Daniel Labossiere was born as the 14th of 15 children in Les Cayes, Haiti. It was the height of the Duvalier (Papa Doc) era and the citizens of Haiti were eager to escape the political persecution of the Duvalier regime. Daniel migrated to Brooklyn, NY, where he was reunited with his parents, aunts, and uncles who had moved to the US a few years earlier and begun the process of reuniting their families a few members at a time. Daniel and his family moved to South Florida to escape their deteriorating living conditions in Brooklyn. He attended the University of South Florida and graduated with a degree in Accounting. The Power of the Baton is his first published novel and is inspired by his desire to empower the next generation of his bloodline by sharing his family's struggles, and passing on the life lessons that have helped them to overcome these battles.

The Power of the Baton is an inspirational tale of a family’s battle to escape political persecution and poverty in Haiti by migrating to the United States. The story depicts life in Haiti under the ruthless dictatorship of Francois Duvalier (aka Papa Doc) and the measures that families were willing to take to escape his reign. However, once in the US, the family found itself facing similar economic conditions and dealing with a whole new set of oppressors who resented the presence of Haitian immigrants. The story details the struggles and how the family was able to overcome the odds through their spiritual beliefs and their unprecedented bond as a family. This is the story of one Haitian immigrant family, but it represents the struggles of so many other immigrant families from every nation, as well as so many other minority groups that are socially outcast and oppressed.

For additional information or disability accommodations contact Dr. Devona F. Pierre, Assistant Director of Faculty and Staff Diversity Initiatives at 813-974-3971 or dfpierre@usf.edu.