Artina Dawkins  
Department: Leadership Studies  
Dissertation Title: “Program Coordinators’ Perceptions of Their Leadership Role in the Administration of Graduate Medical Education Programs”  
Major Professor: Dr. Edward Fort

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS / PROBLEMS:**
- Although program coordinators and program directors provide administrative and educational direction for trainee’s in their graduate medical education (GME) programs, details of the significance of the coordinator’s role is nearly missing from scholarly literature and is not present in the common requirements that govern all ACGME-accredited programs.
- Central research question: How do program coordinators describe their leadership?

**METHODS:**
- This phenomenological study was designed to explore program coordinators’ perceptions of their leadership role in the administration of GME programs through the lens of adaptive leadership. Data were collected via semi-structured interviews and two focus groups.

**RESULTS / FINDINGS:**
- Program coordinator’s exhibited adaptive leadership characteristics in the day-to-day management of GME programs.
- Majority of program coordinators experienced significant impact to job responsibilities based on accreditation policy changes.

**SIGNIFICANCE / IMPLICATIONS:**
- Include description of program coordinator role in ACGME’s common program requirements.
- Conduct additional studies to examine the impact of program coordinator leadership on GME programs.