



# 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.**

### EDUCATORS FOR EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY



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

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS	1, 2
NEWS	3



#### News on the web

Check out the Faculty News & Current Students web pages on the School of Education's web site at

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

Events, awards, achievements, features, photos

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

**IRENE RODRIGUEZ MARTIN** Proposed Dissertation Title: Insights into the complexities of identity in persisting Hispanic college students."

Statement of the Problem: Nationally, Hispanics are undereducated, underemployed and overrepresented in poverty. Additionally, the rates at which they complete a baccalaureate degree are lower than those of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States. With one-third of all Hispanics currently under the age of 18 and projections for the growth rate of the Hispanic population to continue, it is urgent that educators and policy makers better understand the variables which influence Hispanic college persistence. **Chairperson: Dr. Sharon Rallis.**

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

**LESLIE STEIN** December 9, 2008, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Room 219, Furcolo Hall. "A Descriptive Study of the Influence of Parent and Community Involvement on Local School Councils in Massachusetts." **Chairperson: Dr. J. Kevin Nugent.**

#### Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: **Room 126 Furcolo Hall or to [dms@educ.umass.edu](mailto:dms@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.

Let us know about your honors, awards  
and accomplishments. Send news to:

[dms@educ.umass.edu](mailto:dms@educ.umass.edu).

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## GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

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The Graduate School will be awarding a limited number of student travel grants for graduate students who will be presenting at recognized conferences during the 2008-09 academic year.

The application and expense summary can be downloaded from:

[http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/files/Travel\\_Grant\\_GPD\\_Form.pdf](http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/files/Travel_Grant_GPD_Form.pdf)

### **Student's Procedure:**

- Submit your application materials by email to Dr. Linda Griffin, Graduate Program Director for the School of Education ([lgriffin@educ.umass.edu](mailto:lgriffin@educ.umass.edu)).
- On page 3 of the application (GPD Approval Form), complete form with all of your information. Submit a written recommendation from your advisor or chairperson.

Applications will be considered exclusively for travel to recognized conferences for the purpose of presenting the results of research conducted while during graduate coursework at UMASS Amherst. Criteria for nomination include merit of the project, prestige of the conference or event and financial need of the student. Awards are for presentations rather than just attendance at a conference or event.

Awards will be made to the individual student rather than for a project (divided among several students.) Students are eligible for one grant per year, although the Travel Grant Committee may not be able to fund all nominations that are forwarded for consideration

Grant amounts are up to \$ 300.00 for domestic and \$ 400.00 for international travel. Students receiving awards must present their receipts to the School of Education's Business Office (125 Furcolo) within 30 days of travel. **Applications are considered on a rolling basis for the 08-09 academic year.**

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## SCHOOL ACADEMIC MATTERS

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The following are the dates for the fall semester School Academic Matters (SAMC) Meetings --

**Wednesday November 12, 11:30-1:00**

**Wednesday December 10, 11:30-1:00**

Meetings will be in Hills S 151. Department Academic Matters Committees and faculty should be mindful of these dates for the purposes of having more timely course reviews.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this "matter."

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## SAMUEL F. CONTI FELLOWSHIP

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**This Fellowship** consists of a cash award of \$3,000 and a year's leave of absence to encourage award recipients to concentrate on activities related to graduate education, research, creative work and scholarly attainment.

Selection of the awardees will be based on demonstrably outstanding accomplishment and potential for continued excellence in research and scholarly or creative activity.

Awards will be recommended by a committee comprising members of the Research Council. The Awards Committee will normally consist of representatives from each of the three divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences plus two different professional schools.

Recommendations will be forwarded to the Vice Provost for Research after Research Council approval has been given.

Names of those receiving 2009-2010 Faculty Fellowship Awards will be announced in late Spring 2009.

**FOR COMPLETE DETAILS PLEASE CHECK LAST WEEK'S Beacon in the archives** at [http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon\\_archives.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon_archives.shtml)



Students in class in Furcolo Hall.

## NEWS

**Dr. Rebecca Gajda**, Coordinator, Education Administration Program in the School of Education's Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, had an article published in the Summer 2008 issue of *Action in Teacher Education*, The Journal of the Association of Teacher Educators. *Check SOE website for more.*

[http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty\\_news.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty_news.shtml)

**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 present her paper again as an invited session at AERA this Spring. *Check SOE website for more.*

[http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty\\_news.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty_news.shtml)

**Dr. Allan Feldman** has co-authored "Teachers Investigate Their Work - An Introduction to Action Research across the Professions" with Herbert Altricher, Peter Posch and Bridget Somekh. The book introduces the methods and concepts of action research through examples drawn from studies carried out by teachers. *Check SOE website for more.*

[http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty\\_news.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty_news.shtml)

**Dr. Gretchen B. Rossman** has been named a recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member Centennial Award from the Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In celebration of a century of scholarship, the Graduate School selected one outstanding faculty member from each school and college in the University to receive the award. *Check SOE website for more.*

[http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty\\_news.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/education/people/faculty_news.shtml)

## KAPPA DELTA PI

### International Honor Society in Education

KDP is one of the largest and most prestigious educational honor societies in the U.S. and we have an active UMass Chapter!

#### Criteria for Acceptance: Undergraduate

Minimum of 45 completed semester hours

At least 12 of these credits hours must be at UMass

Commitment to the field of Education

Minimum 3.4 Grade Point Average

#### Criteria for Acceptance: Graduate

Minimum of 12 semester hours

Commitment to the field of Education

Minimum 3.4 Grade Point Average

#### Easy Application

Write a letter of application in which you describe the qualities you bring to the Honor Society and the reasons why you have decided to pursue education. Include a letter of recommendation from a University faculty member or professional staff, or from a professional in education (teacher, school principal or department chair, camp director).

NOTE: A letter you already have that clearly identifies your strengths is acceptable. Include a copy of your Final Grade Report from your last semester completed at UMass. A student copy is acceptable. Send your letter, recommendation, and grade report to:

KDP EXECUTIVE BOARD

c/o Professor Seldin, Furcolo Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

APPLICATION DEADLINE - Monday, November 17, 2008, 12 noon

INITIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB - Friday, December 5, 2008

**Are you in our online photo galleries?**

**Check [www.umass.edu/education/student/gallery.shtml](http://www.umass.edu/education/student/gallery.shtml)**

**and the SOE homepage for links.**

**<http://www.umass.edu/education/>**