

# UCCS LEAD PHD E-Newsletter

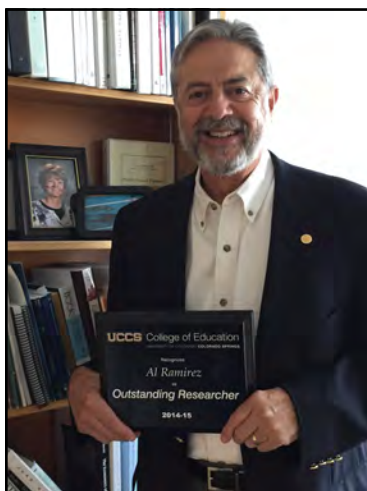


Ph.D. Educational Leadership,  
Research, and Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

Summer 2015

## Congrats to our 2014-2015 Researcher of the Year, Dr. Al Ramirez!



Hello, LRF PhD Community!  
As we move into the fall, we are excited to share College and Department updates, as well as news on student and alumni professional and scholarly endeavors and important dates for the upcoming academic year. We are continuing to refine the

PhD program to best meet our stakeholders' needs and ensure we are providing a strong scholarly-practitioner foundation for all of our students. Thus, the purpose of the LRF PhD E-Newsletter is to increase the communication flow between the Department and students and alumni. As always, please feel free to contact me any time with your questions and concerns.  
– Dr. Sylvia Martinez

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Andrea Bingham



Dr. Andrea Bingham is joining the Leadership faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor; she received her PhD in Urban Educational Policy from the University of Southern California this summer. Her prior professional experience includes working as a high school English teacher and a professional learning community facilitator at Teach For America. Dr. Bingham's research primarily addresses policy implementation and instructional reform, digital education, and organizational change. Her recent work utilizes sociocultural learning theories and qualitative research methods - including interviews, focus groups, observations, and digital and physical artifact analysis - to understand educational change

and teacher pedagogy in innovative K-12 school models. Her research has been published in academic venues, such as *Teachers College Record* and has also been featured in *Huffington Post* and NPR. This upcoming academic year, Dr. Bingham will be teaching LEAD 5700: Introduction to Research and Statistics, LEAD 7150: Methods of Qualitative Research, LEAD 7600: Doctoral Research Lab, and LEAD 8150: Applications of Qualitative Research. Please welcome Dr. Bingham to UCCS!

## INCOMING PHD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### Terainer Brown, Program Manager|SoColo REACH Program

Earning a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy unlocks the door to many opportunities. As an educator, mentor, and scholar I have many questions around the factors that contribute to the rate at which some social groups matriculate into higher education and others do not. Through my Ph.D. studies, my desire is to learn to pay closer attention to and think critically about structural and societal influences which contribute to minority underrepresentation in higher education. Through time, energy, and effort, I hope to develop the language and confidence to advocate for educational social justice. I am honored to have received the UCCS Graduate Opportunity Scholarship and Graduate Fellowship Award to pursue my doctoral degree.

## Summer Course Highlights with Dr. Ramirez

### LEAD 7300 - Ethical Leadership & Democratic Values in a Multicultural Society

Students attended a continuing education training in Denver sponsored by the Association of Corporate Counsel. The title of the training was "Watergate: Today's lessons from a White House scandal," which was presented by John Dean, White House Counsel for President Nixon, and James Robenalt, a presidential historian.



### LEAD 7350 - Leadership, Power, & Authority in Education Policy & Governance

Students attended a talk presented by Malala Yousafzai, the youngest ever Nobel Prize winner. Her inspiring talk focused on the need and value of educating girls and women around the world.

