

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MCKNIGHT FELLOWS MEETING AND TWELFTH ANNUAL GRADUATE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

October 24-26, 2008
Marriott Tampa Airport Hotel
Tampa International Airport
Tampa, FL 33607

DYNAMIC CONGRUENCE: DEVELOPING MULTIFACETED STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CRISES

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

Schedule of Activities

Friday, October 24, 2008

Event

Location

1:00 p.m.

Registration
Concurrent Workshops

Grand Ballroom West Foyer

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Workshop I

Grand Ballroom West

The Role of Comprehensive Examinations: Strategies for Success

The role of the comprehensive examination will be explored to establish the foundation of presenting strategies to utilize while completing courses in an effort 1) ensure that one is ready to take the examination at the conclusion of course work, and 2) to establish confidence in one's ability to prepare for the examination while completing course work. All with the aim of increasing the ability of students to pass the examination on the first attempt.

❖ *Dovie J. Gamble, Ph.D.*, Assistant Professor, Department of Recreation, Tourism, and Sports Management, University of Florida

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Workshop II

Grand Ballroom East

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

❖ *Dr. Mohsen Milani*, Professor and Chair, Department of Government and International Affairs, University of South Florida

Friday, October 24, 2008

Event

Location

3:15-4:45 p.m.

Workshop III
Financial Planning: Developing an Effective Investment Strategy in Today's Volatile Market

Grand Ballroom West

Financial planning is an essential element in reaching your long-term financial goals. This session will explain why financial planning matters and offer best practices for managing your financial resources. It will also discuss how the current economic and investment crisis impacts investment opportunities.

❖ **Mr. Parker Evans**, Vice President, Senior Portfolio Manager, Fifth Third Bank

3:15-5:15 p.m.

Workshop IV
Thesis Development & Writing Mechanics

Grand Ballroom East

This session will address common areas found in writing, with attention to editing and proofreading to improve coherence, grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students will practice correcting sentences and passages from handbooks and students' writing. The session will also encourage discussion of areas of weakness, strength, and interest that participants have identified in their own writing and experience.

❖ **Dr. Elizabeth Metzger**, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida

❖ **Dr. Jacqueline Wood**, Associate Professor, University of Alabama Birmingham

5:00 p.m.

Break
(Please Visit Exhibitor Pavilions)

6:30-7:00 p.m.

Reception

Grand Ballroom

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Dinner

Grand Ballroom

Masters of Ceremonies: Dr. Vikki Gaskin Butler, Diversity Officer and Visiting Assistant Professor, University of South Florida

Mr. John Warford, Visiting Professor, Department of African American Studies, Political Science, and Economic Geography, Florida A&M University

❖ **Lawrence Morehouse, Ph.D., President & CEO**

Florida Education Fund

- **Welcome & Occasion**
- Invocation: Dr. Vikki Gaskin Butler
- Dr. Israel Tribble Award for Outstanding Alumni Support
- The Russell V. Ewald Award for Academic Excellence
- Special Award Presentation: Dr. Carl Crawford Award for Outstanding Pre-College Support
- Introduction of the new McKnight Doctoral Fellows –
THE CLASS OF 2008
- Introduction of Exhibitors
- Entertainment: Alfred Shepherd's N-Version

9:00-11:00 p.m.

Annual Def Poetry Jam

Grand Ballroom

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Chioke l'Anson, McKnight Fellow,
Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Event

Location

7:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Grand Ballroom West Foyer

8:40-10:40 a.m.

Session 1
Employment Opportunities, Negotiating Contracts, Publishing, and Earning Tenure and Promotion in Academia

Grand Ballroom West

- ❖ **Dr. Laurence Alexander**, Panel Chair, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Florida
- ❖ **Dr. Tappas Das**, Professor, Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering, University of South Florida
- ❖ **Dr. Marvin Dawkins**, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
- ❖ **Dr. Glen Jones**, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Arkansas State University

10:50-12:00 p.m.

Session 2
The American Economy and Its Outlook for the Future: A Focus on the Investment Crisis

Grand Ballroom West

- ❖ **Dr. Alison Reaser**, Panel Chair, Chief Economist, Investment Strategies Group, Bank of America
- ❖ **Dr. Kwabena Gyimah Brempong**, Chair & Professor, Department of Economics, University of South Florida

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Luncheon/Keynote Address
The Scholar's Imperative: Effecting Positive Change in a Dynamic World

Grand Ballroom East

- ❖ **Dr. Melvin Stith**, Dean, Whitman College of Business, Syracuse University

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Dialogue with Exhibitors

Grand Ballroom East

- ❖ **Dr. Lawrence Morehouse**, FEF President & CEO
- ❖ **Mr. Charles Jackson**, MDF Program Manager
 - **Dessert & Dialogue: An Up Close and Personal Faculty Recruitment Experience**
 - **McKnight Fellowship, Networking, and Mentorship**

Concurrent Research Panels & Workshops

2:45-4:15 p.m.

**NSF Dissertation Support Grant Workshop:
Grant Writing for Professional Development**

Lee Room

- ❖ **Denise Burgan, M.S.**, Coordinator, Research Programs, Office of Research and Scholarship, University of South Florida
- ❖ **Sandra L. Justice**, Coordinator, Research Information, Office of Research and Scholarship, University of South Florida

Saturday, October 25, 2008 Event

Location

Concurrent Research Panels & Workshops (Cont.)

Throughout the three panels, the panelists will not only discuss their specific research projects, but also provide students with information relevant to their efforts to complete their Ph.D. program, develop useful research and publication skills, and secure employment. The panel discussions will be divided into two parts: Part I of the panelist discussion will focus on the cutting edge research conducted by the panelists; Part II will provide an informal interactive discussion, addressing the following issues:

1. The relationship between job opportunities and students' research focuses
2. The advantages and disadvantages of the post doctorate
3. How and what to publish, especially before earning the Ph.D
4. How students should package themselves for the job market and interview, including
 - a. Creating (or assembling) a portfolio
 - b. Preparing a professional presentation
 - c. Developing (or polishing) interview skills
 - d. Conducting a job search
5. How graduate training impacts the ability to secure tenure and promotion
6. The importance of networking

2:45-4:15 p.m.

