

## Weekly Update | March 31, 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

#### **Reminder: Call for applicants for 2023-2024 Provost Faculty Fellows**

The Provost Faculty Fellows Program is currently taking applications from full-time faculty members to lead projects within the Office of the Provost that enhance our academic priorities. There are three open positions for the 2023-2024 academic year: 1) Graduate Assistantships Fellow, 2) SMU Internationalization Steering Committee Fellow, and 3) Communications and Research Infrastructure Fellow. Stipends and course reductions will be awarded to faculty selected for the program. Applications are **due Friday, April 14**. [Click here](#) to learn more about applying to become a 2023 – 2024 Provost Faculty Fellow.

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

This Wednesday, I met with faculty from Simmons School of Education and Human Development to listen and learn about their priorities for the school. Thank you to the faculty who participated and shared their perspectives. Throughout the month of April, I will be meeting with faculty from the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Meadows School of the Arts, and Cox School of Business with no set agenda, to engage in similar informal conversations. Be on the lookout for information on subsequent visits, and I hope you will be able to attend.

#### **Research and Innovation Week**

Another [Research and Innovation Week](#) has officially concluded with Meadows School of the Arts hosting the last event over the weekend, the Master of Fine Arts Qualifying Exhibition's Opening Reception. Congratulations to Sara Dotterer and Ian Grieve, MFA students, who presented their thesis exhibitions at the [Pollock Gallery](#) in Expressway Tower. Their [exhibition](#) continues through April 15.

Thank you again, to the Moody School and team who took the time and effort to coordinate this week of events and made it such a success. And thank you to those who came to support our colleagues and students.

### **SMU's annual space allocation survey closed**

Today marks the closing of SMU's annual space allocation survey. Now that the survey is closed, the Space Management team will spend the next two weeks reviewing and validating the data provided. Thank you to all survey participants who took the time to make these important updates and to the Space Management team for their effort on this project.

## **Road to R1/Scholarly and Creative Excellence**

### **Moody construction in final stages of completion**

After breaking ground on Friday, December 3, 2021, the Frances Anne Moody Hall, supported by a landmark \$100 million-dollar gift from the Moody Foundation, is in the final stages of completion. Moody Hall will house SMU's eighth degree-granting school, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies as well as the Office of Research and Innovation – two offices vital to SMU's goals for research excellence and R1 status. Employees that will be housed in Moody Hall, including the Office of Graduate Admissions, the Office of Research and Innovation, and the Office of the Dean for Moody School are set to move into Moody Hall by mid-June. A formal dedication of the building will occur during the September 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting.

### **Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowships: Nominations Due Friday, March 31**

To support our goals for research excellence, SMU seeks ways to enhance support for our Ph.D. students and to increase Ph.D. conferrals in areas where growth is sustainable. This week, Robin Poston, dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, [announced a new fellowship program](#) to better support our current and incoming classes of humanities and social sciences Ph.D. students. We have asked department chairs in these areas to submit Ph.D. student nominations no later than today, Friday, March 31 to align with SMU's April 15 deadline for admitted Ph.D. students to accept admission offers.

### **Reminder: Request for Proposals – SMU/Bush Institute post-doctoral program**

We are pleased to continue the [SMU/Bush Institute post-doctoral program](#), established in 2022, in partnership with the George W. Bush Institute, to encourage collaborative research between the two institutions and to increase the number of post-doctoral fellows at SMU. We are funding three more post-doctoral positions for the 2023 academic year. Funding is limited to one year (12 months) per post-doctoral fellow, and preference will be given to proposals that are able to provide a second year of funding for the requested post-doctoral fellow and to proposals from Principal Investigators (PIs) at the rank of Assistant Professor.

All SMU tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit proposals and to serve as PI. All faculty, including teaching and professional (non-tenure track) full-time faculty, may serve as co-PI on proposals and awards. One proposal may be submitted per year per PI. There are no restrictions on the number of proposals on which a faculty member can serve as co-PI. Proposals must be **submitted by April 14** to [provost@smu.edu](mailto:provost@smu.edu) in 11-point or greater font and not exceeding two, 8.5. x 11 pages in length.

