



# THE BEACON



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## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION Educators for Excellence and Equity

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

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FACULTY/STAFF/ STUDENT ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS	1
SPRING 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE	3
UPCOMING CONFERENCES/	5
CALL FOR PROPOSALS	6

The **Graduate Degree Recipient Reception** is on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm in the Massachusetts Room, Mullins Center, we will have Hors D'oeuvres, plenty of desserts and a cash bar. Please RSVP before Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> to Sahra, 545-2705 or [ssantos@educ.umass.edu](mailto:ssantos@educ.umass.edu).

The **Graduate Commencement** is Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm, Mullins Center with a reception to follow. **Candidates must check in between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m.**, wearing Regalia, at the tent set up to the west of the Mullins Center. Please visit [www.umass.edu/commencement/2007](http://www.umass.edu/commencement/2007)



#### WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

**Laura Valdiviezo** will join the LLC Concentration. Laura has her doctoral degree from Teachers College Columbia. Her dissertation is entitled "The Construction of Interculturality: An Ethnography of teachers' beliefs and practices in Peruvian Quechua Schools." She completed her master's degree from Clark University, Worcester, MA and her bachelor's degree from Pontificia Universidad del Peru. Presently, Laura works as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Seinhart School of Education at New York University and as the Coordinator of the Dual Language Program at Public School 87 in New York City.

**Christina Ortmeier-Hooper** will join STEP and the TESI Concentration. Christina is finishing her doctoral work at the University of New Hampshire. Her dissertation is entitled "ELL: Second Language Writers, Academic Literacy, and Issues of Identity in the U. S. High School." She received her master's degree at the University of New Hampshire and her bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



(Continued on page 2)

**BEACON DEADLINE:** 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.

(Activities and Awards continued from page 1)

**Jennifer Thomas** will be joining the REMP faculty as an assistant professor. She is completing her PhD in Educational Measurement at Emory University. She has a Master of Arts degree in Social Studies Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and History, both from Duke University. She has won three academic awards, including a Rockefeller Brothers Fellowship for Minority Teachers. Her research interests include research methodology, educational measurement, and classroom assessment.

**Cris Smith** will be an assistant professor in International Education. She received her doctorate in Educational Policy and Leadership with a specialization in International Education and a focus on adult literacy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1997. For much of the past two decades, she worked as the Deputy Director at the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) and as a staff member of World Education, Inc. Cris has over 15 co-authored or authored publications on literacy and adult learning, and has served as co-editor of the Review of Adult Learning and Literacy.



### **RUSSIAN CREATIVE LITERACY EXHIBIT**

**Ekaterina Ites**, a LLC doctoral student, has opened an exhibit of creative literacy projects developed by her students from the Elementary Russian-I class at Westfield State College. The exhibit that was on display at Westfield State in April, has now moved to the UMass Campus

Center and will last until May 24. The display case located at the corner of the Let's Break Rice Together cafe has been generously provided by the University Productions and Concert organization (UPC).

The projects and course materials exhibited reflect Russian-I college level learning standards that are innovatively presented via commonly shared cultural knowledge and resources found in local communities of native Russian speakers and on the Internet. They include artistic recreation of authentic and adapted popular mini-texts, interactive ABC games, holiday cards and a family album-narrative. Sharing these interactive projects with the public is a tremendous support to the students' learning of Russian language-culture and provides material for the classroom research Ites conducts.

This project is a contribution to the Year of the Russian Language in the World, a Russian government initiative supported by the US and other countries. This celebration also coincides with the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.



(Continued on page 8)

#### **NCATE**

#### **Standard 5: *Field Experience and Clinical Practice* Modeling Best Professional Practices in Scholarship**

##### UNACCEPTABLE

Few professional education faculty are actively engaged in scholarly work that is appropriate for professionals preparing educators to work in schools.

##### ACCEPTABLE

Professional education faculty demonstrate scholarly work in their fields of specialization. They are engaged in different types of scholarly work, based in part on the missions of their institutions.

##### TARGET

Professional education faculty demonstrate scholarly work related to teaching, learning, and their fields of specialization. They are actively engaged in inquiry that ranges from knowledge generation to exploration a questioning of the field to evaluating the effectiveness of a teaching approach.

## **ATTENTION: GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

A copy of the School of Education Graduate Assistantship Appointment and Reappointment Policies and Procedures, revised as of February 2007, is attached to this week's Beacon and is available at the Provost Office at <http://www.umass.edu/provost/appoint/index.html>.

### **SPRING 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE** (by department)

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

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

##### **EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP - GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP**

Fall 2007 graduate research assistantship in the concentration of Educational Administration and Leadership. This is a 10 hour per week position.

