

# 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 X, Issue 1 January 2011



## Staff News from DES

### NEW STAFF

**Deena Nadig** - Undergraduate Admission  
**Issac Reddic** - Financial Aid

### STAFF LEAVING

### Birthdays

**Darrah Rippy** - Jan. 5  
**Shahnaz Khaja** - Jan. 23  
**Jaynell Dalby** - Jan. 28

### Anniversaries

**Lorinda Lamb** - 19 years  
**Monica Cordero** - 16 years  
**Pam Fincher** - 15 years  
**Marc Peterson** - 12 years  
**Shannon Grandberry** - 10 years  
**Melissa Stanford** - 3 years  
**Myriah Garcia** - 3 years

## Enrollment Services Highlights

**Early Action** - Monday, December 17th at 11:15am, the Information Processing staff and Undergraduate Admission filled the mail with Early Action letters to prospective students. After considering a record number of completed applications for early action, 2800 prospective students were offered admission to the class of 2011. Invitation also were sent to admitted students who will be considered for President's and Hunt Scholarships. On the deadline to accept the invitation, over 600 emails flooded into the UG Admission mail box with applications and attachments.

**National Clearinghouse Self Service** - December 2010, the second month of Self Service through the National Clearinghouse, 831 students accessed the system to request various services. Among other things, 118 enrollment certifications were generated.

**DES en Espanol** - although progress on the website is slow, DES en Espanol has taken a big step forward. Families are able to request a Spanish speaking staff member in Enrollment Resources (the DES call center. Both Irma Herrera, Associate Director and Daniel Herrera (no relation), Enrollment Resources Specialist are native speakers. Irma reported her first call after the holiday break. She said, "Speaking to families in their first language project a welcoming atmosphere and better ensures understanding."

## VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

**Student Financial Operations Team** - I just wanted to take a second to brag on the team! Our Title IV [refund] list had 286 accounts on it today. The majority of the list was GCOX disbursements (257 to be exact). After having training this morning, the team was able to complete the entire list this evening [6-8:30pm]. . WOOOHOOO!!! Tomorrow we attach the LAW disbursement. Thanks. *Stephany Coleman*

**Stanley Stubblefield** - I'd like to thank the elves [Stan is head elf] who make the Blanton building look and feel so festive during the holidays! *Stephanie Dupaul*

**Enrollment Resources Team** - cannot tell you how pleased I was to find out that before asked, you volunteer to help Information Processing with the massive amount of mail during December Early Action. Stephanie, Shannon, and Fernando appreciated your assistance.

**Paley Wu** - Thank you for doing this [upgrading and switching to a static IP address]. I think it will improve our service significantly and make the computers in the meeting rooms secure.

**Charles Harper** - I want to give a BIG thank you to Charles Harper. I spent an entire day dealing with a disgruntled parent and Charles made himself available throughout the day to handle all the questions that we needed to ask QuickPay. By the next morning the mom was very pleased with the outcome. Charles there is no way she would have ended up happy without all the help you gave me. I am truly grateful. Thank you so much! *Kelly Milazzo*

**Shannon, Cruz, and Fernando** - I just wanted to let everyone know that the first round of international admission packets were mailed this afternoon [December 23]. I want to send a HUGE THANK YOU to Shannon, Cruz, and Fernando for all their help in entering decisions, running the letters and stuffing packets. I would not have been able to do all this by myself and I really appreciate the help. *Kellen Lewis*

**Gretchen Voight and the December Graduation Team** - Gretchen, I just spoke to yet another parent who said that graduation weekend was just wonderful and so well done. Kudos. *Cheryl Swift* Congratulations one and all! The faculty breakfast and commencement ceremony went very well, reflecting the good, hard work so many had put in. *Harold Stanley* Congratulations! on another successful graduation. At this time of year when we are counting blessings more than usual, I include the chance to work with you among my own. Thank you for your leadership and follow thru in all that you do, but of course, particularly with academic ceremonies. I am proud and pleased to

