

UCCS LEAD PHD E-Newsletter



Ph.D. Educational Leadership,
Research, and Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

Winter 2017

Hello, LRF PhD Community! I am happy to be returning from sabbatical to share College and Department updates, successful proposal hearings and dissertation defenses, as well as news on alumni professional and scholarly endeavors. I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Patty Witkowsky now serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department and will retain her Student Affairs in Higher Education Program Coordinator duties. For those eyeing a spring 2017 graduation, please note the **last day for a spring dissertation defense is April 14th and spring commencement will be held on May 12th at the Broadmoor World Arena**. For students preparing for portfolio reviews this summer, the LRF faculty will be offering a Portfolio I Workshop on January 25th from 4:45-6:15pm in Columbine Hall 114 and a Portfolio II Workshop on February 2nd from 4:45-6:15pm in Columbine Hall 230. As always, please feel free to contact me any time with your questions or concerns. –Dr. Sylvia Mendez



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Phillip Morris



Dr. Phillip Morris concurrently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Leadership, Research, and Foundations and as the Program Director for the Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs at UCCS. Dr. Morris received a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Florida in 2011 where he was a Research Fellow in the Institute for Higher Education. His research experience and interests center on access to higher education, developmental education, and military-connected student success. At UCCS, Dr. Morris has been lead or co-author for over \$3M in secured grant funds from private, corporate, and federal philanthropy and is currently co-director of a U.S. Department of Education grant focused on student success and retention. During his tenure in veteran services, Dr. Morris has led multiple university-wide policy initiatives to support veterans in transition, including a campus and system-wide faculty training program for working with veterans on campus, an improved military transfer-credit policy, and a new policy for priority registration for veterans. Dr. Morris was recognized for his inclusive approach to higher education by the CU system in a promotional video called “A Place for You at CU” and led his office to win the 2016 CU President’s Diversity and Excellence Champion Award for supporting veterans with disabilities. Dr. Morris’ leadership potential was recognized in 2014 as a member of the CU System Excellence in Leadership Program and was recently recognized as a nominee for the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Institute for Higher Education at the University of Florida. Prior to re-entering higher education, Dr. Morris served eight years in the active Army and National Guard.

Congratulations, PhD Summer and Fall 2016 Graduates



Dr. Daniel Bowan, Visiting Assistant Professor in Exercise Science, Health Promotion, and Recreation, Colorado State University-Pueblo

“Impact of an Environment-Based Education Program on Academic Achievement”

Chair: Dr. Carpenter

Dr. Dave Callahan

“Impact of JROTC on Educational and Socioeconomic Outcomes”

Chair: Dr. Ramirez

Dr. John Donovan, Kaiser Permanente Colorado Research Assistant, UCCS College of Education

“‘My Exercise in Life is to Produce a Report that Nobody Reads’: Perceptions of the Clery Act Use, Compliance, and Effectiveness”

Chair: Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Greg Ecks, Director of Student Discipline Services, Colorado Springs School District 11

“And Still We Tinker: Incremental Policy Change through State Compulsory Attendance Laws”

Chair: Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Sandy Ho, Interim Director of the Languages and Social Sciences Center, UCCS Excel Centers

“Effect of 2012 Federal Student Financial Aid Policy Changes on Colorado Public Higher Education Student Enrollment Intensity”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Dr. Leona Lopez, Academic Advisor for the Department of Military and Veterans Programs, Pikes Peak Community College

“The Veteran Perception: Exploring the Role of Veterans Benefits on the Transition from Service Members to Civilian”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Student Travel Award Links

LRF PhD Student Travel & Dissertation Research Funding Request

<http://www.uccs.edu/coe/student-resource-office/department-downloads/lrf.html>

UCCS Graduate School Travel Award Instructions

<http://www.uccs.edu/graduateschool/uccs-finances/finance-resources.html>

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS FROM FALL 2016

Elizabeth Aragon-Blanton

“Voices from the Past: A Narrative Inquiry on the Schooling Experiences of Mexican-American Children in the Arkansas Valley, 1900-1950”