Panel One: Resilience and Vulnerability Among African Americans: Current Issues and Future Directions

Grand Ballroom West

In this presentation, issues of hope, resilience, and health will be explored in the contexts of African Americans' and Hispanic experiences. The presenters will discuss the unique impact of cultural, social and environmental features on individuals. New evidence and challenges will be highlighted, and considerations for future research will be addressed.

Anthony Burrow, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Loyola University

Anthony Ong, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development, Cornell University

Lucas Torres, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Marquette University

LaRicka Wingate, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Oklahoma State University

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Event

Location

2:45-4:15 p.m.

**Panel Two: Research and Opportunities in Engineering and Technology
Duval Room**

This panel will introduce conference participants to the importance of engineering and science in the 21st Century. The panel's focus includes the role and importance of industrial engineering, civil engineering, aerospace engineering research, practice, and application. Additionally, the panel will focus on career advancement and employment opportunities in engineering and science.

Claude Villiers, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University

Larry Davis, Ph.D., Vice Panel Chair, Associate Director for Interfaces and Integration of the Applied Cognition and Training in Immersive Virtual Environments, University of Central Florida

Grisselle Centeno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering, University of South Florida

John Olusegun Sobanjo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Florida A&M University/Florida State University College of Engineering

Curtis Taylor, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Florida

2:45-4:15 p.m.

**Panel Three: Linkages Between Healthcare, Research, Academia and Practice
Pinellas Room**

Research training in healthcare prepares investigators to be effective contributors to the larger healthcare workforce. Study questions from this panel are raised from nursing education, nursing practice and public health. The ultimate intent of the knowledge generated through the presentation of this panel is to provide information for guiding nursing education and nursing practice as well as enhancing patient, family, and community outcomes. Another important goal of this panel is to demonstrate the importance of research participation in academia, particularly as it relates to promotion and tenure.

Afua Arhin, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Associate Dean, School of Nursing, Grambling State University

Kenya Beard, M.S.N., Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Adelphi University

Allyssa Harris, Ph.D., Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing, Boston College

Jamil Norman, R.N., M.S.N., Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Grambling State University

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Event

Location

4:25-5:55 p.m.

**Panel Four: Race, Culture, and Science: Preparing Multicultural Science Educators
Broward Room**

The cultural beliefs and perspectives of teachers and students are often overlooked in science education. This oversight leads to the marginalization of diverse student groups and contributes to the endemic academic failure patterns documented among these groups in science education. There is a clear need for teachers to recognize diversity, acknowledging the diverse ways of knowing and learning *all* students bring to the science classroom. This panel discussion will focus on the effective preparation of multicultural science teachers and some of the barriers that must be overcome in order for students to have equitable access to challenging and meaningful learning experiences in science.

Neporcha Cone, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Post-Doctoral Research Associate,
Department of Teaching and Learning, University of Miami

Mary M. Atwater, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Science Education, University of Georgia

Obed Norman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Graduate Programs in Science Education and Mathematics Education, Morgan State University

Eileen Parsons, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Science Education, University of North Carolina

4:25-5:55 p.m.

**Panel Five: Research in Business Disciplines: What Every Doctoral Student Should Know
Duval Room**

Session participants will have the chance to listen to cutting edge research in process by well published professors. Paper presentations will be followed by a brief question and answer period. After papers have been presented, the panel will provide doctoral students with information on the job market, the importance of publishing in top journals and the differences this can make in reputation, placement and pay. Students will also have time to ask the panel questions about issues that may be concerning them regarding the publishing process.

Vaneesha Boney, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Assistant Professor, Reiman School of Finance, University of Denver

Jocelyn Evans, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, College of Charleston

Boyce Watkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Finance, Syracuse University

4:25-5:55 p.m.

**Panel Six: Attaining, Surviving and Retaining Your First Tenure-track Academic Positions in the Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pinellas Room**

Attaining a first academic tenure-track position is becoming increasingly difficult. It is important to learn from the experience of others. The panelists took very different paths towards attaining their tenure track positions; however they all had the following in common-strong mentors, a zest for collaboration, as well as productive research history. The panelists will present their journey, experiences and how they attained and are retaining their first tenure-track positions.

Oluwatoyin Asojo, Ph.D., Panel Chair, Assistant Professor, Pathology and Microbiology Department, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Diane Allen-Gipson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Kelly Rice, Ph.D., Instructor, Pathology and Microbiology Department, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Sunday, October 26, 2008

Event

Location

7:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Collier Room

8:00 a.m.

Worship Service:
The Message

Pinellas Room

❖ *Reverend Dr. Arthur T. Jones*, Senior Pastor, Bible Based Fellowship Church

10:00-11:00 a.m.

MAA Executive Committee Meeting

Lee Room

❖ *Dr. Jonathan Gayles*, MAA President, Presiding

❖ "Tenure Penning Ceremony" – MDF Graduates Earning Tenure in Academia

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Session 4

Duval Room

Writing Workshop Peer Review for Doctoral Candidates

This session will use samples of the participants' writing for peer reading, peer editing, and discussion. Students will send prior to or bring to the session a sufficient number of copies of writing for peers to read and respond to, for global areas (e.g., clarity, organization, unity, development, coherence) and surface areas (e.g., grammar, mechanics, usage). To collaborate and provide feedback, students will work alternatively in pairs and in groups, using comments, checklists, or rubrics. This session will also encourage discussion of particular writing areas of concern that the participants identify.

❖ *Dr. Elizabeth Metzger*, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida

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

2:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

THE HONOREES

McKNIGHT DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES

2007-2008

JENNIFER BOWERS, PH.D.
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

LONNIE BRYANT, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

LOFTON BULLARD, PH.D.
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

RASHEETA CHANDLER, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

LINDA HOGANS, PH.D.
BARRY UNIVERSITY

ERIKA KNIGHT, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

PERRY KYLES, PH.D.
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NZINGA METZGER, PH.D.
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

ADE OFUNNIYIN, PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GUILTELE RAHILL, PH.D.
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

TONJUA WILLIAMS, PH.D.
BARRY UNIVERSITY

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Laurence Alexander, J.D., Ph.D.

