

Weekly Update | July 12, 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 the "Submit Your Story" button below. Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be reviewed and considered for publication in that week's Friday newsletter. Some may 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

Faculty support available to build professional websites on people.smu.edu

[People.SMU](https://people.smu.edu) allows faculty, staff, students, and SMU organizations to build and customize websites quickly and easily. Faculty members can create one or multiple sites to facilitate academic, teaching, and research needs.

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) offers a [WordPress consultation service](#) to assist faculty in the creation of professional sites. [Click here](#) for more information on the service and to book a consultation.

Reminder: Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (IPE) to collect student assessment work for 2024-2025 academic year

The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (IPE) will be collecting student assessment work during the 2024-2025 academic year for the following Common Curriculum components: Creativity and Aesthetics (CA); Historical Contexts (HC); Literary Analysis and Interpretation (LAI); Philosophical, Religious, and Ethical Inquiry (PREI); Community Engagement (CE); and Civics and Individual Ethics (CIE).

Faculty teaching courses with these components from May 2024 through spring 2025 are required to submit student work that demonstrates attainment of the skills associated with each component. IPE will send an email survey to all impacted faculty just after the fall 2024 and spring 2025 census dates. This survey will gather information about the type of assignments faculty use to assess student learning. Based on survey results, IPE will send detailed instructions to each faculty member about how to submit their students' assessment work. For summer and intersession classes, faculty will receive instructions for submitting assessment work via [Box](#).

For additional information, faculty may consult:

1. The [Common Curriculum course search tool](#) to understand which courses fulfill these Common Curriculum requirements.
2. The [Common Curriculum Assessment Rubrics page](#) to review the learning outcomes, supporting skills, and assessment rubric for each Common Curriculum component.
3. The [IPE Common Curriculum Assessment resources page](#) for guidance on how to design an effective assessment assignment.

Thank you to all faculty for supporting the Common Curriculum and Common Curriculum assessment.

Academic Excellence

Undergraduate Education and Academic Success publishes annual report

Undergraduate Education and Academic Success is an area within the division of Student Academic Engagement and Success which oversees a wide range of academic support and engagement office units including the Office of Student Success and Retention, the Office of General Education, the University Testing Center and the Committee on Academic Petitions.

A copy of their [annual report is now available for download](#). Questions, comments, and feedback can be directed to Dr. Dustin Grabsch (dgrabsch@smu.edu).

Office of General Education recruiting students for revised Common Curriculum Reading

The Office of General Education has begun recruiting undergraduate students for this fall's Common Curriculum Reading. The book selection for Fall 2024 is "[Artificial Unintelligence](#)" by Meredith Broussard. Broussard discusses the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern society and the public's belief that AI can solve all the world's problems. However, Broussard argues that there are social and ethical issues that AI can't resolve.

[The Common Curriculum Reading](#) is open to all SMU undergraduate students but will target juniors and seniors who have not completed their [Civics & Individual Ethics](#) Proficiency and Experience requirement. Students who opt-in to the program will engage in eight reading group meetings and discussions with peers and program facilitators from areas across campus, including the University Advising Center, Cox School of Business, the Registrar's Office and Student Academic Success Programs.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to promote the program to their undergraduate students. Learn more about the program on the [Common Curriculum Reading blog post](#).

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Call for applications: Climate Science Research Fund

SMU's Earth Hazards and National Security Faculty Research Cluster is pleased to announce a call for applications for [The Climate Science Research Fund](#). This fund will provide support to graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty to collect primary data relevant to climate science and/or to conduct research focused on modern environmental and climate change.

Funding will be awarded for up to the equivalent of two months of summer support for SMU graduate student stipends and will also consider up to one month of postdoctoral salary with benefits. Funding will support fieldwork and data collection as well as publication charges of climate-related research. Requests from individual principal investigators should not exceed \$30,000. Collaborative proposals across multiple PI groups also will be considered.

Applicants should be engaged in basic or applied research focused on modern environmental and/or climate change. The proposal outcomes and/or expected deliverables should be clearly described. The budget(s) should be justified with sufficient detail to understand how costs link to outcomes. The proposed project is expected to be aimed at producing a scientific publication. Priority will be given to topics with immediate relevance to climate science and/or policy. Multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies are highly encouraged. Graduate students and postdoctoral researchers should coordinate and work with their faculty advisors to prepare the application.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by a quarterly panel review team that will meet on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15. Proposals can be for up to two years or until available funds are expended.

Applicants must submit one digital file (.pdf) with all documents included to [TheFundForClimateScience](#). Additional information on specific documents to include can be found [here](#).

Questions can be directed to earthhazards@smu.edu.

Three Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies students awarded prestigious fellowships

The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies is pleased to recognize recipients of several prestigious national and international fellowships:

Jonathan Angulo, recent history Ph.D. graduate, was awarded an [American Council of Learned Societies \(ACLS\) fellowship](#). ACLS places early-career Ph.D.'s with non-profit organizations working at the forefront of critical social issues. Dr. Angulo will be a research and policy analyst at the United Farm Workers Foundation, where he will conduct research and educate policymakers about the challenges and systemic inequities that farm workers endure.

