



## Environmentally Mindful!

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.



ACCREDITED

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

## NCATE NEWS

In the upcoming issues of *The Beacon* we will be including news about NCATE. We hope you will find the information helpful.

### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK(S)

A conceptual framework(s) establishes the shared vision for a unit's efforts in preparing educators to work in P-12 schools. It provides direction for programs, courses, teaching, candidate performance, scholarship, service, and unit accountability. The conceptual framework(s) <sup>5</sup> is knowledge-based, articulated, shared, coherent, consistent with the unit and/or institutional mission, and continuously evaluated. The conceptual framework(s) provides the bases that describe the unit's intellectual philosophy, which distinguishes graduates of one institution from those of another.

Faculty members in the unit are expected to collaborate with members of their professional community in developing a conceptual framework(s) that establishes the vision for the unit and its programs. The conceptual framework(s) provides the basis for coherence among curriculum, instruction, field experiences, clinical practice, assessment, and evaluation. It makes explicit the professional commitments and dispositions that support it, including the commitment to acquire and use knowledge on behalf of P-12 students. It reflects the unit's commitment to diversity and the preparation of educators who help *all* students learn. It reflects the unit's commitment to the integration of technology to enhance candidate and student learning. The conceptual framework(s) also provides a context for aligning professional and state standards with candidate proficiencies expected by the unit and programs for the preparation of educators.

The conceptual framework(s) provides the following structural elements:

- the vision and mission of the institution and unit;
- the unit's philosophy, purposes, and goals;

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- knowledge bases, including theories, research, the wisdom of practice, and education policies;
- candidate proficiencies aligned with the expectations in professional, state, and institutional standards;
- the system by which candidate performance is regularly assessed.

Each unit seeking accreditation for the first time is required to submit its conceptual framework(s) as a precondition for establishing eligibility for NCATE accreditation. In addition, it will include an overview of the conceptual framework(s) in the preliminary section of the institutional report.

An institution preparing for a continuing visit will include an overview of its conceptual framework(s) in the preliminary section of the continuing report. This overview must include a description of the framework(s), its development, and changes since the previous visit, including the relationship of conceptual framework(s) revisions to updated standards and assessments of the unit, profession, or state. The unit will also report evaluations of the conceptual framework(s) and resulting changes in the NCATE annual report. Board of Examiners teams will look for evidence of the conceptual framework(s) as described below and report their findings in (1) the introductory section of the team report and (2) responses to standards throughout the team report.

- 5: At its discretion, the unit may operate with a single framework for all programs or a different framework for each or some of its programs.



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

### STEM RAYS Funded by NSF

**Franklin County Research Academies for Young Scientists (STEM RAYS)** has received \$800,000 from the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** to provide science research programs for rural grade 4-8 students in after-school and summer programs. UMass Amherst is the lead partner in the STEM RAYS project; the other higher education partner is the only college in Franklin County, Greenfield Community College (GCC). Other partners include Franklin County's seven school districts plus local businesses and informal science organizations. Principal Investigators are Mort Sternheim (STEM Education Institute), **Allan Feldman** (School of Education, UMass Amherst), and Brian Adams (Environmental Science, GCC).

A unique feature of the project is that it offers the students and their teachers opportunities to conduct authentic environmental research in close association with campus research communities of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates from UMass, Greenfield Community College, and Smith College. A strong educational research component will assess the effectiveness of the model and its impact on the participants.

The pilot phase, beginning in January 2007, will offer after school programs in six elementary schools and science clubs in two middle schools. Following summer workshops for teachers and a science camp for middle school students, full-scale implementation in September 2007 will involve 24 teachers and approximately 288 children.

STEM RAYS research involves major concepts in the biological, physical, and earth sciences, as well as significant ideas in engineering and technology. "This connection to active research groups provides a richer experience for students than do science "activities" that provide only a classroom-based experience," comments Allan Feldman. More information about the project is online at [www.umassk12.net/rays](http://www.umassk12.net/rays).

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Please send all news of awards, honors, grants, contracts (not assistantships), new publications, etc., to the following ***new e-mail address: goodnews@educ.umass.edu.***



## **FALL 06/SPRING 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE (by department)**

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

### **Dean's Office**

No positions available this week.

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

#### **GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS IN THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION.**

During the Spring 2007 semester, the Center for International Education (CIE) will offer a number of partial/full assistantships in connection with international education both in the non-formal and formal sectors.

