



# THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Or go to the School of Education home page and click on The Beacon icon.  
HARD COPIES are available in Furcolo Hall and Hills South.



**DON'T MISS IT!** School of Education's

## 2011 Graduation Celebration!!

**Thursday, May 12, 2011**

Campus Center Auditorium 5-7 p.m.

**All SOE 2010-1011 graduates, Minor in Education graduates, and guests welcome.**

Delicious appetizers Cash bar Photos with friends and guests

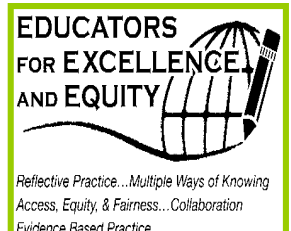
**RSVP with number of guests you will bring 413-545-1551**

or [jtutun@educ.umass.edu](mailto:jtutun@educ.umass.edu)

### The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: [dms@educ.umass.edu](mailto: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.



## **ASSISTANTSHIPS**

### **Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration**

10-20 hrs/week— Graduate assistantships available for Fall, 2011 (10 or 20 hours depending on qualifications of applicants and budget available.)

**Responsibilities include:** assisting the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement with proposal development, grant management, workshops, and report writing.

**Qualifications include:** excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and international contexts.

To apply, please send a resume to Joseph B. Berger, Ph.D. [jbberger@educ.umass.edu](mailto:jbberger@educ.umass.edu) //

## **RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

### **Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration**

10-20 hrs/week— The Center for Educational Assessment in the Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration expects up to 4 part-time graduate student summer research assistantships for 10 to 20 hours per week. These assistantships are associated with projects sponsored by Measured Progress, Educational Testing Service, and the MA Department of Education.

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 ([Sireci@acad.umass.edu](mailto:Sireci@acad.umass.edu) ). //

**UMass Amherst School of Education**  
Once again ranked in the  
**Top 50 Graduate Schools of Education**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

**SAWSAN ABBADI** May 26, 2011, 1:00 p.m. Room 225, Furcolo Hall. "The Teaching and Learning of Arabic Post 9/11: Late Modernity and Possibilities for Change in Foreign Language Classrooms."

**Chairperson: Dr. Margaret Gebhard.**

**ELIZABETH CAPIFALI** June 7, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Room 20, Furcolo Hall. "Unmasking Racism: Young Adults Recall an Anti-Racist Group Effort From Their High School Days."

**Chairperson: Dr. Masha K. Rudman.**

**LAUREN E. CLARKE** June 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. "The Decolonization of Higher Education: The Case of Venezuela's Ley Organica de Education."

**Chairperson: Dr. Jacqueline Mosselson.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

**KONDA REDDY CHAVVA** May 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.

**Chairperson: Dr. Cristine Smith.**

**MEREDITH B. COATES** May 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m., Room 219, Furcolo Hall.

**Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin**

## FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

**BARBARA COLOMBO-ADAMS** Proposed Dissertation Title: "Media Cues and Gender Connections: The Relation Between Toddlers' Media Character Familiarity and Gender Knowledge." **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** While research indicates that toddlers under the age of three spend approximately two hours per day viewing media, there is relatively little known about the social information that they are learning, directly or indirectly, from the children's media they view.

**Chairperson: Sally Campbell Galman.**

**ETHAN A. KOLEK** Proposed Dissertation Title: "The Silent Majority: An Examination of Nonresponse in College Student Surveys." **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:** Nonresponse is a growing problem in surveys of college students and the general population (Curtin, Presser, & Singer, 2005; Groves, Dillman, Etinge, & Little, 2002; Krosnick, 1999; Porter & Whitcomb, 2005; Tourangeau, 2004). At present we have a limited understanding of survey nonresponse in college student populations (McInnis, 2006; Porter & Whitcomb), and therefore the extent to which our survey results may be biased. The purpose of this proposed dissertation is to explore facets of nonresponse in surveys of college students in order to strengthen our empirical and conceptual understanding of this phenomenon.

**Chairperson: Dr. Elizabeth Williams.**

## Research Fellowship Program Invitation 2011

The leadership of the **School of Education** is pleased to announce the 2011-2012 Research Fellowship Program.

All full-time faculty in the School of Education are invited to submit proposals to obtain funding to support a research project. The size of awards will range from \$5,000- \$10,000.

