



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Access *The Beacon* online: <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.shtml>. You can also go to the School of Education home page, and click on *The Beacon* in the menu under the News and Events button on the left. **HARD COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN FURCOLO HALL AND HILLS SOUTH.**



*Reflective Practice...Multiple Ways of Knowing
 Access, Equity, & Fairness...Collaboration
 Evidence Based Practice*

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Change in Beacon Deadline:
 Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: **Room 121B Furcolo Hall or to jgoodheart@educ.umass.edu** by 5:00 P.M. on Friday for inclusion in the following week's *Beacon*. All assistantships will run for two issues and examinations and dissertation proposals will run for one.

If you know of conferences or about any students or faculty who have received honors or awards, please let me know! Send all information to jgoodheart@educ.umass.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

IAN MARTIN October 2, 2008, 10:00 a.m, Room 157, Hills South.
 Chairperson: Dr. Sharon Rallis.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

RACHEL J. BOIT Proposed Dissertation Title: "Bridging the gap in Early Literacy Intervention: The involvement of teachers in the review and implementation of Dialogic Reading and its effects on early literacy outcomes among preschool children from low-income backgrounds." Statement of the Problem: With the concern of limited language and literacy opportunities among young children in low-income communities, taking center stage among early childhood educators, more emphasis is being placed on instruction in preschool classrooms through training teachers on new methodologies of reading with children. While professional development with preschool teachers should be seen to fully involve them in designing the methods they learn to use in their classrooms, it has long been common practice for researchers to introduce reading programs using the top down model. This overshadows the knowledge owned by teachers and also robs them of their empowerment or ownership of the programs, which is one reason that might explain why teachers cease to use the strategies introduced to them as soon as the research period is over. The aim of this study, therefore, is to investigate the effects that involving teachers in the designing and implementation of reading programs will have on children's literacy outcomes and overall sustainability of such programs." Chairperson: **Dr. Claire E. Hamilton.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont. from page 1)*

NANCY BUFFONE Proposed Dissertation Title: "Department Chair Succession." Statement of the Problem: In the corporate world, leaders typically plan for succession, carefully grooming their heir apparent. In academia, however, it is rare for such planning to occur at the institutional level, much less the departmental level. Department chairs play a pivotal role in both shaping the future directions and cultivating the culture of the department. Given the relatively brief tenure of department heads and chairs and the essential nature of the role, it can be argued, however, that it is even more critical for departments to carefully approach and plan for leadership transitions. While a great deal of scholarly research has focused on the practical transitions facing new department chairs, little attention has been paid to the idea of emerging leadership at the departmental level. This study will explore further the nature of succession planning for departments at a research university. Chairperson: **Dr. Joseph B. Berger.**

DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Commonwealth Corporation is offering a **fellowship** for a Massachusetts doctoral student to conduct research on workforce development in the long-term care sector. Please click on the link below to access the description and application (**due October 1, 2008**). Questions can be directed to info@commcorp.org.

<http://www.commcorp.org/researchandevaluation/pdf/CommCorp-SEatonFship2008.pdf>

The fellowship is offered in memory of Professor Susan Eaton, an activist and researcher who dedicated her career to work and labor issues and made important contributions to the field of workforce development in the long-term care industry.

FY 2009 Funding Opportunities at the Institute of Education Sciences

The Institute of Education Sciences has begun its research grant competitions for FY 2009. Within IES, the National Center for Education Research is conducting one research competition (84.305A **Education Research**) that encompasses two topic areas that may be of interest to you and your colleagues:

Education Leadership

(<http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/projects/program.asp?ProgID=8>) and Education Policy, Finance, and Systems (<http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/projects/program.asp?ProgID=9>)

Application deadline: October 2, 2008. [Letters of Intent (LOIs) are optional.]

For additional information on the Education Leadership or Education Policy, Finance, and Systems topic areas contact: Katina R. Stapleton, Research Scientist, Institute of Education Sciences, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208, 202-219-2154, Katina.Stapleton@ed.gov.

IES also invites applications for research projects that will contribute to its new research program on the **Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies** (84.305E). For more information about this program, contact Dr. Allen Ruby at (202) 219-1591 or Allen.Ruby@ed.gov.

