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

1:00-2:20 p.m.
WORKSHOP I: Strategies for Effective Writing
Whether preparing an article for publication, a paper for class, an academic prospectus, a thesis or a dissertation, scholars need a strategic approach for producing a polished piece of writing that meets academic standards. Numerous students, scholars and researchers struggle to transfer their thoughts and the information they have gathered onto paper. These workshops provide techniques for organizing ideas and research into acceptable writing, recognizing that a metamorphosis occurs when writing, similar to the transition a caterpillar makes to become a beautiful butterfly. In addition, methods for personalizing the traditional writing process will be presented so participants can approach each writing task with a proven plan and the confidence that they are equipped to execute the plan.

BUSINESS, EDUCATION, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES ~ Pinellas Room
• Dr. Elizabeth Metzger, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida
• Dr. Vernetta Williams, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida

STEM ~ Lee Room
• Dr. Genyne H. Boston, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Initiatives, and Deputy Athletic Director, Florida A&M University
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

2:30-3:30 p.m. ~ Pinellas Room
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 Olulade, MACC, CPA, Controller, Florida Education Fund

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

3:40-5:15 p.m. ~ Collier Room
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. Sylvia Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of South Florida

Sarasota 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
• Dr. Bernd Reiter, Professor & Graduate Director, School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies; Director, Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, University of South Florida

Pinellas Room
WORKSHOP V: Writing a Successful NIH Grant Application: Some Helpful Tips
This workshop will introduce the art and science of writing a successful NIH grant application. Topics such as finding the best NIH institute to apply to, identifying the best funding mechanism for your career stage, and how to engage NIH staff will be discussed. This workshop also will provide general tips on how to write the specific aims, significance, and innovation sections of a grant application.

• Dr. Guillermo Prado, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Miami, and 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
6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom
OPENING SESSION

♦ Dinner
♦ Introductions by MDF Graduates Drs. Justin Dunnavant & Ariana Magdaleno-Yntema
♦ Welcome & Purpose: Dr. Lawrence Morehouse, FEF President & CEO
♦ President’s Awards: Dr. Lawrence Morehouse
♦ Dr. Israel Tribble Award for Outstanding Alumni Support: Dr. Lawrence Morehouse
♦ 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.
♦ Keynote Address: Dr. Mildred Maldonado-Molina, Chair and Professor, Department of Health Education and Behavior, University of Florida
♦ Introduction of the new McKnight Fellows – THE CLASS OF 2019: Mr. Charles Jackson, MPA, MDF Program Manager
♦ Introduction of Exhibitors: Mr. Charles Jackson
♦ Book Signing by Dr. Reginald K. Ellis

9:30-10:30 p.m. ~ Pinellas Room
OPEN MIC
♦ Hosted by Ms. Shameka Thomas, University of Miami (2015), Sociology
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019

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

8:30-8:50 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom West
OPENING PLENARY ADDRESS: On the Cutting Edge: Conducting Research That Serves the Global Community
• Dr. RoSusan Bartee, Professor and Chair, Department of Educational Leadership and Higher Education, University of Central Florida

8:50-10:10 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom West
PROVOSTS ROUNDTABLE: Forging Pathways to Impactful Careers
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. John Davis, Moderator, Associate Dean for Research and Associate Director of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida
• Dr. Genyne H. Boston, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Initiatives and Deputy Athletic Director, Florida A&M University
• Dr. James Garey, Vice Provost and Provost, University of South Florida
• Dr. Timothy D. Letzring, Professor & Sr. Associate Provost, University of Central Florida
• Dr. James L. Llorens, Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
• Dr. Devona F. Pierre, Assistant Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity, University of South Florida

10:15-11:20 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom West
INCLUSION AND ACCESS ROUNDTABLE: Bridging the Gap: Innovative Approaches to Diversity and Inclusion
More and more, universities are attempting to diversify their faculty and staff. This panel will discuss how candidates may position themselves to take advantage of new strategies employed by a number of institutions to support diverse and inclusive faculty and staff recruitment, development, retention and promotion.

