Celebrate excellence in teaching—deadline for nominations is this Friday.

Nominate your favorite teacher for a Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest recognition of teaching awarded to faculty members and teaching assistants/associates.

Want to nominate someone? In a brief paragraph, tell us why you think your nominee should receive a Distinguished Teaching Award. All nominations must include your name and email address. Nomination forms are available online at http://tinyurl.com/15-16DTA-Form. Nominations may also be submitted by email to dta@provost.umass.edu.

Only current and former students may nominate faculty members and teaching assistants/associates.

Please submit all nominations by Friday, October 16, 2015 to:

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee
The Institute for Teaching Excellence & Faculty Development
301 Goodell
(413) 545-5142
(413) 545-3829 (fax)
dta@provost.umass.edu
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS/ PRACTICUM SUPERVISORS
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

10 hour/week teaching assistantships for spring 2016 for EDUC 500M/500S (up to 3 positions available, contingent upon student enrollment).

Responsibilities: Supervision of practicum students (student teachers) in the areas of middle school and high school English, Mathematics, Science and/or History. This includes: site visits to schools for observations and conferences with student teachers and supervising practitioners; writing observation reports using specified protocols; weekly email communication; attendance at monthly supervisor meetings; support of students in completing student teaching portfolios; timely completion of ongoing documentation and evaluation of student performance; participation in an orientation session and student teaching seminars/support sessions on Thursdays from 4 – 6:30 pm; other duties as assigned.

Qualifications: Must have public middle or high school classroom teaching experience and subject matter expertise in at least one content area; excellent interpersonal, organizational and communication skills; technology skills are required, including the use of Tk20 (preferred), Excel, email and maintaining student databases; understanding of pedagogical best practices; familiarity with the Massachusetts Framework for Educator Evaluation; previous supervision coursework and/or experience is preferred. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

Applicants should EMAIL a letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to Ann Stephany, Field Experience Specialist, at stephany@educ.umass.edu. Application deadline: November 2, 2015.

The Beacon. Deadline is FRIDAY.

- Deadline for submissions is 5:00 P.M. Friday for inclusion in the following week’s issue.

- All assistantship notices will run in two issues. For information about preparing assistantship notices refer to the Faculty Resources pages (How to Write a Beacon Announcement) of our web site. www.umass.edu/education

- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Kristin Tyler at ktyler@educ.umass.edu. These types of announcements will run for one week.

- Please submit announcements about departmental or concentration-related conferences, workshops, events and activities of interest to students to dms@educ.umass.edu.

For information about Beacon announcements
www.umass.edu/ education/ faculty-staff/ faculty-resources
Dissertation Research Grants Available!

The Graduate School invites participants in its fall 2015 Dissertation Research Grant Competition. Approximately 30 awards for a maximum of $1,000 each are available to support dissertation research by UMass doctoral students. Funds may be used on a wide range of activities, including travel, field work, equipment purchase, transcription, etc.

Eligibility
All graduate students who have achieved doctoral candidacy by the time of application are eligible for this award. Applicants must be currently enrolled (in classes or on program fee) and in good academic standing.

Application Information & Deadline
To apply, students must provide the following materials:

- A completed application form, available via the program website
- A one-page (single-spaced) project description
- A detailed budget
- A letter of recommendation from their faculty advisor
- A one-sentence statement of support from their graduate program director

Additional information about the Dissertation Research Grant Competition can be found here. Application materials or questions about the application process should be emailed to Heidi Bauer-Clapp at researchgrant@grad.umass.edu.

All applications for the fall 2015 Dissertation Research Grant Competition are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20th, 2015.