Laurence B. Alexander is an associate dean of the UF Graduate School and a professor in the Department of Journalism. He served as chair of the UF Department of Journalism 1994-98. In 2001, he was selected as an inaugural Provost Fellow in the UF Office of Academic Affairs. He has received significant honor and recognition for his teaching and research. In 2005, he was named an inaugural member of the UF Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars. The next year, he was selected as a University of Florida Research Foundation Professor. He teaches courses in mass media law and newspaper editing. His research focuses on the First Amendment, freedom of expression, media law and policy issues in news gathering, and media ethics. His research has been published in various scholarly journals and law reviews. He has presented research at national and international conferences. He is a member of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, International Communications Association, American Bar Association, and Society of Professional Journalists. He served three terms on the UF Faculty Senate and a term as faculty representative on the Boards of Directors of the University Athletic Association and the UF National Alumni Association. He served as a member of the AEJMC Executive Board, as chair of the AEJMC Standing Committee on Professional Freedom and Responsibility, and as chair of the Board of Directors of The Independent Florida Alligator. A native of New Orleans, Alexander received a bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans, master's degree from UF, Juris Doctor from Tulane University, and Doctor of Philosophy from Florida State University. Before coming to UF in 1991, he served on the faculty of Temple University and the University of New Orleans. He also has worked in the journalism profession for The Houma Courier, The Times-Picayune and The Philadelphia Inquirer. His contributions have been recognized at the national, university and college levels.

Afua Arhin, Ph.D.

Dr. Afua O. Arhin currently serves as the Associate Dean of the School of Nursing at Grambling State University. Prior to this Dr. Arhin was a faculty member for a number of years at Florida A & M University. She received a Masters' degree from University of Wisconsin in Madison and a PhD from the University Florida as a 2003 McKnight Fellow. Dr. Arhin also has extensive clinical experience in maternal/child nursing. Her research interests are in the areas of adolescent sexuality, adolescent pregnancy and learning styles of Generation Y students. She has researched and published articles on these topics. Her proudest accomplishment is establishing a state of the art simulation laboratory at Grambling State University funded by a Department of Education grant.

Oluwatoyin Asojo, Ph.D.

Dr. Oluwatoyin Asojo joined the faculty of the University of Nebraska Medical Center as a Research Assistant Professor at the Eppley Cancer Institute in 2003 and has been an Assistant Professor, at the Pathology and Microbiology Department since 2005. Prior to moving to Nebraska, she was an Intramural AIDS Targeted Antiretroviral Program Fellow National Cancer Institute Frederick MD. She previously worked in industry as a Staff scientist at Tibotec-Virco Inc in Rockville MD. She received her PhD in Chemistry from the University of Houston TX in 1999. Her undergraduate studies were at Trent University Peterborough ON Canada where she majored in Chemistry and Economics. She attended Lester B. Pearson United World College British Columbia Canada on a full scholarship from 1987 to 1989 and received an International Baccalaureate Diploma. Dr. Asojo is a native of Nigeria. A crystallographer by training, her research interests are the structural basis of

multi-drug in cancer and infectious diseases. She has been a collaborator on the Gates-funded Human Hookworm Vaccine initiative (www.sabin.org) since 2002. She is currently the principal investigator on NIH-NCI-K01 (2005 -2010) grant. She was also the principal investigator on NIH-NIAID-R03 (2005-2007). She has several peer review papers in journals including Journal of Molecular Biology, Acta Cryst and Biochemistry.

Mary Atwater, Ph.D.

Mary M. Atwater is a professor of science education and adjunct professor in social foundations at the University of Georgia, Athens. Her research focuses on social-cultural-political factors that influence science teaching and learning. She now has eight doctoral students whose research focuses on the marginalization of students or teachers who do not marginalize their students. Her awards include the Legendary Award, Association for Multicultural Education (2005), 1999 African American Phenomenal Women, African-American Profession Women of the Athens Area (1999), National Technical Association's Academy of Top Minority Women in Science and Engineering (1998), National Technical Association's Top Minority Women in Science and Engineering (1997), Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars (1997), Association for Multicultural Science Education Service Award (1997), Warren Finley Research Award, Phi Delta Kappa, UGA Local Chapter (1996), 1996 College of Education and Psychology Distinguished Alumnus, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow (1995), NSTA OHAUS Award for Innovations in Four-year College Teaching (1990), Lilly Teaching Fellowship (1988), Phi Delta Kappa International Society (1985), Minority Presence Scholarship, North Carolina State University (1977-1979), Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society (1979), American Scholarship (1978) Methodist College Scholar (1969), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Scholarship from Zeta Pi Omega Chapter (1965), Herbert Lehman Educational Fund Scholarship (1965). She will become an AERA fellow at its 2009 conference. In 2000, her article, "Multicultural Science Education" (1993), was selected as one of the Most Significant Manuscript Published from 1980s to the mid-1990s in *The Science Teacher* by former National Science Teacher Association's Presidents.

Kenya Beard, M.S.

Kenya Beard is an Adult Nurse Practitioner and a Professor at Adelphi University. She teaches med surg and pharmacology to RN students and works with Nurse Practitioner students in the clinical arena. She also works in a private rheumatology office with Dr. Mark Tan in Smithtown NY. Prior to joining Dr. Tan, she worked in primary care where she predominantly managed clients with acute and chronic needs. Professor Beard has published and presented lectures on diabetes, metabolic syndrome, elevated cholesterol and obesity and she has a continuing education article on Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy in the December 2007 issue of RN magazine. She is currently working on her dissertation which focuses on the role of nursing faculty in improving graduation rates of minority nursing students. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island as treasurer. Professor Beard earned her Associate Degree at Beth Israel School of Nursing, a BS in nursing from Excelsior College and a MS in Adult Health from Stony Brook. She holds certification as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and Adult Nurse Practitioner. She is devoted to eliminating the health care disparities minorities face by increasing workforce diversity in nursing.

