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## Recommendation Letter Writing Workshop

Faculty are invited to join the Moody School Fellowships Office and the Office of Faculty Success for a recommendation letter writing workshop this upcoming Monday, February 5, at 10 a.m. in Frances Anne Moody Hall, room 241. This session features information on writing recommendation letters for graduate students, writing recommendation letters for colleagues, and using AI to draft recommendation letters. Faculty will walk away with information about the best practices in letter writing and support tools.

Register for the workshop [here](#).

## Materials from Graduate Student Success Day

Graduate Student Success Day, which was hosted by Dean Robin Poston and the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies on Monday, January 29. The event included a talk by special guest [Dr. Lillian Eby](#), distinguished research professor and chair of the Industrial-Organizational Psychology Program at the University of Georgia, on research-driven best practices in graduate mentoring. Dr. Paige Ware, Associate Provost for Faculty Success, moderated a faculty panel on helping graduate students persist to graduation. For those who were unable to attend, a [PowerPoint presentations](#) from all sessions is available with SMU log-in credentials.

## Staying safe during Flu-season

Influenza (flu) is on the rise at SMU and the surrounding county. The number of flu cases and other respiratory illnesses at the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center has skyrocketed over the past two weeks. Please take preventive actions that can protect you and others from circulating influenza viruses. This includes washing your hands often, avoiding close contact with individuals who are sick, and getting vaccinated.

Vaccines are matched to the viruses that are most common and should offer good protection from severe illness. The Dr. Bob Smith Health Center provides flu shots at no charge to the campus community and no appointment is necessary.

If you do experience flu-like symptoms or test positive for the flu, please prioritize your well-being by staying home. Students should refrain from attending classes until their fever temperature drops below 100.5 degrees for at least 24 hours.

## Outstanding Graduate Student Instruction Award nominations now open

To support graduate students who wish to pursue teaching, SMU allows a select number to gain teaching experience during their Ph.D. by instructing laboratory sections and co-instructing classes

contributions to the teaching of SMU undergraduates, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Office of Student Academic Engagement and Success sponsors the Outstanding Graduate Student Instruction Awards. The Moody School presents two of these awards annually, each including a \$1,000 prize. In recognition of the very different ways graduate students can contribute to the teaching of SMU undergraduates, one award is granted to a graduate student

granted to a graduate student whose primary experience has been as a teaching assistant, lab instructor, or similar role.

Both departments and programs, including independent programs, may nominate one graduate student for consideration each year. [Nominations should be submitted here](#) by the department chair or graduate program director by Friday, February 16.

Questions can be directed to Dr. Alan Itkin at [aitkin@smu.edu](mailto:aitkin@smu.edu), Senior Assistant Dean of Moody School.

## **Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence**

### **Universities Research Association (URA) hosted Annual Council of Presidents Meeting**

Meeting and Policy Forum in Washington D.C. on behalf of President Turner. T

## News and Noteworthy

### **Associate Dean at the Simmons School of Education and Human Development invited to serve on Board on Science Education committee for PreK-12 STEM Education Innovations**

Associate Dean for Research and Outreach at Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Anthony Petrosino, has recently been invited and has accepted the invitation to serve as a member of the [Board on Science Education committee on PreK-12 STEM Education Innovations](#). This board is a part of the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) gaps or factors that impede or facilitate

### **Lyle School of Engineering dean honored with Diamond Award**

Dean Nader Jalili, inaugural Mary and Richard Templeton Dean at Lyle School of Engineering won a Diamond Award for Academic Excellence in Education Leadership and Community Engagement at the \_\_\_\_\_ in Atlanta, GA this past weekend.

For the past 28 years, Dean Jalili has dedicated himself to instilling a passion for learning and innovation within young scholars from all backgrounds. In receiving the Diamond Award, Dean Jalili emphasized the importance of collaboration and called for a dedication to the values of equality, inclusive excellence, and human rights for shaping the future of education and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow.

### **Poets & Quants names SMU undergraduate one of 2023's Most Disruptive Business School Startups**

[Jude Lugo](#)

Disruptive Business School Startups by [Poets & Quants for Undergrads](#) for his app [LectureLogger](#). His user-friendly app leverages QR code technology to support classroom attendance taking and the gathering of c-9(v)6(erp2.22.224 an)4(d)]TJrBT/F1.9.el

new episode of the [Arts & Letters podcast](#). [Feedspot](#) ranks Arts & Letters in the top ten social science podcasts in the world.

Congratulations to the many individuals highlighted this week for their accomplishments!

Sincerely,



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



**World Changers Shaped Here**