



# THE BEACON



UMASS  
AMHERST

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Access *The Beacon*, on-line at: <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications.htm>. If you have problems accessing this link, go to the School of Education home page, click on *The Beacon* button on the left. Earlier issues may be found by going to *Publications* on the School of Education home page. **HARD COPIES AVAILABLE IN FURCOLO HALL AND HILLS SOUTH.**



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

100  
Years



PREPARING EDUCATORS  
School of Education

### FACULTY/STAFF/STUDENT NEWS, ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

#### ATTENTION: ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS

**BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE MASTER'S, CAGS OR DOCTORAL ADVISING GUIDELINES FROM THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION WEBSITE:**

[http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main\\_advising.htm](http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_advising.htm)

These forms and guidelines are required by your graduate program.



#### IMPORTANT NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

**From Rep. John W. Olver:** On September 18, Congress sent historic college aid legislation to the President's desk for his signature. The bill, the **College Cost Reduction and Access Act**, was passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate on September 7. This piece of legislation will provide the *single largest investment in higher education since the 1944 GI bill*.

The **College Cost Reduction and Access Act** will cut interest rates on subsidized student loans in half over the next four years, while making student loan payments more manageable for borrowers by guaranteeing that individuals will not have to pay more than 15 percent of their discretionary income in student loan repayments. In addition, the approximately 5.5 million students who receive Pell Grant scholarships each year would see an immediate increase in their maximum scholarship next year and an increase of \$1,090 over the next five years.

In Massachusetts, this legislation will save students nearly \$5,000 in interest payments and will provide extra Pell Grant support to the 77,000 students who receive the scholarship annually.

This new investment is long overdue. The cost of attending public college rose by almost 40 percent over the past five years during the Republican-led Congress, yet the

*(Continued on page 2)*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FACULTY/STAFF/ STUDENT ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS	1
NCATE	2
FALL 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS	3
UPCOMING CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS	4
CALL FOR PROPOSALS	7



**BEACON DEADLINE:** Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: **Room 123A Furcolo Hall or to [llascell@educ.umass.edu](mailto:llascell@educ.umass.edu)**. The deadline remains 3:30 p.m. on Monday. All assistantships will run for two issues unless otherwise indicated. Examinations and dissertation proposals run for only one issue.

## NCATE

### NCATE Program Standards<sup>20</sup>

NCATE ensures the quality of programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional school personnel through a program review process that is part of the accreditation review. Reviewers from the relevant specialty professional associations (SPAs)<sup>21</sup> examine programs within the school, college, or department of education, and write a report on their findings. Institutions must provide evidence that candidates in these programs know the content of their field and how to teach it effectively or apply it in their role as a school leader, school library media specialist, etc. Those programs that meet the standards are noted as nationally recognized programs by NCATE. Program review results provide a primary source of evidence for Board of Examiner findings on Standard 1, *Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions*. An area for improvement (AFI) will be cited under Standard 1 if a program is not nationally recognized.

#### **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)**

Initial Foreign Language

#### **Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)**

Initial Elementary Education

#### **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**

Initial Special Education

Advanced Special Education Role (e.g., administrator, educational diagnostician, transition specialist, etc.)

#### **Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC)**

Advanced Educational Leaders at the Building Level

Advanced Educational Leaders at the District Level

#### **International Reading Association (IRA)**

Advanced Reading and/or Literacy

Advanced Reading Endorsement

#### **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

Initial Early Childhood Education

Advanced Early Childhood Education

#### **National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)**

Advanced School Psychology

(Continued on page 8)

(Activities/Honors/Awards continued from page 1)

maximum Pell Grant increased by only 8 percent during that time period.

In addition, you will be pleased to hear that the bill pays for itself by reducing excessive federal subsidies paid to lenders in the college industry by \$20.9 billion. It also includes \$750 million in federal budget deficit reduction.

College educations are more expensive than ever, but also more necessary than ever. We need to do what ever we can to break down the financial barriers that prevent too many capable students from pursuing higher education.



