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

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP – 10 hours - HOURLY

Responsibilities include: beginning immediately to work on a research project on college student retention of under-represented students, funded by the College Board.

Qualifications include: Knowledge of higher education literature on retention and persistence, skills in data management including SPSS, and survey development, web surveys, all helpful.

Student should submit resume and a cover letter- regarding which program they are in and their experience- to KerryAnn O’Meara (kerryann@educ.umass.edu).

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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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Office of Academic Affairs

PROJECT ASSISTANT FOR OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

One half-time (10 hours per week) project assistantship

Responsibilities include: assisting in data entry, maintaining records, creating reports.

Qualifications include: excellent communication and organizational skills, competency in Excel, ability to prioritize and adjust to change.

To apply, please contact Dr. Linda Griffin, Room 123, Furcolo Hall, 413-545-0246 or email: lgriffin@educ.umass.edu.

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Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

PROJECT ASSISTANT IN TECS

One half-time (10 hours per week) project assistantship – Educational Technology - Mac Lab Monitor

Responsibilities include: staff the MAC lab in Furcolo hall during the 2006/2007 academic year, troubleshooting error messages associated with both the MAC OS and the software listed under “qualifications include”, will be responsible for opening and closing the lab at specific times, staffing the lab during open hours, and assisting other students and staff with software questions/problems encountered in the MAC lab.

Qualifications include: knowledge of the MAC operating system (OS/X, Tiger), and knowledge of the following software programs: Microsoft Office Suite, Inspiration, iMovie, and Safari.

To apply please send your resume and a cover letter by email to fsullivan@educ.umass.edu by August 15th for consideration.

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RESEARCH ASSISTANT

One half-time (10 hours per week) research assistantship – Science Education Online

Responsibilities include: collect and analyze data; research and collect library information; contribute to the writing of a paper for publication. The position will require 4 hours of office work in 227 Furcolo each week.

Qualifications include: qualitative research and writing skills, good communication skills, computer skills (excel, word, www)

To apply, please contact Kathleen Davis, via email only, kdavis@educ.umass.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUILDING EXCELLENT SCHOOLS FELLOWSHIPS

Building Excellent Schools is an established national non-profit organization based in Boston, MA committed to improving the academic achievement of students in the nation’s urban centers. Our core program is the Building Excellent Schools Fellowship, a 12-month, full-time, comprehensive training program that prepares dedicated, hard-working, and talented individuals to design and open academically excellent urban charter schools. To date, 20 Building Excellent Schools Fellows have founded schools that have opened or will open by the Fall of 2006.

In its quest to build and perpetuate educational excellence, Building Excellent Schools holds the core belief that academic performance drives every element of a school, including design, leadership, culture, decisions,
and governance. Building Excellent Schools further believes that the only legitimate measure for a school’s performance is the academic achievement of its students.

The Fellowship is a year long full time commitment for which Fellows are paid a stipend of $80,000. Included in that year of intensive training is:

- 90+ Training days at Building Excellent Schools’ central offices in Boston led by expert Building Excellent Schools’ staff, and nationally recognized experts in charter school design and operation
- visits to 20-25 of the highest performing urban charter schools in the Northeast and beyond
- extended residency in high-performing urban charter school
- ongoing coaching and support around board and charter application
- development.

Building Excellent Schools Fellows share common beliefs far more than they share common experiences. Our Fellows represent a vast range of professional experience including education, business, law, and public administration. Classroom experience is not a pre-requisite for participation in the program. Ultimately, Building Excellent Schools is looking for high-capacity individuals that are deeply committed to fundamentally changing urban education. An exemplary Fellow is:

- A relentless achiever
- Demanding of oneself and others—good is not good enough, only great will suffice
- Willing to learn—accepts that only with careful study, guidance, and preparation can a great school be built
- Highly flexible—can adapt to new knowledge, skills, and situations with ease
- Mature and professional—can successfully operate in multiple professional environments, including business and government.

Territories include: Chicago; Gary & Indianapolis, IN; Milwaukee; Los Angeles, CA; Oakland; San Diego; Sacramento; Fresno; St. Paul and Minneapolis; Ft. Lauderdale & Miami; Atlanta; Denver; New York City; Cleveland; and DC.

Apply now to the Fellowship, nominate a leader, or for more information, visit our website at

www.buildingexcellentschools.org.

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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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</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>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, August 28</td>
<td>SOM 133</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 29</td>
<td>SOM 133</td>
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</table>
Wednesday, August 30        SOM 133        10:30 AM
Tuesday, September 5         SOM 133        10:30 AM
Wednesday, September 6       Campus Center 163C 2:00 PM

**International Employee Orientation will be held:**

Thursday, August 31        Mahar Auditorium  12:00 PM

*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@edu.umbass.edu.