Research Assistantship
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration
One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for Spring 2013.

Responsibilities include: The student will work with the Psychometric Methods faculty in conducting empirical and simulation research on advanced statistical and psychometric models.

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 Sheila Seuffert at seuffert@educ.umass.edu.

Save the dates!
Thursday, May 9  School of Education’s Graduation Celebration
Friday, May 10  Commencement
Saturday, May 11 School of Education’s Senior Recognition

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.
MAY, 2013 DEGREE DEADLINES

Listed below are the deadline dates to apply for a MAY, 2013 degree for Master's, CAGS and Doctoral students who will complete their degree requirements during the Spring, 2013 semester. Note that there are two separate deadlines, one for Linda Guthrie and one for the Graduate School.

M.Ed. and C.A.G.S. Candidates

The Degree Eligibility form and School of Education Master's Forms M-2 or CAGS form C-2 must be completed and returned to Linda Guthrie in the Graduate Program Office, 123 Furcolo, no later than APRIL 8, 2013. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Linda Griffin, the Graduate Program Director and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head).

The Eligibility form must be submitted to Linda Guthrie with the Master's Form M-2 or CAGS Form C-2. Your advisor must sign the School of Ed form, but NOT the Eligibility form. Master's and CAGS forms can be downloaded from the following URL:
http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/masters-guidelines
OR http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/cags-guidelines

Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates:

Doctoral students planning on a May, 2013 degree must schedule their Final Oral Examination (D-8 form) with Linda Guthrie 4 weeks before the defense date. Rooms are reserved by contacting Sally Dumont for Furcolo (sdumont@educ.umass.edu) or Shelia Seuffert for Hills South (seufffert@educ.umass.edu).

The Doctoral Degree Eligibility form, the D-9 form (Result of Final Oral Examination) and 1 original Signature page (on acid free paper) must be submitted to Linda Guthrie in Room 123 Furcolo no later than APRIL 8, 2013.

The Doctoral forms can now be typed into and are found at the following URL:
http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/doctoral-guidelines

The Survey of Earned Doctorates form also needs to be electronically submitted to the Degree Requirements Office and can be found at the following URL:
https://sed.norc.org/doctorate/showRegister.do

Linda will submit these forms to the Degree Requirements Office after they are signed by Linda Griffin and Christine McCormick.

GRADUATE SCHOOL DEADLINE

The deadline to electronically submit the dissertation and the Survey of Earned Doctorates and pay the required graduation fees to the Graduate School is APRIL 15, 2013 by 5:00 (to the Office of Degree Requirements, 534 Goodell, 140 Hicks Way, UMASS, Amherst, MA 01003).
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

BRETT KUSTIGIAN  March 25, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South. "Mission Driven Leadership in Education; Does it Matter? Examining the Relationship Between Mission Statements and Student Achievement in Massachusetts Public Schools." Chairperson: Dr. Rebecca Woodland.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

ERIK SUSSBAUER  March 25, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Room 100, Furcolo. "Unlocking Content Through Academic Language: How Recognizing the Role Academic Language Plays in Accessing Content Knowledge Helps Student Teachers Develop Content Literacy Practices." Chairperson: Dr. Ruth-Ellen Verock-O'Loughlin.

Assistantship
Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One upper division undergraduate hourly or graduate assistantship for SPRING 2013

Responsibilities: Secondary research for compiling an annotated bibliography for a literature review of culture and language education. Locating, compiling, and summarizing research studies on culture and its influence on second language and literacies development. Must be available for SKYPE meetings and a one hour bi-weekly face-to-face meeting.

Qualifications: Excellent oral and written communications skills, expert use of APA bibliographic citation and annotation. Background in culture, language and literacy education, and cultural theories in second language teaching and learning, Excellent ability to synthesize articles and write concise annotations; command of search engines for databases such as ERIC, Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts, Modern Language Association International Bibliography, etc.