### **INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY AND INDIVIDUALIZED PRACTICUM FORMS**

The Individualized Study and Individualized Practicum forms are not available online! To access the forms, go to: [http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main\\_courses.htm](http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_courses.htm)



### **GRADUATE FAQ'S**

**FAQ's and other information that is good to know:**

**Specific Questions concerning your graduate program**

***I read something online about graduate degree forms. What are they and where can I find them.***

Guidelines and forms for the Master's, Doctoral degrees and CAGS certificate, as well as guidelines for the Post Baccalaureate and the Education Minor, can be found online at: [http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main\\_advising.htm](http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_advising.htm)

These guidelines give you a listing of all requirements, in addition to the forms that must be filed with the Graduate Programs Office, Room 123 Furcolo Hall. Please note: Forms may be filled in online, but **MUST** be printed and hand signed before being turned into **Linda Guthrie at the Graduate Programs Office, 123 Furcolo Hall**. You **CANNOT** submit these forms via email.

***How long do I have to complete my program?***

The Statue of Limitations (SOL) is the amount of time a student is given to complete their program. An M.Ed. students gets 3 years, a CAGS student 4 years and a doctoral student 4 years if they have a Master's in the same area or 6 years if they don't.

(Continued on page 6)

**ATTENTION: GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

A copy of the School of Education Graduate Assistantship Appointment and Reappointment Policies and Procedures, revised as of February 2007, is attached to this week's Beacon and is available at the Provost Office at <http://www.umass.edu/provost/appoint/index.html>.

**FALL 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE**

(by department)

*Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.*

**TEACHER EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM STUDIES**

**GRADUATE ASSISTANT TO THE SECONDARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Program Assistant 10 hours per week Fall semester

**Responsibilities include:** assist STEP program coordinator in the ongoing coordination of the teacher license program, including preparing reports on teacher license candidate recruitment and graduation, involvement of local schools with the program, and other topics as needed.

