Join the current students of the school psychology program in celebrating National School Psychology Awareness Week!

*When:* Monday, November 14, 2016, 11:30AM-1:00PM

*Where:* The Hub, Fuscoo

*Why:* Join us during your lunch break to meet current students, get a free school psych awareness wristband, ask about the work school psychologists do, and learn more about School Psychology Awareness Week!

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has designated November 14–18, 2016 as National School Psychology Awareness Week. This year’s theme, “Small Steps Change Lives” highlights how taking small steps can build greater successes and develops the academic and social-emotional skills students need to promote personal achievement, growth, and resilience, as well as a sense of belonging and wellbeing.
Diversity Matters: A Plan for Advancing Diversity by Creating Pathways to Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in the College of Education

Benita J. Barnes, Director of Diversity Advancement

At the heart of what I would like to do during my appointment as Director of Diversity Advancement is to continue to strengthen the foundation that will provide structural evidence of the college’s commitment to diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

To that end, with approval from the colleges’ leadership team, my implementation plan is outlined below:

Create our Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Statement: This document will clearly articulate what we mean when we say our college is committed to diversity, inclusion, and social justice and then outline principles and practices that should influence and guide how we go about conducting the work we do under the College of Education banner.

Raise critical consciousness around the issue of bias: In order to move the ideas that are embedded in diversity, inclusion, and social justice forward, institutions, organizations, and individuals have to be cognitively aware of the concept of implicit bias and then be open to interrogating and consciously controlling their own implicit bias. We will develop and deliver implicit bias workshops for all members of the college but in particular for those who will be serving on: Faculty Search Committees, Staff Search Committees, Graduate Admission Committees.

Make core theories of social justice visible in the college: We will breathe life into the principles and concepts of diversity, inclusion and social justice through a series of visual materials that will be posted throughout the college complex, followed by facilitated discussions that will lead to a more nuanced understanding of social justice theory.

Make social justice scholarship accessible to everyone in the college: Each month, a core reading or social-justice themed article, submitted by a member of the college community, will be posted in the college’s newsletter, The Beacon.

Provide Diversity Advancement Funding: The college will offer to faculty, staff and students mini-grants to support the implementation of a program, event, or activity that contributes to or provides evidence of the college’s commitment to diversity, inclusion, and/or social justice. (Details about applying for funding and funding deadlines will be forthcoming.)

Create a Diversity Advancement Ambassador Program: The purpose of this program is to have a cadre of faculty, staff, and students who would be willing to volunteer a bit of their time on occasion to assist with a college sponsored event or to serve as a representative of the college at some other university related event. All interested members of our college community, who are committed to seeing diversity, inclusion, and social justice enacted, are welcome and will be encouraged to become ambassadors.

Include a Diversity Question(s) in interviews: If being socially just is a hallmark of the college, it should be evident to anyone and everyone who stands in the entryway wanting to be let in. As a college, we will commit to asking anyone who wants to join us as faculty, staff or student, a question about his or her commitment to diversity during the interview/hiring process.

Act as a liaison to the Chancellor’s Faculty Advisor for Diversity and Excellence: I will work with others from across the university in an effort to assist the university writ large achieve its strategic plan for diversity.
Winter 2017 Dissertation Writing Retreat—deadline to apply is NOV. 18
The Graduate School Office of Professional Development and University Writing Center are now accepting applications for the Winter 2017 Dissertation Writing Retreat. Designed for graduate students from all disciplines at the dissertation-writing stage, this intensive, week-long retreat will enable participants to do the following:

- Practice setting and achieving short- and medium-term writing goals.
- Develop strategies for planning, getting started, drafting, and revising their writing.
- Receive individual feedback and critical advice from the retreat’s writing consultants.
- Experience sustained writing time to develop effective rhythms for writing and make significant progress on a lengthy piece of writing.

**Date & Time** January 16-20, 2017 9:00 am-4:00 pm

**How to Apply** Complete [this form](#) to apply. **Applications must be received by 11:59 pm on Friday, November 18th, 2016.** Acceptance/rejection notifications will be emailed by 5:00 pm on Monday, December 5, 2016.