A second Dissertation Research Grant Competition will be held during spring semester. Applications for the spring competition will be due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

Submitting paper forms?
Due to the current renovation in Furcolo Hall, please submit paper forms until further notice to Kristin Tyler, Office of Academic Affairs, 130 Furcolo Hall.
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

WILLIAM FUREY Proposed Dissertation Title: Examining the Effectiveness of a Sentence-level Writing Intervention Combined with Self-regulation Instruction Using a Regression Discontinuity Design
Statement of Problem: Proficient written expression is fundamental to academic success. Not only does writing allow students to demonstrate and share their knowledge, it has been found to be effective in facilitating students’ understanding across curricular content areas. Many students, however, struggle to attain writing skills necessary to support their expressive communication needs. Evidence-based interventions that promote proficiency in basic writing skills are essential to prevent later difficulties in written expression. The proposed study will examine the effectiveness of a supplemental writing intervention that combines explicit sentence-level composition and revision strategies with instruction in self-regulatory procedures. Instruction is aimed at the remediation of skills and prevention of further difficulty for upper elementary-aged students identified as at-risk. Chair: Dr. Amanda Marcotte

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

KELLY MOSHER Proposed Dissertation Title: A Systematic Approach in Selecting School Wide Positive Behavior Supports
Statement of Problem: In 2008, close to 8,000 schools in the United States selected and implemented School Wide Positive Behavior Supports (Spaulding, Horner, May & Vincent, 2008) and in 2012, that number has increased to 16,000 schools (Sugar & Simons, 2012). An increasing number of schools are selecting School Wide Positive Behavior Supports, however, no systematic evidence is provided to support the selection of such an approach. Students, staff, and teachers are all affected by the precipitated selections of interventions. In order to determine the challenges impeding a positive school climate a quantitative study will be conducted. Chair: Dr. Michael Krezmien

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

KELLY MOSHER Proposed Dissertation Title: A Systematic Approach in Selecting School Wide Positive Behavior Supports
Statement of Problem: In 2008, close to 8,000 schools in the United States selected and implemented School Wide Positive Behavior Supports (Spaulding, Horner, May & Vincent, 2008) and in 2012, that number has increased to 16,000 schools (Sugar & Simons, 2012). An increasing number of schools are selecting School Wide Positive Behavior Supports, however, no systematic evidence is provided to support the selection of such an approach. Students, staff, and teachers are all affected by the precipitated selections of interventions. In order to determine the challenges impeding a positive school climate a quantitative study will be conducted. Chair: Dr. Michael Krezmien
The College of Education’s
Statistical Consulting Service

2015 Fall
FREE Workshops
Hills House South, Computer lab (Room 169)
Furcolo Hall, PC lab (Room W09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>3:00-4:30 PM</td>
<td>Mon. 9/21</td>
<td>Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to SPSS</td>
<td>5:15-6:30 PM</td>
<td>Tues. 10/27</td>
<td>Furcolo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to SPSS</td>
<td>5:15-6:30 PM</td>
<td>Tues. 11/10</td>
<td>Furcolo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to R</td>
<td>4:00-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Mon. 11/16</td>
<td>Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>4:00-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Thurs. 11/19</td>
<td>Hills</td>
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</table>

FREE to all UMass faculty, staff, & students
Please sign up at
https://sites.google.com/site/UMassStatConsulting/
or email hdiao@educ.umass.edu or
aleagarcia@educ.umass.edu to sign up.
Walk-ins are always welcome as well!

Research, Educational Measurement, and Psychometrics (REMP)
Promoting sound educational research and testing practices since 1968
The College of Education’s
Statistical Consulting Service

Students and Faculty from the UMass Center for Educational Assessment are available for consultation free of charge.

Providing assistance with:

- Research Design
- Drawing Samples
- Modes of Data Collection
- Reliability & Validity Studies
- Survey Development
- Interpretation and Presentation of Results
- Regression or ANOVA Analysis
- Multivariate Analysis
- Factor Analysis
- Power Analysis
- Longitudinal and Multi-Level Data Analysis
- Structural Equation Models
- Statistical Software Support including Excel, SPSS, SAS, Mplus, and R
- And more!

