

Weekly Update | March 17, 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/ 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](#).

As we wrap up SMU's Spring Break 2023, I am hopeful that each of you found ways to rest and recharge in preparation for the remaining eight weeks of the spring term. 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

Recovering classroom contact hours disrupted by this semester's winter storm

In early February 2023, SMU canceled classes for three days in response to inclement weather. Pursuant to that cancellation, [I convened an ad-hoc committee](#), including the Academic Policies Committee of Faculty Senate, 4(o)-5(ries6t2EQ8c5(m)6(m)-4(it)11(t 7n 95.582.225.58333Fc01B53T0 (

To support this, I have asked each Dean to work with their faculty to create a detailed plan that outlines, by college/school, the specific approach to making up missed contact hours in individual departments. See the full announcement about inclement weather policies and how we plan to move [forward here](#).

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

This year's keynote talk, "[The Future of Dallas: Innovative Pathways to Technology for All](#)," a conversation between Taylor Shead, CEO and founder of STEMuli Studios, and Stephanie Knight, Dean of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, will take place on Monday, March 20 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Auditorium immediately after a reception with refreshments at 5:30 p.m. in the same location. A livestream of the talk will be [available here](#).

[Undergraduate Poster Session](#)

Research posters will be presented by SMU undergraduates from across campus and prizes will be awarded. [This session](#) will be held on Tuesday, March 21 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Ballroom.

[Graduate Poster Session](#)

Research posters will be presented by SMU graduate students, postdocs, and undergraduate poster session winners. Additional prizes will be awarded. [This session](#) will be held on Wednesday, March 22 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Ballroom.

[Graduate Education and the Future of Research in North Texas Panel](#)

[This panel](#) will feature esteemed faculty from SMU and other North Texas universities, and will be moderated by Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer. The panel will take place on Thursday, March 23 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center Auditorium with a reception and refreshments immediately following at 5:00 p.m. in the same location. A livestream of the talk will be [available here](#).

[Master of Fine Arts Qualifying Exhibitio](#)

the Congressional Award Board of Directors, the award is given to a member of the private sector who is making a difference in the lives of the young people they support. Dixon Hall received the award in late February and was presented the award by her former student, Mateo Magdaleno, an SMU alumnus and member of the Congressional Award Foundation Board of Directors.

Library project archivist processing Ebby Halliday papers resulting from an earlier gift from the Ebby Halliday Foundation

SMU Library's project archivist Krishna Shenoy is processing the Ebby Halliday papers at DeGolyer Library to preserve and make accessible the work of Ebby Halliday, the "First Lady of Dallas Real Estate." Ebby Halliday (1911-2015) lived to be 104, and on her 90th birthday began saving the many birthday cards, photos and newspaper articles she received. We thank the SMU Libraries for their archival work that will allow these papers to be available to scholars and the public.

Meadows School Advertising students win record-breaking number of American Advertising Federation's (AAF) Dallas ADDY Awards and advance to regional competition

SMU made an impressive showing at the American Advertising Federation's Dallas chapter competition for the ADDY awards recognizing "the creative spirit of excellence in the art of advertising." Of the 30 student awards distributed, 26 of them went to SMU. Students brought home 16 Silver awards, the student "Best of Show" award, and nine Gold awards breaking their own record of Gold awards from last year. Since students did not win anything less than a Silver award, every entry will move forward to the regional competition where they will compete with Gold and Silver winners in AAF's District 10, which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

SMU Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) named finalist for national award

SMU GOCE is proud to be a finalist for this year's Excellence in Recruitment and Admissions Innovation award at the annual Salesforce Education Summit. The award goes to a higher education institution that uses Salesforce in innovative, forward-looking ways to transform recruitment and admissions. Over the past year, SMU GOCE has implemented Salesforce chatbots across the SMU Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) website to provide real-time program information to prospective students. Providing an exceptional student experience is a pillar of SMU and is supported through innovative efforts like this one. Support SMU GOCE by voting for them before March 20 on [this website](#). Over 500 schools and 3,000 attendees are expected to attend the Salesforce Education Summit, hosted this year in Dallas. Awards will be announced and presented on April 11.

Two undergraduate students awarded U.S. Department of State's prestigious Critical Language Scholarship

with a Bachelor of Arts in international studies, will be studying Arabic this summer in either Jordan, Morocco, or Oman. EJ Rorem, a third-year political science and statistical science major, will be travelling to Dushanbe, Tajikistan this summer to continue learning Persian. EJ is a member of the Dedman College Scholars, Tower Scholars, and University Honors Program.

Second-year Journalism major selected as one of 12 students nationally to join Institute for Responsible Citizenship's 2023 cohort

Kirk Ogunrinde, a second-year journalism major, was selected to join this year's