



# 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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**There's always something new at the School of Education website!**

Current information about courses and policies • dates to remember • news about faculty, alumni, students & events

Check out the new faculty & student photos at <http://www.umass.edu/education>.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

**MARLINA DUNCAN** Proposed Dissertation Title: "The Cultural Socialization Process of Veteran Urban Secondary Science Teachers." Statement of the Problem: Many new science teachers will need to take positions in urban schools without working with effective teachers of diverse urban students prior to taking these positions. With little or no exposure to successful secondary teachers of urban youth, either as student teachers or through an examination of current research which rarely focuses on a single secondary content area, prospective teachers will find it difficult to learn how to negotiate the cultural contexts of the teaching profession. Therefore it is essential for science educators to begin to examine the cultural contexts of urban science teaching to help understand how to support the personal and professional well being of novice STEM educators. A current demand for increasing and retaining the supply of quality educators, administrators, and policy makers reinforces the need for this type of research. Chairperson: Dr. Allan Feldman.

**KATE HUDSON** Proposed Dissertation Title: "Academic Technology: Fostering Collaborations Across Organizational Boundaries." Statement of the Problem: Effective use of information technology on campuses increasingly requires collaboration across different groups as the lines between the roles of the library, centers for teaching, continuing education and other groups continue to blur. Despite widespread agreement on the important of collaborations for IT in general and academic technology in particular, there are substantial challenges to achieving suc- *(continued on page 2)*

**Change in Beacon Deadline:**

Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: **Room 121B Furcolo Hall or to [jgoodheart@educ.umass.edu](mailto: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](mailto:jgoodheart@educ.umass.edu).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont. from page 1)*

successful collaborations, and there has been little research focusing on the conditions that promote and enhance effective collaborations.... In order for academic technology to achieve its potential for improving teaching and learning in higher education, it is crucial that we better understand how institutions can develop and support effective collaborations in academic technology. Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger.

**JEAN KOSHA** Proposed Dissertation Title: "Somali Newcomers: How language, culture, and school experiences shape identity." Statement of the Problem: A large number of Somali refugees, nearly 13,000, have resettle in the United States since 1999. It is vital to understand who these newcomers are, what they bring to the school and the experiences of the second language learners in the U.S. school system. The interaction of the home culture and school culture will influence the identity development of the young Somali learners. With a deeper understanding of how language, culture and experiences in school shape these learners' identities, educators will then be better able to serve the needs of the Somali children and their families while fostering their success in their new communities. Chairperson: Dr. David R. Evans.

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### FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

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**MARSHA GUILLORY BRYANT** November 14, 2008, 8:30 a.m., Room 21C, Furcolo Hall. "A Study of Pre-Service Teachers: Is it *Really* Math Anxiety?" Chairperson: Dr. Ernest Washington.




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### INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE (IPO) TUITION WAIVERS FOR SPRING, 2009

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**\*NEW\*** Nominations for tuition waivers for current and new international graduate students are now being solicited by the International Programs office. As there are very few waivers available, they are only for students who have enormous potential but have no immediate financial assistance from their program.

**CURRENT STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:** Current students must be in a **full-time** graduate degree program

- . Minimum 3.25 GPA
- . Demonstrated financial need
- . Must **not** be a citizen or permanent U.S. resident

These waivers are for TUITION ONLY for the SPRING, 2009 term. Recipients are **not** automatically entitled to renewals, but may reapply for one additional year.

Completed nominations are to be submitted to Linda Guthrie, Graduate Program Coordinator, in Room 123, Furcolo. Linda Griffin, Graduate Program Director, will review and nominate those applications that she believes are the strongest.

#### **CURRENT STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT:**

1. Formal application form (student can pick up form at the International Programs Office, 467 Hills South or download it from: [http://www.ipo.umass.edu/\\_customtags/ct\\_FileRetrieve.cfm?File\\_ID=03054E06727474777172706906700609157C0708061475050604047274060702750400037303](http://www.ipo.umass.edu/_customtags/ct_FileRetrieve.cfm?File_ID=03054E06727474777172706906700609157C0708061475050604047274060702750400037303))
2. Financial documentation proving student has sufficient funds to cover all academic fees and living expenses other than tuition, (based on an estimated amount of \$23,800 for the 2008-09 academic year).

