ATTENTION: ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS

BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE MASTER’S, CAGS OR DOCTORAL ADVISING GUIDELINES FROM THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION WEBSITE:
http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_advising.htm

These forms and guidelines are required by your graduate program.

GRADUATE EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

It’s that time of year again! The Graduate Education and Career Development Initiative presents "A Ph.D. Is Not Enough!: Mutual Mentoring" (APINE).

When: September 24, 2007; 9:30am - 6:00pm
Where: Campus Center
Why: Discover and discuss how to get the most out of your graduate career while meeting other graduate students and faculty.
How: Register at www.umass.edu/gecdi. FREE event, but registration is REQUIRED.

This year, APINE will have a greater focus on mentoring education and networking, including NEW topics of discussion and interactive panels.
Registration is FREE, but REQUIRED. To register and for additional information, please visit www.umass.edu/gecdi.

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### TIME LINE TO VISIT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPA Writers Meeting</td>
<td>Mid to late January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA Section I</td>
<td>February 28, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section II and III</td>
<td>March 30, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Framework for Section</td>
<td>March 30, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section IV</td>
<td>May 31, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section V</td>
<td>June 22, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete SPA Report</td>
<td>June 30, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPA Reports submitted to NCATE</td>
<td>September 15, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(goal date September 1, 2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCATE sends name/address of BOE</td>
<td>September, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish a “Call for Comment” inviting 3rd party</td>
<td>October, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPA reviewers report back</td>
<td>December, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write and submit SPA report Rejoinder as neces-</td>
<td>December, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCATE notifies SOE of national recognition re-</td>
<td>February 1, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Report (due 60 days prior to visit)</td>
<td>February 1, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCATE Visit</td>
<td>May, 2008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

On schedule and moving forward to the visit.

**Professors Jerri Willett and Meg Gebhard** will be presenting with **ACCELA teachers and PAs** at the Teachers for a New Era English Language Development Conference on September 24-25, 2007.

The 4th annual TNE conference on English Language Development will be hosted by Boston College and will focus on academic language. It is a working conference with a focus on teaching academic language in the content areas. The purpose of the conference is to support TNE and Learning Network universities in their work toward better preparing teachers to work with English Language Learners. Faculty members, from teacher education programs, as well as Arts & Sciences, are encouraged to attend.

For further information, go to [http://tne.bc.edu/?tpl=english_language&nodeID=134](http://tne.bc.edu/?tpl=english_language&nodeID=134)

**INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY AND INDIVIDUALIZED PRACTICUM FORMS**

The Individualized Study and Individualized Practicum forms are not available online! To access the forms, go to: [http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_courses.htm](http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/main_courses.htm)

**GRADUATE FAQ’S**

FAQ’s and other information that is good to know:

**General Information**

*What are important first things to do?*

1. Make sure you have a SPIRE number and password.
2. Activate your UMail account.
3. Get your UCard.
4. Meet with your advisor!
5. Register for classes.
6. Observe the add/drop period.
7. Get familiar with the School of Education, the UMass campus, the library! Walk around, ask questions, check the School of Education and UMass Amherst web pages.....

If you feel overwhelmed, talk to your peers, instructor, advisor.... and allow yourself some time to get used to everything!

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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

TEACHER EDUCATION & CURRICULUM STUDIES

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

Research Assistant 10 hours per week Fall semester

Responsibilities include: Library research, manuscript preparation, compilation of bibliographies.

Qualifications include: Must be eligible for work study, and have considerable experience with Refworks and/or Endnotes. Must be a good organizer. Familiarity with Children's Literature an advantage.

Contact: Masha Rudman 545-1116 or email: rudman@educ.umass.edu

GRADUATE ASSISTANT TO THE SECONDARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Program Assistant 10 hours per week Fall semester

Responsibilities include: assist STEP program coordinator in the ongoing coordination of the teacher license program, including preparing reports on teacher license candidate recruitment and graduation, involvement of local schools with the program, and other topics as needed.

