

# IGEN

**2020 Virtual Introduction to Graduate Education  
at Northwestern University**

October 1-2, 2020



## **STEM Schedule - Thursday, October 1**

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

### **Welcome Address**

**Kelly E. Mayo, PhD**

Interim Dean of The Graduate School  
and Interim Associate Provost of  
Graduate Education

**Damon L. Williams, Jr., MBA**

Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion  
The Graduate School

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

### **Lab Visit**

**Gayle Woloschak, PhD**

Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Affairs  
The Graduate School  
Professor  
Feinberg School of Medicine

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**

### **Campus Tours – Chicago and Evanston**

**Eric Long**

Academic Affairs Assistant  
The Graduate School

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

### **Graduate Student Panel Discussion: What I Wish I Would've Known**

**Rashaad Barnett**

Program Coordinator  
The Graduate School

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

### **Faculty Panel Discussion: Best Practices for Applying to Graduate School**

**Inger E. Burnett-Zeigler '09 PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Behavioral Sciences

**Sossina M. Haile, PhD**

Walter P. Murphy Professor of Materials  
Science and Engineering and Professor  
Applied Physics Graduate Program

**Enectali Figuera-Feliciano, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Physics and Astronomy

**Mayda Velasco '95 PhD**

Professor  
Department of Physics & Astronomy  
Director  
International COFI Institute

**4:00 - 4:30 PM**

### **Closing Remarks**



## Humanities Schedule - Friday, October 2

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**

### **Welcome Address**

**Kelly E. Mayo, PhD**

Interim Dean of The Graduate School  
and Interim Associate Provost of  
Graduate Education

**Damon L. Williams, Jr., MBA**

Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion  
The Graduate School

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

### **Reclaiming Our Voices: Entering Academia as a URM Student**

**Marquis Bey, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of African American Studies

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**

### **Campus Tours – Chicago and Evanston**

**Eric Long**

Academic Affairs Assistant  
The Graduate School

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

### **Graduate Student Panel Discussion: What I Wish I Would've Known**

**Rashaad Barnett**

Program Coordinator  
The Graduate School

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

### **Faculty Panel Discussion: Best Practices for Applying to Graduate School**

**Kasey Evans, PhD**

Director of Graduate Studies,  
Associate Professor  
Department of English

**John D. Márquez, PhD**

Associate Professor of African American  
and Latino/a Studies

**Emily Maguire, PhD**

Department Chair, Associate Professor  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

**4:00 - 4:30 PM**

### **Closing Remarks**

## Meet the Speakers



### **Kelly E. Mayo, PhD**

**Interim Dean of The Graduate School and  
Interim Associate Provost of Graduate Education**

Kelly E. Mayo joined The Graduate School in Spring 2020 as the Interim Dean and Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Education. He received his BS from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and his PhD from the University of Washington at Seattle, both in biochemistry. Mayo completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego and joined the faculty of Northwestern University in 1985.

Before becoming the Interim Dean of The Graduate School and Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Education, he served as Chair of the Department of Molecular Biosciences and as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. His research laboratory investigates hormone action and signal transduction in the mammalian reproductive axis. He values collaborative and interdisciplinary research and has trained many postdoctoral trainees, graduate students, and undergraduate students.



### **Damon L. Williams, Jr., MBA**

**Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion  
The Graduate School**

Damon Lewis Williams, Jr., MBA, joined The Graduate School in Summer 2017 as the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion. In this role, he is responsible for diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic planning and implementation for faculty, postdoctoral trainees, and students under the supervision of The Graduate School and serves as a key member of the senior leadership team. Damon facilitates recruitment and retention efforts for domestic under-represented masters, PhD, and postdoctoral trainees, leads the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council, and works across units at the universities to ensure a culture of inclusivity for the graduate community. Williams joined Northwestern from Emory University, where he served as the inaugural director of diversity, community, and recruitment in the James T. Laney Graduate School and created the Emory Diversifying Graduate Education Office.

As a competent practitioner, Damon has worked in many roles supporting inclusivity for institutions and organizations including Xavier University of Louisiana, Georgia State University Trio programs, Phillip Morris USA (Altria), and Verizon Wireless. He has a strong history of developing partnerships and pipelines which serve to recruit and retain underrepresented minority students in the workforce or graduate education. His work has garnered him recognition by Black Enterprise Magazine, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, Xavier University's Top 40 under 40 Award, Northwestern University's Penny Warren Service Award, and a Norman C. Francis Fellow. Damon serves on several national boards including National Conference for Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), Medical Moguls, and Hill Harper's "Making Your Destiny", a non-profit targeted for at-risk youth and serves on advisory boards for the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC), One Hope United, United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and Native Son to name a few. He is a member of the National Black MBA Association, National Urban League, National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), and many other organizations.