**Content area skills may include:** research, training, curriculum development, evaluation and administration. Assistantships are contingent upon funding.

Applicants should send a resume and a letter specifying background and skills by December 29, 2006 to: **Barbara Gravin Wilbur**, CIE, 285 Hills South, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003 or by email to: [cie@educ.umass.edu](mailto:cie@educ.umass.edu)

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### **Educator Licensure Office**

#### **EDUCATOR LICENSURE OFFICE SPRING 2007 PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Half time (10 hours per week) Project Assistantships are available in the Educator Licensure Office for the Spring 2007 semester.

**Responsibilities may include:** Advising students interested in Early Childhood or Elementary teaching and the Education minor, maintaining and updating the advising system and office advising materials, planning and assuming responsibility for the Job Fair, assisting the Assistant Dean for Educator Licensure and the Licensure Officer with data management, analysis and reporting and updating program approval documentation; program literature, and MTEL materials. Additional duties include, assisting Educator Licensure Faculty in implementing NCATE assessment plans, teaching MTEL preparation courses, learning to use the Tk20 data management system, assisting faculty in putting assignments, assessments, and rubrics on the system; and training students, faculty and cooperating teachers to use Tk20 data management system, conducting online and face-to-face weekly Tk20 support sessions for students and faculty, developing and administering online surveys to students and cooperating practitioners, and other tasks related to the work of the Educator Licensure Office.

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Preference given to candidates with the following qualifications:

- doctoral student; excellent technology and computer skills; ability to learn new technology quickly; high level of initiative; excellent communication skills; team spirit; ability to work assigned hours which will include some evening hours and flexible hours as assigned.

To apply, please submit a current resume and letter of application which addresses your qualifications for any of the specific duties listed above to **Dr. Marge Magouirk Colbert**, Room 125, Furcolo Hall by **Dec. 15, 2006**.

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### **Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services**

No positions available this week.

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### **Office of Academic Affairs**

No positions available this week.

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### **Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies**

#### **TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS - Spring 2007. Part-time (10 hours per week)**

**Responsibilities may include:** Assist instructor with planning and facilitation of STEP EDUC 524, prepare subject materials, support students.

**Qualifications:** Excellent organizational and communications skills and knowledge of field.

To apply, please send resume and letter of inquiry to **Linda Griffin** at [lgriffin@educ.umass.edu](mailto:lgriffin@educ.umass.edu) .



### **School of Education Business Office**

#### **Computer Specialist Assistantship**

The School of Education is hiring a computer specialist assistant for ten hours per week starting immediately and working through the Spring, 2007 term.

**Qualifications include:** Knowledge of Windows XP, 2000 and Macs (installing/trouble shooting), windows networking and computer hardware repair skills. Experience with Active Directory Service and previous work experience in an IT environment, a plus. Possess a driver's license.

**Responsibilities Include:** Help develop policy and procedures for department and computer labs, coordinate with other computer technicians, provide support to faculty and staff, and trouble-shooting computer, printer, network or server problems, develop a maintenance work list for all IT equipment, review and recommend computer software and equipment upgrades.

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Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by email to **Susan Young** ([syoung@educ.umass.edu](mailto:syoung@educ.umass.edu)) no later than 5pm on Wednesday, December 27, 2006.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Graduate Programs Announcements**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**SORIE KOROMA**      December 27, 2006, 10:30 a.m., Room 20, Furcolo Hall.

**Chairperson: Dr. John C. Carey.**

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**YVONNE FARINO**      March 1, 2006, 1:30 p.m., Room 21B, Furcolo Hall.

**Chairperson: Dr. Theresa Austin.**

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION**

**BARBARA BAKER**      January 24, 2007, 10:00 a.m., Room 228, Furcolo Hall. "Liberating the Body in Body Politics."

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

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#### **FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

**ELIZABETH SCHAPER**      Proposed Dissertation Title: The impact of middle school students' perspectives of their mathematics classroom learning environment on mathematics learning. Statement of the Problem: International comparisons of mathematics achievement suggest that middle school students in the United States are not performing as well as students in many other countries. In the United States the gap between those who do achieve in mathematics and those who do not widens during the middle school years which may limit some students' post-secondary learning opportunities. This study examines learning environments in middle school mathematics classes through the perspectives of high and low achieving mathematics students to reveal some ways in which classroom learning environment variables affect academic achievement in mathematics.

