The Transformer:  
*Education through Transformation!*

A Newsletter for Students by Students of The Graduate School of Education, University of Massachusetts, Lowell Fall 2005

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**Message from the Dean**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new and returning students of The Graduate School of Education. You are among a select group of highly qualified individuals who are enrolling in increasingly competitive education programs here at GSE. As the number of applications increases, we are forced to accept a lower percentage of applicants each semester. Our three masters degree programs that are available online have experienced a remarkable growth in course enrollment since first offered four years ago: 2002 = 218, 2003 = 334, 2004 = 425, 2005 = 498.

After 15 years of serving the University and the City of Lowell, the Demonstration School, its students, and staff have made a successful transition to merge with the City Magnet School and relocate to the PK-8 Bartlett Community Partnership School, near our GSE South Campus location. The Bartlett School has been identified as a Professional Development School and is thus a primary site for our teacher preparation program. University-wide participation, involving faculty, students and staff, will enable the Bartlett School to offer an extended day program to its middle school age students. Dr. Grace Wai, Principal of the Bartlett School will serve as adjunct faculty for us, and some of our classes will meet in the “university room” at the Bartlett.

We are also pleased to welcome three new faculty to campus.

**Dr. Ann Benjamin** is familiar to many of you as the former Director of the Demonstration School. She earned a doctorate at Tufts University and has assumed a full-time faculty role after doing an outstanding job at the Demonstration School. Ann’s expertise in Early Childhood Education will enable us to offer an Early Childhood Initial Teacher Licensure Program here at GSE.

**Dr. David Lustick** earned a doctorate from Michigan State University and brings his expertise in Science Education to the Mathematics and Science Education Program. He most recently served as Associate Director of the U.S. – China Center for Excellence in Education at Michigan State University.

Finally, **Dr. James Nehring** earned his doctorate at UMASS Amherst and will bring expertise from a variety of school leadership positions, most recently as Teacher Leader of the The Francis W. Parker Essential Charter School. He will join the Leadership in Schooling program for the Spring 2006 semester. We are very fortunate to have these outstanding scholars join our GSE family.

The unifying theme of our graduate education programs is “Education for Transformation.” I look forward to the changes – presented by new students, new faculty, and new initiatives - that continually evolve, challenge, and transform our college as we strive for educational excellence. I extend best wishes for a successful and productive school year.

Donald E. Pierson, Dean
**GSE Comprehensive Exam Schedule 2005-2006**

Friday, October 21 - Friday October 28, 2005  
Friday, February 3 - Friday, February 10, 2006  
Friday, July 14 - Friday July 21, 2006

**ISIS**  
As you must know by now, UML has converted to PeopleSoft for their student information system, called ISIS. ISIS Student Service menu can be accessed from the UML web at http://intranet.uml.edu/it/isis/ Here, you will register for courses, pay your bills, see your schedules and get your grades! You can also correct your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. You can see your financial aid awards and your payment records. You can request enrollment verifications and official transcripts. In all, this is a wonderful resource that you can access directly from your desktop! Try it … you might like it!

**MTEL Test Dates**

November 19, 2005  
March 4, 2006  
May 13, 2006  
For more information, preparation materials, and registration, visit www.mtel.nesinc.com

**New Education Programs Online**

In addition to the M.Ed. in Educational Administration online program, the Graduate School of Education is now offering the M.Ed. in Reading and Language online and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction. Beginning in January 2006, there will be a new online program, an M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction with concentration in science education.

For more information on any of these programs you can visit the GSOE website or the UML Continuing Studies website.  
GSOE: http://gse.uml.edu/gse  
Continuing Studies: http://continuinged.uml.edu

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**  
**2006 Annual Colloquium on Research in Mathematics and Science Education**

Paper Submission Deadline:  
November 15, 2005

You are invited to submit papers that will be presented at the Eleventh Annual Colloquium on Research in Mathematics and Science Education and published in the Colloquium Journal, vol. XI. The papers must discuss issues and trends in Mathematics and Science Education and may be submitted by educators, researchers, or graduate students from any of the programs at The Graduate School of Education.

Please request submission guidelines or refer to the last page of the Annual Colloquium Journal, vol. X. Authors will be notified about the status of their paper by January 15, 2006 for the Colloquium, which will be scheduled for April 2006.

Submit papers for consideration, using the appropriate guidelines to:  
Dr. Regina M. Panasuk  
Professor of Mathematics Education  
The Graduate School of Education  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
61 Wilder Street, O’Leary 5th Floor  
Lowell, MA 01854  
Regina_Panasuk@uml.edu

**Graduate Student Organization (GSO) News**

We’d like to wish the new GSO officers best of luck in the 2005-2006 academic year.

The new officers are:  
President: Li Feng  
Vice President: Stuart Robertson  
Treasurer: William McGowan  
Secretary: Kate McLaughlin  
Senator: Kelly King  
Senate Alternate: Gabriela Barra
Scholarships and funding available

GRGA’s (Graduate Research Grant Awards) are offered through the university’s umbrella graduate student organization, the GSA. Applications for these are due according to the dates they post at http://www.uml.edu/gsa/

Scholarships offered by The Graduate School of Education in Spring (spring application deadline) Last year’s options remain on the GSE web page at http://gse.uml.edu/gse/

There are scholarships offered in the spring (with a Fall application deadline) through an independent organization called the Independent University Alumni Association at Lowell. Their web page, for schedules, scholarship applications and procedures is http://www.iuaal.org/association.htm

Super Wednesday

Well, it’s been a whole summer since I have seen my Super Wednesday colleagues. I miss each and every one, and I for one am glad to see this collaborative opportunity beginning again. Comprised of registered Leadership in Schooling Ed.D. students, the dates for this Fall 2005 semester are: September 7, September 28, October 12, November 2, and November 30.

