

# 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 9 November 2010



## Staff News from DES

### NEW STAFF

Andy Frye - Registrar/Information Systems  
Jameela Hudson - Admission/Information Processing  
Julio Lopez - Bursar/Student Accounts

### STAFF LEAVING

### STAFF TRANSFERRING

Hilary McIlvain - to Cox Undergraduate Admission

### Birthdays

Gordon Brannon - Nov 2  
Angie Flores - Nov 3  
Mary Ann Frye - Nov 5  
Federico Munoz - Nov 12  
Jill Branson - Nov 14  
Kerry Schneidewind - Nov 19  
Jessica Dixon - Nov 20  
Adrienne Hawa - Nov 23  
Jackie Wilborn - Nov 26  
Monica Gomez - Nov 28

### Anniversaries

Jean Porter - 11 years  
Paulette Caraway - 6 years  
Lydia Babbitt - 5 years  
Colleen Franklin - 5 years  
Stanley Stubblefield - 5 years  
Nancy Skochdopole - 3 years  
Kimberly Scott - 2 years

## Enrollment Services Highlights

### Enrollment Verifications ONLINE!

The Registrar's Office is pleased to announce that we have a new feature for students in the Student Center of Access.SMU. Students can now log in and obtain their Enrollment Verification online beginning the first day of both the fall and spring semesters. They can do this 24/7, whenever Access.SMU is available. This feature was made available to students on October 29 and all current students were notified via email. Summer enrollments will not appear on Enrollment Verifications printed from the Student Center, however, students can still obtain these by emailing [registrar@smu.edu](mailto:registrar@smu.edu) or stopping by the Registrar's Office.

### Mid-Term Grade Results

Mid-Term grading recently came to a close and the results are in! Faculty are asked to provide deficient mid-term grades for all undergraduate students who have earned less than 60 credit hours. This includes all new first-years, continuing first-years and

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**The Information Processing Team** - Shannon Grandberry, Manager and Shereetta Robertson, Assistant Manager with the IP Specialists - Joanne Martinez, Chante Chatman, Fernando Del Rio, their student workers and temporary staff are doing an AMAZING job keeping up with the applications for undergraduate admission. Some days have been so busy that all the envelopes were not opened before more arrived. Keep up the GREAT work!

**Enrollment Resources Team** - To help IP during this extraordinarily busy time, the staff in Enrollment Services has provided assistance in preparing mailings while talking to folks on the telephone. Multi-tasking always has been a talent of the Enrollment Resources staff. Thanks for the extra hands.

**Melissa Stanford, Veronica Decena, and Mitzie Goff** - Congratulations and thanks! I'm glad we are able to get this under the wire [e Enrollment Certification]. This is wonderful news. This will provide improved service to our students and alumni, as well as save us a lot of staff time. Melissa, a particular thanks to you for leading the way.

**Paola Sotomayor** - Thank you for the information [on an student account]. I also want to say to you that Amy is having a wonderful experience at SMU. We are so grateful for the many kind people we have met who work at SMU. Each and everyone of you are a true blessing. *Happy Dad*

**Charles Harper and Walter Jimenez** - On this Veterans Day, thank you for your service to our country! If I miss a Veteran, thank you as well!!

**Bursar's Tech Team** - I just had a parent call and after I walked him through SMU Pay he said, "Y'all are making improvements! This is great! You are making it easier on us to pay."

**Kelly Milazzo and the ER Team** - You guys sure do make this easy. The fact that when I call somebody answers! It makes it so easy!

**Cindy Luetzow, Cheryl Swift, Colleen Franklin** - It truly is a team effort. . . Thank you so very much for your help in this matter [loan certification to clear a balance]. I really don't understand what is happening and why it's happening this way [slow turn around from Lender]. Thank you for your time and

## Holiday Luncheon



Mark your calendar  
December 8, 2010

### Important Dates

Nov. 23 - Last day to withdraw  
Nov. 24 - no classes  
Nov. 25-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday  
Dec. 6 - Last day of instruction  
Dec. 7 - Reading Day  
Dec. 8-15 - Final Examinations  
Dec. 18 - December Graduation

### Quotation of the Month

It is singularly stupid not to make yourself ready for anything that could happen. In my own memory, time has never stopped.

*Jim Harrison*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

What was unique about graduation in 1922?

