President Obama announced his America’s College Promise proposal at Pellissippi State Community College on January 9, 2015.

Denise Carr, a doctoral student in PHEL, took time off from her career at Pellissippi State Community College (PSCC) to obtain her doctorate at UT-Austin. On January 9, 2015, at PSCC, President Obama announced his new proposal for a nationwide program called America’s College Promise. America’s College Promise would provide free tuition for programs designed to transfer students to a four-year university as well as for career, or occupational training, programs. The President’s announcement is timely, as college tuition and student loan debt reach all-time highs across the country.

The President’s decision to announce the new proposal during his visit to Tennessee was hardly a coincidence. America’s College Promise is modeled after the Tennessee Promise, a last dollar scholarship for community college freshmen that will take effect in fall 2015. Tennessee leads the way in offering free tuition as more than 56,000 high school seniors across
the state have already applied for the Tennessee Promise. With over 10,000 students, PSCC also has a history of partnership with local programs such as Knox Achieves and tnAchieves, last dollar scholarships for high school seniors enrolling in community colleges.

The college is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, with special events planned to mark the occasion. PSCC, located in Knoxville, Tennessee, hosted President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Dr. Jill Biden for the announcement of America’s College Promise.

Although a Presidential visit was not originally on the agenda, it was an exciting surprise. According to PSCC President Dr. Anthony Wise, “There was a lot of excitement among our faculty, staff and students, and pride in what we do here. I think the President’s visit was a testament to the good work our college has done in terms of access, and to the important role all community colleges play in workforce development and access to education.”

Dr. Ted Lewis, Vice President of Academic affairs at PSCC and University of Texas alumn, was enthusiastic about President Obama’s proposal, saying, “America’s College Promise really moves the dial by reaching out to students without access to financial aid, and we are thrilled to be able to serve those students.”

Denise Carr, a doctoral student in the Program in Higher Education and fulltime faculty member at PSCC, was unable to attend the event. However, her daughter received one of the student tickets to the event, which PSCC distributed via a lottery.
PHEL on the Move:
News from the Program Coordinator

Each semester our PHEL faculty, staff, and students engage in many worthwhile scholarly and professional activities, and the spring 2015 semester promises to be the most active yet. For example, PHEL is honored to co-host two receptions this spring that will bring together our alumni and current students (NASPA conference in New Orleans; and the NISOD conference in Austin). We are also hosting our spring Distinguished Lecture Series in mid-April which will feature two top emerging scholars in the field: Dr. Kimberly Griffin (University of Maryland) & Dr. Sam Museus (University of Denver). Also in April, our first year doctoral cohort will be attending the AERA conference and the AACC conference, and many other PHEL graduate students will be presenting at these two conferences as well as other national and regional meetings.

On a more somber note, we extend our condolences to the families of Dr. V. Ray Cardozier and Dr. Ben Harris, both of whom passed away in the last few months. Each of these gentlemen left an indelible mark on our department as faculty members, and we are grateful to their legacies of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Lastly, we bid adieu to the incomparable Linda Overton who will be retiring this spring. Linda, your lively spirit, helpful demeanor, and ready smile will be dearly missed. Thank you for all that you have done over the years to make our department a better place. We will miss you, but we are also so happy for you on your forthcoming and well-earned retirement!

Victor Saenz, Ph.D.
PHEL Coordinator

PHEL Admitted Students Day

As part of our admissions cycle, PHEL is gearing up for its annual Admitted Students Weekend. As part of this event, for the second year in a row, PHEL is partnering with the Office of the Dean of Students to coordinate a UT Placement Exchange, where our admitted master’s students can have an opportunity to interview for Graduate Assistant Positions. This event has become a cornerstone in our recruiting process.

Admitted Students Weekend events:
Friday, February 27, 2015
UT Placement Exchange
Lunch with faculty
PHEL Preview Plenary
HEASPA Happy Hour

Saturday, February 28, 2015
HEASPA Choose Your Own Austin Adventure

This is a new series of small group activities to expose students to our wonderful city.
Faculty News

PHEL Faculty Search Update

There were over 80 applicants for the new faculty position. After Skype interviews in December, three finalists visited the campus in January. The committee hopes to have a new faculty committed to the Forty Acres soon! SPECIAL THANKS to all who attended and participated in the campus visits!

