



Volume 11

Number 16

August 2, 2006

A publication for employees of Texas A&M University-Commerce

Four students win NASA-funded scholarships

The Texas Space Grant Consortium, funded by NASA, has awarded four A&M-Commerce undergraduate students \$1,000 scholarships for their space-related research or education.

Competition for the prestigious Columbia Crew Memorial Scholarship is fierce, and the A&M-Commerce students were up against students from Rice University, the University of Texas, Texas Tech, and Texas A&M University at College Station, to name but a few of the consortium's 31 academic member institutions.

In the two years that A&M-Commerce has been a member, the university has received five \$1,000 scholarships and a \$10,000 research grant, the maximum grant awarded for research.

The A&M-Commerce students are Mark Ellerman, a junior from Mount Pleasant; Scott Kirkwood, a sophomore from Greenville; Sarah Muehlenbein, a senior from Paris who was awarded the scholarship for a second time; and Jamie Peterson, a senior from Pickton.

"The Texas Space Grant consortium funds quality work," says Keith West, an A&M-Commerce physics professor who is a recipient the space research grant. "They don't just give them out."

Muehlenbein has successfully defended her honors thesis proposal based on the work this scholarship supported. She and Ellerman are physics majors working in the space physics laboratory.

Kirkwood is a full-time student who is employed at L-3 Communications Integrated Systems in Greenville, while Peterson is an elementary education major and a student worker in the A&M-Commerce Planetarium Director's Office.

"I'm honored to have been chosen," says Peterson, who will become a teacher. "I'm excited about the opportunities this grant will offer



***FIERCE COMPETITION** — The Texas Space Grant Consortium, funded by NASA, has awarded four A&M-Commerce undergraduate students \$1,000 scholarships for their space-related research or education. The grants fund not only space research, but research that could have applications in space. From left are Sarah Muehlenbein, a senior from Paris who was awarded the scholarship for a second time; Jamie Peterson, a senior from Pickton; A&M-Commerce physics professor Keith West; Scott Kirkwood; a sophomore from Greenville; and Mark Ellerman, a junior from Mount Pleasant.*

me as I introduce math, science, and space-related careers in my future classroom."

West is using data gathered by satellite to create a predictive model of space weather by monitoring the effects of a solar eclipse on the ionosphere. Ions are formed by solar radiation, and communications — cell phones, global positioning systems, radio and television — are bounced through the ionosphere.

A change in this atmospheric layer can have potentially devastating consequences on communications, as evidenced by the coalition forces during the 1991 Gulf War when some

communications signals were interrupted.

"The grants fund not only space research, but research that could have applications in space, like a medical device to help knit bones faster," says West. "I'm hoping to see more A&M-Commerce researchers in other disciplines take advantage of this opportunity."

The Texas Space Grant Consortium is dedicated to ensuring that all Texans are able to benefit from space-related technology. It consists of two government members, one industrial member, three nonprofit members, and 31 academic members.

Extra Credit



LAB WORK — Amy Braley, research technician in the Cooperative Research Project in agricultural sciences, pours seed into the seed counting machine. Braley has been employed with the university for 15 years.

The A&M-Commerce employee of the month is Amy Braley, research technician in the Cooperative Research Project in the Department of Agricultural Sciences.

Duties in her job: To take the research ideas of Don Reid, agricultural sciences faculty, and Jim Swart, entomologist with Texas Cooperative Extension, and apply them in the research plots, and work with agriculture students taking the crop practicum course.

What she enjoys most about her job: “I enjoy the application of research and collecting data, learning new information, and working with students and seeing them learn new things.”

What makes her successful in her job: “Dr. Reid and Jim support me in every way and give me the ideas to implement.”

Reid on why Amy is successful in her job: “She works hard, is meticulous, and regular as a clock.”

Degree: B.S. in biology from East Texas State University and has taken graduate courses in statistics at the university.

What boss Don Reid has to say about Amy: “I’ve never known a research technician as effective and good as Amy. She’s the best I’ve seen and I’ve been involved in applied research for almost 50 years.”



BUILDING IRAQ — Arlan Williams (left) of the University Police Department mans a concrete screed while on deployment with a team of military reservists in Taji, Iraq, where he helped build a base to eventually turn over to the Iraqi army. He served with the Red Horse unit, an acronym for a rapid deployable heavy operations and repair squadron. They built roads, wells, sanitary systems and other public works while abroad. Williams, a Commerce resident, recently returned to civilian life.

