



Staff Celebration and Convocation Program

October 18, 2022

George W. Bush Institute Auditorium
10:30 a.m.

Honoring staff excellence, new inductees
of the 25+ Years of Service Club and staff award recipients



Prelude and Processional

Welcome	Samantha Tellone Sta Association, President
Invocation	Lisa Garvin Chaplain and Minister to the University
Introduction of Speakers	Samantha Tellone Sta Association, President
State of SMU Address	R. Gerald Turner President of the University
Recognition of Sta	R. Gerald Turner President of the University Jennifer Gomez, Don Moorman, Samantha Tellone Sta Association Executive Board Members
Twenty-Five Year Club Inductees	
Rebekah Bell	Laurene Klassen
Ricardo Del Rio	Kevin Knox
Robin DeVore	Diane Kucera
Alejandro Estrada	Toni Nolen
Pamela Henderson	Andrew Payne
Lawrence Hengst, Jr.	Janet Stephens
Cheryl Hitt	Glenn R. Taylor, Sr.
Mary Jones	Todd Wright
Presentation of President's Awards	President Turner, Don Moorman, Samantha Tellone
Presentation of Loretta O'Reilly Hawkins Awards	Christopher M. Ham Sta Association, VP of Sta Development
Closing Remarks	Samantha Tellone Sta Association, President
University Hymn—"Varsity"	All sing together

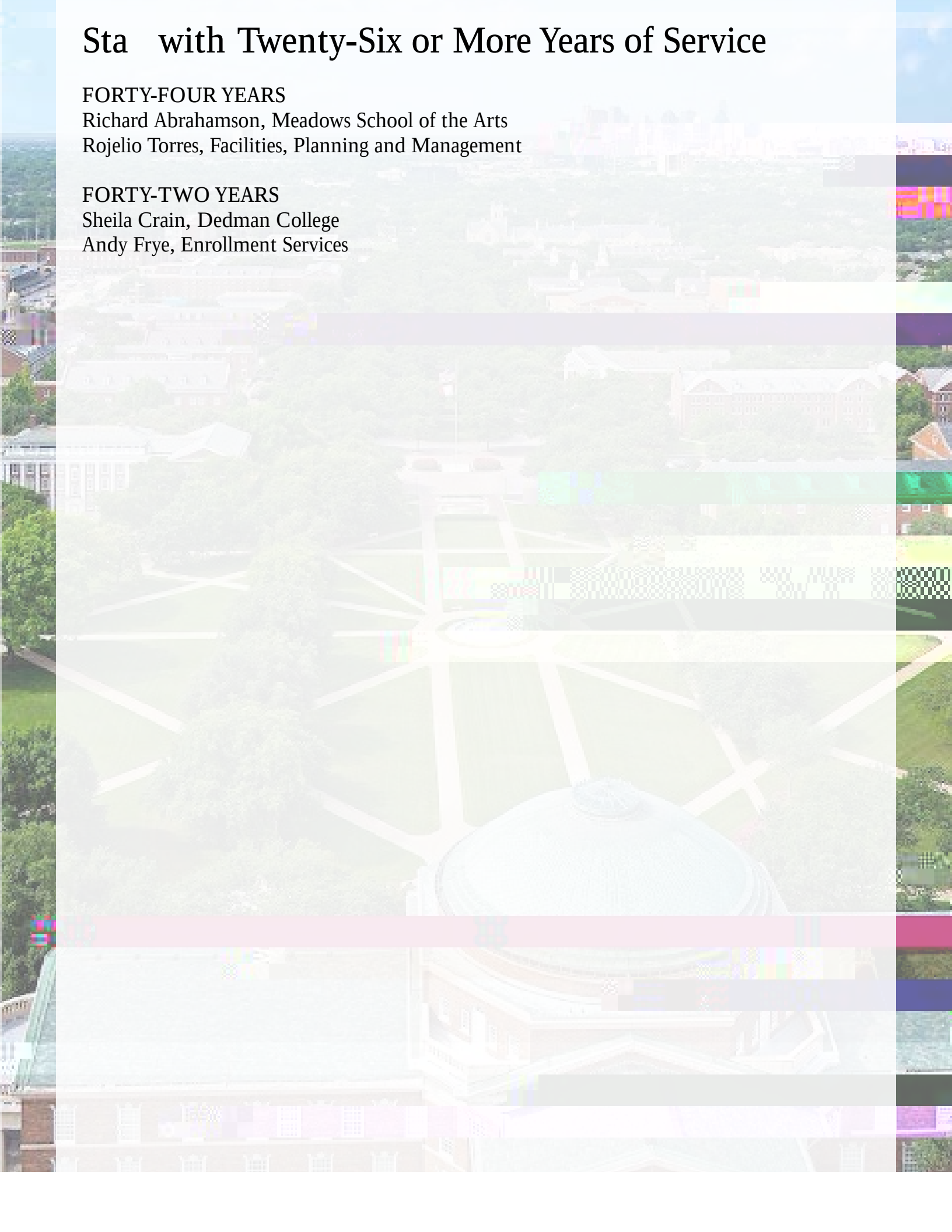
Staff with Twenty-Six or More Years of Service

