




THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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**EDUCATORS
FOR EXCELLENCE
AND EQUITY**



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

The School of
Education's
web site
[http://
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education.](http://www.umass.edu/education)

This issue...

News
Announcements
Assistantship

Dr. Norma Jean Anderson Lecture and Award for Leadership for Diversity

Monday, May 4, 2009 4-6 p.m.
Massachusetts Room Mullins Center

Dr. Carlton E. Brown, President Clark Atlanta University
Lecturer & Award Recipient

“ In Search of a Transforming Education”

**Please join us in celebrating the School of Education's
legacy as a leader for diversity, excellence and equity
in education.**

For more information about Dr. Carlton E. Brown and Dr. Norma Jean
Anderson please go to the School of Education 's website
www.educ.umass.edu/education

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.

K-12 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PANEL EVENT

Providing Instructional Leadership in 21st Century Schools

Tuesday Evening, May 5th 8:15-9:30pm

Quigley Room, Newman Center

Sponsored by: Department of Educational Policy, Research & Administration

Join us for a presentation and Q&A session with a panel of successful K-12 instructional leaders who do what it takes to bring about meaningful learning for ALL students. They'll share their stories of success and strategies for improving teaching and learning in K-12 school settings. The panel includes elementary and secondary school principals, assistant principals, superintendents, directors of human resources and the coordinator of educator preparation and quality for the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Current and aspiring educational leaders such as teachers, counselors, school psychologists, special educators, and administrators won't want to miss this event. All in the SOE community are welcome!

Panelists include:

Margaret Regan, State Coordinator for Educator Preparation Office of Educator Preparation & Quality, Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

Erin Murray, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Simsbury, CT Public School District

Matt Curtis, Director of Human Resources, Simsbury, CT Public School District

Neil Sullivan, Principal Simsbury High School, Simsbury CT

Mark Zito, Superintendent, East Hartford, CT Public Schools

Joseph Smith, Assistant Principal Crocker Farm Elementary School, Amherst, MA

Greg Myers, Principal, Quaboag Regional Middle High School

Elizabeth Zielinski- Assistant Superintendent, Quaboag Regional School District

Michael Fredette, Principal, Chesterfield Elementary School

Bill Collins, Principal, Norris Elementary School

Language, Literacy and Culture Student Annual Student Conference

Monday, May 11th 2009, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Furcolo Hall basement area

This annual event reunites our student community to present and celebrate student research and their contributions to education in the areas of Language, Literacy and Culture, English as a Second or Foreign Language, and Bilingual and Multicultural Education, among others. Student presentations will cover diverse formats and presentation genres including panel presentations, poster and multimedia sessions.

Presentation topics will include literacy development at the elementary, middle school, high school and adult education; parent-teacher-community collaborations; math literacies and literacy identities; English language development; foreign language teaching and learning; multicultural education and multicultural children's literature; assessment, teacher education and supervision...and more

The LLC conference is an opportunity to strengthen ties to our community and to engage in critical conversations that enrich our ideas and communicate our concerns and successes in research and practice.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

APRIL STROUD MAY 19, 2009, 1:00
p.m., Room 418, Hills North.

Chairperson: Dr. Elizabeth A. Williams.

SHANNON BRYANT May 19, 2009, 10:00
a.m., Room 20, Furcolo. **Chairperson: Dr.
Sally Galman.**

MARCELLA RUNELL May 14,
2009, 12:00 noon, Room 151, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Barbara J. Love.

JANETTE DOLAN May 7, 2009, 2:00
p.m., Room 157, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Barbara J. Love.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

Language, Literacy and Culture concentration
Part-time (10 hour/week) Research Assistant position for Fall 2009. RA will assist LLC faculty member in the following: 1. Inquiry support - research and compilation of sources for faculty grants and publications; school-based qualitative data collection, including observations, interviews and focus groups; 2. Instruction support - gathering, copying, organizing and posting reading material for diverse courses; 3. Writing support - editing and proofreading manuscripts for publication and grant proposals. **Qualifications:** A qualified candidate will possess research and organizational skills and ability to work independently. Candidate must have strong skills in reviewing electronic sources and collecting and organizing qualitative data. Expertise in using multimodal media production in literacy development required. **To apply:** Send cover letter and resume to K-C Nat Turner, nturner@educ.umass.edu

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

KENT DIVOLL Proposed Dissertation
Title: "Creating Classroom Relationships that
Allow Students to Feel Known and Respected."
Statement of the Problem: There is little
research investigating how teachers create
teacher-student relationships that allow
students to feel known and respected for who
they are. **Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin.**