Scott Blum

“Aircraft Automation Policy: Implications for Aviation Safety”

Katy Cathcart

“Adapting to the Presence of the Body-Worn Camera in Policing: A Qualitative Assessment of Officer and Citizen Perspectives on Policy and Practice”

Bill Dallas

“An Evaluation of the Equity of Colorado School Finance”

Rebecca Frazier

“Multiple Measures of Instructional Coaching Effectiveness Over Time”

Pat Green

“The Stories within our Voices: Black Males Navigating Educational Achievement”

Rebecca Keith

“The Cost of Inequality: The Importance of Investing in High Quality Early Childhood Education Programs”

Sarah Kaka

“Preservice Teachers’ Ability to Create a Student-Centered Environment”

Fola Ogunbowo

“Campus Experiences of Muslim International Students”

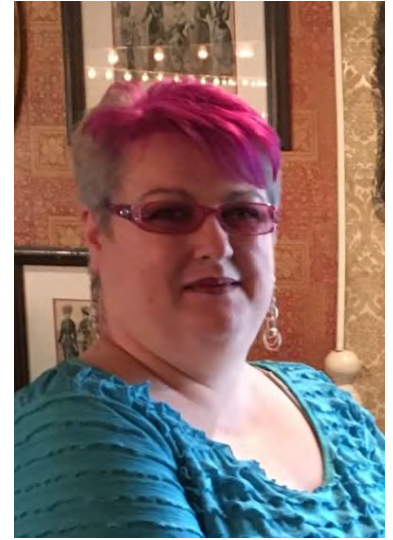
Jennifer Tygret

“The Preparation and Education of First-Year Teachers: A Multiple Case Study of the Experiences and Perceptions of First-Year Teachers, Principals, and University Supervisors”

Student Spotlights

Nina Ellis Frischman

Nina Ellis Frischman teaches history, humanities, and mythology classes as an adjunct at various colleges and universities in southern Colorado. She has a bachelor's degree in History and Philosophy; a master's degree in History; and a master's degree in Leadership with an emphasis in Student Affairs in Higher Education. She has entered the PhD program in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy to study how transfer students from community colleges compare with their native university student counterparts. Nina earned a Research Fellowship Award from the UCCS Graduate School to support her transfer student research. Nina is a life-long Dolphins fan and avid Marvel Comics fan who loves to cosplay. She also enjoys traveling in her camper with her husband and three dogs.



Danielle Springston



Danielle Springston is a second year doctoral student in the Leadership, Research, and Foundations Department. She currently teaches Physical Science and Earth and Space Science at Colorado Springs Early Colleges Charter High School. She also serves as the school's Multi-Tiered System of Support Coordinator where she conducts student progress monitoring, mentors teachers on best practice strategies, and writes student academic and behavior intervention plans.

Danielle enrolled in the LEAD program after receiving a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Autism Spectrum Disorders from Arizona State University in 2014. As a Navy spouse, frequent relocations provided her with opportunities to teach in traditional public schools in both urban and rural settings, a private college preparatory school, and a charter school. Her multiple research interests include evaluating the role cultural capital plays in education, educational law as it applies to student discipline and behavior plans, effective

teaching strategies for working with students with an autism spectrum disorder in the general education classroom, and the implementation of the multi-tiered system of support program within charter schools. She hopes to use her research interests to help create and guide policy within the charter school system.

In her spare time, Danielle enjoys hiking, reading, and spending with her family. Her husband, Jeremy, is a senior in the UCCS Mechanical Engineering Program and her children, Jake, Riley, and Wyatt, attend High Plains Elementary. She is also a strong advocate for Women's Rights and will be representing her community at the Women's March on Washington on January 21, 2017.

Application Edition!

Early admission priority deadline January 15; Final deadline March 15

Please share this information with colleagues and friends!