FORTY-FOUR YEARS

Richard Abrahamson, Meadows School of the Arts
Rojelio Torres, Facilities, Planning and Management

FORTY-TWO YEARS

Sheila Crain, Dedman College
Andy Frye, Enrollment Services



THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, cont.

Rebecca (Becky) Hood, Simmons School of Education
Carolyn Jeter, Office of the Provost

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS

Jaynell Harrell Dalby, Office of Budgets and Finance
Deanna Johnson, Meadows School of the Arts
Debbie Seiter, Office of Information Technology
Alison Tweedy, Campus Services

THIRTY-THREE YEARS

Elizabeth Aguirre, Cox School of Business
David Anderson, Dedman College
Judith Benes, Dedman College
Jim Dees, Lyle School of Engineering
Gregory Ivy, Dedman School of Law
Jon Speck, Perkins School of Theology
Sharon Tabbert, Dedman School of Law
Mary Varela, Dedman College

THIRTY-TWO YEARS

Robert Buckner, DEA-Strategic Affairs
Jorge Cruz, Office of Information Technology
Christopher Eatmon, SMU Libraries
Kent Gadell, Facilities, Planning and Management
Sandra Heads-Forpe, Dedman School of Law
Stephen Leary, Meadows School of the Arts
Jacqueline Wilborn, Enrollment Services

THIRTY-ONE YEARS

Margaret Dew, Office of Information Technology
Andrea Maupin, Office of Information Technology
Elizabeth Jeanne Milazzo, Cox School of Business
Paula Strasser, Cox School of Business

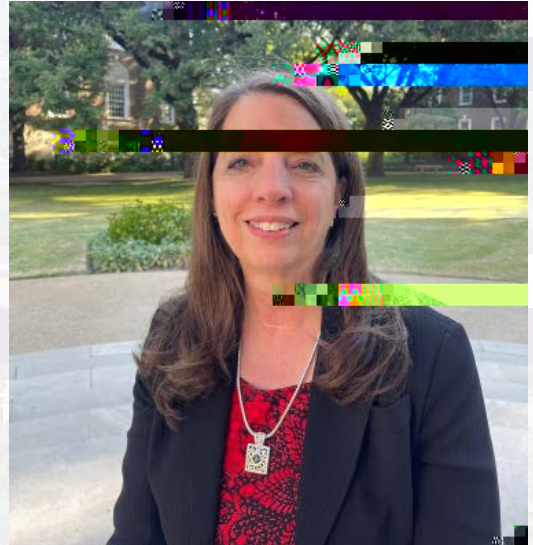
THIRTY YEARS

Pamela Bell, Office of Budgets and Finance
Yvette Castilla, Office of Budgets and Finance
Nazario Del Rio, Facilities, Planning and Management
Tammy Dyer, Office of Budgets and Finance
Susan Strobel Hogan, Resident Life and Student Housing
Lorinda Lamb, Office of Budgets and Finance
Alan Pushin, Office of Information Technology
Jerrell Stracener, AT&T Center for Visualization