**Qualifications include:** Familiarity with spreadsheet and database programs strongly recommended.

Send letter and resume to **Robert Maloy**, Room 110, School of Education or [rwm@educ.umass.edu](mailto:rwm@educ.umass.edu)

~~~~~

**STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES**

**PROJECT ASSISTANT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

A one half time (10 hrs/week) project assistant

**Responsibilities include:** working along with the editor of a professional journal in special education.

**Qualifications include:** Applicants should have skills working with technology that include video manipulation and podcasting. Applicants should also have skills in word processing and database management.

Please submit a letter of interest describing your experiences related to the position and a current resume to **Dr. Stan Scarpati** at [scarpati@educ.umass.edu](mailto:scarpati@educ.umass.edu). Closing date: October 3, 2007.

No positions available this week in the following:

- Academic Affairs/Graduate Program Office;**
- Dean's Office;**
- Educator Licensure Office;**
- Educational Policy, Research & Administration;**
- School of Education Business Office.**



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**RACHEL BOIT**      October 3, 2007, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.,  
Room 21C, Furcolo Hall.

**Chairperson: Dr. Claire E. Hamilton.**



## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**ELIZABETH A. ROBINSON**      October 1, 2007, 10:00  
a.m., Room 21A, Furcolo.

**Chairperson: Patricia Paugh.**

---

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS**

---

### **12TH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION**

This year the 12th Annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education moves to the beautiful new Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT on Oct. 11, 2007 where the conference will easily house 42 great workshops and two outstanding keynote speakers. This conference is ideal for Pk-12 teachers, higher education faculty and others interested in educational equity.

Sponsored by Connecticut State Department of Education - Bureau of Educational Equity, Central Connecticut State University - Center for Multicultural Research and Education, New England Equity Assistance Center - Brown University, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), Connecticut Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), Neag School of Education - University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS : MARRIOTT HARTFORD

DOWNTOWN 200 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-2807 Make reservations by calling Marriott's toll free reservation line (866) 373-9806 and requesting the **'Multicultural Conference October 10 or 11, 2007'**



## **THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON FAMILIES**

The Center for Research on Families (CRF) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst presents "Taking Research on Families Outside of the Academy: How to Craft Effective Media Messages" Wednesday, October 3rd, 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. in Room 803 Campus Center. Free and open to all.

This panel presentation will be the first of a series of gatherings in which researchers can learn and talk about how to make their research on families available to policy makers, journalists, and practitioners, and the public more generally. This first panel will focus on the question of how researchers can interface most effectively with members of the media.

It is more important than ever that good research inform public policy and public discussion on the issues that are relevant to contemporary families (social class, the media, adoption, race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, schools, the workplace, health, etc.). But for researchers it is often difficult to engage with those outside the academy, whether they be policy makers, practitioners, or the general public. One way for research to reach a public audience is by communicating with the media. However, academics often lack the skills to speak with journalists effectively and rarely have the opportunity to exchange strategies with each other.

This panel will feature several researchers who will talk about their experience engaging with the media. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, to share strategies, and plan future workshops around specific topics of interest to the participants. The panelists include: **Edward F Blaguszewski**, Director of News & Information for the University of Massachusetts Amherst; **M. V. Lee Badgett**, associate professor of economics and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the UMass Amherst and research director of the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies; **Kyle D. Pruett**, M.D., Clinical Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine and Director of Medical Studies at the Yale Child Study Center; and **Marsha Kline Pruett**, the Maconda Brown Professor of Psychology and Social Work at Smith College. Moderating the panel will be **Amy Schalet**, assistant professor in the Department of Sociol-

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Announcements continued from page 4)

ogy and faculty affiliate at the Center for Research on Families.

The Center for Research on Families (CRF) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst actively supports and disseminates social and behavioral sciences research on issues relevant to families. This event is part of CRF's Tay Gavin Erickson Lecture Series, a forum which brings nationally recognized speakers with expertise in family research to campus each year. The lecture series began in 1999 though an endowment established in memory of Tay Gavin Erickson. For more information go to [www.umass.edu/family](http://www.umass.edu/family) or contact Wendy Varner, 545-3593.



**2007 NERA CONFERENCE**

First, thanks to Barbara Helms, Brian Preston, Dolores Burton, April Zenisky, and others, we have a new NERA web site! The URL is the same: [www.nera-education.org](http://www.nera-education.org)

