University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School

2014 Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award

The Dean of the Graduate School and the members of the Graduate Council announce a new program of annual Distinguished Graduate Mentor Awards. Recipients will be recognized at Graduate Commencement and will receive $2,000 (payable as honorarium or research funds, at the recipient’s option) and a plaque. There will be three awards each year: one for a Graduate Faculty member in CNS; one for a Graduate Faculty member in HFA or SBS; and one for a Graduate Faculty member in any of the other schools and colleges (Education, Engineering, ISOM, Nursing, and SPHHS).

Each academic department, plus each of the four interdepartmental life science programs, can make one nomination. The Graduate Program Director should solicit nominations from graduate students and, in consultation with students and colleagues, select a nominee.

The nomination materials should consist of:

• A memo, not exceeding two pages, explaining why the nominee is deserving of this award.
• Three supporting letters, not exceeding two pages each, from current or former graduate students who can speak to the nominee’s strengths as a mentor. At least one of the letters should come from someone who is not the nominee’s primary advisee.

Nominations should be submitted to Jane Clukay (jclukay@educ.umass.edu) and Linda Griffin (lgriffin@educ.umass.edu) by Wednesday, February 12, 2014.

Scholarship applications are due March 14!

Find the link to the application form on our home page. www.umass.edu/education

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 in two issues.
• Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Kristin Tyler at ktyler@educ.umass.edu. These types of announcements will run for one week.

The Beacon is posted online every week. http://www.umass.edu/education/news/beacon
**FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

**Attention:** Doctoral students who plan on graduating in May 2014 need to submit their Doctoral form D-8 to Kristin Tyler to schedule their final oral defense at least 4 weeks in advance of the defense date. The doctoral forms are available at:

http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/doctoral-guidelines

Students should schedule their defense no later than March 25, 2014 to have time to make any necessary edits. The deadline for doctoral students to complete the final oral defense and file all paperwork with Kristin Tyler for a May 2014 graduation is April 1, 2014.

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**PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP**

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies  
Mathematics, Science & Learning Technologies (MSLT) concentration

One 10 hr/week project assistantship position is available spring 2014

**Responsibilities:** Support the research and academic work of the MSLT faculty. Work includes but not limited to: data gathering and analysis, information gathering (e.g., literature reviews, annotated bibliography; reference works) and analysis; assisting with grant and manuscript preparation, assistance with development of faculty websites.

**Requirements:** Graduate student status. Experience with website development, library research, and data analysis.

Please forward a letter of application, resume, and the names of 2 references to: Dr. Kathleen S. Davis at kDavis@educ.umass.edu.

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**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP - Flex Grant Writing and Curriculum Development**

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Development

Short term 5 hr/week, 3.5 weeks total graduate research assistant position available for Spring 2014. This assistantship does not include a tuition waiver.

**Responsibilities include:** support with the design of grant and specialized curricular development.

**Qualifications include:** excellent communication and writing skills; Spanish/English speaker; background knowledge in the area of language, literacy and culture; regional knowledge of South America.

Previous research and curriculum design experience preferred. To apply please write "GRA Short Term 2014" in the email subject and send a cover letter as email to Laura Valdiviezo, lav@educ.umass.edu by February 15, 2014.
SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION’S COLLEGE OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

The College Outstanding Teacher Award program was instituted as a complement to the Distinguished Teaching Awards given by the Graduate School. The purpose of the award is to honor individual faculty members for their teaching and mentoring accomplishments within their own colleges. While classroom teaching is the fundamental criterion, this award also actively values supervision of field/clinical experiences, supervision of research, and mentoring professional publications and presentations.

The Office of Academic Affairs is seeking nominations by colleagues and/or students. Please submit your nomination to Jane Clukay (jclukay@educ.umass.edu) in the form of a letter highlighting why your nominee should be considered for this award.

Deadline for receiving nominations is Friday, February 21, 2014.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP - Curricular Planning for Second Language Learner Project

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

Short term assistantship for 17.5 hours Spring 2014. This assistantship does not include a tuition waiver.

Responsibilities: Development of a Moodle course; Bibliographic research and report writing; Participation in project meetings.

Qualifications: Applicants should be highly-skilled creative bilingual/biliterate in at least one language other than English, e.g. Spanish/English, Chinese/English, etc.; highly skilled in Web 2 learning applications, such as Moodle and video editing (Transana); skill with computer graphics applications such as Publisher, etc.; speed and accuracy in interpreting bilingual/ second language research; strong communication skills orally and in writing using computer applications; strong ability to collaborate productively with a team of instructors; strong ability to work independently on assigned duties and submit reports on a timely basis.

Please send letter of interest, vita, with 2 references (name and contact information) to Theresa Austin (taustin@educ.umass.edu). Please use the term “Graduate Assistantship” in the subject line of the email. Interviews will be scheduled via SKYPE. Priority Deadline is Feb 14, 2014. Applications accepted until position is filled.

