

The magazine of Texas A&M University-Commerce

PRIDE

vol. 58 no. 1 homecoming 2005



on the cover

A group of A&M-Commerce students stand by the Victory Bell in front of the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center. At right, two girls take a break between classes at the base of the bell (which had been temporarily removed) near the old Student Union Building in 1961.

Many things have changed over the past 40 years and even more has changed since the university's founding 116 years ago. Clothes, hairdos, and the contents of a student's book bag bear no semblance to what they once were.

However, a few things have remained the same. Students at A&M-Commerce are just as ambitious, dedicated, and generous as they have been for decades. Founder William L. Mayo's creed "ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought, unselfish service to others" seems to be one our students take seriously after first learning about the university's history at orientation.

Just read about the research endeavors of honors graduates Anna (pg. 6) and Jodi (pg. 21), and you'll see that our student body is one that sets their sights far above just meeting the minimum requirements for graduation.

Michael's story (pg. 13) is a touching one in which a college student goes to great means to improve his university and the community around him.

Angelique and Caprice (pg. 3) are two women determined to finish their college education despite losing many of the things they hold dear.

Next, check out how students at A&M-Commerce compare to those at other schools around the country. You'll find that our campus is a diverse one that accommodates the needs of both traditional and nontraditional students while keeping tuition affordable so that a quality education remains accessible (pg. 2).

"The Changing Face of A&M-Commerce" (pg. 14) gives you a glimpse inside today's college students' heads. What do they think about? Are they a Republican or Democrat? Do they think the death penalty is necessary?

We hope that you enjoy this issue and take this opportunity to sit back and remember your days as a student at this university.



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Whether you graduated 50, 15, or even five years ago, you might be surprised by the changes in today's college student population. Meet a generation of students who are geared with cell phones, MP3 players, and who learned about computers while still in diapers.



Dr. Joyce Scott, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, leads the Pride Walk for new students at A&M-Commerce.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I was asked to tell you “what today’s students are like,” which suggests conformity among them. What strikes me, however, is how diverse, dispersed and dynamic our student body is.

Ninety-two percent of A&M-Commerce students come from Texas, with the remainder coming from out of state and abroad.

We enjoy an unusual mix of students with more graduate students—almost 40 percent—

than is typical for an institution of our size and type; and about 60 percent of our graduates have community college credits, well above the national average of 30 percent for bachelor’s degrees.

Over 60 percent of our students are women, and we have an ethnically diverse student body, which includes individuals of African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American heritage as well as Caucasian and international students. We are proud of our success in preparing African-American teachers and administrators for Texas’ public schools.

For all its diversity, our student body does exhibit some commonalities: many first-generation students choose A&M-Commerce—almost 42 percent of fall ’04 entering freshmen and fully 70 percent of those enrolled through the Navarro Partnership. Finally, many students need work, grants, scholarships and/or loans to help them finance their education. One-third of undergraduates and 91 percent of master’s students enroll part time, most likely to allow time for employment.

Knowing work and family responsibilities assume a large role in our students’ lives, A&M-Commerce has made programs accessible by offering courses late in the day,

organizing student cohorts for programs, delivering programs off-campus at Corsicana, Mesquite, Dallas, Rockwall, McKinney and other sites, and relying increasingly on electronic delivery.

Online course enrollment has grown from 265 in 1998-99 to 5,107 in 2004-05, and students in two-way Interactive Video courses have increased from 52 in 1996-97 to 1,944 in 2004-05. Today, over half the graduate credit hours earned are generated off campus.

If there is a common theme across all student groups, it is the need for financial support.

A&M-Commerce has kept tuition and fee increases to a minimum; our current cost of \$4,150 for a full-time resident undergraduate falls well below the state average of \$6,425.

Unlike flagship campuses whose students often come from wealth, A&M-Commerce’s students come from lower- or middle-income backgrounds, families with an annual income of \$32,370. Thus, our students work at jobs and rely on financial aid to get through school.

In FY 2004, students borrowed over \$22.6 million to finance their studies. Among graduating seniors the average indebtedness in 2003-04 was \$16,411, slightly below the national average but a substantial burden for a teacher with a starting salary of \$30,000 per year.

What does this mean for those who plan and deliver courses, programs and services? We must put students first, simplify procedures, clarify program information, and become a reliable resource. We will optimize student access, whether by going to them for administrative functions or by developing electronic services. We must support faculty to address this dynamic group of learners with new technologies and new learning tools. And we must develop new ways of doing business, such as fine partnerships with Navarro College and Mesquite ISD.

Given the diversity, dispersion and dynamism of our student body, this is an exciting time to be a member of the A&M-Commerce team!

Joyce A. Scott

Provost and Vice President for Academic/Student Affairs

Distance learning

When Hurricane Katrina hit in September, thousands of college students were left without a school to attend. They had no idea what happened to the possessions they left behind in their dorms or when, or even if, their university or college would reopen.

Like many Texas universities, A&M-Commerce stepped up to the plate and opened its door to Katrina evacuees—allowing them to enroll after registration deadlines and begin classes during an already bustling fall semester.

Seventeen displaced students had enrolled at A&M-Commerce by *Pride* press time. Angelique Satchabell and Caprice Barber are two of them.

Angelique, a sophomore music major from Delgado Community College, and Caprice, a second-semester freshman at Southern University, left New Orleans prior to Hurricane Katrina and were staying at a Sulphur Springs shelter when Randy McDonald, A&M-Commerce director of freshmen admissions, came to visit them.

Randy had heard that a few college students were staying with their families at the shelter and wanted to let them know that they were eligible for in-state tuition and housing scholarships at the university. “We as a university are trying to do our best to accommodate these students,” he says.

Uncertain of how long she and her mother and younger



“I am just blessed to be here.”

—Caprice Barber, student displaced by hurricane

brother and sister would be in Sulphur Springs, Angelique decided to go ahead and enroll. Her brother is attending classes at Sulphur Springs High School, and her sister is a middle school student. Their mother plans to find a place in the area for the family to live.

Angelique plans on sticking to her dream of transferring to a music school in Boston, while Caprice, a pre-med biology major, says that she may try to finish her degree at A&M-Commerce. “I am just blessed to be here,” Caprice says.

The women both left New Orleans the day before the storm hit and said they still didn’t know what happened to their homes, although Caprice has heard from friends that her neighborhood was flooded.

The coeds say that they and their families have received a warm welcome from Texans. “The people in Texas are great,” Caprice says. “They have been friendly and helpful.”

Both students are living in a residence hall at A&M-Commerce.

Top: Caprice and Angelique meet with adjoining advisers.

Bottom left: Angelique gets her new college identification card.

Center: Caprice and Angelique unload belongings for their new residence hall rooms. **Right:** A place to call home at last.

A&M-C students help in aftermath

In the days following the hurricane, many families found their way to hotels in Commerce. Students, faculty, and staff members were quick to offer whatever help they could. Some opened their homes or rental properties to displaced families, while others donated food and supplies or money. “Our lives, as we knew them, would never be the same. In those first few days, we had no idea that our lives would also be forever changed by the citizens of Commerce,” New Orleans resident Michael Leslie wrote in a letter to the student newspaper, *The East Texan*.





Illustration by Courtney Thomas, A&M-Commerce freshman art major and Mayo College student.

Point of Pride

The A&M-Commerce Gear-Up program has gained the attention of the Texas Education Agency, having been designated by as a model program for other Gear-Up projects in the state.

Gear up for this flying object

In about five years, a dirigible—more commonly known as a blimp—may fly over the skies of A&M-Commerce.

The blimp will be designed by a group of seventh, eighth, and ninth graders in A&M-Commerce's Gear-Up summer program for economically disadvantaged or first-generation college students.

Most of the students probably entered the program not having any idea what the word "dirigible" meant. However, when they left, many likely realized that becoming an engineer or mathematician wasn't the unattainable goal it once seemed.

A federally funded program, Gear-Up (Gearing Early Awareness and Reading for Undergraduate Programs) assists middle school students academically and prepares them for advanced placement courses. It also gets them comfortable within a college setting so they'll be more likely to further their education once they graduate high school.

Students from Commerce, Greenville, and Sulphur Springs participated in this year's summer project taught by faculty in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Technology and personnel with L-3 Communications in Greenville.

The students' primary task this summer was to create the conceptual designs of each component of the blimp, including the airframe and gondola, engines, power source, test stands, and the "bag" or balloon design. The plan is that, in a few years, once the design is complete, the blimp will be constructed by Aerostar, Inc., a Sulphur Springs company, which manufactures atmospheric balloons and blimps.

Listen to Lion football wherever you are

Public radio station KETR 88.9 FM is now streaming audio live 24 hours a day through the Web. This means alumni can catch the news and games live no matter where they live.

Just visit www.ketr.org, and look for the link on the front page, or listen to Lion football live from the link on the athletics page at www.lionathletics.com.

"No matter where they are, our alumni can come back home and catch all of KETR's programming from anywhere in the world through the Web," says Kevin Jefferies, KETR news director.

KETR, which recently signed programming agreements with National Public Radio and American Public Media, was newly able to stream their feed as part of the package but did not have the hardware required.

It was at this point that A&M-Commerce's

athletics department stepped in to provide the equipment that makes the streaming possible.

"We pushed hard to get the games on air for the season," Kevin says. "We are in the testing phase, working out all the bugs, and are still tweaking it to become a prime audio feed over the Internet, but people can still catch all the games if out of town."

New to KETR sports this season is the half-hour A&M-Commerce Lions coach's show that is broadcast live from the Lion's Lair. Each Tuesday at 7

p.m. head football coach Scotty Conley joins Lions announcer Sean McEnany to highlight the previous week's game, look forward to the coming week, and offer more details on Lions football.

The show also touches on other A&M-Commerce sports like the perennial playoff, contending women's volleyball, the soccer team, and cross-country.

KETR sports broadcasts are also used as a lab for radio and television students at A&M-Commerce.

Students assist with producing segments for the halftime and post-game shows, providing live sideline



Quick links • www.ketr.org • www.lionathletics.com



Legislative update

What the Texas Legislature's decisions mean for A&M-Commerce:

- Spending on higher education increased in the 2005-07 biennium, from \$10.2 billion in the previous two-year period to \$10.98 billion. A&M-Commerce will see an increase of \$37,000 in its operating budget.
- The Legislature did not approve any new construction projects at colleges and universities that would utilize tuition-revenue bonds. This means plans for a new music building and library renovation at A&M-Commerce will be put on hold.
- Just two years after the Legislature voted to give public universities the power to set tuition, the Senate passed legislation to take back control. However, the House refused to pass the measure—leaving tuition increases from 4.75 percent to 20 percent commonplace around the state. This year, A&M-Commerce students face an increase of \$4 per semester hour—an increase that allows the university to remain one of the most affordable in the state.

Source: *Chronicle of Higher Education*

Starting the year with a 'roar'

A&M-Commerce students bid farewell to summer during Lion's Roar Week, a week loaded with activities designed to welcome students to campus and open the academic year with a kick. At Lionpalooza, they rocked alongside the pool to Dr. Doctor, a group featuring several community members along with A&M-Commerce professors Dr. Harry Fullwood (pictured), Dr. William Thompson, and Jency Holbert. Former student and folk singer Hope Cassity also performed during the concert. Earlier in the week, students also made tie-dye T-shirts, played in dodgeball and volleyball tournaments, and got temporary airbrushed tattoos.

New student center could soon be hottest nightspot around

In a few years, when asked, an A&M-Commerce student may tell you that the hottest nightspot around is no further than the new Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center.

The 92,000-square-foot, \$22 million student center is currently in the planning phase after students voted last year to pay for the center by increasing their student service fees.

The new student center will be an open building of glass and light with features such as an indoor ATM, a food court, and retail space. A likely location for the building is near the new Science & Technology Center, which is scheduled to open at

the beginning of next year.

Many of the building's features were inspired by student requests, including the nightspot where students can hang out on evenings and weekends. The proposed area will feature a big-screen TV and a large stage where bands, comedians and other entertainers will perform.

"Students won't have to drive all the way to Dallas to hang out," says Dr. Kayla Peak, who is managing the planning stages of the new building. "There is going to be a lot going on at A&M-Commerce."

