



The Michigan AGEP Alliance Fall Conference will be held on Saturday October 14, 2017, and features interactive tracks that explore different stages of the Ph.D. journey and faculty career development including starting with applying into graduate school.

This activity is most appropriate for undergraduate students nearing the graduate school application process, graduate students and post-docs at all levels of their respective careers as well as faculty looking to advance their mentoring skills. The Conference will be held at the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel in East Lansing, MI. Enclosed are the biographies of the preliminary list of speakers. For more information, please visit <https://grad.msu.edu/AGEP/conference> or call the MSU AGEP Program Manager, Steven Thomas at 517-432-3268.

Keynote Speaker for Plenary Talk 12:45-1:45 PM

Dr. Gary A. Hoover: "Navigating the Academic Job Market in the New Economy"



Dr. Gary A. Hoover is currently a President's Associates Presidential Professor and the Chair of the Economics Department at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Hoover received his PhD in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis in 1998. Since then he has published numerous scholarly research papers, book chapters, and reviews on areas of public policy of income redistribution/poverty, political economy, and ethics in the economics profession. He is a leading scholar on academic misconduct, specifically plagiarism, in the economics profession and sits on the REPEC plagiarism committee. Dr. Hoover is also the co-chair of the American Economics Association Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession.

Dr. Hoover is the founding editor of the Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy. He has been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Hoover is also a network member of Center for Economic Studies & ifo Institute in Munich, Germany. He has also been a guest professor at the Universities of Hannover and Konstanz in Germany along with the University of Vienna in Austria. He teaches courses as varied as Principles of Microeconomics to graduate Public Finance. He has also taught smaller courses such as the Freshman Learning Community and Common Book Experience.

Saturday Morning Sessions 10:45 AM-11:45 AM

“Academia Reality Check”: As students prepare for the academic job search process, it is important to understand the different opportunities in academia. Whether, large or small, public or private, two- or four-year or minority serving, this workshop will provide participants with a better understanding of the different types of academic institutions; how to look and apply for, and secure positions at various types of institutions; and what to expect as a new faculty member at different types of institutions. This workshop is designed to give students information on how and where to find academic positions, how to evaluate positions, and how to prepare application materials for different types of institutions.

Mo Hunsen: Kenyon College



Dr. Mo Hunsen is a professor of chemistry at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He has received a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry from Michigan State University in 2001 and subsequently joined the Chemistry Department at Kenyon College. He was tenured in 2006 and promoted to full professor in 2012. He is currently Co-Chair of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Kenyon College (2014 -). He was also a Visiting Professor at the department of Macromolecular Science & Engineering at Case Western Reserve University (2013-14), at Polytechnic Institute of New York University (2005). He was a German Academic Exchange Service

(DAAD) Fellow (1990-1993) and has received the Robert J. Tomsich Science Award (2005) and the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award (2007). His research interests focus on green chemical and enzymatic catalysis in carbohydrate and polymer chemistry including studies on cellulose nanocrystals and their stimuli-responsive nanocomposites. His research also involves the use of natural products for prevention of cancer. He has a passion for exploring how green & sustainable chemistry and technologies could serve as platform for green businesses that transform cheap and abundant natural resources to value-added products. He is currently a member of the editorial boards of Green and Sustainable Chemistry, International Journal of Bioorganic Chemistry & Molecular Biology, Journal of Sustainable Development Studies, and International Journal of African Development.

Terah Chambers: Michigan State University



Dr. Terah Venzant Chambers is an associate professor of K-12 educational administration at Michigan State University. Her research interests include post-*Brown* K-12 education policy and urban education/urban education leadership. Specifically, she is interested in the ways within-school segregative policies influence African American students' academic achievement and school engagement, as well as the price of school success for high-achieving students of color (racial opportunity cost). She serves on the UCEA Executive Committee and is the incoming AERA Division A

Secretary. Venzant Chambers served as associate editor for the *Journal of Teacher Education* (2014–Present), *Educational Administration Quarterly* (2009–2013) and the *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education* (2007–2012) and has published in journals such as the *Journal of Negro Education*, *Educational Studies*, *Race Ethnicity and Education*, and the *Journal of School Leadership*. She received Outstanding Reviewer of the Year awards from the *Journal of School Leadership* (2010) and *Urban Education* (2013). She has previously served as a Congressional Fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF).

