

DES NEWSLETTER

The Division of Enrollment Services Newsletter
Southern Methodist University
An Electronic Newsletter of
Undergraduate Admission, Financial Aid, University Bursar, and the University Registrar

Volume IX, Issue 10 December 2010



Staff News from DES

NEW STAFF

Laura Kingham - Undergraduate Admission

STAFF LEAVING

Amy Kice - Undergraduate Admission

Birthdays

Kathy Rowe - Dec. 3
Charmissa Ajakaije - Dec. 10
Stephanie Dupaul - Dec. 14
Joseph Knight - Dec. 15
Mitzie Goff - Dec. 16
Courtney Barrett - Dec. 18
Kelly Milazzo - Dec. 18
Cheryl Moore - Dec. 20
Pam Fincher - Dec. 22
Stanley Stubblefield - Dec. 25
Shannon Grandberry - Dec. 26

Anniversaries

Charles Harper - 52 years!
Anna Gomez - 13 years
Walker Self - 5 years
Cate Hamilton - 3 years
Braunshay Pertile - 2 years

Enrollment Services Highlights

Early Action - Between the non-stop recruiting trips across the nation by the Undergraduate Admission staff and the new effort by Royall to contact more high achieving students, application for "early action" has been overwhelming. The Information Processing staff in Admission was challenged to get mail opened and processed before another load was delivered. And that was just the beginning. Applications then went to evaluation and Admission staff to determine the status of candidate for early action. Stephanie Dupaul, *Interim* Dean of Admission, reports that letters are being printed and will be mailed before the holiday break notifying students regarding early action on their application for admission. Dr. Dupaul expressed that the quality of applicants is holding firm and praises her staff for their incredible effort during fall. "Now we move on to the next phase," states Dupaul.

Enrollment Services reaches out to students who have not enrolled for spring 2011 - The University Bursar and University Registrar are contacting any undergraduate student who is eligible to enroll for spring 2011 who has not yet completed his/her initial enrollment. This early intervention primarily targets student with financial holds on enrollment. This effort has been in place for two years, but has

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

Schedule.SMU (Astra) Project Team - Joe Papari, Monica Cordero, Darrah Rippy, and Kathy Rowe. I just want to say that I thought the series of Astra sessions that you folks put together for Lisa was very well done. Thanks to you. You provided a very good overview of the complex project and showed that a great deal has been accomplished (with a lot of effort on the part of you folks) while outlining some of the key challenges still ahead in the implementation of the software. *Randy Phillips and John Hall*

Kelly Milazzo - Thank you so much for your quick and detailed response. I really appreciate it. *Happy Dad*

Jill Branson - A huge thank you for your help with getting our Telestangs paid on time. You went to extra effort to get their hours while keeping us informed so we could make sure they were reported in time for them to be paid. It is a pleasure working with you. Welcome to Enrollment Services!

Stephany Coleman - Jordan is registered for all of her classes and was able to get the classes she needed in order to graduate in 2012. I just wanted to thank you and your group for making such an effort to work with us to rectify this matter. A few months ago, we didn't even know if Jordan would be able to return to SMU... and now she is very close to getting straight A's, has been elected to a leadership position in her Sorority as well as leadership rolls in a couple of other organizations. Jordan loves SMU and has worked so hard to build a life there. Because of your help, Jordan will be able to finish her education at SMU. *A very happy Mom.*

Stanley Stubblefield - Thanks. The building [Blanton] decor is getting the holiday spirit. Nice job. *John Hall*
Thank you for putting up the holiday decorations in the building. They look great. It always is hard after the holiday to take them down since they add so much color to this Georgian facility. I appreciate your work on this. *Kathy Rowe*

Lori Atkinson - Great process for completing the admission files with e-mails and faxes received by the Admission staff. This process will ensure that the Information Processing staff knows that a file needs updating. Thanks, Lori. *Stephanie Dupaul*