## Student Travel Award Links

LRF PhD Student Travel & Dissertation Research Funding Request:

[http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/coe/leadership/LRF%20PhD%20Student%20Travel\\_Dissertation%20Research%20Funding%20Request.pdf](http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/coe/leadership/LRF%20PhD%20Student%20Travel_Dissertation%20Research%20Funding%20Request.pdf)

UCCS Graduate School Travel Award Instructions:

[http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/graduateschool/forms/2015-16UCCS%20Travel%20Award%20Instructions\(1\).pdf](http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/graduateschool/forms/2015-16UCCS%20Travel%20Award%20Instructions(1).pdf)

## Dr. Carol Dweck Lecture



The UCCS Leadership Department, in partnership with Carrie Arnold, Assistant Director of Freshman Seminar Program and Honors Program, and Jason Ter Horst, Colorado Springs School District II Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum, and Student Services, sponsored Dr. Carol Dweck to speak at Doherty High School on May 11th. The event was completely full and brought in a large crowd of 600 people. Dr. Dweck is the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology at Stanford University, a prolific scholar and writer, and a much sought after teacher at Stanford. Her scholarly book *Self-Theories: Their Role in Motivation, Personality, and Development* was named Book of the Year by the World Education Federation, and her popular book *Mindset* is exceedingly well known in education, industry, and the public sector at large.

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## A note from our new PhD Graduate Assistant, Fola Ogunbowo!



I am so excited and very grateful for this wonderful opportunity and cannot wait to begin my learning process as a PhD Graduate Assistant! I look forward to the opportunities for growth in the areas of leadership, research, and policy. I am confident that the rigorous training I will receive will help foster my development not just as an educator but also as an individual.

## 2014-2015 PhD Fellowship Recipients



### Pat Radigan

#### Pikes Peak Community College - Business Faculty

Thanks to the fellowship, I have been able to focus much more of my attention on teaching. I currently teach a full load at PPCC and have enjoyed additional opportunities to teach at UCCS since I was accepted as a graduate fellow. It is a real challenge to teach undergraduate and graduate foundations courses for the College of Education, but the experience has really pushed me to think well beyond my required coursework. I have also been assisting Drs. Martinez and Ramirez with research projects involving both current and historical trends in K-12 education. All of these experiences have added considerable value to my time in the PhD program, and I look forward to tackling my dissertation over the next year.



### Jason Ter Horst District II

I am the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Curriculum and Student Services for District II. Since receiving the fellowship, I taught LEAD 6120: Educational Politics and Collaborative Communities in the Principal License Program. In meeting with my mentor, Dr. Scott, we have discussed research around preparedness for the principalship. I have also continued work on innovation science within the context of K-12 education.

## Faculty Grant Procurement Highlight

In June 2015, LEAD PhD-graduate Dr. Grant Clayton joined Dr. Marcus Winters and Dr. Dick Carpenter in producing two new research reports on charter schools in Denver Public Schools. One report—*Heading for the Exits: Comparing Characteristics of Leavers from Charter Schools to Traditional Public Schools in Denver Public Schools*—examined differences in the likelihood of students exiting charter schools as compared to traditional public schools. The other report—*Choices, Choices: Determining Significant Predictors of Choosing a School and Choosing Charters in Denver's Universal School Enrollment Program*—examined differences in choosing charters compared to traditional public schools. Both reports can be found at <http://www.uccs.edu/csgi/news.html>. In February 2015, Drs. Winters and Clayton also presented results from *Heading for the Exits* at the Association for Education Finance and Policy conference in Washington, DC.



## SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS FROM 2014-2015

**Amanda Allee**, Director of Student and Judicial Affairs for the Office of the Dean of Students, UCCS

**Carrie Arnold**, Assistant Director for Gateway Program Seminar & Honors Program, UCCS

**Scott Blum**, Director of International Relations, Jeppesen

**Maureen Breckenridge**, STEM Teacher, Colorado Springs School District II

**Jennifer Jirous**, State Programs and Pathways Manager, Colorado Department of Education

**Peggy McNulty**, Quantitative Methods Course Mentor, Western Governor's University

**Jenifer Robertson**, Senior Program Manager, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise

**John West**, Dean of Programmatic Accreditation and Regulatory Compliance for the College of Social Sciences, University of Phoenix

## 2014-2015 PHD STUDENT & FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Carpenter, D. M., Robertson, J.W., Johnson, M. E., & Blum, S. (2014). Social media analytics in education: What is it, how it is useful, and what does it tell us about how schools are discussed in social media? *Journal of School Public Relations*, 35(1), 7-43.

