TWO PROJECT ASSISTANTSHIPS

Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration
10 hours/week, project assistant, Fall 2012, for the Department Chair of EPRA.

Description:
Works with the concentration coordinators on the timely submission of academic course scheduling and requests for other data.
Assists in planning department meetings; take notes at those meetings.
Supports strategic planning and other School- and University-wide initiatives.
Any other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
Excellent written and oral communications skills
Excellent organizational skills
Excellent skills in Word, Excel, and other software
Strong library and internet research skills
Ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students

To apply, please send a resume and one-page letter of interest to: Sheila Seuffert at seuffert@educ.umass.edu. In the subject line of the email, please note “EPRA Department PA position.”
PROJECT AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS
Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration
Center for International Education

Project and research assistantships (10 to 20 hours/week) available for Fall 2012 in connection with international education both in the non-formal and formal sectors.

Responsibilities may include: undergraduate teaching, research, training, curriculum development, evaluation, and administration.

Additional hourly work may be available on CIE funded projects.

All assistantships are contingent upon funding.

Applicants should send a resume and a letter specifying background and skills by June 1, 2012 to: Center for International Education, 285 Hills South, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003 (413) 545-0465 or cie@educ.umass.edu

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

BETHANY POLITYLO

Proposed Dissertation Title: “Investigating the Predictive Validity of Three Measures of Number Sense.” Statement of the Problem: Both international and national statistics show that U.S. performance in mathematics has suffered over the last several decades (NAEP, 2011; OECD 2010). Although this poor performance is discouraging, it has served to draw much-needed attention towards the field of mathematics education and the importance of foundational mathematics skills such as number sense. Several measures of number sense currently exist, but no studies have compared these measures directly. This study will examine the predictive qualities of three of the most commonly used measures of number sense.

Chairperson: Dr. Amanda Marcotte.

Graduation Celebration 2011-12

Nearly 400 graduates, education minors, family members, faculty and friends of the school attended our 2011-12 Graduation Celebration on Thursday, May 10 in the Campus Center Auditorium.

www.umass.edu/education
**TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP**  
Department of Student Development  
Social Justice Education concentration  
Teaching assistants to teach sections of EDUC 210 for Fall 2012. Applicants must have completed the SJE graduate core and have taught EDUC 392 or 395/202 or equivalent supervised undergraduate diversity/SJE stand-alone courses using interactive/SJE pedagogies.

**Job description:** Instructional responsibility including curriculum design and pedagogy, for one section per semester of EDUC 210, Social Diversity in Education (General Education I & D) which meets twice weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:15-12:30. Design and teach sections of 30 students, assign and grade papers and/or projects, hold weekly office hours, and turn in final grades. TA positions are funded through the School of Education and other campus sources.

EDUC 210 fulfills part of the University’s general education “diversity” and “interdisciplinary” requirements. It also addresses a requirement for the School of Education minor. Critical thinking, writing, and social justice course content are important ingredients of the course, as well as experiential and interactive pedagogical approaches to social justice education.

Instructors are expected to participate in the weekly instructor’s Practicum.

Please submit a letter of interest and a resume to Maurianne Adams adams@educ.umass.edu.

---

**SUMMER RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**  
Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration  
The Center for Educational Assessment  
CEA expects up to 5 graduate student summer research assistantships for 10 to 20 hrs/wk. These assistantships are associated with projects sponsored by Measured Progress, Educational Testing Service, and the MA Department of Education.

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

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

---

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

RAE-ANNE BUTERA  
June 13, 2012, 11:00 a.m., Room 151, Hills South.  
Chairperson: Dr. Benita Barnes.
Sally Campbell Galman, assistant professor, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, was elected to the executive board of the Gender and Education Association. Formally established in 2002 (though active from 1997 onwards), the association works to challenge and eradicate sexism and gender inequality within and through education.

In the "Forum on strategies for improving the quality of higher education”, held on May 9 at Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, Joseph B. Berger, Associate Dean for Research and Engagement in the School of Education and other international leaders in education discussed strategies for improving the quality of higher education in Colombia. Participating in the forum were: Juny Montoya, Centro de Investigacion y Formacion en Educacion (CIFE) at the Universidad de Los Andes; Alexandra Hernandez, director of quality for higher education in the Ministry of Education, Colombia; Jose Rafael Toro, academic vice rector of the Universidad de Los Andes; Eduardo Escallon, director of the Centro Espanol of the Universidad de Los Andes; Andres Mejia, professor of CIFE of the Universidad de Los Andes; Pilar Mendoza, professor, University of Florida; Aaron Kuntz, professor, University of Alabama; and Jairo Sanchez, professor, University of Magdalena, Colombia.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

NURUL YAQIN May 18, 2012, 12:00 – 2:30 pm, Room 21C, Furcolo Hall.
Chairperson: Dr. Beverly Woolf.

http://www.umass.edu/education/

Go to our home page, where you’ll find the link to Graduation Celebration photos

The Beacon will not be published on May 24, May 31, or June 7.
Then, beginning with the June 14 issue, it will be published every two weeks instead of weekly throughout the summer. If you are planning to send submissions, please plan accordingly.
Thank you.
ATTENTION International teaching assistants

Current Graduate School policy requires international teaching assistants (ITAs) whose native language is not English to take the Graduate School administered SPEAK test prior to teaching for the first time. Recent developments in language testing make it possible for us to move away from that requirement.

As a first step, effective July 1, 2012, the SPEAK test requirement will be waived for all ITAs who received a score of 26 or higher on the Speaking section of the TOEFL iBT or a score of 8.0 or higher on the Speaking section of the IELTS. These students can go straight to the classroom without further testing. ITAs with lower scores on these tests and ITAs who took tests without speaking components (such as the paper TOEFL and the TOEFL CBT) will still need to report for the SPEAK test.

Further changes in language testing and instruction policies may emerge during the coming academic year, but it was felt that the benefit to departments in announcing this change immediately outweighs any possible confusion that might be engendered by introducing additional changes later.

John J. McCarthy, Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School (designee)

Congratulations to our 2012-13 scholarship recipients!

Rebecca Allen, Mary Margaret Whittaker-Webster Memorial Scholarship
Durryle Brooks, Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship
Stephanie Burger, Meline Kasparian Scholarship
Sadie Cora, Grace Norton Carney Scholarship
Nicole Crosby, Grace Norton Carney Scholarship
Stephanie Cuenoud, Meline Kasparian Scholarship
Kate Curtin, Paul J. Carney Reasons to Give Scholarship
Tiffany DaSilva, Helen Eaton Timson Scholarship
Maria DeRosa, Grace Norton Carney Scholarship
Kaitlin Eaton, Dean’s Scholarship
Anne Marie Foley, Early Childhood Education Graduate Student Fund
Katelyn Gagnon, Camby Endowed Scholarship
Kanae Haneishi, C. Lynn Vendien Professional Prize Award
Kirsten Helmer, C. Lynn Vendien Endowed Scholarship
Sami Keats, Meline Kasparian Scholarship
Amanda Laughner, Richard J. Clark Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education
Cheyne LeVesseur, Mary Margaret Whittaker-Webster Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth McCoy, Marylin C. Haley School of Education Scholarship
Robin McCann, Early Childhood Education Scholarship
Jason Muhammad, Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship
Bethany Politylo, Mary Margaret Whittaker-Webster Memorial Scholarship
Natalie Rud, Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship
Juan Ruiz-Hau, Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship
Sherrene St. Peters, Meline Kasparian Scholarship