



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Or go to the School of Education home page and click on The Beacon icon.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

Graduate Assistantship

Office of Research and Engagement

Five hour/week graduate assistantship available for Spring 2012.

Responsibilities include: assisting the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement with proposal development, grant management, communications, workshops, and report writing for international project development.

Qualifications include: excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various constituencies in the United States and elsewhere - including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and international contexts. Fluency in Spanish is preferred.

To apply, please send a resume to Sheila Seuffert at seuffert@educ.umass.edu /

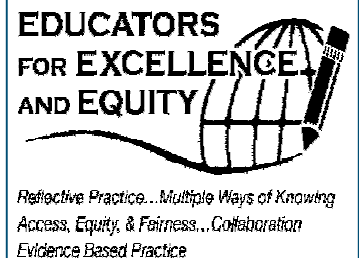
Attention: All Graduate Students

Graduate student Advising Guidelines and forms for Master's, CAGS & Doctoral students are available and can now be completed online. After they are signed by both the student and faculty member(s), they can then be submitted to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, or by email (lguthrie@educ.umass.edu). They are available at the following URL:

http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/advising_guidelines.shtml

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

- Please submit general news and announcements to: dms@educ.umass.edu by 5:00 P.M. on Friday for inclusion in the following issue. All assistantship notices will run for two issues.
- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Linda Guthrie. These types of announcements will run for one week.



School of Education ✧ 813 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst MA 01003

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

JEANNE ZOBEL-LACHIUSA

Proposed Dissertation Title: "Sensory Processing and Autism:

Connection to Self-care Skills." **Statement of the Problem:** This study will expand the research of children on the autism spectrum, sensory processing disorders and the impact on the self-care task of feeding. Establishing this relationship will help inform practice by assisting caregivers identify sensory differences, the resultant feeding difficulties and sensory-based strategies which may increase success during feeding.

Chairperson: Dr. Ernest Washington.

Research Assistantship

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration

One 10 hr/week graduate research assistantship is available for the spring 2012 semester.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data. The applicant must also have knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory, and experience working in educational assessment.

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; 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; attending project meetings; 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. Jennifer Randall (413)545-0227 (jrandall@educ.umass.edu). //

Research Assistantship

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for Spring 2012.

The project will involve assisting in the design of and preliminary fieldwork for research on elementary teachers' beliefs about work.

Responsibilities include: qualitative data analysis and beginning preliminary fieldwork in local elementary schools. The candidate will be expected to attend research group meetings.

Qualifications include: The ideal candidate will have completed coursework in qualitative and quantitative research methods and data analysis. The candidate should also have some experience and/or basic coursework in teacher preparation, teacher induction or sociology or anthropology of schools. Strong organizational and time management skills are required, as is the ability to work in collaboration as well as independently.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to Dr. Sally Galman at sally@educ.umass.edu. /

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

RAPHAEL E. ROGERS

December 12, 2011, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m., Room 16, Furcolo Hall.

Chairperson: Dr. Masha K. Rudman.

Teaching Assistantship

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hour/week teaching assistantship for EDUC 218: Hip Hop Nation Language and Literacy Practices for Spring 2012. Contingent upon enrollment.

Duties include assisting in teaching a section of EDUC 218; holding weekly office hours for students enrolled in the course; collaborating with faculty instructor to plan course activities, readings, and requirements; grading student papers and other course requirements; meeting with faculty instructor as needed to review progress of the course. Duties also include assisting with the instructing, planning and assessment of sessions with faculty instructor.

To apply, please send an email that is a brief cover letter and attach your resume to Dr. K.C. Nat Turner at nturner@educ.umass.edu. In the subject line of the email, please specify "TA, EDUC 218." /

Research Assistantships

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

NSF Noyce Project Research Assistants—Mathematics Education

Two 10 hour/week research assistant positions for Spring 2012.

