



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.

HARD COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN FURCOLO HALL AND HILLS SOUTH.

Teaching Assistantship

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hr./week teaching assistantship for Spring 2010 for the course EDUC 463: Principles and Methods of Teaching Elementary Mathematics in the Elementary School.

Responsibilities include: Teach one section of EDUC 463 on Thursdays from 1:00-3:30 p.m. during Spring 2010; co-plan classes and reflect on practice with faculty; maintain regular office hours; assist in grading students' assignments and exams; assist with in-class and online discussion groups; support faculty in designing SPARK course tools and assignments; maintain attendance records; and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications include: Strong mathematics education background and experience teaching mathematics at the elementary or middle school level. Preference given to applicants with experience using SPARK and education technology.

To apply please send current cv and letter outlining relevant teaching experience to Sandra Madden at smadden@educ.umass.edu. //

Send your news to:
goodnews@educ.umass.edu

EDUCATORS
FOR EXCELLENCE
AND EQUITY

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

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 dissertation proposals will run for one.

By popular demand,

Mathematics, Science and Learning Technologies is planning a **second community meeting**.

Please plan to join the group on

Wednesday, December 2 from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in Furcolo Room 225.

Mary Grasseti has generously agreed to share her research on "The Development of Social and Socialmathematical Norms in Three Novice Teachers' Classrooms."

RSVPs will be appreciated as we plan for this gathering (email to smadden@educ.umass.edu).

We will provide food, but not pizza this time.

Please share this email invitation with your MSLT/TESI peers because email addresses used for this mailing have been compiled from various sources and errors or omissions are regrettably possible.

On behalf of the MSLT faculty, thanks in advance, for your participation in this community-building event!

REVISED FEBRUARY, 2010 DEGREE DEADLINES

The Graduate School has changed its graduation deadlines. Listed below are the revised deadline dates to apply for a February, 2010 degree for Master's, CAGS and Doctoral students who will complete their degree requirements this Fall 2009 semester.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates

The Degree Eligibility form and School of Education Master's Forms M-2 or CAGS form C-2 must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, **no later than DECEMBER 8, 2009**. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head).

The Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie with the Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2.) Your advisor must sign the School of Ed form, but NOT the Eligibility form.

Forms can be downloaded from the following URL:

http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/advising_guidelines.shtml

Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates

The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form, the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) and 2 copies of the Signature pages (on acid free paper) must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo **no later than DECEMBER 8th, 2009**. The Eligibility form (2 pages) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/files/Doctoral%20Degree%20Eligibility%20Form.pdf>

Linda will submit these forms to the Degree Requirements Office after they are signed by Linda Griffin and Christine McCormick.

The dissertation must be submitted electronically, and fees and other required materials must be submitted to the Office of Degree Requirements (Room 534 Goodell) **by 5:00 p.m., DECEMBER 15th, 2009**.

THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE! //

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

MICHAEL SEAN FUNK November 16, 2009, 10:00 a.m. Room 157, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Bailey W. Jackson.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

MARY T. GRASSETTI December 2, 2009, 11:30 a.m. Room 21C, Furcolo Hall. "Engaging Students in Mathematics Conversations: Discourse Practices and the Development of Social and Socialmathematical Norms in Three Novice Teachers' Classrooms."
Chairperson: Dr. Kathleen Davis

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

CAMILLE LEE December 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m., 151 Hills South.
"Actualizing Social Justice: An Exploratory Case Study of a Public Middle School."
Chairperson: Dr. Patricia Griffin.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

ANNE S. McKENZIE December 7, 2009, 2:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Performance and Potential: How State and District Education Leaders Perceive the Current Performance and Potential Role of Educational Collaboratives in Massachusetts."
Chairperson: Dr. Matthew Militello.

Data/Program Evaluation Specialist

The South Berkshire Educational Collaborative has an immediate opening for a Data/Program Evaluation Specialist to provide consulting, technical assistance and professional development support to school district staff in Berkshire County MA in the collection, presentation, analysis and appropriate interpretation/use of student performance and other data in bringing about curricular/instructional change leading to improved student performance. The professional qualifications for the position are 1) Masters Degree in Education or a closely aligned field of study, 2) coursework and two years experience in the application of statistical/measurement processes and the use of related software packages and/or the conduct of program evaluations in the field of education or the social sciences, 3) demonstrated experience in the delivery of high quality professional development, 4) four years K – 12 classroom teaching experience and an understanding of school district cultures highly desired, and 5) knowledge of and use of the Massachusetts State Education Data Systems desired.

Salary of \$70 - \$75 K dependent on experience with excellent benefits including MTRS. Send a letter of application, resume and four (4) professional references by **Tuesday, December 1, 2009** via mail to Peter Kopcha, Executive Director, SBEC, 662 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 or via e-mail to dflanders@educationalcollaborative.org.

BeaconLOG

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

- **Kathleen Davis**, associate professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, is a recipient of a Public Service Endowment Award from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This year, the awards were given to projects that related to outreach and engagement in Greater Springfield. Dr. Davis' project, titled "Energy Thinking - Energy Action: Teaching about climate change and renewable energy," operates in conjunction with the award-winning Hitchcock Center for the Environment, and targets elementary and middle-school teachers and 700 students at three high-priority schools of the Springfield Urban Schools Consortium.

- At the November 12, 2009 meeting, the Faculty Senate approved EDUC 672, "Teaching Math to Students with Disabilities." **Proposer: Margy Pierce**, assistant professor, Department of Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services.

