THE BEACON

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP  Interest and Motivation
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Mathematics, Science, and Learning Technology concentration

A 10 hr/week research assistantship is available for the 2013/14 academic year starting in the fall 2013.

The RA will assist in research on student interest and motivation in high school science classes focusing on alternative energies (e.g., solar energy) and engineering design tasks.

Responsibilities: Assisting in collecting data in high school science classes, transcribing and coding of video and audio transcripts, date entry in SPSS, basic statistical analysis; opportunities to assist in writing of conference proposals and manuscripts for publication.

Qualifications: A qualified candidate will possess research and organizational skills and be able to work independently. S/he has a background in science education research, teaching experiences in K-12 or equivalent, and excellent research writing skills. The RA will receive training in applying the theories to the data collection methods, and if necessary, an introduction to SPSS. Motivation in learning more about qualitative and quantitative data analysis is expected.

To apply: Send a cover letter, resume, and two to three names of references to: Dr. Martina Nieswandt, mnieswan@educ.umass.edu

SAVE THE DATE!
Our 2013 Scholarship Donors and Recipients Reception will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 17
5-6:30 p.m.

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 Linda Guthrie. These types of announcements will run for one week.

http://www.umass.edu/education/news/beacon
**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP**

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Quantitative Analysis in STEM Pedagogy

10 hr/week research assistantship available for Fall, 2013.

**Responsibilities include:** Conduct literature review in STEM pedagogies; clean, manage and analyze international databases using SPSS and HLM software; draft reports.

**Qualifications include:** Excellent written and oral communications skills; ability to take initiative and work independently; outstanding statistical skills; knowledge of science and math education literature in international/comparative perspective.

Previous quantitative data analysis experience on a research project strongly preferred.

To apply, please send a cover letter describing qualifications and resume to Dr. Betsy McEneaney at emcenean@educ.umass.edu.

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**PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP**

Editorial Assistant-Equity & Excellence in Education

15 hr/week assistantship for 2013-14.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Current Master’s or Doctoral student, preferably in Education or allied field; strong writer of English; skilled in giving useful feedback to authors at the conceptual and sentence level; advanced research skills, including database search skills in a broad range of social justice/diversity/education topic areas; knowledge of social justice and diversity as an academic field; ability to work well both independently and collaboratively; knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and E-mail communication.

**Desired Qualifications:** Master’s degree in Social Justice, Higher Education, or similar field; prior experience editing and writing for an academic audience; knowledge of the writing process and ability to provide thoughtful, instructional feedback about writing; prior experience in academic publishing or some other publishing field.

**Responsibilities:** Read manuscript submissions to assess fit to the journal’s social justice education purpose; provide clear, written editorial feedback to authors in support of their literature review, research methodology, analysis, and overall organization and writing; search academic databases to identify the most recent research in areas related to submissions to identify potential peer reviewers; solicit and maintain contact with manuscript reviewers.

To apply, contact Dr. Maurianne Adams at adams@educ.umass.edu.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION**

CHRISTINE A. SHEA  
August 27, 2013, 11:00 a.m., Room 163, Hills South. "Using a Mixture IRT Model to Understand Second Language Learner Performance on Large-Scale Assessments.

Dr. Lisa Keller.

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PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP  Managing Editor
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration

20 hr/week project assistantship available for 2013-2014 academic year as the Managing Editor for the American Journal of Evaluation.

**Responsibilities** include assisting Dr. Sharon Rallis, Editor, with soliciting proposals; guiding issues through the review process; accepting and rejecting proposals and manuscripts based on their quality and suitability for AJE; overseeing revisions; working with the publisher on production matters; and ensuring that the journal's processes and content align with the mission, vision, and values of the American Evaluation Association.

**Qualifications** include: advanced doctoral student; 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; a minimum of three years of experience in program planning and evaluation; knowledge of evaluation as a scholarly field; and prior experience editing or providing feedback for about writing. Current membership in AEA is preferred.

To apply, please send a resume to Sheila Seuffert at seuffert@educ.umass.edu by Sept. 1, 2013.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

10 hr/week research assistantship is available for Fall 2013.

**Responsibilities include:** This student will support the higher education concentration with administrative and programmatic activities. The student will serve as a liaison between faculty and students, plan and execute student programming, assist with event planning, and assist with website design and content. The individual will also assist with selected higher education program coordination tasks as needed.

**Qualifications include:** The ideal candidate will have developed 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 and knowledge of higher education programming are also needed.

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

EXCELSIOR GRANT PROJECT ASSISTANT
Department of Student Development

One 10 hr/week project assistant position is available for Fall semester 2013.

**Responsibilities:** Duties include managing correspondence, assisting with budget reviews, compiling references into an electronic format, assisting with all phases of editing and review of grant-related documents, and performing data entry tasks.

If interested, contact: seuffert@educ.umass.edu
**GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP**
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for Educational Assessment

10 hr/week, beginning 9/1/2013

**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

**PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIP**
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for International Education

10 hr/week, one-semester assistantship for Fall 2013 beginning 9/1/2013.

