



# COLLEGE OF Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

A&M-COMMERCE

## Holiday 2020 Newsletter



I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I know many will be glad to ring in 2021 as the New Year. I realize that we do not want to wish our lives away, but we will be glad to rid ourselves of the pandemic and return to some normalcy. In the meantime, as we always do, we remain calm, be persistent, and move onward and upward. In retrospect, we have learned many things. I can now zoom, join a Microsoft team, text better, and most importantly, exhibit more patience. I have also learned that a face mask doesn't always relate to bank robbers, that six feet away is sometimes good, and the many different methods

of sanitizing is more than I imagined. Some of these things will influence the way we do things in the future, that we never dreamed we would integrate into our lives. Eleanor Roosevelt once said; "In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility." As we move forward, let us help more students with knowledge, conduct research, accept new ideas and provoke thought as we embrace the lifelong learning process.

We have exciting news with new faculty and staff, and new additions to our families at home. Dr. Brooke Clemmons comes to us from the University of Tennessee with a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition. She will join the other Animal Science faculty. In addition, Ms. Haley Cole accepted the role as the new Outreach Coordinator and serves as the Meat Judging Coach. And, Ms. Janell Newton joins us to be the Lab Coordinator for the Veterinary Biomedical Technology program. Dr. Amy DeLisle and Dr. Megan Owen both added to their families with new arrivals this past spring. Yes, a girl and boy respectively. New life, whether at home or on the farm, always brings a smile to our face and a hope for the future.

We also want to brag a little as we hit the 600 mark for the college this fall in student enrollment. Along with higher numbers, we have many students that have excelled both inside the classroom and out. Our women's rodeo team won the national championship and our newly formed meat judging team won four of six contests, including nationwide and international competition. In addition, our Stock Horse Team has won reserve champion team at various events and is growing in popularity. Most all of this took place before the pandemic hit. We were doing well when we heard the news this past March. We have been very proud of students in all disciplines from Ag Business to Wildlife that have competed in research poster and presentation competitions. They have represented us very well at local, state, regional and national venues.

In fundraising and marketing the CASNR programs, we are soliciting for a couple of exciting opportunities. If you know of internships for our students, please let me know. Also, we have initiated a naming opportunity of Dr. A. C. "Buck" Hughes for the university farm. Dr. Hughes was tremendously instrumental in the development and growth of both the department and farm during the 1950's through 1980. He spent 33 years (1947-1980) serving East Texas State University Agriculture.

Let us remember that we would not be at the university if were not for our students. We provide learning and career opportunities for them for a lifetime. I am honored to serve as the Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) for Texas A&M University-Commerce and wish everyone safe travel as you see family and friends during the upcoming break.

May we all enjoy the peace and joy of the Holiday Season.

Randy Harp, CASNR Dean



# CASNR Offers Three New Programs:

## Agricultural Leadership and Communications



Maggie Salem, M.S.



Keith Frost, Ph.D.

Students at A&M-Commerce are now able to pursue a degree in Agricultural Leadership and Communications (ALC). Ms. Maggie Salem and Dr. Keith Frost have been hard at work developing the new program within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). ALC brings two programs together to combine the keys to professional success.

Ms. Salem serves as the program's coordinator and has been a faculty member at TAMU-C since 2015. However, she has long been affiliated with the College and received her B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and Technology with Teacher Certification in 2005, her M.S. in Agricultural Sciences in 2014, and is currently a Doctorate of Education doctoral candidate in Higher Education Leadership with a concentration in Teaching here at A&M-Commerce. Before returning to TAMU-C, Salem taught in east Texas for eight years as a high school agricultural science teacher. Ms. Salem views her personal experience as a TAMU-C student and faculty member beneficial to those that are attending this university because she can "...provide another layer of assistance because I've been through the student experience at every level here." Not only that but, the small classroom sizes and one-on-one teaching opportunities allow Ms. Salem to build relationships with students and connect with them to learn more about what they want for their futures and how she can help them to achieve their aspirations. Ms. Salem built the new ALC major with the student's needs and goals in mind by required a minor. This means students can simultaneously study political science, mass media and communication, public relations, marketing, management or any other number of courses that will complement the ALC coursework and the student's goals.

Dr. Frost got his B.S. in Agriculture and M.S. in Agriculture Education from Oregon State University and pursued a career as a high school agricultural teacher for nine years. Shortly after, he decided to pursue his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University in Agriculture Communications and Education. Frost chose to bring his talents to TAMU-C due to the family-based community he felt within the agriculture college. Here at TAMU-C Dr. Frost is the Assistant Professor and the Program Coordinator of Ag Education.

Both professors have several differences within their backgrounds and personalities, but they also have numerous similarities and do well with complimenting each other's strengths and weaknesses. The reason why they make up the dynamic duo of CASNR is that they take the traditional values of the college and bring new perspectives to the table to create a fresh and refined version of agriculture education, leadership, and communications. They work together to bring new ideas and perspectives to the programs through their personalities and strive for positive change.

