



GRAD CON24

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

📍 Schoonover Center

**FOR ALL
STUDENTS
IN GRADUATE &
PROFESSIONAL
PROGRAMS**



Keynote Presentation
Dr. Lori Stewart Gonzalez
President, Ohio University



Resource Fair
Interactive Tables



Professional Development
Sessions & Grad Life Workshops



Research Talks &
Poster Presentations



Social Networking
& Award Ceremony



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Lori Stewart Gonzalez President, Ohio University

Dr. Lori Stewart Gonzalez is a distinguished academic leader with a career spanning over three decades. She holds a Ph.D. in communication disorders from the University of Florida, a Master of Arts degree in communication disorders from Eastern Kentucky University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech pathology and audiology from the University of Kentucky.

Throughout her career, Dr. Gonzalez has held various academic and administrative roles, including serving as dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Kentucky and as provost and executive vice chancellor at Appalachian State University. She has also contributed significantly to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and the University of Louisville, where she served as executive vice president, university provost, and interim university president.

Dr. Gonzalez's commitment to public education stems from her upbringing in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, where her parents instilled in her a deep belief in the transformative power of education and a sense of duty to her community.





PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:00am		
8:00am	Registration Opens	Schoonover Lobby
9:00 – 11:00am		
9:00 – 11:00am	Resource Fair: Counseling Center, Academic Achievement Center, Division for Diversity & Inclusion, LGBT Center, Campus Engagement Center	Schoonover 130
GRADUATE LIFE SESSIONS (Schoonover 508)		
10:00 – 10:25am	Celebrating Diversity through Storytelling: The 3 C Project Launch at Ohio University	Francis Ametepey
10:30 – 10:55am	Graduate Geeks: Harnessing the Power of Fan Labor for Graduate Success	Natallia Yeloshyna
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS		
Track 1: Applying To Jobs (Schoonover 508)		
11:00 – 11:25am	Be a STAR: Mastering Interviews	Aaron Sturgill Executive Director of Career Readiness
11:30 – 11:55am	Crafting Winning CVs: A Comprehensive Guide for Graduate Students	Dr. Melissa Kulp Assistant Dean of Student Success
12:00 – 12:25pm	Mastering the Art of Cover Letters: A Guide for Graduate Students	Dr. Melissa Kulp Assistant Dean of Student Success
Track 2: Professional Skills (Schoonover 506)		
11:00 – 11:25am	Marketing Yourself for Success: The Importance of Soft Skills in Building Your Personal Brand	Dr. Roger Cooper Professor and Director of Semester-in-LA Program
11:30 – 11:55am	Storytelling: Authenticity & Integrity, What You Need To Know	Dr. Janice Collins Associate Professor of Journalism
12:00 – 12:25pm	Expanding Your Sphere of Influence: Networking Opportunities for Graduate Students	Damon Scott Vice President of the National Board for the Ohio University Ebony Bobcat Network
<i>Break</i>		
1:00 – 1:50pm		
Poster Session		Schoonover Basement



RESEARCH TALKS & KEYNOTE

Time	Presenter	Title
2:00 – 2:10pm	Natallia Yeloshyna	Fan Creativity Unveiled: Theoretical Approaches to Fan Labor
2:10 – 2:20pm	Prakash Acharya	Protecting Right to Know and Preventing Defamation in Health Journalism: Case Laws
2:20 – 2:30pm	Martha Wise	Beating the Odds: How Six Post-Secondary Learners Overcame Common Challenges of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
2:30 – 2:40pm	Isatou B. Secka	Navigating through Access to Higher Education Leadership- The Experience of Women in The Gambia
2:40 – 2:50pm	Joshua Osondu	Collaborative Strategies for Mitigating Bias in AI-Enabled Education: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Ensuring Equity and Effectiveness in Student Learning
<i>Break</i>		
3:00 – 3:10pm	Bismark Bimpong	Exploring the Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Writing Tools in Teaching and Learning: Faculty and Students' Perspectives in Higher Education.
3:10 – 3:20pm	Sam K. Sernavski	Notating November Steps: Toru Takemitsu's Graphic Scores for Shakuhachi
3:20 – 3:30pm	Amrit Thapa	Why Do Undergraduates Dislike Mathematics?
3:30 – 3:40pm	Amy Khazaal	Revolutionizing Education: Harnessing the Power of ChatGPT to Develop Innovative Class Materials
3:40 – 3:50pm	Elizabeth Shiller	Can I have your autograph: Exploring parasocial relationships in person
<i>Break</i>		
4:00 – 4:10pm	Thank You Presentation	Amrit Thapa , GSS President
4:10 – 4:50pm	Keynote Presentation	Dr. Lori Stewart Gonzalez , OU President
5:00 – 7:00pm	Social Networking and Awards Ceremony	

