

# 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

Volume VIII, Issue II February 2009



## Staff News from DES

### NEW STAFF

**Shahnaz Khaja** - Executive Director's Suite

### STAFF LEAVING

### STAFF MOVE

**Angela Mejia** - joined the Student Financial Operations Team

### Birthdays

**Mary Beard** - Feb. 1

**Damon Wilkins** - Feb. 1

**Paley Wu** - Feb. 6

**Daniel Herrera** - Feb. 16

**Eartha Walls** - Feb. 16

**David Bell** - Feb. 17

**Charles Harper** - Feb. 18

**Joe Papari** - Feb. 19

**Gretchen Voight** - Feb. 25

**Cara Hendricks** - Feb. 26

### Anniversaries

**Irma Herrera** - 35 years!

**Pat Woods** - 31 years!

**Patricia May** - 15 years

**Adrienne Hawa** - 11 years

**Angela Mejia** - 4 years

**Jessica Dixon** - 2 years

**Mitzie Goff** - 1 year

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**Student Orientation Registration Team** - Monica Cordero, Joe Papari, Barbara Mohrle, Rob Pocklington, Missy Bryant, Pam Fincher, and Anel Reyna - Today's demo of the new Student Orientation Registration and Tracking component of ACCESS.SMU was impressive. This new component to ACCESS.SMU leverages our PeopleSoft investment. Great job! - *John Hall*

**Paley Wu and Nancy Skochdopole** - Thanks for the work on the 2009 SMU Summer School website. *John Hall* This is very COOL, thanks to all. *Bonnie Wheeler*

**Cheryl Moore and Stephen Forrest** - you are great! When I needed enrollment stats in a hurry, both of you stepped up. Thank you. *Pat Woods*

**Student Financial Operations Team** - Deveron Ellison, Stephany Coleman, Rod Del Rio, Claudia Favela, Kelly Milazzo, Monica Juneau, and Walter Jimenez - I don't know what has changed, but our stop payments have decreased dramatically. Last year for June thru December we had 581, this year only 137. Good job. I appreciate everything you do to make our refund process a big success. *Charles Harper*

**Gretchen Voight** - Congratulations on her election as a Director at Large of NAACO - National Association of Academic Ceremonies Officers.

**Transfer Team** - Mary Compian, Myriah Garcia, and Adrienne Montgomery - Thanks for all your extra efforts in processing transfer credits. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and I can't thank you enough for going above and beyond every day. Each of you are reliable, organized, and a pleasure to work with. Thank you for being such an asset to our team. *Monica Gomez*

## DON'T FORGET

**March 4th**  
Division Meeting

### Important Dates

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

The greatest thing in the world is to know how to belong to yourself.

*Michel De Montaigne*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

What is a chevron?

### Answer

Chevrons are the three velvet stripes on the sleeve of a doctoral gown.





**Tom Fomby Accepts the Chief Marshall Position from Brad Carter**

At December Graduation, President R. Gerald Turner announced the retirement of Brad Carter as SMU's Chief Marshall after 18 years of service in that position. The ceremonial passing of the Chief Marshall's robe occurred on February 3, 2009 when University Registrar John Hall presented Brad Carter with new academic regalia and gave the Chief Marshall's robe to Tom Fomby. Dr. Turner, Provost Paul Ludden, and Associate Provost Tom Tunks were present. Dr. Turner again thanked Chief Marshall Emeriti Carter for his work and welcomed Chief Marshall Fomby to his position. Former Provost Ruth Morgan, who appointed Brad Carter to his position, was present as well as many other faculty and staff.

Our best wishes go to Brad Carter and congratulations to Tom Fomby.



**Tom Tunks, Brad Carter, and President Turner**

## Payment Plans Pay Off

In a proactive move, SMU expanded the options for payment plans to assist our students and families to pay the charges for spring term. These options have been attractive to our families and has assisted SMU in retaining our undergraduate students.

Undergraduate enrollment is up 1.7% for spring 2009. Families using the 5 month payment plan increased 14%, 10 month payment plan increased 6%, the 4 month payment plan for small balances increased 51%, and the 4 month payment plan for larger balances increased by 31% over spring 2008. Two hundred and thirty-three families are participating in the 9 month payment plan offered for the first time this spring.

## SMU Custom Regalia



**Undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral**

May Commencement will mark the first ceremony for the new custom regalia designed specifically for SMU. The undergraduate regalia includes a red stole with blue Dallas Hall logos, the master's regalia adds a red Dallas Hall logo to the gown. The doctoral regalia has red chevrons and panels as well as a six pointed tam.

President Turner has new custom regalia as well. The distinctive look of the SMU regalia will add color to our ceremonies and stand out as our graduates join the faculty at other institutions.

## Epi Ramirez Bench Gets Plaque of Remembrance

### Enrollment Services Highlights

**Transfer Website**- check it out at [www.smu.edu/registrar/transfer](http://www.smu.edu/registrar/transfer). It has information for new student transfers, continuing students, International student transfers, Transfer Equivalency Guide, General Education Curriculum requirements, and Free Elective Transfer Credits. Coming Soon - General Education Curriculum Guide for Transfer students.

**Census Reports** - spring enrollment now available at [http://smu.edu/intranet/des/current\\_term.asp](http://smu.edu/intranet/des/current_term.asp)

**Online Registration for Orientation** - new students are able to register for AARO and Mustang Corral online. This new offering in ACCESS.SMU adds convenience for the student and allows the New Student Programs office to track students as they sign up.

**IEP Automation** - the Intensive English Program (IEP) offers non-credit courses to prospective international students. Under the direction of John Wheeler, this program provides intensive English instruction for over 200 students. With the assistance of Enrollment Service, General Education, and the International Center, the enrollment process is live in ACCESS.SMU. This not only facilitates enrollment but allows SMU to process the students into the SEVIS data bases as required by the Federal Government.

**Summer School Website** - Information on summer 2009 is available on the new and improved Summer School Website at <http://smu.edu/summer>. Look for more information as Spring Break approaches. Encourage your students to participate in SMU-in-Taos, SMU Abroad, or SMU-in Dallas for a fun and rewarding Summer in the City 2009.