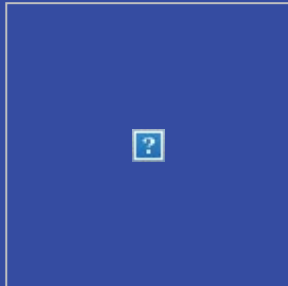


From: [Loboa, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Loboa, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Weekly Update - January 13, 2023
Date: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:16:40 PM
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Weekly Update | January 13, 2023

Elizabeth G. Loboa, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope that each of you had a wonderful and restorative holiday season. While the spring semester begins in earnest next week, I wanted to provide some exciting updates as we make final preparations for an eventful spring semester.

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 2023, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Spring 2023

SMU Names New Dean for the Lyle School of Engineering

On Wednesday, we [announced](#) Nader Jalili as the next Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering effective March 1, 2023. Dr. Jalili joins SMU from the University of Alabama, where he has been Professor and Department Head in Mechanical Engineering since 2018.

Thank you to the members of the search committee, chaired by Sam Holland, Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts, for their service and to the Lyle School's community members for their diligent work to complete the search process this past fall. Thanks as well go to Paul Krueger who will continue to serve as Lyle's Dean *ad interim* until Nader's March 1 arrival.

Moody Hall Construction Well Underway

This week, Moody Dean Robin Poston hosted a walkthrough of SMU's new Frances Anne Moody Hall. Thanks to the generosity of the Moody Foundation and the great partnership between the Moody School leadership team and SMU's Office of Facilities Planning and Management, construction remains on schedule and should be completed by summer with a formal dedication in September. The picture below was taken during the tour from Moody Hall's balcony, which provides beautiful views of the northeast corner of SMU's main campus and is the first building located on the master-planned 10-acre property bounded by University Boulevard, Dublin Street, McFarlin Boulevard and Airline Road.



The 43,000 square-foot three-story building features an open core structure from the ground level up to the cupola, which allows natural lighting into the heart of the facility. The building has been designed to offer collaborative – as well as quiet – research and study spaces and includes a 170-person auditorium for dynamic lectures and events in addition to state-of-the-art classrooms.

Faculty and graduate students will enjoy a new reading room to facilitate study and a seminar room for meaningful instruction. Moody Fellows and SMU Scholars offices will be located in the new facility, as will conference rooms. Moody Hall will also house the Graduate and Research office suites.

Spring General Faculty Meeting on Wednesday, January 18

I encourage faculty to attend the spring General Faculty Reception and Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th. The Reception will be held in the lower level foyer of Hughes Trigg at 3:00 pm. And the meeting will be in the Oren Family Auditorium in Hughes-Trigg (Formerly known as Hughes-Trigg

Auditorium) at 3:45 pm where I will have the opportunity to present teaching awards to members of our outstanding faculty and to discuss SMU's trajectory and recent progress toward achieving our academic goals.

Road to R-1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Moody School Offers Doctoral Thesis Writing Support

This week, the Moody School for Graduate and Advanced Studies hosted dissertation writing bootcamps from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Dallas Hall. Participants received the opportunity for dedicated writing time, peer accountability and encouragement, advice on common writing challenges and practice modeling good writing habits. Previous bootcamps have received positive feedback, and we plan to keep providing this opportunity to doctoral students at strategic times during the academic year.

Key Leadership Searches Underway

Data Science Institute Director

Later this month, I will appoint and charge a search committee for SMU's inaugural Peter O'Donnell Jr. Director of the Data Science Institute with plans to fill the position by the end of the spring 2023 semester. Be on the lookout for additional information in subsequent newsletters. Continued thanks to Peter Moore for serving as Data Science Institute Director *ad interim* until our new director arrives.

News and Noteworthy

Graduate Student Success Day Scheduled for Monday, February 6

The Moody School for Graduate and Advanced Studies will host its first Graduate Student Success Day on Monday, February 6. Faculty are invited to attend this daylong event to participate in conversations around recruiting outstanding graduate students from diverse backgrounds and to learn more about the Moody School's resources to support graduate education. Along with members of the Moody staff, SMU's own Maria Dixon Hall, Chief Diversity Officer, and Paige Ware, Associate Provost for Faculty Success, will provide their insights. Kurt Kraiger, Professor and Chair in the University of Memphis' Department of Management will also lead a facilitated discussion with SMU faculty around best practices for graduate student success. Faculty interested in participating should contact [Alan Itkin](#) for additional information.

Meadows Museum Receives the 2023 Bernardo de Gálvez Award

Just before the holiday break, we were thrilled to receive notification from the Fundación Consejo España that the Meadows Museum was unanimously elected to receive the 2023 Bernardo de Gálvez award. The award bears the name of Bernardo de Gálvez (1746-1786) the former governor of Louisiana and viceroy of New Spain, a politician and soldier in the United States' Revolutionary War and founder

of the city of Galveston, Texas. The award seeks to honor and publicize the work of those individuals or institutions that have promoted cooperation between Spain and the United States, have contributed to improving reciprocal knowledge or have strengthened the relationship between the two countries.

Provost Annual Report Now Available Online for Viewing

The 2022 Provost's Annual Report is now available [online for viewing or printing](#). It represents just a fraction of the many accomplishments that, working together, we have been able to achieve this past year in our quest for greater academic excellence. Special thanks to Travis Nolan, a junior SMU student from Dallas who is studying biology and geology with a goal to work in paleontology after graduation. Travis folded all origami featured in the report, including the Peruna on the front cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth G. Loba', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

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

World Changers Shaped Here