**Goals of the Program** The Research Fellowship Program is designed to:

- Provide support to SOE faculty for their programs of research.
- Encourage SOE faculty to seek external funding for research projects by providing "seed money" for promising research initiatives.
- Expand the research capacity of the School of Education by funding research projects that may lead to increased research collaboration among faculty and students.
- Increase access to graduate assistantships providing research experiences.

Program Description

- The Research Fellowship program is sponsored by the School of Education using fund balances available in 2011-2012.
- All full-time faculty members in the School of Education are eligible.
- All funds awarded must be expended (funds encumbered) by May 1, 2012. Absolutely no extensions.

Research Fellows will be expected to:

- Submit a brief project report (to chair, copied to dean) by September 1, 2012.
- Share a brief report of the research project at an informal brown bag seminar.

**Application deadline: Tuesday, May 31 at 5 p.m.** Applications should be submitted in electronic form to Joyce Tutun, jtutun@educ.umass.edu. Decisions will be announced: by July 1 (est.) Decisions will be based on the quality of the proposal; the feasibility of the proposed project; and the potential to attract external funding. Please review the following application instructions. If you have questions about the Research Fellowship Program, please contact your department chair.

**Research Fellowship Application Instructions – 2011-2012** Your proposal must include a two-page description of the research project, a one-page appendix, and a proposed budget and budget narrative.

Name:

Project Title:

Description of Research Project – Maximum length two pages, single-spaced, 12 pt

Successful proposals will clearly indicate the following:

- Purpose of the study
- Research questions
- Methods (data collection and analysis)
- Significance of the Study

Appendix - Maximum length one page, single space, 12 pt

- Key references cited in research project description
- Evidence of expertise and/or previous work relevant to the proposal
- Potential external sources for future funding

### Budget and Budget Narrative

Funds can be used to support a graduate assistant, student hourly support, software, materials, equipment, research related travel...but not for additional faculty compensation.

Please note the following requirements and timelines for fund use: Student Payroll (Assistantships/Hourly) – the appointment must end by May 26, 2012. Cost: 1 (10hr/wk) RA for 1 semester at \$21.03/hr = \$4,977 (stipend and fringe). Material and equipment purchased with Research Fellowship Program funds must arrive on campus by May 1, 2012. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold title to any materials or equipment purchased in whole or in part with Research Fellowship Program funds. Travel paid for with Research Fellowship Program funds must begin and end during the period September 1, 2011 through May 1, 2012.

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

John R. Mullin, Dean of the Graduate School, announced that **Shuli Archer**, a doctoral student in the Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, higher education concentration, has been awarded the 2011-12 Boscov Scholarship.

**Theresa Austin**, professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, received a Certificate of Appreciation for 6 years of service to the AERA Second Language SIG. The award was presented by the AERA Second Language SIG Program Chair, Youngjoo Ji, Associate Professor at Georgia State University, Atlanta at the AERA's annual business meeting in New Orleans. At AERA, Austin was active as a discussant and chair in six sessions as well as presenter on one panel.

Since January, **Katya Ites**, doctoral student, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, Language, Literacy and Culture concentration, has organized a bilingual multimedia entertainment called "Teremok", produced by a small UMass Amherst-based Russian community. Ites said that children from mixed American-Russian families and their parents created this theatrical event that celebrates the mixed cultural heritage of the families and the participants' mother tongue- Russian. through their performances, the students, aged 3 - 9, shared their oral and literacy skills in Russian with the broader community. This project's goal was to contribute to intercultural collaboration between the town, the school system and families, and connect formal "foreign" language education with community-based resources. It was supported in part by a grant from the Amherst Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Associate professor **Kathryn McDermott**, Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, has received a grant from the Spencer Foundation to support a study entitled: "Diversity, Politics and Educational Opportunity: Lessons from a Federal Technical Assistance Grant." The research project proposes to broaden understanding of the contemporary federal role pertaining to integration by exploring local response to federal policy in support of integration. Co-investigators are Erica Frankenberg at Penn State and Elizabeth DeBray at the University of Georgia.

**You can read more about our faculty, students, staff and alumni on our website.**

**[www.umass.edu/education](http://www.umass.edu/education)**

**Send items to [dms@educ.umass.edu](mailto:dms@educ.umass.edu)**