On this site you can renew your membership, register for the conference, and register for the hotel.

A few notes about hotel registration. Do it now. Rates go up about 50% after September 26. The double room rate is \$127.50 per person, which includes the three usual meals (dinner on day of check in and breakfast and lunch the next day). We will have all meals together, as is standard NERA collegiality. The single room rate is \$175 per day, with the same meals included.

If you register for a double room, one of the two occupants will have to put the full amount on their card. The hotel will split the bill upon check out. This is a bit confusing and so feel free to call the hotel if you need to. Here is the direct link for hotel registration: <http://cwp.marriott.com/bdlrh/nera/>

And to learn more about the conference, visit: <http://www.nera-education.org/conference.php>. Please note the two renown keynote speakers (Cora Marrett and Wayne Camara) and the free workshops on program evaluation (Robert Gable) and item response theory (Jane Rogers and H. Swaminathan).

**American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)**

Advance Convention Registration Deadline - October 8th Fast Approaching!

If you haven't decided to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in San Antonio, TX from Nov 16-18, 2007 (Pre-convention workshops, Thursday, Nov 15), make your decision today! Check out the Online Program of all sessions and events. You will be amazed at the huge variety of educational sessions for all languages and all levels.

Now that you have decided this is the one event you can't miss, register online at [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org) before Oct 8, 2007 to get the advance registration rate. Don't forget to make your housing reservations as well. Hotel rooms are going fast so book a room today at [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org).

Did you know that ACTFL is providing a NEW feature to its Online Program this year? You are now able to search the entire program and develop your own personal schedule online. Just login to the Online Program at [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org) and follow the instructions.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 1001 N. Fairfax St., Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314, Ph: (703) 894-2900 \* Fx: (703) 894-2905 [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org) \* [www.DiscoverLanguages.org](http://www.DiscoverLanguages.org) [headquarters@actfl.org](mailto:headquarters@actfl.org)



**International Alliance of Teacher Scholars**

In 2008, the *International Alliance of Teacher Scholars* will host its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching -West on March 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> in Southern California. We call for your proposals and hope you will be able to participate. More information is below.

For almost 30 years the international and national Lilly Conferences have provided a forum for learning about, reporting, and discussing the results of the *Scholarship of*

*(Continued on page 7)*

**CALL FOR NEWS**

If you know of a student, faculty or staff member, who has been honored with an award or is involved in an interesting activity, please email Linda Neas at [lascell@educ.umass.edu](mailto:lascell@educ.umass.edu). Thank you for your assistance!

*(FAQ continued from page 2)*

An extension of the SOL can be requested. In that case contact your advisor. You will have to state what you have accomplished so far and a timeline for the remaining parts of your program will be given.

***I am transferring credits to my graduate degree. How soon will they show on my transcript?***

If you are transferring Non-degree UMass Amherst credits, it should take a couple of weeks to appear on your transcript. If, however, you are transferring credits from an outside institution, it can take a couple of months before it appears.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All transferred degrees show under your **GRADUATE RECORD**. Non-degree credits will show under Non-degree Record and, once transferred will also show under the *Graduate Record*. **Please make sure to check your Graduate Record.**

***I registered for class, but I want to take something else. What can I do?***

You can go to your SPIRE account and make changes yourself until end of the add/drop period. For the fall semester 2007, the add/drop period ends September 17, 2007. After that date, you will need to obtain a Late Add/Drop Form from the Academic Affairs & Graduate Programs office at 123 Furcolo Hall.

This form will need the signature of the instructor. You return the form to the Graduate Records Office at 534 Goodell Building.

***What if I want to take an independent study?***

Again, you will need to come to the Academic Affairs & Graduate Programs office at 123 Furcolo Hall to pick up the form. Have it filled out and signed, then return it to 123 Furcolo to be registered for your independent study.

***I am an international student. What do I have to do to retain my status and visa?***

You must be a full-time student (at least 9 credits) each semester!

Exceptions are:

- It is your first semester and you have problems adjusting.
- It is your last semester and you don't need 9 credits to finish
- You have a health reason.

If you are not taking 9 credits and one of the listed exceptions applies to you, contact your advisor. Your advisor

will send **Linda Guthrie** an email verifying your reasons.

***Do I need to be continuously enrolled, even if I take a leave of absence?***

Yes! All graduate students must remain continuously enrolled until they graduate.

If you need to take a leave of absence for health, personal, medical or financial reasons, you have to stay registered on Continuous Enrollment and you must pay the Continuous Enrollment fee while on leave to retain your student status. Please contact your advisor or chair if you need to take a leave of absence.

***When do I need to contact my advisor?***

Your advisor is there to assist and mentor you throughout the course of your program. You should contact your advisor:

