



Elizabeth G. Lobo, Ph. D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost

May 13, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your interest in, and commitment to, advancing SMU's academic mission. These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you informed and engaged with SMU's Academic Affairs division as, together, we manage a safe, healthy and productive spring semester. 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](#).

Spring 2022

- **Fondren Library open 24/7 through May 11** – Fondren Library stayed open around the clock through May 11th to provide students support and study opportunities through final exams. Many thanks to the Fondren staff for providing outstanding service to our entire community throughout the year, but especially to our students during the busy finals season.
- **May Commencement** – SMU's 107th annual May Commencement will take place this Saturday, May 14, at 9:00 am in Ford Stadium. For those faculty who plan to attend, we welcome you to the Faculty Breakfast to begin at 8:00 am. Please let us know if you will be able to join for breakfast by emailing facultysuccess@smu.edu.

Grant Moise, President and Publisher of the *Dallas Morning News*, is this year's commencement speaker, and Anita Martinez, the first Mexican

American member of the Dallas City Council and founder of Ballet Folklórico, will receive an honorary degree.

Click [here](#) for additional information on May commencement festivities.

Road to R1/Scholarly Creative Excellence:

- **SMU leaders go to Washington D.C. in June to discuss FY 2023 earmarks** – The Office of Research, working in coordination with SMU faculty and in consultation with executives from Clark Hill – SMU’s federal government relations advisors – has identified several federal grant opportunities earmarked for the federal FY 2023 budget that align with SMU faculty members’ research strengths. To advocate for SMU’s faculty proposals, Clark Hill is arranging a visit to Capital Hill for SMU leadership June 13 – 16. During these meetings in Washington D.C., we will have the opportunity to meet with members of Congress (Senate; House) and represent SMU’s strengths prior to the finalization of FY 2023 budget allocations.
- **Webinar for the NEH Summer Stipends Program.** The National Endowment for the Humanities will be offering a webinar on the NEH Summer Stipends program for administrators and prospective applicants, introducing the program, describing the application and nomination process, and offering application-writing suggestions. There will be a chance to ask questions, captions will be available, and the webinar will be recorded so others can watch it later.

Date: Wednesday, May 18

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm (Central time). To join the webinar, click on [this link](#).

Several of our administrators and faculty will be attending. If you have questions, please reach out to facultyysuccess@smu.edu

- **SMU libraries offers \$1,000 research assignment stipends** – SMU Libraries’ Research Assignment Stipend awards \$1,000 to faculty for winning proposals to integrate new information literacy components into

undergraduate and graduate coursework in collaboration with librarians. Information literacy gained from well-designed research assignments allows students to think more critically, to translate information into knowledge, and to use what they've learned outside of the classroom to support their own understanding. [Submit your proposals](#) for summer/fall 2022 by May 28, 2022.

- **SMU/Bush Institute post-doctoral program update** – Thanks to the 12 faculty teams who submitted responses to our request for proposals (RFPs) for our new post-doctoral program with the Bush Institute. This week, Jim Quick, Associate Provost for Research and Dean of the Moody School, and I reviewed all submissions. Similar reviews are currently underway by representatives from the Bush Institute. Upon review completion, and final deliberations between SMU and the Bush Institute, we hope to announce next year's three recipients within the next few weeks.
- **Key leadership searches underway:**
 - **Dedman Law Dean** – The search committee conducted confidential semifinalist interviews last week and put forward four exceptional finalists. We completed in person visits and campus interviews with three out of four finalists this week and, based on community feedback and the recommendation of the search committee, we will determine whether and when to host interviews and a campus visit for a fourth and final candidate. As a reminder, all candidates arriving to Campus should remain confidential. Please do not share candidates' names or visits with anyone outside of SMU.
 - **Vice Provost for Research (VPR) and Chief Innovation Officer (CIO)** – A campus visit and interviews with our fourth finalist will take place next week. Click [here](#) for information on how to participate in the Vision Talk for our fourth candidate. As a reminder, all candidates arriving to Campus should remain confidential. Please do not share candidates' names or visits with anyone outside of SMU.