Joe Papari and Gretchen Voight - Congratulations! Well done! Frankly, you've

Spring Term Begins



Mark your calendar
January 18, 2011

Important Dates

Dec. 6 - Last day of instruction
Dec. 7 - Reading Day
Dec. 8-15 - Final Examinations
Dec. 18 - December Graduation
Dec. 24-Jan. 3 - Winter Break
Jan. 4-13 - J Term
Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 18 - first day of instruction
Jan. 24 - last day to enroll

Quotation of the Month

Our problem in not to find better values but to be faithful to those we profess.
John W. Gardner



SMU Trivia

Question

Has SMU's graduation ceremonies always been on a Saturday?

Answer

No. Why would I ask if it was?
From 1957-1965, Monday was the usual day of commencement in late May or early June at 5:30pm. In 1966, the ceremony was moved to Sunday around 2pm. The move to Sunday made it difficult for visitors to park, then to go to Baccalaureate at 10:30am, go to lunch, and park again to make it to Commencement by 2pm. In the later 1960's the Graduation Luncheon in Umphrey Lee was provided at a cost of \$2.40 to address the parking issue. Finally Baccalaureate was moved to Friday evening and Commencement to Saturday.
(more on December Graduation below)

Recognition of December Graduates turns 20

Until 1990, SMU conducted a formal graduation ceremony only once a year in May or June. Students who would receive their degrees in December or August could participate in the May Commencement ceremony. In the years leading up to 1990, most undergraduates

moved to earlier in the fall term each year. Enrollment Services knows that each area has more options to assist students with financial holds the sooner the student begins to work with them on resolution. There may be other financial aid option, payment plans, and student employment assistance, but each has deadlines the pass as we approach the first day of instruction. Encourage students who have not enrolled to contact a staff member in Enrollment Services immediately so a resolution can be found well ahead of classes beginning on January 18th.

NSC Self-Service adds Services - The University Registrar's office continues to provide self-service options for students to make services available 24/7 online. November 2010 was the first full month of being live in National Student Clearinghouse to provide enrollment certification online. During November, 1,021 hit were made on this function in Student Self-Service. "An astounding number," says John Hall. In addition to requesting transcripts through self-service, students generated 240 enrollment certifications, viewed 67 enrollment histories, and did over 60 other self-service actions. This was another great partnership between the Registrar's office and OIT.

Bursar's Office enhances online payments - Two new functions have been added to the online payment system in ACCESS.SMU. For some time, families have asked for an option to select payments for the student tuition account or the miscellaneous account and to pay both, if desired, in one transaction. SMUPay now offers both options. Other Payers -- either those Authorized by the student or Guest Payers, may select whether of make a payment to the Student Account or to the Miscellaneous Account or to both. Non-student payers often over looked charges on the Miscellaneous Account because it did not appear unless the payer check for a balance.

SMU Host Workshop

The University Bursar's office host a state-wide workshop to assist colleges and university in collecting balances owed to their institutions. Presented by ConServe University, over 35 participants representing institutions of higher education from as far as Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio and many in the North Texas area, attend the December 15th program. The keynote speaker, Brian Hill, Director of Student Accounts at Carnegie Mellon University presented his ideas for "Managing Conflicting Priorities in the Bursar's Office." Pam Kelleher, Vice President for Privacy and Compliance Officer for ConServe facilitated the workshop.

ConServe University explains the workshop as a collaboration with ConServe and Colleges and University partners. The program offers one of the most comprehensive training workshops available to help augment the collection skills of College and University Bursar staff.

taught us over the years to expect such excellence from you but it's always great to be recognized for the extraordinary contributions you make. Keep up the good work! *Harold Stanley*

[Joe and Gretchen have been recognized by the Texas Association of College Registrar's and Admission Offices]

Abbi Pfister and Jerrod Harrell - We are so glad that Sophia's application is now complete. Jerrod in your office could not have been more accommodating today in checking that our fax, sent yesterday, of fourteen pages had indeed been received. We appreciated his reassurance because Sophia is anxiously awaiting a decision and was concerned to hear that her file had been incomplete. As always, we are most appreciative of your help on behalf of our students, even returning my call on Thanksgiving eve. *A happy Mom*

