College Outstanding Teacher Awards 2015-16
given to McDermott and Smith

Katherine McDermott, professor, and Cristine Crispin Smith, associate professor, both in educational policy research and administration, are the College of Education’s 2015-16 College Outstanding Teacher Awards recipients. This awards program was instituted as a complement to the Distinguished Teaching Awards given by the UMass Amherst Graduate School. The awards honor individual faculty members for their teaching accomplishments within their own colleges. They are given during the spring semester and recipients are recognized at undergraduate Commencement.

Trust & students win award

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Online Learning Network announced that Torrey Trust and the master’s students in her Educational Web Design course won the 2016 ISTE Online Learning Award, which recognizes teachers, educators and/or education leaders who use online learning to engage learners in K-12 and higher education by incorporating innovative learning opportunities.

Trust and students developed and facilitated a four-week open online course about using digital media in teaching and learning. Nearly 500 teachers and others from around the world took the course.
Faculty chosen for inaugural Innovate symposia

Four faculty from the College of Education were selected through a highly competitive process to participate in the inaugural Innovate@ symposia to be held at UMass Amherst this summer. They are: Catherine Dimmitt, Department of Student Development; and Torrey Trust, Claire Hamilton, and Sally Galman, all of the Department of Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies.

The instructional innovation symposia are designed to provide faculty with “hands-on” training in the latest instructional technologies while building a community of scholars who will contribute to a campus innovation think tank throughout the academic year and beyond. This program also directly advances the IT Strategic Plan through innovation by giving faculty increased access to technologies in the classroom that allow for innovative teaching and active learning, and by helping faculty have more of a voice in technology-related decisions. Faculty applied to participate in the symposia through a competitive process, and there was a tremendous response campus-wide with only 30 places available for the summer sessions.

Catherine Dimmitt, Torrey Trust, Claire Hamilton, Sally Galman.

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

SUMERA AHSAN Proposed Dissertation Title: Secondary teachers’ professional development on classroom assessment in Bangladesh: from policy to practice

Statement of Problem: Classroom assessment (CA) is an important part of good teaching and can be a tool for facilitating students’ learning. But research evidences suggest that the use of classroom assessment is often insufficiently as well as ineffectively done in Bangladeshi classrooms. There are pre-service and in-service professional development programs in Bangladesh which try to help secondary school teachers get knowledge and skills about how, when and why to use CA techniques in their classes. But there is scanty in research on how, if at all, teachers’ professional development (TPD) are promoting the practice of classroom assessment in secondary level. This research will help to learn about the scope of TPD in policy, the experience of teachers from the TPD programs and how they are using these knowledge and skills on classroom assessment learned the TPD and issues that restrain them from using those knowledge and skills in real classroom settings.

Chair: Dr. Cristine Smith
ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

RENEE AFFOLTER, May 18, 2016, 11:00am, room N113 Furcolo.  Chair: Dr. Martina Nieswandt

ELEANOR CRUZ, May 19, 2016, 10:00 a.m., room N125 Furcolo.  Chair: Dr. Rebecca Woodland

PROJECT ASSISTANT
Office of Academic Affairs

One 20 hr/week project assistantship is available for summer 2016.

Responsibilities include: assist the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs with various projects such as gathering, compiling, and analysis of data; create draft reports; assist with other projects within the office of Academic affairs.

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 jrandall@educ.umass.edu and type in the subject line of the email PA Academic Affairs.

We’re now delivering The Beacon by link to BOX

Delivery of The Beacon has changed. In our weekly email, we now include a link to The Beacon in BOX cloud storage instead of attaching The Beacon to the email itself.

When you follow the link in your email to view the Beacon, a preview of the Beacon opens. You may have noticed that links in The Beacon are not live when you are reading the Beacon in this “preview” mode. EdTech support tells us that this is not a problem with The Beacon, but with BOX. BOX is currently working to resolve this.

