



A Newsletter of the
Association for the
Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

Inside the Fall 2008 Issue

<i>ASHE President's Column</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Conference Program Focuses on Connections between Research and Practice ...</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>CAHEP Announces Expanded Program at ASHE Conference...</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Council on International Higher Education (CIHE) News...</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Graduate Student Policy Seminar...</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Graduate Student News</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Council on Ethnic Participation (CEP) News...</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>ASHE/Lumina Foundation 2008 Fellowship Awardees...</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Behind the Scenes: Selecting an ASHE Conference Site...</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>ASHE Notables</i>	<i>19</i>

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ASHE President's Column

The ASHE Board's Summer Meeting and Anticipating Jacksonville



Linda Eisenmann
John Carroll University

As these last weeks of summer wane, preparations are well underway for a terrific annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, November 5-8. In other articles throughout this newsletter, as well as on the website, you will find helpful information about the conference, along with enticing previews of the speakers, presentations, and panels we will enjoy in Jacksonville. We are anticipating stimulating discussions around our theme “*Research and Practice: Embracing Connections.*”

As we prepare for the conference, I'd like to update the membership on how the Board of Directors has been spending its summer, especially highlighting two new task forces that we have charged. In late June, the ASHE Board convened at John Carroll University in Cleveland for 2-1/2 days of meetings, discussions, and planning. Through recent recommendations of past boards, the directors are joined at such meetings by representatives of our ASHE Councils – International, Public Policy, Ethnic Participation, and CAHEP (Higher Ed Programs). In all, 18 people convened, bringing ideas from a wide range of perspectives and member viewpoints.

Along with conference planning, budget review, long-term financial planning, considerations of the by-laws, and attention to the headquarters office, the Board moved to create two task forces that, in the spirit of “embracing connections,” will explore ASHE's outreach to the wider higher education community. Both of these groups will discuss their work at the November conference, along with offering ways for interested members to become involved.

The first program is a *Task Force on Linkages with the Profession*. For a number of years – and particularly since AAHE closed its doors – ASHE members have debated how our organization can reach out more intentionally to the wide range of colleagues across the higher education world. The growth of our own councils (consider Public Policy, for instance) has pushed us in this direction, inviting speakers who address the connections between ASHE researchers and policy makers, planners, and practitioners. As you have observed, the last few conference themes have also moved us toward connecting our research-oriented work with the practice of those in the field. The new task force is designed to explore more explicit ways that ASHE can connect with the profession, from speaking invitations, to public relations efforts, to collaborations, and beyond. Initial task force membership from the Board includes: Jeff Milem, Adrianna Kezar, Consuella Lewis, Heather Eggins, Patricia Farrell, Joshua Powers, Barbara Townsend, and Patricia Yaeger. Look for a presentation by this group at the November meeting, along with an invitation to engage in their work.

ASHE Fall 2008 Newsletter

The second group we organized is a *Task Force on Inclusion*. From several quarters over the past several years, Board members have heard disenchantment about ASHE practices and approaches that can seem at best uninviting, and at worst exclusionary. These concerns range from how elections actually work, how appointments and awards are made, how new members and grad students can feel more involved, to how receptive ASHE is to difference on many scales, from ethnic identity to research methodology. As we discussed this issue at the Board meeting, we were surprised to realize that nearly every person around the table – people now holding leadership positions in ASHE – felt excluded in one way or another. Some felt that their research topics were marginalized; some that their small institutional home-base was devalued; some that their gender, race, or international status put them outside the mainstream. This was a powerful moment for the Board, realizing that even though we held seats at the table, we still felt there was some “core” aspect of ASHE that that did not invite or include us. The new Task Force will explore these issues, starting with the question of what we mean by inclusion. Initial members from the Board are: Consuella Lewis, Heather Eggins, Marybeth Gasman, Judy Marquez Kiyama, and Darnell Cole. Like the Linkages group, this task force will offer a discussion at the November meeting, along with information about how members can join their work.

Let me note a few other items from our summer meeting. You will have noticed from the website and listserv that, thanks to ongoing financial contributions of members, we can now offer Graduate Student support for attendance at the annual meeting. Grants of \$400 are available for students; see the website for details. We also continue our discussions about a new headquarters for ASHE when our contract with Michigan State University expires at the end of the year. An announcement about our new home will be available soon.

Finally, I want to thank a retiring member of the ASHE Board: Legal Counsel Doug Toma. Those of you who know Doug realize there is nothing “retiring” about his generous personality. But Doug (who holds a law degree in addition to his Ph.D.) has served as volunteer counsel to the Board for 10 years, also serving as institutional memory while the Board and Presidents shifted annually. Doug has walked us through many contractual and by-laws concerns, from new headquarters arrangements to decisions about honoring picket lines. We thank him for boundless service. I am happy to report that Karen Miksch has volunteered to succeed Doug, and will be Legal Counsel to the Board effective immediately. Thanks to Doug and to Karen.

If you have questions about any of these matters, or about the Board’s work generally, feel free to email me (leisenmann@jcu.edu) or Executive Director Patty Farrell (pfarrell@msu.edu). Meanwhile, enjoy your preparations for the November meeting, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Jacksonville.

