# 37th Annual McKnight Fellows' Meeting & 25th Annual Graduate School Conference

November 12-14, 2021 Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel 4200 George J. Bean Parkway Tampa, FL 33607

# On the Cutting Edge: Conducting Research That Serves the Global Community

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

# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

To assist you in finding meeting rooms, we include a map of the Tampa Airport Marriott on page 4.

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

# 1:00-2:20 p.m. ~ *Pinellas Room*

**WORKSHOP I: Strategies for Effective Writing** 

Numerous students, faculty members and researchers struggle to transfer the ideas in their heads onto paper or to a computer. Recognizing that many scholars have not been taught effective research-based writing techniques, we strive in this session to provide proven approaches to producing polished academic writing. In addition to presenting various writing models, the workshop includes methods for personalizing the traditional writing process and questions to answer to clarify ideas. The information is designed to equip participants with a systematic approach to composing coherent scholarly writing.

- Dr. Dona Avery, Freelance Writer and Editor
- Dr. Vernetta Mosley, Writing Coach, Editor, Consultant, Chrysalis Consulting LLC

## 2:30-3:30 p.m. ~ *Pinellas Room*

**WORKSHOP II: Seven Steps to Financial Fitness** 

Like any long-term worthwhile pursuit, taking the steps to financial fitness isn't easy. It takes energy, determination and the discipline to obtain and hone the necessary skills over time. This session will introduce the 7 steps necessary to begin the journey toward a secure financial future. The best part of these 7 steps is that they apply to anyone, regardless of how old you are, where you come from, or how much money you earn. These principles work because they are proven to help individuals optimize their savings, which can then be used to meet current financial needs and build long-term wealth.

- Mr. Samuel Eubanks, CFA, Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager, Bank of America's Private Bank
- Dr. Miranda Reiter, CFP, Assistant Professor, School of Financial Planning, Texas Tech University

# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

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

#### 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*, Latin Americanist and Professor, Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Texas Tech University, and Fulbright Distinguished Chair of Public Policy, Brazil, 2021-22

## 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, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School and Professor, Nursing and Health Studies, Public Health Sciences, and Psychology, University of Miami

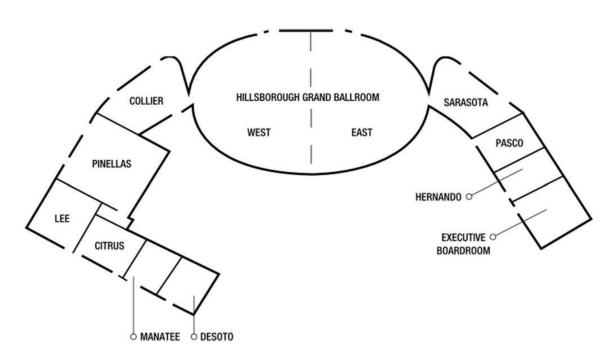
# FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

## 6:30-9:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom

# **OPENING SESSION**

- Dinner
- Introductions by MDF Graduates Drs. Justin Dunnavant & Daniel Pimentel
- 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. Irma Becerra, President, Marymount University
- Introduction of the new McKnight Fellows THE CLASS OF 2021: Mr. Charles Jackson, MPA, MDF Program Manager
- Introduction of Exhibitors: Mr. Charles Jackson
- Book signings by Dr. Michelle Dunlap, Dr. Micah Johnson and Lyra Logan, Esq.

# TAMPA AIRPORT MARRIOTT



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

#### 8:15-8:35 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom

**OPENING PLENARY: On the Cutting Edge: Conducting Research That Serves the Global Community** 

• *Dr. Bernd Reiter*, Latin Americanist and Professor, Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, Texas Tech University, and Fulbright Distinguished Chair of Public Policy, Brazil, 2021-22

#### 8:35-9:50 a.m. ~ Grand Ballroom

Forging Pathways, Best Practices for Becoming a University Administrator, Part I, Role of Department Chairs University administrators wield significant power, determine programmatic goals, set academic and university regulatory policy, and hire and terminate faculty and staff. In short, they are the primary leaders of the academy. These panels will discuss the role of the administrator, examine how administrators help universities fulfill their missions, and offer strategies for obtaining administrative appointments.

