Access The Beacon, on-line at: http://www.umass.edu/education/publications.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. HARD COPIES AVAILABLE IN FURCOLO HALL AND HILLS SOUTH.

**GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS**

The Graduate School will be awarding a limited number of student travel grants for graduate students who will be presenting at recognized conferences during the 2007-08 academic year. Applications will be considered exclusively for travel to recognized conferences for the purpose of presenting the results of research conducted during graduate coursework at UMASS Amherst. Awards are for presentations rather than just attendance at a conference or event.

The application and expense summary can be downloaded from: [http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/memo_to_graduate_students.htm](http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/memo_to_graduate_students.htm)

You should also complete the information on the Graduate Program Director’s Approval Form from the top of the page up to the Sources of Funding Section.

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NOTE:
The procedures for applying for this grant have changed for this academic year. Be sure to read and carefully follow the directions outlined from the above site.

Criteria for nomination include merit of the project, prestige of the conference or event, and financial need of the student.

Awards will be made to the individual student rather than for a project (divided among several students). Grant amounts are up to $300.00 for domestic and $400.00 for international travel and will be considered for the fall and spring semesters. The Travel Grant Committee may not be able to fund all nominations that are forwarded for consideration.

If you anticipate presenting at a conference this fall, and would like your application given the best possible consideration, please email one copy of your application to your advisor and one copy to Linda Griffin, Graduate Program Director, (lgriffin@educ.umass.edu) no later than NOVEMBER 5, 2007.

All applications will be reviewed and rank ordered by your department chair before the final approval by Associate Dean Linda Griffin.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is pleased to announce its 2007 - 2008 Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series. All lectures, which are free and open to the public, begin at 4 pm in the Massachusetts Room of the Mullins Center. A reception immediately follows each lecture.

Lectures will also be posted online at http://www.umass.edu/provost shortly after the lecture.

Additional information on the lectures, including abstracts and biographies, are available at http://www.umass.edu/provost/award/campus/lecture.html.

This year's lecturers, who will each be presented with a Chancellor's Medal at the conclusion of their talk, are:

Ben S. Branch, Department of Finance and Operations Management, "If Markets Aren't Efficient, Why Aren't You Getting Rich?" Monday, October 22, 2007;

Stephen G. Sireci, Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, "Are Educational Tests Inherently Evil?" Tuesday, December 11, 2007;

H. Martin Wobst, Department of Anthropology, "An Archaeological Look at Us" Monday, March 3, 2008;

Sara Lennox, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, "Claiming Blackness in Germany" Monday, April 28, 2008.

OIT/ACADEMIC COMPUTING OFFER
LUNCHEON DISCUSSION
Instructors, Teaching Assistants, Faculty, and Support Staff are invited to attend a discussion with OIT/Academic Computing, on “Making FERPA Less Scary: A Lunch for Faculty” on Friday, October 26, 2007 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at A215 LGRC LR.

Can't remember what FERPA stands for? Do you have questions about what student information is considered confidential at UMass Amherst? Join us for a lunchtime discussion about the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (a.k.a. FERPA) and its relevance in instructional contexts.

This is an opportunity for faculty to learn more about what constitutes a FERPA violation, how to handle confidential information securely, and what steps are necessary for a secure information environment. Lunch will be provided.

Seats are limited. Please use our Registration Form to sign up by Tuesday, October 23, 2007. http://www.umass.edu/accoprod/workshop/register.php?=ferpa-fall-07
CONTACT: Academic Computing Main Office @ (413) 577-0072

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE TUITION WAIVERs FOR SPRING, 2008
FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

Nominations for tuition waivers for current 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.

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

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

CURRENT STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT:

1. Formal application form (student can pick up form at the International Programs Office, 467 Hills South or from: umass.edu/ipo/docs/tw_app.pdf
2. Financial documentation proving student has sufficient funds to cover all academic fees and living expenses other than tuition, estimated at $23,000 for Spring, 2008.
3. Recommendation letter from student’s advisor or chairperson.