Conference Program Focuses on Connections between Research and Practice

Jay R. Dee, Program Chair
University of Massachusetts Boston

As a scholarly community, we periodically ask whether our research has any relevance to those who teach, learn, and lead in colleges and universities. Occasionally, the question reflects a measure of concern regarding whether the aims of our research have become too insular and self-serving. Are we publishing papers on esoteric topics that only other higher education researchers would bother to read? At other times, however, the question is framed optimistically, especially in instances where researchers and practitioners work together as co-investigators on research agendas that seek to transform institutions. Another posture views the question with some degree of wariness: would scholars compromise their independence if addressing the needs of policymakers and practitioners became the driving force of research in the field? Would research become confined to that which is pragmatic, thus marginalizing work that is theoretical or philosophical?

The 2008 ASHE conference will provide many opportunities to explore connections between research and practice. Sessions will feature college presidents, deans, and other administrators who will reflect on and critically assess the utility of higher education research for informing leadership practice. Researchers in our field will discuss how to write with impact for both scholarly and practitioner audiences. Other sessions will focus on ways to strengthen linkages between higher education researchers and national associations that conduct research on issues related to colleges and universities.

Proposal Submission and Acceptance Rates

The seven general conference divisions and the three pre-conference forums received a total of 868 proposals. The total number of proposals was down 1.8% from last year's record (884), but the 2008 total still represents the second largest number of proposals submitted to an ASHE conference.

Every single proposal submitted to ASHE in 2008 received three reviews. Reviewers were required to enter into the online system extensive information about their research expertise, including methodological strengths and content foci. Based on the information supplied by the reviewers, the program committee was able to assign proposals to reviewers who had the most relevant expertise for a given proposal. This information also allowed the committee to assign symposia and research/scholarly paper proposals to the most experienced scholars in our field. The practice followed by the program committee was to assign:

- three senior scholars to review symposia proposals
- three senior or experienced scholars to review research/scholarly paper proposals

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

- two experienced scholars and one doctoral student to review roundtable and poster proposals

For the first time, reviewers were required to supply written comments to the proposal authors. The comments are intended to assist proposal authors in understanding the strengths and limitations of their proposals and thus promote the long-term improvement of research in our field. The program committee extends sincere thanks to everyone who reviewed proposals; we appreciate the thoughtful attention that so many of you devoted to the process.

The overall acceptance rate for proposals to the 2008 general conference was 48.3%, which is a slight increase over last year's acceptance rate (47.0%). Acceptance rates varied across the seven general conference divisions. This variation is attributable to differences in overall proposal ratings among the divisions. Some divisions had more highly rated proposals than other divisions.

Division	Proposals submitted	Percentage of total submis-	Proposals accepted	Percent accepted
Students	276	32.7%	132	47.1%
Organization, Administration, & Leadership	119	14.1%	57	47.9%
Teaching, Learning, & Assessment	88	10.4%	35	39.8%
Faculty	76	9.0%	39	51.3%
Contexts, Foundations, & Methods	96	11.4%	48	50.0%
Policy, Finance, & Economics	97	11.5%	52	53.6%
International	91	10.8%	44	48.4%
<i>General Conference Totals</i>	843		407	48.3%

Research paper proposals and symposium proposals had the highest acceptance rates. Scholarly paper proposals had the lowest acceptance rates. Occasionally, proposals were accepted for the author's second or third choice of format.

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

Accepted as:						
Submitted as:	Symposia	Research papers	Scholarly papers	Roundtables	Posters	TOTAL
Symposia (n= 65)	32	---	---	1	---	33 of 65 (50.8%)
Research papers (n=526)	---	246	---	19	22	287 of 526 (54.6%)
Scholarly papers (n=112)	---	---	27	2	2	31 of 112 (27.7%)
Roundtables (n=62)	---	---	---	24	---	24 of 62 (38.7%)
Posters (n=79)	---	---	---	---	32	32 of 79 (40.5%)

Conference Sessions

The conference will feature 32 symposia, 84 paper sessions, 46 roundtable presentations, and 56 posters. Most (75%) of the paper sessions will include only three papers. The large number of three-paper sessions was in response to concerns that sessions with four paper presentations frequently run short on time, thus providing few opportunities for questions and audience interactions with presenters. We were able to increase substantially the number of three-paper sessions without making acceptance rates more stringent. In fact, as mentioned previously, acceptance rates actually increased this year.

The program committee has also scheduled fewer roundtables to run simultaneously. In previous years, attendance at roundtable presentations has been constrained by the fact that so many roundtables convened at the same time. The new roundtable schedule will permit audience members to attend more presentations, thus likely increasing the size of the audience for such presentations.

The program committee has also clarified and communicated expectations for those serving as session chairs and discussants. These roles are critically important to the success of research and scholarly paper sessions. Discussants, in particular, can play an important role in advancing the quality of research in our field. The program committee has asked discussants to focus their comments on ways that the authors can improve their papers, rather than dwell on weaknesses or limitations. We have encouraged discussants to provide written comments

to authors, and indicated that some of the more technical aspects of their critiques can be conveyed in the written comments, rather than in their remarks in the session. Finally, I extend my thanks and appreciation to the members of the program committee, who devoted significant care and attention to every aspect of the process.