Faculty members in the Mathematics, Science, and Learning Technology division have begun a six-year, \$4.5 million project partially funded by the National Science Foundation. The project is looking to hire two exceptionally qualified research assistants with expertise in secondary mathematics education and experience working in secondary schools.

Responsibilities include working closely with the research team on all aspects of the project, including designing, implementing, and researching learning environments for in-service and pre-service teaching. Additional responsibilities may include but are not limited to, conducting lesson observations using a research protocol, facilitating professional learning community sessions with mathematics teachers, interviewing project participants, collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, conducting literature searches, writing for publication, and general logistical operations associated with this large scale project.

Qualifications: Doctoral status in the MSLT doctoral concentration. Background in mathematics teaching at the middle/high school level. A successful candidate will demonstrate proficiency with dynamic technological tools for teaching and learning mathematics as well as qualitative and quantitative research tools such as SAS, SPSS, NVivo, or Transana.

To apply: Send cover letter, resume, and two letters of recommendation to Dr. Sandra Madden at smadden@educ.umass.edu. Application deadline: December 27, 2011. //

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Teaching Assistantship

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

EDUC 500-STEP Supervisor-Spring 2012

Ten hour/ week teaching assistantship available to supervise English, history, science and mathematics student teachers in Secondary Teacher Education Program.

Responsibilities include: Supervision of five student teachers, site visits to schools, conferences with students and supervising practitioners, observation reports, weekly email contact, attendance at monthly supervisor meetings, support of students in completing the Teacher Performance Assessment instrument, review of student teaching portfolios, maintaining contact between schools and university, timely completion of ongoing documentation of student performance. For more info go to: <http://blogs.umass.edu/educ510-madeloni>

Qualifications: Excellent interpersonal, organizational and communication skills. Classroom teaching experience in the subject area. Preferences given to students who have or are taking EDUC 851 and/or have experience in teacher leadership and supervision.

Applicants should submit letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to Barbara Madeloni, Director of STEP Student Teaching, 413-577-0495, madeloni@educ.umass.edu.

Application deadline: January 3, 2012

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Teaching Assistantships

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

EDUC 378: Survey of Children's Literature

Two 10 hour/week teaching assistantships are available for Spring Semester 2012 with Dr. Denise Ives. Class meets on Tuesdays from 1:00-3:30.

Responsibilities include: Collaborating with Supervisor and other teaching assistants to plan course activities, readings, and requirements; teaching one section of 378; maintaining attendance records and grading student assignments for one section; and holding weekly office hours for students enrolled in the course.

Qualifications include: Interest in and knowledge of children's literature and willingness to function as a team member.

To apply please send a letter of interest and current CV to Dr. Denise Ives, dives@educ.umass.edu.

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FEBRUARY, 2012 DEGREE DEADLINES

Listed below are the deadline dates to apply for a FEBRUARY, 2012 degree for Master's, CAGS and Doctoral students who will complete their degree requirements during the Fall, 2011 semester.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates

The Degree Eligibility form and School of Education Master's Forms M-2 or CAGS form C-2 must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, **no later than DECEMBER 8th, 2011**. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head).

The Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie with the Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2) . Your advisor must sign the School of Ed form, but NOT the Eligibility form.

Forms can be downloaded from the following URL:

http://www.umass.edu/education/academics/advising_guidelines.shtml

Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates:

Doctoral students planning on a February, 2012 degree must schedule their Final Oral Examination (D-8 form) with Linda Guthrie 4 weeks before the defense date.

The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form, the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) and 2 original Signature pages (on acid free paper) must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room **123 Furcolo no later than DECEMBER 8th, 2011**. The Eligibility form (2 pages) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/files/Doctoral%20Degree%20Eligibility%20Form.pdf>

Linda will submit these forms to the Degree Requirements Office after they are signed by Linda Griffin and Christine McCormick.

