Bianca Bersani Receives Prestigious W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Award

In announcing the 10 recipients of its annual three fellowship programs in 2011, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) recognized some of the nation's most talented researchers in the early phase of their career—and UMass Boston's Bianca Bersani, assistant professor of sociology, has joined their ranks as the recipient of a 2011 W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Award.

Bersani and her corecipient, Stephanie DiPietro, PhD, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri St. Louis, will spend their fellowship conducting “An Examination of the ‘Marriage Effect’ on Desistance from Crime among U.S. Immigrants.”

“We're very honored and pleased the review committee found our proposed work worthy of funding,” says Bersani. “I'm especially pleased that UMass Boston's reputation continues to grow as a university with a deep commitment to identifying, understanding, and providing solutions to the many complex challenges facing us, our neighbors, and other urban communities.”

The NIJ sponsors fellowship programs to strengthen and broaden the pool of researchers looking at the issues of crime and justice. The W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Program places particular emphasis on crime, violence, and the administration of justice in diverse cultural contexts within the United States. Talented researchers are (cont’d on page 10)

Steve Crosby Wins NEH Grant to Host a National Forum on Civility and American Democracy

Steve Crosby, dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, is the recipient of a $400,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to organize “Civility and American Democracy: A National Forum” in February of 2012.

The forum will explore the concept of civil discourse, the tensions in its theory and practice, and its place in American democracy. Nationally recognized scholars of history, philosophy, comparative religion, law, and culture—including Diana Eck, Randall Kennedy, Jill Lepore and Austin Serat among others will participate. (cont’d on page 10)
David Levy Winner of the Aspen Institute’s Faculty Pioneer Award
For Integrating Social and Environmental Issues into His Research and Teaching

The Center for Business Education at the Aspen Institute has announced that David Levy, professor of management at UMass Boston, has been named one of just three 2011 Faculty Pioneers, recognizing him as an exceptional faculty member who is a leader in integrating social and environmental issues into his teaching and research at the graduate level.

While nominations are open to all faculty members at any institution in any country offering a graduate management degree, the selection process is an extraordinarily rigorous one.

Dubbed the “Oscars of the business school world” by The Financial Times, Levy will be honored as part of the Aspen Institute Center for Business Education Awards in New York City.

Levy teaches courses in international business, strategy, business and climate change, and business and society. He is chair of the Department of Management and Marketing, as well as the founder and director of the Center for Sustainable Enterprise and Regional Competitiveness, which engages in research, education, and outreach to promote a transition to a clean, sustainable, and prosperous economy. He maintains the popular business and climate change blog, ClimateInc.

“This award is a well-deserved recognition of David’s research and leadership. His scholarship is interdisciplinary, innovative, and collaborative, and it has already made a major impact on business education and practice. The College of Management is honored to have such a remarkable colleague,” says Philip Quaglieri, dean of the College of Management.

“We are so impressed by this year’s group of winners and finalists,” says Judith Samuelson, executive director of the Aspen Institute’s Business & Society Program. “Their success in integrating environmental impacts and social context into teaching and research sets a high bar—for business faculty and for the future managers they help prepare for the challenges and opportunities in global business.”

Levy’s research examines corporate strategic responses to climate change, the growth of the clean energy business sector, and the emergence of carbon disclosure as a form of governance. He also writes about the role of business in the governance of contested social and environmental issues, and has published and lectured widely on these topics.

He was recently principal investigator on a grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to develop sustainability education programs. Additionally, he is engaged in collaborative research with colleagues at the University of Oxford, the University of Western Sydney, and other institutions.

This year’s winners were selected from over 80 nominations submitted by respected academics and business executives. Self-nominations are not considered, and finalists are selected by Aspen Institute staff in consultation with prominent academics; winners are selected by a panel of corporate judges.

