

**Weekly Update | May 26, 2023**

commencement will be held at the George W. Bush Presidential Center where more than 300 guests are expected, which would be an all-time attendance record. The graduation address will be delivered by the Honorable Gentner Drummond, recently sworn in as the 19<sup>th</sup> Attorney General of Oklahoma.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact David Davis by phone, 214-274-6461, or email at [ddavis@smu.edu](mailto:ddavis@smu.edu).

## May Term/Summer Term

While the Dallas campus may seem quiet this week, 2,400 Mustangs are continuing their studies in Summer Intersessions both at home and abroad. Nearly 600 students are completing May Term courses in Dallas and at our beautiful [SMU-in-Taos](#) campus in New Mexico. Another 1,400 graduate and undergraduate students have already enrolled in courses in Summer and August Terms. Mustangs are also fulfilling our “world-changer” mission by traveling and [studying abroad this summer](#). 439 students will participate in 23 programs abroad, 13 of them led by SMU faculty. We are excited for this return to pre-pandemic levels of engagement.

Offering over 400 courses, [intersessional programs](#) play an important part in helping students stay on track for graduation, expand their horizons of knowledge and experience, and make the most of their academic careers. Thank you to all the faculty, staff, and students that make these important programs possible.

## Reminder: Faculty salary benchmarking study

Representatives from the faculty, Faculty Senate, Office of the Provost, Office of University Decision Support, and Business and Finance will come together this fall as a task force to examine faculty salaries for both the tenure/tenure-track and non-tenure-track levels. Task Force [participants have been confirmed](#) and over these coming summer months, the Office of the Provost will begin gathering data to support the Task Force’s activities which will take place throughout the 2023–2024 academic year.

## Modified newsletter release schedule

Now that we are moving into the summer months, as we have done in previous years, the cadence of my Weekly emails will change. With many faculty and staff on breaks and taking vacations over the summer, and absent the need for additional communication, I will send two Weekly Updates in June, two Weekly Updates in July, and one Weekly Update prior to the start of the fall 2023 semester in August. Once the fall semester begins, I will return to the regular weekly Friday email pattern.

# Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

## Simmons School of Education & Human Development selected to participate in study funded by the LEGO Foundation

Simmons’ [Center on Research and Evaluation](#) (CORE) will join Temple University in conducting a “Learning through Play” [national study funded by The LEGO Foundation](#). The foundation has awarded \$19.98 million to support the study, which will include Simmons leading the Dallas site and receiving \$2.8 million over five years for their work. A pilot study will take place during the 2023-2024 academic year, with the full study beginning in 2024-2025. CORE Executive Director, Dr. Annie Wright, will serve as the Principal Investigator (PI), with CORE Assistant Director, Dylan Farmer, and Dr. Toni Harrison-Kelly, Executive Director at the SMU Budd Center, serving as Co-PIs.

## Call for Proposals: Provost’s Science & Engineering Postdoctoral Fellowships



## News and Noteworthy

### Inaugural Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Voices in Higher Education Symposium

The

## **Ph.D. Students Participated in Moody School Boot Camp to Boost Fellowship Application Success**

During the week of May 15-19, 26 Ph.D. students participated in a Fellowships Writing Boot Camp with a curriculum designed by [Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies](#). During that week, students learned how to write effective fellowship applications and produced over 100 drafts of application components. Students also received individualized writing support, and completed applications for a variety of fellowships including the [NSF-GRFP](#), [Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship](#), [Fulbright awards](#), the [Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship](#), the [Spencer Dissertation Fellowship](#), and the [AAUW International Fellowship](#).

Do you have a graduate student interested in applying for fellowships? They can contact [Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips](#), Director of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, to learn more.

## **SMU Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) launching second year of AT&T Data Science Scholars**

[GOCE](#) is excited to launch the second year of the [AT&T Data Science Scholars](#) program. This initiative offers an eight-week boot camp and subsequent internship for students to explore data science using ATi the

impact city operations by analyzing anonymous cell phone data of residents. Dr. Makris has looked at Houston cell phone data after Hurricanes Harvey (2017) and Irma (2017) and is now looking at Dallas' data during the [2021 winter storm](#).

The research team found that Dallas' rapid recovery indicates a great degree of resilience. Similar findings occurred in the Houston study, with residents being able to return to their normal/pre-emergency routines almost immediately.

Dr. Makris' team includes Gholamreza Moghimi, SMU postdoctoral research fellow; Eric Godat, team lead for research and data science in SMU's Office of Information Technology (OIT); and Tue Vu, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Research Scientist.

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>