As of right now, 15 classes have been added including studies in personal and professional development, personal and organizational leadership, crisis communication, contemporary issues in agriculture, and public relations. Ms. Salem and Dr. Frost are also preparing new ideas for proposal; some of which are new opportunities that no other college can offer! Moreover, they are adding these courses to help all student, not just those majoring in ALEC with the aim to improve their professional skills and leadership abilities.

Article submitted by Agricultural Education major, Madison Wynne.

## Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems



Bob Williams, Ph.D.



Desire Dijdonou, Ph.D.

The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems program, a new Bachelor of Science program in the CASNR approved in July of this year, combines existing agricultural science courses with new courses centered on long term sustainability of agricultural

practices rather than short term economic goals. Dr. Bob Williams helped lead the creation of the program and says that in courses associated with the program, students will be faced with an “ecosystems approach” in which they will consider all organisms, including animals, plants, microbes and many more in the environment and how they can benefit from better alternatives.

Dr. Williams said that the program will include new courses such as Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture, Urban Agriculture, Agroecology, and Principles of Sustainability and will also include numerous existing courses such as Introduction to Animal Science, Introduction to Plant Science, Ag Economics, Food Science, Farm to Fork and Natural Resource Management. These courses will be taught by Dr. Desire’ Djidonou, Dr. Derald Harp, and Dr. Williams of CASNR as well as Dr. Johanna Delgado-Acevedo of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

COVID-19 protocols have made the possibility of starting a new student organization affiliated with Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems difficult, but hopes are high for the future student organization could be formed in relation with the national Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA) which holds a student conference each year.

Dr. Williams said that his interest for creating this program was sparked in 2013 as he visited various universities on the West Coast and in the Northeast in order to gain ideas of how to get students involved with hands on production. As he visited these campuses, he noted a common theme was that of sustainable practices. Dr. Williams said after gaining this knowledge and waiting until the time was right, he submitted a proposal to the university and the state for approval of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems program and received approval in July of this year. The program’s curriculum is still evolving but built into the scope and sequence is the hope for the program to be flexible enough for anyone to join and learn about sustainable agriculture. Later this semester, an informational virtual meeting will be held to help build interest and guide students through the program.

Article submitted by AgriBusiness major, Emily Joie.

## Veterinary Biomedical Technology



Dr. Amy DeLisle, serves as the Program Director for Veterinary Biomedical Technology. After getting my Dr. Delisle has an M.Ed. in Agricultural Education from TAMU-C and attended veterinary school at St. George’s University in Grenada.

Dr. Delisle has been working on the development of this program since September of 2019; developing a degree plan, courses, facility design, protocols etc. the College

recently received final approval for the professional program to begin. We have just hired an LVT, Janelle Newton, to be our lab coordinator and she will be moving down here from Ft. Collins, Colorado over the break. Ms. Newton is currently teaching at Front Range Community College. Janelle herself attended Colorado Mountain College for her program in veterinary technology. Spring 2021 will welcome the first cohort to the professional program.

The Veterinary Biomedical Technology program will prepare students for employment in veterinary technology, one of the fastest growing career fields nationwide. Today's veterinary technologists are licensed professionals who team with veterinarians to offer state-of-the-art veterinary care. At the completion of this program, students will be prepared to take the veterinary technology certification exam, the VTNE and apply for licensing in Texas. This curriculum is designed to prepare individuals to assist veterinarians in preparing animals, equipment, and medications for examination and surgery; collecting specimens; performing laboratory, radiographic, anesthetic, dental procedures; assisting in surgery; and providing proper husbandry of animals and their environment.

“The professional veterinary technician program is basically like going to nursing school. This is a different path from being a doctor/veterinarian. The career is very similar but different in terms of depth of knowledge skill and reasonability and the two pathways reflect that,” states Dr. Delisle. She goes on to say, “vet school has a lot more science classes like organic chemistry, biochemistry and physics required, as well as animal experience. Whereas vet tech school will require fewer additional science classes but will include many more hands on, veterinary specific skills that must be completed by each successful graduate.”

To accompany the program, faculty and staff are developing strong extracurricular opportunities through the Veterinary Science Society. This used to be the Pre-Vet Society but the name has been updated to reflect all needs of all students interested in the veterinary sciences. The faculty and staff have a program of activities planned for the coming semesters, including vaccine clinics, dissection demos, feral cat trap/neuter/release, and wet labs where students will practice veterinary skills.



# Program Updates

## Livestock Show Team

Only in its third year, the Livestock Show Team is still relatively new in the college but growing stronger all the time. In the last year, the team had several Hereford calves to show, including two Hereford heifers (Reba and Breeze)



and two Hereford bulls raised at the university farm. More than just cattle, members of the show team also had the opportunity to travel with several Boer Goat does and one buck.

The team has travelled to several shows including the Four States Fair, the East Texas State Fair, the Hereford Heritage Show in Abilene, TX and the Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo. While the team grew in skill, experience, and memories, their livestock performed very respectably including Division and Overall Grand Champion Fullblood Buck at the East Texas State Fair.

Expansion and growth are part of the team's plans in terms of students and livestock. The College has also purchased a Hereford bull from Cox Ranch, which also led to the donation of an embryo flush by Ryon Cox. Following this first expansion, the team has been able to purchase another two heifers as well as working with several replacement bull and heifers from the University's herd.