This year’s final-round judges were Dan Bross, senior director of corporate citizenship, Microsoft; Beth Colleton, vice president, Green is Universal, NBC Universal; Paul Dillinger, senior director, Global Design, Levi Strauss & Co.; Karen Ellis, managing director, Corporate and International Environmental Programs, FedEx Express; Deborah Holmes, global director of corporate responsibility, Ernst & Young; and Carsten Tams, senior vice president, Bertelsmann Ethics & Compliance Executive.
Faculty Profile: Ruth A. Miller, Associate Professor of History

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness. —Howard Zinn

Ruth Miller received her PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University in 2003, and several months later arrived at UMass Boston as an assistant professor of history.

“One of my firmest convictions as a member of the university community is that research and teaching are intimately connected—that a classroom is a space in which students can be exposed to, as well as participate in, the intellectual discovery that is “research” writ large,” says Miller. “I can think of no better place to develop a teaching philosophy.”

As a graduate student, she had been tacitly taught that the academic ideal was a pure research institute involving as little interaction with students as possible. After she arrived at UMass Boston, however, she realized that this was a false ideal.

“I can no longer imagine either the production of meaningful scholarship in the absence of students or effective teaching in the absence of a rigorous research agenda,” she observes. “My fundamental goal as a teacher has thus been to create an environment in which students are not afraid to move beyond the skill acquisition associated with ‘education’ and toward the relentless questioning of norms and ideals associated with ‘research.’”

The most obvious way in which this approach plays out in her history courses is that she leads students to question the authoritative bases of any and all historical narratives. Put another way, she tries to maintain a classroom in which the students—rather than the texts—can become the critical authorities.

For example, the textbook that she was encouraged to use for “Modern Western Civilization”—a core introductory level course she has taught every semester but one during her time at UMass Boston—has become one of the course’s key primary sources. Miller asks her students to approach it no less critically than they do the more obviously ideological works.

As a result, students in the course learn not only to analyze various types of texts from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, but also to question the veneration of authority that underlies so much of modern educational practice—a veneration embodied most obviously in The Textbook.

“My hope is that by creating a space in which such questioning can occur, I can provide students with an opportunity for their own, self-aware intellectual growth,” explains Miller. So she deliberately exposes students to the difficult work of a number of eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century political theorists including Kant, Rousseau, Mazzini, Marx, de Beauvoir, and others. She then encourages the students to draw their own conclusions about these theorists’ influence on modern and contemporary history.

Miller’s research draws on jurisprudential literature in a number of European and West Asian languages, and her writing addresses legal issues that transcend conventional geographical, chronological, and methodological boundaries. She has written five books. One of these, The Erotics of Corruption: Law, Scandal, and Political Perversion, was published in 2008 and reissued as a paperback in 2009.

Her focus, especially in recent years, has been to propose a new starting point for legal analysis—one that sidelines human subjects in order to question the centrality that agency, identity, and embodiment have taken in law scholarship.
In the not-too-distant future, Marc Pomplun could well be described as one of the founding fathers of visual systems for giving or restoring sight to human beings, as well as the silicon-based computers, cyborgs, and robots portrayed in utopian or dystopian literature and film.

“Most of my work during the past five years has been devoted to studying the human visual system through experimentation and modeling,” says Pomplun.

He goes on to explain that more than half of the neurons in the human brain participate in the processing of visual information. Thus a better understanding of the functional nature and structure of the “visual system” would be beneficial to the medical treatment of a wide range of cognitive disorders. Just as significantly, such an understanding may enable researchers to build more powerful artificial systems for performing visual tasks or interacting with human users.

Pomplun’s main experimental paradigm for these studies is the recording of human eye movements during the performance of visual tasks. These eye movements are recorded using an eye-tracking system, for example, the EyeLink-II and EyeLink-2k systems in his Visual Attention Laboratory.

“The insight into cognitive processes gained through eye-movement recording is mainly derived from the close correspondence between eye movements and visual attention,” says Pomplun. “In visual tasks, eye movements are always preceded by shifts of attention and thus are excellent indicators of the time course of a person’s spatial attention while performing a given task.”

So visual attention is a key mechanism for the conscious processing of visual information and thereby integrates at all levels of processing from the perception of simple features such as color and luminance to semantic relations in real-world scenes to the conception of complex problem-solving strategies.

