



IN THIS ISSUE

[Feeling Depleted? A Guide to Faculty Renewal](#)

Two faculty developers argue that burnout isn't a character flaw but a motivation problem....

[Chin hair, Laundry, & Your Opinion: The Rise of the We Don't Care Club](#)

It started in a grocery store parking lot with the wrong sports bra and a phone camera, which is how most movements should start....

[Invisible. What Colleagues Need to Understand About Chronic Illness](#)

Written by someone living with two chronic conditions, for everyone who has said, "but you look fine" and genuinely believe it was a compliment...

ACROSS THE HALL



I have started this blog about 15 times. Now don't get me wrong. I love blogging. But it has been a while since I 'had' to produce one. Do I talk about the excitement of the new academic year? A story about my feral teenager? A commentary about the state of the world?

I have decided to just start like this: Welcome to *The Bridge*, the monthly newsletter from the Office of Cultural Intelligence. *The Bridge* is the place where I hope you find information and stories that strengthen the connective tissue linking us together here on the Hilltop. Of course, it will share information about things like our Bridge Builders Lecture Series and upcoming community gathering opportunities. But more importantly (at least to me), it will feature stories and features that highlight YOU. From our semi-regular features like "What are you listening/watching today?" where we interview faculty and staff to find out what's on their playlists or continue watching binge-fest (I have one work: *Lioness*!) as well as introduce you to people you have seen on email but have never met in the feature: "People in your Neighborhood" (Shout out to Sesame Street!) our hope is that you learn more about the people that make SMU awesome.

[Read more](#)



UNDERSTANDING GEN Z

FINE.

GOOD.

NOTHING.

The 3 answers you always get from a child. Come find out what they really mean. If you keep getting these answers every time you talk to your Gen Z'er, have we got a session! Join us at the **Bridge Builders Lecture Series** for the “**Bridging the Gap with Generation Z.**”

Betsy Butterick & Scott Jones, CMHC comes to SMU this September for a game-changing discussion about Generation Z and how to better understand them.

[Registration](#) is **NOW OPEN**



**BRIDGE BUILDERS
LECTURE SERIES:
WORKSHOPS**

Betsy Butterick

*Author, Coach & Communications
Specialist*

Betsy Butterick, author of *Kids These Days: Effective Strategies for Coaching Gen Z and Beyond*, is a communication specialist who helps coaches and leaders bridge the generational gap. With clarity, compassion and humor, she explains what makes today's students and athletes different- and how to adjust your approach without compromising your standards.

Scott Jones

*Licensed Therapist & Organizational
Consult*

Scott Jones, Executive Director of The Stillwater Academy, has seen the challenges in parenting Gen Z up close. With a passion for helping parents and teens navigate trauma and family life for a deeper connection, he shares that teens face a rough, fast-paced digital world that has made it harder to succeed. By getting attuned to the unique emotional, mental, and development environment facing our kids, Scott believes we can move from controlling to connecting.

**The Bridge Builders Lecture Series presents
"Bridging the Gap with Generation Z"**

If you've ever thought, "I don't recognize the rules anymore," you're not alone. Designed for leaders, faculty, and staff who are working with, teaching, coaching and parenting Generation Z, this series features **Betsy Butterick** and **Scott Jones** in conversation about generational change, communication breakdowns, and relational approaches that help bridge the gap between institutional expectations and Gen Z realities- at home and on campus.



[Sign up](#) now to register and save your seat for **Betsy Butterick** on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**



[Sign up](#) now to register and save your seat for **Scott Jones** on **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**



QUICK LINKS

Email

ciq@smu.edu

Web

smu.edu/ciq

Social

[@CIQSMU](https://twitter.com/CIQSMU)

THIS MONTH'S CIQ@SMU APP

“The Gen Z Translator”

If you wonder why your teenagers are laughing at you, this app may not tell you every reason BUT it will help you.

Translating Gen Z to Gen X this is a must if you want to know how what you are saying sounds like to our students.

Fair warning: Results may humble.

<https://www.polytranslator.com/gen-z/>



ciq@smu.edu | smu.edu/ciq | [@CIQSMU](https://twitter.com/CIQSMU)

To submit content, spotlight nominations, or event listings, email us by the 21th of each month.

Pony Up — World Changers Shaped Here

SMU®