Twenty-Five Year Sta Inductees

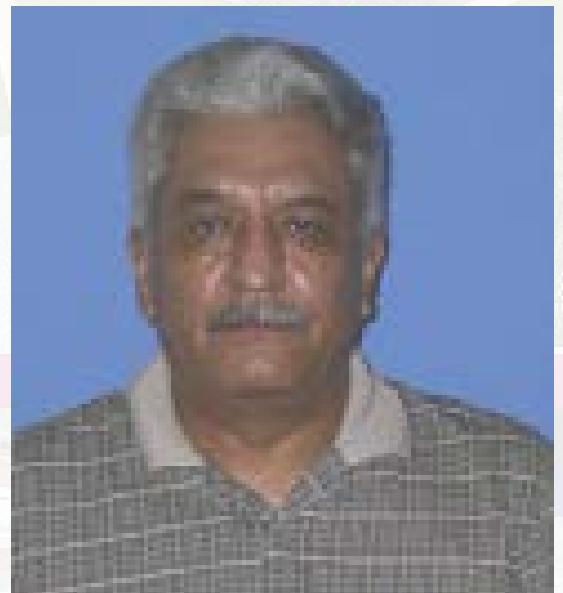
Rebekah Bell

Rebekah Bell is the Assistant Director of Special Events for the Dedman School of Law. Rebekah began her career at SMU in 1997 working for the law school's Alumni Development Office. She has performed every task there is in the Law Alumni Development Office! These included anything from budgets to magazine design to event management to data management. Rebekah's "initial goal" in joining SMU was to see both of her daughters graduate from SMU, knowing it would be a long-haul, 12–13 years. She never imagined she would still be here after 25 years. She has enjoyed her time with each member of the law school's alumni development teams, the camaraderie and friendships are a treasure to her. Prior to joining SMU, she worked for a small employee benefits firm. She received her degree from Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga. She is married to Steve and has two daughters, Katherine and Jennifer, who both graduated from SMU as well as four grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with the grandkids, volunteering in children's ministry at church and card making.



Ricardo Del Rio

Ricardo Del Rio is in Mail and Copy Services. He has worked in the mail center for the entire 25-years he has been with SMU. When he isn't working for the mail center, he enjoys working athletic events in various roles. Ricardo has worked as a campus courier, making deliveries all over campus. Patrick Cullen, Ricardo's supervisor says, "One of the great things that has come from Ricardo's many years here at SMU is the broad knowledge he has of the University. He can always be depended upon to have the correct answer about who someone is, where something is located, and the best way to accomplish a given task, and he answers these questions with the ease of someone who loves what he does!"



Robin L. DeVore

Robin DeVore is a Research Analyst in the newly formed Office of University Decision Support. When she began working at SMU, she was a Library Specialist in Fondren Library. She moved from there to the Hegi Family Career Development Center as an Event Coordinator and then to the Office of Institutional Research. She really enjoyed having her kids on campus here at SMU as students. Robin was a dental hygienist before coming to SMU. She also claims stay-at-home mom, Cub Scout den leader, Girl Scout volunteer, as well as wearing many other hats. She is married to Gregg and has two children, Michael and Jessica who both graduated from SMU, as well as two grandchildren. She has a “passion for plants and puppies,” currently being home to four Dalmatians. She also volunteers with the Dalmatian Rescue of North Texas.

Alejandro Estrada

Alejandro Estrada works in Development and External Affairs in Records and Gift Administration. This is actually where he began his career at SMU – “certainly never bored, nor a dull moment!” according to him. When Alejandro went through open heart surgery in 2008, he remembers his SMU colleagues showing up at his hospital room when he came out of surgery. Before SMU, he worked in retail at Bealls Department Store and then for Blockbuster when he moved to Dallas. He attended Laredo College where he received an Associates Degree and received his Bachelor of Humanities from SMU’s Evening Degree Program in 2010. He is married to Christina whom he met riding bikes. He is an urban cyclist and recently became a bicycle instructor for the League of American Bicyclists.

Pamela G. Henderson

Pamela Henderson is the Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid for Meadows School of the Arts. When she started at SMU, she was in the main financial aid office as a Financial Aid Advisor. She thinks Meadows is the best place to work on campus. Pamela feels her greatest accomplishment at SMU is creating the Meadows Scholars Program which has helped establish numerous endowments and attracted talented students from across the country. Before joining SMU, she spent 12 years as a Financial Aid Counselor at Texas State University. She studied psychology at TSU which has helped in her financial aid career. She has one son and says family is “the most important thing in my life.” She credits her parents for instilling in her a strong work ethic, always accentuating the positive and eliminating the negative. She enjoys reading and relaxing by the pool and spending time with her grandchildren.

Lawrence J. Hengst, Jr.

