In Memoriam

- **James McDowell, Jr.**
  - Passed away March 8th
  - Joined A&M-Commerce faculty in 1971
  - Retired from the department of Social Work in 1992

- **Michael Miller**
  - Passed away February 13th
  - Joined A&M-Commerce faculty in 1992
  - Member of the Art department faculty until 2013
In Memoriam

• Filip Wiecko
  – Passed away January 28th
  – Joined A&M-Commerce faculty in 2009
  – Associate Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice

• John Patton
  – Passed away January 13th
  – Joined A&M-Commerce in 1987
  – Retired as Director of Financial Aid in 2003
Dr. Berri O’Neal appointed as Executive Director of the Extended University

- Report directly to the Provost
- Operations management and oversight responsibilities over all off-campus locations
- Will work cooperatively with Deans and Department Heads to optimize academic program offerings, recruitment, and enrollment

Education
- B.S. in Radio Television, Texas A&M University-Commerce, 1996
- M.S. in Theatre Management, Texas A&M University-Commerce, 1998
- Ed.D. in Higher Education, Texas A&M University-Commerce, 2002
University Planetarium Celebrates 10 Years

- Recently upgraded to a Digistar 5 all-digital projection system
- 40-foot dome and 87 reclined seats
- Public shows every Friday at 7pm and 8pm
- Each show begins with a live presentation of the current night sky
- Shows for children, school groups, and adults
2015 Nancy Larson Foundation Scholar

- A&M-Commerce student **LaShuna Anderson** named a Nancy Larson Foundation Scholar
- One of 9 recipients nationwide
- $1,000 scholarship awarded annually to students studying Elementary Education
- Based on narrative, experience, and community service activities involving children
- Nancy Larson Foundation formed in 2006 to promote education in America
U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory Fellowship 2016

- **Summer 2016 Faculty Research Award given to Dr. Unal “Zak” Sakoglu**
- 12-week fellowship at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Airforce Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Focus on IR sensor technology and pupil imaging
- Research completed and published with collaborators in *Proceedings of SPIE: Infrared Sensors, Devices, and Applications V*
Life Saving Award

• Presented to Officer William Hall of the University Police Department
• Saved a student’s life in November 2015
Inaugural Hats Off to Women Awards

• An initiative of the S.E.E.D.S. Office
• Recognize outstanding women whose work, life, and commitment helped make a difference in the community
• Recipients
  – Student: Ms. Carmen Ponder, Paralegal Studies/Pre-Law major
  – Faculty: Dr. Quynh Dang, Health & Human Performance
  – Staff: Ms. Jennifer Hudson, University College
  – Support Staff: Ms. Misti Payne, Rayburn Student Center
  – Administration: Dr. Sharon Johnson, Student Access & Success
  – Community: Ms. Dixie Turman, State Farm of Commerce
  – Honorary: Ms. Starlin Reynolds, Sodexo
Learning, Living, & Working Climate Survey

- Deadline Extended: Closes Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. EST.
- Survey is entirely anonymous and confidential
- Allows us to hear what you have to say in a collective voice
- Over $6,300 in prizes awarded to faculty, staff, and students (full prize list available online)
- For more information and FAQs:
  - Visit the webpage: www.tamuc.edu/learninglivingworking
  - Call the Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion (x5004)
  - Email Edward.Romero@tamuc.edu or Rebecca.Ernst@tamuc.edu
New Mathways Project

- A&M-Commerce signed Memorandum of Understanding with 14 area community colleges
- Allows students to seamlessly transfer core and major math courses to A&M-Commerce
- Research-based approach to increasing the graduate rate of transfer students
- Provides students with multiple options for core math course requirements for better alignment with requirements of students’ majors
Carnegie Classification 2015 Update

• A&M-Commerce now classified as Doctoral University-Higher Research Activity (R2)
  – Second highest designation
  – Includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year
  – Based on research & development expenditures, research staff, and level of research activity

• One of 107 universities (2.3%) in the United States to receive this designation
Academic Program Expansion and Development Plans

• Recently Approved Programs
  – B.S. in Public Health (BSPH), Fall 2015
  – B.B.A. in Business Analytics, Fall 2015
  – M.S. in Business Analytics, Fall 2015

