Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants for Spring 2013
The Graduate School has announced a new program to offer some support for doctoral students engaged in dissertation research. Students must have achieved candidacy by passing their comprehensive examination to qualify. For more information and an application, go to the following site: http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/funding-support/dissertation-research-grants

IMPORTANT: Please note that while the Graduate School lists their deadline for receipt of applications and other materials, the School of Education needs to receive a copy of the student’s application by MARCH 4th for Linda Griffin’s review and support.

NOTE: The required application form, budget, and project description should be submitted electronically in one email to: researchgrant@grad.umass.edu. The supporting letter from your chairperson can be sent to this address separately.

A copy of your application should be sent to Linda Griffin for her endorsement.

SOE Brown Bag Fridays All sessions run from noon to 1:30pm. Bring your lunch; hear your colleagues present their research. Dessert and drinks provided.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 (151 HILLS SOUTH)
Carrie Dimmitt and Ximena Zuniga - "Expanding the Positive Effects of Intergroup Dialogue Methodologies through Collaborative Partnerships"
Sandy Madden - "Continuing to Inspire Research in Statistics Education"
Rebecca Woodland - "Social Network Analysis (SNA) for School Improvement Part II"

MORE BROWN BAG schedules inside...

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY
- Please submit general news and announcements to: dms@educ.umass.edu by 5:00 P.M. on Friday for inclusion in the following issue.
- All assistantship notices will run in two issues.
- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Linda Guthrie. These types of announcements will run for one week.
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).
GRADUATE STUDENT DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

ELIGIBILITY: For U.S. MINORITIES (citizens or green card, NOT international).
Priority will be given to Incoming students (new to UMASS).
Doctoral students with an approved proposal on file, and who expect to graduate within one year, may also apply.

NOTE: One nomination for each Department

AWARD: Stipend of $17,000, waiver of tuition and curriculum fee. Basic Health and annual Student Health Insurance Plan fees will also be covered.

SUBMIT: INCOMING STUDENT
Nomination form
Copy of complete application (with personal statement, recommendations, transcripts)
Email recommendation from Department Chair

CURRENT DISSERTATION STUDENT *
Nomination form
CV and Personal Statement
Recommendation from Student’s Chairperson

* Nomination, Personal Statement and Recommendation forms for Current Dissertation Students are available from Linda Guthrie (lguthrie@educ.umass.edu)

DEADLINE to Departmental Office: FEBRUARY 19, 2013

MORE SOE Brown Bag Fridays....
FRIDAY, MARCH 1 (228 FURCOLO)
Denise Ives - "Exploring Urban Teachers’ Perceptions of the Language and Learning Needs of Speakers of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and Speakers of Officially Sanctioned Languages"
Kysa Nygreen - "Communities in Schools: An Ethnographic Case Study"
Nat Turner - "Student Bridges to College: Increasing Educational Equity through a Holyoke-Springfield Diversity Pipeline"
Sally Galman - "New Teachers and Perceptions of Vocational “Flexibility” in Post-Recessional and Recovering Economies"

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 (151 HILLS SOUTH)
Brenda Juarez - "What does Big Mama Know that We All Need to Know? Examining Successful Teaching for Black and other Students of Color"
Sangeeta Kamat - "Bridging Digital and Cultural Divides: Global Education across National Boundaries"
Michael Krezmien, Jason Travers, Jay Carey - "Development and Initial Field Testing of a Self-Determination-Based Transition Planning Process for High School Students with Specialized Education Needs"
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

Mary Deane Sorcinelli, School of Education professor and Associate Provost for Faculty Development, received a 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. This award honors alumni with national and/or international distinction who have translated their UMass Amherst experience into distinguished achievement in the public, business or professional realms, and have shown service to UMass Amherst in the financial, volunteer, or advocacy sectors.

The School of Education’s online master’s degree program, Science Education Online, was ranked 59th in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Please send items to dms@educ.umass.edu

Formation of Dissertation Committee

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.

Seeking nominations for

THE SOE COLLEGE/SCHOOL OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

The College Outstanding Teacher Award program was instituted as a complement to the Distinguished Teaching Awards given by the Graduate School. The purpose of the award is to honor individual faculty members for their teaching and mentoring accomplishments within their own colleges. While classroom teaching is the fundamental criterion, this award also actively values supervision of field/clinical experiences, supervision of research, and mentoring professional publications and presentations. The Office of Academic Affairs is seeking nominations by colleagues and/or students.

Please submit your nomination to Jane Clukay (jclukay@educ.umass.edu) in the form of a letter highlighting why your nominee should be considered for this award.

Deadline for receiving nominations is Friday, March 1, 2013.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

REBECCA ALLEN-OLEET  March 26, 2013,  8:45 a.m.,  Room 151, Hills South. "Increasing Middle School Teachers' Use of Specific Praise in the Classroom Through Consultation and Performance Feedback." Chairperson: Dr. Sara Whitcomb.

The School of Education’s
Statistical Consulting Service

Introduction to SPSS
FREE Workshop
6:30 p.m. ~ 7:30 p.m.
Monday, February 25th
Hills House South, Computer lab

Topics covered include how to:
• enter and sort data
• calculate descriptive statistics
• create graphs and plots

Questions? Please email minjeong@edu.umass.edu or louise.bahry@gmail.com