

# 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 VIII October 2009



## Staff News from DES

### NEW STAFF

**Leslie Day** - Information Systems in Registrar's Office

### STAFF LEAVING

**Frances Wardell** - SFS Technology Team

**Paula Anderson** - Financial Aid, Scholarships

### STAFF PROMOTIONS

**Adrienne Montgomery** - Enrollment Manager in Registrar's Office

### Birthdays

**Hilary McIlvain** - Oct. 7

**Lori Atkinson** - Oct. 9

**Barbara Waters** - Oct. 10

**Nada El-Sayed** - Oct. 11

**Stan Eddy** - Oct. 15

**Nicole Cotton** - Oct. 24

**Veronica Decena** - Oct. 25

**Sharla Coursey** - Oct. 26

**Melissa Stanford** - Oct. 26

**Colleen Franklin** - Oct. 30

**Joe Davis** - Oct. 30

**Marc Peterson** - Oct. 31

### Anniversaries

**Laura Del Rio** - 17 years

**Cara Hendricks** - 7 years

**Penny Griffin** - 6 years

**Walter Jimenez** - 4 years

**Yaw Bonsu** - 4 years

**Alan Ramirez** - 2 years

**Courtney Barrett** - 2 years

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



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

**Lorinda Lamb** - I needed some information in a jiffy to take to Taos. Lorinda turned it around immediately and very professionally done. *AB Aston*

**Consuela Mitchell** - Kudo's to Consuela! After presenting a session at the Texas Association of Financial Aid Advisors, two state Auditors said (at different times), "Your information was spot on!"

**Walter Jimenez** - congratulations to Walter on his first big collection. On the 1st of September, Walter collected an old past due balance of almost \$10,000.

**Cheryl Moore, Susan Evans, and Joe Papari** - I just wanted to thank you all for a very informative and productive R&R meeting this afternoon. I like the new format and am enjoying the renewed collaboration among the offices. *Jennifer Haden*

**Nancy Skochodopole** - what a trooper. Thanks for presenting information about the new transfer student initiatives to the SFS staff under trying circumstances. You were great to do your presenting in the 2nd floor lobby (amid noise) because of the mix up in room reservations. We got a lot out of the information. *Pat Woods*

## Mt4bwmc,R Annual Security Briefing

Enrollment Services uses the OIT Security month to hold our annual Security Briefing. The October Division meeting updates and refreshes the staff's knowledge of security rules and regulations as well as best practices for protecting data security.

Mt4bwmc,R is a mnemonic device suggested by Cynthia Stanfield to create a unique, strong password. Mt4bwmc,R stands for "May the force be with my cat, Ranger." It is easy to remember by the mnemonic and uses all four elements of a strong password - upper and low case letters, numbers, and symbols. This was one of the many tips offered for data security and managing the many negative devices that can be linked to e-mails.

## BLANTON HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Mark your calendar  
December 8th



### Important Dates

Nov. 2 - Spring Enrollment Begins  
Nov. 10 - Last Day to Drop  
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

I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cabdriver. Then they would really be educated  
*Al McGuire*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

What were the requirements for graduation from SMU's Medical College?

### Answer

Graduates were required to be at least 21, possess good character, complete four years of medical college, in satisfactory standing with 80% attendance, and owe no money to the University. To have the degree conferred the candidate had to attend the public commencement. *Taken from research conducted by Nancy H. Skochdopole*

## On the Road, Again

As soon as the class of 2013 is settled into their first classes, the Undergraduate Admission staff begins 2010 travel. Staff travel in assigned 'territories' for 8 to 10 weeks in the fall. Staff attend College Fairs, meet with prospective students and their parents, and develop relationships with high school counselors. A

## Enrollment Services Highlights

**VA Statistics** - SMU is proud to have a number of students who have served in the US Armed Services. With the new GI Bill providing educational benefits to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the numbers are growing.

Total VA students enrolled—95  
UG—27 GR/Pro—68

Chapter 33 (New Post 9/11GI Bill) - 45

Non-Chapter 33—50

Check out our VA Web site:  
<http://smu.edu/registrar/veterans.asp>

Veronica Decena or Mitzie Goff  
for more information.