Richard Whittington: Tuskegee University



Dr. Richard Whittington is the HBCU-Up Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and Assistant Biology Faculty at Tuskegee University. In addition, he is a talented photographer, scuba diver, and has been coordinator of several enrichment programs for young people. He obtained his academic success by attending the historic Tuskegee University (BS, MS) and Auburn University (PhD). Dr. Whittington has an extensive background in science and research, working in clinics and laboratories since high school. The majority of Dr. Whittington's teaching experience was acquired at Pellissippi State Community College and Tuskegee University. For more than ten years, he has taught courses such as Cell and Genetic Biology,

Organismal Biology, and Microbiology at both institutions. His love for nature led him to volunteer with various organizations, including Fisheries Conservation Inc. and the Montgomery Zoo. Making time to give back to his community, Dr. Whittington is an active part of the Macon County Civitan Club, Black Belt Community Foundation, and Tuskegee United Women's League Inc. Dr. Whittington developed his skill for working with young people through his involvement with GROW CELLS, Project GRAD Knoxville, AMACHI Leadership Foundation, Southeast Science Partnership, Fast Track Science Camp, and Science America Camp.

"Paying and Staying for Graduate School": This panel will cover psycho-socio factors (mentorship, TA growing pains, funding, networking, etc.) that influence the success of first-year graduate students.

Dereck Skeete: Medgar Evers College



Dr. Dereck Skeete is an accomplished leader, educator and mentor for students in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. He has a Doctorate in Environmental Science, a Master's Degree in Environmental Pollution Control, with Concentration in Water Quality and Pollution Control, and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematical Physics, with concentration in Mathematics from the City University of New York. Dr. Skeete has more than 20 years of experience as an educator and a mentor. He has been a part of the Medgar Evers community for more than 22 years. During this time, he has spent most of his time teaching Chemistry and Environmental Science while involved with different research projects. Additionally, he has

spent 2 years serving in an administrative position as the Dean of Student Affairs where he worked to establish a culture to help students take responsibility for their actions and develop their leadership skills, and the Dean of Enrollment Management. His love of science and mathematics is always to the fore of all that he does, in that his classroom motto which he learned from one of his undergraduate professors is to "feed hungry minds."



Dr. Annmarie Cano is a Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of Student Services in The Graduate School at Wayne State University. She is committed to initiatives aimed at recruiting outstanding graduate students as well as retaining and preparing students from diverse backgrounds for academic and professional success. As a clinical health psychologist, Dr. Cano conducts research on emotion regulation and intimacy processes in couples facing health problems. She has over 60 publications, many with student co-authors and in 2013; she won an Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award from WSU. She has been funded by NIMH, NICHD, and NCCIH and is currently developing a mindfulness and acceptance intervention aimed at improving emotion regulation processes in couples with chronic pain. She also earned a master's degree in psychology and a doctoral

degree in clinical psychology from Stony Brook University.

"Developing a Teaching Portfolio & Philosophy": This seminar will discuss how a graduate student or post-doc should prepare a teaching philosophy statement and portfolio as well as how they can leverage their teaching assistant experiences.



Dr. Pamela Martin, a native Texan, is the Associate Dean in the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Before coming to Prairie View A&M University, she served for two years as the Chair in the Department of Psychology at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). At NCCU, she instituted the department's branding message and the use of social media to help the department's green efforts. She also increased the number of undergraduate and graduate students participating in research. Starting her academic career at North Carolina State University, she was the first African American female tenured in the Department of Psychology in 2009. For her

outreach efforts in the Raleigh-Durham areas in 2008, Dr. Martin was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Faculty Engaged in Extension and Engagement at NC State University. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from University of South Carolina, M.A. in Psychology from North Carolina Central University and a Ph.D. in Ecological/Community Psychology and Urban Studies from Michigan State University. After completing her graduate training, Dr. Martin was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Programs for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Influenced by ecological theory, Dr. Martin is interested in examining the person-environmental fit between social institutions such as churches and behavioral outcomes. More specifically, her research investigates the role of theology in shaping the daily experiences of African Americans. Dr. Martin seamlessly integrates her extension and engagement efforts with her teaching and research. Not only does she engage in extension outreach activities herself, she also teaches students to do so, and inspires them to continue in that tradition after graduation.