Vaneesha Boney, Ph.D

Dr. Boney is an Assistant Professor at the Reiman School of Finance at the University of Denver. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park with a Bachelor of Science in Finance, has an MBA with a concentration in Finance from Loyola College and attained her PhD in Finance from Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. She has professional experience as a mutual fund pricing analyst and has managed over \$300 million in assets at T Rowe Price and Tower Federal Credit Union, respectively. Her research is in the areas of market timing, market volatility, mutual funds and behavioral finance and she currently teaches Investments and Financial Markets and Institutions.

Kwabena Gyimah Brempong, Ph.D.

Since 1994, Dr. Gyimah-Brempong has been a Professor of Economics at the University of South Florida School of Business and is now Chairman of the department. His research focuses on economic growth, corruption, income inequality, and human capital in Africa. Dr. Gyimah-Brempong also serves as the economics program director at the National Science Foundation. Dr. Gyimah-Brempong has been a consultant with African Capacity Building Foundation's Parliament Technical Advisory Panel, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) project on "Defense Budgeting Processes in Africa" Project. Dr. Brempong has served as a director of the UTEK Corporation since May 1998. Between May 1998 and December 1998, Dr. Gyimah-Brempong served as the Director of University Partnerships and was responsible for helping University Partnerships build relationships with American universities.

Denise Burgan, M.S.

Denise Burgan is the current Research Programs Coordinator for the Office of Research and Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Florida. As the Research Coordinator, she works with the college faculty to locate funding as well as grant proposal preparation. She is a recent transfer from Florida A&M University, where she served as the Academic Coordinator and student advisor for the NSF Grant Program-the Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP). FGLSAMP is a national program designed to increase the number of underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students receiving degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors. She received her M.S. in Education Foundations and Policy Studies from Florida State University a B.S. in Psychology/Minor in Social Work from Florida A&M University and is certified in Human Resources Development. She is currently a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, College Research Administrators Network Pi Lambda Theta (*International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education*) and the National Association of Female Executives.

Anthony L. Burrow, Ph.D.

Prior to receiving the McKnight Fellowship and the APA Minority Substance Abuse Research Fellowship in 2004, Dr. Burrow earned his B.A. and M.S. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Florida International University, respectively. He completed his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at Florida International University. Recently, Anthony completed a post-doctoral research fellow position in Psychology at the University of Notre Dame and accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Psychology at Loyola University. His research examines the role of racial identity as it relates to key mental health outcomes and physical health risk behaviors, including substance use, among vulnerable minority youth. The long-term goal of this work is to inform the development of prevention and interventions tailored specifically to salient identities of African American youth.

Vikki T. Gaskin-Butler, Ph.D.

Dr. Vikki T. Gaskin-Butler is a Diversity Officer and Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida - St. Petersburg Campus. As a minister, she was ordained in 2002 at New Philadelphia Community Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. She is currently the Minister of Education at New Grove Baptist Church in Winterville, Georgia. She is a partner and co-founder of VAM Consulting & Psychological Services and is also a Clinical Psychologist at the Samaritan Counseling Center of Northeast Georgia. Dr. Gaskin-Butler earned a B.A. in Psychology from Spelman College, M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Florida, and an M.Div. from Emory University. Dr. Gaskin-Butler is a member of the Georgia Psychological Association and the National Council of Negro Women. Some of her achievements and honors are the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship and the Woodruff Fellowship for Theology and Ministry. Dr. Gaskin-

Butler's life endeavor is to engage the divine in all aspects of her life as an individual created by God, wife, mother, psychologist, preacher/ pastor, writer, singer/musician.

Grisselle Centeno, Ph.D.

Dr. Grisselle Centeno, is an Associate Professor in the Industrial and Management System Department at the University of South Florida. Her research has examined optimization-based approaches for the planning and control of operations in transportation and manufacturing industries, as well healthcare environments. Her work addresses modeling and solution of short-term capacity allocation. Dr. Centeno possesses experience in working with large-scale mathematical programming models, developing heuristic solution methods, and building decision support systems. Her research has been sponsored by various agencies including NSF, ONR and FDOT. Some of her most recently completed and on-going work include Security Modeling & Simulation for major airports, Maintenance Support Systems & Decision Making Models for transit systems, and Capacity Planning & Pricing Models for parking services. She is a Co-PI for the NSF GK-12 Fellows Project granted to the University of South Florida which focuses on the most neglected group of children: grades 3-5 students by building a unique program that infuses advanced engineering and science principles into the elementary classrooms. Dr. Centeno is committed to broadening participation of underrepresented groups and promoting the growth of a diverse engineering workforce. Most of her graduate students and REUs are minorities (including Hispanics, African Americans and females). In addition, she has been the advisor for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) chapter at the University of South Florida since 2001 and a research mentor for three Ronald E. McNair Fellows (a program designed to increase the participation of underrepresented groups, especially African-Americans, in graduate school).

Neporcha Cone, Ph.D.

Neporcha Cone is a Post-doctoral Associate in the School of Education at the University of Miami. She received her Bachelors of Science in Biology from Florida State University and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, emphasis Science Education, from the University of South Florida. Her research interests include preservice and in-service teacher education, factors which influence equitable science teaching and learning, and science teaching efficacy. Currently, she is working on a 5-year professional development project called Promoting Science among English Language Learners (P-SELL). Her involvement in P-SELL includes curriculum development, teacher professional development, classroom observations, and teacher interviews.

Tappas Das, Ph.D.

Dr. Tapas Das serves as Associate Provost with responsibility for higher education policy analysis, planning, and performance. He holds a PhD from Texas A&M University, is a Professor in the College of Engineering's Department of Industrial and Management Systems, and has been at USF since 1992. Professor Das is a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) and has served in the Faculty Senate as well as the Board of Trustees Finance and Audit Workgroup. Dr. Das' research interests include applied stochastic optimization for decision making problems involving single and multiple (noncooperative) players in a variety of interdisciplinary fields including deregulated power market design and large-scale pandemic outbreak impact mitigation. He has authored dozens of peer reviewed journal papers and conference presentations, written book chapters, reviewed books, authored patents, and received numerous awards and honors. Dr. Das is also involved in developing bedside decision making tools for better disease diagnosis and treatment planning with applications in cancer care. Dr. Das currently directs a NSF funded GK-12 grant aimed toward infusing engineering and science in elementary (K-5) curriculum.

