



Office of Engaged Learning Newsletter

Issue No. 3 | September 2022

In this newsletter I invite you to read stories about the Summer Research Intensive, our NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates called "Data Science for Social Good", the Incubator@SMU Entrepreneurship Fellows, and Clinton Global Initiative University. Other news includes our increased funding for Engage Learning Fellowships (now up to \$2500) and new partnerships to support first-generation and Pell-eligible students at SMU. I also extend an enormous "thank you" to our students, faculty mentors, staff partners, and SAES. We could not possibly run such amazing programs, help so many students, and seed some of the best things happening at SMU without your support! Thank you, again, and cheers to a terrific school year! -Jennifer Ebinger, Director OEL



REU students, from SMU & 8 other universities, on a field trip to Dallas City Hall. Read more on p. 3

Newsletter Highlights
Incubator@SMU
Undergraduate Research
Student & Staff Spotlights

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| Upcoming Events: | October: | Featured Events: |
| September: | 10/26 Presentation Practice Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106 | Big iDeas Pitch Competition |
| 9/13 & 9/15 Pitch Practice and iDeation Workshop 4pm Clements Basement | 10/27 Presentation Practice Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106 | Friday, September 23, 10am-1pm HTSC Ballroom smu.edu/bigideas |
| 9/20 & 9/22 Big iDeas Pitch Practice 4pm Clements Basement | November: | Fall Research Symposium |
| 9/15 ELF Submission Deadline smu.edu/elf | 11/30 Crafting Your ELF Proposal Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106 | Thursday, November 3, 3-6pm HTSC Chamber & Level 1 smu.edu/fallsymposium |
| 9/28 From Idea to Publication Drop-in Workshop 3-5pm, FLE 106 | December: | Reading a print copy? Scan this QR code to access the links |
| 9/29 From Idea to Publication Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106 | 12/1 Crafting Your ELF Proposal Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106 12/15 ELF Submission Deadline <i>Our research workshops will be in the new Scholarship and Research Studio, Fondren Library Red 106</i> | |

ELF funding has increased to \$2500

Incubator@SMU Highlights

Entrepreneurship Fellows



The Entrepreneurship Fellows inaugural program concluded with 7 companies completing **E-Launch 2**. E-Launch is designed to help startups and small businesses advance from the idea stage to angel funding.

Bring YOUR Big iDea and Pitch to Win \$1,000

The **Big iDeas Business Pitch Competition** provides SMU undergraduates a chance to win seed funding for their entrepreneurial ideas. And we do mean "ideas" because the programming and funding support will help you devise a plan to move that idea to an actual start up! Nothing to lose but 1K!

Where SMU Start-Ups Begin!

Big iDeas Pitch Contest
for Corporate, Tech, Social Impact, Arts and Creative Entrepreneurs

In 90 Seconds Pitch to Win \$1000

Application Deadline September 8
Apply: smu.edu/bigideas

Pitch to Win live in the Hughes-Trigg Chamber
September 10th at 10am

Watch the contest Family Weekend

Incubator@SMU Overview

The Incubator@SMU is home to 30 companies from a variety of industries as well as a support-system for the growth and development of early stage companies and scaling startups. The Entrepreneurship Fellowship is held each year in two parts: E-Launch 1 in fall covers business basics, and E-Launch 2 in spring brings these concepts to life in actionable ways. Big iDeas winners have automatic access to the space and programming. 10 fellows were accepted into the new cohort. smu.edu/incubator



Summer Highlights

Congratulations to Big iDeas winners **Mason Morland** and **Raleigh Dewan** on their acceptance into the Summer 2022 **VentureWell E-Team Grant** Program with a \$20,000 award to support their innovation, **SteadySpoon**, which helps Parkinson's patients eat with dignity. [Read more online](#)



NTAN at SMU

The **North Texas Angel Network** began holding their monthly meetings at the Incubator@SMU. Incubator companies now have a regular opportunity to connect to the investor community and hear pitches from across North Texas.



Club Leadership Opportunity!
Do you want to lead and expand the undergraduate entrepreneurship club? Contact **Nancy Hong**
nhong@smu.edu

Clinton Global Initiative

You may not know this but OEL is the home to the **Clinton Global Initiative University**. Each year 5-7 students are selected for this highly competitive opportunity to develop social impact projects. Check out what this program is about and stay-tuned for deadlines. First-year through students are encouraged to apply, too!
smu.edu/cgiu



Undergraduate Research Highlights

Summer Research Intensive

26 students participated in this year's *Summer Research Intensive* (SRI) working with 21 faculty members in Dedman, Lyle, and Simmons. Participants also attended professional development workshops led by our office and staff from the Office of Research (**Heather McClary**), SMU Libraries (**Megan Heuer** and **Rafia Mirza**), and the Hegi Career Center (**Nichole Baillargeon**).

Other activities included Qualitative Coding workshops led by **Paige Ware**, **Jennifer Ebinger** & **Adam Neal** and "Real Talk" sessions led by **Jackie Lowrey**, **CiCi Santos '22** and **Nicole Palacios**.



Summer Research & Innovation Symposium

Participants also attended our weekly *Summer Research & Innovation Symposium* lunch series, which featured talks by **Barbara Minsker** (Civil Engineering), **Stephanie Wilson** (Psychology), **Doug Gray** (Director of Data Science, Walmart), **Heather DeShon** (Earth Sciences), **Doran Bennett** (Chemistry), and **Andrew Davies** (Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center).



