

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

Raina Watts - University Registrar's Office

STAFF LEAVING

Paulette Caraway - University Bursar's Office

Birthdays

Nancy Skochdopole - March 8
Andrew Galloway - March 27
Katie Stoudemire - March 29

Anniversary

Deveron Ellison - 10 years
Gordon Brannon - 6 years
Fernando Del Rio - 5 years
Paley Wu - 5 years
Joann Martinez - 4 years
Chante Chatman - 4 years
Randy Trevino - 3 years
Elizabeth Neel - 1 year
Anna Lee - 1 year

Honors and Awards Table / Honors Convocation

Beginning March 1, 2012 contacts around the university began entering student information in the Honors and Awards panel in Access.SMU. This previously under-utilized panel is now an integral part in making data collection for Honors Convocation 2012 automated, a more efficient way for the Academic Ceremonies team and Registrar's Office to receive and present data.

Honors and Award information used to be collected in a very basic way; each contact would send an excel spreadsheet with a list of names, ID's and e-mails. This resulted in a multitude of spreadsheets in a variety of styles and layouts for the Ceremonies team to sort through and combine manually. "Each year, our contacts would recycle last year's spreadsheets and just update the names and send it along. Well, it so happened that the same misspelled award names were submitted every year as well!" says Cate Hamilton. Now, the award information is stored neatly in the Honors and Awards table in Access.SMU which will eliminate recurring errors and permit schools, departments and administrators to track and query honor society and departmental award trends.

Melissa Stanford, Senior Business Analyst, helped the Ceremonies team to focus their vision for the project and worked with OIT staff to make the necessary customizations. Customizations to the Honors and Awards panel were made so that an SQR could be run for the printed program. The printed program was a large part of the project that proved to be a challenge because the honors and awards

VIPs - Very Important Ponies



Some of our VIPs this month are:

Transfer Admission Team - THANK YOU so much for your help and efforts for this past Saturday's Transfer Stampede! The event was quite successful and was officially attended by 66 transfer prospects and their families! Your time and effort (on a Saturday, no less) will go towards helping us reach our transfer goals in quantity and quality, so we very much appreciate all you do.

Sylvia Wiseman and Mitzie Goff - I have really enjoyed working with both of you and I am sure our paths will continue to cross, just not as much. Thank you for all the clarity and support you gave the records [Dedman] office over the last year.

Eartha Walls - She was very helpful [the first time we talked], and I immediately saved her number in my phone. I have contacted her other times this year, and she is always helpful, sensitive to my need, and responsive. If she does not have the answer, she contacts someone else and follows-up with a response. We will miss SMU next year as my son graduates in May. He has received an outstanding education there, and is he well prepared for his career in sales that he begins in May.

Veronica Decena - Thank you for doing this [adjusting my certification to include the insurance and notifying Financial Aid] for me. I am sorry for the trouble and extra work. I will be graduating in May and so you won't have to do this again for me. Thank you for your service to me during my time here at SMU, you have always been very prompt with your answers and helpful with questions, especially when we thought the GI Bill payouts were going to change last year. I cannot thank you enough, I feel like I have gotten away with something, getting all this paid for.

Commencement Graduation Fair

The Commencement Weekend Graduation Fair was held in the Blanton Building February 23 - 24, 2012. Approximately 800 candidates attended the event and met with graduation vendors such as Balfour, Flash Photography, Herff Jones, SMU Bookstore and Young Alumni. Each student received graduation instructions printed on a stadium cup, and had all their ceremony questions answered by the Academic Ceremonies Team. Each student also had an opportunity to take a photo behind their regalia cutout!

Gretchen and Cate would like to thank staff from the Admissions, Bursar's and Registrar's

SMU Scholars Day



Mark your calendar
March 23

Important Dates

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

Once you are Real you can't become unreal again. It lasts for always.

Margery Williams,
The Velveteen Rabbit



SMU Trivia

Question

Who was the first woman to receive an honorary doctorate from SMU?

Answer

Karle Wilson Baker in 1924. Receiving an honorary Doctor of Letters, Baker, a poet and author, was only the sixth person to receive an honorary doctorate from SMU.

A Proud Moment for SMU Transfer Services

At the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students' annual conference, which was held in Fort Worth in late January, Linda Flores, a fall 2011 transfer from Eastfield to SMU, was selected to serve on NISTS' Transfer Leadership Council this academic year. At the

listed in the program are in an historical and hierarchical order - not alphabetical. To address this problem, a check box indicating that the award would be printed was added to the Honors and Awards panel as well as a sequence number which indicates where the award is to appear in the program. Other customizations included an increase in the number of characters the formal description field could hold and adding the study field to the panel for future data queries and sorting purposes. A special thank you to Melissa for all her work!

Over the course of the project, more than 150 new Honors and Awards were added to the Honors and Awards set-up table and 2 Honor Societies were added to the list of societies recognized on the official transcript - Tau Sigma (Transfer Academic Honorary) and Pi Lambda Theta (Education Academic Honorary).

