SCHOOL OF EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

BEACON DEADLINE: Notice! Change in Beacon submission procedure: Please submit Beacon announcements to Room 123 Furcolo Hall or to rkeane@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.

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

FALL 05/SPRING 06 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE (by department)

Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

Dean’s Office

No positions available this week.

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Educational Policy, Research and Administration

FALL 2006-SPRING 2007 CIE ASSISTANTSHIPS

During the Fall-Spring (2006-07) academic year, the Center for International Education (CIE) and the concentration in International Education will offer a number of partial/full assistantships in connection with international education both in the non-formal and formal sectors. Specific assistantships may include: undergraduate teaching, research, training, curriculum development, evaluation, and administration. Additional work may be available on CIE funded projects, including the Higher Education Project, Afghanistan.

To apply, applicants should send a resume and a letter specifying background and skills by April 24, 2006 to The Center for International Education at 285 Hills South, UMass or cie@educ.umass.edu. Phone: (545-0465).

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Office of Teacher Education

No positions available this week.

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Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services

No positions available this week.

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Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

No positions available this week.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

Gregory D.S. Bascomb  April 26, 2006, 1:00 p.m., Room 20, Furcolo. "Participatory Video Projects in Multicultural Learning Environments."  Chairperson: Dr. Sonia Nieto.

Cecilia O. Buckley  April 19, 2006, 12:00 noon, 151, Hills South. "School Board Use of Data in Policy Development."  Chairperson: Dr. Jeffrey W. Eiseman.


Amanda M. Marcotte  April 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Incremental and Predictive Utility of Formative Assessment Methods of Reading Comprehension."  Chairperson: Dr. John Hintze.

Lauri Turkovsky  April 13, 2006, 1:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Strangers in Good Company? The accuracy of students' perceptions of peer attitudes toward gays, lesbians and bisexuals."  Chairperson: Dr. Maurianne Adams.

RESCHEDULING OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Totraman Gurung  April 7, 2006, 12:30 p.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Sustainable Community Development in Nepal. Voices from the Bottom-Up."  Chairperson: Dr. David R. Evans.

Cinzia Pica  April 11, 2006, 11:00 a.m, Room 20, Furcolo.  Chairperson: Dr. J. Kevin Nugent.

JOSEPH L. BOSCOV SCHOLARSHIP

The Graduate School is seeking nominations for the Joseph L. Boscov Scholarship. This scholarship is available to both current and incoming female graduate students who are U.S. citizens. Preference is given to women who are 35 or older, based on financial need, and whose work will “equip them for increased service to the needs of people and/or the environment.” The Scholarship will provide a stipend of approximately $ 6,100, as well as a tuition waiver, a curriculum fee waiver, and deferral of the basic and SHIP single health plan fee. Important Note: Receipt of this Scholarship will affect the loan eligibility for the coming academic year of a student who also receives a Federal Direct Loan.

Students must meet the above criteria and submit the following to Linda Guthrie, Room 123 Furcolo: 1) A personal statement, not to exceed two pages, that demonstrates how the graduate student’s studies will equip them for increased service to the needs of people and/or the environment and also addresses the student’s financial need, 2) A recommendation from the student’s advisor or chairperson, 3) A Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) for 2006-07 must be on file with the Graduate Financial Aid Office, Room 243 Whitmore. (Students should allow 4-6 weeks for the FAFSA to be processed and can access the FAFSA form on the internet (www.fafsa.ed.gov), 4) A resume or curriculum vitae.

Please note that we can only recommend one student from each SOE department. Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director, will write a recommendation for the strongest nominee from each department.

Deadline to submit completed applications: APRIL 14, 2006

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IPO TUITION WAIVER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominations for tuition waivers for CURRENT international graduate students are now being solicited by the International Programs Office for the 2006-07 academic year. Eligibility: Current students must be in a full-time graduate degree program, have a minimum 3.25 GPA, demonstrated financial need, and non-immigrant visa status.

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

FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS: A complete application, to be submitted to Linda Guthrie, Room 123 Furcolo, consists of the following: 1) A formal application form (which students pick up at the IPO office at 467 Hills South), 2) Financial documentation proving student has sufficient funds to cover all academic fees and living expenses other than tuition, estimated at $20,000 for the 2006/07 academic year, 3) A Strong recommendation letter from nominating faculty, usually the student’s chair or advisor.