Current Show Team President, senior Codi Bily says she has enjoyed being a part of the team and "...after starting the team three years ago, I can see how far we have come as a group and with the community. I can honestly say all the hard work that my peers, advisors and I have put into the team has been extremely rewarding. I'm looking forward to seeing the Texas A&M Commerce Show Team thriving for many years to come."

Article submitted by AgriBusiness major, Emily Joie.



## Sheep and Goat Center

At the university farm, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is excited to be introducing a new facility dedicated to our developing sheep and goat program. The Sheep and Goat Center will provide processing, housing, and handling facilities for Boer goats and Dorper sheep. In addition to livestock and research support, the Center will be a fantastic new expansion of experiential learning opportunities for students in livestock management, evaluation, and handling classes

as well as facilities for livestock presentation and marketing activities. All of these opportunities align with the research, education, and practical goals of the College and will support the work of the livestock, show and judging teams. When asked about who will be maintaining the animals, Dr. Harp expressed he would like students to work there and gain experience with the hands-on aspect of their majors.

Article submitted by Animal Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine Option major, Alyssa Huddleston.

## First Annual Consignment Show Lamb and Meat Goat Sale

The sale was conducted at the Texas A&M University-Commerce Equine Arena September 12. High-quality sale offerings were bid on by a large crowd, on a beautiful, sunny, moderately warm day. The general consensus from sellers, buyers, and on-lookers after the sale was, "it was a good first sale."

Consignors of the 11 lambs included: Flying W Sheep Company (Ben Franklin); KEC Club Lambs (Mansfield);





Black Sheep Club Lambs (Sulphur Springs); Turner Show Stock (Van Alstyne); Echols Club Lambs (Cooper).

Consignors of the 27 meat goats included: MB7 Livestock (Hawkins); Chambers Creek Show Goats (Ennis); Fiv3 Land and Livestock (Shelbyville); KW Show Goats (Sulphur Springs); Shadow Boer Goats (Waxahachie); PR Livestock (Sanger); and Turner Show Stock (Van Alstyne).

Huge THANK YOU to the many colleagues, student volunteers, Terry Driggers and Crew for their expert auctioneering services, and especially, the TAMUC Farm Crew, for all of their invaluable help, support, and tremendous effort.



**Want More A&M-Commerce Animal Science? Follow the Links Below:**

[Animal Science, Texas A&M University-Commerce](#)

[NETBIO Awards College Scholarship](#)

[Texas A&M University-Commerce shows promise in meat sciences with judging team, proposed lab.](#)

[Dr. Randy Harp and Dr. Douglas Eborn discuss university's new "Super Baldy" cattle breeding program.](#)

[A&M-Commerce Expects Super Baldy Beef Cattle Breeding Program to Move the University Herd in the Right Direction](#)



## Equine Studies



Texas A&M University - Commerce is one of very few universities that offers a B.S. degree in Equine Studies. This degree is composed of classes that teach interested students about every aspect of the equine industry. There is a wide variety of classes that are offered with 70 - 80% of those classes immersing the students in a hands-on experiential learning environment. The degree program requires you to complete an internship within the industry. The classes and industry internship assists the students in making professional

connections and increases the likelihood of students getting hired within the industry upon graduation. The campus has an equine facility that includes a covered arena, an outdoor arena, a show barn, a working barn, a classroom, and twenty stalls available for students to board their horses. Housed at the equine facility are nine lesson horses and five broodmares that range in ages between four and fourteen years old. The college was gifted a stud horse by the name of Play Dual Rey or "Reymond" as he is known around the barn, that was the 2010 AQHA Superhorse!



Article submitted by Equine Studies major, Kassandra Mason.

[Play Dual Rey](#)



## The Stock Horse Team

The Stock Horse team here at Texas A&M University - Commerce is coached by Mr. Nathan Wells. The Stock Horse team is essentially the collegiate version of the Stock Horse of Texas (S.H.O.T.) S.H.O.T. is a non-profit organization that promotes the versatile stock horse with affordable shows and clinics that are designed to improve both the horses and the riders. Normally, they will hold a clinic the first day and follow with a competition the next day. Each competition is composed of four classes; pleasure, trail, reining, and cow-horse. In the pleasure class there are signs posted around the arena that tell the rider what gait to perform such as; walk, trot, lope, extended trot, etc. Next, you have a trail class that is composed of different obstacles that include logs, bridges, gates, picking up objects, roping dummies, etc. Then you have a reining class that is composed of loping circles, lead changes, stops, and spins. This class is designed to display how broke/trained each horse is. Lastly, is the cow-horse class where each rider



asks their horse to work a single cow in an arena. At TAMU-C the stock horse team is composed of twelve students and competes in Division Two. Mr. Wells stated that his goal is “to win a Division Two reserve national championship within the next three years and win a national

division two championship in the next five years for Texas A&M University - Commerce.”

Article submitted by Equine Studies major, Kassandra Mason.