For application requirements and instructions as well as other funding opportunities, see the Request for Applications located online at <http://ies.ed.gov/funding>.

Graduate Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies

The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies offers an inter-disciplinary Graduate Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies. The certificate is offered only in conjunction with a disciplinary master's or doctoral degree program and is overseen by the Center's faculty. It is intended to certify competency in area and language studies. It encourages enrolled graduate students to enhance their professional development by taking courses outside their discipline which contribute to training in internationalism, multiculturalism and foreign language competence.

For additional information on the Center, we encourage interested students to visit Gloria Bernabe-Ramos, the Associate Director and Chief Advisor of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, in her office, Thompson 520, and to visit www.umass.edu/clacl.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont. from page 2)*

Thesis and Dissertation Formatting with Microsoft Word at UMass Amherst

The Office of Information Technologies offers workshops with detailed instructions on how to format a thesis or dissertation to meet the requirements of the UMass Graduate School with Microsoft Word for Windows or Mac. The workshops include margins, footnotes, bibliographies, page numbering, headings, table of contents, etc. as well as advice about electronic submission. There are two workshops: one for users of Word 2007 (including people who will be working in the OIT classrooms), and one for earlier versions of Word (Mac or Windows).

Word 2007 Workshop

Monday, October 27
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Word (other versions) Workshop

Wednesday, October 29
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Prerequisite

Some knowledge of the version of Microsoft Word that you are using.

Registration

Registration is required and is not complete until you have paid the \$10 fee and told us which version of Word you are using. To register, go to the Administrative Desk in A119 Lederle GRC (545-9730). For information, email worshops@oit.umass.edu.

Course materials on Web or CD

Course materials are also available on the OIT Web site: www.oit.umass.edu/workshops/tutorials.html Or purchase a course packet and CD from OIT for \$5 plus tax.

Consulting on formatting issues

For more information about these workshops, to discuss which one is best for you, or for other consultation on dissertation and thesis formatting issues, please contact Elisa Campbell: campbell@oit.umass.edu



NEWS, ACTIVITIES, AWARDS & HONORS

Dr. Theresa Austin was one of two faculty of education invited to participate in the Shinnyoen Foundation's (<http://www.sef.org/whoweare.html>) Lantern Floating Ceremony on May 26th and the Six Billion Paths to Peace Conference and Education Forum on May 27th (<http://starbulletin.com/2008/05/27/news/story04.html>). This foundation provides grants for educational projects involving service to marginalized communities.

On June 19th, Dr. Austin presented a paper entitled "Negotiating social interactions: What does positioning reveal to us?" at the 2nd international Seminar of Educational Research at Rikkyo University, Tokyo Japan.

Dr. Austin will be chairing the 15th Annual Sociocultural Theory and Second Language Learning Research Conference, Oct. 16 -18, 2008, co-sponsored by the School of Education, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, Language, Literacy and Culture Doctoral Concentration and College of Humanities and Fine Arts' Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Upcoming publications include:

Austin, T. (2008). Review of "RIVERA, CHARLENE, and ERIC COLLUM. (Eds.). State assessment policy and practice for English Language Learners. A national perspective." *Modern Language Journal*, 92(3).

Austin, T. (2009). Linguicism and race in the United States: Impact on teacher education from past to present. In Kubota, R. & Lin, A. (Ed.), *Race, culture, and identities in second language education: Exploring critically engaged practice*. Routledge

CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Academy for Educational Studies

4th Annual Conference
October 20 & 21, 2008 in Branson, MO

"Rethinking education: Is it time for radical change in the public schools?"

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CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR PROPOSALS *(cont. from page 3)*

Keynote Addresses:

Kieran Egan (Simon Fraser University) and Paul Theobald (Buffalo State University).