Council for the Advancement of Higher Education Programs (CAHEP) Announces Expanded Program at ASHE Conference

Joshua Powers, Indiana State University

The Council for the Advancement of Higher Education Programs (CAHEP) has expanded its pre-conference program offering. First, on Wednesday, Nov. 5 starting at 1pm we will be offering a first ever *Early Career Faculty Teaching Workshop*. The focus is on the teaching and dissertation/thesis supervision responsibilities that are essential to student success. The expert teaching panel/roundtables of Jennifer Haworth, Marybeth Gasman, Lisa Wolf-Wendel, Jeraldo F. L. Jackson, Dwight Giles, and Marty Finkelstein will dialogue with participants on tools and techniques for teaching the history of higher education, gender and diversity, organizational theory and administration, curriculum, and faculty issues. The dissertation/thesis panel/roundtables of ASHE Dissertation of the Year award winning dissertation advisors will then dialogue with participants on advising strategies for student completion and study quality. Featured presenters include Anna Neuman, Lisa Wolf-Wendel, Les Goodchild, and Edward St. John. Participation in the workshop by pre-tenured faculty and administrators returning to the faculty are by application (due September 19) and is limited to 25 persons (\$60 ASHE members/\$100 non-members) on a first-come/first-served basis.

Second, on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning CAHEP will offer free and open to all sessions focused on the improvement of graduate higher education programs. Wednesday evening begins with a dessert and state of the programs roundtable discussion in which program director/coordinator attendees offer reflections on the challenges and opportunities they have experienced in the past year with the intent of idea sharing and program advancement. The evening's event will conclude with our annual business meeting. On Thursday morning from 7:30 – 11am we will offer *paper, roundtable, and symposium sessions focused on issues of program practice*. Sample topics include enhancing program excellence, benchmarking programs, the use of the GRE for higher education program admission decisions, multicultural competence, the integration of technology in teaching, self-reliance experiences of female graduate students and faculty, launching international doctoral cohorts, higher education as a field of study at HBCUs, and the development and integration of program standards. The program will be anchored at 11am by a joint *ASHE/CAHEP*

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

Featured Speaker presentation by Chris Golde, former senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and currently Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education at Stanford University. Her talk will focus on issues addressed in her (and others) new book on the doctorate, *The Formation of Scholars: Rethinking Doctoral Education for the 21st Century*. Additional information on the above CAHEP events as well as an application to the Early Career Faculty Teaching Workshop is available at our CAHEP “News” website: <http://www.ashe.ws/?page=141>.

Council on International Higher Education (CIHE) News

Heather Eggins, Chair
Staffordshire University

The range of papers and symposia, together with a keynote speaker of high international standing, makes this year’s International Forum of interest to all conference participants. Indeed, the Forum has been structured in such a way that delegates to the main conference will more easily be able to participate at little added cost.

This year the Forum opens on Thursday morning, November 6, with a session from 8am to 11:30am, with the remainder of the sessions interwoven throughout the rest of the conference. International issues in higher education are of growing importance in a global environment where each country needs to be aware of developments elsewhere, with a view to learning from the good practice established successfully in other countries. This new structure, it is hoped, will enable far more ASHE delegates to have the opportunity to discover for themselves international developments relevant to their own interests.

The opening highlight of the first session on Thursday will be the keynote address, given by *Mary-Louise Kearney*, executive Director of the *UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge*. She has kindly agreed to attend, and will be arriving direct from UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Her topic will be *Challenges for Research Systems in the Knowledge Society*, a highly relevant topic for all ASHE delegates. Dr. Kearney is a Senior Research Fellow in Higher Education at Oxford University and has published considerably in this field. The UNESCO Forum, which she oversees, focuses on research systems and involves government policy-makers, academia and civil society, including the private sector. A number of leading US researchers are involved in its work.

The programme this year includes an exciting array of symposia and individual research papers. Two symposia of particular interest are, first, *The governance and management of Higher Education in “mature” higher educational systems* with Martin Finkelstein, Seton Hall University, and presenters from the UK, Japan, South Korea and Canada. The second

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

symposium focuses on *The governance and management of higher education in “emerging” higher educational systems*, led by William Cummings of George Washington University, with speakers from Argentina, Mexico, China, Brazil and Portugal.

Topics are wide-ranging and include research on private education, quality assurance systems, gender issues, leadership and higher education reform. Jenny Lee, for instance, will be speaking on *Brain gain? US doctoral recipients returning to South Korea*, and Daniel Levy on *Between elite and non-elite: the growing semi-elite category in private higher education*. A richly diverse and stimulating programme is offered. Come and join us.

Graduate Student Policy Seminar

Marvin Titus
University of Maryland

The 29th Annual Graduate Student Policy Seminar will be held prior to the ASHE Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida on November 5th and 6th. The Seminar provides graduate students with opportunities to interact with researchers and policymakers who are knowledgeable about critical policy issues in higher education. The Seminar also offers students an excellent opportunity to interact with other graduate students with similar interests from universities across the nation. This year, the Seminar will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, the headquarters hotel for the ASHE Annual Meeting.

