PLEASE JOIN US THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014
for
The COLLEGE OF EDUCATION’s GRADUATION CELEBRATION!!!
Campus Center Auditorium
5:00 – 7:00 PM
PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 5:45
Appetizers and Beverages
RSVP to Joyce Tutun at jtutun@educ.umass.edu

Good food, camaraderie, photo opportunities - don’t miss it!
Please RSVP. If you’re bringing guests, we need to know how many.

http://www.umass.edu/education/events/commencement-2014

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
Graduate Student Research Assistantship  USAID
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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. Jennifer Randall, (413)545-0227 (jrandall@educ.umass.edu).

Graduate Student Research Assistantship  Educational Testing Service
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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).
**Project Assistantship**

Office of Research and Engagement

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

**Responsibilities include:** Assisting the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement with proposal development, grant management, workshops, report writing, and web development.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various constituencies in the United States and elsewhere - including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and international contexts. Fluency in a language other than English is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to educore@educ.umass.edu /

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**Project Assistantship**

Office of Research and Engagement

Up to two 10-20 hr/week project assistantships are available for fall 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** Assisting the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement with proposal development, grant management, workshops, and report writing.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various constituencies in the United States and elsewhere - including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and international contexts. Fluency in a language other than English is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and CV to educore@educ.umass.edu /

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**Research Assistantship**

Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hr/week research assistantship is available for fall 2014.

**Responsibilities include:** The student will assist the psychometric methods (PM) coordinator in conducting a curriculum review of the PM courses as well as analyzing trends in graduate student admissions for the Master’s and doctoral programs.

**Qualifications include:** All applicants must have a background in psychometrics as well as knowledge of curriculum review around psychometric methods including classical test theory, item response theory, multidimensional scaling, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Craig Wells at cswells@educ.umass.edu. /
Graduate Student Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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: Providing consultation with regard to statistical and psychometric analyses; providing assistance regarding statistical software such as SPSS, SAS, LISREL and MPLUS; providing advice on research design and instrument construction; and coordinating consulting schedules and statistical workshops. Assisting faculty and students as needed.

To apply, please contact Dr. Craig S. Wells, (413) 577-1726 or cswells@educ.umass.edu

Graduate Student Research Assistantship edCount
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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).
Graduate Student Research Assistantship  MA Department of Education
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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).

Graduate Student Research Assistantship  Measured Progress
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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  

20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

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
Teaching Assistant Orientation
The Center for Teaching & Faculty Development (CTFD) invites you to participate in the annual campus-wide Teaching Assistant Orientation (TAO) scheduled for Friday, August 29, 2014, from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm (registration starts at 8:15 am).

The Provost's Office, CTFD, and the Graduate School co-sponsor TAO to provide graduate students new to teaching with a comprehensive opportunity preparation in their teaching responsibility. Additionally, TAO may serve to meet the departmental requirement for TA development as stipulated in the contract negotiated on behalf of TAs by the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO).

For more information about TAO, please visit the CTFD’s website:
http://www.umass.edu/ctfd/teaching/ta_support.shtml

UMass Amherst School of Computer Science Seminar

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Computer Science Building, Room 151
(metered parking is available across from the building at 140 Governor's Dr., Amherst)
Seminar is open to the public

Emmanuel Schanzer, Bootstrap Program Director

"Bootstrap: Programming Videogames with Algebra"

Many people naively assume that "Programming is like Math", and expect magically higher grades from students who've taken a class in Java, Scratch or Python. Unfortunately, this assumption is far from accurate. In a world of high-stakes testing, we can no longer pretend the word "function" means the same thing to algebra teachers and programmers. If we truly wish to help students in algebra, we need to re-think the foundations of what programming we teach. In this talk, Emmanuel will explore the literature and current research in the field of algebra education and programming. He will also introduce Bootstrap, a standards-based curriculum that teaches students to program their own video games using purely algebraic and geometric concepts. Find out how teachers, college students and professionals are getting involved with Bootstrap, to bring functional programming to middle and high school students around the country.

Bio: Emmanuel Schanzer is a former computer scientist and math teacher, and is now a doctoral student at Harvard specializing in Algebra Education. He is the founder of Bootstrap, a national program that teaches hundreds of students each year to program their own videogames using an algebraic programming language. Since 2006, Bootstrap has successfully engaged an army of teachers, a half-dozen colleges and universities, and won support from organizations like the Computer Science Teachers Association, Google, Microsoft, Facebook and the National Science Foundation. He cooks, codes, travels and mixes a mean old fashioned.

Graduate Student Research Assistantship The College Board
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

**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.

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

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Graduate Student Research Assistantship Pearson
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hr/week assistantship for 2014 fall semester.

**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.

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