Summer Course Offering

Under the auspices of the Lozano Long Center for Latin American Studies Title VII grant, Dr. Patricia Somers will be offering the comparative higher education course (crosslisted as EDA391C, LAS381, and WGS 393) in Summer 1, followed by an optional study trip to Brazil. Financial aid will be available. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Somers at pasomers@austin.utexas.edu

ASHE 2014 Reception

The PHEL and The American Council on Education (ACE) planned and hosted the ASHE reception together on Friday, November 21, at the ACE office building, Washington DC. Many scholars including the UT graduate students, alumni, and professors joined the reception. We appreciate everyone’s effort and support in hosting the reception.

NASPA 2015 Reception

The Vice President of Student Affairs and the Program in Higher Education Leadership are co-sponsoring a “Texas Tradition” Friends and Alumni of The University of Texas-Austin reception at this year’s National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference. The reception is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th, 9:30-11pm, in the Hilton Hotel.

2015 Texas Higher Education Symposium

UTSA’s Higher Education Administration Student Association (HEASA) and UT’s HEASPA are joining forces to sponsor and coordinate the 2015 Higher Education Symposium, which will occur August 6-7, 2015 in San Antonio at UTSA’s main campus. Save the date, and be sure to submit a proposal!

Pictures from ASHE
Above: Dr. Rich Reddick & Anna Drake
Right: Laura Struve & Ryan Miller
Retirement Announcement

LINDA OVERTON

I began my career with the Department of Educational Administration in November of 2001; it’s been a fun and sometimes bumpy ride. In my 14-year span, I have worked under three UT Presidents, five department chairs, three executive associates (supervisors), and worked with about a dozen co-workers (staff members). I have seen the make-up of the EDA faculty change from the old guards to the fresh young faces we have today, and I’ve sadly seen the passing of some of our most prominent and innovative professors in the field of education.

This is a bitter-sweet time for me because as excited as I am about “graduating” from UT, it’s also hard to say good-bye to my UT family. I use the word “graduate” because “retire” has such finality to it, and I definitely won’t be retiring from life. I fully intend to stay in touch with the department as a resource for my transcription and editing services. Aside from that, I am collaborating with a singer-songwriter girlfriend to perform our two-woman show in October. I also plan to read more, cook more (a plus for my husband), enjoy our newly remodeled home, garden, travel, go on meditation retreats, and just sit and pet my cat.

I want you all to know how much I have enjoyed being here, working with you, assisting you, and playing with you – this is where some of my best characters have been born (right, Witchie-Poo?). Big hug to you all…see you soon!

Linda Overton
Administrative Associate
Student & Alumn Highlights

Charles Lu, Ph.D.
A 2012 graduate, Dr. Charles Luis is the Executive Director of the Gateway Scholars Program at The University of Texas at Austin. Recently, Dr. Lu published his manuscript, “Finding Los Científicos Within: Latino Male Science Identity Development in the First College Semester,” in the Journal of College Student Development.

Claudia Garcia-Louis
Claudia Garcia-Louis is a PhD student in the PHEL. Claudia recently co-authored a book chapter that emphasizes the importance of discussing the intersectionality of social identities in examining systems of privilege and oppression, and engaging social justice dialogue throughout academia.

Kyle Massey

Hannah Hendricks
Hannah Hendricks is a second-year CUSPA master’s student. Hannah has recently been accepted to American College Personnel Association (ACPA)’s Ambassador Program. Serving as an ACPA Liaison, Hannah will be committed to providing networking, professional development, and knowledge sharing to The UT-Austin.

Sarah Rodriguez
The YWCA Greater Austin appointed PHEL doctoral candidate Sarah Rodriguez to their organization’s Board of Directors. The board of directors guides the YWCA in their dedication to peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Ms. Rodriguez’s primary responsibilities will focus on assisting with development and donor relationships.
Conference or Not...That is the question!
Anna Drake and Laura Struve, second-year doctoral students, share their experiences in preparing for and presenting at ASHE.

What motivated you to present your work at a conference?

Anna Drake: Jessica [Khalaf], Laura, and I all took our first-year pro-seminar together, and we had to complete a “visioning” assignment that involved interviewing higher education professionals with jobs to which we aspired. Dr. Saenz read our final papers, and he encouraged us to combine our work into an exploratory study related to women in higher education leadership. We did, and it’s worked out to be a great experience and a really interesting study.

Could you explain your journey to ASHE?

Laura Struve: In terms of writing the proposal we looked to other successful proposals that had been accepted in the past with which we could align our structure. Once we found out we had been accepted we prepared more of the paper, sought advice and feedback from some of the faculty in the department, and then edited. Preparing the presentation was relatively easy, as we already had the content, so we just had to move it into a PowerPoint. We practiced our presentation a lot; Dr. Green’s Intro to Human Systems of Inquiry was a great primer for us, as we delivered similar presentations in his class. We condensed the material and delivered it in a timely manner, but still made sure the major points were well represented.