- At the beginning of your first semester
- Before you fill out the required forms for your program
- When you have questions in regard to the classes you should take
- When you have problems completing your classes/program due to circumstances that cannot be addressed by your course instructor
- If you need more time to complete your program (extension of your SOL)
- If you are not enrolled full-time (9 credits) and you are a) a doctoral student and need full-time status for loan purposes, TAs or RAs or b) an international student and one of the listed exceptions applies to you
- If you need to take a leave of absence for health, personal, medical or financial reasons.

***I need financial help. What can I do?***

1) Teaching and Research Assistantships at the School of Education:

Check *The Beacon*, our School of Education Newsletter, for Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Project Assistantships for the School of Education. You can access *The Beacon* on-line at <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications>.

2) Student jobs:

The Student Employment Office provides a listing service with a wide-variety of student jobs: on or off campus, a work-study or non-work-study position. You can access the job postings at: <http://www.umass.edu/umfa/>

(FAQ continued from page 6)

**seo/**. Keep in mind that some of the largest on-campus employers, such as Auxiliary Services, the libraries, UMass Transit, and Residence Hall Security offer numerous job opportunities and may or may not list positions with us. Look through the SEO listings, which are updated daily, but also feel free to contact employers directly.

The School of Education may also offer student hourly jobs.

### 3) Other Assistantships:

Go to the Graduate School webpage at: <http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/assistantship/>

On their webpage, you will find job postings for assistantships and the policies and procedures for graduate assistantships and graduate student employees.

### 4) Apply for a Scholarships or Fellowship:

Check the School of Education webpage at: [http://www.umass.edu/education/financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.umass.edu/education/financial_aid.htm)

The School of Education Scholarships and Awards Program provides different opportunities for financial assistance. Scholarship applications are closed for AY 2007-2008.

## Stay Tuned! More Graduate FAQ's to come!



(Conferences/Workshops continued from page 5)

**Teaching & Learning.** Lilly Conferences are retreats that combine *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* sessions, and major addresses, with lots of opportunities for informal discussion about excellence in college and university teaching and learning. Internationally-known scholars join new and experienced faculty members and administrators from all over the world to discuss topics such as gender differences in learning, incorporating technology into teaching, encouraging critical thinking, using teaching and student portfolios, implementing group learning, and evaluating teaching. Information on the International and other National Lilly Conferences can be found at Lilly Conference Information.

The welcoming "Lilly Spirit" and the high level of scholarly attention to teaching and learning enable everyone to contribute to the forum. You are invited to join as a presenter or an involved participant.

For General Information: [http://www.iats.com/conferences/west2008\\_info.html](http://www.iats.com/conferences/west2008_info.html)

For Registration Form – Early Registration through October 15<sup>th</sup> : [http://www.iats.com/conferences/registration\\_west2008.html](http://www.iats.com/conferences/registration_west2008.html)

---

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/ PROPOSALS

---

### NEW ENGLAND EDUCATORS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (NEERO)

The NEERO Board is pleased to announce that we are now accepting proposals for the 2008 NEERO Conference. Proposals may be submitted through Monday, October 15.

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the link provided on the NEERO website at: [www.neero.org](http://www.neero.org).

The Call for Proposals, also posted on the website, provides details about types of presentations and proposal requirements. Please review the CFP before submitting a proposal.

Proposals are submitted in a two-step process. You will first complete an electronic cover sheet and provide an abstract. You will then be directed to a website where

*(NCATE continued from page 2)*

**National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)**  
Initial Social Studies

**National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)**  
Initial Middle/Junior and Senior High

**National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)**  
Initial Elementary Mathematics  
Initial Middle Level Mathematics  
Initial Secondary Mathematics

**National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)**  
Initial General Science  
Initial Secondary Science

**Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)**  
Initial English as a Second Language

<sup>20</sup> Program standards listed here may be found on NCATE's website in the 'Standards' section.

<sup>21</sup> In some states, NCATE relies on the state review instead of specialty professional association (SPA) review of programs to provide evidence that candidates know the subject matter and can teach effectively. For more information on the standards that apply in each state, see NCATE's website.



*(Call for Proposals continued from page 7)*

you can e-mail your proposal summary to NEERO as a pdf or WORD attachment.

Please plan to join us at the 2008 conference as we begin the celebration of NEERO's 40th Anniversary. The conference will be held April 9-11 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, Massachusetts.



Few are those  
who see  
with their own eyes  
and feel  
with their own hearts.

- Albert Einstein

The pessimist  
sees  
difficulty in every  
opportunity.

The optimist  
sees  
opportunity in every  
difficulty.

- Winston Churchill