##### **Responsibilities include:**

- Assistance in the development and preparation of materials for two courses: Introduction to School Leadership and Organization for Curriculum Development
- Assistance in data collection and analysis related to two research projects – Curriculum Mapping in Educational Administration and the Massachusetts Administrator Standards Project.
- Assist in the preparation of manuscripts for publication.

##### **Public school teaching and/or administrative experience or significant study in these areas preferred.**

If interested, please submit via email an electronic copy of your resume and a cover letter that highlights your relevant experience and qualifications to: **Dr. Rebecca Gajda**, [Rebecca.Gajda@educ.umass.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Gajda@educ.umass.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately.

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##### **CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT - RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

The Center for Educational Assessment in the Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration expects up to seven graduate student research assistantships during the summer of 2007 associated with the Evaluation of NAEP.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate sta-

tistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

**Qualifications include:** All candidates should have extensive knowledge of item response theory, multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact **Dr. Stephen G. Sireci**, (413) 545-0564 ([Sireci@acad.umass.edu](mailto:Sireci@acad.umass.edu)).

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

##### **SPECIAL EDUCATION - GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP**

Fall 2007 graduate research assistantship in the concentration of Special Education. This is a 10 hour per week position.

##### **Responsibilities include:**

- Assistance in the development and preparation of materials for a professional development project for middle school math teachers.
- Assistance in data collection and analysis related to various research projects, including *When It Just Doesn't Add Up: Examining the Manifestation of Math Difficulty Among Fifth and Sixth Graders with Learning Disabilities* and *This Spells Trouble: The Development of Spelling Feature Knowledge In Elementary School Age Children*.
- Assist in the preparation of manuscripts for publication.

##### **Public school teaching, experience with achievement testing, and/or significant study in these areas preferred.**

If interested, please submit via email an electronic copy of your resume and a cover letter that highlights your relevant experience and qualifications to: **Dr. Margaret Pierce via Celia Miller**, [celia@educ.umass.edu](mailto:celia@educ.umass.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately.

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**EDUC 395Z: ISSUES IN INTER-GROUP RELATIONS - TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP**

One half time (10 hour per week) assistantship is available for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008. This position will provide support for EDUC 395Z, a multi-section inter-group dialogue course focusing on group relations based on race/ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

**Responsibilities include:** Working with the instructor to coordinate recruitment activities, placing student in sections, plan the curriculum, organizing and developing course materials, maintaining student records, helping with grading, photocopying and other duties as needed.

**Qualifications include:** Strong organizational and communicational skills; interest in teaching undergraduates about social diversity and social justice issues using dialogic methods; teaching and student affairs programming experience in higher education preferred.

Please send letter of interest outlining interest in the position and qualifications and resume to **Ximena Zuniga** 383 Hills South, Social Justice Education Concentration, SDPPS (545-0918) by June 1st.

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**EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION 2007-2008 ASSISTANTSHIP**

A 10 hour per week Fall and Spring Project Assistantship

**Responsibilities include:** *Teaching Related:* Researching and preparing course reading lists and packets, scanning non-PDF articles onto the course website, reviewing existing curricula, procuring, setting up, operating, & returning audio-visual equipment for the knowledge & skill application labs, setting up the record-keeping system, and keeping records up-to-date for the labs. *Research Project Related:* Data collection and analysis. *Writing Related:* Assisting with research for publications, checking references where needed, compiling references into Endnotes.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent writing and organizational skills, experience with Adobe and PDF files, excellent research skills.

For further information, please contact **Sharon Rallis** at sharonr@educ.umass.edu.

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No positions available this week in the following:

**Dean's Office,  
Educator Licensure Office,  
Office of Academic Affairs,  
School of Education Business Office,  
Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies**

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**OTHER ON-CAMPUS ASSISTANTSHIPS**

**ACADEMIC PLANNING & ASSESSMENT**

**ASSESSMENT - RESEARCH ASSOCIATE—10-20 hours, Fall 2007**

Research Associate for Assessment, gaining experience in applied assessment and evaluation by assisting members of the professional staff in the implementation of assessment, planning and evaluation activities for the campus.

**Responsibilities include:** The duties of this position are varied (reflecting numerous aspects of assessment and evaluation research) including some combination of the following: assist in the development of surveys and other data collection instruments, coordinate the administration of data collection instruments (surveys, course evaluations, etc.), interview study subjects, code and analyze data, and develop reports and other publications. In addition, the individual will assist staff and faculty in their assessment activities, providing other analytical and coordinating support (e.g., data clean-up, graphical presentation, web development, etc.), on an as needed basis.