Lawrence J. (Jay) Hengst, Jr. is the Director of Operations and Events in Meadows School of the Arts. He has been Meadows' House Manager, Building Manager, Facilities Manager, Director of Facilities, and Director of Facilities and Events before landing his current role. He will tell you, “I may not have had my fondest memory yet, ask me when I retire!” But Jay does say working in the trenches for countless hours with the most incredible colleagues might juorwscoaitGeoU3 pMeadows Schoolo1tjoiniL[U, s.5 (is)0.aitGTrdha3iole. H)18 (e will teley1 havepeoplewhen him ifchookn School oTJ

Laurene Klassen

Laurene Klassen is Assistant Director of IT Training and Communications. When she first joined SMU, however, she started as a Development Associate for SMU's first capital campaign. Following the campaign, she transitioned to event and financial support for DEA's Program Services. She has also served as the Assistant Financial Officer & Box Office Trainer for the Tate Lecture Series and SMU Athletic Forum. Recently, she has created and developed SMU's Microsoft Certification Program with resounding success. She remembers weekly outings to the Cotton Bowl to setup President Turner's football box and picking up Tate Lecture speakers. Before SMU, Laurene worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Development for their corporate fund. She holds a Bachelor's degree from DBU in Business Administration & Management and a MLA from SMU. She is married to Kelly and they have one son Tejay. She enjoys hiking and camping with her family. She has recently been ghostwriting for a national women's ministry.

Kevin Knox

Kevin Knox is Assistant Dean-External Relations & Executive Director-Cox Alumni Association. When he joined SMU in 1997, it was in the then newly created Office of Alumni and External Relations. As Kevin puts it, "It takes power to stay in the same place!" When he first visited the campus back in '97, he was amazed at the beauty of the campus. Before starting at SMU, he was with the University of Georgia, Terry College of Business, Office of Alumni and External Relations. He is also a graduate of the Terry College of Business. He is married to Tryna who is finishing her doctorate at the Simmons School. They have three children, Chandler, Griffin, and Graham, as well as 3 grandchildren. Kevin enjoys attending college athletic events, sporting clay, and playing with the grandkids and his Boykin Spaniels. If you ask Kevin, "I have the best job in America, thanks to a lot of people at the Cox School and SMU."

Diane E. Kucera

Diane Kucera is the Associate Director of Constituent Records and Interim Director, Records and Gift Administration for Development and External Affairs. She actually began her career at SMU as the Manager of Constituent Records for DEA, but moved through several different roles before ending up in her current position. She also serves as the Module Lead for the PeopleSoft Advancement Module. While she has many great memories of her time here, by far the one



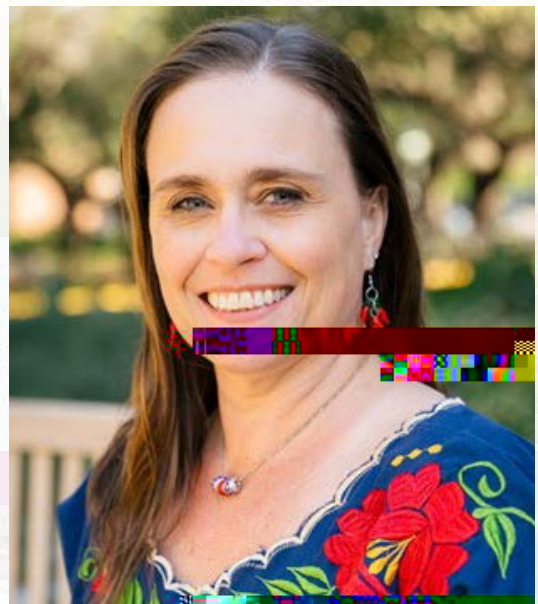
Andrew Glen Payne

Andrew Payne works in Facilities, Planning and Management maintaining the campus grounds. This is where he began with SMU, and remains there still today. His fondest memories of SMU, however, revolve around the talent shows the university used to hold where he would compete. Before coming to SMU, he was a cook in a downtown restaurant. Andrew enjoys singing and playing dominoes.



Janet Thomas Stephens

Janet Stephens is Director of Meadows Undergraduate Academic Services. Her path to SMU included starting as a SMU undergrad, graduating in 1997 and beginning work that fall as a temp doing data entry and reception work in the Meadows Records office. Janet met her husband here at SMU and spent many hours at the Coffee Haus on Hillcrest where he was a manager while she was working in the AV center of the Hamon Arts Library. She also spent one summer in Taos at the field school working on the Pot Creek Pueblo archaeology project where she met some of her best friends. As a child of university administrators, Janet “tagged along” as her family moved from one university to the next until she got to SMU. She is married to Eric and they have two children, Madeline and Luke. She enjoys going to as many shows as possible, traveling, camping and hiking, and making beaded jewelry.



