

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 8 October 2010



Staff News from DES

NEW STAFF

Mary Ann Frye - Bursar's Office
Federico Munoz - Bursar's Office
Jeremy Parrish - Bursar's Office
Tiffany Hawkins - Permanent P/T - Bursar's Office

STAFF LEAVING

Nada El-Sayed - Registrar's Office

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Birthdays

Leslie Day - Oct 5
Hilary McIlvain - Oct 7
Lori Atkinson - Oct 9
Barbara Waters - Oct 10
Stan Eddy - Oct 15
Veronica Decena - Oct 25
Sharla Coursey - Oct 26
Melissa Stanford - Oct 26
Colleen Franklin - Oct 30
Joe Davis - Oct 30
Marc "the ghoosh" Peterson - Oct 31

Anniversaries

Penny Griffin - 7 years
Walter Jimenez - 5 years
Yaw Bonsu - 5 years
Courtney Barrett - 3 years

Enrollment Services Highlights

Constitution Day

Enrollment Services participated in two celebrations of Constitution Day. First was a reenactment of the signing of the Constitution in the Hughes-Trigg Commons. Federal law requires all institutions of higher education receiving federal financial aid recognize September 17, commemorating the day the document was signed. Two SMU Financial Aid staff members join two "colonials" at the event.

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

The Bursar Tech Team ROCKS! - the new eBilling and ePayment system through NelNet Business Systems is wonderful. We have dreamed of online, real time student account information and you have made it happen. Families as well as staff using it will be thrilled. Congratulations!

Tali Koerner and SMU Integrated Marketing for their work on the new Admission website. Eight members of the Integrated Marketing team shared their particular expertise, but special thanks goes to Tali, who worked tirelessly throughout the project and was up at 1am reviewing the final pages. All the best, Ben Alexander.

Gretchen Voight, Cate Hamilton, and Paley Wu - This new Academic Ceremony Symbols & Traditions web site developed by Gretchen, Cate, and Paley is a terrific compilation. Good work team. *Bonnie Wheeler*

Shahnaz Khaja - Thank you so much for everything you do!! You have been so instrumental with our new employees and helping us accomplish our basic business needs. I really do appreciate you.

Byron Lewis - Thanks for responding to our request for the calendars so quickly and for providing the updated territory list. It should be a good and busy year for all of us.

Mitzie Goff - Thank you for staffing the service counter on Saturday morning during the Admission Information Session, Stephanie [Dupaul] reported that she felt that this made a big difference.

Paley Wu - I don't know if anyone has told you this lately, but you're AMAZING. Thank you for always fixing our web problems promptly and with a smile! I'm not sure what RO would do without you. Thank you for all you do!

Laura Ries - you are awesome! Thank you for responding so well to my requests to delete imaged documents.

Academic Ceremonies Never Rests

Commencement may be nine months away, but that does not mean that this is downtime in Academic Ceremonies. Gretchen Voight,

Holiday Luncheon



Mark your calendar
December 8, 2010

Important Dates

Nov. 1 - Enrollment begins for Spring 2011
Nov. 5 - Last day to drop
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

There are two kinds of brave [people]. Those who are brave by the grace of nature, and those who are brave by an act of will.

Norman Mailer



SMU Trivia

Question

A follow up question regarding Dallas College. What was Arvilla Bryant's role for Dallas College?

Answer

Arvilla Bryant was the Registrar. She not only conducted registration, but collect money, collected grades and kept her own records.

Transfer Admission Covering the Metroplex!

As Undergraduate Admission hit the skies in search of the first year class of 2011, Transfer Admission and the Office of Transfer and Transition Services has hit the road around the metroplex. Area Community and two-year College are hosting College Fairs. With the multiple campus of the Dallas and Tarrant County Colleges, as well as Collin and Navaro, staff are crisscrossing to share information with prospective students. In some cases, students are participating in Mustang Express Decisions in which as student can receive provisional admission for the spring term contingent on his or her final transcript.

This year the staff is armed with a wonderful



Colonial, Meredith Dawson, Colonial, and Melissa Guerra.