Drop In Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location (Office)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 pm – 3 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9 am – 11 am</td>
<td>Hills South, 181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:30 am – 12 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 149A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2 pm – 4 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 pm-2 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 253</td>
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</table>

FREE to all UMass faculty, staff, & students

To schedule an individual appointment (outside of drop in hours), simply fill out an information form at:
https://sites.google.com/site/UMassStatConsulting/

Questions? Please email hdiao@educ.umass.edu or aleagarcia@educ.umass.edu

Research, Educational Measurement, and Psychometrics (REMP)
Promoting sound educational research and testing practices since 1968
February 2016 Degree Deadlines

Master’s Degree (M.Ed.) and Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) Candidates

- December 4, 2015 is the deadline to submit TYPED forms to Kristin Tyler, Office of Academic Affairs, Furcolo Hall to file to graduate for the February 2016 degree period.
  
  o Master’s Degree (M.Ed.) submit:
    - Typed Master’s Degree Eligibility Form
    - Typed College of Education’s Form M-2 Completed Program of Study
    - List in chronological order from your transcript only graduate courses to be counted toward the Master’s degree
    - Course numbers and course titles listed on the Form M-2 must match transcript and Degree Eligibility Form exactly
  
  o Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) submit:
    - Typed Education Specialist Degree Eligibility Form
    - Typed College of Education’s Form ES-2 Completed Program of Study
    - List in chronological order from your transcript only graduate courses to be counted toward the Ed.S. degree
    - Course numbers and course titles listed on the Form ES-2 must match transcript and Degree Eligibility Form exactly
  
- This deadline is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Dr. Linda Griffin, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Program Director, and Dean Christine B. McCormick who will sign Section E on the Master’s Degree Eligibility Form or Part II of the Education Specialist Degree Eligibility Form.
- Your advisor must sign the College of Education’s Form M-2 or ES-2, but NOT the Degree Eligibility Form.
- Please note that handwritten forms will not be accepted.
- Forms are fillable and are found at the following URL. If you have any difficulty, please open the forms in Internet Explorer or Safari: [http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/forms](http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/forms)

Doctoral Degree (Ed.D. and Ph.D.) Candidates Filing to Graduate for the February 2016 degree period

- Submit your TYPED Doctoral Form D-8 to Kristin Tyler to schedule your final oral defense 4 weeks plus 2 additional days in advance of the defense date in order to meet the Graduate School’s 4 week deadline.
- Schedule your defense no later than November 25, 2015 to have time to make any necessary edits.
- Rooms are reserved by contacting Robert Heath, College of Education Curriculum Coordinator, by email at: rheath@umass.edu
- December 4, 2015 is the deadline to submit your TYPED Doctoral Degree Eligibility Form, TYPED Form D-9 (Result of Final Oral Examination) and one original signature page to Kristin Tyler, Office of Academic Affairs, Furcolo Hall.
- The Doctoral forms are fillable and are found at the following URL. If you have any difficulty, please open the documents in Internet Explorer or Safari: [http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/doctoral-guidelines](http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/doctoral-guidelines)
- Please note that handwritten forms will not be accepted.
- Kristin will submit these forms to the Graduate School after they are signed by Dr. Linda Griffin, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Program Director, and Dean Christine B. McCormick who will sign section C of the Doctoral Degree Eligibility Form as Department Head/Chair.
- December 15, 2015 (by 4:30pm) is the deadline for you to electronically submit your dissertation and the Survey of Earned Doctorates to the Graduate School. THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE!
The Center for Research on Families announces the Annual Competition for GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS IN FAMILY RESEARCH

Application Deadline: Friday, October 23rd, 2015
Notification: Friday, November 6th, 2015

For More Information: https://www.umass.edu/family/travelaward
Family research is broadly defined and encompasses all disciplines. Please contact our Student Awards Coordinator Michael Havlin at Michael.Havlin@maine.edu for additional questions

CRF Family Research Travel Award
Two separate awards of $300 will be given to two UMass Amherst graduate students who are presenting original research at a national research conference before December 31st, 2015. An applicant for the award must be an author (first preferred) on an accepted poster or paper presentation at the conference, and the award money must be used exclusively for travel expenses associated with the conference. Second authors will be considered by priority is given to first authors.
Tuesday, October 20  12-1:30 pm,  2601 Du Bois Library
**Theses and Dissertations: Open Access, Copyright, and Fair Use**
Graduate students are required to submit their thesis and dissertation to the library for the ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst institutional repository. Sounds simple, but what access options should you choose, and how will they affect your publication opportunities, patent applications, or job search? Should you register a copyright? What about if you're using copyrighted material in your work — do you have to get permission, or can you rely on fair use? We'll give you an overview of the process, and answer any questions you may have to help you protect your rights and promote your work. Pizza will be served. Co-sponsored by the UMass Libraries. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, October 28  5-6:30 pm,  804 Campus Center
**Writing Groups 101**
Research suggests that writing groups are the secret to becoming and staying an efficient, productive writer. They can provide the structure, support, and accountability that most graduate student and postdoc writers need. This workshop explores the different forms a writing group may take and best practices for starting and maintaining a writing group. Pre-registration is required.