### **Two Ph.D. students awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships**

Ph.D. students Juliana Antonio, in the Department of Chemistry in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and Alexa Hassien in the Department of Statistical Science in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, received the highly competitive [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship](#) (NSF-GRFP). The NSF-GRFP is committed to ensuring the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce in the U.S. This fellowship provides three years of financial support inclusive of a \$37,000 stipend. Both students worked with the [Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards](#) in Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies to prepare their

applications. Faculty and graduate students can reach out to [Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips](#) to learn more about the NSF-GRFP application process.

### **Key leadership searches underway**

#### **Peter O'Donnell Jr. Data Science Institute Director**

The search committee, chaired by Dr. Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, is working with our consultants from Isaacson Miller to create the position description that will inform the search. Be on the lookout for additional information in subsequent newsletters. Continued thanks to Peter Moore for serving as Data Science Institute Director *ad interim* until our new director arrives.

## **News and Noteworthy**

### **Faculty member named Dallas Innovates 2023 Future 50 under 50 list for driving innovation forward**

Lyle School of Engineering faculty member Dr. J.-C. Chiao, Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been recognized by [Dallas Innovates](#) for “transforming the field of medical devices with his cutting-edge research on wireless, batteryless implants.” Congratulations to Dr. Chiao for this recognition and for this new, impactful contribution to engineering and medical research.

### **SMU Debate continues their impressive performance at the International Public Debate (IPDA) Association's national championship in Boise, Idaho, winning 68% of preliminary round debates**

Beating their previous record in the [Tokyo tournaments](#) that I shared in [last week's newsletter](#), SMU debate won 68% of their preliminary round debates with student Kaleb Simes advancing to the final four in varsity level. SMU was represented by student debaters Evangeline Bulick, Sarah Mende, Hailey Hazen, Eric Ryan, and Kaleb Simes, finishing the year as the #12 debate program in the United States. Thank you to Director of Debate Dr. Ben Voth, professor of rhetoric in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, along with debate coaches Ross Sloan, lecturer in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences department of English, and Keith Milstead, president of the International Public Debate Association, for their time and effort making the SMU Debate team a success. And thank you to Dr. K.C. Mmeje, Vice President of Student Affairs, for providing support so that SMU Debate could attend nationals.

### **Clements Center for Southwest Studies in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences has received a \$150,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

The [Clements Center](#) has obtained a grant from the Mellon Foundation under [The Monuments Project](#), the largest initiative in the foundation's 50-year history focusing on reimagining monuments in the U.S. This grant will underwrite a two-part symposium “[Contested Commemorations: Public Memory in the South and West](#)”; the first part will be held in fall 2023 at SMU's satellite campus in Taos, New Mexico and the second part will occur in spring 2024 at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles, California. This symposium will focus on monuments and memory in the South and West, examining the intersection of commemoration and memorialization, which will lead to a published volume.

### **2023 recipient of the SMU Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award named**

Congratulations to undergraduate student Mimi Wassef, a senior studying English and Applied Physiology & Health Management on winning this year's Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award. Her winning paper, entitled “Effect of Resistance Training on White Blood Cell Count and Chemotherapy Efficacy in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Patients During Adriamycin-Cyclophosphamide Chemotherapy Treatment,” will be

archived in [SMU Scholar](#). Thank you to Dr. Megan Murphy, Director of Health Promotion Management in Simmons School of Education and Human Development for nominating Miss Wassef and thank you to all faculty who took time to nominate our outstanding students for this recognition.

## **SMU hosted the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair Beal Bank Awards Banquet**

On Wednesday evening, SMU hosted the winning students and teachers from February's Beal Bank Dallas Regional Science and Engineering. The top projects from each participating school will advance to district and regional fairs, then onwards to state and international competitions. Learn more about the banquet, students and [awards here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth G. Lobo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

**World Changers Shaped Here**