PROUD
LEGACY



BRIGHT
FUTURE

HOMECOMING 2005



Friday, October 21, 2005

- 9 a.m.** Foundation Board Meeting
- 9:30-11:30 a.m.** College of Education and Human Services Dean's Roundtable Fall Meeting
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** Alumni Homecoming Golf Scramble
11 a.m. check-in, shotgun start at noon, Webb Hill Country Club; entry fee.
Call 903-886-5765 for information.
- Noon-1:30 p.m.** College of Education and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Recognition
- 7 p.m.** Multi-Cultural Alumni Mixer, call 903-886-5087 for information
- 7 p.m.** Multi-cultural Alumni Scholarship Mixer, Homecoming Pep Rally/Bonfire
- 8 p.m.** Homecoming Pep Rally/Bonfire

Saturday, October 22

- 8 a.m.** Alumni Homecoming Registration
- 8:30-10:30 a.m.** Alumni Homecoming Breakfast, tickets are \$10, RSVP to 903-886-5765
- 8:30-9 a.m.** Agriculture Alumni Reception



- 9-11 a.m.** Agriculture Alumni Breakfast, RSVP 903-886-5358 by Oct. 14
- 11-11:30 a.m.** Memorial Service at Mayo gravesite
- 10-11 a.m.** History Alumni Reception
- 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** Book signings and art displays in the Founders Lounge
Alumni who have published books or are professional artists or photographers are invited to share and sell their work. All alumni, students, and faculty are invited to attend.
- 10:30-11 a.m.** Mathematics Alumni/Student Reception, RSVP 903-886-5157 by Oct. 14
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.** Library Archives open for viewing of latest additions to the collection of university memorabilia.
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.** Biological/Earth Sciences Reception
- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Training School Reception
- 12:30-2 p.m.** Training School Luncheon
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** Farm Boy Luncheon. RSVP to 903-886-5351 by Oct. 14
- Noon-2 p.m.** Tailgate Party on the West Lawn. Family activities will be available so bring the kids along!
- 2-4:30 p.m.** Homecoming Football Game: A&M-Commerce vs. Northeastern State
- 4:30 p.m.** Baptist Student Ministry Open House (following the football game)
- 4:30 p.m.** ETSU Old School Alumni Association Reception
- 6-9 p.m.** Truax Scholarship Foundation Reception
- 6:15-7 p.m.** Hall of Fame Reception
- 7-9:00 p.m.** Hall of Fame Banquet; call 903-886-5558 for information
- 6-10:30 p.m.** Pan-Hellenic Homecoming Scholarship Greek Show; call 903-886-5839 for information

Please contact individual departments or organizations for Homecoming events not listed on this schedule. Throughout the week, don't miss the Student Organization Homecoming Display at the showcase in the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center. For a complete schedule, visit www.tamu-commerce.edu.

Most of us want to be elves, student finds

Once considered the refuge of antisocial techno-geeks, computer games are now among the hottest forms of entertainment.

So it's not surprising that recent honors graduate Anna Park (B.A. '05) decided to plug directly into popular culture and chart the unknown territory of how personality impacts alter egos in fantasy games, currently the most popular of roleplay games in which people choose their own character.

Anna was intrigued by the relationship between personality and the things people actually do in their everyday life. She wondered if very different types of people would choose very different types of roles as a function of their personality.

With the help of Dr. Tracy Henley, her thesis adviser, Anna devised a lengthy survey that simulated the process of creating a character for a fantasy computer game.

About 250 A&M-Commerce undergraduate and graduate students volunteered to complete the survey.

The thesis incorporated widely used personality inventories and looked at the relationships between the participants' personalities and their choice of fantasy character.

"I was surprised that people weren't choosing

something different from what they were in the real world," says Anna. "I thought compliant people might choose an evil character as a way to release aggression, but they didn't. It seems that people want some form of themselves in the fantasy so that they can see themselves perform in that environment."

Anna, who plays computer fantasy games herself, admits that she too tends to choose a character "a lot like me" but which is more of an ideal, with some super abilities like using magic.

She was also surprised at how many people wanted to play good characters. Women preferred characters who are helpful or nurturing, while men were somewhat more inclined to choose dark roles.

The most popular species across the board were elves, which are characterized as being highly intelligent. Men tended to also favor humans, who are characterized as having average skills but being very practical all-around.

Extroverts tended not to choose human characters, Anna's research showed, probably because they wanted something more unusual and adventurous, and they chose characters with charisma.

Agreeable people chose halflings, who are described in the study as fun-loving and very sociable. They recoiled from socially deviant roles such as assassins and thieves.

While ethnicity generally did not seem to have a strong impact on choice, Anna did notice that the two roles featuring a religious occupation ranked highly among Hispanics.

In general, appearance was important to every ethnicity.

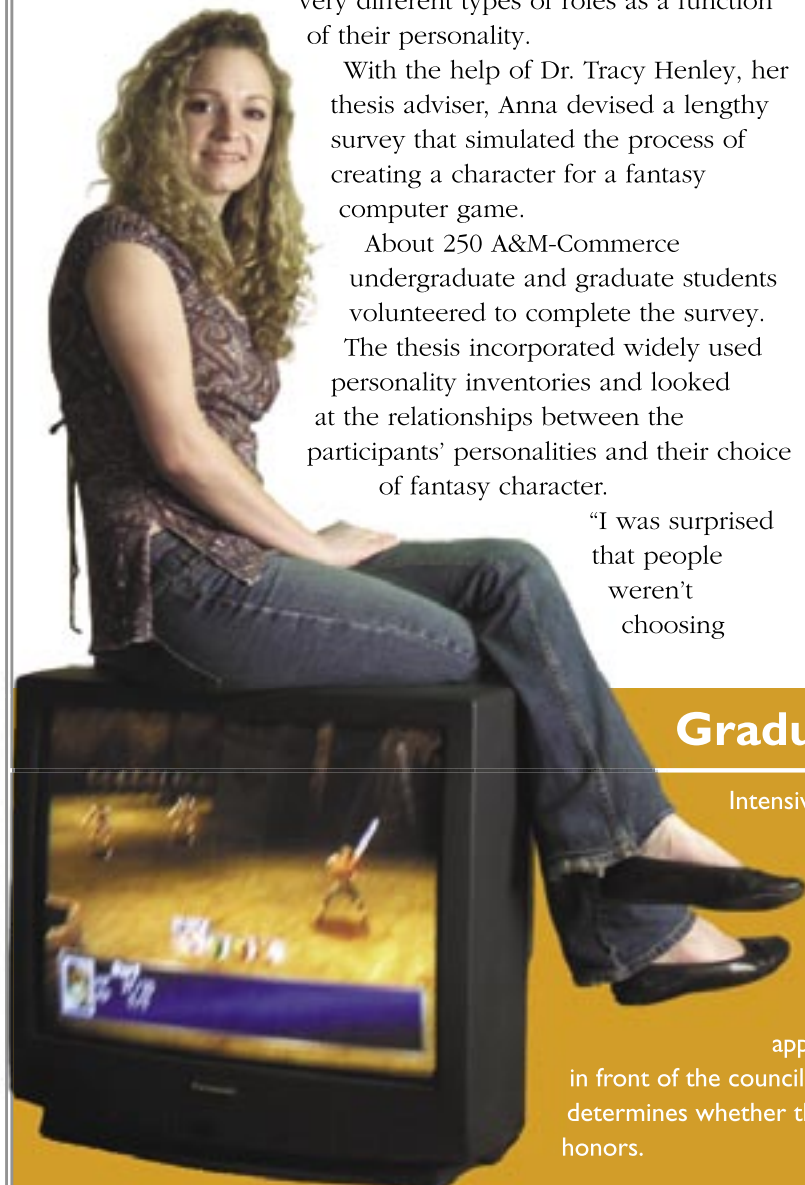
"This study was another confirmation that we cannot escape our personality, even in places where you would think we would try to escape it," Anna says.

Graduating with honors

Intensive research projects are not just for graduate students anymore. At least not at A&M-Commerce. As more and more students opt to have the distinction of graduating with honors from the university, they must overcome the challenges of writing a thesis while balancing a full load of classes and, in many cases, work and family.

In many ways they are treated just as graduate students are.

They must select a topic of research in their academic field, have it approved by a council of faculty, and then defend their research findings in front of the council. A combination of grades and the score they receive on their thesis determines whether they complete their degree with honors, high honors, or highest honors.





This doorstep still has welcome mat out after 80 years

The Heritage House and the adjoining Heritage Gardens have become a showcase and point of pride for our campus. It is a spot that attracts both visitors to campus and students looking for a quiet place to study.

Constructed in 1927 at a cost of \$15,000, the house is the second-oldest extant building on campus and, in its early years, served as the home for three university presidents: Dr. Samuel Whitley, Dr. James G. Gee, and Dr. D. Whitney Halladay.

President Whitley, his wife, son, and daughter moved into the house on Dec. 27, 1927.

A gregarious, friendly person, Mrs. Whitley made the house available to almost any group that needed a place for a party or social gathering.

Graduation receptions were also traditionally held at the Whitley's house and on the surrounding grounds. Mrs. Whitley, utilizing borrowed chairs and tables and china from the home economics department, set up tables outside on the lawn, and served punch

and cookies to the graduating seniors and their families.

The parties, receptions, and informal gatherings held in the house are an example of the open-door policy the Whitley's practiced. Daughter Mary Lou Whitley recalled that the first-floor doors were always open and unlocked, and friends, faculty members, and even students dropped by to visit at almost any time of day. Mary Lou remembered that life in the house was occasionally like living in a fish bowl.

Dr. and Mrs. James G. Gee, the next occupants of the house, were more reserved and private but—like the Whitleys—they enjoyed holding parties and dinners.

After the Gees installed window air conditioning units in the house, they moved the main bedroom to the second floor. In the mornings, from the vantage point of the upstairs bedroom, Dr. Gee read his *Dallas Morning News* and, as he has been quoted as saying, “watched the campus come alive.”

Before retiring as president of the

university in 1966, Dr. Gee arranged to have the current president's home constructed south of the campus on Highway 50. The next president, D. Whitney Halladay, and his wife lived in the old house for less than two years before the new one was completed.

Currently used for administrative offices and gatherings, the Heritage House was completely restored in 1995. Interest in rebuilding Mrs. Gee's formal Charleston garden inspired the construction of the garden, which was completed in 2001, thanks to donations from Gary and Sandra Fernandes (B.S. '64) and other alumni.

Above: It's common to see study groups meeting in the Heritage Gardens. Below: The inside of the Heritage House is decorated at the year's end for the many holiday gatherings held there.



By Dr. James Conrad, university archivist

THERE'S NO BETTER RECRUITER THAN YOU

How do you convince your teenager, the kid next door, or the high school girl working the cash register at McDonald's to come to your alma mater? Here's a few tips to help you get started.

Teach them Professor Mayo's motto: "**Ceaseless Industry, Fearless Investigation, Unfettered Thought, Unselfish Service to Others.**" Whether or not they go here, they're words to live, learn—and graduate—by.

CONSIDER MAKING A TRIP HERE WITH THEM.

- Anyone who goes so far as to visit the campus is very likely to enroll. By taking this step, you're all but assuring yourself of inducting yet another Lion into the pride!
- Many students approaching the campus for the first time are struck by the impressive university setting. They say that as they leave Interstate 30 and drive north along oak-lined Highway 50, they admire the pastoral setting. Then, as they take the last highway curve that reveals towering Whitley Hall and, beyond that, the collection of imposing academic buildings, their first thought is often: "Wow. This is a real college campus!"
- One alum, Buddie Barnes (B.S. '76), had been considering going to A&M in College Station. Then one day his father asked him to "go for a little ride." The next thing Buddie knew, he was in Commerce, Texas, signing up for classes. While we can't recommend kidnapping, we can say we're very much in favor of taking students for a nice little drive to Commerce, Texas.

SHARE A COUPLE OF OUR LION TRADITIONS, INCLUDING PERHAPS:

- that the time-honored secret to earning an A is to kiss the book of knowledge on Professor Mayo's gravestone.
- the location of the grave site, which surprisingly few people know. Tell them too that A&M-Commerce is one of the few (in fact, the only one we know of) schools where the founder is actually interred on campus.
- the proper posture for the singing of the Alma Mater: a proud stance with right arm raised overhead, index finger pointing upward.
- how to adapt the stance to show support, particularly at athletic events: cross the index and middle fingers while extending the thumb to form an "L" for luck.
- our tendency to tease the uninitiated by quizzing them on the words to the school fight song. (There are no words to the school fight song.)

If a visit in person isn't possible, then offer them a **virtual tour** at www.tamu-commerce.edu/vt/v_tour.asp. Once they get online, they can explore the campus and its possibilities to their heart's content.

Whether you recently met your potential recruit while waiting in line at a fast food restaurant or have been cultivating your neighbor's teen for months, go ahead and **refer them to the Office of Admissions**. Provide whatever you can in the way of traditional and e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and, if you know, whatever you've learned about what the potential student is interested in studying. Submit these via email at admissions@tamu-commerce.edu or by calling 888-868-2682.

FERGUSON

Tell them that we're probably known as the **Lions** because of a play on Professor Mayo's middle name.

INTRODUCE THEM TO THE STORY OF OUR FOUNDER, WILLIAM LEONIDAS MAYO.

William was only 27 when he started the college. Though he was young, he was also tough. He rallied first community then state support for his growing school, and he rebuilt after three devastating fires. He even endured one horsewhipping from the founder of a rival college!