Later on September 17, Nancy Skochdopole and Deanie Kepler invited student veterans to an Ice Cream Social in the Blanton Building. Nancy and Deanie are on campus contacts for veteran's services through Enrollment Services and the Dean of Student Life Office. This informal setting allowed veteran students to meet one another and to meet staff.

Transfer and Transition Services

Year two of the office of Transfer and Transition Services introduces a new student organization to the SMU campus - Transfer Mustangs. Twenty undergraduate transfer student attended the organizational meeting for the group. They affirmed the need for the organization and elected officers. Second year transfer student Veronica Winans became the organization's president. The group also brainstormed ideas for the group. Advisor Nancy Skochdopole told students, "this group is yours to make what you wish."

think SUMMER?

The SMU Summer School office began work on Summer 2011 just weeks after the opening of the fall term. Working with promotion of J Term, SMU Abroad, and SMU-in-Taos, information was provided to families attending Family Weekend. SMU Abroad offered an information session introducing the theme "Go Beyond." A compact audio disc of music from the Mustang Band and the Meadows Symphony was given as favors at the Mother's Club luncheon and those attending the Dad's Club BBQ were given coasters with the logos of the four programs.

This year the Summer School office is asking students to think outside of the regular terms - fall and spring - bringing attention to the non-traditional programs through SMU Abroad, SMU-in-Taos, J Term, and the three summer terms on the main campus.

Director of Academic Ceremonies and Assistant Registrar, continues to enhance information regarding academic ceremonies at SMU each year. This summer and fall, Gretchen with Cate Hamilton and Paley Wu added a wonderful new section to the ceremonies website, "Symbols and Traditions." This site allows the accessor to learn about the origin and meaning of regalia and SMU's use of academic dress. In addition the site explains Gonfalons, the Lantern, the Mace, the President's regalia and medal as well as the various SMU seals. In addition, Gretchen brought recognition to SMU's ceremony traditions through the website <http://gradmemory.wordpress.com/> a site used by ceremony professionals to share ideas.

In preparation for December Graduation, Academic Ceremonies sponsored the Graduation Fair in conjunction with the SMU Bookstore. Graduates could order regalia, class rings, invitations, announcements, and sit for a professional graduation photograph in Cap and Gown. Participating graduates were entered in a drawing if they visited representatives of all the vendors present.

Put December 18, 2010 on your calendar for the December Graduation Ceremony.

DES en Espanol

As reported in the September Newsletter, Enrollment Services is speaking Spanish. Each area has an initiative to provide more Spanish language sites making the web a better resource for our Spanish speaking families.

Undergraduate Admission will provide a number of pages in Spanish so that families can better navigate the admission process. Financial Aid and the Bursar's Office are translating their Frequently Asked Question into Spanish and will provide some "uTube" type videos in Spanish. The Registrar's Office has the Google Translator on its pages. Viewers can select from 27 languages.

binder of information which provides "Quick Connects" for each college, for general education, and for veterans. Quick Connects are one page, front and back, that outline admission procedures and requirements, information on academic programs, and a reverence list of course conversions designed for each specific college. Prospective transfer students can easily match their course work with requirements at SMU. This has provided information to students not available on site in the past. One staff member remarked, "this is great. I had a student identify as a veteran. I was able to give him our Quick Connect with all the information he needed."

Thank you Goes a Long Way

SMU's practice of assessing progress of first year students in time to provide academic support, requires faculty to report grades at mid-term in the fall and spring. This year, Anthony Tillman, Assistant Provost and Retention Officer, sent thank you e-mails to faculty reporting deficiencies for first year students. Faculty responded with simple, "You are very welcome." to "Thank you, Tony. It's part of my job." to "What a good idea to communicate with instructors this way!" and "I think it is critically important and I am concerned about my students." John Hall stated, "Many thanks to everyone for making this happen. It was a nice team effort, with nice results." Hall thanked Tony for sponsoring the thank you notes and Shahnaz and Paley for getting the notes to the faculty.

Hall as always is looking for enhancements for next time -- suggesting additional personal touches to show appreciation for this important but time consuming effort by the faculty.