**Chairperson: Dr. Linda Griffin.**

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#### **FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

**SARA L. YOUNG**      Proposed Dissertation Title: "Rocking the boat." Using critical literacy to challenge heterosexism in a public school. Statement of the Problem: Standard literacy practices do not teach students to look critically at the "word" or the "world." This may lead them to replicate oppressive discourses and ideologies with which they do not really agree.

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

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## FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

**KATHERINE P. DOUGLAS** Proposed Dissertation Title: Taking Scholarship Seriously: A Community College Case Study. Statement of the Problem: "Community colleges are the largest sector in twenty-first century higher education. The national average for community college faculty instructional workloads is a five course/fifteen credit load per semester. Additionally, community college faculties have the highest percentage of tenured members in all of higher education with approximately one in four having more than 20 years in their respective full-time positions. How can community colleges retain their instructional engagement as well as their intellectual renewal with this demanding workload over a decades-long career? In 1998 the Carnegie Foundation launched an initiative that may address this organizational tension, the Carnegie Academy of Scholarship for Teaching and Learning (CASTL). How does instituting the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) in community college faculty work effect the organization? The purpose of this study is to explore the effects of a commitment to SoTL has on the community college.

**Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger.**



### **Call for Conference Proposal**

**The Student Research Conference** at the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** (HGSE) offers a unique opportunity for graduate students to present completed research or works in progress on topics related to education. This entirely student-run conference, the largest event of its kind, allows new scholars to receive feedback from and connect with other students and HGSE faculty with shared research interests. Graduate students from any institution and any discipline are invited to submit proposals for presentations on education-related work. Submissions will be accepted online until January 5, 2007, and the conference will be held at HGSE, in Cambridge, MA, on February 23, 2007.

Additional information on the conference, presentation formats, and submitting proposals may be found at the **SRC website** ( <http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/src>), or you may email questions to [src@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:src@gse.harvard.edu) .



### **ATTENTION: FEBRUARY, 2007 DEGREE CANDIDATES**

**The next degree-granting period will be February, 2007.** Listed below are deadline dates to apply for graduation for M.Ed., C.A.G.S., Ed.D. and Ph.D. candidates who will have completed requirements for a February, 2007 degree.

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

**Degree Eligibility forms must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007.** It is strongly suggested, however, that you submit your forms to Linda **before** the winter break to be sure you can obtain your advisor's signature.

**The Eligibility form must be accompanied by the School of Education Program of Study form (M-2 or C-2) which requires your Advisor's signature.** Forms are available in the Graduate Program Office and on the School of Education home page: [www.umass.edu/education](http://www.umass.edu/education) > Academics > Advising Guidelines.

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### **Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates:**

**The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo, along with the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) no later than January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007.\*** The Eligibility form is sent to each student by the Degree Requirements Office (534 Goodell) after the defense date is scheduled (Form D-8).

Two copies of the dissertation signature page must be signed by Christine B. McCormick, Dean of the School of Education. Students should submit their signature pages to Linda by January 9<sup>th</sup>,\* and she will obtain the Dean's signature.

**\* It is strongly suggested, however, that you submit your forms to Linda before the winter break to be sure you can obtain your advisor's signature.**

Dissertation copies, fees and materials must be submitted to the Office of Degree Requirements (Room 534 Goodell) by 5:00 p.m., January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. **THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE!**

**IMPORTANT: If you do not file for graduation by the degree deadline date, you must pay the Program Fee to maintain continuous enrollment until you graduate.**



## **International Teaching Assistant English Language Screening Test Spring 2007**

### **Attention International Teaching Assistants!**

Please make sure you sign up for one of the two English Language Screening Tests being given in January. The tests will be given on January 24, and January 31, 2007.

A limited number of screening appointments will be available at the beginning of the spring semester for **new arrivals**. Students who are on campus during the winter session should sign up for the earlier date.

Students will need to sign up for the test outside Room 518, Goodell Building. A sample test may be obtained at the time of sign-up on the bulletin board outside in Room 518, Goodell Building or from Lori Baronas in 518 Goodell. All testing will be held in the Campus Center. The test will take approximately 1 hour.



