

Grace Jordan McFadden  
**Professors Program**  
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# Reflections

## Alumni Grant Recipients

**The CS-STEM Institute**, funded by the National Science Foundation between July 2020 through June 2023, is a pioneering project designed to integrate culturally sustaining pedagogies within STEM education, inaugurally focusing on the Gullah Geechee community in Georgetown, SC. It employs innovative approaches like three-dimensional learning and community-based participatory research to enhance STEM learning and teacher development. The project has achieved significant outcomes in broadening STEM participation among historically underserved groups and opens avenues for future educational innovations and community engagement in STEM fields. GJMPP Alumni Dr. Regina Ciphrah and Dr. Jamelle Ellis are members of the multi-PI team with Dr. Fenice Boyd of the University of South Carolina.

**Dr. Regina E. (Wragg) Ciphrah**, a distinguished alumna of the African American Professors Program (AAPP), exemplifies scientific acumen, educational innovation, and community engagement. Her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of South Carolina underpins her contributions to culturally sustaining STEM education and social justice.



As CEO and Principal of Verbalizing Visions, LLC, she bridges theory and practice. This organization offers STEM education capacity building, educator coaching, and policy implementation. Her role in the Culturally Sustaining STEM Institute, an NSF-funded project in Gullah/Geechee communities, exemplifies her commitment to integrating community wisdom with scientific inquiry, creating a learning environment that respects cultural heritage and fosters curiosity. In previous roles at the SC Department of Education and the USC College of Education, she balanced educational field needs with policy compliance. Her current involvement with SC TEACHER underscores her influence in shaping state education policy implementation and practice.

As an Adjunct Professor at Voorhees University, she co-leads the STEAM Education Course Series, integrating theory with practical teaching. Her tenure as Ms. Palmetto Pride Plus America 2017, promoting STEM education, and her role as Chair of the advisory board

for the South Carolina Coalition for Mathematics & Science demonstrate her commitment to making transdisciplinary learning and STEM literacy accessible and engaging for all. Now a 2023-24 SC Education Policy Fellow, she strives to shape educational policies to align with educator and learner needs. Her journey, marked by academic rigor, community involvement, and policy influence, establishes her as a notable AAPP alumna.



**Dr. Jamelle Ellis** is the Senior Scientist for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), a national conservation organization with a mission to guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish by strengthening laws, policies, and funding affecting fish and wildlife conservation access

based on the best available science. In this role, she coordinates stakeholder groups nationally to advise on active management practices related to coastal, wetlands, and forest ecosystems as well as climate-smart solutions and wildlife conservation strategies based on contemporary science models. She earned her Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from USC in 2013 where she studied exposures to methylmercury through fishing and fish consumption patterns in SC Sea Island communities. Since becoming an alumna of the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP), she has also served as the principal and co-principal investigator on National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation grants establishing and evaluating baseline health assessments in SC Sea Island communities in response to port expansion environmental exposures and training middle school teachers to develop culturally sustainable STEM curriculum in SC Gullah communities, respectively. Dr. Ellis is the founder and CEO of Empowerment Strategies, LLC, an environmental sustainability consulting firm with contracts that support NEPA-related mitigation and environmental management projects since 2018. She attributes a great deal of her professional foundation and success to the training, nurturing, networking, and funding provided by the GJMPP during her tenure as a doctoral student and candidate at USC. She is a native of Charleston, SC. She currently resides in Blythewood, SC with her husband and they share three amazing young adult children, two sons and a daughter.

GJMPP Office – 1705 College Street, Close Hipp Building, Ste. 552, Columbia, SC 29208

Phone: 803-777-5553 ~ Website: [go.sc.edu/GJMPP](http://go.sc.edu/GJMPP)

# Message from the Director

## Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program

TRANSCULTURAL GJMPP PERSPECTIVES

-2023-



**Johnnie McFadden, PhD**

Director of Grace Jordan  
McFadden Professors Program

The Benjamin Eijah Mays  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus

Time tells the story of how this program superseded initial dreams and aspirations by its founders and neophytes of the African American Professors Program-AAPP eventually known as the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program-GJMPP. Recognized for its substance and innovation, having graduated 80 scholars who have assumed their rightful place in settings of academe, corporations, government, foundations, agencies, and entrepreneurship.

Tho the seasons change as vibrant warm colors range alongside a spectrum and wintry days approach with its ice and fluffy snow, banners wave as instruments resound to an occasion alongside warm hearts and smiling faces to hail thee through garnet and black so true for ultimate ceremonies for celebration and to embark on opportunities for successive mentorship to signify growth with research and development enhancement of future generations through cultural enrichment to honor our legacy for grace and dignity.

What a privilege we share while embracing these days of reflection for a program that we love and cherish because it extends far beyond these walls and transcends through the stratosphere to welcome newcomers who aspire for leadership featured by scholarship and excellence challenged from our devoted founders to trust and model going forward while aspiring for the stars as a guiding light and a means of heartfelt appreciation for efforts of those who paved the way and accepting soulful responsibility when marching on the educational field of life with spirit: Co-Founder Aretha B. Pigford, PhD, Professor Emerita, Educational Leadership and Policies, College of Education, Director 1997-1998 of African American Professors Program; and Co-Founder Leonard O. Pellicer, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Educational Leadership and Policies, College of Education, Director 1998-2000.

Let it be a quadrant for advocacy and admiration plus reverence for affective solidarity, rightful attraction during an hour for adequacy, and applique in a place for due attention and cultural appeal. We should move on with pride and faithfulness.