Qualifications include: Familiarity with spreadsheet and database programs strongly recommended.

Send letter and resume to Robert Maloy, Room 110, School of Education or rwm@educ.umass.edu

No positions available this week in the following:

Academic Affairs/Graduate Program Office;
Dean’s Office;
Educator Licensure Office;
Educational Policy, Research & Administration;
School of Education Business Office;
Student Development & Pupil Personnel Services.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

TEEOMM WILLIAMS

September 27, 2007, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South.

Chairperson: Dr. Barbara J. Love.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

YUE ZHAO

Proposed Dissertation Title: "Approaches for Addressing the Fit of Item Response Theory Models to Educational Test Data." Statement of the Problem: In IRT models, various methods and approaches have been suggested for detecting model misfit, and several directions of fit assessment deserve more attention, such as the issue of large sample size and the use of graphical procedures for interpreting the fit statistics. Another promising but less well-known approach is to evaluate the consequences of the amount of model misfit on the intended use of the IRT results.

Chairperson: Dr. Ronald Hambleton.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

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.


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"

THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON FAMILIES

The Center for Research on Families (CRF) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst presents "Taking Research on Families Outside of the Academy: How to Craft Effective Media Messages" Wednesday, October 3rd, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. in Room 803 Campus Center. Free and open to all.

This panel presentation will be the first of a series of gatherings in which researchers can learn and talk about how to make their research on families available to policy makers, journalists, and practitioners, and the public more generally. This first panel will focus on the question of how researchers can interface most effectively with members of the media.

It is more important than ever that good research inform public policy and public discussion on the issues that are relevant to contemporary families (social class, the media, adoption, race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, schools, the workplace, health, etc.). But for researchers it is often difficult to engage with those outside the academy, whether they be policy makers, practitioners, or the general public. One way for research to reach a public audience is by communicating with the media. However, academics often lack the skills to speak with journalists effectively and rarely have the opportunity to exchange strategies with each other.

This panel will feature several researchers who will talk about their experience engaging with the media. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, to share strategies, and plan future workshops around specific topics of interest to the participants. The panelists include: Edward F Blaguszewski, Director of News & Information for the University of Massachusetts Amherst; M. V. Lee Badgett, associate professor of economics and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the 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).

(Continued on page 5)
And to learn more about the conference, visit: http://www.nera-education.org/conference.php. Please note the two renowned keynote speakers (Cora Marrett and Wayne Camara) and the free workshops on program evaluation (Robert Gable) and item response theory (Jane Rogers and H. Swaminathan).

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/PROPOSALS

NEW ENGLAND EDUCATORS RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (NEERO)

The NEERO Board is pleased to announce that we are now accepting proposals for the 2008 NEERO Conference. Proposals may be submitted through Monday, October 15.

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the link provided on the NEERO website at www.neero.org.

The Call for Proposals, also posted on the website, provides details about types of presentations and proposal requirements. Please review the CFP before submitting a proposal. Proposals are submitted in a two-step process. You will first complete an electronic cover sheet and provide an abstract. You will then be directed to a website where you can e-mail your proposal summary to NEERO as a pdf or WORD attachment.

Please plan to join us at the 2008 conference as we begin the celebration of NEERO’s 40th Anniversary. The conference will be held April 9-11 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

(Continued on page 7)

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!
You can find a checklist for new students at: http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/files/New%20Student%20Checklist.pdf which lists the online addresses of everything that might be important for you as a new student! Check it out!

I am a new graduate student. I am on campus, but I do not know how to access SPIRE.

When you were accepted into the Graduate School, you should have received a communication giving you a SPIRE number and a temporary password to access it. If you did not receive that communication or, if you forgot your password, contact OIT at: http://www.oit.umass.edu/spire/for_students/index.html

What is the difference between Spire/SPIRE ID and UMail/NetID?

