



Commons Connections

Armstrong Commons helped residents relax during the end of the semester. Dr. Kirk and the commons staff distributed cookies to residents on reading days, and FiR Kirk also dressed up Sir Emerson, her pet-in-residence, as "Santa Paws" and let residents play and take pictures with him. The commons also hosted several study breaks during reading and finals days.

Boaz Commons continued its Boaz BBQ, "Son"day night snacks and Korean drama night traditions with Dr. Son, and it added a few new events: "De-stress with Clive" with RCD Katie's dog and a pancake breakfast. Dr. Son hosted several student receptions, including one for new students and another for those who received high GPAs last semester. FA Dr. Sean Griffin hosted a screening of the movie *Boys n the Hood*.



Loyd residents participate in "Painting with a Twist," one of the commons' finals week study breaks.



Cockrell-McIntosh Commons and FIR Wheaton collaborated with several campus organizations to hold a "Creating Community to Fight Human Trafficking" concert.

Cockrell-McIntosh Commons ended the semester on a sweet note: Dr. Wheaton and Lone Star distributed chocolate and cards to each resident before break. Dr. Wheaton also continued the common's Tuesday Salons, which included representatives from SMU Abroad and SMU Taos. The commons, meanwhile, received an award for best Residential Commons for December and hosted a "Creating Community to Fight Human Trafficking" concert and event with other campus organizations.

Crum Commons continues to feed its residents well. Dean Camp held a study break with snacks and hot chocolate during finals week and treated his residents to a New Year's Day brunch. He also invited guests to speak and dine with students. Professor Cheryl Butler discussed her critical race theory class, and Peggy Dean, a career coach and executive director of the Jean Houston Foundation, talked

with students about social change.

Kathy Crow Commons held a pre-finals Chocolate Sunday for its residents, which included relaxation, baked goods and, of course, chocolate at FiR Power's apartment. Professor Power also held two Sunday brunches in January, while the commons hosted a welcome back party for residents returning for spring semester.

Loyd Commons participated in several holiday events in December, including a pre-Celebration of Lights party and its second RC dinner. Loyd residents finished the semester with number of study breaks, including a taco dinner with FA Lourdes Molina, "Painting with a Twist" and "Dogs and Donuts" at Professor Fontenot's residence. The commons has welcomed the new semester by continuing its weekend movie nights.

Commons Connections

Mary Hay/Peyton/Shuttles

Commons began December with its RC dinner, which included a tacky sweater contest. During reading days, FA Dr. Owen Lynch hosted a comedy show in Mary Hay. The commons started the new semester by participating in SMU's MLK Day of Service as well as other commons' activities. Dr. Krout took students to the latest installment of the Tate Lecture Series Turner Construction Student Forum.

McElvaney Commons

experienced some of Dallas' culture in December by seeing the Nutcracker at the Winspear Opera House. Professor Detcheva also hosted her residents for a Study Abroad Study Break to allow students learn about SMU's 2015 study abroad programs. Meanwhile, the commons hosted "Mac the Halls" to decorate the commons for the holidays.

Morrison-McGinnis Commons

treated its residents to several



Students participate in a breakout discussion after viewing the movie *Selma*. The outing was sponsored by Morrison-McGinnis Commons.

reading day activities, including ice skating at the Galleria and "MoMac and Cheese," a mac and cheese party. Dr. Kerins also held breakfast for the RA staff when the building closed for break. The commons hosted a free screening of *Selma* to a packed house at the Angelika Film Center with post-screening discussion led by SMU civil rights experts.

Virginia Snider Commons began December with an event hosted by FA Dr. Ben Voth with guests from the Rwandan national debate team. The commons held their second RC dinner and

various study breaks, including chair massages and a grab-and-go breakfast. The new semester brought new installments of Dr. Batenburg's Sunday night snacks and a bowling outing.

Ware Commons held several Salons for residents, including a holiday decorating party in December and a session about studying abroad with Dr. Cathy Winnie, director of SMU's Study Abroad office. Dr. Tunks also hosted a welcome back open house for his residents at the start of the semester and a watching party for the College Football Playoff National Championship.



Armstrong residents received a surprise visit from "Santa Paws" (aka pet-in-residence Sir Emerson) to provide holiday spirit and relaxation during finals week.



FIR Detcheva and McElvaney residents attend a showing of the *Nutcracker* at the Winspear Opera House in Dallas.



