



Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph. D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

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Dear Colleagues:

This week's Friday Update highlights our faculty, their accomplishments, and initiatives. Preparing this newsletter has been a highlight of my week, as it has invited an opportunity to pause and actively recognize the important contributions from the colleagues who form our vibrant community.

I would like to start by thanking the department chairs and academic staff who contributed to this special edition. We have organized the highlights you shared with us for this update into three areas: 1) recent and upcoming faculty and student events and opportunities for involvement; 2) faculty accomplishments in research and creative scholarship; and 3) ways to learn more and connect with the SMU community.

Recent and Upcoming Faculty Events and Opportunities

Music, Film & Media, and Guildhall Interdisciplinary Workshop. During fall break, a three-discipline collaboration offered workshops over three days for students and faculty interested in professional training in composing for film and games, promotional and business practices, project management, and professional development. They also explored possible degrees in the rapidly-growing job market of composing for film and games. [Read more at this link.](#)

Ask A Mustang is a new service started this week by Jonathan McMichael, Undergraduate Success Librarian. At a table in the Starbucks area of Fondren Library, students can get quick answers to the most common and persistent questions in a low-stress, non-judgmental environment. To make this table more responsive and approachable, it is staffed by at least one faculty or staff volunteer and one undergraduate student. Volunteers work to problem-solve in real time—over a cup of coffee or tea: Mondays – 10:00 - 11:00 am and 3:00 -

4:00 pm and Tuesdays - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 3:00 - 4:00 pm. [Sign up here to volunteer.](#)

Sam Taylor Fellowship Applications: The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church announced its annual call for applications for the Sam Taylor Fellowships this week. These awards are provided by an endowment established to fund education and development of faculty members at United Methodist-related colleges and universities in Texas for academic work, study, or initiatives focused on intellectual, social, or religious life. I encourage you to consider applying for this award. For more information, email facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Upcoming Promotion and Tenure Conversations. The Associate Provost for Faculty Success and several of the associate deans for research will co-host two conversations about promotion and tenure in November. Both sessions will be in the Chamber in the Hughes Trigg Student Center: *Conversations on the Path to Associate Professor:* November 16th from 1:30 - 2:30 pm; *Conversations on the Path to Full Professor:* November 17th from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Additional Zoom-based conversations are planned for the spring.

Invitation to Join the Residential Commons Affiliate Program. Join a launch party to learn details of a refreshed Commons Affiliate Program. Food and drink will be provided. The Residential Commons is a partnership between the Divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, and the Affiliate Program is an integral part of the Residential Commons, where faculty and staff commit to supporting the intellectual, cultural, and social life of the 11 communities by engaging residents and providing mentorship, guidance, and support. [Learn more by joining on November 8 in the Mack Ballroom between 2:00 - 5:00 pm.](#)

Engage Dallas. There are many ways to connect your courses with SMU's place-based community engagement initiative, [Engage Dallas](#). Engage Dallas participants are eager to learn new knowledge, skills, and abilities related to our community and how to be more effective in service in South and West Dallas. Faculty and staff who have lessons or recorded lectures related to community and civic engagement can share them with Engage Dallas and can share relevant programming or on-campus events so that participants can earn general engagement hours for the Community Engagement Proficiency

and Experience. [Check out this video](#) for more information. If you have any questions, email engagedallas@smu.edu.

Moody School Three-Minute Thesis Competition November 9 and 12. SMU graduate students will present their research and compete for prizes at this year's [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\) competition](#), which will take place in the Chamber in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center (lower level). The challenge for participants is to present their research in less than three minutes with just one slide. We invite all members of the SMU to attend, learn, and support our graduate students.

Pedagogical Partner Up Pod Resources. If you have not had a chance to review the resources created and curated by faculty about teaching across different modalities, I encourage you to review their [contributions here](#). Fifty-six faculty participated in faculty-led learning pods focused on priority areas that emerged as topics from faculty surveys last year. Each pod served as a nexus for faculty to enhance their pedagogical knowledge while sharing with colleagues.

Faculty Accomplishments Highlighting Research and Creative Scholarship
Congratulations to so many of our faculty on their ongoing excellence in creative and research endeavors. I have spoken a great deal about our road to R1 since arriving at SMU. Through conversations at Town Halls and with faculty in groups such as Emerging Leaders and the Provost Faculty Fellows Programs, I believe that it would be helpful to expand on this language.

Having been in engineering for most of my career, with numerous grants, post-doctoral students, and PhD students, research excellence has been tied, in my mind, with external funding and with building opportunities to support doctoral students and undergraduate students in the pursuit of knowledge. "R1" in my career has long been shorthand for "excellence" in research and creative contributions.

In my view, a university is the sum of its many parts. The levers and metrics that augment our pursuit of classification as R1 within the Carnegie classification system are among the keys to continued national prominence, but they are by no means the only levers.

At SMU, creative and research excellence guides us as an overarching, shared umbrella. In the last several weeks, some questions have arisen about resource allocation with concerns that the pursuit of R1 is at the expense of our creative scholarship. I would like to dispel that notion, if I can, by sharing my unwavering belief in the full importance of research and creative excellence. I hope recent decisions about faculty positions that were made in consultation with the deans help provide evidence of this stance. The number of requested faculty lines approved this year was evenly distributed among the schools, not allocated just for a narrow band of particular research areas:

School	# of tenured/tenure-track lines	# of instructional/NTT lines
Cox	7	13
Dedman College	9	10
Law	3	1
Guildhall	0	1
Lyle	3	9
Meadows	5	8
Simmons	6	7
Total	33	49

Of the 82 total lines approved for all faculty positions across this and last year, 8 will be cluster hires. Together, these 82 lines represent over 10% of our entire full-time faculty community. Moving the needle on the R1 Carnegie metrics will certainly take strategic planning and commitment, but it will be guided by a “both/and” pursuit to overall creative and research excellence, not an “either/or” approach.

I encourage us to continue this conversation with the full and wholehearted embrace of the varied pursuits and goals that characterize research and creative scholarship at SMU—and to understand such contributions as inextricably linked to our excellence in teaching across a robust undergraduate and graduate curriculum. To that end, I am sharing highlights of faculty accomplishments shared recently with me by their department chairs.

Recent awards and recognition

Living Legacy Award. At its annual meeting and virtual conference, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (the founders of Black History Month), presented Ken Hamilton with a [Living Legacy Award](#). Warmest congratulations on this wonderful recognition.

Early career award and invited talk. Priscilla Lui (Psychology) was awarded an Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research from the *Asian American Psychological Association*. She was one of four scholars invited to present on a panel titled “The Psychological Science of Racism” at the meeting for the *Association for Psychological Science*, the leading scientific organization in psychological science.

National Science Foundation CAREER Award. Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Minh-Binh Tran, was awarded the prestigious NSF CAREER award this year for his project, “CAREER: Emerging Challenges in Wave Turbulence Theory.” He tackles open challenges in the theory of nonlinear waves via the study of associated wave turbulence theory that describes the nonlinear dynamical interactions of waves far from thermal equilibrium.

National Kim Rotzoll Award for Advertising Ethics and Social Responsibility. Carrie La Ferle (Temerlin Advertising Institute) received this award from the American Academy of Advertising, the top advertising organization for advertising scholars. The award, given only eight times since its inception in 2004, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to advertising ethics and social responsibility throughout their careers.

D Magazine recognition. Professor Pamela Metzger (Dedman School of Law) was honored as one of D Magazine’s [78 Women Changing the Face of Dallas](#). She has also been appointed to the editorial board of the [International Journal of Rural Criminology](#).

Azbee Award of Excellence National Silver Award. Jenny B. Davis (Fashion Media) was recently awarded the Azbee Award of Excellence National Silver Award from the American Society of Business Publication Editors.

Early career recognition. Stephanie Wilson (Psychology) was awarded the National Institute of Health Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social

Sciences Early Stage Investigator Award and the Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award.

Fellows membership selection. Alicia Meuret (Psychology) was recently named as a Fellow of the *Association of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies*. She is co-principal investigator on a National Endowment of the Humanities grant, “Reward Sensitivity as a Mechanism of Positive Affect Treatment for Anhedonia.”

Professional organization award. Digvijay Boob (Operations Research and Engineering Management) was a finalist of the INFORMS Junior Faculty Interest Group (JFIG) paper competition. This organization is internationally known as one of the foremost professional homes. His expertise is at the interface of Data Science and Optimization.

