

UCCS LEAD PHD E-Newsletter



Ph.D. Educational Leadership,
Research, and Policy

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

Spring 2020

Greetings, LRF PhD Community! As we move through the spring semester, I am happy to share College and Department updates, news on student and alumni professional and scholarly endeavors, and important dates. For those looking to graduate in Spring 2020, please note the last day for a spring dissertation defense is now April 30th. The last day for a summer defense is July 10th. Spring commencement will be held virtually. The virtual commencement ceremony will take place at 1 p.m., May 15, 2020. Graduates will receive diploma jackets and other materials by mail. Any spring 2020 graduate who wants to participate in either the fall commencement ceremony (Dec. 18, 2020) or next spring's commencement ceremony (May 14, 2021), will be able to do so. As always, please feel free to contact me any time with your questions or concerns.

—Dr. Andrea Bingham



IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE DISSERTATION CREDIT REQUIREMENT



During coursework students will complete 10 credits of LEAD 8990: Doctoral Dissertation. 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. It is the responsibility of the student to create a dissertation credit completion plan that meets the requirements of the Graduate School (a maximum of 10 dissertation credits during the fall and spring semester and seven in the summer). After successfully passing Portfolio II of the PhD program, a student must form a dissertation committee within one year; if the student has not done so, he or she may not enroll in any further dissertation credits until a committee is secured. Students should work with their dissertation committee chairs to develop a dissertation credit plan.

Congratulations, PhD Summer and Fall 2019 Graduates!



Dr. Stacy Aldridge

“The Study of Parent Perceptions toward Students of Poverty in an Affluent School District”

Chair: Dr. Bingham

Dr. Beau Houston

“Exceptional Recruiting: Identity Intersections’ Impact on Decision Making for Young Black Women Athletes during the NCAA Recruiting Process”

Chair: Dr. Bingham

Dr. Hans Larsen

“Developing Effective Leader Developers: A Case Study of Air Officers Commanding,”

Chair: Dr. Bingham

Dr. Giovanna Moscote

“An Exploration of Racial Climate, Retention, and Job Satisfaction among Teachers of Color at K-12 Independent Schools in the United States”

Chair: Dr. Mendez

Dr. Justin Stoddard

“Understanding Resiliency: The Relationship between USAFA Cadet Grit-S Scores and Cadet Development”

Chair: Dr. Bingham

SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS FROM FALL 2019

Matt Adams

"Investigating the Lived Experience of Teachers Interacting with Difficult Student Behavior"

Adric Arndt

"Predicting Student Outcomes using Principal Evaluation Results of SB 10-191: A HLM Approach"

Tony Martinet

"Begin with the End in Mind: A Phenomenological Understanding of How Teachers Conceptualize the Purpose of Education"

Michael McNamee

"Alumni Identity: A Structural Equation Approach to Beliefs and Behaviors"

Darrin Steele

"The Lived Experiences of Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in an Adaptive Sports Program: A Qualitative Exploration"

Fall 2019 Research Seminar



This fall, the Leadership PhD Program had the exciting opportunity to host Dr. Christina Gibson-Davis for the Fall 2019 Research Seminar. Her talk was titled "Heightened Immigration Enforcement Impacts U.S. Citizens' Birth Outcomes."

Her presentation focused on a policy that increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities and their impact on the health of pregnant mothers and their infants.

Dr. Gibson-Davis is a professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University.

Student Travel Award Links

LRF PhD Student Travel & Dissertation Research Funding Request

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

UCCS Graduate School Travel Award Instructions

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

Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association Annual Conference



This past October, several LRF students, former students, and faculty presented at the Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association (NRMER) annual meeting in Denver.

Mountain Lion Research Day

This fall, several LRF PhD students, including Nicole Ferguson, Mona Shaker, and Kathryn Starkey (all pictured below) participated in Mountain Lion Research Day! The students collaborated with faculty and presented research based on those collaborations.



Student Spotlights

Jonathan Hood is currently the Assistant Men's Soccer Coach at Colorado College, here in Colorado Springs. Some of his primary responsibilities include identifying and recruiting prospective student-athletes for the college, coordinating practice plans, assisting in the execution of game day strategies, and mentoring student-athletes on and off the field. Jonathan has been fortunate to be a part of seven NCAA tournament qualifying teams, three as a coach and four as a player, including a final four appearance.

He enrolled in the LEAD program after completing a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership at St. Lawrence University in 2017.

Through his work in the coaching profession he has traveled much of the country, having worked at three different higher education institutions as well as a private college preparatory school. His research interest is geared toward athletic participation and the impact it has on career readiness.

Moreover, he hopes to better understand the level of career placement at the point of graduation, based on the various aspects of being a collegiate athlete. The goal of his research focus is to help strengthen the student-athlete experience and support their endeavors after college.

Outside of coaching and studying, Jonathan continues to enjoy an active lifestyle with his wife Sarah. They reside in Colorado Springs, where Sarah works as an architect at Echo Architecture.