Larry Davis, Ph.D.

Larry Davis is the Associate Director for Interfaces and Integration of the Applied Cognition and Training in Immersive Virtual Environments (ACTIVE) Laboratory, which is a part of the Institute for Simulation and Training at the University of Central Florida. He is conducting research in novel interfaces for use in virtual environments and the application of game-based technology in simulation. He received his B.S. from Florida A&M University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Central Florida, all in Electrical Engineering. Dr. Davis has co-authored more than 20 articles related to virtual environments and two book chapters specifically on tracking technologies. He is a McKnight Doctoral Fellow and a member of IEEE, ACM, and SPIE.

Marvin P. Dawkins, Ph.D.

Marvin P. Dawkins is Professor of Sociology at the University of Miami. His research has focused on issues of race and social equity in education and career attainment, problems of drug abuse in African American populations, and race relations in sports. He is the co-author of *African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era* (Praeger, 2000) and his articles have appeared in such respected journals as the *American Journal of Public Health*, *International Journal of the Addictions*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Negro Education*, *Journal of Drug Issues*, *Journal of Community Psychology*, *Black Scholar*, *British Journal of Addictions*, *Western Journal of Black Studies*, *Sociological Spectrum*, *Psychology Reports*, *Urban Education*, among others. Dr. Dawkins has mentored hundreds of doctoral students over the past 28 years and was the recipient of the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program's William R. Jones most valuable mentor award in 1999.

Jocelyn Evans, Ph.D.

Jocelyn D. Evans is an Associate Professor of Finance at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. She received her doctoral degree in business administration with a major in finance and a minor in game theoretic economics from the University of South Carolina and a master of business administration in finance from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Evans has extensive knowledge and experience with respect to financial valuation, distress and feasibility due to her prior work experience, teaching experience and established research track record. Prior to receiving her Ph.D., Jocelyn worked as a bank lending officer for NCNB (now Bank of America) for two years. During this period, she analyzed hundreds of company financial statements and feasibility analyses for firms in several different industries. Dr Evans' teaching experience in finance began as a graduate instructor teaching bank management classes at the University of South Carolina. After graduation, she taught in the undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Iowa, Georgia State University and South Carolina State University. In her last position, she was a tenured Professor of Finance. Due to her bank lending officer experience, Jocelyn decided to pursue a research agenda that analyzed corporate governance issues within both domestic and international settings, as well as for solvent and financially distressed firms. Within this domain, Dr. Evans investigates how banks and non-financial firms affect firm value or survival by boards of directors' selection of CEO compensation schemes, marketing strategies, financing choice, ownership structure, and asset diversification. The studies are directly related to financial valuation. Dr. Evans has collaborated with many diverse and respected scholars on successful publications in addition to pursuing single-authored work. She has received eight research awards, two teaching awards for valuation, and sixteen printed or accepted publications. Jocelyn publishes in such journals as the *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Global Finance Journal*, *Journal of Economics and Finance*, *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* and the *Journal of Business Ethics*. In 2006, Dr. Evans became an invited research scholar at the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. This invitation is a prestigious honor.

Dovie J. Gamble, Ph.D.

Dr. Dovie J. Gamble is currently an Assistant Professor in the University of Florida's Department of Recreation, Tourism and Sports Management. She received her Ph.D. in Education, the Leisure Studies, with a Research/College Teaching Therapeutic Recreation track from New York University in 1988. Some of her most notable teaching experiences include working as Assistant Professor at the University of Florida (current), instructor at Benedict College, and Lecturer and Coordinator of Therapeutic Recreation at Winston-Salem State University. One of Dr. Gamble's notable awards is "The Courage Award" from The American Cancer Society. Using her knowledge of lifestyle and therapeutic recreation, Dr. Gamble has helped develop Breast Cancer Awareness programs for the State of Florida. Her recent work with graduate students allows her to combine her professional skills with a personal commitment to training other African Americans in the laudable style and manner that she has experienced. As the former Acting Director of the Office of Graduate Minority Programs and McKnight Doctoral Liaison at the University of Florida, she has contributed significantly to the success of minority students all over the State.

Diane Allen-Gipson, Ph.D.

Diane Allen-Gipson, Ph.D., a McKnight alumna obtained her doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee Florida. December 2000. She did a post-doctoral fellowship at University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and is now on faculty in the Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep and Allergy Medicine Section, Department of Internal Medicine as Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine. Dr. Allen-Gipson investigates lung wound injury and repair and found that a nucleoside, adenosine is key to the process. Adenosine produces a wide variety of physiological effects through activation of its four-adenosine cell surface receptors. One of the receptors appears to participate actively to promote wound healing and closure. She currently serves as the principal investigator for over half a million dollar grant and contract support from the National Institute of Health: National Heart Lung Blood Institute, Career Development Grant K01 (NIH: NHLBI). Dr. Allen-Gipson is recipient of numerous honors and awards and has also been published in several peer-reviewed publications, including *Journal of Investigative Medicine*, *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* and the *American Journal of Physiology Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology*.

Sylvia Holladay, Ph.D.