Thursdays, October 22, November 5 & 19, December 3- 8-10 am,  Writing Center, Du Bois Library
**Fall Writing Series**
Writing in the presence of others is not only less lonely than working in isolation, but doing so also leads to better accountability and productivity. This bi-monthly writing group provides a designated time and place to write during fall semester. Research shows that successful writers set aside time to write every day (even a little). We’ll do the coffee and provide a quiet space; you do the writing! Come late or leave early. First come, first served. Pre-registration is required.

[https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/opd](https://www.umass.edu/gradschool/opd)
Graduate Student Travel Grant Information
2015–2016

Guidelines: Grants are awarded exclusively for travel to recognized conferences that occur between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016 for the purpose of presenting the results of research or original artistic works conducted during graduate coursework at UMass Amherst. Graduate students are eligible for one grant per year.

Awards are for presentations rather than to attend a conference, facilitate a session, or conduct research. Awards will be made to the individual student rather than for a project (divided among several students). Grant funds vary by department and apply to registration, transportation, and lodging expenses documented by receipts. Meals, copying, and other incidentals are not reimbursable. Students are strongly encouraged to share travel expenses with others attending the conference.

The link to the Graduate Student Travel Grant application on the College of Education website is: http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/travel-grant-programs

Directions to the Student:

As soon as you receive verification from the conference organizers of acceptance to present (and no later than the date of travel), email the completed application (including expense form and the confirmation from the conference organizers) to Deborah Becerra, assistant to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, dbec@umass.edu

Ask your advisor or project faculty member send an email of support to Deborah Becerra.

If a grant is awarded, submit the email notification and the receipts for approved travel expenses to Naitian Wang W106 Furcolo (naitianwang@educ.umass.edu), within 30 days of travel to receive reimbursement.

Required Application Packet Contents (submit to Deborah Becerra):
Application Form
Expense Form
Evidence or confirmation of invitation to present from conference
Short email of support from advisor to Deborah Becerra
Doctoral Student Travel Grant Information
2015-2016

Guidelines: Grants are awarded exclusively to doctoral students for travel to recognized conferences that occur between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016 for the purpose of presenting the results of research or original artistic works conducted during graduate coursework at UMass Amherst.

Awards are for presentations rather than to attend a conference, facilitate a session, or conduct research. Awards will be made to the individual student rather than for a project (divided among several students). Each doctoral student is eligible for one travel grant per year although the College of Education may not be able to award travel grants to every student whose application is endorsed by their Advisor. Travel Grant funds awarded can be applied to registration, transportation, and lodging expenses supported by receipts for $400.00. Meals, copying, and other incidentals are not reimbursable. Students are strongly encouraged to share travel expenses with others attending the conference.

The link to the Doctoral Student Travel Grant application on the College of Education website is: http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/travel-grant-programs

Directions to the Student:

As soon as you receive verification from the conference organizers of acceptance to present (and no later than the date of travel), email the completed application (including expense form and the confirmation from the conference organizers) to Deborah Becerra, assistant to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, dbec@umass.edu

Ask your advisor or chair to send an email of support to Deborah Becerra.

