CALL FOR NEWS

If you know of a student, faculty or staff member, who has been honored with an award or is involved in an interesting activity, please email Linda Neas at llascell@educ.umass.edu. Thank you for your assistance!

ATTENTION SEPTEMBER, 2007 DEGREE CANDIDATES

The next degree-granting period will be September, 2007. 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 September, 2007 degree.

(Continued on page 4)

CALL FOR NEWS

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NCATE

GLOSSARY OF NCATE TERMS

Dispositions. The values, commitments, and professional ethics that influence behaviors toward students, families, colleagues, and communities and affect student learning, motivation, and development as well as the educator’s own professional growth. Dispositions are guided by beliefs and attitudes related to values such as caring, fairness, honesty, responsibility, and social justice. For example, they might include a belief that all students can learn, a vision of high and challenging standards, or a commitment to a safe and supportive learning environment.

Distance Learning. A formal educational process in which the major portion of the instruction occurs when the learner and the instructor are not in the same place at the same time through virtually any media including printed materials, videotapes, audio recordings, facsimiles, telephone communications, Internet communications through email, and web-based delivery systems.

Distance Learning Program. A program in which over half of the required courses in the program occur when the learner and the instructor are not in the same place at the same time (see definition on distance learning). These programs include those offered by the professional educational unit through a contract with an outside vendor or in a consortium arrangement with other higher education institutions, local education agencies, or other entities.

Diversity. Differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical area.

Elements of Standards. The major components of each standard that are described in the rubrics and explanations that accompany the standards. Board of Examiners teams will look for evidence that the unit and its programs address the elements.

Exceptionalities. A physical, mental, or emotional condition, including gifted/talented abilities, that requires individualized instruction and/or other educational support or services.

Field Experiences. A variety of early and ongoing field-based opportunities in which candidates may observe, assist, tutor, instruct, and/or conduct research. Field experiences may occur in off-campus settings such as schools, community centers, or homeless shelters.

Full-time Faculty. Employees of a higher education institution with full-time assignments with the professional education unit as instructors, professors at different ranks, administrators, and professional support personnel.

General Education Knowledge. Theoretical and practical understanding generally expected of a liberally educated person. General education includes developing knowledge related to the arts, communications, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, sciences, and the social studies, from multicultural and global perspectives.

Global Perspective. An understanding of the interdependency of nations and peoples and the political, economic, ecological, and social concepts and values that affect lives within and across national boundaries. It allows for the exploration of multiple perspectives on events and issues.

Governance. The system and structure for defining policy, providing leadership, and managing and coordinating the procedures and resources that ensure the quality of all school personnel prepared at the institution.

Higher Education Faculty. Full-time or part-time employees of an institution of higher education.
ATTENTION: GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

A copy of the School of Education Graduate Assistantship Appointment and Reappointment Policies and Procedures, revised as of February 2007, is attached to this week’s Beacon and is available at the Provost Office at http://www.umass.edu/provost/appoint/index.html.

FALL 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE
(by department)

Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP FOR EDUC 515

Part-time teaching assistantship (10 hours per week) for Fall 2007 for the course: EDUC 515: Teaching English in Middle and High School

Responsibilities include: assisting in the advising of practica and pre-practica students, assisting in teaching classes, reviewing and assessing student work, leading discussion groups, maintaining schedules, attending class meetings and/or advising students.

Qualifications include: excellent communication and organizational skills, exceptional interpersonal skills, significant interest in English education and teaching methods, and well-developed technology skills. Previous teaching experience would be an asset.

To apply, please contact Christina Ortmeier-Hooper at ortmeier@educ.umass.edu.

Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS IN CEA

The Center for Educational expects up to 14 full-time graduate student research assistantships for the 2007-2008 academic year associated with four contracts: Measured Progress (research on the MCAS), the Massachusetts Department of Education (Adult Basic Education project), The College Board (Research on Advanced Placement Exams), and Pearson Educational Measurement (Research on K-12 testing).

Responsibilities include: conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports.

Qualifications include: All assistantships require expertise in psychometrics and statistical modeling. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of item response theory, multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).

No positions available this week in the following:
Dean’s Office;
Educator Licensure Office;
Office of Academic Affairs;
School of Education Business Office,
Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services.

