Staff News from DES

NEW STAFF

Kelly Milazzo - Student Financial Operations

STAFF LEAVING

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Lydia Babbit - Federal and State Grant Coordinator

Bill Chandler - Loan Operations Coordinator

Colleen Franklin - Federal, State, and Private Loan Coordinator

Birthdays

Cruz Lopez - May 3

Stephen Forrest - May 7

Tony Tillman - May 11

Walter Jimenez - May 16

Patricia May - May 20

Irma Herrera - May 21

Sherreetta Robertson - May 22

Stephany Coleman - May 24

Cheryl Swift - May 24

Jean Porter - May 27

Rick Diaz - May 29

Kimberly Wratislaw - May 31

Anniversaries

VIPs - Very Important Ponies

Some of our VIPs this month are:

Stan Eddy - Thank you for the pro-active effort to keep your students well informed and thank you for sharing all of your “Pre-mail” to other members of Financial Aid. This is such a good customer service initiative.

Cheryl Swift - Thank You - A million thanks for always being there to answer all our $$ questions. You have been much appreciated the last 2 years. Thank You,

Gretchen, Student Records Staff, Damon - It can become a tired saying, but things keep getting better. This year's Honors Convocation was the best ever! Thanks Gretchen for your leadership, and thanks everyone for your work on this important event. Recognizing our top academic achievers is important, and I think with your help we did an excellent job at this. From the web site to the balloon towers on the steps of McFarlin, everything made this a special evening for our honored students and their families. Thanks again for all you do for SMU and our students. John Hall

The Grade Roster Calling Team - Sylvia Wiseman, Enrollment Resources, and Mitzie Goff. Yes, I do see the fruits of [our] labors. Please know that the communication plan to encourage prompt posting of grades has been a success. Thank you.

DON'T FORGET

Division Meeting June 4th

Important Dates

May 16 - Baccalaureate
May 17 - Commencement
May 26 Memorial Day Holiday
May 28 - May AARO
May 29 - Summer I and III begin
May 30 - Summer I enrollment ends
June 3 - Summer III enrollment ends
June 27 - Last day of Summer I
June 28 - Summer AARO Begins
July 1 - Summer II begins
July 4 Holiday

Quotation of the Month

Schooling is what happens inside the walls of the school, some of which is educational. Education happens everywhere . . .

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot

SMU Trivia

Question

Did UT Southwestern Medical Center begin as a part of SMU?

Answer

No. This is a common misconception. In the early 1900s, Dallas produced a number of medical schools. Most of these schools were not recognized by the Medical Education establishment at the time. One school was named Southwestern Medical School which transferred its operation to SMU in 1911. The Medical School ceased operations in 1915. The ancestor of UT Southwestern Medical Center did not open its doors until 1943. A copy of an SMU Doctor of Medicine diploma can be found on the 2nd floor of the Blanton Building.

Joe Papari - 28 years!
Paula Anderson - 10 years
Monica Gomez - 7 years
Marcia Miller - 5 years
Consuela Mitchell - 3 years
Lori Atkinson - 2 years
Gretchen Voight - 2 years
Pavielle Chriss - 1 year

To: Guild of Marshals & the entire
Academic Ceremonies community

From: Brad Carter, Chief Marshal

It is my practice to write a personal note of
thanks to those of you who serve our students
by taking a part in the ceremonial life of our
SMU community. I much regret that I am not
able to do so for those of you who gave your
time and energy to the Honors Day
Convocation. This particular ceremony comes
at such a very trying time of year for all of
us. Exams and graduation weekend are just
around the corner. Worried students knock at
our door. We begin to fear our calendars. But
SMU owes you a big thank you. So do I. I do
so much appreciate your willingness to give
your time to help us honor our best students.

This was one of the very best Honors Day
events. All of you did so very well. It was a
great and wonderful treat to have choral
music as part of the celebration of excellence.
The Meadows Chorale was superb. We owe
much to Prof. Elrod both for her conducting
and for her choice of Rymus. With all its
acoustical limitations McFarlin comes alive
with the sound of unaccompanied human
voices. Professors Palmer and Cheney and Ms.
Lovelace added their special magic as we
entered and recessed. Professor Spiegelman
added the glory of the well crafted spoken
word. Gretchen’s balloon arches and the large
banners also served to remind us that this was
a celebration. And this year it felt like a
celebration.

By your efforts you served some of our most
talented and gifted students. You also helped
to honor Ross Murfin who restored Honors
Day. You have demonstrated your interest in
our students and your belief in the importance
of our corporate life. Gretchen Voight, Nancy
Skochdopole, and I are always amazed and
what we all can, and do, make happen. Bless
you and thank you.

May 2008 presented 1,846 graduates. Nine-hundred
fourteen receiving bachelor’s degrees and 932 receiving
graduate degrees. Nine-hundred and
eighty-eight participated in the
Commencement Ceremony during which
the graduates and guests enjoyed an
interesting speech from Profession Allen
Weinstein, noted historian and overseer

Commencement

Two beautiful days graced the finale of
the academic year. Baccalaureate,
Commencement, and the Diploma
Ceremonies show SMUs finest -- our
graduates, our faculty, our
administration and staff, and our alumni.

Student Employee Recognition

April 14-18, 2008 was Student Employee
recognition week. Mary Beard, Associate
Director for Student Employment and
Scholarships, and others in Enrollment
Services held a luncheon to honor
Student Employees who distinguished
themselves in their work over the past
academic year.

Twenty-three student workers were
nominated for recognition. Each
contributed significantly to his or her
work assignment. The nominees were
Mohammed Aqeeluzzaman Khaleel, Emily
George, Derek R. Jones, Brittni M.
Arrington, Gerardo Daniel Palos, Megan
Walker, Braunshay Pertile, Natalia Jones,
Mittie Muse, Meleah Chriss, Jeramiah A.
Burbee, Catalina Aguirre.

Braunshay Pertile (pictured with
Executive Director Marc Peterson) was
chosen 2008 Student Employee of the
Year to represent the fine work of all of
SMU’s student employees.

Congratulations Braunshay!

TxBUC$ Regional Workshops

The Texas Bursar’s for Universities and
Colleges (TxBUC$) provides several
drive-in workshops in different location
in Texas each year. The purpose of
Texas BUC$ is to share and brainstorm
ways to improve customer service,
improve processes and to problem solve
issues common among the member
institutions. SMU Student Financials
Services staff members attended

of the National Presidential Libraries.

Over 400 graduates participated in Baccalaureate. Students and families were inspired by the sermon of the Reverend Dr. Sheron Patterson. The evening ended with the traditional Rotunda Recessional in which graduates walked from McFarlin Auditorium through Dallas Hall mirroring their entrance into the academic community with Rotunda Passage.

Congratulations to our graduates, their families, and all of the people at SMU who make this possible.

AARO Kick Off - Ice Cream Social

Dr. Lori White, Vice President of Student Affairs and John Hall, Executive Director of Enrollment Services invite you to join them for the 3rd annual AARO Kick-Off symbolizing the beginning of another academic year.

The kick-off is celebrated with an Ice Cream Social held in the Commons of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center on June 26th between 1pm and 2pm - brief remarks at 1:15pm.

We hope you will join us. It always is a good time when the SMU community comes together.

Special thank you to Stephen Forrest and Damon Wilkins for the photographs.