

Weekly Update | August 16, 2024

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope you are having a restful and productive summer. Whether you are teaching, conducting research, or preparing exhibits or performances, your contributions are greatly appreciated and valued in our quest for even greater academic quality. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to SMU's academic mission.

As mentioned in the [final Weekly](#) of the spring 2024 semester, I plan to send these updates twice each month during June and July and once in August prior to the start of the fall semester. If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please submit your ideas through our story form via the button below. Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be reviewed and considered for publication in that week's Friday newsletter. Others will be held until the following week.

[Submit your story](#)

Previous newsletters are [available here](#).

Today's update falls into five categories: 1) Summer 2024, 2) Academic Excellence, 3) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 4) Inclusive Excellence, and 5) News and Noteworthy.

Summer 2024

Preparing for the 2024 – 2025 academic year

As the fall semester activities begin on campus this month, I would like to bring a couple of items to everyone's attention. Dr. K.C. Mmeje, vice president for Student Affairs, [sent a letter](#) yesterday, August 15, regarding the return of students to campus and related resources. Please read the letter if you haven't already and remember that many students and families coming to campus may be unfamiliar with building locations. Friendly greetings and helpful assistance will go a long way.

Classes will commence on August 26, 2024, and I have [sent a message](#) to all faculty regarding [SMU's evergreen site for required syllabus statements](#) so that faculty can best prepare for their fall classes.

Generative AI at SMU

Due to advancements in publicly available Generative AI technology, the SMU Faculty Technology Council has updated the syllabus options for Generative AI use, including the development of a [new statement-building tool](#) that is available in the cloud-based syllabus platform ([Simple Syllabus](#)).

Beginning this fall, all courses must include a clear statement about Generative AI use with one of the provided options.

Updates to important classroom guidelines

Questions about the use of technology-based modalities for instruction when students or faculty have extenuating circumstances have been further clarified with these [updated guidelines for using technology-based modalities for instruction](#). Also, becoming familiar with [SMU's inclement weather and emergency operations guidelines](#) will help faculty, staff and students navigate any potential university announcements in the fall term.

Meadows Museum announces appointment of new curator

Dr. Patricia Manzano Rodríguez has been [appointed curator for Meadows Museum](#) starting September 1, 2024. Dr. Manzano, who has been serving as the museum's Mellon Curatorial Fellow since November 2023, is a scholar of 17th-century Spanish painting and has been conducting research on the museum's paintings by Diego Velázquez and other baroque artists as well as contributing to the museum's exhibitions and publications. She is widely recognized for her scholarship and has received many awards and grants, including the 2022 Juan Facundo Riaño Essay Medal, after which she was invited by the Museo Nacional del Prado to present at their Programa Joven initiative.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Manzano to the Hilltop.

SMU statement on anti-hazing policies

On Monday, August 12, 2024, Dr. Melinda J. Sutton, dean of students, sent a letter to students, faculty and staff regarding SMU's policies against hazing.

Hazing is a violation of Texas law and SMU's Student Code of Conduct. Individuals or organizations engaging in hazing could be subject to fines and charged with a criminal offense as well as face disciplinary action from the University.

Students who become aware of hazing activity may report it to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards by [clicking here](#) or to the SMU Police Department, or both. Information about hazing may also be reported anonymously through the SMU Police Department's Silent Witness Program by calling 214-SMU-2TIP or online at <http://www.smu.edu/2tip>. Hazing activity may also be reported anonymously via Real Response by texting 205-TXT2SMU and a member of the Dean of Students Office will respond as needed. Anonymous reports of hazing activity may also be made through the SMU Fraud Reporting Program, by calling 844-995-4895, or accessing the online portal at: smu.ethicspoint.com or the mobile reporting site: smumobile.ethicspoint.com.

Academic Excellence

University Foundations academic department moves to the Division of Student Academic Engagement and Success

Effective August 1, the Department of University Foundations joined the Division of Student Academic Engagement and Student Success. University Foundations provides enriching coursework focused on students' personal, academic, and leadership development as they transition to the SMU community. The department manages all SMU courses with a UNIV or PRW prefix. You can find more information about University Foundations on [their website](#) and more about the [UNIV faculty here](#).