POSTER SESSION (Schoonover Basement)

Presenter(s)		Title
1	Julia Tennant	Investigating sRNA-mediated Transcriptional Regulation of Virulence Factor Expression in Staphylococcus aureus
2	Kushal Singla	Analyzing Open Circuit Potential Change vs. Time In Corrosion Inhibition Experiments
3	Zhuldyz Zhiguluna	High Temperature CO2 Corrosion of X65 Mild Steel
4	Gobind Sah	Analyzing the Influence of Macro- and Micronutrients on Dry and Carbon Yield of Corn Using Partial Least Squares (PLS) and Support Vector Regression (SVR)
5	Srijana Pandey	Optimizing the Conditions for the DNA Immobilization on Amine-Functionalized Glass Substrate for Single Molecule Study Using Fluorescence Microscopy
6	Athar Memon	Willingness of changing smoking practices in response to increasing prices among students at Ohio University
7	Zahid Wali & Athar Memon	Assessing the health system responsiveness among Transgender individuals at Ohio
8	Athar Memon & Shatakshi Semwal	Examining the barriers among transgender individuals of Karachi, Pakistan, and Ohio US
9	Elizabeth Shiller	Eddie wake up, we don't like this: An exploratory study into parasocial progression
10	Namra Nadeem	Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace: A perspective from Health Care Sector of Pakistan
11	Peter Adjei	Advanced Algorithmic Approaches for Enhanced Efficiency in Robotic Storage and Retrieval Systems
12	Wilhemina Bofla	Optimizing Routes for Equitable Food Distribution in Athens County, Ohio
13	Isatou B Secka	Navigating through Access to Higher Education Leadership- The Experience of Women in The Gambia
14	Srijana Katuwal	A case study of Pre- service teachers' knowledge and self- efficacy for teaching climate change
15	Natallia Yeloshyna	Fan Creativity Unveiled: Theoretical Approaches to Fan Labor
16	Jacq Garcia	Golosa- MFA thesis exhibition
17	Manh Thang Vo	Symbol-Pair Distances of Negacyclic Codes of Length 2^s over \mathbb{Z}_m
18	Kishor Nepal	Enhanced Electrical Conductivity in Metal-Graphene Composites: Unraveling the Interplay of Interfacial Distance, Electronic Density, and Graphene Conduits
19	Adrienne Jankowski	Examining the Psychometric Properties of an Alternative Scoring System for the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status
20	Nate Stuart	Implicit Rumination and Physiological Recovery
21	Jessica Lang	Social Anxiety Associated with Co-Rumination about the Covid-19 Pandemic
22	Spoogmay Khan	Neutron Radiation Effects in Chalcogenides



ABSTRACTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Presenter: **Aaron Sturgill**

Title: Be a STAR: Mastering Interviews

This session will help to unlock the secrets to a successful interview. Join us to delve into the STAR Method—an effective strategy for answering behavioral questions with clarity and impact. Learn how to Showcase your Skills, describe challenging Tasks, highlight Actions taken, and demonstrate outstanding Results. Gain the confidence to navigate interviews with poise and leave a lasting impression on potential employers. Elevate your interviewing skills and set yourself apart in the competitive job market.

Presenter: **Dr. Melissa Kulp**

Title: Crafting Winning CVs: A Comprehensive Guide for Graduate Students

This presentation aims to equip graduate students with the essential skills to create impactful Curriculum Vitae (CVs) that showcase their academic achievements and professional potential. Focused on demystifying the CV-writing process, the session covers key components of CVs such as academic history, research experience, work experience, publications, and relevant skills. Participants will receive a general CV template that provides a structured framework for organizing their qualifications. By the end of the presentation, attendees will have gained insights into crafting compelling CVs that effectively communicate their unique strengths and accomplishments, enhancing their prospects in academic and professional pursuits.

Presenter: **Dr. Melissa Kulp**

Title: Mastering the Art of Cover Letters: A Guide for Graduate Students

This presentation is designed to empower graduate students in the art of composing compelling cover letters that enhance their job application strategies. Tailored for graduate-level aspirations, the session delves into the nuances of effective communication, emphasizing the importance of personalized and impactful cover letters. Attendees will be provided with a versatile template, serving as a foundational tool for drafting cover letters across diverse professional opportunities. The presentation explores the structure, tone, and content that resonates with prospective employers, enabling students to articulate their skills and aspirations succinctly. By the end of the session, participants will have gained practical insights into creating cover letters that stand out in the competitive job market, elevating their chances of securing meaningful opportunities in academia and beyond.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Presenter: **Dr. Roger Cooper**

Title: Marketing Yourself for Success:

The Importance of Soft Skills for Building Your Personal Brand

This session will focus on what future graduates can do to enhance opportunities for successful careers after graduation. The development of both “soft” and hard skills are important for both short- and long-term success, and this session will place special emphasis on the critical (and specific) soft skills that enhance your personal brand, relationship network, and marketability for potential employers.

