

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 5 May 2010



Staff News from DES

NEW STAFF

STAFF LEAVING

Sarah Spooner - Undergraduate Admission

Jennifer Crosthwait - Undergraduate Admission

STAFF MOVING

Birthdays

Cruz Lopez - May 3
Minerva Chihuahua - May 4
Stephen Forrest - May 7
Walter Jimenez - May 16
Patricia May - May 20
Irma Herrera - May 21
Braunshay Pertile - May 21
Shareeta Robertson - May 22
Cheryl Swift - May 24
Stephany Coleman - May 24
Jean Porter - May 27
Joann Martinez - May 26
Rick Diaz - May 29
Randy Trevino - May 31
Todd Chiscano - May 31
Kim Wratlslaw - May 31

Anniversaries

Joe Papari - 30 years
Monica Gomez - 9 years
Marcia Miller - 7 years
Gretchen Voight - 4 years
Lori Atkinson - 4 years
Pavielle Chriss - 3 years
Kelly Milazzo - 2 years

Enrollment Services Highlights

Honors Day - April 19, 2010 provided a perfect day to honor outstanding students at the annual Honors Day Convocation. The Convocation recognizes academic achievement at the University Department level.

This year's speaker was David Meltzer, Henderson-Morrison Professor of Prehistory and Director, QUEST Archaeological Research Project. Dr. Meltzer explains, his "research interests center on the origins, antiquity, and adaptations of the first Americans (Paleoindians), who colonized the North American continent at the end of the Pleistocene (Ice Age). I seek to understand how these hunter-

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

Pavielle Chriss - Congratulations Pavielle and to everyone else who worked on this event [National Hispanic College Fair]. *Dr. Lori White*

Gretchen Voight and Honors Day Team - Congratulations! This evenings Honors Day Convocation was terrific. Everything came together nicely, and the weather cooperated. Many thanks to each of you for all you did to make this event a huge success. *John Hall* Please add my thanks and congratulations to John's. It went very well, and I saw pleasure on all those faces? You really do make a difference to our quality of experience, and it shows. *Tom Tunks* I certainly second John's thanks to the Registrar's staff, Gretchen, Cate, and Tom Tunks. It was a beautiful ceremony. *Tom Fomby*

Sarah Spooner, Pavielle Chriss, and Kathy Rowe - Congratulations to you and your team on hosting last week's National Hispanic College Fair. I can't say I know all the ins and outs that occurred that day, but did spend about 45 minutes at the fair, and from what I saw it was a huge success. I saw hundreds, or was it thousands, of excited and anxious [DISD] students going from table to table, including a steady stream at the SMU table. *John Hall*

Tau Sigma Planning Committee - I was thinking on my way in this morning that I needed to email you and Nancy to let you know what a nice ceremony the Tau Sigma Induction was. I know it was really special for the student. *Missy Bryant* It was perfect from start to finish! The inductees and their family members clearly enjoyed every moment. Thanks for all the work that went into making this happen. *Pat Feldman* Dallas B.'s parents thanked us at the end of the ceremony and said they were so grateful to be at a ceremony where everyone was so thrilled and excited about SMU.



TAU SIGMA
NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY
"RECOGNIZING AND PROMOTING THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INVOLVEMENT OF TRANSFER STUDENTS"

Tau Sigma Chartered at SMU

June Division Meeting



Mark your calendar
June 2, 2010

Important Dates

May 30 - halls open for Summer I and Full
June 1 - Summer I and Full first class day
June 2 - Last Day to Enroll/Drop/Add SI/F
June 23 - Last Day to Drop SI
June 30 - Last Day/Exams SI
July 1 - First Day Summer II
Aug 2 - Last Day/Exams SII
Aug 4 - Last Day/Exams Full

Quotation of the Month

The strongest and sweetest song remains to be sung.
Walt Whitman



SMU Trivia

Question

What is the plastic matting which covers the topsoil under the sod in the landscaping for the Caruth Building?

