When are you going to graduate? If family and friends have not asked you this question yet, they will. Time spent earning your Ed.D. is time not spent with loved ones. It is difficult to balance all the demands of your life as you earn your doctoral degree.

You are undertaking a challenging journey towards becoming an educational leader that makes a positive impact in others’ lives. Faculty in the Department of Educational Leadership are closely examining your journey in the program.

Dr. Valorie McAlpin, who is serving for six months as the Graduate Program Director, is examining all the processes and systems to recommend ways to enhance student experiences in the program.

Drs. Jim Watson, Rebecca Shore, and Mark D’Amico are coordinating efforts within the Superintendent, Curriculum and Supervision, and Higher Education concentrations respectively.

Though Dr. McAlpin only recently joined our faculty, she has already identified areas that will enrich the scholarly journey of both students and faculty members while fostering stronger relationships.

Following are just a few items that are being improved.

- Redesign the Ed.D. website for easier navigation and provide essential resources for current and prospective students
- Enhance the advisee and advisor relationship, from admissions to graduation, to help students through this complex process
- Identify scholarship and traveling funds for graduate students
- Develop long-term course offerings so students can plan their program
- Include students on the Ed.D. advisory committee
- Develop a mentoring system whereby students at the end of their program will serve as mentors for students starting the program

If you have additional suggestions for enhancing the doctoral program, please email me at ClaudiaFlowers@uncc.edu.

Students and faculty are forever bonded through this challenging educational journey. The true test of the quality of our program is the impact you have after graduation.

-- Dr. Claudia Flowers

Claudia Flowers has been at UNC Charlotte for 21 years as a research faculty member. She recently assumed the Chair of Educational Leadership when Dr. Alan Mabe was named the Chief Academic Officer and Vice President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). She teaches the statistics courses and has served on over 100 dissertation committees. Her research interest is assessment of students with disabilities.
On January 20th, 2016, the Center for Graduate Life hosted a presentation by Dr. Sarah Laditka, Associate Professor and Program Faculty of the Health Services Research Doctoral Program. Dr. Laditka has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research studies, and mentored students as co-authors on more than half of those publications.

To a standing room only audience, Dr. Laditka shared how to get started building a research portfolio, selecting potential journals, and getting work accepted.

"Build a research portfolio early in your doctoral studies."

One point that she shared was that it is important to start this process as early in your doctoral studies as possible.

This is particularly important for students who are interested in teaching in higher education. If this is your goal, after graduation, you will be competing for assistant professor positions against individuals who will have already built their research portfolio.

What is a peer-reviewed journal?
A peer-reviewed journal is a journal that requires an author of an article to submit it to the journal editor. The editor then forwards the article to experts in the field. Since these reviewers are in the same field as the author, they are considered peers. The reviews carefully evaluate the quality of the submitted article. They may suggest revision if they believe the article is publishable, or if the submission lacks scholarly validity, it will be rejected.

A few questions to keep in mind:

✦ What am I interested in writing about? Think about what you have written for your classes.
✦ What is the problem/need that I want to address?
✦ What is the audience that I want to reach?
✦ How do you identify peer-reviewed journals in your area of interest?
✦ What is the acceptance rate of the journals I have identified?
✦ What is the impact of the journal that I have identified?

There are many type of articles that can be written for journals. You do not have to conduct a “study” to write an article. Review the different types of articles that you can write below. Let’s get started!

References

1 http://libguides.marquette.edu/c.php?g=36660&p=232861
2 http://www.cabells.com.librarylink.uncc.edu/
A common myth in leadership is that leaders need authority or a job title to lead. Simon Sinek, a thought leader on modern 21st leadership and a popular speaker on TED, debunks this myth. He says: Leadership is a choice, not a rank. With this in mind, even doctoral students like us can emerge as leaders in our respective areas of interest. We can start in little ways such as attending, presenting, or volunteering in conferences.

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“Leadership is a choice, not a rank.”

NCARE (North Carolina Association for Research in Education) held its annual conference last February 11-12, 2016 at the UNCC campus. This year, the conference was organized under the leadership of Dr. Sandra Dika, the 2016 NCARE President.

The conference included two workshops by Dr. Richard Lambert and Dr. Stephen Hancock, 35 paper presentations, and over 20 poster presentations by educational researchers local to North Carolina. Among them were several doctoral students from the Ed.D. program who chose this opportunity to lead new ideas through poster and paper presentations. A number of Ed.D. students also stepped up as volunteers to assist the NCARE board in registration, logistics, and proposal reviews.

