

THE PH.D. EXPERIENCE: EXPECTATIONS & REALITIES

Agenda

Dr. Lawrence Morehouse, President & CEO, Presiding

To assist you in finding meeting rooms, we include a map of the Marriott Tampa Airport Hotel on page 1.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024

1:00-5:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East Foyer
♦ **Registration**

2:00-3:50 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East

♦ **Opening Session**

Welcome and Purpose: - Dr. Lawrence Morehouse
The MDF Profile: 2024-2025 Class Portraits: - Dr. Taylor Rodman, McKnight Alumna and Program Manager

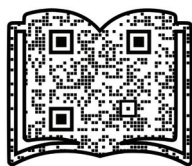
4:00-5:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East

♦ **Session I: Strategies for Navigating the Ph.D. Process: Expectations and Realities**

This session surveys key academic and psycho-social requirements to successfully navigate a Ph.D. program. By examining the unique nature of doctoral studies, personal learning styles, coping mechanisms, skill sets, and the span of the doctoral commitment, students will leave the session empowered to create their own “Strategies for Navigating the Ph.D. Process.” The discussion will include information related to analytical note-taking; maintaining mental health, a strong work-ethic, and commitment; and the process of creating knowledge.

- Dr. Tony Barringer, Associate Provost & Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Dr. Claude Villiers, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University

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6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom West
McKnight Reception

Guest Speaker: Dr. Iraida Carrion, LCSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of South Florida
MDF Online Writing Workshops: Lyra Logan, Esq., Executive Vice President & General Counsel, FEF
Closing Remarks: Dr. Lawrence Morehouse

Dr. Iraida V. Carrion is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work and affiliated faculty in the department of anthropology at the University of South Florida (USF). Her research encompasses the intersection of end of life care, cancer and health decisions among Latinos in the United States and indigenous communities in India as well as comparative research among older adults in Spain and Latinos in Florida. Dr. Carrion has written over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and four book chapters, has presented extensively, and serves on the editorial boards of Palliative Medicine and Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Carrion has extensive clinical experience in psychiatric, medical and private practice in New York City, Central Florida and West Texas.



Dr. Carrion chairs the Bachelor of Social Work and MSW programs at USF's Tampa campus and directs the MSW program at the Sarasota-Manatee campus. She also is a member of numerous social work-related professional organizations, has been appointed to serve on two national committees of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), is a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America, and has been selected a Fulbright Specialist sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Her awards include the NASW Social Work Educator of the Year, the prestigious Puerto Rican Leader award from the Bronx President of New York City, USF's Academic Excellence, Diversity and Hispanic Pathway Awards, the Status of Latino Award, and the McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowship.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

7:00-8:30 a.m.

♦ **Room Checkout**

8:00-8:45 a.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East Foyer*

♦ **Continental Breakfast**

9:00-10:00 a.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East*

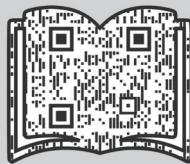
♦ **Session II: Negotiating the Ph.D. Environment**

This presentation describes key components of the academic department at the Ph.D. level and engages new McKnight Doctoral Fellows in a discussion of strategies to develop to successfully negotiate the Ph.D. environment. The session will focus on identifying and addressing challenges faced by new doctoral students. These challenges include cultivating relations with faculty and choosing a major professor, connecting to the faculty's research enterprise, connecting coursework to research interests and dissertation development, forming committees and responding to them at various stages, and understanding the academic culture and its role in facilitating degree completion and career sponsorship.

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

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10:10-12:00 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East*

♦ **Graduate Deans' Roundtable**

From the University Perspective: Best Practices for Completing the Ph.D. Program

On this panel, selected university administrators offer their advice on the most effective practices for completing the Ph.D. program.

- *Dr. Adrienne P. Stephenson*, Moderator/Chair, Associate Dean and Director, Graduate Fellowships and Awards, Florida State University

- *Dr. Ruth Bahr*, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, University of South Florida

- *Dr. Murielle Gammons*, Director of the Office of Graduate Student Support and Engagement, University of Florida

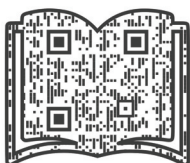
- *Dr. Alla Mirzoyan*, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, Florida International University

- *Dr. Jennifer Parham*, Senior Assistant Dean, College of Graduate Studies, University of Central Florida

- *Dr. Nicole Leeper Piquero*, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, University of Miami

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12:10-1:30 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom West*

♦ **Luncheon and Keynote Address: Student Success and the Ph.D. Experience**

- *Dr. Sylvia Thomas*, Vice President for Research & Innovation, President & CEO of the USF Research Foundation, Inc., and Professor, University of South Florida

Dr. Sylvia Wilson Thomas is Vice President for Research and Innovation, and President and CEO of the USF Research Foundation at the University of South Florida, where she is also Professor of Electrical Engineering and affiliate faculty in Medical Engineering. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from Vanderbilt University as well as her Ph.D. in the same field from Howard University.