While the team has yet to run the new SQR for the first time, the data collection process has been very smooth and it bodes well for a great ceremony! Gretchen Voight and Cate Hamilton would like to send out a big thanks to Mitzie Goff, Stephen Forrest, Sylvia Wiseman, Anel Reyna and Sunny Koduvath for their contributions to the Honors and Awards customization project!

The 15th annual Honors Convocation will be held on Monday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. in McFarlin Auditorium. Approximately 500 students will be recognized for their academic achievement during the ceremony. Dr. Jodi Cooley, Assistant Professor of Experimental Particle Physics in Lyle School of Engineering will give the keynote address. For more information, please visit www.smu.edu/honorsday.

Financial Aid Takes a Break

The SMU Financial Aid staff in support of the university's first year enrollment goals, worked exhaustively to ensure that prospective students received an idea of the financial aid award they might receive as part of the admission packet. With the current economic climate, universities know one factor in a decision to pay an admission deposit is the amount of financial assistance a student may receive.

After successfully meeting this challenge, the Financial Aid staff took a break by holding a scavenger hunt within the Enrollment Services staff, reconnecting after several months of hard work.

Offices for their support at the event. This year's fair was truly a DES event and could not have gone more smoothly. A vice president from Herff Jones said, "SMU has the nicest graduation fair and friendliest staff I've seen in all my years in this business. I flew to Texas from Illinois to see for myself what our sales reps have been saying about SMU for the past few years. Nice job!"

New University Curriculum

What is the new University Curriculum? The new UC consists of four main components, Foundations, Pillars, Proficiencies and Experiences, and Capstone. The new UC's focus is on learning outcomes; the student's ability to demonstrate what he/she has learned in a course beyond the measure of a letter grade. *Who will be on the new UC?* New undergraduate students entering the university as of summer/fall 2012, *new first year transfer students summer/fall 2012, *and transfer students entering the university as of fall 2014 will be on the new UC (*Note: FYT and TRN new UC starting term subject to change). Currently enrolled undergraduates will continue on the GEC. The Registrar's Office, in partnership with the UC Steering Committee, has identified a tagging system whereby the UC components will be attached to courses and class sections via the Course Attribute (Course Catalog level UC Component) or Class Attribute (Schedule of Classes UC Component) field.

The Registrar's Office offered two information sessions in late January which covered everything from how the new UC will be implemented from the records perspective from the tagging of classes, to an enhanced Class and Course Catalog Search to make the new UC easily searchable to the SMU community and beyond. The enhanced searches are now available in Access.SMU. A special thank you to Sunsharae Thierry, Darrah Rippey and Anel Reyna (OIT) for all their hard work in bringing this to fruition! The sessions also touched on the academic record where a statement of completion will be stamped on the student's record upon degree completion, and distinguishing which students will be on which curriculum and how Academic Requirements (DPR) will reflect the auditability of the new UC. Scheduling departments have been given the deadline of **June 1** to have all classes tagged in time for July AARO sessions

DES AA will hold demo sessions on April 25th and 26th to review the Academic Requirements (DPR) UC changes.

conference's poster presentation reception on Wednesday night, Linda presented a poster with three other transfers titled "Our Transfer Journey." The following day, Linda returned to Fort Worth and was one of four student panelists in an all-conference Q & A session.

Linda was a wonderful representative of our transfer program! She was articulate and poised and answered many questions about her transfer experience. When asked if she found the transfer process confusing, she mentioned how SMU's equivalency guides and counselors provided a smooth transition. When asked about adjusting to life at SMU, she cited Mustang Corral, the Transfer Welcome Dinner and peer mentor transition activities as all helping her feel welcome. She portrayed SMU's program as transfer friendly and supportive.


There is still more work to do in the transfer area but Linda's comments were encouraging. After attending three days of concurrent and plenary sessions, I think we are on the right track with transfer students and have a strong framework in place compared to other institutions. And if we keep attracting great representatives like Linda, we will have much for which to be thankful!

High Touch at Commencement

All of the information a student or family will need about May Commencement is on the SMU website - smu.esu/commencement. But we do not want to bid farewell to our graduates without offering a personal touch as well.

This May the **Commencement Call Center** will be staffed by the Enrollment Resources Team. This group is the folk who answer over 6,000 calls a month from prospective students, admitted students, current students, alumni, their families, and any number of guests who have questions about SMU Enrollment Services and more.

On Friday, May 11 (Baccalaureate) the Commencement Call Center will be staffed until 6pm. On Saturday, May 12 (Commencement) the Commencement Call Center will be staff from 8am to 4pm. The staff will have information on all of the ceremonies, parking, assistances for persons with disabilities, ideas for restaurants, and will offer congratulations to our graduates and their families.

The Commencement Call Center 214-768-3417  214-768-3417 has been publicized to graduates and their families. Anyone may call from now until May 12th with questions.