



November 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

This week's Friday Update highlights our faculty, their accomplishments, and initiatives. Preparing this newsletter has been a highlight of my week, as it has invited an opportunity to pause and actively recognize the important contributions from the colleagues who form our vibrant community.

I would like to start by thanking the department chairs and academic staff who contributed to this special edition. We have organized the highlights you shared with us for this update into three areas: 1) recent and upcoming faculty and student events and opportunities for involvement; 2) faculty accomplishments in research and creative scholarship; and 3) ways to learn more and connect with the SMU community.

Recent and Upcoming Faculty Events and Opportunities

[Music, Film & Media, and Guildhall Interdisciplinary Workshop](#). During fall break, a three-discipline collaboration offered workshops over three days for students and faculty interested in professional training in composing for film and games, promotional and business practices, project management, and professional development. They also explored possible degrees in the rapidly-growing job market of composing for film and games. [Read more at this link](#).

[Ask A Mustang](#) is a new service started this week by Jonathan McMichael, Undergraduate Success Librarian. At a table in the Starbucks area of Fondren Library, students can get quick answers to the most common and persistent questions in a low-stress, non-judgmental environment. To make this table more responsive and approachable, it is staffed by at least one faculty or staff volunteer and one undergraduate student. Volunteers work to problem-solve in real time—over a cup of coffee or tea: Mondays – 10:00 - 11:00 am and 3:00 -

4:00 pm and Tuesdays - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 3:00 - 4:00 pm. [Sign up here to volunteer.](#)

Sam Taylor Fellowship Applications: The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church announced its annual call for applications for the Sam Taylor Fellowships this week. These awards are provided by an endowment established to fund education and development of faculty members at United Methodist-related colleges and universities in Texas for academic work, study, or initiatives focused on intellectual, social, or religious life. I encourage you to consider applying for this award. For more information, email facultyysuccess@smu.edu.

Upcoming Promotion and Tenure Conversations. The Associate Provost for

and Experience. [Check out this video](#) for more information. If you have any questions, email engagedallas@smu.edu.

Moody School Three-Minute Thesis Competition November 9 and 12. SMU graduate students will present their research and compete for prizes at this year's [Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\) competition](#), which will take place in the Chamber in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center (lower level). The challenge for participants is to present their research in less than three minutes with just one slide. We invite all members of the SMU to attend, learn, and support our graduate students.

Pedagogical Partner Up Pod Resources. If you have not had a chance to review the resources created and curated by faculty about teaching across different modalities, I encourage you to review their [contributions here](#). Fifty-six faculty participated in faculty-led learning pods focused on priority areas that emerged as topics from faculty surveys last year. Each pod served as a nexus for faculty to enhance their pedagogical knowledge while sharing with colleagues.

Faculty Accomplishments Highlighting Research and Creative Scholarship
Congratulations to so many of our faculty on their ongoing excellence in creative and research endeavors. I have spoken a great deal about our road to R1 since arriving at SMU. Through conversations at Town Halls and with faculty in groups such as Emerging Leaders and the Provost Faculty Fellows Programs, I believe that it would be helpful to expand on this language.

Having been in engineering for most of my career, with numerous grants, post-doctoral students, and PhD students, research excellence has been tied, in my mind, with external funding and with building opportunities to support doctoral students and undergraduate students in the pursuit of knowledge. "R1" in my career has long been shorthand for research excellence. It is not just about the number of publications, but about the quality of the research and the impact it has on the field. I believe that it would be helpful to expand on this language.

At SMU, creative and research excellence guides us as an overarching, shared umbrella. In the last several weeks, some questions have arisen about resource allocation with concerns that the pursuit of R1 is at the expense of our creative scholarship. I would like to dispel that notion, if I can, by sharing my unwavering belief in the full importance of research and creative excellence. I hope recent decisions about faculty positions that were made in consultation with the deans help provide evidence of this stance. The number of requested faculty lines approved this year was evenly distributed among the schools,

Living Legacy Award. At its annual meeting and virtual conference, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (the founders of Black History Month), presented Ken Hamilton with a [Living Legacy Award](#). Warmest congratulations on this wonderful recognition.

