

# 33rd Annual McKnight Fellows' Meeting & 21st Annual Graduate School Conference

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October 13-15, 2017  
The Westshore Grand  
4860 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33609

## Forging Pathways to Impactful Careers

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

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017**

**12:00 p.m. ~ Grand 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 ~ Bayshore I**

- *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 ~ Poinciana Room**

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

**2:30-3:30 p.m. ~ Bayshore I**

### **WORKSHOP II: Financial Planning: Building a Solid Investment Program in Today's Volatile Market**

This session will discuss key elements and strategies for building a solid investment program despite the volatility of financial markets and political and economic uncertainty.

- *Mo Waineo, MACC, CPA*, Finance Manager, Florida Education Fund

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

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## CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

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**3:40-5:15 p.m. ~ Bayshore I**

### **WORKSHOP III: 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. It also will help students establish confidence in their ability to prepare for the examinations and pass them on the first attempt.

- *Dr. Iraida Carrion*, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of South Florida
- *Dr. Sylvia Thomas*, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of South Florida

### **Poinciana Room**

#### **WORKSHOP IV: Best Practices for 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

**6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

#### **OPENING SESSION**

- ♦ Dinner
- ♦ Entertainment: Alfred Sheppard
- ♦ Introductions by MDF Graduates *Drs. Justin Dunnivant & Ariana Magdaleno*
- ♦ Welcome & Purpose: *Dr. Lawrence Morehouse*, FEF President & CEO
- ♦ Keynote Address: *Dr. Chanza Baytop*, Senior Lead Scientist, Booz Allen Hamilton
- ♦ Russell V. Ewald Award for Academic Excellence: *Lyra Logan, Esq.*, FEF Executive Vice President & General Counsel
- ♦ Dr. Carl Crawford Award for Outstanding Pre-College Support: *Lyra Logan, Esq.*
- ♦ Introduction of the new McKnight Fellows – **THE CLASS OF 2017**: *Mr. Charles Jackson, MPA*, MDF Program Manager
- ♦ Introduction of Exhibitors: *Mr. Charles Jackson*

# **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

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**7:30 a.m. ~ Grand Foyer**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**8:30-8:45 a.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

**OPENING PLENARY ADDRESS: Forging Pathways to Impactful Careers**

- *Dr. Patrick Mason*, Professor of Economics and Director of the African American Studies Program, Florida State University

**8:50-10:20 a.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

**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 discusses the role of the administrator, examines how administrators help universities fulfill their missions, and offers strategies for obtaining administrative posts.

- *Dr. Kenyatta Rivers*, Moderator, Associate Professor, College of Health and Public Affairs, University of Central Florida
- *Dr. Mark Dawkins*, Dean, Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida
- *Dr. Jaffus Hardrick*, Vice Provost for Student Access & Success, Florida International University
- *Dr. Guillermo Prado*, Dean of the Graduate School, Leonard M. Miller Professor of Public Health Sciences and Director of the Division of Prevention Science and Community Health, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- *Dr. Debra Reinhart*, Associate Vice President for Research & Scholarship, Pegasus Professor in the Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Department, University of Central Florida & Associate Editor, *Waste Management Journal*

**10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

**SESSION II: Best Practices for Securing Post Doctorate Appointments and Private and Governmental Employment**

Studies indicate that fewer than half of today's Ph.D. graduates will secure tenure-track faculty positions, while others will pursue post doctorates and positions outside of academia. This panel discusses current trends in Ph.D. employment and offers strategies for charting the path to an impactful career.

- *Dr. Candice Ulmer*, Moderator, Research Chemist, Centers for Disease Control
- *Dr. Quenton Bonds*, Founder, The Accelerated Destiny Initiative and Research Electronics Engineer, NASA - Goddard Space Flight Center
- *Dr. Vladimir Geneus*, Research Scientist, Eli Lilly and Company
- *Dr. Lora Rose Hunter*, Captain, United States Army, Medical Service Corps
- *Dr. Chanda Littles*, Postdoctoral Fellow, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, EPA Western Division
- *Dr. Alan Meca*, Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University

**12:00-12:30 p.m.**

**EXHIBITOR BREAK**

# **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

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**12:45-2:00 p.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