**Graduation Fair** - December Graduation will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 19 in Moody Coliseum. The Graduation Fair will be held at the SMU Bookstore on October 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and October 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Students may order academic regalia and graduation announcements at the fair. Students who do not order their regalia at the Graduation Fair **must** place an online order at <http://www.herffjones.com/college/smu/> by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, November 6. For more information about December Graduation, please visit [http://smu.edu/registrar/December\\_Graduation/](http://smu.edu/registrar/December_Graduation/).

**Early Intervention Grading for Fall 2009** - In response to the President's Task Force recommendation to re-establish the practice of early grade reporting for first year students, early grade rosters were produced for all enrolled undergraduate students who have earned less than 30 credit hours. This includes new first-year and continuing first-year students.

For Fall 2009, we generated 815 grade rosters. 400 grade rosters were reviewed. 415 grade rosters were not reviewed. The result: 620 students with 922 deficient grades. We extended the deadline for faculty to enter these grades by giving them four additional days.

In addition to the OIT presentation, Enrollment Services staff heard updates on FERPA and Gramm, Leach, Bliley laws related to education and financial records. We also engaged in a contest to see how well the staff knows the Statement of Principles for Financial Aid professionals. The Red Flag Rules were reviewed to remind staff what is required as identification before releasing any personally identifiable information.

## DES Highlights Cont...

**Mandatory Health Insurance (MHI)** - Enrollment Services is testing the MHI enhancement to Access.SMU which will allow students to elect Student Health Insurance, or waive the insurance if they have private insurance. The system will allow the Memorial Health Center to monitor the MHI requirement, elect insurance or waive insurance for the student. The insurance cost will be charged to the student's account through SF in Access.SMU. The system will be in production mid-October and students will be able to use the system after they enroll for Spring 2010 classes in November.

**Astra Room scheduling** - John Hall and Randy Phillips have been charged with implementation of a new room scheduling software called Astra room scheduling is underway. Astra will eventually be used to schedule classrooms and other facilities. We are in testing stages of Astra and plan to have it in production mid-October. It will be in production mode for Summer/Fall 2010 scheduling. More information and training will follow.

**Award Departmental Scholarships Online** -ACCESS.SMU continues to provide efficiency though added self-service options. Departments now can award departmental scholarship online. The process provides reporting feature to help manage departmental scholarships, improves accuracy, and saves time.

**Homecoming - November 6&7**

**Family Weekend - November 13&14**



new dimension added this year are "Counselor Lunches." Staff including Dean of Admission, Ron Moss and Assistant Dean, Nancy Peterson sponsor luncheon with counselors in the major cities in which we recruit. This personal touch can open new areas of recruitment for SMU and gain support of the high school staff working with students making their choices for college.

Undergraduate Admission has hosted large numbers of prospective students on campus at our regular Information Sessions and at two Mustang Monday programs in September and October. The deadline for students applying for "Early Action" on their admission to SMU is November 1st. January 15, 2010 is the deadline for consideration for admission for fall 2010.

Students also should be mindful of the financial aid deadline. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the CSS Profile to be considered for all types of aid. Both applications should be filed by February 15th.

**Enrollment Reports** - Fall 2009 Enrollment Reports are available at:  
[http://smu.edu/intranet/des/enrollment\\_reporting.asp](http://smu.edu/intranet/des/enrollment_reporting.asp)

**Ethnic Reporting Changes** - New requirements for collecting and reporting ethnicity data will be in place by Fall 2010. Applicants for Summer/Fall 2010 are following the new collection standards. For questions or further information contact Stephen Forrest ([sforrest@smu.edu](mailto:sforrest@smu.edu)).

## Recruitment begins with Elementary Schools

Ever wonder what to do when an Elementary School contacts you to provide information for their "College Day?" Send them to Kathy Rowe in Enrollment Services. Each year Enrollment Services works with schools, teachers, counselors, and students as they begin to introduce their classes to the possibility of college. SMU is happy to be a partner in opening the door of higher education to the children of Dallas.