

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 4.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021

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: 2021-2022 Class Portraits: - Mr. Charles Jackson, MDF 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

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

McKnight Reception

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ylce Irizarry, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida

MDF Online Writing Workshops: Lyra Logan, Esq., Executive Vice President & General Counsel, FEF

Closing Remarks: Dr. Lawrence Morehouse

Dr. Ylce Irizarry, Associate Professor of English at the University of South Florida, researches in areas that include Chicana/o and Latina/o cultural production, Hispanic translational literatures, Caribbean historical fiction, visual rhetorics, and Testimonio. She earned her Ph.D. in English at Pennsylvania State University. In 2016, she published the book Chicana/o and Latina/o Fiction: The New Memory of Latinidad, which received the Modern Language Association Prize in United States Chicana/o and Latina/o Literary and Cultural Studies. Dr. Irizarry's other awards include a McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship, a Humanities Institute Summer Grant, the Delta Tau Lambda Diamond Award for Community Engagement, and a Pathways Award for Junior Faculty Excellence in Research from the President's Committee on the Status of Latinos at USF. Dr. Irizarry has also published, among other pieces, two book chapters and several articles published in Antipodas, Contemporary Literature, Comparative American Studies, and the Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. She has presented her research nationally and internationally.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

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

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. Sonja Montas-Hunter*, **Chair**, Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Student Access and Success, Florida International University

- *Dr. Ruth Huntley Bahr*, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida

- *Dr. Lidia Kos*, Associate Dean, Graduate School; Associate Vice President, Research and Economic Development; Professor, Biological Sciences, Florida International University

- *Dr. Talline R. Martins*, Interim Director, Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives, and Director, Office of Graduate Professional Development, University of Florida

- *Dr. Guillermo Prado*, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Dean of the Graduate School; and Professor of Nursing and Health Studies, Public Health Sciences, and Psychology, University of Miami

- *Dr. Adrienne P. Stephenson*, Assistant Dean and Director, Graduate Fellowships and Awards, Florida State University

- *Dr. John Weishampel*, Professor and Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies, University of Central Florida

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

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

- *Dr. Ali P. Gordon*, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor, College of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Central Florida

Dr. Ali Gordon is Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Central Florida. Just prior to joining UCF, he earned a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. His principal research activities focus on the development of continuum-level models to



predict behavior of materials subjected to complex operating environments. This research has been funded by NSF, ONR, AFRL, etc. and various industrial partners. He has led or co-authored over 100 articles, and is a recipient of the Orr Award and the Widera Award for best papers in journals of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME). In the classroom, he instructs curricula related to theoretical/experimental mechanics of materials and structures and was twice awarded UCF's highest honor for teaching. During the 2012 summer, he was selected as the first Visiting Scientist of Structural Integrity with Siemens Energy. More recently, he was thrice appointed as an Air Force Office of Scientific Research Summer Faculty Fellow at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Dr. Gordon is an active member of ASME and is the advisor of UCF's ASME chapter.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

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*, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida

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.

- *Ms. Erica Dasi*, (2017, Environmental Engineering, USF): "Things To Do Before You Begin Your Ph.D. Program"

- *Dr. Daniel Pimentel* (2015, Mass Communication, UF): "The Importance of Mentoring in Getting the Most Out of a Graduate Education"

- *Dr. Dieff Vital* (2018, Electrical and Computer Engineering, FIU): "The First 18 Months of Your Ph.D. Program and What to Expect"

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

♦ **Closing Session**

Business Matters/Policies & Procedures

Meeting Adjournment

MARRIOTT TAMPA AIRPORT HOTEL