Saturday Afternoon Sessions 2:50 PM-4:00 PM

“Graduate School Expectations”: This panel will discuss how a student can prepare a competitive application and how they can leverage their undergraduate experiences as well as how to avoid common mistakes during the first years of graduate school.

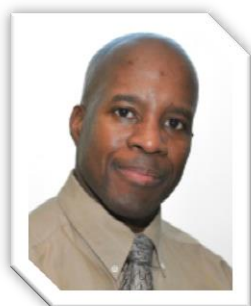
Christopher Blaszcak-Boxe: Medgar Evers College



Dr. Christopher Blaszcak-Boxe uses numerical-modeling platforms to assess the evolution of planets on various timescales. On the experimental front, he participates in field and laboratory studies that assess the abundance of potentially toxic substances in indoor/outdoor environments and their potential impacts on human health. He will ultimately continue publishing, such that his contribution to science spans solar and extrasolar system habitable planets. Dr. Blaszcak-Boxe is also builds STEM-education initiatives to help increase, retain, and inevitably steer students towards science and engineering careers and disciplines. Within this context, Dr.

Blaszcak-Boxe is aiding in fostering steam-lined academic platforms to help optimize such initiatives. He was born in Kingston, Jamaica and lived on the East Coast for a large fraction of his life. During that time, he attended Morehouse College and earned a B.S. in Chemistry and a Minor in Math. Thereafter, he moved to Pasadena, CA, where he earned an M.S. in both Planetary and Environmental Science & Engineering, to later complete a Ph.D. in Environmental Science & Engineering and a Minor in Geology – all from Caltech. He was then a research scientist at NASA-JPL-Caltech and returned to NYC, where he is now an Associate Professor at CUNY’s Environmental Science and Chemistry at Medgar Evers College and its Chemistry and Earth and Environmental Science Graduate Divisions.

Paul Guèye: Hampton University



Dr. Paul Guèye received his Bachelors and Master’s degree in Physics and Chemistry from the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. He then moved to France to pursue a Ph.D. thesis in Nuclear Physics that he obtained in 1994 from the University of Clermont-Ferrand II. His research thesis consisted of two experiments that compared electron and positron scatterings off carbon-12 and lead-208. This study is currently serving as a core basis for the upcoming International Linear Collider that requires a high energetic polarized positron beam.

Dr. Guèye joined the nuclear physics group of Hampton University in 1995. He was part of the first sets of experiments conducted at the Department of Energy funded Thomas Jefferson laboratory located in Newport News, Virginia. While continuing his work at this facility, Dr. Gueye is also currently involved in low energy nuclear physics experiments at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory/Facility for Rare Isotope Beams in East Lansing, MI. Dr. Gueye is presently the Chair of the Physics Department at Hampton University, the immediate Past-President of the National Society of Black Physicists, the Executive Director of the MoNA Collaboration at NSCL/FRIB, the Chair of the Liaison Committee for Under-represented Minorities of the American Institute of Physics and a member of various national and international advisory committees on physics and physics education.

Dr. Guèye is a strong advocate of K-12 education. He has established and leading several programs focusing on pre-college students with various federal and non-federal organizations (Department of

Energy, National Science Foundation, NASA, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, etc.)

“Getting the Mentorship You Need”: This panel will provide a fun opportunity for mentees to learn about themselves, about their expectations and how they can get the most from their mentoring relationships.