Presenter: **Dr. Janice Collins**

Title: Storytelling: Authenticity & Integrity, What You Need To Know

Whatever job you accept after graduation, more times than not, having skills in some form of storytelling will follow you. You could be called to write a letter for the President of a company, a press release for a corporation, or a community letter for an organization. You could also land a job as a professional journalist or media author. No matter the area, storytelling is central in today's lines of communication. It is a skill and for some, it is a talent. From the simplest to the more complex, I will share strategies to help you make the best connection with your audience, the best impression, and get the best Return on Investment – even when it comes to AI. While AI can get you started and may even do most of the writing, it cannot provide the human touch. It cannot provide Authenticity and Integrity - keys to connecting to your audience and living in marital writing bliss. Storytelling - Everyone has a story. Let's talk about getting it right.

Presenter: **Damon Scott**

Title: Expanding Your Sphere of Influence: Networking Opportunities for Graduate Students

Does your list of goals for 2024 include collaborating more with other graduate students? Do you find value in engaging with your professors and university administrators? As you prepare for life after graduation, have you given much thought to connecting with your future fellow alumni? If so, this session is for you! We will explore innovative ways to network with others in your academic and professional communities who may share some of your same interests, as well as with those who may help broaden your horizons by exposing you to something new. Our discussion also will help you think about your own experiences that others may want to learn about from you. So come on . . . let's network!

GRADUATE LIFE SESSIONS

Presenter: **Francis Ametepey**

Title: *Celebrating Diversity through Storytelling: The 3 C Project Launch at Ohio University*

In the global village of the 21st century, understanding and embracing cultural diversity is more crucial than ever, especially in academic settings. Ohio University, with its rich blend of cultures, presents a unique opportunity for this exploration. The 3 C Project by the Barbara Geraldts Institute for Storytelling and Social Impact aims to harness this opportunity by delving into the diverse cultural experiences of our international students. This interactive workshop, designed for the conference, will serve as the official launch of the project. In this workshop, international students will be sharing their personal narratives, illustrating how they maintain connections to their native cultures while on campus and Athens community. This workshop is particularly beneficial for graduate students as it offers a multifaceted learning experience. It not only exposes them to a range of cultural perspectives, enhancing their global understanding and empathy, but also equips them with practical insights into diverse storytelling methods. Participants will gain insights into the power of storytelling as a tool for social impact.

Presenter: **Natallia Yeloshyna**

Title: *Graduate Geeks: Harnessing the Power of Fan Labor for Graduate Success*

"Graduate Geeks: Harnessing the Power of Fan Labor for Graduate Success" is an interactive workshop designed to explore how graduate students can benefit from various creative activities of fans. During the workshop, attendees will be prompted to create a derivative work inspired by their favorite things, using scrap materials. This could involve crafting a haiku or a short fanfic related to their favorite film/book, collaging or sketching a uniform for their academic department for cosplay, or making origami sports equipment. You name it! Through engaging in these creative exercises, participants will discover how fan labor can help them sublimate internal conflicts, discharge excess cognitive energies, challenge mainstream norms, or simply enjoy some leisure time.

RESEARCH TALKS

Presenter: **Natallia Yeloshyna**

Title: Fan Creativity Unveiled: Theoretical Approaches to Fan Labor

My study explores fan labor through lenses previously used in the analysis of creativity: Freud-Marxism, Feminism, Cognitive Science, Philosophy. It suggests the following fan labor functions: sublimation of internal conflicts, discharge of excess cognitive energies, political emancipation, play.

Presenter: **Prakash Acharya**

Title: Protecting Right to Know and Preventing Defamation in Health Journalism: Case Laws

Reporting public controversies is challenging for journalists as they frequently deal with defamatory content. They need to balance people's right to know and the reputation of individuals in such situations. This case study suggests implications for health journalists and health professionals.

Presenter: **Martha Wise**

Title: Beating the Odds: How Six Post-Secondary Learners Overcame Common Challenges of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Six college students with ADHD were interviewed to find commonalities in their success stories. Learn about their strengths and sorrows as they navigated hostile education environments on their way to higher education. How did they maintain their resiliency in the face of constant threat? Come hear some incredible tales of passion, higher powers, creativity, male mentors, and advocacy turning into thriving purpose.