## Co-Founders and Previous Directors



Aretha B. Pigford, PhD Professor Emerita  
Educational Leadership and Policies College of  
Education

Co-Founder, 1997  
Director, 1997-1998  
African American Professors Program

Leonard O. Pellicer, PhD  
Professor Emeritus  
Educational Leadership and Policies College of  
Education

Co-Founder, 1997  
Director 1998-2000  
African American Professors Program





UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**

Michael D. Amiridis  
President

December 2023

Dear Graduates:

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you for your academic successes as scholars in the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program at the University of South Carolina. For the past 26 years, alumni of this program have gone on to outstanding achievements, and I am confident you will do so as well.

Your hard work and commitment have prepared you well for your professional goals. With the opportunities and support provided at USC and through the GJMP Program, you have an excellent foundation for your careers as professors, researchers and leaders in your fields of expertise, advancing culture and knowledge across disciplines and making your alma mater proud.

I would also like to recognize the leadership of Dr. Johnnie McFadden and the outstanding work of the staff and faculty mentors who support the GJMP Program. Thanks to their efforts, USC alumni are making a profound impact in higher education, corporate, government, foundation, and many other roles across the country.

I wish you well in your next endeavors and look forward to hearing about what you accomplish.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Amiridis



## GJMPP Alumnus Highlight

### Brian Johnson, Ph.D. President Warner Pacific University

**Dr. Brian L. Johnson** serves as the 8th President of Warner Pacific University (Portland, Oregon). Previously, he served as 7th President of Tuskegee University (2014-2017). He has also formerly served as a Campus Vice President, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness & (Chief Diversity Officer), Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs, Chief of Staff, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Program Director, Coordinator and both Associate and Assistant Professor of English. Dr. Johnson received a Ph.D. in 17th-19th Century American literature at The University of South Carolina at Columbia (2003), a M.A. in English from The University of Wisconsin-Madison (1998) and a B.A. in English from Johnson C. Smith University (1995).

Dr. Johnson is also a sought-after speaker who shares a powerful and compelling biographical narrative of his experiences as a first-generation student growing up in inner-city Durham, North Carolina recounted in an August 31, 1995 article, the Raleigh News and Observer titled, "A Young Man Apart, A World Apart." Dr. Johnson was inducted into the Durham, North Carolina-based Salvation Army Boyd Club Hall of Fame and the Boys and Girl Club of American (formerly John Avery Boys Club) Hall of Fame and the City of Durham, North Carolina proclaimed January 20, 2015, "Dr. Brian Lamont Johnson Day."

An accomplished professor, scholar and academic administrator before the age of 40, Dr. Johnson has been selected to speak at several events. Among the more notable was his selection as Clemson University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaker, Auburn University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaker, Westmont College Provost Lecture Series, University of Toledo Black History Month Speaker, Grambling State University Founder's Day, Gordon College's Faith Seeking Understanding Lecture Series, Simpson College's George Washington Carver medal recipient lecture, the Doctoral Hooding speaker at the University of South Carolina-Columbia and commencement speaker at Mercy College where he was awarded Dr. Johnson his first honorary doctorate in 2016.

As a scholar, Dr. Johnson is the editor and author of (7) academic and scholarly books: (2) books on William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, W.E.B. Du Bois: Toward Agnosticism (2008) and Du Bois on Reform: Periodical-based Leadership for African Americans (2005); co-editor of (4) volumes on American History in the Conflicts in American History Series (2010)–Volume 3: Civil War, Volume 4: Reconstruction, Volume 7: The Long Civil Rights Movement and Volume 8: Towards the Next American Century; coauthor of (1) institutional history of his alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University, titled, The Yancy Years: the Age of Infrastructure, Technology and Restoration (2008). Among several administrative and academic fellowships, he has been named a (2012- 2013) (A.C.E.) American Council on Education Fellow (Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis Chancellor's Office/Lilly Family School of Philanthropy/Lake Institute of Faith and Giving), a (2012-2013) (A.A.S.C.U.) Association of American Schools and Colleges and Universities Millennium Leadership Initiative Fellow, a (2012- 2013) Faith and Action Scholar within the Focus Leadership Institute (Colorado), a (2011-2012) Tennessee Board of Regents Maxine Smith Fellow (Tennessee



Higher Education Commission), a (2011-2012) (C.C.C.U.) Consortium of Christian Colleges and Universities rising senior administrative (MELDI) Fellowship, a (2006-2007) Woodrow Wilson/Career Enhancement Sabbatical Fellow, a (2006-2007) Civic Engagement Scholar within the J. McDonald Williams Institute-Dallas, Texas, a (2005-2007) Lilly Foundation/Center for Christian Studies Fellow (Gordon College, Wenham, MA), a (2004-2005) non-resident fellow within the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Studies (Harvard University) and a (2003-Present) Andrew W. Mellon-Benjamin Mays Postdoctoral Fellow.

Dr. Johnson's board service has included the following: (OAICU) Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees, Board of Directors for the 34th Street Partnership Business Improvement District (Manhattan, New York), Community Board #5 (Manhattan, New York), Greenville College Board of Trustees (Greenville, Illinois), The Trinity Forum Board of Trustees (Washington, DC) and the institutional board of directors for (UNCF) United Negro College Fund. Dr. Johnson is married to Shemeka Barnes Johnson, who serves as a Senior Vice President in Project Management at Bank of America and they have two sons, Brian Asa Johnson and Nathan Morgan Qodesh Johnson. You can learn more about Dr. Johnson at his personal website: [www.intersectionoffaithandlearning.com](http://www.intersectionoffaithandlearning.com). The mock interview was instrumental in preparing me for faculty interviews. Personally, it was very important for me to see successful African American professors and having a supportive and belonging community provided by AAPP(GJMPP).

