Greetings!

Hope you are staying warm and have had a great start to your spring semester. Our newsletter is filled with many updates and important information about financial aid, scholarships and job opportunities. Remember that “the early bird gets the worm,” so don’t put off and delay applying for these opportunities as early as you can. Most of these funds and resources are limited and preference is given to those who apply early. Make sure to reach out if you have any question or need any assistance we are here to help. Finally, as we get ready to enter March and start gearing up for mid-terms we remind you that the University and our office staff is also here to assist with making sure you are successful in your academic endeavors so make sure to reach and take advantage of services offered by all the FREE tutoring and support services on our campus!

Best wishes and see you around!

Luis

Luis Franco, Director
Office of Hispanic Outreach and Student Programs

Authors: Carla Montanares, Luis Franco, and Gilbert Hernandez
Financial Aid: Updates

Important Resources for FAFSA and TASFA

We know financial matters and college costs are very important and critical to make your college dreams successful. Therefore, our office will seek to provide you with the latest updates and details regarding financial aid, scholarships and other opportunities. Be sure to check out this section for the latest information on FAFSA and TASFA.

Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Texas A&M University-Commerce is a great resource of information for FAFSA. They recommend that you fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible beginning January 1st. Individuals who wish to receive financial aid for the upcoming academic year must complete the FAFSA each year. You may find additional FAFSA information at the following website: [FAFSA].

Texas Application for State Financial Aid (SB 1528) (TASFA)

According to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website on TASFA, in 2001, legislation was passed by the State of Texas to allow undocumented students to meet state requirements for residency. This classification enables students to pay resident tuition and fee rates while attending public institutions of higher education in Texas in addition to meeting residency requirements for some state financial aid programs. To receive this classification, you must be able to meet certain criteria as mentioned on the link above.

For students who qualify for TASFA, The Office of Hispanic Outreach recommends that you fill out the application as soon as possible beginning January 1st, since funds are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. This form is now available at the following link: [TASFA Application]. Individuals who wish to be considered for financial support for the upcoming academic year must complete the TASFA each year.

NOTE: The Office of Hispanic Outreach and Student Programs encourages you to apply as soon as possible as funding is limited, and please let us know if you have any questions or if we can assist you with the process.
A&M Scholarships for 2013-2014

We know financial matters and college costs are very important and critical to make your college dreams successful. Therefore, our office will seek to provide you with the latest updates and details regarding financial aid, scholarships and other opportunities. Be sure to check out this section for the latest information on FAFSA and TASFA.

Applications for TAMU-Commerce Endowment and Departmental Scholarships for 2013-2014 are now being accepted. Funding is limited for all scholarships, and since the selection is highly competitive, you are encouraged to apply early. The deadline to apply is March 31st.

You begin by completing our General Scholarship Application, accessible through the myLEO student portal. Complete, detailed instructions are provided when you access the “Apply for Scholarships” link in myLEO.

**Old myLEO:**
Log in and select "Apply for Scholarship" in the top myLEO section.

**New myLEO:**

*First time users will need to use the Sign-Up button located on the upper right side of the page. Use your university email address to set up the account.*

The deadline to apply for most university scholarships for the upcoming academic year will be March 31st.

As new scholarship opportunities are added daily, please continue to log in to your scholarship application for any new scholarship opportunities that may become available. You may also log in to view updates regarding your application status for various scholarship opportunities during the application review process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 903-886-5096 or email Scholarships@tamuc.edu.

**Renee Walker**
Assistant Director
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
Enrollment Management and Retention Division
PO Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429

HispanicOutreach@tamuc.edu (903) 468-8699
Outside Scholarships and Great Opportunities

This section includes details and updates on scholarships available via outside organizations. Please check this page on regular basis for the most updated information on outside scholarships available to you.

The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program is offering two scholarship opportunities

• 1,000 Buick Achievers Scholarships of $2,000 • 100 Buick Achievers National Scholarships of up to $25,000 per year, renewable for up to four years, and one additional year for those entering a five-year engineering program.

◦ The actual award amount will not exceed the total cost of the student's tuition, fees, books, supplies, required equipment, room and board and other allowable expenses, less other gift aid known at the time of application (scholarships, grants and other awards that do not have to be paid back).

Awards are renewable for the given years noted above or until a bachelor's degree is earned, whichever occurs first. Renewal is contingent upon maintaining a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), full-time enrollment and continuing to major in an eligible field of study.

Applicant must...

