



Volume XXVI
Number 3
September 19, 2006
Contact: Associate Dean's Office

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Environmentally Mindful!

Access *The Beacon*, on-line at: <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.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.



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

I am a new graduate student. I am on campus, but I do not know how to access SPIRE.

When you were accepted into the Graduate School, you should have received a communication giving you a SPIRE number and a temporary password to access it. If you did not receive that communication or, if you forgot your password, contact OIT at: http://www.oit.umass.edu/spire/for_students/index.html

I was told I need to have a Campus ID in order to get my campus email account. Where to I go?

The UCard Office is located in the Franklin Dining Hall (413-545-0197).

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, Tuesday, September 19, 2006. 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 and return it to 123 Furcolo to be registered for your independent study.

I have changed my demographic information (email, home address, telephone number). Who should I let know?

You need to change your personal information on SPIRE. Go to Personal Portfolio and make the appropriate changes. The Graduate School and the School of Education access a student's information from SPIRE, so unless your information is updated there, they will not have your current contact information.

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Why is it important to keep my demographics up to date on SPIRE?

The Graduate School, School of Education and the University utilize the information in your Personal Portfolio to contact you with important information about your academic career. Often this information requires a timely response from the student. If your address or email are not current, this could cause serious delays for the student.



MORE ON ASSISTANTSHIPS

About assistantships, outside the financial aid office in Whitmore and Goodell near the Grad Records or outside of the ALANA office, there are assistantships posted. The assistantships are also posted online at:
<http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/assistantship/>



FACULTY/STAFF/STUDENT ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Faculty Honors and Recognition

Congratulations to new faculty member **Margaret (Margy) Pierce**, for receiving the **2006 Jeanne S. Chall Doctoral Student Research Award** from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, for her work focused on children with reading difficulties. Her dissertation **Urban Children at Risk for Reading Failure: Investigating Profiles and Components of Reading Performance Among Dysfluent Readers** examines the heterogeneity among struggling readers in urban schools.

Congratulations also to **John Hintze**, who has been elected a fellow of the **American Psychological Society**.

Reports from the Cultural Front

Marcella Runell, a doctoral student in the Social Justice Education program, recently moved back to New York to conduct research on her dissertation topic **Education in a Hip-Hop Nation: Our Identity, Politics and Pedagogy**. She wrote a feature article for *VIBE* magazine on Hip-Hop and education chronicling the movement. The article was released on Monday, Sept 11th on www.vibe.com. Marcella made presentations on this topic at various national conferences such as the American Studies Association in Washington, DC (11/2005), the American Education Research Association (4/2006) in San Francisco, and the upcoming National Association of Multicultural Education in Phoenix, AZ (11/2006). She also is serving on various panels this fall, including one in October for VH1's Hip-Hop Honors week, and another in November at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center for Planet Hip-Hop. In addition, she serves as the volunteer Co-Director of Education for a NYC-non-profit called the Hip-Hop Association. Marcella also freelances for the New York Times Learning Network, and is the Education Fellow for the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding.

LLC Doctoral Student **Ekaterina (Katya) Ites**, produced a video *Once Upon a Time in Russia*, which aired beginning September 18th on Amherst Community Television. The movie tells about a bilingual festival of traditional Russian culture that took place at the Jones Library in February-March, 2006. The festival included a

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month-long exhibit of Russian Folk Art collections loaned from the local multicultural community, and a theatrical entertainment program for the whole family. The festival was organized by teachers and students from the SchoolPlus Enrichment program where Katya teaches Russian. The success of the festival, Katya says, is due to the strong support from the local multicultural community and media. The project that promoted multicultural collaboration in community-based learning about local minority cultures and languages was also supported by the town of Amherst, ARPS and UMass officials and faculty members from the School of Education (Theresa Austin and Masha Rudman). It was awarded a grant from the Amherst Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Next week, the movie *Once Upon a Time in Russia*, will be shown on Channel 12 (Public Access) on the following days and hours:

Mon 09/25 7:00 PM
Tue 09/26 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Wed 09/27 2:00 PM
Thu 09/28 9:30 AM & 2:00 PM

The following week (in October), the video will be aired on Channel 15 (Education). The ACTV programs schedule is published in the Amherst Bulletin.

For more info on the Once Upon a Time in Russia festival, see the ACTFL Discover Languages Bulletin Board at http://www.actfl.org/custom/DL_Board/view_4.cfm?id=24 and the MA Cultural Council LCC Volunteer Scrapbook https://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_menu.asp#



We would like to share in each other's successes. Please send recent information on publications, grants, activities, honors, and awards to: **Linda Rhinehart Neas, Room 123A Furcolo Hall, lascell@educ.umass.edu**
Publication deadlines are found at the bottom of the page.



