

# Weekly Update | May 19, 2023

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

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/summer 2023, 2) R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

## Spring/Summer 2023

### Spring Commencement 2023

\_\_\_\_\_ , CEO of [McKesson Corporation](#) and 27 degree recognition ceremonies. In total 2,722 students graduated, and 3,433 degrees were conferred this May.

Congratulations to all of this year's graduates. You have achieved a great deal during your time at SMU and we look forward to hearing about your journeys as you go out to change the world.

Thank you to the members of the SMU community, faculty and staff who participated in Commencement Weekend. Graduation is a special time on our campus, and your hard work and dedication ensure a wonderful experience for our students and their families. You, and your work, are greatly appreciated.

### Formation of a Task Force on Faculty Salary and Merit Allocation Benchmarking

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, Faculty Senate, Office of the Provost, Office of University Decision Support, and Business and Finance are creating a task force to examine faculty salaries for both the tenure/tenure-track and non-tenure-track levels. Last week, [invitations were sent out](#) to serve and we are grateful to the following participants who have confirmed their willingness to serve:

- Nathan Balke, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Department of Economics

- Sondra Barringer, Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Department of Education Policy and Leadership
- Ernie Barry, Office of Budgets and Finance
- Melissa Chessher, Meadows School of the Arts, Division of Journalism
- Ruth Cross, Dedman Law School
- Marta Krogh, Faculty Senate, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Department of English
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**Consortium, including SMU faculty, receives \$1 million National Science Foundation's (NSF) Engines Development Award to transform logistics in Texoma region**

## **Provost's Humanities and Social Sciences Doctoral Candidacy Fellowships**

Fifteen students in Art History, Economics, and History were selected for Provost's Doctoral Candidacy Fellowships, as part of a [new program we launched](#) in March, to support Ph.D. students in the humanities and social sciences who have performed well in the early stages of their programs. These fellowships will provide the selected students with up to three years of a stipend, health insurance, and

Delphina Rivas, a rising junior and Provost Scholar, double-majoring in Computer Science and Creative Computing, has been selected by the [U.S. Department of State](#) for the [Foreign Affairs Information Technology \(FAIT\) Fellowship](#).

In this two-year fellowship program, Rivas will receive up to \$87,000 in academic funding over the course of two years, two summer internships, and mentorship. Upon successful completion of the fellowship, Rivas will receive an appointment in the Foreign Service as an Information Management Specialist.

Congratulations on your appointment for U.S. Department of State (3.1 (c)-8 (t)-ipop.arcvt) for the next semester to start your academic

