SCHOOL OF EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

BEACON DEADLINE: Notice! Change in Beacon submission procedure: Please submit Beacon announcements to Room 123A Furcolo Hall or to llascell@educ.umass.edu. The deadline remains 3:30 p.m. on Monday. 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. Earlier issues can be found by going to Publications.

FALL 06/SPRING 07 ASSISTANTSHIPS AVAILABLE (by department)

Please note: All available positions are contingent upon funding.

Dean’s Office

No positions available this week.

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Educational Policy, Research and Administration

EPRA Assistantship for Fall 06 – Center for Educational Assessment

The Center for Educational Assessment in the Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration expects one half-time assistantship associated with a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Education (school leadership project).

Responsibilities include: Conducting multivariate statistical analyses on educational testing data, writing code for statistical analysis; assisting in the development and evaluation of educational test score reports; and conducting training sessions on psychometrics and appropriate use of educational test data.

Qualifications: All candidates should have extensive knowledge of univariate and multivariate statistical analysis, item response theory, multidimensional scaling, and test construction. Candidates should also have experience programming in FORTRAN.

To apply, please contact: Professor Stephen Sireci, (413)545-0564, sireci@acad.umass.edu

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EPRA Assistantship Fall 2006 & Spring 2007 – EDUC 395Z

One half time (10 hours per week) assistantship is available for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007. The position will provide support for EDUC 395Z, a multi-section inter-group dialogue course focusing on issues on inter-group relations.
Responsibilities include: Working with the instructor to coordinate recruitment activities, placing students in sections, plan the curriculum, organizing and developing course materials, maintaining student records, helping with grading, photocopying and other duties as needed.

Qualification include: Strong organizational and communicational skills; interest in teaching undergraduates about social diversity and social justice issues using dialogic methods; teaching and/or student affairs programming experience in higher education preferred.

Please send letter of interest outlining qualifications and resume to Ximena Zúñiga 383 Hills South (545-0918) by July 17.

Office of Teacher Education

No positions available this week.

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Student Development and Pupil Personnel Services

No positions available this week.

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Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

No positions available this week.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

CINZIA PICA - Proposed Dissertation Title: "Children's Perceptions of Interethnic/Interracial Friendships." Statement of the Problem: Cultural competence and the ability to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with children of diverse groups are necessary to the healthy social-emotional development of children in an increasingly multiethnic society. Yet, there is a paucity of research investigating children's interethnic/interracial friendships. This scarcity of research is a noteworthy gap in the body of literature in the field of child development. Research on children's perceptions of these intergroup friendships is needed in order to best understand how children make meaning of these relationships, and how adults and educators may support the formation and maintenance of these important formative friendships.

Chairperson: Dr. J. Kevin Nugent.

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FAQ’s and other information that is good to know:

I'm a new, recently hired grad student. Is there an orientation that will tell me what I need to know about my assistantship?

Yes! The dates of the Academic Year 06-07 new graduate student employee orientations begin August 24, 2006 and include a special session designed for international students to be held on August 31, 2006. At these orientations students will complete the paperwork necessary for the University to pay them as employees (with the exception of the Assistantship Form - GFAF). Graduate students will be helped with all mandatory federal, state, and required campus forms such I-9's, W-2's, the Participation Agreement and the Union Dues Deduction form. Assistantship Forms (GFAF) are completed, as usual, in the department and should, in most cases, be submitted to the Assistantship Office prior to the new student employee attending the orientations. Additionally, students will get a comprehensive explanation of their health and dental insurance plans and
immunization requirements. These orientations are required and are the best and most efficient way for completing all of these critical requirements.

What are the dates, times and places of these orientations?

The New Graduate Student Employee Orientations will be held:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 24</td>
<td>*SOM 133</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, August 28</td>
<td>SOM 133</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 29</td>
<td>SOM 133</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 30</td>
<td>SOM 133</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 5</td>
<td>SOM 133</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 6</td>
<td>Campus Center 163C</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
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International Employee Orientation will be held:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, August 31</td>
<td>Mahar Auditorium</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Isenberg School of Management

How long will the sessions last?

The non-international presentations last about an hour and there is plenty of time afterwards for students to receive assistance in completing their paperwork and ask questions.

What about international students and tax issues?

International students will receive, in addition to the items covered at the other orientations, information from the Human Resources staff that will address critical tax issues. Chinese translation services will be available.

Do I need to bring anything with me?

Yes! New students attending these sessions must bring with them ID and documentation which fulfills federal employment verification requirements, for instance:

US Citizens and Resident

1. US Passport, or
2. Drivers license or University picture ID
   - and -
   Social Security card or US birth certificate
3. Voided check if they desire direct deposit of pay into a checking account

International Students

1. Visa
2. Unexpired passport with I-94 card
3. I-20 or DS-2019
4. Social Security card – if you have one
5. List of dates of entry to & exit from the US
6. Voided check if they desire direct deposit of pay into a checking account

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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.