



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

MATC
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2010

<http://matc.unl.edu>

SCHOLARS PROGRAM PRESENTERS

The goal of the MATC Scholars Program is to promote graduate study among under-represented minorities and women in the STEM fields with a special focus on doctoral-granting and research intensive institutions.

The program provides specific, targeted seminars to improve the performance, recruitment, and retention of underrepresented students into STEM-related fields.

For More Information Please Contact:

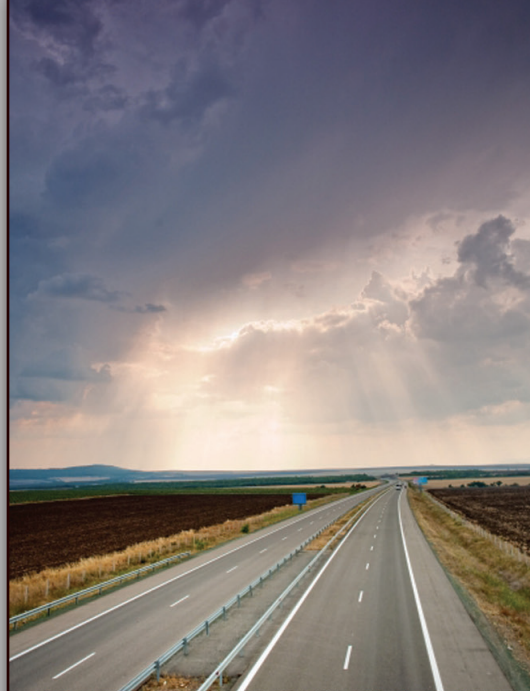
Dr. Erick Jones

Associate Professor

Director RFID Supply Chain Lab

Director Transportation Logistics Lab

Industrial and Management Systems Engineering



Dr. Erick C. Jones

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Dr. Erick C. Jones is an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska and Director of the University of Nebraska's RFID Supply Chain Lab and Transportation Logistics Lab. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Industrial Engineering and later attained a MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston. He has held positions in industry that include Engineering Specialist at UPS, Engineering Director at Academy Sports and Outdoors, Engineering Consultant and Project Manager at Tompkins Associates, and Executive Manager at Arthur Anderson, LLP.

Dr. Jones expertise has led him to become an expert in the field of supply chain optimization, distribution logistics and inventory control. His unique background led him to one of the first and largest academic RFID labs in the country. He has published two textbooks on RFID and has edited two industry texts on the subject, and is currently working on a military handbook for RFID and other Automatic Information technologies, which include GPS and satellite tags.

Currently, his reasearch is focused on RFID for US Department of Transportation, Department of Defense Transportation Command, and with NASA JSC. His research studies include RFID, RTLS, and satellite technology development and testing with respect to inventory control. Other research areas include Supply Chain Logistics, Six Sigma Quality Engineering Management, and Knowledge Worker Turnover.



Dr. Judy A. Perkins

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Dr. Perkins is a Texas A&M University (TAMU) Regents Professor and a Professor in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department at Prairie View A&M University.

Dr. Perkins holds a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Southern University, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), and Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively. Her research has focused on statewide intermodal transportation planning, transportation logistics, hurricane evacuation analysis, military logistics, engineering education, minority outreach, optimization of transportation infrastructure investments, and radio-frequency identification (RFID) technologies used by motor carriers and for underground utilities. Dr. Perkins' current research activities involve working on projects funded by an array of state and federal agencies. The agencies are: (1) Mid-American Transportation Center (MATC), (2) National Science Foundation (NSF), (3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), (4) Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), (5) Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), and the (6) US Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Moreover, Dr. Perkins has accumulated extensive experience in the development of survey design, data collection, state-level transportation planning, and the refinement of economic development methodologies used to evaluate transportation-related activities. Dr. Perkins' extensive record of publication extends into both the national and international transportation and engineering education arenas. Lastly, Dr. Perkins is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas.



