SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION 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, February 19, 2010.

The Beacon Deadline is FRI DAY
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 dissertation proposals will run for one.
Announcement of Final Oral Examinations

OLA KHALILI March 10, 2010, 3:00 p.m., Room 287, Hills South. "Teacher Professional Development Programs in Palestine: Changing Beliefs and Practices."
Chairperson: Dr. Gretchen B. Rossman.

COLLEEN FARRELL-MEIER March 11, 2010, 10:00 a.m., Room 352 Hills South.
"The Development of a Phonics Diagnostic Inventory: Assessment of Instrument Validity Via Concurrent and Predictive Validity Techniques and a Path Model of Literacy Development."
Chairperson: Dr. John Hintze.

AYMAN KHALIFA March 4, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Room 285, Hills South.
"Educational Research in Palestine: Epistemological and Cultural Challenges - A Case Study."
Chairperson: Dr. David R. Evans.

ATTENTION: Doctoral Students & the Comprehensive Examination

Doctoral students who are preparing for their comprehensive examination should be aware of the following:

- Submit the signed D-3 form (Formation of Comprehensive Examination) to Linda Guthrie in 123 Furcolo at least several weeks before you plan to defend your comprehensive exam. (Do not submit the entire comprehensive paper(s).)

- Contact Sally Dumont (sdumont@educ.umass.edu) in Furcolo or Robbie Calliham (calliham@educ.umass.edu) or Sue Overstreet (sue163@educ.umass.edu) in Hills South to reserve a room for the exam after you have confirmed the date and time with your comps committee.

- Submit the completed, signed D-4 with attachments (unofficial transcript and brief statement concerning the form and content of the comprehensive exam) to Linda Guthrie two weeks prior to the comprehensive exam date.

After your D-4 form is approved and signed by Linda Griffin, Graduate Program Director for the School for Education, Linda Guthrie will forward the information to the Beacon to announce your exam.

FACULTY REVIEWS

The following faculty are scheduled for review for Reappointment through Tenure Decision Year during the 2010 spring semester: John Francisco, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies; Sally Galman, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies; Jennifer Randall, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration; and Laura Valdiviezo, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies.

Those wishing to comment should forward letters to the Department Chairs.
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

ELIZABETH ROBINSON Proposed Dissertation Title: "Research as Praxis in ESL Teacher Education." Proposed Approach to the Problem: This study explores the meanings two urban ESL teachers make of praxis during their education and how these meanings or understandings affect their negotiation of the different discourses of research in their professional contexts to inform their teaching. Two case studies are conducted in three stages over the period of five years as the teachers complete a praxis-based masters' of education program, work with the researcher to obtain their licensure in ESL teaching, and participate in two weeks of observation two years after having graduated. Chairperson: Dr. Patricia Paugh.

CHANCELLOR’S CITATION AWARD

University of Massachusetts Amherst

The Selection Committee invites nominations from the University community for the Chancellor’s Citation Award for outstanding achievement. An individual may be nominated by a supervisor, peer, professional colleague or another familiar with the person’s work. An individual may not be nominated by a relative, nor may a person nominate him or herself.

The intent of the Chancellor’s Citation Award is to recognize and honor benefited University staff members who have demonstrated outstanding performance in contribution their time and/or skills in helping the University achieve its goals and objectives. Ten (10) awards will be presented with the hope that all members of the University community will nominate deserving employees.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees should be either a benefited exempt or non-exempt staff member in an active employment status and working at least 50% time. Nominees should have demonstrated exemplary and outstanding service to the University. This may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- original contributions to the University: attainment of high priority University objectives; crises or “beyond the call of duty” service; achievement of significant improvements in productivity and/or savings in University operations.

- Nominees should neither have received nor be scheduled to receive a cash award under any similar employee recognition program within the past year.

Nominees should be either a benefited exempt or non-exempt staff member in an active employment status and working at least 50% time. Nominees should have demonstrated exemplary and outstanding service to the University. This may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- original contributions to the University: attainment of high priority University objectives; crises or “beyond the call of duty” service; achievement of significant improvements in productivity and/or savings in University operations.

- Nominees should neither have received nor be scheduled to receive a cash award under any similar employee recognition program within the past year.

