

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

Braunshay Pertile - Financial Aid

STAFF MOVING

Laura Del Rio - satellite office in California

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Birthdays

Kathy Rowe - Dec. 3

Charmissa Ajakaije - Dec. 10

Mitzie Goff - Dec. 16

Kelly Milazzo - Dec. 18

Courtney Barrett - Dec. 18

Laura Del Rio - Dec. 19

Cheryl Moore - Dec. 20

Stanley Stubblefield - Dec. 25

Shannon Grandberry - Dec. 26

Anniversaries

Charles Harper - 50 years of service!

Anna Gomez - 11 years

Cate Hamilton - 1 year

December Graduation

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

Undergraduate Admission Staff - Thank you for your earlier email and this update, Ron. As we enter this intense and critical time of admission decisions, I'd like to wish you and the committee well, and to thank all who have worked so hard to bring this about. Best, *Thomas W. Tunks*

Information Systems Team - Thanks for the good work Joe, Nada and Stephen!
John Hall

Joe Papari and Online Orientation Registration Project Team - Every possible thanks and congratulations for the work (Joe Papari, Monica Cordero, Pam Fincher, Anel Reyna, Stephen Forrest, Ginger Oravsky, Barbara Mohrle, Missy Bryant and Carol Porter) are doing on the ACCESS.SMU registration and orientation project !! *Vicki Hill*, Director of A-LEC

Mitzie Goff and Transfer Team - I just wanted to let you all know that students I have been working with have already commented on the ease and helpfulness of the new site. THANK YOU. *Hilary McIlvain*, Admission

SMU Honors Charles Harper

In a time of instant messaging, texting, remote control everything, and video games that entertain with spit second images, new professionals see each job as the launching pad to the next. That has not been the career of Charles Harper.

Charles H. Harper joined the staff of SMU on December 9, 1958. Before coming to the Hilltop, Charles was honorably discharged from the U. S. Armed Services and worked briefly for a company in downtown Dallas, .

During Charles' 50 years of service, SMU has evolved into the institution we see today. Nineteen fifty-eight was just four

DON'T FORGET December 16th Blanton Holiday Lunch



Important Dates

Dec. 22-26 - Holiday Break
Jan. 1 & 2 - New Year's Holiday
Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan. 20 - First day of class
Jan. 26 - Last Day to Enroll
Jan 29 - Follows Monday class schedule
Feb. 16 - Mustang Monday
Mar 9-14 - Spring Break
Mar 21 - Spring Fest
Mar 26-27 - Mustang Days
Apr 3-4 - Mustang Days
April 10 - Good Friday Holiday
Apr 8 - Last day to drop
May 4 - Last day of instruction
May 5 - Reading Day
May 6-12 - Final Examinations
May 15 - Baccalaureate
May 16 - Commencement
May 25 - Memorial Day Holiday

Quotation of the Month

Children will not remember you for the material things you provide, but for the feeling that you cherished them.

Richard L. Evans



SMU Trivia

Question

What is a disputation?



December 13, 2008 marked the eighteenth graduation event in December. What began as a small recognition of undergraduate students in 1991, has grown to a formal graduation ceremony including undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. For the second year the ceremony was held in Moody Coliseum in order to provide adequate seating for graduates and their family and friends.

As President Turner remarked in his Graduation Address, in December the university confers approximately twice as many graduate and professional degrees as undergraduate degrees. This is the opposite from May graduation which undergraduate degrees are conferred in greater numbers.

This December there were 995 candidates for graduation -- 366 undergraduate and 629 graduate and professional. Two hundred twenty-two undergraduates and 322 graduate and professional candidates participated in the ceremony. This included 8 PhD and 3 Doctor of Engineering students.

This ceremony also celebrated the 18 years of service for Chief Marshall Brad Carter. Professor Carter, a member of the Political Science faculty, steps down from his post after this event. During the ceremony, Dr. Turner recognized Chief Marshall Carter's contribution to academic ceremonies, presented him with a magnificent photograph, and named him Chief Marshall *emeritus*.

years after Willis Tate assumed the Presidency of SMU. Charles gave witness to what are called "the Tate Years." SMU had a budget of \$4.5 million, assets of \$30 million, and an endowment of \$6 million. With the launch of Sputnik in 1959, all universities began to wrestle with the role of technology in their curriculum. SMU was no different, but in 1962, SMU decided it did not want to be the next Cal Tech and embarked on President Tate's creation of a Master Plan.

Quietly under President Tate's SMU changed. The student body became more diverse, the curriculum reinforced a liberal education, and the physical plant grew. Between 1956 and 1965, all of the undergraduate Residence Hall were built as well as the Owens Arts Center and Heroy Hall. During this time, John Kennedy was killed in Dallas and students began to protest the Vietnam War.

Five more university presidents have worked with Charles. Many of them presiding over turbulent years of football scandals, economic challenges, and reinvention. Charles has been asked to move from position to position as the university needed his skills in different places. Charles accepted each new challenge and gave his best.

Pat Woods, who has worked with Charles throughout her long tenure at SMU, remarks -- "I will ask Charles if something can be done. He may reply at the time, 'no'. But within a short time, he calls me with how he can solve the problem." That is the gift that Charles is to SMU.

