

# 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

Nicole Cotton - Enrollment Resources

### STAFF PROMOTIONS

### Birthdays

Kathy Rowe - Dec. 3  
Charmissa Ajakaije - Dec. 10  
Mitzie Goff - Dec. 16  
Courtney Barrett - Dec. 18  
Kelly Milazzo - Dec. 18  
Laura Del Rio - Dec. 19  
Cheryl Moore - Dec. 20  
Pam Fincher - Dec. 22  
Stanley Stubblefield - Dec. 25  
Shannon Grandberry - Dec. 26

### Anniversaries

Charles Harper - 51 years!  
Anna Gomez - 12 years  
Cate Hamilton - 2 years  
Braunshay Pertile - 1 year

## Enrollment Services Highlights

**Early Action** - The Undergraduate Admission staff blew back into Dallas from an extensive fall recruitment season to determine students who will be admitted to SMU through the Early Action process. Students may elect this option in order to focus their decision on schools who offer admission before the regular January deadlines. Often these are the most academically gifted students. This also gives SMU the opportunity to work with these students to create a package that makes SMU their choice for matriculation.

**December Graduation** - The 2009 December Graduation Ceremony has a new twist. Like the May Commencement, the December event will be held on December 19, 2009 in Moody Coliseum at 10am in the morning. Since moving to Moody, the single December Graduation Ceremony has been held in the evening. But, because the winter break begins on Monday, December 21st, the ceremony was moved to 10am to allow participants to get "on the road" by early afternoon. Response to the morning ceremony have been positive.

Nine hundred fourteen students are scheduled to receive degrees in December. Five hundred thirty-

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**Elves You Can Count On** - head Elf Kelly Milazzo and her team of Cate Hamilton, Gretchen Voight, Adrienne Montgomery, Nancy Skochdopole, and Damon Wilkins added that extra touch to the Blanton Holiday Luncheon. A table activity was introduced for staff to make cards to include with items begin collected for the USO and our service members. Cards expressed gratitude and holiday wishes for the safe return of our troops.

**Cheryl Swift** - Well, Cheryl, after all these years, I finally got it right! Yippee!! I cannot believe graduation is that close - the years have flown by, that 's for sure . . . Again, thanks for your always cheerful and great help!

**Shahnaz Khaja** - Thank you very much, especially Shahnaz who did the work [to find out the last time Social Sciences was offered as a major]. *Beth Newman*, Faculty English Department

**Walter Jimenez** - When times are hard, collecting past due balances is challenging. I would like to thank Walter for a great month in November [collecting old student account balances]. So far for the month of November he has collected \$22,792.53. This is outstanding and really helps SMU's cashflow in these hard times.

## Financial Aid Staff Go to Nashville

Although Nashville is the home of Country Music, members of the Financial Aid staff were in town for more than entertainment. The 2009 Federal Student Aid conference was held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel the first of December.

"The best conference I have attended," was the comment from Sharla Coursey, Associate Director and Module Lead for Financial Aid. The United States Congress has been busy this year, in acting legislation related to several federal financial aid programs. "This conference will help us [Financial Aid staff] to do a better job for our students."

Billed as a "conference [that] offers you critical financial aid training," SMU sent staff from the technical, loan, and advising staff. Session were offered on the Federal Direct Student Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and Pell Grants. There were sessions on the enhancements to the Title IV systems and ones covering technology and ways to improve financial aid practices.

More than just the usual conference

## Have a happy and safe holiday



Mark your calendar  
See you in the New Year.



## Important Dates

Dec. 11-17 - Examinations  
Dec. 18 - Residence Halls Close  
Dec. 19 - Graduation  
Dec. 21-25 - University Holiday  
Jan. 1 - New Years Holiday

**Quotation of the Month**  
Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.

*B. F. Skinner*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

How many Bowl invitations has SMU received?

### Answer

Twelve including this year's Hawaii Bowl. First Bowl appearance was 1924, Dixie Classic (L to West Virginia Wesleyan), 1 Rose Bowl appearance in 1935 (L to Stanford), 4 Cotton Bowl appearances (T with Penn State, W over Oregon, W over Georgia, W over Pittsburg). Last Bowl appearance Aloha Bowl (W over Notre Dame in 1984).  
W/L Record 4, 6, 1.

## Lowe to Speak at Graduation

Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, Alan C. Lowe will speak at December Graduation. Lowe graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor and Master of Arts in history.

Lowe brings a long association with Presidential Libraries. He first served as an archivist for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and then went on to Washington D. C. to work in the Office of Presidential Libraries at the National Archives. During his time in Washington, Lowe served as the interim Director of the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library.

eight will receive graduate/professional degrees and three hundred seventy-six will receive undergraduate degrees. So far 60% of those submitting application for graduation have ordered academic regalia. This is a good indicator of a wonderful turn out for the ceremony.

**Blanton Holiday Luncheon** - The tradition of holding a holiday luncheon for the staff housed in the Laura Lee Blanton Student Services Building continued this year. One hundred eighty staff from OIT, SMU in Taos, the International Center, and Enrollment Services were treated to turkey with all the trimmings. Joining the staff were guests from Provost's Office and Student Affairs.

Continuing a long standing tradition, Dr. Lori White, Vice President for Student Affairs, offered the invocation. She followed the student group *Voices of Inspiration Gospel Choir* who sang for the staff assembled.

This was a joyous time for all who celebrate the various holidays of this season.

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presentations, this conference offers hands on training and a PC lab open to answer specific question and offer technology assistance.

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### Astra Room Scheduling Project

John Hall and Randy Phillips, co-chairs of the University Committee to implement a classroom scheduling software, provided a progress report on the Astra Scheduling Software. The SMU version of Astra is named *Schedule.SMU*. Demonstrations are offered over the next eight to ten weeks.

Production and test versions of *Schedule.SMU* are loaded with classroom facilities/spaces for Fall 2009, January, Spring, and summer 2010 classroom assignments. Committee members and building managers have access to *Schedule.SMU* for testing and uploading of non-classroom information.

In late January 2010, the Fall 2010 Schedule of Classes will be created in *Access.SMU* and room assignments will be uploaded into *Schedule.SMU* in February. Training will be offered in February for room schedulers/managers with the *Schedule.SMU* go live date of March 15th. Management of classroom space will be through *Schedule.SMU* after go live. Classroom assignments for Spring 2011 will use *Schedule.SMU* in conjunction with *Access.SMU*. At that time a pilot program using the Optimizer tool will be conducted for a few areas.

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Lowe also brings six years of experience as the Executive Director of the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee. The Baker Center's focus is public policy to increase civic engagement and understanding of public policy. Lowe oversaw the completion of the facility on the UTN campus.

Appointed as Director of the Bush Library in April 2009, puts Lowe at the forefront of implementing the mission and construction of the Library and Museum. The Library will preserve and provide access to Presidential records and other collections, host public programs, create educational initiatives, and produce innovative museum exhibits.

The Library materials are held temporarily in Lewisville pending the opening of the Library and Museum in 2013.

A native of Kentucky, Lowe, his wife and daughter reside in Lewisville, Texas.

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