The Graduate Student Policy Seminar will begin at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, November 5th and conclude shortly before noon on Thursday, November 6th (prior to the start of the Annual Meeting). The seminar fee of \$45 per person covers materials, dinner on Wednesday, breakfast on Thursday, and refreshment breaks. The fee is expected to be covered by the program from which a student is selected.

Nomination letters will be sent to coordinators/directors of higher education programs. The deadline for nominations is September 21st, but students will be admitted to the Graduate Student Policy Seminar on a rolling basis as space permits. For more information or questions about the Graduate Student Policy Seminar, please get in contact with the chair of the steering committee of the GSPS, Marvin A. Titus (mtitus@umd.edu).

Graduate Student News

Kelly Risbey, University of Minnesota, risb0012@umn.edu

Judy Marquez Kiyama, University of Arizona, jkiyama@warner.rochester.edu

As the summer draws to a close, we are pleased to share the new initiatives and ideas with you that we have been working on.

Welcome Amanda!

We would like to officially welcome Amanda Suniti Niskodé as the 2008-2010 graduate student representative to the ASHE Board of Directors. Amanda Kelly is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Higher Education Program at Indiana University. She serves as a project associate at the Center for Postsecondary Research, working with the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE). Amanda is currently working on her participant-action dissertation research, which examines how the culture of a women's college is transmitted and experienced by new students. She is an active professional and is extremely passionate about meeting ASHE graduate student needs.

Looking forward to ASHE 2008

We have been hard at work creating an exciting graduate student program for the upcoming ASHE conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Each session is designed so you can network with, learn from, and talk with the "academic giants" in our field of higher education. We also want you to take advantage of the opportunity to network with, learn from, and talk with your fellow graduate students whose interests and expertise are abundant.

Your feedback from last year's conference confirmed that the graduate student luncheon was a success and we are delighted to be offering a luncheon again on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 11:30am-1:00pm. We have designed this luncheon to provide you with opportunities to gain perspectives from three of ASHE's "academic giants" and to reflect on the message that these "academic giants" are giving and generous with their time and ideas and hold a special place in their heart for the needs of graduate students. The luncheon also provides many ways in which you can network with other graduate students and begin creating your own network of peers across the country. We are also excited that you will again feel the rush of the infamous book giveaway. Seats are limited so please make sure that you arrive early (and use this time to network, network, network).

We are also offering two graduate student symposiums that reflect your input and feedback. The first symposium will provide graduate students with insights into the publication process from highly research productive ASHE faculty. The session is titled *The pressure to publish: Demystifying the publications process from the research project to the final article* and is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2008, from 1:00pm-2:30 pm. Panelists will address the following: (a) determining when a research project is publishable; (b) selecting which journal to submit to; (c) understanding and writing for your audience; (d) working through the edits and revisions. Graduate students at all stages of their current research project or dissertation

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

will find this session helpful if they intend to submit articles for publication.

The second symposium will provide graduate students with meaningful advice and practical insights on how to navigate our graduate training. The purpose of this graduate student symposium is to examine graduate student socialization and the impact it can have on students in all stages of their academic career. We are excited to have as our panelists “academic giants” who are passionate about our success and want to share their research and personal reflections with us. This session is titled *Frustration or success:*

Examining the importance of graduate student socialization in higher education and is scheduled for Friday, November 8, 2008, from 8:00am-9:15am. Panelists will address the following: (a) discussing challenges facing new graduate students as they try to understand the academic life; (b) describing ways that socialization helps to identify norms and values of a discipline and/or department and thus helps students adjust to their environment; (c) identifying ways that socialization from their mentors, advisors, and peers can help students at all levels of graduate education; (d) recounting experiences of effective and ineffective graduate student socialization. Graduate students at all stages of their academic career are encouraged to attend this session.

We look forward to seeing you at these sessions!

Announcing the Graduate Student Travel Scholarship

You asked and we listened! During the last ASHE conference we asked your opinion regarding how we should use the Graduate Student Fund. This fund has been generously contributed to by ASHE members with the intent of financially supporting graduate student members. An overwhelming suggestion from our graduate members was to use the money to create a graduate student scholarship. We are pleased to announce that the Board approved our proposal to financially assist four (4) graduate students in their travels to the annual conference. The scholarship will be available to those students whose conference proposals have been accepted and each will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$400. This money is meant to help students with travel and/or hotel costs. Applications will be available on the ASHE website on Monday, August 4, 2008.

ASHE Conference Interns

We are delighted to offer again the ASHE Intern program. Conference interns are selected through an application process that occurs early in the fall semester. Conference interns receive a fee waiver in exchange for volunteering to provide support for ASHE program functions (i.e., working at the registration table, hanging posters, trouble shooting, etc.). Please be sure to keep an eye on the ASHE website in August 2008 for more information regarding the 2008 conference intern program.

Inclusion Task Force Update

As you have probably already read, Dr. Linda Eisenmann, President of ASHE, asked the

ASHE 2008 Spring Newsletter

board to explore the diversity and inclusion of our association. As we discussed this important topic at our summer board meeting we realized that many people sitting around the table had felt excluded in some way. Unfortunately, this is a sentiment also expressed at times by graduate students. Dr. Eisenmann charged the task force with defining what inclusion means to ASHE and addressing structural issues affecting inclusion. The task force is asking members (and we especially urge graduate students) to attend a session during the conference where we will openly discuss this important topic. We encourage you to keep up with the dialogue around this issue – online, through the survey, readings, and at the special session. We hope that these efforts will make strides in assuring that all ASHE members feel part of the community.