International contributions. Jill Kelly (History) has been awarded a fellowship from the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, a cutting-edge interdisciplinary research center at the University of Johannesburg. She and her co-author, Omar Badsha, recently won the William and Edwyna Gilbert Award from the American Historical Association for the best article on teaching. Finally, Jill was asked to organize a roundtable discussion on the legacy and literature surrounding the recently passed Zulu king, Zwelithini, and the royal family, which is in the current issue of the *South African Historical Journal*.

Research group accomplishments in Mechanical Engineering. In Professor MinJun Kim’s research group, Jugal Saharia has been awarded the Student Research Achievement Award in the poster competition of the 2021 Annual BioPhysical Society Meeting.

Collaborative outreach and interdisciplinary research

National reach among young adult actors. Associate Professor Benard Cummings has spearheaded the development and implementation of the Next Narrative Monologue Competition, a national program aimed at introducing high-school aged actors to today’s leading contemporary Black writers.

Collaborative engagement with the Dallas Media Collaborative. Jake Batsell, the O’Neil Chair in Business Journalism, is leading his Business News

Seminar students in contributing to the Dallas Media Collaborative, a group of local news outlets, universities and nonprofits that are focused on producing solutions-oriented coverage about affordable housing. In September, Batsell was quoted in a [Dallas Morning News](#) story that announced the launch of the grant-funded collaborative.

Research on earthquakes in Haiti. Drs. Hornbach, Magnani and Hayward (Earth Sciences) have deployed off-shore of Haiti to collect high-resolution seismic reflection data on the fault linked to the recent Haiti earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The work is joint with colleagues at Scripps and other institutions and is funded by the National Science Foundation Rapid program. They boarded ships to Key West on October 31. I look forward to learning more upon their return.

International collaboration with Swedish researchers. On the basis of the results of her National Institute of Health-funded research on Project Support, an intervention to reduce conduct problems among children exposed to violence, Renee McDonald (Psychology) was invited to collaborate with colleagues in Sweden to conduct a multi-year, Swedish National Board of Health-funded study on adapting Project Support for delivery in Sweden. She has also been recently selected as a Fellow of the *Association for Psychological Science*, the leading scientific organization in psychological science.

Collaboration research on sustainable remanufacturing practices. Sila Cetinkaya (Operations Research and Engineering Management) was recently featured in the *IISE Magazine* (Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers) for her collaborative research on sustainable manufacturing practices. The IISE is the world's largest professional society dedicated solely to the support of the industrial engineering profession and individuals involved with improving quality and productivity. Additionally, Cetinkaya is an elected Fellow of IISE.

Collider physics collaborations. Fred Olness and Steve Sekula (Physics) have [brought in new researchers to enhance their focus on nuclear structure and the Higgs Particle](#). This effort has been especially enabled by existing SMU theoretical physics leadership in proton and nuclear structure.

International team explores relationship between car designs and particle theory. Pavel Nadolsky (Physics) worked with undergraduate and graduate

students to join Professor Aurore Courtoy from the Instituto de Física, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to [develop a method to parametrize probabilities for finding quarks and gluons in protons](#).

Partnerships with Dallas Schools. Faculty in the Simmons School have continued their collaborations with the Dallas ISD. Karla del Rosal (Teaching and Learning) designed and implemented the innovative Masters of Bilingual-Special Education Program and the Aspiring Leaders with a Bilingual Focus Program. Sherril English (Teaching and Learning) completed a video for Illuminate Education titled, *Beyond Academics: Supporting College & Career Readiness with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)* and published her work for Illuminate Education: *Equitable Access to College and Career Preparation* and *Culturally Sustaining Social Emotional Learning Pedagogy*.

Collaborative inter-university research. Quentin Sedlacek (Teaching and Learning) launched a research project, *Teaching about African American Language in Higher Education Settings*, with collaborators at Stanford and the University of Maryland, and he gave a presentation sharing findings with international participants.

Participation in pedagogical advancements: Marcela Giraldo (Economics) is presenting at the 2021 Economics Teaching Conference organized by Cengage.

Outreach in Dallas: Elizabeth Wheaton (Economics) and Rick Halperin (Human Rights) were instrumental in getting Dallas to adopt the UN Resolution to become a Human Rights City.