Individuals may be nominated for receipt of the Chancellor’s Citation Award. Groups of individuals are not eligible for nomination.

All nominations must be signed and the nominator’s relationship to the nominee clearly specified. The nomination form may be copied and passed along. Additional forms may also be obtained at the Human Resources Employee Service Center, Room 325 Whitmore Administration Building or at the Division of Human Resources website (http://www.umass.edu/humres/)

Please contact Linda Ho, Total Compensation Assistant (545-6121) lijho@admin.umass.edu with questions or for further information.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

HEATHER BATCHELOR February 15, 2010, 1:00, Room 21C, Furcolo Hall.
Chairperson: Dr. Robert W. Maloy.
Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies, Fall 2010

Applications for the graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies offered by the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program here at UMass Amherst are due on Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

The certificate is designed to be interdisciplinary and to enhance a disciplinary master's or doctoral degree granting program. The purpose of enrollment into the Certificate program is to enable students interested in gender or feminist scholarship to pursue a coherent, integrated curriculum with academic and advising support from the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies program. The Certificate curriculum emphasizes the development of feminist theoretical perspectives, research and analytical skills through the interaction of race, class, gender and sexuality in a national and/or global perspective.

In Fall 2010, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies will be offering WOMENSST 791B Feminist Theory on Tuesdays from 4:00-6:30PM. Svati Shah will be the instructor. The course is off-line and Certificate students are prioritized.

Contact: Nancy Campbell Patteson, Graduate Program Coordinator
Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, 208 Bartlett Hall, 545-1922
patteson@educ.umass.edu

LLC Annual Student Conference, Wed. April 28
Call for Abstracts

This annual event reunites our student community to present and celebrate student research and their contributions to education in the areas of Language, Literacy and Culture, English as a Second or Foreign Language, and Bilingual and Multicultural Education, among others.

The LLC conference is also an occasion to strengthen ties to our community and to engage in critical conversations that enrich our ideas and communicate our concerns and successes in our educational practice.

Abstracts must be preceded by the Title of the Presentation, the Presenter’s Name and Program and the Type of Presentation: Presentation Session or Poster Session. Abstracts should describe the theme of presentation in 150-200 words. The description of the theme will include the Type of Project presented: Research Paper, Curriculum Project, Inquiry Project, or Teaching Methods; the Primary Focus of the presentation: Literacy Development, English Language Development, Multicultural Education, or Foreign Language Teaching and Learning; the Target Audience: School Teachers, Adult ESL Learners, Curriculum Designers, Teacher Educators, Policy Makers, etc.

Descriptors: Create 2 – 3 descriptors that capture the core elements of the project. Write the descriptors under the main abstract text.

Mail abstracts to: Laura Valdiviezo, lav@educ.umass.edu

Deadline: Abstracts are due on Monday, March 22nd
Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute has summer jobs

Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute is looking for college students to work for its five different summer camps in South Carolina. Camp Wildlife works with children ages 8–14 and focuses on shooting sports, ATVs, fishing and more. 4-H Summer Camp works with children from ages 8-14, and focuses on water activities, high adventure, sports and recreation, and much more. Camp Voyager works with children ages 10 – 14 and focuses on GPS devices, PDAs, video and digital cameras, and editing software, Lego Mindstorms NXT robots, radio-controlled cars, video games and more. Adventure Camp works with children ages 12 – 15 and focuses on rock climbing, canoeing, mountain biking, whitewater rafting and more—all in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North and South Carolina. Camp Sewee focuses on teaching children ages 8-14 about coastal ecosystem in South Carolina.

For job descriptions or for questions, contact:
Chelsey Repokis, Clemson University, Youth Learning Institute
698 Concord Church Road, Pickens, SC 29671  (864)878-1041  ccalzad@clemson.edu

Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference

Friday, April 23, 2010   8 a.m. -5 p.m.
UMass Amherst Lincoln Campus Center

Abstract submission deadline: Friday, Feb. 19, 2010

This conference is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students from the public higher education campuses across Massachusetts to showcase their research, scholarship, and creative work in a professional setting before their peers, faculty mentors, and the public. Last year more than 500 students presented at the conference, including more than 200 students from UMass Amherst. Online application available at : http://webapp.comcol.umass.edu/msc/register.aspx
More details:  http://webapp.comcol.umass.edu/msc/

The Faculty Research Grant/Healy  Endowment Grant Program
was developed to encourage scholarly research and creative activities by members of the University faculty. Please be advised that the next submission deadline is March 5, 2010.