**Eligibility** The retreat is limited to 15 participants who will be selected based on the strength of their completed applications. Participants must commit to attending the entire week to be considered for acceptance. Preference is given to students who have not previously participated in a week-long retreat.

**Additional Information** The Winter 2017 Dissertation Writing Retreat is offered at no cost through the support of the Graduate School and Writing Center. Coffee, tea, and lunch will be provided. Childcare scholarships for up to $150 will be available.

Questions regarding the retreats may be directed to the Graduate School Office of Professional Development at [opdwriting@umass.edu](mailto:opdwriting@umass.edu).

---

**Colleague Café**

**Thursdays, Nov 10, 17.**

**NOTE the TIME 9:30 – 10:30 am in Furcolo S125**

facilitated by Chris Spicer

A weekly drop-in gathering for staff, with coffee and tea. A chance to relax, connect, and share strategies for teamwork and self-care. Come to get ideas and support your colleagues.

**Thursday, Nov. 10, 9:30**

Place: Furcolo S125

Questions, suggestions: contact Chris at [christopherspice@gmail.com](mailto:christopherspice@gmail.com) or 413-585-8755.

---

**COLLEGE of EDUCATION**

University of Massachusetts Amherst
College of Education
2016 Fall Convocation

Why Are All the Black Kids *Still* Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?

with Distinguished Speaker
Beverly Daniel Tatum
President Emerita,
Spelman College

**New Date**

November 18, 2016 @ 11:00 AM
CHC Events Hall

The lecture is open to the entire campus community and sponsored by the College of Education, with support from the Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development, the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life, the Chancellor’s Office, and Commonwealth Honors College.

COLLEGE of EDUCATION
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Do you know an exemplary math or science teacher? Nominate her or him for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) today! PAEMST will honor outstanding 7-12th grade teachers; don’t miss out on this wonderful opportunity to honor our nation’s greatest educators! [http://bit.ly/2dwEj7e](http://bit.ly/2dwEj7e)

PAEMST is the nation’s highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. Presidential awardees receive a certificate signed by the President, a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and a $10,000 award from NSF.

The 2016-2017 nomination deadline is April 1, 2017, and the application deadline is May 1, 2017.

LGBTQIA Graduate Student Support Group

The Stonewall Center and the Graduate School are pleased to announce the return of the LGBTQIA Graduate Student Support Group. Facilitated in a peer-to-peer style by a representative of the Stonewall Center, the group addresses topics related to sexuality and identity.

Are you an LGBTQIA graduate student wondering how to approach faculty about your name and/or gender pronouns? Not sure if you should come out to the class you are a TA for? Seeking support for coming out to family, friends, or colleagues? This group will provide you with the opportunity to discuss these and a wide range of other issues in a positive, caring, and helpful environment. Please join us.

Meetings of the LGBTQIA Graduate Student Support Group will be held on the following Thursdays: November 17, December 1, and December 15. All sessions will take place from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Campus Center 901.

For more information, please contact Hillary Montague-Asp at hmontagu@umass.edu. We hope to see you there!

FACULTY NEWS

Jocson named Fulbright Visiting Chair

Korina Jocson, assistant professor, will participate in the 2016-2017 Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program as Visiting Research Chair of Human Rights and Social Justice at the University of Ottawa. The Research Chair will be housed in the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, which strives to bring together educators, researchers, and students from various disciplines based on the need to approach issues regarding human rights from a multidisciplinary perspective, including the arts, law, political science, and sociology. Jocson's proposed project focuses on “Youth Media Making, Learning Opportunities, and Social Justice in the Arts.” This project extends a decade long examination of youth cultural production at the intersection of media technology, participatory politics, and the arts.
Announcements

Victoria Malaney was awarded the ASHE Travel Grant for the Association for the Study of Higher Education and will be presenting two sessions at the conference in Columbus, OH.

Scott Monroe and his coauthor Li Cai have been awarded the Tanaka Award for best paper in the journal Multivariate Behavioral Research by the Society for Multivariate Experimental Psychology.

Professor Craig S. Wells was awarded the Thomas F. Donlon Award for Mentoring at the annual Northeast Educational Research Association conference.

Publications


Recent Conference Presentations

Bittinger, J. D. (November, 2016). Financial aid received by students with disabilities. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Columbus, OH.

