



Conference of Southern Graduate Schools

Riding the Open Range

Corralling Challenges and Spurring Innovation in Graduate Education

MARCH 19-21, 2025
Dallas, Texas



2025 Annual Conference of Southern Graduate Schools

Location: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Meeting Dates: 19 to 21 March 2025

Program Outline:

All times in CST. Preliminary program updated 1/20/2024.

Wednesday, March 19

The Highlands Hotel	7:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools (CHBGS) Programming
Atrium, F.A. Moody Hall	5:30 - 8:00 PM	CSGS Registration
Atrium, F.A. Moody Hall	6:00 to 8:00 PM	CHBGS / CSGS Joint Reception

Thursday, March 20

Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Lower Level	7:00 AM to 1:00 PM	CSGS Registration
F. A Moody Hall Atrium	2:00 - 5:00 PM	
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Ballroom	7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast Sponsored by Center for Grad Career Success
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Room 226	7:30 to 8:30	William "Bill" Carr Breakfast for New Deans and Associate Deans: Dr. Preselfannie W. McDaniels, Jackson State University and Dr. Irene Aiken, UNC- Pembroke
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Auditorium	8:30 to 9:15	Welcome by CSGS President Dr. Jon Hakkila and Southern Methodist University Leadership

Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Auditorium	9:15 to 10:15	Plenary I - "Graduate Education, Innovation, and Local Economies: G.W. Bush Institute Perspectives," Cullum Clark, Ph.D. Economics, SMU (Alan Itkin, convener)
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Senate Chamber	9:15 to 10:15	Graduate Student 3MT Introduction Session - Jill Huerta, UNC- Charlotte
Hughes Trigg Student Center Gallery 1911	10:15 to 10:45	Networking / Coffee Break
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Auditorium	10:45 to 11:45	Plenary II – "Artificial Intelligence," Dr. David Joyner, Executive Director of Online Education & OMSCS in GA Tech's College of Computing (Aimee Suprenant, convener)
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Senate Chamber	10:45 to 11:45	Graduate Student Breakout Session: Research and Scholarly Methods – Dr. Carrie Johnston, Director of Research and Scholarly Initiatives, SMU Libraries
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Ballroom	12:00 to 1:00	Networking Lunch sponsored by ETS
	1:15-1:30	Transition/Travel from Hughes-Trigg Student Center to Moody Hall
Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	1:30 to 2:30	3MT Heat 1
Classroom 125 (first floor), F.A. Moody Hall	1:30 to 2:30	3MT Heat 2
Classroom 126 (First Floor), F.A. Moody Hall	1:30 to 2:30	3MT Heat 3
Jamie G. Williams Reading Room (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	1:30 to 2:30	3MT Heat 4
Fellows Suite (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	1:30 to 2:30	3MT Heat 5
Atrium, F.A. Moody Hall	2:30 to 3:00	Networking/Coffee Break
Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	3:00 to 4:00	<p>Breakout Session "Graduate Enrollment Growth Planning: Strategies for Leading Campus Wide Change"</p> <p>Theme – Obtaining and using data to gain insights to advocate for graduate education Type – Panel Discussion</p>

		<p>Presenters: Dr. Susan Carvalho, Assoc Provost and Dean, Graduate School, University of Alabama; Dr. Dixie Thompson, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School (retired), University of Tennessee; Dr. Ron Walcott, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Georgia</p>
<p>Classroom 125 (first floor), F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>3:00 to 4:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “Fostering Futures: Facilitating Graduate Success with IDPs”</p> <p>Theme - Building a NEW Graduate Community – connections among and between students and mentors Type- Facilitated Discussion</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Tracy Costello, Director of Postdoctoral Affairs and Graduate Student Development, University of South Florida; and Dr. Julie Harlin, Associate Dean, Texas A&M University</p>
<p>Jamie G. Williams Reading Room (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>3:00 to 4:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “Spurring Innovation – Digital Recruitment, Social Media and Transforming a Prospect into a Graduate Student”</p> <p>Theme – The unique challenges of recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff in Southern graduate education Type – Other</p> <p>Presenters: Ms. Kaitlynn Beaird, Graduate School Recruitment Program Director, University of Alabama and Mr. Brian Wayne, Graduate Programs Recruiter, Elizabeth City State University</p>
<p>Classroom 126 (First Floor), F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>3:00 to 4:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “4 Case Studies of Building Graduate Community”</p> <p>Theme - Building a NEW Graduate Community – connections among and between students and mentors Type- Case Studies (15 minutes each)</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Lauren Benton, Assistant Director, Graduate Enrollment Marketing, Mississippi State University; Isah Veronica D. Juranek, Student Success Coordinator, & Teagen Hruska, Texas A&M University; Dr. Lilli Harris, Assistant Director of Graduate Student Development, Mississippi State University; and Dr. Ruth Schemmer, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Success, University of Texas at Dallas; Emily Grace McCall, Photographer, Mississippi State University.</p>