Dr. Thomas serves as President of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Engineering in Medicine and Biology, Florida West Coast Section; advisor for Society of Women Engineers and National Society of Black Engineers; member of the Board of Directors for Black Girls Code; and a Florida Senate appointee to the Florida Education Fund Board of Directors.

As leader of the Advanced Membrane and Materials Bio and Integration Research (AMBIR) laboratory, Thomas investigates the use of advanced material systems for nano membrane technology, energy harvesting, sustainable environments, drug delivery, and other bio-applications to meet global technological challenges. Her research has been funded by more than \$4.8m and 12 patents/patent disclosures. She has directly mentored more than 150 students in roles as major/co-major professor and committee member for doctoral and master's degrees; REU and RET mentor; and senior design and honors theses project mentor. Dr. Thomas has fostered and been engaged in collaborations and engineering education efforts in Italy, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Portugal, South Korea, Mexico, and South Africa.

1:45-3:00 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East* ♦ **Introduction to Graduate Writing**

Writing in graduate school presents a number of opportunities and challenges. This session addresses a variety of types of writing students will experience in graduate school, including book reviews, critiques, literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, research papers and proposals, among others. In addition, the session addresses the need for students to familiarize themselves with scholarly journals in their fields, along with writing styles and documentation specific to their disciplines. The session also identifies typical writing problems that occur in students' writing and provides references to remedy the weaknesses.

- Dr. Vernetta Mosley, Writing Coach, Editor, Consultant, Chrysalis Consulting, LLC

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3:10-4:20 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East* ♦ **MDF Panel: The University Experience**

The McKnight Doctoral Fellows' Panel has long been a New Fellows' Orientation highlight. Matriculating Fellows share their experiences and insights on selected topics to help prepare new Fellows for their upcoming Ph.D. experiences.

- Dr. Stephanie Rosado (2020, Sociology, USF), Moderator
- Ms. Nella Delva (2018, Medical Sciences, FSU): "Navigating the Ph.D. Journey: Effective Mentorship for Aspiring Scholars"

This presentation explores the pivotal role of mentorship in shaping the Ph.D. experience. Attendees will gain insights into establishing productive mentor-mentee relationships, setting realistic goals, and leveraging mentorship for professional growth. The session is designed to equip new Ph.D. students with the tools needed to maximize their research journey through effective mentoring.

3:10-4:20 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East* ♦ **MDF Panel: The University Experience (Cont.)**

- Mr. Kworweinski Lafontant (2023, Physiology, UCF): "Stand Up and Be Humble: Embracing Well-being as a Ph.D. Student"

Transitioning from a bachelors or masters program into a Ph.D. program can take a toll on our physical, mental, and social well-being. This presentation will provide perspectives on how to transition well, including practical strategies for maintaining every aspect of your well-being as you enter into your Ph.D. program.

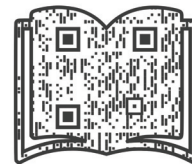
- Ms. Maria Moreno (2020, Nursing, USF): "Seeking Research Opportunities: Where Do I Start?"

This section provides an overview of seeking opportunities for research-related experiences within and outside of your department. It will also discuss searching for and identifying diverse sources of assistance and funding to help you successfully navigate your Ph.D. degree.

- Mr. Brandon Sosa (2021, Ecology, FIU): "Igniting Your Research: Crafting Questions, Bridging Gaps"

Starting your research journey can be daunting, but it all begins with the right questions. In this talk, we'll explore how to spark innovative ideas, learn how to explore your research area, and tips for proposal writing. You'll learn practical tips for brainstorming, identifying knowledge gaps, and overcoming common challenges, setting you up for a rewarding and impactful research experience.

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4:30-5:00 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom East* ♦ **Closing Session**

Business Matters/Policies & Procedures
Meeting Adjournment