The SCHOOL OF EDUCATION’s
GRADUATION CELEBRATION!!!

Thursday, May 10, 2012
Campus Center Auditorium
5 p.m. Social hour    6 p.m. Program    Appetizers and cash bar

All SOE 2011-12 graduates and Minor in Education graduates and their guests, and SOE faculty are welcome!

RSVP to jtutun@educ.umass.edu

Our graduation celebration is festive and fun! There is always good food (including cupcakes!) and camaraderie, and opportunities to have candid photos taken of you with your friends and family, have a professional graduation photo taken by Grad Images, and to thank faculty. Let us know if you plan to attend and how many guests you will bring with you by calling us at 545-2705 ASAP. Remember to tell us your name and the number of guests accompanying you, if any, when you RSVP! Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GRADUATES: When you arrive at the celebration, please stop by the School of Education registration table at the bottom of the elevators. You will need to complete both sides of a reader card: one side is for your concentration coordinator to use in announcing your name; the other is for the photographer to know how to contact you. If you don’t fill out the card, your name will not be read. During the program, each concentration will be announced and you will line up to the right of the stage. Your name will be read, you’ll cross the stage and shake hands with the Dean, then continue across to exit the stage. At the bottom of the stairs you’ll stop at the photographer’s location to have your photograph taken.

See you there!
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

ETHAN A. KOLEK  
May 4, 2012, 10:00 a.m.,  
Room 151, Hills South.  
“The Silent Majority: An Examination of Nonresponse in College Student Surveys“  
Chairperson: Dr. Elizabeth Williams.

The Beacon **will not be published** on  
May 24, May 31, or June 7.  
Then, beginning with the June 14 issue, it will be published every two  
weeks instead of weekly throughout the summer.  
If you are planning to send submissions, please plan accordingly.  
Thank you.


**Faculty, students, staff & alumni** share what they are doing

Undergraduate mathematics major **Katelyn Sassorossi**, who will enter the School of Education’s Bridges to the Future pathway in the fall 2012 semester, presented “Investigating Use of Online Tutors in 4th and 5th Grade Mathematics: Conditions and Constraints in Web-Based Learning” at the Commonwealth Honors College’s Undergraduate Research Conference on April 28 in the Campus Center. **Robert Maloy**, senior lecturer, and **Sharon Edwards**, clinical faculty, both of the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, served as Sassorossi’s faculty sponsors.

Senior history major **Joseph Emery**, who will enter the School of Education’s Bridges to the Future pathway in the fall 2012 semester, co-presented a workshop with senior lecturer Robert Maloy, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, at the 2012 New England Regional World History Association’s conference held at Salem State University on April 28. The workshop was titled: “Around the World History Concepts in 10 or More Clicks.”

Please send items of interest to dms@educ.umass.edu
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

School of Education Professor Emerita Sonia Nieto was selected as the Wits Claude-Leon Distinguished Visiting Professor at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa. Through the Visiting Scholars program, Witwatersrand University “intends to bring polished minds and leading-edge scholars to Wits to participate in scholarly activities and hold conversations with our scholars and post-graduate students.” While there during February and March 2012, Nieto presented on topics including “Teaching with a Multicultural Perspective”, “Creating Multicultural Learning Communities” and “Why We Teach.” Additionally, Nieto led a seminar, “Curriculum Transformation”, at University of Cape Town, and presented on topics including “It’s Whom You Teach, Not Just What You Teach: Becoming culturally competent teachers.”


The recent campus-wide event “Racial Justice Politics: Reflections on the Trayvon Martin Case—An Urgent Call for Educators and Activists,” was conceived, organized, and carried out entirely by three SOE doctoral students in the Language, Literacy and Culture concentration: Jennifer Cannon, Leta Hooper, and Sonji Johnson-Anderson. Says Kysa Nygreen, assistant professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, “I was impressed that these three students took on the organization of a large-scale, campus-wide event all of their own initiative. They secured high-profile faculty speakers and had a large turnout that drew from all across campus. It made me proud to have such engaged doctoral students in our school.”

Event panelists included: Amilcar Shabazz, professor, Department of Afro-American Studies; Agustin Lao-Montes, associate professor, Department of Sociology; Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies; Department of Afro-American Studies; K.C. Nat Turner, assistant professor, and Brenda Juarez, assistant professor, both of the School of Education, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies. The event was sponsored by: Student Bridges, Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success (CMASS), Education Radio Collective, UMass Civic Engagement and Service Learning, and graduate students from the School of Education.

Jean Bernard-Johnston (Ed.D. 1993) was appointed to a three-year term as a Member of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. She sent us a link to an article about her work in Somalia that appeared in the United States Mission to UNESCO e-newsletter. http://unesco.usmission.gov/education-somalia.html

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Awards and honors 2012

Access to Critical Content and English Language Acquisition (ACCELA), under the direction of Jerri Willett and Meg Gebhard and other SOE faculty, received the American Educational Research Association's (AERA) DIVISION K award for "Innovations in Research on Diversity in Teacher Education.

Mary Lynn Boscardin was elected President-Elect of the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), a 5500 member international professional educational organization which is one of the thirteen divisions of the International Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

J. Camille Cammack was named a Davis Foundation IE (Integrative Experience) Fellow.

Meg Gebhard received the 2011-12 College Outstanding Teaching Award.

Linda Griffin was named the 2012 Frostburg State University Wellner Scholar.

Holly Graham, a School of Education doctoral student in the Language, Literacy and Culture concentration, won a 2012 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation. A seventh-grade English teacher at JFK Middle School, Northampton, Graham, who is in her first year at the school, was the "overwhelming" choice of her school's nominating committee.

Linda Griffin was named a Davis Foundation IE (Integrative Experience) Fellow.

Molly Keehn, a doctoral student in the social justice education concentration, was awarded the 2011-12 Graduate Student Distinguished Teaching Award.

Richard Lapan was named to the new Integrating College and Career Readiness Task Force formed by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to address career readiness.

A wiki founded and administered by Robert Maloy, resourcesforhistoryteachers, was named the national runner-up in the Best Educational Wiki category in the 2011 Edublogs Awards.

Christine B. McCormick was elected to the Executive Board of the Council of Academic Deans from Research Education Institutions (CADREI), an assembly of deans of education from research and land grant institutions throughout North America.

Martina Nieswandt received an AERA research conference award.

Professor Emerita Sonia Nieto was selected as the Wits Claude-Leon Distinguished Visiting Professor at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Kysa Nygreen received an Early Career Presidential Fellowship by the Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE), a section of the American Anthropological Association.

School of Education alumna Wilma Ortiz, who was 2010 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, and Professor Emerita Sonia Nieto were honored by Gov. Deval Patrick on Oct. 7 as part of Hispanic Heritage Month and Education Month.

David Schimmel won the 2011 M. A. McGhehey award for outstanding contributions to the field of education law and service from the Education Law Association.

Stephen Sireci received the 2012-13 University of Massachusetts Amherst Samuel F. Conti Faculty Fellowship Award.

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