VIPs - Very Important Ponies

Some of our VIPs this month are:

Adrienne Hawa - Just a quick note to express my appreciation to you regarding Ms. Adrienne Hawa. I have been in communication with her regarding a financial aid concern involving my daughter. She has been a tremendous help and such a blessing in assisting me with this matter.

Lillie Rose - I want to take a moment to rave about Lillie Rose’s customer service. She received a request for transcripts from a student. However, when she looked up the last request, there was something that made her suspicious. Lillie called the student to confirm the request only to find out that her signature had been forged. Had Lillie not gone the extra mile and called the student when she felt something was wrong, we would have sent the transcript without the student’s knowledge and permission. Lillie in following our motto of “Trust but verify” saved the University from sending a transcript to a person who was not authorized. Great job, Lillie.

Lauren Hanson - having more people like Lauren Hanson would encourage more people to come to financial services. She was very helpful and willing to do everything in her power to better assist me. Lauren was wonderful.

Charles Harper
A Celebration of 45 Years
On Thursday, December 11, 2003 a group gathered in 112 of the Blanton Building to honor Charles Harper for his 45 years of service to Southern Methodist University. Among the guests were Charles’ family, representatives of the University, Enrollment Services, and Student Financial Services -- all colleagues and friends.

Charles Harper came to SMU on December 9, 1958 after a hitch in the Army and working a couple of years at the Rio Grand Life Insurance Company. Charles grew up in Frost, Texas -- a small town between Hillsboro and Corsicana.

During the span of his 45 year career at SMU, John Hall (SMU University Registrar) stated, “Charles has distinguished himself as a ‘go to guy’. That is, no matter what the problem or the situation, you can always go to Charles.”

Everyone who has worked with Charles over the years has a story in which after a lengthy meeting at which Charles continues to explain why something will not work, he returns within an hour to tell you how he can get it done!

Charles has seen SMU grow from a few building through the move to the Blanton Building. He has had offices in renovated kitchens, dinning halls, basements, and dormitories. He has survived two IBM based computer systems, a Remington Rand system, Univac, Control Date, and PeopleSoft. He has worked with FAMS, Payroll, BRS, Validine, Pony, SIRS, and now infiNet.

As John Hall concluded at the dinner, “Charles, congratulations on reaching your 45th anniversary at SMU! You’ve contributed so much to SMU it is impossible to say THANKS loud enough. But I think it is clear how much we value your contributions to SMU, and how much we cherish your friendship.”

Holiday Celebration

Several staff deserve recognition and a big Thank You for making the Blanton Building beautiful for the holiday and for making the Holiday Lunch a huge success.

Thank you to Erin O’Neil who spent her Thanksgiving weekend buying the wonderful decorations for the building. Also, thank you to Darrah Rippy, Angie Flores, Stephanie Tavor, Chris Salone, Jean Porter, Alyce Anderson, and Bill Chandler for decking the halls. We received wonderful complements for the decorations.

The luncheon planning group put together a fun, festive, and filling event. Thank you to Erin O’Neil, Priya Kongara, Jean Porter, Barrie...
blankets, into your pantry for food you don’t need, in your bathroom for new products you can afford to give to someone else, or go out and buy a toy for child who might be getting nothing else for the holidays.

For more information, check the Wilkinson Center website at:  
<http://www.wilkinsoncenter.org/>

Glasscock, Marcia Miller, Chris Salone, and Luz Roque. Special Thanks to Lauren Hanson for sharing her musical talent and playing holiday music on her cello.

We always appreciate Tom Tunks’ continued support with this event and for Jo Geisler coordinating with Dining Services to provide the Turkey and Dressing.

Thank you to Chris Sekerke for suggesting the Wilkinson Center as our holiday philanthropy and to Kelly McMillan and Linsey Jackson for helping her organize, collect, and recognize the collection of items for the Center. And of course to all the winners!