



**2018 FACULTY SENATE
13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

March 16, 2018

*“Preparing Students for Success through
Innovative Teaching and Learning”*

*Greetings from the Faculty Senate President,
Dr. Mary-Angie Salvá-Ramírez*

On behalf of the FMU Faculty, I welcome you to the 13th Annual Faculty Senate Conference: “Preparing Students for Success through Innovative Teaching and Learning.” This year’s conference theme captures FMU’s new outlook as the institution works to restructure its academic offerings.

Use today’s action-oriented proceedings to maximize your personal involvement and engagement in this process. Faculty must work together to develop plans for addressing such issues as strengthening connections between business and education, providing high-quality career development and career pathways, among many others.

Finally, I’d like to thank the conference committee members, Dr. Michael Elliott, Dr. Yvonne Campbell, Dr. Nathaniel Holmes and Dr. Tamar Riley for making this a truly great conference.

Sincerely,

Mary-Angie Salvá-Ramírez, Ph.D.
Florida Memorial University Faculty Senate, President

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

9:30 – 10:00 am

FM/FIU Room 115

Presenter: *Dr. Yvonne C. Campbell*

Topic: *Effects of strategy-focused writing instruction on the writing skills of linguistically diverse students*

Abstract

The number of English language learners (ELLs) mainstreamed into regular classrooms continues to increase. Curricular writing standards required by the Common Core State Standards require students to write essays analytically in response to text(s). Many English Language Arts (ELA) teachers may worry about effectively delivering essay writing instruction to their ELL students while still meeting the needs of their proficient English-speaking students. This action research study is a direct response to the concern of two middle level teachers about the writing performance of students in their linguistically diverse classrooms on their state's writing assessment. The study examined the effects of strategy-focused writing instruction on the argumentative essay-writing skills of 47 linguistically diverse seventh-grade students.

9:30 – 10:00 am

FM/FIU Room 150

Presenter: *Dr. Nathaniel Holmes, Jr.*

Topic: *Autism, Theory of Mind, & Belief in God: A Tillichian Perspective*

Abstract

The theory of mind thesis has commanded a profound influence on many cognitive scientists of religion and their understanding of religious belief and practice. Scholars such as Justin Barret posit that human beings are more likely to believe in God, for instance, because we have been created with the kinds of minds necessary to embrace such belief. One socio-psychological study has suggested that autistic persons are more inclined towards atheism than are "neurotypical" persons because they do not possess a theory of mind. I am taking issue here with the idea that theory of mind is essential to believe in and relate to God because God is essentially a person or personal in the same way that human beings are persons.

10:10 – 10:40 am FM/FIU Room 115

Presenters: *Dr. Mary Angie Salva Ramirez & Dr. Kimberly Carbo Pellegrino*

Topic: *Using ROPE to Develop Leaders: A laissez-faire approach to experiential learning*

Abstract

Although leadership skills are viewed by employers as a necessary competency that enables college graduates to successfully enter the workforce, a 2018 study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers indicates that only 33% of employers believe recent college graduates have these leadership skills. This research aims to improve leadership skills in college graduates by taking a laissez-faire approach to leadership development. A “hands off” approach under the right circumstances can empower students to rely on their own skills, thereby facilitating the development of leadership competencies in participants.

10:10 – 10:40 am FM/FIU Room 150

Presenter: *Dr. Tawnicia Ferguson Rowan*

Topic: *It Takes a Village: The Black Literary Salon as a Tool for Community Engagement and Florida Memorial University Student Success*

Abstract

This paper presents the black literary salon as a tool available to Florida Memorial University for increased visibility and recruitment opportunities in the surrounding community; advancing the cause of black adult literacy; fostering mentorship between faculty and students; and preparing students for leadership and service after graduation.

10:10 – 10:40 am FM/FIU Room 165

Presenter: *Dr. William Jong-Ebot*

Topic: *Crisis Communication During Hurricanes: Using 311, 911, Social Media When Your Life Hangs in the Balance*

10:50– 11:20 am FM/FIU Room 115

Presenter: *Dr. Kim Finch-Kareem*

Topic: *Factors Affecting College Persistence of African American Female Students on Welfare at a Historically Black College or University in Florida*

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between various factors, such as personal agency, institutional support, personal conditions, and public federal and state policies affecting the college persistence of African American female students on welfare at a Historically Black College or University in the state of Florida. This study was based on the premise that postsecondary education is the best approach for poor single African American mothers to regain financial independence for themselves and their children, thus reducing the personal and social barriers to stable employment. Furthermore, this research can provide theoretical frameworks that will advance social policy in a manner beneficial to African American female students in postsecondary education who are recipients of government aid to needy families.

