As fall term comes to a close and the holiday season approaches, there is a lot to reflect on and be thankful for. The process of revising concentrations within the doctoral program saw the completion of the name change and program revision for our community concentration. As of the beginning of summer term, the community concentration becomes the higher education concentration with a new set of course requirements (explained on page 2). The other concentrations are working on revisions as well.

As you know, we have had retirements and resignations from the faculty, but the good news is that K-12 and community/higher education both were authorized for a new faculty position this year. Those searches are well under way. It is always exciting to bring new faculty members into the program.

Dr. Dunaway, a faculty member, served as director of the doctoral program this Fall. He decided to resign from that position due to the time commitment the position required and the impact it was having on his other responsibilities. That provided an opportunity for the department to rethink the organizational structure for the program. The result of those discussions was a pilot for spring that divides the director position into basically four positions—a program director for each concentration, and a half-time professional coordinator for the overall doctoral program. The College is supporting this pilot for the spring term. As the spring term begins, you will hear more about this new direction for the coordination and management of the doctoral program in Educational Leadership.

On a more personal note, while I have much enjoyed teaching in the program, working with many really fine graduate students, and welcomed the opportunity to chair the department, an opportunity came along that I found hard to resist—being the Chief Academic Officer and Vice President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The APLU is an association of the 238 leading public research and land-grant universities and university systems. Its role is research, policy and advocacy providing a forum for the discussion and development of policies and programs affecting higher education and the public interest.

So I will be leaving Educational Leadership at the end of this year.

May the holidays be merry and bring you the rest and rejuvenation you need to prepare for a new spring term.

Alan Mabe, Ph.D.
Q1: Why did Educational Leadership decide to change the name of the concentration from “Community” to “Higher Education”?

A: The Community Concentration was originally approved in 2004 to provide an option for individuals in settings other than K-12 school districts to pursue a doctoral degree in educational leadership. In recent years, the vast majority of those entering the Community Concentration have been interested in Higher Education as their primary area of study. The new concentration name and revised curriculum reflects that change and better defines what we have already been doing for years. At the same time, we maintained a large block (15 credit hours) of electives to ensure that individuals could pursue related areas of interest (e.g., adult education, instructional systems technology, educational research).

Q2. If I am currently in the “Community Concentration” do I have to switch to “Higher Education”?

A: No, the switch is entirely optional. Each student should review the program outline compared with courses already completed to see if changing can be accomplished without completing additional courses. In addition, we expect there will be some students who want to remain in Community because their primary area of interest is a subject other than higher education.

Q3: Will prospective students have the option of applying to the “Community Concentration”?

A: Students who applied for spring 2016 admission will be considered under Community. Those applying for Summer 2016 and later will apply for Higher Education.

Q4: Where can I access the new Higher Education Concentration curriculum outline?

A: You can connect to the new outline through this [link](#).

Q5: What are major changes to expect in the Higher Education Concentration curriculum as compared with the Community Concentration?

A: Students will notice that two of the Core/Foundation courses originally required in the Community Concentration are no longer required (ADMN 8121 and ADMN 8660). These courses were more P-12 focused and do not fit as well with the Higher Education curriculum. In addition, we created a Higher Education Concentration that requires the completion of five specific higher education courses (ADMN 8171, ADMN 8172, ADMN 8173, ADMN 8174, and ADMN 8175). The revised concentration also includes 15 credit hours of electives.

Q6: Is it possible to choose elective courses besides what is listed in the new outline?

A: Yes, all 8000-level courses with the ADMN, EIST, and RSCH prefixes are pre-approved as elective courses. Students can also take CUSU 8126 and CUSU 8127. We recommend that each student works with an advisor to select elective courses that contribute to learning related to one’s dissertation and/or professional interests. Other 8000-level courses may be counted with permission of the student’s advisor.

Q7: How would the switch impact courses already completed that are not listed in the new outline?

A: Any course that a student has completed that is not among the required courses will be counted as an elective if it is a pre-approved elective course. If the course is not among the pre-approved electives, approval must be obtained prior to clearance for graduation.

