

Weekly Update | April 28, 2023

Elizabeth G. Loba, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we work toward achieving the goals that fall within our four priority areas through 2025: 1) Academic Excellence/ *US News and World Report* top 50, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 3) 2016 – 2025 Strategic Plan, and 4) Inclusive Excellence.

If you have suggestions for what we should include in future communications, please send your ideas to this [email address](#). Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

Today's update falls into three categories: 1) Spring 2023, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Spring 2023

Honors Convocation 2023

Honors Convocation occurred today, April 28, at 2:00 p.m., and marked the 26th celebration of SMU's outstanding students whose intelligence, dedication, and hard work contribute greatly to the life of the University. Thank you to Dr. Lynne Stokes, professor in Dedman College's Department of Statistics (which will be part of our new interdisciplinary Department of Statistical and Data Science in August), for being this year's featured speaker. And congratulations to the 540 students who were recognized for their academic excellence. See a full list of [award recipients here](#).

Annual Faculty Senate Dinner

On Wednesday, April 26, my office hosted the Annual Faculty Senate Dinner at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. This long-standing tradition honors Faculty Senate members for their work done in service to the University and our faculty. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

Lyle Executive Board spring meeting recap

This week I joined President Turner, Brad Cheves, Vice President for Development and External Affairs; and Nader Jalili, inaugural Mary and Richard Templeton Dean, at the Lyle Executive Board's spring meeting. During my remarks, I reviewed SMU's enrollment forecast for fall 2023, as well as our strategies to keep enrollment strong going forward. I focused particularly on graduate student enrollment and, among recent successes, acknowledged Lyle's projected graduate student increases for fall 2023.

Additionally, I shared our plans for expanding our research impact through innovation and entrepreneurship. Recent investments, such as leasing space in [Pegasus Park](#), transitioning the Incubator@SMU to the [Office of Research and Innovation](#), conducting a national search for the inaugural [Peter O'Donnell, Jr. Data Science Institute Director](#) and receiving an [incredible gift from Mary and Rich](#)

[Templeton](#) to endow both the Mary and Richard Templeton Engineering Excellence Program and deanship are an exciting start to our growing focus on research and innovation.

Provost participating in informal conversations with college/school faculty this spring

On Monday, April 24, I met with faculty from Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. Thank you to the faculty who participated and shared their perspectives during this insightful conversation.

To wrap up these spring conversations, I will be meeting with the Dedman School of Law faculty on May 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hillcrest Appellate Courtroom and Classroom in the Underwood Law Library.

Updated procedures for the service and sale of alcohol on campus

Please take a moment to read the [updated guidelines](#), recently approved by the President's Executive Council (PEC), regarding serving alcohol at on-campus events per [SMU Policy 1.15, Alcohol Policy](#). It is important that all members of the SMU community follow these policies for their own safety as well as for the safety of others. If you have any questions, please contact your dean or department chair.

Generative AI & Chat GPT Follow-Up Panel

Yesterday, the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) hosted the Generative AI & Chat GPT Follow-Up Panel. This panel was initiated by a group of faculty and staff across campus who came together to begin conversations about ChatGPT and Generative AI in January 2023. Thank you to those community members from across the campus who served as panelists, to those who attended and engaged with the program, and to those who worked to coordinate the event.

Guildhall presenting spring 2023 Master's Thesis Exhibition

On May 5, from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Ford Hall, master's-level students in SMU's Guildhall will present their thesis projects. [The exhibition](#) will include demonstrations of the graduating cohort's thesis projects in Art Creation, Level Design, Production and Programming. The event is free and open to the public.

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) acquires work from Meadows faculty member for museum's permanent collection

The [DMA has acquired four new pieces](#) for their permanent collection from SMU faculty member Nishiki Sugawara-Beda, Assistant Professor in the Meadows School of the Arts' Division of Art. These works are entitled, "KuroKuroShiro – The Four Seasons" and are made from the medium of paper mounted onto fabric. They were purchased by the DMA during [the Dallas Art Fair](#), a four-day event featuring artist exhibitions and programming focusing on modern and contemporary works. Congratulations to Professor Sugawara-Beda for this honor and worthy recognition.



Simmons School of Education and Human Development faculty member receives American Educational Research Association's (AERA) Early Career Award

[Dominique Baker](#), associate professor of Education Policy and Leadership in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, has received the [AERA](#) Early Career Award for 2023. Dr. Baker received the honor during the [AERA National Conference](#) in Chicago on April 15. The award recognizes an individual, no later than 10 years after receiving their doctoral degree, for outstanding study in the field of educational inquiry. Dr. Baker joined SMU in 2016 and has been widely published in a variety of journals for her research investigating how education policy affects and shapes the access and success of underrepresented students in higher education. Congratulations, Dr. Baker, for this honor and for the impact your research and teaching have on the local and national levels.

