Access The Beacon online: http://www.umass.edu/education/publications/beacon.shtml.

The Beacon will be published every two weeks instead of weekly throughout the summer.
If you are planning to send submissions, please plan accordingly. Thank you.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Mathematics, Science, and Learning Technology concentration
A 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for the 2012/13 academic year starting in the fall 2012.
The RA will assist in research on small group learning in a high school science class with particular emphasis on student interest and motivation in inquiry-based science tasks how these relate to student scientific content knowledge.

Responsibilities: Videotaping of small group work during inquiry-based tasks, transcribing and coding of video transcripts and student focus group, 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, and excellent research writing skills. The RA will receive training in applying the theories to the interviews 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

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.
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
A 15 hr/week Teaching Assistantship is available for FALL 2012 to assist with Educ 494RI. Educ 494RI (Educational Issues in Real World Settings) fulfills the Integrative Experience requirement for students majoring in Psychology.

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 Fall 2012 semester.)

Application deadline: August 17, 2012

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
10 hr/week graduate assistantship for FALL 2012 and SPRING 2013

Responsibilities: Assist on a research project about undocumented students and families. Responsibilities include: Information-gathering and networking with community-based organizations, service-providers, and schools; assisting with scheduling and logistics for setting up interviews and ethnographic observations; conducting pilot interviews, participant-observation of public events, and ethnographic home-visits (in Spanish); assisting with survey design; co-facilitating a teacher focus group; and conducting library research on neighborhood and school demographics, local community issues and politics, regional migration patterns and historical trends.

Qualifications: Experience and training in ethnographic research methods; excellent scholarly writing ability; knowledge of research pertaining to immigration, urban education, and/or family involvement in schools; ability to use library and online database research tools; ability to work independently, follow through on commitments, and meet deadlines. The following additional qualifications are strongly preferred: fluent Spanish-speaking ability; background in community organizing or other community-based work; familiarity with local neighborhoods, communities and schools in Springfield; knowledge of research on Latino immigrant families, family engagement in education, and/or community organizing.

Applicants should submit letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for two references to: Kysa Nygreen, knygreen@educ.umass.edu. Please write “RA Application” in the subject line.
GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
10 hr/week graduate assistantship for FALL 2012 and SPRING 2013

Responsibilities: Assist with ethnographic study of students and families in Springfield. 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; fluent Spanish speaking ability.

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

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
A 15 hr/week Teaching Assistantship is available for FALL 2012 to assist with EDUC 494RI. EDUC 494RI (Educational Issues in Real World Settings) fulfills the Integrative Experience requirement for students majoring in Psychology.

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 Fall 2012 semester.)

Application deadline: August 17, 2012
Graduate Assistantship
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
One 10 hour/week graduate assistant position for Fall 2012.

**Responsibilities include the following:**
1. Inquiry support - school-based qualitative/quantitative data collection, including observations, interviews and focus groups; participation in periodic instructional rounds and school meetings
2. Writing support - compilation of literature/sources, editing and proofreading manuscripts for publication with a focus on topics of language and cultural diversity and teacher collaboration.

**Qualifications:**
A qualified candidate will possess knowledge on issues of English as a second language, teacher professional development, research and organizational skills, and ability to work independently. Candidate must have strong skills in reviewing electronic sources and collecting and organizing qualitative data. Knowledge of Excel 2007 and familiarity with diverse resource listing styles including APA required.

Please send a cover letter and updated curriculum vitae to Dr. Laura A. Valdiviezo, lav@educ.umass.edu, and write “GA Fall 2012” in the email Subject.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION**

**AMINA DAVLATSHOEVA**
August 8, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 275, Hills South. “Voices From Within: Understanding Health Issues Among Young Afghan Females Ages 18-21 in Northeast Province of Afghanistan.” Chairperson: Dr. Cristine Smith.

**PATRICK TUDRYN**
July 31, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. “Examining Leadership Practices and the Roles of Special Education Leaders through the Distributed Lens.” Chairperson: Dr. Mary Lynn Boscardin.

