northeastern State (Okla.), which the Lions won 31-10. The Homecoming royalty was selected in a vote of the student body.



**WE SALUTE YOU** — Retired Brigadier General Richard Proctor of Paris salutes the flag at ceremonies at the 14th Annual Veterans Vigil at A&M-Commerce. Proctor was the keynote speaker for the Oct. 27 program in the Founders Lounge of the Memorial Student Center. At left is A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland. The Veterans Vigil is a three-day event on campus with the Vigil Flame burning in a display on the East Lawn of the student center. The Vigil Flame, which honors POWs and MIAs of all wars, was extinguished in a patriotic pre-game ceremony shortly before the Oct. 29 football game.



**FUN WITH FIREWORKS** — The pep rally and bonfire featured fireworks for the first time. The fireworks from Lone Star Fireworks Production, and organized by Cameron Reynolds, were a hit. Plans are to have them again next year.



**VISITING WITH DAD** — Chris Clark, left, a member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, visits with his father, Jimmy Clark, music faculty. Chris is a gunnery sergeant in the U.S. Marines and a trombonist in the band, which presented a free concert Oct. 15 in the University Auditorium at A&M-Commerce. A graduate of Commerce High School, Chris told A&M-Commerce music students on Oct. 14 that he learned most about playing trombone from his father. As a CHS student, he took trombone lessons from the late Neill Humfeld, A&M-Commerce music faculty member and noted trombone teacher and trombone choir director.



**WELCOME RECEPTION** — Robert Dotson, new director of minority affairs at the university, is welcomed to campus by Provost Joyce Scott. A reception in Dotson's honor was held Oct. 19 in the Founders Lounge. The new director began work at the end of August. He assists students, faculty, and staff with diversity issues and oversees and works with the Pan Hellenic Greek organizations.

# Celebrate Owens at Centennial

The William A. Owens Centennial Celebration will kick off at A&M-Commerce on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

The movie about the slave trade, *Amistad*, is partly based on one of his books.

The university and Paris Junior College are co-sponsoring the celebration, which marks the anniversary of Owens' 100th birthday. A native of Lamar County, Owens attended A&M-Commerce and PJC and was a noted author, folklorist, and professor at Columbia University.

He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of both A&M-Commerce and PJC.

Scheduled Nov. 9 on campus are two sessions, a dramatic presentation, and dinner.

Celebration activities are set Thursday, Nov. 10, through Saturday, Nov. 12, at PJC.

Opening the celebration on Nov. 9 are "Owens as Writer and Folklorist: Academic Perspectives."

Speaking will be Sylvia Grider of Texas A&M University on "The Owens Papers at College Station," Lyman Grant of Austin Community College on "Writing on Borrowed Land: William A. Owens and the Ethnography of Self," Francis Abernethy of Stephen F. Austin State on "Swing and Turn: Pay Parties," and John Hanners of A&M-Commerce, "Owens on Stage."

At 1 p.m., there will be a session on "Remembering Owens: Personal Observations."

Joining Abernethy, Grant, and Grider will

be Jack Duncan of Little Elm, Brenda Black White of Commerce, and Charles Linck, retired A&M-Commerce literature and languages faculty.

Both of these sessions will be in the Bluebonnet Room of the Memorial Student Center.

A Listeners' Theatre will be presented from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of the Performing Arts Center. *Look to the River*, a novel by Owens that was adapted for the stage by Hanners and produced by theatre department colleague Jim Tyler Anderson, will be featured.

A wine and cheese reception is set from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in the Leadership Lounge followed by a dinner at 6 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

The dinner speaker will be Don Graham of the University of Texas at Austin. Graham's topic will be "Reflecting on Texas Writers."

Dinner tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from James Conrad, university archivist at Gee Library at extension 5737.

PJC will have a variety of activities honoring Owens' life on Thursday, Nov. 10, and A&M-Commerce will provide a free van service to Paris for those wanting to make the trip.

The van will leave the Holiday Inn Express at 9:45 a.m. and from the west entrance to the student center at 10 a.m. The group will return to Commerce at 10:30 p.m.

For information on the PJC events, contact Dwight Chaney at [dchaney@parisjc.edu](mailto:dchaney@parisjc.edu).



**115 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI** — The College of Education and Human Services recognized one alumni for each of the 115 years that educators have graduated from the university. At a special function in their honor Oct. 21, attendees were presented with certificates to commemorate their contributions. They were also asked for their input into how to the college can potentially better serve students and for ways to raise the visibility of the university. "I think this was a milestone event for the college and the university," says Frank Ashley, dean of the college.

## November

- 3 — Lions soccer, Lone Star Conference Tournament, in Edmond, Okla. Continues through Nov. 6.  
Lions volleyball, University of Central Oklahoma, 7 p.m., in Commerce.
- 4 — Mary Druhan Faculty Recital, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall, Music Building.  
Women's soccer, LSC Tournament Semifinals, in Edmond, Okla. Time to be announced.
- 5 — Lions football, Southwestern Oklahoma, 6 p.m., in Weatherford, Okla.  
Lions volleyball, Cameron University, 2 p.m., in Commerce.  
Cross Country, NCAA South Central Regional, in Abilene. Time to be announced.
- 6 — Lions soccer, LSC Tournament Championship, in Edmond, Okla. Time to be announced.  
Lions volleyball, Cameron, 2 p.m., in Commerce.
- 7 — Women's basketball, Grambling State, 6 p.m., in Grambling, La.
- 9 — "Summer and Smoke" by Tennessee Williams, 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center. Also 8 p.m. Nov. 10-12 and 3 p.m. Nov. 13. For reservations, call University Playhouse Box Office at extension 5900.
- 10 — Lions volleyball, Lone Star Conference Tournament. Continues through Nov. 12. Time and location to be announced.  
Men's basketball, Stephen F. Austin (Exhibition game), 7 p.m., in Nacogdoches.
- 11 — Women's basketball, Stephen F. Austin, 7 p.m., in Nacogdoches.  
Final submission date for comprehensive exam report, thesis and dissertations.  
Day Hike the Wichita Mountains with the Morris Recreation Center. Cost is \$30 to \$40. Hike continues through Nov. 13.
- 15 — Women's basketball, Lubbock Christian, 6 p.m., in Commerce.
- 16 — Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival: Texas V, Performing Arts Center. Continues through Nov. 19. For information, call Playhouse Box Office at 5900.
- 17 — Men's basketball, Oklahoma Science & Arts, 7 p.m., in Stephenville.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, Nov. 16. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, Nov. 9. Please send your news to [mary\\_hazal@tamuc-merce.edu](mailto:mary_hazal@tamuc-merce.edu) or by fax to 5522.

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