

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

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Staff News from DES

NEW STAFF

Allie Bures - Admission
Andrew Galloway - Admission
Jill Branson - Admission
Chris Cornell - Financial Aid
Christy Tanton - Admission
Joseph Knight - Financial Aid
Kelly Wyper - Admission
Luisa del Rosal - Admission

STAFF LEAVING

Angela Mejia - Bursar
Laura Del Rio - Bursar
Monica Juneau - Bursar

STAFF PROMOTIONS

Bill Chandler - Business Systems Analyst
Cindy Luetzow - Associate Director II
Cruz Lopez - Sn. Business Systems Analyst/Module Lead
Gina Kelbert - Financial Aid Advisor
Lydia Babbitt - Assistant Director
Marcia Miller - Associate Director II
Sharla Coursey - Associate Director III
Walker Self - Sn. Financial Aid Advisor
Yaw Bonsu - Business Systems Analyst

Birthdays

Rod Del Rio - Sept. 1
Kathleen Hayden - Sept. 11
Melissa Guerra - Sept. 24
Monica Cordero - Sept. 26

Anniversaries

Barbara Waters - 25 years
Jackie Wilborn - 20 years
Cruz Lopez - 12 years
Stan Eddy - 10 years
Darrah Rippy - 10 years
Daniel Herrera - 7 years
Bill Chandler - 7 years
Shereeta Robertson - 6 years
Kerry Schneidewind - 3 years
Leslie Day - 1 year

Enrollment Services Highlights

AdvantEdge - is paying off. As reported in earlier DES Newsletter, the University Bursar's Office purchased AdvantEdge to assist in Managing Collections. This summer and fall, the Account Resolution staff are doing a great job with the tools that AdvantEdge provides. In August the team has collected over \$177,000 with a daily average of

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



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

Jean Porter - for her amazing customer service to a student in need. Jean dropped what she was doing for a student and got him what he needed with no questions asked. This is just one of the things that make me happy to work at SMU . . . I get to work with colleagues who care so deeply about our students and their wellbeing. *Lisa Webb, Dean of Student Life*

The Bursar's Refund Team - Great job in generating \$1,035,109.97 in refunds in one day. Not to mention meeting the compliance deadline of 14 calendar days. Even though not every student can receive his or her refund the first day, they all receive them within Title IV deadline. *Pat Woods*

The Transfer Team - Nancy, Kim, Monica, and Abbi. Many thanks for the excellent event yesterday [signing Reverse Articulation Agreement]. I think it represented SMU very nicely, and certainly let DCCCD know how much we value our relationship with them. Thank you for all you do. It is a pleasure working with you. *John Hall* Nancy - I just wanted to let you know how well I thought everything went yesterday. I was so impressed by the attendance from your university. Everyone was so hospitable and warm. The students were a wonderful addition. Their stories make you remember why you do your job. *Maureen Moore, DCCCD* Mrs. Skochdopole - Thank you again for inviting Daniela [Balderas] and I to participate in yesterday's event. I truly feel privileged to have been chosen to speak as a successful transfer student. *Dylan Lewis, SMU students*



© 2010 SMU
Signing Ceremony
SMU & DCCCD Reverse Articulation Agreement

Charmissa Ajakaiye - Thank you for your kindness and patience during the past few months. I am such a rookie and it is nice to have your help! I really appreciate all that you do. God Bless you and your family. *Happy Mom*

October DES Meeting



Mark your calendar
October 6, 2010

Important Dates

Oct. 11-12 - Fall Break
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

I believe there is an old answer for every new problem, that wise whispers of the past are with us to assure us that if we just listen and remember, we are not alone; we have been here before.

Victor Hanson



SMU Trivia

Question

What was Dallas College?

Answer

Dallas College was the name of the Division of Extension Courses begun at SMU in 1922.

The name was adopted in 1934, evolved into the Evening college then Evening Studies and dissolved into the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human development. The College was located in downtown Dallas at Akard in the Easterwood Building. It offered SMU degree programs in evening -- primarily business. Unlike evening courses today, Dallas College produced thousands of hours of credit.

Two Speakers - Same Message

For the second year in a row, Dr. Bertice Berry spoke to the entering new students attending Mustang Corral. Her delivery uses humor to illustrate an insightful message - seek your purpose. Dr. Berry explains that purpose is not your job, it is your calling. Of course, it is wonderful if your job incorporates your

\$11,063. Staff work with former students to design a payment plan to resolve these outstanding balances.

Enrollment Services goes International - The Registrar's office has Google Translate function added to the website of Transfer and Transition Services and to the Academic Ceremonies web sites. As John Hall pointed out, "Google Translates enables a reader to convert the page to one of 39 different languages with the quick click of the mouse." This is not a perfect translation but gives the overall meaning of the page. The University Bursar and Financial Aid are translating the Frequently Asked Question into Spanish - translated by two native speakers, Cindy Castro, University Bursar staff and Mini Chihuahua, Financial Aid. Throughout the fall term, several of the FAQs will be offered in a Spanish language video format similar to uTube. We hope that our many students and families will find these innovations to be welcoming and informative.

Office Communication System (OCS) - is piloted in Enrollment Services. OCS is a new communications system used with Outlooks. The Instant Messaging (IM) application is in use in Blanton to facilitate customer services. OIT provided a demonstration of IM and introduced many other features of OCS which will be rolled out across the campus in the coming months. Thanks to OIT, Joe Papari, and Paley Wu for making this possible.

