The Ed.D. Ledger

People who cannot invent and reinvent themselves must be content with borrowed postures, secondhand ideas, fitting in instead of standing out. - Warren Bennis

UNCC College of Education Department of Educational Leadership

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JAN 16  Last day to submit approved Candidacy Forms to Grad School for Spring 15 Graduation
JAN 27  Doctoral Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Student Union Room 340G
JAN 30  Last day to apply for Spring 15 Graduation no later than 11:59 p.m.
FEB 27  Last Day to take QE
MAR 2-7  SPRING BREAK!
APR 10  Last day to defend dissertation for Spring 15 Graduation

The Fog of the Ed.D.

Whether you pronounce it doctoral with emphasis on the first syllable or doctoral with the emphasis on the second syllable, I am just glad that you put UNCC in front of it! Our UNCC doctoral program in Educational Leadership is an experience that you will find rewarding whether you put the Dr. before your name or the Ed.D. after your name.

Wherever you plan to put the initials, or however you pronounce it, as you have no doubt found, the doctoral program is quite a journey. When the Romans built the Appian Way, they placed granite obelisks at specific intervals. According to Wikipedia (don’t scowl; I know you look at Wikipedia, too!):

Milestones are constructed to provide reference points along the road. This can be used to reassure travellers that the proper path is being followed, and to indicate either distance travelled or the remaining distance to a destination. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milestone)

There are many milestones in your doctoral work. Admission was the start of your journey. Adjusting to thinking in different ways was likely the next step. Planning your reading schedule was likely concomitant with your new ways of thinking. Somewhere late in your first semester or early in your second, you came to the conclusion that your ideas count … as much as anyone else’s. (Continued on page 2)

Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat. – Theodore Roosevelt
Of course it helps if you have done your reading and can back up your ideas with some research! This is your first milestone. Celebrate it. You are not in the doctoral program to rotely repeat what we professors tell you.

Soon (at least in geologic time for some who have been with us for a few years) you come to the second milestone. You realize that volume of what you do not know is far greater than the volume of what you do know. I used to tell my Sunday School class when we were discussing some topic where many people were stuck in moral-cement: “Isn’t it interesting that stupid people have all the answers, and smart people have all the questions; and ... should it be the other way around?!” If you sometimes feel less smart than when you began, you have reached the second milestone. Congratulations.

Near the midway point in your program you must complete the Qualifying Exam or the Qualifying Evaluation, as I like to call it. You may not even know its purpose; you just know that it is a BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) to be surmounted. Actually the QE is the point where we, your professors, ask the question, “Has the student demonstrated the intellectual, academic, and the visionary abilities, such that they are ready to move forward toward the rigors of the dissertation?” This is milestone three. When it comes, or if it has come, celebrate it, for you likely have studied harder in preparation for these twelve hours than at any other time in your life. At least I did!

Somewhere soon after the QE, the Fog of the Ed.D. sets in for many students. It quietly whispers to you on Sunday afternoon when you are tired of reading, “You are too far along to stop, and you have so far yet to go. You deserve to just be comfortable for a while.” WRONG!

I like to bicycle. Hate inclines. Love declines. Therein lies a problem. On the decline, I coast or pedal slower. We relax a little. Next thing I know, there is the next inevitable incline staring me in the face, and I begin to wonder if my legs are up to the task ahead.

The nexus of the problem was that the time I quit peddling and started coasting was EXACTLY the time I should have been peddling the hardest so that I could attack the hill instead of having it attack my legs!

The Fog of the Ed.D. convinces us that we need not pedal so hard after we have reached that third milestone, that we are entitled to be comfortable. After all we just completed the QE.

The world is filled with ABD’s who never found their way out of the fog. Don’t it let be you.

Keep peddlin’

ReEnergizing the Ed.D.

The Department of Educational Leadership is vigorously working on studying all aspects of our current Ed.D. program in a process we call ReEnergizing the Ed.D. Every EDLD faculty and staff member is participating on one four WorkTeams: (1) Recruiting and Program Location and Delivery, (2) Academic Concentrations: Vision, Goals, Direction, (3) Processes, Procedures and Policies, Including Advising, and (4) Curriculum Review and Outcomes. Recent and current Ed.D. students, Laura Hart, Shannon Clemmons, Cathy Howell, Tracey Carney, Maria Leahy, Tony Worely, Julia Erdie, and Angelo DelliSanti are WorkTeam members.

Thanks for all the student input that was gathered through our Survey of Suggested UNCC Ed.D. Program Improvements. We continue to welcome information and opinions, so forward those to me at mickeydunaway@uncc.edu.

Ed.D. PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE?