Dr. Franklin G. Balch, III, joined Southern Methodist University Monday as the new coordinator of Superior Studies for Undergraduates.

For the past four years he has been director of the Honors College at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn.

In his newly-created position, Dr. Balch will be responsible for a program designed to help students of high ability and motivation to pursue in depth the interdisciplinary courses and independent studies offered by SMU's University College.

According to Dr. William L. Ayres, vice president and provost of the University, Dr. Balch also will hold the position of associate professor of government, teaching a part of each year.

During the past two years of the Superior Studies program, a faculty committee headed by Professor James E. Brooks of the Geological Sciences Department has coordinated the special sections of courses and the bi-weekly colloquia featuring the participation of guest lecturers.

Dr. John Hicks, dean of SMU's University College, explained Monday that Dr. Balch's coordination of Superior Studies at SMU will make possible rapid strides in the further development of the program in the freshman and sophomore years.
He added that Dr. Balch also will direct an expansion of the program to include independent and directed research and interdisciplinary seminars in the junior and senior years.

A native of Boston, Dr. Balch holds degrees from Harvard University, the University of Virginia, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Mass., from which he received both an M.A. and a Ph.D. His doctoral studies concentrated on diplomatic history and modern world politics. He has taught at both Harvard and Wesleyan universities.