Counseling faculty sharing resources with the community. Faculty in Counseling have been presenting across the metroplex and internationally on topics such as culturally competent and affirmative career counseling for LGBTQ+ students (Greta Davis), couples sex therapy (Edita Ruzgyte), child-centered play therapy (Brandy Schumann), developmentally appropriate counseling for adolescents around sexuality (Misty Solt), and counselor preparation in working with African American adolescents in group counseling (Terra Wagner).

Gabriela Vokic (World Languages) is collaborating with a colleague from Texas A&M on developing online professional development modules for

teachers of heritage speakers of Spanish, and she has recently published "Hablantes de herencia hispana en programas de lengua universitarios en los EE.UU.: Un panorama sincrónico" ("Heritage Speakers of Spanish in University Language Programs in the United States: a Synchronous Panorama").

Professor-student research collaboration on the *Very Large Telescope* project. Krista Lynne Smith (Physics) reports her proposal for 24 hours of time on the [Very Large Telescope \(VLT\) was accepted](#). Only 10% of proposals were accepted. Undergraduate researcher, Andrea Reyes, has been collaborating with her and was a Co-Investigator on the proposal.

Recent performances and publications

Sold-out run. Associate Professor and Department Chair in Theater, Blake Hackler's prize-winning play, *What We Were*, is enjoying a sold-out run at Seattle's 12th Avenue Arts.

Book launch. The Pollock Gallery is hosting a [launch of *See You There*, a new art book](#) by Professor Nishiki Sugawara-Beda (Art).

High-impact research. Mike Chmielewski (Psychology) has garnered a high-impact publication. His paper, published in 2020 in *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, "An MTurk crisis? Shifts in data quality and the impact on study results," has been cited 271 times in Google Scholar.

Bystander interventions during COVID-19. Sid Muralidharan (Temerlin Advertising Institute) recently [published his research](#) on bystander interventions during COVID-19 in the *International Journal of Advertising*.

Research on university systems. Sondra Barringer (Education Policy and Leadership) is completing two NSF-funded projects as part of her recent publications on the relationships and behaviors of universities that studied university commitment to interdisciplinary research and on understanding how trustees create connections between universities and external organizations.

Contributions across Economics. Hao Dong has three forthcoming articles in top journals in econometrics. Mike Sposi has three forthcoming articles in top-field journals in international macroeconomics. Nate Pattison has two

forthcoming papers and one recent publication in top-field and law journals in personal finance.

Research on African cultural production. Hervé Tchumkam (World Languages) is a scholar focused on African cultural production inside of Africa and in African Diaspora communities in Europe. In 2020, he published four articles in this area and a second book, *Marginal Bodies and Precarious Lives in North Africa: Homo Expendibilis*.

Two Higgs are better than one. Allison Deiana (Physics) joined with a former SMU post-doctoral researcher, Tulin Varol (Academia Sinica, Taipei) to [prepare a briefing for the European Physical Society meeting](#) last summer.

Ethnolinguistic vitality. Alberto Pastor (World Languages) published “Gauging the Ethnolinguistic Vitality of Spanish in Dallas (Texas) through its Linguistic Landscape” and co-edited a special edition of *Cuadernos de Lingüística Hispánica* (vol. 36, July-Dec 2020).

Techniques to search for low-frequency gravitational waves. Joel Meyers, SMU post-doctoral researcher in Physics, [collaborated with colleagues](#) Cynthia Trendafilova, Noah Pearson, and collaborators from the University of Texas to complete a paper describing a novel technique to search for low-frequency gravitational waves.

An interdisciplinary partnership with the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office has produced two new reports with the Deason School of Law Deason Center: [Budding Change: Marijuana Prosecution Policies and Police Practices in Dallas County, 2019](#) (July 2021) and *Fewer, Not Fairer: Changes in Racial Disparity of Dallas County Referrals for Marijuana Prosecution, 2018 – 2019* (November 2021).

Deason Center joint publication. The Deason Center Director of Research, Dr. Andrew Davies, along with Research Associate, Dr. Victoria Smiegocki, and Dedman College student, Hannah Hall, published [The Court is in Recession: On the Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Indigent Defense Spending](#) in the Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law.

