

# Thirtieth Annual McKnight Fellows' Meeting & Eighteenth Annual Graduate School Conference

---

November 7-9, 2014  
Marriott Tampa Airport Hotel  
Tampa International Airport  
Tampa, FL 33607

## **Pursuing Opportunities, Meeting Challenges, Shaping the Future**

*Lawrence Morehouse, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer  
Florida Education Fund  
Presiding*

***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014***

**12:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East Foyer**  
**Registration**

**1:00-2:20 p.m.**

### **WORKSHOP I: Strategies for Effective Writing**

Whether preparing an article for publication, a paper for class, an academic prospectus, a thesis or a dissertation, scholars need a strategic approach for producing a polished piece of writing that meets academic standards. Numerous students, scholars and researchers struggle to transfer their thoughts and the information they have gathered onto paper. These workshops provide techniques for organizing ideas and research into acceptable writing, recognizing that a metamorphosis occurs when writing, similar to the transition a caterpillar makes to become a beautiful butterfly. In addition, methods for personalizing the traditional writing process will be presented so participants can approach each writing task with a proven plan and the confidence that they are equipped to execute the plan.

### **BUSINESS, EDUCATION, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES ~ *Pinellas Room***

- *Dr. Elizabeth Metzger*, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida
- *Dr. Vernetta Williams*, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida

### **STEM ~ *Collier Room***

- *Dr. Sylvia Holladay*, Professor of English, Hillsborough Community College

# **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014**

---

## **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

---

### **2:30-4:00 p.m. ~ Pinellas Room**

#### **WORKSHOP II: The Role of Comprehensive Examinations: Strategies for Success**

By examining the role of comprehensive examinations, this session will present students with strategies to prepare for “comps” while completing their doctoral coursework. The goals of this presentation are to ensure that students are ready for comps at the completion of coursework, to help them establish confidence in their ability to prepare for comps, and to help them pass on the first attempt.

- *Dr. Dovie Gamble*, Retired Professor, University of Florida
- *Dr. Sylvia Thomas*, Assistant Professor, College of Engineering, University of South Florida

### **Sarasota Room**

#### **WORKSHOP III: Writing the Prospectus and Dissertation**

This workshop is divided into two parts:

**Part I** focuses on connections between coursework, research interests, and development of the dissertation proposal; selection of dissertation committee chair and other committee members; the structure and format of the dissertation proposal; and strategies for successful development of the dissertation proposal.

**Part II** offers innovative strategies for preparing to conduct dissertation research; structure, format, and development of dissertation chapters; and dissertation defense.

- *Dr. Marvin Dawkins*, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami

### **4:10-5:15 p.m. ~ Collier Room**

#### **WORKSHOP IV: A Scholar Abroad: Job Opportunities in Foreign Countries**

While hiring freezes and budget cuts pervade U.S. higher education, some universities in Asia and the Middle East actively seek candidates, often amid a dearth of native applicants. Although most advertise faculty openings all over the world, the schools see U.S. doctorates as prestigious and useful in recruiting students as they build their reputations. MDF Alumna Dr. Winifred Scott has taught in a tenured position at Zayed University, United Arab Emirates, since 2010. She will share her experience and provide advice on how to successfully pursue a faculty position at a foreign university.

- *Dr. Winifred Scott*, Associate Professor, Zayed University, Dubai, UAE

### **6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East**

#### **OPENING SESSION**

- ♦ Dinner
- ♦ Introductions by McKnight Alumnus *Dr. John Warford* (FAMU) and MDF Fellow *Elaine Espanola* (FIU)
- ♦ Welcome & State of the Fund Address: FEF President *Dr. Lawrence Morehouse*
- ♦ Introduction of the new McKnight Fellows – **THE CLASS OF 2014**
- ♦ President’s Awards
- ♦ Dr. Israel Tribble Award for Outstanding Alumni Support
- ♦ Russell V. Ewald Award for Academic Excellence
- ♦ Dr. Carl Crawford Award for Outstanding Pre-College Support
- ♦ Remarks: *Dr. Chanza Baytop*, Senior Associate, Abt Associates
- ♦ Introduction of Exhibitors
- ♦ Entertainment: The Marlon Boone Trio

# ***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014***

---

**7:30 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East Foyer**  
**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:30-9:30 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom West**

## **SESSION I: Pathways to Becoming College and University-Level Academic Administrators**

University administrators wield significant power, determine programmatic goals, set academic and regulatory policy, and hire and terminate faculty and staff. In short, they are the primary leaders of the academy. This panel, consisting of a department chair, college deans, and a university provost, will discuss the role of the administrator, examine how administrators help universities fulfill their missions, and offer strategies for obtaining administrative posts.

