Research Assistantship
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

A 10 hr/week research assistantship is available for Spring 2012 to assist a pre-tenured faculty member with a research project.

**Responsibilities:** Conduct detailed literature review & annotated bibliography about undocumented and refugee immigrant students and family-school relations; conduct library research about census data and demographics in local cities; schedule and conduct preliminary pilot and informational interviews with teachers, administrators, and nonprofit staff; assist with researching and using qualitative data analysis software programs; provide additional research, administrative, technical, and grant-writing assistance in support of the professor’s research agenda.

**Qualifications:** Knowledge of scholarly literature on immigration and education particularly pertaining to undocumented and refugee immigrant youth; highly organized, detail-oriented and self-disciplined; able to work independently with little supervision; excellent written and verbal communication skills; library research skills.

To apply, please email a CV with brief cover letter (email is OK) to Kysa Ngyreen, (knygreen@educ.umass.edu). The subject line of the email should read “RA Spring 2012” //

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**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 for two issues.
- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Linda Guthrie. These types of announcements will run for one week.

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School of Education ◆ 813 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst MA 01003
Teaching Assistantships
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One or more assistantships, contingent on available funding, for 10 hours/week for spring 2012 for program supervisor for the ESL Licensure Program and the Advanced Practitioner field experience. The ESL Licensure Program has placements in K-12 public schools in Western Massachusetts (e.g., Amherst, Springfield, Holyoke). The Advanced Practitioner Program has field experience sites for teaching English and other world languages in a variety of traditional and non-traditional settings in Western Massachusetts (e.g., Chinese immersion, adult education, after school programs, informal teaching contexts).

Responsibilities include:
- Attending an orientation and meetings with UMass Amherst faculty regularly to problem solve and troubleshoot issues.
- Establishing and maintaining professional relationships with administrators and teachers in the schools and at field experience sites as well as with the faculty.
- Conducting observations of candidates’ teaching practices according to specified timetables and using appropriate forms;
- Providing quality oral and written feedback to candidates to support them in designing and reflecting on curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices;
- Writing weekly written reports to the LLCAP/Licensure advisor regarding all feedback that you provide candidates/field experience practitioner.
- For 500L: Conducting three-way meetings among the Supervising Practitioner, the UMass Amherst teaching candidate, and the Program Supervisor according to specified timetables and using appropriate forms;
- For EDUC 698AP: meeting with each cohort of three students at least twice during the semester to help learners self-assess their own teaching and provide some feedback on the teaching activity that they have videotaped.
- Assisting UMass faculty in assessing candidate’s course projects using TK20.

Qualifications:
- Classroom teaching experience in K-12 schools and/or international contexts
- Knowledge of language/culture of diverse students (e.g., Spanish, Chinese)
- Expertise in designing curriculum, instruction, and assessments for language learners
- Commitment to social justice in education
- Excellent communication and problem-solving abilities; ability to negotiate differences and meet professional standards
- A research interest in teacher education in ESL is a plus for EDUC 500L
- A specific research interest in World Languages is a plus for EDUC 698AP

Applicants should submit letters of interest, resume, and contact information for two references to Marie-Christine Polizzi <mpolizzi@educ.umass.edu>

Application deadline: January 10, 2012. Applications will be reviewed until the positions are filled. Hiring is contingent upon availability of funding.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

DAWN RENDELL  January 24, 2012,  10:30 a.m.,  Room 163, Hills South.
Chairperson:  Dr. Elizabeth Williams

Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
The Center for Educational Assessment

One 10 hour/week graduate student research assistantship for the spring 2012 and fall 2012 semesters. The assistantship is associated with coordination of an international conference and forthcoming book honoring the career of Professor Ronald Hambleton.

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 test validation research.

Responsibilities include:  Conducting literature reviews of Professor Hambleton's seminal work along five theme areas; coordinating conference schedules, keynote speakers, proposal receipt and reviews, developing conference program, serving as a liaison between conference center and conference organizers, presenters, and others, and assisting with various aspects of book preparation.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

JOSHUA SCHULZE  January 30, 2012,  2:00 p.m.,  Room 100, Furcolo Hall.
Chairperson:  Dr. Meg Gebhard.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

LUIS M. VALDIVIEZO  January 26, 2012,  9:00 a.m.,  Room 163, Hills South. “Afro-Peruvian Perspectives and Critiques of Intercultural Education Policy.”
Chairperson:  Dr. Maurianne Adams.
Robert Maloy, senior lecturer, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, sends this — another listing that acknowledges our nationally-recognized resources for history teachers wiki. Read the web article “30+ Open Wikis Every Educator Should Know About” from EduDemic. http://edudemic.com/2011/12/open-wikis/

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

The Center for Research on Families announces its Annual Competition

**GRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE— STUDENT AWARDS IN FAMILY RESEARCH**

Application Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2012  
Notification: March 9, 2012  
For More Information: www.umass.edu/family/students. Family research is broadly defined and encompasses all disciplines. Please contact wendy@sbs.umass.edu with questions.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS— CRF FAMILY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

$10,000 award to a graduate student with the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the field of family research.

**CRF FAMILY RESEARCH METHODOLOGICAL STUDIES AWARD**

Funding for graduate student(s) who wish to attend CRF's Summer Methodology Workshops at UMass Amherst.

**CRF FAMILY RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARD**

$300 to a graduate student(s) with an outstanding paper/poster on issues of family research who will be presenting at a national research conference.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS— CRF FAMILY RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP AWARD**

$3000 to an undergraduate student(s) with the potential to make an outstanding contribution to the field of family research. Student(s) will assist a faculty member with his/her research on families.

**CRF FAMILY RESEARCH HONORS THESIS/CAPSTONE PROJECT AWARD**

$500 to recognize the honors thesis research of an outstanding UMass undergraduate student(s) focused on family issues.

Test of Spoken English Communication Skills given on Jan. 23, 2012

The screening test of Spoken English Communication skills for first-time international teaching assistants (ITAs) for spring semester 2012 will be administered on January 23, 2012. The test will include those who have already taken the test and scored 45 but did not participate in Communication Instruction sessions. We recommend that students who are not currently funded but who may be funded for a teaching assistant (TA) or teaching Associate (TO) position in the future should also take the test. Research assistants and international graduate students without funding 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 teaching assistants and to those with the greatest need.

The purpose of the test is to identify any potential difficulties ITAs may have in understanding spoken English or in being understood in the undergraduate classroom. All incoming and returning ITAs/ITOs who will be assuming TA responsibilities for the first time are required to demonstrate their oral English proficiency by passing a test of spoken English. A standardized test, SPEAK, designed by the Educational Testing Service, is used for assessing and measuring the spoken English ability of ITAs. 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 re-evaluated and those who do not meet the criteria are allowed to continue in the Communication Instruction classes for additional semesters.

Progress reports for students currently enrolled in English Communication Instruction classes will be sent to Graduate Program Directors at the end of 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 in January.

A schedule for the screening test is enclosed for your information. Please let us know approximately how many students from your department would be participating in the screening test during the incoming spring 2011 semester. This information is helpful in planning both the screening and instruction sessions. You can inform us in one of the following three ways:

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

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please call Lori Baronas at 545-5278 or Michelle Boisvert at 545-4011.

Students: how to submit information for announcements

Students must submit proper forms for announcements about Formation of Dissertation Committees (D-6), Announcements of Final Oral Examinations (D-8) and Comprehensive Examinations (D-4) to Linda Guthrie in 123 Furcolo Hall, Office of Academic Affairs.

Linda will submit the items to the Beacon for publication.