Early career award and invited talk. Priscilla Lui (Psychology) was awarded an Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research from the *Asian American Psychological Association*. She was one of four scholars invited to present on a panel titled "The Psychological Science of Racism" at the meeting for the *Association for Psychological Science*, the leading scientific organization in psychological science.

National Science Foundation CAREER Award. Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Minh-Binh Tran, was awarded the prestigious NSF CAREER award this year for his project, "CA REER: Emerging Challenges in Wave Turbulence Theory." He tackles open challenges in the theory of nonlinear waves via the study of associated wave turbulence theory that describes the nonlinear dynamical interactions of waves far from thermal equilibrium.

National Kim Rotzoll Award for Advertising Ethics and Social Responsibility. Carrie La Ferle (Temerlin Advertising Institute) received this award from the American Academy of Advertising, the top advertising organization for advertising scholars. The award, given only eight times since its inception in 2004, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to advertising ethics and social responsibility throughout their careers.

D Magazine recognition. Professor Pamela Metzger (Dedman School of Law) was honored as one of D Magazine's [78 Women Changing the Face of Dallas](#). She has also been appointed to the editorial board of the [International Journal of Rural Criminology](#).

Azbee Award of Excellence National Silver Award. Jenny B. Davis (Fashion Media) was recently awarded the Azbee Award of Excellence National Silver Award from the American Society of Business Publication Editors.

Early career recognition. Stephanie Wilson (Psychology) was awarded the National Institute of Health Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social

Sciences Early Stage Investigator Award and the Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award.

Fellows membership selection. Alicia Meuret (Psychology) was recently named as a Fellow of the *Association of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies*. She is co-principal investigator on a National Endowment of the Humanities grant, "Reward Sensitivity as a Mechanism of Positive Affect Treatment for Anhedonia."

Professional organization award. Digvijay Boob (Operations Research and Engineering Management) was a finalist of the INFORMS Junior Faculty Interest Group (JFIG) paper competition. This organization is internationally known as one of the foremost professional homes. His expertise is at the interface of Data Science and Optimization.

International contributions. Jill Kelly (History) has been awarded a fellowship from the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, a cutting-edge interdisciplinary research center at the University of Johannesburg. She and her co-author, Omar Badsha, recently won the William and Edwyna Gilbert Award from the American Historical Association for the best article on teaching. Finally, Jill was asked to organize a roundtable discussion on the legacy and literature surrounding the recently passed Zulu king, Zwelithini, and the royal family, which is in the current issue of the *South African Historical Journal*.

Research group accomplishments in Mechanical Engineering. In Professor MinJun Kim's research group, Jugal Saharia has been awarded the Student Research Achievement Award in the poster competition of the 2021 Annual BioPhysical Society Meeting.

Collaborative outreach and interdisciplinary research

National reach among young adult actors. Associate Professor Benard Cummings has spearheaded the development and implementation of the Next Narrative Monologue Competition, a national program aimed at introducing high-school aged actors to today's leading contemporary Black writers.

Collaborative engagement with the Dallas Media Collaborative. Jake Batsell, the O'Neil Chair in Business Journalism, is leading his Business News

Seminar students in contributing to the Dallas Media Collaborative, a group of local news outlets, universities and nonprofits that are focused on producing solutions-oriented coverage about affordable housing. In September, Batsell was quoted in a [Dallas Morning News](#) story that announced the launch of the grant-funded collaborative.

Research on earthquakes in Haiti. Drs. Hornbach, Magnani and Hayward (Earth Sciences) have deployed off-shore of Haiti to collect high-resolution seismic reflection data on the fault linked to the recent Haiti earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The work is joint with colleagues at Scripps and other institutions and is funded by the National Science Foundation Rapid program. They boarded ships to Key West on October 31. I look forward to learning more upon their return.

International collaboration with Swedish researchers. On the basis of the results of her National Institute of Health-funded research on Project Support, an intervention to reduce conduct problems among children exposed to violence, Renee McDonald (Psychology) was invited to collaborate with colleagues in Sweden to conduct a multi-year, Swedish National Board of Health-funded study on adapting Project Support for delivery in Sweden. She has also been recently selected as a Fellow of the *Association for Psychological Science*, the leading scientific organization in psychological science.

