

Remarks by Dr. James Burchyett, EDL Founding Fellow

At the Department of Educational Leadership reunion, June 13, 2008.

It is my privilege and pleasure to present a program which we hope will strengthen an already strong EDL Department and assist current and future doctoral students as they pursue their studies at Miami University. A few retired faculty and an EDL doctoral graduate held several meetings and discussed ways we could assist. We came up with a program which we chose to call "The EDL Fellows Program".

In establishing the EDL Fellows Program several goals were attempted to be met, they were:

An opportunity to meet annually and fellowship with friends and faculty.

A way to assist current and future EDL doctoral students financially.

A way to recognize, in perpetuity, those who become EDL Fellows.

A way to have the ownership of the program be that of the EDL doctoral graduates and current, future and retired faculty.

A way to keep the program vital and known to all eligible persons.

A way to allow leadership to be formally addressed at the annual meeting by a participating EDL doctoral graduate.

A way to record, accumulate over time and publish the annual address given by participating EDL doctoral graduates.

These goals, as well as how they may be accomplished were discussed with Dean Feyton, EDL Chair Rousmaniere, a EDL faculty committee, and representatives of the Miami University Development Office. Both the goals and the EDL Fellows Program received enthusiastic support by everyone.

The EDL Fellows Program involves:

- 1) Funding a names scholarship.
- 2) Those who agree to fund a scholarship by the end of the 2008 calendar year will be "Founding Fellows".
- 3) All EDL Fellows will have their name on a permanent plaque which will be unveiled today.
- 4) An annual meeting will be held as a part of Alumni Weekend to which all doctoral graduates, current and retired faculty will be invited. There will be an update given by the Dean and the Chair, new EDL Fellows will meet and

have lunch with the doctoral student who received their scholarship, and for those who wish, join members of the EDL Faculty and EDL Graduates in an afternoon of stimulating intellectual presentations and discussion.

For your information, there are currently nine EDL Founding Fellows.