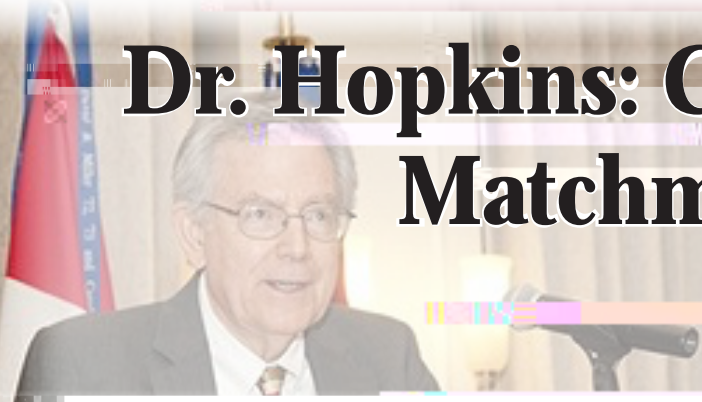




Hilltopics

University Honor Program

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Dr. Hopkins: Community Builder, Matchmaker, and *IHI* Inspiration

by Ga, Ze, . . . , B.S. '05, B.B.A. '05

In May, Dr. James Hopkins will retire from SMU after forty-one years of shaping the lives and

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UHP Wrapping Up the Spring, Planning for Fall

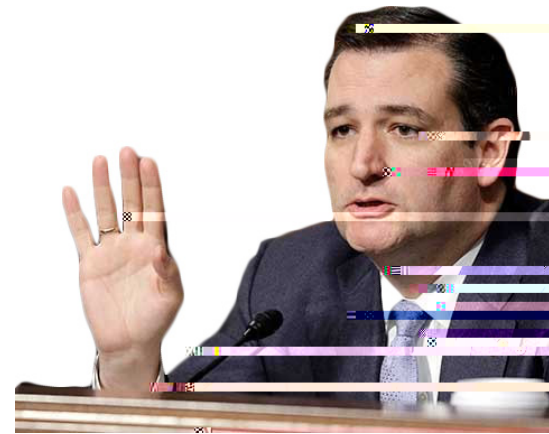
by Catherine A. ... UHP Office Coordinator

As students prepare for finals and the start of the summer, UHP is busy planning for Fall 2015. Recently, we released the Fall 2015 Honors course list; be sure to check it out if you still need to take Honors courses (or just want to; they're all pretty awesome!)
Fall 2015 will kick off with the annual Honors Welcome BBQ on

All Sights Set on 2016

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Texas freshman Senator Ted Cruz threw his hat into the ring. In late March the senator announced he will be



A VLD: Very Large Donation

by Sara Jeddick

On Monday, March 23, students arrived to class at Dallas Hall to find their normal path across the rotunda blocked, the seal covered, and important-looking people in their most impressive business attire milling about. As they were directed around the blocked-off area, students expressed mixed reactions: some grumbled about inconvenience, others (usually freshmen) stared around in wide-eyed amazement, and still others asked the question on everyone's mind—"What is going on here?"

The only answer the students received was that the school was receiving a VLD—Very Large Donation—and the announcement with details would occur at 11:00 a.m., conveniently when most students were in class. But one floor below, in the basement of Dallas Hall, students could see staff handing out We Celebrate Meadows T-Shirts. We're all in college, so two and two should easily add together, and the rest of the pieces were filled in through the music, confetti, and general fanfare behind the announcement: the Meadows Foundation had donated \$45 million to Meadows School of the Arts. For those students who aren't in Meadows, there was only one comment in response to the excited (and gloating) Arts students: So what?



It's a pretty good question. What does that money mean to the rest of SMU?

First, it's a Historical Moment. Not only was the donation made in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Meadows Museum and SMU's Centennial, \$45 million is also the largest donation that SMU has ever received, as well as the largest that the Meadows Foundation has ever given.

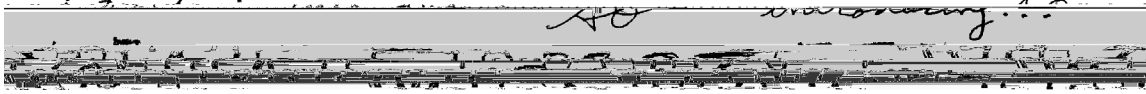
Whoop-de-doo, the Dedman Law students might say. Who cares—from the Lyle School of Engineering. At the very least, the facts are extremely impressive, and it's a great way to brag to your family and friends about how prestigious of a university you attend. But the money itself is more than just a show for the rest of the world.

Of the \$45 million, \$25 million will go straight to the Meadows Museum on our campus, including \$13 million for education programs. The museum is not used solely by Arts students—quite the contrary. Art History majors and minors, including some of our very own Honors students, Spanish majors, and even Public Policy minors have all visited the museum several times during class in order to include hands-on material in their lecture-based classes.

This donation to the Meadows Museum will affect students across the university, regardless of major, minor, or school. The remaining \$20 million will go to the Meadows School of the Arts, though only \$8 million will be attributed to students and scholarships. The rest will be put toward what SMU calls "facility enhancements" (Keep an eye out for even more construction on campus!). However, there can be no doubt that all students will benefit in some way, whether they are Meadows majors receiving the student scholarships or Dedman majors visiting the museum. In the end, it is important to remember that this \$45 million is only a part of our \$1 billion goal for the SMU Centennial, so rest assured: all schools should be included in the Centennial giving eventually.

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SMU Doesn't Need 100 Candles to Celebrate a Centennial

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Turning 100 certainly is cause for celebration, and SMU welcomed the opportunity as the school dedicated 2015, the centennial of SMU's opening, as the Year of the Student. For this celebration, SMU has planned several events throughout the year in honor of the huge strides SMU has taken as well as the successes that students have achieved.

At its opening a 100 years ago, SMU would barely be recognizable as the 237-acre campus with over 101 buildings and 11,000 students that we know today. In 1915, the school opened with just two buildings: Dallas

A Year in Review: The Residential Commons

by A.J. Jelinek

Going into this year, there were very few things we knew for sure about the new residential commons model. Sophomores have to live on campus for the first time in SMU history. There are some beautiful new buildings on the southeast quad. The school could finally start building something new. Sure, many of us had heard the spiel about how the mix of students would promote diversity and some of us may have even caught the administration's excitement about the new system. A year later, though, how much better has the residential commons experience been?

First, let's address the commons council concept. Every year, a group was elected to be commons council in the old dorms. Typically, that group had stopped meeting by the beginning of second semester, and even when they were in session they were not a strong presence in their hall. There has not been a one hundred eighty degree