

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

Meredith Dawson - Student Employment Coordinator

Melissa Guerra - Scholarship Coordinator

Birthdays

Summer Kocic - Nov. 1

Gordon Brannon - Nov. 2

Angie Flores - Nov. 3

Monica Juneau - Nov. 4

Pavielle Chriss - Nov. 18

Kerry Schneidewind - Nov. 19

Jessica Dixon - Nov. 20

Angela Mejia - Nov. 22

Adrienne Montgomery - Nov. 23

Jackie Wilborn - Nov. 26

Monica Gomez - Nov. 28

Anniversaries

Jean Porter - 10 years

Paulette Caraway - 5 years

Lydia Babbit - 4 years

Colleen Franklin - 4 years

Nancy Skockdopole - 2 years

Stanley Stubblefield - 2 years w/DES

Enrollment Services Highlights

ImageNow Regional Users Conference - because of increased interest in imaging systems, Joe Papari, Director Information Systems for Enrollment Services hosted a regional ImageNow Users group meeting at SMU Blanton. Joe reported over 60

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our **VIPs** this month are:

Eartha Walls - thank you for helping my daughter this morning. I was totally confused and your assistance was greatly appreciated. Thank you. *Happy Parent*

Gretchen Voight - I want to send you a brief hearty congratulations on the new December Graduation fair. *John Hall*

Teena Joshi (OIT), Curt Herridge (OIT), Stanley Stubblefield, and Damon Wilkins - Thank you for your help with Friday's Imaging Users Group conference. The room setup worked out well for presentations, lunch and the round table discussions. Thanks again for making the conference a successful one. *Joe Papari*

Summer School Office - [Kathy Rowe's] report [to the Steering Committee] is excellent evidence of setting objectives and achievement targets, reviewing findings, putting action plans into place, and closing the loop. I cited it as an example recently of great administrative IE documentation. *Marty Sweidel* Thank, Kathy. It looks like you're on track with this, and it's important. In reviewing the meeting minutes [Summer School Steering Committee] I'm impressed with what you've lined up already. *Tom Tunks*

Stephen Forest - someday I need to meet Stephen Forrest. He is like a demi-god of data! *Stephanie Dupaul*

Stephany Coleman - thank you for assisting Andrew Snow in Alumni Relations with the concerned alumnus. You turned this around and Andrew appreciates your responsiveness.

Joe Papari - Thank YOU for all you did to organize and host the regional ImageNow user groups meeting at SMU. You've been a GREAT advocate for our imaging system. *Joe Gargiulo* Many thanks for coordinating/hosting this group meeting . . . having a local imaging users group is a great idea. It is a very cost effective way to share knowledge and have some professional development. *John Hall*

John Hall - thank you [Bonnie Wheeler] for your email of support for John Hall. The Registrar's Office stood ready all along to do whatever needed doing to present diplomas. *Tom Tunks*

Transfer and Transition Services

The University's Transfer Initiative Mission

BLANTON HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Mark your calendar
December 8th



Important Dates

Nov. 26-27 - Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 1 - Last Day to Withdraw
Dec. 9 - Last Day of Instruction
Dec. 10 - Reading Day
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
Genius without education is like silver in the mine.
Benjamin Franklin



SMU Trivia

Question

What was the group called "The Squires?"

Answer

In the 1960, the Squires was a male spirit organization composed of 3 members of each of the NIC Fraternities. For two or three years, they had a full-sized horse that one of the member rode at football games.

This and That



Jerrod Harrell - named chair of the Professional Judgment Committee in Financial Aid. Jerrod is the Enrollment Resources liaison with Financial Aid. Congratulations, Jerrod.

Gretchen Voight - recognized with the President's Award at the 2009 Texas

participants all happy to see presentations on SMU's imaging system rather than a marketing demonstration. The participants enjoyed round table discussions after lunch and requested continuation of this type of conference next year.

SMU in Plano - held an Open House for Collin County residence on the weekend of Halloween. Summer School and Transfer and Transition Services were present to talk with families about these two programs. The event attracted not only trick or treaters but individuals interested in the offerings at the Plano and main campuses.



The kids attending the Open House loved the SMU Pennants as much as the candy.

TxBUC\$ - held its annual conference in Corpus Christi this year. Even with the rain, participants gained from their attendance. Angela Mejia, a member of the Student Financial Operations unit in Student Financial Services (SFS), share great information on collecting past due balances. In the current economic climate, SMU depends on the SFS staff to keep the cash flow current.

Security Briefing - Enrollment Services held its annual update on data security. For those not in attendance, material was made available and a quiz was given to document their participation. So far our staff is making As in data security.

Mandatory Health Insurance - a few more details - with enrollment for spring in progress, the Web site related to Mandatory Health Insurance is live. A few points that may assist you if you receive questions: Krista Pruitt is the contact in the Memorial Health Center. Students receiving Financial Aid may not receive additional aid for health insurance. Health insurance is part of their budget awarded for 2009-10. U.S. students taking 9 or more credit hours and International Students taking one or more hours must have health insurance. Once a student has enrolled, s/he will have access to the Health Insurance Web site, though which s/he can provide proof of insurance to waive the SMU student insurance. Students who do not have proof of insurance will be billed for the mandatory policy after the Drop/Add period.