Upcoming Events

On-Campus Events 2/1-2/28

- **Daily** (through February 20): Helen Suzman: Fighter for Human Rights exhibition – Meadows Museum*
- **February 5-8:** Susannah by Carlisle Floyd – Meadows Opera Theatre (various)
- **February 12:** M.O. Walsh Lecture & Book Signing – Mack Ballroom, Umphrey Lee Center (12:00 p.m.)*
- **February 12:** 5th Annual Strong Man Competition – Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports (6:00-8:00 p.m.)*
- **February 14:** Women's and Men's Basketball – Moody Coliseum (v. Tulsa (2:00 p.m.) and v. Connecticut (8:00 p.m.), respectively)
- **February 21:** Meadows Virtuosi Players – Owens Arts Center (6:30-8:30 p.m.)*
- **February 24:** Tate Lecture Series featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin – McFarlin Auditorium (8:00 p.m.)*
- **February 27:** Meadows Chamber Orchestra Student Conductors' Concert – Owens Arts Center (8:00-10:00 p.m.)

*denotes free admission

FiR Spotlight



Dean Martin Camp is the Faculty-in-Residence for Crum Commons and the assistant dean for student affairs at SMU's Dedman School of Law. He joined SMU in 2005 and currently also teaches property, real estate and land use law.

Martin spent the first half of the school year creating a diverse offering of events in order to spark interaction

with and get to know numerous residents. He has hosted movie nights (including one that included a meet-and-greet with the film's producer and some of the cast), large dinners, informal discussions with various guests from campus, dessert gatherings and meals during holiday breaks.

This semester, Dean Camp is excited to build on that momentum and will bring more guest speakers into his residence, including professors, alumni and staff, to give students think and discuss things outside of their normal day to day routines.

In his spare time, Martin enjoys cooking, doing yoga and singing karaoke. He has also written and published a number of books.

FA Spotlight



Dr. Darryl Dickson-Carr is a Faculty Affiliate for Morrison-McGinnis Commons. He arrived at SMU in 2006 from Florida State University, and he is currently Associate Professor in the Department of English.

Dr. Dickson-Carr would like to help MoMac residents develop as students and people equipped to enter and change the larger world. He assists students with improving time management and study habits and strategies, as well as preparing them for advanced study and life outside of college. He has attended dinners with and participated in panel discussions for MoMac residents, and he hopes to continue his involvement in the future.

Outside of SMU, Dr. Dickson-Carr loves running and participated in the Houston Marathon earlier this month.



Upcoming Events

Off-Campus Events 2/1-2/28

- **February 6:** Chad Ibison concert – Jonsson Performance Hall, University of Texas at Dallas (8:00 p.m.)
- **February 7:** Celtic Music Showcase – Plano Courtyard Theater (7:00 p.m.)
- **February 14 (through May 10):** The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes – Perot Museum of Nature and Science
- **February 15:** A Night at the Meyerson – Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center (7:30 p.m.)
- **February 17:** 2015 Mardi Gras Festival and Parade – Dallas City Hall (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)*
- **February 22:** Choral Evensong – St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral (4:00 p.m.)*
- **February 25 (through March 8):** Kinky Boots – Music Hall at Fair Park (various)
- **February 28:** Soundings: New Music at the Nasher – Nasher Sculpture Center
- **February 28 (through April 12):** Dallas Blooms – Dallas Arboretum (7:30 - 9:30 p.m.)

*denotes free admission

RCD Spotlight



Michelle Madsen is the Residential Community Director for Virginia Snider Commons. She joined the RLSH team at SMU in 2010 after obtaining her master's in Higher Education Administration from UW-Milwaukee.

Michelle is dedicated to working with her residents to preserve Virginia Snider Commons' history (since it is the oldest and most historic community) as well as establishing new traditions that will last well into the future.

When she's not with her residents, Michelle enjoys physical activities such as running, hiking and biking. She also enjoys trying new restaurants and coffee shops in the Dallas area. Michelle believes that her commons is off to a great start this year. Tusk'em!

Announcements

Congratulations to Dr. Kirk, who was honored with the SMU's Woman's Club Outstanding Faculty Award on December 9. The University Woman's Club has been active on SMU's campus since 1918 and strives to develop unity through cultural, social and philanthropic interests relevant to the women of SMU.

Professor Power's new musical, *Stagger Lee*, is midway through its premiere at Dallas Theater Center. Professor Power wrote the book and co-composed the music for the show, which runs through February 15. You can purchase tickets at <http://www.attpac.org/on-sale/2015/stagger-lee/>.

