The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

- Please submit general news and announcements to: dms@educ.umass.edu by 5:00 P.M. 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
Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for Fall 2014.

Responsibilities include: This student will primarily work on research projects examining aspects of college access and inequality. S/he will assist with literature reviews, writing for publication, grant writing, and quantitative analysis.

Qualifications include: The ideal candidate will have strong writing, organizational, and time management skills. The ability to work in collaboration as well as independently is required. Knowledge of higher education issues and literature is necessary. Developed skills in quantitative research methods are preferred, as is the ability to manage large data sets and use Stata.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to Dr. Ryan Wells at rswells@educ.umass.edu.

Teaching Assistantship Education 497I (Tutoring in Schools)
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hour/week graduate teaching assistantship is available for the fall 2014 semester for EDUC 497I (Tutoring in Schools.)

Responsibilities include: Working as part of the instructional team for EDUC 497I, facilitating small and large group learning activities related to tutoring in schools, communicating with teachers and administrators at school sites served by the TEAMS Tutoring Project, and other duties as assigned by course faculty.

Qualifications include: K-12 teaching and tutoring experience, preferably at the middle or high school level; excellent written and oral communication skills and excellent organizational skills; ability to work effectively with university students, public school teachers and administrators, and college of education faculty and staff. In addition, knowledge of Web technology and social media is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and resume to Professor Robert W. Maloy at rwm@educ.umass.edu

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Graduate Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hour/week graduate assistantship is available for Fall 2014.

Responsibilities: This student will work with Higher Education faculty affiliated with the New England Conference for Student Success, on issues related to undergraduate student success. The student will assist with planning and execution of the conference and contribute to the conceptual development and planning of a possible future Institute for Student Success. Activities may include reviewing empirical and theoretical literature on student success, researching existing Centers and Institutes related to Student Success, and/or collecting and analyzing data concerning student success programming.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate will have strong writing, organizational, and time management skills. The ability to work in collaboration as well as independently is required for this position. Good interpersonal skills, research skills, and knowledge of higher education, student affairs, and student success programs are also needed.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to Ezekiel Kimball at ekimball@educ.umass.edu.

Research Assistantship — Small Group Learning
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
NSF-funded research project

Multiple 10 hour/week research assistantship positions available for Fall 2014.

Responsibilities include: The student will primarily work in a research project on small group learning in high school science. S/he will assist with data collection in high school science classes, literature reviews on collaborative small groups in STEM disciplines, data entry into SPSS, transcribing and initial coding of videotaped small group observations, and writing for conference presentations and publications.

Qualifications include: The ideal candidate will have a background in Science Education or an equivalent discipline, and strong writing, organizational, and time management skills. The ability to work collaboratively as well as independently is required. Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods is strongly preferred.

The candidate will need to be available most mornings/early afternoons for data collection in various high schools across Western Massachusetts.

The online training program called Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) for human subject investigators will need to be completed prior to hiring. For information see: http://www.umass.edu/research/training-and-education

To apply, please send a letter of application, your resume or C.V., and contact information for two references to Dr. Martina Nieswandt, mnieswan@educ.umass.edu.
Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.
Graduate Assistantship
Department of Student Development
Fredrickson Center for School Counseling Outcome Research & Evaluation

One 20-hour/week project assistantship for June 1 - June 21, 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting HLM statistical analyses on a large data set for an Institute of Education Sciences project.

**Qualifications include:** Prior experience in hierarchical linear modeling required.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume/CV to Karen Harrington at karenh@educ.umass.edu. Please write “CSCORE Assistantship” in the subject line.

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Project Assistantship
Office of Academic Affairs

One 10-20 hr/week project assistantship is available for fall 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** Assisting the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs with preparation for NCATE continuing accreditation visit spring 2015 which involves offsite report writing, onsite visit preparations, and data collection and analysis.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work a variety of constituencies (e.g., faculty members, administrators, and students) and an appreciation of diversity and social justice.

To apply, please email a brief cover letter and CV to lgriffin@educ.umass.edu and type in the subject line of the email PA Academic Affairs.

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Please Share The Beacon
If you receive the Beacon weekly, please send it to your listservs so that all students, staff, faculty and friends of the College have an opportunity to read it.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

JOHANNA FITZGERALD June 12, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Room 21C Furcolo. “A Novel Approach to Using Personal Response Systems and Diagrams to Foster Student Engagement in Large Lecture: Case Study of Instruction for Model-based Reasoning in Biology.”
Chairperson: Dr. John Clement

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

NURUL YAQIN Proposed Dissertation Title: Increasing High School Students’ Mathematical Problem Solving Skills by Improving Spatial Visualization Skills with Learning and Practicing Three-Dimensional Geometry Using Cabri 3D.
Statement of Problem: Problem solving is one of the NCTM’s mathematics processes standard. Research indicates that there is relationship between problem solving skills and spatial visualization skills, and spatial visualization skills can be improved by practicing. This experimental study will investigate whether there is direct or indirect effect of causal relationship between the effect of learning and practicing three-dimensional geometry with Cabri3D and mathematical problem solving skills independent of or mediated by spatial visualization skills. Data will be analyzed using regression-based mediation analysis and t test for analyzing data from the experiment.
Co-Chairs: Dr. Linda Griffin and Dr. Claire Hamilton

Creating Resilient Students & Safer Schools: Social-Emotional Learning in Massachusetts
Presented by assistant professor Sara Whitcomb, Ph.D.
Saturday, June 7, 2014
2- 5: p.m.
Campus Center, Hadley Room, 10th floor

Effective social-emotional learning (SEL) is a preventive and evidence-based educational process that teaches children, from pre-k through 12th grade, the skills for wellness that can significantly reduce emotional stresses that lead to violence, addiction and other social challenges. Hear about Whitcomb's research and effort to help more than 20 schools in Western MA build capacity to effectively and efficiently implement positive behavioral supports and social-emotional learning. A reception will follow the talk.
Graduate Student Research Assistantship, Educational Testing Service

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment
10-40 hours/week, beginning 5/25/2014

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**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.

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

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Graduate Student Research Assistantship, edCount

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment
10-40 hours/week, beginning 5/25/2014

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, 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.

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

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Graduate Student Research Assistantship, MA Department of Education

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment
10-40 hours/week, beginning 5/25/2014

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, 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.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu).
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Graduate Student Research Assistantship, Measured Progress
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment
10-40 hours/week, beginning 5/25/2014
Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.
Responsibilities include: Conducting equating analyses; conducting multivariate statistical analyses simulating data; editing technical reports; entering items into html database, 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.

To apply, please contact Dr. Ronald K. Hambleton, (413)545-0262 (RKH@educ.umass.edu).

Graduate Student Research Assistantship, American Chemical Society
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment
10-40 hrs/week, beginning 5/25/2014
Qualifications: All applicants must have a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of research design, classical test theory and item response theory.
Responsibilities include: Developing test score reports for group-level reporting in the context of higher education interim and end-course assessments; researching strategies for innovative item analysis reports using classical and modern test and item statistics; designing multiple item analysis report prototypes based using test and item data as well as item alignment data; assist with the development of protocols for the field-testing of report prototypes; attending project meetings; performing literature reviews of report development approaches; co-authoring research reports.

To apply, please contact Dr. April L. Zenisky, (413)577-2180 or azenisky@educ.umass.edu