Recent grant activity

Institutional collaborations that support student success. The \$2.3 million National Science Foundation-RTG program in Mathematics (Al. Aceves, A. Barreiro, W. Cai) was renewed at full support. Aceves has been invited to discuss this program on a panel titled “Forming institutional collaborations to broaden student access” at the 2022 Joint Mathematics Meetings, the world’s largest mathematics gathering.

Creating new disaster evacuation models. Halit Uster (Operations Research and Engineering Management) received a National Science Foundation grant to explore new models for disaster evacuation by examining logistics networks among entities that respond to large-scale disasters. His research was [recently profiled in the Tampa Bay Times](#).

Thomas Ritz (Psychology) recently received an NIH R33 grant, “Reward Sensitivity as a Mechanism of Positive Affect Treatment for Anhedonia,” from the NIH/National Institute of Mental Health. He was also reappointed Editor-in-Chief of *Biological Psychology*, the leading scientific journal in biological psychology.

David Rosenfield (Psychology) was awarded a National Institutes of Health Grant: “Harnessing Hormonal Variation to Probe Neural Mechanisms and Optimize CBT Outcomes for OCD.”

Austin Baldwin (Psychology) was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant, “Positive affect, future thinking, and planning: Testing brief intervention components to optimize a novel intervention to promote physical activity,” from the NIH/National Cancer Institute.

The Deason Center (Dedman School of Law) was awarded an expert consulting contract with the Federal Defender for the North District of Texas.

Professor Pamela Metzger (Dedman School of Law) and the Deason Center published their report, [Injustice: Solving the Initial Appearance Crisis](#). The report launches their Initial Appearance Campaign, which is funded through partnerships with Arnold Ventures and the Charles Koch Foundation.

Recent media appearances. Eric Ruben (Dedman School of Law) has been asked by many media outlets for his expertise on laws related to the right to

keep and bear arms. A selection of recent appearances include the [New York Daily News](#), [ABC News](#), and [Le Figaro](#).

Staying Informed and Connected with the SMU Community

Staying informed through email listservs. I am highlighting three of the email lists at SMU that have played a significant role in helping me build an overview this year of faculty campus life and of the contributions that reflect our collective efforts, conversations, and celebrations:

- This Week at Meadows provides weekly information about performances, lectures, and events. This weekend alone, our Meadows faculty colleagues will be enriching our community with three opportunities: tonight, the internationally renowned violist Masumi Rostad joins Meadows chamber music students in a program of viola quintets. On Saturday, the Pollock Gallery will host the launch of Assistant Professor Nishiki Sugawara-Beda's new full-color art book, *See You There*, a survey of her artwork from 2012 to 2020 in painting and installation. And on Sunday, the SMU Organ Studio will present a Thanksgiving recital off-campus with works by Bach, Franck, Karg-Elert and Reger.
- The Dedman College of Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) sends reminders of events hosted by interdisciplinary teams of faculty who forge connections among the physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Faculty come together from Dedman College and across SMU, as well as between academia and the broader community. This email features upcoming interdisciplinary research groups and symposia, graduate and undergraduate student research fellowships, and community lecture series. This semester, two featured events included Lightning Talks in the Proposals for an Expanding Earth research cluster (Stephen Arrowsmith, Burke Jam, Sarah Nance, and Matthew Siegler), and Global Literacy and Language for Specific Purposes (Ana Cabot and Paola Buckley).
- SMU-in-the-News. Each week, the Marketing and Communications team provides links to the many ways in which SMU faculty are featured across media outlets. Two brief examples from last week include:

- The U.S. Supreme Court is expediting its examination of the Texas abortion ban because of the way the ban is enforced, constitutional law expert Dale Carpenter told the [Texas Tribune](#).
- Women's law expert Natalie Nanasi discussed the tragic under-enforcement of domestic violence gun prohibitions with the [Guardian](#), [Reveal News](#) and [Reveal News' podcast](#).

You can stay connected with your colleagues and informed about events and initiatives across campus through these and other listservs. SMU has over 150 lists. I encourage you to take a moment to ensure that you are signed up for the communications you are interested in by visiting <http://mylists.smu.edu>.

Additionally, many of our departments host their own weekly or term-based newsletters. I would like to feature two here from the [Physics Department](#), which features Dark Matter Day this week, and from the [World Languages and Literatures Department](#) that showcases faculty and student news and an alumni spotlight.

Thank you for all you do to keep the SMU community a vibrant, connected hub!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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