

***Reflection - EDUC 805***  
***Doctoral Seminar in Education***  
***Dr. A. Eamonn Kelly***  
***Fall 2008***

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to various members of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and, through those introductions, allow students to become familiar with the individual research areas of the CEHD faculty so that they may determine who they might want to work with in developing their programs of study, and perhaps later, their dissertations. Previous to the time I took the course, students took it over two semesters for one credit each semester. The semester I started the doctoral program however (Spring 2008), the course was being redesigned and our group was held over until fall. From our class on, students now take EDUC 805 for one semester and receive two credits.

Although I did find many of the presentations interesting, I felt that the intended purpose of the course might have been lost on me because of my circumstances of attending George Mason for the IB Certificate Program prior to being admitted to the doctoral program. I was already a little further ahead in thinking about my program and goals, even if I hadn't completed the actual paperwork at the time. Sometimes I am like that – highly organized in my thinking but because of my personal life at the time, the carry-through doesn't always occur. It doesn't mean that I don't know where I am going but I just need to be forced to meet a deadline.

One thing that I did find interesting and tried to address in my Reflective Paper was the idea of Communities of Practice (CoPs) that was continually brought up in the course. The idea that communities of practice are flexible and evolve over time was an interesting idea to me and EDUC 805 made me consider the various CoPs that I am and have been a part of during my teaching and academic career. One of the things that I have started to influence my thinking as I am progressing through the doctoral program is what kinds of CoPs would I like to belong to, rather than what kinds of CoPs do I get thrown into?