## GJMPP Alumna Highlight

**Andrea M. Fleming, PhD, LPCS, LPC, LAC, CS, MAC**

**GJMPP Associate Director  
Clinical Assistant Professor/College of Education  
University of South Carolina**



This summer I received a call from Dr. Johnnie McFadden stating that he, Mrs. Rhittie Gettone, and the immediate past GJMPP Associate Director, Dr. Toby Henry-Jenkins, unanimously considered me to serve in this role. Being appointed in the capacity of GJMPP Associate Director has been, and is, a fulfilling opportunity which allows me to stay connected with a program that I intimately understand and grew from during my time as a doctoral student just a few years ago.

The Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program is enriching in its tenants and purpose of preparing BIPOC scholars for academia. I marvel at the astuteness of our scholars as they are striving to make an immeasurable impact in their respective areas of study. Moreover, GJMPP is a gem of a village which serves as a safe haven and extended family for scholars who are navigating spaces where privilege, tokenism and erasure may still exist.

As a GJMPP alum, the value added of being selected as a scholar edified and prepared me for another full-circle moment of now being a Clinical Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina, serving as a colleague amongst my former professors. I stand proud, grateful, yet humbled to work alongside the brilliance of Dr. McFadden, building relationships with the GJMPP scholars, while contributing towards such a rich legacy that he and his wife, Dr. Grace Jordan McFadden, have carved out to serve generations of future leaders in higher education globally. I look forward to what is all to come on this journey.

## GJMPP ALUMNI TENURED

	<p><b>Toby L. Nelson, PhD (Tenured)</b>                  2013 GJMPP/SEAGEP Alumnus Chemistry and Biochemistry College of Arts and Sciences Associate Professor                  Department of Chemistry Oklahoma State University Stillwater, Oklahoma</p>
	<p><b>Dorinda J. Gallant, PhD (Tenured)</b>                  2005 AAPP Alumna Educational Studies/Research and Measurement College of Education Associate Professor                  Quantitative Research, Evaluation and Measurement College of Education and Human Ecology The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio</p>
	<p><b>George L. Johnson Jr. PhD (Tenured)</b>                  2005 Alumnus                  Educational Studies/Special Education College of Education Associate Professor                  Special Education Academic Program Coordinator                  Humanities and Social Sciences South Carolina State University Orangeburg, South Carolina</p>
	<p><b>Terry Carter, PhD 2002 (Tenured)</b>                  AAPP Alumnus English                  College of Arts and Sciences Professor of English                  Kennesaw State University - Marietta Marietta, Georgia</p>
	<p><b>Tracy H. Dunn, PhD 2003 (Tenured)</b>  <b>AAPP Alumna</b> Marketing                  Darla Moore School of Business                  Dean, The Tyrone Adam Burroughs School of Business and Entrepreneurship Benedict College                  Columbia, South Carolina</p>
	<p><b>Sirena Hargrove-Leak, PhD (Tenured)</b>                  2003 AAPP Alumna                  Chemical Engineering                  College of Engineering and Computing Associate Professor Engineering College of Arts and Sciences                  Elon University                  Elon, North Carolina</p>
	<p><b>Derrick C. Scott, PhD (Tenured)</b>                  2014 GJMPP Alumnus                  Biological Sciences                  College of Arts and Sciences Assistant Professor                  Biological Sciences Delaware State University Dover, Delaware</p>
	<p><b>Ari Perez Mejia, PhD (Tenured)</b>                  2014 SEAGEP Alumnus                  Civil and Environmental Engineering College of Engineering and Computing Assistant Professor                  Civil Engineering School of Engineering Quinnipiac University Hamden, Connecticut</p>

# GJMPP ALUMNI TENURE-TRACK

	<p><b>Charity Brown Griffin, PhD (Tenure-Track)</b>                  2014 AAPP Alumna                  School of Psychology College of Arts and Sciences Licensed                  Psychologist Assistant Professor                  Winston-Salem State University Winston- Salem, North Carolina</p>
	<p><b>Erin C. McKie, PhD (Tenure-Track)</b>                  2017 GJMPP Alumna Management Science                  Darla Moore School of Business Assistant Professor                  Department of Management Sciences Fisher College of Business The                  Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio</p>
	<p><b>Kevin M. Daniels, PhD (Tenure-Track)</b>                  2013 AAPP/SEAGEP Alumnus Electrical Engineering College of                  Engineering and Computing Assistant Professor                  Electrical and Computer Engineering University of Maryland - College                  Park College Park, Maryland</p>
	<p><b>Shakena L. Daniel, PhD (Tenure-Track)</b>                  2013 SEAGEP Alumna Chemistry and Biochemistry                  Assistant Professor Chemistry                  Wingate University Wingate, North Carolina</p>
	<p><b>A.TaQuesa McLeod, PhD (Tenure-Track)</b>                  2012 GJMPP Alumna                  Health Services, Policy and Management                  Arnold School of Public Health Assistant Professor                  Health Care Management Lander University Greenwood, South                  Carolina</p>
	<p><b>Simone A. Gause, PhD. (Tenure Track)</b>                  Assistant Professor of Higher Education                  Director of Quality Enhancement Plan                  Coastal Carolina University                  Conway, SC</p>