• Be high school seniors or graduates or be current undergraduate students
• Plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited four-year college or university based in the U.S. or Puerto Rico for the entire 2013–14 academic year (excluding proprietary and online schools)
• Plan to major in a specified course of study that focuses on Engineering/Technology or select Design and Business-related programs of study.

A list of eligible majors is available at http://www.buickachievers.com/faq/#majors

Applications are now being accepted until 5:00 p.m. EST, 2/28/2013.
Outside Scholarships and Great Opportunities

This section includes details and updates on scholarships available via outside organizations. Please check this page on regular basis for the most updated information on outside scholarships available to you.

2013 Irene S. Wischer Educational Foundation Scholarship Program

Established in 2007 by Mrs. Irene S. Wischer, a highly respected San Antonio businesswoman and philanthropist, The Irene S. Wischer Education Foundation Scholarship provides college scholarships to exceptional students. The Irene S. Wischer Education Foundation Scholarship is a renewable scholarship award, and the value is based on the applicant's demonstrated financial need (not to exceed $10,650 per academic year). The length of renewal eligibility will be commensurate with the length of the student's course of study (not to exceed four years).

Application Deadline: March 1, 2013 for the 2013-2014 academic year

For information and application packet visit their web site at

https://www.frostbank.com/Pages/wischer-scholarship.aspx

American Welding Society-Foundation

The District Scholarship Program is available to students enrolled in a welding-related educational or training program. Awards pay for the cost of tuition, books, supplies and related institutional costs.

- Eligibility Must be enrolled in a welding-related educational or training program high school graduate or GED equivalent

Deadline: March 1, 2013 for the fall 2013

For specific details, information, instructions, and an online application visit their web site at http://aws.org/foundation/district_scholarships.html

HispanicOutreach@tamuc.edu (903) 468-8699
Outside Scholarships and Great Opportunities

This section includes details and updates on scholarships available via outside organizations. Please check this page on regular basis for the most updated information on outside scholarships available to you.

McNair Scholarship

Deadline: March 1, 2013

To Apply, please click here: McNair

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“B. Davis Scholarship”

The creators of the “Student Award Search Aid” website are renewing the scholarship for 2013.

Please visit their website at

http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm

to read about and apply for our scholarship.

While you’re there, please browse through the rest of the site to learn more about applying for scholarships.

The deadline for applications is May 27, 2013

Amount of Scholarship: $1,000

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at

awards@studentawardsearch.com

HispanicOutreach@tamuc.edu (903) 468-8699
AES Engineering Solutions Scholarship
AES Engineering Solutions, a services company, is offering a $500 scholarship to high school seniors and all students attending a post-secondary educational facility. How to apply:
- Students must submit an essay of between 500 and 1000 words in answer to the following question:
- Reflecting on your personal experiences and/or circumstances, tell us something about yourself that distinguishes you as a potential scholarship candidate.
- Submit essay to: scholarships@aesengineers.com

Be sure to include your full name as well as the name of the school you are attending this year and your plans for next year.

Amount of award: $500.00

Deadline for entry: October 4, 2013
Website: http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm
The mission of this organization is to improve opportunities for all Hispanics at Texas A&M University -Commerce. H.S.A encourages the involvement of Hispanic students in all levels of the University and helps with their adjustment to university life. This group welcomes all students to the biweekly meetings to learn more about the Latino/Hispanic culture, and also assist with the implementation of academic, social, and cultural programs. H.S.A meetings also offer students a platform to voice concerns and suggestions, share their experiences as a student, celebrate success, share their culture and become connected with resources offered to support a successful education.

**Join H.S.A at the next meeting: 6pm, February 26, 2013.**

At the Wathena Temple Fina Arts Building, Room 131

Guest Speaker: Nutritionist Mercedez Cruz-Duque

Questions? Email us: Hispanic.Association@yahoo.com
Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Inc.

The Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Incorporated sisterhood began in 1987 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock Texas with the dedication of four very strong women. Currently this sisterhood is stronger than ever by shining the world with the help of many wonderful women who live by our core values of Unity, Honesty, Integrity, and Leadership. Please visit our website http://commercepenguins.yolasite.com/

“Leading with Integrity. United through Service.”

Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Their mission is to develop leaders and create innovative ways to unite the Latino Community. The fraternity’s roots extend from the late 19th century to the first Latino fraternity and the first Latino student organization in the United States. Please be sure to check out their Facebook or visit their website to find out more details about this organization. www.tamucphiotas.com

HispanicOutreach@tamuc.edu (903) 468-8699
All dancers are welcomed to join or anybody out there that would like to dance, perform or just simply learn different dance styles. Dance experience is not required!!!!