Once you've read your fill, hand off an occasional copy of **Pride** to prospective students.

And don't forget wife **Etta Booth Mayo**. She loved the arts and was a free thinker who very much partnered with William in establishing the college. The story goes that she and her daughter were nearly arrested once because Etta allowed her to wear—gasp!—britches in public.

WHILE YOU'RE MAKING INTRODUCTIONS, WHY NOT INCLUDE A FEW OF YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI?

- **Sam Rayburn**, who came to school here with only a few dollars in his pocket and was only able to stay because Mayo allowed him to pay his way in part by sweeping out classrooms and ringing the bell for class changes. Mr. Sam would become a political legend who served as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives longer than anyone.
- **Alphonso Jackson**, who came here to run track and get an education and who today heads up a \$32 billion operation called the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- **Lynne Liberato**, who took journalism classes here from faculty legends Jack Bell and Otha Spencer. Since then she has become a partner one of the most prestigious law firms in Texas and has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. She's presided as president over the State Bar of Texas and *Texas Monthly* magazine has more than once tagged her a "Super Lawyer."
- **Mike Moses**, who has tackled jobs of deputy chancellor for the Texas Tech University System, of education commissioner for the State of Texas, and even the superintendency of the Dallas ISD during one of its most tumultuous periods. An education expert himself, Dr. Moses still speaks fondly of the fine faculty here who took his own education to the next level.
- **Mark Seliger**, a photographer with *GQ* and *Vanity Fair*, who until recently was chief photographer for *Rolling Stone* for more than 10 years.

Deck them out in Lion pride early and often. Buy A&M-Commerce t-shirts, pennants, and even baby gear from www.amcbookstore.com. Collegiate items make great gifts for your niece, nephew, grandchild, or anyone you'd like to see go to school here.

Tell them about our **undergraduate programs**. A complete listing of majors is available at www.tamu-commerce.edu/thepride.com.

SHARE WITH THEM SOME OF YOUR OWN STORIES...

Your experience in student government ... the sorority event that took a surprising turn ... the faculty member who told you it was okay to call him at home ... your stint on *The East Texan* staff ... your favorite time to go to Gee Lake ... the intramural volleyball game that went awry ... your favorite song to hear played in the stands by the Pride band ... the professor who inspired you like never before ... the way you felt when you shook the president's hand and crossed the stage in front of your family and friends ...

Nothing is more powerful than your very own stories.

Keeping Mayo's vision alive

Although it's been more than 88 years since Founder William L. Mayo set foot on this campus, his spirit still very much lives on.

Through the decades, his spirit and the principles upon which he established the university have been kept alive by administrators, faculty, staff, and friends who have loved this place very much.

Hoyle Julian (B.S. '60, M.S. '65), Ann Oglesby Julian (B.S. '56, M.S. '62), Ivory Moore, and Wyman Williams (B.S. '69) are four of those people.

"These individuals truly have a passion for Texas A&M University-Commerce and the City of Commerce," President Keith McFarland says. "They epitomize university founder William L. Mayo's credo of 'ceaseless industry, fearless investigation, unfettered thought, and unselfish service to others,' particularly service to others."

This group of alumni and present and former faculty and staff members are recipients of the Spirit of Mayo Citation.

Hoyle, who grew up on a dairy farm in Hopkins County earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from A&M-Commerce. He retired in 1992 as director of Large Systems Planning for Arco Oil & Gas Company.

His wife, Ann, and her five siblings all have degrees from the university. Ann's parents moved to Commerce so that all their children could get a college education. Ann received a bachelor's and master's degree from the university and is a retired teacher



Hoyle and Ann Julian support the university in a variety of ways. A meal program they developed through the A&M-Commerce Foundation provides meals to the basketball and volleyball teams after late games.

and librarian.

The Julians help the university in many ways that might go unnoticed. When they found out the cafeteria was closed following late volleyball and basketball games, they devised and financed a program, with McDonald's help, through the A&M-Commerce Foundation to provide a meal for Lions players after home games.

On the academic side, Hoyle has volunteered as a math tutor for the last 10 years and since 2003 has been a liaison and field supervisor for the Department of Secondary and Higher Education. Ann has been working with SHED in these same capacities for several years.

The Julians have seven scholarship endowments in the arts, athletics, and math.

Ivory served as the university's first African-American administrator in the '70s.

He is remembered for his work as dean of Minority Affairs, a post he held from 1978-84.



Ivory Moore

At A&M-Commerce, Ivory did much work with students and helped secure grants for the Upward Bound Program. In 1973, he wrote a successful grant for \$300,000 for tutorial and counseling work with disadvantaged students and two years later authored a second grant for Upward Bound.

Ivory's interest in the community led him to become the first black citizen elected to the Commerce City Council, and he ended his 18 years on the council by serving two years as mayor.

While attending high school and college, Wyman worked at the family's local car dealership. After earning his college diploma, he began selling cars and moved through management positions at Williams Motors until 1979 when he became co-owner.



Wyman Williams

Wyman has been actively involved in the Alumni Association and won the Gold Blazer Award for service to the association and university in 1989. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the A&M-Commerce Foundation Board of Directors.

A Commerce resident since age 3, Wyman also volunteers his service to the community in numerous ways. "It's home, and it's good to be able to work within the community and make it better," he says.



They've got the spirit too

Although this student and alumna may not be official recipients of the Spirit of Mayo Citation, the *Pride* staff applauds their contributions.

While most students are concerned with how much student loan debt they are accumulating while in school, Michael Crawford is thinking about the financial

needs of others—particularly the needs of students and programs that benefit from A&M-Commerce's Bridge Builders program.

Bridge Builders is a group of university faculty and staff who contribute money toward a program that supports students and university programs and activities.

Although Michael is not officially a staff member, he does work for the university as a student worker and probably doesn't make much more than the standard \$5.15 an hour in student wages.

No matter how small his paycheck may be, Michael is determined to make a difference. "My time on campus has been so remarkable I wanted to give back to the university,"

A&M-Commerce's summer band camp has continued to be a part of Jean Holbrook Bryant's (B.M.Ed. '78, M.M. '84) life long after she graduated from the university.

Her work with the middle and high school camps began 25 years ago as a "dorm mom" to some of the kids at camp.

Now, with both a bachelor's and master's degree under her belt, she is a successful music educator who has continued to return to campus every year to teach aspiring musicians.

Gene Lockhart, former head of the music department, says that he has asked Jean to help with camp every year because of her "mastery of music literature, her fine rehearsal technique, and her passionate commitment to her students." He adds that "not everyone is well suited to teach a room full of highly energetic junior high school band students."

After Jean graduated with her bachelor's degree in 1978 and began teaching, she got her first invitation to teach at the camp. "I love teaching students in that type of setting. It was a similar situation that brought me to Commerce in the first

he says. It also helps that he works in Advancement, the office that coordinates the program and has seen first hand "how beneficial and wonderful" contributions to Bridge Builders are.

"Besides," he adds, "I was going to use the money on something wasteful like fast food. Now it's being spent on something useful."

The Office for Advancement is only one of the many places Michael can be spotted at around campus. He is vice-president of Phi Alpha Delta, a professional service organization composed of pre-law students, law students, legal educators, attorneys, and judges.

Michael is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., where he was active in getting the student vote out as part of the fraternity program, "A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People."

He continues his community service in "Go To High School, Go To College," a program in which fraternity members visit high schools and encourage seniors to not just graduate, but to attend college thereafter.

Michael, a political science major from Dallas, is planning to attend law school after he graduates in May.

place," she remembers. Before attending college here, Jean herself came to band camp as a Garland High School senior.

Jean is band director for Eules Junior High School and was honored in 1991 as an Alumni Ambassador.

Jean says she never knows if she'll be asked to return the next summer. "I have always been excited when I have been called and offered a position," she says.



The Changing Face of A&M-Commerce



Just when you thought you'd figured out everything you need to know about Generation X, boom! Along comes another, well, boom.

Okay, boomlet, to be fair to the original Boomers.

As in Baby Boomlet. That's only one of the many terms used by people in high demographic places to refer to the generation produced by the early 1980s jump in fertility rates—specifically to those people born from 1982 to 2002, but generally to those who came of college age at the new millennium. Millennial, for obvious reasons, is another popular moniker.

One thing is for certain. Whether you call them Boomlets, Millennials, the Y Generation or the Net Generation (short for the

internet they mastered before moving on to toilet training), some 80 million of them are out there right now, a good many of them enrolled in college and going about the business of making their own names for themselves.

So who is this next generation of college students, how did they get here and, perhaps most important since the fate of the human race depends on them, what are their intentions?

What's more, is there such a thing as a typical college student these days and, if so, is he (or is it now a she?) a Millennial?

By Tina Rabb (M.S. '89)

Some things change, while others remain the same

Skirts rise and fall, tattoos come and go, and rock and roll evolves, but you know what they say about the more things change.

If you're still under the impression that a college freshman is an 18-year-old who just graduated from high school or 19-year-old who took a year off after high school to work and explore options, you're right on the numbers.

According to the fall 2004 freshman statistical profile compiled by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA's Graduate School Of Education & Information Studies, 18-year-olds represent 66.7 percent of the full-time freshman population on four-year campuses. Nineteen-year-olds, with nearly 30 percent of the population, represent the next largest group.

With respect to race and ethnic background, the breakdown goes like this: White/Caucasian 76.5 percent, African-American/Black 9.7, Asian-American/Asian 7.9, Mexican American/Chicano 3.5, Puerto Rican 1.1, other Latino 2.4, American Indian/Alaska Native 1.9, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0.8, and Other 3.1.

And to answer the question of whether today's typical student is male or female, the numbers don't give either side a whopping majority. They do, however, favor females, according to U.S. Department of Education resources. And they do show a trend.

A study of total fall undergraduate enrollment conducted by the government agency between 1980 and 2001 revealed that the number of women increased by 41 percent during that time, while the number of men increased only half as much. At the closing bell, female students outpopulated their male counterparts by 1.7 million.

Off the chart & off the fence

Facts like these may help put a face on the hope of the future, but you'll have to decide for yourself whether UCLA's further findings help you sleep at night.

Now in its 39th year, the freshman survey is the country's longest running and most comprehensive



Professor's Perspective

"Today's students are more goal-oriented, often attempting to balance their families and/or work, as well as their course loads. Because financing their education is a major concern, they are often more assertive in requesting assistance, as well as voicing their opinions about what constitutes a quality education. The students of today have more choices for higher education providers than any previous generation. Therefore, Texas A&M University-Commerce hopes to continue the legacy established by Professor Mayo. If a student desires an education and is capable, we want to do our best to provide a quality education at an affordable price for the students in our service area."

Dr. Mary W. Hendrix
Associate Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs

"Teachers today have to be on the cutting edge because today's college students are more savvy. What I mean is that they've been exposed to a lot more things than kids in the past have and, also, they're living in a world of instant access. For instance, if I say something in class, someone can easily go online and figure out if I know what I'm talking about. In the old days the teacher was the authority, and whatever the teacher said was pretty much gospel."

Dr. Frank Ashley
Dean, College of Education & Human Services

"Our current crop of political science majors has a very lively interest in government and politics. It seems that they're about equally divided between Democrats and Republicans, which makes for some spirited class discussions. As for the general student population, interest in politics varies widely. A minority follows current events closely, but most of the rest pay only a modest amount of attention to the news."

Dr. Paul Lenchner
Professor and Head, Department of Political Science

"Students today seem to have a more diversified set of priorities. Their education is important to them, but so is working part time/full time, social activities, and family obligations. As educators, we are asked to be more understanding when it comes to these other priorities. From my perspective this can sometimes be frustrating."

Dr. Kenneth Washer
Associate Professor of Finance and Interim Head
Department of Economics and Finance

Pride Online: Dean of Students Joe Webber has been working with A&M-Commerce students for 30 years. Get his thoughts on how they've changed at www.tamuc.edu/thepride.

look at student attitudes and plans. Administered to 289,452 students at 440 four-year colleges, it asks opinions on a broad variety of topics and elicits some answers that just might—to your dismay or delight—surprise you. Here are some of the more interesting conclusions.

A record number of students place themselves at the extreme edges of the political spectrum, with 3.4 percent considering themselves “far left” and 2.2 percent “far right.” The percentages are small but they’re significant, according to the director of the survey.

“The change between 2003 and 2004 numbers—concurrent with the presidential election year—reflects the largest one-year shift in students’ political orientation in the 35 years that it has been included in the survey,” said Linda J. Sax, UCLA associate professor of education.

Perhaps equally significant is the finding

that although “middle-of-the-road” remains the political place of choice at 46.4 percent, the number of students choosing to identify themselves with the left or right is up from last year. Liberals took 26.1 percent of the vote, while 21.9 percent labeled themselves conservative. When the survey was conducted five years ago, 21.8 percent said they were liberals, and 18.3 percent answered conservative.