IMPORTANT
ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The screening test of Spoken English Communication skills for fall semester 2007 will be conducted from September 5 to September 17, 2007. The purpose of the test is to identify any potential difficulties international teaching assistants may have in understanding spoken English or in being understood in the undergraduate classroom.

All incoming international teaching assistants/associates (ITAs and ITOs) and returning students who will be assuming TA responsibilities for the first time are required to demonstrate their oral English proficiency by passing a test of spoken English. A standardized test, (SPEAK test), designed by the Educational Testing Service, is used for assessing and measuring the spoken English ability of International Teaching Assistants. A score of 50 or above is required to pass the test. We recommend that students who are not currently funded but who may be funded for a TA or TO position in the future should also take the test.

Students who do not pass the test are encouraged to either participate in the English communica-
M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates

The Degree Eligibility* form must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than August 24th, 2007. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director and Dean McCormick.

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 can be downloaded from the School of Education home page: www.umass.edu/education
   . Academics
   . Advising Guidelines

* Please note that the Degree Eligibility form is 2 pages.

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 August 24, 2007. The Eligibility form is sent to each student by the Degree Requirements Office (534 Goodell) after the defense date is scheduled (Form D-8). It can also be downloaded from: umass.edu/gradschool > students > forms. Linda will submit this form to the Degree Requirements Office after it is signed.

Two 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 August 24th, 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., August 31st, 2007. THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE!

IMPORTANT: If you do not file for graduation by the degree deadline date, you must pay the Continuous Enrollment fee of $275.00 to maintain continuous enrollment until you graduate.
UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

TEACHERS FOR A NEW ERA: ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The 4th Annual TNE conference on English Language Development will be hosted by Boston College on September 24-25, 2007 and will focus on academic language. For English language learners across K-12 contexts, being able to access, navigate and produce academic language in content areas is a key area of learning. In preparing teachers to work with linguistically and culturally diverse populations, this conference will feature connected and integrated conversations pertinent to the following questions:

• What are the essential components that should be addressed within academic language?
• What are challenges within and across the content areas in supporting academic language development in English language learners?
• What classroom-based practices highlight approaches to working with ELLs and building academic language proficiency?
• What do teacher education faculty members need to know about integrating academic language support within their content area methods courses?

For more details on this conference, as well as how to register go to: http://tne.bc.edu.

12TH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

This year the 12th Annual New England Conference on Multicultural Education moves to the beautiful new Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT on Oct. 11, 2007 where the conference will easily house 42 great workshops and two outstanding keynote speakers. This conference is ideal for Pk-12 teachers, higher education faculty and others interested in educational equity.

Sponsored by Connecticut State Department of Education - Bureau of Educational Equity, Central Connecticut State University - Center for Multicultural Research and Education, New England Equity Assistance Center - Brown University, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), Connecticut Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), Neag School of Education – University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: MARRIOTT HARTFORD DOWNTOWN 200 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-2807 Make reservations by calling Marriott's toll free reservation line (866) 373-9806 and requesting the “Multicultural Conference October 10 or 11, 2007” Group block. Guests may also make reservations on-line at www.Marriott.com and entering in the on-line form the “MUTMUTA” Group Code. Reservations for attendees must be received on or before August 26, 2007.

Register online at http://www.aces.k12.ct.us/conferences/

ANNUAL AUTISM SUMMER INSTITUTE

The 9th Annual Autism Summer Institute will be held on August 13-16, 2007, at UNH Holloway Commons in Durham, NH. The Autism Summer Institute is presented by the Institute on Disability’s Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The fee to attend keynote presentations is $60 each. To attend the entire 4-day Autism Summer Institute, the fee is $399. Discounts for families, students and self-advocates are available. For more information or to register online, visit www.iold.unh.edu or call (603)228-2084.

(Continued on page 6)
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/PROPOSALS

MACTE/COMTE/MAECTE CONFERENCE

Proposals are currently being sought for the MACTE/COMTE/MAECTE conference on November 16, 2007 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge.

The theme of the conference is Educators as Professionals. Presentations focusing especially on that topic as well as Induction/Mentoring Programs; Teachers as Leaders; School and College Assessment/Accountability; Meeting and Exceeding Standards; Administrators - Best Practices; Preservice Performance Assessment (PPA); Preparing Teachers to meet the needs of English Language Learners; and other current educational issues will be considered.

