



# 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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### ASSISTANTSHIP

**Assistantship available to teach EDUC 229 for Spring 2009.**

**Responsibilities include:** Assist with course preparation; Lead discussion sections with 25-30 undergraduate students; Attend weekly meetings; Provide feedback on students' written work; Assist with evaluation of students' written work

**Qualifications include:** Teaching experience at any level and strong organizational skills.

**Contact: Robbie Calliham**, 161 Hills South  
[calliham@educ.umass.edu](mailto:calliham@educ.umass.edu)



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

### FACILITATOR NEEDED

Will facilitate subject matter discussions for English student teachers in 6 meetings of EDUC 510-Student Teaching Seminar. Lead discussion, deliver and assess NCATE assignments, assist students in the development of their portfolios. Classroom experience, knowledge of development of novice teachers, excellent organizational skills.

Compensation is \$1250. **CONTACT: Barbara Madeloni**, Director of Student Teaching, Secondary Teacher Education Program, School of Education [madeloni@educ.umass.edu](mailto:madeloni@educ.umass.edu) (413) 577-0495

### News on the web

Check the School of  
web site at

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

Events, awards, achievements,  
features, photos

### The 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**D. CHASE JAMES CATALANO** February 18, 2009, 4:00 p.m., 151 Hills South. **Chairperson: Dr. Maurianne Adams.**

**FORMATION OF DISSERTATION  
COMMITTEE**

**ALISON GEORGE**

Proposed Dissertation Title: "Teaching for Social Justice with Standards-Based Secondary English Language Arts Curriculum."

**Statement of the Problem:** Teaching for social justice is the attempt by classroom teachers to use their position in the classroom to effect meaningful change despite current educational conditions and mandates.

However, there is limited research regarding how secondary English Language Arts teachers apply principles of teaching for social justice to standards-based curriculum.

**Chairperson: Dr. Bailey W. Jackson.**

**CONFERENCE**

***Innovation Lab: The College Ready New England Annual Conference***

**Friday, March 27, 2009  
Campus Center at University of Massachusetts  
Boston**

Please join leaders of education, business and government, along with regional and national policy experts, for this highly interactive "laboratory" of innovations and best practices.

Presenters in this annual [College Ready New England](#) conference will showcase model programs and leading strategies to increase college readiness and attainment for underrepresented students. Those in attendance will have the opportunity throughout the day to visit model programs and speak with exhibitors in a "marketplace" setting where college readiness strategies will be shared.

The conference will feature three tracks:

- Early commitment, access and awareness programs
- K-12 and higher education/business partnerships
- College outreach and marketing

Conference attendees will include more than 400 of 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.

**Register Today**

Registration fee: Cost is \$149 for one registrant. Discounted rate for multiple registrants from the same organization: Cost is \$129 per person.

**Register online with a credit card, pay by check, P.O. or credit card, or download a registration form in Microsoft Word format or get more information at [www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org)**

**Registration deadline: Friday, March 20, 2009**

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Amanda Silvia at 617-357-9620 ext. 105 or email: [events@nebhe.org](mailto:events@nebhe.org).

## Center for Teaching Workshops

The Center for Teaching **Teaching Large Classes Series -- Spring 2009 Gen Ed Workshops**, 12:15pm-2pm

- **Engaging Students: Are All Happy Families Really Alike?** -- Tuesday, March 3rd (Barry Braun, Kinesiology)
- **Assessing Large Classes** -- Tuesday, April 7th (Mark Leckie, Geosciences)

To learn more or to register online, visit <http://www.umass.edu/cft/events.htm>

## INTERNATIONAL CONVERSATION

### Hello International Graduate Students!

I want to offer you the opportunity to participate in the International Conversation Partners Program this semester. You will be paired with an undergraduate student for conversation throughout the semester. This is an opportunity to learn more about American students, American culture, and the local community. You can also help your partner to learn more about your country and culture.

International graduate students will be paired with an undergraduate student and must commit to meeting for 15 hours throughout the semester. Partners set up their own schedule. The undergraduate students will be participating for 1 credit.

We will have our first informational meeting on February 12 at 7:30 p.m. I will be emailing you more information as the date gets closer.

Space is limited. There are only thirty spots available. International graduate students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

To reserve your spot, or if you have any questions, please contact

Jessica Silva  
Student Coordinator  
[jessilva87@yahoo.com](mailto:jessilva87@yahoo.com)

## SOE NEWS

### Dr. Nugent comments on Obama, cross-cultural friendship at MSNBC.com

Dr. Kevin Nugent of the School of Education's Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies and director of the Brazelton Institute at the Children's Hospital in Boston says President Barack Obama and his family are providing an example for changing attitudes about race and ethnicity in the country. The comments are in a story about the popularity of a new podcast that highlights cross-cultural friendships and teaching for children. ([MSNBC.com](http://www.msnbc.com), 1/30/09)

[Read the article](http://www.umass.edu/education) on the SOE website [www.umass.edu/education](http://www.umass.edu/education)

## Computer WORKSHOPS

**This month, Academic Computing offers workshops** on using Excel, SPARK, PRS, and the UMass blogs system. Topics include:

- \* Setting up a blog for your course
- \* Managing PRS data
- \* Building a new course from scratch in SPARK
- \* SPARK discussion tools
- \* Collecting assignments in SPARK
- \* Working with the SPARK grade book
- \* Calculating grades in Excel

To view the schedule and register for workshops online, please visit:

<http://www.umass.edu/accoprod/workshop/register.php>