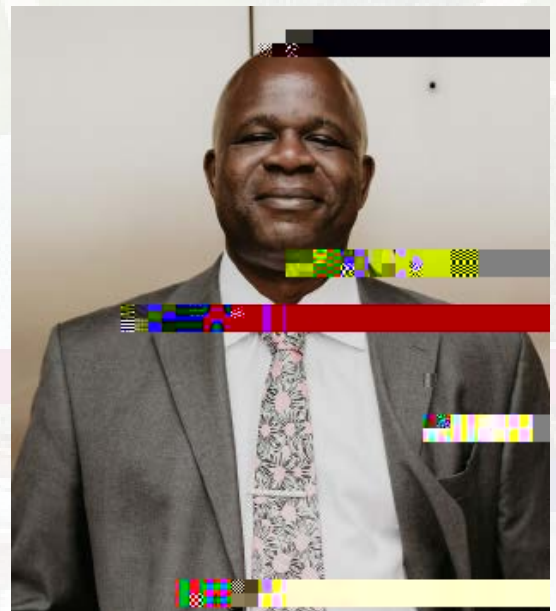
Glenn R. Taylor, Sr.

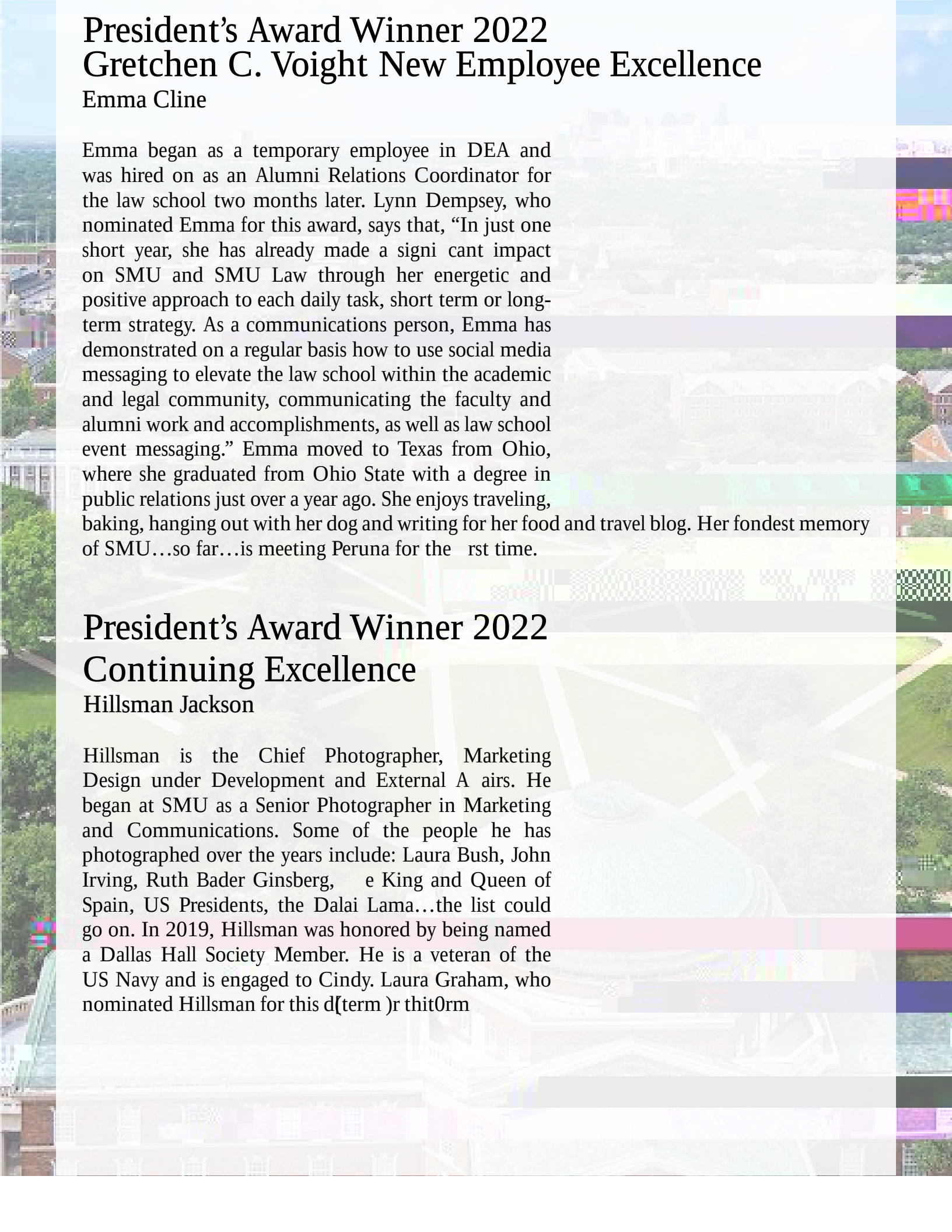
Glenn R. Taylor, Sr. currently works as a Desktop Support Technician. In 1997 when he joined SMU, he worked in the Development and External Affairs Department as a Desktop Support Specialist. He transitioned to OIT after the reorganization of the school's technical support system. While here, he had the opportunity to meet British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, as she received the Tower Center Medal of Freedom Award. Glenn also helped transport VIPs for the George W. Bush Presidential Library dedication. His path to SMU began with Burroughs/Unisys Corporation and moved to the Dallas Independent School District and then to Richland College. Glenn is married to Rev. Dr. Barbara Taylor who is completing her Masters of Divinity here at SMU. Prior to that, Glenn was married to Wanda who passed away. They had three children, Glenn, Jr., Cedric and Shaquenta. He has nine grandchildren. He enjoys traveling and cruising and is very active with the grandchildren and his church.