## GJMPP Alumni Data as of December 2023

Total GJMPP Alumni – 80

68% - Academia	9% - CEO/Self Employed
22% - Corporate	1% - Seeking Employment

# 2023 GJMPP GRADUATES



**Theresa M. Harrison, Ph.D.**  
**Educational Foundations and Inquiry**

*Dissertation Title: University, City, and Community: Athletics Urban Renewal Projects and the University of South Carolina's Carolina Coliseum and Blatt Physical Education Center, 1964-1971*



**Serge R. Wandji, Ph.D.**  
**Nursing Science**

*Dissertation Title: Substance Use Disorders Treatment among African American Men living in the Rural South in the United States*



**Jonathan C. Rann, Ph.D.**  
**Experimental Psychology**

*Dissertation Title: 'An Examination of Sustained Attention during Complex Multitasking Scenarios*



**Alana Perez, MFA**  
**Creative Writing/Poetry**  
*Dissertation Title: Learning to Spell.*



**Brittany M. Crawford, Ph.D.**  
**Epidemiology**

*Dissertation Title: The Genetic Associations of Circadian Rhythm and Sleep Disorder Traits with Risk of Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance and Multiple Myeloma.*



**Samantha M. Case, Ph.D.**  
**Environmental Health Sciences**  
**Dissertation Title:** *Quantification of the Internalization of a Commercially Available Silver Nanoparticle to the Bacterium Escherichia coli*



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# 2023 New GJMPP Scholars



Paddington T. Mundagowa  
Epidemiology  
Arnold School of Public Health



Diamonde McCollum  
Exercise Science  
College of Arts and Sciences



Mosiah N'Asad  
Creative Writing  
College of Arts and Sciences



Amadi A. Sefah-Twerefour  
Marine Science  
College of Arts and Sciences

# GRADUATE STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Full Time: 59.8%

SC Resident: 47.7%

Female: 65.3%

URM: 24.5%

International: 16.1%

## TOP STATES FOR ENROLLMENT



## TOP COUNTRIES FOR ENROLLMENT



Source: The USC Graduate School Website: 2022-23 Fact Sheet

# August 2023 Scholar Demographics



# 2023-2024 Doctoral Scholars, Staff, and Faculty Mentors as of December 2023



**Director**



**Associate Director**



**Administrative Assistant**

## Doctoral Scholars

Prince Nii Ossah Addo  
Maxwell Akonde  
Mosiah N'nah Asad  
Oluranti O. Babalola  
Shanikque L. Barksdale

Anthony T. Carr  
Larissa Daniels-Hill  
Cynthia D. Duncan-Joseph  
Franklin J. Gause  
Juliana M. Gebhardt

Robert AB. Gudea  
Marco A. Hernandez  
Timothy B. Hite  
Gwendolyn M. Hopper  
Tempestt S. Johnson  
Diamond McCollum  
Kenya S. Moore  
Paddington T. Mundagowa  
Christina Plakas  
Walter Quiller  
Sowmya G. Raghu  
Tremaine Sails-Dunbar

Amadi A. Sefah-Twerefour  
Nancy A. Uriegas  
Quentin O. Wedderburn  
James E. White III

## Scholar Academic Area

Epidemiology  
Epidemiology  
Creative Writing  
Social Work  
Health Services Policy  
and Management  
Counselor Education  
Anthropology  
Political Science  
Special Education  
Communication Sciences  
and Disorders  
Geography  
Biological Sciences  
Anthropology  
Analytical Chemistry  
Language and Literacy  
Clinical Community Psychology  
Exercise Science  
Epidemiology  
Criminology and Criminal  
English  
Mechanical Engineering  
Health Promotion, Education  
and Behavior  
Marine Science  
Exercise Science  
School Psychology  
Exercise Science

## Faculty Mentor

Monique J. Brown, PhD  
Anthony J. Alberg, PhD  
Samuel, Amadon, MFA  
Jan Ostermann, PhD  
Nabil Natafji, PhD

Ryan G. Carlson, PhD  
Carlina de la Cova, PhD  
Todd C. Shaw, PhD  
Thomas P. Hebert, PhD  
Lisa Fitton, PhD

Conor M. Harrison, PhD  
Katie Kathrein, PhD  
Courtney Lewis, PhD  
Claudia Benitez-Nelson, PhD  
Eurydice Bauer, PhD  
Nada Goodrum, PhD  
Toni Torres-McGehee, PhD  
Mufaro Kanyangarara, PhD  
Tia Stevens Andersen, PhD  
Seulghee Lee, PhD  
Jamil Khan, PhD  
Lucy Annang Ingram, PhD

Erin Meyer-Gutbrod, PhD  
Toni Torres-McGehee, PhD  
Sarah Edmunds, PhD  
Glen Weaver, PhD



# Blessing for Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP)

Marco A. Hernandez, GJMPP Scholar, Biological Science  
August 2023



As we stand together at the beginning of this new academic year, we are filled with gratitude and awe. Awe for the journey we're about to embark upon, filled with the promise of discovery, the thrill of inquiry, and the transformative power of education; and gratitude for the mentors who are guiding us on this quest for knowledge.

We are thankful to be here, united in diversity, bound by our collective thirst for understanding, and inspired by our mutual commitment to better both ourselves and the world around us. We see not just a cohort of individual scholars, but a community bound by the pursuit of knowledge and the promise of future societal impact.

For every chemical equation solved, every theory debated, and every research paper submitted, we are thankful we are not just passive participants in these events, but we are active contributors to a unique legacy of understanding by giving back and transforming our discoveries into solutions and turn our insights into action.