**Mission**
The purpose, goals, and focus of Fusion Dance Crew are:
A. Designed for students of Texas A&M University-Commerce to develop their own dancing skills.
B. To promote the growth of cultural awareness through dance styles they may or may not be familiar with.
C. To promote school spirit of Texas A&M University-Commerce
D. To provide members with leadership, citizenship and lifelong skills.

**Description:** We are a Multicultural Dance Crew.

**General Information:**
- **We meet Wednesday's at 3:15p.m. in the Morris Recreation Center Activity Room!**
  - Anyone is welcome to our officer meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30p.m. at the university's library in room 305. Come and share any ideas, concerns, or suggestions concerning Fusion Dance Crew.

We have participated as part of the University’s Mane Event Preview Day, Dia de los Muertos, Hispanic Outreach Open house, and the Diwali Lights Festival.

**Future events:** We are working on doing a fundraiser (date to be announced), Mane Event (March 2nd), the Multi-cultural Talent Show (March 25th), Holifest Festival (March 27th), and collaborating with HSA for an event -Relay for Life (April 12th).

-Katia Gonzalez, Historian
Fusion Dance Crew
The Spanish Program and Hispanic Outreach Office present the Hispanic Film Showcase for spring 2013. The topic this semester will be music in Latino movies.

Music is one of the artistic expressions that are considered culturally universal. Movies, as a popular cultural expression of our time, have made music a central topic that has become a widespread genre as well. This spring, the combination of both these arts offers us the opportunity to explore the broad expression “Latin music” portrayed in the filmography of several Spanish speaking countries, including the Latino community in the US.

The five movies of the series will be introduced by distinguished professors from the departments of Literature and Languages, Political Science, and Curriculum and Instruction.

Save the following dates and be ready to enjoy and learn about Latin music in films right here on the campus of Texas A&M University-Commerce!

**Friday, March 1 -- The Mambo Kings/Los Reyes del Mambo (1992)**
Introduced by Dr. Hunter Hayes, Department head of Literature and Languages.
Synopsis: Musician brothers César and Néstor leave Cuba for the United States in the 1950s, hoping to launch their careers, hitting the top of the charts, and all that Latin jazz and mambo and cha cha cha...
By director Arne Glimcher. Based on the novel by Óscar Hijuelos. In English with Spanish subtitles.
Hispanic Film Showcase Spring 2013
La música latina en el cine – Latin Music in Movies

Friday, March 22 -- *El día que me quieras/The Day You Love Me* (1935)
Introduced by Dr. Robert Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

The epitome of tango, star Carlos Gardel is the protagonist of this black-and-white classic, a drama in which young love must fight against the social demands of the previous generation. Gardel, the multi-talented "songbird from Buenos Aires" also penned the film's rhythmic score.

By director John Reinhardt, based on songwriter/composer Alfredo Le Pera.
In Spanish with English subtitles.

Friday, April 12 -- *Los viajes del viento/The Wind Journeys* (2009)
Introduced by Dr. Mario Eraso, Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction

A musician travels a great distance to return an instrument to his elderly teacher in a geographic and musical portrait of Colombian soundscapes.

By Colombian director Ciro Guerra (*La sombra del caminante*)
In Spanish with English subtitles.
Student scholarships, professional development and serving others in the community!
The ¡Profes! grant office has been established to prepare teachers and administrators to better serve English learners in Bilingual, ESL and STEM Classrooms. The office is located in Curriculum & Instruction, room 132 and is a joint effort and collaboration between the departments of Educational Leadership and Curriculum & Instruction.

The five year, 1.6 million dollar, grant will provide Texas A&M University-Commerce students with scholarships and fellowships to assist in supplementing their educational costs of attending full time courses. The competitive, non-needs based yearly scholarships/fellowships will be made available this semester for undergraduate juniors and seniors who want to become Bilingual or ESL teachers. The office will also provide Fellowships to Masters and Doctoral students seeking specializing in Bilingual or ESL education. Fellowships will also be awarded to Masters and Doctoral level students in Educational Administration degrees towards being a principal or other school administrator.

Fred Fuentes was hired as the Director and is one of a growing number of Latino leaders on campus. He is a good resource for students who may be first generation college students, interested in mentorship and those who are interested in Bilingual/ESL degrees.