Set Ups - not a new exercise program in Enrollment Services - for all new academic program are facilitated by Enrollment Service. The various areas in Enrollment Services work with schools and departments setting the program up in ACCESS.SMU. This fall the Module Leads worked with Kate Livingston, Director of SMU in Plano to offer the J Term. This exciting program offers undergraduates the opportunity to take 3 credit hours during the winter break. Go to the SMU in Plano site for more information.

Display at Mother's Club Luncheon

Statement says that SMU will be an institution that values, actively recruits and retains high quality transfer students. To sustain this mission, the Office of Transfer and Transition Services was created in the spring of 2009 to assist areas on campus who support transfer students, serve as an advocate for both prospective and current transfer students at SMU, and raise the awareness of transfer students in our community.

Working with Admissions and the Registrar's Office, goals were established to better serve the transfer population, which include:

- ✓ Become more transfer friendly by improving the transferability and, most importantly, applicability of transfer credit for prospective applicants.
- ✓ Improve articulation with feeder schools through articulation agreements and equivalency guides for GEC and majors.
- ✓ Ensure the transfer admission process is friendly and timely.
- ✓ Make certain the transfer credit evaluation process is efficient and timely.
- ✓ Guarantee SMU is affordable to transfer students compared with its competitors.
- ✓ Provide a seamless transition to SMU through A-LEC and programming
- ✓ Communicate with the SMU community about importance of transfers and the transfer initiative by telling the "transfer story"

Director of Transfer and Transition Services, Nancy Skochdopole, reports that significant progress has been made toward meeting these goals. The Admissions and Registrar's Offices, working with the academic deans' offices, are averaging a turnaround time of 5 days, including weekends, from the time a prospective student's application is completed until the student is notified of an admissions decision. More importantly, once the student is notified, s/he is informed not only of what work will transfer to SMU, but also how the work may be applied to an SMU degree.

Progress is also being made in the area of articulation and how we communicate with our feeder schools. A new articulation agreement with Dallas County Community College District has been drafted and more agreements with other schools are planned. Additionally, new GEC guides for Dallas, Tarrant and Collin County colleges have been printed and distributed. Plans are underway to formulate new major guides for prospective transfers in each of the undergraduate schools as well.

The ALEC has been a wonderful partner in identifying the stumbling blocks for new transfers and designing workshops to address these issues. Also, working with the ALEC, outreach was made to all transfer students appearing on the Academic Early Warning list and Mid-Term Deficiency list informing them of the many resources available to them at the A-LEC.

Lastly, to provide earlier access to advising for transfer students, a Transfer Open Advising Day was held for all admitted fall 2009 transfer students in May. All undergraduate academic advisors at SMU convened in Blanton and advised

Association of College Registrars and Admission Officers (TACRAO). In the presidents remarks she explained that this award is not presented annually but is presented when there is a member whose work with the association is out of the ordinary. Gretchen has been active in many aspects of TACRAO all three years of her membership and has been such a member. Congratulations, Gretchen.

Ethel Wise - To my surprise, I received a call about Ethel Wise (retired from SMU Registrar's Office) and what a wonderful ambassador she was for SMU. The caller continued for over five minutes with her praise of Ethel's spirit and love for SMU. She also mentioned Sam Radcliffe who is in Hamon Library. It turns out the my wife Cherly and I knew Sam's dad, and gave him an Irish Setter when Sam was a teenager. The caller has a daughter here and just felt compelled to let us know about Ethel and the good work she was doing. I thanked her for taking time out of her day to call. *John Hall*

Summer 2010 is HERE!



The Summer School Office (SSO) begins to work on the next summer's program at Family Weekend. Because attending any of the many summer school option takes planning, SSO talks with parents about including a summer program in their student's four year undergraduate plan.

Many moms and dads asked questions about SMU in Taos, the Education Abroad offerings, and courses on the main campus. The parents see summer school as a way for their academically ambitious students to manage a double major, adding a minor, or seeking two bachelor's degrees. One mother told of her business and pre-med son who also had a music minor. His 18 credit hour course load was challenging. By working with his advisor, she was going to see if the family could lighten his load through a course or two in the summer.

The summer school staff was out sporting their new logo and look distributing "clappers" with information about the three summer programs. The weekend was a great success as it has been in the past. The staff thinks they distributed information to over 1,000 family members encouraging them to

think SUMMER!

Family Weekend 2009



close to 100 transfer students. Many advisors reported that earlier contact with these transfers made for an easier AARO advising session. On November 23, a mini Transfer Open Advising Session will be held for students planning to enter the University as transfers in spring 2010. All of these initiatives were accomplished through the collaborative efforts of many areas across SMU. There is much more work to do but Nancy says she looks forward to assisting all areas in better serving our transfer students.

