



## 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.



# NCATE

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.

## INTRODUCTION TO NCATE'S STANDARDS

The NCATE standards are the basis for the assessment of the unit conducted by the Board of Examiners team. The standards are divided into two sections, candidate performance (Standards 1 and 2) and unit capacity (Standards 3–6). Each of the six NCATE standards contains three components: (1) the language of the standard itself; (2) rubrics that delineate the elements of each standard and describe three proficiency levels at which each element is being addressed; and (3) a descriptive explanation of the standard. The standards apply to both initial teacher preparation and advanced levels. One of the most significant aspects of the NCATE standards is the conceptual framework. The conceptual framework is the underlying structure of the unit that sets forth a vision of the unit and provides a theoretical and empirical foundation for the direction of programs, courses, teaching, candidate performance, faculty scholarship and service, and unit accountability.

The candidate performance standards focus on learning outcomes. They require units to use evidence to demonstrate that teacher candidates are gaining the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to have a positive impact on P–12 student learning. The standards elevate the role of assessment in program improvement and promote increased accountability for teacher candidate learning. They require systemic assessment, which encourages more attention to program design, increased faculty collaboration, and greater alignment within and between programs. Finally, the candidate performance standards necessitate that teacher education programs engage in self-assessment and continuous improvement.

The unit capacity standards address the components of teacher education programs that support candidate learning. They promote increased university and school partnership in the design and implementation of clinical experiences. They require the provision of curricular content and experiences that promote diversity within the

---

**BEACON DEADLINE: Notice! Change in *Beacon* submission procedure:** Please submit *Beacon* announcements to Room 123A Furcolo Hall or to [llascell@educ.umass.edu](mailto: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.

---

teaching profession and encourage an understanding of issues related to diversity in P-12 settings. In addition, they emphasize the need for well-qualified faculty who model best practices in teaching. Further, they address governance and resource expectations. Together the candidate performance and unit capacity standards present a strong statement about the organization and management of effective education programs for teachers and other school personnel.



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

**Sharon Rallis**, the Director of the Center for Education Policy in the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Dwight W. Allen Professor of Education Policy and Reform, was one of the two invited speakers at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Northeastern Educational Research Association, held October 18-20, 2006 at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson, NY. The theme of the conference was ***Scientificallly-based Research: Will it Really Help us Reform Education?***



EPRA's **2006 Fall Educational Policy Forum** will be held on December 4, 2006 at 1:00 pm in Hills South 373. **Senator Stan Rosenberg** will address the topic of "Funding Higher Education: Can Massachusetts Do Better?" The event is open to the public and refreshments will be served.



**Sonia Nieto**, Emerita Professor of Education, gave the keynote address on "**Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education**" at the "Teachers of Color and Allies Summit" held at the University of Colorado at Boulder on November 9, 2006.



On Thursday, November 16, a conference titled "**Promising Policies & Practices: Education for Advanced, Talented & Creative Learners in Western Massachusetts**" brought together approximately 120 Massachusetts K-12 educators to discuss prospects and strategies for gifted/talented education with Massachusetts Commissioner of Education David Driscoll, President of the National Association for Gifted Children Joyce VanTassel-Baska, and leading practitioners. **Nola Stephen** and **Andy Effrat** led this effort, and the conference was supported by the **Massachusetts Department of Education's Javits Gifted and Talented** funding. Joyce VanTassel-Baska, a nationally renowned expert on gifted and talented education, was the keynote speaker; Commissioner David Driscoll discussed the latest developments at the state level. Leading practitioners of gifted and talented education addressed identification issues, program models, and classroom practices; conference attendees began developing an advanced, talented, and creative education network in Western Massachusetts.



---

**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.

---

Congratulations to Professor Emeritus **G. Ernest Anderson**, who received a **Lifetime Achievement Award from the Connecticut Educators Computer Association** on October 23. Ernie's career in telecommunications started 63 years ago as a telegraph operator with Western Union. He went on to become the founder and president of what is now the International Society for Technology in Education, with 20,000 members and affiliates worldwide. A certificate signed by Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell officially proclaimed October 23, 2006 as "G. Ernest Anderson Day for the State of Connecticut."



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.

~ ~ ~ ~

**Educational Policy, Research and Administration**

No positions available this week.

~ ~ ~ ~

**Office of Teacher Education**

No positions available this week.

~ ~ ~ ~

**Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services**

No positions available this week.

~ ~ ~ ~

**Office of Academic Affairs**

No positions available this week.

~ ~ ~ ~

**Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies**

**TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS** - Part time assistantships (2 - 10hours per week TA's) are available for Spring 2007 to assist in the preparation and teaching of Science in the Elementary Schools, EDUC 561.

---

**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.

---

**Responsibilities include:** 1) assisting instructor in course planning and instruction; 2) preparing instructional materials for weekly class meetings; 3) grading student assignments; 3) providing students with pertinent advising; 4) meeting with the instructor for 2 hours weekly for class planning; 5) attending and assisting in all class meetings.

**Qualifications include:** K-8 teaching experience, science teaching experience, good communication skills, good organization skills. Desired: science and/or technology background.

To apply, please contact **Dr. Kathleen S. Davis**, 577-2317, or [kdavis@educ.umass.edu](mailto:kdavis@educ.umass.edu).



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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.

#### **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.**



---

**BEACON DEADLINE: Notice! Change in *Beacon* submission procedure:** Please submit *Beacon* announcements to Room 123A Furcolo Hall or to [lascell@educ.umass.edu](mailto:lascell@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.

---

## ATTENTION: DOCTORAL STUDENTS SCHEDULING ORAL DEFENSE

Doctoral students who are scheduling their dissertation defense can now submit the draft copy of their dissertation with the D-8 Form (Announcement of Final Oral Defense) to Linda Guthrie either as a hard copy OR on disk.



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

**HOWARD J. EBERWEIN, III**      December 18, 2006, 4:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.

**Chairperson: Dr. Matthew Militello.**



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

**JOSEPHINE BURNETT**      December 13, 2006, 10:00 a.m., Room 21A, Furcolo. "Elementary Preservice Teachers' Constructions of Themselves as Students and as Teachers: A Collaborative Narrative Autobiographical Approach."

**Chairperson: Dr. Grace J. Craig.**



## LOST & FOUND

Have you lost an umbrella, notebook, keys, book, etc? Check our Lost & Found area, located in our Business Office, Room 125, Furcolo Hall. Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

---

**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.

---