



## Ashley named new interim provost ...

**F**rank Ashley became interim provost and vice president for Academic/Student Affairs at A&M-Commerce on July 1.

Formerly dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Ashley will assume the post that had been filled by Joyce Scott who will teach and conduct research in the college starting in the 2006 Fall Semester.

“Dr. Ashley has a good knowledge and grasp of our systems and programs,” A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland said. “He is well known and respected throughout the Texas A&M University System.”

On being named to the interim post, Ashley said, “I am honored that Dr. McFarland asked me to be the interim provost and vice president for Academic/Student Affairs.

“I have no hesitation in accepting because I can see all the good things going on. I will work hard to keep the momentum going,” he says.

Ashley became dean in August 2004. An 18-year employee at Texas A&M University in College Station, he had served as acting assistant provost for Enrollment in the 2003-2004 academic year.

Previously, Ashley had served as associate



*VERY WELL RESPECTED* — Frank Ashley, formerly dean of the College of Education and Human Services, serves as interim provost.

dean for Undergraduate Studies and Teacher Education.

A native of Louisiana, Ashley received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Louisiana College where he was awarded a bachelor's

degree in health, physical education and safety in 1975.

He earned a master's degree in health, physical education and recreation from the University of Alabama in 1976, and a doctor of education degree in physical education, also from the University of Alabama, in 1986.

McFarland thanked Scott for her service as provost.

“On behalf of the university and those who worked closely with her, I want to thank Dr. Scott for all she has done to strengthen our academic programs and student support services over the past three years. “Her commitment to this university is greatly appreciated,” he said.

A national search to hire a permanent provost will begin later this summer.

Jim Vornberg, head of the educational administration department will serve as the new interim dean of the College of Education and Human Services. “It’s a pleasure to serve in this position,” says Vornberg. “My 32 years here have given me insight into how the college operates and I have worked with the department heads for some years. It’s going to be an enjoyable tenure.”

## ... and Brown fills VP Business and Administration

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents has confirmed the appointment of Bob Brown as vice president for Business and Administration at A&M-Commerce.

Brown will preside over the financial management of A&M-Commerce’s \$95 million budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. He comes to the university from the Dallas County Community College District, which in 2004 earned “AAA” ratings from Fitch

Ratings, Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., and Standard & Poors, Inc. for its excellent fiscal management practices.

He was attracted to A&M-Commerce, he says, by the excitement on campus. “I saw the university reinventing itself and renewing its plant and programs. I saw it taking sensible risks to deliver the best service possible. For me, it’s a perfect storm of good happenings.”

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*HIGH ACHIEVER* — Bob Brown comes to the university from a community college system rated “AAA” for its excellent fiscal management practices.



## Career Success 101

You love your job, you work for a great company, but have a poor relationship with your supervisor or manager.

Since it is your boss who recommends your promotion, bonus or increase, how is it possible in circumstances like these to do well at work, and continue your career success?

Human Resources director, Ken Crutchfield, offers smart moves to make at work.

1. Try to make your manager or supervisor a professional ally. Ask their advice on projects, let them know about important things happening in your daily work, do what you can to support them in their own career. Remember, your success is also their success.
2. Success is about what you do — applying your knowledge to the job — as well how you do it. Apply emotional intelligence by being aware of others' actions and understanding why they react as they do.
3. If you make a mistake, let your boss know immediately, and find out how you can fix it. Accept criticism as constructive and avoid becoming defensive.
4. Unhealthy work relationships break down communication and result in unhappy workers with low morale and low productivity. You are part of a work team, led by your boss, and have a role to play in keeping the morale of that team high.
5. Negative attitudes accomplish little so also try to avoid negative and critical people.
6. Avoid playing politics and power games as these often backfire and are dangerous.
7. If your dislike for your boss is based on poor leadership skills or lack of respect from your boss, schedule time to speak with them about it and, if necessary, ask your human resource officer to mediate the meeting. Give your full attention to what is said — you may learn valuable lessons that help to resolve the situation.
8. Try meeting regularly with your boss and keeping the communication channels open. Never ignore your boss. If anything, strive to go the extra mile and be supportive.
9. Notice whom your boss relies on, and model yourself after them.
10. Even if you do not like your boss personally, respect the position and the authority it carries. They, too, have a job to do and must report to someone else.