**Qualifications:** Good organizational and management skills; good communications skills; ability to work effectively within a team; experience in organizing conferences or other large-scale activities preferred.

**Responsibilities:** Manage communications with conference participants, assist in organizing conference schedule, assist in managing conference logistics, and other support tasks as required to insure a successful, well-organized conference.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume/ CV, to Barbara Gravin Wilbur (bgw@educ.umass.edu) //

**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**
Department of Student Development

Seven 20 hr/week research assistantships are available for Fall 2013-Spring 2014 in the Department of Student Development

**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. Background in special education administration is preferred and must have been admitted to the special education doctoral program.

If interested, contact: seuffert@educ.umass.edu //
ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

SARA SANDSTROM  September 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m., 163 Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Gary Malaney.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Student Development
Social Justice Education Concentration

A 10-hr/week research assistant is available for the Fall 2013 Semester.

Responsibilities include: The assistant will transcribe audio- and video-taped data, assist in coding of data, conduct community-based individual and focus-group interviews in the Springfield area, and compile literature, demographic data and other sources.

Qualifications: The position requires familiarity with qualitative research methods, strong organizational and written and oral communicative skills. The qualified candidate should also have the ability to meet deadlines and work independently, and experience with and knowledge of local educational settings, communities and issues of cross cultural and other forms of social diversity.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to: Brenda Juarez, bjuarez@educ.umass.edu.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP  Using SFL Techniques to Support ELL Achievement in Urban Schools
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies (TESI)

10 hr/week for Fall 2013.

Responsibilities: Collecting qualitative and quantitative data related to ESL students’ academic language development; conducting literature reviews; analyzing data; attending weekly project meetings.

Qualifications: Advanced knowledge of systemic functional linguistics (SFL) and ability to use SFL tools to analyze oral and written discourse; knowledge of second language learning and multicultural education research; familiarity with local K-12 public schools, particularly in Holyoke and Springfield. Excellent academic reading, writing, and oral communication abilities; demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and professionally; Linguistic and cultural knowledge of a language other than English is desired, as is mixed methods research experience/training.

Applicants should submit letter of interest, resume, and contact information for two references to Betsy McEneaney at emcenean@educ.umass.edu.

Application deadline: August 31, 2013. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.
International Teaching Assistants Screening Test of Spoken English Fall 2013
From the Graduate School

The SPEAK test is a screening test for spoken English communication skills. **The SPEAK test for first-time international teaching assistants (ITAs) for fall semester 2013 will be administered on September 6, 9, 10 and 11, 2013.** Students who took the test previously and scored 45 but did not participate in Communication Instruction classes should also take the test. We also recommend this test for students who are not currently in a TA/TO position but may be in the future. RAs and other international graduate students may also take the test and participate in small group Communication Instruction classes on a space-available basis. Priority for participation in the classes will be given to currently funded TAs and to those with the greatest need.

Students are exempt from taking the SPEAK test if they satisfy one of the following criteria:

- **TOEFL exemption at admission.** This appears as “TOEFL Exempt” in the student’s SPIRE record. (The list of reasons for exemption appears under the FAQ “Can the TOEFL requirement be waived?” at http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/admissions/faq.)

- **A score of 26 or higher on the Speaking section of the TOEFL iBT at the time of admission.** The SPIRE record shows the Speaking section score.

- **A score of 8.0 or higher on the Speaking section of the IELTS.** IELTS scores are not currently broken down in SPIRE, but the Speaking section score is available from Graduate Admissions. (Very few applicants report IELTS scores.)

If a student satisfies any of these criteria, then neither he/she nor you need to do anything; the SPEAK test requirement is waived and the student can go straight into the classroom. Requests for waiver of the SPEAK test requirement for any other reason should come from you (not the student) and should be addressed to John McCarthy, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at jmccarthy@grad.umass.edu. You may also direct questions or comments about the exemption policy to the same email address.

The purpose of the SPEAK test is to identify any potential difficulties ITAs may have in understanding spoken English or in being understood in the undergraduate classroom. A score of 50 or above is required to pass the test. Students who do not pass the test are encouraged to attend the English Communication Instruction classes offered by the Graduate School through the Center for Language, Speech and Hearing. The classes are offered throughout the year. At the end of each semester, students are reevaluated and those who do not meet the criteria are allowed to continue in the Communication Instruction classes for additional semesters.

Progress reports for students enrolled in English Communication Instruction classes will be sent to Graduate Program Directors at the end of the fall semester. The report will indicate each student’s current functional level and the SPEAK Test equivalent score. It is not necessary for these students to retake the SPEAK Test.