## Meet the Speakers



### **Gayle Woloschak, PhD**

Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Affairs  
The Graduate School

Professor  
Feinberg School of Medicine

Gayle Woloschak, PhD, joined The Graduate School in Fall 2018 as the Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Affairs. She is a professor in the Feinberg School of Medicine departments of Radiation Oncology, Radiology, and Cell and Molecular Biology. Her primary areas of research examine how radiation causes cancer, developing nanotechnology tools to image and treat cancer. Gayle's name is registered on a long list of inventions and she has numerous faculty appointments at universities across the world. Throughout her career, Gayle has been heavily involved in the training and teaching of graduate students and postdoctoral trainees.

As Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Affairs, Gayle oversees: Student Services, Student Engagement, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, the Training Grant Support Office, and Graduate and Postdoctoral Professional Development within The Graduate School.

Gayle holds a PhD in medical sciences (microbiology) from the Medical College of Ohio. She completed her postdoctoral research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



### **Eric Long**

Academic Affairs Assistant  
The Graduate School

Eric was born and raised in Rhode Island. He attended Michigan State University for his undergrad and went to graduate school in Washington, D.C. Eric has worked at The Graduate School as an administrative assistant since moving to Chicago in 2014. His favorite things include cats, video games, reading fantasy/sci-fi (Ursula Le Guin and N.K. Jemisin are some of his favorite authors), and playing tennis.



### **Rashaad Barnett**

Program Coordinator  
The Graduate School

Originally from Phoenix, AZ, Rashaad has studied and worked in many parts of the country. In 2012, Rashaad graduated with his BA in mathematics from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. While at Truman, Rashaad played football in varsity athletics, was an active member Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated, and worked in local community schools. After his undergraduate studies Rashaad went on to teach high school mathematics and coach football at Regis Jesuit High School in Aurora, Colorado from 2012–17. He then moved to Chicago to pursue his MEd in higher education from Loyola University Chicago and graduated in May 2019.

Rashaad has been with Northwestern since fall 2017, holding two graduate assistantship roles with Multicultural Student Affairs and Social Justice Education. Rashaad is now the program coordinator in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion in The Graduate School. His role focuses on the recruitment of students who are of underrepresented populations into Northwestern's graduate programs.

## Meet the Speakers



### **Inger E. Burnett-Zeigler '09 PhD**

Associate Professor

Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Burnett-Zeigler treats patients at the Asher Center for the Study and Treatment of Depressive Disorders. Her clinical interests are in mood and anxiety disorders, comorbid substance use disorders, stress management, wellness, and interpersonal relationships. She has training and experience in several psychotherapy interventions including psychodynamic psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, behavioral activation, and mindfulness meditation. Dr. Burnett-Zeigler's research focuses on examining the factors associated with mental health service utilization. She is specifically interested in attitudes and beliefs about mental health, access to mental health treatment, engagement in mental health treatment, and barriers to mental health treatment among disadvantaged populations including racial/ethnic minorities and those with low income, limited education, and limited access to resources. She is currently the principal investigator for the "Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Depressed Women in a Federally Qualified Health Center" study which examines the acceptability and preliminary efficacy of a mindfulness based treatment for depression delivered to women in a community primary care setting.



### **Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano, PhD**

Associate Professor

Department of Physics and Astronomy

Enectali Figueroa-Feliciano is interested in finding physics beyond the standard model. We know the standard model of particle physics is not the most fundamental description of nature: it fails to explain various phenomena such as the mass of neutrinos, dark matter, the expansion of the Universe, and gravity. We focus on dark matter and neutrinos as they are one of the most promising avenues for finding new physics in the next decade.

Our experimental technique uses cryogenic detectors operating near absolute zero. Particles interact with the detector, producing a small recoil that leaves tens of keV of energy in the detector. We sense these small energy depositions using Transition-Edge Sensors and SQUID electronics. We design, prototype, and build detectors in our lab, although the actual physics measurements are done in the field. We search for dark matter 2 km underground in deep mines as part of the SuperCDMS experiment and 300 km in space with the Micro-X sounding rocket. We are also developing these detectors to search for as-yet-undetected neutrino interactions using nuclear reactors and electron capture neutrino sources.

We are part of the SuperCDMS collaboration and work closely with the Fermilab SuperCDMS group. For the upcoming SuperCDMS SNOLAB experiment, we will play a leading role in the integration and testing of the experiment at Fermilab before taking it down to SNOLAB. Figueroa-Feliciano is the Principal Investigator of the Micro-X Rocket, and we collaborate with NASA, NIST, and several universities in this rocket program.