Dr. Sylvia A. Holladay holds a Doctor of Arts in Rhetoric and Composition from Carnegie-Mellon University. She was an Instructor of English, Auburn University; was Professor of English and Director of the Communications Program, St. Petersburg Gibbs Campus, St. Petersburg College; and currently is Professor of English, Brandon Campus, Hillsborough Community College (HCC), where she received the 2007 HCC Employee Excellence Award in Adjunct Category. Her areas of concentration are rhetoric and composition, curriculum and instruction, and assessment. She has served on the Executive Committee of the Conference on College Composition and Communications (CCCC), Association of Departments of English (ADE), Writing Program Administrators (WPA), College English Association (CEA), National Two-Year College Committee (NTCC), and Florida College-Level Academic Skills Program (CLAST). She has also served as a consultant and reader for Educational Testing Service (ETS), American College Testing (ACT), Institute of Instructional Research (IIRP), and CLAST. She has edited six regional and national professional newsletters; has published over 200 articles, reviews, chapters, and poems; and six college textbooks, including four editions of *The Bedford Guide for College Writers*. Her recent publications include *Bridges: A Reader for Writers* (Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2006), a textbook for basic writing in college; and *The Profession of English in the 2 Year College*, with Mark Reynolds (Boynton Cook/Heinemann, 2006), a history of teaching English in the two-year college. Dr. Holladay's philosophy is "A teacher of writing should write."

Elijah Jarrett, Ph.D.

Dr. Jarrett is currently an Assistant Professor of African American Studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His Ph.D. and MA degrees are in political science, and his areas of concentration are political theory, urban studies, international relations, and comparative politics. His interdisciplinary degree is in the disciplines of political science and philosophy. He is currently completing an MA degree in Public Administration from Troy University.

Sandra L. Justice

Sandra L. Justice, Unit Research Administrator, College of Arts & Sciences. As grants staff working with research faculty at the University of South Florida since 1995, she has assisted faculty with finding funding for their research. To help identify targeted external grant funding opportunities Ms. Justice works with junior faculty as they develop their research program. Ms. Justice coordinates the College's Internal Awards Programs that funds about \$60K of seed grants each year. Also, she is responsible for compiling and updating the College's Faculty Research Expertise e-publication, and is the content developer for the College of Arts & Sciences web site for the Office of Research & Scholarship and editor for the Research & Scholarship newsletter. She has worked with faculty to facilitate Initial Inquiries as requested by the USF Office of Research & Innovation, Office of Research Integrity & Compliance.

Elizabeth Metzger, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Metzger, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of South Florida, with a concentration and interests in composition pedagogy, writing program administration, and writing assessment. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses. Serving on a myriad of departmental and university committees, she has worked closely with many outreach, mentoring and diversity initiatives at or associated with USF to help students achieve, through such programs as the McNair Scholars Program, the Area Health Education Center (AHEC), the Pre-medical Summer Enrichment Program (PSEP), the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC U-Star Program), and the McKnight Doctoral Program of the Florida Education Fund. In addition, she has actively been involved at the state level in test development and essay scoring for the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST), and the Florida Teacher Certification Exam coordinated through, for example, the Institute for Instructional Research and Practice (IIRP) at USF and the Center for Information Training and Evaluation Services (CITES) at FSU. For these efforts she has been awarded, among others, two Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Awards, an FEF Mentoring Award, and several certificates for distinguished service.

Mohsen Milani, Ph.D.

Mohsen M. Milani is Professor of Politics and Chair of the Department of Government and International Affairs at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Born in Tehran, he completed his high school and higher education in the U.S. and received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Southern California. His book, *The Making of Iran's Islamic Revolution*, has been used as required reading in many universities in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Canada. The Persian translation of his book is one of the required readings for an exit course students must complete before graduating from the institutions of higher learning in Iran. Professor Milani has written more than fifty articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries about the Persian Gulf, Iran's revolution, and Iran's foreign and security policies. His latest publications include "Iran's policy toward Afghanistan" (*Middle East Journal*, 2006) and "Iran-Iraq Relations during the Pahlavi Era, 1921-79" (*Encyclopedia Iranica*, 2006). He has served as a research fellow at Harvard University, Oxford University's St. Antony's College, and the Foscari University in Venice, Italy. Professor Milani is a frequent speaker at

international and national conferences on Iran and the Persian Gulf. He is the Book Series Editor on "Governance and International Relations in the Middle East" for the University of Florida Press. He is currently working on a book project about Iran's regional policies.

John K. Moore, Ph.D.

Dr. John Moore, Assistant Professor of Spanish, earned a Ph.D. in Romance Languages – Spanish Literature in 2003 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His critical edition of the *Libro de los huéspedes* was awarded the MLA Committee on Scholarly Editions Seal of Approval. John's co-edited monographic issue of *La corónica* entitled *The Road to Santiago and Pilgrimage* contains his article "Juxtaposing James the Greater: Interpreting the Interstices of Santiago as Pilgrim and Matamoros," which received an Honorable Mention in the 2007 Frederick W. Conner Prize in the History of Ideas. John also has authored: introductions to his edited volumes; articles on the *Libro de los huéspedes*, Teresa de Cartagena, and other topics; and several book reviews. Moore's forthcoming co-edited volume of essays in homage to Prof. Frank A. Domínguez is currently under contract. Moore teaches a wide array of courses at all levels. He has had the opportunity to instruct in the UAB Honors program, as well as to guide student honors theses, public presentations, and a published article. For two years running, Moore has been one of only two UAB nominees to Carnegie's US Professors of the Year Awards program. Moore currently serves as Associate Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. He represents the UAB School of Arts and Humanities in the Faculty Senate. Moore is a Road Scholar with the Alabama Humanities Foundation Speakers Bureau and has spoken on a variety of topics locally, nationally, and internationally.

Jamil Norman, R.N., M.S.N

Jamil Norman RN, MSN graduated with her Bachelor in Nursing Science from the University of Central Arkansas in 2001. After graduation she worked as a Labor & Delivery nurse at Louisiana State University Monroe. She graduated with her Master of Science in Nursing Education in the Spring of 2006. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Grambling State University and teaches Fundamentals of Nursing and Women's Health.

Obed Norman, Ph.D.

Obed Norman (Ph.D. in Science Education, University of Iowa) is an Associate Professor of Science Education in Morgan State University's Graduate Program in Mathematics and Science Education. In addition to serving as BERCC co-director, he is the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation-funded research project aimed at improving science instruction and student motivation in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Dr. Norman has extensive high school science teaching experience and currently serves on the editorial board of the *Journal for Research in Science Teaching (JRST)*.

Dellita Martin-Ogunsola, Ph.D.

