Come to Graduate Student Orientation 2017

Thursday
August 31

Photos from last year’s Orientation.
**Research & Engagement**

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**Funding Opportunities**

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is launching a series of on-demand webinars for those who are interested in Fiscal Year 2018 funding opportunities and learning more about IES. These pre-recorded webinars are hosted by staff from the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) and the National Center for Education Research (NCER) and you can access them on the IES Webinar Series website: https://ies.ed.gov/funding/webinars/

The Russell Sage Foundation/Carnegie Corporation Initiative on Immigration and Immigrant Integration seeks to support innovative research on the effects of race, citizenship, legal status and politics, political culture and public policy on outcomes for immigrants and for the native-born of different racial and ethnic groups and generations. This initiative falls under RSF’s Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Program and represents a special area of interest within the core program, which continues to encourage proposals on a broader set of issues. You can access more information at: http://www.russellsage.org/funding/immigration-and-immigrant-integration/ Deadline for Letters of Inquiry Due: Monday, August 21, 2017, 11 a.m. PT

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**Publications**


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**Presentations, Workshops, and Seminars**


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**Helpful Tips**

- Read "100 Words That Kill Your Proposal," by Bob Lohfeld. This article will help you avoid some of the most common mistakes that weaken a proposal. [https://goo.gl/B6WaZA](https://goo.gl/B6WaZA)
- Look at "Why Academics Have a Hard Time Writing Good Grant Proposals" to better understand the contrast between traditional academic writing and grant proposals. [https://goo.gl/zzgjh9](https://goo.gl/zzgjh9)
- Also check out "How to Fail at Grant Writing," an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education, written by UMass faculty successful at obtaining grants. [https://goo.gl/NXkQ5B](https://goo.gl/NXkQ5B)
- For more help, and a step-by-step walk through, read Texas Instruments' "Successful Grant Writing Strategies." [https://goo.gl/mTX8VK](https://goo.gl/mTX8VK)

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Please send your information for the next issue of Spotlight on Research to educore@educ.umass.edu by July 21

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Office of Research and Engagement

**COLLEGE of EDUCATION**
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

KRISTEN NELSON    Proposed Dissertation Title: Making Meaning in the Anthropocene: An Integrative View of College Students Engaged in Sustainability Education and Activism
Statement of Problem: We live in the Anthropocene, the geological era in which the detrimental effects of human activity on the planet are exceeding the capacity of earth’s ecosystems to sustain life (IPCC, 2007). Orr (1994) maintains that an epistemological shift is needed within higher education to meet the looming challenges. In response, sustainability educators working in critical, contemplative and place-based paradigms are developing pedagogies that encourage students to engage holistically with sustainability topics (Bai, 2009; Greenwood, 2015; Evans, 2012). To support these developments, there is a need for research designed to illuminate the complexity of students’ multidimensional responses to climate change. Based in an integrative theoretical framework, this dissertation investigates how students engaged in curricular and co-curricular responses to the planetary crisis experience the interrelationship of their critical analysis, meaning making, and sense of agency. The study will develop theory to bring definition to this interrelationship in order to encourage and inform transformative sustainability pedagogies. Chair: Dr. Ryan Wells

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

MICHELLE NICHOLSON, August 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m. room N113 Furcolo.
Chair: Dr. Kathryn McDermott

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

ASHLEY HERTZ, August 10, 2017, 10:00 a.m. room N113 Furcolo. “Going the Extra Mile: Perspectives and Experiences of Learning Coaches Supporting Primary School Teachers in Sierra Leone.” Chair: Dr. Cristine Smith

BRADFORD WHEELER, August 28, 2017, 2:00pm in S311 Integrative Learning Center Building. “Adopting Active Learning Classroom (ALC) Technology and Overcoming Barriers: A Faculty Development Intervention Model for Technology-Enhanced Learning Spaces.” Chair: Dr. Torrey Trust

The College’s calendar of events and meetings is at http://www.umass.edu/education/news/calendar
Send your information for the calendar to dms@educ.umass.edu
College of Education's Second Annual
GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

College of Education’s graduate students, faculty and staff...
DAY/DATE: Thursday August 31, 2017
TIME: 9:00-3:00
LOCATION: 813 North Pleasant Street (Furcolo Hall)

A day of introductions, program information, questions-and-answers, community building, and the celebration of the start of the new academic year. Light breakfast and outdoor BBQ lunch will be provided.

FRIDAY is the deadline for submissions to The Beacon

- Deadline for submissions is 5:00 P.M. Friday for inclusion in the following week’s issue.
- 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 news and announcements about departmental or concentration-related conferences, workshops, events and activities of interest to the college community to Denise Schwartz dms@educ.umass.edu.
- Do you have questions about content, format and how to submit? Email dms@educ.umass.edu

Thank you.
From the UMass Amherst Graduate School

Wednesday, August 2nd – 12:00–1:30pm 528 Goodell
Urgent Care for Your Writing
What do we do with a first draft that doesn’t feel strong enough to submit to an advisor? Come share it with other grad students! Bring a page of your writing to workshop with your peers in a low-pressure setting where you can reflect on your writing process, think about where you are in your ideas, and get concrete feedback on your writing. Pizza lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

Friday, August 4th – 10:00–11:15am 538 Goodell
Selling Your Research on the Academic Job Market
How can you make your research stand out among a sea of applications? Learn how to discuss your dissertation or postdoc work as it related to your potential as a tenure-track faculty member. Even if your applications don’t require a formal research statement, learning to talk about research can help you in your cover letter and in interviews. Pre-registration is required.

Friday, August 4th – 11:15am–12:30pm 538 Goodell
Talking About Teaching on the Academic Job Market
This workshop will address how to talk about teaching on the academic job market. What are search committees looking for in cover letters, teaching statements, portfolios, or in interviews? Participants will draft language about their teaching that is suitable for all facets of the academic application. Pre-registration is required.

Friday, August 4th – 1:00–3:00pm 538 Goodell
Drafting an Academic Cover Letter: Putting It All Together
Your academic cover letter combines all the ingredients of your faculty job application into one document, mixing together your research, teaching, and tailoring it all to a specific school. During this event, you will draft a cover letter (or refine an existing letter) and have the opportunity to workshop it with peers. Pre-registration is required.

Thursday, August 10th – 12:00–1:00pm 538 Goodell
Brown Bag: Anatomy of a Successful NSF Grant Proposal
Stumped on how to develop a strong “hook” paragraph for your grant application? Struggling with how to craft a cohesive narrative? At this session we’ll jump-start your writing by dissecting successful NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and Dissertation Research Grant proposals submitted by UMass grad students. While geared towards students applying for the NSF GRFP or DDRIG, all graduate students and postdocs are welcome. Bring your lunch—dessert provided! Pre-registration requested.