

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 our ambitious goals.

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 four categories: 1) Spring 2025, 2) Academic Excellence, 3) Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence, and 4) News and Noteworthy.

Spring 2025

Cox Dean Search Update

From February 17 – February 28, SMU hosted on-campus visits for our two outstanding finalists under consideration to become the next Cox School of Business dean. Thank you to all who participated in the process and to those who provided feedback on their candidacies. We have been reviewing your feedback, which will serve as a key data point to inform our selection, and are on track to announce a new dean this spring.

2025 Faculty Career Achievement Award recipient

On Monday, March 3, [I sent an email](#) to faculty and staff announcing that this year's 2025 Faculty Career Achievement Award recipient will be Professor David Meltzer, Henderson-Morrison Professor of Prehistory and executive director of the Quest Archaeological Research Program in the Department of Anthropology at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

Professor Meltzer and SMU faculty with recent prestigious national award wins will be honored at a reception on Monday, March 24, 2025, from 4–5:30 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Ballroom. SMU faculty and staff are invited to attend and support their colleagues; [please RSVP here](#).

Undergraduate students interested in applying for national fellowships should contact Dr. Brandon Gray Miller, assistant dean of Honors & Scholars at bgmiller@smu.edu.

Graduate students interested in applying for external funding should contact Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips,

The lecture is scheduled for April 1, 2025, from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. in Perkins Prothro Great Hall, 5901 Bishop Blvd. The event is free and open to the public and will include a boxed lunch. [Please RSVP by March 18](#) to secure your seat for this lecture. Given limited seating, early registration is encouraged.

If you have any questions, please contact: Dr. Frederick D. Aquino at faquino@mail.smu.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth G. Loba".

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

