FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

JEROME CLAUSER Proposed Dissertation Title: "Examination of the Application of Item Response Theory to the Angoff Standard Setting Procedure." Statement of the Problem: Accurate standards, or cut scores, are critical to the validity argument for any examination used for the classification of examinees. Unfortunately, the classical Angoff standard setting procedure has a variety of limitations which undermine both the reliability and validity of the standards set with this method. The majority of these limitations stem from instability in the content experts' estimates of the performance of the minimally acceptable examinee. Unfortunately the Angoff method provides no mechanism for addressing this inconsistency in the estimation of the final recommended standard.

Chairperson: Dr. Ronald K. Hambleton

Kirsten Helmer Proposed Dissertation Title: "Queering the Curriculum: An Ethnographic Case Study of a Gay-and-Lesbian-Themed English Literature High School Course." Statement of the Problem: Despite the dramatic socio-political shifts during the first decade of the 21st century that significantly increased the visibility and the legal rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, the pervasive and seemingly impenetrable silence concerning LGBT topics in most schools continues to persist. This silence contributes to the reproduction of hegemonic heteronormativity in schools which supports rampant antigay bullying and violence. Queering the curriculum and engaging students in meaningful ways over a sustained period of time with queer issues can contribute to the disruption and transformation of oppressive practices around sexuality and gender in schools.

Chairperson: Dr. Maria Jose Botelho.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

MARIA GONZALEZ March 8, 2013, 8:15 a.m., Room 163, Hills South.

Chairperson: Dr. Catherine Dimmitt.
MAY, 2013 DEGREE DEADLINES

Listed below are the deadline dates to apply for a MAY, 2013 degree for Master's, CAGS and Doctoral students who will complete their degree requirements during the Spring, 2013 semester. Note that there are two separate deadlines, one for Linda Guthrie and one for the Graduate School.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates

The Degree Eligibility form and School of Education Master's Forms M-2 or CAGS form C-2 must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than APRIL 8, 2013. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head).

The Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie with the Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2. Your advisor must sign the School of Ed form, but NOT the Eligibility form.

Master's and CAGS forms can be downloaded from the following URL:
http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/masters-guidelines
OR http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/cags-guidelines

Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates:

Doctoral students planning on a May, 2013 degree must schedule their Final Oral Examination (D-8 form) with Linda Guthrie 4 weeks before the defense date. Rooms are reserved by contacting Sally Dumont for Furcolo (sdumont@educ.umass.edu) or Shelia Seuffert for Hills South (seufffert@educ.umass.edu).

The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form, the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) and 1 original Signature page (on acid free paper) must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo no later than APRIL 8, 2013.

The Doctoral forms can now be typed into and are found at the following URL:
http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/doctoral-guidelines

The Survey of Earned Doctorates form also needs to be electronically submitted to the Degree Requirements Office and can be found at the following URL:
https://sed.norc.org/doctorate/showRegister.do

Linda will submit these forms to the Degree Requirements Office after they are signed by Linda Griffin and Christine McCormick.

GRADUATE SCHOOL DEADLINE

The deadline to electronically submit the dissertation and the Survey of Earned Doctorates and pay the required graduation fees to the Graduate School is APRIL 15, 2013 by 5:00 (to the Office of Degree Requirements, 534 Goodell, 140 Hicks Way, UMASS, Amherst, MA 01003).