

# News From DCA: The Ded-Beat

Dedman College. Minds Moving The World.

Volume 2,  
First Edition



## Welcome to Dedman College!

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All About DCA!

Welcome to SMU and the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences! Dedman College encourages curiosity and challenges conventional thinking. As the oldest, largest and most diverse school on campus, we are the heart of SMU. Dedman College is also home to the humanities, social, natural and mathematical sciences.

Dedman College has 16 departments and over 90 majors and minors. Nearly half of all declared majors and minors are found in Dedman College.

Dedman College Ambassadors (DCA) is a student organization devoted to creating a cohesive and unified Dedman College community. DCA works towards establishing and maintaining a sense of “Dedman Pride” on and off campus while encouraging students to pursue a major or minor within the College.

This newsletter contains the stories, passions, musings and advice of Dedman College students hoping to pass on the wisdom of their experiences to future SMU students.

-Pony Up!

The Ded-Beat is the official newsletter of the DCA. The views represented within are not necessarily those of Dedman College nor of Southern Methodist University. All inquiries regarding The Ded-Beat or any of its content may be directed to [dca@smu.edu](mailto:dca@smu.edu)



# Students Get Hands-On at the Suture Clinic

By Alyssa Eubank, Class of 2014



They're not doctors yet, but in October (for the third year in a row) 40 SMU students gathered in the Dedman Life Science building to learn the finer points of surgical stitching.

Participants in the SMU Suture Clinic learned multiple types of sutures from an Army Reserve surgeon, including when and where to use specific sutures and how to apply them. The clinic is so popular, organizers had to create a wait-list.

Kaplan offered the special clinic to **Alpha Epsilon Delta** (AED) members as a tool to better prepare pre-medical students for real-life situations in medical fields. The AED auctions off a Kaplan prep course during the clinic every year. Kaplan partnered with the Army to bring in all materials and instructors.

Alpha Epsilon Delta is a national society for students preparing for careers in medicine, dentistry, osteopathic medicine, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine, and other allied health professions. There are over 124,000 members in 174 chapters at colleges and universities throughout the U.S.

"We've had a surge of students interested in careers in health care," said **Christine Buchanan**, professor of Biological Sciences and faculty advisor for AED. "Our lectures and clinics give students valuable information they

otherwise wouldn't get."

The prestigious national honor society requires students to take certain classes and maintain a 3.2 grade point average in science courses in order to become a full member. SMU's chapter allows associate memberships to underclassmen who are pursuing a pre-health curriculum.



"We have speakers come in, many times SMU alumni, who understand the pre-med process, and can speak with undergraduate students about medical issues and medical school," says Buchanan. "This includes fun events like the suture clinic."

Enrollment in AED for students who have completed three semesters of pre-medical courses opens in January but monthly meetings with guest speakers or clinics are open to all students.



AED Crest

## The First Year Experience



Featuring Barrett Cole, Class of 2017

Welcome to SMU! My name is Barrett Cole. I am a freshman Hunt Scholar and New Century Scholar from Dallas, Texas. I plan to major in Human Rights and minor in Ethics.

During high school I served over 4,000 volunteers hours to the local community and received the President's Volunteer Service Award. My time in high school also consisted of 4-H, Girl Scouts, Yearbook Editor, Founder of National Honor Society, Varsity Volleyball, Track and President of the Student Government.

In high school I also started a service-learning group for students and am now taking this group city-wide with my own non-profit. I currently serve on local non-profit boards including CONTACT Crisis Line and Girls Advisory Board for Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. I was recently featured in Justine Magazine for my service work.

On SMU's campus I am involved in Emerging Leaders, Mustang Heroes' College Bound Program. As part of the Residential Hall Association, I serve as the McElvaney Hall Vice President of Community Service.

I also participate in Program Council, Student Foundation, Alternative Breaks and the New Century Scholars Advisory Board. I am a Stampede of Service Site Leader and play intramural volleyball.

Last, but not least, I am a Dedman College Ambassador!



# The Cliché College List with a Twist

By Sarah Huff, Class of 2017



Growing up, I was the oldest of three children. Going to college was an experience braved solely on the ancient experiences of my parents and the telltale rumors from my friends with older siblings.