## February Division Meeting



Mark your calendar  
February 2, 2011

### Important Dates

**Jan. 4-13** - J Term  
**Jan. 17** - Martin Luther King Holiday  
**Jan. 18** - first day of instruction  
**Jan. 24** - last day to enroll  
**SMU** - Spring Break - March 12-20  
**FA** - 60% date for Financial Aid - March 30  
**RO** - last day to drop a course - April 6  
**RO** - first day of continuing enrollment for Summer and Fall 2011 - April 4  
**SMU** - Good Friday Holiday - Apr 22  
**SMU** - Last day to withdraw - Apr 25  
**RO** - last day of instruction - May 3  
**RO** - Final Examinations - May 4-10  
**SMU** - Residence Halls officially close  
**RO** - Baccalaureate - May 13  
**RO** - Commencement - May 14  
**USA** - Memorial Day Holiday - May 30

### Quotation of the Month

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits.  
*Thomas Edison*



## SMU Trivia

### Question

What was the celebration "Peruna's Birthday?"

### Answer

As SMU moves into its Centennial Celebration, SMU Trivia looks back. Peruna's Birthday was a program established by Student Foundation on the 75th anniversary of the founding of SMU. A commemorative plaque hangs at the entrance to the Hughes-Trigg Student Center from the 75th anniversary celebration.

## Summer School gets a close look

It has been four years since the Division of Enrollment Services was given the challenge to increase enrollment in summer programs. Since 2006, enrollment has increased. The head count is up 16% and term credit hours are up 17%.

## SMU Transfer Student Receives Scholarship

On December 17, 2010, Nancy Skochdopole, Director of Transfer and Transition Services, contacted Frank Cusimano to congratulate him on receiving a \$1500 scholarship from the national transfer honor society, Tau Sigma. Nancy wrote, "we are proud of you, we are also very happy to have one of SMU's outstanding students recognized on the national level."

The SMU chapter of Tau Sigma took applications for the scholarship and selected Frank to compete on the national level for the scholarship. Forty-six students from across the country were nominated by their chapters for the scholarship. Nancy was one of the Tau Sigma Advisors to review the submitted applications. The national organization awarded 31 scholarships from the nominees totaling \$27,750 in awards.

Nancy describes Frank as a terrific representative of SMU. He transferred to SMU in the fall of 2009 and is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences and a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry.

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work with you. *John Hall* The feeling is reciprocal here. Brad [Carter] and I have always viewed it to be a pleasure and honor to be in service to the university alongside you [John], Gretchen, Cate, Nancy and all of the Academic Ceremonies staff. *Tom Tunks* Yesterday for graduation I decided to sit in the bleachers at Moody. I really wanted to see what it felt like . . . and I am so glad I did as I got to enjoy the wonderful job that your staff is doing. All the way from organizing crowds to dealing with some "not too nice individuals," they were professional, in an unbelievably cheery fashion. Thanks to you and all those working graduation. What great representatives of SMU. *Ellen Jackofsky*  
**Charmissa Ajakaiye** - Thank you, Charmissa, for your kind help. You make it pleasant to pay a bill! *A Happy Family*  
**Undergraduate Admission** - Congratulations to all! Keep up the great work. *Harold Stanley* Congratulations to the entire team! Thanks for an incredible job under challenging circumstances. My inside sources tells me that there are many anxious high school students checking their mailboxes daily. *John Hall*

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The Strategic Enrollment Management Committee chaired by Dr. Harold Stanley will hear a report at its January meeting. The Summer School staff with the assistance of the University Registrar's Office has collected and analyzed data on enrollment, course offerings, and financial assistance. In addition a literature review of national trends and a survey of current undergraduate students is part of the information collected.

Each of the three programs that compose "Summer School," SMU-in-Taos, SMU Abroad, and courses offered on the main campus have seen changes over the past five years. The Taos campus has had major renovations, upgrading not only the living space but resources for teaching and learning. SMU Abroad has expanded its offering to 300 different courses of study. The main campus has marketed summer school directly to students, their families, and college students in the Dallas metroplex.

Students participating in summer school report they like the smaller classes, more contact with faculty, the compressed time, and focusing on fewer courses. It is the hope to continue evaluating SMU summer programs to better meet our students needs.

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