Thank you, Charles and may you continue to be a part of the SMU community for many more years.

History is from "High on the Hilltop" by Marsh Terry.

Comments are Coming! Comments are Coming!

Academic Schools and Departments will soon be able to view & enter comments on their students. Comments *related* to advising, probation, suspension, dismissal, Program Actions, Plan changes, etc, may be entered, and viewed within ACCESS.SMU. (For example, comments entered would take the place of any note you now place in the student's manila folder.)

Answer

Dating to the medieval universities, the disputation was a debate between two students that served as an examination of their knowledge. It was a characteristic of the Colonial College Commencement and not only demonstrated the skills of the graduates but also presented the truths the college taught. (Frederick Rudolph - *The American College and University - A History*)

Enrollment Services Highlights

New Veterans Website

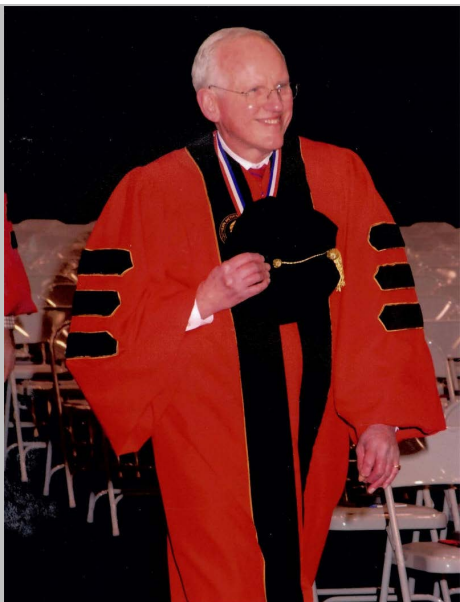
Veterans information on Registrar website! The Registrar website has recently been updated with some information for Veterans who wish to use their GI Bill benefits at SMU. They just need to click on the "Veterans Affairs" link. This informs new and continuing students what they need to submit to the Veterans Administration (VA) and to the Registrar's Office. It also tells them how to contact VA. Please direct students to this website or they may also contact Mitzie Goff.

Early Action Admission Decisions in the Mail

In college admission, more students are requesting Early Action on their application for admission. SMU has seen the number of students in our Early Action pool increase in number and quality. This year the review process began before Thanksgiving and continued through a long day on Wednesday in order to honor the mailing deadline of December 11th. Students not receiving early admission may be considered in the spring admission process.

Retention Committee announces Leave of Absence

Director of Retention, Tony Tillman announced a new process that allows students to apply for a Leave of Absence from SMU for an agreed upon length of time. As stated in the procedure, "the purpose of the new SMU procedure for Leave of Absence (LOA) and the accompanying Leave of Absence Form (LOAF) is to provide a formal process to monitor those students who "Stop Out" of SMU either for voluntary or involuntary reasons. Typically, a leave of



May you have a safe holiday and may all of your wishes come true!



May there be peace on earth and goodwill to all.

ACCESS.SMU includes delivered functionality for entering comments on students. All of the comments fall under the same heading of "advising and records". However, comment categories will be separated by each graduate school, and one for all undergraduates. Therefore, undergraduate comments will be shared across schools, while graduate comments are mutually exclusive.

The ability to enter and view comments is controlled within these categories. One user may have access to only the UG category, and so can see all UG comments while another user may have access to only the GR THEO category. That being said, users may have access to multiple comment categories for example, GR COX and GR LAW.

Furthermore, entering and viewing comments may be assigned independently. A user may be able to only view UG comments, but not enter any. A user may be able to view & enter GR COX comments, but only view GR LAW comments.

Please join us in one of the two scheduled information sessions on "Student Records Comments in ACCESS.SMU" for more details on this functionality during which will we be personally available to address any of your questions and concerns:

Session #1: Wednesday, December 17, 08
Session #2: Thursday, December 18, 08

9:00 AM- 10AM Blanton Meeting Room 112
2:00 PM-3:00 PM Blanton Meeting Room 112

absence is generally for a temporary departure from the institution." Students wishing to explore the Leave of Absence begin with their Academic Advisor. Tony Tillman also is available to talk with students about this process.

Spring Enrollment Looking Good

The Enrollment unit of the Registrar's Office is showing an increase in enrollment as of December 9th. Both undergraduate and graduate/professional enrollment is up over the same time last year. Graduate/Professional enrollment is up 10.7%, undergraduate enrollment is up 3.5%, and total enrollment is up 5.9%

Undergraduate students are taking advantage of the many payment plans offered for spring 2009. As of December 11th, 919 students have enrolled in one of 5 plans.

The Howard Lantern

The Howard Lantern introduced at December Graduation, serves as a reminder of the traditions which make up SMU's life and of the light of learning and intellectual curiosity which shines within the students, faculty and staff at SMU. The lantern is dedicated to Professor Lorn Lambier Howard, Chief Marshall emeritus of SMU from 1978 to 1987. It honors his role in shaping the traditions and protocol of SMU's modern-day academic ceremonies. The lantern symbolizes the Rotunda of Dallas Hall, the centerpiece of our campus, and is engraved with the university motto and *alma mater*. (from December Ceremony Program - Thomas Arp and Lorn Howard)