FALL 06/SPRING 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE (by department)

Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

Dean's Office

10-hour per week Fall/Spring Project Assistantship/Development/Dean's Office

Duties include: Assist in the planning of the SOE Centennial Celebration activities, scheduled for the 2007-2008 academic year; assist in the coordination of SOE Caravan Events; assist in the analysis of alumni data; assist in the communication/marketing efforts of the Development Office.

Qualifications: Ideal candidate should be a strong writer; comfortable working in professional setting including

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interactions with senior official and external constituents; proficient in MS Excel and other Office programs. Preference will be given to candidates with event/project management experience.

Interested candidates should email a business resume, a cover letter, and a short writing sample to **Cindy Hamel** at chamel@educ.umass.edu.

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**Educational Policy, Research and Administration**

No positions available this week.

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Office of Teacher Education

No positions available this week.

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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 ASSISTANTSHIP Fall 2006-Part time (10 hrs/wk)**

**Duties include:** assisting in teaching and advising graduate students in science education course (EDUC 667). Entails assisting in teaching courses, leading discussion groups, providing support to faculty, library work.

**Qualifications:** Preference will be given to graduate students in science education.

Submit resume to Dr. John Clement c/o Mary Bell, TECS Dept. Office in Furcolo.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**SARA YOUNG** December 5, 2006, 9:15 a.m., Room 228, Furcolo. **Chairperson: Dr. Masha K. Rudman.**

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## **ATTENTION: ALL NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Be sure to download your Doctoral, Master's, or CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies) Advising guidelines forms from our website: [umass.edu/education](http://umass.edu/education) > academics > Advising Guidelines

You will need these forms to verify your progress throughout your degree. The first form is due in the Graduate Program Office (123 Furcolo) by the end of the Fall 2006 semester, after it is signed by your advisor. If you have any questions regarding these forms, contact Linda Guthrie, Graduate Program Coordinator, at 545-6984 or [lguthrie@educ.umass.edu](mailto:lguthrie@educ.umass.edu).



## **PROPOSAL WRITING FORUMS**

Before you are even settling in, we already have an announcement for you!!! We will again this fall offer **PROPOSAL WRITING FORUMS** for graduate students applying for extramural funding this upcoming fall/academic year. This year the forums will consist of two parts: an information session and a writing workshop. To attend a writing workshop you **MUST** have participated in an information session, so please plan ahead!

### **INFORMATION SESSIONS:**

Information Sessions will outline general information on preparing a proposal draft including formatting/sectioning, evaluation criteria, common reasons why proposals are rejected, and compliance for research with human subjects.

- . Experienced faculty from a variety of disciplines will be there to answer questions.
- . Information Sessions are open to ALL graduate students.
- . Refreshments provided.

Information Session I: Friday September 15, 3-5 pm, Campus Center 803  
Information Session II: Thursday October 5, 4-6 pm, Campus Center 803  
Reserve the date!!!

### **WRITING WORKSHOPS:**

- . Proposal Writing Workshops are specifically designed for students who are applying for a grant or fellowship in the current funding cycle (fall 2006). You must submit a draft of a proposal to participate!
- . They are designed to make your funding proposal more competitive, to have you implement proposal review criteria, and to create a supportive environment among peers.
- . To attend a Proposal Writing Workshop, you must first attend a Proposal Writing Information Session!!!
- . You **MUST** pre-register for these workshops!
- . Coffee provided ;-)

Workshop I: Friday September 29, 9 am - 12noon, Campus Center 802  
Social Sciences and Humanities  
Pre-Registration deadline is September 22nd, 12 noon!

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Workshop II: Friday October 20, 1-4 pm, Campus Center, Room 802  
Engineering and Sciences  
Pre-registration deadline is October 13th, 12 noon!

Workshop III: Friday November 10th, 9 am - 12noon, Campus Center 802  
Social Sciences, Humanities, Professional Schools  
Pre-registration deadline: November 3rd, 12 noon!

For more information or pre-registration materials, please check out our web site [www.umass.edu/gradschool/gsgs](http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/gsgs)) or come by our office. We will be open on Tue 10-1, Thu 10-2, and Fri 10-3 this fall. Or simply give us a call.

Graduate Student Grant Service, 517 Goodell Building, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 413-545-5273  
[gsgs@resgs.umass.edu](mailto:gsgs@resgs.umass.edu), [www.umass.edu/gradschool/gsgs](http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/gsgs).



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