Obviously, I made it to beautiful SMU, and am doing just fine. But, there is one thing I wish I'd had before leaving for college (especially when I was drowning in the daunting task of packing): insight into what exactly I would need for school.

Now that I'm here, some of the things I thought I would never need have become staples. Some of the advice I was given before college has also come in handy more than I could have guessed.



The New Residential Commons!

So here I am, giving you (whomever you may be) a very personal yet hopefully universal and helpful look into the life of a college student. Here is my top ten list of things that you (if you are about to make the journey) should bring to or know about before college.

Stocked on every Target shelf, the ever-so-plastic, pastel colored shower tote is never hard to find. Honestly, this tote will become your best friend. Before arriving I figured carrying my shampoo bottles for a short trek down the hall would be a small

sacrifice I could make. Wrong. My shower tote is the peanut butter to my jelly. It carries all my bathroom essentials in one place and, honestly, it is extremely practical. It doesn't have to be expensive, but it is an extremely useful piece of hardware that I consider a necessity.

The next two things to bring are grouped together, because they are both food items, but stand on their own as equally important things to have. First, if you have early classes every morning, taking the extra effort to get up and walk to Umph (the main dining hall on campus) is not always realistic. Though a full breakfast of cereal and Texas-shaped waffles is a good goal, I have personally found it helpful to have some granola bars or bananas on hand for a quick breakfast in the room. Second, often if I am up late studying I can get extremely hungry. I have found microwave mac and cheese to be the perfect hunger remedy.

One necessity is a little more specific to SMU: bring a lot of red, white, and blue clothing. On game days, students covered in school colors parade down the boulevard to take part in "boulevarding". Though dressing up is not required, I would consider bringing some nicer clothes for these days. At home in Colorado, we wore t-shirts and shorts to football games - it would have been nice to know before coming here that people dress up for football instead of dressing down! Many girls wear sundresses and boys wear button-down shirts!

I'll keep this next one short

and simple. Bring lots of Emergen-C. People are living closely together. People get sick. People spread germs. Be prepared to combat said germs.

In terms of electronic items you might need, I have found two in particular to be helpful: 1) a printer and 2) speakers. I print out various articles and lecture notes almost every night for my classes. Though you can use other printers on campus, it is so convenient to have one in your room. My speakers have been very useful. Personally, I find myself constantly wanting to listen to music. Sometimes it is nice to take a break from homework and listen to music or even to play background noise to tune out a noisy neighbor while doing homework. A little bit of comfort can always be found in some familiar songs.

Not to play the parental role here, but my next two items on the list are actually very important. Trust me! First, learning your professor's office hours is key. Even if you aren't struggling with course material, simply going in and showing your professor that you are interested in the course can really help them understand you as a student and get to know you a little better. They may be much more willing to call on you in class or give you help next time you are struggling. Secondly, being willing and open to learning is beneficial to both you and your grades. There will be classes you have to take that you don't like, it's going to happen.

If you approach each one with the same eagerness you



would approach your favorite subjects with, you will get so much more out of it and your grades hopefully won't take a turn for the worst.

The ninth item on the list, for those of you keeping track of numbers here, is something I didn't necessarily think about before college. Bring flexibility in terms of your daily schedule. My classes differ almost every day. My friends spontaneously text me and ask me to come to random events on campus all the time. Being able to adjust your study schedule or normal eating time from what is typical at home is important; you never know what your day is going to look like at college because there is always so much going on.

Finally, last but not least,

the big finale, my most helpful piece of advice, I give you this. Get Skype on your computer. You are going to want to talk to your family. As crazy as this may sound right now, you will probably miss your family members more than you think. Yes, you will be busy and some weeks it will be hard to make time for them, but talking to your family and friends at home will become a hidden treasure in your day. It will give you a break from college life and anything that may be stressing you out, and allow you to stay connected with the important people in your life from home, whomever they are. Though you are forming a new branch on your life tree (I couldn't help but be a little cheesy), don't be afraid to keep

parts of home with you. They will keep you grounded.

And so I give you my top ten. Take all of my advice, take some of my advice, but trust me when I say that college will be different, better, and more exciting than you would have expected. I just hope to have made your journey a little easier along the way.