#### **3. Recommendation letter from student's advisor or chairperson.**

Note: For those nominated, GPD will send a memo attached to nomination to IPO.

**CURRENT STUDENT DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING, 2009 is NOVEMBER 7, 2008.**



#### **NEW STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:**

- Must be accepted into a **full-time** graduate degree program
- Have demonstrated financial need
- Have verified access to funds for all non-tuition related expenses, estimated at \$23,800 for 2008/2009 academic year. Must **not** be a citizen or permanent U.S. resident.

#### **NEW STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT:**

1. Copy of complete graduate application, signed by concentration head and department chair

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont. from page 2)*

### 2. Recommendation letter from student's advisor or chair, in Word document format.

Note: Tuition Waiver Nomination Form will be completed by Linda Guthrie

Completed nominations are to be submitted to Linda Guthrie, Graduate Program Coordinator, in Room 123, Furcolo. Linda Griffin, Graduate Program Director, will review and nominate those applications that she believes are the strongest.

These waivers are for TUITION ONLY for the SPRING, 2009 term. Recipients are **not** automatically entitled to renewals, but may reapply for one additional year.

**INCOMING STUDENT DEADLINE** TO SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING, 2009 is **OCTOBER 31, 2008.**

IMPORTANT: ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RANK ORDERED BY CONCENTRATION AND DEPARTMENT.

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### Thesis and Dissertation Formatting with Microsoft Word at UMass Amherst

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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](mailto: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](http://www.oit.umass.edu/workshops/tutorials.html)**

### **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](mailto:campbell@oit.umass.edu).

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### Graduate Student Grant Services (GSGS)

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Graduate Student Grant Services (GSGS) helps graduate students at UMass Amherst seeking extramural support for their studies, and provides the following services:

Personal Consultations  
Departmental Workshops  
GrantScape Newsletter  
Information Sessions

Visit the following website for more information:  
<http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/gsgs/>

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### Homecoming Weekend

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Oct. 17 & 18

Visit the School of Education's  
booth under the Tailgate Tent  
Saturday, Oct. 18



Have your photo taken to post on our E-Gallery  
Meet the Dean \* Giveaways



**NEWS, ACTIVITIES, AWARDS  
& HONORS**

Dr. Sara Young's paper entitled "Becoming Allies: Privilege, Discourse, and Social Change" won the 2009 Rubovits Award, recognizing it as the best paper from last year's New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO) conference. Dr. Young will be presenting her paper again as an invited session at AERA this Spring.

**CONFERENCES &  
CALLS FOR PROPOSALS**

**New England Educational Research Organization  
(NEERO) 2009 Conference**

**\*NEW\***

Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
May 6-8, 2009  
Sheraton Harborside Hotel

**Call for proposals**

For details about types of presentations and proposal requirements, and to submit all proposals, visit [www.neero.org](http://www.neero.org). Please review the CFP before submitting a proposal.

**Deadline: October 30**

More information about conference registration and hotel reservations will be available later this fall at the NEERO website.

**Pioneer Valley STEM Education  
Showcase and Symposium**

Thursday, October 23, 2008  
4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Kittredge Center  
Holyoke Community College

**More Information:** <http://umassk12.net/pvnet>  
[kbaker918@aol.com](mailto:kbaker918@aol.com) 413 545-0010

**Registration:** <http://bit.ly/Showcase>

**Registration deadline:** October 10, 2008

**Showcase**

• Come to the poster fair to learn about what schools, colleges, museums, and businesses are doing to im-

prove STEM education students and teachers in the Pioneer Valley.

- Bring a poster that describes what your institution is doing for STEM education in the region.

**Symposium**

- Hear what a panel of Pioneer Valley superintendents have to say about the challenges and successes in their districts.
- Stay and learn from representatives of the MA Depts of Education about what is happening on the state level in STEM education.

**Massachusetts Association of Colleges for  
Teacher Education ( MACTE)  
CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

MACTE/COMTEC/MAECTE Conference  
November 21, 2008

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Ctr. in Sturbridge  
**Deadline for submissions: October 17, 2008.**

**Theme: Educating Diverse P-12 Students.**

Presentations focusing specifically on this topic should address the role our teacher preparation programs can play in improving the equity and access to quality education for all children & adolescents in Massachusetts. This includes the recruitment of diverse candidates to teacher preparation programs and issues of language differences, ethnicity, poverty and cultural diversity.