Antonio A. Nunez: Michigan State University



Dr. Tony Nunez received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Florida State University and after postdoctoral work at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst he joined the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Program of Michigan State University, where he holds the rank of Professor. At MSU, Dr. Nunez was Associate Chair and Graduate program Director for Psychology from 1997 to 1999 and then was appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in The Graduate School, which is his current position. He is the recipient of the MSU Teacher Scholar Award and the Distinguished Doctoral Graduate Award from Florida State University.

He is also a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. Dr. Nunez’s research is in the areas of behavioral neuroendocrinology and circadian rhythms.

Tony Dennis: Western Michigan University



Tony Dennis’ career in higher education began in 1990 working as an admissions counselor at Kalamazoo College. In 1993 he was hired as Assistant Director of Admissions and Orientation at Western Michigan University. In June of 1999 he was promoted to Director of Recruitment and Outreach Director/Student Services at Western Michigan University’s College of Aviation. Tony has recruited students throughout the United States and has played a significant role in recruiting some of the top underrepresented (minority) students in the country to attend WMU.

Tony has a Bachelor of Science degree and holds a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership both from WMU. Tony is Director of Recruitment and retention in the Graduate College of WMU. His primary responsibility in the Graduate College is to direct graduate recruitment and retention programs throughout the university. Collaborate with department chairs, faculty, and graduate advisors to implement recruiting programs to increase the number of enrolled graduate students. In addition, he promotes WMU as a provider of graduate education to college seniors and recent graduates of undergraduate programs, and to non-traditional students with undergraduate degrees. He serves on many university committees, coordinates retention programs, and directs the Graduate Diversity Program.

“Becoming a Faculty Entrepreneur”: This panel discussion will be an introduction to different aspects of faculty entrepreneurship. Topics for discussion will include technology transfer, commercialization of academic research, consulting, and book publication.

Pero Dagbovie: Michigan State University



Dr. Pero Gaglo Dagbovie is a Professor of African American History and Associate Dean in The Graduate School at Michigan State University. His research and teaching interests comprise a range time periods, themes, and topical specialties, including black intellectual history, the history of the black historical enterprise, black women's history, black life during “the Nadir,” the civil rights-Black Power movement, hip hop culture, and contemporary black history. His books include *Black History: “Old School” Black Historians and the Hip Hop Generation* (Bedford Publishers, Inc., 2006), *African American History Reconsidered* (University of Illinois Press, 2010), *Carter G. Woodson in Washington, D.C.: The Father of Black History* (The History Press, 2014), and *What is African American History?* (Polity Press: Cambridge, UK, 2015). He is on the editorial boards of *The Journal for the Study of Radicalism* and *The Journal of Black Studies* and is a lifetime member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He has been involved in public history and African American history educational programs. He served as a scholar consultant for the permanent exhibit, “And Still We Rise: Our Journey through African American History and Culture,” at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan.

Sanna Gaspard: Rubitection Incorporated



Dr. Sanna Gaspard serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Rubitection Inc., a firm dedicated to developing technology to modernize early bedsores detection.

Ms. Gaspard is the primary engine behind Rubitection's mission and vision. Her specialty is medical device design and development. She spent the 4.5 years successfully working on the initial laboratory development of the Rubitection Assessment System and the exploration of the clinical need, demand, and collaborations to support the technology. She has been recognized for her technical and business related work by the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers (New Face of Engineering Award, 2010), the Biomedical Engineering Society (graduate paper award), the Center for the Integration of Medical & Innovative Technology (CIMIT, finalist for CIMIT Prize for Primary Healthcare Award, 2009), the Tepper Business School (DJC business Plan Competition, 1st place), and 3RVF Technology Showcase (1st place). Ms. Gaspard earned her Masters and Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon in 2005 and 2011 respectively.

