

From: [Loboa, Elizabeth](#)
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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.

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 horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southern Methodist University

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

World Changers Shaped Here