

# Weekly Update | May 5, 2023

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

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly updates will serve as a tool to keep you

Last Friday, April 28, the annual Hilltop Excellence Awards recognized outstanding members of the SMU community. Each spring, the Division of Student Affairs hosts the awards ceremony, distributing 15 awards to students, faculty, staff, trustees and volunteers, who have been nominated by their peers, colleagues, professors and mentors. This year, 44 individuals were recognized for their exceptional work supporting the University. Congratulations to this year's award nominees and winners – your contributions make our campus a vibrant center of discovery, learning and service. And thank you to Student Affairs for hosting these awards and ensuring we take time to recognize our exemplary people. See a full list of [award winners here](#).

### **Philanthropist and Broadway producer gives \$15 million to Meadows School of the Arts**

[G. Marlyne Sexton has made a generous gift](#) to Meadows School of the Arts to create a specialization in musical theatre that will prepare graduates for a lifetime of leading roles. Sexton's gift provides endowments and operating funds for both the new [G. Marlyne Sexton Institute for Musical Theatre](#) and the G. Marlyne Sexton Director of Musical Theatre, both of which are expected to start during the 2023-2024 academic year.

### **Provost participating in informal conversations with college/school faculty this spring**

I will be concluding the informal conversations series by meeting with the Dedman School of Law faculty on May 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hillcrest Appellate Courtroom and Classroom in the Underwood Law Library. Thank you to the faculty who made the time for these meetings and have shared their perspectives.

### **Concluding Tate Lecture Series installment for the academic year**

Tuesday, May 2 the [Tate Lecture Series](#) concluded its 41st season by hosting Martha Stewart for an

Today, the search committee met with our executive search firm, Isaacson Miller, to review the current slate of applicants and to assess what adjustments, if any, are needed to establish a

McDonald Centre for Ethics at Oxford University, in late June. Dr. Kirk will accompany Dr. Gingles to meet with the Oxford team and discuss future collaborations.

**Two Cox School of Business students named in “100 Best & Brightest Undergraduate Business Majors Of 2023” by Poets & Quants**