



# Advancing Graduate Education in Georgia

**GEORGIA COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS  
SPRING 2018 CONFERENCE & MEETING  
APRIL 19 - 20, 2018**

**Macon, Georgia**

## WELCOME LETTER



Dear Colleagues:

It is my honor to serve as president of the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools, and I welcome you to the fifth annual conference and meeting of the GCGS in historic downtown Macon!

The sessions at this year's conference cover a wide range of topics, from presentations on strategies to mentor and engage our graduate students to conversations about developing new and innovative graduate programs and establishing strong partnerships among administrators, faculty, and staff. The program also includes the inaugural GCGS Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Showcase, with recent winners of 3MT competitions at both the doctoral and master's levels from various institutions throughout Georgia. To honor Macon's musical heritage, our reception on Thursday features live jazz music.

The GCGS provides a unique opportunity for those of us who work in graduate studies to connect, network, and inspire one another. Administrators, faculty, staff, and graduate students across the state gather over the next two days to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices. Thank you for your dedication to the advancement of graduate education in Georgia and for the important work you do.

Please enjoy the conference!

Loretta Clayton, Ph.D.

GCGS President

Director, Graduate Student Policy & Support

Middle Georgia State University

## ABOUT GCGS

Graduate education has a central role in providing individuals with the advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to guaranteeing Georgia's and our nation's economic and social prosperity. The Georgia Council of Graduate Schools builds awareness of the benefits and value of a graduate degree to the students and citizens of Georgia.

Established in 2013, the Council was founded to represent graduate education in the state of Georgia with four goals:

- to share knowledge of graduate education among its members;
- to advocate for the improvement and advancement of graduate education through appropriate channels;
- to review and implement policies related to graduate education within the state; and
- to enhance communication with stakeholders.

The Council is governed by elected officers that form the Executive Committee. The members of the committee include the president, a vice president/president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and immediate past president.

The Council meets twice each year, once during the spring semester and once during the fall semester. The spring meeting is planned as a conference for administrators and staff. The annual business meeting is held during the spring conference. The fall meeting allows administrators to carry forward the work initiated by the Council.

Membership in the Council is open to nonprofit institutions of higher education, which have a physical location in the state of Georgia and offer graduate programs/degrees. Member institutions must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Others, such corporations, non-profit organizations, and individuals, may join as associate members. For more information about the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools please visit our website: [www.gacgs.org](http://www.gacgs.org).

## GCGS OFFICERS (2017-2018)

**Loretta Clayton - President**  
*Middle Georgia State University*

**Gale Starich - Treasurer**  
*Brenau University*

**Lisa Armistead - Vice President**  
*Georgia State University*

**Nikki Palamiotis - Secretary**  
*Kennesaw State University*

**Leslie N. Sharp - Past President**  
*Georgia Institute of Technology*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Dori Neptune**  
*Georgia State University*

**Kevin Cantwell**  
*Middle Georgia State University*

**Lelania Ottoboni Watkins**  
*Georgia State University*

**Liz Douglas**  
*Middle Georgia State University*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Robert T. "Bob" Trammell is the Minority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives representing District 132. He was first elected to the chamber in 2014 and elected Minority Leader in July of 2017.

Leader Trammell practices law at The Trammell Firm, a firm he founded in 2003, in Luthersville; his law office is in the house that belonged to his grandparents. Trammell is a 1996 summa cum laude graduate of the University of Georgia, where he majored in English and Political Science. He obtained his law degree from The University of Virginia School of Law in 1999. Before returning home to practice, he began his legal career as a law clerk in the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He subsequently practiced law at King & Spalding before starting his own firm. Trammell served as county attorney for Meriwether County from 2011 to 2014.