We are thankful that our scholarship today may be a beacon that can light up countless lives tomorrow. Our pursuit of excellence is not just for personal edification, but it's for the greater good.

We are thankful for this unique and transformative period in our lives, an extraordinary time that empowers us to probe the unknown, challenge the status quo, and engage with life's most pressing questions. Let us find joy in the rigors of academia, for they are the crucibles that shape our professional identity.

Let this academic year both stretch our minds and enrich our souls: may we not just accrue knowledge but also gather wisdom. May our academic endeavors serve as a steppingstone to a future where we contribute meaningfully to society, championing both truth and compassion.

Let us find courage in our aspirations, knowing that they fuel us to overcome any obstacle.

Let this academic year fulfill our hopes for personal growth and community betterment .

Amen.



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# 2023 Scholar Achievements

**James W. White III**  
**Exercise Science**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**



- Awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity (F31) from the National Institutes of Health
- Awarded a SPARC Graduate Research Grant from the University of South Carolina
- My first-author paper was accepted for publication, **White III, J.W.**, Pfladderer, C.D., Kinard, P., Beets, M.W., von Klinggraeff, L., Armstrong, B., Adams, E.L., Welk, G.J., Burkart, S., Weaver, R.G. (in press). Estimating Physical Activity and Sleep using the Combination of Movement and Heart Rate: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. International Journal of Exercise Science.
- Presented orally at the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in Uppsala, Sweden
- **White III, J.W.**, Weaver, R.G., Finnegan, O., Zhu, X., Tindall, N., Parker, H., Burkart, S., Beets, M., Brown, T., Pate, R., de Zambotti, M., Welk, G., Nelakuditi, S., Ghosal, R., Wang, Y., Armstrong, B., Adams, E. L., Reesor-Oyer, L., Pfladderer, C.D., Bastyr, M., von Klinggraeff, L. (2023, June). Calibration of raw accelerometry and heart rate data from consumer wearable devices during simulated free-living activities in children. Oral presentation at the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Presented a poster at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting & World Congresses in Denver, Colorado
- **White III, J.W.**, Weaver, R.G., Tindall, N., Adams, E.L., Beets, M.W., Armstrong, B., Finnegan, O., Burkart, S., Hansen, K., Parker, H., Dugger, R., Bastyr, M. Sponsor: Wojcik, J.R. (2023, May). Comparison Of Raw Acceleration From Consumer Wearables And ActiGraph Accelerometers Using A Mechanical Shaker Table. Poster presentation at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting & World Congresses, Denver, CO.
- Selected as a finalist for a Doctoral Student Poster Award at the Southeast American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in Greenville, SC
- **White III, J.W.**, Weaver, R.G., Tindall, N., Adams, E., Beets, M., Armstrong, B., Finnegan, O., Burkart, S., Hansen, K., Parker, H., Dugger, R., Bastyr, M. (2023, February). Comparison of raw acceleration from consumer wearables and ActiGraph accelerometers using a mechanical shaker table. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, Greenville, South Carolina

**Prince Nii Ossah Addo**  
**Epidemiology**  
**Arnold School of Public Health**



- Poster presentation, “I Don’t Believe That One”: Undetectable=Untransmissible (U=U) Views Among Older Childhood Sexual Abuse Survivors Living with HIV, at Discover USC on Friday, April 21, 2023.

**Tremaine Sails- Dunbar**  
**Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior**  
**Arnold School of Public Health**



- Selected as a scholar for the Health Policy Research Scholars Cohort 7. This is a grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that selects underrepresented students to learn more about the innerworkings of health policy.

**Paddington T. Mundagowa**  
**Epidemiology**  
**Arnold School of Public Health**



- Published Paper Muswerakuenda FF, Mundagowa PT\*, Madziwa C, Mukora-Mutseyekwa F. Access to psycho-social support among church-going youths recovering from alcohol, drug, and substance abuse: A qualitative study. BMC Public Health, 2023; 23, 723
- Accepted Manuscript Mundagowa PT, Zambezi P, Muchemwa-Munasirei P. Determinants of blood pressure control among hypertension patients in eastern Zimbabwe: A cross-sectional study Submitted to PLOS ONE Journal. 2023.
- Scientific Presentations and poster - Addo PNO, Mundagowa PT, Zhao L, Kanyangarara M, Brown MJ, Liu J. Associations between sleep practices and cardiovascular disease biomarkers
- Seven submitted manuscripts
- Principal Investigator for the Exploring the acceptability and feasibility of home-based management of hypertension (HoMHyper) intervention for blood pressure control in a rural setting in eastern Zimbabwe (2021-2023) (\$5,000 Grant)

**Christina Plakas**  
**Criminology and Criminal Justice**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**



- **Teaching Activities**  
GTA in the Criminology & Criminal Justice department; gave guest lectures for the courses Corrections and Violence in America; participated in the CTE Intercultural Inclusion and Diversity Learning Series program.
- **Scholarly Activities**  
Recipient of the 2023 RUSA Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant for innovative proposal to conduct research that will offer insight into what materials and resources jail libraries need so that incarcerated individuals can adequately access legal information;  
Submitted a first-authored paper for peer review titled, "Criminal Court Case Processing of American School Shooters"; presented the aforementioned paper at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Conference; presented a study titled "The Detention-to-Death Pipeline: An Empirical Analysis of Preventable Deaths in South Carolina's Correctional Facilities" at Discover USC

Day; in the process of writing a chapter on videogames and violence for the Handbook on Violence and Society

- **Service and Leadership Activities**

President of the Criminology & Criminal Justice Grad Student Association (CCJGSA); led a Maymester trip for undergraduate students in London, England; organized and led a panel for REU undergraduate students on entering academia as a member of an underrepresented group; Director and co-founder of the organization Project READ: a non-profit that 1) hires incarcerated individuals to give guest lectures to undergraduate students and 2) runs book drives for correctional law libraries.