Publications

Bernadette Gadzella and Catharina Carvalho, psychology, “Stress Differences Among University Female Students,” *American Journal of Psychological Research*, June 2006.

S.K. Kimbrough, health and human performance, “Exercise Effects on Bone Mineral Density: Relationships to Changes in Fitness and Fatness,” *American Fitness*, July/August 2006.

W.R. “Bill” Ogden, secondary and higher education, “Let’s Bring Back the Teachers College,” *Education*, Summer 2006.

Derek Royal, literature and languages, “Plotting the Frames of Subjectivity: Identity, Death, and Narrative in Philip Roth’s ‘The Human Stain,’” *Contemporary Literature*, Spring 2006.

Fred Tarpley, professor emeritus of literature and languages, “Naming America’s Graveyards, Cemeteries, Memorial Parks, and Garden of Memories,” *NAMES (A Journal of Onomastics)*, June 2006.

Presentations

Maria Fernandez-Babineaux, literature and languages, “Revisiting Ortega y Gasset: sobre el estudiar y el estudiantado,” Alpha Mu Gamma initiation meeting, May 3.

Hunter Hayes, literature and languages, “Bellow’s Transatlantic Literary Bastard Son: Martin Amis,” 17th Annual American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 25-28.

Kimbrough, health and human performance, “The LIST Workout ... and 9 More

Lists,” and “Ten-Step Polka and Cowboy Cha-Cha,” Annual Summer Conference of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, Waco.

Scott Lancaster, library, “I’m Dancing as Fast as I Can: Building a Career When Personal Responsibilities Demand More of You,” American Library Association Conference, New Orleans, June 25.

Karen Roggenkamp, literature and languages, “Sensation and Sympathy: Elizabeth Jordan, Lizzie Borden, and the Female Reporter in Late Nineteenth-Century Newspaper Fiction,” 17th Annual American Literature Association Conference.

Royal, literature and languages, “Cycling the Schlemiel: Uses of the Short-Story Cycle in Gerald Shapiro’s ‘Bad Jews and Other Stories,’” 17th Annual American Literature Association Conference.

At this conference, Royal also served as a discussant on two roundtables. These were The Bellow Legacy: Saul Bellow’s Place in the Western Canon and Philip Roth’s Everyman: A Roundtable Discussion.

Stephanie Scott, budgeting and financial analysis, 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-Aug. 4.

Jiaming Sun, sociology and criminal justice, and George Xun Wang, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, “Personal Global Connectivity and Consumer Behavior: A Study in Shanghai,” 48th Annual Meeting of the Academy of International Business: From the Silk Road to Global Networks, Beijing, China, June 23-26.

Fast facts



MEMORIAL FUND FOR CHILDREN — Gloria Patterson, Human Resources compensation coordinator, has died after fighting a long battle with cancer. Funeral services were July 27 at the First Baptist Church of Commerce. She is survived by her husband, James, and three daughters, Jame, Jacee, and Jordan. A scholarship through the Texas A&M University-Commerce Foundation has been set up for Patterson's children to one day attend this university. Checks need to be made payable to the Texas A&M University-Commerce Foundation with a notation to Patterson Memorial.



TRADEMARK — Lawrence McNamee of A&M-Commerce was never seen without a Pittsburgh Pirates cap. McNamee, professor, scholar and columnist, had diverse interests that led him to befriending some of the most famous people of the 20th century, including British screen legend Sir Laurence Olivier and German boxer Max Schmeling. He died, aged 89, in his Commerce home.



IN JEFFERSON'S HAND — Collector and alumnus Ted R. Crim has donated a short inscription by Thomas Jefferson reading "Monticello Dec 18. 19." In the 19th century, it was fashionable to find a letter or document written by a famous person and clip the signature or some part of it. Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, is widely regarded as a Founding Father, and became the third president of the United States. He is buried on his Monticello estate in Charlottesville, Va. Receiving the framed historical material, which will be added to the Ted R. Crim Presidential Collection, is (left) James Conrad, A&M-Commerce archivist; Ted R. Crim; and Bob Brown, vice president of Business and Administration.