The History of Commencement - is available online at the new Academic Ceremonies Web site. It includes notable symbols and traditions of SMU ceremonies currently. Over the next several months more photographs of past ceremonies and dignitaries, a history of commencement speakers, an inventory of commencement programs, an explanation of academic colors and robes, and a history of SMU's chief marshals will be added. Check it out at www.smu.edu/ceremonies.

Opening Convocation Video - watch it at http://smu.edu/registrar/Opening_Convocation/

Transfer students trade-in their t-shirts from former school for an SMU t-shirt.



SMU Welcomes new Transfer Students
Shirt says, "I have arrived."

Mary Compian - Thank you very much for your quick response. As usual, you have a great team. SMU as a whole, Registrar's office in particular, deserves every admiration for prompt and appropriate response/communication. We appreciate your help and cooperation. *Chief Director, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals.*

Paulette Caraway - you were so kind to assist my husband and I even before your office was open. And for waiting as we went to the ATM to get the needed funds. Thank you. *Happy Parents*

Sylvia Wiseman - If no one today has told you what great work you do, let me do it. Thanks for turning this around so quickly and efficiently. I want to thank Susan for allowing an exception to be made in the number of hours allowed from Andrew's year at Oxford. *Jim Hopkins*

Walter Jimenez - you continue to amaze us with your ability to resolve these very old balances from the past. August you collected over \$120,000 in outstanding balances. Wow!

Three Recognized by SMU Letterman's Association

Our very own **Marc and Jan Peterson** were recognized as honorary SMU Letterman [people] at the Letterman's BBQ the Friday night before the UAB football game. Both Alumni of SMU, the Petersons are what the sign on the first floor says, "True Mustangs bleed Red and Blue." Marc and Jan have been active Mustangs and supporters of all athletic teams since their days in Oklahoma. Sponsoring Oklahoma recruiting events at their home, they welcomed any SMU student who needed a smiling face or a good meal. Each Thanksgiving, Marc and Jan host the SMU Women's Basketball team at their home for dinner. Give Marc and Jan a Pony high five when you see them. They deserve it and more.

A member of the 1995 SMU Women's Soccer team, **Courtney [Linex] Barrett** and her teammates were honored at The Annual Letterman's Reunion. The 1995 Women's Soccer team compiled a 23-1 record, SWC Championship, and No. 3 final ranking in the ISSA poll in the best season in program history. Courtney received her Bachelor's degree from SMU in December 2009 and works in the office of the University Bursar. After leaving SMU in the mid 1990s, Courtney played professional soccer in South America. Pony Up for the 1995 SMU Women's Soccer Team and Courtney!

The Face of UG Admission

Undergraduate Admission hit the road at the end of August with many new faces. Under the leadership of Interim Dean Stephanie Dupaul, Admission's sights are on the top tier of U. S. Colleges and Universities. With the assistance of Royall & Company, staff will focus on academically gifted students and an expanded pool of high achieving, diverse students. The Provost and the Board set high expectations for the years prior to the university's centennial.

Transfer Dinner

Over 50 new transfer students met for dinner in the Blanton Building on September 9th to begin their life as Mustangs. A joint event with Student Life, Transfer Admission, and Transfer

purpose. She goes on to say, "Walk with purpose and collide with destiny." Sharing her personal story, she tells that once a high school teacher looked beyond her attitude and saw her potential, Dr. Berry began to find her purpose through "miraculous accidents."

Student asked Dr. Berry how to find one's purpose? Was one's purpose pre-destined or discovered?



Dr. Bertice Berry (center) with students at Mustang Corral

Reverend Steven Rankin, Chaplain to the University, gave insight into finding one's "passion" or purpose in his sermon "Passion for God: Who Knew?" at Perkins Chapel on September 5th. He said that one's passion is an "abiding interest." Something around which one organizes one's life. If one's purpose or passion is to innovate, the person may discover he or she looks to improve anything and everything.

Both Berry and Rankin shared that examining "why me, why now" can begin to uncover one's purpose. What motivates me to do what I do? What is the thread that runs through my life? What is my vision and plan for my life?

Learn more about Dr. Berry at <http://www.berticeberry.com/> and join Rev. Rankin at University Worship at 11am on Sundays at the Perkins Chapel.

Ninety-five and Counting

On August 22, 2010, SMU began its 95th year. As we count down to the centennial, history comes into focus. The most academically gifted first year class joined the SMU community in one of the largest entering classes. One thousand four hundred and eighty-six first year students and 285 undergraduate transfers were welcomed at the Opening Convocation in McFarlin Auditorium. New students passed through Dallas Hall and filled the 1,200 seats on the floor in McFarlin. Even in over 110 degree heat, students eagerly participated in the traditional Rotunda Passage.

Not only is the entering class, larger and smarter, it is more diverse. Twenty-six percent of the first year class report ethnicity other than white. Three hundred twenty-one of the first year class are SMU legacies and forty-five percent are from Texas. Thirty-one new Hunt Scholar were selected and forty-six President's scholars.

As exciting for the SMU community was the announcement in the *US News and World Report* ranking SMU 56th among national



Lisa Webb, Dean of Student Life, Ashley Stone, Assistant Director of New Student Orientation, Nancy Skochdopole, Director of Transfer and Transition Services, and Abbi Pfister, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission/Transfer Students

and Transition Services, student brought t-shirt from their transfer institution and replaced it with a SMU t-shirt declaring that "I have arrived." Students had the opportunity to meet each other and to identify staff who can assist in their transition to SMU.

Through the office of the Dean of Student Life, Ashley Stone will continue her relationships with these students in her role providing Student Support Services. Nancy Skochdopole will continue to encourage students to become active in the Transfer student groups and Tau Sigma, the Transfer Student Honor Society.

universities, a jump of 12 spots from 2009.