### Answer

The first Bachelors of Science were awarded. Augustus William Foscue participated in graduation and received his degree. However, Jeffrey D. Hoy, also completing work on the BS, opted to go fishing and received his degree in the summer of 1922.

## Transfer Advisory Committee Hears Assessment of Fall 2010 Recruitment

Reporting to the Transfer Advisor Committee at its fall meeting, Nancy Skochdopole share accomplishments and challenges.

SMU had 303 deposit paid transfer student for fall 2010. Thirty-seven of these student were first-year transfers and 266 were transfer student with thirty or more transferable credit hours. Nancy reported, sixty percent transferred from 2-year institutions and forty percent from 4-year institutions. Forty-one percent of the transfer student reported ethnicity other than white. Fifty-five percent of the students were female and forty-five percent male. The students came with an average grade point average of 3.3.

sophomores as well as new transfers and readmitted students, regardless of the 60 earned credit hours limit. (Deficient grades are C- and below.)

One thousand two hundred forty-three (1,243) rosters were generated. Eight hundred twenty-two (822) rosters were graded. Four hundred twenty-one (421) rosters were NOT graded. Six hundred seventy-four (674) letters were sent to students with deficient grades.

#### **Bursar's Office asked to teach Wellness**

As SMU retools the University Curriculum (GEC), it is looking at the first year experience including the Wellness credit in Choices I. The hope is that through Choice I, students will be equipped to succeed in all areas of college life -- including financially. The Bursar's session will focus on Financial Wellness. It will cover financial planning with regard to a student's college education, budgeting, and debt management. Pat Woods, University Bursar, is pleased to provide proactive information to keep students progressing towards their goals.

#### **Transfers from SMU Evening Degree Program**

Current students in the Evening Degree Program wishing to transfer to a regular degree program must apply for admission through the regular transfer process. Nancy Skochdopole, Director of Transfer and Transition Services, is the point of contact for these students. Nancy will coordinate with UG Admission, the Registrar's office, and the school to which the student wishes to transfer.

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consideration.

**Jerrod Harrell** - I just wanted to take a moment to let you know how pleased I am to have received such quality service from Jerrod. I called today, with continued concerns about my aid refund. Jerrod assured me he would check into the issue and return my call. And he did just that and more!!! He returned my call with information about the status, answered my questions that relieved any worries and/or confusion and checked to see if it was too late to sign up for direct deposit. Because of Jerrod's exemplary service I not only learned that my refund is being processed, but also that I could sign up for direct deposit and receive the refund shortly. Jerrod was pleasant and dealt with me with great patience and a sense of humor I truly, truly appreciate how he handled my request for assistance today. He is a class act.  
*A VERY Happy Student*

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#### **Talent Show - Shows Off DES Talent**

The Staff Association Annual Talent Show featured several Enrollment Services staff. Under the leadership of Gretchen Voight, Staff Association President, and Darrah Rippy, Staff Association Vice President, the new Mack Ballroom was filled with music and laughter. John Hall, hurled one-liners as he served as the MC for the show, Laura Ries shared her stand-up comedy, and Damon Wilkins explained darkroom techniques he used in his photography exhibit. Former Enrollment Services "boss" Tom Tunks wowed the audience with his Michigan Magic Show.

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Accomplishments stated in the summary report to the committee were: Increase in interest, diversity of students, improvements in admission process, new resources, and added programming for transfer students. Nancy reported a 25% increase in prospects and a 9% increase in applications. The transfer class for fall 2010 is 41% students of color, topping last year's 35% diversity. Processing time for completed applications was shortened to 7.6 days including only 3.2 days to generate a Transfer Evaluation Report. Expanded information resources are provided for prospective student and admitted students through the "Quick Connect" and "Quick Transition" series of sheets to help student plan their move to SMU. Two new organizations have taken root at SMU, the Mustang Transfers and Tau Sigma National Honor Society.

Challenges that face transfer students and are priorities for the Transfer and Transition Services office are managing the cost of an SMU education, finding housing for transferring students, and working with the schools to assist student access majors.

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#### **J Term Changes Ceremony Policy**

J Term, classes taught at SMU-in-Plano between the first of January and the opening of the spring term, has changed the Commencement Participation policy, announces University Registrar, John Hall. Students completing all requirements for their degree following J Term may participate in the December Graduation ceremony.

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