REAL CHARACTER — A panel has selected Molly Jacobsen of Rockwall as the winner of the full four-year Cullen Family Foundation Columbia Crew memorial Scholarship to study at A&M-Commerce. From left are Brian and Barbara Cullen of the Cullen Family Foundation; Molly Jacobsen, a Rockwall High School graduate who will be studying for a career supporting the space program; A&M-Commerce President Keith McFarland; and parents Penny and Rick Jacobsen. Rick Jacobsen is employed by L-3 Communications Integrated Systems in Greenville.



GOOD TO MEET YOU — Arun Goyal (left) has joined A&M-Commerce as biology department head; Kim Bowker is the new assistant director of Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity; and Nenad Kostić now heads up the chemistry department.

Welcome new A&M-C leaders

There are several new faces at the university this summer.

Arun Goyal has joined A&M-Commerce as biology department head.

Born in Agra, India, just two miles away from the Taj Mahal, Goyal is a renowned plant biologist.

While he has been involved in many research projects as part of the genomic revolution, his current interest is in researching the mechanism whereby carbon dioxide in air and water is transported to chloroplasts.

One of his goals is to improve the biomass production of plants like soybeans that lack an active transportation mechanism to obtain carbon dioxide.

The long-term goal of this program is to improve biomass production that may help farmers add more value to their crops.

He is the chair of International Affairs for the American Society of Plant Biology, serving on its executive committee, and the editor of four scientific peer-reviewed journals in modern plant sciences.

Changes to graduation ceremonies

Instead of the usual four ceremonies held for graduation day, there will be two ceremonies at Commencement on Saturday, Aug. 12.

There will be a morning graduation at 10 a.m. for undergraduates and a 2 p.m. graduation for master's and doctoral students.

Speaking at the morning ceremony will be the chair of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. Speaking at the afternoon ceremony is the president of Northeast Texas Community College

Regent John D. White of Houston is a fifth

Kim Bowker has joined the university as assistant director of Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity. She brings with her 25 years of experience in human resources at Kansas State University.

Nenad Kostić, the new head of chemistry, has established a small family foundation to support chemical science research and teaching in his home country, now named Serbia.

Kostić's work in chemistry and biochemistry has been widely cited and used by other scientists, placing Kostić in the top half of the highest one percent of chemists worldwide.

His work has appeared in over 130 of the most selective research journals, and he has been invited over a 100 times to lecture at conferences and universities worldwide.

His main fields are bioinorganic, bioorganic and biophysical chemistry, specifically investigating the roles metal atoms play in proteins and in the processes of life. Kostić is also the recipient of several prestigious honors, and has recently been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

generation Texas rancher and second generation Aggie, a lawyer and the managing partner in the Jones Walker Law Firm.

Charles Florio, president of the Mount Pleasant community college, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from The Ohio State University and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. He has been the president of Northeast Texas Community College since 1995. The two graduation ceremonies will be in the University Auditorium, second floor of the Ferguson Social Sciences Building.

August

- 2 — Non-traditional student orientation.
- 3 — First time student orientation.
Last day to drop or withdraw for Summer II.
Movie "Over The Hedge," Morris Recreation Center, 9 p.m.
- 7 — Transfer student orientation.
- 10 — Payment deadline for August Mini, 5 p.m.
Residence halls close, 5 p.m.
ACT Residual Exam, undergraduates only, Testing Center, Business Administration Building.
Deadline for undergraduate admission applicants for Fall 2006.
Last class day and final exams for Summer II.
- 11 — First class day, August Mini.
- 12 — August Commencement, two graduations during the day, University Auditorium, Social Sciences Building.
- 14 — Registration and drop/add continues for Fall 2006 through Aug. 25.
- 15 — Summer II grades due, 5 p.m.
- 18 — Summer Leadership Summit for students, continues through Aug. 20.
- 22 — First time student/transfer student orientation.
- 23 — Residence halls open, 10 a.m.
Last day to withdraw from August Mini 2006.
- 24 — Fall Faculty Meeting, 9 a.m., refreshments, 9:30 a.m., meeting, University Auditorium.
Lion Camp for new students.
- 25 — Orientation for international students, Founder's Lounge, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Payment deadline for fall.
- 28 — First class day for fall.
Lions Roar Week, continues through Sept. 1.
- 31 — Registration ends for fall.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *A&M-Commerce Today* is Wednesday, September 6. Copy deadline for the issue is Wednesday, August 30. Please send your news to maryl_hazal@tamu-commerce.edu or by fax to 5522.

A&M-Commerce, an equal opportunity university, complies with all federal requirements prohibiting discriminatory activities.