Representative Trammell is a member of Middle Georgia State University's Graduate Studies Community Advisory Board. Education has always been a priority for him, particularly because both of his parents were educators. His father, Robert Thomas Trammell, was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty of the former Macon State College for 22 years. He believes strongly that education is essential to preparing Georgia's workforce for the jobs of today and the jobs of the future and that investment in science, technology, engineering, and math programs is key to creating job opportunities for all Georgians. Trammell's wife Jenny is a pharmacist in LaGrange. The Trammells reside in Luthersville, Georgia with their young daughters, Mary and Virginia.

---

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Lisa Armistead has served as Georgia State University's Associate Provost for Graduate Programs since the office's founding in July 2014. Her office partners with graduate students, faculty, administrators, and staff to identify and implement best practices for graduate and professional programs in more than 100 fields of study across nine colleges, schools, and institutes. She is also a Distinguished Professor of Psychology and maintains a federally funded research program at the intersection of HIV and families.

David Baugher is the Assistant Dean of The Graduate College at Kennesaw State University. He has worked with graduate students at KSU since 1997. He began his career in higher education as the Teacher Certification Officer and Graduate Advisor for the Bagwell College of Education. He then moved to the Registrar's office before becoming the Director of Graduate Admissions in 2005 and the Assistant Dean in 2011. He has chaired the statewide Staff Council and the Administrators Council. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Graduate College. Further responsibilities include the graduate assistantship program, serving as the advisor for the Graduate Student Association, data and reporting, and budgeting.

Aise M. Cannon is the inaugural Director of Graduate Admissions at Agnes Scott College. She brings with her over seven years of higher education experience. Aise graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor of science degree in biomedical science. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Mercer University. She has also served in the United States Army for twenty years.

Kevin Cantwell is Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at Middle Georgia State University, where he is also a Professor of English. He has published poems in *The Paris Review*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *Irish Pages*, and *Five Points*, for which he was winner of the James Dickey Poetry prize. New poems have appeared in *Commonweal*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Arts & Letters*, and *J Journal*. His most recent book of poems is *One of Those Russian Novels*. He is editing a collection of letters by the American poet William Dickey.

Sherah Carr is an Associate Professor at Mercer University-Tift College of Education. She works with graduate-level students and primarily teaches courses related to curriculum and instruction. She has worked in the educational arena for over 35 years, teaching in numerous P-12 settings and serving in leadership positions. She is a teacher to both students and teachers, leading a school professional learning program and presenting workshops for educators. Her areas of writing and research include formative assessment, application of cognitive apprenticeship, distributed cognition, and culturally responsive professional learning in the Dominican Republic.

Loretta Clayton is President of the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools and Director of Graduate Student Policy & Support at Middle Georgia State University, where she is also Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies. She recently received the MGA Award for Outstanding Teaching. Her administrative work includes overseeing graduate assistantships; developing initiatives and partnerships for graduate student services; and serving as administrative liaison to MGA's graduate student association. Her teaching and scholarly work ranges from British literature and theory to fashion, aesthetics, and performance studies. She has published in these areas and completed an NEH Fellowship at UCLA's Oscar Wilde Archive.

John Girard holds the Peyton Anderson Endowed Chair at Middle Georgia State University's School of Information Technology. He is a professor, storyteller, and adventurer who has enjoyed the privilege of speaking to leaders on six continents about technology, leadership, and culture. Engaging with students on a daily basis ensures he remains current in the ever-changing world in which we live and do business. John has traveled to 116 countries investigating globalization and innovation in action. Since 2004, John has taught a variety of management, information systems, and information technology graduate classes in both face-to-face and online formats.

Myungjae Kwak is an Associate Professor in the School of Information Technology at Middle Georgia State University. He holds a B.S. in Economics and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Information Systems and Technology from Claremont Graduate University. His research interests focus on information retrieval, data analytics, machine learning, software engineering, game development, robot programming, and artificial intelligence.

