MEMORANDUM

TO: School of Education Faculty and Students
FROM: Linda L. Griffin, Associate Dean, Graduate Program Director
SUBJECT: Letters of support for tenure and promotion

The School of Education has a faculty member who is up for tenure and promotion. Faculty and students who wish to submit letters of support should send them to the appropriate department chair.

Faculty up for Tenure and Promotion:

Carey Dimmitt
Please send her letters of support to Rich Lapan, Chair of the SDPPS Department, 163 Hills South, lapan@educ.umass.edu.

SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL COMMITTEES

The following lists are the Department Personnel Committees:

**EPRA**
- Gretchen Rossman
- Sharon Rallis
- Katie McDermott (Fall only)
- Steve Sireci (Spring only)

**SDPPS**
- John Hintze
- William Matthews
- Bailey Jackson

**TECS**
- Theresa Austin (Chair)
- Flavio Azevedo
- Barbara Madeloni
- Florence Sullivan

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BEACON DEADLINE: 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.
NCATE ensures the quality of programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional school personnel through a program review process that is part of the accreditation review. Reviewers from the relevant specialty professional associations (SPAs) examine programs within the school, college, or department of education, and write a report on their findings. Institutions must provide evidence that candidates in these programs know the content of their field and how to teach it effectively or apply it in their role as a school leader, school library media specialist, etc. Those programs that meet the standards are noted as nationally recognized programs by NCATE. Program review results provide a primary source of evidence for Board of Examiner findings on Standard 1, Candidate Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions. An area for improvement (AFI) will be cited under Standard 1 if a program is not nationally recognized.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
Initial Foreign Language

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)
Initial Elementary Education

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Initial Special Education
Advanced Special Education Role (e.g., administrator, educational diagnostian, transition specialist, etc.)

Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC)
Advanced Educational Leaders at the Building Level
Advanced Educational Leaders at the District Level

International Reading Association (IRA)
Advanced Reading and/or Literacy
Advanced Reading Endorsement

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
Initial Early Childhood Education
Advanced Early Childhood Education

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
Advanced School Psychology

Distinguished Teaching Awards

The Nomination Period for 2007 - 2008 Distinguished Teaching Awards is now open. Please share the following information with students or nominate teaching assistants/associates that you believe should be recognized for their teaching.

Nominations for 2007 - 2008 Distinguished Teaching Awards are now being accepted. The Distinguished Teaching Award is the highest recognition of teaching awarded to faculty members and teaching assistants/associates. To nominate your favorite professor or TA, all you need to do is tell us why your nominee should receive a Distinguished Teaching Award. All nominations must include your name, mailing address, and email address.

Only current and former students may nominate faculty members. Teaching assistants/associates may be nominated by faculty members or current and former students.

Please submit all nominations by Friday, October 26 to:

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee
Office of the Provost
362 Whitmore Administration Building
(413) 545 - 2554
(413) 577 - 3980 (fax)
dta@provost.umass.edu

Check out the DTA monuments in the Campus Center or http://www.umass.edu/provost/award/campus/dta.html to see if your favorite teacher has already won the Distinguished Teaching Award. Faculty members and teaching assistants/associates may only win the award once.

Graduate FAQ’s

FAQ’s and other information that is good to know:
Specific Questions concerning your graduate program:
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.

FALL 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE
(by department)

Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

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No positions available this week in the following:

Dean’s Office;
Educational Policy, Research & Administration;
Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services; and
Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR FULBRIGHT APPLICANTS

If you are applying for the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program this fall, please be aware that this is an institutional application process. You need to collaborate with Graduate Student Grant Service, and the INTERNAL UMASS DEADLINE is OCTOBER 18th!

By that day your graduate transcripts need to be in our office and all other materials need to be uploaded and submitted from your side to allow time for the institutional review process.

Please contact Katja Meinke and Bette Elsden (GSGS Coordinators) for further information at: gsgs@grad.umass.edu

"Goals are not only absolutely necessary to motivate us. They are essential to really keep us alive."

- Robert Schuller

Robert Schuller is a Doctor of Theology and Chancellor of the Fuqua International School of Christian Communications in Atlanta, GA.

Resource: http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/sch2bio-1
UPCOMING CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (AERA) ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBIT

The 2008 AERA Meeting and Exhibit will be held on Monday March 24 – Friday, March 28 in New York City. The 2008 AERA Program Theme: Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility.