Follow the SHOT Team on Facebook

## Follow the Links Below for More from the College:

[A&M-Commerce Goes For a Wild Ride for a Unique Honors Thesis](#)

[Equine Science, Texas A&M University-Commerce](#)

[Research from A&M-Commerce scientist, along with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service has the potential to return \\$1 billion to Texas one quail at a time](#)

[A&M-Commerce Experiencing Success with Vital Quail Translocation Effort](#)

[The Quail Research Laboratory](#)

[A&M-Commerce Student Hopes to Impress at Miss Agriculture Queen Pageant](#)

[Horticulture, Texas A&M University-Commerce](#)

[Dr. Williams Serves as a Guest Sous Chef in the Test Kitchen](#)

[Agricultural Sciences at Texas A&M University-Commerce](#)

[Dr. Reyna selected as an Associate Editor for the 9<sup>th</sup> National Quail Symposium Proceedings](#)



## Dr. Lopez Awarded Six Figure USDA Grant



On September 1st, 2020, Dr. Jose Lopez was recently awarded with an exciting research grant, funding \$400,435 for his project titled “Texas Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Education and Outreach Alliance.” Here at Texas A&M University - Commerce, Dr. Lopez is currently an associate professor of agribusiness with a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Texas Tech University, as well as two Master of Science degrees in Agricultural and Applied Economics and Statistics. Currently, Dr. Lopez teaches a variety of classes, including Agricultural Economics, Farm Management,

Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Statistics, and many more. Dr. Lopez received this research grant from Farm Bench Management and Benchmarking (FBMB) Competitive Grants Program, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on September 1st of 2020, extending to August 31st, 2022. The objective of this project is to form an alliance between TAMUC, West Texas A&M University, and regional Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agencies. In creating this alliance, the project will resolve local farm producers and institutions’ financial complications within the agricultural industry, establish a broad network among farm institutions for the purpose of collecting financial data, provide financial management consultations, and incorporate useful tools for farm financial strategies.

Dr. Lopez plans to work with his project team in order to implement these goals in pursuit of connecting farm institutions regionally with the knowledge and tools required to succeed.

Article submitted by Animal Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine major, Kira Martin.

**Follow the Links Below for More in AgriBusiness:**

[A&M-Commerce Professor Receives Six Figure Grant from the USDA](#)

[Several Former A&M-Commerce Agribusiness Students Placed in Top Doctoral Programs](#)

## Graduate Student Research

A special congratulations to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources graduate students who have recently successfully defended their graduate theses:



**Garrett Rushing** (pictured to the left with his thesis committee)-Thesis Title: Survival and Dispersal of California Valley Quail Translocated to Texas. Chair-Kelly Reyna, Ph.D.

**Kaylee Kipp**-Thesis Title: Effectiveness of Anthelmintic Classes in Beef Calves and Their Implications on Beef Cattle Permanence. Chair-Doug Eborn, Ph.D.

Charles Bradford Voss-Thesis Title: Establishing Eastern Gamagrass (*Tripsacum Dactyloides*) Via Transplantation Into Texas Blackland Prairie Soils. Chair-Curtis Jones, Ph.D.

**Jordan Conley** (pictured to the right with her thesis committee)--Thesis Title: Predator Impacts on Translocated California Quail in Northeast Texas. Chair-Kelly Reyna, Ph.D.

**Taryn Brazhaw**-Thesis Title: Factors Influencing Honeybee (*Apis mellifera* L.) Visits to Crepe Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia* sp.). CASNR Representative-Kelly Reyna, Ph.D.



**Michaela Bledsoe** (pictured to the left with her thesis committee -Thesis Title: Factors Influencing College Students' Choice of Horticulture as a Career. Chair-Derald Harp, Ph.D.

**Haley Marshall**-Honor's Thesis Title: An Assessment of the Thoroughbred Racing Industry Constituents in the United States. CASNR Representative-Jose Lopez, Ph.D.

# Lions Rodeo



Here at Texas A&M University - Commerce we have a fantastic rodeo team that is coached by Mr. Dameon White. During the spring of 2020 TAMU-C hosted their first NRA sanctioned rodeo that was held in Sulphur Springs at the Hopkins County Civic Center. Moreover, the ladies team won every rodeo that they attended in the spring and ended up being the #1 team in the nation! Four women and four men qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo but, sadly due to COVID they did not get to showcase their talents at finals. Moving into the fall of 2020, the rodeo team has attended three rodeos so far. They started their fall season at the Panola College Rodeo where Alyssa Lockhart won reserve all-around. Next up was the Southwest Texas Junior College Rodeo in Uvalde where three girls placed in the breakaway, Wyatt Muggli won the men's all around, and the men's team won the rodeo overall. To continue their success they competed at the Northeast Texas Community College rodeo held in Mt. Pleasant where they had members placing in the breakaway, barrel racing, steer wrestling, and in the tie down roping. The team is looking forward to the spring of 2021 where they will have six rodeos to attend. When Coach Dameon White was asked what his goals were for 2021 he responded by saying that "he is hoping to have qualifiers for the College National Finals Rodeo and is confident that it will happen." Here at Texas A&M University- Commerce we are very proud of our rodeo team and look forward to their continued success!

Article submitted by Equine Studies major, Kassandra Mason.