Dr. Laurence Rilett

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Dr. Laurence R. Rilett is a Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). He also serves as the Director of the UNL Mid-America Transportation Center, which is the U.S. Department of Transportation Region 7 University Transportation Center, and the Nebraska Transportation Center, which is the umbrella organization for all transportation research at the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Rilett received his B.A.Sc. degree and his M.A.Sc. degree from the University of Waterloo and his Ph.D. degree from Queen's University. He has held academic positions as an Assistant Professor and an Associate Professor (1995) at the University of Alberta and as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at Texas A&M University (TAMU). Additionally, he is a Professional Engineer in the state of Texas.

Dr. Rilett has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on over 25 research projects. Dr. Rilett's field of research is in the transportation system analysis area and his specific research may be divided into two main areas: Intelligent Transportation Systems applications and large-scale transportation system modeling. He has authored or co-authored over 60 refereed journal papers and over 70 conference papers based on his research. In 2002 he was awarded the Texas Transportation Institute TTI/Trinity Researcher Award and in 2007 he was awarded the UNL College of Engineering Research Award. Dr. Rilett is an Associate Editor of the ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering and on the editorial board of the Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems: Technology, Planning, and Operations.



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Dr. Raymond K. Moore is the Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs and Professor of Civil Engineering in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering. He served as a faculty member in the Civil Engineering departments at Auburn University (1971-1984) and at the University of Kansas (1984-1997) before joining the UNL Civil Engineering faculty as the Department Chair in July 1997. Dr. Moore is a Fellow and Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); a Member Emeritus of the TRB Committee on Cementitious Stabilization; a D-4 & D-18 Committee member in the American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM); a member of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE); and a member of the National and Nebraska Societies of Professional Engineers. He is a past TRB Group 2 Council Chair, Geomaterials Section Chair, and Soil Stabilization Committee Chair as well as a past member of the SHRP and TRB Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Executive Committees. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Alabama, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.



Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy
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Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy was appointed acting Dean of Graduate Studies on January 1, 2010. She continues her role as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research. She joined UNL in 2005.



Trained as a neuroscientist, Espy is a Professor in the Department of Psychology.

Before joining UNL, she was a faculty member at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, where she taught undergraduates, graduates and first-year medical students, and was Founding Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Integrative Research in Cognitive and Neural Sciences. In 2001, Espy received the Rita G. Rudel Award for Pediatric Neuropsychology/Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience and her department's Faculty Educator of the Year Award. In 2005, she received the Early Career Award from Division 40 of the American Psychological Association, and was named a fellow of the same division.

Espy earned her bachelor's degree from Rice University and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Houston. After an internship at the University of Louisville's School of Medicine/Bingham Child Guidance Center and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, she obtained licensure as a Clinical Psychologist. Her research focuses on identifying the antecedents of learning and behavioral disorders in medically at-risk populations. She pioneered the use of cognitive neuroscience tools and advanced multilevel growth modeling methods to characterize the normative development of emergent self-regulation skills in young children and infants.



Dr. Ibibia K. Dabipi
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Dr. Ibibia K. Dabipi's research interests include Computer Security and Network Management, Parallel Computing and Algorithms Development, Performance Evaluation of Computer Networks, Optimization of Transportation Networks and Economic Analysis of Transportation Facilities. I. K. Dabipi holds the following degrees: a PhD, in Electrical Engineering, 1987; a Master of Science, in Electrical Engineering, 1981, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; a Bachelor of Science, in Electrical Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics/Mathematics, 1979 from Texas A&I University, Kingsville, Texas. He was the Chair of the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences from 2001 through 2006. Currently, I. K. Dabipi is a Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Prior to coming to University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, he was the Interim Chairman, and Chairman, of the Electrical Engineering Department at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His experiences include working at Bell Communications Research and AT&T Bell Labs as a member of technical staff during the summers of 1984 through 1987. He has authored or co-authored many technical articles for publications and presentations.



