

Weekly Update | June 30, 2023

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

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope you are having a restful and productive summer. Whether you are teaching, conducting research, or preparing exhibits or performances, your contributions are vitally appreciated and valued in our quest for even greater academic quality. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to SMU's academic mission.

As mentioned in the [final weekly](#) of the spring 2023 semester, my plan is to send these updates twice for the month of June and twice in the month of July. 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) Summer 2023, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

Summer 2023

Analysis begins after yesterday's Supreme Court ruling

The U.S. Supreme Court issued an important ruling Thursday on the use of race in college admissions. As the University analyzes the ruling and its specific impact on SMU, Dr. Turner shared a message with the campus community that reaffirms our commitment to inclusivity. For those of you who may have missed it, I invite you to [read it here](#).

Phillips Foundation funds new SMU Impact Lab with \$1.7 Million gift

The [Phillips Foundation](#) has announced a \$1.7 million multiyear grant to establish the [SMU Impact Lab](#), a student-focused initiative to invest in commercial opportunities that have strong potential for substantial financial and social returns. The new lab will exist as a collaboration between Meadows School of the Arts and Cox School of Business to equip the next generation of Mustangs with an understanding of impact investing through education and practice. Students, faculty and alumni will have the opportunity to gain valuable, hands-on experiences that will enrich the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in North Texas.

The Phillips Foundation grant is part of **SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow**, the University's multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact. In particular, the grant furthers the campaign's goals to [enrich teaching and research](#) and [enhance our campus and community](#) for future generations.

Campus units collaborate to provide professional clothing to SMU students via the SMU Career Closet

The SMU Career Closet project, sponsored by the Hegi Family Career Development Center, Cox School of Business and the Office of Social Change and Intercultural Engagement, will bring new and gently used professional clothing to SMU students beginning this fall. To prepare for the August 2023 launch of the project, SMU Career Closet seeks donations of new and gently used professional attire, currently in excellent condition, for students to use in interviews, internships, and the workplace. Donations include items such as professional blazers, button down shirts, dress pants/slacks, skirts, blouses, ties and dress shoes.

If you wish to donate, you can drop off items from May 30 – August 1, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center, or donations can be mailed to:

Amanda Bobo
Career Closet c/o Hegi Career Development Center
3140 Dyer St #256
Dallas, TX 75206

For additional questions or information please contact Amanda Bobo, Associate Director for Employer Relations in the Hegi Family Career Development Center at abobo@smu.edu.

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Strong increase in research expenditures for 2023 fiscal year

With fiscal year (FY) 2023 coming to a close last week, I am pleased to report that SMU ended the year at \$31.4 million in externally funded research expenditures, a 10% increase from FY 2022 (\$28.6 million), and a nearly 20% increase from FY 2021 (\$26.2 million). The table below provides a FY 2022 to FY 2023 comparison, by college/school, of SMU's externally funded research expenditures.

Year To Date May	FY2022	FY2023	%
Dedman College	13,842,529	14,259,709	3%
Simmons School of Education	7,556,363	9,350,834	24%
Lyle School of Engineering	5,392,310	5,037,346	-7%
Perkins School of Theology	444,499	458,512	3%
Other Schools (Dedman Law, Cox)	520,782	1,364,474	>100%
ATT Center & Guildhall	896,299	965,564	8%
TOTAL	28,652,782	31,436,440	10%

Thank you to all faculty who have worked to expand SMU's research footprint and impact. Externally funded research expenditures are an important metric in our pursuit of greater research excellence and Carnegie R1. This figure, combined with the amount of institutionally financed research (e.g., sabbaticals, cost sharing and unrecovered indirect costs) is reported each January to the National Science Foundation (NSF) via the Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey, which is a key input in the Carnegie Research Classification System. While FY 2023 HERD data will not be finalized until January 2024, we are projecting total research expenditures as high as \$60M for FY 2023, which would be an

increase from FY 2022 (\$57.5M). I am proud of our significant accomplishments this year, especially as the FY 2023 numbers will be used in Carnegie's 2024 Research Classification.