## Meet the Speakers



### **Sossina M. Haile, PhD**

**Walter P. Murphy Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Professor of Applied Physics**

Sossina M. Haile is the Walter P. Murphy Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University, a position she assumed in 2015 after serving 18 years on the faculty at the California Institute of Technology. She earned her PhD in materials science and engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1992 and spent two years, 1991–93, at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Stuttgart, Germany, first as a Fulbright Fellow then as a Humboldt Fellow. Haile’s research broadly encompasses materials, especially oxides, for sustainable electrochemical energy technologies. She has established a new class of fuel cells with record performance for clean and efficient electricity generation, and created new avenues for harnessing sunlight to meet rising energy demands. She has published more than 170 articles and holds 12 patents on these and other topics. Amongst her many awards, in 2008 Haile received an American Competitiveness and Innovation Fellowship from the U.S. National Science Foundation in recognition of “her timely and transformative research in the energy field and her dedication to inclusive mentoring, education and outreach across many levels,” and in 2010 she was awarded the Chemical Pioneer Award of the American Institute of Chemists. She is a fellow of the Materials Research Society, the American Ceramics Society, the African Academy of Sciences, and the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, and serves on the editorial boards of *Materials Horizons* and *Annual Review of Materials Research*.



### **Mayda Velasco '95 PhD**

**Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy,**

**Director, International COFI Institute**

Mayda M. Velasco is a Professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and the director of the international COFI Institute—“Instituto de Cosmología y Física de las Americas”—in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She received her PhD from Northwestern University in 1995 based on experimental work performed to solve the proton spin crisis, as a member of the Spin Muon Collaboration at CERN. In 1996, she won a CERN Fellowship and later became a CERN Scientific staff. In that period, she was a member of the NA48 Collaboration, where she worked towards the understanding of the electroweak sector, and, in particular, the importance of CP violation in solving the mystery of the matter/anti-matter asymmetry of the Universe. She also formed and led the NA59 experiment at CERN, to develop the use of aligned crystals to produce linearly/circularly polarized photon beams starting from unpolarized electrons.

She received a CERN Achievement Award before becoming a faculty member in the USA in 1999, where she won a Sloan Fellowship and a Woodrow Wilson Award (Mellon Foundation) a few years later. As a starting faculty, her research program focused on precision and high sensitivity measurements in particle physics ranging from ultra-rare neutral and charged kaon decays to possible precision measurements of the CP nature of the Higgs boson at a future Photon Collider. Her current research involves experimental studies of fundamental particles and their interactions using colliding particle beams. As a member of the CMS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider, she leads the effort of searches for very rare decays of the heaviest quark and the newly discovered Higgs boson.

Velasco has co-authored over 500 peer-reviewed papers (6 Renowned, 11 Famous, 61 Very well-known, 97 Well-known, 221 Known).

## Meet the Speakers



### Marquis Bey, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of African American Studies

Marquis Bey's work focuses on Blackness and fugitivity, transness, and Black feminism. He is particularly concerned with modes of subjectivity that index otherwise ways of being, utilizing Blackness and transness—as fugitive, extra-ontological postures—as names for such otherwise subjectivities. His first book, *Them Goon Rules: Fugitive Essays on Radical Black Feminism*, is a collection of creative nonfiction essays weaving together the personal, the vernacular, and the scholarly. The various essays put forth a meditation on Blackness and Black feminism that departs from general identitarian understandings and moves toward conceptions of fugitive being. Fashioning fugitive Blackness and feminism around a line from Lil' Wayne's *A Milli*, *Them Goon Rules* is a work of "auto-theory" that insists on radical modes of thought and being as glimpsed through Blackness and nonnormative genders.

His second book, *Anarcho-Blackness: Notes Toward a Black Anarchism*, is a brief, pamphlet-like text theorizing what might be considered Black anarchism. He uses the prefixal "anarcho-" as the crux for articulating the spirit, as it were, of anarchism throughout aspects of the Black Radical Tradition. Bey is currently at work on a book manuscript on Black trans feminism.



### Kasey Evans, PhD

Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor

Department of English

Kasey Evans specializes in Renaissance literature. She offers courses in the Department of English on the English literary canon 1400–1800; the poetry and prose of Edmund Spenser; race and racism in the Renaissance; and theories of virtue and vice in Renaissance texts. She also teaches and serves in the Gender Studies Program, the Program in Comparative Literary Studies, and the Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program. In 2010, she was awarded the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award.