- Applications for admission to the PhD in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy program must begin with completion of the online Graduate application found at: www.uccs.edu/~apply/
- Pay the \$60.00 application fee (International student application fee is \$100.00)
- Upload your career goal statement
- Upload your curriculum vitae or professional résumé
- Upload the Tuition Classification Form
- List the name, title/organization, and email of three references in the spaces provided in the online application (they will be emailed the Ph.D. recommendation form with instructions). One reference should be a former instructor, one should be a current supervisor, and one should be a professional colleague. These individuals should be in a position to give feedback regarding your ability to be successful in a doctoral program (recommendations from current LRF faculty are not accepted)
- In addition, submit scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the past five years. Scores from the Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical sub-tests are required. There are no cutoff scores for the GRE sub-tests or composite score. GRE scores will contribute to an index score, which will be considered in admissions decisions. Please have official scores for the GRE sent directly to UCCS. The UCCS school code for the GRE is 4874, the GRE department code is 3999
- Contact the Student Resource Office (education@uccs.edu) for more information!

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE DISSERTATION CREDIT REQUIREMENT



During coursework students will complete 15 credits of LEAD 8990: Doctoral Dissertation (three credits a semester from spring 1 through summer 2). After coursework, students must be continuously enrolled with a minimum of one credit hour of dissertation credit per semester (excluding summer) during completion of the dissertation. A total of 30 hours of dissertation credits are required for program completion; students must be enrolled in at least one dissertation credit the semester of their defense. Students have seven years from the beginning of coursework to complete the program.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Dr. Uju Okeahialam, CSSp., Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church



Dissertation Title: An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Secondary School Civic Education on the Attainment of National Objectives in Nigeria

My life before and after the PhD at UCCS has been that of ambition sobered by delighting in and accepting the lot marked for me (Ps. 16). I have served as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier in Pueblo, Colorado since July 2005. I have planted the seed of faith, watered many, and seen them grow and die. Before my coming to Pueblo, I served as the Catholic Chaplain at University of Ilorin, Nigeria and Pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church Abaji-Abuja. Abaji is a community in Nigeria with the largest indigenous Muslim population in the Federal Capital Territory. Although I have enjoyed my priesthood these 22 years and more, I have refused to silence my inquisitive mind and restless political soul—putting me on edge severely. The beauty of it today is that the UCCS PhD program armed me with the skills to find groundings to validate what ordinarily I would have left in the imaginative column. If my religious community allows me, I wish to get more involved in the world of “civil society.” Consequently, since receiving my PhD, I have earned a MA in Political Science with concentration in Comparative Government and Development from American Public University. My MA thesis was entitled, *Boko Haram Insurgency and the Human Capital Cost to Nigeria*. Apart from contributing to discourses in socio-political events in both Nigeria and the US I have published the following works, *Stations of the Cross for Our Time* (1999), *The Treasure Within* (2004), and *From the Fence to the Field* (2015).

Dr. John West, Director of State Authorization for Divine Mercy University



Dissertation Title: An Analysis of Emotional Intelligence Training and Pastoral Job Satisfaction

As the Director of State Authorization for Divine Mercy University (DMU), I am responsible for analyzing state education and regulatory policy across the country for the purpose of implementing their online Master of Counseling program. I am also responsible for acting as the point person to communicate with state regulators on behalf of DMU. I enjoy the challenges inherent to the position, and I find it an excellent opportunity to grow professionally. I have also been busy with pursuing some of my academic and counseling interests. Recently, I was able to publish an article in the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, which was based on the research and written work completed for my dissertation. In addition, I am in the process of co-authoring a book titled *The Emotionally Intelligent Pastor: Bringing Relational Skills to Ministry*. I also plan to start seeing clients as a therapist again, from which I took a break while working on the PhD program. On a personal note, I moved to the Houston area roughly a year ago with my wife. We miss Colorado but we are enjoying the mild winters and proximity to the ocean.