No matter what your political bent is, you can’t help but take heart in the fact that interest in politics is on the rise on campuses, with 34.3 percent of students believing that “keeping up to date with political affairs” is a very important or essential life goal.

Even better, their increasing interest in government has given students something to talk about. Twenty-five and one-half percent say they frequently discuss politics—a number that marks the highest

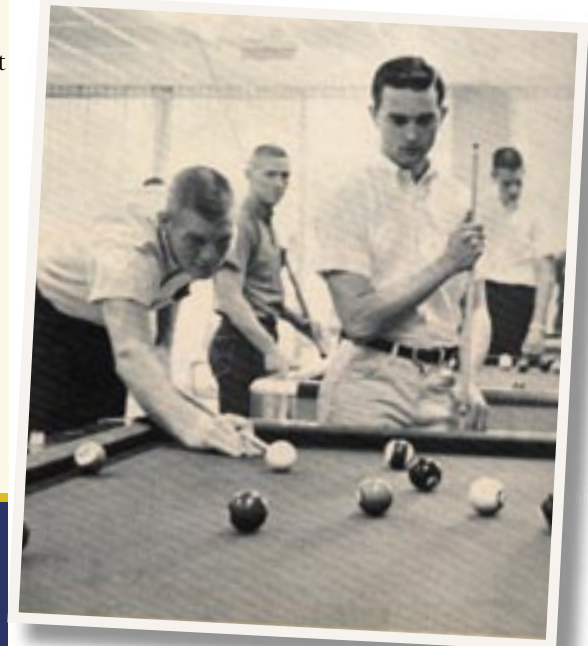
point of political discourse in more than a decade.

And what, exactly, are they talking about? Well, from the survey, we at least know of the following subjects:

Military Spending—35.4 percent say increase it (way up from 1992 but 10 percent down from the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11)

The Death Penalty—33.2 percent say abolish it (highest point since 1980)

The Rights of Criminals—58.1 percent say “There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals” (lowest point since 1976)



What’s life like when you were born 18 years ago?

Most first-time freshmen entering college this year were born in 1987.

They’re part of a generation that some have dubbed the “Millennials,” simply because they’re members of the generation that began to enter college at the 2000 millennium.

They’re expected to enter college in record numbers in coming years, since the high-school graduation class of 2010 will be the largest in U.S. history.

According to Neil Howe and William Strauss, authors of *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*, millennials as a group are:

- optimistic about the future;
- realistic about the present;
- resilient and hard-working; and
- very much into setting goals and meeting those goals.

“In some ways, they are as wholesome and as devoid of cynicism as the generation that wore saddle shoes,” a *New York Times* editorial said of them. “They trust their government, admire their parents and believe it is possible to start out poor and become rich.”

Technology and starting out behind

The good news is that the gender gap has been closed when it comes to computer usage among pre-college students. But the discouraging news for minorities—African Americans in particular—is that the survey found that a spread of 15 percentage points still exists in rates of frequent computer usage across racial/ethnic groups. That translates into less technical preparedness for freshman minorities and, ultimately, more learning curve to climb from the get-go.



A healthy prognosis

Interest in the general biological sciences, biochemistry and biophysics have taken a quantum leap, with twice as many freshmen showing an interest in these fields in 2004 as in the late 1980s. That all-time high is accompanied by a 20-year high in students interested in nursing. In general, interest in the medical field—where women outnumber men 7 percent to 5.1 percent—has shown no sign of ailing.

Does all school and no work make Jane a poor student?

When asked if they believe that there is a very good chance that they will hold a job while in school to help pay for college expenses, a record high of 47.2 percent

freshmen said yes, with 53.3 percent of those answering yes being women.

Although the U.S. unemployment rate stood at 5.4 percent in September of 2004, a surprisingly low 13 percent of students reported “major” concerns about paying for college. Almost 9 percent said they expected to borrow more than \$10,000 to cover their freshman year expenses.

Oh joy—more time to be overwhelmed

One lesson we all learn—if not in college, then in that other school that gets knocked about—is that justice doesn’t always prevail. Indeed, such is often the case with female college students, who are more likely than men to rate their time management skills as “above average” or



What do you mean there hasn't always been a Starbucks?

According to the annual “Mindset” list from Beloit College, the following are generalizations about those students entering college this year:

- Andy Warhol, Liberace, Jackie Gleason, and Lee Marvin have always been dead.
- They don't remember when "cut and paste" involved scissors.
- With little need to practice, most of them do not know how to tie a tie.
- They never had the fun of being thrown into the back of a station wagon with six others.
- Al-Qaeda has always existed with Osama bin Laden at its head.

- Voice mail has always been available.
- For daily caffeine emergencies, Starbucks has always been around the corner.
- They missed the oat bran diet craze.
- American Motors has never existed.
- Snowboarding has always been a popular winter pastime.
- They never saw the shuttle *Challenger* fly.
- Airports have always had upscale shops and restaurants.
- Tom Landry never coached the Cowboys.
- They never saw a Howard Johnson's with 28 ice cream flavors.
- Jimmy Carter has always been an elder statesman.

even “highest 10 percent” (37.4 percent for women/31.5 percent for men). Yet, for all their efficiency and planning, they are twice as likely as men to say that they frequently feel overwhelmed by their obligations.

Here’s one theory that the survey seems to support. Men are more likely to spend more than 10 hours per week socializing, exercising or playing sports, watching television and partying, while women spend that time working for pay, studying and doing homework, doing housework and taking care of children.

The idea is that all that playing around and relaxing that male students do and females do not may serve to reduce stress, which in turn leads men to report better mental health. No rocket science there, but certainly a little fuel for the fire.

However, lest put-upon females on campuses everywhere revolt in a fit of recreation, the conductors of the survey caution that men’s feelings of being overwhelmed may be underrated because



What’s going on in their heads?

Here are still a few more findings to throw into the Millennial milieu.

First, a look at how Millennials look at themselves. Following are the percentage of students who rated themselves above average in these categories:

Kindness	75.3 percent
Drive to achieve	70.9
Academic ability	69.5
Compassion	67.1
Generosity	67.1
Understanding of others	62.8
Forgiveness	56.7
Courage	54
Emotional health	50.9
Writing ability	46.4
Mathematical ability	44.9
Computer skills	36.8
Spirituality	36.5

Now for a sampling of how they look at their world. Following are the percentage of students who agreed strongly or somewhat with these statements:

The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns.	78.7 percent
Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus.	58.6
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status.	56.7
Abortion should be legal.	53.9
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished.	50.4
If two people really like each other, it’s all right for them to have sex even if they’ve known each other for only a very short time.	46.2
Marijuana should be legalized.	37.2
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society.	26.8
The activities of married women are best confined to the home and family.	21

Finally, an indication of what Millennials hold near and dear. The top three objectives considered to be essential or very important to them are:

Raising a family	75.1 percent
Being very well off financially	73.6
Helping others who are in difficulty	62.4

On the other hand, the bottom three objectives don’t exactly bode well for the arts. They are:

Writing original works (poems, novels, short stories, etc.)	15.1 percent
Becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts (acting, dancing, etc.)	15.1
Creating artistic work (painting, sculpture, decorating, etc.)	15.6

they're underreported. Men are much less likely, they say, to admit to being depressed or to seeking help for their emotional and mental issues.

Two steps back

Fewer students than ever before in the nearly four-decade-long study indicated that "helping to promote racial understanding" is an "essential" or "very important" personal goal. In fact, a record high was set for freshmen who feel that racial discrimination is no longer even a problem in the United States.

The study also indicates a decline in interaction of racial/ethnic groups, with the current figure for those answering that they would likely socialize in college with someone outside their ethnic background the lowest since the question was added to the survey in 2000.

A&M-C Millennials and then some

While the university can't delve quite as deeply into students' psyches as the researchers at UCLA do, the A&M-Commerce Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research has collected data that paints at least a general picture of the Commerce campus's student population.

In the most basic ways, many students here fit the Millennial mold so evident in the UCLA findings. For starters, among undergraduate students, 18- to 21-year-olds represent nearly half the total population of 5,262 with a 47 percent showing. The other half of the undergraduate population is quite another story, though, with 22- to 24-year-olds representing 22 percent of the total population, and the remaining 25 and over age group representing an impressive 29 percent.

Remembering that those figures don't take into account graduate students, who are typically 22 and older, the picture of a heavily non-traditional campus emerges.

With respect to ethnicity, figures for fall 2004 undergraduate enrollment indicate that White Non-Hispanics comprise 70 percent of the population, Black Non-Hispanics comprise 19 percent and

Hispanics 6 percent, while American Indian/Alaskan, Asian/Pacific Islander, and international students contribute 1 percent each.

Finally, following the lead of female students throughout the nation, A&M-Commerce women outnumber men, posting an even higher-than-average 60 percent of total undergraduate enrollment.

Playing 20 questions

Dr. William Thompson, sociologist, Freshman Success Seminar professor, and director of A&M-Commerce's Mayo College, administers a simple little test to his freshman students at the beginning of their college career to find out who they are—or, rather, who they say they are.

It's a fairly monotonous test when you consider that every one of the 20 fill-in-the-blank questions is the same: I am _____.

But, from a professor of sociology's point of view, it produces some pretty interesting findings.

"Twenty-five years ago, with almost every college student, the first thing they'd write down there was 'I am a college student,'" he said. "When I do that here, I sometimes have students write 20 statements, and not one of them will be 'I am a college student.'"

"They've got tons of priorities. They've got so many other things that are more important than college to them. Generally, the 'I am a college student' is way down the list. Sometimes it'll be in the top 10, but it's seven, eight or nine. They've got that many other things that are either

more important statuses, or higher priority statuses, or things that dominate their identity more than that—even among traditional college students."

Dr. Thompson, who has been teaching for more than 30 years, the last 16 at A&M-Commerce, gets to know his students a little better than most professors on campus have the opportunity to do. As director of Mayo College, a freshman residential learning community within the university, he may not live in Berry Hall with his students, but he has daily interaction with them, leads them on numerous off-campus learning excursions, and helps them navigate the first-year problems that can often derail a college career.

He says today's students don't come in with as much intellectual curiosity as those in years past and seem, perhaps due to economic necessity, to be anxious to get in and out of college as quickly as possible.



Janet Coyle (B.S. '33) recently celebrated her 95th birthday with 200 of her friends and family.

Helen Dickson (B.A. '41, M.A. '50) is third vice president of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

Harrell W. Chism (B.B.A. '49) received his 50-year service award from the Texas Funeral Directors Association in June. Harrell is the former owner of Chism & Smith Funeral Home and is affiliated with Calvary Funeral Home in Irving, TX.

Bob Gossett (B.S. '50, M.Ed. '51) and Patsy Camp Gossett (B.S. '52) were recently featured in the Sunday Brunch Section of the *Greenville Herald Banner*. Bob and Pat have two sons; Wayne and Willie, and four grandchildren.

Christopher Adams Jr. (B.S. '52) was recently appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to the Brazos River Authority Board of Directors. Christopher is a retired major general in the U.S. Air Force and resides in Granbury, TX.

Lennie Fay Akins Todd (B.S. '52, M.Ed. '73) and her husband recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Lennie was a home economics teacher in several school districts and later owned a gift shop in Denison, TX.

Mary Beth Tuck (B.S. '52, M.S. '65) is District X president of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

Ann Julian (B.S. '56, M.S. '62) is president of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

Jim F. Barham (M.Ed. '57, Ph.D. '69) retired in '92 after 45 years in education. Jim also retired in '99 as Lieutenant, C.I.D., Yell County (AR) Sheriff's Department.

Dale Gaskill (B.S. '58, M.Ed. '60) is first vice president of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

Danny R. Tinney (B.S. '60, M.S. '67) recently retired after 45 years of service in education, 25 of which were with Livingston (TX) ISD.

Michael Atkins (B.S. '63, M.S. '66) retired after a 35-year career at Western Michigan University, most recently as dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Betty Casselberry (B.S. '63, M.S. '65) is treasurer of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

Toni Deaton (B.M.Ed. '64, M.Ed. '76, M.M. '88) is secretary of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

Mickey Flippen (B.S. '64, M.Ed. '69) has announced his retirement after 33 years of coaching golf at Paris Junior College and winning 10 regional titles and 12 conference titles, along with making 24 national tournament appearances. Mickey owns the DeLeon Spa and Salon in Paris.

Tom Neugent (B.S. '64, M.Ed. '71) has been inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, which honors retired outstanding band directors who have impacted music education in the state. Tom directed high school bands in Texas for 37 years, his last 24 at Euleus Trinity, where his bands won Sweepstakes awards every year.

(continued on pg. 22)

Still, he's optimistic about their potential for academic and personal growth in the college experience.

