



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.

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

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>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

PAUL HYRY Proposed Dissertation Title: "Getting Beyond What We See As Wrong: Understanding the Strengths of Low-Income Puerto Rican Families in Supporting Their Children's Education." Statement of the Problem: Family involvement is one of the factors to which student achievement is consistently and strongly linked in educational research, and is perceived by teachers as a core factor affecting student achievement. thus one potential avenue for schools' efforts to become more effective is to work with students' families to support their children's academic development. However, the faculty at the school under study (William R. Peck School in Holyoke, Massachusetts) needs to learn more (collectively) about its students' families--particularly the *strengths* of the low-income Puerto Rican families whose children make up the vast majority of the student body--in order to develop a structured process for working with families toward improved student achievement.

Chairperson: Dr. Jeffrey W. Eiseman

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: **Room 126 Furcolo Hall** or to 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.

Dissertation Support for Under-represented Minorities

A number of colleges and universities in the Northeast are offering dissertation writing stipends for 2009/2010 (\$25,000-32,000 per year). The host universities include: Colgate, Northeastern, Monmouth, and the University of Rochester. The host colleges are: Allegheny and Middlebury. The goal of these stipends is to increase diversity on the campuses. Fellows will spend one year in residency as a Visiting Diversity Scholar at the host institution while they work on completion of their dissertation. The application deadline for these dissertation support stipends is January 1, 2009. More information at www.diversityoncampus.com/id2.html. Questions should be directed to JoAnn Moody, the director of the Visiting Scholars' Program via joann.moody@earthlink.net. The competition is open to US citizens and permanent residents only.

AWARD

Doctoral student Marcella Runell has been awarded the 2009 Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. Runell served as TA for Educ 392 in addition to teaching Educ 210 and working with Intergroup Dialogue.

ASSISTANTSHIP

Spring (2009) Teaching Assistantship

Department of Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services

One part-time (20 hours per week) teaching assistantship is available for Spring (2009) for EDUC 293A.

Responsibilities include: Holding weekly office hours, maintaining class materials in SPARK, managing grading through SPARK, coordinating discussion groups, and general assistance in the course.

Qualifications include: Teaching experience at any level, computer skills (excel and data management) and strong organizational skills.

To apply, please contact: Dr. Carey Dimmitt, cdimmitt@educ.umass.edu.

SOE on TUBE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAVSke8bcPo>.

Check out this link to see two of the School's TV commercials on You Tube.

AERA INITIATIVES

AERA offers are several initiatives for junior and senior scholars. With funding from the Spencer Foundation, AERA and the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media are offering a **course on Public Communication for Early-Career Researchers**. This course will give emerging scholars the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills important for effective public communication and use of the media in conveying research beyond research audiences. Offered for the second consecutive year, this course will be co-directed by Amy Stuart Wells, Professor of Sociology and Education, at Teachers College (TC), Columbia University, and Richard Lee Colvin, Director of TC's Hechinger Institute.

The deadline for applications has been extended to Friday, December 19, 2008. The April 2008 issue of the *Educational Researcher* includes an article about the March 2008 course. The call for applications and the online application for the April 2009 course is posted on the AERA website at <http://www.aera.net/Default.aspx?id=6120>.

GRADUATION DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 2009 DEGREE CANDIDATES

The next degree-granting period will be February, 2009. Listed below are deadline dates to apply for graduation for M.Ed., C.A.G.S., Ed.D. and Ph.D. candidates who will have completed requirements for a February, 2009 degree.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates

The Degree Eligibility* form must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than JANUARY 8, 2009. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director, and Dean McCormick. The Eligibility form must be accompanied by the School of Education Completed Program of Study form (Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2). Your advisor must sign the School of Ed form, but NOT the Eligibility form.

Forms can be downloaded from the following URL:

http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/advising_guidelines.shtml

Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates

The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo, along with the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) no later than JANUARY 8, 2009. The Eligibility form is sent to each student by the Degree Requirements Office (534 Goodell) after the defense date is scheduled (Form D-8). It can also be downloaded from:

<http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/files/Doctoral%20Degree%20Eligibility%20Form.pdf>

WHAT's on the SOE Website now?

- * Dr. John C. Carey approved for Fulbright award
- *Dr. Toran E. Isom is Arkansas Teacher of the Year
- *Dr. Addison Reid new director of diversity

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

dms@educ.umass.edu.

CONFERENCE

Bridging the Gap to Promote High School & College Alignment

**Thursday, January 29, 2009
Beechwood Hotel, Worcester, MA**

This conference will aim to supplement the ongoing conversation of "college readiness" to identify key partnerships and best practices between higher education institutions and K-12 throughout New England. Experts in the field will share deliberate actions leaders in both "segments" are taking in an effort to create seamless transitions to college and career. Invited participants include the region's higher education leaders, state higher education executive officers, K-12 commissioners, state board chairs, superintendents, principals, guidance and career counselors, state legislators, governors' education advisors and business leaders. There will be a regional discussion answering key policy questions:

- What are states doing to formalize engagement between K-12 and higher education systems and institutions?
 - To what extent are education leaders between the "segments" coordinating to solidify shared definitions of college readiness and for reviewing and aligning curriculum, content standards, graduation requirements and placement assessments?
 - What partnerships and collaborations at both state and institutional levels exist for teacher training and professional development?
 - What national and regional expertise, best practices and success stories can we benefit from? Registration fee: Cost is \$149 for one registrant. Discounted rate for multiple registrants from the same organization: Cost is \$129 per person.
- Check website to register online. To pay by check, P.O. or credit card, download a registration form in Microsoft Word format from our website - <http://www.nebhe.org/content/view/310/135/> Registration deadline: Tuesday, January 20, 2009**

Call for Proposals

Education as an Agent of Change: Learning from the Past and Moving toward the Future March 13, 2009

The 2009 HGSE Student Research Conference organizing team is pleased to invite proposals for the 2009 HGSE Student Research Conference. We welcome proposals from graduate students at Harvard and other institutions, as well as from recent HGSE graduates and visiting scholars conducting research in education-related issues who wish to share their work and receive feedback from other students and HGSE faculty.