Nicole P. Lipscomb-King is the Instructional Designer for Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University in Atlanta. She provides personalized curriculum design support to graduate and undergraduate nursing faculty, and facilitates the college Learning Management System administration. Nicole coordinates faculty development in educational technology and curriculum design and facilitates student technology instruction. She holds both a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an M.S. in Instructional Technology from North Carolina A&T State University, as well as an M.S. in Technology Systems from East Carolina University. She is a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Dori Neptune joined the Office of the Associate Provost for Graduate Programs in 2014 as Project Coordinator and is responsible for the planning and implementation of professional development workshops, events, and orientation for new graduate students. Working closely with the AP for Graduate Programs, Dori's mission includes maintaining databases, gathering data for graduate initiatives, and dissemination of graduate programs information. Dori serves as liaison on behalf of the Associate Provost to various colleges, offices, departments, and external constituents. She is also an Adjunct Sociology instructor at Chattahoochee Technical College.

Nikki Palamiotis has worked in graduate education since 1997. She began as the Director of Graduate Enrollment Services at Armstrong State University. She then moved to Southern Polytechnic State University, where she served as the Director of Graduate Studies until the consolidation of SPSU & KSU. Nikki has been a member of the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals since 2000 and currently serves as Secretary for the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools. Nikki's responsibilities at KSU include monitoring the academic progress and status of graduate students, approving Accelerated Bachelor's Master's (ABM) applications, administering the Regents Graduate Waiver, and creating professional development opportunities for graduate students.

Herman E. Ray is Associate Professor at Kennesaw State University and Director of the Center for Statistics and Analytical Research. He is actively involved in the data science community and works with many industry partners to solve problems. His research interests are in clinical trial design methodology, as well as understanding the workforce responsible for STEM education in the secondary education system. Before joining KSU, Herman was employed by Thomson Reuters in several different positions including Research Scientist. Herman received his B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics from Middle Tennessee State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Louisville.

Mark Riepe is an Applications Developer at UPS, Connect Ship/ Manhattan Associates, Right Fax, and eQMS Electronic Quality Management Systems. He is currently working on his M.S. in Information Technology with a concentration in Software Development at Middle Georgia State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Kennesaw State University. He is a member of Americas' SAP Users' Group (ASUG), Chair of MGA's Graduate Student Advisory Council, and serves on the UPS Millennial Business Resource Group (BRG) board.

Neil Rigole is an Assistant Professor of Information Technology at Middle Georgia State University where he teaches at both the graduate and undergraduate level. His primary focus is in areas related to digital media and instructional design and technology. Dr. Rigole has over two decades worth of experience teaching and leading initiatives and programs at the state and local level in higher education, K-12, and adult/technical education.

Arthur “Chip” Rogers holds a B.A. from Duke University, an M.A. from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Tennessee. In his twenty-five years in the profession, he has taught at the University of Tennessee, the College of Charleston, The Citadel, and Rogers State University before joining the faculty at Middle Georgia State University, where he is Associate Professor, Program Coordinator for the Graduate Certificate in Technical Writing and Digital Communication, and Coordinator of English Undergraduate Programs. Publications include essays on Charles Dickens, Percy Shelley, and Frank O’Connor, among others.

Scott C. Spangler teaches in the School of Information Technology at Middle Georgia State University where he lectures on human-computer interaction and project management. Spangler’s research concentrates on how the digital native culture utilizes technology in the higher education domain as well as on security and privacy issues in connection with Smart (mobile) device usage. He currently serves in MGA’s Graduate Studies Council.

Karen Weller Swanson is an Associate Professor at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. Her research encompasses transformative education, faculty professional development, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Karen has been teaching higher education for 14 years. She has an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, an M.Ed. in Secondary Education, and a B.S. in Biology, all from Northern Arizona University. Karen taught middle school science and is a middle school expert. She has served on the Association of Middle Level Education’s Research Advisory board as chair and member. She was also the editor of *Research in Middle Level Education Online*.