Current students’ deadline to submit completed applications to Linda Guthrie is: APRIL 12, 2006

ATTENTION MAY 2006 DEGREE CANDIDATES

The next degree-granting period will be May 2006. Listed below are deadline dates to apply for graduation for M.Ed., C.A.G.S., Ed.D. and Ph.D. candidates who will have completed requirements for a May 2006 degree.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates: Degree Eligibility forms must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than April 21st, 2006. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of the Graduate Program Director and the Dean. The Eligibility form must be accompanied by the School of Education Completed Program of Study form (Master’s Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2). Your advisor must sign the School of Ed form, but not the Eligibility form.

Forms are available from Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office and on the School of Education home page: www.umass.edu/education >Academics > Advising Guidelines.

M.Ed. degree candidates should check with the Office of Degree Requirements (545-0025) before April 21st, 2006 concerning any fees that may be due.

Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates: The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo, along with the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) no later than April 21st, 2006. The Eligibility form is sent to each student by the Degree Requirements Office (534 Goodell) after the defense date is scheduled (Form D-8). Linda will submit this form to the Degree Requirements Office after it is signed.

Three copies of the dissertation signature page must be signed by Christine B. McCormick, Dean of the School of Education. Students should submit their signature pages to Linda by April 21st, and she will obtain the Dean’s signature. She will then return these pages to the student for inclusion with the dissertation.

Dissertation copies, fees and materials must be submitted to the Office of Degree Requirements (Room 534 Goodell) by 5:00 p.m., April 28th, 2006. THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE!

IMPORTANT: If you do not file for graduation by the degree deadline date, you must pay the Program Fee to maintain continuous enrollment until you graduate.

2006-2007 SOE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The School of Education Scholarships and Awards Program is pleased to provide several opportunities for financial assistance. Below are the 2006-2007 Scholarship Application Forms. (Applications can also be obtained at 123 Furcolo Hall or on the Beacon’s webpage.) Please be sure to check the scholarship for which you are applying on the application form.
FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Seeking Information:

For a Column in the next edition of the School’s Alumnae/ni Newsletter and for occasional updates in our weekly BEACON, please send information about recent (2005) publications, grants, activities, honors, and awards to Laura Holland, ljh@educ.umass.edu.

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CONGRATULATIONS, SONIA!

Sonia Nieto will receive the Distinguished Career Award from the Committee on Scholars of Color in Education in a ceremony at the annual AERA meeting in San Francisco coming up in April. The award recognizes senior level scholars who have made significant contributions to the understanding of issues that disproportionately affect minority populations, and also recognizes minority scholars who have made a significant contribution to educational research and development. As previously announced in this column, Sonia will also receive the Henry T. Trueba Lifetime Achievement Award for 2006 during the annual AERA meeting. This award is named in honor of eminent scholar Enrique “Henry” T. Trueba, who dedicated years of service to the education profession and to the Latino community. The Trueba Awards Committee noted that Sonia’s record of research and publication, her generous mentoring of other scholars, and her service to the profession merits public recognition and exemplifies the qualities that were so characteristic of Henry T. Trueba. Sonia will receive the Trueba Lifetime Achievement award at a reception on Sunday, April 9 at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

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NEW PUBLICATION EXAMINES LEGAL ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM

David Schimmel has written a new chapter, “Classroom Management, Discipline and the Law: Clarifying Confusions about Students’ Rights and Teachers’ Authority”, in The Handbook of Classroom Management: Research, Practice, and Contemporary Issues, edited by C.M. Everson and C.S. Weinstein, and published (2006) by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. The chapter explores some of the misunderstandings common in understanding of school law and legal issues, and clarifies the scope and limitations of students’ rights and teachers’ authority. Part I examines selected cases focused on questions of student freedom of expression, freedom of religion and conscience, and search and seizure. Part II focuses on teachers’ fear of liability in disciplining students, analyzing debates and provisions of the federal Teacher Liability Protection Act of 2001. And Part III summarizes some of the reasons for teachers’ legal confusions and looks ahead to define areas of further research and consider what can help enable teachers to become more legally literate. While these are issues of interest and relevance for all teachers, western Mass. readers may be particularly intrigued by the case study on student freedom of expression, which takes place in a “small New England town” and examines the controversy over a provocative high school student newspaper written and published off campus.

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