Todd Wright

Todd Wright is the Chief Electronic Media Technician in the Lyle School of Engineering. When he started at SMU, it was simply the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and was located in the Distance Education Department. Todd met his wife, Elizabeth, here and has, to date, earned two advanced degrees. But, if you ask him, he'll say, "I am still behind." Before beginning with SMU, Todd worked at the LeCroy Center which is a part of the Dallas Colleges (formerly DCCCD). He has a BA in Mass Communications from Midwestern State University, a MLS from Simmons with a concentration in Communications, Media, and Technology, and a MA in Dispute Resolution. Todd enjoys reading/listening to books, playing poker, and smoking cigars.





President's Award Winner 2022

Gretchen C. Voight New Employee Excellence

Emma Cline

Emma began as a temporary employee in DEA and was hired on as an Alumni Relations Coordinator for the law school two months later. Lynn Dempsey, who nominated Emma for this award, says that, "In just one short year, she has already made a significant impact on SMU and SMU Law through her energetic and positive approach to each daily task, short term or long-term strategy. As a communications person, Emma has demonstrated on a regular basis how to use social media messaging to elevate the law school within the academic and legal community, communicating the faculty and alumni work and accomplishments, as well as law school event messaging." Emma moved to Texas from Ohio, where she graduated from Ohio State with a degree in public relations just over a year ago. She enjoys traveling, baking, hanging out with her dog and writing for her food and travel blog. Her fondest memory of SMU...so far...is meeting Peruna for the first time.

President's Award Winner 2022

Continuing Excellence

Hillsman Jackson

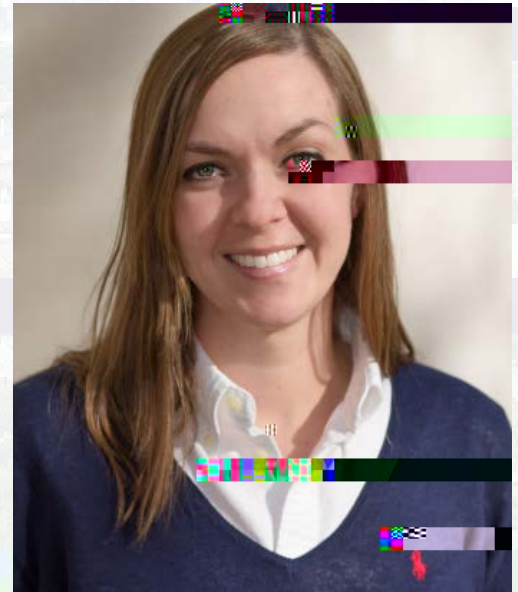
Hillsman is the Chief Photographer, Marketing Design under Development and External Affairs. He began at SMU as a Senior Photographer in Marketing and Communications. Some of the people he has photographed over the years include: Laura Bush, John Irving, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the King and Queen of Spain, US Presidents, the Dalai Lama...the list could go on. In 2019, Hillsman was honored by being named a Dallas Hall Society Member. He is a veteran of the US Navy and is engaged to Cindy. Laura Graham, who nominated Hillsman for this distinction

