

STEMINISM

Advocating for Leadership in STEM

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Registration & Breakfast

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM

Welcome - Dr. Angela Laird

8:45 AM - 9:30 AM

Keynote - Dr. Deidra Hodges

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Break

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

Dr. Rene Price

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Dr. Leila Allen

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM

Dr. Anamika Prasad

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Dr. DeEtta Mills

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Lunch

STEMINISM

ADVOCATING FOR
LEADERSHIP IN STEM

Twelfth Annual

Women in Science Seminar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 08, 2024

GRAHAM CENTER 355

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MARC
U ★ STAR



MEET THE KEYNOTE



Dr. Deidra Hodges

Electrical and Computer
Engineering
Department Chair
Associate Professor

Introducing Dr. Deidra Hodges, a trailblazer in electrical and computer engineering and the first Black department chair at Florida International University (FIU). Dr. Hodges, an associate professor specializing in photovoltaics, assumed the Chair position at FIU in fall 2021, reflecting her commitment to academic excellence. Her extensive professional background includes significant contributions to NASA, work at IBM, and roles in the aerospace/defense sector, alongside teaching positions at respected institutions. At FIU, Dr. Hodges leads cutting-edge research in photovoltaics and actively promotes diversity through mentorship programs.

Beyond her academic and professional achievements, Dr. Hodges is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment, which is evident in her role as a mentor professor in the Office to Advance Women, Equity & Diversity at FIU. Her journey embodies resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to positive change, making her not only a distinguished figure in engineering and sustainability but also a beacon for diversity and inclusion. Dr. Hodges' impactful experiences and dedication position her as an inspiring keynote speaker, offering insights into excellence, innovation, and the transformative power of diversity in engineering and sustainability.

NOTES

"I tell young people: Do not think of yourself, think of others. Think of the future that awaits you, think about what you can do and do not fear anything."

- Rita Levi-Montalcini, Italian neurologist and Nobel Prize winner in Physiology

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Women in Science Planning Committee would like to thank our speakers and moderator for their participation and support of our Women in Science Seminar. Special thanks to the volunteers from the MARC U*STAR Program, the Undergraduate Research Society, and Nu Rho Psi (neuroscience honor society). We would like to offer our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, whose generous contributions helped underwrite this seminar, including The Registered Student Organizations Council.

PAST SPEAKERS & PARTICIPANTS

2023

Dr. Sharon Ewe
Dr. Anamika Prasad
Dr. Leila Allen
Dr. Ligia Collado-Vides
Krista Donis
Dr. Irina Chuvashova
Dr. Amy Paul-Ward

2022

Dr. Asia Eaton
Dr. Jennifer Rehage
Marisol Soula
Dr. Heba Ali
Dr. Suzanna Rose
Christina Burns

2021

Dr. Dione Rossiter
Hallie Kapner
Dr. Melissa McCartney
Tanja Zerulla

2020

Dr. Yolangel (Yogi) Hernandez
Suarez
Ms. Caroline Nunez
Dr. Michelle Hershman
Dr. Kalai Mathee
Dr. Angela Laird
Tanja Zerulla
Dr. Svetlana Roudenko
Sana Nasim
Rhyisa Armbrister
Dr. Sandra Stojanovic

2019

Ms. Meily De Leon
Dr. Barbra Roller
Dr. Ana Viamonte-Ros
Dr. Angela Laird
Dr. Yesim Darici
Dr. Marisela Agudelo
Ms. Jessica Olivera
Ms. Christina Burns
Dr. Monique Ross
Dr. Marcy Kravec

2018

Dr. Maria Areiza
Dr. Marcy Kravec
Dr. Angela Laird
Dr. Douglas Robertson
Ms. Alyssa Delgado
Dr. Kalai Mathee
Dr. Cheryl Brewster
Dr. Patria Rojas
Dr. Cheryl Holder
Dr. Jessica Ramella-Roman

2017

Dr. Consuelo Beck-Sague
Dr. Geoffrey Potvin
Dr. Angela Laird
Dr. Ellen Dow
Dr. Cheryl Brewster
Dr. Yesim Darici
Dr. Lidia Kos
Dr. DeEtta Mills
Dr. Eliza Nelson
Dr. Marcy Kravec

2016

Dr. Aileen M. Marty

2015

Dr. Renetta G. Tull

2014

Dr. Yesim Darici
Dr. Lidia Kos
Dr. Cheryl Brewster
Dr. Marcy Kravec
Dr. Marisela Agudelo
Dr. Shannon Pruden
Dr. Kathleen Rein
Dr. Jennifer Rehage
Dr. Suzanne Koptur

2013

Dr. Victoria Freedman

MEET THE COMMITTEE



AMY REID



ASFA SIDDIQUI



NAYERIC CAIRO



ANDREA RIVERA



ISMARAY GOVEA



HANNAH TRUONG



KARAM ABILMOUNA



STEMINISM STORE

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Dr. DeEtta Mills, Director of the International Forensic Research Institute and Chairperson of the Department of Biological Sciences at FIU, is an Associate Professor with expertise in environmental science and molecular biology. Leading the Forensic DNA Profiling Facility, Dr. Mills' research in functional metagenomics and innovative methods, like detector canine training for pathogen identification, significantly contributes to forensic science and justice.



Dr. DeEtta Mills
Chairperson,
Associate Professor

Biological Sciences,
International
Forensic Research
Institute



Dr. Anamika Prasad
Associate Professor

Biomedical
Engineering

Dr. Anamika Prasad, FIU Associate Professor, focuses on biobased material design and tissue biomechanics for precision agriculture and healthcare. With a background from MIT and industry experience, her research, securing \$1.2 million in grants, includes the NSF CAREER award in 2021. Dr. Prasad's work at the intersection of materials science and biology advances disease detection, treatment, and biomedical device development.

Dr. Leila Allen, Founding Director of FIU's Behavioral Neuroscience Undergraduate Program, specializes in translational neuroscience and Alzheimer's Disease research using a pig model. Notably, she holds patents for RatHat, a 3D printable brain implant system. Recognized for teaching excellence, Dr. Allen received the Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award and was named a Top Scholar for Teaching Scholarship in Fall 2022. She earned her PhD and MS in Neurobiology & Behavior from the University of California, Irvine.



Dr. Leila Allen
Associate Teaching Professor

Psychology and
Behavioral
Neuroscience



Dr. Rene Price
Associate Dean,
Professor

University Graduate
School, Earth and
Environment

Dr. Rene Price, FIU Professor specializing in hydrogeology, is affiliated with the Center for Aquatic Chemistry and the Environment. With a Ph.D. from the University of Miami, her research focuses on hydrogeology, ecohydrology, and low-temperature aqueous geochemistry in carbonate terrains. Using chemical tracers, including isotopes, Dr. Price investigates water sources and groundwater-surface water interactions in locations like south Florida, the Yucatan of Mexico, and Mallorca, Spain.