**Amadi Afua Sefah-Twerefour**  
**Marine Science**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**

- National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (1-year NAGT membership) — *2023 National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT) award to graduates and undergraduates for demonstrating excellence as Teaching Assistants.*
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award (\$1000) — USC 2023 Graduate School Awards
- Graduate Student Association (GSA) Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award — *USC 2023 Graduate Student Association (GSA) Awards*
- Outstanding Teaching Award in Marine Science (\$500) — *USC School of the Earth, Ocean & Environment (SEOE) 2023 Awards*
- Volunteered as a judge in the USC Region II Science & Engineering Fair, March 2023 (67th Region II Science & Engineering Fair held on March 10, 2023)
- Served on the Women and Whales Panel, Friday, November 17, 2023, as part of the Georgia Whale Week. This event was organized by the Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary and Tybee Island Marine Science Center in Savannah, Georgia. The Event is “Saving the Right Whale” Film Screening and Women and Whales Panel which comprises researchers and conservationists.

**Nancy A. Uriegas**  
**Exercise Science**  
**College of Arts and Science**



**Awards:**

- American Association of University Women: American Dissertation Fellowship
- Graduate Student Association Doctoral Student Achievement Award

**Teaching:**

- ATEP 712 - Clinical Experience in Athletic Training II (Spring 2023); ATEP 750L - Evaluation and Therapeutic Interventions of Upper Extremity Injuries Lab (Summer 2023); one national conference presentation



### Scholarly Activities:

Seven manuscript publications (1 as first author; below); 6 abstract publications/presentations; one national conference presentation

- Lee A, Uriegas NA, Adams MG, Hand AF. Fractures, Glycemic Control, and Bone Mineral Density in Females with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: A Critically Appraised Topic. *International Journal of Athletic Therapy and Training*. 2023. (In Press, Online First)
- Torres-McGehee TM, **Uriegas NA**, Hauge M, Monsma EV, Emerson DM, Smith AB. Examination of Eating Disorder and Pathogenic Behaviors among Collegiate Student-Athletes. *Journal of Athletic Training*. 2023. (In Press)
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### Service

- ASPH Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Fellow
- National Fellowship and Scholars Program Office - Fellowship student Mentor
- Performing Arts Athletic Trainers Society - Education Committee Member

### Sowmya Raghu

#### Mechanical Engineering

#### College of Engineering and Computing



### Awards, Fellowship and Grants:

- SEC (Southeastern Conference) Emerging Scholar Award
- Awarded two American Society of Mechanical Engineers ASME scholarships, International Gas Turbine Institute scholarship - \$2000 advancement of research in turbomachinery and oSTEM - \$2500 for increasing diversity in STEM
- South Carolina Internship Program Award – Summer 2023 - \$3000 awarded for internship in high demand manufacturing industry in the state of South Carolina.
- CEIL Department and Unit Grant – 2023-2024 - \$3000 awarded for development of Minority Makers in the Rapid Prototyping Lab - Makerspace

- USC Mini-Richter Grant 2023- \$1000 awarded for Graduate Student Professional Development.
- Proving Ground – McNair Institute of Entrepreneurship and Darla Moore School of Business 3rd Place for CO2 Watch – Access Technologies entrepreneurial venture
- Graduate Student Association Awards
  - Runner-up Doctoral Student Achievement Award
  - Winner – Outstanding International Graduate Student
  - Winner - Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Entrepreneurship, Creativity, and Innovation
  - Runner-up - Exemplary Graduate Student Leadership Award

#### **Teaching:**

- Awarded Graduate Teaching Assistant Grant from Center of Teaching Excellence ENCP 101 – Introduction to Engineering; developed a first-time CAD- Makerspace module with video materials, tutorials, assignments.

#### **Scholarly Activities:**

- Mentored 5 undergraduate students at the Makerspace who won 4 top places at Discover USC.
- **Sowmya Raghu**, Jamil Khan, ‘Machine Learning based approach in predicting Compressor and Turbine Performance for SR-30 Gas Turbine Engine’, 14th International Conference on Mechanical Engineering, Bangladesh
- **Sowmya Raghu**, Roya Rajabi, Robin James, Kevin Huang, Jamil Khan, ‘Performance Comparison of Battery Thermal Management System based on Numerical Simulations’, ASME Summer Heat Transfer Conference, July 2023
- **Sowmya Raghu**, Jamil Khan, ‘Optimization of Turbomachinery Design in SR-30 small scale gas turbine engine’, Discover UofSC Poster presentation, April 2023

#### **Service**

- Co-chaired a committee at International Paper responsible for conducting a hygiene assessment aimed at enhancing the quality of women's restroom facilities.
- Developed a pipeline initiative at International Paper to conduct food pantry donations for universities.
- Volunteered for GJMPP December 2023 Newsletter



