

# 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

**Mitzie Goff** - Associate Registrar

**Cristina Coronado** - Coordinator of Administration for Registrar's Office

**Myriah Garcia** - Academic Records Counselor

**Cate Hamilton** - Academic Records Counselor

**Walker Self** - Financial Aid Advisor

### STAFF RETIRING

**Peggy Park** - Associate Director of Financial Aid

### Birthdays

**Darrah Rippy** - Jan. 5

### Anniversaries

**Lorinda Lamb** - 16years

**Monica Cordero** - 13 years

**Marc Peterson** - 9 years with DES

**Jenny DeMasi** - 7 years

**Shannon Grandberry** - 7 years

## Peggy Park Retires

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**Academic Records Staff** - Many thanks to the Academic Records staff lead by Sylvia Wiseman, Nancy Skochdopole, and Susan Evans for their dogged determination to get the grades processed in a timely manner.

**Enrollment Resources** - And a huge note of thanks to the DES ER team lead by Irma Herrera who make hundreds of gentle phone calls to faculty until they submit their grades. This "front line" calling of instructors as soon as the 48 hour due period had passed made a big difference. We are very fortunate to have the ER team.

**Enrollment Resources** - Colleagues, just a quick note to thank you for your superb work the past few days in response to Early Action letters having been received. I have had several very favorable comments from counselors, students, and parents with whom I have also visited. Your ability to respond professionally and helpfully at the initial point of contact is key to our success in this process.

## Student Account Refunds

**take another step into the future**

Federal regulations require that Title V funds (from Federal Financial Aid Programs) in excess of charges must be refunded to the student within 14 calendar days after the first class day for the

**DON'T FORGET**  
February Division Meeting  
Feb. 6th

### Important Dates

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

Friendship is a strong and habitual inclination in two persons to promote the good and happiness of one another.

*Eustage Budgell*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

When did Moody Coliseum open?

### Answer

In 1956. The first gymnasium was built in 1918. The wooden Basketball Pavilion was built in 1929 and the old gym was given to the women.

summer school at SMU

degrees  
above  
the rest

dallas | taos | abroad

www.smu.edu/summer

**Work Begins on  
Summer School 2008**

Taking from the Cox School of Business -- It is never too soon to begin to think about Summer School. The Summer School Office



### ... but does not leave

At the end of her seventeenth year at SMU, Peggy Park retired as the Associate Director of Financial Aid. As Associate Director Peggy managed the undergraduate Financial Aid staff to insure that students receive the financial assistance for which they are entitled. This includes the staff that award federal and state aid, staff that process scholarship awards, and staff that facilitate student employment. Since a high percentage of SMU student receive aid in some form, Peggy has been busy training her staff on the latest governmental regulations.

Even though Peggy's official last day of full time employment was December 31st. She will continue to lend here expertise to the Financial Aid Office as a casual employee. Peggy will continue to work with training, procedure documentation, and providing her knowledge to the undergraduate Financial Aid staff.

However, these assignments in the office will be scheduled around Peggy's retirement lifestyle. She will spend time with her favorite activities -- spending time with her eight grandchildren and traveling.

A celebration of her retirement is in the planning stages. She retains her SMU e-mail address and telephone number to facilitate her occasional work.

particular student. Because these funds often are used by the student for living expenses and books, the more efficiently they can receive their refund the better.

The Bursar and the staff in Student Financial Services (SFS) constantly looks for ways to improve the refund process and to shorten the time it takes to get the money in the hands of the student.

Ten years ago, to meet the federal deadline for refunds, staff in SFS worked long hours. But even with these long hours, check that met the deadline were sent to student through the US Postal Service and could take another 2 to 3 weeks before delivery.

The first significant change was to offer students the option of direct deposit. Students could complete a form authorizing SFS to deposit his/er refund directly into his/er bank account. This cut the deliver time to the next day at most.

Eighteen Months ago, the processing of refunds was automated. This allowed more refunds to be processes each day and thus the refunds were available to student prior to the 14 day deadline.

Recently, SFS began offering another option for receiving a refund. Student now may obtain a debit card onto which funds may be placed electronically. The debit card can be used in the same way as a bank debit card. It is a quick, easy, and safe way to receive a refund.

Stay toned. No telling what SFS will come up with next in order to provide our students with excellent service.



began encouraging students and their families to consider one of SMU's three summer school programs at Family Weekend. The staff made contact with approximately 1,000 family members and provided them with information on SMU in Taos, Study Abroad, and SMU in Dallas.

The Summer School staff explain that students should include plans to participate in one or more summer school experience as part of their four years at SMU. By planning ahead, the cost can be more effectively managed and the student may be able to receive additional academic credentials such as a second degree, a second major or minor, or experience new cultures in Taos and around the world.

The spring term will have a number of initiatives to make families and students aware of the various summer school programs. We hope by getting a much earlier start this year, the Summer School Office will exceed its success from the summer of 2007.

For information on Summer School go to our website: [www.smu.edu/summer/](http://www.smu.edu/summer/)

## Who's New in the Registrar's Office

When you come to the Registrar's Office in the Blanton Building, you will see some new faces. We are proud to welcome these new people to Enrollment Services and some to SMU. Please take the next opportunity to stop in to introduce yourself.

Associate Registrar-**Mitzie Goff** begins Feb. 1

Assistant Registrar-**Nancy Skochdopole** began Nov. 26

Coordinator for Administration- **Cristina Coronado** began Jan. 2

Business Systems Analyst -**Melissa Stanford** begins Jan. 7

Business Systems Analyst-**Nada Elsayed** begins Jan. 14

Academic Records Counselor-**Myriah Garcia** began Jan. 3

Academic Records Counselor-**Cate Hamilton**



began Dec. 20

