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This year, I am pleased to announce that we will launch a fourth research cluster, Urban Research, which will add to our existing three research clusters (Data Science, Earth Hazards and National Security, and Technology-Enhanced Instruction and Learning). I would like to once again express my gratitude for the faculty who served in a working group this spring term to bring forward recommendations to inform the development of this new research cluster. Using their recommendations followed by the deans' collaborative efforts, we have currently confirmed eight faculty lines for the initial Urban Research Cluster search with the possibility that in early fall faculty might identify additional lines from the approved list of upcoming searches that would be enhanced by participating in this cluster.

In addition to the information in this chart reflecting approval for full-time faculty searches, 23 one-year visiting faculty lines have been approved to fill for AY 23-24.

Perkins Invites Nominations for 2023 Distinguished Alumnus/a Award

Perkins School of Theology is accepting nominations for its 2023 Distinguished Alumnus/a Award until Thursday, August 31. The annual award recognizes Perkins graduates who have demonstrated effectiveness and integrity in service to the church, continuing support for the goals of Perkins and SMU, distinguished service to the community, and exemplary character. The recipient will be honored at an awards banquet during the 2023 Fall Convocation.

Visit the [Perkins website](#) to learn more about nomination criteria, or reach out to Matt Jacob, Director of Public Affairs and Alumni/ae Relations at mjacob@smu.edu.

News and Noteworthy

SMU voice professor has spent more than 20 years building up South African music and her students

Meadows School of the Arts Professor Barbara Hill Moore was featured in _____ for her exceptional work with voice students both at SMU and abroad, most notably in South Africa. In 2011, she established and still currently serves as the Executive Director of the SMU-in-South Africa study abroad program. The program's creation was prompted by Professor Moore's many trips to South