## Publications

Lamar Bridges, journalism, *Newspaper Competition in the Millennium*, book co-authored with Janet Bridges, Sam Houston State University, and Barry Litman, Michigan State. The three wrote or co-authored an article and six other scholars wrote articles for the book, which Bridges, Bridges, and Litman edited.

Maria Fernandez-Babineaux, literature and languages, "Rosinha Lituana in Parque Industrial," online *Encyclopedia of Women Characters*, May 24.

Don English, Ed Manton, and Jan Walker, business administration and MIS, "Have Business Communication Instructors Changed Their Perception of Business Ethics?" *Journal of College Teaching and Learning*, March 2006.

Barbara Frey, art, "Look Ahead Teapot #2," *The Yixing Effect: Echoes of the Chinese Scholar* by Marvin Sweet, Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, China, 2006.

Timothy B. Jones, Sherion H. Jackson, and Wayne D. Bingham, educational leadership, "Will the Sixty-Five Percent Instructional Expenditure Rule Improve Student Achievement in Texas?" *TexasISD.com*, June 13.

Sandy Kimbrough, health and human performance, "Do Physically Fit Students Perform Better Academically? Results of a Pilot Study," *KAHPERD Journal*, Volume 42, Spring 2006.

## Presentations

Sherry R. Fairchild, social work, and Marie Antoinette Sossou, University of Kentucky, "Rights of Children: An International Comparative Review of Child Protection Systems in Ghana and the United States," International Federation of Social Workers Conference, A World Out of Balance: Working for a New Social Equilibrium, Munich, Germany, July 31.

Jones, educational leadership, and three of his doctoral students presented their funded research paper, "Examining Readiness for School Excellence and Improvement in Urban and Suburban School Districts," annual conference of the Southwest Educational Research Association, Austin.

## Matter of fact

The June 7 issue Faculty Awards Luncheon photo incorrectly identified history faculty member John Smith as John Scott.

## Kudos

Stephen Armstrong, counseling, has been named chief editor of the *International Journal of Play Therapy*. This journal is published semi-annually and disseminated to mental health professionals, university faculty and libraries, and subscribers throughout the United States and 27 countries.

Jacob Pichnarcik, library, is a volunteer in Texas HOPE Literacy, a program which has won one of this year's Texas Governor's Awards for Volunteerism.

Several of Texas HOPE Literacy's volunteers, including Pichnarcik, attended a dinner with Governor Rick Perry on June 9.

The library staffer was one of the program's first tutors in the program that teaches basic literacy skills to Texas prison inmates.

The program's primary focus is on incarcerated men, women, and juveniles, but there are also programs for learning disabled and disadvantaged children in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

## Career development

Alicia Currin, business and administration, has been selected as one of 12 to receive the 2006 SACUBO Scholarship to attend the 2006 College Business Management Institute held at the University of Kentucky July 30 through Aug. 4.

Lorraine Pace, media relations, attended "How Colleges Can Get National And Regional Publicity, 2006," Baltimore, June 14-16.

## Exhibitions

Frey, Spring and Summer 2006 Invitational Exhibitions: The Yixing Effect, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, Mont., April 18-Aug. 5; Tea Time: The Art of the Teapot, Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts, Kalamazoo, Mich., May 12-July 16; Teapots, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit, Mich., May 19-July 14.

Spring and Summer 2006 Juried Exhibitions: Materials Hard and Soft, Meadows Gallery, Center for the Visual Arts, Denton, Juror's Award, Jan. 27-March 26.

16th San Angelo National Ceramic Competition, San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo, April 21-June 25.

# Fast facts

## ENDOWMENT

— Joe Fred Cox, Professor Emeritus of History, wants to give a helping hand to the university's history students. He and his wife, Jane, have established



the Joe Fred and Jane Cox Endowed Scholarship, which will go to junior history majors with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Cox, who retired Jan. 15, 2000 and was also honored as a Professor Emeritus in 2000, worked at the university for over 30 years and in that time taught an estimated 12,000 students. Of the endowment, he said, "I want to help the students. I thought somebody might need the scholarship." Cox taught courses in the American West, Mexico, and Texas and specialized in Texas history. "Without a doubt, Joe Fred Cox is one of the finest teachers that this university has ever seen," said President Keith McFarland. "He taught students to love history." Donations to the scholarship can be sent to the Texas A&M University Foundation, P.O. Box 4505, Commerce, TX 75429.

