

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

Todd Chiscano - Academic Records Counselor

STAFF LEAVING

STAFF MOVING

Claudia Favela - SFS Production Processing Specialist

Birthdays

Darrah Rippey - Jan. 5
Shahnaz Khaja - Jan. 23
Jaynell Dalby - Jan. 28

Anniversaries

Lorinda Lamb - 18 years
Monica Cordero - 15 years
Pam Fincher - 12 years
Marc Peterson - 11 years
Shannon Grandberry - 9 years
Melissa Stanford - 2 years
Nada El-Sayed - 2 years
Myriah Garcia - 2 years
Meredith Dawson - 1 year

Enrollment Services Highlights

ACCESS.SMU GradeBook -The University Registrar's office is conducting a Pilot Program for ACCESS.SMU GradeBook. Key features of the application include: completely integrated with ACCESS.SMU; one step from GradeBook to Final Grade Roster; in fall 2010, one step from GradeBook to Early/Mid-Term Grade Rosters; students can view assignments, grades per assignment, and grading scale information within Student Center on ACCESS.SMU; ability to Export to Excel and upload to Course Management system of choice; easily accessible from the ACCESS.SMU Faculty Center; if using the same grading scale for more than one course in a term - only one set up then copy for another course; and minimal set up required.

There are a limited number of opportunities to participate in the Pilot Program. Those participating will receive one-on-one assistance from the Registrar's staff setting up the course assigned and maintaining GradeBook, shaping possible production improvements/enhancements through feedback, and a thank you gift at the end of the pilot for your participation.

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



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

Paley Wu, Gretchen Voight and Cate Hamilton - I just was looking at the graduation website and **CONGRATULATIONS**, as it is quite terrific . . . attractive and informative. *Ellen Jackofsky*

Cheryl Swift - I just wanted to thank you for all your help with the situation. I logged on into my access and my hold is off. I greatly appreciate all your help while abroad and now. Thank you so much for all of your help. *Happy Student*

Registrar's Staff and other volunteers - Thank you for making this morning's graduation a huge success! You made it a memorable event for the thousands of candidates and their guests. All your hard work was complemented by great weather and an interesting speaker. I heard nothing but nice remarks. *John Hall* Please add my thanks to John's. Your hard work resulted in an excellent ceremony and a memorable occasion for the graduates, their families, and friends. *Tom Tunks*

Student Financial Operations Team - SFO is THE BEST team ever!!! With over 1000 student accounts with Title IV aid appearing on our refund list just this week, SFO has managed to review each account within just a matter of a couple of days! Thank you so much SFO for all of your hard work and dedication.

RO staff - Just a quick note of thanks for your continued good work on the SIRS clean-up project. You have checked over 40,000 records and found 220 problems or suspected problems. This is a tedious, but very important project. Your good work is very much appreciated. An added note of thanks to Laura [Ries] for keeping us organized and moving forward. *John Hall*

Student Accounts Team - I would like to thank the SAS team for all of their hard work these past few weeks assisting students in clearing their outstanding balances so they can enroll for the spring 2010 term. An extra shout out to Cheryl Swift of her management of the process and work with students.

Jean Porter - Just a quick note to say a very special "Thank You" again for your time and essential assistance in making my spring registration complete. You are a true asset to SMU and a blessing to me. *Happy Student*

Division Meeting



Mark your calendar
February 3, 2010

Important Dates

Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 19 - first day of classes
Jan. 25 - last day to enroll
March 6-14 - Spring Break
April 2 - Good Friday Holiday
April 5 - first day to enroll for summer and fall

April 8 - last day to drop a course
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
Don't ask of your friends what you yourself can do.
Quintus Ennius



SMU Trivia

Question
How many Peruna's has SMU had?

Answer
SMU has had eight black Shetland ponies serve as our mascot. Peruna IX is currently in training. Training takes approximately two years before Peruna is allowed to take the reigns as mascot.



SMU Granted Tau Sigma Chapter

Tau Sigma is an academic honor society designed specifically to promote the academic excellence and involvement of transfer students at four-year institutions. The society recognizes the academic achievement of the most outstanding transfers nationwide and, in the process, helps universities better serve their transfer population. Tau Sigma members are a great resource for current and future transfer students.

If you are interested in participating, contact Associate Registrar Mitzie Goff at mgoff@smu.edu.

Apply Texas - Undergraduate Admission began using Apply Texas, a Texas focused electronic college application, in addition to the Common Application used for a number of years. The initial response from prospective students has been good. One feature of Apply Texas not available on other electronic applications is courses-in-progress. This allow the UG Admission staff to have a more full picture of the academic work of applicants.

Standard Bearer's website - each year at May Commencement, one student is selected from each school to carry the school's academic banner in the Processional. These students often have the highest gpa in their school. A website has been created at www.smu.edu/registrar/standardbearers presenting the Standard Bearers from the past several years.

J Term - Enrollment Services, working with SMU-in-Plano, inaugurated a new, undergraduate Term during the two weeks before classes begin for spring 2010. Associate Registrar Cheryl Moore announced that 11 courses had adequate enrollment - 3 Meadows courses and 8 courses from Dedman College. Seventy-two students successfully enrolled in these courses. With the two week term ending on Thursday, January 14, the feedback from the students and faculty is yet to come.



December Graduate Some things Old and Some things New

Over 550 graduates and several thousand guest were treated to some traditions as well as some new features at December Graduation.

Because the ceremony was scheduled for the day after SMU began its winter break, the December Graduation ceremony was moved to 10am rather than the traditional evening ceremony. December 19th was a clear, warm autumn day that welcomed families to Moody Coliseum. Another departure from tradition was the invitation to Alan Lowe, Director of the Bush Library and Museum to speak to the graduates. Traditional, December Graduation has featured the University Provost.

Additionally, the December ceremony unveiled new school banners. The stage was accented with red and blue banners sporting the seal of the University, the name of each school, and the academic colors worn by the school's graduates. The banners will be used in all academic ceremonies in the future.

The hooding of the doctoral candidates, the Howard Lantern, and presentation of all graduates remains a ongoing tradition for December Graduation.

SMU was granted a Tau Sigma chapter in the fall of 2009 and this spring, we will induct our first members. To qualify for membership, transfer students must complete at least 12 hours in their first regular semester at SMU with a GPA of 3.5 or above.

In summer and fall 2009, 306 transfer students began their studies at the University. Out of this cohort, 84 students have qualified for membership in Tau Sigma.

Eligible students will receive a letter in February inviting them to join the society. Those that do will be inducted at a reception later in the spring. There will be opportunities to serve as officers in Tau Sigma and the goal is to have Tau Sigma members assist in the recruitment and transition to SMU of new transfer students in future semesters.

SMU

think SUMMER!

SMU Summer School

**Summer School at SMU
is an Experience you will never forget!**

The SMU Summer School website for 2010 was published before the winter break with rave reviews. Comments of "Very Attractive," "It looks great," "I love it!!! You have done a great job in developing summer school as a real option for students. I am impressed." "I just looked at the Visiting Student information for summer and it looks great, thanks."

Find out what all the talk is about. Log on to www.smu.edu/summer.
