

# 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 IX, Issue 4 April 2010



## Staff News from DES

### NEW STAFF

**Minerva Chihauhau** - Financial Aid Advisor

### STAFF LEAVING

**Consuela Mitchell** - Financial Aid

**Cara Hendricks** - Financial Aid

### STAFF MOVING

### Birthdays

**Byron Lewis** - April 1

**Anna Gomez** - April 2

**Meredith Dawson** - April 2

**Cindy Castro** - April 3

**Myriah Garcia** - April 13

**Paola Sotomayor** - April 15

**Sheryl Winston** - April 26

**Claudia Favela** - April 27

**Lorinda Lamb** - April 29

### Anniversaries

**Ron Moss** - 17 years

**Sylvia Wiseman** - 12 years

**Ginger Oravsky** - 10 years

**Rod Del Rio** - 10 years

**Stephanie Nonnemacher** - 9 years

**Stephen Forrest** - 8 years

**Cheryl Swift** - 5 years

**Abbi Pfister** - 3 years

**Joanne Martinez** - 2 years

**Chante Chatman** - 2 years

**Monica Juneau** - 2 years

**Melissa Guerra** - 1 year

## Enrollment Services Highlights

### Financial Counseling Sessions

Staff in Enrollment Services, like everyone at SMU, see the difficulties our students and their families have in managing the cost of higher education during the economic downturn. The Bursar's Office and Undergraduate Financial Aid have partnered to offer financial counseling to students as they enroll for the next academic term. Sessions are held each Tuesday in April and the first week in May from 3-4pm in 110 Blanton. The sessions will cover budgeting for a term, deciding how much to borrow, and managing educational debt after graduation.

For more information contact: Stephany Coleman  
[stephany@smu.edu](mailto:stephany@smu.edu)

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**Damon Wilkins and Shahnaz Khaja** - I wanted to write a short email to say thank you for your help yesterday when Randy injured his finger. I appreciate your helpfulness and the prompt attention you gave Randy. Specifically, Shahnaz, thank you for finding the necessary form to complete and Damon, thank you for helping to address Randy's pain as well as offering to take him over to the Health Center for treatment. We appreciate you and thank you for being great colleagues.

**Stephanie Nonnemacher** - has finished the Robots to re-package (Auto Package) everyone whose status was set at "Review" from yesterday's Live Mass Packaging Batch [in Financial Aid]. A special THANK YOU to Stephanie Nonnemacher for staying up half the night getting these two robots finished!

**Mary Compian** - This is wonderful. I do appreciate your quick and immediate response to address our need/request. This shows how efficiently and effectively SMU works and we all should be proud of this. Again, we sincerely appreciate your help. If we can assist you/your Mustang team in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me any time. *Chief Health Director - Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals*

**Angie Flores** - Finally! The check arrived this morning. We wanted to thank you for all of the great help you provided with Lauren attend SMU. Lauren's scholarship, the Texas Tomorrow Fund, and the prepaid account were not easy to manage, but you did a great job of taking care of us and we appreciate it. *Happy Parents*

**Consuela Mitchell** - Thank you so much for keeping us updated and informed. It makes such a difference as we [Enrollment Resources] speak to families to have our facts straight.

**Veronica Decena** - Thank you for the great support this past semester. The process has been completely seamless for me, and I couldn't be happier with your help in coordinating my benefits with the VA, so that I could attend SMU. *Happy Veteran*

**Financial Aid** - Financial Aid colleagues, Ginger notified us today that mass packaging for first years for fall 2010 is progressing well with anticipated mailing of award letters by week's end. Although you are already aware of the critical importance you play in our enrollment success, I wanted to state it directly to you with our huge thanks for your partnership and

## May Commencement



**Mark your calendar**  
May 14-15, 2010

### Important Dates

**April 19** - Honors Convocation

**April 26** - last day to withdraw

**May 4** - last day of instruction

**May 5-11** - Final Examinations

**May 14** - Baccalaureate

**May 15** - Commencement

### Quotation of the Month

Not all those who wander are lost.

*J. R. R. Tolkien*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

How many years has the Engineering Quad been under construction?

### Answer

Five years.

