SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION COLLEGE/SCHOOL 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, December 21, 2012.
**Teaching Assistantships**  
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum  
EDUC. 378: Survey of Children's Literature

Two 10 hrs./week teaching assistantships are available for Spring Semester 2013 with Denise Ives. Class meets on Tuesdays from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Responsibilities include:** Collaborating with Faculty Supervisor and other Teaching Assistants to plan course activities, readings, and requirements; teaching one section of 378; maintaining attendance records and grading student assignments for one section; and holding weekly office hours for students enrolled in the course.

**Desired qualifications include:** Interest in and knowledge of children’s and adolescent literature and reading/writing pedagogy. Previous teaching experience, especially at the college level preferred but not required.

To apply please send a letter of interest, a current resume, and two names of references to Dr. Denise Ives, dives@educ.umass.edu.

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**Graduate Assistantship**  
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10 hr/week graduate assistantship for SPRING 2013.

Description: Assist with ethnographic study of students and families in Springfield.

**Responsibilities:** Conduct classroom observations, home visits, and interviews; assist with scheduling and logistics for interviews, classroom and home visits; assist with transcription of ethnographic interviews; conduct library research on Springfield neighborhoods, politics and demographics, SPSD policies and demographics, and relevant local school reform initiatives; assist grant-writing efforts.

**Qualifications:** Experience and training in ethnographic or qualitative methods; excellent scholarly writing ability; academic knowledge of issues pertaining to diversity and equity in urban public schools; ability to use library and online database research tools; ability to work independently, follow through on commitments, and meet deadlines. Additional preferred qualifications include a familiarity with the schools, neighborhoods, and communities of Springfield; background in community organizing or other community-based work.

Applicants should submit letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to: Denise Ives, dives@educ.umass.edu and Kysa Nygreen, knygreen@educ.umass.edu

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**The School of Education’s website**  
www.umass.edu/education
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

A 15 hr/week teaching assistantship is available for SPRING 2013 to assist with EDUC 494RI. EDUC 494RI (Educational Issues in Real World Settings) fulfills the Integrative Experience requirement for students majoring in Psychology. It also fulfills a requirement for the Education Minor.

Responsibilities include: Attendance at all class sessions (Tu/Th mornings); Assisting with planning and teaching; Facilitation of undergraduate student research projects; Facilitation and monitoring of discussion groups (online and in the classroom); Evaluation of student work; Maintaining attendance and grading records; and Scheduled office hours (2h/week).

Qualifications: Excellent communication skills; Experience with Undergraduate teaching; Strong Organizational skills; Experience with and knowledge of local educational settings and issues; Knowledge of research methods; Experience with Moodle preferred.

Applicants should submit letter of interest, CV/resume (including the names and contact information for two references) to Raymond Sharick at rsharick@educ.umass.edu. Subject line of email should read: “TA EDUC 494RI.” (This assistantship is only for the SPRING 2013 semester.)

Application deadline: December 19, 2012

Project Assistantship
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Children, Families and Schools (CFS) concentration

A 10 hour/week Project Assistantship position is available for Spring 2013. The PA will assist faculty with tasks related to managing an academic journal and program work as needed. This work requires well-developed communication skills, advanced methodological knowledge and understanding of cultural theories, advanced writing and editing skills and self-directed, highly-organized, professional performance. Additionally, this position requires maintenance of a consistent online presence for monitoring journal activities and frequent project updates and other contacts with a body of international associate editors across varied time zones.

Responsibilities: coordination and execution of academic journal work, including but not limited to: attending and facilitating trainings, communicating with authors, monitoring online software system, managing faculty and international team meeting calendars, setting up meeting equipment and logistics, and acting as liaison with research teams at other university sites. It is also possible that this hire will assist with teacher education program work as needed.

Qualifications: A qualified candidate will be an advanced graduate student who has completed a full complement of research methodology coursework. He or she demonstrates excellent academic writing and editing skills and strong organizational, communication and management abilities. S/he is able to work independently and professionally. S/he has the foundational technology skills necessary to learn and maintain online journal website and feedback mechanism. Motivation to take on various tasks, work independently and show initiative is expected.

To apply: Send a cover letter, academic writing sample, CV and two references to Dr. Sally Galman at sally@educ.umass.edu

Send your news and other items to: dms@educ.umass.edu
Office of National Scholarship Advisement on Fulbright scholarships for UMass students.

The deadline for the application for the Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship is February 1.

This is a program for people who have a Master’s Degree or are currently enrolled in a PhD program and have two years of public policy related experience in a broad range of fields including, but not limited to public health, education (including English as a Second Language), agriculture, justice, energy, the environment, public finance, economic development, information technology, and communications.

Public Policy Fellows are seconded to government institutions overseas in a handful of countries and are able to conduct academic research projects.

Interested students can learn more about this special opportunity at: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-public-policy-fellowships.

Candidates do not apply through the university but directly through the us.fulbrightonline site.

Project Assistantship

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

One 10 hour/week project assistantship position is available for Spring 2013.

Responsibilities: Support the research and academic work of the MSLT faculty. Tasks may include, but are not limited to: data-entry, information gathering, document editing, helping with the creation of record-keeping systems, copying/scanning, website support, and other forms of support as assigned.

Qualifications: Ability to work independently, follow through on commitments, and meet deadlines; highly organized, punctual, and detail-oriented; excellent writing and editing skills; ability to use library and online database research tools; knowledge and familiarity in using various software programs, e.g., Word, Excel, Power Point; and ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously. Preferred qualifications include familiarity and experience with the university’s various offices, procedures, and personnel.