New York City is considered by many to symbolize the gateway of opportunity in the United States. The history of immigrant families and communities in this metropolitan region is well documented and an important part of the American Dream. Yet the geography of opportunity has become a local, national, and global challenge. Cities and metropolitan regions are experiencing intensified city/suburban fiscal disparities. The trend toward increased class- and race-based geospatial polarization has implications for schools, neighborhoods, and related social institutions and groups. The resulting local, state, and federal government responses often create new problems. There has been an expansion of the policing functions of government, for example, while the demand for many key social services continues to grow (e.g., housing, schools, health, and transportation). Thus local, state, and federal funding remains an important policy consideration and research opportunity.

Funding is only one of the many challenges facing communities within and across social and spatial boundaries. Many scholars have found that metropolitan education does not share the level of civic capacity that is available for other local ventures (e.g., sport stadiums). The term “civic” refers to actions and strategic plans conceived to support the goal of advancing the well-being of the entire community. Some scholars have argued that “civic capacity” captures the extent to which multiple sectors of a region have constructed formal and informal structures to create common objectives and advance common goals (e.g., the Civic Capacity and Urban Education project). Civic capacity requires communities to move beyond immediate relationships and specific occupational roles toward the acceptance of their interdependence and civic responsibility. Civic responsibility in education requires that multiple sectors of the community—individuals, governments, and nongovernment organizations—accept the charge of creating high-quality educational opportunities irrespective of neighborhood or other geospatial considerations.

This year’s Annual Meeting theme provides an intellectual space for scholarship focused on schools, neighborhoods, and communities. Examples of relevant research topics include, but are not limited to (1) higher education and community development, (2) education and social service partnerships, (3) community-based teacher education, (4) project-based learning in metropolitan settings, (5) juvenile justice and opportunity to learn, (6) fiscal policy and planning, and (7) educational role of the professions (e.g., health, law, and engineering).

While in New York City, the AERA community will have an opportunity to explore research, historical writings, and moral arguments. An overarching purpose is to define, frame, contextualize, explain, and debate solutions to the ongoing challenge of linking research on schools, neighborhoods, and communities to matters of civic responsibility and capacity-building opportunities. Please consider participating in this important intellectual endeavor.

For more information go to: http://www.aera.net/meetings/Default.aspx?menu_id=342&id=2936

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES FOR TEACHER EDUCATION (AACTE) ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual AACTE meeting will be held on February 7-10 2008, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, in New Orleans, LA.

This year’s theme is Quality Matters: Our Commitment to All Learners.

Over the years, AACTE has established a legacy of addressing quality matters in the preparation and support of teachers, counselors, and educational leaders. This tradition continues with the 2008 Annual Meeting, which will showcase AACTE member institutions in action through presentations and sessions on matters of quality related to equity, access and advocacy, collaboration, innovation, and accountability and impact. Given the current context in which quality matters more than ever to the public and to the profession, this year’s theme is designed to provide opportunities for demonstrating and

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sharing evidence of quality programs and outcomes for educator candidates and for all students.

Quality Matters in Equity, Access, and Advocacy
Quality Matters in Collaboration
Quality Matters in Innovation
Quality Matters in Accountability and Impact

Registration:  http://www.aacte.org/Events/08amregform.pdf

Hotel:
Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70140, for hotel reservations call 1-800-HILTONS or 504-561-0500.

NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA) CONFERENCE

First, thanks to Barbara Helms, Brian Preston, Dolores Burton, April Zenisky, and others, we have a new NERA web site! The URL is the same: www.nera-education.org

On this site you can renew your membership, register for the conference, and register for the hotel.

A few notes about hotel registration. Do it now. Rates go up about 50% after September 26. The double room rate is $127.50 per person, which includes the three usual meals (dinner on day of check in and breakfast and lunch the next day). We will have all meals together, as is standard NERA collegiality. The single room rate is $175 per day, with the same meals included.

If you register for a double room, one of the two occupants will have to put the full amount on their card. The hotel will split the bill upon check out. This is a bit confusing and so feel free to call the hotel if you need to. Here is the direct link for hotel registration: http://cwp.marriott.com/bdlrh/nera/

And to learn more about the conference, visit: http://www.nera-education.org/conference.php. Please note the two renowned keynote speakers (Cora Marrett and Wayne Camara) and the free workshops on program evaluation (Robert Gable) and item response theory (Jane Rogers and H. Swaminathan).

International Alliance of Teacher Scholars

In 2008, the International Alliance of Teacher Scholars will host its 20th annual Lilly Conference on College & Uni-

CALL FOR NEWS

If you know of a student, faculty or staff member, who has been honored with an award or is involved in an interesting activity, please email Linda Neas at llascell@educ.umass.edu. Thank you for your assistance!
I read something online about graduate degree forms. What are they and where can I find them.