[A&M Commerce Rodeo Team Hosting First Home Rodeo in History of Program](#)

[Texas A&M-Commerce Rodeo Team](#)



Follow Lions Rodeo on Facebook

# CASNR Ag Ambassadors



Faculty, staff, and students of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) are proud to encourage students to reach outside of their comfort zones and develop professional skills while promoting the agriculture college. To grant students the experience to recruit for the college as the face of the CASNR, the college's new Outreach Coordinator Ms. Haley Cole manages an organization known as the Agriculture Ambassadors. Assuming her new position this fall, Ms. Cole is excited to expand on many different ideas

and plans that she hopes will implement positive changes in the structure of the Ag Ambassador program. Her goal is that this will ultimately allow Ag Ambassadors to exercise their strengths and improve on each other's weaknesses as members of this organization.

Beginning this fall of 2020, the organization was strategically divided into specific committees under Ms. Cole's guidance and direction. Three new committees were formed including Newsletter and Social Media, Recruitment Outreach, and Campus and Community Outreach. The members of each committee were selected by Ms. Cole based on the strengths she observed during the interview and application process. The objective of these committees is to work hand-in-hand with each other in order to help develop professional leadership skills, as well as strengthen each individual's personal strengths. In addition, Ms. Cole has been creating opportunities for Ag Ambassadors to speak to professors and faculty members within the CASNR. By hosting these meetings, new and old members get the chance to recognize faces, which department each faculty works under, and which organization each staff member is involved in. Ag Ambassadors are able to use these discussions to educate themselves with information they will share with potential new students across any sector of agriculture as they go out and promote the college.

Despite being limited from connecting with students in-person due to COVID-19's restrictions, the Ag Ambassadors have not allowed this to prevent them from reaching out to others. Each committee is working hard on specific goals to promote the CASNR, such as sending out recruitment packages to agriculture teachers across the country, joining Ms. Cole on college tours for potential new students, and helping work on the Ag Newsletter. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has presented new restrictions on what the Ag Ambassadors can do, they are not letting this stop them from making a difference in the community and on campus in safe, socially distanced ways. For instance, the Ambassadors collectively donated canned goods and other grocery items for the Lion Food Pantry in the "Can It To COVID" event that was created by one of our current Ambassadors Ms. Madison Wynne. Currently, the group is working on collaborating with a women's shelter in Greenville, Texas to provide help during the holiday season. The Ag Ambassadors have a lot to look forward to as the fall semester concludes, but much more to get excited about as the spring semester commences! Article submitted by Agricultural Education major, Madison Wynne.



## Ag Ambassador Spotlight



Hello, I am Tomi Capps from the small town of Lindale, Texas! I am a current sophomore here at A&M Commerce majoring in Agricultural Science and Technology with a teacher certification and minoring in Leadership and Communications. I plan to teach Animal Science classes at the high school level and become a FFA advisor for about 10 years. While teaching I will continue my education and obtain my Ph.D in Education to be able to become a professor for a Texas College. I will also expand my show swine breeding operation after I graduate with my B.S. degree.

Hey, my name is Katie Hooten. Born and raised in Emory, TX. My current major is Pre-Vet. After college, I would like to find a nice job at a vet clinic to pursue my child dreams and eventually have my own veterinary practice.



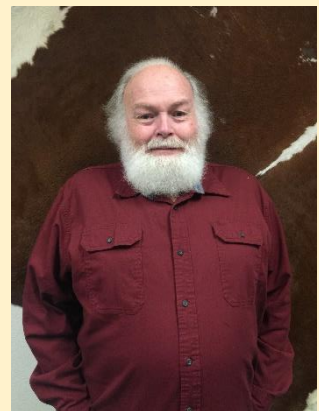
Hello! My name is Taylor Boshier I am Born and raised in Forney, Texas. I came to A&M-Commerce because they are well known for having the best agricultural programs. I am majoring in Animal science/ Pre-Vet because I want to become a large animal veterinarian. After I graduate college, I want to work at a vet clinic and then after enough experience I want to open up my own large animal clinic.

Hi, my names Cassandra Mason, I am from Del Rio, Texas. I am a freshman majoring in Equine Studies. I am hoping that after I graduate that I can open my own equine training and breeding facility.



Madison Wynne is from Garland, TX and is a current student at Texas A&M-Commerce. She is a 2nd-year student studying Agriculture Education and Agriculture Leadership, Education, and Communication in hopes of being a teacher and FFA advisor for high school students. After graduating, Madison plans to shoot for her Masters in Agriculture. Madison looks forward to the future of the agriculture ambassadors and hopes to gain new skills through the newsletter team and outreach committee

Hi! I am John Lewis from Mineola, Texas. I'm a senior in Agriculture Science. My plans as an ambassador are to be a spokesman for all disability students. My plans after graduation is to work for the Peace Corp in the Far East or Asia as an Agriculture Advisor.





Hi, my name is Alyssa Huddleston and I was born in the Colony, Texas. I have lived in the Colony, Frisco, McKinney, and now currently Commerce, TX for college. I am currently majoring in the Veterinary Biomedical technology program, but have not quite decided where I want to leave my mark in the agricultural community. In the future, I want to either own my own veterinary clinic or have my own line of show cattle. Or maybe I can do both? Who knows?