We would also appreciate it if you could let us know approximately how many students from your department would be participating in the screening test during the incoming fall 2013 semester. This information will be very helpful to us in planning both the screening and instruction sessions. You can inform us in one of the following three ways:

Send the information to Lori Baronas in the Graduate Dean’s Office at 518 Goodell.
E-mail information to Lori Baronas at baronas@grad.umass.edu
Call Lori Baronas at 545-5278

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact Lori Baronas at 545-5278 or Lori Laughran at lviglian@comdis.umass.edu. Thank you.
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

John Francisco, assistant professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, was awarded an International Programs Office grant to create an online program for American and Finnish secondary mathematics education students to exchange educational experiences during a mathematics methods course, with a long term goal of using such experiences as a basis for creating future exchange programs between the College of Education and the University of Jyvaskyla, Finland.

UMass Amherst College of Education is one of four U.S. institutions of higher education that has received the highly competitive 2013 Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative award. The College’s project, “Inclusive Universities: Linking Diversity, Equity and Excellence for the 21st Century”, studies and analyzes the changing student demographic in Indian public higher education institutions and seeks to identify relevant educational and institutional practices and policies that are responsive to new and vulnerable student populations in ways that advance academic excellence. This College of Education initiative is led by associate professor Sangeeta Kamat of the Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, and associate professor Ximena Zuniga of the Department of Student Development. Our Indian partnering institution is the University of Pune.

Please send items of interest to: dms@educ.umass.edu

Research Assistantship in Inclusive Classroom Practices
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10-hr/week research assistantship is available for Fall 2013.

The RA will assist on a research project examining the quality of teacher-student interactions in inclusive kindergarten classrooms.

Responsibilities include: data collection (e.g., classroom observations, questionnaires) in kindergarten classrooms; enter and analyze data using SPSS and Excel; conduct library research; and assist in report preparation.

Qualifications include: strong organizational skills, good communication skills, excellent research writing skills, and knowledge in analyzing data using SPSS programs.

Previous teaching experience in pre-k classrooms and/or professional background in early childhood education preferred.
To apply, send a cover letter, resume/CV, two names of references, and a writing sample to SeonYeong Yu at seonyeon@educ.umass.edu.
How to write a Beacon ad

This is the format to use when writing ads that will be published in The Beacon. You will find this on our website, too, under Faculty & Staff, Faculty Resources.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP (Include title)

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration (Include name of department)

10 hr/week teaching assistantship available for Fall, 2012 for EDUC 115.

(Include number of hours per week, when assistantship begins, course name or number if applicable.)

Responsibilities include: assist with course preparation; lead discussion section with 35-40 undergraduate students; attend weekly meetings; provide feedback on students’ written work; hold regular office hours; communicate with students, as needed, either via email or other media. (Do not send as bulleted or numbered list; send as run-on list as shown above. Use semi-colons with period at end. Use lower case for first word in each phrase in the run-on list.)

Qualifications include: excellent written and oral communications skills; excellent organizational skills; ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students; appreciation of diversity and multi-cultural values in domestic and international contexts. (Do not send as bulleted or numbered list; send as run-on list as shown above. Use semi-colons with period at end. Use lower case for first word in each phrase in the run-on list.)

Previous teaching experience preferred. To apply, please send a resume to XXXXXXXXXXX at emailaddress@educ.umass.edu. (If there is a deadline, add it here.)

Teaching Assistant Orientation

This is a reminder that the Provost’s Office, Graduate School, Center for Teaching & Faculty Development (CTFD) are co-sponsoring the annual TA Orientation for NEW TAs/TOs on Friday, August 30, 2013, from 8:45 am to 12:30 pm (registration starts at 8:15am) in the Campus Center (Lower Level). The preliminary program can be found at: http://www.umass.edu/ctfd/tao/tao_main_program_2013_2014.pdf

TAs must register online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TAO_Registration

Mei-Yau Shih, Ph.D., Associate Director, Center for Teaching & Faculty Development  545-1225
Attention Graduate Students

Q: How do you apply for external funding* for your research?
A: You write a grant!

*External funding: money from sources outside UMass that supports research, travel, dissertation writing, and related activities.

Grant writing is an essential skill for your professional toolkit (just ask your profs)!!

GrantSearch for Grad Students
– a free service of the UMass Amherst Graduate School – presents:

EARLY BIRD SESSIONS:

INTRO TO GRANT SEARCHING
Thursday, August 22, 2:00-3:00pm
Tuesday August 27, 11:00am-12:00 noon

INTRO TO GRANT WRITING
August 28, 10:00-11:00am

Pre-registration is advised for these sessions.
For locations and to register, go to the GrantSearch Blog post at http://blogs.umass.edu/gsgs/2013/07/18/early-bird-sessions/ and click the registration link.

Seating is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early. You will not receive a confirmation email, but we will contact you in case of any change in location or schedule.

To stay updated on all our upcoming events and for links, grant listings, and more, subscribe to the GrantSearch blog, like our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter. Go to http://blogs.umass.edu/gsgs for links.

These sessions will be offered again during the semester.

GrantSearch for Grad Students (GSGS) / 527 Goodell
gsgs@grad.umass.edu