• Phased Out or Being Phased Out
  – B.A./B.S. in Athletic Training
  – B.B.A. in Management Information Systems
  – B.S. in Health Promotion
  – B.P.A. in Professional Accountancy
  – M.A./M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies
Academic Program Expansion and Development Plans

• In Process/Pending Board of Regents Review
  – B.S. in Electrical Engineering
  – M.S.N. in Nursing

• In Planning
  – Major and Minor in African American Studies
  – STEM Charter School
  – Biomedical Institute for Regenerative Research
  – B.A. in Latin American and U.S. Latino Studies
  – B.F.A. in Photography
  – D.B.A. in Business Administration
  – M.S. in Liberal Studies
Faculty Ombuds Officer

- **Dr. Madeline Justice** serving as Faculty Ombuds Officer
- A designated neutral or impartial dispute resolution practitioner
- Provide confidential and informal assistance to faculty
- Neither an advocate for any individual nor the organization
- Source of information and referrals; aids in answering questions
- **Contact**
  - Dr. Madeline Justice: 903-886-5655
  - Center for Faculty Excellence & Innovation (Gee Library 184)
  - Hours: Wednesday/Thursday – 1:00-4:30pm (or by appointment)
Study Abroad Destinations

- **Art** (Mr. Virgil Scott, leader)
  - China, undergraduate students
- **Business** (Dr. Chris Myers, leader)
  - China, undergraduate students
- **Counseling** (Dr. LaVelle, Hendricks, leader)
  - Costa Rica, undergraduate and graduate students
- **Music** (Dr. David Scott, leader)
  - Austria, undergraduate students
- **Political Science** (Dr. Robert Rodriguez, leader)
  - Argentina*, graduate students
  - Poland, graduate students
- **Regents Scholars** (Dr. Ricky Dobbs, leader)
  - UK/France, undergraduate students
- **Social Work** (Dr. Rebecca Judd, leader)
  - Costa Rica, undergraduate and graduate students
  - Cuba*, undergraduate and graduate students
- **Sociology** (Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russell, leader)
  - Sweden*, undergraduate students
- **Individual study abroad destinations**: Italy, France, Japan*, Thailand*, Spain, Galapagos Islands, Ghana*, UK

*denotes either a first-time location or program
Regents Professor, Dr. Chuck Arize, named Lions Legacy Distinguished Professor of Business Administration

- Endowed faculty position being created over the next 5 years
- Criterion for this appointment is the total h-index measure of scholarly impact

Dr. Bo Han, co-author of “Challenges and Resolutions in a Small-Sized Thai Family Business,” (published by SAGE) is donating all royalties received to fund scholarships to promote student research
Drs. Gil Naizer and Martha Foote, Professors in Curriculum & Instruction, awarded $1.4 million to implement second phase of the Texas Teacher Residency Program (TRes)

Dr. Tara Tietjen-Smith one of 10 recipients of the Texas Women in Higher Education Leadership Development Grant

Dr. Art Borgemenke named Executive Director of the Texas Council of Professors of Education Administration

Dr. Kriss Kemp-Graham selected as one of the Professors of the Year by the Hunt/Hopkins County African American Leadership Conference, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Dr. David Scott named President of the Texas Association of Music Schools
Dr. Brian Zator named President-Elect of the Percussive Arts Society
Dr. Martha Henderson Hurley represented A&M-Commerce in Dubai as part of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific
Graduate students Ashley Cotton, Ricardo Garcia, Sarah Hays, and Tyler Henderson and Assistant Professor Dr. Robert Rodriguez represented A&M-Commerce at the 2nd Pan-American Interdisciplinary Conference in Argentina
Graduate student Leah Ochoa was selected to serve as Graduate Representative of the Southern Association for Women Historians Executive Council
Graduate student Jane Cornish-Smith’s work was juried into the 31st Annual International Exhibition hosted by UT Tyler
Kaylin Taylor was one of 10 students to receive the Qatar Exchange Fellowship
School of Agriculture

