



DES NEWS

A publication of the Division of
Enrollment Services



MAY 2015

ADMISSION – BURSAR – FINANCIAL AID -REGISTRAR

IRMA'S UPDATE

April brought many rain storms, but the day of the last admission yield event was beautiful and sunny. Now we wait until May 1st to see how the next entering class shapes up. Early signs are great. As one group of students prepares to join our community, other students look forward to the May Commencement Ceremony. You will notice below that there is now a new Graduation Survey. This tool gives those who invested their time, money and energy at SMU a platform to tell us what we did well and what could be "fixed". These last days of April and all through the summer will be busy times for DES staff members. Encourage each other as diplomas are confirmed, Financial Aid is awarded, money is still collected and admission plans their summer programs and fall travel.

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW

NEW GRADUATION SURVEY

Why?

In order to ensure all institutions of higher learning are providing information

about student achievement to the public, the Department of Education (DOE) now requires institutions to publish, via the web, measures of student achievement that include information about what students will be doing after they leave the institution. The only reliable source of that information comes from students themselves, most often through a survey such as the one going out this year. The reason the survey is required is that we want to provide the best data we can for the greatest number of students possible.

The SMU Graduation Survey is a confidential survey that asks about graduating students' future plans and also about their experiences at SMU. This survey begins with some common questions about what the student will do after graduation, for example, where they will work or attend graduate school. Who will they work for? Where? These questions will help us understand the future plans of SMU graduates and will help us answer questions about what students from SMU do after graduation. Information collected in this section will only be publically shared in an aggregate form.

The survey will also include questions about students' academic experiences in their college or school at SMU. Information collected on academic experiences will be returned to the college or school, where it will be used by the deans and departments in planning for new programs and strengthening existing programs.

How? 1,644 of our students who will graduate in May were sent the survey on April 15th. By April 30th over 1,087 students had completed the survey.

Second Chance?

2nd send: April 27

3rd send: May 11th

Reward? The university will be much better positioned to evaluate SMU from the student's prospective and the students get a free Alumni T-Shirt!



THE QUICK LIST

IMPORTANT DATES FOR MAY

- **May 4:** Last day of Classes!
- **May 6-12:** Final examinations.
- **May 13:** Residence halls close for non-graduating students.
- **May 14:** First day of May term (Dallas/Taos).
- **May 15:** Baccalaureate
- **May 15:** Last day to enroll or add courses for May term (Dallas)
- **May 16:** Commencement!
- **May 17:** Residence halls close for graduating seniors.
- **May 25:** Memorial Day, University Closed!
- **May 26:** Last day to drop a course or withdraw from University (Dallas May Term)
- **May 29:** Examinations (Taos)
- **May 30:** Departure of Students (Taos)

WELCOME NEW STAFF

- Daphne Leibert-Office of the Bursar
- Ali Hoeman-Office of Undergraduate Admission



A Great Reason to Celebrate!



May Birthdays

- 3-Cruz Lopez
- 4-Mini Chihuahua
- 7-Cindy Luetzow
- 7-Stephen Forrest
- 20-Patricia May
- 21-Braunshay Pertile
- 21-Irma Herrera
- 25-Raina Watts

May Work Anniversaries

- 27-Monica Gomez (14 years)
- 28-Joe Papari (35 years)

If we missed your birthday or work anniversary please email iherrera@smu.edu.

DIVISION MEETING

All of DES met to catch up on the latest developments within the department and university, and to award some well deserving members of our community.

Right: **Monica Cordero** receives her award for 20 years of service.



Left/Below: **Nancy** congratulates **Claire Brooks** and **Andy Frye** for their 35 years of dedicated service.



HONORS CONVOCATION

This year's **Honors Convocation** was a great success. It was a packed house, but attendees were not limited to those on campus. In addition to a full McFarlin, there were 949 viewer webcast connections that represent an estimated additional 1,200 viewers. These viewers were from around globe; including Bahrain, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the Netherlands.

Chris Cornell (FA) is the newest DES member to receive the student **M Award**. Chris is a soon to be graduate of the Dedman School of Law. Previous DES honorees include **Ryan Cole** and **Alex Munoz** from the Admission staff and our very own **Stephanie Dupaul** (Administrator Award). Congratulations Chris! Attached to the newsletter is a copy of Chris's second publication.



A BIG THANKS TO THE TRANSFER ADMISSIONS, TRANSITION, AND VETERANS TEAM

“I really appreciate the individual efforts and kindness SMU has shown me. This definitely sets you apart from previous institutions and experience, thank you for that.”

-A grateful entering veteran student



Veronica Decena and **Mitzie Goff** report that SMU passed the VA Education Compliance SMU’s VA files with flying red and blue colors. At the end of the six hour audit of SMU’s VA files, the auditor called the files in perfect condition and asked if she could refer some other universities to us to look at our processes. Many thanks to all who work with VA students and to Veronica and Mitzie for their leadership in this area.

Office of the Bursar staff was ready to help future students and parents at one of the Destination SMU programs.



(left) **Sue, Charmissa, Nicole, and Julio**
(right) **Don, John, Mirjan and Beth** work the tables at DSMU.