## Summer fun at Planetarium

There are several shows at the A&M-Commerce Planetarium in July.

"Secrets of the Sun" is the show on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 and 8 p.m. The show uses the latest spectacular satellite images to help explore and understand the Sun and its effect on Earth.

On Friday, July 21, the Rock Hall of Fame is shown at 9 p.m. Stayed tuned during July to Classic Rock Radio, 101.9 KBUS ROCKS, to find out how you can win a ticket to the laser-type show.

There are also several Wednesday afternoon matinees.

Coming Wednesday, July 19, are "Secrets of the Cardboard Rocket" at 1:30 p.m. "Wonders of the Universe" will be at 2:30 p.m.

"Secrets of the Cardboard Rocket" will also be shown at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, with "Stars of the Pharaohs" at 2:30 p.m.

Admission to "Secrets of the Sun" is \$3 for those under 18 and A&M-Commerce students with ID, \$3.50 for university employees and senior citizens, and \$4 for all others.

A discount of \$1 per person will be offered if tickets are purchased at the same time for two shows viewed on Fridays.

For the Wednesday matinees, tickets are \$3 per person (cash only) for one show.



**REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE** — Five students from Greenville and Commerce are at A&M-Commerce to take part in a university initiative to spark interest in chemistry among youth. From left are Sam Franklin, a senior at Phoenix Charter School; Calvin Moody, a Commerce High School senior; Stephen Starnes, A&M-Commerce chemistry professor; Carlos Kee, a Commerce High School senior; Marcos Montanez, a Phoenix Charter School junior; and Chelsea Childers, also a Phoenix Charter School junior. While engaging in new research, the students also learn how to handle equipment properly.



**LOCAL WELCOME** — Texas Transportation Commission Chair Ric Williamson (right) meets President Keith McFarland following the transportation conference held on campus and sponsored by the Northeast Texas Regional Mobility Council. In the background is Commerce Mayor Sheryl Zelhart. Williams says there is a \$86 billion problem for transportation in Texas. He said the state has an estimated \$188 billion in needed transportation projects between now and 2030 and only \$102 billion available to pay for them. He called for innovative measures like toll roads as part of the solution.

## See 'Smoke on Mountain'

Tickets for "Smoke on the Mountain," the summer musical at A&M-Commerce, are on sale at the Box Office in the Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the show, which opens at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 6, on the Main Stage, are \$5 for students and children, \$10 for senior citizens, and \$15 for all others. Discounts for groups of 20 or more are available.

Other performance dates are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 7-8; 3 p.m. Sunday, July 9; 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, July 13-15; and 3 p.m. Sunday, July 16.

Set at a Southern church gospel singing in 1938, the family friendly comedy features gospel and bluegrass music.

Directing the show performed by A&M-Commerce students and local residents is Celia Stogner of Commerce, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in theatre from A&M-Commerce. Stogner's husband, Ken Dickinson of Commerce, is the musical director.

**NEW VISION** — Author, publisher, designer and photographer Randy Jolly is the new Media Relations and Publications director. "We are very pleased to find someone with Mr. Jolly's background and experience,"



President Keith McFarland says. "He and I both agree on the importance of a strong media relations team." Jolly has extensive experience in advertising, marketing and corporate communications. For the past several years he has worked closely with large corporations, the U.S. government and privately held companies in developing and implementing advertising and marketing strategies. "Giving birth to an idea and watching it come to life, whether it is communicated through a press release or a brochure, appeals to me," he says. He considers A&M-Commerce one of the Texas A&M University System's best-kept secrets.

# Donors impact student lives

A number of laboratories, classrooms, and meeting areas are named for the people who helped to fund the building and equip the state-of-the-art \$28 million Science Building and Planetarium at A&M-Commerce.

“We are working to interest youth in math and science as there is a national shortage of students in these fields,” says President Keith McFarland.

“Our Science Building and Planetarium are part of this initiative, and it would not have been made a reality without the support of our friends. We thank you for helping us to achieve this part of our mission. Your generosity will touch the lives of many students for generations to come.”