With the dedication of the new Caruth Building on April 16th, Engineering has been transformed from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences with one aging building, two temporary laboratory structures, and the infamous red tank . . . to the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering composed of three beautiful, eco-friendly buildings - Junkins, Embry, and Caruth, set in a magnificent quadrangle around the Hillcrest Foundation Amphitheatre.



## Show Your SMU Colors



After spring break, the SMU campus has been adorned with red and blue with faculty and staff showing their SMU colors. This initiative

### VA Brown Bags

One hundred veterans currently enrolled at SMU were invited to a VA Brown Bag luncheon with staff from the Registrar's Office, Transfer and Transition Services, and Financial Aid. Although attendance was not large, the small group meeting in the Varsity, agreed that Veterans want to meet other vets on campus. Mitzie Goff, VA administrator in the Registrar's Office and Nancy Skochdopole, Director of Transfer and Transition Services hope to make the VA Brown Bag a monthly gathering to assist Veterans and to facilitate interaction.

For more information contact: Mitzie Goff  
[mgoff@smu.edu](mailto:mgoff@smu.edu)

### Financial Aid Gears Up

In an attempt to provide more federal money for financial aid, the government has added new regulations to the plate of the Financial Aid staff. Students may receive a PELL grant for summer school, which has not been available in the past. Student dependent upon federal and state aid programs for their tuition and fees, often, were unable to attend summer school because little aid was available. Over the past four years, SMU has continually expanded financial assistance for student attending summer school.

Also taking effect for the new aid year, all federal loans will be handled through direct lending. The recognizable "Stafford" designation will be dropped. Direct Loans will be either Subsidized or Unsubsidized. Financial Aid staff have been in training throughout the spring term, preparing for the change to direct lending.

### Speaking of Summer School

April 5th students began to enroll in summer school. All three summer school programs report a high level of interest for 2010. SMU-in-Taos has filled all slots for May term. SMU Abroad has filled all 15 SMU sponsored courses in May and summer with 350 students studying outside the U.S. Although enrollment for summer I and II continues, numbers are looking good with over 200 undergraduate courses offered on the Dallas campus for Summer I and 162 for Summer II.

More information on SMU Summer School at [www.smu.edu/summer](http://www.smu.edu/summer).

### Mid-Term Grading

Academic Records sent 1,201 class rosters requesting information on academic progress of first year students in order to notify students with deficiencies. Eight-hundred forty-nine rosters were returned, reporting 1,513 grade deficiencies. Students with deficiencies were notified by letter and encourage to seek assistance from the academic support resources provided by SMU.

### Student's Recognized at Honors Convocations

April 19th is designated as SMU Honor's Day. At 5:30pm in McFarlin Auditorium, academic honors will be presented. Students tapped into 10 honor societies will be recognized as well as 150 student participating in the university Honor's Program. In addition to naming the 175 departmental award recipients and 10 students receiving fellowships, Dr. David Meltzer will offer remarks. All students participating in the Academic Honors Convocation are presented with a medallion, a recognition pin, and certificate.

In the evening, student leadership will be recognized

professionalism.

## Ninety-fifth May Commencement



2010 marks the 95th Commencement ceremony for Southern Methodist University. May graduates number 2,163, triple the total enrollment of SMU in 1915. Gretchen Voight, Academic Ceremonies Director, reports 1,985 graduates have ordered regalia. This represents almost 90% of the students, indicating participation in some aspect of commencement weekend.

The weekend begins with the Baccalaureate Service on Friday, May 14th in McFarlin Auditorium at 8:00pm followed by the traditional Rotunda Recessional in which undergraduate students process through the Rotunda of Dallas Hall. Saturday, May 15th at 9:30am in Moody Coliseum, the Commencement Ceremony will be held, followed by diploma ceremonies throughout the rest of the day.

Ambassador Ron Kirk will address the graduates at the Commencement Ceremony. Mr. Kirk, former Dallas mayor, is serving as the United States Trade Representative. "As Commencement speaker, Ambassador Kirk brings the perspective of one whose leadership has been local, national and now international," said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "As Dallas mayor he helped to establish the city as a gateway to the global community. Now, as Trade Representative, he is shaping U.S. policy and international relationships to open new world markets and broaden economic opportunities for the United States. Our graduates will be inspired by his words and the example of leadership he has set."

