

# Virtual Gulf States Math Alliance Conference



Friday, February 19, 2021

Time	Location	Session	Participants
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Main Room	<b>Graduate and Undergraduate Fair</b>	Everyone
2:30 – 2:40 PM	Main Room	<b>Welcome</b> <a href="#">Phyllis Okwan</a> (Southern University) <a href="#">Phil Kutzko</a> (University of Iowa) <a href="#">David Goldberg</a> (Purdue University) <b>Introduction of Schools</b> <a href="#">Joe Omojola</a> (Southern University-New Orleans)	Everyone
2:40 – 2:45 PM	Main Room	<b>Jazz/Group Photo</b>	Everyone
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Main Room	<b>Introduction</b> <a href="#">Jianzhong Su</a> (University of Texas at Arlington) <b>Keynote Speaker</b> <a href="#">Edray Goins</a> (Pomona College)	Everyone
3:30– 3:35 PM	Main Room	Break/Jazz	Everyone
3:35 – 4:10 PM	Breakout Rooms	<b>What I Wish I Knew Before Graduate School</b> <a href="#">Ashley Alfred</a> (University of Texas at Arlington) <a href="#">Jocelyn Baca</a> (University of Texas at Arlington) <a href="#">Arturo Torres</a> (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) Moderator: <a href="#">Theresa Martines</a> (University of Texas at Austin)	Students
3:35 – 4:10 PM		<b>New Era of Teaching</b> <a href="#">Joe Omojola</a> (Southern University-New Orleans) <a href="#">Cristina Villalobos</a> (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) Moderator: <a href="#">Albertha Lawson</a> (Southern University)	Faculty
4:10 – 4:45 PM	Main Room	<b>Careers in Government and Industry</b> <a href="#">Calandra Tate Moore</a> (Department of Defense) <a href="#">Ariel Leslie</a> (Lockheed Martin) Moderator: <a href="#">Donald Cole</a> (University of Mississippi)	Everyone
4:45 – 4:55 PM	Main Room	<b>FGAP Program</b> <a href="#">Phil Kutzko</a> (University of Iowa)	Everyone
4:55 – 5:00 PM	Main Room	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <a href="#">Jianzhong Su</a> (University of Texas at Arlington)	Everyone
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Main Room	<b>Alliance Update and Planning – Faculty Only</b>	Faculty

## Keynote Speaker Dr. Edray Goins



**TITLE** Mentoring that Uplifts Amidst Circumstances that Destroy: Claytor, Malone-Mayes, and the True Legacy of R.L. Moore

### **ABSTRACT**

William Schieffelin Claytor, the third African American to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics, was mentored by Elbert Cox and Dudley Woodard, the first and second African Americans to earn Ph.D.'s in mathematics, respectively. In the 1930's, Claytor received offers to work as a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study and at the University of Michigan; and he even published in the Annals of Mathematics. But by his 30's, he had given up on mathematics, some say discouraged and broken by numerous racist encounters in the profession.

Vivienne Malone-Mayes, the seventh African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics, was mentored by Evelyn Boyd Granville and Etta Falconer, the second and twelfth African American women to earn Ph.D.'s in mathematics, respectively. In the 1970's, Malone-Mayes would direct the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), serve as the first African American on the Executive

Committee of the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM), and be one of the founding members of the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM). She continued to publish, even into her late 40's.

These two African Americans had their lives irrevocably changed by the anti-Semitic, sexist, and racist beliefs of the towering topologist Robert Lee Moore. But why did one promising African American thrive, while the other withered? In this talk, we discuss the work of mentoring in the age of institutionalized racism. We focus on the differences between mentoring, advising, and championing our students. The speaker will draw on historical accounts of African American mathematicians, and relate with his own personal experiences in building a community of African American researchers in the mathematical sciences.