Welcome to the Hilltop

It’s my pleasure to welcome you and your student to our campus community. This is a special time to be on the Hilltop. We are observing our Second Century Celebration, which commemorates the centennial of SMU’s founding in 1911 and opening in 1915. In 2015 we are celebrating the Year of the Student, 100 years after SMU welcomed its first class.

We have many reasons to celebrate incoming and current SMU students, including their contributions to their communities, their leadership and creativity, and their accomplishments in the classroom and beyond. They bring a breadth of experiences and diverse backgrounds to the University, enriching the campus experience for all students, faculty and staff members. SMU is truly a community of world changers.

SMU provides an educational environment that helps students develop their full potential. In this calendar, you will find information about resources that support your student, such as the Office of the Dean of Student Life, Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center, Office of Engaged Learning, Hegi Family Career Development Center, Chaplain’s Office and Residence Life & Student Housing.

Important health and safety resources include the SMU Health Center, SMU Police and Title IX Coordinator. I ask parents to discuss health and safety issues with your students, including substance abuse and sexual misconduct, which are serious concerns nationwide. All of our community members are expected to “live responsibly” and uphold high standards of behavior. More information is available on SMU’s Health and Safety website, smu.edu/liveresponsibly.

I’m so glad that your family is part of our community and look forward to seeing you on campus. We will celebrate the 100th anniversary of SMU’s opening during a historic Homecoming Week, with a parade, football game and fireworks set for Sept. 26. On Oct. 30-31, the Student Foundation has planned what promises to be a spirited Centennial Family Weekend. Welcome to SMU!

Sincerely,

R. Gerald Turner, President
Welcome, SMU Families

The start of the academic year is always an exciting time at SMU. Our community welcomes new students with the tradition of Rotunda Processional, when incoming students march through the Rotunda of Dallas Hall to the Opening Convocation ceremony. It’s a special and symbolic beginning to students’ journey at SMU, where they will explore new possibilities and paths, while meeting people who will support them along the way.

Encourage your student to get involved and take advantage of the many resources SMU offers. Beginning with their first weeks on campus, students will have opportunities to learn about SMU’s Engaged Learning program, undergraduate research, student organizations, religious life groups, intramurals, leadership training and community service. Encourage your student to visit resident assistants and faculty-in-residence in their Residential Commons, as well as academic advisers and professors outside of class during their office hours.

At the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center, students can find one-on-one support to meet their academic goals, including study skills training, tutoring and writing assistance. It’s never too early to visit the Hegi Family Career Development Center, where students can meet with career counselors to explore interests, skills and internships. Counselors at Counseling Services and the Chaplain’s Office are available to provide students with confidential support regarding their concerns or questions.

Families can stay connected to campus by visiting SMU’s home page, smu.edu, and the website for parents, smu.edu/parents. There you’ll find campus news, academic calendars and links to resources that support students’ well-being. We ask parents to discuss personal responsibility and healthy life habits with their students. On SMU’s Health and Safety website, smu.edu/LiveResponsibly, you’ll find information about substance abuse and sexual misconduct policies, education, prevention and resources.

We’re so glad to have the opportunity to partner with you in support of your student. I wish you and your student a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Joanne E. Vogel, Vice President for Student Affairs ad interim
August 2015

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1

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23 Common Reading Rotunda Processional Opening Convocation
24 Classes begin A-LEC Workshop: Time Management The Big Chill
25 A-LEC Workshop: Time Management Snowball Fight Aug. 25-31 Intramural soccer, golf singles, sand volleyball and basketball registration
26 A-LEC Workshop: Transfer Student Perspective Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service SMUmba Extravaganza
27 A-LEC Workshop: Transfer Student Perspective Light the Night
28 Last day to enroll, drop/add without penalty Last day to elect or waive mandatory health insurance
29 Residential Commons Giant Game Day Outdoor Adventures On-Campus Scavenger Hunt

GET INVOLVED

Research shows that students who get involved in at least one student organization during the first six weeks of class do better academically than students who do not get involved. Discuss activities that may interest your student.