- **Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Associate Provost for Graduate Education** – On Tuesday, I met with the search committee to discuss their observations concerning our four finalists. I have commenced negotiations with our top candidate with the hope of announcing our new Dean of the Moody School later this month.
- **Lyle School of Engineering Dean** – The search committee for the permanent Dean will be appointed and charged at the start of the fall 2022 semester and Sam Holland, Dean of the Meadows School, will chair the committee.

Paul Krueger, who will be Dean *ad interim* of the Lyle School of Engineering, has tapped Ali Beskok, Brown Foundation Inc. Professor of Engineering, to serve as Chair *ad interim* of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, effective May 16, 2022. Professor Beskok joined Lyle's Mechanical Engineering department in 2013 as department chair and served in that role until 2019. Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Beskok.

News and Noteworthy:

- **Meadows School of the Arts' Professor Barbara Hill Moore receives 2022 Faculty Career Achievement Award** – SMU's Faculty Career Achievement Award was established in 2015 to recognize remarkable contributions across the scope of a career by a current tenured SMU faculty member to the teaching, scholarship, and service missions of the University. On Monday, President Turner and I had the honor of presenting the 2022 Faculty Career Achievement Award to Professor Barbara Hill Moore, Meadows Foundation Distinguished Professor of Voice and Senior Associate Dean in the Meadows School of the Arts. This award was created with someone like Professor Hill Moore in mind. Her teaching, artistic and service contributions, both at SMU and around the world, have enriched our community for nearly five decades. Please join me in congratulating Professor Hill Moore.

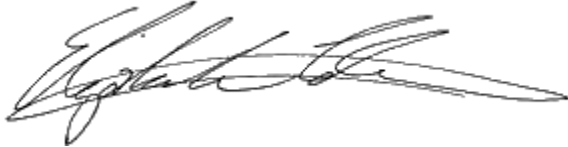
- **Farewell receptions for Deans Christensen and Collins** – This week, we hosted farewell receptions to celebrate the tenures of Dean Marc Christensen, Lyle School of Engineering; and Dean Jennifer Collins, Dedman School of Law, and to congratulate them on their upcoming presidencies at Clarkson University (Christensen) and Rhodes College (Collins). Thank you, Marc and Jennifer, for your service to SMU. Your presence and contributions to SMU will be missed, but your accomplishments here will be remembered for years to come.

- **The Division of Student Affairs Annual Hilltop Excellence Awards** – The [Hilltop Excellence Awards](#) is SMU's most prestigious awards ceremony, annually recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of students, staff, and faculty at SMU. Each spring, the Division of Student Affairs invites nominations from the entire SMU community. Special congratulations to this year's faculty/staff recipients of the "M" awards, the highest recognition bestowed upon students, faculty, staff and administrators on the SMU Campus:
 - Sue Bierman – Executive Director of the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC)
 - Marta Krogh – Director, Hilltop Scholars Program; Senior Lecturer, Writing and Reasoning
 - Rachel Mulry – Associate CIO for Planning and Customer Service
 - Bivin Sadler – SMU Technical Assistant Professor and Course Lead faculty
 - Tommy Tucker – Interim Director and Arranger, Mustang Band

- **Announcing new Faculty in Residence for fall 2022 (FiR)** – The FiR Recruitment and Selection committee conducted interviews with FiR applicants last week. Based on their recommendation, we are [pleased to announce](#) that Ashley Stone, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Simmons School of Education's Department of Education Policy and Leadership, will begin service this fall as a FiR in McElvaney Commons. Congratulations, Dr. Stone! And, thank you to all our faculty applicants.

- **SMU's American Sign Language (ASL) student-produced video** – This spring, SMU's ASL students put together [this video](#) featuring them signing (along with cameo appearances by some SMU staff members). Thank you to our students for this beautiful and inspirational tribute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

World Changers Shaped Here