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Required Application Packet Contents (submit to Deborah Becerra):
- Application Form
- Expense Form
- Evidence or confirmation of invitation to present from conference
- Short email of support from advisor to Deborah Becerra
The Writing Program & University Writing Committee workshop
for faculty and graduate student instructors teaching writing-intensive courses, including junior-year writing

MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS IN WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES
November 5, 2015 at 11:30 am-1 pm
[location: to be announced]

Presenters: Anne Bello, Writing Program and Travis Grandy, English & Writing Center

What are the most effective ways to teach writing to multilingual students? In this workshop, the presenters give brief background on multilingual students in our classrooms (including US resident and international students who aren’t English dominant) and outline best practices for such topics as engaging students in classroom discourse, designing constructive peer review activities, giving effective teacher feedback on writing, and helping students with grammar. Workshop participants will be invited to discuss sample student writing and reflect on and share experiences working with multilingual students.

All faculty and graduate student instructors who teach writing-intensive courses (including junior-year writing courses) are welcome. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to uwritingcommittee@acad.umass.edu by October 30, 2015 and include the number of individuals from your department/program who will be attending.
SOCIAL WORK • SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, October 28
4:00 to 6:00pm
Du Bois Library 2601
UMass Amherst

Madeline Pérez

Adelante: Supporting and Retaining Latina Adult College Students through a Social Justice Perspective

This presentation describes a student mutual aid group that seeks to support and retain Latina non-traditional college students with degree completion along the educational pipeline. The model of Adelante Circle of Support will be described. This work draws on a social justice orientated approach in education to actively address the dynamics of oppression, privilege, and isms, recognizing that society is the product of historically rooted, institutionally sanctioned stratification based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

Madeline Pérez, Ph.D., M.Phil., M.S.W., is Associate Professor of Social Work and Director of Institute for Latino Community Practice at the University of St. Joseph.

Anthony De Jesús


This presentation describes research, training and consultation activities that seek to reduce racial disparity and disproportionality along the child welfare continuum. Findings of a mixed methods study of a Racial Equity and Cultural Competency Training and Consultation model will be described. Using a Cultural Humility framework for analysis, qualitative interviews with training participants provide rich examples of key cultural humility skills and practice principles.

Anthony De Jesús, Ed.D., M.S.W., is Associate Professor of Social Work and Director of MSW Field Education at the University of St. Joseph.

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

UMass Amherst • Smith College

This event is co-sponsored by UMASS College of Education, Department of Student Development, Department of Sociology, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, Center for Research on Families, and Smith College School for Social Work.
About the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research

Deadline: November 2, 2015
The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is pleased to announce the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research. The Council of the AERA established the fellowship program to provide support for doctoral dissertation research, to advance education research by outstanding minority graduate students, and to improve the quality and diversity of university faculties. This fellowship is targeted for members of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in higher education (e.g., African Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders). This program offers doctoral fellowships to enhance the competitiveness of outstanding minority scholars for academic appointments at major research universities. It supports fellows conducting education research and provides mentoring and guidance toward the completion of their doctoral studies.

Award Period
Each fellowship award is for 1 year, beginning July 1 or later, and is nonrenewable. This fellowship program is intended as a write-up fellowship. Fellowships are awarded for doctoral dissertation research conducted under faculty sponsorship in any accredited university in the United States.

Eligibility
Eligible graduate students for the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research will be at the writing stage of their dissertation by the beginning of the fellowship. The dissertation study should focus on an education research topic such as high stakes testing; ethnic studies/curriculum; tracking; STEM development; measurement of achievement and opportunity gaps; English language learners; or bullying and restorative justice. Applicants can come from graduate programs and departments in education research, the humanities, or social or behavioral science disciplinary or interdisciplinary fields, such as economics, political science, psychology, or sociology.

Fellows are required to provide proof of advancement to candidacy at the beginning of the award period. Applicants must work full-time on their dissertations and course requirements and should be in the writing stage of their dissertation. This program is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are members of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in higher education (e.g., African Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders).

Direct any questions about the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research, eligibility requirements, or submission process to fellowships@aera.net or 202-238-3200. The application deadline is November 2, 2015.

Visit the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research for the Call for Proposals and the online application.