"I've kind of been re-inspired by working with these 18-year-old traditional college students in some ways," he said. "There is an eagerness and enthusiasm there among a lot of them and there's, I don't know, it's kind of like if you're at an ivy league school and you start out with students who are right here (holding hand high) you can only take them to here (a little higher).

"Our students might start down here and when we get done with them, they're never going to be up here, but you can see a tremendous change over a four- or five-year period—a lot of growth and maturity. And they're beginning to develop that intellectual curiosity that you wish they'd have come into college with. Maybe you've been able to spark a little bit of that here, and see a few of those light bulbs go on, and had some of those a-ha moments."

Thompson is quick to point out that there are students on campus who could attend—as well as compete very well at—ivy league schools but who have chosen to come to Commerce.

"Also, sometimes we attract students who think they will attend one or two years and then transfer to A&M in College Station, UT or some other Division I school," he said, "but after they attend a semester here and have a positive experience, get involved with the university and make friends, they realize that this university has a lot to offer, and they decide to stay here and finish their degrees."

The bigger picture

Hayley Jobe may be a member of Generation X, but she's right at

home with everyone from Boomers to Millennials on the A&M-Commerce campus. As assistant director of resident life, she gets to know students where they live, and in the five years she has held the position, she's seen some interesting changes.

"It seems that, now, more than in the past few years, we have more older students coming back and living on campus—students in their 40s and 50s," she said. "Some of them come and will want to live here because they didn't get to have the college experience before. They want to have it now because they're more studious. They want to live on campus and be closer to the library and to professors and resources."

She said that in spite of statistics that depict today's students as having jobs, families and other life demands that detract from their focus on college, most traditional students are still immersing themselves in the college experience—at least during their freshman year and often part of their sophomore year.

But, she's observed, there's a change in that experience that's definitely for the better.

"I think there is still that level of social activity," she said, "but they're not just going to parties and not just socializing and making friends, but doing that plus trying to make the campus better and trying to make the community better or trying to make society better."

Jobe said almost every residence hall on campus participated in some type of fundraising effort following the tsunami tragedy in December and that many of this year's Commerce Relay For Life teams were made up of students running or walking to raise money for cancer research.

"When they get to school," she said, "a lot of them see the bigger picture."

Setting an example

Jodi Haney investigates a surprising trend: fewer and fewer college students are setting aside time to read.

Meet Jodi Haney (B.A. '05), A&M-Commerce honor student on a mission.

It started when Jodi's adviser, Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom, shared with her English class a recent survey that found the amount of reading done by every age group had declined.

An avid reader herself, Jodi wanted to know what could possibly keep college students—supposedly in the prime of their learning lives—from reading.

The subject is something Jodi eventually had the chance to research as part of the university's rigorous honors program, which requires students to take higher-level classes, attend colloquia, and write a thesis. Jodi's research about student reading habits taught her several things:

1. College students generally fall into three categories of aliteracy, which is the condition of being able to read but choosing not to.
2. A&M-Commerce students seem to read more than their counterparts.
3. One thing that can keep a college student from reading is the sight of a 3-year-old who breaks into sobs every time her college student mom picks up a book. (More on this one later.)

The results Dr. Dunbar-Odom took to her class were hard for Jodi to accept. "It shocked me," Jodi says. "Everyone I knew liked to read."

Intrigued, Jodi looked further and learned the group showing the biggest decline was that of college-age students. "That really shocked me," she says. "You'd think we'd be the people who'd be reading!"

She decided to see how much reading her fellow students at A&M-Commerce were doing and ultimately turned her findings into an honors thesis, "Aliteracy: A Phenomenon Among College-Age Adults."

Her findings address three types of aliteracy:

- those who read only when they have to, such as memos at work or following a recipe at home;
- those who may enjoy reading but say they don't have the time; and
- those who don't read because they simply don't like to.

Her study of A&M-Commerce students showed that they aren't as aliterate as students nationwide. Nationally, 47 percent of college-age students are aliterate, while 31 percent of A&M-Commerce students fit the description.

When Jodi defended her thesis to A&M-Commerce faculty, they asked her what she thought would cause college-age students to read more. She told them giving students more time to do so and pointing them toward some popular books that are also quality literature.

The time factor was something Jodi experienced firsthand. A single mother, Jodi was taking a full load of classes, including honors requirements, and working in the scholarship office at the university to help with her school costs.

Her 3-year-old daughter, Jenna, "is the best child anyone could have," Jodi says, but her little girl seemed to reach her limit this past summer.

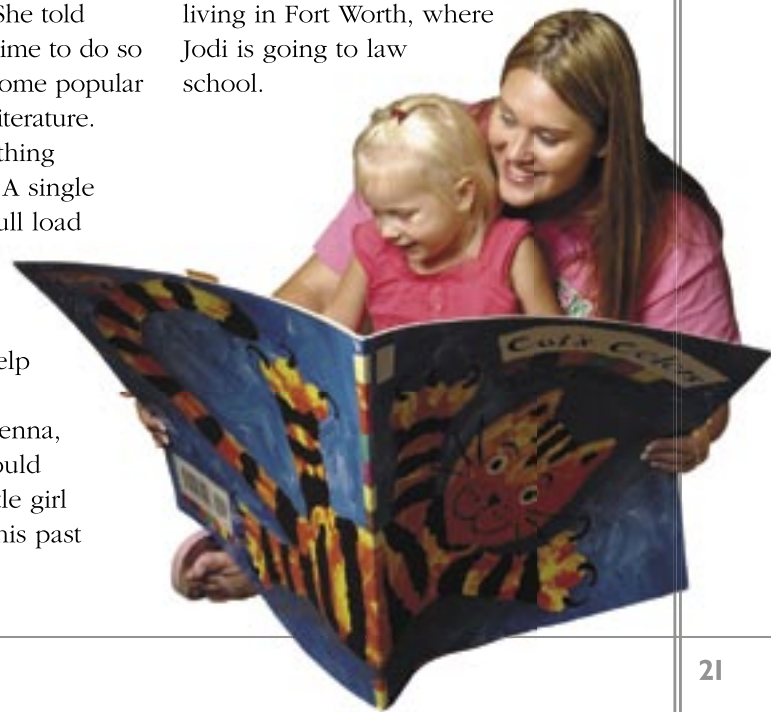
Jodi was taking a couple of accelerated summer literature classes that required her to read a book or two every few days. "It got to the point that when I picked up a book, Jenna would start crying."

It was a cruel twist for someone who loved literature and wanted the same for her child.

The two, however, found a way to work through the conflict. Jodi invested in some quality picture books and told Jenna that whenever mommy read her books, she could sit nearby and "read" hers too.

It worked like a charm, as Jenna began to look forward to Jodi's reading times when she could get out her own special books. "It made me feel a lot better," Jodi says, "when I saw her begin to enjoy our reading time together."

Jenna turned 4 in September, not long after Jodi graduated with highest honors. The two now are living in Fort Worth, where Jodi is going to law school.



Bill O'Neal (B.A. '64, M.A. '69) received the 2005 Book of the Year award from the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History for his most recent historical work, *The Johnson County War*. Bill resides in Carthage, TX.

Bob Brown (M.S. '66) and his wife have retired from teaching ballroom dancing after 50 years. Bob was also a physics and electronics teacher at Texarkana College for 12 years before his retirement in the early '90s.

Rev. Ron Croom (M.S. '68) recently returned as senior pastor at Fremont (NE) First United Methodist Church, after serving seven years as the Omaha district superintendent.

Fred Brown (B.B.A. '70) is executive vice president, manager for real estate lending at Legacy Bank Texas in Richardson.

Nelma Dodd (B.S. '70, M.S. '71) was recently honored by her peers with the Texas Family Community and Career Leaders of America Spirit of Advising Award, which recognizes advisers who ensure the success of their students and are skilled at forming a foundation of FCCLA at the local and state level. Nelma teaches family and consumer science at Bland (Merit, TX) High School and is the adviser of the school's FCCLA group.

Melodye Pinson (B.S. '70) is the newly elected president of the 105,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators, the largest educator's group in Texas and the largest independent teacher's organization in the United States. Melodye teaches at Glen Loch Elementary School in Woodlands, TX.

Steve Reed (B.S. '70) is the editor of the *Herald Times Reporter* and *Lakeshore Chronicle* in Wisconsin.

Shirley Roberts (B.A. '71) is a new associate with Ebby Halliday in Arlington, TX. Shirley retired in 2004 after 33 years teaching first through fourth and seventh grades with Arlington ISD

Paul R. Shaw (B.S. '71, M.S. '78) recently enrolled in virology, a biology course, taught by Dr. Don Royce Lee (M.S. '65). Paul also enrolled in one of Dr. Lee's biology courses 38 years ago and he asks, "...what are the odds that I would have the same teacher?!?"

Tony Atchley (B.S. '72) was inducted into the Sevier County (TN) High School Sports Hall of Fame. Tony taught for 32 years and was either head coach or defensive coordinator for 27 years before his retirement last December. He now lives in Huntsville, TX.

John Hartley (B.S. '72) retired in May after 33 years of teaching at Wylie (TX) High School.

Joe Mack Gober (B.B.A. '72) has been the active dealer for Gober-Merrell Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Plymouth, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep-Eagle in Sulphur Springs, TX for the past 20 years. Gober-Merrell recently acquired East Texas Ford in Winnsboro.

Richard C. Wagner (M.S. '72) has written *Little League Heaven: The Legend of Odie Sweeny* (PublishAmerica), the biography of a legendary Texan Little League manager. Richard is the editor for the John Locke Foundation in Raleigh, NC.

(continued on pg. 24)

side lions

Big on the court, the field, and in the classroom

Both won hard-fought Lone Star Championships, but it's their successes away from the hardwood of the basketball court and the hash marks of the soccer field that make these teams even more notable.

It is fairly common around the country for college athletes to make costly sacrifices in the classroom for their sport and then leave school once their playing eligibility is up. This is far from typical at A&M-Commerce.

Over the past few years, members of both the basketball and soccer teams have outshined athletes at other universities with their high grade point averages and graduation rates.

"It's incredible how much these young people have given us to cheer about," President Keith McFarland says. "They've earned beautiful new championship banners for us to hang in the Field House, yes. But more than that, they've also earned top-notch educations for themselves."

On their way to winning the Lone Star Conference championship, the women's soccer team advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament for the third time in six years.

"We have had a lot of success on the soccer field—a combination of me challenging the team and the team responding to the challenge," says Neil Piper, who has coached the team since 1998.

Coach Piper has graduated 20 of 22 seniors who played their final season of eligibility—an astonishing 91 percent. "But more importantly," he says, "many of the soccer players have graduated and gone on to do even bigger and better things, which I think is a trademark of any strong athletic program."

The men's basketball team won 28 games, the second most in school history, while losing only five games, the fewest in school

history.

"What we've tried to do is recruit athletes in a way that's consistent with the mission of the university," says basketball coach Sam Walker. "We want to attract hardworking kids from this region who would like to go to school here and who want to earn a degree. These kids work harder at their education and form a better team bond than if we'd recruited them from out of state and then had to convince them to go to school here."

Coach Walker has been head coach since the Lions' 2000-2001 season and has graduated 13 of 17, or 76 percent, of the seniors who played their final season of eligibility, with three more players continuing to work toward graduation.

"I'm proud of them," the coach says. "They're true athletes with real talent who've shown they can discipline their minds and bodies to accomplish great things."

Below: The Lions basketball men receive their championship rings.



For this year's sports schedule, visit www.lionathletics.com

Ace in the goal

Gentry “Ace” Little (B.S. ’87) truly has a heart for the Lions.

During football season, you’ll find Ace in the press box in Memorial Stadium at every single home game. In fact, he has missed only one home football game since 1982, and he only missed that one because he had to work.

Ace covers the games for 89.5 QXFM, the radio station he works for in Weatherford, and also helps out the press box stat crew.

His impressive record of attending and covering Lions games, he says, puts him behind only the late Dr. W.J. “Jack” Bell, longtime Department of Journalism head who served as the university’s sports information director for years, and former ETSU head football coach Ernest Hawkins.

Ace grew up in Dallas, studied radio-television at the university and, as a student, participated on the Student Activities Board. He also worked for KETR, the public radio station on campus, and hosted “Sports Special,” a program produced by students which

aired on Commerce cable television.

Ace is “one of the most memorable students we had in the 1970s and ’80s,” remembers Dr. John Mark Dempsey, radio-television faculty member, who was one of his supervisors at KETR.

“This student was completely consumed with a passion for sports and ETSU sports in particular,” Dr. Dempsey says.

“Ace bleeds blue and gold all day long.”

Dr. Robert Sanders, also a faculty member in radio-television, remembers Ace for his knowledge of sports and ability to ad lib, an important skill in broadcasting. “If there was anything about sports to know, he knew it,” Dr. Sanders says.

As a student, Ace developed a habit of not eating before the game, a good-luck practice he follows to this day.

Why?