EdTech suggests that readers do the following:

Using the red button at the top of the preview window, download The Beacon (typically using Adobe Reader, Acrobat Pro or OSX Preview) and the links will be clickable.

If one or two of the links are not clickable in the downloaded version, the “problem” lies not with The Beacon but elsewhere!
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

10 hour/week research assistantship is available for fall 2016. This position will primarily support a mixed methods study on racial identity development among international students.

Responsibilities include: data collection using qualitative interviewing techniques; data management and data analysis using NVivo and Qualtrics software; development of literature reviews; writing for conference presentations and publications.

Qualifications include: experience with qualitative interviewing/analysis and familiarity with mixed methods research; strong writing, organizational, and time management skills; ability to work both collaboratively and independently; familiarity with scholarship in student development theory, racial identity development theory, immigrant/international students, and college student experiences; prior experience with NVIVO and/or Qualtrics software is preferred, but not required. Applicant must complete CITI training.

Priority given to doctoral students. Position contingent upon funding. Application deadline is May 20
To apply, please contact Chrystal A. George Mwangi at chrystal@umass.edu

Research with Human Subjects — Institutional Review Board
All faculty, staff, and students at the University of Massachusetts proposing research that includes/involves contact with individuals or obtaining information from individuals must seek university level IRB approval. Please note that the College of Education no longer has an internal IRB Board and all human-subjects research (funded and non-funded) must go through the university system.

Federal regulations define research as “a systematic investigation, including development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge” (45CFR46.102(d)). Individuals may refer to the link below for additional guidance on whether or not IRB review and approval is required for an activity:

http://www.umass.edu/research/guidance/determining-whether-irb-review-required-activity

All researchers (including students and their faculty sponsors) must:
Complete (and pass) the CITI training module: www.citiprogram.org; and
Establish a log-in for the electronic protocol system (for submitting proposals), e-Protocol, by emailing the following information to Nancy Swett at ncswett@ora.umass.edu

Name
Department
Title (graduate student, postdoc, assistant professor, etc.)
Email
NetID
Submit proposal along with all accompanying documents (e.g. informed consent forms, surveys, interview protocols) at https://umaeprotocol.research.umass.edu/umhs/

More detailed information- including frequently asked questions-about the IRB review process and procedures can be found at the link below: http://www.umass.edu/research/compliance/human-subjects-irb/irb
SAVE the DATE
TEACH 180 Days in Springfield’s 20th Anniversary Celebration
Thursday, June 2, 2016 4-6 pm
UMass Center in Springfield

Students from Renaissance School for Expeditionary Learning will greet you
• Music will be provided by Central High School students
• Desserts will be provided and served by Putnam Vocational Technical School students

RSVP kdg@educ.umass.edu
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for fall 2016. This position will support a youth participatory action research project examining education narratives, postsecondary pathways, and academic achievement of high school students in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Responsibilities include: conducting literature reviews; managing, analyzing and archiving data, including audio and video; attending research team meetings; writing for conference presentations and publications; and assisting with the overall project.

Qualifications include: experience working with youth across educational contexts; familiarity with Holyoke School District; and strong writing and oral communication skills. Additionally, the ideal candidate must have strong organizational and time management skills, and be able to complete research tasks collaboratively and independently. Previous research experience or familiarity with qualitative methodology and action research is preferred. Applicant must complete CITI training.

Priority given to doctoral students. Position contingent upon funding. Application deadline is May 20
To apply, please contact Chrystal A. George Mwangi at chrystal@umass.edu

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP, IRC
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hours/week, 2016 Fall Semester - Applicant must complete CITI training.

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; co-authoring research reports.