- Dr. Mark C. Dawkins, Moderator, Professor of Accounting, Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida, and American Accounting Association President-Elect
- Dr. Karlene Cousins, Chair and Professor, Department of Information Systems & Business Analytics, Florida International University
- Dr. Jonathan Gayles, Professor and Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Georgia State University and Interim Director, The Gerontology Institute
- Dr. Antoinette Jackson, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida

#### 10:00-11:30 a.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom*

Forging Pathways, Best Practices for Becoming a University Administrator, Part II, Role of University Deans and Provosts

University administrators wield significant power, determine programmatic goals, set academic and university regulatory policy, and hire and terminate faculty and staff. In short, they are the primary leaders of the academy. These panels will discuss the role of the administrator, examine how administrators help universities fulfill their missions, and offer strategies for obtaining administrative appointments.

- Dr. Mark C. Dawkins, Moderator, Professor of Accounting, Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida, and American Accounting Association President-Elect
- Dr. Tony Barringer, Associate Provost & Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Dr. Genyne H. Boston, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Initiatives and Chief of Staff, Florida A&M University
- Dr. James Garey, Vice Provost, University of South Florida
- Dr. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman, Interim Vice President for Institutional Equity; Senior Advisor to the President and Provost for Diversity and Inclusion; and Associate Professor of Sociology, University of South Florida
- Dr. Lidia Kos, Professor of Biology, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Associate Vice President, Office of Research and Economic Development, Florida International University
- *Dr. Marina J. Melendez*, Associate Dean, Dean of Juniors & Seniors, Transfers, Coordinator of Posse Scholars Program, Coordinator of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program, Connecticut College

# 11:30-12:00 p.m.

EXHIBITOR BREAK

# 12:00-2:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom

**LUNCHEON: Impact: The COVID-19 Virus and American Healthcare** 

- Dr. Guillermo Prado, Moderator, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School and Professor, Nursing and Health Studies, Public Health Sciences, and Psychology, University of Miami
- Dr. John M. Allen, Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Florida College of Pharmacy
- Dr. M. Rony François, Service Chief, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
- Dr. Denise Vidot, Cannabis Epidemiologist, CannaDNA Precision Genetic Practitioner, and Assistant Professor, University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies

#### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

• President's Award presented by *Dr. Lawrence Morehouse* 

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS =

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

SESSION I: Nanotechnology Applications in Healthcare: Drug Delivery, Biomaterials, and More

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 best practices may exist 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. Alya Limayem, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of South Florida
- *Dr. Shyam Mohapatra*, Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Distinguished Health Professor, Taneja College of Pharmacy, University of South Florida; Director of Division of Translational Medicine and the Center for Research and Education in Nanobioengineering, Morsani College of Medicine; and Research Career Scientist, James Haley Veterans Administration Hospital
- Dr. Vijaykumar B. Sutariya, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of South Florida

## 2:10-3:30 p.m. ~ *Grand Ballroom*

# **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.
- *Dr. Daphne Simmonds*, Moderator, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics, Metropolitan State University
- *Dr. Lina Bouayad*, Associate Professor, Department of Decision Sciences and Information Systems, College of Business, Florida International University and Health Research Associate, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
- Dr. Katia Campbell, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Dr. Marvin Dawkins, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
- Dr. Claude Villiers, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University

#### Sarasota Room

# SESSION III: Embracing (& Remixing) Culture in Academia

Panelists in this session will discuss how culture, art, and truth enhance science, academic excellence, and professional development, as well as how culture, art, and truth can enhance grantsmanship and catapult your career to new heights.

