



Re-inventing school education

The U.S. Congress has made \$500,000 available to the Re-Inventing Schools Coalition, and a portion of the funds will be used to bring the concept from Alaska to the lower 48 states.

This is according to Dr. Michael Copeland, an assistant professor in educational administration at A&M-Commerce and recently appointed president of the Re-Inventing Schools Coalition, which is also supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Educational Foundation. Copeland is also past president of the National Rural Education Association, which traces its origins back to 1907.

A&M-Commerce plans to play a role in helping the coalition to reinvent schools.

Copeland says the objective is to create "lighthouse schools" to serve as models for educational systems in Texas and elsewhere. This reform process originated in Alaska's Chugach School District and contributed to it being named one of the first winners of the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award For Performance Excellence in education. To date, no Texas school has won this award.

A lighthouse school may move away from a graded educational program to one where competency is based in attaining specific standards. "For example," says Copeland, "a child must prove they are able to tell the time by being able to correctly verbally tell the time, to correctly write the time, and to depict the time." In this system one moves from one level of education to the next only when competency is demonstrated.

Also, students struggling with reading have the opportunity to concentrate on this area until it is mastered, and are able to move ahead more quickly on work where they already excel.

"If the expectation really is that no child be

left behind, then this is one of the very few models that offers an opportunity for success as it develops an individual learning plan for each student.

"Learning is the constant, time is the variable. Learning is a continuous cycle, and is revisited to ensure that the learning is retained," Copeland says.

Frank Ashley, A&M-Commerce dean of education and human services, says, "What we are looking at is reinventing schools – not reforming schools, not changing schools, but almost starting over and rethinking schools.

"With this concept there is buy in by so many different people: administrators, teachers, students, parents, school board members and the general community.

"It's the first time that all these stakeholders are brought into the conversation," Ashley says.

This has created a system in which everyone is involved so that even if the leadership changes, the program is sustained. The curriculum also allows a state to retain their culture and heritage.

Ashley and Copeland hope the process will begin in a small, rural school. "It's where the concept was conceived," says Copeland.

"It understands the needs of rural schools. As about 80 percent of Texas schools are small and rural, it should fit there very well. We hope to create a model that can be moved across the country with success," Copeland says.

"I was able to visit Alaskan schools this summer," says Ashley. "Some were very remote, and some were places of extreme poverty.

"However, the students in this system are excelling. This is notable as poverty is often linked to performance."

Australian educators are already discussing the concept, and schools in Europe have been doing similar things for years with success,



DIWALI — Meetha Shah of Dallas performs at the Hindu festival of lights, celebrated on campus Oct. 29 by the Indian Students Association. The occasion marks the victory of good over evil. In India sweets are shared and fireworks lit.

according to Copeland.

The Re-Inventing Schools Coalition hopes to partner with Robert Marzano, one of the most respected education researchers in the country. He is widely recognized as an expert in both critical thinking and curriculum design and is associated with the Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory in Colorado, which delivers research and practical guidance to educators.

"He is interested in this concept and interested in working with us," says Copeland. "We also have local schools that are interested in becoming lighthouse schools. Right now, it's a question of finding more funding to make this a reality in Texas."

Extra Credit



Wild and woolly — John Hill's trekking pole is decorated with a pin someone lost in a Grand Canyon campsite.

The A&M-Commerce employee of the month is student John Hill, senior trip leader at the Morris Recreation Center. "If it's fun and can be done in the outdoors, then we are interested in doing it," he says.

Years as a university employee: A little over two years. Graduating in December.

What he enjoys most about his job: "I get paid to do what I love to do — except for the paperwork. I lead hikes and all kinds of fun trips for the university.

"I love being outdoors and being in places few people have visited before.

"What I enjoy most, is leading other people to those places.

What he thinks helps make him successful in his job: "The staff — we all work very well together. It's not just a job, it's something they do even when they are not working."