Completed applications should 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 APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING, 2008 IS: NOVEMBER 8, 2007
NOMINATIONS WILL BE RANK ORDERED BY CONCENTRATION AND DEPARTMENT

FALL 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE

No positions available this week in the School of Education

ATTENTION: GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

MARY T. GRASSETTI  October 26, 2007, 2:00 p.m., Room 128, Furcolo Hall.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kathleen Davis and Dr. Portia C. Elliott.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

CAMILLE LEE Proposed Dissertation Title: “A Case Study of How Social Justice Goals Are Manifested In One School.” Statement of the Problem: Unfortunately, what is currently happening in today’s schools is not socially just and is shortchanging all of America’s youth. Many schools across the nation only give a politically-correct nod to addressing the challenges of diversity. Although some institutions are somewhat superficially addressing racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, able-ism, and religious prejudice they often barely treat the symptoms and rarely set about eliminating the root cause of injustice. Across the country, educators often face the frustrating challenge of educating a changing population within institutions incapable of serving the needs of these populations. They simply are not trained to be aware of, educate, and value “the other,” or the marginalized. Our students continue to receive an unjust and inequitable education, which threatens our democratic society. This study utilizes a social justice education framework in order to explore what a school is attempting and what it is achieving in terms of implementing social justice practices. This framework acknowledges the pervasiveness of oppression, multiple identities and the intersections of oppression, individual and systemic change.

Chairperson: Dr. Patricia Griffin.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

ANA KARANTONIS Proposed Dissertation Title: "Using Exemplar Items to Define Performance Categories: A Comparison of Item Mapping Methods." Statement of the Problem: While a great deal of attention has been spent on developing technically sound assessments that meet the requirements of NCLB, much less attention has been spent ensuring that the reported results are actually understood by the intended audiences. Performance categories, in particular, are greatly misunderstood. There is a need, therefore, to help define performance categories.

Chairperson: Dr. Lisa A. Keller.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The University of Massachusetts, in conjunction with Brown and Harvard University will host an international symposium celebrating the one hundredth birthday of Renato Poggioli on October 25, 2007 in the Campus Center, Room 917 from 9 a.m. -12 noon.

The year 2007 marks the centennial of the birth of Renato Poggioli, a world-renowned scholar in Slavic Studies, Comparative Literature and Italian Studies. Born in Florence, Italy, and trained as a slavicist at his hometown university, Poggioli left fascist Italy in 1938 to teach Italian at Smith College in Northampton, MA. A militant anti-fascist, Poggioli co-founded, while in Northampton, the Mazzini Society (perhaps the most active anti-fascist organization outside of Italy) with, among others, Michèle Cantarella and Gaetano Salvemini. He eventually became a Professor of Italian at Brown University and then a Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature at Harvard University. As a prolific translator and as an influential literary critic and theorist, Poggioli became a very well known figure in US literary circles and contributed largely to the diffusion of American and Slavic literatures in Italy, as well as to the diffusion of Italian and Slavic literatures in the US.

The symposium is open to the public and no registration is required.

For more information please visit: http://www.umass.edu/italian/poggioli_symposium/

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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.

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).

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 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

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).

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ACTFL)

If you haven’t decided to attend the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in San Antonio, TX from November 16-18, 2007 (Pre-convention workshops, Thursday, November 15), make your decision today! Check out the Online Program of all sessions and events. You will be amazed at the huge variety of educational sessions for all languages and all levels.

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!
Now that you have decided this is the one event you can't miss, register online at www.actfl.org before October 8, 2007 to get the advance registration rate. Don't forget to make your housing reservations as well. Hotel rooms are going fast so book a room today at www.actfl.org.

Did you know that ACTFL is providing a NEW feature to its Online Program this year? You are now able to search the entire program and develop your own personal schedule online. Just login to the Online Program at www.actfl.org and follow the instructions.

For General Information: http://www.iats.com/conferences/west2008_info.html

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

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/PROPOSALS

NEW ENGLAND EDUCATORS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (NEERO) EXTENDS DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting a proposal for the 2008 NEERO Conference is extended two weeks! Proposals may be submitted through Monday, October 29.

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 for the 2008 NEERO’s 40th Anniversary conference celebration. The conference will be held April 9-11, 2008 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

“When I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision - it matters less and less that I am afraid.”

Audre Lorde

Audre Geraldine Lorde was a writer, poet and activist.