Students – About Your UMass Email Address
The official email for UMass Amherst correspondence on any matter is your UMass email account. If you are using another personal email address, please link your UMASS email address to your personal email address.

https://www.facebook.com/UMassCollegeofEd
From the College of Education’s Office of Research and Engagement

BROWN BAG RESEARCH PRESENTATION SCHEDULE, (2015-2016)
All sessions noon-1:30; short presentation followed by discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 4, 2015</td>
<td>151 Hills House South</td>
<td>Keisha Green &amp; Rachel Darley</td>
<td>Representation(s) of Culturally Diverse Literacies in the Common Core State Standards Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22, 2016</td>
<td>N125 Furcolo Hall</td>
<td>Chrystal George Mwangi</td>
<td>Our college degree – Examining the college transitions and persistence of first generation students through a familial and community-based lens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26, 2016</td>
<td>N125 Furcolo Hall</td>
<td>Amanda Marcotte</td>
<td>Assessing Rates of Improvement in Reading Comprehension Using the Sentence Verification Technique and the Maze</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Benita Barnes</td>
<td>You Throw Like a Girl but Walk Like a Boy: An Examination of how Millennial Women Who Participate in Intercollegiate Sport Make Sense of What it Means to be a Female Athlete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25, 2016</td>
<td>N125 Furcolo Hall</td>
<td>Zeke Kimball &amp; Alexandra Lauerbach</td>
<td>The Relationship(s) Between Climate, College-Going, and STEM Aspirations for High School Students with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ryan Wells</td>
<td>Building Stronger Connections: Examining Educational Opportunities and Learning Ecologies for Disadvantaged Youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office of Research and Engagement’s Drop-in Hours
The College of Education’s Office of Research and Engagement (ORE) offers drop-in hours for everyone interested in seeking specific or general information about grant proposal writing and grant management. The schedule is:

- **October 8, 10 AM to noon, Furcolo N125**
- **October 20, 3 PM to 5 PM, Furcolo S115**
- **November 3, 11 AM to 1 PM, Furcolo N113**

Our web site
[www.umass.edu/education](http://www.umass.edu/education)
Winter 2016 Dissertation-Writing Retreat

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development is pleased to offer a week-long writing retreat for dissertation writers during Winter 2016. Open to graduate students from departments in all divisions who are at the dissertation-writing stage, this retreat offers extensive structured time to write, receive feedback, and develop effective writing strategies.

Goals of the retreat:
Throughout the week-long retreat, graduate student writers will:

- Practice setting and achieving short- and medium-term goals for writing.
- Develop strategies for planning, getting started, drafting, and revising.
- Receive individual feedback and critical advice about their writing in progress from the retreat’s writing consultants.
- Have sustained writing time over the course of five days, free from other obligations and distractions, to develop effective rhythms for writing and make significant progress on a lengthy piece of writing.

Date:
- January 11-15, 2016 from 9am-4pm* (All Disciplines)

*Attendance all day for the entire week is mandatory, and participants should not plan to arrive late or leave early.

Childcare scholarships for up to $150 are available from the Graduate School.

How to apply:
This writing retreat is offered at NO COST through the gracious support of the Graduate School. The retreat is limited to 15 new participants, who will be selected based on the strength of their completed application. **Participants must commit to attending the entire week to be considered for acceptance.** Preference is given to dissertation-writers. Master’s students and those at the prospectus/proposal stage will be considered if space is available.

Please send the following application materials as a .PDF file attachment to the Graduate School Office of Professional Development at opdwriting@umass.edu:

1. **Cover Letter:** A formal statement (no longer than one single-spaced page) describing how participation in this retreat will help you make progress on your dissertation. Be sure to address the following:
   - Where are you in the dissertation writing process?
   - Describe your current writing process, including strengths and weaknesses.
   - What do you intend to accomplish during this week?

2. **Abstract:** An abstract of your dissertation (no longer than two single-spaced pages). Priority will be given to writers whose prospectuses have been approved by their departments and who have completed necessary data collection.

3. **Letter of Recommendation:** A formal letter of recommendation from your advisor endorsing your participation in the retreat. This letter should be sent directly from your advisor to opdwriting@umass.edu.

**DEADLINE:** Completed applications (including letter of recommendation) must be received no later than 11:59PM on Friday, November 20, 2015. Acceptance notifications will be sent out by 5PM on Friday, December 11, 2015.

Please contact the Graduate School Office of Professional Development at opdwriting@umass.edu or 413-545-0669 with any questions.