



## Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope you are having a restful and productive summer. Whether you are teaching, conducting research, or preparing exhibits or performances, your contributions are greatly appreciated and valued in our quest for even greater academic quality. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to SMU's academic mission.

As mentioned in the [final Weekly](#) of the spring 2024 semester, I plan to send these updates twice each month during June and July and once in August prior to the start of the fall semester. 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) Summer 2024, 2) Academic Excellence, 3) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 4) Inclusive Excellence, and 5) News and Noteworthy.

## Summer 2024

### **Ten new members elected to Board of Trustees**

Ten individuals have been elected as new members of the SMU Board of Trustees, the principal governing body of the University, and will begin their service in fall 2024. All trustees (except *ex officio*

Additionally, two new *ex officio* members will join the board for the 2024-25 academic year

Safety exercises like these help our community prepare for potential campus threats by providing realistic scenarios as training opportunities. While the exercise's noise and activity might have been distracting, events such as these help to keep our campus safe and allow our Police Department and neighboring first responders to strengthen their skills. I appreciate everyone's support and commitment to promoting and enhancing campus safety.

Please direct any additional questions to SMU Police at 214-768-3388.

## Academic Excellence

### **Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC) awarded certification by internationally recognized College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA)**

The Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center (A-LEC) is pleased to announce that it has earned certification as a Level I certified tutor training program by the internationally recognized [College Reading and Learning Association](#) (CRLA).

For over 30 years CRLA has been a leader in learning assistance, reading, and academic support programs with almost 1,300 members and over 2,000 certified training programs worldwide.

The A-LEC has worked hard to develop a tutor training program that meets CRLA's rigorous standards and has successfully completed the International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTTPC) peer review process. Please join me in congratulating the A-LEC on a job well done.

### **2024 Retiring Faculty Dinner**

On Tuesday, May 14, my husband Todd and I hosted the annual Retiring Faculty Dinner, honoring



## **New tool to detect protein-protein interactions could lead to promising avenues for gene therapy and other treatments**

MinJun Kim, Robert C. Womack Chair in Engineering and professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Lyle School of Engineering, and his team unveiled a groundbreaking solid-state nanopore device for swiftly and accurately identifying protein interactions, particularly crucial in gene therapy advancements. This innovation enables real-time monitoring, saving time and resources with its ability to analyze small sample sizes. By illuminating protein bonding, such as FGF-1 and heparin, it not only enhances gene therapy efficacy but also holds promise for treating diseases rooted in aberrant protein interactions. This pioneering technology heralds a new era in biomedical research and treatment development. [Read more about the tool here.](#)

## **Inclusive Excellence**

### **Office of Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) collaborated with National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to host educational AI strategy workshop**

SMU's Office of Global, Online and Continuing Education (GOCE) recently collaborated with the National

## News and Noteworthy

The Office of Engaged Learning invites SMU community members, particularly undergraduate students who are engaged in research, to its annual Summer Research Symposium. This lunch-and-learn event, which features a different faculty presentation or panel each week, will take place throughout the summer at noon in the Fondren Science Building. Lunch will be provided. The series began this week featuring Beth Wheaton-Páramo, research assistant professor and senior lecturer in the Department of Economics at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences whose research in human trafficking was highlighted above.

To learn more about the upcoming sessions and register, [visit SMU 360](#).

### **Lyle School of Engineering team partnered with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to host pre-recruitment event on SMU-in-Taos campus**

A Lyle School of Engineering team and David Lee, assistant vice president for curricular operations and strategy, hosted a team of managers from Los Alamos National Labs on the SMU-in-Taos campus on May 29. The Lyle team consisted of Linda Parker, career development director of the Hart Center for Engineering Leadership, and Joe Camp, professor and department chair *ad interim* for the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. The Lyle team and Dr. Lee gave the LANL group team a campus tour and discussed potential partnerships to connect students to experiences in Taos, including internships with Los Alamos. While on-site, LANL's Maintenance and Site Services group brought several drones for demonstration in Dr. Camp's class. This class was unique in that stud ev . Uas. n

