

The following article appeared in The Springfield Republican and on MassLive.com on January 14, 2009.

UMass studies dovetail with professor Edison Santana's life

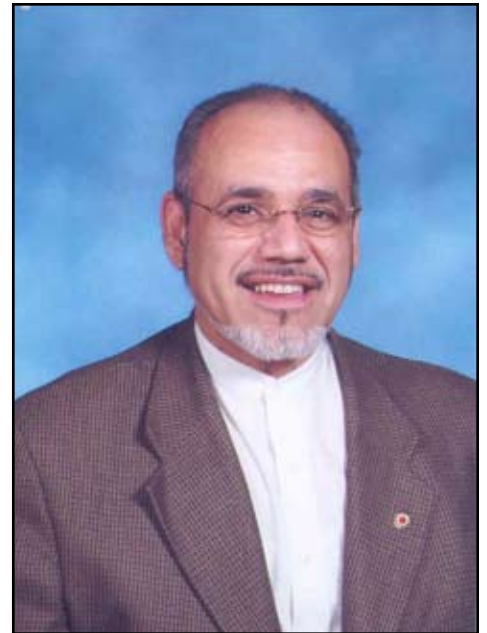
Dr. Edison Santana is a UMass Amherst grad, all the way -- having obtained a BA in Psychology in 1982, a Masters in Education in 1988, and PhD in Philosophy in 1994. He chose UMass Amherst because of the Counseling Psychology Program in the School Of Education at the time he enrolled. "I was struck by the family therapy program and the hypnosis training available through this program", he said. "In addition, I was interested in the psychological testing that the program offered via school placements and course work."

Edison said that he enjoyed the academic rigor that was expected of him as a student, and that he was most impressed with the program because it took into consideration the personal and professional experiences he brought to it as an adult student. "I believe my education at UMass Amherst was second to none", he said. Having his family in the area was another incentive for Edison to attend UMass: "Going to UMass Amherst also allowed me to live around my extended support system", he added.

While at UMass Amherst, Edison developed relationships with faculty he continues to find valuable resources, Dr. Ron Fredrickson (his dissertation chair) and Dr. Janine Roberts (his masters thesis chair). "These two mentors helped me personally, academically and professionally," he said. "The best thing about these relationships is that they have been long lasting."

Edison began his career as a school psychologist in the Springfield schools, with a private practice. "I discovered that I had an interest in making more of an impact on student life", he said. Consequently, Edison obtained his license as an administrator in the Springfield Public Schools... "I'm now in my second year as an assistant principal, a job I love!" He added that his skills as a school psychologist have proved useful in this new position. As part of his job, Edison develops relationships with area businesses and colleges his school can tap into for financial resources and potential interns.

"I love this area," said Edison. "It's where I grew up and went to school. I wanted to give back to the community and provide a role model to the young people who are growing up, similarly to the way I did, allowing them to see that anything is possible when you focus on your goals -- that education can truly be your ticket out of poverty." In addition to the work he does through his job in the school system, Edison occasionally teaches graduate level classes at his alma mater, UMass Amherst. "I jump at the chance to be more involved at the university," he said. "It's like coming home."



Dr. Edison Santana

Prepared by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. For more information go to UMassAlumni.com.