Call for Submissions: Provost Bridge Grants

Last week, my office announced two new bridge grant programs designed to support faculty research. We want to reward and incentivize faculty receiving external grants and are pleased to offer these two new programs as described below.

Provost's Humanities and Social Science Bridge Grants

Faculty in social science and humanities departments who secure research grant funding will be eligible to apply for a Provost's Humanities and Social Sciences Bridge Grant. These grants provide \$35,000 to fund a Ph.D. student as a research assistant for one year, including:

1. \$30,000/year stipend
2. \$1,000/year research and professional development funds to support expenses related to doctoral research and professional development in the fellow's field
3. \$4,000/year to fully cover the individual premiums for the Student Health Insurance Program

These awards may be renewable for additional years, depending on the terms of the faculty member's grant.

Provost's Science and Engineering Bridge Grants

Provost's Science & Engineering Bridge Grants aim to recognize productive research faculty who secure new external funding and support post-doctoral candidates in science and engineering fields as measured by the ACE Carnegie Foundation. The grants are designed to expand the funding pool for science and engineering research programs and increase the number of science and engineering postdocs at SMU, with special consideration for those employed at SMU during the ACE Carnegie R1 year of record.

Provost's Science and Engineering Postdoctoral Fellowships provide \$70,000 per postdoc:

4. \$55,000/year stipends
5. \$15,000/year associated with SMU standard benefits
6. Awards provided under this program are limited to one year (12 months) per post-doc

Three post-doctoral positions will be funded each year under this program. Proposals with larger grants will be given greater consideration, and a minimum grant amount of \$100,000 is required.

Proposals for both bridge grant programs must not exceed two 8.5 x 11 inch pages and should be submitted in a font size of 11 points or greater. The submission deadline is July 5, 2023, and rolling thereafter until all funds are utilized. PIs and Co-PIs should discuss their plans with their dean's office to ensure alignment with the college/school's strategic plans. The dean's office representative will pre-review and approve all proposals before the submission deadline. For questions, please contact Dr. Alan Itkin, Senior Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Chief of Staff, Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, at aitkin@smu.edu.

U.S. Department of Justice funds SMU's efforts to centralize data collection and research regarding human trafficking

At any given time, an estimated 27.6 million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking. The [SMU Human Trafficking Data Warehouse](#), with the help of SMU's [high-performance computing](#) capabilities, will give law enforcement officials and others devoted to anti-trafficking work access to datasets and processing power previously unavailable. These tools will allow for trend analyses at speeds and complexities previously unachievable. Users will have credentialed access to the datasets through a secure online dashboard with sections of the warehouse scheduled to go live this fall.

[Beth Wheaton-Páramo](#), a member of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences' faculty, is the economist leading the SMU human trafficking research team and bringing this data warehouse to reality.

Key leadership searches underway

Peter O'Donnell Jr. Data Science Institute (DSI) Director

The search committee and our executive search firm, Isaacson Miller, are scheduled to interview candidates in mid-July with hopes to fill the position this fall.

As always, thank you to Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer, for chairing the search committee, and to Peter Moore who is serving as the DSI Director *ad interim* and the Center for Research Computing Director *ad interim* until the new Director arrives. Be on the lookout for additional information in subsequent newsletters.

News and Noteworthy

Perkins School of Theology faculty member has poetry collection nominated for prestigious Pulitzer Prize

Harold "Hal" Recinos, Ph.D., was informed this past Tuesday by the Pulitzer Board that his latest poetry collection, *The Looking Glass: Far and Near* (Wipf and Stock, 2023), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. This is Dr. Recinos' second collection of poetry to be nominated for a Pulitzer; his first nomination was for *The Days You Bring* (Wipf and Stock, 2022).