Bittinger, J. D. (November, 2016). Data management and analysis using Stata. Half-day workshop presented at the 2016 meeting of the North East Association for Institutional Research, Baltimore, MD.

Bittinger, J. D. (November, 2016). Observation of a team-based learning class: Implications for engagement and group dynamics. Paper to be presented at the annual conference of the North East Association for Institutional Research, Baltimore, MD.

Bittinger, J. D. (November, 2016). The what, why, when, and how of workflow. Poster to be presented at the annual conference of the North East Association for Institutional Research, Baltimore, MD.
RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT

Upcoming Conference Presentations Cont.


🐫 Engagement

Theresa Austin and Laura Valdiviezo will be facilitating workshops for graduate student research groups as a part of the Unbounding Ethnography: Theory and Method Beyond the Disciplines conference at UMass Amherst. Kysa Nygreen will be chairing a session on Extending the Method at the Unbounding Ethnography conference. The conference is on November 4th and 5th, with all events on November 4th taking place in the Campus Center on the 9th and 10th floors, and all events on November 5th taking place in Thompson Hall on the 9th floor.


Please send your information for the next issue of Spotlight on Research to educore@educ.umass.edu
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS/ PRACTICUM SUPERVISORS
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

10 hour/week teaching assistantships for spring semester 2017 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 a weekly basis; 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 Candidate Assessment of Performance for Teacher Candidates; 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 Tara Pepis, University to Schools Coordinator at tpepis@educ.umass.edu. Application deadline: November 11, 2016.

---

Office of Research and Engagement

Workshops

**IRB Processes, Case Studies, and Samples**
11/17 from 1:30 to 3:00 in Furcolo S149
Staff from the Human Research Protection Office will facilitate a workshop on Institutional Review Board processes, case studies, and sample forms.

**Resources for Grantseekers and Grantholders**
12/7 from 10:30 to 12:00 in Furcolo S125.
Office of Grants and Contracts Administration staff will discuss resources and procedures for grantseekers and grantholders.
February 2017 Degree Deadlines
for Master’s Degree (M.Ed.) and Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) candidates filing to graduate for the February 2017 degree period

**December 1, 2016** is the deadline to submit TYPED forms to Kristin Tyler, Office of Academic Affairs, Furcolo Hall to file to graduate for the February 2017 degree period. **Please submit your typed forms to Kristin now, assuming no changes to your course registration. You do not have to wait until the 12/1/16 deadline to submit your forms.**

- **Master’s Degree** (M.Ed.) submit:
  - Typed **Master’s Degree Eligibility Form (Non-thesis Students)**
  - Typed College of Education’s **Form M-2 Completed Program of Study**
  - List in chronological order by semester **from your transcript** only graduate courses to be counted toward the Master’s degree
  - Department, course numbers, course titles, semester and year, credits, and grades listed on the Form M-2 must match transcript and Degree Eligibility Form exactly
  - Leave the grade column blank for courses in which a grade has not yet been posted on your transcript

- **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 by semester **from your transcript** only graduate courses to be counted toward the Ed.S. degree
  - Department, course numbers, course titles, semester and year, credits, and grades listed on the Form ES-2 must match transcript and Degree Eligibility Form exactly Leave the grade column blank for courses in which a grade has not yet been posted on your transcript
  - Leave the grade column blank for courses in which a grade has not yet been posted on your transcript

- This deadline is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures.
- 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, incomplete, and/or incorrect 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**
February 2017 Doctoral Degree Deadlines
for Ed.D. and Ph.D. candidates
filing to graduate for the February 2017 degree period

December 1, 2016 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.

- Submit your TYPED Doctoral Form D-8 and final draft of your dissertation to Kristin Tyler to schedule your final oral defense 4 weeks plus 2 additional business 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 22, 2016 to have time to make any necessary edits.
- Rooms are reserved by emailing the College of Education’s room request at: educ-roomrequest@educ.umass.edu
- 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
- Please note that handwritten, incomplete, and/or incorrect forms will not be accepted.
- Kristin will submit these forms to the Graduate School.
- December 15, 2016 (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!

Will you host international students for Thanksgiving dinner?