In 1982 when the Lions played

Cameron University of Oklahoma and won, Ace did not eat before the game.

“My roommate asked me why I did not eat that day, and I said, ‘I was too worried about the game.’”

“The 1982 and 1983 teams were good, and I knew we had a chance to win the LSC, but the Cameron Aggies were good. The next week I ate and we lost to Southern Arkansas, 14-11, and I got sick—what went down, came up.

“Since then, I don’t eat when Weatherford, A&M-Commerce, or the University of Texas play in any sport,” he says.

“I get so excited because I get to watch student athletes do what I did growing up—play the game.

“If you count all the games I have not eaten before, it probably adds up to one thousand.”

Hungry or not, when Ace arrives at Memorial Stadium, he’ll be up for the game.

Former Lions sports information director Bill Powers, who has known Ace since 1987, sums it up. “Ace bleeds blue and gold all day long.”



- Ace, who is getting close to calling his 600th game on the radio, says his dream job is to do play-by-play of the Lions or the UT Longhorns, another team he reveres.

- The Crowley resident spends the 90 minutes driving to Commerce listening to college games on the radio as well as the game he called the night before so he can get better at his profession.

- When he was a student, Homecoming was special because his parents came to Commerce and attended some of the events with him. His mother, Elliouise Little, earned a master's degree in education from the university in 1961. When he earned his degree in '87, he said, "I was proud and my parents were, too. I have my diplomas hanging up at home, next to a picture of the ET scoreboard when we beat Pittsburgh State, 20-13."

Mike Anzaldúa (M.S. '73) was inducted into the Wall of Honor at Del Mar College by the Former Students' Association in April. Mike joined Del Mar's faculty in 1969, carrying out several roles beyond instructing English in the classroom, including serving as assistant director of the East Campus Writing Center, chair of the Department of English and Philosophy, and director of the College's Title V Learning Communities Program.

Roslyn Thibodeau Fitch (M.B.A. '73) serves as a cultural affairs commissioner for the City of Dallas and is in her 11th year as manager of community recruitment initiatives with UT Southwestern Medical School. Roslyn serves on the board of the North Texas Food Bank and The Community Council of Greater Dallas.

Annie Ruth Nealy Jackson (M.S. '73) was named Citizen of the Week by the *Dallas Post Tribune*. Ruth retired from the Dallas ISD after 39 years.

Carolyn Snow (B.S. '73, M.S. '74, Ed.D. '85) recently retired as professor of behavioral sciences after 28 years at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, TX. Carolyn also served at ETBU as associate vice president for Student Affairs as well as director of Continuing Education and the Counseling Center.

William A. Tindol (Ed.D. '73) was recognized during the May commencement at Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College for completing 40 years of service.

Right Rev. D. Presley Hutchens (B.S. '74) is Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of New Orleans, resides in Natchitoches, LA, and regularly travels the Diocese of New Orleans visiting the seven-state area.

Sue McGown (B.S. '74) is the principal for Cypress Woods High School in the Cypress Fairbanks (TX) ISD.

Karen Kay Nixon (B.S. '76) was recently named outstanding Child Protective Services caseworker for the State of Texas. Karen is in her 29th year with CPS.

Elizabeth Ann Sanders Saegert (B.B.A. '76) was married in May, is a CPA in the DFW Metroplex and Northeast Texas and lives in Enchanted Oaks, TX.

Nancy Solomon (B.S. '76) was elected District Seven director for the Texas Classroom Teachers Association for a one-year term that began June 1. Nancy starts her 20th year teaching in the Athens (TX) ISD.

Pat Bow (B.S. '77) is the merchandise manager for the PGA Tour Shops at DFW International Airport. Pat is involved in the marriage reconciliation ministry at Richland Hills (TX) Church of Christ and has two sons, Michael and Parker.

Joe Faubion (B.S. '77, M.Ed. '81) begins his 29th year as an educator in the Richardson (TX) ISD after spending his first 15 years as a classroom teacher and the past 14 as an assistant principal. Joe plans to retire at the end of this school year and hopes to travel with his wife of 23 years.

O. Rufus Lovett (M.S. '77) is a photography instructor at Kilgore College and was selected as a Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation of San Antonio. The Piper Award is given through invitation only and honors the top instructors from Texas community colleges and universities.

Judy Lewis (M.Ed. '77) is executive director of curriculum for Waxahachie (TX) ISD.

Barry Russell (B.M.Ed. '77, M.M. '79) is vice president of instruction at College of the Siskiyous located in Weed, CA.

Toby C. Wilkinson (B.A. '77) was appointed Municipal Judge for the City of Greenville and lives in Greenville, TX.

Don Cunningham (B.S. '78, M.S. '84) received his Ph.D. from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and begins this fall as assistant professor at University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, WI. Don is the author of two books on feudal Japanese history published by Charles Tuttle.

Rick Frazier (B.S. '78, M.S. '80) is the head coach of the Quad City Steamwheelers arena football team in Moline, IL. Rick is the all-time winningest coach at Cisco Junior College and has coached arena football since 1995.

Neil C. Hopkins (M.B.A. '78) is president of SQL Hospitality LLC, a Dallas-based full-service provider of hospitality software, systems, and service to hotels, country clubs, restaurants, nightclubs, quick food service, and delivery businesses.

Dana Hudson (B.B.A. '78) is business manager for Elysian Fields (TX) ISD and has been working as a school administrator for 15 years.

Sheryl A. Harrison Northcutt (B.S. '78, M.S. '87) is assistant principal at Sunset High School in Dallas. Sheryl is married to Joe J. Northcutt (B.S. '80) and was ETSU's homecoming queen in 1978.

Robert Ward (B.S. '78, M.Ed. '82) is the new superintendent for Texans Can!, an education program for at-risk students who want a second chance at an education. Robert has been an educator for over 26 years with the Dallas ISD.

Dwight Aylesworth (B.S. '80) was promoted to service strategic accounts manager with Bowie Bell+Howell. Dwight works and lives in Raleigh, NC.

Carla D. White Pratt (B.B.A. '80) an associate professor of law at Penn State University, was the keynote speaker at the annual Texoma Business and Professional Women's Dream Maker's Scholarship Banquet held recently in Denison, TX.

Mike Beimer (M.B.A. '82) was one of only three individuals in Texas to complete the certification process as a Texas Emergency Manager. Mike is employed by the Texas Engineering Extension Service in College Station and works in the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center as an Exercise Program Coordinator.

Jay Cowan (B.B.A. '82) is senior vice president of Texas Bank & Trust Company in Texarkana, TX. Jay has worked in banking for 22 years, and serves on the board of the Texarkana Friendship Center.

Maxine Thornton-Reese (Ed.D. '82) won re-election to the Dallas City Council in May. This is Maxine's fourth and final term representing District 4 in the city's southern sector.

Aretta Price Presley (B.S. '83) is employed by the Tennessee State Health Department as a microbiologist at the Knoxville Regional Laboratory. Aretta and daughter Casey, a seventh grader, live in Knoxville.

Phillis Wood (M.Ed. '83) retired after a 27-year teaching career, most recently as a third-grade teacher at Westside Elementary in Searcy, AR. Phillis and her husband, Bill, have two sons, Brad and Brian, and a daughter-in-law, Terry.

Gwen Larreau (M.S. '84, Ph.D. '89) is the current second vice president of the Northeast Hunt County Retired Teachers group.

On April 19, 2005, **Michael A. Moore** (B.A. '84) welcomed his first child, a girl named Michaela Brooke, into the world. Michael owns and operates American Custom Modular, Inc. in West Palm Beach, FL, which specializes in the lease and sale of commercial modular buildings.

Katherine Oates Erickson (M.S. '85) is director of communications for Tyler ISD. Katherine and her husband reside in Tyler, TX.

Cleatus Rattan (Ed.D. '85) is the author of *Take Your Time Coming Home* (Texas Review Press, 2005), a book of poetry that has been entered for a Pulitzer Prize. Cleatus is professor of English and is the Frank W. Mayborn Chair of Arts and Sciences at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor. He joined the UMHB faculty in fall 2004 after retiring from Cisco Junior College, where he taught for 35 years.

Laurie Trapp (M.S. '85) was honored in April by the Lamar County (TX) chapter of the American Red Cross. Laurie received a Wall of Honor award, the highest award given by the chapter, for her 25 years of service as a lifeguard instructor.

David Weidman (B.S. '85) was elected to the statewide Texas Water Conservation Association's board of directors in March. David and his wife have two children: Amber, age 17, and Michael, age 16.

Kevin White (B.S. '85, M.S. '94) is the high school principal at Yantis (TX) ISD.

Bill Luttrell (B.B.A. '86) is the Alto (TX) Middle School principal after 16 years of education experience, most recently serving as assistant middle school principal for Mexia (TX) ISD.

Adrienne Johnson Myers (M.Ed. '86) is assistant principal at Judson Middle School in Longview, TX. In 2005, Adrienne was named Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year by TASSP Region VII and was also named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers by several of her former students.

Elaine Edinger (B.B.A. '87) is senior vice president in private banking at First United Bank & Trust Company in Plano, TX. Elaine has over 17 years of banking experience with a specialty in medical practice financing and will be located at the bank's Craig Ranch office, which is scheduled to open late this year.

The shot of her life

By Brian Knox (B.S. '00)

Paige Howerton (B.S.C.J. '02) only thought her track and field days were over when she left school.

But her competitive spirit still burns—a trait that was on display recently with gold medal performances at the Texas Police Games in San Antonio.

Following a successful track and field career at Bowie High School, Paige earned a track scholarship to A&M-Commerce. As a junior, she barely missed qualifying for nationals in Division II in the shot put.

What makes her accomplishments even more amazing is the fact that she could compete at all.

“I missed going by this much,” Paige says, placing her thumb and forefinger about an inch apart.

That year she was ranked 21st in the nation in the shot put. The university recognized Howerton as “Female Athlete of the Year” her junior and senior years.

What makes her accomplishments even more amazing is the fact that she could compete at all.

At the age of 15, Paige began to feel ill, and she wasn't sure why. She began to experience paralysis, and it reached the point where she couldn't move her legs. She was diagnosed with Arnold Chiari Malformation—an abnormality of the brain in which the cerebellar tonsils grow down into the spinal canal. Paige said that the malformation restricted the flow of fluids to and from her brain. Brain surgery was necessary to keep the paralysis from becoming permanent.

“She was in surgery for 5 1/2 hours,” Paige's mother, Mona, said. “She was on life support.”

It didn't take long for Paige, who also was a talented softball player—to pick up where she left off.

“Two weeks after the surgery, she was playing in a state softball tournament,” Mona said.

Luckily, Paige has not had any problems since the surgery.

After graduating in 2002 as a criminal justice major, Howerton joined the Wise County Sheriff's Department in Decatur.

Earlier this year, Paige found out about the Texas Police Games—a sports competition open to all law enforcement officers in the state—and decided to give it a try.

It had been a couple of years since she had competed, but she quickly found her training rhythm again.

“It's kind of like riding a bike—you never forget,” she says.

As for the competition, Paige won two gold medals in the shot put and discus. She even set a new Texas Police Games record with a throw of 39 feet, 4 inches in the shot put. The previous record was 36 feet, 7 inches. Her winning throw in the discus was 103 feet, 6 1/2 inches.

Reporter Brian Knox interviewed his fellow alumna for a story in that ran in the *Wise County Messenger* and offered to share it with *Pride*. Thanks, Brian!



Ken English (Ed.D. '87) is the new superintendent of Duncanville (TX) ISD. Ken addressed the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce during their May luncheon.

Jimmy L. Turner (B.S. '88) is director of horticulture research at the Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Society. Jimmy's duties include conducting plant trials and research, designing color and perennial displays, and purchasing all plant materials.

Mona Brigman Campbell (B.B.A. '89) is a broker associate/realtor for Bryan County Properties, Inc. in Durant, OK, and was last year's top producer. Mona lives in Durant with her husband and children; Katie and Carson.

Robert Jolly (B.S. '89, M.Ed. '92) has joined the Kerrville (TX) ISD as principal of New Tivy High School. Robert and his wife, Tammy, have a 4-year-old son.

Linda Roberts (B.M.Ed. '89, M.Ed. '96) is a music teacher at Wills Point (TX) ISD and with her family formed the bluegrass group Denim Grass. They perform each year at Six Flags during the Texas Heritage Festival. Denim Grass also performs in benefit concerts and bluegrass festivals throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Dewaski Davis (B.S. '90) is athletic director and head football coach at Queen City (TX) ISD.

Jack J. Henderson (M.S. '90) is a staff mental health therapist at the Cadwalder Quitman Clinic, an outpatient psychiatric hospital located in Houston.

Don Hooper (B.S. '80) is the new theater department chair at Centenary College.

Susanne Hill (B.S. '91, M.Ed. '95) is principal at the new Couch Elementary School in Garland, TX.

