

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

STAFF LEAVING

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Birthdays

Hilary McIlvain - October 7th

Lori Atkinson - October 9th

Barbara Waters - October 10th

Nada El-sayed - October 11th

Stan Eddy - October 15th

Nicole Cotton - October 24th

Veronica Decena - October 25th

Melissa Stanford - October 26th

Sharla Coursey - October 26th

Vitoria Rae October 27th

Colleen Franklin - October 30th

Joe Davis - October 30th

Marc Peterson - October 31st

Anniversaries

Laura Del Rio - 16 years!

Cara Hendricks - 6 years

Penny Griffin - 5 years

Walter Jimenez - 3 years

Yaw Bonsu - 3 years

Alan Ramirez - 1 year

Courtney Barrett - 1 year

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Student Financial Operations Refund Group - The Refund Group did a super job this last term. This is an accomplishment and I want to give praise and recognition to all that helped out during this season. - Financial Aid Staff

Sherry Reinwald - was recognized at the Staff Recognition Ceremony for her 25 years of service to SMU and the Financial Aid area. Congratulations, Sherry!

Tough love may help students in their future.

In the current economic situation in the United States there seems to be blame for everyone - from Wall Street to Main Street, as the commentators say. Focusing on the mortgage lending business, the exclamation is, "Who let people borrow more than they could ever pay back?" At the time, there was excitement about the number of families buying homes who never thought they could. The euphoria has been replaced by despondency as the interest rates go up, the value of their home goes down, and the families have no way to get out from under the debt.

SMU Student Financial Services is charged with collecting tuition and fees from enrolled student each term. Over 75% of our students receive some form of financial assistance to help cover their educational costs . . . some of which is in the form of loans. Eighty percent of our students are able by mixing financial aid, family contributions, work, and other income to pay for their education at the time it is due. The other twenty percent have some gap between the cost and their available funds on the Payment Due Date. After the Financial Aid staff has done all they can do, the Student Financial Services staff offers many different payment plans, payment options, and counseling for our students and their families.

DON'T FORGET November 5th Division Meeting

Important Dates

Nov. 3 - Spring enrollment begins
Nov. 5 - Last day to drop
Nov. 20 - Last Day to withdraw
Dec. 5 - Last day of instruction
Dec. 8-13 - Final examinations
Dec. 13 - December Graduation
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

Quotation of the Month

The future belongs to the things that can grow, whether it is a tree or democracy.

Kenneth D. Johnson



SMU Trivia

Question

How many current staff have been employed at SMU for 25 years or more?

Answer

76.

James Brooks is the most senior staff member, having worked at SMU for 56 years. Charles Harper is celebrating his 50th year at SMU. Six other staff have 40 or more years at SMU.

On-line Course Evaluation

The On-line Course Evaluation process using Access.smu and Blackboard is expanding! It first began in fall 2007, a joint effort between Blackboard support team, ITS, Student Records and Meadows School of the Arts.

Staff Association Holds Eighth Annual Staff Recognition Ceremony

It has become a tradition at SMU for Staff to be recognized for 25 years of service to the university on the Tuesday of Fall Break. October 14th, 2008 seven staff member were inducted into the 25 Club, six other could not be present. The new 25 year staff recognized at the ceremony were: Lydia Dale, SAMSA; Lisa Montes, Legal Clinic; Dee Powell, Cox School of Business; Sherry Reinwald, Financial Aid; Rhonda Rompola, Women's Basketball Head Coach; Jim Stillson, Men's and Women's Diving Coach; and Billie Stoval, Central University Libraries.

The event, held in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center begins with a reception and the Ceremony follows. The new 25 year staff received a pin and a compact disc from Provost Paul Ludden and Staff Association President John Hall. The recipient of the Loretta Hawkins Award is recognized as well. This year Tracy Allred from the Perkins School of Theology received the award and Carl Touchstone from Mail Services was recognized as the finalist.

The ceremony also included a Keynote address by Dr. Jose Bowen, Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts. Dean Bowen also selected the compact disc - *Somethin' Easy* for the 25 year staff. He used the jazz group featured on the CD as a metaphor for the work of the staff.

A new addition to the Ceremony was recognition of staff receiving the M Award for 2008. Karen Click, Director of the Women's Center, Dawn Norris, Associate Director of SAMSA, Ellen Pryor, Associate Provost, and Chief Richard Shafer, SMU Police were congratulated.

University Bursar Pat Woods reflects that her office has been concerned about the debts our students accumulate while they are at SMU for a number of years. Grants and scholarships only go so far and then students rely on loans. SMU feels these loans; many from the Federal Government are a good investment that allows our students to get a wonderful education. Our students do well in the marketplace and repay their loans after graduation. However, students who have costs above their resources, pile on additional debt that may be more difficult to retire.

SMU does not allow students with outstanding balances to enroll in any classes until the balance is resolved. As painful as that is at the time, it helps students pay as they go to school - not defer their costs that are stacked on top of their loan obligations after graduation. The "Tough Love" practiced by the Student Financial Services staff works with students counseling them away from continuing to incur charges that they cannot pay. Student Financial Services wants every student to graduate from SMU but with the potential to prosper, not under the burden of debt that limits his or her opportunities.



New 25 year inductees with Provost Ludden and Dean Bowen



Loretta Hawkins Award Recipients Tracy Allred and Carl Touchstone with Provost Ludden and Dean Bowen

Undergraduate and graduate courses in Meadows required an on-line course evaluation to be completed toward the end of the term instead of the paper evaluation. For every course flagged by Meadows Departmental staff in Access.smu, an on-line course evaluation was created in Blackboard. During a three-week window (last week of classes, exam week, week after exams), students were notified to log into Blackboard and complete their course evaluations as failure to do so would prevent them from viewing their grades through the Student Center in Access.smu (self-service).

For non-compliant students instead of the grade(s) displaying, a symbol (three asterisks) would appear with the message, "***Course Evaluation needs to be completed to view grade. Click here (student is taken to Blackboard)." Also, the URL links for eDPR and Unofficial Transcript, displayed on the Student Center, were hidden if an evaluation was not completed. As the evaluations were completed, the grades would appear immediately. When all evaluations were completed, the URL links (eDPR and Unofficial Transcript) also reappeared. Posted grades, however, were available for administrative use in determining satisfactory progress.

Due to successfully implementing the Meadows initiative, undergraduate business courses and four departments in Dedman College, Economics, English, Mathematics, and Statistics, will join Meadows for fall 2008.

Blanton Celebrates 5 Year and Epi Ramirez Remembrance

The weekend of October 31st is the 5th anniversary of the dedication of the Blanton Building after Enrollment Services, the International Center, SMU-in-Taos, and ITS moved in. The week of November 3, Blanton will have a Birthday Party at which the bench for Epi Ramirez Remembrance will be dedicated.

If you would like to contribute to the **Epi Ramirez Remembrance Fund** please go to www.smu.edu/giving or send your check to Gift Administration at SMU Box 402. Be sure to indicate this is for the Epi Ramirez Remembrance Fund - 01479.