- On April 5, we will be hosting approximately 2,000 FFA students for their Area V and Area VI competition
- Ground prepped and first crops soon to be planted at the new farm in Greenville
- **Dr. Petra Collyer** and several students will be participating in the International Society for Equitation Science program in Saumur, France this summer
- Our first student has been accepted into the 2016 Short Stay Program: International Exchange and Educational Program for Food Safety at Kagawa University in Japan
- In May, **Dr. Jose Lopez** and **Dr. Robert Rodriguez** (Political Science) are taking a group of students to Poland
College of Science & Engineering

- **Dr. William Newton** awarded National Science Foundation Noyce Grant for “A Community-Based Approach to Building the Capacity of Physics Teacher Preparation”

- **Dr. Bao-An Li**’s China-U.S. Theory Institute for Physics with Exotic Nuclei Grant renewed

- Department of Mathematics hosted the annual Adventures in Mathematics (AIM) program on February 26 with more than 450 participants from area ISDs
Biomedical Institute for Regenerative Research (BIRR)

- Centered on breakthrough research of Dr. Larry Lemanski involving treating and restoring heart muscle functionality
- Ongoing research funded by National Science Foundation and American Heart Association
- Recent recipient of Chancellor’s Research Initiative Award
- 3 new world-class researchers being hired to support and enhance research
- Institute will also house cancer and neuroscience research
- BIRR will be housed in the new Nursing & Health Sciences building
Rodeo Team

- February 12-13: College Rodeo, Trinity Valley
  - Carolyn Edler won Girls’ Break-Away Roping
- March 18-19: College Rodeo, Texas A&M University (College Station)
  - Zach Thrift won Calf Roping
  - Cole Mitchell and Shane McCall won Team Roping
- April 1-2: Hill College—wish us luck!
• **Search for new Learning Management System**
  – Taskforce will soon begin search for a new system for online delivery
  – New system anticipated to be fully operational by the start of the spring 2018 semester

• **Mane Spring Classic Bicycle Ride postponed**
  – Now the Mane *Autumn* Classic
  – Postponed due to delays in securing permits and review of disclaimer language on registration form
The Provost’s Prototype
Fall 2016
Applications and Admissions*

• Freshman applications up by 10%
• Freshmen admitted up by 16%
• Transfer applications up by 20%
• Transfer students admitted up by 37%

*as of March 26
New Student Orientation 2016 Dates

- **Session 1**: Thurs. & Fri., June 2\textsuperscript{nd} & 3\textsuperscript{rd}
- **Session 2**: Thurs. & Fri., June 9\textsuperscript{th} & 10\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 3**: Fri. & Sat., June 17\textsuperscript{th} & 18\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 4**: Thurs. & Fri., June 23\textsuperscript{rd} & 24\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 5**: Thurs. & Fri., July 7\textsuperscript{th} & 8\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 6**: Fri. & Sat., July 15\textsuperscript{th} & 16\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 7**: Thurs. & Fri., July 21\textsuperscript{st} & 22\textsuperscript{nd}
- **Session 8**: Thurs. & Fri., July 28\textsuperscript{th} & 29\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 9**: Wed. & Thurs., August 10\textsuperscript{th} & 11\textsuperscript{th}
- **Session 10**: Mon. & Tues., August 15\textsuperscript{th} & 16\textsuperscript{th} (only scheduled for an overflow of admitted students)
Base Period & Merit Pay

- **Base Period: Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017**
  - Service excellence is our best recruiting strategy
  - Enrollment depends on prompt response, timely engagement, and providing assistance as needed

- **Merit Pay**
  - Based on enrollment growth in fall (important to sustain enrollment growth)
  - 13 years of continuous merit
  - What does this mean for you?
    - Permanent merit pool of 2.00% for high-performing employees
    - If receiving merit, will be effective September 1, 2016
Senate Bill 11
Campus Concealed Carry

- **February 1, 2016**: submitted campus concealed carry rule to A&M System Policy Office
- **February – March 2016**: rules reviewed, formatted, and prepared for submission for the Board of Regents meeting in April
- **May – July 2016**: order signage and make necessary implementation preparations
- **August 1, 2016**: adopt the rule
Important Dates

- **March 31**: Innovation Fund proposals due to Budget Review & Development Council

