



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Access *The Beacon* online: <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.shtml>.
You can also go to the School of Education home page and click on *The Beacon* in the menu under News and Events.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration International Education concentration

During the Fall-Spring (2009-10) academic year, the **Center for International Education (CIE)** and the concentration in International Education will offer a number of **partial (between 10 - 18 hours) and full (20 hour) assistantships** in connection with international education both in the non-formal and formal sectors. Most of the assistantships will be project assistants (PA) while some might be research assistants (RA.) Specific assistantships may include: undergraduate teaching, research, training, curriculum development, evaluation, and administration. Additional work may be available on CIE funded projects, including the Higher Education Project, Afghanistan. Assistantships are contingent upon funding. Applicants should send a resume and a letter specifying background and skills by July 30, 2009 to:

Center for International Education
285 Hills South, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003 Phone: (413)545-0465
E-mail: cie@educ.umass.edu

Throughout the summer, *The Beacon* may not be published weekly.

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

Please submit *Beacon* announcements to: **Room 126 Furcolo Hall or to**
dms@educ.umass.edu
by 5:00 P.M. on **Friday** for inclusion in the following issue of *The Beacon*.
All assistantships will run for two issues
and examinations and dissertation proposals will run for one.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

KELLY ANN STURTEVANT Proposed Dissertation Title: "Partners in Learning: The Ways in Which Teacher Communication with Children in Early Childhood Settings Influences Children's Behaviors." **Statement of the Problem:** Research shows that communication between teachers and children is not always conducive to learning. Classroom settings where the attitudes and practices of the teacher mirror those of an oppressive society promote what Freire calls a culture of silence, where students' critical awareness and response are practically impossible (Freire, 1985). In these settings children do not feel safe, are not allowed to have a voice, and are not valued as human beings with thoughts and opinions. **Chairperson: Dr. Kathleen Davis.**

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration The Center for Educational Assessment

10 hr/week and 20 hr/week graduate student research assistantships during the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semesters.

These assistantships are associated with projects sponsored by the Adult and Community Learning Services Division of the MA Department of Education, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Educational Testing Service, USAID, Measured Progress, and Pearson.

Qualifications: All applicants must have experience working in educational assessment and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory.

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu). //

SEND your news and announcements to

goodnews@educ.umass.edu or to dms@educ.umass.edu

CHANGE OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION DATE

AHMED HASSAN July 28, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Room 21C, Furcolo Hall.
Chairperson: Dr. Robert Maloy.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

MELISSA DONOHUE Proposed
Dissertation Title: "Financial Literacy and Women: Overcoming the Barriers."
Statement of the Problem: Women's roles and responsibilities in society have undergone a tremendous evolution in the last fifty years. Despite financial gains made by women, there is still a great deal of economic gender inequity. This study proposes an in-depth examination of the financial principles women need to understand, given their roles and responsibilities.
Chairperson: Dr. Joseph Berger.

Award? Article? Book? Presentation? Photo?

Email ideas, accomplishments to:
dms@educ.umass.edu

THANKS!

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

An article by **Robert Maloy**, senior lecturer, and **Sharon A. Edwards**, clinical faculty, both of the School of Education's Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, and Gordon Anderson, software engineer in the Department of Computer Science, has been published in the June 30 "Literacy Coaching Clearinghouse," a web-based joint venture of the International Reading Association and National Council of Teachers of English. (www.literacycoachingonline.org).

Titled "Reading Coaching for Math Word Problems," the article notes that students in elementary math classes are learning two distinct yet related languages - one of numbers and one of words - both of which are combined in math word problems. It suggests that pupils who struggle with language or math comprehension, or both, face challenges in attempting to decode math word problems. The article proposes strategies for teachers to use to support students in addressing the reading challenges found in math problems.

Kathleen Davis, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, is a recipient of a 2009 Public Service Endowment Award for "Energy Thinking, Energy Action: Teaching About Climate Change and Renewable Energy." This internal award, according to the Office of the Vice Chancellor, is intended to enhance the public service mission of UMass Amherst. The emphasis on public service is in converting knowledge into readily usable forms for immediate applications.

You can read more about our faculty, students, staff and alumni on the School of Education's website.

www.umass.edu/education