- *Dr. Anthony Burrow*, Moderator, Assistant Professor and Director, Purpose and Identity Processes Laboratory, Cornell University
- *Dr. Thomasenia Adams*, Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Faculty Development, College of Education, University of Florida
- *Dr. Tony Barringer*, Associate Provost and Associate VP Faculty Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
- *Dr. Peter Harries*, Professor of Geosciences and Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida
- *Dr. Peter Wolcott*, Professor and Chair, Department of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis, University of Nebraska - Omaha

**9:30-9:50 a.m.**  
**EXHIBITOR BREAK**

**9:50-10:50 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom West**

## **SESSION II: Best Practices for Securing Jobs in the Private and Government Sectors**

Studies indicate that fewer than one half of today's Ph.D. graduates will secure tenure-track faculty positions. Even so, relatively few resources exist to help students pursue positions outside of academia. This panel introduces several McKnight alumni who have charted paths to employment in government and industry. They will discuss their vision for pursuing positions in these sectors and the strategies they used to find their jobs. They also will discuss the types of positions available for doctoral graduates.

- *Dr. Keisha John*, Moderator, Assistant Dean, Office of the Graduate School, Florida State University
- *Dr. Quenton Bonds*, Founder, The Accelerated Destiny Initiative and Research Electronics Engineer, NASA - Goddard Space Flight Center
- *Dr. Camille Feanny*, Cultural Anthropologist and Journalist, CNN International
- *Dr. William L. Jeffries IV*, Social Epidemiologist, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- *Dr. Ernest McDuffie*, Founder and CEO, The Global McDuffie Group

**10:50 a.m.-11:10 a.m.**  
**EXHIBITOR BREAK**

# ***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014***

---

**11:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom West***

**SESSION III: The Rise of ISIS and Its Implications for the United States**

- *Dr. Mohsen Milani*, Moderator, Executive Director, USF World Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies and Professor, Department of Government & International Affairs, University of South Florida
- *Ambassador Chris Hill*, Former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

**12:20-2:00 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East***

**LUNCHEON: KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

- *Dr. James C. Renick*, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Jackson State University

**2:10-3:40 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East***

**SESSION IV: Managing Conflict: Proactive Strategies for Successful Resolution**

One career-threatening pitfall scholars sometimes experience is responding inappropriately to conflicts with students, professors and/or administrators. This panel will provide an overview of the types of conflicts scholars face during their graduate studies and throughout their careers and offer strategies for conflict management and/or resolution.

- *Dr. Dovie Gamble*, Moderator, Retired Professor, University of Florida
- *Dr. Tony Barringer*, Associate Provost and Associate VP Faculty Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
- *Dr. Anthony Greene*, Licensed Psychologist, Counseling and Wellness Center, University of Florida
- *Dr. Michael McCaskill*, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University
- *Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter*, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Florida International University

---

---

***CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS***

In the following seven panel discussions, the panelists will provide information about completing their Ph.D. programs, developing useful research and publication skills, and securing employment. The discussions will serve as informal, interactive forums to address general topics as well as discipline-specific matters.

General topics will include the relationship between job opportunities and research focuses; the advantages and disadvantages of postdoctorate fellowships; how and what to publish, especially before earning the Ph.D.; how to package oneself for the job market and interview, including creating/assembling a portfolio, preparing a professional presentation, developing/polishing interview skills and conducting a job search; how graduate training impacts the ability to secure tenure and promotion; and the importance of networking.

# ***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014***

---

**3:50-4:50 p.m. ~ Pinellas Room**

## **Panel One: Engineering**

### Panelists

- *Pablo Cornejo*, Moderator, University of South Florida (2012), Engineering
  - *Ivory Council*, Moderator, Florida A&M University (2013), Environmental Sciences
  - *Dr. Quenton Bonds*, Founder, The Accelerated Destiny Initiative and Research Electronics Engineer, NASA - Goddard Space Flight Center
  - *Dr. Larry Davis, Jr.*, Research & Development Scientist, Infor
  - *Dr. Fernando Gonzalez*, Assistant Professor, Department of Software Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
  - *Dr. Ernest McDuffie*, Founder and CEO, The Global McDuffie Group
  - *Dr. Claude Villiers*, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- *Kemi Akintewe*, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2012), Engineering  
- *Amaris Genemaras*, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2014), Engineering  
- *Victor Huayamave*, Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2014), Engineering

## **Pasco Room**

### **Panel Two: Psychology**

### Panelists

- *Elaine Espanola*, Moderator, Florida International University (2012), Psychology
  - *Travis Jones*, Moderator, University of Florida (2013), Psychology
  - *Dr. Damon Bryant*, Research and Development Lead, Infor
  - *Dr. Anthony Burrow*, Assistant Professor and Director, Purpose and Identity Processes Laboratory, Cornell University
- *Lyonna Alcantara*, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2013), Psychology  
- *Tanisha Hill-Jarrett*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2011), Psychology  
- *Nick Kasdaglis*, Campus Facilitator, Florida Institute of Technology (2013), Human Factors