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Research Assistant
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies
Math, Science and Learning Technology concentration

A 10-hr/week research assistant is available for the fall, 2012 semester.
The position requires familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The assistant will transcribe videotaped data, assist in coding of data, conduct non-parametric statistical analysis of data sets and contribute to the development of a literature review related to the development of creativity and systems thinking in students while working with computational media such as Scratch and Alice. Applicants must have familiarity with Scratch and Alice. Preference for the position will be given to doctoral candidates specializing in the Learning Technologies track of the MSLT doctoral program.

Please email a CV and a cover letter detailing your interest in the position and your qualifications to: fsullivan@educ.umass.edu.
University of Massachusetts Amherst
On Campus Graduate Assistantship Vacancy Notice

Type of Appointment: Project Assistantship
Application Deadline: Until filled. Target start date in August (see below).
Job Description (No Clerical duties permitted):
• Helps promote grant writing among graduate students as a key professional development skill.
• Assists in organizing and running workshops and information sessions for graduate students on finding and applying for external grants and fellowships.
• Keeps regular office hours for student consultations, during which s/he teaches individual students how to search for and evaluate grant and fellowship opportunities.
• Responds to phone, email, and in-person inquiries.
• Conducts regular online searches for new funding opportunities.
• Maintains GSGS-sponsored website, blog, and Facebook page; helps create multimedia content and occasionally writes blog and Facebook posts.
• Maintains database of student-clients.
• Helps produce and disseminate informational and promotional materials.
• Reviews student funding proposals (with occasional editing) and coordinates student-faculty reviewer contact.
• Maintains office calendar.
• Supervises undergraduate work-study assistant as needed.
• Additional duties as assigned.

Experience Required:
• Seeking a PhD candidate; ABD status preferred but will consider all otherwise qualified doctoral students.
• Strong computer skills: knowledge of social media and blogging (WordPress a plus); must be comfortable with Windows OS; experience with MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; familiarity with graphics software, video editing, and/or HTML a plus.
• Excellent writing and editing skills (English fluency a must). Knowledge of proofreaders’ marks.
• Good interpersonal communication skills for dealing with a diverse student population.
• Some experience with event planning and coordinating.
• Must be detail oriented.
• Poise, confidence, and enthusiasm in presenting to groups of students and faculty.
• Comfortable working independently and as part of a team.
• Prior experience applying for grants or fellowships strongly desired but not mandatory.
• Flexible schedule required.

Additional Information: GrantSearch for Grad Students is a service of the Graduate School. See the GrantSearch Blog at http://blogs.umass.edu/gsgs for more information.

NOTE: after the first appointment, this position has the potential to be multi-year and runs year-round.

Dates of Appointment: From 08/15/12 To 12/17/12 Hours/Wk 15

How to Apply: Submit Resume
Dept. Name : Graduate School Contact Person: Bette Elsden
E-Mail contact: gsgs@grad.umass.edu
Bldg. Address: 528A Goodell Phone: 413-545-5279
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

Sally Galman, associate professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, notes that “She's not there: Work in the feminized professions”, her co-authored article in Review of Educational Research is out in Online First format. It can be accessed through UMass libraries, and the PDF is accessible via Galman’s blog: http://blogs.umass.edu/sallyg

Phil Harak, a doctoral candidate in the Social Justice Education concentration, was selected as the 2012 Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) Teacher as Researcher award recipient for his research on “Supporting Public High School Teachers in a Context of Multiple Mandates: A Social Justice Approach to Professional Learning Communities.”

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

The Graduate School cordially invites new graduate students to a reception.

Tuesday, September 4, 2012
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Campus Center Auditorium

If you plan to attend, please respond to:
gdevents@grad.umass.edu
by August 24, 2012.
ENGLISH COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS

If you are funded as a TA:

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.

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

SPEAK Test Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>September 10, 2012</th>
<th>9:00 – 4:00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>September 11, 2012</td>
<td>9:00 – 4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>September 12, 2012</td>
<td>9:00 – 4:00</td>
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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. 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