Dear Colleagues and friends:

Once again, I write to invite you, your colleagues and friends around town, to host our international students for a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday 11/24. Far away from home, our students will really appreciate a taste of American home life during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Last year, 110 international students and scholars were hosted by 23 families. This year, there is a 20% increase of new international undergraduate students.

Hopefully, by planning earlier and with your help, more host families will be participating in this annual Thanksgiving Host Program. So please let me know if you would like to host our international students for a Thanksgiving Dinner, and maximum number of students you can host.

Thanks for your consideration and hospitality.

Richard Yam (ryam@ipo.umass.edu) International Student Advisor
International Programs Office  413-545-2843
The Center for International Education
at the College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst
cordially invites you to the

Montague House
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Montague House
809 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01003-9307

kindly reply by November 20 to msagan@umass.edu or 413.545.1978
The College of Education’s  
Statistical Consulting Services  

Fall 2016  
FREE & PRACTICAL  

Statistics Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Date and time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to SPSS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Descriptive Statistics to t-tests</td>
<td>Friday, October 14, 3:00-4:30pm</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to SPSS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Descriptive Statistics to t-tests</td>
<td>Monday, October 17, 10:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate SPSS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOVA and Regression</td>
<td>Friday, October 21, 9:00-10:30am</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate SPSS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOVA and Regression</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 25, 10:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to Excel:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Analyses, Charts, and Tricks</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11/1, 8:30-10:00am</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to Excel:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Analyses, Charts, and Tricks</td>
<td>Thursday, 11/3, 9:00-10:30am</td>
<td>Furcolo 110 (Mac Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to R:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basics of the Platform and Language</td>
<td>Friday, 11/4, 10:00-11:30am</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to R:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basics of the Platform and Language</td>
<td>Thursday, 11/10, 5:30-7:00pm</td>
<td>Furcolo W107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to Plots in R:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating Effective Displays</td>
<td>Friday, 11/18, 9:00-10:30am</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to Plots in R:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating Effective Displays</td>
<td>Friday, 11/18, 3:00-4:30pm</td>
<td>Furcolo W09 (PC Lab)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FREE** to all UMass faculty, staff, and students  

Sign up at [www.sites.google.com/site/UMassStatConsulting](http://www.sites.google.com/site/UMassStatConsulting)  
or email [frick@umass.edu](mailto:frick@umass.edu). **Walk-ins are always welcome!**

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

Fall 2016

Statistical Consulting
Drop-In Hours

Students and faculty from the College of Education’s 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, ANOVA, and 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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Furcolo Hall Room W047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Furcolo Hall Room W047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11:30 am – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Furcolo Hall Room W047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Furcolo Hall Room W047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No drop-in hours on Oct. 26 & 27 due to a conference

FREE to all UMass faculty, staff, and students

To schedule an appointment outside of drop-in hours, fill out an information form at https://sites.google.com/site/UMassStatConsulting/ or email dpham@umass.edu

Research in Educational Measurement and Psychometrics (REMP)
Promoting sound educational research and testing practices since 1968
**PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP**

**Holyoke Public Schools Partnership Task Force**

One 10 hour/week project assistantship is available for fall 2016 (remainder) and spring 2017.

**Responsibilities:** This project assistant will work with the college Holyoke Public Schools Partnership Task Force over the course of the academic year. The project assistant will document project activities, find and review relevant literature and materials related to school-university partnerships/professional development schools, engage in mixed methods data collection and analysis; and reporting. The project assistant will attend bi-weekly meetings of the task force and other off-schedule meetings as requested. The project assistant will work with the Task Force Chair to achieve the goals of the project.

**Qualifications:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, and administrators; priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send a CV to Judy Pierce at judithpierce@educ.umass.edu using the term ‘HPS Task Force PA’ in the subject line of the email.

---

**The COLLEGE’s CALENDAR of EVENTS**

Find out about the college’s events, meetings and activities on our college calendar.  
http://www.umass.edu/education/news/calendar

Send information about your department’s or concentration’s events, using the format you’ll see on the calendar, to: dms@educ.umass.edu

---

**New documentary: 13th**

The Racial Justice Coalition at UMass would like to invite you to attend an engaging presentation of the new documentary, *13th*. This film delves into the history of the 13th amendment and the legacy of slavery that lives on through mass-incarceration. After the film, we hope to generate a lively conversation on how we can create a collective effort to get involved and take positive action around this issue. Refreshments provided. The first 40 attendees will receive a free copy of the book, *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander.