To apply: Submit a cover letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to Dr. Martina Nieswandt (mnieswan@educ.umass.edu).

AERA Dissertation Grants

AERA provides dissertation support for advanced doctoral students to undertake doctoral dissertations using data from the large-scale national or international data sets supported by the NCES, NSF, and/or other federal agencies. Applications are encouraged from a variety of disciplines, such as but not limited to, education, sociology, economics, psychology, demography, statistics, and psychometrics. The selection process is competitive. The next application deadline is Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

AERA Research Grants

AERA provides small grants for faculty members, postdoctoral researchers, and other doctoral-level scholars to undertake quantitative research using data from the large-scale national or international data sets supported by the NCES, NSF, and/or other federal agencies. Applications are encouraged from a variety of disciplines, such as but not limited to, education, sociology, economics, psychology, demography, statistics, and psychometrics. The selection process is competitive. The next application deadline is Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

For further information about AERA and the Grants Program, visit the AERA Grants Program website at http://www.aera.net/grantsprogram. You may also contact Kevin Dieterle, AERA Grants Program Manager, at grantsprogram@aera.net or (202) 238-3227.
ENGLISH COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS & PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS

If you are funded as a TA:

1. **You must meet the requirements of the UMass Amherst Oral English Policy.**

University of Massachusetts Amherst Oral English Policy

Each TA with instructional responsibilities must have appropriate oral proficiency in English.

**The University currently uses the SPEAK test to evaluate oral proficiency. You do not need to take the SPEAK test if any of the following statements is true:**

- When you were admitted to UMass, you were not required to submit your scores on an English proficiency exam like the TOEFL or IELTS.
- You do not have a graduate assistantship.
- Your graduate assistantship does not have instructional responsibilities.
- You took the TOEFL iBT and scored 26 or higher on the Speaking section.
- You took the IELTS and scored 8.0 or higher on the Speaking section.

If none of these statements is true, then you must take the SPEAK test.

**Frequently asked questions about the SPEAK test requirement**

- I took the TOEFL CBT or the paper TOEFL. Do I have to take the SPEAK test?
  Yes, because those tests do not have speaking sections.
- I got 95 on the TOEFL iBT. Do I have to take the SPEAK test?
  Your total TOEFL score is irrelevant. Only your score on the Speaking section matters.
- What does it mean to have “instructional responsibilities”?
  You have instructional responsibilities if you teach a class, run a discussion section, or run a lab section. Most graduate students who are appointed as teaching assistants or teaching associates have instructional responsibilities. If you are appointed as a research assistant, then you do not have instructional responsibilities. If you are not sure, ask your Graduate Program Director.

To reiterate: Any international TA with a lower score on the above mentioned tests and those who took tests without speaking components (such as the paper TOEFL and the TOEFL CBT) will still need to report for the SPEAK test.

2. **If you are required to take the SPEAK test:**
   a. Sign up for the test at the Graduate School, Goodell 518, after you have registered for classes.
   b. Sign up early for best choice of appointment times.
   c. You will be provided with a practice test at the following link: http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/sites/default/files/speak_practice_test.pdf
   d. Test takes approximately 1 hour.
   e. Test location: 358 North Pleasant Street

3. **If you are required to take the SPEAK test and score below a 50 on it, you are required to participate in an ITA Communication Instruction class as part of your TA responsibilities.**

Classes consist of small groups (about 4 international graduate students) and are led by graduate student instructors with a background in language and phonology. All classes are supervised and monitored by the interim program coordinator, Michelle Boisvert, Ph.D., CCC-SLP.

The focus of the class is to give you the skills you need to communicate effectively as a TA. Skills that will be covered include:

- Accent Modification
- Presentation of academic information
- Pronunciation, intonation and prosody
- Idiomatic language and expressions
- Cultural awareness
- Fluency
- Increase self-awareness and self-monitoring through the use of DVD recordings.

Classes will be scheduled for 2 hours/week plus ½ hour/week individual tutorial. Classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at a time when you are available.

If you have any questions please contact: Michelle Boisvert, Ph.D. CCC-SLP mkboisve@comdis.umass.edu
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

Language, literacy and culture concentration student Cara Crandall’s article “Into the Woods” was posted on the Gender and Education Association’s online journal November 18. Crandall is a middle school English language arts teacher and researcher who is interested in the stories adolescents tell about their lives. She writes that her “research in classrooms is ethnographic and privileges the stories girls tell about their experiences of being marginalized, silenced and punished, often by other girls.” Read more at http://www.genderandeducation.com/issues/into-the-woods/

Dawn Fontaine, a doctoral student, language, literacy and culture concentration, received a prestigious award from the Western Massachusetts Writing Project. A history teacher at the High School of Commerce and instructional leadership specialist for the Springfield Public Schools, Fontaine received the Pat Hunter Award, named in honor of Springfield teacher Pat Hunter, a professional development leader and a founding member of the Writing Project. Fontaine was recognized for her work with Project Outreach, a three-year initiative aimed at examining how the writing effort might better serve teachers in schools where students are affected by poverty. The Western Massachusetts Writing Project is a university-school partnership that offers professional development and leadership opportunities for educators across the region.

Neil Glickman (Ph.D. 1993) has had his book, “Deaf Mental Health Care”, published by Routledge. This is his fourth book on the subject of mental health care of deaf persons. Glickman now works as a psychologist with Deaf Services at Advocates, Inc., in Framingham, MA

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

REMEMBER. . .
The Beacon will not be published during the weeks of December 27, 2012 and January 3, 2013.