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents recently approved the naming of facilities for these philanthropists:

The ARAMARK Foundation, which supports general education efforts in communities throughout the country.

Robert V. Barnes and his wife, Debby Brown Barnes, of Dallas. Barnes is a 1976 graduate of A&M-Commerce with a B.S. degree in industrial technology and business, while his wife is a former A&M-Commerce student.

Raymond and Elizabeth Rochell Cameron, both graduates of A&M-Commerce. He received a B.S. degree in industrial technology in 1940. Elizabeth Cameron received two degrees from the university, including a B.S. in home economics and an M.S. in elementary education in 1966.

Georgia and Rudy Dorrrough share the view that the study of science is crucial to future generations. They are particularly interested in supporting the planetarium because of the opportunities for outreach to small rural schools in Northeast Texas.



*GIFT OF GIVING — President Keith McFarland (standing) thanks Sue and Kenneth Sheppard for their support of science and the university.*

Hoyle and Ann Oglesby Julian are both graduates of A&M-Commerce. He earned his B.S. degree in 1960 and his M.S. in 1965. Ann Oglesby Julian earned a B.S. degree in 1956 and an M.S. in 1962.

Kenneth and Sue Q. Sheppard moved to Commerce in 1959 to attend East Texas State College, now A&M-Commerce. After completing his B.A., Sheppard worked as a graduate assistant in biology while his wife began her education at the university.

Larry and Diana Walker. He is a 1962 graduate of A&M-Commerce, a 1966 graduate of Baylor College of Medicine and he serves on the A&M-Commerce Foundation Board. They also established two endowed scholarships, the Leon & Enos Walker Scholarship to benefit students in education, and the Arthur Pullen Scholarship for biology majors.

Al and Dianne Watson. He currently serves as the chair of the A&M-Commerce Foundation Board, and also as a member of the Board’s executive committee, the Securing the Promise Campaign Cabinet, and as an ex-officio member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Cum Laude from the University of North Texas. His first position was as an internal auditor for the Dallas County Community College District, and within three years of graduating was appointed vice president of business services for Eastfield College.

“I’m proud to see people that I worked with go on to significant higher education leadership positions,” says Brown. “Several have become vice presidents, and one has become a chancellor.”

## New Business and Admin VP

Brown has been recognized as the “International Outstanding Chief Business Officer” by the Community College Business Officers and has been recognized twice as “Innovator of the Year” by the League for Innovation in the Community College.

The Rockwall resident has worked in higher education since the 1980s, when he graduated

## July

- 5 — New international student orientation by appointment, Room 212, Memorial Student Center.  
Residence halls close, 5 p.m.  
Final submission date for thesis and dissertations.  
Last class day and final exams for Summer I.  
Summer I officially closes.  
Payment deadline for Summer II.
- 7 — Registration and drop/add continues for Summer II, August Mini, and Fall 2006.
- 8 — Residence halls open, 10 a.m.
- 10 — First class day for Summer II.
- 11 — Health insurance presentations, 9 a.m., 2 p.m. Bluebonnet and Pecan-Friendship Rooms, Memorial Student Center.
- 12 — Health insurance presentations for university retirees, 9 a.m. Graduate assistant presentations, 2 p.m., Bluebonnet Room, Memorial Student Center.  
  
Schedules removed for non-payment of tuition and fees for Summer II.  
Last day to late register or change schedules for Summer II.  
Late registration with \$50 late fee for Summer II.  
Registration ends for Summer II.  
Summer I grades due.
- 12 — Caricatures: Have your mug drawn for free, East Circle/Bookstore foyer, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Movie, Crash, Morris Recreation Center, 9 p.m.
- 13 — Last day to drop a class and receive a refund if remaining enrolled.
- 18 — No refunds for a withdrawal from all classes after this date.
- 26 — Name Creations: Get meaning of your name printed on a frameable piece of art, East Circle/Bookstore foyer, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 27 — Cricket City Improv, Lion’s Lair, 7 p.m.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, August 2. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, July 26. Please send your news to [mary\\_hazal@tamuc.edu](mailto:mary_hazal@tamuc.edu) or by fax to 5522.

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