Why is it important for doctoral students to attend and present at conferences?

AD: Attending and presenting at these conferences – particularly ASHE and AERA, for our field – exposes you to the variety of research happening in your discipline. It helps you learn about different topics, different research methodologies, and provides both positive and negative examples of how to conduct and present your research. It’s a great way to explore a variety of different topics in one place, or to delve in-depth into what you already know interests you. It’s also important to create relationships with other grad students and faculty members and build a reputation for yourself in the field. Particularly if you plan to apply for faculty jobs later on, it’s helpful to know who’s out there and build these relationships while you develop professionally.

LS: …the conversations, presentations, and material reinvigorates you, and also potentially gives you inspiration for future research. I’ve heard of several people who have met at conferences and ultimately have published together, just because they struck up conversation.

I realize not everyone feels comfortable networking at conferences. Do you have any advice for it?

AD: Just relax. Networking should not be scary. Just be friendly and do your
thing at the conference, and you’ll inevitably bump into people and start talking to them. Always have business cards, but don’t be too pushy with them; you don’t want to seem self-serving or inauthentic. Introduce yourself and where you’re from, but mostly ask other people about themselves. You should have a very simple statement that will answer the question “what do you study” or “where are you in your program,” but don’t worry if you don’t know too much yet… If it’s your first conference, don’t try to hide that – you can get some great advice from those who are eager to share what they’ve learned over the years. Because higher education is about developing people, our field is generally very encouraging and positive.

**LS:** Networking can seem very intimidating, because it is! I find one of the easiest ways to meet people is to ask someone like a faculty member, or even another graduate student who knows the person, to introduce me. That way it’s not as intimidating for me, but it also gives a reference for the person to whom you’re being introduced.

**Any words to the PHEL community?**

**AD:** We’re part of a wonderful and constantly improving program, and it’s important to represent UT and PHEL well at these conferences. Be confident, friendly, and take advantage of all the opportunities you can to engage with others and explore the field.

**LS:** I was very happy to be able to attend and present at ASHE in November. I felt very comfortable at this conference, as it is significantly smaller than others, but also large enough that there were diverse research topics, papers, and interests. Also, I appreciated the support from our UT EDA community at our paper presentation. As second year doctoral students it felt intimidating to present a paper, but also, we realized that we’ve been so well prepared from our faculty that we didn’t need to be intimidated. Ultimately, conferences are a great place to meet other great minds in higher education, and I think the climate of ASHE is conducive to provoking new ideas and assumptions, but doing so in a supportive environment.

Interview by Yughi Kim

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**Laura Struve**

Laura Struve is a second-year doctoral student in PHEL and currently holds a Graduate Research Assistantship with Dr. Reddick. Her research interests include gender, identity formation, social constructionism, and how these interplay with career outcomes for women in higher education.

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**Anna Drake**

Anna Drake is a second-year doctoral student in PHEL. Her primary research interest is the development and implementation of higher education policy, particularly at the state level and regarding college completion and financial aid. She is also interested in organizational change in colleges and universities and the use of technology to increase access and attainment.
The 2015 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) conference, May 23-26 in Austin, Texas, will feature over 200 sessions facilitated by leading community and technical practitioners. Faculty members from NISOD member colleges can apply for a scholarship to attend the 2015 conference. These scholarships provide up to $400 in airfare, three nights lodging, a complimentary conference registration, and complimentary participation in a trip to San Antonio. The early-bird registration deadline and the cut-off date to receive discounted rates at conference hotels is May 1. A preliminary schedule of all conference activities can be found at www.nisod.org/schedule. Contact Edward Leach at leach@austin.utexas.edu or visit www.nisod.org for additional information about NISOD and its annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence.
Dr. Virgus Ray Cardozier

Virgus Ray Cardozier, professor emeritus of higher education administration at the University of Texas at Austin died in Austin, Texas on November 2, 2014 of complications of a stroke.

Professor Cardozier was born on April 2, 1923 and reared on a farm in north central Louisiana, the son of James C. and Lelia Megison Cardozier.

In 1970 he was appointed vice president for academic affairs for the newly authorized University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa. Four years later he was named president, a position he held for almost eight years. He moved to the University of Texas at Austin in 1983 to become director of the fledgling doctoral program in higher education administration, where he taught “History of Higher Education” and “International and Comparative Higher Education.” After retiring, he lectured and led seminars for continuing education groups in Austin, where his sessions on international affairs attracted a considerable following.

