



became passionate about education reform and especially at the public school level after teaching at a downtown Dallas charter school. "It gave me insight into the challenges that people in an urban environment face every day," Khan says.

Deborah Diffly, associate professor of teaching and learning, says this year's cohort is different because so many come from careers in other fields.

"This class, as a group, quickly formed a unique personality. They're very outspoken and very willing to share opinions," Diffly says. "To a person, there's a strong desire to give back to the world, to do something meaningful with their days."

For more information on the Master of Education with Certification program, visit [smu.edu/MasterEdCert](http://smu.edu/MasterEdCert).

Associate Professor Leanne Ketterling-Geller brings her expertise in assessment design and development to the Department of Education Policy and Leadership. Her interests include data-based decision making in educational systems. She comes to SMU from the University of Oregon, where she taught and directed several federal and state supported research projects.

Gary Robinson, the former deputy general counsel of Tenet Healthcare Corporation, is the new director of the Dispute Resolution program at SMU-in-Plano. Prior to joining Tenet, he was a partner and chair of the labor and employment department at Mullen & Henzell, LLP in Santa Barbara, California.

Michael Lysko will teach sports management in the Department of Applied Physiology and Wellness. Lysko formerly served as a Commissioner of the Canadian Football League and also directed the Athletics and Recreation Services at the University of Western Ontario.

Each student has been through the classes, learned how to build a story, develop characters and plot, work with motivation and tension and drama. Each has completed a manuscript and will meet with six publishing professionals who have read the opening 15 pages and synopsis of their work. Students will receive their recommendations in person.

Nothing can guarantee publication, but Frank says the program has successes because of strong instructors who are working, published professionals, and because of a curriculum that's responsive to what students need. "Impassioned, committed students who do the work certainly improve the odds," she adds.

To learn more about the Creative Writing Program, visit [smu.edu/CreativeWriting](http://smu.edu/CreativeWriting).

Program director Suzanne Frank and students Jeff Morton and Ken Goodnight discussed manuscripts during last year's New York trip to meet editors.

Middle school students in the Talented and Gifted (TAG) summer program advance their interests during three weeks of college courses on campus. To experience college life, they also stay in residence halls and have extracurricular activities. The program is part of the Gifted Students Institute in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

For more information, visit [smu.edu/Gifted](http://smu.edu/Gifted).

April Kramer Andreas '02, '03 got her start at SMU by participating in the TAG camp. Now a faculty member of McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas, she's the first to return to TAG and teach. She hands out earth samples in her class, *Mars or Bust: Building a Permanent Martian Settlement*.