Chris Bruner (M.Ed. '92, M.Ed. '94) was approved to be McKinney (TX) ISD's new senior director of elementary education. Chris will oversee the instructional programs for all elementary schools, including curriculum and professional development, special education, special population services, and accelerated instructional services.

Angela Gayle Ward Cameron (B.S.I.S. '92, M.Ed. '94) was married in July, is employed by the Richardson (TX) ISD as the community outreach specialist for Dobie Primary School, and resides in Rowlett, TX.

Aubrey Todd III (M.Ed. '92) is the new principal of DeSoto (TX) High School.

John T. Bonner (M.S. '97) is employed by EA Engineering in Houston. John and his wife have three children; Dallas, age 10, Tyler, age 7, and Lubbock, age 5, who live in Richmond, TX.

Melissa Gridley (B.S. '97) celebrated daughter Morgan Catherine's first birthday on Aug. 20. Proud maternal grandparents are Charles Davidson (B.S. '72, M.S. '74) and Catherine Davidson (B.S. '74, M.S. '83).

Tonya Rabenaldt (B.S.I.S. '97) teaches fifth grade math in the Glen Rose (TX) ISD.

Jason Bird (M.B.A. '98, M.S. '01) is the director of data management, budget, and employee benefits for McKinney (TX) ISD.

Debra D. Tate (B.S. '97, M.Ed. '00) is the principal of Hornsby-Dunlap Elementary School in Del Valle (TX) ISD after serving as assistant principal at Del Valle Junior High for four years. Debra also serves her community through the Junior League of Austin and the Austin Hill Country Kappa Delta Alumnae Association.

Mark Burt (B.F.A. '98) exhibited one work titled "Eyeusorias" in May and is employed in the advertising department of *The Shreveport Times*. Mark's work may be seen on the Northwest Louisiana Art Gallery Web site at www.nwlaartgallery.com.

Courtney Russ Kernek (B.B.A. '98, M.B.A. '99) was married in July and teaches marketing at A&M-Commerce.

Julie Nelson (M.Ed. '98) is the principal of Union Hill Elementary in the Round Rock (TX) ISD. Julie previously taught in the Garland (TX) ISD for seven years and served as the fourth-grade team leader for Fern Bluff Elementary in 2001 and as math vertical team leader for RRISD.

Jackie Hendricks (M.Ed. '99) is the new assistant superintendent in the Princeton (TX) ISD.

Jackie Sue High (B.S. '99) was recently named girls head basketball coach for Chisum (TX) ISD.

Pamela Lee Roark Koch (Ed.D. '99) was married August 31, 2004 and is employed by the U.S. Army in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Sheri Vasinda (M.S. '99, Ed.D. '04) was selected as 2005 Allen (TX) ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year in May. Sheri has a total of 24 years in education.

Danny Wayne Wyatt (B.S.C.I. '99, B.S.C.J. '02) was married in April and is employed as a deputy at the Hunt County (TX) Sheriff's Office.

Jeffrey Stuart Clemmons (B.B.A. '00) was married in June, is employed as a salesman with Fidelity Express in Sulphur Springs, TX, and resides in Dallas.

W. Paul Dunham (B.S. '00, M.S. '01) was married in January, resides in Grapevine, TX, and is employed by Coppell Spine & Sports Rehab in Coppell, TX. Paul provides care for the athletes of Flower Mound High School, Southlake Carroll Lacrosse, and the Texas Collegiate Baseball League's Coppell Copperheads.

James Michael Garner (B.S. '00) was married in July, is a teacher-coach at Grand Prairie (TX) High School, and lives in Mesquite.

Jeffrey Lee Settle (B.S. '00) is the assistant director of bands at Jefferson ISD and resides in Longview, TX.

Alan Sowards (Ed.D. '00) is an assistant professor of elementary education at Stephen F. Austin State University and was recently honored with a Teaching Excellence Award for the SFA College of Education.

Brock (B.B.A. '01) and **Schauna Callaway** (B.S.I.S. '04) celebrated the birth of their son, Jaxson Brock, in April. Jaxson was welcomed by older brother, 4-year-old Connor. Brock is an agency producer for Callaway Insurance in Garland, TX. Schauna teaches third-grade at Dobbs Elementary in Rockwall, and the Callaways live in Royse City.

Lisa Marie Carter Dorris (B.S.I.S. '01) was married in June and is a fourth-grade teacher in Bonham, TX.

Derek Driver (M.Ed. '01) is principal of Troup (TX) High School. He and his wife are the parents of two girls; Baylee, age 8, and Brinklee, age 4.

Judd Horchem Murray (B.S. '01) was married in July and is a self-employed rancher, livestock auctioneer, and part owner of Vernon Livestock Auction in Vernon, TX.

James Thomas (B.S. '01) was married in June and is employed by The Kellogg's Company as business unit manager of packaging maintenance.

Amanda Leigh Brumit Forbes (B.B.A. '02) was married in March and is employed by L-3 Communications in Greenville, TX.

Michael Jones (B.S. '02) is the assistant band director at his other alma mater, Rockwall (TX) High School.

Grayson Toperzer (M.Ed. '02) is principal at Montclair Elementary School in Garland, TX.

Joni Shaw Zertuche (B.B.A. '02) was married in February and is employed with Hibernia National Bank in Garland, TX.

Brandon Asbill (B.B.A. '03) was married in July and resides in Austin.

Angela Slagle Burns (B.S.W. '03) is pursuing her MSW and is currently employed at NETCADA as prevention/intervention specialist. Angela is a certified MIP Texas tobacco instructor and lives in Sumner, TX.

Misty Lynn Abbott Cheatham (B.S. '03) was married in February and is employed as a paralegal for Ray & Elliott, P.C. in Canton, TX.

Danna Jo Freeman (B.S. '03) and Eric Leon Walden II (B.S. '04) married last August. Danna is employed by the city of Canton as the director of marketing and special events. Eric is a business manager for Landstar, Inway.

Daniel Lee McCary (B.S. '03) was married in July and is currently employed as a machinist at Jay-Tex Aviation in Mount Pleasant, TX.

Jala Renee Moon Nation (B.A. '03) was married last November and is employed by Aikin Elementary (Paris, TX) as a fourth-grade teacher.

Holly Christine Auten Smith (B.S.W. '03) was married in March and is employed by Harcourt Assessment, Inc. in San Antonio, TX.

Noemi Aldape (B.S. '04) conducted a children's summer theater workshop in June at the Rialto Theater in Beeville, TX.

Jayne Armstreet (B.S.I.S. '04) teaches kindergarten at A.B. McBay Elementary School in Mexia, TX.

Tyler Eric Bowman (B.S. '04) was married in June and is employed at MEMC Electronic Materials in Sherman, TX.

Christi Lee Thompson Herrington (B.S.I.S. '04) was married in May and is employed by Palestine (TX) ISD as a kindergarten teacher.

Codie Alan Hedge (B.B.A. '04) was married in June, is employed by Cellular One, and lives in Graham, TX.

Amanda Bonsal Lowe (B.S. '04) was married in May and is an elementary school teacher.

Andi Nicole Gillie (B.S.I.S. '05) was married in July and is employed by North Lamar (TX) ISD as a middle school math teacher.

Michael Allen Swansen (B.S. '05) was married in June, is employed by Signs-a-Rama as a graphic artist, and resides in Greenville, TX.

Benjamin Cody Wilcoxson (M.S. '05) was married in June. Benjamin is employed as an agriculture teacher at Edgewood ISD and lives in Edgewood, TX.

The first teaching position for **Opal Faye Kirkham** (B.S. '20, M.S. '47) was in 1924 in Iron Bluff, a true one-room schoolhouse, where she taught all grade levels. In addition to her teaching duties, Opal was responsible for cooking lunch for the students and maintaining a good supply of firewood, cut during recess with the help of her students. Opal taught school for 46 years in Naples, Tyler, and Daingerfield (TX) ISDs, retired in 1970, and relocated to the Houston, TX area in 1997. 6-11-05

Myrtis Gallaway Eller (B.S. '24) taught school for a brief period after earning her degree. After marrying, Myrtis and her husband of 46 years owned and operated J.M. Eller Jewelry in Mexia, TX. 6-18-05

Mary Ruthillia "Marue" Miller (B.S. '30, M.A. '41) traveled to 46 states, Canada and Mexico, and held numerous teaching jobs. 7-11-05

Mary Elizabeth Bethell Oliver (B.S. '32) taught school in Wolfe City and Greenville, TX, school systems. 4-05-05

Raymond J. Fletcher (B.S. '35, M.S. '38) worked in school administration before becoming a staff psychologist at Rohrer, Hibler and Replogle, a firm that became the world's leading organization of corporate psychologists. Raymond held various titles at RHR and ultimately was named Senior VP of Market Development. Raymond particularly enjoyed his anonymous work with the Dallas Cowboys organization and coaches for 25 years. 7-14-05

Blanche Orand Plunkett (B.S. '35) taught school and served as librarian for 47 years in Overton, Kilgore and Midland, TX schools before retiring in 1984. In 1986, Blanche was recognized by the Texas Classroom Teachers as Retiree of the Year. 7-12-05

Catherine Young Miller (former student '36-38) served on the board of directors of the First National Bank in Cooper, TX, for 40-plus years, on the board of directors for The Delta Bank, as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as a State Committee Woman in the Democratic Party in 1957, and was appointed to the Texas Art Alliance in 1976. 6-11-05

Margery Ware Carver Harris (M.S. '37) taught school for 12 years, the last several being in Monahans, TX. 6-04-05

letters

Attn: Social clubbers and Greeks who graduated before 1975

First Last Dinner Dance IX
April 21, 22, and 23, 2006
Harvey Hotel (will be Westin by then)
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport
4545 W. John Carpenter Freeway
Irving, Texas 75063

Mark your calendar now and plan to be there for a weekend of great friends, great food and drink, great music and entertainment, and great dancing! You will be right in the heart of the Metroplex and only minutes from numerous attractions.

Tentative plans for Friday include an evening and dinner on the Jazz Wine Train running from historic Grapevine to the Stockyards in Fort Worth and back.

The Grapevine Municipal Golf Course will host the Friday golf scramble or—if you don't golf—you might rather tour the local wineries, sightsee, or shop.

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the hotel. To avoid the last-minute rush, call 972-929-4500 and mention that you're with the Texas A&M University-Commerce Dinner Dance to get the negotiated rate of \$99 per night.

The cut off date for this price is March 22, 2006, so call early.

Reservation brochures for this event will be mailed to you in early 2006.

The Planning Committee looks

forward to seeing each of you in April 2006. Come prepared to be entertained by The Pop Top Band. The Pop Top sets the standard for musical entertainment in the Metroplex with their array of pop, country, jazz and rock and roll music.

And, we have an outstanding after-dinner speaker—Rosemary Rumbley, an international speaker, author and humorist.

Dinner Dance Planning Committee 2006

Bobbie Fleming Purdy, Kappa Delta, chair; Duaine Appleton, Paragon; Jean Appleton, Tooanoowe; Dian Fife, Tooanoowe; Peggy Fox, Marpessa; Kenneth Hudson, Paragon; Jerry Hyde, Paragon; Harry Icenhower, Tejas; Rheba Icenhower, Tooanoowe; Lee McCasland, Paragon; Sam McCord, Ogima; Ernest "Bo" Newton, Tejas; Bobba Parker, Tooanoowe; Jane Patman, Marpessa; Bill Phillips, Cavalier; Beverly Pirkey, Kalir; Jack Pirkey; Ogima, Richard Pruitt, Paragon; Leonard Trapp, Artema; Gary Hatch; Delta Tau Delta; Judy Hatch, Alpha Phi; Kent Holbert, Sigma Chi; William T. Lowry, Delta Sigma Phi; John McCasland, Kappa Alpha; Diane McDowell, Kappa Delta; Joe Ondrusek, Delta Tau Delta; Kayla Price, Kappa Delta; Winston Williams, Lambda Chi Alpha.

Congratulations on the summer issue of *Pride*. It is extremely well done, well written, beautifully photographed, and the production values are first-rate. You should take great pride (pun intended) in such a fine publication.

Bill Hendryx (B.A. '68)
Contributing Editor
Reader's Digest and *Family Circle*

Claudette McNew (B.S. '67) would like to invite local alumni out to see her Christmas tree plantation in Quinlan. For more information, visit www.christmastreemcnew.com.

Correction: Three photos on the inside cover of the last issue were incorrectly credited. They were taken by Matt Drillen (not Thompson).