Martinez, S. L., Hernandez, N., Clayton, G., Elsey, S., & Lahrman, H. (2014). Walking the walk: Student expectations of faculty in the classroom. *Understanding & Dismantling Privilege*, 4(1), 60-76.

Ramirez, A., Carpenter, D. M., & Breckenridge, M. (2014). Exploring the impact of inadequate funding for English language learners on Colorado school districts. *Journal of Education Finance*, 40(1), 60-79.

Ramirez, A., Clouse, W., & White, K. (2014). Teacher evaluation in Colorado: How policy frustrates practice. *Management in Education*, 28(2), 44-51.

### 2014-2015 Research Seminars

Charles Glenn, Boston University

Educating Counter-Cultural Citizens: Civic Education in Islamic Schools

Cory Koedel, University of Missouri

Pension Enhancements and Retention of Public Employees: Evidence from Teaching

Bethany Gross, Center for Reinventing Public Education

Universal Enrollment, Parents, and School Choice: Early Evidence from Denver and New Orleans

Eugenia Toma, University of Kentucky

The Effects of Fiscal Centralization on Education Employment and Aggregate Property Values

**Stay tuned for the upcoming 2015-2016 Research Seminars and Socials at Clyde's!**



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# CONGRATS 2014-2015 PHD GRADUATES!

**Robert Haight**, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice and Assessment Coordinator for the Office of Assessment in the School of Pharmacy, Rueckert-Hartman College of Health Professions at Regis University

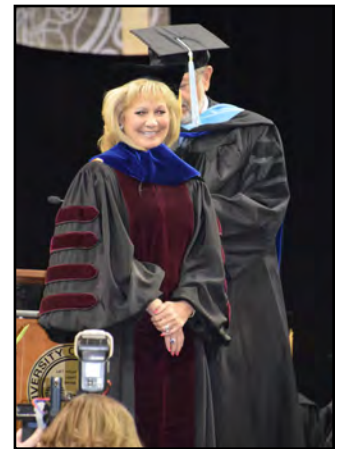
**Dave Khaliqi**, Executive Director for the Center for STEM Education and Pre-Collegiate Support, UCCS

**Patty Erjavec**, President, Pueblo Community College

**Tyler Phillips**, Dean of Education and Training, Air Force Headquarters Reserve National Security Space Institute

**Michele Johnson**, Chief of Cadet Development, Center for Character and Leadership Development, U.S. Air Force Academy

**Paul M. Medina, Jr.**, Research Analyst, Colorado Springs School District 11



## ALUMNI PROFILES



**Jim Smith, Executive Director for Learning Services,  
Academy School District 20**

My dissertation title was *Differentiated Instruction: Exploring Implementation at the Middle Level*. Since completing the doctoral work, I have found more value in securing time to stay healthy and enjoy my family. During the program I moved into the role of Principal at Eagleview Middle School. Last school year I moved in to my current position of Executive Director in Academy District 20.

In terms of the program, I have never had an experience in my personal or professional life that has challenged me so completely. Though

there were days of elation during the program, there were also days of absolute exhaustion. But, all together, pursuing my PhD has been one of the most transformative and rewarding experiences of my life. There is no doubt that the knowledge that I gained has informed my work and has absolutely positively influenced my career path and has given me the confidence to tackle some pretty weighty issues. Additionally, I made friends in the cohort that continue to be close friends – friends that have a common<sup>6</sup> appreciation of an experience that only those who shared it can possibly understand.



