

# Weekly Update | , 2024

## Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

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, 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](#). Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be reviewed and considered for publication in that week's Friday newsletter. Others will be held until the following week. Previous newsletters are available [here](#).

Today's update falls into five categories: 1) Spring 2024, 2) Academic Excellence, 3) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 4) Inclusive Excellence, and 5) News and Noteworthy.

## Spring 2024

**Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences to conclude his service after 10 years**

On Monday, January 22, [I sent a message](#)

## Executive Board Meeting recap

To learn more about the nomination process, or to nominate yourself or a colleague, please

Yesterday, Thursday, January 25, in SMU's Frances Anne Moody Hall Auditorium, President Turner; Dr. Suku Nair, Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer; Bobby B. Lyle, member of SMU's Board of Trustees; and I along with members from the SMU-led Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub consortium joined together to meet with congressional representatives to preview the team's in-flight proposals. As a reminder, tech hub proposals are due by February 29, 2024, to compete for up to \$75 million in federal funding this fiscal year.

Thursday's meeting follows an event that the [Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub consortium convened at Austin College](#) to review and refine their proposals.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the consortium. Our outstanding progress to date would not be possible without your contributions and support. Further information about the proposals will be included in future newsletters.

### **Lyle School of Engineering faculty member selected for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award**

Professor Digvijay Boob from the Department of Operations Research & Engineering Management at Lyle School of Engineering has been selected by the [National Science Foundation](#) to receive a [Faculty Early Career Development Program \(CAREER\)](#) award. The CAREER award is one of the NSF's most prestigious awards to support "early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization."

The nearly \$600,000 grant will fund Professor Boob's project "Foundations of semi-infinite and equilibrium constrained optimization." [Read the abstract here.](#)

### **Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies announces Research and Innovation Week dates**

Research and Innovation Week gives SMU the opportunity to showcase some of the most exciting research being done by our undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. Members of the SMU community and the public are invited to join and learn about the groundbreaking research taking place on our campus.

This year, Research and Innovation Week will take place on April 1-5, 2024.

Learn about the events scheduled for [Research and Innovation Week here.](#)

### **SMU, University of Houston and University of Arkansas engineering team receives National Science Foundation (NSF) grant**

SMU professor Harsha Gangammanavar from the Department of Operations Research & Engineering Management at Lyle School of Engineering has partnered with Yisha Xiang from the University of Houston and Wenchao Zhou from the University of Arkansas to acquire a \$505,785 grant from the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF).

The grant will support the researchers as they pursue their project "Integrated Framework for Cooperative 3D Printing: Uncertainty Quantification, Decision Models, and Algorithms." [Read the abstract here.](#)

## **SMU's Hughes Fellow in Creative Writing's poem published by prestigious national journal**

Hughes Fellow in Creative Writing, [Samyak Shertok](#), in Dedman College's Department of English, is having his poem "[A Blessing](#)" published in [Poetry](#), one of the leading monthly poetry journals in the English-speaking world.

To receive publication in the highly selective, >100-year-old journal, writers and poets submit work through a series of three increasingly critical editorial rounds. The journal touts a publication rate of approximately one percent, earning its reputation as one of the most selective in academia.

## **Inclusive Excellence**

### **Engage Dallas launches spring book club**

Philadelphia's [Mütter Museum](#). The exhibit, *Unhoused: Personal Stories and Public Health*, is on display through August 5, 2024, in the Thomson Gallery.

This is the second time the two artists have collaborated on an exhibition, the first occurring [at SMU this past fall](#). Their new exhibit has received significant local media coverage including articles in [The Philadelphia Tribune](#), [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) and [WHYY](#), along with a television news spot on [ABC 6 Action News](#).

### **SMU Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) announces launch of Tech CxO Excellence Certificate**

Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) is excited to announce the February launch of the [Tech CxO Excellence Program](#), a partnership between CAPE and Tech [CxO Launch Pad](#). This unique program is taught by industry experts who are, or have served, in prominent roles from CIOs to CTOs, offering unparalleled insights and real-world experiences. Designed to empower aspiring and current technology leaders, the program covers a comprehensive curriculum in leadership, cybersecurity, financial planning, and performance management. Participants will embark on a transformative journey guided by seasoned industry experts, gaining the skills and knowledge needed to excel in technology leadership roles. The program, set to commence on February 8, promises a dynamic and forward-thinking approach to tech leadership education.

### **Lyle School of Engineering alumnus conducts innovative research for neurological conditions at UT Southwestern Medical Center**

David Wang, a Lyle School graduate in electrical engineering, is formulating breakthrough innovations in understanding brain-specific disorders. During his time at SMU, Wang collaborated with Dr. Brad Lega of UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW), focusing on electrical brain stimulation for memory improvement. Now, as a clinical research manager at UTSW, Wang works in the neurosurgery department using deep brain stimulation to develop implantable brain devices targeting disorders such as memory loss and epilepsy. Read more about David Wang's research [here](#).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>



**World Changers Shaped Here**