# 2023 Professional Development Workshops

<p><b>January 2023 (Virtual)</b> Demystifying the Job Search Process Presenter: Mr. Nigel Smith Manager for Graduate Student Advising Career Center</p>	<p><b>February 2023</b> Mock Interview Conducted by: Dr. Johnnie McFadden, PhD Director, GJMPP Interviewee: Maxwell Akonde GJMPP Scholar, Epidemiology</p>	
<p><b>March 2023</b> Fireside Chat with the Deans Thomas E. Hodges, PhD Dean, College of Education Joel Samuels, J.D. Dean, College of Arts and Sciences</p>	<p><b>April 2023</b> Annual Think Tank And Mock Presentations</p>	
<p><b>August 2023</b> Fall Orientation Matt Klopfenstein, PhD, Assistant Director of National Fellowships and Scholar Programs Michelle Hardee, PhD, Manager, Center for Teaching Excellence</p>	<p><b>September 2023</b> Optimally Navigating the PhD Experience – Panel (Virtual) Victor D. Kidd, PhD, 2019 Alumnus, Sport and Entertainment Management Kiesha M. Wilson, PhD, 2019 Alumna, Biological Sciences Andrea M. Fleming, PhD, 2020 Alumna, Counselor Education</p>	
<p><b>October 2023</b> Funding and Grant Opportunities Julie Morris, Research Program Coordinator Office of Research and Grant Development Matthew Klopfenstein, PhD Assistant Director of National Fellowships and Scholar Programs</p> <p>Teaching in a Diverse Environment Todd Shaw, PhD, Distinguished Associate Professor Political Science and African American Studies</p>	<p><b>November 2023</b> Community Outreach Hush No More The People's Ronald McDonald House Charities Larissa Daniels-Hill, GJMPP Scholar, Coordinator Quentin O. Wedderburn, GJMPP Scholar, Coordinator</p> <p><b>December 2023</b> Annual Graduation Celebration</p>	

# Highlighting Community Outreach



On October 21st, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., GJMPP scholars, Larissa Daniels-Hill (coordinator), Anthropology; Paddington Tinashe Mundagowa, Epidemiology; and Gwen Hopper, Analytical Chemistry; volunteered at the **Hush No More: Domestic Violence Family Walk & 5K** at the Irmo Community Park, 507 Eastview Drive, Irmo, South Carolina. Scholars assisted in setting up the event with vendor tables, coordinated parking, managed a raffling table, participated in the walk, and aided event coordinators. Dr. Vanessa Guyton, Executive Director (left), Author, & Keynote Speaker on The HUSH Topics, stated that the mission of Hush No More "is to provide a platform for Survivors to share their experience with the 'HUSH Topics' and to receive support from other Survivors and Victim Advocates as well as host training and events that will lead to awareness and prevention of the 'HUSH' Topics." **More Information:** <https://hushnomore.org/>

On November 4th, 2023, nine scholars of the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program teamed up with the **Columbia People's Program** to prepare and distribute food, water, and clothing to the homeless. GJMPP scholar, Quentin Wedderburn, School Psychology, coordinated the collaboration that included scholars Gwen Hopper, Analytical Chemistry; Prince Addo, Epidemiology; Mosiah Asad, Creative Writing; Shanique Barksdale, Health Services Policy and Management; Paddington Mundagowa, Epidemiology; Christina Plakas, Criminology and Criminal Justice; James White III, Exercise Science; and Amadi Sefah-Twerefour. The scholars prepared sandwiches, water bottles, and desserts before heading downtown to distribute resources at the Richland Main Library. Afterwards, the group relocated to Memorial Park and continued handing out food and resources. The remaining food items were donated to the Transitions Homeless Shelter on Main Street in Columbia, South Carolina. The Columbia People's Program is a recently established organization that aims to provide mutual aid and material support to those affected by homelessness in the Columbia metro area. They distribute food and resources every weekend on Fridays, Sundays, and every other Saturday.



On November 11, 2023, GJMPP scholars Larissa Daniels-Hill (coordinator), Tempestt Johnson, Language and Literacy; Tremaine Dunbar, Health Promotion, Education and Behavior; and Juliana Gebhardt, Communication Sciences and Disorders; prepared a beef stew dinner and salad meal for over 32 people at the **Ronald McDonald House Charities**, 2901 Colonial Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. These scholars also purchased the ingredients along with Sowmya Raghu, Mechanical Engineering; Amadi Sefah-Twerefour, Marine Science; and Rhittie Gettone, Administrative Assistant. The RMHC is an international organization that provides wellbeing and financial support services to families with children in need of medical care. By cooking, volunteers ensure a warm meal for families at the end of the day. This is the second year that GJMPP scholars have purchased and provided meals for families.



# Acknowledgements (Volunteers behind the Scenes)

Sowmya G. Raghu, GJMPP Scholar  
Mechanical Engineering  
Newsletter

Gwen M. Hopper, GJMPP Scholar  
Analytical Chemistry  
PowerPoint & Faces of AAAP, CDPP & GJMPP

Caroline Arndt  
Administrative Assistant  
The Graduate School

Robert Sutherland  
Business Manager  
The Graduate School

Rachel Gettone, Teacher  
Calvary Christian Academy  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Maria Romero  
Volunteer (10 years)

