

# Weekly Update | October 18 2024

## Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

These weekly

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 in the following week. Others will be held until the following week.

Previous newsletters are [available here](#).

and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, 4) Inclusive Excellence, and 5) News and Noteworthy.

## Fall 2024

**Cox School of Business Executive Board meeting**

SMU has commenced a search for the Scurlock Chair of Ethics in AI, a position that will allow SMU to bring a world-renowned scholar to campus with the power to elevate our reputation and impact in ethics within the emerging field of Artificial Intelligence.

Earlier today, the search committee held its first meeting and I delivered their formal charge. The committee will meet throughout the fall and spring semesters to create a position description and recruit an exceptional pool of candidates, with the goal of starting early as fall 2025.

My thanks to the [search committee members](#) and our co-

William F. May Endowed Chair of the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility and professor in the Meadows School of the Arts Division of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs.

### **Call for proposals: Intersessions Courses**

On Wednesday, October 16, [I sent a message](#) about course proposals for 2025 May and summer academic sessions on the Dallas campus.

Course proposals for 2025 Dallas campus May and summer terms are now being accepted and are due by Monday, November 4, 2024. Proposed courses should appeal to a wide range of students, be pedagogically appropriate given the condensed format of the class schedule, and be consistent with your usual academic standards and expectations. Cross-listed courses and those that fulfill Common Curriculum requirements tend to be more successful in terms of enrollment. [You can complete a course proposal for Intersessions by clicking here](#). Please remember to complete a separate proposal for each

Yesterday, Thursday, October 17, President Turner [sent a message](#) to SMU employees and students regarding the upcoming presidential election.

freedom, open dialogue, diversity, and inclusion. SMU has always been a place where differing opinions are presented and debated respectfully. A  
perspectives, is key to developing world changers. We urge you to remember our shared values as we approach this election season.

Please note that SMU is once again hosting a polling place on campus for our community and neighbors on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. Anyone registered to vote in Dallas County may cast a ballot in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) includes information about how and where you can vote if you reside in any county in the state. Early voting in Texas begins on Monday, October 21, and runs through Friday, November 1.

## Academic Excellence

### SMU in Four Mid-Semester Check-In

All SMU undergraduates will receive an email from SMU in Four on October 20, asking them to complete a two-question check-in survey as part of the SMU in Four initiative. The mid-semester check-in survey is designed to assess students' self-reported academic performance and sense of belonging for the current term. It is intentionally distributed around midterms and has built-in interventions to connect struggling students with SMU campus support resources. I encourage faculty to allow students 30 seconds during class next week to complete this survey and/or to announce it to students via Canvas. The mid-semester check-in survey will run through November 4, 2024.

efficiency, reduce costs, increase capacity, enhance readiness, and most importantly, save lives. Congratulations to Professor Smith on garnering support for research with impact.

### **Research team from SMU and Dartmouth explore future applications for liquid crystals powered by natural light**

In a new study in [Nature Chemistry](#), researchers at SMU and Dartmouth College take the first step toward identifying new potential applications for liquid crystals that can be powered exclusively by natural light. Possibilities include liquid crystal lasers, easily-printed and erasable display screens, and microscopic banknote tags to deter counterfeiters.

SMU researchers Joshua T. Plank, Drake Henry, and Alexander R. Lippert, along with a research team from Dartmouth, developed a process and toolkit that enable individuals to control the color reflected by liquid crystals. Doing this with light and color that is visible to the human eye was one of the most consequential breakthroughs of their work. Further, mapping their new process in detail down to the molecular level can help researchers further investigate future applications for liquid crystals.

Learn more [about liquid crystals here](#).

### **An international multi-institutional research team that includes an SMU hydrologist publishes latest study in the journal Science**

An international research team with experts from the United States, Canada and Sweden that includes SMU faculty member Xiao Yang, professor in the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, has published their latest study in the [journal Science](#).

This study examines the past 165 years of changing ice duration on lakes around the world and how these changes are affecting key physical, chemical and biological processes within freshwater ecosystems. Learn more [about the study here](#).

## **Inclusive Excellence**

### **SMU Department of English hosting writer and producer team from hit television show Pachinko for exclusive screening and conversation**

are presenting an exclusive screening of an episode from the highly anticipated second season of Apple [Pachinko](#), adapted from the bestselling novel by Min Jin Lee.

This event will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center (Oren Family Auditorium) and will be followed by an in-depth conversation with the creative team behind the show. Creative team panel participants will include producer Soo Hugh, executive producer Theresa Kang, writer and co-executive producer Chang-rae Lee, and writers Melissa Park and Haruna Lee. The post-screening conversation will be moderated by Professor Christopher González, Department of English chair.

This event is free and open to the public, although registration is required. [Please register here](#).

## **News and Noteworthy**

### **Frances Anne Moody Hall wins Best Project from Engineering News-Record (ENR) Texas-Louisiana**

Engineering News-Record (ENR) is a national media publication in the design/build sector and oversees regional-specific publications including [ENR Texas-Louisiana](#) in which Dallas is represented. ENR has

recently announced its [2024 Regional Best Projects awards](#) which includes winning projects and merit projects across 18 categories. ENR has a rigorous selection process for awardees. This year industry judges reviewed 115 entries from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas and selected 39 projects for recognition.

I am pleased to share the news that Frances Anne Moody Hall was selected regionally as the Best Project for the Higher Education/Research category for 2024! Now, Moody Hall will continue to the ENR national competition with results being announced in December 2024.

We are very proud of one of our newest on-campus buildings and are pleased to see that others agree. Thank you to the Moody Foundation, the Beck Group, the SMU Facilities team, Moody building managers, and everyone who has helped make Moody Hall a reality, and without whom this well-earned recognition would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD

Provost an7(oN1n4.784 375.77 462.55 344.23 reW\*nBT/F1 9.96 Tf1 0 0 1 74.784 462.43 Tm.96 Tf462.43