• Dr. Tony Barringer, Moderator, Associate Provost & Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
• Mr. Antonio Farias, Chief Diversity Officer, Senior Advisor to the President, University of Florida
• Shirlyon McWhorter, Esq., Director of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Title IX Representative, Florida International University
• Dr. Devona F. Pierre, Assistant Director, Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity, University of South Florida
• Dr. Jarrett Terry, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Florida State University

11:30-12:00 p.m.
EXHIBITOR BREAK

12:00-1:50 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom East
LUNCHEON: On the Cutting Edge: Conducting Research That Serves the Global Community
• Keynote Address: Dr. Antoinette Smith, Professor, College of Business, Florida International University
SESSION I: Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine: Translating Genetic Knowledge to Reduce Ethnic Health Disparities in Clinical Practice

Although scientific and technological advances have helped improve U.S. health overall, racial/ethnic minority, socio-economically disadvantaged and rural populations still disproportionately experience disease and poor health outcomes. Structural or systemic factors often hinder the equitable distribution of the benefits of medical advances. This session will review health interventions and social determinants of health including poverty and racism and will explore the relevance of pharmacogenomics and precision medicine in mitigating health disparities.

The panel, comprised of experts in public health, internal medicine, pharmacology, and pharmacogenomics, will address the following and other queries:

1. What are the levels of health interventions and their impact on access to quality health care?
2. How does health disparity arise, especially racial health disparity?
3. What is the role of pharmacogenomics in the infrastructure of racialization?
4. What might be best practices to promote greater institutional oversight of race-based scientific claims?
5. Can pharmacogenomics potentially eliminate racial profiling in biomedicine?
6. What can we do to help reduce health inequity in the new era of big data?

- **Dr. Diane Allen-Gipson**, Moderator, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of South Florida
- **Dr. J. Kevin Hicks**, Assistant Member, Department of Individualized Cancer Management, Moffitt Cancer Center & Assistant Professor, Division of Oncologic Sciences, University of South Florida
- **Dr. Todd Knepper**, Assistant Member, Personalized Medicine, Moffitt Cancer Center
- **Dr. Siva Kumar Panguluri**, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of South Florida
- **Dr. Todd Wyatt**, Professor, College of Medicine & College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center; and Deputy Director and Research Core Director, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health

SESSION II: 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.
SESSION II: Strategically Planning Research to Maximize Career Opportunities (cont.)

- Dr. Daphne Simmonds, Moderator, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics, Metropolitan State University
- Dr. Karlene Cousins, Associate Professor, Business Analytics, Department of Information Systems & Business Analytics, Florida International University
- Dr. Marvin Dawkins, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
- Dr. Delroy M. Hunter, Serge Bonanni Professor of International Finance, Department of Finance, University of South Florida
- Dr. Claude Villiers, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University

SESSION III: Best Practices for Securing Funding for Domestic and International Research Travel

Increasingly, conducting original research requires not only working in a lab, but also collecting data in the field, which may necessitate domestic and international travel, special research equipment, and expensive data collection methodology. This panel discusses methods for securing funding to support your research, especially as it relates to international travel. The panel also will explore how international travel helps to enhance networking, collaboration, and paid consulting opportunities.

- Dr. Justin Dunnavant, Moderator, Academic Pathways Postdoctoral Fellow, Spatial Analysis Research Laboratory, Vanderbilt University
- Dr. Tommy Boykin, Research Associate, University of Central Florida
- Dr. Manoucheka Celeste, Associate Professor, Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research & African American Studies Program, University of Florida
- Dr. Alexis Mootoo, Assistant Vice President of Student Success, University of South Florida

SESSION IV: Maximizing Your Search for Job Opportunities in Academia: A Focus on Liberal Arts Colleges and Universities

A significant percentage of recent Ph.D. graduates will secure employment at one of the nation’s liberal arts colleges or universities. This panel discusses how such schools function, how to determine whether working at such an institution may be a good choice for you, and how to parlay an appointment at such a school into a highly successful faculty and administrative career.

- Dr. Tashana Howse, Moderator, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education, Georgia Gwinnett College
- Dr. Mark Howse, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Director of Educational Outcomes and Assessment, Morehouse School of Medicine
- Dr. Nigel Malcolm, Associate Professor, Department of Communication and Philosophy, Keene State College
- Dr. Sonja Trent-Brown, Jacobson Associate Professor of Psychology, Hope College
CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

In the following eight 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.

3:40-5:00 p.m.  ~ Pasco Room
Panel One: Business
In addition to the general topics, this roundtable discussion will address the importance of business and uses of technology in the 21st Century, focusing on research, practice, and application; employment opportunities; and career advancement.

