



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

FINAL Program

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 Graduate 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 Dr. Robin Poston, Dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, Associate Provost for Graduate Education, Dr. R. Gerald Turner, President, Southern Methodist University

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, Introduction by Dr. Paige Ware, Associate Provost of Faculty Success, Southern Methodist University (Dr. 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	Breakout Session "Graduate Enrollment Growth Planning: Strategies for Leading Campus Wide Change"

		<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, Graduate Student Specialist, Texas A&M University; Dr. Lilli Harris, Assistant Director and Megan Wolf, Coordinator of Graduate Student Development, Mississippi State University; and Dr. Ruth Schemmer, Assistant Dean for</p>

		Graduate Student Success, University of Texas at Dallas; Emily Grace McCall, Photographer, Mississippi State University.
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. Enyu 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 and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Kansas (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 – Sponsored by ProQuest (part of Clarivate)
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 Director for Guild Hall and Dr. Karl Steiner, Clinical Professor, SMU
Classroom 125 (First Floor), F.A. Moody Hall	2:00 to 3:00	<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>
Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	2:00 to 3:00	<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>
Classroom 126 (First Floor), F.A. Moody Hall	2:00 to 3:00	<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>
Jamie G. Williams Reading Room (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall	2:00 to 3:00	<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> <p>Presenters: Dr. Brian Bolton, Professor of Finance with Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Louisiana at Lafayette</p>
<p>Fellows Suite (Second Floor) F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>2:00 to 3:00</p>	<p>Breakout Session "Saddle Up for Change: Preparing For and Managing Leadership Transitions"</p> <p>Theme - The unique challenges of recruitment and retention of students, faculty and staff in Southern graduate education Type – Other</p> <p>Presenters: Dr. Kathleen T. Cox, Associate Dean and Dr. Debra L. Jackson, Dean of the Graduate School, East Carolina University</p>
<p>Atrium, F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>3:00 to 3:30</p>	<p>Networking/Coffee Break</p>
<p>Auditorium (First Floor) F.A. Moody Hall</p>	<p>3:30 to 5:00</p>	<p>3MT Finals and Farewell Message from the Incoming CSGS President</p>
	<p>After 5:00</p>	<p>Dinner on your own.</p>

Saturday, March 22

<p>F.A. Moody Hall 231</p>	<p>8:00 to 9:30</p>	<p>CSGS Executive Committee Meeting (The meeting will include breakfast. Newly elected members should let Dr. Terry know if they are able to attend.)</p>
-----------------------------------	----------------------------	--