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Graduate Student Diversity Fellowship Program 2014-2015

ELIGIBILITY:
- Incoming students (new to UMASS Amherst)
  or
- Doctoral students with an approved proposal on file and who expect to graduate within one year

NOTE: One nomination for each Department

AWARD WILL INCLUDE:
- Stipend of $18,500
- Waiver of tuition and curriculum fee
- The Graduate School will arrange for payment of fees for the mandatory health fee and the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) for individual or family, depending on the Fellowship recipient’s needs for plan year 2014-15
- All other fees are the recipient’s responsibility

SUBMIT:

INCOMING
- Nomination form
- Copy of the complete Graduate School application (with personal statement, all letters of recommendation, transcripts)
- Letter of recommendation from a faculty member

CURRENT DISSERTATION STUDENT*
- Nomination form
- CV and Personal Statement
- Recommendation from Student’s Chairperson

*Nomination, recommendation, and personal statement forms for current dissertation students are available from Kristin Tyler (ktyler@educ.umass.edu)

Complete application due to Departmental Office: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
Scheduled Review of Dr. Gretchen Rossman, Chair of EPRA

As part of the process of reappointment, the Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration (EPRA) Personnel Committee is conducting a required review of Dr. Gretchen Rossman's performance as EPRA Department Chair. This is a regularly scheduled review intended to provide important and useful feedback to Dr. Rossman, Dean McCormick, and Provost Staros. Specifically, we seek your feedback with respect to the Chair's management, leadership and communication. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to submit their thoughts and perspectives either anonymously through the online survey administered by the Department Personnel Committee (DPC) or confidentially by letter/email addressed to the chair of the DPC, Cristine Smith (cristine@educ.umass.edu). Results of this review will remain confidential and be shared with Dr. Rossman, Dean McCormick, and Provost Staros, only.

All letters must be submitted by February 25, 2014. If you have any questions about the survey or the review process, please contact Dr. Cristine Smith, Chair of the EPRA DPC.

Proposals accepted for Dissertation Research Grant program

The Graduate School is accepting Spring 2014 proposals for the Dissertation Research Grant program for doctoral students who have achieved candidacy. The program offers up to a maximum of $1,000 for dissertation research related expenses. Grants will be awarded once per semester through a competitive proposal process. The submission deadline for spring semester is Tuesday, 11th March 2014. A subcommittee of the Graduate Council will review proposals and determine awards. Detailed information on the program including allowed and prohibited expenses, submission and eligibility requirements and process can be found here:
http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/funding-support/dissertation-research-grants

For information or if you have questions, please contact David Lafond in the Graduate School at researchgrant@grad.umass.edu or by phone at 577-6286.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates May 2014 Degree Deadlines

The Degree Eligibility Form and College of Education Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2 must be completed (typed) and submitted to Kristin Tyler in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than APRIL 1, 2014. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, Associate Dean and Graduate Program Director, and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head).

The Degree Eligibility Form (typed) must be submitted to Kristin Tyler with the Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2. Your advisor must sign the College of Education form, but NOT the Degree Eligibility Form.

Forms can be downloaded from the following URL. If you have any difficulty, please open the documents in Internet Explorer or Safari:
http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/forms
The 2014 Symposium for Research and Innovation in Education, hosted by the newly formed TECS Graduate Student Organization (GSO) in collaboration with students and faculty from all four concentrations, will be held Friday, April 18, 2014 from 1:00–8:30p.m. at the UMass Campus Center.

This conference is designed to showcase research presentations from students in all concentrations (CFS, LLC, MSLT, and TESI), with breakout sessions appealing to students with a wide variety of interests. Special features include panel discussions from faculty across campus, a grant search workshop, a plenary presentation by professor emerita Dr. Sonia Nieto, and plenty of networking opportunities over lunch and dinner (provided). The theme for this event is *Learning Beyond Boundaries: (Re)visioning the Education of Diverse Learners*, and it will foreground research that in some way considers breaking traditional boundaries to consider the diverse needs and experiences of teachers and learners; however, submissions are welcome in other topic strands relevant to the interests of the TECS community.

**Abstracts**

Abstracts are invited for poster or paper sessions.

**POSTERS**: Posters are for on-on-one discussion of research and can be especially effective for presenting visual data. A block of time will be designated when presenters are available to discuss their posters.

**PAPERS**: These are formal, technology-assisted (e.g., PPT) presentations of 10–15 minutes followed by time for discussion. Paper presentations will be organized into sessions of 3–4 papers.

Submit your abstract online by March 10 at:

[https://tecsconference.wufoo.com/forms/q1x5x0hi0ln5yry/](https://tecsconference.wufoo.com/forms/q1x5x0hi0ln5yry/)

Any additional questions may be sent to conference organizers at [tecsconference@gmail.com](mailto:tecsconference@gmail.com).
The College of Education’s

Statistical Consulting Service

2014 Spring

FREE Workshops

Hills House South, Computer lab

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Please email minjeong@educ.umass.edu or jdickey@educ.umass.edu to sign up.

Walk-ins are welcome as well!

Psychometric Methods, Educational Statistics, and Research Methods
Promoting sound educational research and testing practices since 1968