What boss Kayla Peak has to say: "Full of boundless energy and enthusiasm, John's passion for the outdoors has helped the MRC's outdoor adventure program reach new heights."

Publications

Chuck Arize, business administration and MIS, together with others, "Inflation-rate Volatility and Money Demand in LDCs," *International Review of Economics and Finance*, Vol. 14, 2005.

Also **Arize** with others, "A Multivariate Test of Causality Between India's Domestic Credit and Foreign Exchange Reserves," *Advances in Financial Planning and Forecasting*, Vol. 1, 2005.

Bob Folden, business administration and MIS, "Developing a Usable Research Question Part III, *Domain3*, Spring 2005.

Also **Folden** and **Ken Bandy**, business administration and MIS, "Foundational Concepts for Understanding Statistical Research, *Domain3*, Spring 2005.

Ken Washer, economics/finance, co-authored "Primer on Partnership-Compensation Models," *The CPA Journal*, August 2005.

Leah Wickersham, secondary and higher education, and **Kim E. Dooley**, Texas A&M University, "A Content Analysis of Critical Thinking Skills as an Indicator of Quality of Online Discussion in Virtual Learning Communities," *The Quarterly Review of Distance Education*, Vol. 3, Issue 2, 2006.

Presentations

Gary Burton, theatre, "Drywall Tips and Techniques for the Stage," Southwest Theatre and Film Association Conference, Lubbock, Oct. 26-29. Burton also presided over the design/technology division and was responsible for the Design Southwest Expo.

A&M-Commerce students won awards in the Expo.

Senior **Mel Baumgartner** won second in the student costume design division and **Erin Turner** took both first and second in the hair and makeup design division. Alumnus **Martin Sopha III**, grad student at Texas Tech, won second in the student set design division.

Wickersham, secondary and higher education, and **Patricia McGee**, University of Texas-San Antonio, "Seeking Deeper Learning Within an Online Course," Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE), E-Learning World Conference, Vancouver, Canada, Oct. 27.

Counseling faculty and students presented at the 2005 Texas Counseling Association Annual Conference, El Paso, Nov. 4.

Doctoral student **Charmaine Caldwell**, **Stephen Freeman**, and doctoral student **Lori Ellison**, "Life and Death and End-of-Life Decision Making Using the Principle of Double Effect and Virtue Ethics."

Caldwell and **Amir Abassi**, "Angry Students, School Violence, and the School Counselor: Your Expanding Role."

Chris Simpson, "Identifying and Working with Cutters."

Richard Lampe, "Introduction to School Counseling Performance," and "Evaluating School Counselor Performance Using TCA's TEMPSE-II."

Doctoral student **Yui-Pei Shen**, "Expressive Narrative Therapy: Combining Narrative and Sandtray Therapies with Clients Who Are Less Verbal."

Stephen Armstrong, "Improving Principal/Counselor Relationships: Significant Issues and Helpful Strategies."

Linda Ball and **Freeman**, "Should vs. Would: Case Based Approach to Ethical Practice."

Shen and **Armstrong**, "Sandtray Therapy Processing: A Step-by-Step Guide."

Recent doctoral graduate **Reba Criswell** and **Lampe**, "School Counselors With and Without Teaching Experience: Attitudes of Elementary, Middle, and High School Teachers."

Master's student **Ofori Charles Asante**, doctoral student **Samuel Bore**, and doctoral student **David Woodall**, "Practicing Counseling As It Relates to African Wisdom by Using Adlerian Approaches."

Shen and **Ball**, "Guidelines for Evaluating Progress in Play Therapy."

Career development

Folden, business administration and MIS, has finished his duties as part of an eight-person Texas EMS Foundation review team to perform peer reviews of all presentations for the 2005 Texas EMS Conference.

Exhibiting sculpture

Jerry Dodd, art, is exhibiting two large steel sculptures in the courtyard of the Addison Theatre and Conference Center. The show, including 28 artists selected from around the state, will be on view through Nov. 27.

