Access The Beacon online: http://www.umass.edu/education/publications.htm. You can also go to the School of Education home page, and click on The Beacon in the menu under the News and Events button on the left. HARD COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN FURCOLO HALL AND HILLS SOUTH.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

ROBIN E. HANDS August 6, 2008, 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Room 21A, Furcolo. Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

NIGEL O.M. BRISSETT Proposed Dissertation Title: "A Critical Analysis of Jamaica's Emerging Education Policy Discourse in the Age of Globalization." Statement of the Problem: Increasingly, globalization, driven by neo-liberal principles and promise of prosperity, appears to be the most dominant force impacting national education policies around the world. Yet, there are increasing concerns about the potential to exacerbate social inequalities within societies. This research aims to examine how Jamaica is framing its educational response to the phenomenon of globalization, and the implications for social justice. Chairperson: Dr. Gretchen Rossman.

JUAN P. JIMENEZ Proposed Dissertation Title: "Writing ‘Elementary’ Texts: A Corpus-Based Genre Analysis of ELLs Appropriating the Genre of Personal Narratives." Statement of the Problem: ELLs are struggling to write in academic ways in k-12 public schools and failing to pass standardized tests (e.g. MCAS). There is a need to research and document ELLs’ literacy practices. Chairperson: Dr. Meg Gebhard.

(Continued on page 2)
ANNE McKENZIE
Proposed Dissertation Title: "Educational Collaboratives: Utility, Effectiveness, and Efficiency - A Massachusetts Case Study. Statement of The Problem: This descriptive study is designed to gather information regarding the perceived actual and potential utility, efficiency, and effectiveness of educational collaboratives in Massachusetts. An instrument has been designed to determine the extent to which school districts utilize programs and services offered by educational collaboratives and why school districts elect to utilize programs and services or not. Interview protocols have been designed to determine the capacity of collaboratives to meet current needs of LEAs and the SEA as well as future needs.
Chairperson: Dr. Matthew Militello.

JOANNE MORGAN
Proposed Dissertation Title: "An Investigation of the Effects of Teachers' Participation in Collaborative Study Groups on Teachers' Understanding and Use of Evidence-Based Vocabulary Instruction and Students' Vocabulary Learning." Statement of the Problem: Vocabulary development in the early elementary grades enhances students' abilities to read and comprehend increasingly difficult texts as they transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Reading researchers have developed a number of effective instructional strategies for developing students' vocabularies, and the challenge now is to support teachers' in incorporating these strategies into classroom practice. The proposed study will investigate the effects of teacher collaboration, a promising practice from the field of staff development, and teachers' understanding and use of evidence-based vocabulary instructional practices and subsequent student learning. Co-chairs: Dr. Rebecca Gaida and Dr. John Hintze.

ALAN M. BLOOMGARDEN August 11, 2008, 10:00 - 12:00, Room 151, Hills South. "Prestige Culture and Community-Based Faculty."
Chairperson: Dr. Kerryann O'Meara.

KAI YU August 12, 2008, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Room 151, Hills South. "Exorcizing the Haunting Specter of Meritocracy: A Qualitative Research on the Implementation of Inclusive Education in Beijing."
Chairperson: Dr. Jeffrey W. Eiseman.

ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Academy for Educational Studies
4th Annual Conference
October 20 & 21, 2008 in Branson, MO

"Rethinking education: Is it time for radical change in the public schools?"

Keynote Addresses:
Kieran Egan (Simon Fraser University) and Paul Theobald (Buffalo State University).

Academy Dialogue hosted by Christopher Lucas (University of Arkansas)

If you have any questions, please contact:
Steven P. Jones, Academy Director
Missouri State University
417-836-5982 • spjones@missouristate.edu

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

ISLS Conference Dates: June 11-13, 2009
Location: The Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal; Orlando, Florida
Proposal Deadline: September 1, 2008


NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA)

NERA Conference Dates: October 22-24, 2008
Location: Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT.
Questions: neramembers@gmail.com
Theme: "Strengthening Educational Research"
Note: Papers and posters need not be about the conference theme.

