



GRAD STUDENTS! SIGN UP FOR SEEDS SPEED MENTORING EVENT

Thinking about your next career steps? Preparing job applications? Polishing your CV? If you'd like some professional advice on how to put your best face forward, here is your chance. The newly established UM SEEDS (Scientists and Engineers Expanding Diversity and Success) program is sponsoring a speed-mentoring event at the Rosenstiel School. The organizing committee has invited eight mentors and is now inviting an equal number of mentees to sign up. The inaugural SEEDS Speed Mentoring Event is scheduled for February 2 at the Rosenstiel School. Lunch will be provided following the speed mentoring to allow for more time for exchange.

What is "Speed Mentoring"?

Yes, you're right, it is just like speed dating—only different. Faculty will be arranged at mentoring stations; postdocs and late-stage graduate students are then paired with mentors and offer their CVs (or brief self-evaluation) for written comments. At the five-minute mark the mentee moves to a new mentor's station to receive more comments on the document and likely, comments on prior comments. These events provide intense interactions on a crucial career document, and also let people evaluate which mentor may best fit their aspirations. And, of course, they are also great fun!

When/Where: Monday, February 2, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m., RSMAS SLAB seminar room, S/A 103.

Bring: A 1-2 page professional document to jump-start your five minute interaction with a mentor: your short CV, an outline of your self-evaluation or five-year plan, or the specific aims of a grant proposal, etc.

Pre-event Q&A: Monday, January 26 at noon in S/A 103.

RSVP: To secure a spot, please e-mail **Su Sponaugle** (ssponaugle@rsmas.miami.edu) AND sign up electronically at the SEEDS website as soon as possible: <http://www.as.miami.edu/seeds/>. We will notify you if you have secured a mentee spot!

About SEEDS: The National Academies report Beyond Bias and Barriers documented that, despite advances in the proportion of women and other underrepresented minorities in science and engineering graduate programs, the proportion who become faculty continues to lag behind. Accordingly, University of Miami Provost **Tom LeBlanc** has established a University-level SEEDS office as a focus for diversity programs across all three UM campuses. SEEDS orchestrates grass-roots efforts to study and improve our climate and policies. SEEDS has been awarded an NSF ADVANCE grant for seven programs designed to provide opportunities for all scientists and engineers at UM.

SOUNDINGS IS FOR

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such as water and air quality, natural habitat protection, education and public outreach. With a million dollars, I would start a not-for-profit research foundation to study South Florida springs, springshed recharge zones, and Florida aquifer protection. With the knowledge gained, I would develop an educational public guide explaining the importance of sustaining our clean water supply; the adverse effects of neglectful land-use practices; and what individual homeowners and businesses can do to protect their precious springs, watersheds, and natural resources.

If we spend over 10 hours a day with you, what should we know about your personality?

I guess you would learn that I can be a bit scattered at times, and other times intensely focused, but there is never a dull moment. Considerable task diversity is the norm at LSS and dependent on which 10 hours of the day, and which week, month, season, you were able to spend here. The last two weeks (first two weeks in January) with Dr. **John Gifford's** class here, the day would start at 0730, organizing research dives, diving with students, excavating, mapping, recovering and processing specimens in the lab. Other times, taking YSI casts, processing water samples recovered from the bottom vents at depths over 60m by UM's scientific diving officer **Rick Riera-Gomez** and Director of Diving Operations (DSO) at The Florida Aquarium in Tampa, Florida, Casey Coy, or filtering water samples from various depths for chlorophyll analysis by Dr. **Larry Brand**. There is always something to do in the lab. Then, there is the property management aspect, exotic vegetation removal and maintenance, lawn care, facility upkeep, nature trail planning. Some Saturdays we have site tours and nature walks with volunteers or field trips with Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society members. Evening lecture presentations to local organizations also occur several times per year. Then, there is the peace and tranquility of the site when no one is here—a time to breathe and contemplate, and for the native animals to roam the spring hammock again.