Matthew O'Donohue, advanced Ph.D. candidate in the field of applied science, won a [Kosciuszko Fellowship](#) that will support six months of research in Warsaw at the Polish Academy of Sciences. He will be working with Dr. Jan Guzowski to develop a novel tissue engineering method aimed at creating artificial tissues that more closely represent human tissues.

Noemi Vega Quinones, Ph.D. candidate in religious studies, was awarded the [Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship](#), which will support her final year of dissertation writing. This fellowship is meant to support scholars whose research focuses on Christian faith and life, the practice of ministry, religious trends and movements, and religious and social issues.

Graduate students interested in applying for external fellowships, scholarships, and grants, should contact Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips (rmball@smu.edu), director of [Graduate Fellowships and Awards Office](#) at the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies.

Three Lyle School of Engineering faculty members recognized by Institute for Operations Research and the Management Science as Senior Members

[The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Science's \(INFORMS\) Senior Membership program](#) recognizes and rewards the organization's most dedicated members. Recipients earn the Senior Member distinction by being members for five or more continuous years and committed members of the INFORMS community.

Three of Lyle School of Engineering's faculty members have recently been recognized with this distinction:

1. Richard Barr, professor, Department of Operations Research and Engineering Management
2. Sila Çetinkaya, Cecil H. Green Professor of Engineering and chair, Department of Operations Research and Engineering Management
3. Halit Üster, fellow at the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity and professor, Department of Operations Research and Engineering Management

Cox School of Business faculty member publishes paper exploring the link between people enjoying nature and healthier food choices

Cox School of Business' Department of Marketing professor Maria Langlois' latest paper suggests that study participants will select healthier foods when experiencing natural settings as compared to those in urban environments. Her research also found evidence suggesting that even experiencing nature through photographs could lead people to more nutritious food choices.

These findings were published recently in [Communications Psychology](#) and further support the need to examine nature's impact on food choices, especially since 68% of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas by 2050. The study offers practical insights for consumers, parents, food manufacturers, schools and employers.

Award-winning conference paper by SMU faculty members available on the American Society for Engineering Education website

Director of the Thrive Scholars and research professor at the Lyle School of Engineering Dr. Kelyn Rola, and chair of University Foundations in the Division of Students Academic Engagement and Success Dr. Caitlin Anderson's conference presentation paper won second place at the American Society for Engineering Education conference and is now [available online](#). Their paper, "Promoting Equity and Academic Achievement for Traditionally Underrepresented First-Year Students in Engineering through a Peer Mentoring Program" explores the outcomes associated with an engineering peer mentoring program for traditionally underrepresented first-year students.

Inclusive Excellence

SMU Career Closet seeking donations of professional clothing for students entering the workforce

The Hegi Family Career Development Center, Cox School of Business, and the Student Affairs Office of Social Change and Intercultural Engagement are happy to announce the return of the Career Closet, an event designed to assist SMU students as they prepare to enter the workforce. The Career Closet aims to provide SMU students with new and gently used professional attire for interviews, internships, and the workplace.

The Career Closet seeks professional clothing items in excellent condition to be delivered or mailed to the Hegi Family Career Development Center between May 28 – August 20, 2024. For more information on specific clothing items needed as well as drop-off location, please reference this [Career Closet blog post](#).

Questions can be directed to Amanda Bobo, Associate Director for Employer Relations in the Hegi Family Career Development Center, at abobo@smu.edu.

News and Noteworthy

Meadows School of the Arts faculty member honored by international professional music fraternity with Award of Merit

Julie Scott, co-chair for music education, director of the SMU Music Educators Workshops and professor of practice in music education in the Division of Music at the Meadows School of the Arts, was recently honored by [Mu Phi Epsilon](#), an international professional music fraternity, with the Award of Merit. The Award of Merit is presented to a member of Mu Phi Epsilon who brings honor to the Fraternity in a particular field of music.

Two Meadows School of the Arts voice students selected as Rising Star performers in upcoming Dallas-based music festival

The annual [Basically Beethoven Festival](#), formerly known as the Fine Arts Chamber Players, will host its 43rd iteration this July. The festival includes three chamber music concerts that will feature many of Dallas' top professional musicians as well as pre-professional rising stars.

This year, two of Meadows School's voice students, Diego Roberts Buceta and Lexi Cook, have been selected as the "Rising Star" performers for the July 21 concert. Buceta and Cook will each sing two arias from their repertoire that showcase their voices and personalities. Buceta will perform arias from Bellini's *Bianca e Fernando* and Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment*, while Cook will perform arias from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* and Puccini's *La Bohème*.

For more information on the festival, student performers and tickets, [click here](#).

Sincerely,



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

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