## **Call for Fellowship Proposals**

### **GOLDSTINE POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

IBM has announced the '07-'08 IBM Herman Goldstine Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mathematical Sciences. The Goldstine Fellowship provides scientists of outstanding ability an opportunity to advance their scholarship as resident department members at the IBM Mathematical Sciences Research Center. The Research Center is located in Westchester County, less than an hour north of New York City, and provides an atmosphere in which basic research is combined with work on technical problems arising in industry. If you intend to apply to this fellowship, please notify Karen Hayes (545-9586) Research Liaison and Development, so that we can alert the campus's IBM partnership executive and can track the progress of the application appropriately. One fellowship of between

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\$95,000 and \$115,000 will be awarded. Access the [Goldstine Fellowship](#) website for the application and more information. All proposals should be reviewed by OGCA first (545-0698). The deadline is December 25, 2006.

As a member institution of the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC), UMass Amherst can encourage graduate students to apply for the Graduate Fellowship Program. The program rewards talented and promising PhD students whose research coincides with SRC's Global Research Consortium goals. Students must be working under an SRC approved faculty member at UMass Amherst. A list of approved faculty can be found [here](#). SRC offers several other fellowship opportunities to UMass Amherst graduate students, including company-named fellowships and research fellowships. Though online submittal of these proposals may be required, all proposals should be reviewed by OGCA first (545-0698). For more information about these and other opportunities for students through SRC, visit the organization's [student programs website](#). The deadline is February 15, 2007.

Karen J. Hayes  
Research Liaison and Development  
70 Butterfield Terrace  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003-9242  
413.545.9586 fax:413.577.1500  
[khayes@research.umass.edu](mailto:khayes@research.umass.edu); web: [www.umass.edu/research](http://www.umass.edu/research)



## **Employment Opportunities**

### **Paraprofessional Needed for After School Program**

The **after school program** at the middle school is looking to hire a part-time para for seven hours per week to work with a high functioning seventh grade student with Down's Syndrome. He will need assistance M-Th from 2:30-3:30 and on Friday from 2:30-6:30.

Hourly rate is negotiable. We will need someone as soon as possible through the middle of May.

For further information, please contact **Amy Jackendoff, Savuka** Site Coordinator, Amherst Regional Middle School, 70 Chestnut St., Amherst, MA 01002, [JackendoffA@arps.org](mailto:JackendoffA@arps.org), 413-362-1965.



## **PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

### **Information Technology Council *Subcommittee on Academic Technology***

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

#### **The Scholarship of Teaching & Learning: Technology & Reflective Practice**

**April 5, 2007 Sturbridge Host Hotel Sturbridge, Massachusetts**

**Keynote Speaker: Randy Bass Professor of American Studies, Georgetown University; Executive Director, Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship; Director, Visible Knowledge Project**

*From the mid 1990's until 2000, the Information Technology Council sponsored an annual "UMass Instructional Technology Conference." On April 5, 2007, we shall begin anew. Some issues have not changed: how do we adopt*

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and adapt instructional technology to best meet the institution's commitment to excellence in learning? With "Web 2" technologies affording richer teaching and learning environments, the choices, challenges, and opportunities are even richer. The question, now, isn't whether to adopt particular technologies. It's how better to understand and build on their capability to enhance learning and teaching. This conference will present the best current thinking on what questions to ask, what insights to build on.

Presenters will be UMass faculty and staff who have engaged in adoption and experimentation of newer academic technologies in teaching. They will include, but not be limited to, winners of the UMass Academic Technology Grants (formerly "Professional Development Grants"). The conference will also offer a workshop session on the nature and practice of scholarship on teaching and learning, as well as opportunities for gathering of special interest groups.

**For more information, contact:**

**Mark Schlesinger, Associate Vice President  
for Academic Technology University of Massachusetts  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 287-7102  
[mschlesinger@umassp.edu](mailto:mschlesinger@umassp.edu)**

We seek proposals for presentations, demonstrations (i.e., poster sessions, physical or virtual), or group meetings related, but not limited, to the relationship of teaching and learning to. . .