Student Activities advises more than 200 student groups. smu.edu/studentactivities

Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life sponsors more than 30 religious life groups. smu.edu/chaplain

Recreational Sports sponsors intramural activities year-round. smu.edu/recsports

The Community Engagement & Leadership Center provides opportunities for service and leadership training. smu.edu/cel

Events on campus include the Tate Distinguished Lecture Series, performances at the Meadows School of the Arts and exhibits at the Meadows Museum and the George W. Bush Presidential Center. smu.edu
## THE FIRST WEEKS

New freedoms, responsibilities, laundry, classes, friends – the first weeks are filled with new experiences. Students may feel exhilarated, exhausted and overwhelmed all in the course of one phone call home.

**Roommate challenges** are college students’ most common complaint. Be sympathetic, but encourage your student to work things out. Residence Life staff members can help.

Discuss healthy choices and personal responsibility with your student, and review SMU policies regarding sexual misconduct and substance abuse. Find information and resources on SMU’s Health and Safety website.

September is National Preparedness Month, when the SMU community highlights campus safety. In the event of an emergency, information will be posted on twitter.com/SMU and at smu.edu.

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<td>Values and Ethics Lecture: Jerry Greenfield Sept. 15 – Oct. 15 Hispanic Heritage Month Career and Internship Fair</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service SMU Abroad Fair</td>
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<td>A-LEC Workshop: Time Management A-LEC Workshop: Note Taking and Textbook Reading</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service Centennial Countdown Concert</td>
<td>Centennial Commemoration Ceremony Distinguished Alumni Awards</td>
<td>Centerennial Stampede of Service Pigskin Revue</td>
<td>Homecoming Parade and Boulevard SMU vs. James Madison University 100th Birthday Salute</td>
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[smu.edu/housing](smu.edu/housing)

[smu.edu/liveresponsibly](smu.edu/liveresponsibly)

[smu.edu/emergency](smu.edu/emergency)

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**September 2015**

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**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

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[smu.edu/parents](smu.edu/parents)
### October 2015

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<td>Spring SMU Abroad applications due Oct. 1-8 Intramural flag football and whiffle ball registration</td>
<td>SMU vs. East Carolina Tailgate on the Boulevard Outdoor Adventures Skydiving S'mores &amp; Snores</td>
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<td>A-LEC Workshop: Learning and Memory Preferences Undergraduate in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Learning and Memory Preferences Undergraduate in Hughes-Trigg worship service</td>
<td>Maguire Public Scholar Lecture</td>
<td>Oct. 9-11 Mustang Intersections Retreat</td>
<td>Oct. 10-13 Alternative Fall Break Oct. 10-13 Outdoor Adventures Fall Break Trip</td>
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<td>A-LEC Workshop: Research and Research Papers Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Robert Edsel</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Research and Research Papers Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Robert Edsel</td>
<td>A-LEC Workshop: Research and Research Papers Tate Student Forum and Lecture: Robert Edsel</td>
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### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

When midterm exams arrive, some students gain self-confidence as they do well, while others find they are performing below their expectations. Empathize and encourage. Remind students to:

- **Meet with their professors.** Check the course syllabus or professors’ websites for office hours.
- **Visit the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC)** for free tutoring sessions, one-on-one study skills help and test-taking workshops. Students also can make appointments to review rough drafts of papers with English faculty members in the Writing Center. smu.edu/alec

Consider enrolling in the study skills class HDEV 1110 to acquire advanced reading and learning strategies. Make appointments with academic advisers to plan for the spring term. smu.edu/dedman/advise
## Health and Well-being

As students begin preparing for final exams and the holiday season, it’s a good time to remind them of campus resources that provide support.

**Wellness check:** Did your student get a free flu shot at the SMU Health Center? Encourage your student to read e-mails related to the Health Center and attend health education programs, including those led by Peer Health Educators.

[smu.edu/healthcenter](http://smu.edu/healthcenter)

**Counseling Services** can help identify, assess and resolve concerns that may interfere with academic and emotional development, including concerns about relationships, sexuality, eating disorders and emotional problems.

In addition, students who have substance abuse concerns or who are in recovery can find confidential support from trained substance abuse counselors at Counseling Services.

