

# Doctoral Digest

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A newsletter for all cohort members in Western Kentucky University's Doctorate in Education Program

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### New Leader for Ed Leader

#### *Dr. Wagner Appointed Interim Director*

Educational Administration, Leadership & Research Professor, Dr. Christopher Wagner, has been appointed Interim Director of Educational Leadership Doctoral Studies. He will be serving dual roles, functioning as EALR Professor and Doctoral Studies Director during this interim period. Dr. Wagner has worked for WKU since 1992.

Dr. Wagner will be located in the downstairs office in the Doc House during AM hours. For an appointment, please call Emily at 745-3061.

#### Cohort III Orientation

During orientation in July, transitions were taking place in more ways than one. Twenty new doctoral students transitioned from graduate student to doctoral in their first class in Tate Page Hall. At the same time Dr. Wagner was transitioning into the position of Interim Director. Dr. Fiene and Dr. Hooper also collaborated with Dr. Wagner to administer a week-long orientation for the new cohort.

Wagner, Fiene, and Hooper used team-building activities, hands-on practice in the Helm Library, and special guest speakers to orient the students into the doctoral program.

### Cohort's Corner

#### *What is going on in the lives of your Ed.D family?*

In the midst of researching, reading, editing, and learning statistics, you may forget that you each have personal lives. To keep you connected, here is the scoop on your fellow cohort members.

#### Spotlight on Tracy

Tracy Inman was recognized for her contributions to the field of gifted education at the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education's annual conference in February. Tracy received the Michael Caudill Educator Award. She is a recognized leader for gifted education in Kentucky who has extended her advocacy from the local level to the state and national levels through her willingness to serve on committees and boards, make presentations, and work with other educators who are seeking greater understanding of gifted children and youth. (Full article can be found in the most recent issue of *The Challenge: Magazine of the Center for Gifted Studies*).

#### Proud Cohort Dad

Dan Costellow (Cohort I) accepted the 2009 Tomorrow's Leader Scholarship from KASA at their state conference on July 17, 2009. The amount of the award was \$3,000. (Info at: [http://www.kasa.org/Awards\\_and\\_Recognition/tomorrows\\_leader\\_scholar07.htm](http://www.kasa.org/Awards_and_Recognition/tomorrows_leader_scholar07.htm)).

Dan also would like to announce an addition to the family. Gavin Daniel Costellow was born May 11, 2009. Four year old sister Ali is very proud.

#### A Leading American University with International Reach

Doctoral Studies broke new ground with the third cohort by admitting its first international student. Yi-Hsien Lin traveled to the states from Taiwan, where he received his BA from National Tainan University. He recently graduated from Arkansas Tech University with his MAE.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Cohort I Cookout (Owensboro)
2 Corey Alderdice	3	4	5	6 Leann Howell	7 Tom Stewart	8
9	10	11	12 Adam Murray	13	14	15
16	17	18 Edwin Craft	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 <b>Tuition due</b> (registered before 8/9)	26 SG Carthell	27	28	29
30	31  Penelope Logsdon					

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Tamela Smith	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Holiday	8 <b>Tuition due</b> (registered from 8/10- 8/23)	9	10	11	12 Margie Edwards- Haygood
13	14	15 Yi- Hsien Lin	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Cohort I:</b> EDLD 720	26 <b>Cohort II:</b> EDLD 711 <b>Cohort I: EDLD</b> 720 Emily Dillard
27 <b>Cohort II:</b> EDLD 711	28	29 <b>Tuition due</b> (registered 8/24-9/13)	30			

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Wes Waddle & Jane Mauzy	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Christopher Mueller	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <b>Cohort I:</b> EDLD 720	24 <b>Cohort I:</b> EDLD 720
25	26	27	28	29 Dan Costellow & Holly Ross	30 Kelly Davis	31 Sonya House  Halloween



#### SCHOOL-RELATED

Interested in tutoring? Need a study group? Want to carpool to your next class? Use the next newsletter to connect with your classmates. Email [emily.dillard@wku.edu](mailto:emily.dillard@wku.edu) or [doctoral.studies@wku.edu](mailto:doctoral.studies@wku.edu) with details.

#### WORK-RELATED

Promotion? Relocating? Keep your Ed.D. family in the loop by announcing your news flash in the next newsletter. Email [emily.dillard@wku.edu](mailto:emily.dillard@wku.edu) or [doctoral.studies@wku.edu](mailto:doctoral.studies@wku.edu).

#### PERSONAL LIFE

Getting married? Expecting an addition to the family? We want to hear about it! Email your news to us at [emily.dillard@wku.edu](mailto:emily.dillard@wku.edu) or [doctoral.studies@wku.edu](mailto:doctoral.studies@wku.edu) and we will include it in the next newsletter.

## Farewell Fiene

*Cohorts throw send-off party*

Dr. Jay Fiene said goodbye to WKU on July 10, 2009. He accepted a Department Chair position at California State, San Bernardino in the Department of Educational Leadership & Curriculum.



*Photo courtesy of Lee Ann Smith*

A farewell reception was held for Dr. Fiene at the home of Kelly Davis. Cohorts I and II collectively purchased a \$250 IKEA gift card as a going away present for Dr. Fiene.

#### WHAT'S UP, DOC?

##### THE COURAGE TO SAY "NO"

*By Christopher R. Wagner, Ph.D.*

*Interim Program Director*

Please accept my invitation to say, "NO". And right after you graciously say NO, turn it into a "YES".

I cannot think of one person in any of the cohorts that is not incredibly busy. This makes sense. Hard working, outgoing, high achieving, successful people represent the kind of students we want in this program. Problem is, people with these characteristics represent a constant target for others pushing us into leadership positions for all sorts of things. "Please run the church rummage sale. Will you head up the garden club this year? You would make a great chairperson for the athletic booster club. I am afraid that if you don't become the PTA president this year, the organization is doomed." Your short answer to all these comments is simply the word "NO". If you wish, you can always follow that up with "Sorry, I just cannot take on another responsibility this year. I'm working on my doctorate."

Of course, it is always nice to be needed and some of these leadership positions may appeal to your vanity, but by saying "NO" you are courageously saying "YES" to yourself, your career, your education, your family, your colleagues, and your life. While you may have experienced tremendous success in other endeavors, earning a doctorate is like none of your other accomplishments. This effort will need a strong and persistent focus on the goal.

Sorting out your priorities is crucial here. I like Covey's simple "first things first" idea. I am asking you, what is first in your life? I hope they include your significant other, your family, your job, and your degree? Figure it out, line them up and prioritize. There is a good possibility that outside of the list you develop are all the unnecessary demands that will pull you away from your degree.

Here are two scary thoughts: 1. Be careful about taking on new responsibilities at work. An old sage once told me, "Institutions have no memory, when you move on, so too will the institution. 2. Brighter people than any of us have allowed themselves to get sidetracked off the path toward their doctorate and so often the reason was their inability to say "NO".

# A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Great minds  
think alike!



*Photo courtesy Lee Ann Smith*



*Photo courtesy Lee Ann Smith*



*Photo courtesy Lee Ann Smith*



End of year  
get-togethers  
are the best!

*Photo courtesy Lee Ann Smith*

Do you have Cohort pictures you would like to share? Email them to [doctoral.studies@wku.edu](mailto:doctoral.studies@wku.edu).