Commencement Weekend 2010

The School of Education’s

Graduation Celebration

Campus Center Auditorium  Thursday, May 13  5 -7 p.m.
Hors d’oeuvres  Cash bar
Program begins at 6 p.m.

This is a festive event for our 2009 -10 graduates, Minor in Education graduates, and their guests.

RSVP to goodnews@educ.umass.edu
Remember to tell us your name and the number of guests you will bring to the celebration.

For details about the University Commencement weekend including schedules for Graduate Commencement, Friday, May 14, and Undergraduate Commencement, Saturday, May 15, visit:
http://umass.edu/commencement/2010/

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

Please submit Beacon announcements to: Room 126 Furcolo Hall or to dms@educ.umass.edu by 5:00 P.M. on Friday for inclusion in the following issue. All assistantship notices will run for two issues; notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees will run for one.

School of Education  813 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003
ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
EDWARD CUTTING        April 28, 2010,  2:00 p.m.,  Room 157, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION
KOALJO A. AFOLABI      May 12, 2010,  1:00 p.m.,  Room 157, Hills South. "Relationship of Self-Efficacy Beliefs of Urban Public School Students to Performance on a High-Stakes Mathematics Test." Chairperson. Dr. Sharon Rallis.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
WAI YAN WENDY LAM      April 23, 2010,  9:30 a.m.,  Room 151, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Stephen Sireci.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE
STEPHEN SADLIER        Proposed Dissertation Title: "Pedagogies of the Plantones: Rural Mexican Teacher Responses to Globalization." Statement of the Problem: Teachers in the rural Mexican Southwest (Guerrero, Chiapas and Oaxaca) have a long tradition of politician activism in support of better conditions for learning and teaching. Now, after 15 years of neoliberal reforms and practices focused on privatization and decentralization, teachers continue their direct action through roadblocks, strikes, marches and plantones (sit-ins). These practices have recently become pedagogical, employing radio stations, websites, and cell phones while enjoying the support of pupils, parents, labor unions, indigenous groups, and churches. In the fact of heightened neoliberalism, how do teachers enact pedagogies in and out of school? How do activism and pedagogy intersect in these spaces? And in what ways have neoliberal reforms and practices opened up new spaces for this intersection?
Chairperson: Dr. Maria Jose Botelho.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE
ADRIENNE SMITH         Proposed Dissertation Title: "They Chose to Major in Engineering: A Study of Why Some Women Enter and Persist in Undergraduate Engineering Programs." Statement of the Problem: The fact that there are fewer women who major in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields than other college academic programs means that there will be fewer role models, mentors, and female educators for young women in the future.
Chairperson: Dr. Benita Barnes.

The Beacon will not be published during the week of April 18-24, 2010.
Research Assistantship

Department of Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services

Research Assistantship for Fall 2010

One part-time (10 hour/week) research assistantship is available for the Fall 2010. The position will entail working with an early career faculty member in the concentration of School Psychology.

Responsibilities include: 1) Research related: assisting with school-based data collection projects, scoring, management, and graphing of observation data, management of observation schedules. 2) Grant Related: Assisting in all stages of grant preparation. 3) Teaching Related: Assisting with course preparation, including gathering and organizing reading list materials. 4) Writing Related: Assisting with research for publications, compiling references into an electronic format, assisting with all phases of editing.

Qualifications include: The ideal candidate will have developed research skills in conducting literature reviews, using APA-formatting, and managing data sets and be agile with Excel and SPSS for data input. The candidate must be available to help collect data in schools during school hours. Additionally the ideal candidate must have strong organizational and time management skills, and be able to complete projects independently. Interest in social emotional learning efforts and positive behavior support is preferred.

To apply, please send an email that is a brief cover letter and attach your resume. Send the email to Administrative Assistant Robbie Calliham at calliham@educ.umass.edu. In the subject line of the email, please specify “RA, School Psychology.”

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

MI RANGELA BUGGS

Proposed Dissertation Title: "Tran Social Justice Education vis-a-vis the African Diaspora: Multicultural Feminist Frameworks for Understanding Race in the 21st Century." Statement of the Problem: The theoretical foundations of social justice education are often nation-specific. In our teaching about systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism, many of our conceptual frameworks are rooted in knowledge of the historical and contemporary dynamics of power pertaining to the United States of America. However, "race" as a social phenomenon and racism as a system of oppression have global reach. Educators need new conceptual frameworks for how to understand dynamics of racialized experiences that transgress the realities of nation-specific racial histories in order to teach more comprehensively about "race", racism, and racial liberation. Chairperson: Dr. Ximena Zuniga

Commencement Weekend 2010

Commencement Continental

Saturday, May 15

Light breakfast refreshments in Furcolo Hall lobby from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. for our undergraduate Minors and guests.

For details about the University Commencement weekend, visit: http://umass.edu/commencement.
School of Education faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing.

Professor Ernest Washington and Assistant Professor K-C Nat Turner, both in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, have helped start an afterschool literacy program for 3rd-6th grade students at the Dunbar Community Center, Springfield, to engage youth in developing critical media literacies. The students produce multimodal media aimed at issues of social justice in their community of Springfield that they have decided are important and need to be addressed. The project is funded by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), Springfield, through the Dunbar Community Center.