**Jonathan
Hood**

Student Spotlights



Natalia Brunton

Natalia Brunton came to America as a foreign student to continue her education at UCCS, and 23 years later she is still part of the UCCS community as a second year doctoral student in Educational Leadership, Research and Policy. Her research focuses on the role of social and human capital on building educational equity in disadvantaged communities.

Natalia's life in Colorado is closely tied to UCCS. She started her first job in America as a campus tour guide and met her first friends through the International Students Club. Away from her love for Moscow theaters, she soon discovered the charm and affordability of the Theatreworks productions when they were still performed in the Dwire Hall. In the past decade, she hardly missed a production and took scores of her students to experience the magic of theater. Within the next few years, Natalia finished her second Bachelor's Degree, MBA, and a graduate certificate in Curriculum and Instructional Leadership. With two young children and the third one on the way, she took a break from college and focused on her career as an English Language Arts teacher, first at Tesla Alternative HS (CSSD11) and later at Eagleview MS (ASD20).

Currently, Natalia serves as an Assistant Principal at Fox Meadow MS (HSD2) and a Board Secretary for Educating Children of Color. As a teacher leader and a school administrator, she has led multiple professional development workshops, collaborated with her colleagues on creating curricula and assignments that engage, empower, and grow all students academically and socially.

With her friends, three children and a mini Aussie, Natalia enjoys Colorado outdoors, bookstores, theatre, cooking, and traveling. Between the guitar instructions, Boy and Girl Scouts activities, hours of reading, cooking for friends, she finds moments of calm in the family's backyard.

ALUMNI PROFILE

William Dallas, Principal, Fountain Middle Middle School



Dissertation Title: An Evaluation of the Equity of Colorado School Finance, the Application of the Negative Factor, and the Long-Term Impacts to the Economy of Colorado

In the past few years, since completing the UCCS Ph.D. program in Leadership, Research, and Foundations, I have been highly involved in educational reform at the local and state level. As Principal at Fountain Middle School in Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 I have spent the last four years leading school reform that has resulted in the rebirth of FMS as a premier school in the Pikes Peak Region.

Our school has grown from 870 students in 2016 to nearly 1,100 students today. Our academic achievement and growth has experienced significant growth over the last four years, and our school climate and culture has completely re-established itself as a great place for students and staff.

In about a month, we will finalize a four-year, approximately \$60 million construction project for a new school facility. Aligned with this construction has been the re-establishing of an identity and vision of a middle school highly focused on post-secondary readiness, cultural and trauma responsive teaching, and the importance of student agency. As a result of this work, I was recently nominated for consideration as the 2021 Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) Secondary School National Principal of the Year, which is still in the selection process. In addition to my work as a school principal, I am the acting President-Elect for the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principal (CASSP) division of CASE. In this capacity I hold a position on the CASE Legislative Committee where we make recommendations to legislation through advocacy and take positions on potential legislative initiatives impacting PK-12 education in Colorado. As part of this committee I will have the opportunity to travel to Washington DC in March to participate at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Legislative and Advocacy Summit.

Finally, in my free time I have been honored to have the opportunity to author and co-author some peer reviewed literature. One example is efforts I have been engaged in as a follow-up to the topics of my dissertation, which include school funding equity. I currently have an article accepted for publication with the Journal of School Finance that relates to evaluating changes in vertical and horizontal equity in the Colorado School Finance Formula as a result of the application of the Base Stabilization Factor in school funding. I have also been grateful to collaborate on a book chapter that was recently published with Information Age Publishing entitled (R)evolutionary Superintendents: An Innovative Response to Rapid and Complex Change. Moving forward, I am most excited to continue conversations and advocacy related to educational legislation and policy at the state level, as well as continuing our progress and evolution at Fountain Middle School.

Important Dates and Deadlines

To be eligible for graduation, students must have fulfilled the appropriate requirements as established by their program and the Graduate School. The student must have a completed approved Application for Admission to Candidacy for an Advanced Degree and Online Diploma Card turned in as indicated below. Students must have completed all coursework and successfully defended their Dissertation. Given the recent disruptions to on-campus operations, the associated deadlines have shifted slightly. The updated deadlines are in red below.

Spring Grads 2020 Commencement May 2020	Summer Grads 2020 Commencement Dec 2020
Due to Program by February 7th (unless your program specifies an EARLIER deadline)	Due to Program by June 19th (unless your program specifies an EARLIER deadline)
Due to the Graduate School by February 14th	Due to the Graduate School by June 26th
Through Student Portal by February 7th	Through Student Portal by June 19 th
No later than April 17th (Friday) April 30th	No later than July 10th (Friday)
May 14th by 5:00 pm. May 29th by 5:00pm all items must be submitted and approved by that time to be eligible for graduation	August 7th by 5:00 pm. all items must be submitted and approved by that time to be eligible for graduation
By May 22th June 1st	By Aug. 14
By May 22th June 1st	By Aug. 14