Fast facts

Get a signed copy

Gee Library will host a book signing for A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland on Thursday, Nov. 17.

The book signing, which will feature a discussion of "Louis Johnson and the Arming of America," will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on the first floor of the library.

McFarland and co-author David Roll's work is the first book to critically examine the life of Johnson and his role as President Franklin Roosevelt's chief war planner and President Harry Truman's Secretary of Defense.

Following the discussion, McFarland will answer questions and be available to sign copies of the book.

"Louis Johnson and the Arming of America" was released earlier this fall.

The book was published by Indiana University Press.



SHOP TO DROP — This photo taken at last year's annual Christmas sale shows the variety of items available for purchase. Students and faculty in the Department of Art are busy working on items for the upcoming sale, which is set Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 5-7. Sale opening is 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5. Other sales times are noon to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 and noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7. This is a chance to pick up treasures that will make excellent Christmas gifts.



HAPPY SMILEY PEOPLE — Advancement held a reception to thank donors for supporting the university over this past year. Faculty, staff, and alumni mixed and mingled in the Founder's Lounge. Jerry Hutton, retired dean of the college of education and human services, chats to former colleagues at the Nov. 9 event.



COME ON UP — Criminal justice major Laci Jo Heyne of Point boulders in Echo Canyon at Enchanted Rock. A group of 21 people went on the camping, hiking and bouldering trip organized by the Morris Recreation Center, Nov. 5-6. The next outdoor adventure trip will be hiking at Big Bend over the Thanksgiving weekend. Everyone is invited.



BOSS OF YEAR — Hal Langford, dean of the College of Business and Technology, (center) is the University Personnel Association Boss of the Year. Also pictured are two of the four others nominated for the award. At left is Frank Perez of MACH III, and at right is Ken Washer, economics/finance. Others nominated were Don English, business administration and MIS, and Jerry Parish, associate dean of the College of Business and Technology. The award was presented at the UPA Annual Boss Appreciation Luncheon held Oct. 25.



MEMBER OF YEAR — Shanna Hoskison (left) is the University Personnel Association Member of the Year. With her is UPA President Misty Lair. Hoskison, who works in the Graduate Programs in Business and Technology Office, is the UPA vice president. She was cited for her work in the UPA reorganization last year. The award was presented at the Annual Boss Appreciation Luncheon.

'Beat the Heat' scholarship

The University Police Department recently established a new scholarship for A&M-Commerce students.

The UPD Beat the Heat scholarship is totally funded by the UPD. All proceeds from the Cops and Rodders went to establish this scholarship.

The first scholarship, for \$1,000, will be awarded in the spring.

It will go to a deserving student of any classification and any major, and is not limited to law enforcement majors.



BOO! — A&M-Commerce students enjoy treats in the Financial Aid Office on Halloween. From left are Grand Prairie junior Roxane Tholen, Dallas junior Tammie Reed, and Fairfield freshman Candace Manning. Each month financial aid employees host refreshments for students to promote good customer service.



BIG DEAL — A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland and Al Watson, Foundation Board chair, sign a shared-service affiliation agreement that stipulates the responsibilities of both parties in fund raising. The affiliation agreement is a 5-year "contract" and was signed Nov. 10. It will be in effect until 2010.

See other colleges at theatre festival

A&M-Commerce is hosting the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival Wednesday through Saturday, Nov. 16-19.

The play performance schedule for the Texas V Festival includes the following:

Wednesday, noon - Tarrant County College-South, "On the Verge."

Wednesday, 8 p.m. - Paris Junior College, "Hedda Gabler."

Thursday, noon - Eastern New Mexico University, "Strong Suit."

Thursday, 8 p.m. - Grayson College, "An Evening of Alley: Two Original One Acts."

Friday, noon - Lon Morris College, "By the Bog of Cats."

Friday, 8 p.m. - A&M-Commerce, "Summer and Smoke."

All of these shows are on the Main Stage of the Performing Arts Center.

