

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, 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 [submit your ideas through this form](#). 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. Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

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

Spring 2024

Dean *ad interim* named for Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences

On April 9, [I sent a message](#) announcing Nathan Balke as the dean *ad interim* of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. Professor Balke, 2007 Dedman Family Distinguished Professor in the Department of Economics, has agreed to serve as dean *ad interim* effective June 1, 2024, until a permanent dean has been named. In my conversations with Dedman College constituents this spring to inform our search for a permanent dean, Nathan was a natural fit for the interim, and we are very grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity. Please join me in welcoming Nathan on his assumption of the interim role.

As for the current search for the next permanent Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean of Dedman College, the search committee is scheduled to meet again on April 15, to review applications received to date and to discuss strategies for next steps.

Call for applications: Associate Vice Provost for Research

On April 10, [I sent a message](#) to faculty calling for nominations and applications for an associate vice provost for research (AVPR). The AVPR will work closely with the vice provost for research and chief innovation officer (VPR/CIO) and the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) team on a variety of initiatives related to sponsored projects, research integrity, compliance, and technology transfer and

commercialization. They will support activities to promote research and grant writing, organize regular meetings with SMU's associate deans, and organize principal investigator meetings.

All SMU tenured faculty at the rank of professor who have demonstrated success in research and external funding are eligible to apply or be nominated. A complete application will include a cover letter describing relevant experiences and interest in the position; a current curriculum vitae; and the names of three references with titles, mailing addresses, business/home telephone numbers, and email addresses. Individuals who wish to nominate a candidate should submit a letter of nomination including the name, position, address, telephone number, and email address of the nominee. Applications and letters of nomination should be submitted to my office via e-mail to Daniel Eady (deady@smu.edu) no later than May 3, 2024.

SMU Townhall on Report from SMU Internationalization Steering Committee: April 24, 3 p.m.

The SMU Internationalization Steering Committee invites members of the SMU Community to a virtual townhall to review and give feedback on the Steering Committee's results, findings and recommendations after its careful study of SMU's current internationalization practices, those of our cohort and aspirational peer institutions and best practices in internationalization in higher education.

The townhall is planned for April 24, from 3–4:30 p.m. and will take place via Zoom. The draft internationalization report is available for review [here](#). An executive summary is available [here](#). We invite all members of the SMU community who are interested in this topic to attend the townhall and share their feedback. Further participation details to follow next week. After the townhall, the internationalization report will be revised and presented to SMU leadership.

Reminder: Call for applications and nominations for Director of SMU's Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)

The Center for Teaching Excellence has placed an open call for applications and nominations for the center's next director.

All full-time, benefits-eligible faculty are eligible to apply for the position or to be nominated. Applications should be submitted as a current CV and cover letter, while nominations should consist of a brief paragraph of endorsement. Applications and nominations should be submitted to facultysuccess@smu.edu by Friday, April 26. Finalists will be invited to an interview the week of May 6–10 with a start date of June 1 or July 1, 2024. Questions about the position or process can be addressed to Paige Ware, associate provost for faculty success, at pware@smu.edu.

Microsoft Copilot, an AI assistant, now available to all SMU employees and students

Microsoft has expanded access to [Copilot](#), an artificial intelligence assistant, to all Microsoft 365 for higher education users, making it available to SMU community members at no extra cost to the University. Copilot is a tool that [supports everyday business and work tasks](#) such as turning Microsoft Word documents into PowerPoint presentations, creating post-meeting action item lists, and summarizing long documents, email threads and meeting recordings. Learn more about how to leverage this new tool on the [Microsoft Blog](#) and the [Copilot resource page](#).

Additionally, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) has Microsoft Teams with Copilot [training available](#) through [LinkedIn Learning](#).

[Login to Copilot here](#) with your SMU email and password on either a Chrome or Edge browser.

Academic Excellence

Two undergraduate business majors selected as “Best And Brightest” by Poets & Quants

SMU undergraduate students Mohan Desai, '24 and Lydia Garrett, '24 have been named among [Poets & Quants Best & Brightest Undergraduate Business Majors of 2024](#).

[Mohan Desai](#) was recognized for being a student who is engaged and successful both in and out of the classroom. He is committed to making the University a better place by serving on the SMU Student Senate and SMU's Board of Trustees' standing finance and audit committees. Desai is also a peer coach in the Cox Career Management Center where he mentors incoming students.

[Lydia Garrett](#) was recognized for her impact as president of The Boulevard Investment Group and as a Don Jackson Fellow, where she serves as an ambassador to the Alternative Assets Program. Garrett will join William Blair as an investment banking analyst in their technology group after graduation.

Thank you to Jim Bryan, associate dean for undergraduate programs at Cox School of Business, for nominating our outstanding students for this national recognition.