Keynote speaker: Marilyn Cochran-Smith, the John E. Cawthorne Millennium Chair in Teacher Education for Urban Schools from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.
EDUCATIONAL POLICY, RESEARCH & ADMINISTRATION (EPRA) ASSISTANTSHIPS

One half-time 10 hour per week Teaching Assistantship is available for Fall 08 and Spring 09. 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 outlining interest in the position and qualifications and résumé to Ximena Zuniga, 383 Hills South, Social Justice Concentration, SDPPS (545-0918) by July 25th.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES (SDPPS) ASSISTANTSHIPS

One part-time (10 hour/week) research assistantship is available for the Fall 2008. The position will entail working with an early career faculty member in the concentration of Special Education.

Responsibilities include: 1) Writing Related: Assisting with research for publications, compiling references into an electronic format, assisting with all phases of manuscript preparation. 2) Research related: supervising school-based data collection projects, scoring and management of assessment data, data entry and analysis using SPSS. 3) Grant Related: Assisting in all stages of grant preparation.

Qualifications include: The ideal candidate will have developed research skills, in conducting literature reviews, using APA-formatting, and be able to manage large data sources and be agile with Excel and SPSS for data input. The candidate must be available to help collect data in schools during school hours. Additionally the ideal candidate must have strong organizational and time management skills and be able to complete projects independently.

To apply, please send cover letter & résumé to Robbie Callihan, callihan@educ.umass.edu, 413-545-2231.

No assistantships at this time.

All assistantships are contingent upon funding.
One half-time (10 hours per week) Project Assistantship is available for Fall 2008 in the Educator Licensure Office.

Responsibilities include: assisting the Associate Dean, Assistant Dean for Educator Licensure, and the Licensure Officer on various projects (data collection, analysis, etc.). Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications include: The candidate must have knowledge of teacher education, work well with undergraduate students, and have good organizational skills, including some knowledge of web maintenance. Previous teaching experience is desirable.

To apply, please submit a letter of application addressing the above qualifications (which will be used as a writing sample) and résumé to: Dr. Marge Magouirk Colbert, School of Education, Educator Licensure Office, Room 130 Furcolo Hall, University of Massachusetts, 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01003-9308. APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2008

Two half-time (10 hours each per week) Project Assistantships are available for Fall 2008 in the Educator Information Office.

Responsibilities include: advising students interested in licensure and the Minor in Education; assisting the Educator Information Coordinator in maintaining and updating the advising system and office advising materials; under the direction of the Educator Information Coordinator, attending and advising at Fall Open House, orientations for accepted students, and other orientations, recruitment or resource fairs related to pre-licensure advising. Other duties as assigned.

To apply, please submit a letter of application addressing the above responsibilities (which will be used as a writing sample) and a résumé to: Dr. Marge Magouirk Colbert, School of Education, Educator Licensure Office, Room 130 Furcolo Hall, University of Massachusetts, 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01003-9308. APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2008

Two half-time (10 hours each per week) Project Assistantships are available in the Educator Licensure Assessment Office for Fall 2008.
Responsibilities include: Work as part of the Tk20 Team to assist the Assistant Dean for Educator Licensure and Licensure Officer with data management, analysis and reporting. Assist Educator Licensure Faculty in implementing assessment plans through Tk20. Learn to use the Tk20 data management system; assist faculty in putting assignments, assessments, and rubrics on the system; and train students, faculty and cooperating teachers to use Tk20 data management system. Work with Field Experience Office to get information for Field Experience Placements and Binders. Conduct online and face-to-face Tk20 support sessions as needed by Tk20 office. Other duties related to the work of the Educator Licensure Assessment Office.

Qualifications include: 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 letter of application addressing the above qualifications (which will be used as a writing sample) and résumé to: Dr. Marge Magouirk Colbert, School of Education, Educator Licensure Office, Room 130 Furcolo Hall, University of Massachusetts, 813 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01003-9308. APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2008

Commonwealth Corporation is offering a fellowship for a Massachusetts doctoral student to conduct research on workforce development in the long-term care sector. Please click on the link below to access the description and application (due October 1, 2008). Questions can be directed to info@commcorp.org.


The fellowship is offered in memory of Professor Susan Eaton, an activist and researcher who dedicated her career to work and labor issues and made important contributions to the field of workforce development in the long-term care industry.