Council on Ethnic Participation

Barbara J. Johnson,
Northern Illinois University

All ASHE members are invited to attend the 2008 CEP Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 6th at 8:00 pm. The ASHE-CEP Awards will be conferred during the Awards Presentation Ceremony. Special guest, Dr. Mildred Garcia, will address the audience as well as present the CEP Mildred Garcia Award for Exemplary Scholarship. A reception will immediately follow the Awards Ceremony.

Mentor/Protégé Initiative

The Council on Ethnic Participation (CEP) would like ASHE members to consider serving as a Mentor for Protégés in the CEP Mentoring/Protégé Initiative. Mentors and Protégés will meet at the ASHE Meeting. ASHE members who are interested in being a Mentor or have questions should contact Consuella Lewis (lewisc283@earthlink.net) or V. Barbara Bush (barbara.bush@unt.edu).

CEP Awards

Nominations were solicited during the summer for the CEP Founders' Service Award and CEP Mildred Garcia Award for Exemplary Scholarship. The purpose of the service award is to recognize two members of the ASHE community who have served CEP in various capacities over the years. Service is defined as activity which supports CEP and/or fosters inclusiveness in the ASHE organization. Examples of service include holding an office in CEP for several years, writing reports for CEP, organizing CEP events, serving on ASHE committees, or facilitating inclusiveness.

The Mildred Garcia Award for Exemplary Scholarship recognizes one junior (non-tenured) scholar and one senior (tenured) scholar for seminal, exemplary scholarship that focuses on research and issues specifically related to underrepresented populations of color. This award

ASHE 2008 Spring Newsletter

is named in honor of Dr. Mildred Garcia, an exemplary scholar whose contributions as a leader and trailblazer in the field of higher education research continue to raise the bar for academicians and administrators. Garcia's academic research has concentrated on equity in higher education and its impact on policy and practice. In 2007, Garcia was appointed the president of California State University, Dominguez Hills. Previously, she served as president of Berkeley College, a private institution with seven locations in New York and New Jersey. She also held several positions at Arizona State University, Montclair State University and Hostos Community College (New York).

CEP Listserv

Due to the increasing amount of spam, the yahoo group account has been terminated. The ASHE office will host a new listserv for ASHE members who indicated their desire to be affiliated with CEP.

ASHE/LUMINA Foundation 2008 Fellowship Awardees

Kristen Renn
Michigan State University

The Lumina Foundation for Education and the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) announce the 2008-2009 ASHE/Lumina Fellows. Lumina Foundation has provided ASHE with funding for fellowships to support dissertation research on the broad topics of financial aid, student retention and success, and adult learners and learning. The key objective of the fellowship is to promote innovative scholarship by creating an intergenerational community of scholars who will examine social, institutional, and policy barriers to opportunity and student success.

The nine 2008-2009 ASHE/Lumina Fellows are:

Allison Ambrose, Illinois State University

Title: *Student characteristics of merit aid recipients: Structural and human agency determinants*

Director: Dr. Diane Dean

Mentor: Dr. Frances Stage, New York University

DeAnna Burt, Western Michigan University.

Title: *African American student persistence: A study of the effects of an intrusive advising intervention at a career college*

Director: Dr. Andrea Beach

Mentor: Dr. Bridget Turner Kelly, Seattle University

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

Matthew Foraker, University of Arizona

Title: *State appropriations: Implications for public higher education pricing and financial aid policies*

Director: Dr. John Cheslock

Mentor: Dr. Stephen Porter, Iowa State University

Carol Brochin Ceballos, University of Texas, San Antonio

Title: *Becoming Maestras: A case study of how Latina preservice teachers navigate their success in a bilingual teacher preparation program*

Director: Dr. Maria Franquiz

Mentor: Dr. Lisa Lattuca, Pennsylvania State University

Jarrett Gupton, USC

Title: *Pathways to postsecondary education for homeless youth*

Director: Dr. William Tierney

Mentor: Dr. Gary Rhoades, University of Arizona

Meghan Wilson, University of Pennsylvania

Title: *Struggle and Success: The experiences of urban high school seniors participating in a dual enrollment program*

Director: Dr. Laura Perna

Mentor: Dr. Linda Hagedorn, Iowa State University

Lara Couturier, Brown University

Title: *Accessing opportunity: A history of the debates over access to college in the United States, 1945-2000*

Director: Dr. Mari Jo Buhle

Mentor: Dr. Philo Hutcheson, Georgia State University

Shaila Mulholland, NYU

Title: *The lessons of fifty years of access and equity struggles in Indiana*

Director: Dr. Richard Richardson

Mentor: Dr. Marybeth Gasman, University of Pennsylvania

Jacob Gross, Indiana University

Title: *Promoting or perturbing access: An event history analysis of the effects of financial aid on Latino students' educational attainment*

Director: Dr. Don Hossler

Mentor: Dr. Steve Desjardins, University of Michigan

For additional information on the ASHE/Lumina Foundation fellowship program, contact Kristen Renn or visit <http://www.ashe.ws>

Behind the Scenes: Selecting an ASHE Conference Site

Jesse S. Watson, ASHE Graduate Assistant

Karen Paulson, Site Selection Committee Chair

Patricia L. Farrell, ASHE Executive Director

Over the past few years, there have been multiple inquiries about how the ASHE annual conference site is selected and what costs are involved to hold such a conference. In an attempt to address these inquiries and to become more transparent, the site selection committee, ASHE office, and Board of Directors want to describe for you what happens “behind the scenes” including timeline and criteria used for selecting conference sites, perennial issues ASHE has due to its size and conference needs, the costs involved for running the ASHE conference, and locations for 2011 and being considered for 2012.