Students are no longer the only people living on SMU's Campus...Faculty are too! The **Faculty in Residence (FiR)** creates opportunities for students to know faculty members outside of the classroom and to emphasize a culture of mentorship, intellectual discourse, and community.

## Course Spotlight: Earth and Life

By Sara Jendrusch, Class of 2017



If you love biology or geology, then the Earth and Life course, taught by **Dr. Louis Jacobs**, is perfect for you. Throughout the semester, students in this course experience Earth in its entirety—from the smallest rock to the evolutionary progress of humans. But the most unique part of the course isn't the subject material, it's the classroom. Instead of purchasing textbooks for a traditional classroom setting, students buy a membership to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, a local science museum that has become extraordinarily popular in the year it has been open. The museum is also home to many fossils excavated by none other than Dr. Jacobs himself!

Dr. Jacobs begins this course, which is taught in the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, with a lesson held in the first hall of the museum—the Universe. The lessons continue by moving through



Perot Museum of Nature and Science

four floors, exploring the variety of topics relating to Earth and its living inhabitants. The museum exhibits provide an experience that desks and smartboards simply cannot replicate. After all, how many classrooms allow you to live through a 9.0 earthquake simulation or travel through time to race a Tyrannosaurus Rex? In addition to integrating the Perot Museum into his lessons, Dr. Jacobs also provides his students with the opportunity to see Dallas in a scientific light. Students take field trips to various destinations, including the

Dallas Zoo, the Dallas World Aquarium, and a regional expedition to examine rocks and fossils across the Dallas area.

Regardless of major, the Earth and Life course is an absolute must for anyone who wants to see greater Dallas and take advantage of the Perot Museum. It is, without a doubt, a course with a wonderful professor and an exciting location that any student would be fortunate to take.





# A Guide to the SMU Libraries

By Jaime Shim, Class of 2017

**Bridwell Library:** Upon entering, wings of ancient specialized manuscripts flank the hallway, with a sometime pupil poring over a foreign text. Buffed mahogany desks with triangular lamps emitting a soft glow complement the natural light coming in through the wide windows. For the regular visitor, the place to go is downstairs, where one pass through a short corridor to get to the “general stacks”. The basement is minimalistic; reminiscent of a converted warehouse with blank white walls, exposed pipes overhead, and long strips of fluorescent light. It is a sudden turn from the posh hotel aura on the first floor, but despite the lack of swankiness, here lies the buried gem: moving bookshelves! The sheer childish joy of pressing a button and watching the bookshelves part like the Red Sea is something that is uniquely, and fittingly, found in Bridwell.

**Fondren Library Center:** Both disparagingly and affectionately called ‘Club Fondie’ by some, Fondren is the most frequented library on campus. If one goes to no other library at SMU, one at least stops by Fondren. Fondren is a huge and welcoming place; chock full of study sections with quietly chatting students and shelves upon shelves everywhere. One could get lost here, and many have in their futile search for books—the organization is a tad bit tricky to figure out at first. Easily navigated or not, this place is the best bet for the average student to find the books or movies they want, and resources such as research counselors and multimedia labs make Fondren well deserving of the title of main library.

In addition to the the more traditional libraries on campus, SMU is home to the **DeGolyer Library**, SMU’s primary repository for special collections in the humanities, the history of business, and the history of science and technology. Its rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and other materials are available to all SMU students, faculty, visiting scholars, and other researchers. DeGolyer Library’s holdings of primary sources are complemented by exhibitions, lectures, publications, and other programs With ample campus programming and campus events, DeGolyer is not to be missed!



DeGolyer Library

**Underwood Law Library:** This is the law library, and this fact will never be forgotten while one is inside. Underwood Law is hidden inside the protective nook of the Dedman Law buildings and the message is clear: This is a place for serious scholars. Gold, black, and maroon book sets solemnly line the shelves that have laminated “Quiet Please! Students are Studying!” signs stuck on them and the walls display grim portraits of assumedly notable legal figures. The only sound to be heard is the page turning from older students scattered around the edges of the room, sitting separate from each other and close to the windows that have their white wooden blinds shut. The emergency exit signs here are, notably, a gentle green instead of the red everywhere else. This is an alcove of concentration, designed to minimize stress and panic and maximize knowledge retention.

