

Weekly Update | May 12, 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/US News and World Report 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](#).

Today's update falls into three categories: 1) Spring/Summer 2023, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Spring/Summer 2023

For the very first time in SMU's history, three schools ranked in **U.S. News and World Report top 50**

[U.S. News and World Report](#) released their discipline-specific rankings for 2023-2024 over the past few weeks, and three of SMU's schools are ranked in the top 50. This is a first for SMU and a credit to the faculty, staff and students who have garnered this recognition. [Cox School of Business](#) is ranked 33rd for their MBA program (an eight-point jump from last year), [Dedman School of Law](#) is ranked 45th (a thirteen-point jump from last year) and

Fondren Library Center's next phase: The new Rees-Jones Library of the American West

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the largest university resources on this topic in the nation, similar to the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and

Faculty Career Achievement Award

On Monday, May 9, I was privileged to honor Professor Kathleen Wellman, the Dedman Family Distinguished Professor and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' William P. Clements Department of History, with the 2023 SMU Faculty Career Achievement Award. Professor Wellman has been a faculty member at SMU for more than two decades and was recognized for her contributions across the research, teaching, and service domains. As further recognition of Professor Wellman's accomplishments, a scholarship in her name will be established and presented to a university student who enters SMU this fall. Thank you to those who participated in Monday's event and please join me in once again congratulating Professor Wellman on this well-deserved honor.

2023 Retiring Faculty Dinner

On Tuesday, May 9, my husband Todd and I hosted the annual Retiring Faculty Dinner, honoring professors who have or will retire from SMU during this academic year. During the event the faculty's Deans and I honored our [20 retiring faculty members](#) and celebrated their individual career accomplishments.

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding faculty members on their retirement. Both collectively and as individuals, they have established a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

Spring Commencement 2023

SMU's [108th Commencement Weekend](#) is May 12 and 13, 2023. The activities that make up Commencement Weekend showcase some of the University's best traditions and are designed to recognize the pride we all feel in our students' accomplishments. Baccalaureate and Rotunda Recessional will take place today, Friday, May 12, in McFarlin Auditorium at 5:00 p.m. This year, SMU is returning the tradition of All-University Commencement to Moody Coliseum with the ceremony to take place on May 13 at 8:30 a.m. Bryan Tyler, CEO of [McKesson](#), will serve as [Commencement speaker](#). For those who don't know, McKesson delivers a third of all pharmaceuticals used in North America, employs over 78,000 employees, and its \$238 billion in revenues in 2021 made it the seventh largest corporation on the Fortune 500 list.

Both Baccalaureate and Commencement will be [streamed live here](#).

Congratulations to all our spring 2023 graduates. Each one of our students has worked hard to

Doctoral Graduate Recognition Dinner

Each year, on the evening before May commencement, the Moody School for Graduate and Advanced Studies hosts a dinner to honor graduating Ph.D., D.E. (Doctor of Engineering), and Ed.D. (Doctor of Education) students. This year's dinner will take place tonight, May 12, in Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall. As the number of doctoral degrees SMU confers each year increases, so too grows the dinner. This year, the Moody School will honor the most doctoral graduates ever – 45 students and their advisors. Congratulations to our new Ph.D., D.E., and Ed.D. graduates and thank you to the advisors and staff who have supported them during their journey.

Provost Faculty Fellows Announced for 2023 -2024

We are pleased to welcome three new members of the Provost Faculty Fellows program this coming academic year.

Susana Solera Adoboe, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of World Languages and Literatures, will participate on the Internationalization Steering Committee and work closely with the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Office.

Karen Lupo, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' Department of Anthropology, will focus on

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11. Benjamin Tabak, Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences' Department of Psychology

Promotion to Full Professor

1. Stephen Arrowsmith, Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences' Department of Earth Sciences
2. Marcus Butts, Cox School of Business' Department of Management and Organizations
3. Chotibhak Jotikasthira, Cox School of Business' Department of Finance
4. Sandra Duhe, Meadows School of the Arts' Division of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs
5. Jon Blake Hackler, Meadows School of the Arts' Division of Theatre
6. Alex Lippert, Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences' Department of Chemistry
7. Candace Walkington, Simmons School of Education and Human Development's Department of Teaching and Learning
8. Brian Zoltowski, Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences' Department of Chemistry

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

investors and leaders from business, academia, government and non-profits to focus on propelling society forward.

Scheduled speakers include Rob Kaplan, former president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Avery Johnson, former athlete and coach; Jennifer Chandler, managing director and president of Bank of America; Mike Carter, CEO and founder of BizEquity; Clark Hunt ('87), Chairman and CEO of the Kansas City Chiefs; Jeff Hoffman, founder and chairman of the Global Entrepreneurship Network; Alex Holmes, chairman and CEO of MoneyGram, and many others. More information, including registration instructions, is available [here](#).

Cox graduate student named in "2023 Best & Brightest MBAs" by Poets & Quants

[Okechi Nwabara](#)



Elizabeth G. Lobo, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here