Professor Cardozier was author or co-author of ten books, most of them about higher education but also included “Mobilization of the United States for World War II.”

Once described by a reporter as a renaissance man, he called himself a generalist. He was a voracious reader, a sometime fisherman, and a gardening enthusiast.

This obituary appeared in Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes & Cremation Service website.

Dr. Benjamin M. Harris

Dr. Ben Harris was born in Chicago, IL, on Feb 8, 1923, and raised in Southern California. He married Mary Lee. He passed away on December 21, 2014 at the age of 91.

Dr. Harris began his prolific career at the Department of Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin in 1958 as assistant professor before moving up to associate and then full professor. During his tenure, he mentored countless doctoral students. He authored and coauthored more than a hundred papers and authored a number of books. Dr. Harris retired in 1988 and remained very active while continuing to assist EDA doctoral students and mentor junior faculty. Dr. Harris was also a co-founder and later president of the Council of Professors of Instructional Supervision (COPIS). He was a giant in the field of School Supervision and his contributions to the field had a significant impact in education, particularly in-service education, teacher evaluation, and instructional supervision. Dr. Harris was a life-long lover of country music and country two-stepping, dancing into his 90’s. He also spent the last several years acting as music director for the Round Rock Senior Citizen Center.

Written by Dr. Martha Ovando and Linda Overton
General Meetings
January 29th
12-1pm, SAC
Legislative Room
Topic: Interviewing

February 19th
12-1 pm, SAC
Legislative Room
Topic: Internships

March 26th
12-1pm, SAC
Legislative Room
*Elections for 2015-2016 HEASPA Board

April 16th
12-1pm, SAC
Legislative Room

Admitted Students Weekend
February 27-28th

March Madness Potluck at Dr. Garrard’s
Date: TBD

End of Year Celebration
May 22nd,
SAC Legislative Room

From HEASPA co-chairs, Laura Struve & Hunter Hartwig

Fall 2014 was off to a great start, and HEASPA has been very busy! With the implementation of monthly meetings, we also had a Fall service activity, where a group of HEASPA members volunteered at Capital Area Food Bank and contributed in sorting 7,650 pounds of food, or approximately 6,375 meals for those in need in the Central Texas area. Additionally, our tailgates, First Friday Happy Hours, and intramural volleyball games have been great opportunities for current master’s and doctoral students to get to know each other and make new connections. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events during Spring Semester!

The first HEASPA meeting in spring 2015

We welcome all PHEL students, alumni, and faculty to join us for a year of learning, service, and professional development!
Join HEASPA by registering through HornsLink: https://utexas.collegiatelink.net and searching "heaspa."
Or, contact our Membership Director, Emily Abrams, at efabrams@utexas.edu.

For more information on HEASPA events contact: utexas.heaspa@gmail.com
And follow us on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/texasheaspa
Or on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/texasheaspa
Also, we have a blog: http://sites.utexas.edu/heaspa/
2015 Calendar

First day of Class
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Admitted Students Weekend
Friday-Saturday, February 27 & 28, 2015

Spring Break
Monday-Friday, March 16-20, 2015

PHEL Distinguished Speakers Series
Dr. Kimberly Griffin & Dr. Sam Museus
12-2pm, Monday, April 13, 2015
Location: UT-Austin

March Madness Potluck at Dr. Garrard’s
Date: TBD

Last Day of Class
Friday, May 8, 2015

End of Year Celebration
Friday, May 22, 2015
SAC Legislative Room

Graduation Ceremonies
Friday-Saturday, May 22-23, 2015

Commencement (official graduation)
Saturday, May 23, 2015

PHEL Annual Alumni Reception
Monday, May 25, 2015
Location: Austin, TX
Four Seasons Hotel, San Jacinto Ballroom

Texas Higher Education Symposium
Thursday-Friday, August 6-7, 2015

Upcoming Conferences

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF CHICANOS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (TACHE)
February 11-February 14, 2015 * El Paso, TX

American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
March 5-8, 2015 * Tampa, FL

Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)
March 21-25, 2015 * New Orleans, LA

The Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)
April 9-11, 2015 * Fort Worth, TX

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
April 16-20, 2015 * Chicago, IL

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
April 18-21, 2015 * San Antonio, TX

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD)
May 23-26, 2015 * Austin Convention Center

The Association for Institutional Research Forum (AIR)
May 26-29, 2015 * Colorado Convention Center

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
November 5-7, 2015 * Denver, CO