**Qualifications include:** Experience with, or exposure to, quantitative research methods. Teaching experience helpful. Also helpful is an interest in academic assessment and/or evaluation. Experience and comfort with technology (e.g., spreadsheet development, publication software, etc.) is preferred.

Please send a resume with cover letter to **Dr. Martha L. A. Stassen**, 237 Whitmore Administration Building, 413-545-5146. Application deadline: May 15, 2007.

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

**ERIC J. CARPENTER** Proposed Dissertation Title: "An examination of student motivation during a Tactical Game Model (TGM) ultimate Frisbee unit." Statement of the Problem: More research is needed to support or challenge the positive reports of increased student motivation and improved game performance during a Tactical Game Model unit in physical education.

Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin.



## **FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

**SU G. BALDWIN** Proposed Dissertation Title: "A Bayesian Testlet Response Model with Covariates: A Simulation Study and Two Applications." Statement of the Problem: A testlet-based latent trait model that includes covariate information, embedded within a fully Bayesian framework, can allow multiple simultaneous inferences and aid interpretation within a coherent framework. Using covariate information such as race, age, and item word count, this model estimates how parameters are related to these covariates while simultaneously estimating the parameters themselves. The conventional post-hoc regression methods ignore that the parameters are estimated. Thus, the Bayesian framework offers an important advantage over these methods; it allows the relationships between model parameters and covariates to be modeled correctly by accounting for the uncertainty in the model parameters when estimating their relationship to covariates.

Chairperson: Dr. Lisa A. Keller.



## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**DONNA FITZPATRICK** May 22, 2007, 2:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.

Chairperson: Dr. Kathryn McDermott.



## **CHANGE IN DISSERTATION TITLE**

**JOHN PROVOST** May 25, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Principal Leadership Behaviors in Massachusetts in the Era of Education Reform."

Chairperson: Dr. Mary Lynn Boscardin.



## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS**

### **THE NEW BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM'S SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT!**

The NEW Museum is now open and we are pleased to announce an exciting new round of professional development in culture and literacy; science; and after schools. We hope to see you this summer!

#### *Multicultural Oral Traditions, Storytelling & Literacy*

Join the cultural staff of Boston Children's Museum for an institute on Multicultural Oral Traditions, Storytelling, & Literacy. Work with storytellers and oral historians from four cultures-Native American/Wampanoag, African-American, Chinese and Japanese. Learn hands-on, art and language activities connected to each culture's oral traditions, and discover unique, local resources appropriate for each culture. Classroom strategies and implementation will be highlighted.

This seminar is presented in a series starting in the summer and culminating in the fall.



(Announcements continued from page 5)

Learning activities align with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in English Language Arts (Language, Reading and Literature, Composition Strands), History and Social Studies, and Arts. Institute content is designed for K-12 classrooms, including Inclusion, Special Education, ELL, Museum Education, and Alternative Education settings.

Place: The NEW Boston Children's Museum; Dates and Times: July 17, 18, 19, Tuesday (half day), Wednesday (full day) and Thursday (full day); Oct. 13, Saturday (full day); Nov. 17, Saturday (full day); Dec. 8, Saturday (half day in conjunction with Oral Traditions Festival at Boston Children's Museum). Price: \$250 per person. 30 PDP's with full attendance. Graduate credits available with additional assignments and payment. Registration deadline: Friday, June 22nd 2007.

For more information or to register call Judy Battat at 617-426-6500 x 261 or email: [Battat@bostonchildrensmuseum.org](mailto:Battat@bostonchildrensmuseum.org)



### **NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

The Call for Papers for the 2007/38<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) conference is now available online at: <http://www.nera-education.org/conference07.html>. Proposal submissions for individual papers, symposium sessions, and posters are due **June 1, 2007!**

This year's conference will be held October 17-19, 2007, and will be in a new location: the Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The conference theme is *Making Differences through Educational Research: Bridging Research and Practice*, and will feature keynote speakers Dr. Wayne Camara of the College Board and Dr. Cora Marrett of the National Science Foundation. In addition, Robert Gable of Johnson and Wales University will offer a conference pre-session on Program Evaluation and Hariharan Swaminathan and Jane Rogers of the University of Connecticut will present a pre-session focusing on Item Response Theory.



### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION (NAME) CONFERENCE**

The brochure for the New England NAME conference is now available: <http://www.nameorg.org/conferences/New%20England/Oct11NECME2007.pdf>

As you will see, UMass current and former students are well represented among the presenters!

