BEACON DEADLINE: Notice! Change in Beacon submission procedure: Please submit Beacon announcements to Room 123 Furcolo Hall or to rkeane@educ.umass.edu. All assistantships will run for two issues unless otherwise indicated. Examinations and dissertation proposals run for only one issue.

ATTENTION! The Beacon is available on-line at: http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.htm If you have problems accessing this link, go to the School of Education home page, click on the Beacon button on the left.

FALL 05/SPRING 06 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE (by department)

Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

Dean’s Office

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Educational Policy, Research and Administration

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

One part-time (10 hour/week) research assistantship is available for the Fall 2006-Spring 2007 academic year with the possibility of continuation for a second academic year. The position will entail working with a new faculty member in the concentration of Higher Education Administration.

Responsibilities include: 1) Teaching Related: Researching and preparing course reading lists and reviewing existing curricula. 2) Writing Related: Assisting with research for publications, compiling references into ‘Endnotes’, assisting with all phases of editing, and compiling bibliographic database. 3) Research related: conducting literature reviews, transcribing interviews, and conducting statistical analysis. 4) Grant Related: Assisting in finding grant applications, and assisting in all stages of grant preparation.

Qualifications include: Having both quantitative and qualitative research knowledge, being a self-starter and having strong organizational and time management skills.

Please send a brief letter of application and your resume to Benita J. Barnes at barnesbj@educ.umass.edu.

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CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT SUMMER 2006 ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Center for Educational Assessment expects up to 7 full- or part-time summer 2006 assistantships associated with the following contracts: Massachusetts Department of Education (Adult Basic Education Project), The U.S. Department of Education (Comprehensive Evaluation of NAEP), All Kinds of Minds Institute, and Measured Progress (MCAS Project).

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses on educational testing data, assisting with standard setting analyses; writing computer code for linking and scaling NAEP scores across subpopulations; assisting in the development and evaluation of educational test score reports; equating test forms using concurrent item response theory and anchor item methods, and simulating multivariate data.

Qualifications include: Extensive knowledge of univariate and multivariate statistical analysis, item response theory, multidimensional scaling, and test construction, experience in implementing different types of item exposure controls in a computerized-adaptive test environment, and the ability to program in FORTRAN.

To apply, please contact Professor Stephen G. Sireci at (413)545-0564 or Sireci@acad.umass.edu.

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CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT FALL 2006-SPRING 2007 ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Center for Educational Assessment in the Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration expects up to 12 full-time graduate student research assistantships for the 2006/2007 academic year associated with the following contracts: The Massachusetts Department of Education (Adult Basic Education Project), The U.S. Department of Education (Comprehensive Evaluation of NAEP), All Kinds of Minds Institute, and Measured Progress (MCAS Project).

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting item response theory item calibrations, equating tests, writing and editing test items, entering data, developing surveys, analyzing survey data, editing items in online and CD environments, attending project meetings, writing computer code, performing literature reviews, conducting simulation studies to estimate conditional standard errors of MST scores, and conducting multivariate statistical analyses.

**Qualifications include:** All candidates should have extensive knowledge of item response theory, multidimensional scaling, multivariate statistics, test equating, and test construction. Candidates should also have experience in implementing different types of item exposure controls in a computerized-adaptive test environment, and should be able to program in FORTRAN.

To apply, please contact **Professor Stephen G. Sireci** at (413)545-0564 or Sireci@acad.umass.edu.

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EDUCATION 115 FALL 2006-SPRING 2007 ASSISTANTSHIPS

Five Teaching Assistantships available in the department of Education Policy, Research & Administration for fall 06-spring 07 semester to assist with large undergraduate course.

Ed 115 is a course is about cultural diversity in the University community and how we can better understand ourselves and others through an appreciation of college education as a cultural experience, with its own unique set of rules, biases, and expectations. The course is designed for first-year undergraduate students. The objectives are to help students become aware of the ways differences of race, class, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, and physical disabilities have divided people in American society; to proved ways of thinking about and analyzing differences in order to develop a critically examined position; and to consider ways that knowledge of differences may be used to build a more pluralistic University and a more equitable society.

**Responsibilities include:** Attending weekly class lecture, meeting weekly with instructor to plan/discuss class, holding weekly office hours, creating facilitation lesson plans, facilitating weekly discussion section, helping with grading, and tracking student attendance.