CAPE launches new certificate in Artificial Intelligence

SMU's [Continuing and Professional Education \(CAPE\)](#) program, that is part of the Office of Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE), is one of twelve national university programs to partner with [edX](#) to offer a new micro [boot camp in artificial intelligence \(AI\) and machine learning \(ML\)](#). Over the course of 10 weeks, students in the first online cohort, drawn from all 12 university partners, will explore supervised and unsupervised machine learning, neural networks, natural language processing and other AI topics.

This pilot program complements CAPE's other technology-focused online certificate programs offered with edX in topics such as cybersecurity, data science and financial technology (fintech), which serve more than 350 professionals each year.

SMU Tower Center and Maguire Center for Ethics to host prominent scholar from Catholic University of Valencia in Spain

The SMU Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility and the John G. Tower Center are pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Bosco Corrales, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, from the Catholic University of Valencia in Spain as a summer visiting scholar. With a focus on fundamental and applied ethics, Professor Corrales brings his expertise to explore the origins of moral obligations within the field of fundamental ethics. His research focuses on the ethics of asylum and refugee protections, shedding light on crucial considerations surrounding these societal issues.

To welcome Professor Corrales, the Maguire Ethics Center and Tower Center extend an open invitation to his upcoming lecture, "Why Should States Admit Refugees (or Not)? Ethical Perspectives." The lecture will take place on July 13, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in Carr Collins Hall, Room 227, 2nd Floor, and is free and open to the public. [Please register here](#) for the event.

Furthermore, the Maguire Ethics Center extends an invitation to faculty interested in collaborating with Professor Corrales. Interested parties can reach out to Maguire Ethics Center's Associate Director, Matt Nadler, at mnadler@smu.edu for additional information.

Guildhall's 2023 Academy Summer Camp wraps up another year

Yesterday, Guildhall concluded its annual summer program, Guildhall's Advanced Game Design Academy. Since 2006, the two-week immersive program accepts 18 students in grades 6-12 to embark on a rigorous academic journey to create a video game using leading edge game engine technology. The camp took place on the Dallas campus for the first time in the Guildhall suite in the Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation.

Gaming is the true intersection of technology and art, and this program offers a deep dive into both spheres. Guildhall has had many campers over the years find their way back to SMU for graduate education in game development, and they often credit the Guildhall Academy with igniting their passion for the industry.

CAPE pre-college programs return to SMU campus

This July, almost 200 middle and high school students will participate in [CAPE's pre-college workshops](#) on the SMU campus. These programs, ranging from one to five days, will encourage students to build skills and to preview their potential academic and career paths. Programs will focus on academic excellence and leadership, business and entrepreneurship, creative development, and test preparation. Instructors have developed unique and challenging content that will facilitate hands-on activities to help participants develop fundamental skills such as communication, confidence-building, financial acumen and budgeting, e-sports, growth mindset, and goal setting. This summer, CAPE college prep staff and instructors also will deliver customized standardized test preparation for selected students in [Richardson ISD](#) as part of a longstanding partnership between CAPE and the RISD's advanced learning programs and services division.

Lyle School of Engineering Ph.D. student interviewed on Fox 4's Good Day

Lyle graduate student, Khengdauli Chawang, was featured in a Fox 4's *Good Day* segment this past Monday. In the interview, Ms. Chawang discussed the applications of a miniature pH sensor she developed with the support of J.-C. Chiao, the Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair and professor in the Lyle School's Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. Chawang hopes to incorporate the sensor into food packaging as a way to signal food freshness in real time with the goal of decreasing food waste. [Watch Ms. Chawang's interview here.](#)

Dr. J.-C. Chiao and his team of graduate research students at Lyle are pioneering the creation of medical implants that will give people with chronic conditions a new option for returning to their normal routines. [Read more about their work here.](#)

Lyle's Hart Center for Engineering Leadership gives students a competitive edge by supplementing their technical education with leadership certification and soft skills training. [Read more here.](#)

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Methodist University
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

World Changers Shaped Here