Please submit your proposal electronically to: Lorne Ranstrom (lorne.w.ranstrom@enc.edu).

Include session organizer, institutional affiliation, contact information, additional presenter(s), title of proposed session, a brief abstract of your presentation (approx. 300 words) and a 50 word summary of your presentation for the conference program.

Deadline to submit (for the November 16th conference):
September 28, 2007

6TH ANNUAL HAWAII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

The 6th annual Hawaii International Conference on Education will be held January 5 - 8, 2008 at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio Honolulu Hawaii, USA.

Call for Papers/Abstracts/Submissions: The conference will provide many opportunities for academicians and professionals from education related fields to interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines. Cross-disciplinary submissions with other fields are welcome.

You may now submit your paper/proposal by using our new online submission system! To use the system, and for detailed information about submitting see: http://www.hiceducation.org/cfp.edu.htm.

Submission Deadline: August 16, 2007

Sponsored by: Pepperdine University - Graduate School of Education and Psychology; University of Louisville - Center for Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods; New Horizons

"Creativity comes from trust. Trust your instincts. And never hope more than you work."

- Rita Mae Brown

Rita Mae Brown is a prolific American writer, award winning screenwriter, and social activist. She was an active participant in the American Civil Rights Movement, the anti-war movement, the Gay Liberation movement and the feminist movement.


(Continued on page 7)
(Announcements continued from page 6)


Web address: http://www.hiceducation.org
Email address: education@hiceducation.org

TESOL ELECTRONIC VILLAGE ONLINE

The TESOL Electronic Village Online announces its Call for Proposals for the Electronic Village Online 2008.

The CALL Interest Section of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL) offers language teachers world-wide the opportunity to participate in the Electronic Village Online (EVO), a professional development project and virtual extension of the TESOL 2008 Convention in New York, NY, USA.

The free 6-week sessions allow participants to engage in online discussion and/or short hands-on workshops on topics of professional interest in the field of ESL/EFL. TESOL member groups, in particular, are invited to sponsor sessions related to convention presentations.

For further information on how to become a moderator of one of our sessions, please visit our Call for Proposals page at:
http://dafnegonzalez.com/evo08/Cfproposals.htm

Deadline: September 20, 2007

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The deadline for proposal submissions for the AAAL 2008 Annual Conference is 11:59pm (cst) on August 15, 2007. Please be sure to submit your proposal for an opportunity to appear in our program.

Fewer colloquia slots will be available for AAAL2008 compared with the last few years. This is due to space constraints as well as an effort to create more of a balanced distribution in attendance at individual paper presentations and colloquia.

The AAAL 2008 Annual Conference will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC March 29 to April 1, 2008.

All proposals must be submitted electronically at the conference website:
http://www.aaal.org/aaal2008/submit.htm

For questions related to submission, conference in general, or any other issues please contact the AAAL Business Office at info@aaal.org.

AERA CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The 2008 AERA Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, March 24 - Friday, March 28 in New York, NY. The call for Annual Meeting Proposals has a deadline of August 2, 2007.

Program Theme: Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility

For more information and guidelines go to:
http://www.aera.net/

2008 CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION

Regular full-time faculty members at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada are eligible to apply for the 2008 Contemplative Practice Fellowships. These fellowships are intended to support scholars for the development of courses that employ contemplative practices to address issues of social conflict and injustice, the amelioration of suffering, and the promotion of peace. Individual scholars, partnerships, or groups of scholars may apply. Approximately ten fellowships will be awarded.

We invite proposals from the full range of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Methodologies that include practical and experiential approaches to the subject matter are especially welcome.

If you have questions, please contact Sunanda Markus, Academic Program Coordinator, at: fellowships@contemplativemind.org.

For further information, application and guidelines go to: http://www.contemplativemind.org/programs/academic/fellowships/index.html

Deadline: November 15, 2007
Silence calms your heart.

It is a balm that heals the wounds of the soul.

It strengthens the spirit and takes you to a world without sound where peace reigns.

Resource: www.thoughtfortoday.org.uk