The groups that will be meeting on these Super Wednesday evenings from 4-6:30pm are:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>05.710</td>
<td>Research Planning: Leadership</td>
<td>Patricia Anthony (2nd Comprehensive Exam)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dissertation advisement group</td>
<td>Laura O’Dwyer*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dissertation advisement group</td>
<td>Judy Davidson*</td>
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<tr>
<td>01.636</td>
<td>Socio-cultural contexts of education</td>
<td>Michaela Colombo**</td>
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*Instructor permission required. Only for students who have Davidson or O’Dwyer as dissertation chair.

** This class will meet on a weekly schedule beginning September 7, 2005

Qualitative Research Network

The next meeting of the UML Qualitative Research Network is scheduled for Wednesday October 26. There will be a talk at 4:00pm with a reception following at 5:00pm in room 222, O’Leary Library, UML South. If you are plan on attending (and if you plan to bring your class), please RSVP to Dora_Tovar@student.uml.edu by October 18, 2005.

UML Qualitative Research Network in collaboration with the Graduate School of Education’s Leadership in Schooling Program, the Council on Diversity and Pluralism and the Center for Public Health Research and Health Promotion Present: Conducting Research in Communities of Diversity: Implications for Qualitative Research and Mixed Methods Approaches

Guest Speaker: Linda Silka, Ph.D.

Silka, a UML Professor in the Regional Economic and Social Development Department AND Director of the Center for Family, Work, and Community, will be talking about the “Research Cycle Model” that she and her colleagues have used to guide the development of research projects with communities of diversity. She will discuss the lessons she has learned in trying to conduct research with groups such as refugee and immigrant families and youth and elder populations in communities of diversity and suggest guidelines for some of the perplexities that can arise.

The talk is aimed at those with interests in qualitative research, as well as those concerned with the practical and ethical issues involved in working with communities of diversity. Classes are welcome!
Who’s Who at the Graduate School of Education
An Interview with Jay Simmons

As we enter into a new academic year, the “Transformer” would like to spotlight a veteran faculty member - Jay Simmons - a professor of language Arts and Literacy. Dr. Simmons’ academic aspirations took him to Bowdoin College where he majored in English, finishing strong with cum laude recognition. He then continued his academic pursuits to the University of New Hampshire, where earned a Masters in English and a Ph D in Reading and Writing Instruction. Before coming to UMASS Lowell in 1998, he taught at Boston University for 6 years, an elementary school for 2 years, a high school for 13, UNH for 1 year teaching college writing, and a middle school for 7 years. We hope Dr. Simmons breaks that decade mark with us.

In addition to his role as a faculty member at UMASS Lowell, he represents the Graduate School of Education on the Massachusetts Society of Professors in addition to being on the Lowell executive board and the Faculty Senate. When Dr. Simmons is not representing his fellow faculty or teaching a course, he continues to write and conduct research in reading assessment and writing instruction.

The love of language, education and helping others runs strong in his family. His wife, Jane Nyman, is a reading specialist in Somersworth, NH and his daughter, Martha, teaches first grade in LA and represents her faculty colleagues in contract negotiations. Dr. Simmons attests much of his passion for what he does to his parents. “My parents grew up poor, worked hard, and sent me to the most expensive education available. My professional life is dedicated to repaying society for what it has given me and my family, and to making sure that the poorest amongst us have the opportunities my parents had.”

To show the more personal side of our Dr. Simmons – we delved a bit deeper with our questions and discovered that HIS FAVORITES ARE:

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<th><strong>Dr. Simmon’s Favorites:</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Food:</strong> Blue corn chicken enchiladas at the Rancho Chimayo in New Mexico</td>
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<td><strong>Ice cream flavor:</strong> butter pecan</td>
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<td><strong>Color:</strong> Black</td>
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<td><strong>Book:</strong> Beloved by Toni Morrison</td>
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<td><strong>TV show:</strong> Daily Show with Jon Stewart</td>
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<td><strong>Movie:</strong> Schindler’s List</td>
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<td><strong>Outdoor activity:</strong> Running</td>
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<td><strong>Sport/ player:</strong> His son, Zack, goalie for the UMASS Amherst Men’s Soccer team</td>
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<td><strong>Hobby:</strong> Writing poetry</td>
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<td><strong>Quote:</strong> “I have spent 55 years in resolving, always forming plans for a better life. The need for doing is therefore pressing, since the time of doing is short.” Samuel Johnson</td>
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<td>He also carries a medallion as a good luck charm</td>
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<td><strong>Proudest accomplishment:</strong> Teaching one person to read.</td>
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We would once again like to thank Jay Simmons for his time and for letting us into his life a bit more. It’s apparent that we are very fortunate to have someone with the dedication and enthusiasm he possesses.

Ask Us or Contact Us
The Transformer is a collaborative project originally begun by five Doctoral students who were members of the Leadership in Higher Education course in Spring 2002. The three students who continue to bring you this newsletter twice per year are Charmaine Hickey, Carolyn Siccama and Steve Dion. You may contact us by e-mailing thetransformer@uml.edu