**Qualifications include:** Teaching experience at any level and strong organizational skills.

Please send letter of interest outlining qualifications and resume to **Gretchen B. Rossman**, 277 Hills South. Electronic submissions preferred. Send to gretchen@educ.umass.edu.

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**Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services**

No positions available this week.

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Office of Teacher Education

OFFICE OF TEACHER EDUCATION FALL/SPRING 2006-2007 PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIPS

Half time (10 hours per week) and full time (20 hours per week) Project Assistantships available in the Office of Teacher Education for the Fall 2006-Spring 2007 academic year.

Responsibilities could include: Advising students interested in Early Childhood or Elementary teaching and the Education minor, maintaining and updating the advising system and office advising materials, planning and assuming responsibility for the Job Fair, assisting the Director of Teacher Education and Certification Officer with data management, analysis and reporting and updating program approval documentation; program literature, and MTEL materials. Additional duties include, assisting Educator Licensure Faculty in implementing NCATE assessment plans, teaching MTEL preparation courses, learning to use the Tk20 data management system, assisting faculty in putting assignments, assessments, and rubrics on the system; and train students, faculty and cooperating teachers to use Tk20 data management system, conducting online and face-to-face weekly Tk20 support sessions for students and faculty, developing and administering online surveys to students and cooperating practitioners, and other tasks related to the work of the Teacher Education Office.

To apply, please submit a current resume and letter of application addressing your qualifications for any of the specific duties listed above to Dr. Marge Magouirk Colbert, Room 125, Furcolo Hall by May 19th.

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Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

SUMMER 2006 RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

One part-time research assistantship is available for Summer 2006 in TECS.

Responsibilities include: Assisting with analysis and organization of qualitative data. This includes transcription and categorization of audio data gathered in classroom settings, as well as conducting literature searches using various academic databases.

Qualifications include: Considerable knowledge of and experience with qualitative research methodologies and research processes such as data gathering in school setting, literature review. This includes understanding and experience with relevant forms of data and how they are used and analyzed, including special considerations given to analyzing data from multiple cultural perspectives.

To apply, please contact Dr. Jason Ranker at jranker@educ.umass.edu. Application review will begin immediately and continue until position is filled.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Ethan A. Kolek May 17, 2006, 10:00 a.m, Room 151 Hills South. Chairperson: Dr. Elizabeth Williams.

Shelly Perdomo May 19, 2006, 2:30 p.m, Room 151 Hills South. Chairperson: Dr. Elizabeth A. Williams.

Yiming He May 18, 2006, 11:00 a.m., Room 21C Furcolo Hall. Chairperson: Dr. Ernest Washington.

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FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Jane M. Riley  Proposed Dissertation Title: "The Use of Item Response Theory in Developing the Dynamic Indicators of Vocabulary Skills Alternate Forms." Vocabulary is one of the identified five essential areas of reading development (NICHD, 2000). Furthermore, Adams (1990) found that language skills are one of the three most important early literacy skills, and vocabulary is a proxy for language skills. Reading skill areas can be remediated with preventing (Torgesen, et al. 2002) and early intervention (Juel, 1980). In light of the newly accepted special education services eligibility model: responsiveness to intervention (RTI), truly comparable forms are essential for being able to measure responsiveness to instruction over time. The area of vocabulary lacks research-based formative measures to monitor student skill development.

Chairperson: Dr. William Matthews.

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UPCOMING GLOBAL HORIZONS SPRING 2006 WORKSHOP EVENTS

May 13 – Education in South Africa
This second session will use the first as a platform to explore the evolution of formal education in South Africa focusing on the role and function of colonial education, education as oppression of Apartheid, education as vehicle for struggle and liberation, and education as a reconciliatory and reconstructive tool of the new democratic South African government. Facilitators: Beverly and David Bell, former South African high school teachers. David is currently an Assistant Professor of International Development and Social Change at Clark University and Beverly is a doctoral student in Teacher Education at UMass.

For more information or to register, please contact Karen Binger at kbinger@educ.umass.edu or 1-413-687-5904.

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FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Seeking Information:
For a Column in the next edition of the School’s Alumnae/ni Newsletter and for occasional updates in our weekly BEACON, please send information about recent (2005) publications, grants, activities, honors, and awards to Laura Holland, ljh@educ.umass.edu.

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