As you may be aware, ASHE has been fortunate to have grown considerably in the early part of this decade and has maintained an enrollment of approximately 1,800 members. Concurrent with membership growth, we have experienced a growth in conference attendance. Over 1,100 people attended the most recent conference in Louisville, our largest conference ever.

In order to frame the ASHE conference in terms of revenues and costs, it is important to remember that ASHE is a membership organization that operates primarily on member registration and conference fees; therefore, ASHE maintains a small operating budget (~\$203,000). In the past three years (2005 through 2007), ASHE conferences have roughly “broken even” in terms of costs. Our 2007 conference in Louisville had a total operating cost of approximately \$142,000. This figure includes costs for food, beverage, and service fees (64.6% of total costs); audio and video rental (16.6%); poster board stands and labor (2%); and additional operational expenses—printing, staff rooms, advertising, speakers, supplies, shipping (16.8%). However, it does not include staff salary (2.5 staff members who do all the planning and preparatory work), benefits, or basic office supply costs. In the final analysis, the 2007 ASHE conference netted the association approximately \$1,400, which was then applied to general operating expenses.

The ASHE Site Selection Committee is a standing committee of the ASHE Board consisting of four members each serving a 3-year staggered term. Committee members are nominated by the current ASHE president. In 2002, Susan Twombly, who was then the site selection committee chairperson, developed a document explaining both the process and criteria for selecting a conference site. This year, Karen Paulson, who is chairing the committee, is working with the committee to update the site selection criteria based on market conditions and ASHE’s needs and size. Current members of the ASHE Site Selection Committee are:

Karen Paulson, NCHEMS, Chair

Joanne Taira, University of Hawaii, General Member

Cathy Trower, Harvard University, General Member

Christian Anderson, University of South Carolina, General Member

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

In terms of how a site is selected, first consider that by 2010—believe it or not—the hotel industry anticipates hotel space to be tight around the country. Some of the main constraints ASHE is working with when deciding on a site location include:

- Costs of hotel rooms for participants. In the past, conferences were held in hotels that offered ASHE hotel rooms in the \$120s; however, that rate is nearly impossible now. In 2007, our room rate at the Louisville Marriott was \$140 and for the 2008 Jacksonville Hyatt is \$134. By 2010, we anticipate the hotel rooms to cost approximately \$160. If we were to hold the conference in large cities, as some members have requested, which are referred to as “tier 1” cities (e.g., Boston, Chicago, Atlanta), hotels charge \$240 and up for rooms. Because 40 percent of our members are graduate students and one third of conference attendees are graduate students, we try to choose cities with hotels that can offer lower room rates, which means that the ASHE Site Selection Committee must consider tier 2 and even tier 3 cities.
- Amount of space required for conference. In addition to needing 500 or more hotel rooms for participants on peak nights of the conference (Thursday and Friday), ASHE also requires many breakout rooms (12 in 2007 and 2008). Consequently, ASHE usually “takes over” an entire hotel, which requires booking 4-5 years out because of availability.

In general, hotels now require conferences to commit to spending a minimum amount on food, beverage, and hotel rooms to offset charges for breakout and general session rooms. For example, for the 2010 conference in Indianapolis, contractually ASHE must agree to spend \$75,000 in food and beverage (this includes pre-conference forums, institution receptions at night, and Lumina Foundation gatherings) and in the final analysis, book 80 percent of the 500 reserved hotel rooms. To get a sense of what this means, the current cost of all morning and afternoon breaks at ASHE is approximately \$10,000.

Based on the recommendations of the ASHE Site Selection committee to the Board, we have booked our 2009 conference in Vancouver, Canada; 2010 in Indianapolis, Indiana; and 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The committee’s work is ongoing to identify and determine sites and hotels for future conferences. Selection criteria for sites and hotels are as follows:

- Airport access – Service provided by major carriers from around the country and level of congestion at terminal check in & baggage is acceptable. The goal is to minimize connections, but again, there are trade offs (for instance, lower hotel room rates are available in cities that often require travel connections to reach them).
- Ground transportation - Travel time to conference hotel, availability of different means of transportation (taxi, shuttle, mass transit options) and reasonable costs.
- Centrality of site to city/restaurants/shops & safety - Are there restaurants within walking distance to the hotel? Are a variety of restaurants available? Is the area safe to walk at night? Shopping?
- Hotel site:
 - Hotel rooms—costs for rooms/food for receptions/luncheon/breaks are reasonable.
 - Hotel size—there are enough conference rooms to accommodate the breakout