Your SPIRE ID is a separate 8-digit number, sent to you via snail mail before you start your first semester at UMass. With your SPIRE ID you access your SPIRE account which is your student information system. As a student, you'll use SPIRE to register for classes, access billing information, view course descriptions and schedules and sign-up for on-campus housing. Your SPIRE ID also appears on your UCard.

Your NetID is your OIT Account user name. You should have received your NetID, email address, and initial password in two separate mailings. If you did not receive one or both of the above mailings by the time you get to campus, please stop by Lederle Graduate Research Center (LGRC) A113 Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:45pm with a photo ID to activate your OIT Account in person.

When can I start using my OIT account?

Activate your account as soon as possible. Go the OIT webpage for further information http://www.oit.umass.edu/index.html.

Once your account is activated, you can use it immediately. You will need your account during your New Students Program orientation and to receive informational emails before the semester begins. Once the semester starts, you'll be required to activate your account to receive official university email.

I did not receive official emails. What went wrong?

Make sure that you activated your UMail account. Official UMass communications (e.g., excess check notices, emails from instructors, etc.) will only be sent to your official email address. It is your responsibility to check your email frequently to ensure that you are staying current with important information.

I have changed my email, home address, telephone number. Who should I let know?

You need to change your personal information on SPIRE. Go to Personal Portfolio and make the appropriate changes. The Graduate School and the School of Education access a student’s information from SPIRE, so unless your information is updated there, they will not have your current contact information.

Why is it important to keep my demographics up to date on SPIRE?

The Graduate School, School of Education and the University utilize the information in your Personal Portfolio to contact you with important information about your academic career. Often this information requires a timely response from the student. If your address or email are not current, this could cause serious delays for the student.

What is the difference between “current address” and “permanent address”?

Your current address is the mailing address of the home you are presently occupying everyday. Your permanent address would be the home you live in when you are not attending school. For out-of-state or international students, this would be the mailing address of their home in their hometown or native country.

If you list your “permanent address” on forms, then return mail will go to that address. This could cause unnecessary delays.

What is a UCard?

The UCard is the University’s multipurpose student ID. It serves as your student identification as it is a secure and convenient way for students to manage their money. A full dinner in the dining halls, pizza or a snack, or a candy bar and soda - the UCard is the cashless way to buy. Textbooks, clothing, supplies, telephone calls, laundry services, concert tickets, prescriptions, bus tickets, memberships in the Body Shop or Craft Center - all can be purchased on campus with the UCard.

I was told I need to have a Campus ID in order to get my campus email account. How do I get my UCard?

Complete a simple application form available from the UCard Office or the UCard Web Site, www.umass.edu/ucard. Accounts can be opened via the mail or in person at the UCard office in the Franklin Dining Hall. A deposit can be made when opening the account or at a later
time. Any funds deposited before the semester begins will be ready for purchases as soon as the student arrives on Campus.

The UCard Office is located in the Franklin Dining Hall (413-545-0197).

**What is The Beacon?**

The Beacon is our weekly newsletter for the School of Education. Make sure to pick up your copy or access The Beacon on-line at [http://www.umass.edu/education/publications](http://www.umass.edu/education/publications)!

In The Beacon you will a lot of useful information about anything that is going on at the School of Education: updates on faculty and staff, honors and awards, postings of graduate teaching and research assistantships, deadlines, announcements and information on upcoming examinations, conferences and workshops, general education related information.

**Stay Tuned!**

**More Graduate FAQ’s to come!**

**MACTE/COMTEC/MAECTE CONFERENCE**

Proposals are currently being sought for the MACTE/COMTEC/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**.

“A quality education has the power to transform societies in a single generation, provide children with the protection they need from the hazards of poverty, labor exploitation and disease, and given them the knowledge, skills, and confidence to reach their full potential.”

~ Audrey Hepburn

**Audrey Hepburn** was an Academy Award and Tony Award winning Anglo-Dutch actress of film and theatre, Broadway stage performer, ballerina, fashion model, and humanitarian.