Letter from the LIUS Program Director

The Leadership in Urban Schools program has for the past several years been in a process of rebuilding and revitalization. This year, as another admissions cycle has concluded and as Commencement and Graduate Convocation approach, we are beginning to see the fruits of the hard work of faculty and students.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, LIUS will graduate 11 doctoral students. Their dissertations demonstrate a fulfillment of the LIUS and UMass Boston missions to conduct high quality scholarship that has an impact on research, policy and practice and makes a contribution to improving urban education. Graduates investigated issues of Pk-12 student learning, urban teacher preparation, school building leadership and district reform initiatives, all with an eye on how their work can contribute to improving urban education. As our graduates move into the next phase of their careers, the LIUS student body also continues to grow. With the help of current LIUS students and alumni during recruitment, we increased our application numbers by one third, and 12 new students will begin taking courses as the 2014 cohort this July. Our current students also continue to demonstrate great accomplishment as they secure new education leadership positions and begin making their mark in the world of academia by publishing and participating conferences.

Faculty accomplishments this year were numerous as we continue to build and expand research agendas, publish articles and books, attain grants, present at national and international conferences, and earn tenure. In addition to maintaining a strong record of scholarship and commitment to teaching and advising doctoral students, the LIUS faculty have also been tirelessly working on designing a Ph.D. program to accompany the already thriving Ed.D. The proposed program has been approved by all levels of campus governance and will now undergo review by external evaluators, followed by the UMass system president and the Board of Higher Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We will keep you abreast of any progress made in this exciting new endeavor.

With dissertation defenses and DP hearings still underway, daily good news about new jobs and research accomplishments of students, already, LIUS is demonstrating that these positive trends will continue into the upcoming academic year. Congratulations to all for the year’s many accomplishments. I look forward to the LIUS community continuing to share in these shining moments together for years to come!
News from the Education Administration Program

Our most exciting announcement is that 12 students will graduate in May 2014 with a Masters or CAGS in Educational Administration. Many are now job-hunting for future school leadership posts.

Meanwhile, our largest cohort of 30 students comes to the completion of their first year in the program. Expanded enrollments has required new adjunct faculty members:

- Christina Porter (LIUS graduate 2013), a curriculum course
- John Phelan (LIUS cohort 2006, future Belmont superintendent), course on Research Design
- Alan Cron (LIUS graduate 2008), summer course on Facilities/Finance
- Mark Paige (UMassDartmouth), summer course on School Law
- Lilia Bartholome (Applied Linguistics) next year

Of course, Dr. Anita Brown and Patricia Krueger-Henney are the irreplaceable pillars of the program and we continue to rely on Ray Shurtleff, Michael Contompasis, Bill Lupini, Peter Rowe, and Anthony LaVerde.

Since 2008, we have worked to lower the barriers between all our graduate programs and this has worked well for the Masters/CAGS students who attend the Day of Scholarship and travel to China alongside the doctoral students. (At this time, we have 6 Ed. Admin. students interested in the summer China Tour). We also have three current Ed. Admin. students who are applying to enter the doctoral program, along with one student from the graduate Teacher Leadership program, one former CAGS and one former Ed. Admin. graduate. This is evidence of a healthy pipeline.

Finally, the new MA leadership standards are changing the face of our graduate programs in Educational Administration. All 12 courses have undergone significant revisions, which reflect the new standards as well as our UCEA membership. The final application for our licensure program is now under review with the state. Parallel to this, we have applied for permission to endorse aspiring school leaders for Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language (RETEL). The leadership standards were followed with the new Performance Assessment for Leaders (PAL), which is the long-awaited test for school leaders. We are currently piloting this new portfolio assessment with our students and (not unlike many K-12 teachers who struggle with the MCAS) noting the tendency of an assessment to dominate the curriculum. The PAL is both authentic and daunting.

As the campus representative to the University Council on Educational Administration, I am happy to report that our engagement with this organization grows steadily. Last fall, I attended the international convention with two LIUS graduates and two graduate student Jackson Scholars. This spring, we nominate our third student (Arnold Chamanlal) as a Jackson Scholar. Dr. Tricia Kress has agreed to assume responsibilities as the campus representative for 2014-2015 and we are writing a joint proposal for the fall 2014 convention. All this will contribute to our efforts to gain full membership.
LIUS at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association

Our faculty and students were well-represented at this year’s AERA meeting, showcasing the exemplary work from the LIUS program:

