



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.

BEACON DEADLINE: Notice! Change in *Beacon* submission procedure: Please submit *Beacon* announcements to Room 123A Furcolo Hall or to llascell@educ.umass.edu. The deadline remains 3:30 p.m. on Monday. All assistantships will run for two issues unless otherwise indicated. Examinations and dissertation proposals run for only one issue.

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.



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE TUITION WAIVERS for SPRING, 2007

Nominations for tuition waivers for current and new international graduate students are now being solicited by the International Programs Office. As there are very few waivers available, they are only for students who have enormous potential but who have no immediate financial assistance from their program.

These waivers are for TUITION ONLY. Recipients are not automatically entitled to renewals, but can reapply for one additional year.

IPO CURRENT STUDENTS:

ELIGIBILITY:

- Current students must be in a **full-time** graduate degree program
- Minimum 3.25 GPA
- Demonstrated financial need
- Non-immigrant visa status.

SUBMIT:

- Formal application form (student can pick up form at the International Programs Office, 467 Hills South).
- Financial documentation proving student has sufficient funds to cover all academic fees and living expenses other than tuition, estimated at \$ 20,000 for Spring, 2007.
- **Recommendation letter from student's advisor or chairperson.**

Completed applications are to be submitted to Linda Guthrie, Graduate Program Coordinator, in Room 123, Furcolo. Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director, will review and nominate those applications that she feels are the strongest.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPLETED CURRENT STUDENT IPO APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING, 2007 is:
NOVEMBER 8, 2006**

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**IMPORTANT: NOMINATIONS MUST BE RANK ORDERED BY
CONCENTRATION AND DEPARTMENT**

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IPO INCOMING STUDENTS (starting Spring, 2007)

ELIGIBILITY:

- Accepted into a degree program
- Must have proof of sufficient funds to meet all non-tuition related expenses (estimated at \$20,000 for Spring 2007)

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- Must **not** be a citizen or permanent U.S. resident.
- Must be nominated prior to arriving at UMASS

SUBMIT:

- A completed Tuition Waiver Nomination form for **new** students, available from Linda Guthrie
- Copy of complete graduate application, signed by program & department chair
- Advisor recommendation

Completed applications are to be submitted to Linda Guthrie, Graduate Program Coordinator, in Room 123, Furcolo. Associate Dean Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director, will review and nominate those applications that she feels are the strongest.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR INCOMING STUDENTS for SPRING, 2006
OCTOBER 24, 2006**

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**IMPORTANT: NOMINATIONS MUST BE RANK ORDERED BY
CONCENTRATION AND DEPARTMENT**

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PLEASE REMEMBER, these waivers are for TUITION ONLY. Recipients are not automatically entitled to renewals, but can reapply for one additional year.



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

Nola Stephen has been awarded a federal **Javits grant through the Massachusetts DOE**, in the amount of **\$93,500**, to fund a three part curriculum-based initiative: a course for in-service teachers, a Fall and Spring conference for administrators (with interim meetings) and a website of resources for stakeholders, in order to address the educational needs of advanced, talented and creative learners in Western Massachusetts.



The Pioneer Valley PreK-16 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Pipeline Network (PV STEMNET) received **TWO grants from the State for the professional development of math and science teachers**. One grant is the for the third year of a three-year program to improve the math content and pedagogy

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skills of grades 4-8 teachers in high needs districts. The other grant is the first year of a three-year program to do the same for math, science, and technology teachers.



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

No positions available this week.

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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.

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**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**

### **FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

**MAUREEN RYAN** Proposed Dissertation Title: "Does Participating in the Performance Improvement Mapping Process for School Improvement Affect Teacher Efficacy?" Statement of the Problem: A strong sense of teacher efficacy has been correlated with increased student achievement. Schools designated as under-performing must participate in the Performance Improvement Mapping process for school improvement. Does this process affect teacher efficacy?

**Chairperson: Dr. Kathryn McDermott.**



### **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).



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