[smu.edu/healthcenter/counseling](http://smu.edu/healthcenter/counseling)

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<td>A-LEC Workshop: GPA 101: SMU Survival Skills</td>
<td>Underground in Hughes-Frigg worship service</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course</td>
<td>Outdoor Adventures Rock Climbing</td>
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<td>Nov. 16-18 A-LEC Workshop: Plan a Successful Finish (attend any one session)</td>
<td>Summer Abroad Programs Fair</td>
<td>Strong Man Competition</td>
<td>Enrollment ends for spring 2016</td>
<td>SMU vs. Tulane Tailgate on the Boulevard</td>
<td>Outdoor Adventures Mountain Biking</td>
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<td>Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Break: No classes</td>
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<td>Celebration of Lights Nov. 30-Dec. 2 A-LEC Workshop: Plan a Successful Finish (attend any one session)</td>
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## December 2015

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<td>Residential Commons close</td>
<td>Dec. 17-Jan. 13 January Interterm</td>
<td>Dec. 17-21 Alternative Winter Break 1</td>
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<td>Dec. 24-Jan. 1: University closed for holidays</td>
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**FINALS AHEAD**

During final exams, encourage your student to make time for healthy study breaks and nutritious meals, such as those provided by SMU Dining Services. Care packages or supportive notes from home are welcomed!

At the Dedman Center, students can swim laps, scale the climbing wall or work out in the 15,000-square-foot fitness area. [smu.edu/recsports](smu.edu/recsports)

Fondren Library, or what students like to call “Club Fondy,” is open around the clock during finals and much of the academic year. [smu.edu/libraries](smu.edu/libraries)

Students can call Giddy-Up, 214-768-1111, the campus security escort service, for a free ride to the library or anywhere else on campus between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. [smu.edu/parknpony](smu.edu/parknpony)

Assess the term with your student. What went right and what didn’t? What are changes to consider for next term?
Many SMU programs allow students to apply what they’re learning to real-world experiences on campus and beyond. Encourage your student to get involved.

Through SMU’s Office of Engaged Learning, students can design their own project in research, civic engagement, internships and creative work, and receive funding and recognition on their transcripts. smu.edu/engagedlearning

Other engagement opportunities for undergraduates include Big iDeas, Undergraduate Research Assistantships, James E. Caswell Undergraduate Leadership Fellows and Maguire Center Public Service Internships. smu.edu/engagedlearning

January Term: Students can get more out of winter break by completing three credit hours in eight days during Jan Term on the Dallas campus and at SMU-in-Taos. smu.edu/janterm

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<td>Jan. 4-13 Jan Term at SMU and SMU-in-Taos</td>
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<td>Jan. 19-25 Intramural basketball registration</td>
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smu.edu/janterm
**WANTED: A MAJOR**

Most college students consider changing their major at least once. Encourage your student to tap into SMU resources to explore majors, careers and internships.

At the University Advising Center for SMU pre-majors, advisers are trained to help students with long-term major and minor planning.

[smu.edu/dedman/advice](smu.edu/dedman/advice)

Career counselors at the Hegi Family Career Development Center administer interest and personality-based assessments, then meet one-on-one with students to help them explore internships and careers.

[smu.edu/career](smu.edu/career)

At the Chaplain’s Office, no appointment is necessary for students looking for conversation and support regarding life goals. Chaplains are trained and experienced pastoral counselors.

[smu.edu/chaplain](smu.edu/chaplain)
Many students study abroad during their years at SMU or take courses at SMU’s campus in Taos, N.M. Spring break also offers opportunities for service trips and academic pilgrimages around the world.

**SMU Abroad** offers nearly 150 programs in 50 countries, with opportunities for research, internships and service. Note: Applications for spring programs are due October 1; summer programs are due February 1; and fall programs are due March 1. [smu.edu/abroad](http://smu.edu/abroad)

**SMU-in-Taos** at historic Fort Burgwin offers classes during the January, May, June, July and August terms. Courses include biology, history and archaeology. [smu.edu/taos](http://smu.edu/taos)

**Alternative Break trips** during fall, winter and spring breaks take students and faculty to communities in need to perform service, including to build trails and work with disadvantaged children. [smu.edu/cel](http://smu.edu/cel)
### April 2016