Panelists
• Dr. Vivek Bhargava, Professor of Finance and Associate Dean of Faculty & Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University
• Dr. Nadra Pencle, Assistant Professor of Accounting, Ball State University
• Dr. Russell Price, Associate Professor, Department of Finance, Howard University
• Dr. Antoinette Smith, Professor, College of Business, Florida International University
- Andria Hill, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2016), Finance
- Eduardo Fuste, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2016), Economics
- Anita Walsh, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), Economics

Executive Board Room
Panel Two: Education
In addition to the listed general topics, this discussion will cover the effects of changing demographics on education in America; the importance of science and mathematics education; the recruitment of culturally and linguistically diverse teachers; and the effectiveness of current pedagogy practices. This discussion also will address the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and its impact on education in the future.

Panelists
• Dr. Estee Hernández, Lecturer, University of Texas at Arlington and Honors College, Texas Christian University; Data Analyst, WhitworthKee Consulting; Academic Coach and Editor, Heartful Editor
• Dr. Mark Howse, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Director of Educational Outcomes and Assessment, Morehouse School of Medicine
• Dr. Tashana Howse, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education, Georgia Gwinnett College
• Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter, Assistant Vice-Provost, Office of Student Access & Success, Florida International University
- Lybrya Kebreab, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2018), Math Education
- Sherrina Lofton, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2014), Education
Panel Three: Engineering

In addition to the general topics, this roundtable discussion will address the importance of engineering and technology sciences in the 21st Century, focusing on research, practice, and application; employment opportunities; and career advancement.

Panelists

- **Dr. Stephen Arce**, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering, Florida A&M University
- **Dr. Fernando Gonzalez**, Associate Professor, Department of Software Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- **Dr. Jose R. Guarin**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering, University of Florida
- **Dr. Sylvia Thomas**, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of South Florida
- **Dr. Seneshaw Tsegaye**, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental & Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- **Dr. Claude Villiers**, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- **Charles Davis**, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2019), Industrial Engineering
- **Marino Guzmán**, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2016), Electrical Engineering
- **Diandra Prioleau**, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), Computer Science

Pinellas Room

Panel Four: Health Sciences

In addition to covering the general topics listed, this discussion will cover academic and non-academic career opportunities in the health sciences, including postdoctoral positions.

Panelists

- **Dr. Maryam Agharahimi**, Analytical Chemist, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Adjunct Faculty, Tallahassee Community College
- **Dr. Gladys Asong**, Pharmacist, Florida Department of Health Central Pharmacy
- **Dr. Patrick Cherubin**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute
- **Dr. Debbie T. Devine**, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Hillsborough County Schools; Research Affiliate, James A. Hailey VA Research Center
- **Dr. Tyisha Hathorn**, Assistant Director of Admissions, College of Pharmacy, University of Florida
- **Dr. Brandon Moton**, Assistant Professor, Division of Health Science, Florida A&M University; and Professor, Tallahassee Community College in Leadership and College Success
- **Dr. Xigrid Soto**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Juniper Gardens Children’s Project, University of Kansas
- **Dr. Dorianmarie Vargas-Franco**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Peter B. Kang’s Laboratory, University of Florida

- **Dr. Alexis Woods-Barr**, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2012), Public Health
- **Shanté Earle**, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2018), Public Health
- **Gabriela Peguero Kushner**, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2019), Biomedical Sciences
- **Asha Rizor**, Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2016), Pharmaceutical Sciences
- **Christine Toledo**, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2016), Nursing
- **Vanessa Vassall**, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2016), Public Health
3:40-5:00 p.m. ~ Citrus Room
Panel Five: Physical/Natural/Life Sciences
In addition to covering the general topics listed, this discussion will cover academic and non-academic career opportunities in the physical/natural/life sciences, including postdoctoral positions.

Panelists
- Dr. Tommy Boykin, Research Associate, University of Central Florida
- Dr. Rashidah H. Farid, Wildlife Ecologist, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tuskegee University
- Dr. Vladimir J. Geneus, Research Scientist, Eli Lilly & Company
- Dr. Claribel Nunez, University of Florida, Chemistry

- Tamiko Gaines, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2016), Business
- James S. Brown, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2018), Neuroscience
- Ivory Council, Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2013), Environmental Science
- Ke Aria Davis, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2018), Microbiology
- Danielle Ingle, Campus Facilitator, Florida Atlantic University (2018), Biological Sciences

Lee Room
Panel Six: Psychology
In addition to covering the general topics listed, this discussion will cover academic and non-academic career opportunities in psychology, internships, how to choose between a clinical versus a research postdoctoral fellowship, the importance of creating a mentoring team, and how clinical students should prepare for internship opportunities, decide whether or not to get licensed after earning the Ph.D., and when and how to study for the EPPP (Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology).