Guidelines and forms for the Master’s, Doctoral degrees and CAGS certificate, as well as guidelines for the Post Baccalaureate and the Education Minor, can be found online at:  [http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_advising.htm](http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_advising.htm)

These guidelines give you a listing of all requirements, in addition to the forms that must be filed with the Graduate Programs Office, Room 123 Furcolo Hall. Please note: Forms may be filled in online, but MUST be printed and hand signed before being turned into Linda Guthrie at the Graduate Programs Office, 123 Furcolo Hall. You CANNOT submit these forms via email.

How long do I have to complete my program?

The Statute of Limitations (SOL) is the amount of time a student is given to complete their program. An M.Ed. student gets 3 years, a CAGS student 4 years and a doctoral student 4 years if they have a Master’s in the same area or 6 years if they don’t.

An extension of the SOL can be requested. In that case contact your advisor. You will have to state what you have accomplished so far and a timeline for the remaining parts of your program will be given.

I am transferring credits to my graduate degree. How soon will they show on my transcript?

If you are transferring Non-degree UMass Amherst credits, it should take a couple of weeks to appear on your transcript. If, however, you are transferring credits from an outside institution, it can take a couple of months before it appears.

PLEASE NOTE: All transferred degrees show under your GRADUATE RECORD. Non-degree credits will show under Non-degree Record and, once transferred will also show under the Graduate Record. Please make sure to check your Graduate Record.

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 end of the add/drop period. For the fall semester 2007, the add/drop period ends September 17, 2007. 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, then return it to 123 Furcolo to be registered for your independent study.

I am an international student. What do I have to do to retain my status and visa?

You must be a full-time student (at least 9 credits) each semester.

Exceptions are:
- It is your first semester and you have problems adjusting.
- It is your last semester and you don’t need 9 credits to finish
- You have a health reason.

If you are not taking 9 credits and one of the listed exceptions applies to you, contact your advisor. Your advisor will send Linda Guthrie an email verifying your reasons.

Do I need to be continuously enrolled, even if I take a leave of absence?

Yes! All graduate students must remain continuously enrolled until they graduate.

If you need to take a leave of absence for health, personal, or financial reasons, you have to stay registered on Continuous Enrollment and you must pay the Continuous Enrollment fee while on leave to retain your student status. Please contact your advisor or chair if you need to take a leave of absence.

When do I need to contact my advisor?

Your advisor is there to assist and mentor you throughout the course of your program. You should contact your advisor:
- At the beginning of your first semester
- Before you fill out the required forms for your program
- When you have questions in regard to the classes you should take
- When you have problems completing your classes/program due to circumstances that cannot be addressed by your course instructor
- If you need more time to complete your program (extension of your SOL)
- If you are not enrolled full-time (9 credits) and you are a) a doctoral student and need full-time status for loan purposes, TAs or RAs or b) an international student and one of the listed exceptions applies to you
- If you need to take a leave of absence for health, personal, or financial reasons.
I need financial help. What can I do?

1) Teaching and Research Assistantships at the School of Education:
Check The Beacon, our School of Education Newsletter, for Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Project Assistantships for the School of Education. You can access The Beacon on-line at http://www.umass.edu/education/publications.

2) Student jobs:
The Student Employment Office provides a listing service with a wide-variety of student jobs: on or off campus, a work-study or non-work-study position. You can access the job postings at: http://www.umass.edu/umfa/seo/. Keep in mind that some of the largest on-campus employers, such as Auxiliary Services, the libraries, UMass Transit, and Residence Hall Security offer numerous job opportunities and may or may not list positions with us. Look through the SEO listings, which are updated daily, but also feel free to contact employers directly.

The School of Education may also offer student hourly jobs.

3) Other Assistantships:
Go to the Graduate School webpage at: http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/assistantship/
On their webpage, you will find job postings for assistantships and the policies and procedures for graduate assistantships and graduate student employees.

4) Apply for a Scholarships or Fellowship:
Check the School of Education webpage at: http://www.umass.edu/education finanzi.al aid.htm
The School of Education Scholarships and Awards Program provides different opportunities for financial assistance. Scholarship applications are closed for AY 2007-2008.

Stay Tuned!
More Graduate FAQ’s to come!

versity Teaching -West on March 21st & 22nd in Southern California. We call for your proposals and hope you will be able to participate. More information is below.

For almost 30 years the international and national Lilly Conferences have provided a forum for learning about, reporting, and discussing the results of the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning. Lilly Conferences are retreats that combine Scholarship of Teaching and Learning sessions, and major addresses, with lots of opportunities for informal discussion about excellence in college and university teaching and learning. Internationally-known scholars join new and experienced faculty members and administrators from all over the world to discuss topics such as gender differences in learning, incorporating technology into teaching, encouraging critical thinking, using teaching and student portfolios, implementing group learning, and evaluating teaching. Information on the International and other National Lilly Conferences can be found at Lilly Conference Information.