Q8: Who do I need to contact if I want to switch to the Higher Education Concentration?

A: Students should notify Karen Haar, Office Manager in the Department of Educational Leadership, at 704-687-8857 or Khaar@uncc.edu.

Q9: How soon do I need to decide if I want to switch to Higher Education?

A: If you would like to change, please notify Karen Haar by January 15, 2016. The change can be made after January 15, but there may be additional steps in the approval process.

Q10: Who should I contact if I need more guidance?

A: Students should contact their academic advisors or Dr. Mark D’Amico (mmdamico@uncc.edu) for more guidance.
The Educational Leadership Department hosted its annual Fall Doctoral Dinner for graduate students on November 4th, 2015 at the Student Activity Center (SAC). The dinner provided an opportunity for new doctoral students to meet and network with current doctoral students, professors, and administrators from the department. Faculty spotted among the crowd were Dr. Mickey Dunaway (former doctoral program coordinator), Dr. Alan Mabe (department chair), Dr. Rebecca Shore, Dr. Chuang Wang, Dr. Jim Watson, and Dr. Debra Morris.

Dr. Dunaway opened the event with a warm welcome. Dr. Mabe presented his vision for the Ed.D. program and highlighted the increase in enrollment in the Educational Leadership doctoral program and the Instructional Systems Technology masters program this school year. Guest speaker Dr. Alpert, a UNCC Ed.D. graduate, shared her tips on succeeding as a graduate student and how she managed her dissertation with a strong project management process and dissertation timeline (see page 5). Sabrina Brown and Monica Allen, current Ed.D. students, addressed the student body about the benefits of establishing a graduate student organization in our department. Monica has sent out a survey to all EDLD doctoral students through an email from Karen Haar on December 14 to help identify your needs.

Take the survey now

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**Kiran Budhrani, Ed.D. student**

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Take the survey now
Next Spring Doctoral Dinner is on:
Jan. 27th, 2016 (Wed)  
5:00 PM  
Lucas Room, Cone  
Mark your calendars.

Big Smiles Over Dinner
Create a Dissertation Timeline

Shannon Alpert, Ed.D.

*Identify the key milestones (proposal development, proposal defense, data collection, data analysis, final writing, dissertation defense, etc.) and tasks that lead to those milestones.*

*Work backwards from the time you would like to graduate to see if that date is realistic. Or, work from present day to see how long the process will take.*

*Know the graduation requirements, process, and timeline, and include that in your timeline.*

*Consider your personal, professional, and academic responsibilities. Even though you may want to finish in a certain term, it is important to be flexible.*

*If you choose to engage an editor, transcriptionist, or other outside assistance with your writing, add time (and budget!) for those activities.*

*Allow time for the review process with your advisor and committee.*

*Plan on submitting at least two drafts of each chapter.*

*Build in time for IRB approval process if you are dealing with human subjects.*

*Start the process of gaining access to a research site or to participants as early as practical while keeping within IRB protocols.*

*Keep a field journal to help you reflect on your progress and adjust your timing as needed.*

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**CONFERENCE UPDATES**

+ **Frontiers in Education 2016** [view]
  October 12-15, 2016
  Bayfront Convention Center, Erie PA

+ **2016 NCARE Annual Meeting**
  Call for Proposals: Education Research as Public Scholarship [view]
  February 11-12, 2016
  UNC Charlotte Center City
  Proposal Deadline: Dec. 18, 2015

Special thanks to Monica Allen, Ed.D.student, for her contribution in this section.

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**SCHEDULE REMINDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Last day to drop all classes (100% refund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Saturday classes begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Last day to submit dissertations for Dec. 2015 graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Deadline to apply for May 2016 graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Fall 2016 Schedule of Classes available on web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7-12</td>
<td>Spring Recess - No Classes</td>
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</tbody>
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*Group photo from the Fall Doctoral Dinner (November 4th, 2015)*

Photo credit: Kiran Budhrani