



October 29, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

There are so many opportunities on campus for students and each of us knows exceptional students who we want to celebrate. This week's newsletter highlights just a few of these opportunities and how students are excelling in a wide variety of activities. Dr. Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success, took your suggestions and compiled a snapshot. We hope that you learn about something new, decide to join us at an upcoming event, or simply feel inspired by all that our students accomplish. The dedication and commitment shown to our students by faculty and staff across campus make all the things highlighted here happen. So *thank you* and enjoy.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Keeping SMU Students Connected. Many members of our SMU community partner to keep students informed of opportunities and resources. Each semester, students can find relevant, up-to-date information at the [SMU Connected site](#), which also includes an archive of the most recent reminders. Reminders point students to resources such as tips on topics ranging from [finding out how you are doing in class](#) to [finding on-campus jobs and workshops on professional engagement](#). This site also serves as a landing page for quickly navigating to making advising appointments and scheduling tutoring support for students.

Ask A Mustang. " Ask-A-

Engage Dallas. [Engage Dallas](#) is a place-based community engagement initiative offered by



of their presentation and their ability to convince the judges of the impact of their research. All members of the SMU community are invited to attend.

SMU Guildhall's Capstone December 13. SMU Guildhall's Capstone teams are reaching a significant milestone when they enter the final month of production as they ready three games for publication. SMU Guildhall's TGP Capstone program involves every student in the senior cohort who benefits from students in Music, Film, and Voice departments in Meadows, religious studies in Dedman, continual support from OIT, playtesting from SMU's esports club and a number of students and alumni, and material support from Epic and Intel, coaching and mentoring from a variety of game studios around the country, including Sony Santa Monica Studios, Gearbox, Bethesda Dallas, Better Together Games. The students employ their mastery of teamwork, team efficacy and psychological safety in cutting-edge game development to create three games that will be released worldwide on Steam. The semester culminates their 6-month development with what the students have named "Bagel Day." This is one of SMU Guildhall's major annual events and is a celebration of the students' accomplishments with guests from schools on campus and local game studios. This year's Bagel Day is on Monday, December 13, at 9:30 am and will be in Ford Hall 201 or by Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Research Days. Encourage your students to consider presenting their research at [Research Days](#) in March produced in conjunction with the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Office of Engaged Learning.

Faculty Supporting Student Events. Students truly appreciate when faculty they know attend university sponsored events. To add them to your calendar please follow these links for the schedule of events for [Meadows Performances](#), [Athletic Events](#), and [student sponsored activities](#). Alternatively, you can request to join [email mail lists](#) and have upcoming activities delivered straight to your in-box.

## CAMPUS UPDATES

SMU Study Abroad. Fall 2021 is the first term since Spring 2020 that SMU Abroad offered in-person study abroad programs. Three programs offered were with partner Institute for American Universities (IAU) in Aix-en-Provence, France; Barcelona and Madrid, Spain. SMU Abroad will continue to plan in-person abroad programs for subsequent terms, in addition to offering more programs in more locations in consultation with the Travel Oversight Committee (TOC). Two additional affiliated programs are offered for the Spring 2022 term with DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia (partner since 1984) in Copenhagen, Denmark and Stockholm, Sweden. The application cycle for January 2022 and Spring 2022 terms closed on October 1, with a total of 105 applicants. The application cycle for Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 will open on Monday, November 1. Students who are interested in participating in SMU Abroad programs are strongly encouraged to create their Advising Profile and complete Abroad 101 on Canvas *now*. 367 students have already created their Advising Profile for upcoming study abroad programs. SMU Abroad expects higher application numbers than usual and therefore strongly recommends that students complete an application early. Spots are limited.

Data Science@SMU. The new Data Science B.S. and Data Science minor are already attracting students. Currently there are 19 majors and minors with additional students declaring regularly. We will graduate our first majors/minors in December. The Data Science major is designed for students across the university since it requires that students already have a declared major (the content major) and requires 36 credit hours. A key requirement is a capstone course that allows students to apply what they have learned to their primary major. Only a few capstone courses have been proposed thus far. Please consider proposing such a course by sending a syllabus for the course to [pmoore@smu.edu](mailto:pmoore@smu.edu). I am happy to answer any questions you have about the major (or minor) including the capstone. Of course, the minor is also accessible. In both cases the introductory data science class, DS 1300/OREM 1300, is a great way for students to be introduced to the area.

In conjunction with the Scott-Hawkins lecture series, the Office of Curricular Innovation and Policy will host Melissa Cefkin, a Cultural Anthropologist (Ph.D. Rice) who works on Google's self-driving car effort.

Moore, Associate Provost for Curricular Innovation and Policy, at [pmoore@smu.edu](mailto:pmoore@smu.edu)

The Data Science Institute has hosted a series of speakers funded by DCCI on new data sources such as Twitter to encourage interaction among faculty interested in both theory and practice. Finally, the DSI is planning a pilot

significant research project worthy of the doctoral degree. The Moody School Candidacy Ceremony honors Ph.D. and other doctoral students who have passed this significant milestone.

A record number (11) of National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program applications were put forward this year from the departments of Anthropology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology, and Statistics.

Graduate student Carolyn Mason, African American Mustang Fellowship winner who (in her first 8 weeks on our campus) has won the Christine Wilson Award from the Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition, earned the position of Graduate Assistant to the Society for Medical Anthropology under President Charles Briggs, and prepared a robust proposal for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The dissertation research she is planning targets the intersection of race, inter-generational food insecurity, and gendered family values and roles.

Art History Ph.D. student Arvin Maghsoudlou was awarded a [Metropolitan Museum of Art Fellowship](#) for the 2021-2022 academic year. Arvin studies often-overlooked art and objects from late antique Iran and Western Asia (200-900 CE), focusing on the materiality of precious metal objects from the Sasanian Empire, the last Persian imperial dynasty before the Muslim conquest in the mid-seventh century. The fellowship will support him for one year as he pursues his doctoral research, including a 12-month residency at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Arvin's doctoral studies have also been supported by an SMU University Ph.D. Fellowship, administered by the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies.

Art History Ph.D. student Danya Epstein was awarded the 2021-2022 [Carter Manny Research Award](#) from the Graham Foundation, to support her research on Phoenix-based Hopi artist and architect Dennis Numkena (1941-2010), a polymath practitioner who broke barriers for Native Americans as the first Native American architect to helm his own firm. Danya also advanced the writing of her doctoral dissertation, based on this research, at a



Dissertation Writing Bootcamp offered by the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies in August.

Recent Molecular and Cellular Biology Ph.D. alumna Dr. Lauren Ammerman was featured in an article in *The Dallas Morning News*. The article, "[SMU](#)  
[st](#)

Zack Demaree '21 recently interviewed a number of successful people, such as President Gerald Turner and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, for his project "Foundations: The Road to Success."

Gabrielle Gard '22 was awarded the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship this summer, which will enable her to continue researching inhibitors that re-sensitize drug-resistant cancer cells.

Alumni, Greg Guggenmos, won Humanity in Action's Landecker Democracy Fellowship, which provides a year of financial support to recipients so that they can develop projects that reinvent democratic spaces, strengthen social cohesion and build connections across