

Duke

UNIVERSITY CENTER OF
EXEMPLARY MENTORING

RESEARCH SUMMIT

February 17, 2022 | 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.



Program

WELCOME

Calvin Howell, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics
Duke UCEM Co-PI

PRESENTATIONS BY SLOAN SCHOLARS

Introduction

Melissa Bostrom
Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional Development

Presentations

Judith Dominguez, Mechanical Engineering

Cameron Darwin, Mathematics

Samantha Howell, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Yasmin Roye, Biomedical Engineering

Daniel Santana, Chemistry

Antonia Bruce, Chemistry

Kyle Pinheiro, Computer Science

Jaleesia Amos, Civil & Environmental Engineering

Jafer Vakil, Chemistry

Lillian Ekem, Biomedical Engineering

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Introduction

Jacqueline Looney
Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Programs
Associate Vice Provost for Academic Diversity
Duke UCEM Director

Keynote Speaker

Howard Conyers, Ph.D.'09 Mechanical Engineering
NASA aerospace engineer; pitmaster and barbecue enthusiast

CLOSING REMARKS

John Klingensmith, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Pediatrics

BREAKOUT ROOMS

Keynote Speaker

HOWARD CONYERS

Ph.D.'09 Mechanical Engineering
NASA Aerospace Engineer
Pitmaster and Barbecue Enthusiast



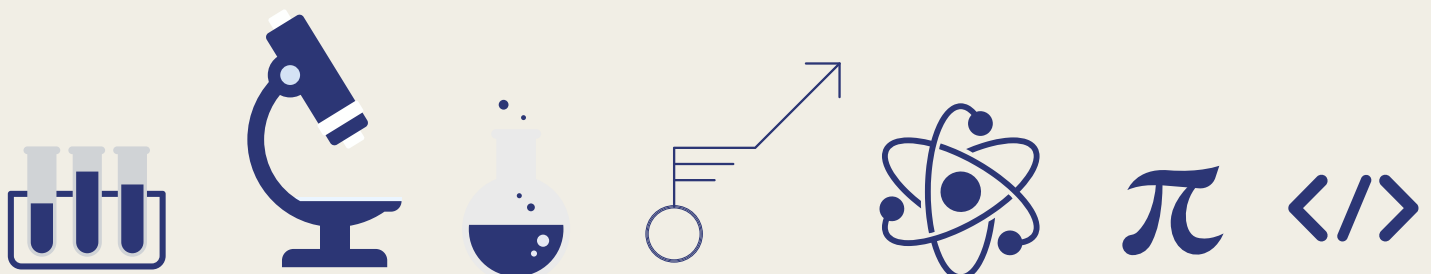
Howard Conyers, Rocket Scientist and Pitmaster from Paxville, South Carolina, is the founder of Conyers Family BBQ, Gumbo Jubilee, and the 100 Acres Project. After over 20 years of learning the history of the South and earning a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, he has worked for NASA for over 10 years.

He officially launched Conyers Family BBQ LLC in 2016 to be a pitmaster, cultural food educator, and STEM expert in the New Orleans area. His emphasis quickly became cultural educational dinners, media productions, and demonstrations. In 2018, Dr. Conyers hosted and co-produced the PBS Digital Studios show Nourish, and it was awarded the Telly Award and a Webby Nominee in its pilot season.

For his combined interest, Dr. Conyers was one of 25 people recognized as a Southerner of the

South by Southern Living in 2018. In 2020, he partnered with Kingsford's Charcoal to lead the development of the Preserve the Pit Program, which provides training and mentorship for barbecue professionals.

Dr. Conyers has conducted much research in validating the oral history of barbecue, distilling, and Southern food culture, and he has uncovered foundations of Southern foodways that were shaped by Black hands. Renowned for his knowledge of American barbecue and Southern foods, he is showcasing that African Americans have heavily shaped American barbecue despite not getting their proper credit, while also exhibiting their ingenuity. As a product of the deep rural South, he is taking important lessons of the past and applying them to the present.



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Materials Science and Engineering
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Mechanical Engineering and Material Sciences
Physics
Statistical Science

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