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Dr. Blevins has a bachelor's and master's degree from Southern University and Georgia Tech respectively, both in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Blevins also has a PhD degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Blevins is currently an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His primary interest is in engineering design and engineering education. He currently teaches engineering mechanics, senior design and engineering management courses in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He also serves as the advisor for the student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Renee Rodriguez Batman
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Dr. Renee Rodriguez Batman is the Director of Graduate Recruitment at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has worked in graduate recruitment since 2006 and has led the Nebraska Summer Research Program (a consortium of REUs) since 2010. She has led and facilitated numerous workshops for undergraduate scholars about finding, selecting, applying to and getting admitted to graduate programs. Prior to coming to UNL, she worked in undergraduate admissions and recruitment.

Ms. Batman holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications from Kansas State University; a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the same field. Her research includes issues of access to education, diversity in STEM disciplines, and financial aid.



Amy O. Maki, M.Ed.
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Amy O. Maki is the founder and President of A. O. Maki & Associates, L.L.C., a consulting company that focuses on improving the capability, capacity, and effectiveness of individuals and organizations. Her practice integrates human development theory and

practical knowledge to provide strategies for successful career and life management and to guide organizations in effective program development and implementation.

Maki is a requested speaker, writer, and consultant with over 35 years of experience who is presently serving as a consultant to the Hispanic College Fund as they expand their mentoring initiative. She served as Founding Director of Admissions, Student Services and Community Relations for the University of Washington-Bothell; Assistant to the Dean (College of Engineering) for the University of Washington-Seattle; and Program Manager and Minority-serving Institutions Specialist for MentorNet.

Maki holds a B.A. from the University of Washington, M.Ed. from the University of Washington Bothell, and a Leadership Institute certificate from the Harvard Consortium Program on Negotiation.



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Dr. Deo Chimba, P.E., PTOE is an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at Tennessee State University. He received his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from University of Dar es Salaam in 2002, a Master's of Science in Civil Engineering from Florida State University in 2004 and

a PhD in Transportation Engineering from University of Miami in 2008. Dr. Chimba has approximately nine years combined teaching, research and industrial experience in the transportation engineering and planning field. Prior to joining Tennessee State University, Dr. Chimba worked for four years as a Transportation Engineer with Stanley Consultants, Inc. located in West Palm Beach, Florida. His research interests include traffic forecasting and demand modeling, highway safety, traffic analysis, traffic simulation, public/transit transportation, bicycle and pedestrian studies and the application of statistics in transportation and civil engineering. He has published quality papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings using advanced statistical modeling techniques for highway safety, traffic analysis, transportation planning and traffic flow studies.



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Dr. Kelley is a Professor of Chemistry at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. She currently serves as Interim Dean of the Dolores Spikes Honors College. Dr. Kelley received her PhD in Biochemistry from Louisiana State University and has 27 years of teaching at Southern University, primarily in general chemistry and biochemistry. Dr. Kelley also serves as Co-Director of the Timbuktu Academy, a highly-regarded academic mentoring and training program

for STEM majors at Southern University. Her other activities include working with the Academy's precollege programs.



MATC Scholars Program Agenda

SESSION 1

Choosing a Graduate Program

The nuances of choosing a graduate program in the context of the student's background, financial environment and relative quality of the programs of interest are articulated. How the issues of online versus traditional coursework considerations as well as M.S to Ph.D decision making process affect the ultimate path taken to achieve the student's graduate school goals is discussed. A synopsis of the process of identifying, evaluating and choosing a program compatible with the needs of the prospective graduate will be examined.

SESSION 2

Communication Skills Workshop

The Communication Skills Workshop will address the components of active communication—written and oral. The importance of appropriate writing and speaking in academic and corporate settings will be stressed. In the interactive session, participants will be challenged to improve their communication skills through hands-on and oral activities. Participants will develop and/or critique their personal statements. Emphasis will also be placed on understanding the role of non-verbal communication cues.