President's Award Winner 2022

Innovation

Lauren Nelson

Lauren Nelson is the Assistant Director of Client Systems within the Office of Information Technology. She first began at SMU as an Information Systems Specialist in the Lyle School of Engineering. Rachel Mulry nominated Lauren for this award. In her nomination, she noted, "Lauren is an exceptional employee with deep technical knowledge and skill. She is committed to excellence and continual improvement. She is not afraid to tackle a very complex issue and determine the appropriate action that is then deployed at scale across the university. She is driven to implement processes that are effective, secure and as automated as possible while providing great customer service and attention to the needs and priorities of the university." She graduated from Berklee College of Music where she studied music business and songwriting. She later received a degree in sociology from SMU. She loves spending time with her family and her 3 dogs at the family ranch in Clifton, Texas.



President's Award Winner 2022

Outstanding Leadership

Leigh Ann Moffett

Leigh Ann is the Associate Vice President and Chief Risk Officer in the Office of Risk Management. She started at SMU as the Director of Emergency Management. She enjoyed all of the Zoom calls with her team during the pandemic saying, "It was similar to having an extended family dinner without the meal and in-person experience." Chris Regis nominated Leigh Ann saying, "The events of the last two and a half years were new to everyone; there was no playbook on how to navigate a complete shut down of the country and the world while still providing education to our students, supporting faculty in teaching, and providing staff the ability to work remotely until it was safe to return to campus. Leigh Ann skillfully assembled the right folks to make all of this happen!" She is married and has two daughters, Jenna and Nora. She enjoys all things family!



Loretta O'Reilly Hawkins Award



The Loretta O'Reilly Hawkins Award was established to recognize and reward employees who represent the qualities and spirit of Loretta O'Reilly Hawkins, her love of SMU, her commitment to the community, and her high standards for work and life. Loretta O'Reilly Hawkins was a member of the university staff for 37 years, from 1924 to 1961, during which time she held various roles, including assistant to President C.C. Selecman and President Umphrey Lee. Her retirement in 1961 was announced in a lead editorial in the Dallas Morning News entitled "Loretta's Leaving."

Mrs. Hawkins was a single parent who was devoted to both SMU and her family, working tirelessly through the depression (and a 66% pay cut for staff employees) to better the university, while also taking on part-time and evening work to support her family. She had an excellent reputation in the community and high standards of accomplishment in work, family, and the art of living. This award was endowed by Mr. Dallas E. Hawkins II, to honor his mother and her life as well as to benefit the university to which she was so dedicated.

Loretta O'Reilly Hawkins Award Winner 2022

Susan Howe

Associate University Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs

Susan is the Associate University Counsel. Her primary practice areas are student affairs, SMUPD, risk management, staff employment matters, DASS, and enrollment services. She also teaches as an adjunct lecturer within the Simmons School. She started at SMU in 2007 as Associate University Counsel. Her colleague, and nominator, Kelly Curman wrote, "Susan embraces OLA's mission and goals on a daily basis in service to the SMU community in all of her assigned practice areas...Regardless of the issue, Susan is always up to the task and is committed to living up to OLA's mission and goals." She is married to Bobby and they have a blended family with four children: Aly, Allison (SMU graduate), Dylan, and their youngest, Ethan. Susan enjoys attending the SMU Celebration of Lights and listening to Dr. Turner read *The Christmas Story*.