**Hamon Arts Library:** Right outside the library, a café and a common study lounge are full with people in a warm and noisy bustle. Inside the library, however, it is suddenly quiet and few occupants can be seen among the glossy music and art magazines. Going up to the second and third floors, thick books on the history of the arts cover most of the space in the room and colorful paintings and photograph prints hang on the walls. Past the books at the back of the building, however, is a spacious semicircle of gridded windows that further widens the area. Soft, clean, natural light comes in through these windows to shine on a gloriously peaceful study space that coaxes open the mind.

**Business Library:** The few books dispersed around the room are all focused on business and lean against the couple of shelves next to faux-photograph paintings. Perhaps to make up for the sparsity of text, the room is full of computers everywhere, both school-owned large monitors and privately owned laptops. If one wants to go to a study lounge and have the office cubicle experience all at once, the business library with its Mac computer lab is the place to go. Study rooms with what look like mock meetings going on inside them have business-suited students making presentations. Complete with an attached Investing & Trading Center with stock numbers busily scrolling across the room, the business library exudes an atmosphere of career prep at every step.

**Dedman College Ambassadors:** *Who we are and what we do...*



Dedman College Ambassadors (DCA) is an organization that allows students in Dedman College to get involved in campus programming and across the greater Dallas area. Becoming a member is easy and allows you the opportunity to spread Dedman College Pride throughout SMU. Check us out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DedmanCollegeAmbassadors](https://www.facebook.com/DedmanCollegeAmbassadors) for the latest DCA updates!

# Senior Reflections

*Featuring Bri Evans,  
Class of 2014*



My name is Bri Evans and I am a Senior English Major at Southern Methodist University. I also plan to receive my Texas Teacher's Certification and eventually teach high school English. I am a native of Dallas, TX and am thrilled to be a student on the campus of SMU. Even though I'm close to home, there is so much to do on campus and in Dallas that it doesn't even feel like it!

One way that I've made the best of my three years of experience here (yes, you read that right, I'm graduating an entire year early) is by getting involved on campus. The first group that I became involved with my Freshman year was Mustang '11, an all-Freshman spirit group that paints up for football games and gets to run out on the field before the game starts. That was a very impactful opportunity because it allowed me to get out of my comfort zone, show my SMU pride, and be the face of my class (only 11 students are selected). It also gave me the courage to continue to try new things and support my University.

From there I experimented with an array of student organizations, but there are a few that I have stuck with and to which I have dedicated a lot of my time and energy. First of all, I am a Dedman College Ambassador which means that I am an advocate for Dedman College and the wonderful group that prints this publication! My other involvements include being the President of my sorority, a mentor in the Academic Bridge program (which works in conjunction with the Office of the Provost), Secretary for the Association of Black Students, and a Student Foundation Ambassador for the University. The past two summers I worked in the New Student Orientation and Student Support Office: once as an AARO Leader and once as a Mustang Corral Director.

I have accomplished so much during my time here at SMU and, whether you're reading this as a current or prospective student, the opportunities for you are just as endless!





## Dedman Dog Days

By Kayla Finstein, Class of 2017

Though some might think that the DCA does little more than work admissions events, we actually coordinate other events throughout the semester geared toward the general SMU population. These events are done in addition to things like panels for visiting families and lunches with prospective students.

One such event is Dedman Dog Days. This year, the event brought a local dog and cat adoption center, **Paws in the City**, to the flagpole where they promoted their adoption services and brought dogs for students to play with. Useful for both de-stressing from end of the semester work and for promoting local pet adoptions, the dogs were a hit with both passersbys and DCA members. Many students and faculty members braced the cold weather in order to spend time with the animals and interact with DCA members and Paws in the City volunteers.



Dedman Dog Days was a successful event that received positive feedback and combined community outreach with an increased DCA campus presence. Events like Dog Days truly help DCA build a better Dedman College community and bring together people from different groups across campus. As one of our most cherished annual events, Dedman College Ambassadors looks forward to putting on many more successful Dog Days in the future!