Dr. Dellita Martin-Ogunsola (B.A. in Spanish from Louisiana State University; M.A. in Hispanic Literature and Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literature from The Ohio State University) is currently the Interim Director of The University of Alabama at Birmingham African American Studies Program. She is also Professor of Spanish at UAB and served as Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures from 1993 to 2002. Dr. Martin-Ogunsola specializes in Latin American literature with an emphasis on authors of African ancestry. In addition to many articles and reviews, her published works include the following books: *The Best Short Stories of Quince Duncan/Las mejores historias de Quince Duncan* (1995), an edited translation and compilation of short fiction by that Costa Rican writer; and *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes, Volume 16: The Translations: Federico García Lorca, Nicolás Guillén and Jacques Roumain* (2003), an edited collection of

translations by Langston Hughes for which she wrote the introduction. She is also author of *The Eve/Hagar Paradigm in the Fiction of Quince Duncan* (2004). Dr. Martin-Ogunsola has served as president of two national organizations: The College Language Association (2000-2002); and presently the Langston Hughes Society.

Anthony Ong, Ph.D.

Anthony Ong received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Southern California and completed his post-doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame. He currently is Assistant Professor of Human Development at Cornell University and Director of the Resilience and Lifespan Development Laboratory. His research focuses on the socio-emotional, cognitive, and cultural resources that people draw upon to adapt to stressful life circumstances as they age. A central goal is to understand how certain individuals show maintenance, recovery, or even improvements in adaptive outcomes despite the presence of challenge and adversity. Specific areas of interest include positive health, social inequality, and developmental methodology.

Eileen Parsons, Ph.D.

An assistant professor of science education, Eileen R. Carlton Parsons teaches in the Culture, Curriculum and Change Doctoral Program and the Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Prior to joining the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill, she taught physical science, chemistry and math in the public schools of North Carolina and worked as an assistant professor at Lenoir-Rhyne College and N.C. State University. The catalyst for her professional choices and the inspiration behind her professional efforts is to elucidate and improve the circumstances of marginalized populations in science education. Her service, research and teaching highlight access, equity and equality. Her research and scholarship diverge from and call into question the universalistic view of science. This perspective of science includes beliefs that the validity of a scientific account is objective and resides in the physical world itself; factors like power, culture, race, gender, and ethnicity of the participants involved in and learners of science are irrelevant. In addition to investigating learning contexts with respect to culture and race, she employs constructs and findings from research on the education of Blacks. Specifically, she introduced a comprehensive framework that synthesizes and adds to the theoretical models used by a small cadre of science education researchers interested in the influences of social context upon the science educative experiences of groups marginalized in science. By providing some coherency to existing work, this framework is instrumental in fortifying and moving forward this emerging research area in science education. In concert with her research and scholarship, she highlights and works to alter inequitable practices through service and teaching. Her service includes extensive involvement and leadership in the Association for Science Teacher Education, National Association for Research in Science Teaching, and American Educational Research Association as well as editorial board membership for the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, *Science Education*, and *Electronic Journal of Science Education*. Through research, service, and teaching that is positioned within a critical socio-cultural framework, she educates many about the ideal (quality education that is accessible to all) and mentors others in what can be done to realize it.

Kelly Rice, Ph.D.

Dr. Kelly Rice was born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she performed research on brewing yeast cell flocculation for her undergraduate honors thesis. She subsequently earned her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. Her dissertation research focused on the important human pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus* and the regulation of two virulence factors produced by this bacterium, fibronectin-binding protein and V8 protease. Her postdoctoral research was performed under the mentorship of Dr. Kenneth W. Bayles at the University of Idaho, where her research focus shifted from *S. aureus* virulence factors to physiology, studying the role of the *S. aureus cid* and *Irg* genes in regulating bacterial cell death and autolysis. Dr. Rice is currently an Instructor in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and as of December 2008, she will

be starting her first tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Science, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. Her on-going and future research efforts include studying the regulation of cell death and lysis during *S. aureus* biofilm development, as well as characterizing the *cid* and *Irg* genes of the dental pathogen *Streptococcus mutans*. Dr. Rice has fourteen peer-reviewed scientific publications, most recently a research paper in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and a review article in *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*.

John O. Sobanjo, Ph.D., P.E.

John O. Sobanjo, Ph.D., P.E., is an Associate Professor of civil engineering at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Florida State University, in Tallahassee, Florida. Dr. Sobanjo has a diverse background in civil engineering, with specific interests in the areas of transportation infrastructure systems, construction, and computer applications, including the applications of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He has been a Principal investigator on about \$2m federal and state funded research projects related to highway bridges (primarily bridge management systems), railroad crossings, highway location referencing, and highway construction management. He was also co-Principal investigator on over \$4m projects involving structural health monitoring, traffic safety, and highway construction management. His main research emphasis is on the evaluation of infrastructures, particularly, highway bridges and pavements, and the development of decision-support systems for maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of bridges, both at the project and network levels. He has developed various models of bridge deterioration and rehabilitation techniques utilizing concepts of fuzzy sets theory, stochastic process, statistical regression, decision making under uncertainty, and multiple criteria decision making. Dr. Sobanjo has a master's degree in civil engineering from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a doctorate degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station. He is also a licensed professional engineer in California and Florida, with considerable industrial experience on various aspects of transportation design, structural analysis, bridge inspection, construction, and maintenance, including over six years with both Texas and California State Departments of Transportation. He has published many journal articles, conference proceedings papers, and technical reports. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and was listed in the America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals, 2002-2003, and Who's Who in the World 2003.

Melvin Stith, Ph.D.

Dean Melvin Stith has shared his research expertise as a consultant and lecturer for many private companies and public agencies, including the Drocket Company, American Hospital Supply, Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Transportation, Glensys, Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., Anheuser-Busch, Kent Publishing Co., JM Family Enterprises, Associated Credit Bureaus, and the University of Wisconsin. In his scholarly research, Stith studies the impact of value systems on consumer purchase behavior and key influences on African American and white consumers' habits. His work has appeared in leading marketing and psychological journals. He is also active in The Ph.D. Project, a national foundation that works to recruit black, Hispanic, and American Indian students to the business school professoriate. Stith earned his MBA and PhD from the Whitman School in 1973 and 1978, respectively, with marketing concentrations. He most recently served as dean of the College of Business and the Jim Moran Professor of Business Administration at Florida State University, which claims one of the nation's ten-largest business programs.