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub awarded Consortium Accelerator Award from U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The SMU-led [Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub](#) (TSTH) has been awarded a \$500,000 Consortium Accelerator Award through the U.S. Department of Commerce's [Economic Development Administration](#) (EDA) to advance its strategy of increasing semiconductor production and workforce development in North Texas and southern Oklahoma. This is the second federal award in as many years to TSTH, having received a \$400,000 strategy development grant when selected in October 2023 as one of only 31 tech hubs nationwide.

Learn more about the [Consortium Accelerator Award here](#).

Researchers at SMU and Dartmouth released report outlining technical breakthrough that uses light to engrave erasable 3D images

Researchers from SMU's Department of Chemistry at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Alexander R. Lippert, professor, and Joshua T. Plank, graduate student, and from Dartmouth, Qingkai Qi, postdoctoral researcher, and Ivan Aprahamian, chair for the Department of Chemistry, have developed a [groundbreaking technology that uses light to engrave erasable 3D images inside polymers](#). This innovation could allow for the creation of detailed, three-dimensional projections of medical scans, such as a patient's organs, within a hand-held acrylic cube and has potential applications in surgical planning, education and even art. The images are imprinted using a specialized light projector and remain viewable until erased by heat or light, making the polymer reusable. The researchers aim to further refine the technology to enhance resolution and ease of use. Their report was published in the journal [Chem](#).

Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences faculty member and student co-author paper published in Asia Policy journal

Hiroki Takeuchi, associate professor and director of Undergraduate Studies in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of Political Science and Director of the Sun & Star Program on Japan and East Asia in the John Goodwin Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs, has recently published a review essay, co-authored with Natalya Talih, undergraduate research assistant, in the [Asia Policy](#) journal. *Asia Policy* is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal that publishes policy-relevant academic papers for scholars and practitioners.

Natalya Talih, a rising junior, majoring in Political Science and International Studies, has been a Hamilton Scholar for the past year and recently received the Tower Center's Henry Miller Undergraduate Fellowship. Last summer she participated in the SMU-in-Japan Summer International Studies & Honors Program at Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU).

Inclusive Excellence

SMU Career Closet seeks volunteers for the 2024 Career Closet event

The Hegi Family Career Development Center is requesting volunteer assistance for its second annual Career Closet Pop-Up on August 28, 2024. The SMU Career Closet provides SMU students with new and gently used professional attire for interviews, internships, and the workplace. Last year's event served over 750 students and was widely praised across a broad range of campus stakeholders.

To ensure this year's event is a success, the Hegi Career Center is requesting volunteer staffing assistance. To learn more about the event and [register for a volunteer slot, please click here](#).

SMU student to be honored by Southwest Jewish Congress at Texas-Sized Event

[Princess Igwe-Icho, a senior and quadruple major](#), has been selected to receive the "Inspiring Future Woman" award by [Southwest Jewish Congress](#) at their [Texas Sized Event](#) on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. "The SWJC Texas Sized Event recognizes outstanding leaders from various disciplines and backgrounds who are role models and trailblazers throughout our community." The event is open to the public but does require tickets, which are available for purchase on the [SWJC website](#).

Congratulations to Princess Igwe-Icho on this recognition and to Linda Abramson Evans, lecturer emeritus at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, for nominating one of SMU's world changers.

News and Noteworthy

Center for Teaching Excellence to host 32nd Annual Teaching Effectiveness Symposium

The Center for Teaching Excellence is proud to announce that [registration for its 32nd Annual Teaching Effectiveness Symposium is now open](#). The event will take place on the morning of Thursday, August 22, in the Martha Proctor Mack Grand Ballroom in Umphrey Lee (ULEE). This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Betsy Barre, executive director of Wake Forest University's Center for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Barre will be presenting on the topic of "The One Who Does the Work Does the Learning: Motivating Student Engagement in an Age of AI."

For a detailed event schedule, visit the [CTE website](#).

Meadows School of Art Faculty Member awarded Richard L. Kagan Prize from Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies

Adam Jasienski, professor in the Division of Art History and director of Graduate Studies at Meadow School of the Arts, has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the [Richard L. Kagan Prize](#) from the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies. The Richard L. Kagan Prize recognizes the best article or chapter in an edited collection on the history of the early modern Spanish world, c. 1500-c. 1800. Professor Jasienski was recognized for his article "Velázquez and the Fragile Portrait of the King" published in the journal *Art History*.