#### Monday
1. **April 4-7**
   - A-LEC Workshop: Plan a Successful Finish (attend any one session)

2. **April 15**
   - Founders’ Day
   - Sing Song
   - Outdoor Adventures
   - Back-Packing

#### Tuesday
3. **April 4**
   - Enrollment starts for summer and fall 2016

4. **April 5**
   - Last day to drop a course
   - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

#### Wednesday
5. **April 6**
   - Career Fair

6. **April 7**
   - Interfaith Passover Seder Dinner

#### Thursday
7. **April 7**
   - University Day

#### Friday
8. **April 8**
   - Relay for Life

9. **April 9**
   - Enrollment ends for summer and fall 2016

#### Saturday
10. **April 9**
    - Outdoor Adventures

11. **April 10**
    - Honors Convocation and Awards Extravaganza

12. **April 11**
    - Career Fair

13. **April 12**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

14. **April 13**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

15. **April 14**
    - Interfaith Passover Seder Dinner

16. **April 15**
    - Founders’ Day
    - Sing Song
    - April 15-17 Outdoor Adventures
    - Back-Packing

17. **April 16**
    - Outdoor Adventures
    - Kayaking

18. **April 17**
    - Honors Convocation and Awards Extravaganza

19. **April 18**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

20. **April 19**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

#### Sunday
21. **April 24**
    - A-LEC Workshop: Plan a Successful Finish (attend any one session)

22. **April 25**
    - A-LEC Workshop: Plan a Successful Finish (attend any one session)

#### Monday
23. **April 26**
    - Outdoor Adventures

24. **April 27**
    - Outdoor Adventures

25. **April 28**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

26. **April 29**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

27. **April 30**
    - Underground in Hughes-Trigg worship service

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**SPRING IS IN THE AIR**

April is a special month on the Hilltop, when the SMU community recognizes outstanding achievements by students, faculty and staff, as well as the University’s founding.

**Celebrate Founders’ Day.**
The campus celebration with alumni and friends on April 15 recognizes the filing of the University’s charter in 1911. smu.edu/100

**Register for fall classes.**
Students should meet with their academic advisers and can review the undergraduate catalog online. smu.edu/catalogs

**Prepare for finals at the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC),** where tutors can provide help with challenging subjects, including prelaw, premed and engineering. smu.edu/alec

**Take a break with SMU Outdoor Adventures,** which offers camping, canoeing and back-packing trips in Texas and around the country. smu.edu/recsports/adventure
### SEMESTER WRAP-UP

Before students head home for the summer, remind them to forward their mail to their summer address, pay fines for overdue books or parking tickets, and clean their residence hall room or apartment to avoid penalty fees.

**Take a minute to say thank-you** to professors, resident advisers, academic advisers, fitness class instructors and student organization advisers.

**And parents**, give yourselves a pat on the back for:

- Attending AARO or Family Weekend, even if your student said you didn’t need to come.
- Encouraging your student to meet with his or her professors.
- Reminding your students to visit the A-LEC.
- Making sure your student takes responsibility for his or her decisions.

### May 2016

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|        | Last day of classes  
Asian American Heritage Month |        | Reading Day | May 4-10 Examinations  
Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day |        |        |        |
| 8      | 9      | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14       |
|        |        |        | Residential Commons close | Engaged Learning Graduation Luncheon  
May 12-27 May Term on the Dallas campus and SMU-in-Taos | Dorothy Amann Awards  
Baccalaureate | Commencement |
| 15     | 16     | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21       |
|        |        |        |           |           |        |          |
| 22     | 23     | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28       |
|        |        |        |           |           |        |          |
| 29     | 30     | 31      |           | First day of summer full and first sessions |        |          |
Learning goes on throughout the summer, with some students continuing courses on the main campus and at SMU-in-Taos. Others pursue service opportunities and internships.

Summer school, including MayTerm on the Dallas campus, is a great time for students to work on a second degree or minor, or catch up on a difficult subject. Financial aid, campus housing and meal plans are available. [smu.edu/summer](http://smu.edu/summer)

The Summer Business Institute for non-business majors, a monthlong certificate program in June at the Cox School of Business, provides instruction in accounting, marketing, finance and more. [exed.cox.smu.edu/sbi](http://exed.cox.smu.edu/sbi)

The Hegi Family Career Development Center provides access to hundreds of internships on its online MustangTrak. Students can meet one-on-one with counselors to develop a career plan. [smu.edu/career](http://smu.edu/career)
### July 2016

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<td>Independence Day holiday: No classes</td>
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**THINKING AHEAD**

Summer is a good time for parents and students to evaluate how the year went and to set goals for the coming fall term.