To apply, send letter of interest and resume to Theresa Austin (taustin@educ.umass.edu).

*DEADLINE March 22th*
Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

**Martina Nieswandt**, associate professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, mathematics, science and learning technologies concentration, was invited as a visiting scholar to the University of Bremen, Germany, in January and February. During her stay, she worked with elementary pre-service teachers on topics such as gender and science, and scientific literacy in a course taught by Prof. Brunhilde Marquardt-Mau. Besides working with colleagues in science education, Nieswandt gave a presentation to faculty and students titled "Motivational and affective variables influencing science teaching and learning in K-12 classrooms".

Nieswandt notes that Marquardt-Mau, whose area of scholarship is in elementary science education, will visit UMass Amherst during her sabbatical in April/May of this year and work on finalizing a collaborative project.

*In photo, Nieswandt, second from right, works with students at University of Bremen.*

**Ash Hartwell** (Ed.D. 1973), adjunct professor, School of Education’s Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration, and a member of the School’s Center for International Education, was invited by the Graduate School of Education, American University Cairo (AUC), to give a public presentation on the theme "Education for Global Prosperity.”

The keynote presentation examined scenarios based on current global and Middle East conditions and proposed a concept of human capacity development linked to justice and human rights as the essence of global prosperity. Additionally, Hartwell discussed research and insights from evolutionary studies and the cognitive neurosciences on human capacity and learning, and concluded by examining implications for the transformation of education systems. While in Cairo, Hartwell taught graduate classes and reviewed the university’s new graduate program which currently has almost 300 post-graduate diploma students and 45 master’s students.

The presentation and the classes Hartwell taught took place during a week with two major protests and clashes in Cairo contesting the legitimacy of the new constitution and President Morsi. One of the purposes of Hartwell’s timely presentation was, in the words of Ted Purinton, Associate Dean, Graduate School of Education at AUC, "to provide, in the face of this period of turbulence, a broad perspective on our critical role as educators, teachers and learners in shaping a transformed education system."

*Please send items to dms@educ.umass.edu*

The School of Education’s website

www.umass.edu/education
Digital Signatures Accepted

The School of Education’s online Masters, CAGS and Doctoral Degree forms, as well as the individualized study and practicum contracts, are now set up to accept digital signatures. Please note that the University will not accept digital signatures on their Degree Eligibility Form. Digital signatures will allow us to streamline our processes and thus better serve students.

The student should be a steward of his or her own process and responsible for acquiring all signatures.

The following outlines the steps in the procedure:

- Student completes the required form, and e-mails it as an attachment to the first required signer on the form.
- The first signature faculty member then signs, saves it as a new file and returns the signed copy to the student.
- The student then continues this process obtaining all committee members signatures.

Documentation that explains the procedure for creating a digital signature can be found at the School of Education website at the following link:

The online degree forms can be found at the following link:

http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/forms

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS

AMANDA CORBY SOTO       April 1, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Room 163, Hills South. "Measuring Teacher Effectiveness Using Students' Test Scores." Chairperson: Dr. Lisa Keller.

LAURICE ANN GUILLORY     April 1, 2013, 11:00 a.m., Room 100, Furcolo Hall. "An Exploratory Study of Students' and Teachers' Attitudes Toward Three Types of Bullying: Physical, Verbal, and Social Exclusion." Chairperson: Dr. Ernest Washington.

MORE SOE Brown Bag Fridays.... Plan ahead!
FRIDAY, APRIL 12 (151 HILLS SOUTH)
Brenda Juarez - "What does Big Mama Know that We All Need to Know? Examining Successful Teaching for Black and other Students of Color"
Saneeeta Kamat - "Bridging Digital and Cultural Divides: Global Education across National Boundaries"
Michael Krezmien, Jason Travers, Jay Carey - "Development and Initial Field Testing of a Self-Determination-Based Transition Planning Process for High School Students with Specialized Education Needs"