Answer

Kevin Dillard, Director of Landscape Management for SMU, explains "the material you [John Hall] saw was for the fire lane. It is put down to hold the weight of the fire trucks and not have the bare concrete. SMU has used this in several other places and you cannot tell where it is."

No wonder our campus is so beautiful.

Advisor Council Appointed

The Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (SEM) announced the appointment of the Transfer and Transition Advisory Council (TTAC) with the primary objective of making SMU "transfer friendly." In the appointment letter, Tom Tunks, SEM Chair, noted that "transfer students represent about 20% of the new undergraduate students entering SMU each year. As such, transfer students are critical to SMU's academic, extracurricular and financial vitality."

The nineteen member committee is chaired by Nancy Skochdopole, Director of Transfer and Transition Services. It includes representation

gatherers met the challenges of moving across and adapting to the vast, initially unknown, ecologically diverse, landscape of Late Glacial North America, during a time of significant climate change." Students and guests enjoyed his remarks.

Participating students received a medallion of recognition, certificate, and acknowledgement of departmental honors and announcement of induction in honor societies. A reception was held on the Main Quad following the Convocation.

"We had a record number of guests and honorees. . . Seeing the excitement and pride exhibited by the students and their parents tonight really helps bring focus to all [the Registrar's staff] does day in and day out," John Hall, University Registrar.

NCAA Self Study - after hours of interviews, deliberation of subcommittees, and boxes of documents, SMU is officially certified by the NCAA. Marc Peterson, Executive Director of Enrollment Services and Director of Financial Aid, chaired the NCAA Self Study Steering Committee. Marc reported notification from Dr. Turner, "the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification will publically announce that SMU's athletics program has been officially certified." SMU "is considered to be operating its athletic program in substantial conformity with all of the operating principles."

Congratulations Marc and all who contributed!

Transfer Open Advising Day - will be held on Monday, May 24th from 10am to 2pm in the Blanton meeting rooms. Admitted transfer student have received invitations to the Open Advising day but walk-ins are encouraged and welcomed. Representatives from the University Bursar, Financial Aid, Registrar and other student support areas will be available to meet with students as requested. This program has received positive response from both students and advisors as it allows students to be prepared more adequately for enrollment after matriculation. Question, contact Nancy Skochdopole at nskoch@smu.edu.

Scholarship Website - if you have not seen the new Scholarship website developed by Financial Aid, you are missing a lot of information. Click http://smu.edu/Financial_Aid/SearchScholarships.asp to see what is available, resources to search for outside scholarships, and information from Frequently Asked Questions. Please direct families and students to this fantastic resources and congratulate the Scholarship area of Financial Aid for the outstanding work.

Veterans Affairs - at SMU has one more to assist student enrolling after military service. Dr. Deanie Kepler, representing Student Life, will join Mitzie Goff and Nancy Skochdopole of Enrollment Services as support for veterans attending SMU. The new federal GI Bill offers Iraq era veterans financial resources to pursue higher education. As their numbers increase, SMU is committed to assist as we can to make veteran's transition to higher education successful.

Summer School - enrollment is tracking with last year's numbers for SMU in Dallas. With two weeks



On April 22, 2010, the Gamma Beta Chapter of Tau Sigma received its charter at an induction ceremony in the Laura Lee Blanton Student Services Building. Forty-four members were inducted.

Tau Sigma National Honor Society's purpose is "Recognizing and Promoting the Academic Excellence and Involvement of Transfer Students." Tau Sigma was incorporated in 1999 with Auburn University being the home of the first chapter. Today, over 75 other universities have established or are currently establishing Tau Sigma chapters in their efforts to improve the services that they provide to their transfer student population. Although Tau Sigma is a relatively young organization, many members in all parts of the country have become active at their universities, participating in such activities as on-campus recruiting events for prospective transfer students, transfer student orientation, community service projects, assisting the admissions office with the recruitment of prospective transfers at community colleges, and participating in intramural sports and socials that allow them opportunities for fellowship with one another and make new friends.

To join Tau Sigma, transfer students must be enrolled full time, they must transfer to the university with at least one full year's worth of academic credits, and they must finish their first term after transferring with a 3.5 GPA.