- **Patricia Krueger-Henney** presented her paper: *Trapped Inside a Poisoned Maze: Mapping Young People’s Geographies of Disposability in Schools*
- **Jack Leonard** presented his paper: *Comparative Case Study of Context for Public School Entrepreneurism.*
- **Zeena Zakaria**, with colleagues Maria Hantzopoulos of Vassar College, Roozbeh Shirazi of the University of Minnesota and Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, presented the poster: “Using Research to Drive Curricula: A Case Study of ‘Rethinking the Region’ and Approaches to Teaching in the Middle East and North Africa”
- **Francine Menashy**, along with colleague Caroline Manion of the University of Toronto, presented her paper: “The Historical Evolution and Current Challenges of the United Nations and Global Education Policy-Making” on part II of a panel which won Best Symposium for the International Studies SIG.
- **Tricia Kress**, with her colleague Robert Lake, presented the paper: “Epistemological, Ontological, and Axiological Dimensions of ‘Critical Imagination’ Vis-à-vis Currere”

Congratulations to **Beth Balliro**, LIUS Cohort 2011, who was selected to participate in the American Educational Research Association’s Critical Educators for Social Justice Graduate Student Forum in Philadelphia. Entitled *Mapping the Margins: Safeguarding and Recovering the Praxis of Social Justice*, this was a national convening of like-minded doctoral students and assistant professors who explore criticality and social justice imperatives in our research. Distinguished panelists Marvin Lynn, University South Bend; Bree Picower, Montclair State University in the College of Education and Human Development and David Stovall, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) provided mentorship and guidance on the particular challenges and opportunities for critical educators navigating the academy while maintaining an activist practice.

College of Education and Human Development 50th Anniversary Event

On April 28, 2014, UMass Boston’s College of Education and Human Development celebrated the university’s 50th anniversary with a wonderful event including poster presentations by faculty and students from throughout the college. Several LIUS students presented their fantastic dissertation research.

The poster presentations were followed by a talk by the renowned education activist and scholar, Jonathan Kozol, who met with and spoke to students after his presentation.

LIUS Event: A Day of Scholarship

During this past Day of Scholarship, held on May 3rd, students had the opportunity to explore other LIUS students’ research through viewing poster presentations and in-depth discussions. Kerry Mulcahy, Kim Talbot, Richi Gallucci and Naia Wilson spoke about their trajectories from knowledge and practice to inquiry.
NEW LIUS PUBLICATIONS


**LIUS Professor Zeena Zakharia and colleagues Dr. Maria Hantzopoulos (Principal Investigator), Dr. Monisha Bajaj, Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, Dr. Roozbeh Shirazi present the new curriculum:**

The goals of this project are to analyze the common categories used to describe and teach the ‘Modern Middle East and North Africa (MENA)’ in existing U.S. World History textbooks, and to offer robust alternatives for Grade 9-12 teachers by integrating new scholarship on the region.

While the dominant narratives surrounding events and phenomena in textbooks often depict civilizations at odds with one another, our work analyzes the ways in which peoples and societies also interacted in collaborative and fluid ways and integrates this analysis into curricula. This critical analysis and subsequent curricular development is particularly important in the current political milieu, when mainstream media (ordinarily, though not exclusively, Western) often simplifies complex histories and identities of this region, exacerbating difference and ‘Otherness’ in ways that do not accurately reflect the MENA region in all its complexity.

The entire 350-page curriculum & further resources are available at [http://teach-mena.org/](http://teach-mena.org/)

This project was funded by a grant from the “Our Shared Past” Initiative of the Social Science Research Council and the British Council.
**LIUS ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Congratulations, Associate Professor Jack Leonard!!**

*From his students and colleagues, who have benefitted tremendously from his wonderful teaching, research and support to our program, we in LIUS are proud to congratulate Jack on receiving tenure!*

Professor Zeena Zakharia was invited to deliver a keynote address at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. for a Symposium on Language, Peace, and Security. The event was organized in collaboration with SIL International, the Alliance for Peacebuilding, and the Center for Applied Linguistics in honor of International Mother Language Day on February 21 2014.


LIUS student Chris Flieger presented his paper “The power of collaboration among Catholic, Charter and Public” at the National Catholic Education Association Annual Conference in Pittsburgh this April.

Congratulations to LIUS student Richard Gallucci on his new position as the principal of the Rumney Marsh Academy.

**Congratulations to the following students on their successful doctoral defenses and on their graduation from the LIUS program!**

Lori Brodeur, Malcolm Bryant, Thomas King, Life LeGeros, Wesley Manaday, Mathew McLean, Stacey Jones Mulligan, Tina Chien Paduck, Katherine Petta, Christina Porter, Colin Rose, Kim Talbot, Melissa Winchell

**GOOD NEWS!**

Congratulations to Higher Education professor Ray Franke on the birth of his son, Tiago Alexander, born on February 1, 2014!

For more information on our programs, visit: [http://www.umb.edu/academics/cehd/leadership](http://www.umb.edu/academics/cehd/leadership)

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If you have items to be included in the next issue of LIUS NEWS, please contact the editor: francine.menashy@umb.edu.