This is a great opportunity for graduate students at different stages of their graduate careers, from discussing initial ideas about a research project to fine-tuning their presentations for upcoming national conferences.

Presentation Formats/Options: There are three presentation formats: individual paper, roundtable, and poster session. Prospective presenters will be asked to indicate their presentation format when submitting a proposal.

Individual Papers: Paper presentation sessions provide an opportunity for an author to present an abbreviated version of a paper that is completed or in development. Presenters will be placed on panels with 2-3 others whose papers share a common theme. Panels will consist of individual presentations followed by a question and feedback period. Panels will be moderated by a discussant (generally a faculty member from HGSE) with interest and expertise in the panel theme. This format is especially appropriate for presenting qualifying papers, dissertation chapters, term projects for courses, and other projects of similar scope and commitment. Papers may represent a variety of approaches to research, from theoretical or positional papers on educational topics to empirical investigations carried out by the author(s). A collaborative team may apply together to present a single paper; in such cases, the team will submit a single proposal to the SRC, and collaborating presenters will be limited to the same amount of time as each other individual panelist.

Round Table: Round table sessions are designed to allow extensive discussion and feedback for the presenter in a more informal context than paper presentations. This format is especially well suited to students who wish to discuss aspects of developing research projects, including their research questions, methodology, sampling, and initial protocols. Students may apply individually or in groups of up to three; accepted individual applicants will be grouped with others who share common interests to form a complete round table. Roundtables are moderated by advanced doctoral students, and are characterized by discussion among the presenters and participants around the topic of the table. Authors are encouraged to bring handouts that highlight key points for discussion.

Poster Session: The poster session provides a venue for students to present their work to a wide community. Presenters create a graphic display representing their work. During the poster session, all posters will be displayed simultaneously in a conference space, and each presenter is expected to stand by his or her poster to engage in discussion with audience members. Presenters are encouraged to bring handouts that highlight key points for distribution to conference attendees. The feedback for poster sessions is less formal. Because the poster session is open to all conference attendees, presenters will have an opportunity to succinctly describe and discuss their work with students, faculty, and visitors who may or may not be familiar with the presentation topic. This format is especially well suited to presentation of term papers and projects, developing research projects, and research proposals. adhere to a predetermined set of criteria to make a recommendation to accept, reject, or return with suggestions for re-submission.

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Proposal, cont'd

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: Proposals must be submitted ONLINE beginning Wednesday, November 19, 2008 and before the deadline of 5:00PM EST on Monday, January 5, 2009.

- Proposal submissions will only be accepted through the 2008 HGSE Student Research Conference Website: gseacademic.harvard.edu/src If you do not have Web access, please contact the SRC Co-Chairs at the address below and alternate accommodations can be arranged.
- Applicants should include the following information with their proposals: a title of no more than 100 characters, a 100 -150 word summary (to be used in the conference program), an abstract of 500-750 words (to be used by the Proposal Review Committee)

Selection Process and Criteria:

Each proposal will be blind reviewed by two members of the proposal review committee. Each reviewer will adhere to a predetermined set of criteria to make a recommendation to accept, reject, or return with suggestions for re-submission.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Presents a clear research question(s) or clear position statement
2. Makes connections to existing educational research with citations of published references
3. Includes an original thesis, expands an existing theory or addresses an unexplored area of research
4. Describes research design and methods, and the plan for collecting and analyzing data*
5. Makes a logical argument or presents findings/conclusions
6. Includes implications for educational research, policy or practice
7. Is clearly written, with logical organization

*Proposals that present original empirical research are expected to meet all criteria above. Proposals presenting a literature review, theoretical argument or other non-empirical presentation are not expected to meet criterion #4.

Please visit the SRC website for further information or contact the Proposal Review Committee at: [srcproposalreview@gmail](mailto:srcproposalreview@gmail.com)

SCHOLARSHIP

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors and professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers. The program provides funds to institutions of higher education to support scholarships, stipends, and academic programs for undergraduate STEM majors and post-baccalaureate students holding STEM degrees who commit to teaching in high-need K-12 school districts. A new component of the program supports STEM professionals who enroll as NSF Teaching Fellows in master's degree programs leading to teacher certification by providing academic courses, professional development, and salary supplements while they are fulfilling a four-year teaching commitment in a high need school district. This new component also supports the development of NSF Master Teaching Fellows by providing professional development and salary supplements for exemplary math and science teachers to become Master Teachers in high need school districts. http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09513/nsf09513.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

An institution, on its own or as a member of a consortium, may submit no more than one Noyce proposal per track. There are two Noyce tracks in this solicitation: the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Track and the NSF Teaching Fellows/Master Teaching Fellows Track.

Contact with your interest no later than January 16: Beverly Strakose, Research Affairs, Research Administration Building, 70 Butterfield Terrace, 413-545-5283, fax: 413-577-1728, www.umass.edu/research/ora