Panelists
- Dr. Marcia Tan, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Chicago
- Dr. Rachel Andre Glenn, Adjunct Psychology Instructor, Polk State College and St. Petersburg College
- Dr. Sherelle Harmon, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology, Harvard University
- Dr. Daniel Hollar, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Department of Behavior and Social Science Studies, Bethune-Cookman University
- Dr. Travis Jones, Human Factors Design Engineer, Apple
- Dr. Liana C. Mentor, Special Projects Coordinator, Southern Regional Education Board-State Doctoral Scholars Program

- James A. Hernández, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2019), Psychology
- Agenia Delouche, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), School Psychology
- Valeria Rigobon, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2018), Psychology
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019**

**3:40-5:00 p.m. ~ Sarasota Room**

Panel Seven: Social Sciences

In addition to the general topics listed, this roundtable will address the role of research in maximizing academic career opportunities for scholars and highlight publishing and research guidelines for obtaining tenure and promotion in social sciences. The importance of grant writing and collaboration in the social sciences will also be addressed.

**Panelists**

- Dr. Iraida Carrion, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of South Florida
- Dr. Marvin Dawkins, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
- Dr. Justin Dunnavant, Academic Pathways Postdoctoral Fellow, Spatial Analysis Research Laboratory, Vanderbilt University
- Dr. Marsha Amoy Fraser, Program Coordinator, Office of Clinical Research, Tampa General Hospital
- Dr. Micah Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, University of South Florida
- Dr. Alexis Mootoo, Assistant Vice President of Student Success, University of South Florida
- Dr. John Warford, Professor, Department of History and Political Science, Florida A&M University
- Shanice Jones, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2017), Urban Planning/Public Administration
- Jessica Casimir, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2014), Sociology
- Jorge Hernandez, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2016), Criminology
- Oshea Johnson, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2016), Public Affairs

**Hernando Room**

Panel Eight: Humanities

In addition to the general topics listed, this roundtable will address the role of research in maximizing academic career opportunities for scholars and highlight publishing and research guidelines for obtaining tenure and promotion in the humanities. The importance of grant writing and collaboration in the humanities will also be addressed.

**Panelists**

- Dr. Robin Brooks, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh & Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University
- Dr. Ariana Magdaleno-Yntema, Spanish Instructor and Researcher, Downtown Doral Charter Elementary
- Dr. Nigel Malcolm, Associate Professor, Department of Communication and Philosophy, Keene State College
- Ashley Tisdale, Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2019), Literature
- Ryan Aguirre, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2019), Music
- Raja Rahim, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2015), History

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

DINNER & DIALOGUE WITH THE EXHIBITORS

An Up Close and Personal Faculty Recruitment Experience

- Dinner
- Introduction of Exhibitors by MDF Graduates Drs. Justin Dunnavant & Ariana Magdaleno-Yntema
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

8:30-9:30 a.m. ~ Lee Room
WORSHIP SERVICE: The Message
• Ms. Roniesha Hardee, Program Coordinator, Florida Education Fund

Ms. Roniesha Hardee is a native of Kissimmee, Florida, and holds a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary social science from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Prior to moving to Tampa, Roniesha served as the prayer ministry lead at Harvest Time Ministry and Worship Center in Kissimmee, FL, where Pastor Melvin R. Jenkins is the senior pastor. It was under the leadership of Pastor Jenkins that Roniesha began preaching 10 years ago. She currently serves in various ministerial capacities at Bible Based Fellowship Church in Tampa, Florida. Aside from ministry, Roniesha is passionate about effecting change in P-12 education. She worked for several years as a teacher in Florida’s public school system and is now the Pre-College Program Coordinator at Florida Education Fund. Roniesha is motivated by seeing growth in others and using her gifts to help people realize their potential. She fosters this growth by mentoring young girls, coaching young adults, and volunteering with various community organizations.

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom
AWARDS AND JACKETING CEREMONY
• Brunch
• William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor Awards
• New Graduates’ Jacketing Ceremony

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