Frank B. Higgins (B.S. '38) practiced medicine in Yoakum for three years and in Kingsville, TX, for 18 years. Frank loved medicine so much that he worked for Texas Rehabilitation Commission/DARS-DDS until his death. 7-05-05

Constance "Connie" Erwin Boze (B.A. '39) taught school briefly after graduation and returned to the classroom in the late '60s to teach special education for about 10 years. 4-10-05

George Dewey Clark (B.S. '39, M.Ed. '53) taught for three years at Brushy School outside of Farmersville, TX, and one year at Bloomdale (TX) High School. George served in the U.S. Air Force until 1946, then earned a second bachelor's and a master's degree. He began his career with Princeton (TX) ISD in 1950 as an agriculture teacher, followed by one year as high school principal, and then as superintendent from 1967 until his retirement in 1979. Clark Intermediate School in Princeton is named for George. 6-07-05

J.K. Hileman Elementary, Queen City, TX is named for **J. K. Hileman** (B.S. '39, M.S. '49). 1983.

John Jacob "Jake" Haynes Jr. (B.S. '40) retired from the Armed Forces in '78 with the rank of major. Jake retired from the Cotton Belt Railroad after 20 combined years and opened a branch of Wholesale Electric Supply. 8-17-05

Hazel Catherine Miller (B.S. '40, M.Ed. '63) 6-28-04

Jimmy T. Rice (B.S. '40) was a colonel and 32-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who retired in 1973. Soon after, he opened Jimmy Rice Realtor Company in San Antonio, TX. 7-06-05

Woodrow Wilson Pirtle (B.S. '41) was a high school teacher and principal, retiring after 41 years of service in Texas schools. 7-08-05

William M. "Bill" Campbell (B.S. '42) worked two years for Hunt Oil Company and 37 for Atlantic Refining Company in Dallas, spending many years as manager of the planning and evaluation department for Arco Oil and Gas Company. Bill retired in 1982 and was active in professional, youth and church organizations. 8-06-05

Wyatt B. McDowell (M.S. '46) was a retired high school administrator and career educator for 37 years. 6-28-05

Lawrence B. Harris Jr. (B.S. '47, M.A. '48) served in the U.S. Air Force during WWII and taught math for 32 years. Lawrence retired from Pecos-Barstow-Toyah (TX) ISD in '79. 12-04-04

Martha Louise Raynes (B.S. '47, M.S. '52) retired from teaching after 43 years and was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and the Retired Teachers Association. Louise served on the Mineola, TX, school board for nine years. 6-20-05

Jean Babin (M.S. '48, M.S. '65) 7-02-04

Jack Calvin "Jake" Coker (M.S. '49, M.S. '50) progressed from teacher/coach to principal and ultimately to assistant superintendent for business and finance in the Paris (TX) ISD until his retirement in 1983. 4-27-05

Louise Duncan (B.S. '53, M.Ed. '58) taught school for 31 years, with one year at Stagner Community School, four years at New Home Community School, and 26 years at Mineola (TX) ISD. 7-10-05

Vivian Myrl Hess (B.S. '49, M.Ed. '62) taught school for 36 years in the Josephine, Community and Garland, TX, school districts. 3-25-05

Joella Gold Armour Stokes Richardson (M.A. '49) taught 7th-12th grade English in Texas and Arkansas from 1941 until her retirement in 1985. 4-25-05

Jimmy Ray "Jim R." Hickey (B.S. '53) taught mathematics at Talco (TX) ISD for two years, worked for Shell Oil Company's exploration division, and retired in 1992 from Baylor University after 33 years of service and rising to the rank of professor of mathematics. 3-24-05

Ford Robertson (M.A. '53) 3-23-04

Ester Lue Posey Kernes Vititow (B.S. '54, M.S. '60) taught elementary school for 39 years at the Daughtery School and Dike, Alba, Scurry-Rosser Arlington, and Miller Grove ISDs. 6-25-05

Dorothy Smith Pullen (M.Ed. '56) taught elementary school for almost 40 years, including seven years in the Blackland community and 32 years in Rockwall, TX, before retiring in 1981. An elementary school in Rockwall is named for Dorothy. 7-01-05

Jackie Ray "Big Jack" Patrick (B.S. '58, M.Ed. '62) was a letter winner on the '57 Lions football team coached by J. V. Sikes that posted a record of 9-1, won the LSC Championship with a 6-1 record, and was the first of Coach Sikes' teams to record back-to-back wins in the Tangerine Bowl. 6-23-05

Howard F. Carver (M.Ed. '59) began his coaching career in Foreman and DeQueen, AR, before making his home in Naples and Omaha, TX. Howard went to the Paul Pewitt School District in 1961 and worked as a coach, principal and superintendent before retiring after 30 years in 1991. 4-09-05

Charles Jones (B.S. '59) 2-15-05

Clarence Logan (B.B.A. '59) 7-19-05

John Warren Puckett (B.B.A. '59) served two years in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Independence. John and his wife owned and operated Wood County Lumber Company and JPC Pallet & Lumber.

Richard A. Woods (B.S. '60) was a coach, coach/athletic director, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent in several Texas schools before retiring in 2003. Richard led Daingerfield's football team to their first state championship in 1968. 4-06-05

Della Jean Bonds (B.S. '61) taught business at Clear Creek (TX) ISD for 25 years. 4-19-05

Neill Smith Hays (M.Ed. '61) taught in public schools for 16 years, was special education director for Longview, TX, public schools, and was assistant professor of special education at Stephen F. Austin State University for 24 years. 3-24-05

William Philip Lemon (B.S. '61, M.Ed. '74) coached and taught school in Dallas and Richardson before moving to Junction, TX. 6-29-05

Sonya Sue Hicklen Mitchell (B.S. '61) was a first grade teacher at South Birdville (TX) Elementary for 38 years and retired in 1999. 6-05-05

Ora Mae Vaughn Speed (B.S., M.A. '61) taught in the Wilmer-Hutchins and Mesquite (TX) ISDs and retired in 1977. 3-27-05

Roy M. Carter (B.S. '62) worked as a claims manager in the insurance industry until his retirement in '96. 8-08-05

Anthony James Mulkey (B.S. '63) retired in 1996 after being an educator for 33 years in Texas. 6-01-05

Barry Mellin Hawes (B.S. '67, M.S. '69) pursued various real estate business interests. Barry was a long-time instructor of continuing education programs and community college courses. He also operated several water utilities and real estate developments. 10-29-03

Bobby Fannin (B.S. '64, M.S. '76) retired in 1977 from Lone Oak (TX) ISD as superintendent. 5-14-05

Mary Etta Powell Breakiron (B.S. '65) 6-26-05

Samuel Gautier (B.S. '65) 11-27-03

Helen Gilley Patterson (M.S. '67) taught in public schools for 34 years and retired from Floydada (TX) High School in 1978. 5-13-05

After serving in the U.S. Navy, **George Henry Hansard** (M.B.A. '68) owned and operated the George Hansard Tire Company in Sherman, TX, for 40 years. 7-02-05

Thomas Henry Parks (B.S. '68) taught English and coached tennis in various Texas schools, finishing his career in Van, where he led state champion tennis teams and was named Teacher of the Year in 1998. Thomas retired in 1999. 6-29-05

Sherry Kay Vicars (M.B.A. '68, M.S. '74) taught school briefly, worked as an illustrator for several different ad agencies, opened her own company, and ultimately pursued her ambition to paint. 4-10-05

Glenda Corbitt Wooten (B.S. '68) taught elementary school throughout the world while her husband was stationed various places with the U.S. Air Force. 6-01-05

Guy Landrum Hill (B.B.A. '69) began his career as a loan officer at Allied Finance in Fort Worth, TX. Guy then became vice president of Gateway National Bank, Western National Bank, and Benbrook Bank. Guy left banking and was later employed by American Airlines. 7-23-05

Dorothy Cushing Redington Jealous (M.S. '69) taught math and was a guidance counselor in several Dallas schools. 3-27-05

Wilson Wheeler Lilley (M.S. '69) was employed at Rusk State Hospital from 1984-95 and was director of Community Outreach Centers for Cherokee and Anderson (TX) counties. Earlier in his professional career, Wilson established a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children in Tyler, TX. 3-19-05

Carolyn Lynch Spires (B.S., M.Ed. '70) was employed by the Hughes Spring (TX) ISD. 5-21-05

Jean Rugh Potts Slaughter (B.S. '72) attended ETSTC from '45-'47 and was a member of Les Choisitess Social Sorority. Jean's aunt, Frances Potts, was dean of women and a long-time earth science and geography instructor. Jean retired with 17 years at the Texas State Employment Commission. 8-01-04

Wanda L. Strong Thrasher (B.S. '72) was a special education teacher in both Dallas and Ferris, TX. 2-07-04

William Keith Burlison (B.S. '73) had a career in computer science, most recently as a technical consultant for Computer Sciences Corporation in Texas. 6-05-05

Lottie H. Brittain Richardson (M.Ed. '73) taught first grade at C.F. Carr Elementary in Dallas for more than 40 years before retiring in 1983. 6-28-05

Marilyn J. Tyler Brinkman (M.S. '74) taught surgical nursing at the University of Iowa (1953-55) and at Texas Eastern School of Nursing (1970-73). Marilyn served as Inservice Coordinator and Director of Nursing at ETMC. 4-30-05

John H. Shaw (B.S. '76) was an ER nurse for 20 years, owner and publisher of *The Ladonia News* and *Honey Grove Signal Citizen* for four years, and editor of the *Bonham Journal*, *DeSoto Today*, and *Waxabachie Daily Light*. 2-20-05

William Earl "Willie" Campbell (M.S. '79) had a 33-year career with Texas Instruments in Dallas that included a two-year stint in Singapore. Willie was an instructor at Computer Data Institute, Richland College, Collin County Community College, and the University of Texas at Dallas. 7-29-05

Robert Lindberg (former student '80-82) was administrative services director for Collin County, TX, for 22 years. 5-22-05

Sue Lukenbill Puckett (M.Ed. '83) taught in public schools for 35 years. 4-10-05

Leonardo Serinil Jr. (B.S. '83) enlisted in the Air Force where he attained the rank of captain. After leaving the Air Force, Leonardo served as a deputy sheriff in Sarp County, NE, as a reserve police officer for the Carter Police Department, and as a sergeant for the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department in Omaha, NE. 5-16-05

Marvin Drennon (former student '86-92) was a machinist for 23 years with E-Systems Inc. 3-10-05

Claudia Randall Pierce (M.S. '87) was the site administrator for the Four Rivers Behavioral Health/ Fuller Center in Mayfield, KY. 4-14-05

Mary J. Brown (M.Ed. '89) 3-18-05

Kim Karal Knowles (B.S. '95) 5-07-05

Roderick Guy "Rick" Gowins (M.S. '96) was an international level III NDT engineer at Lockheed Martin and had been employed there for 30 years. 7-18-05

Zachary Wadelon "Z-Bo" Ford (student 2003-05) was one semester away from completing his degree in radio and television. 6-26-05

know the pride

Save while supporting your alma mater

Bills for auto, home, or long-term care insurance are in just about everybody's stack at the beginning of the month. Before you send that payment off, why not check into these services that offer great rates to A&M-Commerce alumni while supporting the Alumni Association?

The new affinity programs offered in conjunction with Marsh Alumni Group Services will support new programs and scholarships for alumni and current university students.

Recent graduates who have student loans may consider taking advantage of NelNet's Student Loan Consolidation program. Special rates are available to alumni and the program allows new graduates to lock in their interest rate at all-time low rates and offers solutions for repayment. NelNet is a leader in its field with over 70 schools currently utilizing the program.

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company

provide group auto and home insurance all over the United States. Alumni are offered a 5 to 20 percent discount depending on the state in which they reside. This program currently insures over 100,000 alumni at various universities nationwide.

Clarendon will provide short-term medical insurance to new graduates waiting to land their first job or for alumni between jobs.

The Marsh long-term care insurance program includes coverage by Metropolitan Life Insurance and Prudential Life Insurance Company of America. Both offer an exclusive 5 percent premium discount to alumni. Long-term care insurance covers expenses for health care services for individuals living with chronic health problems that affect their ability to perform everyday activities.

To take advantage of these special rates, watch for information packets coming in the mail soon.

Alumni Calendar

October

- 21 Homecoming Bonfire
- 22 Homecoming activities
See schedule on page 6
- 29 Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
- 29 Veteran's Vigil/University Day; A&M-Commerce vs. West Texas A&M at 2 p.m.
West Lawn Tailgate begins at noon

December

- 17 Graduation
- 19 Commerce Chapter Christmas Party

January

- 16 Classes begin
- 28 Alumni Board of Directors Meeting

Go to www.tamu-commerce.edu for a complete events listing.

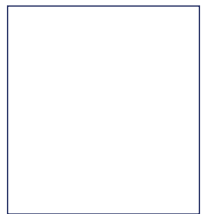


Tail End

Lucky the Lion greets a little girl at a recent tailgate party. If you can't make it to campus for the Homecoming tailgate at noon on Saturday, Oct. 22, check the latest sports schedule at www.lionathletics.com and tune into a Lions home football game via live streaming audio on www.ketr.org.

Photo by Craig Buck (B.S. '93)

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