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### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/ PROPOSALS**

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### **2007 UNH COMPOSITION CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS**

The University of New Hampshire is offering a composition conference on October 12-13, 2007 with keynotes Ellen Cushman (Michigan State University), Paul Kei Matsuda (University of New Hampshire), Gwendolyn D. Pough (Syracuse University) and Stuart Selber (Penn State University). The theme of the conference is Literacies--Personal, Professional, Academic. The focus will be on exploring literacy as it is learned inside and outside of school, and its multiple uses.

We invite proposals for 75-minute concurrent sessions. Sessions can be proposed by an individual or a group of presenters. We prefer interactive sessions and hope to avoid the reading of papers. Among the possible topics to be addressed are: literacy, technology and accessibility; multi-media literacies; virtual reading and writing communities; non-school sponsors of literacy; literacy norms and second language learners; literacy and popular culture; and new discourse conventions in academic writing.

Proposals should include: Session Title; Proposal Type (individual or group); Complete contact information of each presenter including name, address, daytime phone and email address; A 400-word session description as well as a 50-word summary.

For more information visit: <http://www.unh.edu/composition/conference>

Send to: UNH English Department, Attn: Composition Conference, 95 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824

**Postmark deadline: Monday, May 14, 2007**

(Continued on page 7)

Please direct all questions to **Sabina Foote** at:  
**sabina.foote@unh.edu**.



## **HAWAII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION**

Submission Deadline: **August 16, 2007**

Sponsored by: Pepperdine University - Graduate School of Education and Psychology; University of Louisville - Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods; New Horizons in Education - The Journal of Education, Hong Kong Teachers' Association

Web address: <http://www.hiceducation.org>  
Email address: [education@hiceducation.org](mailto:education@hiceducation.org)

The 6th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education will be held from **January 5 (Saturday) to January 8 (Tuesday), 2008** at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, and the Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from education related fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Cross-disciplinary submissions with other fields are welcome.

Topic Areas (All Areas of Education are Invited)

Submitting a Proposal: You may now submit your paper/proposal by using our new online submission system! To use the system, and for detailed information about submitting see: [http://www.hiceducation.org/cfp\\_edu.htm](http://www.hiceducation.org/cfp_edu.htm)

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## **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

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### **Equity & Excellence in Education**

Special Issue: **Bilingualism & Biliteracy: Issues of Equity, Access, & Social Justice for English Language Learners**

Guest Editors: Karen Cadiero-Kaplan and James L. Rodriguez, Department of Policy Studies in Language & Cross-Cultural Education, San Diego State University

*Equity & Excellence in Education* is currently soliciting manuscripts for a special theme issue on *Bilingualism & Biliteracy*. We welcome scholarly research that focuses on the array of equity, access, and social justice issues embedded in theory, research, and practice on bilingualism, biliteracy and the education of English Learners in pre-K through 12 classrooms as well as well-documented descriptive articles that examine topics such as the following:

- sociopolitical factors surrounding bilingualism, biliteracy, and English language learning
- educational experiences of children & adolescents in bilingual and English learning classrooms
- family and/or community involvement of students in dual language, bilingual and English learning classrooms
- the preparation of teachers working with bilingual children/English Learners
- research that highlights successful dual language, bilingual, or English learner program models

In addition, we would like to feature new research and theoretical perspectives that address programs and curricula that:

- promote bilingualism, biculturalism and biliteracy
- promote social justice for bilingual/multilingual children and adolescents
- promote academic achievement for all students with a focus on bilingual/multilingual children and adolescents

### **Submission Guidelines**

Complete manuscripts are due **October 1, 2007**. Submit three "masked" paper (hard) copies plus a disk with separate cover title page including author contact information. Suggested article length: 25 double-spaced pages. Please indicate in your cover letter that the submission is for the special issue on *Bilingualism & Biliteracy*.

**Mail to:** *Equity & Excellence in Education*, Hills South 370, School of Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

**For author guidelines**, please visit the journal website (<http://www.eee-journal.com>). All submissions are peer reviewed. **Contact Karen Cadiero-Kaplan**, with any questions related to this special issue: [kcadiero@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:kcadiero@mail.sdsu.edu)

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(activities continued from page 2)

## **ONLINE TEACHING WORKSHOPS**

Attention Faculty! Online Teaching workshops offered through OIT.

- Faculty already teaching Online courses
  - Address concerns
  - Learn shortcuts
  - Receive answers
- Faculty wondering about Online courses
  - Learn what works
  - Have questions answered
  - Develop new skills

Both types of workshops are being given through OIT here on campus.

Interested? Email Linda Neas (lascell@educ.umass.edu) by Friday, May 25, 2007. Please state whether or not they are *interested in teaching online* **OR**, *are already teaching online*. The instructor from OIT will contact you with workshop schedule.

**"If we have no peace, it is  
because we have forgotten we  
belong to each other."  
- Mother Teresa**