You can read more about our faculty, students, staff and alumni on the School of Education’s website.

www.umass.edu/education

Send items to dms@educ.umass.edu

The Exploritas K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant

Elderhostel is accepting applications for the Exploritas K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant. This $5000 grant is open to U.S. and international students whose doctoral research focuses on lifelong and/or later-life learning. Exploritas is the new program name of Elderhostel, Inc., the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning.

Please note that the application deadline has been extended one month later to Friday, April 30, 2010 due to an erroneous email sent with this later deadline date.

The grant is awarded annually to a student in various disciplines including, but not limited to, psychology, education, gerontology, cognitive studies, neuroscience, leisure studies, aging and social work. Because the selection committee requires an abstract and description of your current research, you must already be engaged in your dissertation research. International graduate students welcome to apply.

The application deadline is Friday, April 30, 2010. Please be sure to have all application material submitted by midnight EDT, including your CV/resume, 2-3 page abstract and at least one of your recommendations. The Exploritas K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant recipient will be determined by a selection committee consisting of professors, practitioners and other leaders in the field of lifelong learning. The recipient will be announced in late June 2010.

For further information, including requirements and the online application, please visit: www.exploritas.org/grants.

Elderhostel, founded in 1975, is a not-for-profit organization providing educational opportunities through travel for older adults across the United States and in 90 countries around the world. The Exploritas K. Patricia Cross Doctoral Research Grant was created to support future leaders in the field of lifelong learning. Exploritas is the new program name of Elderhostel, Inc.
GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS for CURRENT STUDENTS

Nominations for the Graduate School Fellowship are now being solicited by the Graduate School. The purpose of this Fellowship is to promote the recruitment and retention of academically excellent students.

PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO INCOMING DOCTORAL STUDENTS (defined as students new to UMASS as of Fall, 2010), although Master’s and CAGS students may also apply. Current students will ONLY be considered if any awards to incoming students are declined. A maximum of 6 students may be nominated from the School of Education and 3 from School Psychology ((incoming and current combined).

Although the actual amount of the stipend has not been established, last year it ranged from $10,000 to $17,000. Award includes a tuition waiver, curriculum fee waiver and mandatory health fee coverage.

CURRENT graduate students need to submit the following:

1) Fellowship nomination form* (to be completed by student’s chairperson).
2) Personal statement by the student (Statement & CV not to exceed 3 pages, in Times New Roman 12 pt. font)
3) CV (include papers delivered, publications, performances, exhibits, service to the University/community)
4) Graduate Program Director recommendation letter (Linda Griffin will write a recommendation for those she nominates)
5) 2 faculty recommendation letters* (one must be from chair/advisor)
6) Unofficial copy of student’s latest graduate transcript (available from SPIRE.)

* Fellowship nomination form and Faculty Recommendation forms are attached.
Criteria used by the committee to rank applications are listed in order of importance as follows:
1) Recommendation from Linda Griffin, Graduate Program Director
2) Two letters of recommendation from faculty
3) Curriculum Vitae
4) Personal statement
5) Student’s graduate transcript

COMPLETE NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR DEPARTMENTAL OFFICE by APRIL 16, 2010
They will then be rank ordered and submitted from the department to Linda Guthrie by APRIL 20, 2010.

Send your news to: goodnews@educ.umass.edu or dms@educ.umass.edu
The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) and the National Center for Education Research (NCER) within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) offer webinars related to FY 2011 research funding opportunities. Participants will need a computer, internet browser, and telephone.

- **Grant Writing Workshop on Education Policy**: Monday, April 19, 2010, 1:00–2:30 pm. During this workshop, IES staff will provide a general overview of its six research programs and two upcoming research and development centers that provide funding for research on education policy: Education Policy, Finance, and Systems; Special Education Policy, Finance, and Systems; Organization and Management of Schools and Districts; Early Learning Programs and Policies; Postsecondary Education; Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies; the National Research and Development Center on State and Local Policy; and the National Research and Development Center on Postsecondary Education and Employment. The overview includes information on program requirements, the IES goal structure, and peer review process.

- **Grant Writing Workshop for Efficacy and Replication Projects**: Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 1:00–2:30 pm. During this workshop, IES staff will provide in-depth information on preparing Efficacy and Replication applications. Topics will include methodological requirements for the Efficacy and Replication goal and developing research and data analysis plans.

- **Grant Writing Workshop for Development and Innovation Projects**: Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 1:00–2:30 pm. During this workshop, IES staff will provide in-depth information on preparing a Development and Innovation application. Topics included methodological requirements for the Development and Innovation goal and developing a research plan.

- **Overview of the Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies Program**: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 1:00–2:30 pm. Overview of the Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies Program: During this webinar, IES staff will provide a general overview of the Evaluation of State and Local Education Programs and Policies grant program including requirements for applicants proposing to evaluate interventions implemented within Race to the Top projects. Appropriate quasi-experimental and experimental evaluation designs, with a focus on state-level and district-level design issues, will be discussed.

- **Adult Education Grant Writing Workshop**: Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 1:00–2:30 pm. During this workshop, IES staff will provide a general overview of the new Adult Education research topic, as well as a discussion of the requirements for the National Research and Development Center on Cognition and Adult Literacy. The overview will include information on program requirements, the IES goal structure, and the peer review process.

For more information regarding webinar topics, dates, and registration process, please browse here: [http://ies.ed.gov/funding/webinars/](http://ies.ed.gov/funding/webinars/)