Curtis Taylor, Ph.D.

Dr. Curtis Taylor is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Florida. Prior to this position he was an Assistant Professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, Virginia. He received his B.S. degree (1998) in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland, and his M.S. (2002) and Ph.D. (2005) in electrical engineering and physics from the University of Arkansas. Before coming to Arkansas in 2000, he worked for one year as a software development

project manager at Capital One Financial Corporation in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Taylor has also held internship and research appointments at the Central Intelligence Agency, United Technologies Corporation, and the National Center for Electron Microscopy at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. He is a recipient of the National Science Foundation IGERT Fellowship and the University of Arkansas Doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Taylor's research interests include nanomanufacturing for the production of novel nanoelectronic and quantum devices, nanomechanical characterization of materials for development and improved reliability of nanodevices, and nanobiomechanics for cell biology and tissue engineering.

Lucas Torres, Ph.D.

Lucas Torres received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University. Dr. Torres completed his clinical internship at the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at the Boston University Medical Center followed by a post-doctoral fellow position appointment at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Torres' research focuses on issues of mental health disparities and the psychological difficulties experienced by members of underrepresented groups. This work has examined the role socio- and psycho-cultural factors have on adaptive functioning. Dr. Torres has investigated the influence of the cultural adaptation process as it relates to the experience of depression and other mental health outcomes among Latino populations. This has included determining the resources and risk factors that are likely to impact psychological well-being. Additionally, this line of research seeks to understand broader socio-environmental factors, such as perceived discrimination and prejudice, as well as help-seeking behaviors and barriers to treatment utilization among ethnic minority groups. At the undergraduate level, Dr. Torres teaches Abnormal Psychology. At the graduate level, he teaches Adult Psychopathology and Multicultural Psychology.

Claude Villiers, Ph.D.

Dr. Villiers is an Assistant Professor in the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering (WSOE) at Florida Gulf Coast University. He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Materials and Construction from the University of Florida in 2004. Dr. Villiers' areas of principal research interest are Civil Engineering Materials and Asphalt Technology, Highway and Pavement Design, Mechanistic Analysis of Pavement Structures, Specifications and Construction Variability of Pavement Materials, Quality Control/Quality Assurance, Pavement Management and Rehabilitation, and Statistics related to Pavement Materials. In the past, Dr. Villiers worked on several projects sponsored by various agencies including the Florida Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and University Transportation Research Center Region-II. Currently, Dr. Villiers is working with the Pavement Research Group at the University on a multi-year project to develop a monitoring database, obtain material properties, structural characteristics and performance data on 12 Superpave projects in the State of Florida. He has also developed a procedure to effectively determine the contribution of different pavement layers of rutting performance for asphalt concrete. This procedure is a valuable tool for pavement designers as it may provide them with the necessary information to detect the source of rutting within the pavement layers. Dr. Villiers was an Assistant Professor at The City College of New York (CCNY) prior to his appointment at FCGU. There he worked closely with the Director of the Summer Transportation Institute program at CCNY and engaged high school students from underrepresented groups in research activities. He is the founding faculty advisor for the American Society of Civil Engineers in WSOE at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Boyce Watkins, Ph.D.

Dr. Watkins earned BA and BS degrees with a triple major in Finance, Economics and Business Management. In college, he was selected by the Wall Street Journal as the Outstanding Graduating Senior in Finance. He then earned a Masters Degree in Mathematical Statistics from The University of Kentucky and a PhD in Finance from The Ohio State University and was the only African-American in the world to earn a PHD in

Finance during the year 2002. He is currently a Finance Professor at Syracuse University. In addition to publishing a multitude of scholarly articles on Finance and investing, Dr. Watkins has presented his message to millions, making regular appearances in various national media outlets, including CNN, Good Morning America, MSNBC, FOX News, BET, NPR, Essence Magazine, USA Today, The Today Show, ESPN, The Tom Joyner Morning Show and CBS Sports. He is also the favored Financial Expert and social commentator for “The Wendy Williams Experience”, which has 11 million listeners nation-wide.

LaRicka Wingate, Ph.D.

LaRicka Wingate is an assistant professor of psychology at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Wingate’s research investigates the interpersonal causes, correlates, and consequences of both suicidal behavior and depression. Specifically, she studies resilience, symptom specificity and possible mechanisms of stress generation in depression. She is also interested in suicide risk assessment, treatment, risk factors, and suicidality in ethnic minority groups. She currently teaches Psychology of Minorities at the undergraduate level and provides clinical supervision and teaches Introduction to Clinical Methods to graduate students in psychology. Dr. Wingate has published over twenty peer-reviewed papers, several of which are on suicidal behavior and depression. She earned both her Bachelor of Science and her doctoral degrees in Psychology at The Florida State University.

Jacqueline Wood, Ph.D.

Dr. Jacqueline Wood received her Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Florida in 1998, an M.A. in French Literature from Florida Atlantic University, an M.A. in English Literature, from Western Kentucky University and a B.A. in English and French from Ohio Wesleyan University. Dr. Wood is currently an Associate Professor of English at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, specializing in twentieth century African American literature with an emphasis on African American women dramatists. Dr. Wood has published articles on contemporary black women dramatists Adrienne Kennedy, Suzan-Lori Parks, and Sonia Sanchez in journals such as *Studies in the Humanities*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *College Literature* and *The African American Review*. Reprints of two of her articles are forthcoming in *Sonia on My Mind*, a critical collection and *Conversations with Sonia Sanchez*. She is currently finishing an edited collection of Sonia Sanchez’s plays under contract at Duke University Press.

The Conference Exhibitors

During the Conference, please visit the display booths of the following representatives who are available to speak with you about career opportunities. We would like to thank all of our Exhibitors for their support and we wish them well in their recruitment.



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