The dissertation must be submitted electronically, and fees and other required materials must be submitted to the Office of Degree Requirements (Room 534 Goodell) **by 5:00 p.m., DECEMBER 15th, 2011. THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE!**

Students: how to submit information for announcements

Students must submit proper forms for announcements about Formation of Dissertation Committees (D-6), Announcements of Final Oral Examinations (D-8) and Comprehensive Examinations (D-4) to Linda Guthrie in 123 Furcolo Hall, Office of Academic Affairs.

Linda will submit the items to the Beacon for publication

The Beacon will not be published during the week of December 26-30.
Please plan your announcements and ads accordingly. **Thanks.**

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

Florence Sullivan, associate professor, and **K.C. Nat Turner**, assistant professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, attended the recent event



celebrating the installation of the final steel beam in the construction of the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center in Holyoke. Sullivan and Turner and associates from UMass Amherst and MIT will carry out a demonstration project to harness the cloud computing capabilities of the new center in service of K-12 STEM education in the Holyoke/Springfield area. The computing center is expected to be completed in 2012-13.

Brenda Juarez, assistant professor, Department of Student Development, has written "White Parents, Black Children: Experiencing Transracial Adoption" (Rowman Littlefield) with Darron Smith and Dardell K. Jacobson. The book looks at the difficult issue of race in transracial adoptions--particularly the adoption by white parents of children from different racial and ethnic groups. It aims to bring to light racial issues that are often difficult for families to talk about, focusing on the racial socialization white parents provide for their transracially adopted children about what it means to be black in contemporary American society. Blending the stories of adoptees and their parents with extensive research, the authors discuss trends in transracial adoptions, challenge the concept of "colorblind" America, and offer suggestions to help adoptees develop a healthy sense of self.

Ally Hunter, a doctoral candidate in science education, has been named a National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Science for the 2011-12 academic year. This honor is given as a result of her selection to and participation in the 2011 National Academies Summer Institute on Undergraduate Education in Biology held at Yale University. Institute participants from 12 research colleges and universities in the north-east assembled at Yale for five days of presentations and discussions focused on enhancing undergraduate education. Teams of Participants developed or adapted a series of "teachable tidbits" that they agreed to implement in a course during this academic year and to assess students learning based on that material, as well as a mentoring seminar designed to enhance the ability of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and others to mentor undergraduates in the research laboratory.

Please send items to dms@educ.umass.edu

Thanks

MORE

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



Professor Emeritus **David Schimmel**, Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, received the 2011 M.A. McGhehey Award for “outstanding contributions to the field of education law and service” from the Education Law Association. Through his scholarship, Schimmel provides insight into a range of legal issues and bridges theory, policy and practice domains with particular emphasis on the role of teachers and administrators. He is widely recognized as a champion of legal literacy for educators and the need for teachers and school administrators to understand and effectively apply legal principles in the course of their professional work. In addition, he is an acknowledged authority on First Amendment issues and civil liberties as applied to the public education context. He has been a regular contributing author to West’s Education Law Reporter since its inception. His book, “Teachers and the Law”, now in its eighth edition, is one of the most successful desk references available to teachers and school administrators. In addition to authoring or editing nine books, he has written extensively in leading scholarly journals on topics related to constitutional mandates, civil rights, and preventive law in the public school context.

Thanks

Please send items to dms@educ.umass.edu

KAPPA DELTA PI International Honor Society in Education

Interested in joining this spring 2012?

KDP is one of the largest and most prestigious educational honor societies in the U.S., and we have an active UMass Amherst chapter.

Criteria for acceptance— undergraduate students: Minimum of 45 completed semester hours; at least 12 of these credit hours must be at UMass Amherst; commitment to the field of education; minimum 3.4 grade point average

Criteria for acceptance— graduate students—Minimum of 12 semester hours, commitment to the field of education, minimum 3.4 grade point average.

For information: Google “KDP UMass” or contact Robert Maloy at rwm@educ.umass.edu or Ruth-Ellen Verock-O’Laughlin at ruth-ellen@educ.umass.edu