



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Access The Beacon online: <http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.shtml>.

Or go to the School of Education home page and click on The Beacon in the menu under News and Events.

HARD COPIES are available in Furcolo Hall and Hills South.

Teaching Assistantship

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

Seeking applications for 10 hour/week teaching assistantships for Spring 2010 for the course Educ 192A: Education at the Movies.

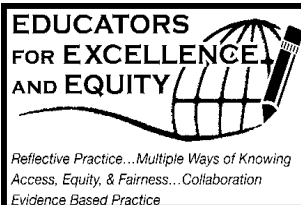
Responsibilities include some or all of the following: 1) attend weekly large group presentations and facilitate supervision of students (i.e. supervise students' arrival and departure, record attendance, collect and mark assignments, be available for general questions and answers from students, etc); 2) attend weekly planning meetings to organize and prepare course related content and deal with other related business; 3) participate in designing the mid-term and/or final exam; 4) deal with student requests relating to add/drop period and other student needs; 5) conduct small group seminar sessions; 6) meet with, and assist, Course Director and TA Team members as needed; 7) complete other course related tasks as assigned.

Qualifications include: excellent communication and organization skills, exceptional interpersonal skills that will facilitate team building, significant interest in public school dynamics and media perspective, well-developed technology skills, a professional attitude and commitment to duties; previous teaching experience with young adults would be an asset.

Please email a covering letter of application and an updated résumé to Nola Stephen at nola@educ.umass.edu.

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Send your news to:
goodnews@educ.umass.edu



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.

All assistantship notices will run for two issues;
notices of examinations and dissertation proposals will run for one.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

STEPHEN SADLIER December 14, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Room 21B, Furcolo Hall.
Chairperson: Dr. Jerri Willett.

NIGAR J. KHAN December 7, 2009, 12:30 p.m., Room 287, Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. David R. Evans.

Research Assistantship

Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

Research assistantships, 10 or 20 hrs/week , with The Center for Educational Assessment in spring semester 2010. These assistantships are associated with projects sponsored by Educational Testing Service and the MA Department of Education.

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).

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Send news and announcements to:
dms@educ.umass.edu

Campus Policy regarding missed classes and work due to flu

Vice Chancellor Jean Kim urges students who have seasonal and/or H1N1 flu symptoms to “protect other members of the campus community by **staying home if you are sick.**” **Note that** the provost has advised all faculty members to modify their attendance policies to help students who are unable to attend class due to illness. The provost has also informed faculty members that they should not require students to provide a note from a health care provider explaining absence from class or confirming recovery. Students who are ill must inform faculty that they are missing class due to illness. Faculty members and department chairs should be available to help students get back on track with their academic work once they are well, fever-free, and have returned to classes.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

LISA FISHER Proposed Dissertation Title: "School-Wide Positive Behavior Support: Student Surveys of Expectations and Safety."

Statement of the Problem: Implementing a School-Wide Positive Behavior Support program is one way the school climate and learning environment can be improved. Currently, limited information is gathered from students concerning behavioral expectations and safety during the planning and evaluation stages of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support programs.

Chairperson: Dr. John M. Hintze.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

AIAH A.S. MBAYO December 21, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Beyond School Inputs and Resources: An Assessment of the Effects of Program Intervention on Learning Achievements - A Case Study" **Chairperson: Dr. David R. Evans.**

LAUREN WAY December 2, 2009, 11:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. "The Impact of Disciplinary on the Organizational Leadership Style of Academic Deans." **Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger.**

MARILYN MICKA-PICKUNKA December 15, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Earning and Learning: The Impact of Paid Work on First-Generation Student Persistence." **Chairperson: Dr. Joseph B. Berger.**

NIGEL BRISSETT December 14, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Room 275, Hills South. "A Critical Analysis of Jamaica's Emerging Educational Policy Discourse in the Age of Globalization." **Chairperson: Dr. Gretchen B. Rossman.**

SUZANNE SCALLION December 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 219, Furcolo Hall. "The Voices of Elementary School Principals on School Climate." **Chairperson: Dr. Linda L. Griffin.**

Bookmark the School's website
www.educ.umass.edu

Below please find a limited submission grant opportunity from NEH that is restricted to just one nominee per institution. **Please let me know by December 3** if you are interested. In the case of more than one interested party there will be an internal review.

NEH Challenge Grants in United States History and Culture

http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/CG_UShistory.html

Program Description:

NEH invites applications for Challenge Grants in United States History and Culture. This grant opportunity is designed to help institutions and organizations strengthen their ability to explore significant themes and events in American history, so as to advance our understanding of how—since the nation's founding—these events have shaped and been shaped by American identity and culture. NEH seeks to support a range of approaches to the American experience: for example, approaches might explore significant events in America's history, its democratic institutions, the political principles on which the nation is founded, or the complicated mix of peoples and cultures that have formed America. Also welcome are proposals that seek support for the study of the history and culture of the United States in international contexts rather than in isolation—proposals that explore relationships with other nations and cultures that have profoundly affected the course of United States history. NEH also welcomes proposals for programming at America's historic places (e.g., historic sites, neighborhoods, communities, or larger geographical regions).

NEH challenge grants are capacity-building grants, intended to help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources. Grants may be used to establish or enhance endowments or spend-down funds (that is, funds that are invested, with both the income and the principal being expended over a defined period of years) that generate expendable earnings to support ongoing program activities. Funds may also be used for one-time capital expenditures (such as construction and renovation, purchase of equipment, and acquisitions) that bring long-term benefits to the institution and to the humanities more broadly.

Institutions may use challenge grant funds to meet both ongoing and one-time humanities-related costs, provided that the long-term benefit of the expenditure can be demonstrated. Federal challenge grant funds, as well as funds raised for matching, might be used for purposes such as the following:

- faculty and staff salaries and benefits;
 - acquisitions for collections;
 - faculty, teacher, and staff development;
 - research fellowships;
 - lecture or exhibition series;
 - visiting scholars or consultants;
 - publishing subventions;
 - preservation and conservation programs;
 - construction, renovation, and maintenance of facilities;
 - purchase of equipment and software;
 - efforts to improve uses of digital technology in the humanities; and
- fundraising costs (totaling no more than 10 percent of challenge grant funds).

NEH Deadline: Proposal must be received by NEH on February 3, 2010.

Melinda V. LeLacheur

University of Massachusetts, Research Affairs, 70 Butterfield Terrace
phone: 413-545-5283, fax:413-577-1728

Limited Submission Funding Opportunities: <http://www.umass.edu/research/ora/limitedsub.html>

General Funding Opportunities: <http://www.umass.edu/research/ogca/funding/>