The Program Description, Application, and a list of past awardees can be found at http://www.umass.edu/research/internal_grants/index.html.
Feel free to contact me with any questions.
Melinda V. LeLacheur G’94, Research Affairs
413-545-5283, fax 413-577-1728
International Graduate Students - conversation partners
There is space available in International Conversation Partners. This program pairs international graduate students with an undergraduate student for informal social conversation and opportunities to explore the local community. The partners agree to meet together for 15 hours throughout the semester. They set up their own schedule and determine how they will spend their time together. It is a wonderful opportunity for international graduate students to learn more about American culture and share their culture with their partner. There will be a Meet and Greet gathering where students will have the opportunity to select a partner.

International graduate students who are interested should contact Amy Franklin, Student Coordinator of International Conversation Partners at aefranklin25@live.com
Space is limited. Students will be accepted in the order that responses are received.

Myrna Cronen
Co-ordinator, International Teaching Assistant Program

Grant Opportunity for U.S. Teachers
Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching
Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and administered by Academy for Educational Development (AED), this program seeks to attract highly qualified and experienced K-12 teachers from the U.S. and 8 participating countries to conduct a variety of professional development activities during a period of 3 to 6 months.

Program dates: August-December 2010 or January-June 2011.

Program components
Selected teachers will:
• complete a capstone project related to current trends in education
• give lectures and/or workshops for host country teachers
• observe and assist with classes in host country schools
• enroll in graduate level classes in a host country university
• engage in other professional development activities

Fulbright Grant benefits
Maintenance allowance for 3 to 6 months, round trip airfare and assistance with placement in host countries

Application
For more program details and the application form, go to www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org.
Question? Email: fulbrightat@aed.org Phone: 202 884 8040.

Application deadline February 15, 2010.

Award? Article? Book? Presentation?
Email ideas, accomplishments to:
dms@educ.umass.edu
THANKS!

www.umass.edu/education
GRADUATE STUDENT DIVERSITY ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM
The Graduate School is offering 10 Graduate Diversity Assistantships for incoming students (new to UMASS as of Fall 10) and current graduate students who have demonstrated academic excellence and are members of social groups who have been traditionally underrepresented at UMASS. 

Priority is given to incoming students (any degree or CAGS) and current students doing dissertation research who have a signed dissertation proposal on file. Of the 10 Diversity Assistantships awarded, 3 will be for dissertation level students.

The assistantships will waive tuition and curriculum fee and will provide a health insurance benefit. The stipend for Fall 10 will be no less than $13,870 which can and should be supplemented by the department when possible. These awards will be for one academic year.

Incoming Students: The assistantship duties are determined by the student’s advisor, Concentration Coordinator or Graduate Program Director (Linda Griffin). They must be directly related to the student’s academic program.

Continuing Students: The assistantship duties are determined by the student’s advisor, Concentration Coordinator or Graduate Program Director (Linda Griffin). They must be directly related to the student’s academic program.

Dissertation Assistantships: These assistantships are for students who are expected to finish their degree within one year. Students must have an approved dissertation proposal on file.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE
Incoming students: Incoming students must be nominated by the appropriate concentration. The concentration coordinator completes and submits to Linda Guthrie the following: Nomination form* with a complete copy of the Graduate School application, signed by the Concentration Coordinator and Department Chair.

Continuing students: Submit the Nomination form*, a personal statement, a copy of the graduate transcript and one letter of recommendation from the student’s chair or advisor.

Dissertation students: Submit the Nomination form*, personal statement, c.v. and a letter of recommendation from the student’s chair.

DEADLINE to submit the complete nomination packets with faculty recommendation to Linda Guthrie, 123 Furcolo is:

Friday, February 19, 2010

* Nomination form is available from Linda Guthrie (lguthrie@educ.umass.edu).