**Date:** November 16, 2016  
**Time:** 5:30-8:00pm  
**Location:** Malcolm X Cultural Center  
**Co-Sponsored by:** BSU, CEPA, Afro-American Studies Department  
Please check out our event on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/1729170514071672/ !

The mission of the Racial Justice Coalition (https://www.facebook.com/racialjusticecoalitionumass) is to provide trainings, workshops, presentations, and dialogues to raise awareness and promote an oppression-free and racially just campus. This event is a part of the Racial Justice Coalition programming for the year in attempt to raise awareness about racism and oppression that exists in our society and empower participants to make a positive change in our local community.
Winter 2017 Dissertation–Writing Retreat (January 16th–20th)

Application Deadline: Sunday, November 20th

Make progress on your dissertation this winter session! 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. Throughout the week–long retreat, graduate student writers will: Practice setting and achieving short– and medium–term goals for writing; Develop strategies for planning, drafting, and revising; Receive individual feedback and advice about their writing in progress from the retreat’s writing consultants; Have sustained writing time over the course of five days to develop effective rhythms for writing and make significant progress on a lengthy piece of writing. Click here for more details and how to apply. Completed applications must be received no later than 11:59PM on Sunday, November 20, 2016.

Tuesday, November 15 – 1:00–2:00pm 528 Goodell
Soliciting Effective Feedback
Receiving timely, constructive feedback is essential for revising and improving one’s writing. But how do you solicit formative feedback that speaks to more than just grammar? This workshop will offer strategies to help you ask for and receive the kind of feedback you need from advisors, peers, and others. Co–sponsored with the Writing Center. Light refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, November 16 – 11:00am–2:00pm 538 Goodell
Fall Writing Series
Writing in the presence of others is not only less lonely, but also leads to better accountability. This bi–weekly writing group provides time and space to write while caffeinated and also offers drop–in consultations with a Writing Center tutor. Come later or leave early. We'll do the coffee; you do the writing. Co–sponsored with the Writing Center. Pre-registration is required. Please register once per semester.

Wednesday, November 16th – 2:30–4:00pm 528 Goodell
Simple Solutions to the Top 5 Student Complaints
It's tempting to dismiss student complaints, such as "I'm bored..." But sometimes our students use these vague phrases in an attempt to express real frustrations about the learning process. This teaching workshop will expose some of the underlying reasons for common student complaints and suggest simple solutions that you can try in your next class. Light refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is required.
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

JAVIER CAMPOS   Proposed Dissertation Title: Chilean teachers responses to, and understanding of, student interaction with diverse peers in the classroom

Statement of Problem: Issues of inclusion and exclusion are pervasive in Chilean public funded schools. Yet, teacher education and professional development programs seldom prepare teachers to understand, navigate or challenge discriminatory situations in their classrooms. Furthermore, research in this area is sparse. We know very little about how Chilean teachers understand, make meaning about, and respond to classroom-based discriminatory behaviors related to social class, gender, or race/ethnicity. This study thus explores the impact of middle school teachers’ individual, professional, and context factors on their narratives related to such discriminatory behaviors, as well as their ideas about what possible responses to these situations could be. Perceived barriers, risks, and challenges, as well as resources teachers need to be successful in addressing discriminatory classroom behaviors will also be explored.

Chair: Dr. Ximena Zuniga

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

MAGUETTE DIAME   Proposed Dissertation Title: Integrating Traditional Values and Local Community in the Formal Educational System in Senegal: Rationale, Relevancy and Benefits.

Statement of Problem: In Senegal, the curriculum, textbooks, and educational practices are constructed in the context of an education system inherited from the colonial system, which systematically excludes most local knowledge, experience, communities, and practices within the formal school premises. The current formal education as it is designed and implemented does not incorporate much of the Senegalese traditional culture (Diallo, 2003; GMP, 2015; Diame, 2011). However, if appropriately blended with some aspects of the Senegalese traditional knowledge including values and supported by the local community, formal education could be a great source of motivation, both for students and communities, and could increase enrollment, decrease retention and dropouts and lead to better school performances.

