



Provost and Senior 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 submit your ideas through our story form via the button below. 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) Fall 2024, 2) Academic Excellence, 3) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 4) News and Noteworthy.

Fall 2024

Upcoming important dates for fall 2024 semester close-out

As most of you are undoubtedly aware, we are now on day two of exams, which are scheduled through December 18 (with the exception of Sunday). SMU's December graduation ceremonies will take place next weekend. Rotunda Recessional will occur on Friday, December 20, at 5 p.m., starting at the Flagpole on the Main Quadrangle. This is an important tradition for undergraduate students, signaling the end of their time as a student and the beginning of their membership in the SMU alumni family.

Concurrently, doctoral graduate students will participate in the Moody Doctoral Hooding Ceremony. More information on this new event, which has been a part of All-University Commencement, follows below.

Texas banker, will be the featured speaker. Ware, who has been recognized with SMU's Distinguished Alumni and Mustang awards, has a legacy that includes a proud SMU family of graduates and generous contributions to SMU's growth and student life.

More information about [December ceremonies can be found here](#).

Academic Excellence

SMU in Four publishes Year-Three Progress Report

The SMU in Four team has released its Year-Three Progress Report on [SMU's Quality Enhancement Plan](#).

The report includes updates on early-alert mechanisms, undergraduate academic advising, technology enhancements, and gateway and introductory courses. Key metrics, such as retention/graduation rates, and goals attained in year three of this five-year initiative, are also presented.

You can download the [SMU in Four Year-Three Progress Report here](#). Questions regarding the report or supporting presentation can be directed to smuinfour@smu.edu.

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Announcing Provost Research Fellowship award recipients

In the fall 2024 semester, the Office of the Provost, in conjunction with the Vice Provost for Research and Chief Innovation Officer and the University Research Council, selected the recipients of the Provost Research Fellowship. This fellowship was open to current SMU tenured faculty nominated by their dean or the Faculty Senate, and nominations were evaluated based on the nominated faculty member's scholarly contributions over the past decade.

Join me in congratulating the following 2024–2025 Provost Research Fellows:

Adam Jasienski – Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Art History, Meadows School of the Arts

Christopher Roos – Professor, Department of Anthropology, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences

Julie Patterson Forrester Rogers – Professor of Law, Dedman School of Law

Two articles by Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences professor to be reprinted by esteemed university presses and new article accepted for publication

Professor Pauline Newton, senior lecturer in the Department of English at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences will have two articles reprinted in prestigious journals and has announced the upcoming publication of a third. Her 2014 article "Walking with Her Muse: An Interview with Shirley Geok-lin Lim" will be reprinted by the [University Press of Mississippi](#). Professor Newton's article "Collecting Seeds of Destiny in Li-Young Lee's The Wing Seed: A Remembrance" will be reprinted by [Cambridge Scholars Publishing](#). Additionally, her review of "The Postcolonial Millenium: New Directions in Malaysian Literature in English (eds. Grace V.S. Chin and Mohammad A. Quayum)" is forthcoming in the [Southeast Asian Review of English](#).

News and Noteworthy

Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences faculty member receives 2024 O'Brien Award

On December 4, the [Human Rights Educators USA](#) (HRE USA) named Dr. Rick Halperin, director of the SMU Human Rights Program, as the winner of its 2024 [O'Brien Award for Human Rights Education](#).

Established in 2015 and given annually in memory of Edward O'Brien, pioneer human rights educator, the O'Brien Human Rights Education Award seeks to honor outstanding contributions to human rights education in the United States. The 2024 award was presented to Dr. Halperin at HRE USA's Human Rights Day Celebration on Tuesday, December 10.

SMU Guildhall invites faculty and staff to the GameLab Annual Fall Expo on December 16

Faculty and staff are invited to SMU Guildhall's annual "Bagel Day" celebration. This event celebrates the Guildhall's Team Game Production classes' completion of the latest round of Capstone and team