Presenter: **Isatou B. Secka**

Title: Navigating through access to Higher Education Leadership - The experience of women in The Gambia

The proposed research aims to investigate and shed light on the experiences, obstacles, and career paths of women in the Gambia. By examining the challenges women face and strategies they use to progress in their careers, this study offers insights into how women navigate the path to leadership in academia. The study will illuminate The Gambia's distinct socio-cultural setting and offer practical recommendations for promoting gender equity in higher education leadership.

Presenter: **Joshua Osondu**

Title: Collaborative Strategies for Mitigating Bias in AI-Enabled Education: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Ensuring Equity and Effectiveness in Student Learning

This study addresses the challenges and potential biases of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. Focusing on "Collaborative Strategies for Mitigating Bias in AI-Enabled Education," it critically analyzes the implications of AI, proposing a multi-disciplinary approach to develop fair and effective educational tools. The research highlights the necessity of collaboration among developers, educators, and students to ensure the equitable application of AI. It aims to contribute to a more inclusive educational future where technology enhances learning without perpetuating societal inequities, guiding the creation of responsible, proficient AI systems in educational settings.

Presenter: **Bismark Bimpong**

Title: Exploring the Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Writing Tools in Teaching and Learning: Faculty and Students' Perspectives in Higher Education.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative tool in the field of education, with its potential to revolutionize teaching and learning in higher education institutions. In this paper, I explored the implementation of different AI writing tools in teaching and learning in Higher Education, focusing on the perspectives of faculty and students. By examining their perspectives and identifying the challenges that can be encountered, the study seeks to gain a better understanding of the benefits and limitations of integrating AI writing tools in higher education. There are limited studies that seek to determine the perspectives of faculty and students in higher education regarding AI writing tools.

Presenter: **Sam K. Sernavski**

Title: Notating November Steps: Toru Takemitsu's Graphic Scores for Shakuhachi

This presentation highlights Toru Takemitsu's (1931–1996) fusion of western avant-garde, modern music, and Noh theater in compositions, with a focus on November Steps (1967). Analyzing Takemitsu's notation for shakuhachi, I draw insights from former instructor Akikazu Nakamura, exploring perspectives and performer reactions. This study addresses gaps in existing literature, probing if Takemitsu's approach truly achieves an ideal fusion of musical traditions. Additionally, it introduces new musicians and broadens ethnomusicological interest in modern Japanese composers.

Presenter: **Amrit Thapa**

Title: Why Do Undergraduates Dislike Mathematics?

This study investigates undergraduates' math dislike, exploring origins and contributing factors. Through qualitative semi-structured interviews with 15 undergraduates, preliminary findings reveal dislike originating as early as grade 1 and caused by disconnect, neglect, and test focus.

Presenter: **Amy Khazaal**

Title: Revolutionizing Education: Harnessing the Power of ChatGPT to Develop Innovative Class Materials

The landscape of education has undergone fundamental transformations in response to technological advancements, particularly within the realm of artificial Intelligence (AI) (Zhu et al., 2023). Recent years have seen the emergence of promising AI systems, such as ChatGPT, that portend significant and beneficial advances in the field of education. This research emphasizes the advantages of incorporating ChatGPT as an assistive tool in class preparation and lesson planning for educators. This study takes place in the framework of a comprehensive workshop given to the pre-service teachers to educate and train them working with the ChatGPT to produce the best lesson plans and class materials.

Presenter: **Elizabeth Shiller**

Title: Can I have your autograph: Exploring parasocial relationships in person

My dissertation focuses on the parasocial relationships formed between celebrities and their fans and how their interactions at fan conventions contribute to the development of these relationships.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE (GSS)

Gratitude to the GradCon24 Committee Members:

Conference Director: Kelsey Kayton

<i>Abby Tharpe</i>	<i>Grace Chundama</i>
<i>Abigail Bartlett</i>	<i>Hannah Bachert</i>
<i>Aisha Mohammed Salisu</i>	<i>Malik Jibrán Ahmad</i>
<i>Allen Casto</i>	<i>Nadiyah Abidin</i>
<i>Amrit Bahadur Thapa</i>	<i>Nida Ajmal</i>
<i>Brian Everett</i>	<i>Nisha Singh</i>
<i>Catherine Nikoi</i>	<i>Oumarou Abdoulaye Balarabe</i>
<i>FNU Palwasha</i>	<i>Peter Owusu</i>
<i>Frank Oppong</i>	<i>Sahaj Vohra</i>
<i>Gerard Chukwu</i>	<i>Shatakshi Semwal</i>

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