Session 3

Graduate School Student Experience

Graduate school is an opportunity for individuals to expand their knowledge and choices for their future careers. While it is an advanced level of learning compared to undergraduate studies, graduate school can be associated with challenges for which the student needs to be prepared. Students need prior knowledge of how to choose a program of study, meet admission requirements, meet advisor expectations, connect with the right groups, and register for the right classes. All these can be summed up as graduate school experience and challenges. The challenges can include introspectively questioning if all the investment you put into education is worthwhile, how marketable you will be after graduating, or which career path you will follow after you graduate. Furthermore, your mentality as a student, networking with other students, socialization to new environments, and expectations from your faculty advisor are all part of the experience and challenges for which a graduate student has to be prepared. Discussion will be targeted to different experiences a graduate student should expect from the time he/she is admitted to graduate school to the time of graduation. Students will learn the benefits of graduate school, how to choose and please the advisors, work ethic as a graduate student, teaching and research assistant opportunities and anticipated challenges.

SESSION 4

Choosing a Faculty Mentor

This session includes information about identifying and selecting a faculty mentor or advisor. The topics covered include getting a good understanding about what to look for in a mentor or advisor. Discussions include getting students' perspectives of what a faculty mentor is, finding a mentor that matches your needs, benefits of a positive relationship between a faculty mentor and student, and what is expected from a mentor or advisor. Is there a difference between a faculty mentor and an academic advisor? This session will include discussions on these topics and others to provide some insight into what students may experience during graduate school. The goal of this session is to show that faculty mentors or advisors are essential to the success of graduate students.

Thursday, September 23rd, 2010

- 7:30am** Breakfast
Conference Room A
- 8:00am** MATC Introduction/Welcome (Dr. Laurence Rilett)
- 8:30am** Overview of MATC Scholars Program (Dr. Judy Perkins & Dr. Erick Jones)
- 8:45am** Overview of UNL – (Dr. Raymond Moore, Associate Dean of UNL College of Engineering)
- 9:00am** Break
- 9:15am** Sessions 1-3, Rotation 1
Session 1 - Choosing a Graduate Program (Dr. Dabipi)
Conference Room B – group 1
Session 2 - Communication Skills (Dr. Kelley)
Conference Room C – group 2
Session 3 - Graduate School Student Experience (Dr. Chimba)
Conference Room D – group 3
- 10:30am** Break
- 10:45am** Sessions 1-3, Rotation 2
Session 1 (Dr. Dabipi)
Conference Room B – group 3
Session 2 (Dr. Kelley)
Conference Room C – group 1
Session 3 (Dr. Chimba)
Conference Room D – group 2
- 12:00pm** Lunch at Billy's Restaurant
- 1:30pm** *Opportunities for MATC partnership (Faculty only)
Conference Room C
- 1:30pm** Student Panel: Angela Garza and Maurice Cavitt, Ph.D. candidates
Conference Room A
- 2:15pm** Tour of Whittier Research Building
- 2:45pm** Break
- 3:00pm** Sessions 1-3, Rotation 3
Session 1 (Dr. Dabipi)
Conference Room B – group 2
Session 2 (Dr. Kelley)
Conference Room C – group 3
Session 3 (Dr. Chimba)
Conference Room D – group 1
- 4:15pm** Break
- 4:30pm** Sessions 4-6, Rotation 1
Session 4 - Choosing Faculty Mentors (Dr. Blevins)
Conference Room B – group 1
Session 5 - Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances (Dr. Jones)
Conference Room C – group 2
Session 6 - Graduate Student Specific Skills (Dr. Perkins)
Conference Room D – group 3
- 6:00pm** Return to hotel
- 7:15pm** Dinner (Buzzard Billy's – Cajun food)