Students at Meadows School of the Arts' Temerlin Advertising Institute collected 88 advertising awards this calendar year

In just the first few months of the 2024 calendar year, students from Meadows School of the Arts' Temerlin Advertising Institute (TAI) have already [won 88 advertising awards](#). These awards have come from multiple competitions including the GRAPHIS International New Talent Annual, the Dallas Student Division of the American Advertising Awards (ADDYs) and the American Advertising Federation (AAF) District 10 ADDYs. Students who won a Gold or Silver ADDY will advance to nationals in May, which means our students will have more opportunities to bring home awards.

Congratulations to the students who competed and thank you for representing SMU so well. Thank you as well to the TAI faculty for supporting our students' creative talents and helping them hone their skills to such a high level.

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Call for applications: Faculty Research Acceleration Grant

The O'Donnell Data Science and Research Computing Institute (ODSRCI) is currently accepting applications for the Faculty Research Acceleration Grant.

Applying lead PIs must be faculty at SMU, although they can be from any field of study. The grant is intended to bolster research that incorporates large-scale data science, multimodal data, AI/ML

technologies, or implementation on SMU high-performance computing (HPC) platforms. All grants awarded will total up to \$100,000 for the year.

Proposal packets should be submitted by 5 p.m. on May 3, 2024, and include confidential letter(s) of support written by the department chair(s) along with a [completed proposal template](#). Proposal packets should be submitted via email to Dr. Neena Imam at nimam@smu.edu.

Learn more details about the [grant and proposal submissions details here](#).

Cox School of Business professor co-authors research revealing nature's impact on healthy food consumption decisions

Professor Maria Langlois, Department of Marketing at Cox School of Business, and her colleague Pierre Chandon, L'Oréal Chaired Professor of Marketing, INSEAD Business School – France, recently published their study, "[Experiencing Nature Leads to Healthier Food Choices](#)" in [Communications Psychology](#). Through a series of five experiments, their research reveals that experiencing nature leads to healthier food choices when compared to experiencing urban environments or neutral environments (i.e., control condition).

The duo has also written a "[behind the paper](#)" [blog post on SpringerNature's Research Communities](#), where they provide some high-level insights and discuss the inspiration behind their research.

Congratulations to Research & Innovation Week poster session award winners

Research & Innovation Week 2024 took place last week, and this year, over 175 undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars presented their research during the week's poster sessions, a record for participation. Thank you to all the students and postdocs who shared their research with the SMU community, and congratulations to the poster session award winners, selected for the promise of their research and the clarity of their presentations. A list of undergraduate winners can be found [here](#) and graduate student and postdoc winners can be found [here](#). More information about the events that took place during Research & Innovation Week is available at smu.edu/riw.

Inclusive Excellence

Assistant dean for student success and inclusive excellence at Lyle School of Engineering honored at fifth annual Women Who Steam Awards & Luncheon

Kathy Hubbard, assistant dean for student success and inclusive excellence at Lyle School of Engineering, was honored at the [Dallas chapter of The Links, Incorporated's](#) fifth annual [Women Who Steam Awards & Luncheon](#), on April 4. This event recognizes outstanding women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). The Dallas chapter of The Links, Incorporated, established in 1957 by a group of accomplished African American women, is committed to "enriching communities and improving the quality of life for people of African descent through friendship and service."

Kathy Hubbard has worked at SMU for more than 22 years and has spent her career focused on helping students thrive in higher education. She has established leadership development and mentorship programs, led hands-on community service projects in her local community, and has

architected Lyle's increase in the number of students representing traditionally minoritized groups in engineering.

Learn more about [Kathy Hubbard here](#).

First-generation computer science engineering major featured in The Dallas Morning News for impactful community leadership

Arath Dominguez '25, an undergraduate student at Lyle School of Engineering was featured in [The Dallas Morning News](#) for building a community of support and friendship as a first-generation student and role model.

Dominguez discussed the multiple aspects of his SMU education and community experience that are making him a successful college student and that will one day support him as a successful engineer and leader.

News and Noteworthy

Cox School of Business honors distinguished alumni at awards luncheon

Cox School of Business honored four alumni at its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon on April 5, in the Collins Executive Center. The school presented two Distinguished Alumni Awards and two Outstanding Young Alumni Awards. This year's Distinguished Alumni Award winners were Pete Lodwick, BBA '77 and Connie O'Neill, BBA '77. The 2024 Outstanding Young Alumni honorees were Brittany Dewan Frazier, BBA '08, BA '08, and MSA '09 and Chip Hiemenz, BBA '06.

Read more about the [Cox Distinguished Alumni Awardees and the selection process here](#).

Southwest Review Frontera festival featured in D Magazine

[Frontera, a new free literary festival](#) to be held in the Bishop Arts District and hosted by the *Southwest Review*, a quarterly literary magazine housed on SMU's campus, was [featured in the April issue of D Magazine](#). The article interviews Greg Brownderville, editor-in-chief of the *Southwest Review* and professor in the Department of English at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, who discusses his plans and hopes for the festival.

On April 12 and 13, Frontera will feature a screening of *Wild at Heart* with Barry Gifford, a performance by comic artists Los Bros Hernandez of Love and Rockets, musical performances by Special Interest and Bass Drum of Death, and author readings.

Sincerely,



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