## How SMU Does Holidays

By Tammy Winter, Class of 2017

This year marked the first annual DCA holiday mixer. We set up shop in the M-Lounge in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center and, although the advertised menu said only “light snacks, and hot cocoa,” to the casual observer the food selection must have looked like what would happen if Market Street, Starbucks, and Mustang Donuts opened up a gourmet cafe. From the cheeses to the hot cider and assorted desserts, we had it all. Even better than the food though, was the conversation.

DCA members are committed not only to attracting prospective students, but to forging bonds within Dedman College and the broader SMU community. So, it wasn’t unusual to see professors chatting with students. Beyond that, friendships were born between people who were previously just acquaintances.

After the mixer came the real treat: **Celebration of Lights**. This year’s celebration was loaded with talent. The Southern Gentlemen and Belle Tones teamed up for an incredible remix of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” Charlie Weber serenaded the crowd with a stunning version of “The Christmas Song” and President Turner continued an SMU tradition of reading the Christmas Story. Shannon Conboy sang “Silent Night” as the SMU Christmas tree was lit, capturing the essence of the night: magical. I was struck by just how many people had shown up. From students, to alumni, to Highland Park residents, I was once again reminded of just why it is I love SMU. Carols, celebrations, and lasting memories---that’s how SMU does the holidays.



## SMU Goes Granola

By Aubrey Richardson, Class of 2016

There are three different types of people who can be seen roaming the streets of Taos, New Mexico during the summer: Native New Mexicans, Tourists, and **SMU-in-Taos** students. When Dallasites are out in the beautiful wilderness, the students bond together over the locally grown organic food, the breathtaking scenery, and all of the wild adventure to be had.

My favorite memory from Taos was hiking Wheeler Peek. At an elevation of 14,000 feet, the



surrounding mountains literally took your breath away, if you could make the day long hike to the top. Waking up at 5 AM to be on

the trail by 6 AM was definitely worth the trek, and nothing beats feeling like you are on top of the world!

On top of this incredible list of experiences, I had a lot of other firsts in Taos: first time to rock climb, first time to rock repel, first time to white-water rafting, and the first time to see a horror movie. Needless to say, Taos may seemingly be in the middle of nowhere, but it is full of opportunities to find yourself.



For More Information on  
SMU-in-TAOS:  
[www.smu.edu/Taos](http://www.smu.edu/Taos)





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## MAJORS

- Anthropology
- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
  - Geology
  - Geophysics
  - Resource Geology
- Economics
  - Finance Applications
  - Management Information Applications
  - Management Information Systems
  - Systems Analysis

- English
  - Creative Writing
- Environmental Sciences
- Environmental Studies
- Ethnic Studies
  - African/African-American Studies
  - Mexican-American Studies
- History
- Human Rights
- Individualized Studies in the Liberal Arts
- International Studies
- Markets and Culture
- Mathematics

- Medieval Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Physics
- Public Policy
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Statistical Science
- World Languages & Literatures
  - French
  - German
  - Spanish

## MINORS

- Anthropology
  - Archaeological
  - Biomedical
  - Cultural
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Earth Sciences
  - Environmental Earth Sciences
  - Geology
- Economics
  - Econometrics
  - Economics of Decision Making
  - Economic Growth & Development
  - Economics of Industrial Organization
  - International Economics
  - Labor Economics
  - Monetary Economics

- Economics (cont.)
  - Public Economics
- English
- Ethnic Studies
  - African-American Studies
  - Mexican-American Studies
- History
- Human Rights
- International Studies
  - Asian Studies
  - European Studies
  - Latin American & Iberian Studies
  - Middle Eastern/African Studies
- Mathematics
- Medieval Studies
- Natural Sciences
- Philosophy
  - Ethics

- Physics
- Political Science
  - American Politics
  - Comparative Politics
  - International Relations
  - Law & Legal Reasoning
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Statistical Science
- Women's & Gender Studies
- World Languages & Literatures
  - Arabic
  - Chinese
  - French
  - Japanese
  - Italian
  - Italian Area Studies
  - Latin
  - Russian Area Studies
  - German
  - Spanish