Her book *Colonial Virtue: The Mobility of Temperance in Renaissance England* (University of Toronto Press, 2012) argues that English writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries used temperance as a lens to focus their vision of European colonialism in the New World. *Colonial Virtue* thus examines both the rhetorical and the geographical mobility of this virtue as it migrated from the discourses of classical and humanistic Europe into the political and economic vocabularies of the nascent British empire—and from England across the Atlantic to the New World. Accumulating additional resonances and connotations during its travels across new discursive and geographical territory, temperance evolved into a semantically capacious and paradoxical term during the English Renaissance, one in whose name ideologues of almost any stripe could and did advocate particular courses of colonial ambition and action.

Her current project, *Renaissance Resurrections: Making the Dead Speak in Reformation Texts*, considers how grief and mourning are translated into new literary forms after the Protestant Reformation. Denied access to a number of doctrines and practices immanent in Catholic rituals of grief and mourning—including the existence of Purgatory, the redemptive potential of good works, and the intercession of the living on behalf of the dead—English writers sought new discourses in which to theorize, experience, and manage death. *Renaissance Resurrections* analyzes textual responses to the doctrinal and political changes of the Reformation, arguing that the affective, psychic, and cultural energies formerly invested in orthodox forms of Catholic worship migrate into other rhetorical arenas.



## Meet the Speakers



### Emily Maguire, PhD

Department Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Emily Maguire specializes in modern Latin American literature and culture, with a focus on the Hispanic Caribbean and its diasporas. Her book *Racial Experiments in Cuban Literature and Ethnography* (University Press of Florida, 2011; 2nd edition 2018) shows how Cuban writers in the first half of the twentieth century forged a literary space in which to write the nation by drawing from two forms of expression, ethnography and literature, in their re-valorization of Afro-Cuban culture as the source of Cuban-ness. She has published articles in *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, *Small Axe*, *A Contracorriente*, *ASAP/Journal*, and *The Routledge Companion to Latino Literature*, among other places. She is the co-editor, with Kahlil Chaar-Pérez, of a special issue of *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture* on “After Glissant: Caribbean Aesthetics and the Politics of Relation” (2014).

Professor Maguire’s current book project explores the uses of science fiction in recent Caribbean literature and film. Portions of this research project have been published as: *Deformaciones literarias: Embriología, genealogía y ciencia ficción en El Informe Cabrera de José ‘Pepe’ Liboy* (Revista Iberoamericana 2017), and *Walking Dead in Havana: Juan de los muertos and the Zombie Film Genre, Simultaneous Worlds: Global Science Fiction Cinema*, Eds. Jennifer Feeley and Sarah Ann Wells (University of Minnesota Press 2015).

Professor Maguire is affiliated with the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program and the Latina and Latino Studies Program. She is also on the core faculty of the Poetry & Poetics Colloquium (PPC), the principal forum for cross-disciplinary, trans-historical scholarship on poetics at Northwestern. In 2017–18 she was the recipient of a fellowship from the Alice Kaplan Institute of the Humanities at Northwestern.



### John D. Márquez, PhD

Associate Professor of African American and Latino/a Studies

Dr. Márquez is interested in black-Latina/o relations, Afro-Latina America, racial violence, anti-racist activism, critical race theory, and globalization.

A citizen of the Chiricahua Apache Nation who has been widely published and featured in the media, Márquez is currently a professor in the Department of African-American Studies and a founding member of the Latina and Latino Studies program at Northwestern University. His academic research focuses on the relationship between race and genocide, prisons, borders, settler colonialism, neoliberalism, the law, de-colonial ethics, and political theory.

In addition to his scholarly pursuits, Márquez is also an activist who has addressed topics ranging from border militarization to police brutality. His second book, *Genocidal Democracy: Neoliberalism, Mass Incarceration and the Politics of Urban Gun Violence*, was published by Routledge Press in 2015.

# The Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The Graduate School's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) focuses on the recruitment and support of underrepresented populations to foster an inclusive environment and facilitate community engagement. ODI is committed to the personal and intellectual growth of our diverse student population. ODI partners with the University's Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI) and the Office of Equity, among others, to provide a transformative educational experience for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees at Northwestern.



**Damon L. Williams, Jr., MBA**  
Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion  
The Graduate School



**Erica Knight**  
Senior Program Coordinator  
The Graduate School



**Rashaad Barnett**  
Program Coordinator, SROP Director  
The Graduate School



**Felix Nunez '15 PhD**  
SROP Coordinator  
Postdoctoral Trainee, Thoracic  
Surgery Division of Pulmonary and  
Critical Care Medicine



**Liliana Hernandez-Gonzalez**  
Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Intern  
PhD Candidate, Civil & Environmental  
Engineering



**Ivan Hernandez**  
Diversity and Inclusion Graduate Intern  
PhD Candidate, Social Psychology