Lyle School of Engineering Dean writes article for Times Higher Education

Nader Jalili, Mary and Richard Templeton Dean of Lyle School of Engineering, wrote an article featured in the [Times Higher Education](#). Dean Jalili's article discusses the importance of harnessing artificial intelligence (AI), augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) to personalize learning. By utilizing these technologies, education can better support students as the information is delivered in a way best tailored to their individual learning styles.

SMU Guildhall hosted two sold-out summer camp sessions for middle-grade students

During summer 2024, SMU Guildhall hosted its annual [Guildhall Academy](#), which concluded in mid-July after two sold-out sessions. This summer camp serves 8-12th grade students from across the state.

During the intensive two-week camp, students built a video game from scratch under the direction of Guildhall art faculty, Jeff Cavitt. At the conclusion of each session, family members were invited to a showcase to see the results of their students' hard work in action.

SMU Guildhall just celebrated its 21st anniversary as one of the nation's leading graduate programs for game development, consistently ranked in the world's top five programs by the *Princeton Review*.

SMU Lyle School of Engineering Engages Future Students in STEM

This summer, 50 high school students spent a week at SMU's Lyle School of Engineering building solar-powered radio-controlled cars at an advanced engineering camp hosted by the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education. The camp, funded by the Hamon Foundation, offered hands-on experience in STEM fields like physics, electrical and mechanical engineering, and computer science. Under the guidance of Dr. Divya Baranwal and Dr. Ashish Gandhi, students explored solar energy, robotics, and problem-solving, gaining essential skills and sparking interest in STEM careers, with a focus on increasing diversity and inclusion in these fields. Read more about the camp here: [Engaging tomorrow's high-tech workforce in STEM](#)

Office of Engaged Learning announces winners of the Three Minute "Thesis" competition

On July 25, the Office of Engaged Learning (OEL) hosted 25 student presentations during this year's [Three Minute "Thesis" competition](#). This was the culminating event of the [Summer Research Intensive](#) and [Data Science for Social Good](#) programs.

Congratulations to this year's Three Minute "Thesis" winners:

1st place: "The Cobalt Crisis: The Hunt for the Recovery of Critical and Rare Earth Metals"

- Students: Sana Omar and Simran Waraich
- Faculty mentor: Peng Tao, professor, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of Chemistry

2nd place: "Adherence to Guided Thinking Audio Recordings: In a Physical Activity Intervention"

- Student: Paul Rowe
- Faculty mentor: Austin Baldwin, chair, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of Psychology

3rd place: "Data Science to Combat Labor Trafficking"

- Students: Ritney Coleman and Jacob Gareis
- Faculty mentor: Elizabeth Wheaton-Páramo, research professor and senior lecturer, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of Economics

Thank you to our volunteer judges Alisha Bailey, assistant director at OEL; Adreana Julander, director of the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center; Stephen Fashoro, media relations manager in Development and External Affairs; Ramón García, Undergraduate Success Librarian; and Matthew Nadler, associate director at the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility. Special thank you to Dr. Adam Scott Neal, program manager at OEL, who hosted the seven-week professional development workshop series for program participants.

Leaders on Leadership Fireside Chats fall line-up announced

Cox Executive Education has finalized its fall line-up for the [Leaders on Leadership Fireside Chats](#). This inspiring group of distinguished speakers will share their unique perspectives on leadership and lessons learned in a relaxed and personalized setting. Speakers include Stefanie Tsen Ward, chief integrated retail and customer officer at the Neiman Marcus Group; General David H. Petraeus, US Army (Ret.) and Kissinger Fellow at Jackson School of Global Affairs at Yale University; Stephen Gillett, CEO at Verily; and Jim Keyes, chairman at Key Development, LLC. Leaders on Leadership events are free and open to the public, but space is limited so please [register online here](#).

Cox School of Business to host second annual healthcare conference

On October 10-11, Cox School of Business will host healthcare professionals from across North Texas for their second annual Healthcare Conference focused on “The Consumer Experience in Healthcare.” Distinguished panelists and speakers will include healthcare leaders from major hospital systems, federal and state institutions, research and philanthropic organizations, payors and more. [Register to attend the conference here.](#)

Please contact Lisa Tran (ltran@smu.edu), conference contact, and/or Vishal Ahuja (vahuja@smu.edu), healthcare initiative academic director, for additional information.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

SMU