President Turner accepted the charter on behalf of SMU. The charter, signed by the charter members, will be hung in the Laura Lee Blanton Building.

Inductees invited family and friends to attend the ceremony. Also present were SMU faculty and staff who support transfer student transition to SMU. These guests included Ashley Stone and Missy Bryant from New Student Orientation, Hilary McIlvain and Randy Trevino from Admission, Mary Beard and Marc Peterson from Financial Aid, Tony Tillman from the Provost's Office, Pat Feldman from the A-LEC, Christine Buchanan from the Admission Council, and Kevin Hofeditz from Meadows.

The ceremony included a keynote address from Dr. Wayne Shaw, Helmut Sohman Distinguished Professor of Corporate Governance in the Edwin L. Cox School of Business. His remarks included advise of involvement and persistence.

After Dr. Tom Tunks, Associate Provost, presented the charter to President Gerald Turner, Dr. Kathy Rowe, Enrollment Services, inducted Dr. Turner as the first honorary member of the Gamma Beta Chapter. Dr. Rowe shared that President Turner is a transfer student, beginning his education at Lubbock Christian University receiving an Associated degree before transferring to Abilene Christian University for his bachelor of arts degree.

from the undergraduate schools, key administrative areas in Enrollment Services and Student Affairs as well as the CUL, A-LEC, Honors Program, and the Admission Council.

The charge to the Council is:

Addressing opportunities to strengthen the recruitment and matriculation of transfer students

Advancing articulation and co-admission agreements between SMU and partner schools

Addressing financial issues and financial aid opportunities for transfer students

Facilitating the articulation of transfer course work into SMU programs

Addressing honors opportunities for the best prepared transfer students

Facilitating the integration of transfer students into the overall student body

Creating a robust out-of-classroom experience for transfer students

Providing academic support that might be unique to the situations of transfer students

TTAC will build on the work begun by a committee chaired by Robb Pocklington and Christine Buchanan that initiated the Office of Transfer and Transition Services.

95th Commencement

Light rain caused a slight change in the Baccalaureate service on Friday night, but the will of the graduates provided a break in the weather so that the lighted sidewalk to Dallas Hall illuminated Rotunda Recessional to the joy of graduates and their guests. To spare the students wet regalia, the processional was limited to the faculty and Platform Party. Returning to a past tradition, Stephen Rankin, Chaplain to the University, preached at the service. Dr. Rankin joined the university at his formal installation in the fall.

Commencement on Saturday morning was "one of the largest," remarked Director of Academic Ceremonies, Gretchen Voight. The weather provided an overcast but rain free day that encouraged graduates and their guests to assemble in Moody Coliseum. Former Mayor and Federal Trade Ambassador Ron Kirk was the guest speaker.

Also honored at the 95th Commencement Ceremony were honorary degree recipients. Jorie Graham, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and MacArthur Award winner, currently is Boylston Professor of Rhetoric at Harvard University. She received a Doctor of Humane Letters. Karinna Akopovna Moskalenko, Russia's leading

until the first day of Summer I, over 2000 undergraduates have enrolled for classes on the Dallas campus. Term Credit Hours are over 12,250. The new summer school e-mail and publishing of the office telephone number, has opened communication from all over the United States and, yes, the world. Calls and e-mails from SMU students and parents, student attending other universities, and non-SMU students living in the Dallas Metroplex indicate that "the word is out" on SMU in Dallas. The Summer School Office is optimistic that this will translate into a successful summer program.

After the formal induction of members, the students, families, and guests were invited to a reception on the terrace of the Blanton Building.



human rights lawyer, studied law at Leningrad State University and later specialized in human rights at the University of Birmingham in England. She is respected worldwide for her advocacy on behalf of clients rich and poor, voiceless casualties of war and vocal critics of the Kremlin. Dr. Moskalkenko received a Doctor of Laws. Saul Perlmutter is professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his Ph.D., and is head of the Supernova Cosmology Project at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He leads an international team that studies distant exploding stars to measure how fast the universe was expanding at different times in its history. Dr. Perlmutter received a Doctor of Science degree.