The welcoming "Lilly Spirit" and the high level of scholarly attention to teaching and learning enable everyone to contribute to the forum. You are invited to join as a presenter or an involved participant.

For General Information: http://www.iats.com/conferences/west2008_info.html
For Registration Form – Early Registration through October 15th: http://www.iats.com/conferences/registration_west2008.html

BEYOND OUTREACH TO SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

A symposium entitled “Beyond Outreach to Scholarly Engagement,” will be held on Monday, October 22, 2007, from 1:00PM to 4:30PM. All sessions will take place in the Campus Center Auditorium. The symposium is sponsored by the Faculty Senate Outreach Council and the Office of Outreach.

“Scholarly Engagement is the creation, integration, application and transmission of knowledge for the benefit of external audiences and the University and occurs in all areas of the University Mission: research, teaching and service. The quality and value of Scholarly Engagement is determined by academic peers and community

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National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)
Initial Social Studies

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
Initial Middle/Junior and Senior High

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
Initial Elementary Mathematics
Initial Middle Level Mathematics
Initial Secondary Mathematics

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
Initial General Science
Initial Secondary Science

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
Initial English as a Second Language

Program standards listed here may be found on NCATE’s website in the ‘Standards’ section.

In some states, NCATE relies on the state review instead of specialty professional association (SPA) review of programs to provide evidence that candidates know the subject matter and can teach effectively. For more information on the standards that apply in each state, see NCATE’s website.

This symposium will provide an opportunity to learn more about how faculty collaborate with individuals, communities and organizations outside of the university and how this work is documented and disseminated. The event is also intended to explore ideas for moving forward as an engaged institution. The afternoon includes a moderated panel discussion, poster session and a keynote address by Dr. Lorilee Sandmann, of the University of Georgia. Please pre-register online at http://www.umass.edu/outreach/symposium.

Faculty from each UMass Amherst school or college will present and discuss their work:

School of Education: Jerri Willett of the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

College of Engineering: David McLaughlin of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

College of Humanities and Fine Arts: Joseph Krupczynski of the Department of Art

Isenberg School of Management: Todd Crosset of the Department of Sport Management

College of Natural Resources and the Environment: Elizabeth Brabec of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Nathaniel Whitaker of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

School of Nursing: Cynthia Jacelon

School of Public Health and Health Sciences: Elaine Puleo of the Department of Public Health

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences: Raymond La Raja of the Department of Political Science

Commonwealth College: John Reiff of the Office of Community Service Learning

Our keynote speaker, Lorilee Sandmann, is a faculty member in the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy and former Associate Vice
President for Public Service and Outreach at the University of Georgia. Dr. Sandmann is co-director of the Clearinghouse and National Review Board for the Scholarship of Engagement, a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement and a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Classification. She is also past chair of the NASULGC Council on Extension, Continuing Education and Public Service.

The schedule for the afternoon is:
Moderated Faculty Panel from 1:00 until 2:30
Break and Poster Session from 2:30 until 3:15
Keynote Address from 3:15 until 4:30

This event is free, however, pre-registration is REQUIRED. You can pre-register on-line at http://www.umass.edu/outreach/symposium/. Please address questions to Diane Vayda in the Office of Outreach at dsvayda@outreach.umass.edu or 577-0247.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/PROPOSALS

NEW ENGLAND EDUCATORS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (NEERO)

The NEERO Board is pleased to announce that we are now accepting proposals for the 2008 NEERO Conference. Proposals may be submitted through Monday, October 15.

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the link provided on the NEERO website at: www.neero.org.

The Call for Proposals, also posted on the website, provides details about types of presentations and proposal requirements. Please review the CFP before submitting a proposal.

Proposals are submitted in a two-step process. You will first complete an electronic cover sheet and provide an abstract. You will then be directed to a website where you can e-mail your proposal summary to NEERO as a pdf or WORD attachment.

Please plan to join us at the 2008 conference as we begin the celebration of NEERO’s 40th Anniversary. The conference will be held April 9-11 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Being excessively critical towards others, means going in the wrong direction. Humans are usually very good at spotting mistakes, but should also develop the quality of spotting goodness.

Seeing what is good in others or in situations and going beyond the curtain of negativity, creates feelings of goodness towards oneself.

Constantly thinking ”he/she is wrong”, creates a barrier which blocks reaching self goodness.

A very ancient law says: ”just as I treat others, I shall be treated by others.”

From: www.thoughtfortoday.org.uk