This study is the third wave of study of an inquiry regarding the integration of local community and values in the formal schools in Senegal I conducted in my master thesis in 2011 and my comprehensive exams in 2015. Considering the complexity and ambiguity of traditional values I will extend the scope of this study to local knowledge including values, rituals, customs and habits, with some references to traditional values. I will also explore local communities’ involvement in formal school focusing on challenges and benefits. This third wave of study will investigate more the challenges and benefits of incorporating local values and knowledge and local communities in the formal schools in Senegal through a case study using qualitative methods to collect data through interviews, questionnaires, focus group, classroom observation, and documents from teachers, students, parents, school administration/educational experts/educational authorities and community elders within two communities in Thies, Western Senegal.

Chair: Dr. Bjorn Nordtveit

Send announcements, news, photos, flyers for the Beacon to Denise.

And, please be sure that your materials carry the college’s word mark.

dms@educ.umass.edu
Register for the New England Faculty Development Consortium fall conference.

The annual Fall Conference is on Friday, November 18 at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Details can be found at the link below.

NEFDC FALL CONFERENCE:  CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE LEARNING

Letters of recommendation for faculty RTDY

This is an invitation to members of the College to write letters of recommendation for assistant professors Ysaaca Axelrod, Keisha Green, and Torrey Trust respectively. Dr. Axelrod, Dr. Green and Dr. Trust are undergoing their third year review.

You can send your letter of recommendation as a PDF document to Sovann-Malis Loeung, malis@educ.umass.edu by December 10. Please write the name of the faculty member the letter is for in the subject of the message.

Thank you for supporting our faculty members!

Laura Valdiviezo
Associate Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture
Interim Chair, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

Introducing a new online winter session 3-credit undergraduate course!

Course Title: Psychological and Academic Benefits of Sports and Physical Activity for Youth (EDUC397JA)

About the course: Physical activity provides psychological, academic, and health benefits for school-aged youth. Many young people do not engage in physical activity due to disabilities, bullying, and body image concerns, among other reasons. Educators are key stakeholders in promoting physical activity.

Class topics include: benefits of physical activity, anti-discrimination policies in youth sports, LGBTQ inclusion in athletics, school-wide physical activity interventions, and promotion of equitable and safe physical activity environments in schools.

Registration is open on SPIRE.

If you have any questions, please contact the instructor, Scott Greenspan: sgreenspan@umass.edu
Predissertation Grants

Overview: Predissertation Grants provide recipients a maximum of $1,000 to evaluate the feasibility of planned dissertation research, generate pilot data, or establish the necessary networks to carry out planned dissertation research, among other activities. Deadline: November 15

Eligibility: UMass Amherst doctoral students who have completed at least one semester of graduate study at the time of application but have not yet filed their dissertation prospectus are eligible to apply. Click on link below for additional details. More Information: www.umass.edu/gradschool/node/639

Questions?

Questions about these awards should be directed to Heidi Bauer Clapp, Assistant Director of the Office of Professional Development, at hbauerclapp@grad.umass.edu.

Please note that a second Graduate School Grant Competition will be held during spring semester. Application deadlines are provided on the relevant webpages listed above.

Put your events on our calendar.

Send information about your department’s or concentration’s events, using the format you’ll see on the calendar, http://www.umass.edu/education/news/calendar to dms@educ.umass.edu

Ask Steve the education librarian

Steve McGinty, education librarian, holds office hours in The Hub, Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00

Drop by- no appointment needed.
FILM SCREENING
NOVA
SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE
FRIDAY 12/16 @ 3PM
FURCOLO 101
In a new age of information, rapid innovation, and globalization, how can we prepare our children to compete? Once the envy of the world, American schools are now in trouble. How can the latest research help us fix education in America? Can the science of learning—including new insights from neuroscientists, psychologists, and educators—reveal how kids' brains work and tell us which techniques are most likely to engage and inspire growing minds? What role should technology play in the classroom? Teachers, students, parents, and scientists take center stage as NOVA explores a new vision for the “School of the Future.”