In this newsletter I invite you to read stories about the Summer Research Intensive, our NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates called "Data Science for Social Good", the Incubator@SMU Entrepreneurship Fellows, and Clinton Global Initiative University. Other news includes our increased funding for Engage Learning Fellowships (now up to $2500) and new partnerships to support first-generation and Pell-eligible students at SMU. I also extend an enormous "thank you" to our students, faculty mentors, staff partners, and SAES. We could not possibly run such amazing programs, help so many students, and seed some of the best things happening at SMU without your support! Thank you, again, and cheers to a terrific school year! -Jennifer Ebinger, Director OEL

Upcoming Events:

September:

9/13 & 9/15 Pitch Practice and iDeation Workshop
4pm Clements Basement

9/20 & 9/22 Big iDeas Pitch Practice
4pm Clements Basement

9/15 ELF Submission Deadline
smu.edu/elf

9/28 From Idea to Publication Drop-in Workshop
3-5pm, FLE 106

9/29 From Idea to Publication Drop-in Workshop
3-5pm, FLE 106

October:

10/26 Presentation Practice Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106

10/27 Presentation Practice Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106

November:

11/30 Crafting Your ELF Proposal Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106

December:

12/1 Crafting Your ELF Proposal Drop-in Workshop. 3-5pm, FLE 106

12/15 ELF Submission Deadline
smu.edu/elf

Featured Events:

Big iDeas Pitch Competition
Friday, September 23, 10am-1pm
HTSC Ballroom
smu.edu/bigideas

Fall Research Symposium
Thursday, November 3, 3-6pm
HTSC Chamber & Level 1
smu.edu/fallsymposium

Our research workshops will be in the new Scholarship and Research Studio, Fondren Library Red 106

Reading a print copy? Scan this QR code to access the links

Learn more about research and entrepreneurship programs at smu.edu/engagedlearning
Incubator@SMU Highlights

Entrepreneurship Fellows

The Entrepreneurship Fellows inaugural program concluded with 7 companies completing E-Launch 2. E-Launch is designed to help startups and small businesses advance from the idea stage to angel funding.

Bring YOUR Big iDea and Pitch to Win $1,000

The Big iDeas Business Pitch Competition provides SMU undergraduates a chance to win seed funding for their entrepreneurial ideas. And we do mean “ideas” because the programming and funding support will help you devise a plan to move that idea to an actual start up! Nothing to lose but 1K!

Incubator@SMU Overview

The Incubator@SMU is home to 30 companies from a variety of industries as well as a support system for the growth and development of early stage companies and scaling startups. The Entrepreneurship Fellowship is held each year in two parts: E-Launch I in fall covers business basics, and E-Launch 2 in spring brings these concepts to life in actionable ways. Big iDeas winners have automatic access to the space and programming. 10 fellows were accepted into the new cohort. smu.edu/incubator

Summer Highlights

Congratulations to Big iDeas winners Mason Morland and Raleigh Dewan on their acceptance into the Summer 2022 VentureWell E-Team Grant Program with a $20,000 award to support their innovation, SteadiSpoon, which helps Parkinson’s patients eat with dignity. Read more online

NTAN at SMU

The North Texas Angel Network began holding their monthly meetings at the Incubator@SMU. Incubator companies now have a regular opportunity to connect to the investor community and hear pitches from across North Texas.

Clinton Global Initiative

You may not know this but OEL is the home to the Clinton Global Initiative University. Each year 5-7 students are selected for this highly competitive opportunity to develop social impact projects. Check out what this program is about and stay-tuned for deadlines. First-year through students are encouraged to apply, too! smu.edu/cgu

Learn more about research and entrepreneurship programs at smu.edu/engagedlearning
Undergraduate Research Highlights

Summer Research Intensive
26 students participated in this year’s Summer Research Intensive (SRI) working with 21 faculty members in Dedman, Lyle, and Simmons. Participants also attended professional development workshops led by our office and staff from the Office of Research (Heather McClary), SMU Libraries (Megan Heuer and Rafia Mirza), and the Hegi Career Center (Nichole Baillargeon).

Participants also attended our weekly Summer Research & Innovation Symposium lunch series, which featured talks by Barbara Minsker (Civil Engineering), Stephanie Wilson (Psychology), Doug Gray (Director of Data Science, Walmart), Heather DeShon (Earth Sciences), Doran Bennett (Chemistry), and Andrew Davies (Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center).

Data Science for Social Good
The Data Science Institute and the Office of Engaged Learning received a grant through the National Science Foundation to offer a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) called “Data Science for Social Good.” The program welcomed students from 8 other universities in addition to SMU. The students went through a "data science bootcamp" led by Eric Godat (OIT), then worked on projects with faculty mentors Cullum Clark, Janille Smith-Colin, Jessie Zarazaga, Mary Spector, and Matt Wilson. Participants received a stipend, room and board, and several field trips in the local area. Read more at smu.edu/reu

Three Minute Thesis
Congrats to our winning presenters! (L-R) SMU students Joshua Ange ’25 (Mentor: Robert Calkins, Physics), Ruthie Miller ’23 (Mentor: Stephanie Wilson, Psychology), Julia Griffin ’23 (Mentor: Ernest Jouriles, Psychology) and Data Science REU participants Jasmine Baldwin, Michala Gradner, and Jenny Xu (not pictured) (Mentor: Mary Spector, Dedman Law).
Student and Staff Spotlights

Engaged Learning Fellows (ELF) Spotlight

Shannon Lee '23 created "Excelling at English: A Podcast Featuring Tips and Success Stories from Non-Native Speakers of English." Learn about her project in this video interview with Shannon, created by Ixchell Ibañez '24.

ELFs Abroad
Several of our fellows went abroad this summer to conduct research

Mace Cowart '23 traveled to Israel to study Gaga movement technique. Mace's faculty mentor is Kara-Lynn Vaeni (Theatre).

Sipho Dongozi '23 traveled to Zimbabwe to conduct an oral history project on women's rights. Sipho's faculty mentor is Jill Kelly (History).

Nick Simpson '23 traveled to Ecuador for an anthropological study of indigenous community radio. Nick's faculty mentor is Carolyn Smith-Morris (Anthropology).

Assistant Director Spotlight: Undergraduate Research

If you're applying for the Engaged Learning Fellowship, want to learn about funding programs on campus, or just want to brainstorm what you might research, Dr. Adam Neal is here to help! Adam coordinates the ELF and URA programs, along with events and workshops. Adam has been in the Office since 2019. He earned a PhD in music composition from the University of Florida, and his compositions have been played in 32 states and 15 countries. His most recent publication is "Lo-Fi Today" in Organised Sound 27(1). Read it online

Assistant Director Spotlight: Campuswide Entrepreneurship

If you're an aspiring entrepreneur or founder of a new start-up, you should meet Camille McCallum! Camille leads campus-wide entrepreneurship programs, including the Big iDeas pitch contests and the Incubator@SMU. She helps developing entrepreneurs through coordinating funding, designing educational programming, and coaching. Camille holds a BA in Public Policy Leadership from the University of Mississippi and a Master's in Education Policy and Leadership from SMU. She is an influencer and founder of the lifestyle brand Black Woman on a Mission. Find her on TikTok: @camilleviviana

Make a Donation

It costs approximately $2000 to fund a student project. Want to make a difference? Search for "Office of Engaged Learning Fund" at https://link.smu.edu/giving/givenow

Learn more about research and entrepreneurship programs at smu.edu/engagedlearning