December

Commencement was once again a memorable experience for our students and parents and staff, as Stephanie notes in her inspired comment below (page 3). We all enjoyed the Division Holiday Luncheon and many of us enjoyed the first Gingerbread House decorating contest. Who knew we had such talented folks among us! Also in December, the Admission staff sent out the first admission decisions to eager prospective first-years.

On Jan. 13th the Division helped welcome our new spring students through our participation in spring AARO. Now January is almost over and our students are starting to settle into the new term. The admission staff is reading files for those who will get a decision in March. Financial Aid and the Office of the Bursar are still working with current students and gearing up to answer all the questions coming from the 2015 prospective students as well. We are a Division that impacts lives in so many ways! Everyone stay healthy because we still have many busy months ahead. My thanks to Matthew Myers, new to my staff, who is helping me with the newsletter.

- Irma
**A Great Reason to Celebrate!**

**January Birthdays**
- 5-Darrah Rippy
- 6-Beth McConville
- 15-Jeannie McGuire

**January Work Anniversaries**
- 5-Pam Fincher (17 years)
- 7- Melissa Stanford (7 years)
- 10-Andy Frye (35 years)

**February Birthdays**
- 1-Candace Hayden-Jordan
- 1-Mary Jones
- 6-Paley Wu
- 7-Julio Lopez
- 15-Kellen Lewis
- 16-Alissa Cherry-Kirton
- 16-Daniel Herrera
- 16-Eartha Walls
- 17-David Bell
- 18-Chalres Harper
- 19-Joe Papari
- 22-Kelly Wyper
- 28-Cho Kim

**February Work Anniversaries**
- 1-Ashley Griffin (2 years)
- 1-Mitzie Goff (7 years)
- 7-Irma Herrera (41 years)
- 21-Patricia May (21 years)
- 22-Pat Woods (37 years)
- 27- Raina Watts (3 years)

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

**THE QUICK LIST**

**February**
- 3 Last day to declare pass/fail, no credit or first year repeated course grading options. Last day to request an excused absence for the observance of a religious holiday
- 22 Early intervention grades due for first year undergraduate students

**March**
- 9-15, Spring Break
- 24 Midterm grades due for first and sophomore students
- 31 60% point of the term that federal financial aid has been earned if a student officially withdraws from SMU: prior to this date, a partial calculated return to federal programs will be required.

Above: Isaac, Gordon, Penny, Ashley, Mini, and Gina enjoy the DES Luncheon.

Above: Colleen, Jerrod, Joseph, Sherry, and Walker enjoy the DES Luncheon.

Above: Charles, Mirjam, Anna, Angie, and Claudia enjoy the DES Luncheon.
Graduation is more than a team-effort – it is both a sprint and a marathon, and most people only get to see the final sprint. Thanks for all that you did during the marathon of planning and preparation which culminated in such a happy day for our newest alumni. This will be a memory that they, and their families, cherish long after the last fanfare has played. You are memory makers.

-Stephanie Dupaul
OUR OWN CHRISTOPHER CORNELL HAS ARTICLE PUBLISHED

Christopher Cornell has recently had his article, *Reference re Senate Reform and the Supreme Court of Canada's Clarification of the Constitutional Procedure for Reforming the Canadian Parliament's Upper House*, published in Law and Business Review of the Americas. A copy of the article has been included with this newsletter email.

THE INCREDIBLES TAKE FIRST PRIZE IN GINGER BREAD HOUSE COMPETITION

‘The Incredibles’, consisting of Renae Spotser, Kimberly Scott, Todd Chiscano, and Maggie Bradford, took home the 2014 Judge’s trophy during the annual ginger bread house build off. Several other teams competed, and many delicious houses were built.

Right: Christopher Cornell, along with Nancy Skochdopole, Claire Piepenburg, and Joe Papari, assemble their ginger bread house.

Left: Renae Spotser, Kimberly Scott, Todd Chiscano, and Maggie Bradford
Right: Amber Howell, Ryan Cole, Adrienne Montgomery

Above: Stephanie Womack, along with John Emmett, Messeret Fessehai, Veronica Decena, assemble their ginger bread house.
New Staff-Welcome!

- Matthew Myers – ER
- Messeret Fessehai FA
- Nicole Dickson -SA

Staff Leaving-We will miss you!

- Chelsea Shumaker - RO