Qualifications include: a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data; experience working in educational assessment; working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory; extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

All positions are dependent on funding. Priority will be given to doctoral students.
To apply, please contact Dr. Jennifer Randall, (413)545-0227 (jrandall@educ.umass.edu)
Leadership team summer meeting dates and times

August 16 @ 9-11 AM
July 26 @ 9-11 AM
June 28 @ 9-11 AM

Meeting minutes and agendas are posted here:
https://www.umass.edu/education/faculty-staff/faculty-resources/leadership-team

PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP
Office of Academic Affairs

One 10 hr/week project assistantship is available for Summer 2016.
Responsibilities include: assist the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs with various projects such as gathering, compiling, and analysis of data; create draft reports; assist with other projects within the office of Academic affairs.
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 jrandall@educ.umass.edu and type in the subject line of the email PA Academic Affairs.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP, COLLEGE BOARD
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10-20 hours/week, 2016 fall semester - Applicant must complete CITI training.
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; co-authoring research reports.
Qualifications include: a background in psychometrics, statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data; experience working in educational assessment; working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory; extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

All positions are dependent on funding. Priority will be given to doctoral students.
To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen Sireci, (413)545-0564 (sireci@acad.umass.edu).
PROJECT ASSISTANT
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for International Education (CIE)
15 Hour/week project assistantship for USWDP Partnerships available for fall 2016

Responsibilities include: Assist Principal Investigators in managing partnerships including a Master’s degree program in Education Leadership between UMass Amherst and Kabul Education University, and partnerships between US community colleges and universities in Afghanistan to develop multiple Associate degree programs. Includes assisting with managing communications with US community colleges and university partners in Afghanistan; monitoring travel and security arrangements; reviewing and editing scopes of work and budget narratives and preparing reports for USWDP as needed.

Qualifications include: strong communications skills; good writing abilities; good computer skills with Word & Excel; experience and knowledge with education systems in developing countries or crisis contexts; good organizational skills; willingness to participate in grant activities outside normal office hours. Knowledge/experience of education in Afghanistan or similar contexts desirable. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send your resume to Barbara Gravin-Wilbur at bgw@educ.umass.edu
Deadline: May 23, 2016 POSITION CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING.

PROJECT ASSISTANT
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for International Education (CIE)
15 Hour/week project assistantship as Campus Coordinator for USWDP contract - available for fall 2016

Responsibilities include: Assist Principal Investigators in managing a large-scale education contract in Afghanistan. Campus coordinator responsibilities include: organizing UMass project team meetings; revising and editing project documents; managing advertisement and recruitment of consultants, managing travel and leaves for field staff, maintaining written and electronic records, and drafting reports as needed.

Qualifications include: Experience with coordinating international travel; knowledge of federal regulations that apply to USAID contracts; good writing and editing skills; good record keeping; solid organizational skills; good communications skills; familiarity with role of higher education in national development; willingness and ability to participate in grant activities outside normal office hours. Knowledge & experience with education system in Afghanistan or similar contexts desirable. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send your resume to Barbara Gravin-Wilbur at bgw@educ.umass.edu
Deadline: May 23, 2016 POSITION CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING

Send announcements and news for the Beacon to dms@educ.umass.edu
**PROJECT ASSISTANT**  
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration  
Center for International Education (CIE)

10 Hour/week project assistantship for admissions coordination available for fall 2016.

**Responsibilities include:** Work with faculty Admissions Director to maintain email & telephone contact with prospective applicants; schedule visits to campus/CIE for prospective applicants; assist faculty during the admission process; work with IPO on ensuring visa paperwork and information is received in a timely manner; coordinate and facilitate new-student orientation.

**Qualifications include:** excellent cross-cultural interaction skills; strong organizational skills; excellent written and communication skills; ability to prioritize and multi-task; good computer skills; flexibility in availability to meet admissions calendar demands. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send your resume to Barbara Gravin-Wilbur at bgw@educ.umass.edu

**Deadline:** May 23, 2016

POSITION CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING

---

**PROJECT ASSISTANT**  
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration  
Center for International Education (CIE)

