

DES NEWSLETTER

The Division of Enrollment Services Newsletter
Southern Methodist University
An Electronic Newsletter of
Undergraduate Admission, Financial Aid, Student Financial Services, and the University Registrar

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Staff News from DES

NEW STAFF

Nancy Skochdopole - Assistant Registrar

Melissa Stanford - Student Records

Nada El-Sayed - Information Systems (Joe P's Team)

STAFF LEAVING

PROMOTIONS

Birthdays

Kathy Rowe - Dec 3

Charmissa Ajakaije - Dec 10

Courtney Barrett - Dec 18

Laura Del Rio - Dec 19

Pam Fincher - Dec 22

Stanley Stubblefield - Dec 25

Shannon Grandberry - Dec 26

Rocky Rubalcava - Dec 27

Anniversaries

Anna Gomez - 10 years!

Blanton Celebrates

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

Jerrod Harrell - I wanted to thank and recognize one of your employees, Jerrod Harrell, for his help last week. My daughter had a registration problem during Spring enrollment and Jerrod went the extra mile so that our daughter's account could be cleared and she could register on time. Jerrod made several phone calls on her behalf and even called me to provide an update on the situation. The personalized attention that a student receives at SMU is very much appreciated -- our family's experience is just one example of the wonderful support each student receives. Please express our appreciation and thanks to Jerrod. Thank you. *Happy Dad!*



December Graduation

December Graduation takes another step in 2007 by moving the ceremony to Moody Coliseum. Attendance in December has increased from a few hundred undergraduates in 1995 when the ceremony was called a recognition, to 2006 when McFarlin Auditorium hosted two graduate/professional ceremonies and one undergraduate ceremony. Even with three events, a small number of guests watched the program in the Hughes-Trigg Theatre through a simulcast.

DON'T FORGET To Have a Great Holiday Break

Important Dates

Dec. 10-15 - Examinations

Dec. 15 - Graduation

Dec. 24-28 - Winter Break

Jan. 7 - Residence Halls Open

Jan. 15 - First Day of Classes

Jan. 21 - Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 22 - Last day to Enroll

Mar. 10-15 - Spring Break

Quotation of the Month

The wise person possesses humility. He know that his small island of knowledge is surrounded by a vast sea of the unknown.

Harold C. Chase



SMU Trivia

Question

By what other names has Southern Methodist University been known?

Answer

None. SMU has never had a name change.

New Look for Bursar Website



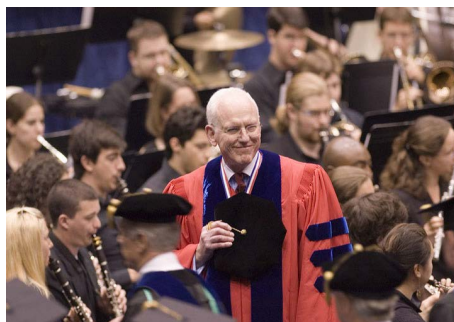
Pat Woods, the University Bursar, accomplished a long term goal when the new

The first time the Blanton family came together after the building's dedication was before the winter break in 2004. Traditionally the areas in Enrollment Services and later the Division as a whole, had a pot luck lunch to celebrate the holidays. But the move to Blanton provided a wonderful opportunity to bring together all of the Blanton family -- ITS, SMU-in-Taos, the International Center, and Enrollment Services. Associate Provost Tom Tunks hosts the event each year and provides the food. (yes, he cooks all night . . . with his SMU catering elves!) This year over 175 joined in the Blanton meeting rooms for food and fellowship.

The DES holiday lunch has developed several traditions included entertainment. This year the Blanton Holiday Lunch was graced by violin music provided by Catalina Aguirre. Catalina, a temporary staff member in SFS, played a mix of holiday songs and classical music. This added greatly to the festivities.

Another tradition is holiday giving. People of all faiths feel that giving to others is an important part of their most significant holidays. The Blanton staff has included this in each holiday luncheon. The Westridge Nursing Home in Lancaster was suggested by Jackie Wilborn, manager in Academic Records. Westridge houses 85 seniors who are cared for and provided medical assistance. The Blanton family collected toiletry items and made greeting cards for the residents. Jackie will deliver the items to Westridge and share our good wishes for the new year.

The fellowship is evident with the volume of conversation from the guests. The delicious food is a good draw, but the staff also see this as a time to catch up with others they do not see often. One of our guest, Dr. Lori White, Vice President of Student Affairs, offered the invocation. She now is a permanent part of our Blanton Holiday family and our traditions at this time of year.



The December 2007 Graduation ceremony combined parts of Commencement and the Diploma Ceremonies of the May event. Moody Coliseum is set up as it is for commencement and the ceremony mirrors the program through the hooding of the Ph.D and D.E graduates. In December the masters, professional, and undergraduate students are announced and congratulated as they walk across the stage, are handed a diploma cover and greeted by the school deans and Dr. Turner. Students receive their diploma's in the mail after January 10, 2008.

Over 700 students were conferred degrees in December 2007. Provost Paul Ludden, in his remarks at the ceremony, stated that these degrees will "amplify" the graduate's talents and skills but that this is only the beginning. He challenged each to use their education to amplify their own lives. How each does will amplify others through education, science, engineering, law, business, the ministry, and the arts.

Music was a highlight of December Graduation. The Imperial Brass played, providing just the right amount of pomp and entertainment. The group is composed of local musicians who play in area symphony orchestras but enjoy being a part of a brass ensemble in the off hours. Graduating senior Jaime Pesantes shared his fantastic voice with the audience singing *America the Beautiful* and *Varsity*.

December Graduation 2007 is a pilot. The 2 hour and 5 minute ceremony will be evaluated to assist in future planning. SMU is committed to making every graduation memorable for our graduating students, their families, and guests.

For more on Academic Ceremonies go to: <http://www.smu.edu/registrar/> and click on the ceremony of your choice.



Bursar website went online recently. The staff of Student Financial Services (SFS) spent months reviewing websites from benchmark and consortium school with which SMU is similar. Each month one of the senior managers in SFS navigated through a website pointing to innovative features or designs that were attractive as well as user friendly. These ideas were evaluated and some selected for inclusion in the new site. Pat and her staff developed a wish list for the site.

Because of the talent of Enrollment Services webmaster Paley Wu, these ideas have been transformed into reality. Using the university template, Paley integrated the needs and desires of SFS into an effective site that provides students and their families with important information on their student accounts.

The staff is enthusiastic. "Wonderful, fantastic, easy to use, beautiful, WOW" and many, many statements of gratitude for Paley's work are among their comments.

Please take the time to look at the Bursar Website at <http://www.smu.edu/bursar/>. You will agree with the staff that this presents SMU in a great way. Praise should be directed to Paley and suggestions to Damon Wilkins.



New Logo for Academic Ceremonies

Academic Ceremonies unveiled a new logo for December Graduation 2007. The logo (pictured above) appears on materials related to Academic Ceremonies and was worn on grey sweaters of the staff working the December Graduation Ceremony.

The reaction was very positive. Staff felt that the logo and sweater presented a professional look and was welcome on a cold night. Graduates participating in the ceremony received a two pen set in a box adorned with the logo. Another nice touch to acknowledge the achievement of our graduates.

From the Blanton Family to you
--
have a joyous and safe holiday.