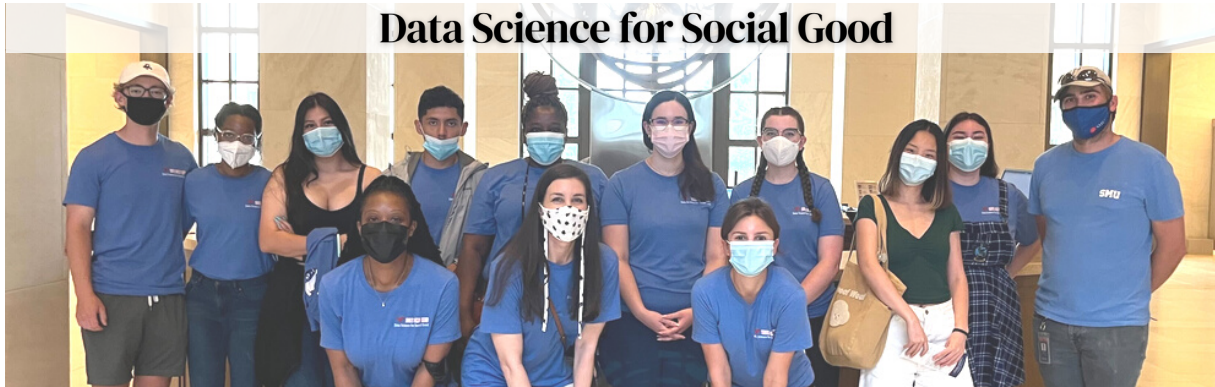
"Real Talk" lunch session about imposter syndrome

Three Minute Thesis

Congrats to our winning presenters! (L-R) SMU students **Joshua Ange '25** (Mentor: Robert Calkins, Physics), **Ruthie Miller '23** (Mentor: Stephanie Wilson, Psychology), **Julia Griffin '23** (Mentor: Ernest Jouriles, Psychology), and Data Science REU participants **Jasmine Baldwin**, **Michala Gradner**, and **Jenny Xu** (not pictured) (Mentor: Mary Spector, Dedman Law).



Data Science for Social Good



The **Data Science Institute** and the Office of Engaged Learning received a grant through the National Science Foundation to offer a *Research Experience for Undergraduates* (REU) called "Data Science for Social Good." The program welcomed students from 8 other universities in addition to SMU. The students went through a "data science bootcamp" led by **Eric Godat** (OIT), then worked on projects with faculty mentors **Cullum Clark**, **Janille Smith-Colin**, **Jessie Zarazaga**, **Mary Spector**, and **Matt Wilson**. Participants received a stipend, room and board, and several field trips in the local area. Read more at smu.edu/reu

Student and Staff Spotlights

Engaged Learning Fellows (ELF) Spotlight



Click image to watch YouTube video.

Shannon Lee '23 created "Excelling at English: A Podcast Featuring Tips and Success Stories from Non-Native Speakers of English." Learn about her project in this [video interview](#) with Shannon, created by **Ixchell Ibañez '24**.

ELFs Abroad

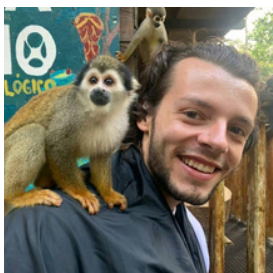
Several of our fellows went abroad this summer to conduct research



Mace Cowart '23 traveled to Israel to study Gaga movement technique. Mace's faculty mentor is Kara-Lynn Vaeni (Theatre).



Sipho Dongozi '23 traveled to Zimbabwe to conduct an oral history project on women's rights. Sipho's faculty mentor is Jill Kelly (History).



Nick Simpson '23 traveled to Ecuador for an anthropological study of indigenous community radio. Nick's faculty mentor is Carolyn Smith-Morris (Anthropology).

Assistant Director Spotlight: Undergraduate Research

If you're applying for the Engaged Learning Fellowship, want to learn about funding programs on campus, or just want to brainstorm what you might research, Dr. Adam Neal is here to help! Adam coordinates the ELF and URA programs, along with events and workshops. Adam has been in the Office since 2019. He earned a PhD in music composition from the University of Florida, and his compositions have been played in 32 states and 15 countries. His most recent publication is "Lo-Fi Today" in *Organised Sound* 27(1). [Read it online](#)



Assistant Director Spotlight: Campuswide Entrepreneurship

If you're an aspiring entrepreneur or founder of a new start-up, you should meet Camille McCallum! Camille leads campus-wide entrepreneurship programs, including the Big iDeas pitch contests and the Incubator@SMU. She helps developing entrepreneurs through coordinating funding, designing educational programming, and coaching. Camille holds a BA in Public Policy Leadership from the University of Mississippi and a Master's in Education Policy and Leadership from SMU. She is an influencer and founder of the lifestyle brand [Black Woman on a Mission](#). Find her on TikTok: [@camilleviviana](#)



Make a Donation

It costs approximately \$2000 to fund a student project. Want to make a difference? Search for "Office of Engaged Learning Fund" at <https://link.smu.edu/giving/givenow>