KOLAJO A. AFOLABI Proposed
Dissertation Title: "The Relationship of Self-
Efficacy Beliefs to Performance on *A High-
Stakes* Mathematics Test by Students in an
Urban Public School." **Statement of the
Problem:** Studies have found that perform-
ance in mathematics is a powerful determinant
of the future career choices in science, technol-
ogy, engineering, mathematics, and the
economic success of the high school
student. Students in urban public high schools
continue to underachieve in academics and
especially in mathematics. This population faces
a bleak future with dire economic and social
consequences for them and our nation. As a
consequence of the accountability measures of
the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), urban
public high school students in Massachusetts
must pass the *high-stakes* MCAS math test in
order to earn the standard high school
diploma. The *Cumulative Promotion Index
(CPI)* graduation rate or urban school districts,
however, continues to lag behind those of the
suburban districts by 15%.

Chairperson: Dr. Sharon F. Rallis.

Award? Article? Book? Presentation? Photo?

Email ideas or accomplishments to:

dms@educ.umass.edu

THANKS!

School of Education Graduation Celebration

For 2008-09 Graduate Degree Recipients and

Undergraduate Minors (and guests)

Thursday, May 21

5-7 p.m. Campus Center Auditorium

Please RSVP to goodnews@educ.umass.edu or 413-545-0897

Graduate Commencement

Friday, May 22 2 p.m. Mullins Center

Undergraduate Commencement

Saturday, May 23 12:30 p.m.

McGuirk Memorial
Stadium.

For a list of Commencement-related activities
on campus go to

<http://umass.edu/commencement/2009/>

COMMENCEMENT ACCOMMODATIONS

The Campus Center Hotel has a limited number of hotel rooms available for Commencement 2009. A two night stay is required of either Thursday/Friday or Friday/Saturday and the cost is \$499 a room. Full payment is required at time of booking and no refunds will be given if the room is cancelled. To make the reservation call 1-877-822-2110, ext. 7714

NEW STORIES

on the School of Education's website

- Student Alison DeRito writes about bringing 70 fourth graders to campus.
- Springfield 7th grade students perform for SOE TEAMS project students.
- Frederick R. Preston, former SOE faculty member, wrote "Historic Doorways of San Antonio."

TESI SEMINAR April 29

- **Dr. Sara Young:** "Practitioner Research on Critical Multicultural Pedagogy: Challenging Heterosexism in a Public School."
228 Furcolo 7 p.m. Refreshments.

Send your news to goodnews@educ.umass.edu

FY 2010 Funding Opportunities at the Institute of Education Sciences

The Institute of Education Sciences has begun its research grant competitions for FY 2010. 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 or your colleagues: Education Leadership (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/edleadership.asp) and Education Policy, Finance, and Systems (http://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/edpolicy.asp). RFAs can be downloaded by clicking on the Adobe PDF icon on the left hand side labeled 84.305A or by going directly to http://ies.ed.gov/funding/pdf/2010_84305A.pdf.

For additional information on the Education Leadership topic area contact: Dr. Katina R. Stapleton, Institute of Education Sciences, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208, 202-219-2154, Katina.Stapleton@ed.gov.

For additional information on the Education Policy, Finance, and Systems topic area contact: Dr. David Sweet, Institute of Education Sciences, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208, 202-219-1748, David.Sweet@ed.gov.

Other topic areas within the Education Research Grants Request for Applications include: Reading and Writing; Mathematics and Science Education; Teacher Quality; Interventions for Struggling Adolescent and Adult Readers; Cognition and Student Learning; High School Reform; Postsecondary Education; Early Childhood Programs and Policies; Education Technology; Social and Behavioral Context for Academic Learning, and English Language Learners.

The **summer application deadline is June 25, 2009** and the fall application deadline is October 1, 2009. 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 on the Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies research 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/>.

BeaconLOG

School of Education faculty, students & staff share what they are doing.

- At the recent AERA conference in San Diego, **Dr. Theresa Austin**, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies was awarded the American Educational Research Association's Bilingual Research Special Interest Group's Certificate for Leadership and Service. Dr. Austin notes that she also co-presented two papers at the conference with Dr. Fatima Pirbhai-Illich, University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

- **Mary Deane Sorcinelli, Ed. D. 1978**, School of Education associate professor, Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, and associate provost for Faculty Development, served as distinguished visiting professor at the American University in Cairo from March 15-22. She was the keynote speaker for a conference on "Learners in Focus: Innovative Practices Across the Disciplines" and offered classes and workshops on teaching, learning and faculty development topics. She also consulted with a range of faculty and academic leaders and met with UMass Amherst undergraduates who are studying at the Egyptian school this year.