Submit your proposal electronically to Vera Ossen at [vera\\_ossen@uml.edu](mailto:vera_ossen@uml.edu). Include session organizer, institutional affiliation, contact information, additional presenter(s), title of proposed session, a brief abstract of your presentation (approx. 300 words), and a 50 word summary of your presentation for the program.  
4th Annual Conference

**Academy for Educational Studies**

October 20 & 21, 2008 in Branson, MO

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

**Keynote Addresses:**

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

**Academy Dialogue** hosted by Christopher Lucas (University of Arkansas)

## CONFERENCES *(cont. from page 4)*

### If you have any questions, please contact:

Steven P. Jones, Academy Director  
Missouri State University  
417-836-5982 • [spjones@missouristate.edu](mailto:spjones@missouristate.edu)

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

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

For more information: <http://www.isls-inc.org/>.

### NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA)

**NERA Conference Dates:** October 22-24, 2008

**Location:** Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT.

**Questions:** [neramembers@gmail.com](mailto: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 Dr. 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 & 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 Dr. Rebecca Gajda

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

A conference for educators, pre-K-college hosted by 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>

### The School of Education on FACEBOOK

Connect with  
prospective, current, and alumni students  
from UMass Amherst's  
Teacher Education &  
Curriculum Studies Department  
under Student Groups/Classes and Departments

<http://www.facebook.com/>

## ASSISTANTSHIPS

### EDUCATIONAL POLICY, RESEARCH & ADMINISTRATION (EPRA) ASSISTANTSHIPS

*No assistantships at this time.*

### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (SDPPS) ASSISTANTSHIPS

#### Graduate Research Assistant Position (10 hr/week)

I am looking for a doctoral level research assistant to work on a large-scale database and policy analysis research study funded by the JEHT foundation. The study is an investigation of school referrals to the juvenile justice system.

**Responsibilities:** development of a database in SPSS from multiple data sources, running descriptive analyses and data cleaning procedures, contacting state and local governmental offices to obtain policy and procedural standards, scholarly writing.

**Qualifications:** Applicants should have an interest in juvenile justice research, a background in data analysis, experience with SPSS, and strong writing skills.

Please send a letter of interest, a cv, and a writing sample to Michael Krezmien at [krezmien@educ.umass.edu](mailto:krezmien@educ.umass.edu).

### TEACHER EDUCATION & CURRICULUM STUDIES (TECS) ASSISTANTSHIPS

**Two half-time (10 hrs. per week) Teaching Assistantships** are available for Spring Semester 2009 in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, with Masha K. Rudman.

**Responsibilities include:** Assisting in teaching a section of 378, Survey of Children's Literature (class meets on Mondays from 1-3:30 P.M.); holding weekly office hours for students enrolled in the course; meeting regularly with Professor Rudman in planning course activities, readings, and requirements; grading student papers and other course requirements.

**Qualifications include:** Interest in and knowledge of children's literature and willingness to function as a

team member. Applicants must have completed their M.Ed. degree and preferably have had teaching experience.

To apply please contact Dr. Masha K. Rudman, Room 226, Furcolo Hall (545-1116) or email: [rudman@educ.umass.edu](mailto:rudman@educ.umass.edu).



**One TA for SPR09- EDUC 482 - 20 Hour Teaching Assistantship** to place pre-practicum undergraduate students in area elementary schools. The TA will act as a liaison between university and public schools, communicate with supervising practitioners, and respond to student's journals three times during the semester. Prerequisites: Experience in placing and supervising students, familiarity with education minor.



**TAs SPR09** for Program Supervisors for CTEP and Bridges; supervising students seeking early childhood and elementary licensure in their practicum (student teaching). Duties include observations, giving verbal and written feedback, problem solving with and supporting practicum students, communicating with supervising practitioners, conducting three-way meetings, attending weekly program supervisor meetings, and enrollment in EDUC 873 – Resource Person Seminar on Wed. from 1:30-4:00 P.M. Applicant must have teaching and/or supervision experience.

Contact Masha Rudman @ 413 545-1116 or Camille Cammack @ 413 545-5734



*All assistantships are contingent upon funding.*

