On March 21, 2014 a guest speaker, Mr. Ed Sturrock, for a Career Development Forum, visited the Computer Science Department. He is one of the founders of AmeriCommerce, graduated from Lamar with a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems, and has also founded over 15 other companies. He gave a very insightful speech about his life growing up and the effect that his mother, who was an entrepreneur, has had on it. She was the one who instilled in him his desire to work for himself and open his own company. He also gave some tips on working in the programming field and explained that if anyone wishes to one day build their own company they need to gain experience in the field very quickly.

After everything was said he opened the floor to questions. Many of the faculty asked about internship opportunities for students. Many of the students seemed enthused about the opportunity to work at AmeriCommerce, as many of the questions asked were focused on what departments did the company hold and how summer internships operated.

I personally feel like this was a very informative event and enjoyed the advice Mr. Sturrock gave. Many of the other STAIRSTEP members felt the same way saying that “they learned a lot about work outside of school” and the importance of mixing your passion with your work. In order to improve this event I would suggest making it longer possibly and making it more interactive. One participant pointed out that this was an excellent opportunity for visual aids and that they would have helped a lot. Overall it was a success and was information that college students need to know about.

There were around thirty participants that showed up to this event. Of the thirty, five were STAIRSTEP students, 3 were graduate students, 22 were undergraduates, and the rest were faculty. For a Friday afternoon I must add that this was a great turnout.