- **April 18-19**: Programmatic Budget Reviews in College Station

- **April 25**: Governmental Relations team to visit campus

- **TBD**: Legislative Budget Board to visit campus
P-3 Residence Hall

- 490 beds
- For incoming first-year students
- Study, meeting, social, and common lounge space
- Construction to begin June 2016
- Projected occupancy August 2017
- April 7 & May 11: on-campus meetings
Nursing & Health Sciences Building

- Program Verification phase
- $41.2 million construction budget
- Will feature instruction laboratories and classrooms, faculty offices, gymnasium, research laboratories, and more
- Construction to begin January 2017
- Projected occupancy January 2019
- Next campus meeting: April 19-20
Other Facility Updates

- Music building fire curtain and doors
- Henderson Hall roof replacement
- Education North south entry stairs replaced
- New boilers in RSC and Postal/Art building
- Ag/IT stairs repaired and finished
- New lactation room in BA building
- Heritage House renovations
- Campus beautification
Upcoming Projects – Summer

• Multi-Activity Court (Morris Recreation Center)
• Binnion Hall roof replacement
• New Tennis courts
• Parking lot and locker room at Soccer/Softball fields
Bridge Builders

- Bridge Builders Breakfast will be in April—details to come
- Athletics Department is the first to have 100% of constituent units participating—congratulations!
- Total participation in FY15 was 41%
- Goal for participation in FY16 is 45%
Endowments

- **Columbia Advisory Group**
  - Committed to $30,000 scholarship endowment
  - Consulting firm that handles IT support for A&M-Commerce

- **Fullwood Family Professor of Accounting Endowment**
  - $100,000 donation by Virginia and Harry Fullwood
  - Fullwood Family Professors will receive salary supplements from earnings of endowed funds

- **Lions Legacy Distinguished Endowed Professorship (College of Business)**
  - $250,000
  - Will come about over the next 5 years
  - Pledges from 14 donors; led by Dr. John Humphreys
Alumni Awards Gala – April 23

- **Distinguished Alumni**
  - Ms. Zenetta Drew (College of Business)
  - Mr. Emerson Larkin (School of Agriculture)
  - Dr. Harold “Jack” Lassiter (College of Education & Human Services)
  - Mr. John Norman (College of Humanities, Social Sciences & Arts)
  - Mr. Steve Thurman (School of Agriculture)

- **Gold Blazers**
  - Mr. John Byrd
  - Mr. Michael Callahan
  - Mr. Stan McKee
Brick Garden Ribbon Cutting

• Date to be determined
• Bricks are still available for purchase
• Employees can use payroll deduction
Lion Athletics
2015-16 Athletic Year

• 3 LSC Championships
  – Football
  – Women’s Soccer
  – Men’s Indoor Track & Field

• 2 NCAA Championships
  – Ricky Romero, 800m
  – Devontae Steele, Triple Jump

• Men’s Golf won the Lion Invitational
  – Hagan Wood won the individual championship
Lion Athletics News

- **7 Lions** represented A&M-Commerce at the NCAA Indoor National Championship Meet

- Set a college basketball Field House attendance record of 2,153 fans for inaugural *Fill the Field House*, in partnership with the College of Business

- Student-Athlete Advisory Council raised over $1,300 in one evening for Make-A-Wish Foundation
Lion Athletics
Student-Athletes

• **54** All-LSC performers so far this year
• **46** All-LSC Student-Athletes
• **11** All-Region Student-Athletes
• **9** All-American Student-Athletes
• **2** LSC Players of the Year
  - **Ricky Romero**, Indoor Track & Field
  - **Richard Cooper**, Football Offensive Back of the Year
Lion Athletics
Academics

- **165** student-athletes on Fall 2015 Director of Athletics Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or better)
- **112** student-athletes on Fall 2015 LSC Commissioner’s List (3.3 GPA or better)
- **12** LSC All-Academic Teams
- **11** All-LSC Academic Performers
- Launched a Student-Athlete Performance Team
  - Led by Senior Associate AD **Judy Sackfield**
  - Bringing together department and institutional units that directly affect students
Lion Athletics
Under Armour® Partnership

- Comprehensive institutional partnership
- 1st of its kind in the nation for a Division II program
- Will significantly impact recruiting, brand awareness, and student-athlete experience
- Apparel discounts for units and departments