15 Hour/week project assistantship Managing Editor, *Comparative Education Review* available for fall 2016.

**Responsibilities include:** working with the Journal’s Editorial Board and administering the day-to-day operations of the Journal. He or she will guide and implement a vision for the journal that will advance the *Comparative Education Review’s* stature and visibility. The Managing Editors’ responsibilities include coordinating of the peer-review process (using the Editorial Manager online software), assist in the editing of the submissions in a timely manner, and collaborating with the publisher to increase the Journal’s visibility and readership, in particular through the creation and implementation of a social media outreach strategy (including, but not limited to, Facebook page and Twitter messages). The Managing Editors will provide oversight of the Journal’s complete production process from submission to publication, and will work directly with the editors and the managing publisher on production process, timelines, and format. Further, Managing Editors will establish and enforce explicit editorial policies for the journal, including policies on authorship, conflict of interest, ethical principles, peer-review process, etc.

**Qualifications include:** must possess a sense of clear writing, style, organization, and presentation of information, personal experience with research and scholarship in the field, have demonstrated understanding of scientific methods, research and publishing ethics, and the peer-review process, have a demonstrated understanding of social media and outreach, demonstrate the ability to adhere to established timelines. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send your resume to Barbara Gravin-Wilbur at bgw@educ.umass.edu

**Deadline:** May 23, 2016

POSITION CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING
Summer 2016 CPE Courses in Learning, Media & Technology

EDUC 697TD: Teaching with Digital Media (1 Credit - $438)
In this course, students will explore the relationship between digital media (e.g., videos, podcasts, memes, infographics) and learning. Students will also gain practical digital media production skills and apply these skills to create products that transform learning.

EDUC 697TE: Intro to Online Teaching (1 Credit - $438)
This course provides an overview of the principles and best practices of online teaching and learning. Students will use these principles and best practices to design or redesign an online course.

To learn more about the courses and to enroll, go to: tinyurl.com/edtechCPE
PROJECT ASSISTANT
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for International Education (CIE)

10-hour/week assistantship.
Responsibilities include: This assistantship coordinates CIE efforts to secure new projects and funding from a variety of sources. Duties include managing the program development committee meetings and writing minutes; conducting research on potential donors (individuals, foundations, corporations); conducting research on potential large contracts from bi-lateral agencies; regularly monitoring web sites for RFPs & RFAs; following up leads by calling organizations and funding agencies; recruiting candidates for field positions; helping to organize and write proposals.

Qualifications include: Knowledge of and experience with managing a strategy to diversify funding sources, including foundations, individual donors, and corporations; knowledge of and experience in bidding processes that are common to multi- and bi-lateral donors; experience and ability in writing proposals, concept papers, and job descriptions; excellent organizational and communication abilities and collaborative work style; and experience with web support and database management desirable. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send your resume to Barbara Gravin-Wilbur at bgw@educ.umass.edu
Deadline: May 23, 2016 POSITION CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING.

PROJECT ASSISTANT
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for International Education (CIE)

10-hour/week office and program management.

Responsibilities include: This position manages the main CIE office; is responsible for managing both the content and the setup for the weekly Tuesday meeting; manages the logistical arrangements for CIE events like the retreat, reception, tag sale and other community events; helps with general office management, including filing, doing the weekly schedule and other tasks to assist the financial manager as required.

Qualifications include: Good people management skills experience in motivating people, planning and implementing group activities, good computer skills; experience with web support and database management desirable. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send your resume to Barbara Gravin-Wilbur at bgw@educ.umass.edu
Deadline: May 23, 2016 POSITION CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING.
PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP
College of Education

One 15-20 hour per week project assistantship is available for fall 2016.

Responsibilities include: Assisting the Coordinator of Science Education Online with managing online courses offered through Continuing & Professional Education, including researching best practices; assisting in developing communication/advising plans for current students; developing and implementing systems for tracking inquiries for potential students; assisting in developing SEO online handbook and recruitment materials, and in revising of website.

Qualifications include: Elementary and middle school science teaching and professional development teaching experiences; excellent written and oral communication skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various campus constituencies, including faculty; knowledge of social media; and technology skills. Priority will be given to doctoral students.

