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.**

The Beacon will not be published during the weeks

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.
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

ROBERT J. COOK  Proposed Dissertation Title: “Application of IRT Models to the Detection of Shift Errors.” Statement of the Problem: While numerous person-fit statistics are available for effective identification of aberrant test behavior, they offer little in pinpointing the nature of the aberrance. Identifying specific sources of aberrance requires specific methodologies. One such source is the misalignment of response substrings to the answer key, a problem that can result in spuriously low scores that undermine the validity of score interpretations with construct-irrelevant variance. Research into methods for detecting this misalignment has met with limited success and, to date, have not taken full advantage of measurement models that may prove to be powerful tools for such detection. Chairperson: Dr. Lisa A. Keller.

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 Nieswan (mnieswan@educ.umass.edu).

Graduate Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

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

Responsibilities: This student will work with the Higher Education concentration, as well as the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, on issues of undergraduate student success. The student will review empirical and theoretical literature on student success, research existing Centers and Institutes of Student Success, collect data concerning student success programming, assist with planning of the New England Conference for Student Success, and contribute to the conceptual development and planning of a possible future Center for Student Success.

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 Sheila Seuffert at seuffert@educ.umass.edu.
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

Benita Barnes, Department of Educational Policy, Research, & Administration, Ryan Wells, Department of Educational Policy, Research, & Administration, Ximena Zúñiga, Department of Student Development, Kathleen Davis, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, Robert Maloy, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies have been awarded Flex Grants from the Center for Teaching & Faculty Development. The grants are individual teaching/faculty development grants that are intended to support professional development related to teaching for all MSP bargaining unit faculty and librarians. The grants are funded by the campus through the MSP contract.

The Graduate School recently announced recipients of Dissertation Research Grants. These grants are offered through a competitive proposal process once each in the fall and spring semesters. The purpose of the grants is to provide funding for expenses incurred in connection with the student’s doctoral dissertation research.

School of Education students who received 2012 awards are:

Rachel Lawrence, EPRA; Gerardo Blanco Ramirez, EPRA; Martha C. Lees, TECS; Jeanne Zobel-Lachiusa, TECS.

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

Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

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

Responsibilities include: Coordinate activities of the Research and Consulting Services Center (RCSC) of the Psychometric Methods (PM) Doctoral Concentration. Activities include advertising services of the RCSC, meeting with faculty and graduate students in the School of Education to assist on their research projects, assigning PM faculty and students to clients of the RCSC, and serving as a liaison between the School and PM faculty on matters relating to the RCSC. Assistance provided will include interpreting output from statistical programs, providing tutoring on statistics and research design, assistance in running statistical software, and consultation on survey development.

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

To apply, please contact Dr. Craig Wells at cswells@educ.umass.edu.
Teaching Assistantship
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
10 hours/week teaching assistantship is available for Spring 2013 to support EDUC 698LB. This course is offered through the ACCELA Alliance, a school-university professional development partnership. It is taught off campus at Dean Technical High School in Holyoke, MA.

Duties: Support ACCELA teachers in: collecting data related to ESL students’ academic language and literacy assessments (e.g., samples of student writing, portfolio assessments, videotaped performance assessments, formal assessments & test data, informal assessments, etc.); Archiving data systematically and run data reports; Attending a weekly seminar on Thursdays from 4-7pm in Holyoke and a planning meeting on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30pm.

Qualifications: Qualitative research experience; Advanced knowledge of testing, assessment and evaluation to use database management tools for scores, results, & reports; Ability to analyze multimodal discourse (e.g., visual, oral, and written) or willingness to learn; Knowledge of second language learning and multicultural education research; Proficiency in a language other than English, in particular languages widely used by the school populations in Holyoke & Springfield, etc. Spanish is desired. Demonstrable excellence in academic reading, writing, and oral communication abilities. Demonstrable skill in managing multimedia data (e.g., video, audio, scanned documents). Demonstrable ability to contribute to teacher teams in a collaborative and professional manner. Demonstrable ability in creatively co-designing organizational systems and meeting deadlines.

Applicants should submit letters of interest, resume, and telephone contact for two references to Theresa Austin at taustin@educ.umass.edu. Application deadline: January 11, 2013. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled. All hires are contingent upon funding.

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.
**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.

**Point Foundation Invites Applications for LGBTQ Student Scholarships**

The Point Foundation has announced that its scholarship application process will open online November 1, 2012. Point Scholarships are designed to help promising LGBTQ students achieve their full academic and leadership potential despite obstacles. Scholars must demonstrate academic excellence, leadership skills, community involvement, and financial need. Attention also will be paid to students who have lost the financial and social support of their families and/or communities as a result of revealing their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Point Scholars must agree to maintain a high level of academic performance and to give back to the LGBTQ community through the completion of an individual community service project each year. Some Point Scholars also benefit from internship opportunities related to their fields of study.

Scholarships provide approximately $25,000 per scholar, per year. Each scholar is paired with a mentor and participates in leadership development training with fellow Point Scholars, including an annual leadership conference. After graduating, Point Scholars become part of Point’s growing alumni network. Point Scholarships are awarded on a "last provider" basis, providing funding to supplement other scholarships, grants, loans, work/study programs, etc. Point Scholars must secure as much outside funding as possible.

Students who will be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs for the 2013-14 school year are eligible to apply for the multiyear scholarships. Applications will be reviewed by a team of forty-five trained educators, school counselors, and foundation staff and board members. The selection process concludes with face-to-face interviews with Point’s staff and Board of Regents during May 2013. The 2013 Point Scholar Class will be announced in June 2013.

Individuals may nominate a student online and download an application information flyer. Applicants will have until 11:59 p.m. PST on January 14, 2013, to submit Part I of the application. Qualifying applicants will be invited to then submit Part II of the application. Part II will made available November 2, 2012, and remain open until 11:59 p.m. PST, January 28, 2013. Applications are only accepted online.

Visit the Point Foundation Web site for complete program information and the online nomination and application forms.

Link to Complete RFP http://www.pointfoundation.org/apply.html