Fellows Suite (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	3:00 to 4:00	Grad Student Breakout Session: "Self Advocacy and Career Awareness - How to Sell Your Academic Experience," Dr. Rob Pearson, Director of Career Development SMU Moody Graduate School
Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	4:15 to 5:00	Plenary III: CGS Master's Exit Survey Analysis - Dr. Enya Zhou, Senior Researcher & Dr. Alessandro Regio, Research Analyst, Council of Graduate Schools
Conference Room 231, Moody Hall	4:30 to 5:30	Audit Committee Meeting
Meadows Museum	6:00 to 8:00	Reception

Friday, March 21		
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Lower Level	7:00 to 1:00 PM	CSGS Registration
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Lower Level -	7:30 to 8:30	Breakfast
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Auditorium	8:30 to 9:15	CGS Welcome and Updates - Dr. Suzanne Ortega
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Auditorium	9:15 to 10:15	Plenary IV - "Corralling Challenges that Spur Innovation to Foster Belonging on the Open Range in the Wild West of Graduate Education." Barbara Bichelmeyer, Ph.D., Provost - University of Kansas, Sloan Foundation. (Ruth Bahr, Convener)
Hughes Trigg Student Center Gallery 1911	10:15 to 10:45	Networking/Coffee Break
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Auditorium	10:45 to 11:45	Plenary V - Legal issues in Graduate Education - Mackenzie Wilfong (Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Convener)
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Ballroom	11:45 to 12:45	Awards Ceremony and Luncheon
Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Ballroom	12:45 to 1:45	Business Meeting and Elections
	1:45 - 2:00	Transition to F.A. Moody Hall
F.A. Moody Seminar Room	1:00 to 2:30	Graduate Student Breakout Session: Video Game Design Program Presentation: Levi Sterling, Senior Academic Technology Services Directo for Guild Hall, SMU

<p>Classroom 125 (First Floor), F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>2:00 to 3:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “Hidden Data – Capturing the Nuance of Graduate Data and Data-Driven Decision-Making”</p> <p>Theme - Obtaining and using data to gain insights to advocate for graduate education Type – case study/facilitated discussion</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Kacy Lawrence, Director of Assessment and Strategic Initiatives, Virginia Tech University; Dr. Manu Gupta, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Virginia Commonwealth University; and Dr. Jeffery L. Wilson, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Virginia Commonwealth University</p>
<p>Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>2:00 to 3:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “Setting Students Up for Success: Recent Innovations in Graduate Student Onboarding”</p> <p>Theme - Building a NEW Graduate Community – connections among and between students and mentors Type – Panel (3 school presenters)</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Anne Shaffer, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, University of Georgia; Dr. Andre’ Denham, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Graduate School, University of Alabama; and Dr. James Black, Director of Student and Academic Affairs, Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, Georgia Tech</p>
<p>Classroom 126 (First Floor), F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>2:00 to 3:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “Graduate Enrollment Outcomes and Value Transparency”</p> <p>Theme – Employment Outcomes, Value Transparency, and Gainful Employment Type – Facilitated Discussion</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Johnna Watson, Associate Dean for Graduate Enrollment Management, University of North Carolina at Charlotte</p>
<p>Jamie G. Williams Reading Room (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>2:00 to 3:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session “Money Matters & Career Innovation: Empowering Graduate Students and Building Community through Financial Planning”</p> <p>Theme - Building a NEW Graduate Community – connections among and between students and mentors Type – Facilitated Discussion</p>

		Presenters: Dr. Brian Bolton, Professor of Finance with Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Fellows Suite (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	2:00 to 3:00	Breakout Session "Saddle Up for Change: Preparing For and Managing Leadership Transitions" Theme - The unique challenges of recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff in Southern graduate education Type – Other Presenters: Dr. Kathleen T. Cox, Associate Dean and Dr. Debra L. Jackson, Dean of the Graduate School, East Carolina University
Atrium, F.A. Moody Hall	3:00 to 3:30	Networking/Coffee Break
Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	3:30 to 5:00	3MT Finals and Farewell Message from the Incoming CSGS President
	After 5:00	Dinner on your own.

Saturday, March 22

F.A. Moody Hall 231	8:00 to 9:30	CSGS Executive Committee Meeting
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