Saturday, noon and 2 p.m. - Texas Wesleyan University, "Blues Man." These two plays in the smaller Studio Theatre.

Tickets are \$10 per show or a pass for all the shows can be purchased.

For ticket information, call University Playhouse Box Office at extension 5900.



LARGER THAN LIFE — Retired A&M-Commerce employee and artist Gordon Thomas shows off the Sam Rayburn statue he is working on. About \$60,000 of the \$75,000 needed for the project has been raised. After finishing small details on the clay statue, Thomas will work on the speaker's rostrum that the statue will stand on. In the coming months, the statue will be bronzed and later erected on campus. Recognized as the Most Distinguished Alumnus of A&M-Commerce, Rayburn served longer as Speaker of the House of Representatives than any other American.

Be entertained by Feast of Carols

The Feast of Carols is slated the first weekend in December.

Tickets are \$14 for students with an A&M-Commerce ID card (limit two tickets) and \$20 for non-students.

Tickets can be purchased at the Campus Synergy Lab, Room 202 of the Memorial Student Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

This medieval Christmas celebration, featuring a dinner and entertainment, is slated Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, in the Texas Ballroom.

The show will be directed by William Witter, director of choral activities in the music

department, and the student director will be Eric Kildow of the theatre department.

A new menu will be featured at this year's Feast of Carols.

The meal by Chef Diane Shannon and Sodexo, the campus dining service, will include wassail, fruit, bread and butter/cheeses, and Italian stew in bread bowls.

There will also be brisket boiled in Irish stout and served with caramelized onions, carved pork loin with fig and apple glaze, chicken and fennel, and seafood newburg.

Also on the buffet will be beets, brussel sprouts, potatoes, and rice. The meal will end with figgie pudding.



Joseph Owens, nephew of the late William A. Owens, presents a check establishing an endowment in memory of the noted author, folklorist, and Columbia University professor. Accepting the check is A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland. With Owens is his wife, Nancy. The new scholarship will assist education majors, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, interested in creative writing. Joseph and Nancy Owens of Santa Monica, Calif., were on campus Nov. 9 for the Owens Centennial.

November

- 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. Call Playhouse at extension 5900.
- 17 — Men's basketball, Oklahoma Science & Arts, 7 p.m., in Stephenville.
- 18 — Men's basketball, Howard Payne, 6 p.m., in Stephenville.
- 19 — Women's basketball, University of Texas at Dallas, 7 p.m., in Commerce.
Cross Country, NCAA Division II Championships, in Ponomo, California. Time to be announced.
- 21 — Women's basketball, Northwestern State (La.), 6:30 p.m., in Natchitoches, La.
- 22 — Men's basketball, Southern Arkansas, 7 p.m., in Commerce.
- 23 — Backpack at Big Bend with the Morris Recreation Center. Continues through Nov. 27.
Residence halls close at 1 p.m.
Classes suspended for Thanksgiving at noon.
- 24 — Thanksgiving holiday.
- 25 — Thanksgiving holiday.
Men's basketball, Sterling College, 5 p.m., in San Antonio.
- 26 — Men's basketball, St. Mary's (Texas), 7:30 p.m., in San Antonio.
- 27 — Residence halls open at 2 p.m.
- 28 — Classes resume following Thanksgiving holiday.
- 29 — Men's basketball, Southern Arkansas, 7 p.m., in Magnolia, Ark.
Band concert, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall of the Music Building.

December

- 1 — Women's basketball, Angelo State, 6 p.m., in Commerce.
Men's basketball, Angelo State, 8 p.m., in Commerce.
- 2 — Last day to drop a class or withdraw from school.
- 3 — Women's basketball, Abilene Christian, 2 p.m., in Commerce.
Men's basketball, Abilene Christian, 4 p.m., in Commerce.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, Dec. 7. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, Nov. 30. Please send your news to mary_hazal@tamu-commerce.edu or by fax to 5522.

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