

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

STAFF LEAVING

Jessica Dixon - Registrar's Office

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Andy Frye - 22 years
Lorinda Lamb - 20 years
Monica Cordero - 17 years
Pam Fincher - 14 years
Marc Peterson - 13 years
Shannon Grandberry - 11 years
Myriah Garcia - 4 years
Deena Nadig - 1 year

Bursar's Office Tackles Financial Literacy

As the U.S. economy fluctuates, concern over debt increases. The national press reports the challenges faced by college students with educational loan repayment that consumes most of their earnings.

SMU University Bursar, Pat Woods, shares the concerns of students and families as they consider how to finance an SMU education. Her staff offers any number of payment options to reduce the amount of loan debt. However, students continue to leave college with the fear of repayment.

Last summer, Ms. Woods was asked if she would work with the Wellness faculty to provide students with a class on Financial Literacy. Faculty and administrators also were concerned with educational debt. Woods welcomed the opportunity and initiated a pilot program conducted this academic year.

Bursar staff working with the office of Financial Aid prepared a class to be taught as part of the Wellness I curriculum which was offered 5 times this fall and 7 classes in the spring term. The class covers Navigating the Financial Aid award process, How to make payments and SMUPay, Hot Topics in Financial Aid, Calculating debit, Rules for repaying Educational Loans, and other related topics. To bring the statistics home to the students, the presentations includes - Beach Ball Financial Trivia - during which students are asked questions about unemployment, debt repayment, and other things to consider when determining how to finance their education. Prizes are given to students willing to venture a guess.

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



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

Kelly Milazzo - I just wanted to write back to tell you guys that you are worth your weight in gold and deserve an award for GREAT service!

Refund Team and the staff of the Bursar's Office - Amazing job on processing the refunds for graduate students. Even though there were some systems glitches, you put in extra hours to ensure that students received their refunds as soon as possible. I appreciate your empathy for these students and their financial needs at the beginning of the term.

Undergraduate Admission - Let me add my thanks to you. I sit here actually contemplating leaving the office before the sun has set. I am feeling a sense of relief that perhaps I have not since I arrived two month ago. You have proven yourselves once again as dedicated to this office and to this university. Most importantly -- you're dedicated to being the best and that's what SMU is about. Nice work. *Dean of Admission, Wes Waggoner*

December Graduation An Unusually Special Time

SMU continuously and consistently provides graduates a wonderful memory of their years at the university each graduation. December 17, 2011 inspired faculty marshal, Patricia Alvey, to write, "Would you convey to the academic ceremonies staff what a wonderful job they do. No place does ceremonies as elegantly as SMU. And I feel sure it's because of those who work tirelessly behind the scenes."

December 17, 2011 also brought two unusually special comments.

Proud father of undergraduate student.
"I am a proud parent of SMU from Johannesburg, South Africa. We are delighted to hear that our daughter shall be graduating on December 17, 2011. My God bless you and the Southern Methodist University. It has been a wonderful experience. [Our daughter] is coming to South Africa to start her Internship at Rothschild in Johannesburg. . . She is keen to go back to SMU to read for Masters Degree in International Economics and I have encouraged her to do so."

President Turner's personal reply stated, "I am delighted that your daughter will graduate with her undergraduate degree. . . It is always good to hear that a student has had a great experience at SMU, particularly an international

February Division Meeting



Mark your calendar
February 1st

Important Dates

Jan. 17 - First Day of Class
Jan. 17 - Payment Due Date IEP
Jan. 19 - Payment Due Date SHED
DR/Counseling, PMBA, GR Cox - Management and Entrepreneurship
Jan. 23 - Last day to Enroll/Drop/Add
Feb. 25 - Financial Aid priority deadline for FY & new Transfer student with complete FAFSA & CSS/Profile
Feb. 17 - Admission & scholarship letters sent
Feb. 20 - Early Intervention grades due
Feb. 20 - Mustang Monday
March 10-18 - Spring Break
March 20 - Payment Due Date Theology
March 21 - Mid-Term grades due
March 23 - Scholars Day
March 24 - Springfest
March 29 - 60% date for federal financial aid
April 2 - Enrollment begins May, summer, August, and fall terms
April 4 - Last day to drop
April 6 - Good Friday Holiday
April 16 - Honors Day
April 23 - Last day to withdraw from the university
May 1 - Last day of instruction
May 2-8 - Final Examinations
May 9 - Residence Halls close
May 11 - Baccalaureate
May 12 - Commencement

Quotation of the Month

The future that we study and plan for begins today.

Chester O. Fischer



SMU Trivia

Question

What were the goals set by the Board of Trustees for SMU's 25th anniversary?

Answer

An endowment of \$5,000,000
a library & a chemistry building, 100 endowed scholarships and 10 endowed fellowships.

Undergraduate Admission Completes Early Action Decisions

SMU offers early actions to prospective first

The response to these pilot classes has been positive. Wellness faculty report the students as excited to hear the presentation and report that the information is valuable to the students. Cindy Castro and Stephany Coleman, staff of the Bursar's office and class teachers, are meeting with the Wellness faculty to receive feedback. Faculty already want the class expanded to cover budgeting.

Next fall Cindy and Stephany will present to over 30 fall Wellness I classes in the hope of reaching 1200 first year students. Cindy commented, "The Bursar's staff appreciates this opportunity to help students and families manage the cost of education."

Registrar's Office Offers Sessions on New Curriculum

January 25 at 11am

January 31 at 11am

Session will review how the new curriculum will be handled in ACCESS.SMU related to the online course catalog, the schedule of classes, class search and the academic record.

Reserve a spot by contacting Teri Gwinn
terri@smu.edu

student so far from home."

A kind gesture shared by a faculty member. "I wanted to write a quick thank you to all of you who were involved in organizing the awarding of David Freitag's posthumous diploma to his parents during the Commencement ceremony on Saturday. It was one of the more proud moments of my being part of the SMU family. While it is perhaps unsurprising that John and Anne Freitag were working hard to stay strong for the rest of the children in their family, there were many indications for them as to how touched they were by the care we extended to them -- from the special diploma we arranged to acknowledge his minor in Sociology, to the awareness that David preferred to use the German pronunciation of his last name (contrary to how the parents themselves pronounce it), and definitely to the standing ovation that spontaneously occurred when they crossed the stage. A number of students have also already contacted me with appreciation for what was done and the class in which it was handled."

These two stories reflect the spirit of SMU as expressed eloquently by Marshall Terry in his Memoir, *Loving U*. Professor Terry restates the view of President Willis Tate that SMU is more than a University, it also is a family.

year undergraduate students seeking to complete the admission process in December. Applications poured in through early December and the undergraduate Admission staff worked long hours to offer admission to the most academically qualified applicants. Admission packets were mailed on December 16th.



Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Stephanie Dupaul, emailed, "Congratulations on getting the packets in the mail. This picture proves that it takes a village -- located at the North Pole, or located on the first floor of Blanton. THANK YOU. The admission packets would not be in the mail today without the expanded group of Enrollment Services elves."
