

SMU College Readiness Summer Camp 2011

(NDG Wire) This summer students are invited to participate in the Southern Methodist University (SMU) College Readiness Summer Camp 2011. Any interested students may apply for a slot to attend the five day camp that will inform, inspire and leave a

positive impression in their minds about pursuing a college education. The camp is scheduled for June 14-18.

During this camp, students will hear motivational speakers who have beat the odds and soared to heights they never

imagined. Workshops will provide needed tools and to prepare for college. Topics will include college admission, financial aid, and more. Students will meet hundreds of students from around the state and live in college dorms to experience stu-

dent life. All attendees will compete for \$10,500 in scholarship funding as well.

After the camp, the SMU staff will stay connected with the class and mentor them throughout their college years.

Urban League Greater Dallas and American Red Cross Honor Black History Month with Life Saving Blood Drive

(NDG Wire) The Urban League of Greater Dallas and its auxiliaries, the Urban League Young Professionals and GUILD have partnered with the American Red Cross as part of Black History Month to sponsor a blood drive. Please do your part to honor African American physician Charles Drew, a pioneer in blood plasma research by donating blood.

Dr. Drew is best known for developing the techniques used today to

collect process and store blood products. He was not a well known physician at the time but Dr. Drew took successful test tube blood experiments and transformed them into mass blood production techniques. He was soon recognized as a leading authority on blood collection and plasma processing.

Continuing his legacy, African Americans fulfill an important role as blood donors. More than half of the African American pop-

ulation has type O blood. This gives that population a unique opportunity to support the community blood supply.

For more information and/or to volunteer for the blood drive, please call Claudia Fowler at (214) 607-6461 or sign up at redcrossblood.org. Individuals who are 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate

blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. It must be 56 days since your last donation.

The blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Southwest Center Mall located at 3662 W. Camp Wisdom Road in Dallas.

For more information, or to schedule your donation, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

Students Against Violence Everywhere receives \$25,000 Grant

(NDG Wire) The Allstate Foundation presented a \$25,000 grant to Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) to assist SAVE chapters in Texas in their efforts to increase youth safety and promote teen safe driving. This grant from the Allstate Foundation will support the SAVE program in schools and community agencies. Teen safe driving awareness campaigns will be conducted during key times of the year including holidays, Teen Safe Driving Month (May), prom, graduation, and back to school.

With support from Allstate agents and employee volunteers, SAVE chapters will be able to provide leadership in their schools and communities to ensure that all students will be encouraged and empowered with healthy life skills while engaging in educational activities and opportunities to promote teen safe driving and youth safety.

SAVE is a peer-to-peer organization that focuses on the power of positive peer influences. According to a recent Allstate Foundation survey, Shifting Teen Attitudes: The State of Teen Driving 2009, peers are a major influence on

teens – both positive and negative. Some of the concerning statistics that SAVE chapters will address include:

- Eighty-two percent of teens reported using cell phones while driving.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of girls admit they are likely to speed more than 10 mph over the limit, versus 36 percent of boys.
- Seventy-seven percent of teens admit they have felt unsafe with another teen's driving.

"This generous grant from The Allstate Foundation will assist students in finding real solutions to the issues of teen safe driving that they face each day," stated SAVE's executive director, Carleen Wray.

"By empowering teens to become smart driving activists in their schools and communities, we hope to reverse the staggering statistics," said Joseph P. McCormick, Allstate Sr. Corporate Relations Manager.

"Through The Allstate Foundation's partnership with SAVE, we're working to develop innovative, teen focused approaches to raise awareness of the issue and, ultimately, to help save lives and reduce injuries."

UT Dallas offers GRE Prep Course

(NDG Wire) The University of Texas at Dallas is offering

recruitment at the UT Dallas School of Management, says

Parker says.

Almost all graduate programs in the U.S. and abroad require a GRE score as part of the application. Parker says scores typically are good for five years, so undergrads who are thinking they might be interested in grad school in the near future would be wise to take the GRE while their test-taking abilities are sharp. "It doesn't hurt for anyone thinking they might want to go back to school to get this done sooner rather than later. It's just one less piece of the puzzle of admissions you'd need to worry about," he says.

The prep course's eight classes, all to be held on the UT Dallas campus in Richardson, will cover all GRE content as well as test-taking strategies. Participants also will have access to an online self-paced math refresher course. Information about math portion of the prep class is at [\[dallas.edu/somResources/eLearning/eLearningCurrent/mat h.php\]\(http://dallas.edu/somResources/eLearning/eLearningCurrent/mat h.php\).](http://som.ut-</p>
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Enrollment is capped at 50 participants; cost is \$150. A text, *Practicing to Take the GRE General Test, 10th Edition*, is required.

In addition, preparation for the Graduate Management Admissions Test continues to be offered at UT Dallas. The GMAT typically is preferred by business schools although many, including UT Dallas' School of Management, will accept a GRE score.

"What we're finding," Parker says, "is a lot of people who haven't been on a campus in 10 or 15 years are scared of their ability to score well on standardized tests. This course helps ease those fears, getting them over that 'test paranoia' hurdle." To register or for questions, contact Parker at jparker@utdallas.edu, 972-883-5842.



James Parker

fering the GRE Prep Course, designed for those interested in enrolling in graduate school.

The 16-hour prep course for the Graduate Record Exam will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Feb. 15. James Parker, the assistant director for graduate

the teacher for this prep class, Tomas Davis, is well-regarded by students who have taken his prep classes in the past. "Tomas knows his material, but even more importantly, he knows how to get people to understand the material covered in the test so they score well or improve on a poor score on the GRE,"

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