ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION
ABDRABU ABU ALYAN  
February 25, 2011, 10:00 am – 1:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South.
“Exploring Teachers’ Beliefs Regarding the Concepts of Culture and Intercultural Communicative Competence in EFL Palestinian University Context: A Case Study.” Chairperson: Dr. Jacqueline Mosselson.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE
HONGQIN ZHANG  
Proposed Dissertation Title: “A mini-scale virtual community of practice approaches to elementary science teachers’ inquiry learning and teaching.” Statement of the Problem: The current situation of the subject “elementary science” in China is neglected by schools, by parents, by teachers and by students. Science teachers’ training in China has been too theoretical and lacking in effectiveness. Chairperson: Dr. Kathleen Davis.

Find SOE Scholarship information inside.

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY
Please submit Beacon announcements 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.
GRADUATE STUDENT DIVERSITY ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM (AY11-12)
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. This award is for minority students who are U.S. citizens or have a green card. 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 provide a stipend and waive tuition and curriculum fee and will provide a health insurance benefit. These awards will be for one academic year.

Incoming Students: NOTE: “Incoming students” are defined as students who are new to UMASS Amherst, not new to a specific degree. 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- The Concentration Coordinator should complete the Nomination form. It should be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room, 123 Furcolo.

Incoming students: Submit the 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 nomination packets to Linda Guthrie is:
Friday, February 15, 2011

NOMINATION, RECOMMENDATION and PERSONAL STATEMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM LINDA GUTHRIE, 123 Furcolo or lguthrie@educ.umass.edu.
2011-2012 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Application Deadline: February 16, 2011

The School of Education is pleased to provide the following opportunities for financial assistance. The deadline for the 2011-2012 scholarships described on this page is Wednesday, February 16, 2011. The deadline for the 2011 Winifred Green Scholarship is Friday, April 1, 2011. See the School of Education website, http://www.umass.edu/education/student/awards.shtml for application forms.

Joseph Burroughs Scholarship
Provides scholarship support to a student in a School of Education Teacher Preparation Program, or a Master's Degree student enrolled in a service-oriented program. Students in good academic standing, with demonstrated financial need, and evidence of strong service experience with children or youth are encouraged to apply.

Janice Camby Endowed Scholarship
Provides scholarship support to a student accepted or enrolled in a teacher preparation program in the School of Education. Students must be from economically disadvantaged areas and in good academic standing. Must complete FAFSA.

Camby Scholarship
Provides scholarship support for a student accepted or enrolled in a teacher preparation program in the School of Education. Students must be from an economically disadvantaged area and in good academic standing. ALANA students are encouraged to apply. Must complete FAFSA.

Grace Norton Carney Scholarship
This endowed scholarship is the largest scholarship the School of Education awards. It is for students pursuing graduate degrees in the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Applicants must be a native or resident of Massachusetts within the last 10 years. Preference is given to students who hold an undergraduate degree from UMass Amherst, Framingham, or Bridgewater State College. Must complete FAFA.

Paul J. Carney Reasons to Give Scholarship
Provides scholarship support to a School of Education student who is not eligible for a Pell grant, but still has significant need. The scholarship will be provided to one student for up to four years as long as they meet the criteria. Applicants must demonstrate high academic achievement and complete a FAFSA.

Richard J. Clark Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education
Provides financial support to a student in a teacher education program within the School of Education. A GPA of 3.3 or better is required, as well as experience with community service, internships, employment that demonstrates a commitment to excellence and equity.

Early Childhood Education Graduate Student Fund
Provides funding for students studying young children and their families with preference given to the study of the needs of the gifted and talented. To provide opportunities for students to enhance their academic experience and become involved in outreach.

Meline Kasparian Scholarship
Provides support to students who are attending or who would like to attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst and who have exhibited a desire to become public school teachers. Applicants must be accepted or currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program.

Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship
Provides scholarship support to full-time doctoral students. Students with a demonstrated financial need, high academic performance, and exceptional promise are encouraged to apply. Must complete FAFSA.

Patricia Silver Award
Provides scholarship support to incoming or current students in a teacher preparation program with demonstrated financial need. Preference for students with a learning disability or some other special need and/or who are committed to working with children with special needs. Must complete FAFSA.

Helen Eaton Timson Scholarship
Provides scholarship support to a student in the School of Education.

C. Lynn Vendien Endowed Scholarship
Provides scholarship support to graduate students from foreign countries. Preference will be given to students who are affiliated with Physical Education Teacher Education in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies.

C. Lynn Vendien Professional Prize Award
This prize will be awarded to a doctoral student who is studying Physical Education Teacher Education in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies.

Winifred Green Scholarship
Anticipated award amount: $250. Awarded by Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society and sponsored by a professional organization of retired teachers in Massachusetts, this scholarship provides support for an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled or planning to enroll in a Teacher Licensure Program, who is committed to make a significant difference in the lives of young people in the commonwealth. Awardee must be in good academic standing, a permanent resident of Massachusetts, and have need for financial assistance.
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 11, 2011.

School of Education faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing.

K.C. Nat Turner and Florence Sullivan, assistant professors in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies (TECS), co-authored “Multiliteracies in Multi-user Virtual Environments (MUVE’s),” which Turner presented at the Fifth International Conference on Multimodality, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia in December 2010

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