Holiday Luncheon Crew - Planning committee, Gretchen Voight, Kelly Milazzo, Darrah Rippy, Kim Konkel. Program, Stephanie Dupaul, Harold Stanley, Kelly Milazzo, Stephen Rankin, and the incredible staff in SMU Catering and Facility Coordinator Stanly Stubblefield. Good job fitting us all in! [190 participants] It was most enjoyable. And happy holidays to you. *Harold Stanley* Thank you. The staff had a grand time. *John Hall*

Participants Could Set Record

The numbers of graduates receiving their degrees this December is over 800. Four hundred, fifty-three graduate students will graduate - twenty-three receiving PhDs, two receiving Doctor of Engineering degrees, fifty-six receiving professional degrees in Theology and Law, 328 receiving undergraduate degrees, and nine students receiving certificates from the Guillohall.

The exciting news is that over 700 graduates have rented regalia for the ceremony. If all attend, this will be over 85% of the graduate participating in the ceremony.

The Academic Ceremonies staff is preparing for the crowd and look forward to a memorable event for our students, their families and friends.

The December Graduation ceremony is held in Moody Coliseum at 10am on Saturday, December 18th. We recommend arriving by no later than 9:30am to ensure easier parking and seating.

The Division of Enrollment Services wishes you a happy and safe holiday!



completed their degrees in May, thus very few students "walked" during Commencement when receiving degrees at another time.

By 1990 more and more students we graduating a semester early or a semester late. Returning for Commencement was difficult for most who moved outside of the Dallas area. Requests for a ceremony at the end of the fall semester became more prevalent. Because of the strong tradition of May Commencement, the Provost did not want to replicate or diminish the May ceremony. The decision was made to hold a December Recognition Ceremony in McFarlin Auditorium to honor student receiving degrees in fall. Initially the ceremony was simple and was offered only for undergraduate students. The graduates, their family and friends easily fit into McFarlin.

With the addition of Rotunda Passage to the Opening Convocation and Rotunda Recessional at Commencement, student requested a more tradition graduation ceremony in December. So by the mid-1990's, December Graduation was approved.

Since that time, the number of students, undergraduate and graduate, has increased and the demand for the December ceremony grew from one ceremony for just undergraduates, to two ceremonies - one undergraduate and one graduate to three ceremonies by school and then, McFarlin just became too small, SMU moved the ceremony to Moody Coliseum in order to accommodate all graduates in one ceremony.

The Moody ceremony mirrors the May Commencement with a few modifications. In December the speaker is the Provost of the University. Students do not receive their diplomas but all walk across the stage to be congratulated by their dean and the President of the University.

So Happy Birthday, December Graduation -- and many more.

Smiles all the way around

The staff of the Blanton building jumped head first into the SMU Staff Associations holiday philanthropy project of providing arts and crafts for families of young ones in Children's Medical Center. The effort did not begin and end with a collection box by the elevators in Blanton, staff attending the annual Blanton Holiday Luncheon were asked to make activity books to be placed in the Waiting Rooms at Children's for Adults and Children to help manage the stress and hours of a hospital stay of a family member. Twenty books for children and 20 books for adults were finished by the time the luncheon ended. Provost Ludden showed his leadership at the reserve table of guest by say after finishing his meal, "Okay, let's get busy on this!"

The day after the luncheon, the Blanton Building hosted one of its ever popular "Coffee Breaks," giving free coffee and donuts to anyone coming by. The staff hosting, gave participants an opportunity to contribute to the Children's effort. Ninety dollars was collected in just an hour. Those funds will go towards buying more Arts and Crafts items for the Arts and Crafts area at Children's.



Thank you and Happy Holidays to all who participated. The smiles of the staff only will be out shined by the families at Children's.