To apply, please send a brief cover letter and resume to Dr. Martina Nieswandt at mnieswan@educ.umass.edu by May 31, 2016 with subject line “SEO PAship.”

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Student Development

One 15 hour/week for 14 weeks graduate assistantship for summer 2016 in special education administration for the Pathways, U.S. DOE, Office of Special Education Programs, Leadership Preparation.

Responsibilities: As part of a federal training grant, duties include gathering and organizing reading list materials; research for publications; participating in state/federal level internships; assist with local, state, and federal data collection and analysis; assist in grant preparation.

Qualifications: Must hold a special education teacher’s license, have special education teaching or related services experience, and have been accepted as an administrator of special education licensure student. Background in special education supervision/administration is preferred. Must complete all course work for licensure as an administrator of special education and a 500 practicum experience. If interested, contact: Dr. Mary Lynn Boscardin, Project Director, mlbosco@educ.umass.edu
The Graduate School’s Office of Professional Development and our network of partners will offer several workshops and informational sessions designed to promote the success of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Detailed descriptions and registration [http://bit.ly/26uNRVT](http://bit.ly/26uNRVT)

**Grants & Fellowships**
Monday May 16th: National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants Workshop  
Tuesday May 24th: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Workshop

**Writing & Presenting**
Tuesday May 17th: Time Management for Summer Productivity

**Leadership & Management**
Sunday May 15th: Applications Due for the Business Foundations Series for Scientist and Engineers

---

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP**
Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week for 8 weeks graduate assistantship for summer 2016 in special education administration for the Pathways, U.S. DOE, Office of Special Education Programs, Leadership Preparation.

**Responsibilities:** As part of a federal training grant, duties include managing grant-related correspondence, monitoring and updating the budget, maintaining grant trainee reporting databases, assisting with annual performance reports, helping with the coordination of practica and internship placements, editing and reviewing all grant-related documents and presentations, performing data entry tasks related to grant research projects, and other duties as assigned.

**Qualifications:** Must hold a special education teacher’s license, have special education teaching or related services experience, and have been accepted as an administrator of special education licensure student. Background in special education supervision/administration is preferred. Must complete all course work for licensure as an administrator of special education and a 500 practicum experience.

If interested, contact: Dr. Mary Lynn Boscardin, Project Director, [mlbosco@educ.umass.edu](mailto:mlbosco@educ.umass.edu)
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP  
Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week graduate teaching assistantship is available for the fall 2016 semester to support the teaching of EDUC 701 for the school counselor education concentration.

Responsibilities include: Managing clinical training technology such as videotaping and recording equipment; developing, supporting, and coordinating school counseling practicum sites; supporting supervising practitioners; completing documentation of student practicum supervision involvement; maintaining and developing concentration materials, and other duties as assigned.

Qualifications include: The ideal candidate will be extremely knowledgeable about school counseling and licensure standards. The candidate must have excellent written and oral communication skills and excellent organizational skills. The teaching assistant must have the ability to work with faculty members, school counselors, public school administrators, the licensing office, and graduate students in the school counseling program. An appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in educational contexts is also required.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and your resume, with names and email and phone contact information for at least two references, to Rich Lapan at lapan@educ.umass.edu. Please use the term "School Counseling TA" in the subject line of the email.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP  
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration  
Center for Educational Policy

One 10-hour/week graduate assistantship for fall semester.

Responsibilities include: assisting Dr. Sharon Rallis, director, with data collection, instrument design, interpretation and analysis of data, writing of reports and other communications, and delivery of findings on the evaluation of a federally funded grant for the Massachusetts Public Charter Schools Association. Some travel will be necessary.

Qualifications include: excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various on and off-campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and authors; experience in program planning and evaluation. Knowledge of systems change theory, special education, and English Language Learner resources and needs would be especially helpful.

To apply, please send a resume to Sharon Rallis, sharonr@educ.umass.edu  Position is contingent on funding.