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

sessions, meetings, receptions, and general sessions

- Hotel size—are there additional rooms that can be used for additional breakout session if necessary in the future?
- Additional hotel rooms—availability of additional guest rooms either onsite or close to the hotel.
- Conversation space/networking—are there places for members to have small group conversations (lobby seating, restaurant/bar, and seating throughout conference area)?
- Elevators—are there enough elevators to move people efficiently between conference levels vs. guest rooms? Are they fast or slow? Will people congest waiting for an elevator to get to a breakout session or event?
- Conference space—minimum floor levels used for conference rooms including ease of access to multiple levels – ideally conference rooms should be on the same level. If on multiple levels, are there stairs/escalators to access those levels easily? Are elevators reliable between multiple levels to move attendees between breakout sessions?
- Competition of space from other groups—Is there another group in the hotel competing with ASHE for space and services? Ideally the conference can take over the hotel and reserve all the space needed.
- Any major citywide events to compete with the conference—If possible, check in advance because a citywide event will put pressure on the Association’s ability to get extra rooms, and create competition for restaurants or space and services both inside the hotel and outside the hotel.
- Internet access for guests and registration area– are these services available? What cost is associated with them?
- Concession package – ASHE requests complimentary suites, staff rooms, a complimentary afternoon break, etc. in concessions. Some hotels are more generous than others depending on the market.
- Hotel reservations—on-line reservation link to post on conference website for attendees to make reservations directly with hotel.
- Audio visual needs—is there an in house company and what are the costs/restrictions vs. outside provider?
- Handicapped room access—check to make sure there is access for guest rooms as well as access to conference rooms.
- Diversity issues—Does the hotel have any pending issues involving diversity?
- Conference Space Requirements
 - 12-13 breakout rooms with room for 70 people each, seated in theater capacity
 - General session of 600 people
 - Awards luncheon of 550 + head table of 5
 - 60 posters with standing boards and allowing for traffic flow
 - 2 sessions of ~24 roundtables per session. This space is in addition to breakout space.
 - Welcome reception for ~700 people

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

- Registration area clearly visible and accessible on conference level
- Exhibitor space in or near the main conference area
- Room to grow—are there more breakout rooms of adequate size to grow if necessary in 3 years

It is clear that the choice of site for the Annual Meeting is becoming more complex as the organization grows. The following are recommended guidelines, based on conference attendees' feedback, to be followed by the ASHE Executive Office, ASHE Board, and ASHE Site Selection Committee.

- ASHE is an association where diversity is a core value. As such, the association will not enter into contractual relationships with conference facilities, where by intent or practice there is a demonstrated insensitivity to principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Furthermore, the association shall act in ways consistent with this position statement. Before entering into an agreement with conference facilities, the Executive Director and board, working with the site selection committee shall consider the history and current practices of the hotel with regard to diversity.
- The Annual Meeting should rotate among three major geographic regions of the country: East, Midwest and West. (Note: 93% of survey respondents agreed that the conference should rotate; 84% said it should rotate among three major regions.) Although 95% of respondents disagreed that ASHE should pick one permanent conference site, only 56% disagreed that ASHE should pick a number of fixed sites based on region. Given the complexity of finding the correct combination of hotel, location and costs, the ASHE Board might explore this option. Items such as meal expenses, climate and amenities of hotel were among least important factors for about half the respondents.
- The Annual Meeting should continue to be held in smaller cities. Larger cities should be considered if costs are equivalent to those of smaller cities. In fact, Boston was the top vote-getter among sites mentioned. (About two-thirds of the respondents agreed that smaller cities should be considered but also indicated that larger cities, such as Chicago, should be considered if costs are roughly equivalent.)
- Every effort should be made to select a hotel(s) conveniently located to shopping and restaurants. (81% of respondents agreed with this.)
- In order to achieve some of the more important site priorities listed above, ASHE might consider, but only if necessary, the possibility of holding the conference in two hotels that are close together. (Note: The argument here is that ASHE always use overflow hotels now and is limited in where it can go because of the current expectation that the conference be held in one hotel.) In 2002, the ASHE Site Selection Committee recommended to the ASHE Board that smaller conference centers which have available multiple hotels be considered for the Annual Meeting.
- In selecting a site, the overall costs of attending (hotel, food, and airfare) and accessibility (travel time and convenience) should be considered. (69% of respondents put travel expenses as one of their top five factors of high importance.) If possible, cities close to large graduate programs should be considered. However, this is less of a priority than the factors identified above.

