

# Get your STEM Graduate Degree TUITION-FREE



Dear GEM GRAD Lab Participants:

We are pleased to have you join us for the Virtual Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees (GRAD) Lab presented by the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at Dallas.

You are here today because mentors interested in your development as a student and future professional know that graduate education is a national imperative—not only for the individual seeking an advanced career in science and engineering, but also for the United States and the nation's future as a leader in innovation and competitor in the global economy.

The University of Texas at Arlington is proud to partner with GEM to help fulfill the mission of bridging the gap of underrepresented minorities within the STEM professional fields. Please take advantage of all the opportunities provided here by the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at Dallas and GEM. Enjoy the various presentations and best wishes!

Sincerely,

**Dr. Erick C. Jones, PhD, P.E., CLSSMBB, MSIE**  
George and Elizabeth Endowed Professor  
Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs, College of Engineering  
Director RAID LABS  
The University of Texas at Arlington



Dear GEM GRAD Lab Participants:

Welcome to the Fall 2020 Virtual Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees (GRAD) Lab!

We are pleased to have you join us for the GRAD Lab and encourage you to take advantage of all of the opportunities provided here today by the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Texas at Arlington, and GEM. It is our hope that your participation in the GRAD Lab will contribute to the upward trajectory of unrepresented students pursuing graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). We believe through this experience you will be motivated to complete your undergraduate degree programs and energized to pursue graduate programs in the STEM fields.

I am grateful for the support GEM and my GEM sponsor, 3M provided me as I pursued my Master's degree and hope that each of you is able to share this experience.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie G. Adams, Ph.D.**  
Dean and Lars Magnus Ericsson Chair  
University of Texas at Dallas

## VIRTUAL GRAD LAB

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020

### MASTER OF CEREMONY

**Terrence Freeman, Ph.D.**, Professor in Mechanical Engineering, St. Louis Community College

### 10:00 am WELCOME

**Erick Jones, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean of the Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington

**Stephanie G. Adams, Ph.D.**, Dean of the School of Engineering & Computer Science, University of Texas at Dallas (GEM Alum)

### 10:10 am WHY GRAD SCHOOL?

**Howard G. Adams, Ph.D.**, GEM Program Consultant

### 11:00 am HOW TO COMPETITIVELY APPLY FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Lin Larson**, Director of Student Recruitment in the Dean's Office, College of Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington

**Shyam Karrah**, Director of Graduate Student Services in Computer Science, University of Texas at Dallas

### 11:50 am OPEN DISCUSSION (COMMENTS & QUESTIONS)

### 12:00 pm GRADUATE RESOURCE FAIR

### 1:00 pm WELCOME

**Terrence Freeman, Ph.D.**, Professor in Mechanical Engineering, St. Louis Community College

### 1:05 pm HOW TO FUND GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Marcus Huggans, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, Client Relations, GEM (GEM Alum)

### 1:55 pm OPEN DISCUSSION (COMMENTS & QUESTIONS)

### 2:00 pm VOICES FROM THE FIELD PANEL

Moderator: **Lashun Massey, Ph.D.**, Program Manager for Research in the School of Engineering & Computer Science, University of Texas at Dallas

Panelists:

**Satwik Dutta**, Ph.D. Student in Electrical Engineering, University of Texas at Dallas

**David Reynoso**, Masters Student in Aerospace Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington (GEM Fellow)

**Anita Omo-Okhuasuyi**, Ph.D. Candidate in Electrical Engineering, University of Texas at San Antonio

**Daniel Portillo**, Ph.D. Candidate in Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at San Antonio

### 2:50 pm CLOSING/RAFFLE

# GEM GRAD Lab Presenters



## Stephanie G. Adams, Ph.D. (GEM Alum)

Dr. Stephanie G. Adams is the Dean and Lars Magnus Ericsson Chair of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science at University of Texas at Dallas. Previously, she served as Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at Old Dominion University

from 2016-2019 and the Department Head and Professor of Engineering Education at Virginia Tech from 2011-2016. Dr. Adams is an honor graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, where she earned her BS in Mechanical Engineering, in 1988. In 1991 she was awarded the Master of Engineering degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Virginia. She received her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1998.



## Satwik Dutta

Satwik is a first-year Ph.D. candidate in Electrical Engineering at UT Dallas pursuing research in speech processing. He graduated with an MS-EE degree from UT Dallas in Spring 2020. Currently he is working to develop speech processing algorithms to analyze child-adult interactions

in pre-school classrooms, thereby understanding speech and language development in children. During his academic career at UT Dallas, he received the Jonsson School Graduate Scholarship (2018) and Pathways to Research Graduate Scholarship (2019) by UT Dallas, and Fall 2020 LDC Data Scholarship (2020) by Linguistic Data Consortium of University of Pennsylvania.



## Erick Jones, Ph.D.

Dr. Erick Jones is an Industrial Engineer and Professor in the Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. He is considered an expert in the Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID), Quality Engineering, and

Lean Six Sigma. He is the George and Elizabeth Pickett Endowed Professor as well as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Dr. Jones's background led him to be invited to the National Science Foundation (NSF) as program officer for the largest Engineering Investment in the country, the Engineering Research Center (ERC).



## Shyam Karrah

Shyam Karrah is a Professor of Instruction and Director of Graduate Student Services in the Computer Science Department at UT Dallas. He received M.S. in Computer Science from Jackson State University. Mr. Karrah has over 26 years of teaching experience in the

computer science department. His areas of interests includes programming languages. Prior to joining UTD, he taught for 6 years in the CS department at New Mexico Junior College and served as a department chair. For the last 10 years, Mr. Karrah has been overseeing the graduate student admissions, advising and recruitment in the CS department at UT Dallas.



## Lin Larson

Lin Larson is the Director of Student Recruitment in the Dean's Office, College of Engineering, The University of Texas at Arlington. In this position, Lin is charged with creating and implementing a recruitment strategic plan to grow the college significantly

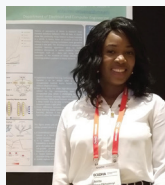
by 2025. In her 20+-year career in international recruitment and admissions, she has worked in 4 institutions of higher education, all with varying admission requirements for academic programs at each institution.



## Lashun Massey, Ph.D.

Dr. Lashun Massey, P.E. is the Program Manager for Research in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science at the University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Massey received her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. She was

awarded both a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and M.E. degree in Engineering from Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN. Prior to joining UT Dallas, Dr. Massey was the STEM Center Director at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. She is a registered professional engineer, small business owner, and program evaluator for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.



## Anita Omo-Okhuasuyi

Anita Omo-Okhuasuyi is a Doctoral Candidate in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is passionate about modeling techniques, ranging from mathematical to computational, and its application especially in biomedical applications. She has a master's

degree from Lamar University, where she started a research pilot study on using EEG as a biomarker to diagnose Autism.



## Daniel Portillo

Daniel Portillo is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Mechanical Engineering Department at UTSA, concentrating in Thermal and Fluid Systems. Daniel received his BS in Mechanical Engineering from UTSA in 2017, which is also the same year that he finished his football career at UTSA. For

the past three years, he has been designing, building, and testing medical devices in the Medical Design Innovations Laboratory at UTSA. During that time, Daniel has led or mentored 7 projects with over 20 team members, ranging from undergraduate students to cardiothoracic surgeons.



## David Reynoso (GEM Fellow)

David Reynoso recently graduated from the University of Rochester with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. David is now pursuing a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. During the past three summers, he

interned for The Aerospace Corporation, working in the Vehicle Engineering Department for the Mass Properties group where he verifies and validates contractor's provided mass property data.