Congratulations to all graduates and those who have helped them achieve this milestone.

### Leave of Absence

The Leave of Absence policy allows a student to officially take a "leave of absence" from school for a specified length of time (6 months to 2 years) for a variety of different reasons such as financial, personal, studying abroad at a non-SMU affiliated program, and medical. A student requesting the Leave of Absence, obtains the form from his or her academic advisor who must sign the form. The form must also be signed by a member of the University Bursar's staff and the Assistant Provost/the Director of Retention, Anthony Tillman. Other signatures may be required, such as Financial Aid (if receiving federal, state or SMU financial assistance), the International Center (if a non-US citizen), Residential Life and Student Housing (if residing on campus), and the Dean of Students (if there is a current conduct violation or one pending). The Registrar's Office then processes the form and the student is placed in a "Leave of Absence." At the end of the leave and prior to the student's return, the student's status will be changed from Leave of Absence to an "Active."

is a partnership of Enrollment Services and Auxiliary Services to bring together the SMU community in support of the university's student recruitment efforts. "Show Your SMU Colors" wristbands were distributed to faculty and staff who were encouraged to wear their SMU nametag and red and blue from the end of March through May 1st, the height of the campus visitation season.

The campus visitation numbers are terrific. **Scholarship weekend** - 163 students interviewing for the Presidential and Hunt Scholarships and 250 family members on campus. **Springfest** for high school sophomores and juniors - 800 students and family members. **Mustang Days I** (admitted students) - 211 students and 200 family members. **Mustang Days II** - 350 students and 300 family members. **Daily visitation** which includes prospective and admitted students - 257 students and 576 family members - average 30 students and 64 family members with some days having 65 students and 100 family members. Undergraduate admission has hosted approximately 1,500 students and 2,000 guests this past month. And on April 16th, 2,000 DISD student will come to Moody Coliseum for the National Hispanic College Fair sponsored in conjunction with SMU Enrollment Services.

Thank you SMU for your support of the recruitment process. Students in 2010 are looking for not only a fine education but a comfortable community. You are showing that!

Keep up the great work and **Show Your SMU Colors.** (wristbands available [krowe@smu.edu](mailto:krowe@smu.edu))

### Degree Awarded Posthumously

The University Registrar is responsible for interpreting university policy with regard to academic records. When no policy exists, he recommends a course of action consistent with the university's mission, traditions, and practices. John Hall, University Registrar, received a request to award a Doctor of Engineering degree to Justin Matthew Kendall. Mr. Kendall died suddenly in July 2009 before completing all requirements for the degree. His wife asked for the posthumous conferring of the degree.

Mr. Hall, after investigation, reported that although SMU has awarded posthumous baccalaureate and masters degrees for student who completed the requirements for degree, there is no university policy "specifically addressing the posthumous awarding of a degree when all requirements have not been met." Mr. Hall recommended to the Provost that a similar protocol be used in this case. The department could recommend to the dean that the remaining requirements for the degree be waived and the degree awarded. The dean's endorsement forwarded to the University Registrar, and the University Registrar, after conducting a "reasonableness" test, forward the recommendation to the Provost. This was done for the request from the Kendalls.

After compiling the necessary endorsements and recommendations, the Provost approved the request for the awarding of posthumous degree. Mr. Kendall will be awarded the Doctor of Engineering degree in May 2010. His wife will represent her husband at the Commencement ceremony on May 15th.

at the Awards Extravaganza held in the Hughes-Trigg Theatre at 7:30pm.

Both programs are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

More information is available at [www.smu.edu/ceremonies](http://www.smu.edu/ceremonies).

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The purpose of the Leave of Absence policy is so that SMU may assist the student when on leave. Staff is able to know why the student is taking leaving, how long he or she will be away from SMU, and when he or she is planning to return. Additionally, the Leave of Absence allows the student to return without reapplication for admission.

More information can be found at [http://smu.edu/registrar/leave\\_of\\_absence.asp](http://smu.edu/registrar/leave_of_absence.asp)

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