

Weekly Update | August 18, 2023

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

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As the summer comes to a close and we prepare for the start of the fall semester, I want to convey my sincerest thanks to our faculty and staff. First, thank you to those who have spent their summer on-campus teaching classes, working on incredible research projects, and/or ensuring our campus continues its daily operations. Next, thank you to all those who have spent weeks prepping for classes and coordinating our Stampede and welcome events for all our undergraduate and graduate students both new and returning. We greatly appreciate the hard work you've put in during this heat-filled summer. I hope that you were able to take time to rest and are prepared to enter the academic year with vigor.

Mustangs find their way around campus. If you have time, perhaps offer a welcome and helpful guidance as they navigate their new surroundings.

Fall General Faculty meeting next Wednesday, August 23

The fall 2023 General Faculty meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 23, in the Oren Family Auditorium, Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Faculty are invited to participate in the Welcome Reception beginning at 3:00 p.m. with the meeting to begin promptly at 3:45 p.m. As per tradition, the President of the Faculty Senate, Michael Harris, Professor and Department Chair in Simmons School

Nader Jalili, Mary and Richard Templeton Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering has co-authored a mechanical engineering textbook entitled, “Dynamic Systems and Control Engineering.” Dean Jalili and his co-author, Dr. Nicholas W. Candelino, Control Systems Research Engineer at General Electric (GE) Research, have worked steadily on this project for the past 20 years. The text will be available later this month in both hardback and e-Text from [Cambridge University Press](#) and will be published in time to reflect the Dean’s SMU credentials.

Key leadership searches underway

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

Last week, the search committee conducted on-campus interviews for two finalists and hosted the third and last finalist today. After reviewing the feedback submitted by interviews on each candidate and consulting with the search committee and key campus stakeholders, we plan to enter negotiations with hopes to name our new director 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.

News and Noteworthy

Assistant Provost for SMU’s Global, Online and Continuing Education appointed to the Learning Technology Advisory Committee (LTAC) of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Michael J. Robertson, Assistant Provost for SMU’s Global, Online and Continuing Education, has been appointed to the [Learning Technology Advisory Committee](#) (LTAC) of the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#). The LTAC evaluates the role that learning technology plays in Texas higher education via policy research and discussion while reviewing institutional proposals for distance education doctoral programs. The LTAC informs the Coordinating Board about how distance education and computer-assisted instruction further the mission to improve Texas higher education.

Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences Professor recognized at the 2023 International Congress on Medieval Studies

At the May 2023 International Congress on Medieval Studies, the world’s largest medieval conference, Bonnie Wheeler, Professor in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences’ departments of English and Medieval Studies, received a multitude of honors for her lifelong contributions to the field of Medieval Studies. Professor Wheeler was awarded the 2023 Medieval Foremother Prize for her extensive publications and support for research on medieval women. Two conference sessions were offered in recognition of this honor: “Women and Authority in Medieval Literature,” which included a paper on “Medieval Divas: Between Passion and Power” presented by former SMU colleague Irina Dumitrescu, and “Medieval Foremothers and their Afterlives.” Two additional sessions were held, hosted by alumnae of the prestigious Bonnie Wheeler Fellowship, which was founded in Professor Wheeler’s a iv amediev

Lyle School of Engineering Professor to moderate keynote panel for the 20th Anniversary National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) Symposium

Ali Beskok, Brown Foundation, Inc. Professor in Lyle School's Department of Mechanical Engineering and Associate Dean for Research Innovation and Industry Partnerships, has been invited to moderate the keynote panel at the upcoming National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) Symposium entitled "Enabling the Nanotechnology Revolution: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act." The symposium is being hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine on October 10, in Washington D.C. at the National Academies' building.

Office of Global, Online and Continuing Education hosting first Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Implementation Conference

SMU's Office of Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) is excited to announce its first-ever [Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification \(CMMC\) Implementation Conference](#) on Tuesday, October 10, in Moody Hall. This immersive event will focus on cybersecurity and [Department of Defense](#) (DoD) contracting. SMU's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), George Finney, will present the keynote address. SMU community members are eligible for discounted registration with code: CMMC20. [Register for the conference here](#).

SMU co-sponsors Resiliency in Mining Communities workshop at Universidad Nacional de Colombia

SMU Continuing and Professional Education's (CAPE) Artificial Intelligence