## **LUNCHEON**

- ♦ Keynote Address: *Dr. Mark A. Lawson*, Director, President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and Professor in Residence of Reproductive Medicine, University of California - San Diego
- ♦ Dr. Israel Tribble Award for Outstanding Alumni Support: *Dr. Lawrence Morehouse*

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

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**2:10-3:30 p.m. ~ Poinciana Room**

### **Dementia: A Public Priority and Its Challenges**

The purpose of this panel is not only to examine Dementia and its impact on human life but also to illustrate how various disciplines play a major role in addressing the challenges faced by the public health system in providing adequate medical care for individuals afflicted by the disease. The panel is comprised of experts in Environmental Toxicology, Epidemiology, Sociology, Allergy and Immunology, Internal Medicine, Pharmacology, Nursing, Bio-Statistics, and Neuroscience.

The discussion of this scientific and societal challenge will underscore the rationale for the current university hiring trend to recruit faculty equipped to collaborate on teaching and research across disciplines.

The panel will discuss the following topics:

- Diagnosis and stigmatization
  - Infectious diseases and Dementia
  - Environmental effects
  - Impact on the caregiver's psychology
  - Economic impact
  - Prevention and awareness
  - The value of moving forward
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- *Dr. Maj-Linda Selenica*, Moderator, Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Norma Alcantar*, Professor, College of Engineering, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Ernest K. Amankwah*, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
  - *Dr. Harleah Buck*, Associate Professor, College of Nursing, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Alexis Lacrue*, Lead Arbovirologist, Medical Laboratory Scientist III, Florida Department of Health
  - *Dr. Michael McCaskill*, Assistant Professor, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
  - *Dr. Guitele Rahill*, Associate Professor, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida

# ***SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017***

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**2:10-3:30 p.m. ~ Gasparilla Room**

## **Strategically Planning Research to Maximize Career Opportunities**

Achieving your career goals and securing employment in a highly competitive marketplace requires developing a strategic plan to complete the Ph.D. program and create an attractive portfolio that demonstrates your capacity to conduct timely and cutting-edge research, develop basic and innovative courses and produce dynamic lectures, while meeting expectations for publishing articles and books and securing grants.

This panel, comprised of experts in STEM, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Business, will address the following topics related to strategically planning for employment in these highly competitive times:

- Developing marketable research interests, topics, and questions that are timely, relate to problem-solving and create new insights;
- Preparing to conduct interdisciplinary research or working on interdisciplinary research teams in both academic and non-academic settings;
- Creating presentations tailored to different audiences (e.g., the dissertation defense, professional academic research conferences, job interviews for positions in academia or outside of academia);
- Setting a research agenda that maximizes chances for pursuing employment opportunities and career paths both inside and outside of academia; and
- Choosing modes of publishing and publication outlets that maximize opportunities for seeking positions at colleges and universities, private corporations (both for-profit and non-profit) and governmental agencies.

• *Dr. Daphne Simmonds*, Moderator, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics, Metropolitan State University

• *Dr. Anol Bhattacharjee*, Professor, College of Business, University of South Florida

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

• *Dr. Claude Villiers*, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University

• *Dr. Roxanne Watson*, Associate Professor, College of Arts & Sciences, University of South Florida

# **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

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## **CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

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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.

### **3:45-5:00 p.m. ~ Ybor Room**

#### **Panel One: Business**

##### Panelists

- *Dr. Phebe Davis-Culler*, Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Business, Clemson University
- *Dr. Russell Price*, Associate Professor, Department of Finance, Howard University
- *Dr. Antoinette Smith*, Associate Professor, College of Business, Florida International University

- *Bobby Shed*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2017), Business Administration
- *Andrea Tillet*, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2017), Accounting
- *Enrique Valdes*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2016), Economics

### **Poinciana I**

#### **Panel Two: Education**

##### Panelists

- *Dr. Tony Barringer*, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
- *Dr. Jaffus Hardrick*, Vice Provost for Student Access & Success, Florida International University
- *Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter*, Assistant Vice-Provost, Office of Student Access & Success, Florida International University

- *Ivanna Pengelley*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2016), Education
- *David Riera*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2017), Curriculum and Instruction
- *Irenea Walker*, Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2015), Education
- *India White*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2015), Education