## **Hernando Room**

### **Panel Three: Education**

### Panelists

- *Dr. Mark Howse*, Moderator, Director of University Assessment, Florida A&M University
  - *Dr. Marvin Dawkins*, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
  - *Dr. Patricia A. Green-Powell*, Professor and Interim Dean, College of Education, Florida A&M University
  - *Dr. Tashana Howse*, Assistant Professor, College of Education, Daytona State College
  - *Dr. Vasti Torres*, Dean, College of Education, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Willis Walter, Jr.*, Dean, College of Education, Bethune-Cookman University
- *Charles Kyobe*, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2013), Education

# ***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014***

---

## ***Lee Room***

### **Panel Four: Humanities and Social Sciences**

#### Panelists

- *June Carrington*, Moderator, University of Florida (2009), Anthropology
  - *Carlos Hernandez*, Moderator, University of Florida (2012), History
  - *Dr. Natanya Duncan*, Assistant Professor, Morgan State University
  - *Dr. Camille Feanny*, Cultural Anthropologist and Journalist, CNN International
  - *Dr. William Jeffries*, Social Epidemiologist, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 
- *Monica Duran*, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2010), Foreign Language
  - *Ransford Edwards*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2009), Political Science
  - *Cresean Hughes*, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2010), Criminology
  - *Candy Hurtado*, Campus Facilitator, Florida Atlantic University (2013), Sociology
  - *Camee Maddox*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2014), Anthropology

## ***Sarasota Room***

### **Panel Five: Health Sciences**

#### Panelists

- *Patrick Cherubin*, Moderator, University of Central Florida (2014), Medical Sciences
  - *Talabi Efunbumi*, Moderator, University of Florida (2014), Medical Sciences
  - *Dr. Diane Allen-Gipson*, Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Delores James*, Associate Professor, Department of Health Education & Behavior, University of Florida
  - *Dr. Michael McCaskill*, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University
  - *Dr. Kenyatta Rivers*, Associate Professor, College of Health and Public Affairs, University of Central Florida
- 
- *Cherrishe Brown*, Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2013), Pharmacoeconomics
  - *Dudith Pierre-Victor*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2012), Public Health

## ***Citrus Room***

### **Panel Six: Business**

#### Panelists

- *Jeffrey Anderson*, Moderator, Florida State University (2013), Business
  - *Alberto Ortega*, Moderator, University of Florida (2012), Economics
  - *Dr. Winifred Scott*, Associate Professor, Zayed University, Dubai, UAE
  - *Dr. Russell Price*, Associate Professor, Department of Finance, Howard University
  - *Dr. Cinthia Satornino*, Assistant Professor, Marketing Department, Northeastern University
- 
- *Oscar Harvin*, Campus Facilitator, Florida Atlantic University (2011), Business

# ***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014***

---

## ***Collier Room***

### **Panel Seven: Physical/Life Sciences**

#### Panelists

- *Claribel Nuñez*, Moderator, University of Florida (2013), Chemistry
- *Janine Parker*, Moderator, University of Florida (2013), Agriculture Education
- *Dr. Keisha John*, Assistant Dean, Office of the Graduate School, Florida State University
- *Dr. Verian Thomas*, Interim Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, Florida A&M University

- *Haydee Borrero*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2014), Ecology
- *Lauren Gonzalez*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2014), Biology
- *Carlos Perez*, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2014), Physics
- *Alyssa Rose*, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2014), Chemistry
- *Jaired Tate*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2014), Chemistry

### **6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East***

#### **DINNER & DIALOGUE WITH THE EXHIBITORS**

An Up Close and Personal Faculty Recruitment Experience

- Dinner
- Introduction of Exhibitors by McKnight Alumna *Dr. Cyndia Morales* (UCF) & MDF Fellow *Ruan Cox, Jr.* (USF)

# ***SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014***

---

## **8:30-9:30 a.m. ~ *Sarasota Room***

### **WORSHIP SERVICE: The Message**

- *Reverend Corliss Heath*, MDF Fellow (USF)

Reverend Corliss D. Heath was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Clark Atlanta University (1993) and received her Master of Public Health degree (1998) and Master of Divinity degree (2004) from Emory University. She will graduate with a doctorate in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida this December. There she holds the honor of being a McKnight Fellow and is a 2012 Golden Bull Award recipient. Rev. Heath has received numerous awards for her work in the community and in scientific research. She also has published and presented in the areas of spirituality and health, gender and ethnicity, HIV/AIDS, and womanist theory. Rev. Heath currently serves as youth minister at Mt. Olive AME Church in Tampa, FL. Her current research examines the underrepresentation of middle class Black women in HIV research.

## **10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East***

### **AWARDS AND JACKETING CEREMONY**

- ♦ Brunch
- ♦ William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor Awards
- ♦ New Graduates' Jacketing Ceremony