

# 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 III March 2009



## Staff News from DES

### NEW STAFF

Randy Trevino - Admission Counselor

### STAFF LEAVING

### STAFF MOVES

Cate Hamilton - moves to Coordinator of Administration in Registrar's area

Nancy Skochdopole - moves to Director of Transfer and Articulation Services in Registrar's area

### Birthdays

Nancy Skochdopole - March 8

### Anniversaries

Deveron Ellison - 7 years

Summer Kokic - 7 years

Hilary McIlvain - 3 years

Gordon Brannon - 3 years

Fernando Del Rio - 2 years

Paley Wu - 2 years

Chante Chatman - 1 year

Joann Martinez - 1 year

### Transfer Student Initiatives

In an effort to attract more students who attend community colleges before transferring to a four-year institution, SMU is strengthening its initiatives to work with students who wish to transfer to SMU. The process of transferring academic credits

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**Cheryl Moore** - I would like to ask if a special thank you could go to Cheryl Moore. She was very, very helpful in expediting a correction on a transcript in order for a copy to be received by a medical school in a SHORT timeframe. Per a student request, the school allowed only a few hours for the correction. I have been grateful for her help over the years in different situations and I know the student was really happy that the complications were handled so graciously and efficiently. *Karen de Olivares*

**Cindy Castro** - has been an outstanding student as I have taught her the process for calculating tuition costs through ACCESS.SMU. She picked up the information quickly and can apply it. She is wonderful to have on the SFS Technical Team. *Patricia May*

**Steve Boykin** - I want to recognize Steve Boykin for continually going the extra two miles to assist students with enrollment issues. His good customer service sometimes means extra trips across campus for him to help the student out. Thanks for the exceptional service to our students, Steve.

**The Implementation Team for Online Registration for AARO and MC** - Wow! What a neat success story this will be. I think fireworks are in order. *John Hall* - DITTO that! Joe (Papari), Anel (Reyna), Monica (Cordero), and Pam (Fincher) have been great and deserve all the kudos! *Missy Bryant*

**Stephany Coleman** - Talk about extra effort, you have tackled a very challenging task of organizing all of the policies and procedures for the Student Financial Operation Unit. This will be invaluable as we review and update these important documents. YOU ARE GREAT.

## DON'T FORGET

April 1st  
Division Meeting

### Important Dates

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

To commiserate is sometimes more than to give, for money is external to a man's self, but he who bestows compassion communicates his own soul.

*William Mountford*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

What is the English translation of *Veritas Liberabit Vos?* - 1. The truth shall make you free. 2. The truth shall set you free. 3. The truth will make you free. 4. The truth will set you free. or 5. The truth is I don't know.

### Answer

The correct translation of the SMU motto is 3. The truth will make you free. This is according to SMU Historian and Professor Marsh Terry in *A Brief History of SMU*.

### Enrollment Services Highlights

More payment options - The Student

after admission involves touch-points throughout the University.

Nancy Skockdopole agreed to take on the task of coordinating the matriculation and transition of transfer students. She has moved from the position of Assistant Registrar for Special Projects to Director of Transfer and Articulation Services. In her new role, Nancy will work with all of the offices that touch transfer students. She will serve as an advocate for transfers beginning with generating initial interest, through their admission, retention and graduation, to their ultimate involvement as alumni. Nancy also will coordinate with other colleges to facilitate a seamless transfer process.

With regard to articulation\*, Nancy will work with the staff in the schools and other institutions of higher education to facilitate the evaluation of transfer courses and what credit will be assigned to a transferred course. Part of Nancy's assignment will be to oversee the development of articulation guides and articulation agreements with local community colleges so that students have a clearer understanding of which of their courses will transfer and can be applied to an SMU degree.

The University policy regarding transfer of credit for existing SMU students has been revised as follows: "Once students have matriculated at SMU, they may transfer no more than 30 hours to SMU from accredited colleges and universities. To ensure that a course taken at another college or university will transfer and that proper credit will be awarded, the student taking the course should obtain prior approval from the following people: the chair of the department and dean of the school at SMU that normally offers the course, the adviser, and the student's dean. Petitions for pre-approval of transfer work are available in the schools' records offices. Students who fail to get prior approval for transfer work can petition later for transfer credit, but they have no assurance that it will be awarded. In either case, permission may be denied for educational reasons."

\*Articulation - A joint between two separable parts. *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. In this case articulation means the connection between institutions with regard to course credit.



### Summer School 2009

As Spring Break ends, the Summer School Office (SSO) swings into their marketing of SMU's summer school offerings. Education Abroad and SMU-in-Taos are closing out their summer enrollment but SMU-in-Dallas enrollment begins at the end of March.

SMU Abroad, SMU-in-Taos, and SMU-in-Dallas conducted their third annual Summer School Kick Off at the flag pole on March 2. Students were met with all kinds of information on the three summer offerings as well as free food and give-aways. Many students had made plans to attend summer school or were waiting to discuss the option with their advisors during their enrollment appointment.

The SSO is working with staff in the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports, the Office of Residence Life and Student Housing, and the Hughes-Trigg Student Center planning events to bring a sense of community to the Dallas campus. This sense of community is a hallmark of SMU Abroad and SMU-in-Taos. Programming will include Sand Volleyball, Films in the Student Center, Video Gaming events in the Hughes-Trigg and at the Dedman Center, cook-outs, outdoor adventures and much more.

Payment Options are expanding for summer school students. Check out all of the information about Summer School 09 at the Summer School website - [www.smu.edu/summer/](http://www.smu.edu/summer/)



Financial Services office continues to develop options to assist families in paying the cost of their student's education beyond awarded financial aid and scholarships. Pat Woods, University Bursar is sending a letter to all new and continuing undergraduate students explaining the many payment options that SMU offers. Go to the Bursar website for more details - [www.smu.edu/bursar/](http://www.smu.edu/bursar/)

**Enrollment Services Full Court Press** - the UG Admission staff, using the new software package Recruitment Plus, are able to communicate effectively and efficiently with our newly admitted students. The other areas of Enrollment Services -- Financial Aid, Student Financial Services, and the Registrar are enhancing the communication with newly admitted students to provide information on financial aid, other payment options, and a look inside ACCESS.SMU and the wealth of educational opportunities at SMU.

**Red Flag Committee** - As reported in last month's DES Newsletter, protecting the SMU community from Identity Theft is a priority for the University. The Red Flag Committee unveiled its protocol to investigate concerns regarding suspected security breaches. Any member of the SMU community can report concerns with data tampering to [privacy@smu.edu](mailto:privacy@smu.edu) or by calling 214-SMU-MyID (214-768-6943)  214-768-6943).

### AARO and Mustang Corral Registration Online

Joe Papari, project lead, announced on March 10th, "Anel (Reyna), Monica (Cordero), and I just reviewed the project status and we are happy with the testing results and ready to move the project to production during the regular maintenance on Thursday, March 12th." Papari stated that the self-service function will be available for students on March 16th, including instructions for the user. The new online process allows students to register for AARO and Mustang Corral and assists in assigning students to Advisors, residence hall rooms for AARO, and to register parents and guests. Students may request a vegetarian meal and special accommodations as they are on the sight.

The Project Team has arranged for two local new students to use the system after it is put into production. This will allow the Team to observe the process in real time and to gain feedback on the instructions and use of the sight.

Congratulations to the Team. . . and on to



phase II of the project. Phase II of the project will create the infrastructure for Mustang Corral. It will assign students to groups, buses, cabins, collect medical information, and special dietary needs or accommodations.

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