My name is Emily Joie, and I am currently a junior at Texas A&M University - Commerce. I grew up in Denison, TX and enjoyed raising and showing livestock throughout my life. Leadership and giving back to the community have always been very important to me and I have continued those passions in college as a College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Ag Ambassador, as well as being involved with various other student organizations, including the Livestock Show Team at TAMU-C. I am currently studying Animal Science and Agribusiness and hope to find a career in the field of Animal Reproduction and Genetics.



My name is Kelsey Kennon and I am from Blue Ridge, TX. I am majoring in Agriculture Education and after college; I plan on teaching agriculture and helping kids pursue their dreams through such an amazing industry just like I was able to!

Hi all! My name is Kira Martin and I'm currently a second year student on campus, majoring in Animal Science with a Pre-Vet concentration. I plan to follow my dream and passion for caring for animals by becoming a veterinarian one day. Throughout high school, I was involved in FFA as an officer and 4-H Vet Science Club. Currently, I spend most of my time outside of class working at a small animal and exotics veterinary hospital as a vet technician near my hometown, McKinney, TX. My spare time is spent on my breeding rabbit program, where I raise and show Jersey Woolies competitively.



# Social and Service Organizations



## Sigma Alpha

After being re-chartered in 2017, Sigma Alpha has been a major influence on campus and in the community, practicing and guiding others to

observe scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship - the four pillars. Throughout chapters countrywide, including one here at Texas A&M University - Commerce, Sigma Alpha encourages the development of its members into professionals throughout the agricultural community. Sigma Alpha's chapter at TAMUC currently has thirty-one members, including nine recently initiated. Over the past two years, members of Sigma Alpha have been working hard in the community and on campus. Every semester, members plan two events under each of the four pillars, totaling to eight events. Based on who is leading the committee, the fundraising events coordinated for the scholarship pillar will vary, but typically include two events geared toward raising money for the chapter. The organization often plans fun sisterhood activities for fellowship, such as popcorn night, making quilts, making dinner, and watching movies. To promote leadership among its members, the chapter hosts events for guest speakers to speak about the importance and use of professionalism.

In the past, the chapter has hosted several events to promote community outreach, such as canned food drives. Currently, the sorority is planning to put together food baskets for the Lion Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. In addition, the sorority is looking forward to their annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

In the upcoming semesters of 2021, Sigma Alpha members are already planning recruitment for the spring. In an interview with the current Vice President, Erica Vanderslice, she said, "My favorite event is recruitment week, which means getting new members involved, promoting our group on campus, and meeting new people." While organizing events and activities during this time has been challenging, the sorority has become increasingly creative with how to maintain their positive influence in the community and on campus. The chapter is always excited to gain fresh faces. According to Ms. Maggie Salem, the advisor of Sigma Alpha, interested students can find informational booths at club events throughout the year, such as Mane Event. Students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher with an agricultural major or interest in agriculture in order to meet the qualifications to join Sigma Alpha. Interested students are welcome to

sign up for recruitment week, which consists of an informational night, three consecutive game nights to promote mingling, and interviews on an invite-only basis. While organizing events and activities during this time has been challenging, the sorority has become increasingly creative and successful with maintaining their positive influence in the community and on campus.

Article submitted by Animal Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine major, Kira Martin.



## Alpha Gamma Rho

The oldest Alpha Gamma Rho chapter in Texas, Beta Lambda, is proud to celebrate forty years of tradition, maintaining and strengthening their legacy as an important organization here at Texas A&M University - Commerce. Despite the challenges that this fraternity has faced with the implications of COVID-19, the organization has been extremely proficient in continuously discovering opportunities to get involved with the community and the university.



The members of this chapter strive to sustain their forty-year long legacy by working hard on positively changing how they function within their group in order to build a strong brotherhood for passionate outdoor adventurers and agriculturists. Recently, the



brotherhood announced their exciting new officer team for this year. The President and Vice President (VP) of Planning is currently Parker Youngman. Dylan Hanna is the current VP of Finance; Armando Rodriguez is the current 1st VP, VP of Membership Development, and VP of Activities; and Jesse Burt is the current Alumni Relations Coordinator. In addition to this inspiring new officer line-up, the fraternity recruited and welcomed two new members recently.

In the year of 2020, the chapter has participated in several unique activities designed to establish their active role within the community and on campus. In the community, the chapter served by helping with a Ducks Unlimited event and volunteered with Texas Parks and Wildlife with a cleanup. Within the chapter, they improved their leadership and teamwork skills through team bonding activities with their brothers, such as axe throwing, multiple camping occasions, and attending fraternity leadership conferences in Atlanta, Georgia. For one of their camping trips, they even camped at Lake Cooper with other Greek life brothers.

Furthermore, the fraternity has big plans for Spring of 2021. They are planning a camping trip to Broken Bow, Oklahoma and are launching exciting events in coordination with the thrill of the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day. In addition, they plan to host the Pink Rose Golf Tournament, as well as a formal shortly after. To improve their connections with alumni, the chapter has reached out to plan more involvement between current and past members. Despite the small and challenging start, the chapter has a bright future planned for the brotherhood.