Jane West is a teacher of over 30 years, with experience in a range of P-12 and university settings. An Associate Professor in Tift College of Education at Mercer University, she serves as the Director of Doctoral Programs and teaches in master’s level teacher education programs and doctoral programs in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a B.S. from Mississippi College, an M.A. from Louisiana State University, and an Ed.D. from The University of Georgia. Her current scholarly interests include SoTL work on graduate students’ course-related reading and applications of cognitive apprenticeship in higher education.

Jerry Williams is Senior Lecturer of Management and M.S.M. Graduate Program Coordinator at Middle Georgia State University. He has a B.B.A. in Business and an M.S.A. in Administration/Logistics Management from Georgia College & State University. With 20 plus years of experience in logistics and supply chain management, he managed an Air Force training organization, serving as the education and training focal point for the Materiel Command’s Purchasing & Supply Chain Management Program. He is a past president of the Federal Managers Association.

Johnathan Yerby is Assistant Professor of Information Technology and Director of the Center of Cybersecurity Education and Applied Research at Middle Georgia State University. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, specializing in networking, cybersecurity, and digital forensics. He has taught in higher education for nine years and worked in professional technical roles for over ten years. He holds an M.S. in Information Systems, an M.B.A. from Georgia College, and a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from Georgia State University. He has designed new concentrations and new graduate programs and has published with multiple students.

# SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

Time	Session	Event Room	Speakers
2:00 - 3:00 PM	<b>Registration - Pre-Function Area Outside Magnolia AB</b>		
3:00 - 3:50 PM	<b>Introductions &amp; Keynote Address</b>	<b>Magnolia AB</b>	<p><b>Dr. Loretta Clayton</b> GCGS President Director of Graduate Student Policy and Support Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Kevin Cantwell</b> Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>The Honorable Robert Trammell</b> Minority Leader Georgia House of Representatives</p>
3:50 - 4:00 PM	Break		
4:00 - 5:00 PM	<b>Plenary Session</b> Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Showcase	<b>Magnolia AB</b>	<p><b>Moderators:</b> <b>Mr. David Baugher</b> Senior Assistant Dean Graduate College Kennesaw State University</p> <p><b>Ms. Nikki Palamiotis</b> Assistant Dean, Graduate College Kennesaw State University</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> Please see names of 3MT winners in the program insert.</p>
5:00 - 7:00 PM	<b>Welcome &amp; Reception:</b> Cocktails and Conversation Featuring Live Jazz Music	<b>Pre-Function Area Outside Magnolia AB</b>	<p><b>Dr. Jonathan Anderson</b> Provost Middle Georgia State University</p> <p>Special Guest: <b>W. Allen Gudenrath</b> Board of Regents</p>



## FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 (MORNING)

Time	Session	Event Room	Speakers
8:30 - 9:30 AM	<p><b>Breakfast &amp; Plenary Sessions</b></p> <p>Who Needs a Graduate Dean? Lateral Coaching and Autonomy Support</p> <p>Supporting Student Success: Dissertation Fellowship Funding and External Fellowship Advisement</p> <p>Writing Workshops for Student Progression to Degree</p>	<b>Magnolia AB</b>	<p><b>Dr. Kevin Cantwell</b> Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Lisa Armistead</b> Associate Provost for Graduate Programs Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Ms. Dori Neptune</b> Project Coordinator, Office of the Associate Provost for Graduate Programs, Georgia State University</p>
9:30 - 9:45 AM	Break		
9:45 - 10:45 AM	<p><b>Session 2A</b></p> <p>A Tale of Two Programs: Lessons Learned from Two New Professional Graduate Programs</p> <p>Labor, Birth, Infancy: Birthing Graduate Programs in Technical Writing and Digital Communication</p>	<b>Magnolia AB</b>	<p><b>Dr. John Girard</b> Peyton Anderson Endowed Chair School of Information Technology Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Mr. Jerry Williams</b> Graduate Program Coordinator Master of Science in Management Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Chip Rogers</b> Graduate Program Coordinator Technical Writing &amp; Digital Communication Certificate Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Ms. Aise M. Cannon</b> Director of Graduate Admissions Office of Graduate and Extended Programs Agnes Scott College</p>

## FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 (MORNING CONT'D)

Time	Session	Event Room	Speakers
9:45 - 10:45 AM	<p><b>Session 2B</b> Graduate School for Data Scientists: Experiential Learning through Sponsored Research Collaborations</p> <p>Engaging Students Using Technology</p> <p>Establishing Barrier Elimination in Universal Course Design</p>	<b>Grand Salon</b>	<p><b>Dr. Herman E. Ray</b> Director, Center for Statistics &amp; Analytical Research Kennesaw State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Scott Spangler</b> Assistant Professor, Info Technology Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Ms. Nicole P. Lipscomb-King</b> Instructional Designer, GA Baptist Coll. of Nursing, Mercer University</p>
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Break		
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<p><b>Session 3A</b> A Conversation About Teaching, Mentoring, and Evaluating the Dissertation</p>	<b>Magnolia AB</b>	<p><b>Dr. Jane West</b> Associate Professor Tift College of Education Mercer University</p> <p><b>Dr. Karen Swanson</b> Associate Professor Tift College of Education Mercer University</p> <p><b>Dr. Sherah Carr</b> Associate Professor Tift College of Education Mercer University</p>
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<p><b>Session 3B</b> Strategies and Opportunities for Preparing Graduate Students to Conduct Graduate Level Research</p>	<b>Grand Salon</b>	<p><b>Dr. Neil Rigole</b> Assistant Professor, Info Technology Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Myungjae Kwak</b> Associate Professor, Info Technology Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Dr. Johnathan Yerby</b> Assistant Professor, Info Technology Middle Georgia State University</p> <p><b>Mr. Mark Riepe</b> MSIT Graduate Assistant Middle Georgia State University</p>

## FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018 (AFTERNOON)

Time	Session	Event Room
12:00 - 12:15 PM	Break	
12:15 - 1:45 PM	<b>Lunch &amp; Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Magnolia AB</b>
2:00 - 3:00 PM	<b>GCGS Business Meeting</b> (Closed Session)	<b>Magnolia AB</b>

---

Official welcoming remarks at Thursday evening's reception will be made by Dr. Jonathan Anderson, Provost of Middle Georgia State University. Anderson holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration: Management from the University of Kentucky, a master's in Business Education from what is now the University of West Georgia, and a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Utah State University. He began his professional life in the financial services industry, working as a liability specialist in Utah before taking loan officer positions in the Atlanta area. He moved into education in 1999, becoming a Business teacher and coach at Bremen High School in Bremen, GA. After earning his Ph.D., he joined the faculty of the University of West Georgia where he served as Associate Dean and MBA director, Assurance of Learning Coordinator for GeorgiaWebMBA, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Accreditation Liaison, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Deputy Provost.

---

Our special guest at Thursday evening's reception is Regent W. Allen Gudenrath. Gudenrath was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in January 2018 and is a senior vice president with Morgan Stanley's Wealth Management Division where his son joins him in their practice. Gudenrath joined this firm 32 years ago when it was the original Robinson Humphrey Company. During this time, he was a participant in Smith Barney's Chairman Counsel and served on the Chicago Option Exchange Advisor Counsel. Allen holds a B.B.A. from the University of Georgia and an A.A. degree from Reinhardt College. Current and past outside business interests have included the Georgia Department of Economic Development, where he was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2012; serving on the Steering Committee of Governor Deal's Georgia Competitive Initiative; and membership on the Reinhardt College Alumni Board of Governors. He was a Founding Board Member of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, co-recipient of the Frederick B. Kerr service award, and a J.W. Fanning Fellowship Designee of Leadership Georgia. Allen is an active member in the Macon Civic Club and Gridiron Secret Society. He and his wife, Lynda, reside in Macon. They have three children and four grandchildren.



**GEORGIA COUNCIL** *of*  
**GRADUATE SCHOOLS**