Academy Dialogue hosted by Christopher Lucas (University of Arkansas)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Steven P. Jones, Academy Director
Missouri State University
417-836-5982 • spjones@missouristate.edu

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

ISLS Conference Dates: June 11-13, 2009
Location: The Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal; Orlando, Florida

NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA)

NERA Conference Dates: October 22-24, 2008
Location: Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT.
Questions: neramembers@gmail.com.
Theme: "Strengthening Educational Research"
Note: Papers and posters need not be about the conference theme.
Keynote speaker: Marilyn Cochran-Smith, the John E. Cawthorne Millennium Chair in Teacher Education for Urban Schools from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.

Center for Educational Assessment Workshop at NERA

October 22, 2008 (Wednesday)
4-5:30 P.M.

“Reporting Test Scores in More Meaningful Ways: Some New Findings, Research Methods, and Guidelines for Score Report Design”

Presented by Ronald K. Hambleton & April L. Zenisky
Center for Educational Assessment
School of Education
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Goals for this workshop include a discussion of the current state of score reporting practices, including promising ideas for communicating test results to audiences, as well as an overview of research in the area and exercises to gain experience in both constructively criticizing score reports and designing better score reports.

School of Education at NERA

SESSION TWO: WEDNESDAY, 4-5:30

Paper Session Title: Learning and Instruction on the College Campus

Discussant: Barker

Chair: Laguilles

Evaluation of the UMass-Amherst Afghan Project Academic success Initiative

by CIE graduate student Bonnie Sylwester and Assistant Professor Rebecca Gajda



Re-Envisioning Writing Assessment: Relevance, Diversity, and Achievement

A conference for educators, pre-K-college
Hosted by the UMass in collaboration with the Western Massachusetts Writing Project

November 1, 2008
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center
Southbridge, MA

The program includes sessions for all grade levels on classroom, state-mandated, and placement assessments on such topics as: Equity in Assessment, Assessing Visual and Multi Modal Texts, Collaborative and Self-Assessment, Professional Development, Assessing English Language Learners Response to Mandated Assessments.

See conference website for full listing of concurrent sessions, conference schedule, and online registration.

Priority registration by October 15.

<http://www.umass.edu/reenvision>



ASSISTANTSHIPS

EDUCATIONAL POLICY, RESEARCH & ADMINISTRATION (EPRA) ASSISTANTSHIPS

No assistantships at this time.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (SDPPS) ASSISTANTSHIPS

No assistantships at this time.

TEACHER EDUCATION & CURRICULUM STUDIES (TECS) ASSISTANTSHIPS

No assistantships at this time.

OTHER ASSISTANTSHIPS ON CAMPUS

★ **NEW** ★ **Research Assistantship**, 20 hours/week (full time) for September 2008-May 2009 in the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies.

Responsibilities: Assist CLACLS staff and affiliated researchers on a variety of projects especially our joint initiative with the Department of Afro-American Studies entitled, *Afro-Latina/o Diasporas: Black Cultures and Racial Politics in the Americas*. This project involves collaboration among university scholars & intellectual-activists from social movements in a number of institutions, organizations, & networks in the U.S., Latin America, & the Caribbean. Duties include conference organizing, developing an archive & conducting bibliographic research; developing & maintaining the project website, including links to publications, syllabi & other relevant documents; assisting in the process of preparing a document for an upcoming conference, conducting research on potential sources of funding & assisting with grant writing; & providing support for Center activities, such as presentations of research, conferences, & other events.

Proficiency in Spanish and/or Portuguese required. Familiarity with Afro-Latina/o issues preferred.

If interested, apply immediately by bringing a letter of interest which addresses your qualifications for the position, a CV and a transcript to: CLACLS – RA position, Thompson 522, UMass Amherst

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Departments

Educational Policy, Research, and Administration (EPRA).....	545.3610
Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services (SDPPS).....	545.2231
Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies (TECS).....	545.0246

Other Offices

Educator Information Office	545.2002
Educator Licensure Office.....	545.2701



Commonly Used University Numbers

Bursar's Office 215 Whitmore.....	545.2368
Continuing & Professional Education (main office) 100 Venture Way, Hadley.....	545.2414
Financial Aid 255 Whitmore.....	545.0801
Graduate School – Registrar/Admissions 534 Goodell.....	545.0024
Undergraduate Registrar 213 Whitmore.....	545.0555