Collaboration research on sustainable remanufacturing practices. Sila Cetinkaya (Operations Research and Engineering Management) was recentl

students to join Professor Aurore Courtoy from the Instituto de Física, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to [develop a method to parametrize probabilities for finding quarks and gluons in protons](#).

Partnerships with Dallas Schools. Faculty in the Simmons School have continued their collaborations with the Dallas ISD. Karla del Rosal (Teaching and Learning) designed and implemented the innovative Masters of Bilingual-Special Education Program and the Aspiring Leaders with a Bilingual Focus Program. Sherril English (Teaching and Learning) completed a video for Illuminate Education titled, *Beyond Academics: Supporting College & Career Readiness with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)* and published her work for Illuminate Education: *Equitable Access to College and Career Preparation* and *Culturally Sustaining Social Emotional Learning Pedagogy*.

Collaborative inter-university research. Quentin Sedlacek (Teaching and Learning) launched a research project, *Teaching about African American Language in Higher Education Settings*, with collaborators at Stanford and the University of Maryland, and he gave a presentation sharing findings with international participants.

Participation in pedagogical advancements: Marcela Giraldo (Economics) is presenting at the 2021 Economics Teaching Conference organized by Cengage.

Outreach in Dallas: Elizabeth Wheaton (Economics) and Rick Halperin (Human Rights) were instrumental in getting Dallas to adopt the UN Resolution to become a Human Rights City.

Counseling faculty sharing resources with the community. Faculty in Counseling have been presenting across the metroplex and internationally on topics such as culturally competent and affirmative career counseling for LGBTQ+ students (Greta Davis), couples sex therapy (Edita Ruzgyte), child-centered play therapy (Brandy Schumann), developmentally appropriate counseling for adolescents around sexuality (Misty Solt), and counselor preparation in working with African American adolescents in group counseling (Terra Wagner).

n3Cachers of heritage speakers of Spanish, and she has recently published

Institutional collaborations that support student success. The \$2.3 million National Science Foundation-RTG program in Mathematics (Al. Aceves, A. Barreiro, W. Cai) was renewed at full support. Aceves has been invited to discuss this program on a panel titled "Forming institutional collaborations to broaden student access" at the 2022 Joint Mathematics Meetings, the world's largest mathematics gathering.

Creating new disaster evacuation models. Halit Uster (Operations Research and Engineering Management) received a National Science Foundation grant to explore new models for disaster evacuation by examining logistics networks among entities that respond to large-scale disasters. His research was [recently profiled in the Tampa Bay Times](#).

Thomas Ritz (Psychology) recently received an NIH R33 grant, "Reward Sensitivity as a Mechanism of Positive Affect Treatment for Anhedonia," from the NIH/National Institute of Mental Health. He was also reappointed Editor-in-Chief of *Biological Psychology*, the leading scientific journal in biological psychology.

David Rosenfield (Psychology) was awarded a National Institutes of Health Grant: "Harnessing Hormonal Variation to Probe Neural Mechanisms and Optimize CBT Outcomes for OCD."

Austin Baldwin (Psychology) was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant, "Positive affect, future thinking, and planning: Testing brief intervention components to optimize a novel intervention to promote physical activity," from the NIH National Cancer Institute.

The Deason Center (Dedman School of Law) was awarded an expert consulting contract with the Federal Defender for the North District of Texas.

Professor Pamela Metzger (Dedman School of Law) and the Deason Center published their report, [Injustice: Solving the Initial Appearance Crisis](#). The report launches their Initial Appearance Campaign, which is funded through partnerships with Arnold Ventures and the Charles Koch Foundation.

Recent media appearances. Eric Ruben (Dedman School of Law) has been asked by many media outlets for his expertise on laws related to the right to

keep and bear arms. A selection of recent appearances include the [New York Daily News](#),

- The U.S. Supreme Court is expediting its examination of the Texas abortion ban because of the way the ban is enforced, constitutional law expert Dale Carpenter told the [Texas Tribune](#).
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