The ¡Profes! office has an excellent team of leaders including, Dr. Chris Green, Dr. Maria Hinojosa and Dr. Mario Eraso, all of whom are also available to provide collaborations with students in the development of student service and leadership. Please feel free to email our office or stop by and visit and talk about the exciting opportunities for future Bilingual/ESL teachers, volunteer opportunities and our collaboration efforts on and off campus! Visit our new Facebook page for updates on scholarships, fellowships and news at www.facebook.com/profesgrant.
Ongoing opportunities for a paid internship and volunteer teaching experience are available in the Dallas area!

Texas A&M University Commerce has partnered with Atmos Energy and Dallas Public Library to launch the Atmos Energy/TAMUC Literacy Center at the Dallas West Library. As part of this partnership, TAMUC students are invited to gain experience in classroom instruction by volunteering to teach adult ESL classes, GED preparation classes, and Citizenship classes. Students are also invited to apply for two paid internships teaching ESL classes during the spring, summer or fall at the Atmos Energy Literacy Center at Dallas West Library. A more detailed description of the volunteer and paid internship opportunities is listed below. To apply for the paid internship positions please contact Jasmine Africawala with the Dallas Public Library at jasmine.africawala@dallascityhall.com.

Volunteer Opportunities
- Lead or assist with morning ESL conversation groups from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Tuesdays or Fridays for 10 weeks.
- Lead or assist with evening Spanish GED preparation classes from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesdays or Thursdays for 12 weeks.
- Lead or assist with Saturday Citizenship classes from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for 10 weeks.
- Lead or assist with Saturday ESL classes from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for 12 weeks.

Paid Internship - ESL Instructor
- Currently pursuing or recently completed a Bachelors or Graduate degree from TAMUC
- Some experience tutoring, teaching, or instructing a class or small groups
- Detail-oriented, organized, able to work independently, have basic computer knowledge and be confident presenting in front of groups
- Bilingual in English and Spanish
- Available to teach during the day in West Dallas, zip code 75212
- Available to teach from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm Tuesday through Friday afternoons
- Available to commit to 20 hours a week over 14 weeks
- Pay is $15/hour
- Summer application due: May 1, 2013
- Fall application due: August 1, 2013
The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi Presents “How To Write Your Own Obituary” with Brad Meltzer February 26 at 5:30 p.m. in Ferguson Auditorium.

At this event, Brad Meltzer will demonstrate how to admit and overcome limitations, communicate and collaborate, discover the path to leadership, and change one’s life. Brad Meltzer is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller The Inner Circle as well as several other bestselling thrillers. He also hosts the History Channel TV series Brad Meltzer’s Decoded. The Wall Street Journal told Meltzer that one of his charitable acts would be in his obituary. This sent him on a journey to find what else might be there.

“Brad Meltzer shares a story of inspiration that we are excited to promote,” said Julie Wadlow, Membership Outreach for Sigma Alpha Pi. “Meltzer leads by example- illustrating the drive, focus, and commitment necessary to achieve life’s purpose on a personal level. Entertaining and inspiring, Brad will empower you to find your own personal heroes and resist the naysayers in life.”

This event is free to the public. Sigma Alpha Pi hopes to help motivate and promote leadership in the academic and business community.

For more information, visit http://bradmeltzer.com or contact Tabbatha Crouch, President of Sigma Alpha Pi, at saptabbathacrouch@gmail.com or 903-560-2737.
Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education: TACHE Updates

Congratulations to all A&M Commerce Faculty/Staff who made it to the 38th Annual TACHE Conference, held January 27-30, 2013 in Austin, Texas. Individuals who made it out to this conference gained much experience and knowledge from the following segments of the conference.

*Motivational speech by LTC(r) Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch
*State Capitol Visit
*Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Presentation by the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Raymund Paredes.

Texas A&M University-Commerce was also well represented by individuals like Dr. Maria Hinojosa, who received the 38th Annual Distinguished University Faculty Award from TACHE. Also, Mr. Luis Franco, was selected for the Secretary Executive Officer position for this state organization.

For individuals wanting to attend for the 39th Annual TACHE Conference, it will be held January 2014 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pictured left to right:
Front-Fred Fuentes, Dr. Maria Hinojosa and Gilbert Hernandez
Back: Luis Franco and Julian Sanchez
Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education: TACHE Updates

Pictured left to right:
Julian Sanchez, Dr. Juan Maldonado, LTC(r) Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, Fred Fuentes, Luis Franco, and Gilbert Hernandez

Pictured left to right:
Luis Franco, Fred Fuentes, Commissioner Dr. Raymund Paredes, Gilbert Hernandez, and Julian Sanchez