- Dr. Micah E. Johnson, Moderator, Assistant Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, University of South Florida
- Dr. Alex Harris, Singer/Songwriter, Producer, Cross the Line Music LTD/Orchard-Sony Music Entertainment; and Co-Founder, Arts Conservatory for Teens
- Dr. Shameka Thomas, Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institutes of Health/National Human Genomics Research Institutes-Bethesda

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

**SESSION IV: Publications Panel** 

Researchers now have more options to publish their research. The panelists will discuss their experiences using traditional, non-traditional and alternate publishing outlets including smaller publishers, self-publishing, documentaries and paid journals. They will also discuss advantages and disadvantages of traditional vs. non-traditional and alternate publishing outlets.

- Dr. Mark C. Dawkins, Moderator, Professor of Accounting, Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida, and American Accounting Association President-Elect
- Dr. Curtis D. Byrd, Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Office of the Provost, Georgia State University
- Dr. Michelle Dunlap, Professor, Department of Human Development, Connecticut College
- Dr. Jonathan Gayles, Professor and Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Georgia State University and Interim Director, The Gerontology Institute
- Dr. Ylce Irizarry, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Florida
- Dr. Vernetta K. Mosley, Writing Coach, Editor, Consultant, Chrysalis Consulting LLC

#### Lee Room

# **SESSION V: Funding Sources for Graduate Students and Postdoctorates**

There are many funding opportunities (fellowships, scholarships, grants, and training) for doctoral students to consider during and after the doctoral experience. Many of these opportunities provide invaluable experience and potentially offer clear cut paths to exciting careers inside and outside of academia. This workshop will provide participants with an overview of various funding opportunities, specifically from federal agencies, non-profits, and private organizations. Participants will learn about key elements that reviewers use in their evaluation criteria and obtain strategies for developing successful and competitive applications.

- *Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter*, Moderator, Program Director, IUSE: Hispanic Serving Institutions, Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, Division of Human Resource Development, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, National Science Foundation
- Dr. Justin Dunnavant, Archaeologist and Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles
- Dr. Adrienne Stephenson, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards, Florida State University

#### **CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS :**

In the following seven panel discussions, the panelists will provide information about completing their Ph.D. programs, developing useful research and publication skills, and securing employment. The discussions will serve as informal, interactive forums to address general topics as well as discipline-specific matters.

General topics will include the relationship between job opportunities and research focuses; the advantages and disadvantages of postdoctorate fellowships; how and what to publish, especially before earning the Ph.D.; how to package oneself for the job market and interview, including creating/assembling a portfolio, preparing a professional presentation, developing/polishing interview skills and conducting a job search; how graduate training impacts the ability to secure tenure and promotion; and the importance of networking.

# 3:40-5:00 p.m. ~ Executive Board 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. Eduardo Fuste, Co-Moderator, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Accounting, Florida State University
- Dr. Andria Hill, Assistant Professor of Accounting, School of Business, Howard University
- Dr. Miranda Reiter, CFP, Assistant Professor, School of Financial Planning, Texas Tech University
- Lawrence Williams, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida Atlantic University (2020), Accounting
- Anita Walsh, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), Economics

#### Pasco Room

Panel Two: Education

In addition to the *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. Clausell Mathis, Co-Moderator, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Washington-Seattle
- Dr. Frank Conic, Mathematics Instructor, Perimeter College, Georgia State University
- Ivanna Pengelley, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2016), Education
- O'Juan Edwards, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2019), Education
- Dionne Wilson, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2018), Science Education

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

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. Seneshaw Tsegaye, Co-Moderator, Professor, Department of Environmental & Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Dr. Charles Davis, Associate Professor, Valencia College
- Dr. Fernando Gonzalez, Associate Professor, Department of Software Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Dr. Jorge Torres, Associate Professor, Department of Bioengineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Dr. Claude Villiers, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Joshua Peeples, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), Electrical Engineering
- Mariacarla Gonzalez, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2016), Electrical Engineering
- Olivia Newton, Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2016), Electrical Engineering