Friday, September 24th, 2010

- 8:00am** Breakfast – Conference Room A
- 8:30am** Overview of Transportation Engineering (Dr. Rilett)
- 9:00am** Break
- 9:15am** Sessions 4-6, Rotation 2
Session 4 - Choosing Faculty Mentors (Dr. Blevins)
Conference Room B – group 3
Session 5 - Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances (Dr. Jones)
Conference Room – C – group 1
Session 6 - Graduate Student Specific Skills (Dr. Perkins)
Conference Room D – group 2
- 10:30am** Break
- 10:45am** Sessions 4-6, Rotation 3
Session 4 - (Dr. Blevins)
Conference Room B – group 2
Session 5 - (Dr. Jones)
Conference Room C – group 3
Session 6 - (Dr. Perkins)
Conference Room D – group 1
- 12:00pm** Lunch & Keynote – The Importance of Graduate School in Challenging Economic Times (Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Acting Dean of Graduate Studies)
- 1:30pm** Sessions 7 and 8, Rotation 1
Session 7 – Mentoring Communities (Ms. Maki)
Conference Room C – students last names A-K
Session 8 – Graduate Studies Process 411 (Ms. Batman)
Conference Room D – students last names L-Z
- 2:45pm** Break
- 3:00pm** Session 7 and 8, Rotation 2
Session 7 (Ms. Maki): Conference Room C – student last names M-Z
Session 8 (Ms. Batman): Conference Room D – student last names A-L
- 4:15pm** Break
- 4:30pm** General Session – Evaluations & Closing Remarks (Dr. Jones, Dr. Perkins)
Conference Room A
- 5:00pm** Adjourn
- Conference Room A:**
South Central 3rd Floor, Whittier Research Center
- Conference Room B:**
Business Office Conference Room (2nd Floor East: 262B)
- Conference Room C:**
Transportation Systems Engineering Conference Room (3rd Floor West)
- Conference Room D:**
Infrastructure Conference Room (3rd Floor East)

Session 5

Understanding Funding and Budgeting Finances

This session provides students a working knowledge of the process of receiving funds as a graduate student and or a research assistant. It describes the risks of losing funding due to things such as poor work ethic or the funding agency eliminating funding. We discuss setting up budgeting, savings, and investing strategies that are flexible enough to support the student with funding and if the funding is lost. Also, we discuss strategies for supporting faculty to receive more funding in order to possibly increase your stipend. Topics include: Graduate Assistant Work Mentality (Work Ethic), Maintaining Funding (MS to PhD), Teaching Assistantships, Research Assistantships, Finding Funding (GEM, Sloan, Ford, ONR, etc), and Critical Faculty Advisory Project Engagement.

Session 6

Graduate Students' Specific Skills

As students matriculate through graduate school, it can be challenging to identify the specific skills and professional assets that they have acquired. Most of these skills can be transferable, thus positioning the graduate student to being a greater asset within his/her professional career. This session will expose students to some of the common specific skills graduate students develop while attending graduate school as well as discuss the benefits to using these skills to navigate through career paths internal and external to the academy.

Session 7

"Mentoring Communities" for Academic Success

The role of mentoring in graduate school is a well-documented strategy that provides students with coaching, counseling, and nurturing support that is essential to developing academically, personally, and professionally. Mentoring is a critical aspect of graduate school success and the successful graduate student seeks mentors from a variety of communities: faculty, peers, and other key personnel within and outside the university.

This session is designed to provide mentoring strategies you can use to network with individuals who can guide your success as you contemplate your personal rationale for pursuing graduate school and provide advice and assistance in navigating the application processes for admission and financial aid.

Session 8

Making the Short List: Applying and Getting Admitted to Graduate Programs

This session will cover the basics of applying to graduate programs, and it will also help you learn how to create a competitive application packet. From GRE scores, personal statements and letters of recommendation, each piece has a purpose and a pitfall. Learn what to do and what not to do. A case study in graduate admissions will help you see the process from the graduate committee point-of-view.

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