Key leadership searches underway

Peter O'Donnell Jr. Data Science Institute (DSI) Director

Next Friday, May 5, the search committee, chaired by Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, will meet with our executive search firm, Isaacson Miller, to review the current slate of applicants and to assess what adjustments, if any, are needed to establish a complete and highly competitive candidate pool by mid-June.

As always, thank you to Peter Moore, who is serving as the DSI Director *ad interim*, and starting June 1, 2023, Center for Research Computing Director *ad interim*, until the new Director arrives. Be on the lookout for additional information in subsequent newsletters.

News and Noteworthy

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management promoted to Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Chief Enrollment Officer

Please join me in congratulating [Wes Waggoner](#) on his recent promotion to Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Chief Enrollment Officer. Dr. Waggoner has been serving SMU since 2011 when he joined the University as Dean of Admission. Under Dr. Waggoner's leadership, the Division of Enrollment Services has overseen record undergraduate enrollments along with a sustained increase in academic excellence. This success has come in large part as a result of Dr. Waggoner's vision for a data-driven approach to strategic enrollment management (SEM) at the undergraduate level. As a part of his new responsibilities, I have asked Dr. Waggoner to expand SEM to graduate student recruiting. He will be working in partnership with the deans and in conjunction with the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies to architect our graduate SEM strategy and to monitor our progress. Please join me in congratulating Wes on this well-deserved promotion.

SMU engineering faculty member moving to University of North Texas (UNT) to become Dean of the College of Engineering

Beginning June 1, Paul Krueger, Department Chair and Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering's Department of Mechanical Engineering, will commence his [deanship at the University of North Texas](#). Dr. Krueger has been a Lyle faculty member since 2002 and recently served as Dean *ad interim* of the Lyle School. Among his many accomplishments during a 20-year SMU career, Paul also served as Faculty Senate President. Congratulations, Dr. Krueger, on this recognition. Your presence and contributions will be missed on our campus, and we wish you all the best in this next step of your career.

Meadows School student wins National Competition and Inaugural Ebony Prize at the Music Teachers National Association's (MTNA) Young Artist Competition

Lewis Warren Jr. has won First Prize in the national finals of the prestigious [Young Artist Competition](#). In addition to winning First Prize, Warren Jr. was also awarded the first-ever Ebony Prize in the [Music Teachers National Association](#) (MTNA) Young Artist Competition finals. The Ebony Prize was founded by pianist and educator Dr. Leah Claiborne and is awarded to the best performance of a composition by a Black composer. Read more about [Warren Jr.'s performance here](#).

Opera performance graduate student wins the Jonathan Pell People's Choice Award at the Dallas Opera Guild Biennial Lone Star Vocal Competition

[Bethany Jelinek](#) won the People's Choice Award at the Winspear Opera House on March 30. [The Dallas Opera Competition](#) is a statewide contest that supports emerging Texas opera singers and offers them an opportunity to showcase their talents. The competition's award winners are considered some of the most outstanding young artists of their generation.

Global, Online & Continuing Education's (GOCE) Future of Work (FOW) held spring advisory meeting

Last week, [GOCE's](#) Future of Work (FOW) Advisory held a meeting that featured a presentation by Dr. Cullum Clark, [Director of the Bush Institute – SMU Economic Growth Initiative](#) and adjunct professor of economics at SMU. Dr. Clark's presentation offered valuable insights into the current economic landscape and potential future developments in the Dallas area. The Advisory also discussed GOCE's

upcoming fall launch of a new non-credit certificate program: Data Literacy for Business Professionals. This program was developed as a collaborative effort between industry leaders across DFW, including AT&T, Lockheed Martin, Abelson Taylor, and faculty from SMU's Data Science program. Contact [Terry Teague](#) to learn more about the FOW Advisory and other GOCE Advisories.

A Spanish short story, translated to English, published in SMU's Southwest Review, has won the O. Henry Prize for Best Short Stories of the Year

The short story, "The Mad People of Paris," by author Rodrigo Blanco Calderón, translated from Spanish to English by Thomas Bunstead, garnered national attention after its publication in SMU's [Southwest Review](#). This translation will be part of the [2023 O. Henry Prize](#) anthology, an edition of 20 collected short-stories from this past year. Congratulations to all those involved in achieving this award, including Editor-in-Chief of the *Southwest Review*, Greg Brownderville, associate professor of English in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

SMU's equestrian team wins National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) National Championship

SMU won the [2023 Equestrian National Championship](#) last Saturday in Ocala, Florida, making history as the first school outside of the Big 12 and SEC to win the title.

The Equestrian Team also finished their season with a best-ever 13-1 record. Congratulations to Coaches Carol Gwin, Head Coach; Brad Kearns, Western Coach; and Laura Persons, Jumping Seat Coach, for this historic season, and to the SMU Equestrian Team for their outstanding performance.

Sincerely,



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Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
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World Changers Shaped Here