The Academic Calendar can help families plan ahead, including for finals, holidays and campus events such as Family Weekend. smu.edu/calendar

SMU’s Common Reading Program is a Hilltop tradition and an opportunity for students to keep their minds engaged during the summer. As part of the program, the campus community selects a meaningful book to discuss with incoming students. smu.edu/commonreading

Discuss opportunities to engage in campus life beyond the classroom. SMU offers programs in which students can research answers to big questions, get involved in the community and hone their leadership skills. smu.edu/engagedlearning

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**smu.edu/parents**
Important SMU phone numbers and websites

SMU
214-768-2000
smu.edu

Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC)
214-768-3648

Writing Center 214-768-3648

Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS)
214-768-1470
smu.edu/alec

Athletics 214-768-4263
smumustangs.com

Bookstore
214-768-2435
smu.bkstore.com

Bursar
214-768-3417
smu.edu/bursar

Calendar
calendar.smu.edu

Career Center - Hegi Family Career Development Center
214-768-2266
smu.edu/career

Chaplain’s Office and Religious Life
214-768-4502
smu.edu/chaplain

Community Engagement and Leadership
214-768-4403
smu.edu/cel

Counseling Services
214-768-2277
smu.edu/healthcenter/counseling

Dean of Student Life
214-768-4564
smu.edu/studentlife

Dining Services
214-768-2367
smudining.com

Emergency Preparedness Parent Info Line
214-768-PARENTS (7273)
smu.edu/emergency

Enrollment Services
214-768-3417
smu.edu/enrollmentservices

Financial Aid
214-768-3417
smu.edu/financialaid

Giddy-Up (free campus rides)
214-768-1111
smu.edu/parknpony

Health Center
214-768-2141
smu.edu/healthcenter

Health and Safety resources
smu.edu/liveresponsibly

International Student & Scholar Services
214-768-4475
smu.edu/international

Libraries
Reference 214-768-2326
Circulation 214-768-2329
smu.edu/cul

Mothers’ and Dads’ Clubs
214-768-4797
smu.edu/momsanddads

Multicultural Student Affairs
214-768-4580
smu.edu/multicultural

Parent Leadership Council
214-768-4746
smu.edu/plc

Parking
214-768-7275
smu.edu/parknpony

Registrar
214-768-3417
smu.edu/registrar

Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH)
214-768-2407
smu.edu/housing

SMU Abroad
214-768-2338
smu.edu/studyabroad

SMU Police
Emergency 214-768-3333
Nonemergency 214-768-3388
smu.edu/pd
Anonymous tip line 214-768-2TIP
smu.edu/2tip
For emergency in progress, call 911

SMU Summer Studies
214-768-3417
smu.edu/summer

SMU-in-Taos
214-768-3657
smu.edu/taos

Title IX Coordinator
Office of Institutional Access and Equity
214-768-3601
smu.edu/iae

University Advising Center
214-768-2291
smu.edu/dedman/advise

Women & LGBT Center
214-768-4792
smu.edu/womenandlgbtcenter

For more information, contact Director of Parent and Family Programs Deanie Kepler at 214-768-4797 or gkepler@smu.edu, or Director of Parent Giving Christi Contreras at 214-768-4746 or cshelton@smu.edu.

Find campus news and resources online at smu.edu/parents.

Follow SMU on Twitter at Twitter.com/SMU and on Facebook at Facebook.com/SMUDallas.

World Changers Shaped Here

Southern Methodist University (SMU) will not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, education activity, or admissions on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. SMU’s commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The Executive Director for Access and Equity/Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies, including the prohibition of sex discrimination under Title IX. The Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator may be reached at the Perkins Administration Building, Room 204, 6425 Boaz Lane, Dallas, TX 75205, 214-768-3601, accessequity@smu.edu. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX may also be directed to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.