Student Poster Presentations:

1. Monica Allen
   Investigating the Role of Student/Faculty Interactions and Persistence in Engineering

2. Adam Atwell, Howard Simms, & Thanh Le
   Community College Knowns…and Unknowns

3. Kiran Budhrani
   A: Emerging Patterns of Participation Inside and Outside MOOCs
   B: Evaluating Learner Engagement in a Vocational Education MOOC in the Philippines

4. Neda Pouraskari
   Islamophobia and the Experiences of Female Muslim College Students who wear Head Covering

5. Elaine O’Reilly (recent graduate)
   Psychosocial Adjustment for Transfer Students in a Psychology Major

6. April Smith
   Examining Student-Faculty Interactions with Students of Color at Predominantly White Institutions

Student Paper Presentations:

1. Maria Leahy
   Skills and Characteristics of Successful Leaders: Lessons from Two Sustained Successful Charter School Leaders

2. Rebecca Shore & Drusilla Thomas
   Applying Cognitive Science Principles to Improve Retention of Vocabulary in High School Science Classrooms

3. Scott Gartlan
   Teachers’ Perceptions Following Intensive University–School Professional Development: Professors and Teaching Colleagues as Supportive Writing Mentors

4. Cathy Howell (recent graduate)
   Black Women Doctoral Success and Degree Completion

Student Volunteers:

Monica Allen, Kiran Budhrani, Thanh Le, Maria Leahy, Nhu Nguyen, Neda Pouraskari, and April Smith
Student Poster and Paper Presenters at NCARE

Adam Atwell
Howard Simms
Drusilla Thomas

Neda Pouraskari
Kiran Budhrani
Maria Leahy

April Smith
Thanh Le
Monica Allen

Elaine O’Reilly (recent graduate)
Cathy Howell (recent graduate)
Scott Gartlan

NCARE membership for students is only $10. Visit www.ncare.us for more information.
Get Involved. Finish Your Dissertation. Graduate!
Kiran Budhrani, Ed.D. Student

Upcoming Activities

🔹 2016-2017 Graduate Life Fellow (GLF) Application - Submissions Due March 1st [view]

🔹 UNCC College of Education - Diversity Assessment Focus Groups - March 14, 2016 [view]
Sign up by March 1st - send an email to Courtney Glavich (cglavich@uncc.edu)

🔹 PhD in Curriculum and Instruction Spring Retreat (Ed.D. Students are welcome to join)
February 27, 2016, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, College of Education Main Campus. Register online.

Presentations include:
1. Dr. Sandra Dika: “Focusing your Research from Day One”
2. Dr. Brian Kissel: “Publishing in the Professoriate: Setting Yourself Up for the First Three Years”
3. Dr. Adriana Medina: “Tokens of the Professoriate: Tips for Being a Successful GA and Communicating with Faculty”

🔹 On-Going Dissertation Writing Assistance

🔹 Dissertation Writing Support - Book an Appointment
Mon-Wed: 2:00-5:00pm; Thu: 1:00-5:00pm, Cone 268

Dr. Lisa Russell-Pinson is available to help dissertation students improve their academic writing skills, understand the dissertation process, work more effectively with their chairs and committee members, manage their time, set realistic writing goals, and deal with barriers to writing, such as writer’s block and procrastination. Email Dr. Russell-Pinson (lpinson@uncc.edu) to arrange an appointment.

🔹 Doctoral Writing Fellow
J. Haadi Jafarian, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Software and Information Services is available to provide peer tutoring to other doctoral students interested in improving their academic writing for coursework, presentation, and publication. Please email Haadi (gradlifefellows@uncc.edu) to arrange an appointment.

Are You Graduating?
Check all your requirements needed to graduate.
The Doctoral Graduation Checklist for Spring 2016 is available online. [view]

Graduate School Funding [view]
The Graduate School offers numerous opportunities to financially support exemplary students with tuition, stipends, and various fellowships. Some of the funding opportunities managed by the Graduate School include: Graduate Assistant Support Plan (GASP), Graduate School Tuition Scholarships, Veteran's Graduate Assistantships, Philanthropic Awards.

🔹 Graduate School Philanthropic Awards - Deadline March 1st
This year, students will apply using the new scholarship portal, NinerScholars. Administrators and scholarship committee members will gain access to students’ applications through the NinerScholars Scholarship Review and Award portals. Download a Philanthropic Award Summary Chart (pdf).

🔹 FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid - Submissions Due March 1st [view]

CALENDER REMINDERS

🔹 March 7 Fall 2016 Schedule of Classes available on web
🔹 March 10 Doctoral Dissertation Formatting Review Deadline
🔹 March 7-12 Spring Recess - No Classes
🔹 March 21 Last day to withdraw from course(s)
🔹 March 25-26 Spring Weekend - No Classes
🔹 March 28 Registration for Summer 2016 and Fall 2016
🔹 April 7 Doctoral Dissertation Defense Deadline
🔹 April 14 Last Day to Submit Dissertations for May 2016 Graduation
🔹 May 3 Last day of classes
🔹 May 5-12 Final Examinations
How to Load SPSS files from Home

Kiran Budhrani, Ed.D. Student

**Step 1: Log On**
Load Citrix on your browser at citrix.uncc.edu. Log on with your UNCC username and password.

**Step 2: Add the SPSS Statistics app**
Click on the + button. Select Statistics, then SPSS Statistics 23.

**Step 3: Load SPSS**
Click the SPSS icon to run the application. Be patient with your browser as it loads SPSS.

*Note: SPSS is connected through the Citrix server, which is running online on your browser.*

**Step 4: Start Working**
Create a new data set or load a recent file from your student H: Drive.

*Note: When you are connected to SPSS at home, you can only save or load files from your student H: drive.*

All doctoral students have access to SPSS via Citrix on the web. Contact UNC Charlotte’s help desk if you have difficulty (704-687-5500).