# **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

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**3:45-5:00 p.m. ~ Poinciana II**

## **Panel Three: Engineering**

### Panelists

- *Dr. Teresa Benitez*, Lecturer, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Florida
- *Dr. Ali Gordon*, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Central Florida
- *Dr. Erick Maxwell*, Principal Research Engineer, Georgia Tech
- *Dr. Claude Villiers*, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University

- *Stevens Dormezil*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida Atlantic University (2016), Computer Science
- *Erica Dasi*, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2017), Civil & Environmental Engineering
- *Marcus Herndon*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2016), Mechanical Engineering
- *Xavier Scott*, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2017), Environmental Engineering
- *Imani Sherman*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2016), Computer Science

## **Gasparilla Room**

### **Panel Four: Health Sciences**

### Panelists

- *Dr. Maryam Agharahimi*, Analytical Chemist, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services & Adjunct Faculty, Tallahassee Community College
- *Dr. Debbie Devine*, Research Associate, Tampa's James A. Haley's (VA), HSR&D Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research; and Adjunct Clinical Faculty, College of Nursing, University of South Florida
- *Dr. Kenyatta Rivers*, Associate Professor, College of Health and Public Affairs, University of Central Florida
- *Dr. Adrienne Stephenson*, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, Florida State University

- *Patrick Cherubin*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2014), Biomedical Sciences
- *Karen Bell*, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2015), Audiology
- *Brittney Dixon*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2016), Public Health
- *Jontae Sanders*, Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2016), Pharmaceutical Sciences

# **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

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**3:45-5:00 p.m. ~ Poinciana III**

**Panel Five: Physical/Natural/Life Sciences**

Panelists

- *Dr. Michael Cross*, Educator, Technologist, and Intrapreneur, University of South Florida Honors College
- *Dr. Vladimir Geneus*, Research Scientist, Eli Lilly and Company
- *Dr. Veronica Negron Perez*, Postdoctoral Fellow, Virginia Tech
- *Dr. Candice Ulmer*, Research Chemist, Centers for Disease Control

- *Aurellia Whitmore*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2017), Basic Sciences
- *Genevieve Bell*, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2017), Biological Sciences
- *Alexandra Hernandez*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2016), Biology
- *Vanessa Londono*, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2016), Earth Systems Science

**West Shore I**

**Panel Six: Psychology**

Panelists

- *Dr. Lora Rose Hunter*, Captain, United States Army, Medical Service Corps
- *Dr. Alan Meca*, Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University

- *Sherelle Harmon*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2014), Psychology
- *Krystal Bichay*, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2014), Developmental Psychology
- *Jaylyn Clark*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2014), Psychology



## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017**

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**3:45-5:00 p.m. ~ Hillsborough Room**

**Panel Seven: Social Sciences/Humanities**

Panelists

- *Dr. Marvin Dawkins*, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
  - *Dr. Natanya Duncan*, Assistant Professor of History and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, Lehigh University
  - *Dr. Corliss Heath*, Health Scientist, HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services
  - *Dr. Ylce Irizarry*, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Manisha Joshi*, Assistant Professor, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Guitele Rahill*, Associate Professor, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida
  - *Dr. Alexis Mootoo*, Director, Fiscal & Business Administration for Student Success, University of South Florida
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- *Miltonette Craig*, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2013), Criminology
  - *Candy Hurtado*, Campus Facilitator, Florida Atlantic University (2013), Comparative Studies
  - *Girsea Martinez*, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2016), Sociology
  - *Daniel Pimentel*, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2015), Mass Communications
  - *Shameka Thomas*, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2015), Sociology
  - *Atalie Ashley West*, Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2014), Public Affairs

**6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

**DINNER & DIALOGUE WITH THE EXHIBITORS**

An Up Close and Personal Faculty Recruitment Experience

- Dinner
- Introduction of Exhibitors by MDF Graduates *Drs. Justin Dunnivant & Ariana Magdaleno*

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017**

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**8:30-9:30 a.m. ~ Westshore Room**

**WORSHIP SERVICE: The Message**

- *Reverend Dr. Corliss Heath*, Health Scientist, HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ~ Bayshore Ballroom**

**AWARDS AND JACKETING CEREMONY**

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