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

The bottom line is that selecting a site for the ASHE Annual Meeting is complicated requiring acknowledgement of needs and desires of the membership, balancing of realities of the hotel and travel business, conference costs, and foreshadowing. If you have any comments or input, please feel free to contact the current ASHE Site Selection Committee facilitator, Karen Paulson, at Karen@nchems.org or Patricia Farrell, ASHE Executive Director, at pfarrell@msu.edu

Notables

Michelle Nilson, Simon Fraser University, Canada

This column is ASHE's posting place for news about people, places, publications, and other items of interest in higher education. Keep your friends and colleagues apprised of your news, whereabouts, recommendations, kudos (yours, others), new book titles, announcements, awards, blogs, wikis, and website information. Please take time out of your busy schedule to keep us posted about your celebrations or to pay homage to others—send your articles, snippets, and photos to Michelle Nilson, email address: michelle_nilson@sfu.ca

Notable Moves:

- Elizabeth Cox, PhD., Iowa State, is the Assistant Director of the California Community College Collaborative (C4) at the Graduate School of Education, University of California, Riverside.
- Luciana Dar, UCLA Political Science doctoral candidate and Lindsey Malcom, PhD. Higher Education, USC have joined UC Riverside as assistant professors. The Higher Education program at UC Riverside now has official acceptance and is recruiting doctoral and master's students.
- Pamela Eddy will be joining the College of William and Mary beginning Fall 2008. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor at Central Michigan University, where she has been conducting research in the areas of: organizational change, college and university leadership, educational partnerships, issues of gender in education, and faculty development. Additionally, she was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to study in Ireland in Spring 2009.
- Barbara J. Johnson has been appointed as the chair for the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education at Northern Illinois University. Previously, she held faculty positions at the University of New Orleans and Jackson State University.
- Eunyoung Kim (Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) has been appointed an Assistant Professor at Seton Hall University. She will join the higher education group comprised of: Rong Chen, Rebecca Cox, Martin Finkelstein, Joseph Stetar and Elaine Walker.

Notable Reads:

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

Judith Glazer-Raymo, Ed. (2008). *Unfinished Agendas: New and Continuing Gender Challenges in Higher Education*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

This revealing volume examines the current role and status of women in higher education—and suggests a direction for the future. Judith Glazer-Raymo and other distinguished scholars and administrators assess the progress of women in academe using three lenses: the feminist agenda as a work in progress, growing internal and external challenges to women's advancement, and the need for active engagement with the challenges at hand. Drawing on the latest research, the contributors explore issues faced by women as newly minted Ph.D.s, as faculty members, as administrators, and as academic leaders. They describe women's struggles with the multiple and often conflicting demands of productivity, accountability, family-work responsibility, and the subconscious “dance of identities” within a variety of cultural contexts. Shedding light on the past, present, and future of women in higher education, this authoritative book concludes with recommendations for meeting new and ongoing gender challenges in the next decade. Contributors: Ana M. Martínez Alemán, Boston College; Rita Bornstein, Rollins College; M. Kate Callahan, Temple University; Judith Glazer-Raymo, Teachers College, Columbia University; Steven Hubbard, New York University; Kimberley LeChasseur, Temple University; Amy Scott Metcalfe, University of British Columbia; Anna Neumann, Teachers College, Columbia University; Tamsyn Phifer, Teachers College, Columbia University; Becky Ropers-Huilman, University of Minnesota; Kathleen M. Shaw, Pennsylvania Department of Education; Sheila Slaughter, University of Georgia; Frances K. Stage, New York University; Aimee LaPointe Terosky, Teachers College, Columbia University; Caroline Sotello Viernes Turner, Arizona State University; Kelly Ward, Washington State University; Lisa Wolf-Wendel, University of Kansas.

Available at: http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title_pages/9363.html

Patricia Marin & Catherine L. Horn, Eds. (2008). *Realizing Bakke's Legacy: Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Access to Higher Education*.

Published to mark the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Bakke decision, this book explores the complex set of legal and educational policy circumstances established by this historic court decision that continues to simultaneously frame, narrow, and confound our understanding of affirmative action in higher education specifically, and issues of equity in education broadly. Published by Stylus Publishing. Available at: <http://www.styluspub.com/Books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=171900>

Maresi Nerad & Mimi Heggelund, Eds. (2008). *Toward a Global PhD? Forces and Forms in Doctoral Education Worldwide*. University of Washington Press.

Universities and nations have long recognized the direct contribution of graduate education to the welfare of the economy by meeting a range of research and employment needs. With the burgeoning of a global economy in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the economic outcome of doctoral education reaches far beyond national borders. Many doctoral programs in the United States and throughout the world are looking for opportunities to equip students to work in transnational settings, with scientists and researchers located across the globe. Nations competing within this global economy often have different and not

ASHE 2008 Fall Newsletter

always compatible motives for supporting graduate training.

In this volume, graduate education experts explore some of the tensions and potential for cooperation between nations in the realm of doctoral education. The contributors assess graduate education in different systems around the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, the Nordic countries, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. For more information about the book, including the table of contents, visit: <http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/NERTOW.html>

Wallace Southerland (2008). *Money, power and influence: The politics of how academic department chairs secure campus budget resources* may be purchased at amazon.com or Barnes and Noble Bookstore online. Dr. Southerland is a new ASHE member and also had an article on career advice for department chairs aspiring to be deans published. "From Chair to Dean: Strategies for Career Advancement" was published in the summer 2008 edition of *The Department Chair*.

Noteworthy:

Dr. Terrell Strayhorn won the 2008 ACPA Annuity Coepris Emerging Professional Award. Dr. Strayhorn also won the 2008 NASAP Outstanding General Session Award and was elected to the Association's executive board as Nominations Chair. Dr. Terrell Strayhorn also won a 2008 Improving Teacher Quality Grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education, Title II, Part A to study, "The High School Preparation and Experiences of Low-Income Minority Youth Who Aspire to Attend College."