Article submitted by Agricultural Education major, Madison Wynne.



# Judging Programs



## Meat Judging

Texas A&M University- Commerce introduced their first ever competitive meat judging team this year! The team experienced a lot of success competing throughout their 2020 season. Even though the team faced the challenges of COVID-19, they did not let the pandemic get the best of them during their final semester as competitors. Throughout their season, the 2020 team competed in six competitions across the United States. As a team, they were the Grand Champion's of the A-Division at the National Western, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the South Plains and at the American Royal. Moreover, after the conclusion of their season three out of the four members were named first-team All-Americans. The team included students Kris Barr, Madison Wynne, Colleen Hooge, Katherine Bivens and was coached by Ms. Haley Cole.

Coach Cole studied at the University of Wyoming where she received her B.S. in Animal Science and was a competitive member on the meat judging team. She then continued as the assistant coach of the meat judging team during her final semester before graduation. Upon graduation, she took the offer to attend TAMU- C to continue her education as a graduate student and be the head coach of the first team ever at TAMU- C. Coach Cole applied her knowledge from her assistant coaching experience at the University of Wyoming after watching her coach, Ms. Sierra Jepsen.



When judging, you have to have four students minimum to form a scoring team and each individual's score combines to make up the team score. Only having four students interested in participating when the team started up it made each person's work ethic and ability to judge imperative during every practice. Having no alternates, this small team of four had to rely heavily on each other to do their part and commit to every competition. With no meat lab on campus or close to them locally to practice at, they spent many hours learning from PowerPoints and online resources. "Every competitive judging team puts in countless hours of practicing and sacrifices a lot of personal time," says Coach Cole. "We had two practices a week here on campus and traveled most weekends to plants or other Universities to see product in person."



Something that Coach Cole recognizes within the team is the member's hard work and family-like relationship with one another. The strong bond is what made the team unlike any other and that aspect played into their determination to be successful as a team. Even with the challenges of going virtual for the fall portion of their season, this team did



everything in their power to strive for success. Throughout their season, the 2020 team competed in six competitions. As a team, they received the

Going into the Spring 2021 season, Coach Cole plans to "...prepare as usual, pray for success, and to roll with the punches as they come." Even with the restrictions on traveling and the possibility of no in-person competitions for the spring of 2021, Coach Cole plans to not let that impact their practice or drive to continue the TAMU-C judging legacy.

Article submitted by Agricultural Education major, Madison Wynne.

[A&M-Commerce Meat Judging Team Wins First Ever Virtual Competition](#)

## Horse Judging

The Horse Judging team at Texas A&M University - Commerce is coached by Mr. Nathan Wells. In a typical collegiate horse judging contest, the team conducts live evaluations of horses in both halter and performance classes. Then students deliver a set of oral reasons to justify their placings. This builds student skills at evaluating horses along with building their public speaking skills. The scoring team itself is composed of four students. These students usually take the EQSC 2321 – Horse Evaluation in the spring semester first and then if they are interested in competing on the team they will take the advanced horse evaluation class the following fall. Students only get one year of competitive eligibility where they can only compete in each contest once. The three main competitions are the APHA World Show in Ft. Worth, the AQHA Congress in Ohio, and the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma. This upcoming spring a former graduate from the University of Wyoming, Jory Goetz, will be coming to help coach the team. Mr. Wells stated that he would like to see the team “grow and become more competitive” and that it is his goal to “win a Collegiate National Championship” in the future.

Article submitted by Equine Studies major, Kassandra Mason.



## Livestock Judging



Covid-19 has made recruiting a little more challenging, so consider this a recruiting pitch to all alumni, key stakeholders, Agriculture Educators, Extension Agents, parents, and especially, STUDENTS. We're always searching for the best students for these highly visible teams, which impart invaluable life skills that are strongly desired and coveted by employers!

Collegiate livestock judging and meats judging are very different than at the FFA or 4-H level. Students only have one year of eligibility. We want to give these students as much experience prior to that year of eligibility, to maximize their success. For example, the ideal succession of classes for a livestock judging student (TAMUC competes in the Senior College Division), is to take ANS 1319 (Introduction to Animal Science) and ANS 1119 (Introduction to Animal Science Lab) as a Freshman, followed by ANS 2321 (Livestock Evaluation and Selection) the Spring of their Sophomore year. The Fall of their Junior year, students take ANS 300 (Pre-Junior Livestock Judging Team), which prepares them to begin their year of collegiate eligibility. Livestock Judging students will begin their collegiate eligibility the Spring of their Junior year, taking ANS 301 (Junior Livestock Judging Team), when the team competes in the Spring livestock judging contests (National Western, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Dixie National, Houston, NACTA, etc.). Also, a collegiate livestock judging contest is extremely different than a 4-H or FFA contest, as it's much larger, with 12 classes to judge and eight sets of oral reasons. Students finish their eligibility in the Fall of their Senior year, taking ANS 400 (Senior Livestock Judging Team). The National Championship is at the North American International Livestock Exposition (Louisville, KY) in November. A student's eligibility is exhausted after the North American. Students can expect to work AT LEAST four days per week on a competitive team. Livestock and Meats judging are basically NCAA sports (just not regulated by the NCAA). But, students will also have the opportunity to travel across the country, seeing some of the best livestock on the planet, making life-long friends, and developing skills that they'll use throughout their life in their job and with their family. What are you waiting for...???