10:50 – 11:20 am FM/FIU Room 150

Presenter: *Dr. Marilyn Ross*

Topic: *Basic Principles of Writing Across the Curriculum*

Abstract

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) is important as a learning tool for students to understand content. Currently, various strategies are highlighted in researched academic writings, which will be reviewed in this presentation. Although WAC was promoted in the 1980s, it has presently emerged as an efficient way for student comprehension of the material, and, specifically, for critical thinking, and exploring new ideas.

Panel

11:25am – 12:00pm FM/FIU Room 115

Discussants: Dr. Rose Mary Stiffin, Prof. Alessandra Manzon, Dr. Marilyn Sherman, Dr. Ayivi Huisso, Dr. Michael Elliott, & Dr. HK Chaudhari

Topic: Integrating Project-based Learning throughout the Undergraduate Science ((Physics, Chemistry, and Biology) Curriculum

Abstract

Equipping science students with the skills and knowledge required to be successful global engineers in the twenty-first century is one of the primary objectives of undergraduate science majors. Self-directed learning can define an individual's ability to practice life-long learning. Project-based learning is ideal for connecting knowledge, principles, and skills to their application within a putative/potential profession.

Posters

11:00– 12:00 pm FM/FIU Room 165

Poster Presenter: Dr. Tamar Riley, Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja, & Dr. Denise Callwood-Brathwaite

Topic: Teacher Collaboration to Support Independent Implementation of Interventions to Support Students with Individualized Needs

Abstract

This session describes teachers who conducted and reported action research to demonstrate the effects of interventions. Particularly, presenters discuss the formation of collaborative research groups by teachers implementing the same intervention. Survey results will be discussed to offer implications for conceptualizing collaborative action research groups to support ongoing teacher research.

Luncheon

Faculty Senate Conference 2018

Smith Conference Center

12:00pm - 2:00pm

12:00-12:30 Lunch is Served

12:30-1:00 Keynote Panel

1:00-1:10 Concluding Comments

1:15-2:00 Concurrent Sessions

Luncheon Concurrent Session Speakers

Dr. Claudia Bonilla

Chairperson of the Mathematics Department at Miami Dade College – North Campus

Dr. Bonilla provides academic and administrative leadership to the department that includes but not limited to teaching, advising, overseeing curriculum, scheduling courses, budgeting, supervising and mentoring full and part-time faculty. Dr. Bonilla has more than a decade of experience teaching Mathematics. In July 2017, she was appointed the Chairperson of Mathematics Department at the North Campus. She was one of the first group of faculty members who pioneered the new gateway Algebra courses at MDC and helped evolved it into success.

Jesse J. Carlo, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor Arts & Letters

Dr. Carlo is an interdisciplinarian who employs a holistic and dialogic pedagogical approach in his classroom. He sees education as social justice and advocacy.

*Prof. Regina M. Williams,
Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education*

Before coming to teach in Miami Dade College's college-wide Teacher Education Program (TEP), Regina M. Williams taught K-12 mathematics for twenty five years for Miami Dade County Public Schools. Her research interests include teacher education, measurement and assessment, equity and diversity in mathematics education, and the use of real-world urban and cultural contexts in the teaching of mathematics. Regina was a key member of the team that contextualized the curriculum and incorporated active learning strategies in gateway algebra under a grant from the Department of Education.

Session Descriptions

Session #1: Dr. Claudia Bonilla

Dr. Bonilla's presentation will focus on the flipped classroom as an instructional strategy to improve student's learning. She will discuss the impact of cooperative strategies such as think-pair-share on the learning experience of the student while sharing the tips and tricks she learned while teaching the Redesigned MAT1033 at MDC.

Session #2: Dr. Jesse Carlos

In his session, Dr. Carlo will engage faculty in a dialogue about a fixed vs. a growth mindset. He will discuss his perspective on the role of today's effective educator and how a holistic and dialogical pedagogical approach is both liberating and empowering for both the faculty and the student.

Session#3: Prof. Regina M. Williams

Professor Williams' session will include interactive activities that demonstrate the application of educational neuroscience influenced techniques and strategies to instructional lesson delivery. It will also share how-tos on simple yet effective lesson redesign, increasing student engagement and participation.

NOTES

Faculty Senate Conference 2018

Special Thanks To:

Dr. Mary-Angie Salvá-Ramírez, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Michael Elliott, Faculty Senate Conference Committee

Dr. Yvonne Campbell, Faculty Senate Conference Committee

Dr. Tamar Riley

I-ROAR Grant - UNCF and The Lilly Foundation

Dr. Annamaria Jerome-Raja

Ms. Lakeisha Cash

Ms. Yvonne Bendross

Mr. Armando Sigarreta

Dr. Nathaniel Holmes, Faculty Senate Conference Committee

