SCHOOL OF EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

BEACON DEADLINE: The deadline for Beacon announcements is 3:30 p.m. on Monday, due in Room 124, Furcolo Hall or to zinnia@educ.umass.edu. All assistantships will run for two issues unless otherwise indicated. Examinations and dissertation proposals run for only one issue.

ATTENTION! The Beacon is available on-line at: http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.pdf 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 can be found by going to Publications.

ATTENTION! New Addition to the Beacon: FACULTY ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

SUMMER/FALL 05 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

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS – EDUC 115 EMBRACING DIVERSITY
Fall 2005. Part – time (10 hours per week)
Responsibilities include: Holding regularly scheduled office hours for student advising; attending a weekly meeting with the instructor and other EDUC 115 teaching assistants; and helping in grading of student work.
To apply, please send a letter of interest and vita to: Dr. David Schuman, Rm 259, Hills South 545-3378

~~~~

Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services

No positions available this week.

~~~~

Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Summer 2005. Part-time (10 hours per week).
Responsibilities include: Assist principal investigator with various aspects of a qualitative research project on literacy education for second language learners. Job duties include transcription of recorded speech and accessing of library documents.
Qualifications include: Familiarity with qualitative research methods and/or research experience, significant experiences in educational, particularly literacy settings.
To apply, please send letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to Dr. Jason Ranker, 223-B Furcolo Hall or jranker@educ.umass.edu.

~~~~
ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
CLAUDETTE GISCOMBE May 16, 2005, 10:00 a.m., Room 227, Furcolo.  
Chairperson: Dr. Kathleen Davis

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
AARON KUNTZ May 17, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Room 151 Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. Joseph Berger

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
ALAN BLOOMGARTEN May 17, 2005, 10:30 a.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. David Schuman.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
REGINA KAUFMAN May 17, 2005, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. David Schuman.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
LAURA A. SINKWICH May 18, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. David Schuman

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
MARGARET ANN SMITH May 19, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
MARILYN MICKA-PICKUNKA May 20, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
PETER BALDWIN May 24, 2005, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. Lisa A. Keller

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION
SUSAN BOWLES THERRIAULT MAY 27, 2005, 9:00 a.m., Room 151 Hills South. "The Beginning of Intervention: A study of the working relationship between the state department of education and underperforming schools during the implementation of new school accountability policy."
Chairperson: Dr. Kathryn McDermott.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION
Chairperson: Dr. William J. Matthews.
FORM OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

RON STAHLEY Proposed Dissertation Title: "A Study of Programs Serving Students With Emotional or Behavioral disorders (E/BD)." Statement of the Problem: Individuals with emotional or behavioral disorders (E/BD) characteristically have experienced the least favorable outcomes of any group of individuals with disabilities.  Chairperson: Dr. Jeffrey Eiseman.

FORM OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

ROD HART Proposed Dissertation Title: "Blackboard Theater: Teaching as a Performing Art." Statement of the Problem: The act of teaching is a form of performance, yet despite the overwhelming literature supporting this assertion, traditional teacher education programs devote little time to developing a new teacher's performance skills prior to the practicum. This study proposes the creation of an acting class for new teachers that would train novice educators for the classroom stage using techniques developed in the performing arts with the aim of uncovering how explicit training in the performing arts might aid new teachers in constructing their nascent teacher identities and embodying the effective teacher behaviors they studied in their traditional pre-service methods classes. Chairperson: Allan Feldman.

FORM OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

JEFFREY B. HAUGHER Proposed Dissertation Title: "The Impact of Different Standard Setting Methods on Student Classification." Statement of the Problem: A standard setting session conducted on a large-scale 12th grade math assessment used two different methods which allows for an opportunity to investigate and compare the classification of examinees across methods. Standard setting is a crucial and an integral part of any test development. The inferences associated with the achievement levels can have political and social ramifications on the educational system. Therefore, validity studies need to be conducted to accumulate evidence to support the inferences of the cut scores by comparing the classification of examinees across the methods used. Chairperson: Dr. Stephen G. Sireci.

May 20, 2005

School of Education: Degree Recipient Reception

Campus Center 10th Floor

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Master’s, CAGS and Doctoral degree recipients are invited.

Please RSVP to Zinny Wu at 545-0234 or zinnia@educ.umass.edu

FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

The School of Education was very well represented at the New England Educational Research Organization Conference, April 27-29, in Northampton. Presenting research papers were 14 SOE graduate students and five SOE faculty. In addition, five UMass faculty from other departments also presented their research.

At the NEERO conference, the prestigious JOHN SCHMITT Award was presented to Cinzia Pica for Outstanding Research by a graduate student. Cinzia is a doctoral student in Child and Family Studies, TECS. Her award winning research paper is titled: Crossing Color Lines: A Developmental Investigation of Cross-race and Same-race Perceptions of Friendship in Kindergarten and Fourth Grade.

After 14 years on the NEERO Board of Directors as Massachusetts Representative, Clement Seldin (TECS) resigned from the Board and was presented with the Distinguished Service Award. Pat Paugh (TECS) was elected the new Massachusetts Representative.
Congratulations to Cindy Hamel, who will receive the Chancellor’s Citation Award on May 11. The annual Chancellor’s Citation Award recognizes and honors employees who have demonstrated exemplary and outstanding service to the Amherst campus through their original contributions, attainment of high priority objectives, service "beyond the call of duty" or significant improvements in productivity and/or operational savings.

~~~~

Also on May 11, Cindy’s son, Ryan Hamel, will receive the Gerald F. Scanlon Student Employee of the Year Award. Organized by the UMass Amherst Student Employment office, the award recognizes the outstanding contributions of 10 student employees on the Amherst campus. Ryan is currently completing his junior year at UMass Amherst, and he has worked as a student employee for several years in the School of Education. Over these years, Ryan has done a variety of work for the School—ranging from providing skilled and thoughtful tech support to doing the heavy lifting of packing and moving—and he has done all of these tasks in a highly responsible, careful, and pleasant manner.

~~~~