James White III, GJMPP Scholar  
Exercise Science



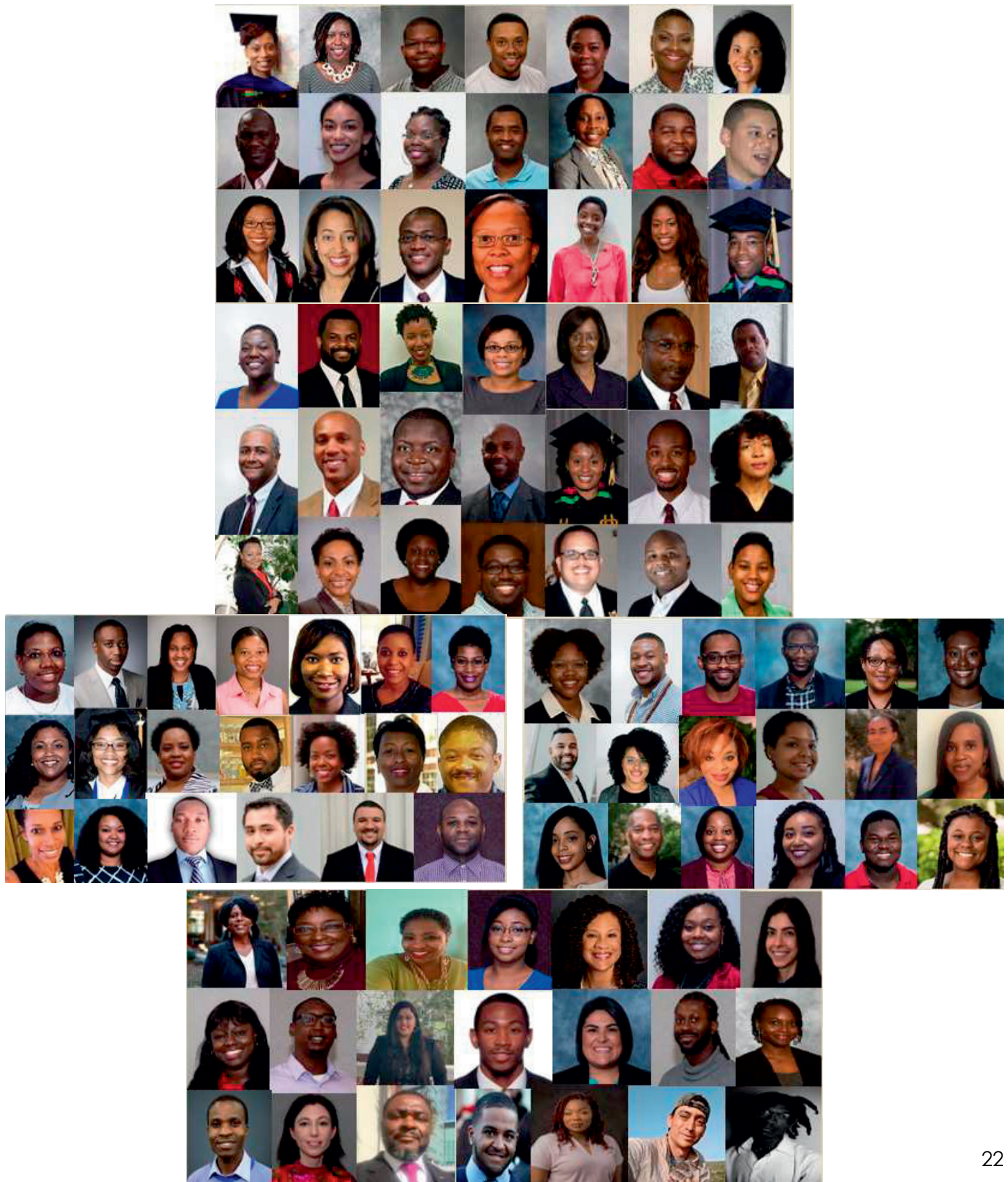
**Thank You!**  
**from the Newsletter Editor**  
**Sowmya Raghu, GJMPP Scholar**  
**Mechanical Engineering**

**In the editor's role, my heart's pen weaves,  
Learning in GJMPP's gifted leaves.  
In GJMPP's embrace, a forever home,  
Where future leaders and scholars roam.  
At USC, our dreams take flight,  
Cultivating visionaries, diverse and bright.**

**To Dr. Grace McFadden, our heartfelt thanks,  
Your vision shapes our scholarly ranks.  
Dr. McFadden, a mentor so dear,  
Mrs. Gettone, guiding us clear.**

**Fellow scholars, in unity we stand,  
Together shaping academia's land.  
A family in scholarship, strong and true,  
GJMPP, to you, our endless thank you!!**

# Faces of the African American Professors Program, Carolina Diversity Professors Program, and Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program 1997 - Present



# Congratulations to our 2023 GJMPP Graduates!

The Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program  
(Formerly African American Professors Program and  
Carolina Diversity Professors Program)  
SouthEast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate





**Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program (GJMPP)  
2023 Graduation Celebration Program**

Sunday, December 17, 2023 ~ 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Capstone, Carolina Campus Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

**Welcome/Occasion**

Johnnie McFadden, Ph.D.  
The Benjamin E. Mays Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
Director, Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program

**Greetings**

Ann Vail, Ph.D.  
Dean of the Graduate School

**Musical Performance**

Ramelle Brooks, DMA, GJMPP Alumnus  
Assistant Professor of Music  
South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, South Carolina

**Blessing of Food**

Christina Plakas, GJMPP Scholar  
Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Dinner**

**Poetic Salute To 2023 Graduates | Presenting the 2023 Graduates**  
Johnnie McFadden

**2023 Graduates**

Theresa M. Harrison, Ph.D.  
Educational Foundations & Inquiry

Serge R. Wandji, Ph.D.  
Nursing Science

Jonathan C. Rann, Ph.D.  
Experimental Psychology

Alana Perez, MFA  
Creative Writing/Poetry

Samantha M. Case, Ph.D.  
Environmental Health Sciences

Brittany M. Crawford, Ph.D.  
Epidemiology

**Remarks/Adjournment**

Johnnie McFadden



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**