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*</li> <li>• Technologies for Communication and Collaboration</li> <li>• Multimedia</li> <li>• Student Research and Information Capabilities</li> <li>• Technologies for Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Academic Programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and Emerging Technologies             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Electronic Portfolios</li> <li>o Podcasting</li> <li>o PDA's</li> <li>o Tablet PC's</li> <li>o Video Capture</li> <li>o Personal Response Systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• WebCT Vista Tools and Techniques</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul>
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**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION (DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2007; NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE VIA EMAIL: FEBRUARY 16, 2007)**

<b>DOCUMENTATION</b>	<b>SUBMISSION</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 word (maximum) description of your proposed presentation, demonstration, or interest group session</li> <li>• A 50-word abstract (for the conference booklet and website)</li> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Title</li> <li>• Department</li> <li>• Campus</li> <li>• Phone</li> <li>• Email Address</li> </ul>	<p>Send proposal electronically to <a href="mailto:itcconference@umassp.edu">itcconference@umassp.edu</a> <i>AND</i> physically to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ITC Conference Committee c/o Mark Schlesinger President's Office University of Massachusetts 225 Franklin Street Boston, MA 02110</p>
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With respect to *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, we are particularly interested in proposals that address the scholarly nature of research into teaching practices and technologies. Thus, we invite proposals that not only address the use of new technologies in teaching and learning, but a discussion of how the effectiveness of teaching and technology can be assessed and improved through peer review and publication.



### **Attention: School of Education Faculty!**

#### **OIT/Academic Computing offering hands-on workshops in January**

Academic Computing is offering a wide variety of hands-on workshops for faculty in January. These workshops allow participants to learn new technologies while working with content from their own courses.

Workshop schedule, descriptions and registration are available online at:

<http://www.oit.umass.edu/academic/workshops/registration.html>

Workshop topics include:

Workshops on basic use of technology for teaching:

- Overview of available teaching technologies
- Basic creation of digital documents using PDF
- Basic introduction to digital images
- Basic presentation building in PowerPoint
- Basic grade management using Excel

Workshops about course websites:

- Creating public course Web sites using Dreamweaver
- Migrating from WebCT CE to Vista 4
- Creating course Web sites from scratch in Vista 4\*
- Building quizzes and surveys in Vista 4
- Using communications tools in Vista 4

\*To participate in our Vista 4 workshops, you must be a member of the Vista 4 Spring 2007 pilot. To apply for a spot in the pilot go to: **[http://people.umass.edu/acoprod/webct/vista4\\_request\\_course.html](http://people.umass.edu/acoprod/webct/vista4_request_course.html)**.

Workshops about digital audio and video:

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- Basic audio capture and editing for websites and podcasts
- Basic digital video capture and editing in iMovie (MacOS)
- Basic digital video capture and editing in Movie Maker (Windows)

Workshops on emerging technologies:

- Using blogs, wikis and podcasts to distribute classroom content

OIT/Academic Computing also has special topics that it will offer to individual faculty or departments on request. Call OIT at 577-0072 if you or your department is interested in specialized introductions to linking to library resources, copyright issues, video conferencing, or other topics.

If you have questions or comments, call 577-0072.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Provost's Office and the UMass Amherst Alumni Association are pleased to offer two unique opportunities to recognize exceptional graduating seniors: The 21st Century Leaders Award and the Alumni Association Senior Leadership Award. Below are brief descriptions of each award and links to websites for additional information and nomination forms. We hope that you will take the time to nominate your outstanding seniors so that their accomplishments may be recognized.

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### 21st Century Leaders Award

This award recognizes the strong academic record and exemplary achievement of undergraduate students who further distinguished their intellectual accomplishments, and enhanced the reputation of the University by contributing to the campus community through their leadership skills, academic achievements, community service, and artistic or athletic accomplishments.

Nominees, who must be graduating seniors, will be characterized by their determination to fulfill their academic potential and achieve personal goals. They will be recognized for high academic performance and for the prestige and honor they bring to the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The deadline is Friday, February 16, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Additional information and nomination forms are available online at <http://www.umass.edu/commencement>. If you have questions, please call the Provost's Office at 545 - 2554.

### 2007 Alumni Association Senior Leadership Award

The Senior Leadership Award was established by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association to recognize graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the campus. Seniors who have made major contributions in areas such as academic excellence, student organizations, athletics, campus jobs, or community and volunteer services are eligible. In addition to active involvement in the life of the campus, eligible candidates must demonstrate a serious commitment to their academic pursuit.

Student must be a member of the Class of 2007 and have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

The deadline is Friday, February 16, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Nomination forms are available online at [www.UMassAlumni.com/students](http://www.UMassAlumni.com/students). For any additional information, contact Melanie Corbeil in the Alumni Association at 545 - 2317.

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