



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Access The Beacon online: <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.shtml>.
Or go to the School of Education home page and click on The Beacon
in the menu under News and Events.

Commencement Weekend 2010

The School of Education's

Graduation Celebration

Campus Center Auditorium **Thursday, May 13** 5 -7 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres Cash bar

Program begins at 6 p.m.

This is a festive event for our 2009 -10 graduates, Minor in Education graduates,
and their guests.

RSVP to goodnews@educ.umass.edu

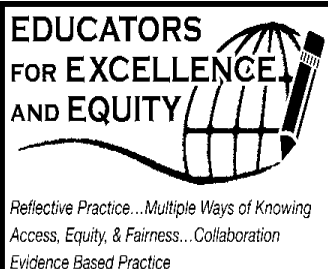
Remember to tell us your name and the number of guests you will bring to the celebration.

For details about the **University Commencement** weekend including schedules for

Graduate Commencement, Friday, May 14,

and **Undergraduate Commencement**, Saturday, May 15, visit:

<http://umass.edu/commencement/2010/>



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 issue.

All assistantship notices will run for two issues;
notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees will run for one.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

HUIHONG BAO May 10, 2010, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., "Exploring Dialogicality and Intertextuality in an ESL College Student's Computer-mediated Identity Construction and L2 Literacy: An Ethnographic Case Study." **Chairperson: Dr. Theresa Austin.**

IBRAHIM TANER OKATAN MAY 18, 2010, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., Room 21C, Furcolo Hall. "Joy and Happiness in Education and Spirituality: Teachings of Imam, Sheikh Iskender Ali Mihr." **Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin.**

ARE YOU A NEW TEACHING ASSISTANT? This is for you.

The Center for Teaching offers **Teaching Assistant Orientation (TAO)**, scheduled for **Friday, September 3, 2010**, to provide graduate students new to teaching with a comprehensive preparation opportunity. TAO may serve to meet the departmental requirement for TA development as stipulated in the contract negotiated on behalf of TAs by the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO). For more information about TAO, please visit the Center for Teaching's website: <http://www.umass.edu/cft/development/tao.htm>.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

RITA BRENNAN OLSON May 6, 2010, 12:00 noon, Room 151, Hills South.
Chairperson: Joseph B. Berger.

JENNIFER DAIGLE-MATOS May 5, 2010, 8:30 a.m., Room 151, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Bailey W. Jackson.

BEATA DOLINA May 27, 2010, 11:30 a.m., Room 20, Furcolo.
Chairperson: Dr. Theresa Austin.

KATHY McDONOUGH May 19, 2010, 3:00 p.m., Room 20, Furcolo.
Chairperson: Maria Jose Botelho.

REBECCA PAULSON April 29, 2010, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., Room 287, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Cristine Smith.

JANA SILVER May 7, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Room 20, Furcolo.
Chairperson: Dr. Sally Galman.

SCOTT M. TYNER May 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m., Room 219, Furcolo Hall.
Chairperson: Dr. Grace J. Craig.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

JANETTE (JEN) DOLAN Proposed Dissertation Title: "White Parents Raising Their Asian Born Adopted Children: Let's Talk About Race." **Statement of the Problem:** Transracial adoption is a form of adoption that has been and continues to be controversial within the United States. The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) opposed transracial adoption stating that it was akin to cultural genocide. How do white adoptive parents, who have not had first hand experience with racism, minimize the impact of the psychological consequences of racial discrimination their children will undoubtedly experience? **Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger.**

NINA KOSITSKY Proposed Dissertation Title: "Print Literacy in the New Media Age: Challenges and Possibilities." **Statement of the Problem:** While the relationship between literacy and technology has been a focus of a growing body of research, most studies look at literacies that emerged in the post-typographic era (e.g. media literacy). Thus, there is a common understanding among literacy researchers that the literacy requirements of print-based and digital texts are different (Honan, 2008). This makes understanding meaning making in multimodal texts a focus of new literacies research. There is no sufficient research, however, that explores the relationship between technology-mediated practices and the development of print literacy and of interest in reading. The proposed project will address this gap by obtaining and analyzing relevant data from a secondary school setting. **Chairperson: Dr. Jerri Willett.**

Send your news and other items to: goodnews@educ.umass.edu or dms@educ.umass.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

2 10– hr. per week Teaching Assistantships for fall semester 2010 for EDUC 482. The responsibilities include (a) the placement of pre-practicum undergraduate students in area elementary schools, (b) to serve as a liaison between university and P-12 schools, (c) to communicate with supervising practitioners, and (d) to respond to student journals and performance tasks.

Qualifications: Experience in placing and supervising students in practicum placements; familiarity with the Minor in Education.

Please email a letter of application and resume to Dr. Camille Cammack at jcammack@educ.umass.edu

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

SOE IN BATTLE of the BANDS — The joint reception for NCME and AERA Division D will feature a Battle of the Bands, which includes the Skew from the University of Kansas, the Distractors from Measured Progress, and the **Messickists from the University of Massachusetts**.

The Messickists includes School of Education faculty (**Drs. Stephen Sireci, Florence Sullivan, Maria Jose Botelho,**) SOE graduate students (**Rob Cook, Brooke Magnus, Katrina Crotts,**) and alumna **Mary Pitoniak**. Come cheer them on. The reception will be held on Saturday, May 1 from 6:15 to 7:45 at the Hyatt Regency Denver, Centennial Ballroom D.

Theresa Austin, professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum studies, organized "The Manga/Anime Revolution - Localizing manga in America, localizing comics in Japan," a lecture by Frederik Schodt, that was held on April 9 on campus. Sponsored by the School of Education's Language, Literacy, & Culture concentration, UMass Amherst Asian Languages and Literatures (School of Humanities & Fine Arts), UMass Five Colleges Japan Lecture Series, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (Smith College), Asian Studies Program (Mount Holyoke College), Hall Fund, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations (Amherst College), and the Five Colleges Lecture Fund, Dr. Austin reports that the event was a success with 92 people attending lecture and reception.

You can read more about our faculty, students, staff and alumni on the
School of Education's website.
www.umass.edu/education

Send items to dms@educ.umass.edu

Commencement Weekend 2010 Commencement Continental Saturday, May 15

Light breakfast refreshments in Furcolo Hall lobby from **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**
for our undergraduate Minors and guests.

For details about the **University Commencement** weekend,
visit: <http://umass.edu/commencement>.