#### Pinellas Room

**Panel Four: Health Sciences** 

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

#### **Panelists**

- *Dr. Debbie T. Devine,* Co-Moderator, Assistant Clinical Professor, College of Nursing, University of Florida; and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
- Dr. Rony A. François, Dermatopathology Fellow Physician, PGY-5, Departments of Pathology, Laboratory Medicine, and Dermatology, University of California-San Francisco
- Dr. Rhoda Moise, Director of Patient-Centered Care and Education; Research, Education and Social Solutions, Inc.
- Dr. Jontae Sanders, Consumer Safety Officer, Food and Drug Administration
- Dr. Shameka Thomas, Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institutes of Health/National Human Genomics Research Institutes-Bethesda
- Kimberly Barber, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2015), Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Devon Freeney, Campus Facilitator, Florida A&M University (2016), Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Christian McDonald, Campus Facilitator, University of Miami (2019), Biomedical Sciences
- Lakisha Thomas, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2020), Public Health

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

Panel Five: Physical/Natural/Life Sciences

In addition to covering the *general topics*, this discussion will cover academic and non-academic career opportunities in the physical/natural/life sciences, including postdoctoral positions.

#### **Panelists**

- Dr. Enrico Barrozo, Co-Moderator, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Baylor College of Medicine & Texas Children's Hospital
- Dr. Luis Saucedo, Electrical Engineer, L3Harris Technologies
- Dr. Alyssa Rose, Chemist III, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Trenton Aguilar, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2018), Ecology
- Carla Alonso-Contes, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2019), Ecology
- Chantell Frazier, Campus Facilitator, Florida International University (2017), Chemistry

#### Lee Room

Panel Six: Psychology

In addition to covering the *general topics*, 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 Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP).

#### **Panelists**

- Dr. Erin Harrell, Co-Moderator, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Alabama
- Dr. Tyisha Hathorn, Assistant Director of Admissions, College of Pharmacy, University of Florida
- Dr. Rasheda D. Haughbrook, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Psychology, Florida State University
- Lt. Col. Andrea Peters, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Deputy Director, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership, West Point Leadership Center
- Kylie Fernandez, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2015), Human Factors Psychology
- Erin Ferguson, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), Psychology
- Roxanne Lawrence, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2018), Psychology

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

**Panel Seven: Social Sciences** 

In addition to the *general topics*, 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. Jonathan Gayles, Co-Moderator, Professor and Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Georgia State University and Interim Director, The Gerontology Institute
- Dr. Judith Williams, Assistant Professor of Race and Anthropology, Furman University
- Dr. Marvin Dawkins, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Miami
- Dr. Micah E. Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy, University of South Florida
- Liotta Noche-Dowdy, Co-Moderator & Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2019), Anthropology
- Camille Adams, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2019), Creative Writing
- Erin Ferguson, Campus Facilitator, University of Florida (2017), Psychology
- Jasmine Haynes, Campus Facilitator, University of Central Florida (2018), Public Affairs
- Jorge Luis Hernández, Campus Facilitator, Florida State University (2016), Criminology
- Kris-An Hinds, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2019), Anthropology
- Janae Thomas, Campus Facilitator, University of South Florida (2018), Political Science

# 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 & Shakema Thomas

#### **BOOK SIGNING**

Book signing by Dr. Curtis Byrd

# 9:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom

MDF ALUMNI FILM SCREENINGS

Documentary films by Dr. Johnathan Gayles and Dr. Guitele Rahill

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

## 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. ~ Grand Ballroom

AWARDS AND JACKETING CEREMONY

- Brunch
- Introductions by MDF Graduates Drs. Daniel Pimentel & Shameka Thomas
- William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor Awards
- New Graduates' Jacketing Ceremony