“Strategies for Navigating the Dissertation”: This seminar is ideally suited to graduate students who are about to enter into the dissertation process or who are still in the course work or comprehensive examination stage of their respective Ph.D. programs but would like access to information that anticipates the dissertation. Moreover, the seminar will be very useful to students who are already writing the dissertation but who may be experiencing difficulty in the writing process, in negotiating with their faculty committees, or who are simply struggling with the demands of the doctoral educational process and feel they are not making progress

Deborah Willis: University of Michigan



Dr. Deborah Willis has always been a strong advocate for diversifying the academy. Throughout her career in higher education, she has worked on numerous collaborations and partnerships that have facilitated the recruitment, retention and successful transitions of students and faculty of color. During her tenure at the University of Michigan (U-M) Rackham Graduate School, Dr. Willis worked with the AGEP Program for several years coordinating and developing programs and initiatives for graduate students that would assist them in attaining their PhD's and being successful in their career choices. Dr. Willis currently coordinates a faculty initiative, the

Women of Color in the Academy Project (WOCAP), at the U-M Center for the Education of Women, and even in this position, she finds time to work with graduate and undergraduate students across campus. Deborah is active and engaged in the Washtenaw County community through her involvement with various nonprofit organizations. Deborah earned two graduate degrees from the University of Michigan - a Master's and a PhD in Sociology. She received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Baldwin Wallace College.

“Academic Job Searching”: This workshop will cover how a graduate student or post-doc should approach searching, applying, interviewing and negotiating faculty positions.

Ryan Bixenmann: Michigan State University



Dr. Ryan Bixenmann is the director of PhD Career Services at Michigan State University. Ryan comes most recently from a position as the program manager for National Public Lands Day for the National Environmental Education Foundation in Washington, D.C.. Prior to that position, he was a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the NSF Division of Graduate Education, where he was instrumental in designing and evaluating the NSF GRIP (Graduate Research Internship Program), launching the NSF Grad Ed Forum, and worked with an interagency task force to achieve strategic goals as executive secretary for an NSTC subcommittee on STEM education. Ryan was a postdoc at Montana State, where he combined analytical chemistry, ecological field work, and quantitative data analysis to develop an integrated pest management strategy to reduce insect damage in wheat fields. Ryan has a PhD in Ecology from the University of Utah, where he also served as a service-learning coordinator for undergraduates and an NSF Graduate STEM Fellow in K-12 education, working on science literacy and scientific communication skills in public schools. Before doing his PhD, he was an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow with the Nevada Conservation Corps.

Richard Aló: Jackson State University



Dr. Richard A. Aló is the Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology and Professor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences at Jackson State University. Prior to joining JSU he was a Program Director in Directorate for Education and Human Resources at the National Science Foundation. Before attending graduate school, he was a Retrofit Systems Test Engineer for the Command, Control and Interoperability tasks of the US Air Force's Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) System at MIT's Lincoln Laboratories. He earned his MA and Ph.D. in Mathematics with minor in Computer Science from the Pennsylvania State University, followed by one year Lecturer position. He was a member of the mathematics faculty at Carnegie-Mellon University for 11 years followed by six years as Department Head of Mathematics and Computer Science at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. In 1982 he was appointed Professor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Houston Downtown and served as Chair of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences until 1995. From 1995 to 2010 he was Executive Director for Grants /Contracts at UHD raising over \$30 million in sponsored projects. Also from 1995 to 2012 he was Executive Director of the Center for Computational Sciences and Advanced Distributed Simulation at UHD. He has served on several advisory and executive boards: the Mathematical Association of America's SUMMA Committee (Support for Undergraduate Minority Mathematics Awareness); the MAA's Curriculum for Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (1979 through 1992), ACM/IEEE Computer Society Joint Curriculum Committee (1989- 1992); Association of Departments of Computer and Information Science and Engineering at Minority Institutions (ADMI, a founding member), Coalition for Diversity in Computing (CDC, past Chair and a founding member); and Houston International Dance Coalition (brings ten to 12 international modern dance companies per year to Houston for the week long Dance Salad Festival, (President 2000-present). www.dancesalad.org. As part of the NSF Science and Technology Center for Research on Parallel Computation (1990-2000) at Rice University, he founded and directed the South Central Computational Science in Minority Institutions Consortium.