

# Weekly Update | June 28, 2024

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

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Previous newsletters are [available here](#).

Update falls into three categories: 1) Summer 2024, 2) Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 3) News and Noteworthy.

## Summer 2024

### SMU set to join Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) on July 1

[SMU officially joins](#) the [Atlantic Coast Conference \(ACC\)](#) on Monday, July 1. To help us celebrate, costumed mascots from all 18 ACC member teams are coming to Dallas. A large public party will be hosted at The Happiest Hour, 2616 Olive St. in the Harwood District and 'D O Downtown skyline will be lit in SMU colors.

7KLV LV DQ LQFUHGLEOH PLOHVWRQH IRU RXU 8QLYHUVLW\ DQG RXU U nation in athletics and academics. Everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite red and blue and join us, as able, in the [festivities this coming Monday](#).

Pony up!

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## SMU research team utilizes unused fiber cables beneath campus for earthquake detection

Department of Earth Sciences, consisting of Jyoti Sharma, a postdoctoral researcher, and Stephen Arrowsmith, professor and Hamilton Chair in Earth Sciences, are transforming 608 TV network unused telecommunications and computer fiber into a sophisticated seismic monitoring system.

Working with the Office of Information Technology (

fraternity who has reached the highest levels of recognition and achievement in the music profession. It is the premier honor for members of the fraternity and another worthy accomplishment for one of 608 ¶ V most distinguished faculty.

### Lyle School of Engineering research professor wins second place at American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) competition

Dr. Kelyn Rola, director of the Thrive Scholars Program and research professor at the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education at Lyle School of Engineering, and Dr. Caitlin Anderson, senior lecturer in the Department of Applied Physiology & Sport Management at Simmons School of Education and Human Development, was awarded second place in the 2024 First Year Programs Division from the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE). Dr. Rola was selected to present her paper detailing the Thrive Scholars Program's success in retaining traditionally underrepresented first-year students at the ASEE annual conference in June. Read more about the [Thrive Scholars Program here](#).

Sincerely,



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