The success of the Meats Judging Team speaks for itself. Coach Haley Cole and the team have done a GREAT JOB!! Come to TAMUC to be a part of it.

For more information about the Livestock Judging and Meats Judging teams, please contact Brad Johnson, Animal Science Instructor and Judging Team Coordinator, [bradford.johnson@tamuc.edu](mailto:bradford.johnson@tamuc.edu) or 704-798-2958.

Article submitted by AgriBusiness major, Emily Joie.

## Want to Support the Meat and Livestock Judging Teams?

The Texas A&M University-Commerce Livestock Judging Team and Meats Judging Team is establishing a permanent foundation account to fund the teams' many activities. In this time of reduced university budgets, in order to continue the outstanding work and success that has been started, we're asking alumni and key stakeholders for their help to establish this critically important fund. For more information, please contact Brad Johnson, Animal Science Instructor and Judging Team Coordinator, [bradford.johnson@tamuc.edu](mailto:bradford.johnson@tamuc.edu) or 704-798-2958.



# News Across Campus



[A&M-Commerce 'Cans it to COVID' with Food Drive for University Food Pantry](#)

[Student Success Teams at A&M-Commerce are First of Their Kind in Texas A&M University-Commerce](#)

[A&M-Commerce Announces Decision to Change Name of Lake and Library](#)

[A&M-Commerce Named One of Nation's Top Teacher Prep Programs by NCTR](#)

[A&M-Commerce, Mesquite ISD Partner to Increase Educator Mastery and Retention](#)

## Victory Ring Replica Installed

A larger than life Victory Ring replica was installed near the Lion Card office in the Rayburn Student Center. Join the celebration. Wear the tradition. Learn more about the Victory Ring and how to your very own at <https://bit.ly/32V76x4>

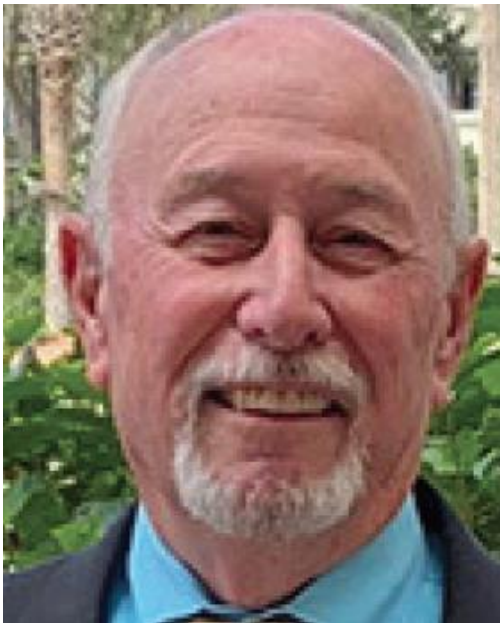


## The TAMU-C Fishing Team

The TAMU-C Fishing Team competed at the Bassmaster College Series National Tournament for the first time recently. The pair of Augustus McLarry and Dawson Cassidy angled well enough to finish 27th out of 150 teams. Great job, guys!

# Alumni News

Agricultural Education Alumna Tammy Glascock (B.S.-Agricultural Education, Class of 1985 and M.S.-Animal Science,, Class of 1984) currently serves the Texas FFA Association as the SAE and Swine Validation Coordinator and has since 2018. Prior to her service for the Association, Tammy was an agricultural instructor and FFA Advisor at Forney and Pilot Point. As part of her current role, Tammy is part of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education where her work has not gone unnoticed. Mrs. Glascock was announced as a national finalist for the NASAE Outstanding New Member award. We are very proud of Tammy's years of service and to call her one of our own.



Ben Scholz (B.S.-Agriculture Sciences, Class of 1969) has had a long career in agriculture including his own farm, the CEO of Producers Compress, served on the Collin County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Texas Wheat Producers Board, and the national boards for the US Wheat Association and Cotton Growers Warehouse Association. Ben currently serves as a director of the Cereal Crops Research Institute and the President of the National Association of Wheat Growers. As a result of his longstanding dedication to agriculture, Mr. Scholz was recognized by the Texas Farm Bureau as a Pioneer Award Winner for 2020. In the write-up for this notable award, Ben noted Texas A&M Commerce as having opened many doors for him.

[Lion Alum Recieves Texas Farm Bureau Recognition](#)

**More Alumni Updates at the links below:**

[Excellence in Agriculture: Laura Reed](#)

[Hawkins FFA Advisor Matt Byrd-How 4 Texas Girls Rescued a Bee Colony and Built a Business](#)



# In Memorium



[Dr. Roger Kimberlin Arnold, Ph.D.](#)



[Fred Edwin Allen](#)

A special thank you to the Ag Ambassadors, Ms. Kira Martin, Ms. Haley Cole, and the Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications faculty for the development of this newsletter.

[College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources at Texas A&M University-Commerce](#)



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