

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

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 send your ideas to provost@smu.edu. Suggestions received before noon on Tuesday will be reviewed and considered for publication in [here](#).

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

Spring 2024

Call for applications: Caroline M. Jones Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now open for the Caroline M. Jones Memorial Scholarship for full-time undergraduate students returning for the 2024-2025 academic year. This scholarship was established to honor Miss Caroline M. Jones, a staff member who served SMU for over 30 years with an endowment built from memorials given in her name by many staff, faculty, and alumni. The scholarship winner will receive \$10,000 over two semesters (fall and spring) to cover the costs of tuition, fees, room and board.

Interested applicants can [learn more and apply here](#) by March 25, 2024.

Updates from the Office of Financial Aid Services

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) simplification

University Testing Center using new proctoring software to streamline student and faculty testing experience

The University Testing Center (UTC) is excited to announce new proctoring software, *NetSupport School*, that allows Canvas tests to be administered in a locked-down browser. *NetSupport School* offers several new abilities that previous software did not. The new software can facilitate real-time surveillance of students taking Canvas tests with the [Respondus LockDown Browser \(LDB\)](#) on UTC computers.

Faculty will now be able to use Canvas and classroom versions of tests with LDB, rather than creating new test versions. This should result in less confusion on test day.

With its expanded features *NetSupport School* streamlines the student and faculty testing experience while enhancing the UTC's commitment to test integrity and security.

For more information please contact the UTC at 214-768-6064 or universitytestingcenter@smu.edu.

New issue of SMU Journal of Undergraduate Research (JoUR) released

Journal of Undergraduate Research (JoUR), has released its newest issue [now available online](#). JoUR is a double-blind, peer-reviewed journal that features undergraduate research and gives undergraduate students exposure to the academic publishing process.

The latest release of SMU JoUR is Issue 1, Volume 8 and was published under Editor-in-Chief Joshua Ange.

Success Fest to encourage undergraduate students to complete their Degree Planner

to promote the use of Degree Planner amongst SMU undergraduate students, on February 28, from 2-4 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Varsity. The event will offer students incentives such as food from Grilled Cheese Co. and the opportunity to win Amazon gift cards.

To gain entrance to Success Fest, students must show proof of a completed Degree Planner. There will also be PALs and advisors in the Hughes-Trigg Chamber to help students complete their Degree Planner on the day of the event. Additionally, the UAC will host Degree Planner workshops on February 26 and 27, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in Hughes-Trigg room 130. Students are also able to book one-on-one appointments with the PALs if they prefer a more individualized tutorial on Degree Planner.

To learn more about Success Fest, Degree Planner and the importance of students engaging with this degree attainment support tool, [click here](#).

Road to R1: Research and Scholarly/Creative Excellence

Simmons School of Education and Human Development researchers publish book on project-based instruction in STEM

Simmons School of Education and Human Development researchers Anthony Petrosino, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research; Candace Walkington, Ph.D., Annette and Harold Simmons Centennial Chair; and their colleague Denise Ekberg have published a new book entitled *Frameworks for Integrated Project-Based Instruction in STEM Disciplines*. Their book takes a deep dive into integrated project-based instruction (PBI) for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math curriculums and how to apply PBI in the classroom. PBI, a teaching method that has grown in popularity, can help teachers make STEM subjects more understandable for their students.

Lyle School of Engineering faculty member works with collaborators at UT Austin to develop a less expensive method to identify disease-causing pathogens



Sincerely,

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