- **Drs. Laura Valdiviezo** and **Nelida Matos** appeared on the radio show "Tertulia" (88.5 WFCR, FM) on Sunday, November 1st. They were interviewed about the current redistricting plans for elementary schools in Amherst. Dr. Valdiviezo discussed important pedagogic principles that the administration should not ignore if it is to ensure quality education for students of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Dr. Matos emphasized the policies that support parents' and students' right to quality education and the importance of unified community-school efforts.

- On November 2nd, **Dr. Valdiviezo** also appeared on the radio broadcast "Urgent Song" (91.1 WMUA, FM) and talked about issues of multiculturalism and teacher preparation in the context of the redistricting of Amherst Public Schools. "

**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

SOE PHONE & E-MAIL DIRECTORY IS ONLINE

The School's telephone and email directory is
posted at
[http://www.umass.edu/education/people/
directory_2009.pdf](http://www.umass.edu/education/people/directory_2009.pdf)

The School's website

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

**Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation
Award: Approximately \$5,100 per fellowship
Deadline: January 29, 2010**

The **Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation** is accepting applications for its **2010 Fellowships for Higher Education of Present and Prospective Teachers.**

The primary purpose of the Foundation is to award fellowships to present and prospective teachers, with an emphasis on present teachers at the college or university level, to enable them to study abroad or at some location or locations other than that with which they are most closely associated. The aim is to stimulate and broaden the minds of teachers so as to improve and enhance the quality of their instruction. Most grants are primarily for travel and related expenses and not as salary substitutes, scholarships or grants in aid.

In 2009, the Foundation received 87 applications and made 23 awards totaling \$118,197, or **approximately \$5,139 per fellowship.**

The Foundation welcomes applications from teachers at all New England colleges and universities. In 2009, the 23 winners came from 17 different New England schools. There is no specific limit to the number of winners from any particular school. **NOTE:** UMass Amherst usually receives anywhere from 2 to 5 of these grants per year.

For more information, please contact us so that we may send you a copy of the letter from the Foundation, which outlines the complete Application Procedure.

If you or another faculty member is planning to apply for this opportunity, please contact Susan Worgaftik at sworgaftik@admin.umass.edu or at 577-2956.

We will be happy to assist you in applying for this grant.

There were 9432 visits to and 42,357 pageviews of the SOE website in October, 2009.

The average time spent on our site was 3.38 minutes.

Visit the site for academic information, news, development opportunities, photos taken at outreach programs and activities, and events.

www.umass.edu/education

Opportunity for Student Involvement in Campus Sustainability

The UMass Environmental Performance Advisory Committee (EPAC) is a group of administrators, faculty and students established to contribute to the university's overall level sustainability. For more information about this group, check out the UMass website (<http://www.umass.edu/epac/EPAC.htm>).

When UMass Amherst signed the President's Climate Commitment, we as a university agreed to a list of actions that will make UMass Amherst more sustainable. EPAC is currently charged with the task of writing UMass' Climate Action Plan (CAP). The ultimate goal of this CAP is to eventually bring UMass to carbon neutrality (bringing our carbon dioxide emissions down to zero).

To contribute to any of the following subcommittees to help write UMass' Climate Action Plan, contact the chair of the subcommittee you are interested in listed below: (**Note: Subcommittees are forming NOW so please respond ASAP!!)

1. Education, Outreach and Research (jstoffel@admin.umass.edu)
2. Green Building (jcahill@facil.umass.edu)
3. Climate Action Plan Assembly (spersone@facil.umass.edu)
4. Campus Emissions/Campus Footprint (cruberti@ehs.umass.edu)

Description: This committee will examine the current process for collecting data and calculating the carbon footprint of the campus to verify the process and ensure we are accurately capturing all of the necessary data. For a review of the current methodology please visit - <http://www.umass.edu/epac/carbon.htm>

5. Financing (pdaly@facil.umass.edu)
6. Office Sequestration (shale@psis.umass.edu)

Description: looking for faculty, students, and staff who might have expertise and interest in this area (offsets - local and global, carbon market, forest sequestration, agricultural sequestration, carbon capture and storage, carbon negative energy sources).

7. Transportation (gbarring@admin.umass.edu) First meeting anticipated to convene at the Transit Services RTIC conference room Tuesday 11/10 @ 2pm.
8. Renewable Energy (loren@research.umass.edu)
9. Energy Conservation - Infrastructure (pdaly@facil.umass.edu)
10. Energy Conservation - Behavior (pdaly@facil.umass.edu)
11. Food/Dining Services (ktong@mail.aux.umass.edu)

2009 MTA Higher Education Conference

Friday, December 4, 2009 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, 3 p.m.

Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center

1657 Worcester Road
Framingham MA 01701

Fee \$25 RSVP: November 18

For more information go to

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,P1,3C1F9933-CB7A-4EDA-8201-8443EE472CBD>

Campus Policy regarding missed classes and work due to flu

Vice Chancellor Jean Kim urges students who have seasonal and/or H1N1 flu symptoms to “protect other members of the campus community by **staying home if you are sick.**” **Note that** the provost has advised all faculty members to modify their attendance policies to help students who are unable to attend class due to illness. The provost has also informed faculty members that they should not require students to provide a note from a health care provider explaining absence from class or confirming recovery. Students who are ill must inform faculty that they are missing class due to illness. Faculty members and department chairs should be available to help students get back on track with their academic work once they are well, fever-free, and have returned to classes.