2022-2023

SMU Student Association Executive Board

Samantha Tellone
Don Moorman
Brandon S. Chance

Jennifer Gomez
Christopher M. Ham
Claudia Favela
Tiffany Powell
Vanessa Salazar
Michelle Ried

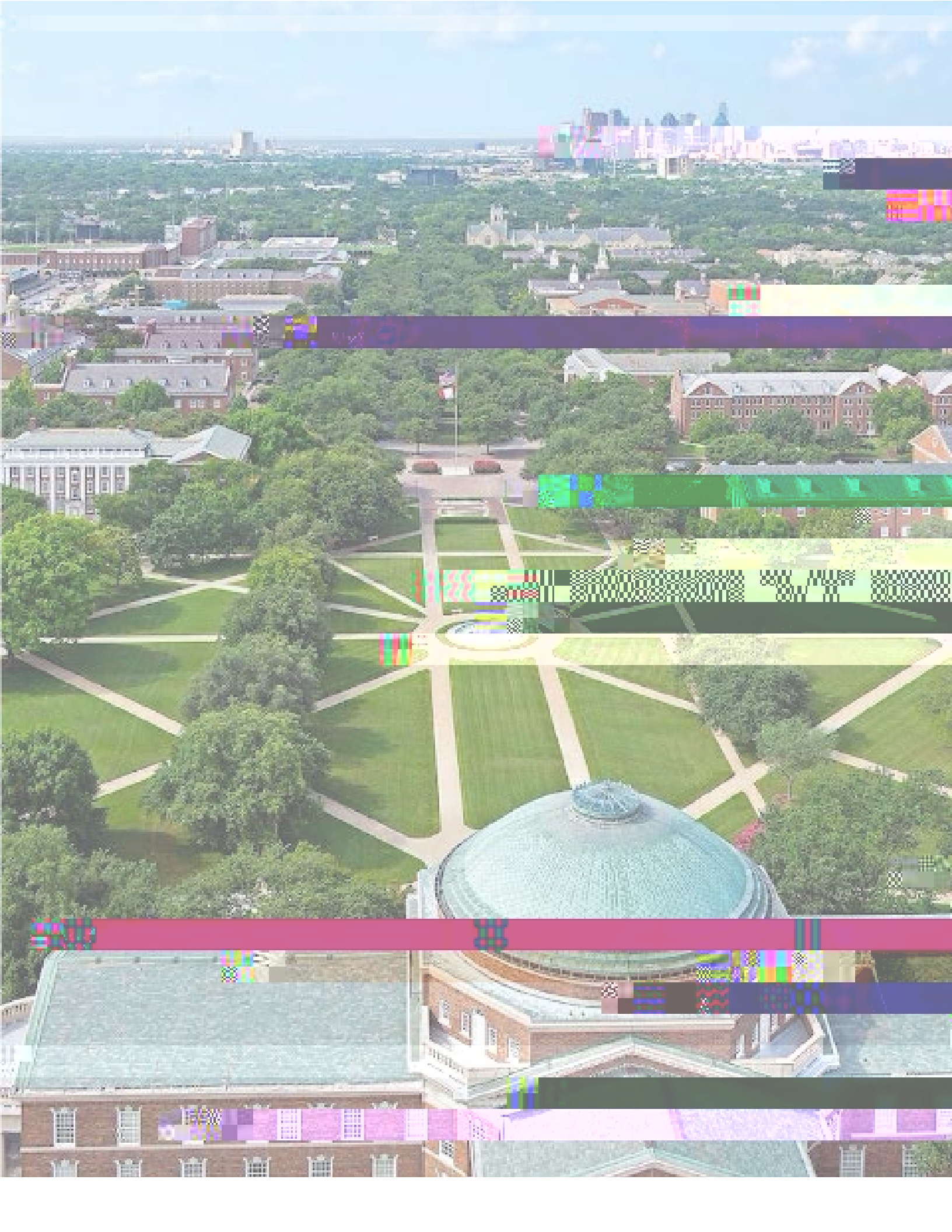
President
President-Elect
Past-President
Student Advocacy Council Chair
Vice President of Programming
Vice President of Student Development
Vice President of Service and Activities
Vice President of Marketing and Communications
Director of Administration
Treasurer

SMU Student Association Members at Large

Marjorie Rush
Diana Vineyard

Payroll Department
Dedman College

SMU Student Advocacy Council
Dedman College
Payroll Department
Dedman College
Vineyard President
10.1 (er) 11.10.2021



University Hymn

“Oh we see the Varsity, Varsity, Varsity
as she towers o’er the hill over there.
And our hearts are filled with joy, SMU, SMU,
Alma Mater, we’ll be true forever!”

Special Thanks

Zach Peterson
Announcer

Chris Regis
Vice President for Business and Finance
SMU Staff Association Advisor

Get Involved

We would love to hear your ideas!
To volunteer to help with the planning or hosting
of one of our events, just send an email to smusa@smu.edu
or reach out to your [Staff Advocacy Council](#) Member in your area.