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## Susan Jones



Adjunct Professor for the Colorado Technical University, Colorado Springs  
Instructional Coach for Desert Waters Correctional Outreach  
Auditor for the American Correctional Association  
Auditor – certified by the Department of Justice – Prison Rape Elimination

My dissertation title was *A Portrait of Boundary Violations Former Female Employees of Corrections Who Have Established a Relationship With an Inmate*. The results of my research challenge many fundamental principles of the corrections culture. Even so, I have been able to see my work stimulate conversations about culture change and operational implications. I am inspired by the willingness of professionals, throughout the country, to listen to my research outcomes and consider the implications of that research. The topic of boundary violations between female corrections employees and male inmates has received a great deal of attention as a result of two different avenues. The data gathered as a result of the Prison Elimination Act of 2003 has generated quantitative data regarding the numbers of female employees who have crossed this boundary. Secondly, the recent escape from a prison in New York State has brought this issue in to the national spotlight. The conversations, both in the media and with corrections professionals as a result of these two events, have given me opportunities to share my research and expand my understanding of this process.

My husband and I are both retired from the Colorado Department of Corrections and we are enjoying the opportunity to travel throughout the country in our RV. I have taken advantage of this freedom of movement and I have presented at 18 conferences since I received my degree. Additionally, I authored an article that was published in the *Women and Criminal Justice Journal*, July 2015: “Recommendations for Correctional Leaders to Reduce Boundary Violations: Female Correctional Employees and Male Inmates.” I was also in a position to influence the direction of two major corrections-related conferences. Both the Association of Women Executives in Corrections and the Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice Conferences selected the issue of boundary violations to be a central theme for the 2014 conferences.

Earning the Doctorate in Educational Leadership from UCCS has given me the academic standing that when combined with 31 years of corrections experience, has allowed me to be involved in affecting change in this culture. At the end of my classroom portion of the PhD program, I chose to retire from the Department of Corrections from the position of warden. This decision was made, in part, due to what I gained from this program. I decided that the next chapter in my career had to be from outside the corrections system. I continue to seek opportunities to affect change in the culture and work environment for the correctional professionals. I do this because many of these professionals are my friends, but I have also pursued this path because I believe that an improved work environment for these professionals may lead to improved outcomes for the criminal justice clients and increase public safety.

## Important Dates 2015-2016

August 10th: Portfolios are due

August 17th-21st from 5:00-10:00pm in Columbine Hall 231A: Statistics Refresher for Beginning PhD Students with Dr. Carpenter

August 24th and August 25th: Portfolio Presentations

November 20th: Last Day for Fall Dissertation Defense

December 18th: Fall Commencement at Broadmoor World Arena

April 15th: Last Day for Spring Dissertation Defense

May 13th: Spring Commencement at Broadmoor World Arena



## IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Upon successful completion of Portfolio II, a student should ask a LRF faculty member to serve as the chair of his or her dissertation committee. If the faculty member agrees to serve as the chair, then the student will begin consulting with said chair on the committee make-up, which will include five members in total. In addition to the dissertation chair, each committee must have at least two other LRF faculty members to serve on the committee. The other two members may be from outside the Department and one of those can be from outside of the University. Once the chair approves of all committee members, the student should ask each member to serve. Any committee member outside of LRF must gain UCCS graduate faculty status to serve on the committee; it is the responsibility of the student to coordinate with the COE Faculty Liaison to ensure all individuals are approved by the Graduate School. Once these steps are completed, the student is responsible for completing and submitting the "Dissertation Committee Membership Form" (found in the LRF PhD Handbook) to the Department Chair. Any student already in dissertation process who has not ensured all of his or her committee members are approved to serve on their dissertation committee should contact Dr. Martinez immediately.

Do you have something that you would like to add to the next newsletter? Please email Meghan at [myohann@uccs.edu](mailto:myohann@uccs.edu)