Pomplun believes that teaching informs research and research informs teaching. “My teaching does not only happen in the classroom, but also in my Visual Attention Lab,” he remarks with considerable satisfaction. “Besides being a research facility, this lab is also a place for teaching and mentoring post-doctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and even high school students.”

Since 2007, three students working in Pomplun’s lab have received their PhD degrees, and another four students have received their master’s degrees, two of whom wrote their theses under his supervision. Just as rewarding to Pomplun are the six undergraduate students who have worked with him during this period. Four of those students were recipients of UMass Boston Undergraduate Research Funding Awards for their studies.

As another contribution to his own teaching and the teaching of computer science globally, Pomplun is writing a computer science textbook for undergraduate students titled *Hands-On Computer Vision* to be published by World Scientific Publishers in 2013. All major computer vision topics are covered, together with their mathematical foundations and biological counterparts. By also providing students hands-on experience in building computer vision systems from the ground up, Pomplun believes his book will equip students with the skills necessary for developing professional vision solutions or conducting computer vision research in graduate school.

- $1.1M in federal grants
- 2 books (1 as editor) and 6 book chapters published
- 33 journal articles published, 11 of which included students from the Pomplun Visual Attention Lab as authors
- 34 refereed papers published in conference proceedings

4
As a quantum, or nano-, physicist, Kurt Jacobs attempts to measure and thus understand the role and relevance of the smallest discrete values, or quanta, of matter and energy—and in so doing measure the effects of energy, externally applied and internally generated, to map and enhance our understanding of the behavior of stochastic systems.

Feedback control is the process of monitoring a system and using the information as it is being obtained in real time to apply forces to the system to control its behavior,” explains Jacobs. “Generally the objective is to get the system to maintain a desired evolution in the presence of noise or other uncertainties. The subject of feedback control in classical systems is well-developed, and feedback control is essential in many electrical and mechanical devices. The application of feedback control to quantum systems is the subject of quantum feedback control.”

The key property that distinguishes quantum feedback control from its classical counterpart is that, in general, measurements cause disturbance in quantum systems. That is, the measurement that is part of the feedback loop will introduce noise into the system. Understanding feedback control in quantum systems therefore involves understanding not only how best to use the information obtained by the measurement, but how to optimize the measurement to minimize the disturbance.

In fact, Jacobs has developed and now teaches the new graduate course Introduction to Stochastic Processes. “The class fills two roles,” says Jacobs. “Firstly, the subject is central to much of my own research, and it is therefore very useful for graduate students who wish to pursue research with me. Secondly, this subject has a wide range of applications in interdisciplinary fields, such as neuroscience, finance, and biophysics.”

In 2009, the National Science Foundation awarded Jacobs a grant to determine the ability of time-dependent controls to engineer nonlinear dynamics in, and nonlinear probes for mesoscopic quantum resonators. In 2010, he partnered with physicist Fred Strauch of Williams College, who recently published a paper describing a new theoretical analysis of the routing of information in quantum networks.

A grid of mesoscopic quantum resonators might form the basis for a new type of computer that has groundbreaking potential for harnessing quantum mechanics to perform certain computations far, far better than even today’s supercomputers. So Jacobs is on the cutting-edge of what could very well be a “quantum” leap in our ability and speed to more accurately model, or predict, the behavior of systems, biological, financial, and ecological, to name just a few.

Another important application of feedback control in quantum systems is adaptive measurement. In this case the measurement (or equivalently the system) is altered in real time so as to achieve an effective measurement process that may be difficult to obtain in any other way. Jacobs and his UMass Boston colleagues, Professor Bala Sundaram and post-doc Stephen Choi, are working on the theory of feedback for stabilization and on adaptive measurements, as well as specific applications in atom optics and quantum nano electro mechanical systems.

For more on Dr. Jacobs, see: www.quantum.umb.edu/Jacobs/index.html
A Look Back at Some Major Accomplishments of AY 2010-2011

NIH U54 $13.7M Award Elevates UMass Boston to Top Tier of University-based Cancer Research

Thanks to achieving the highest score of all proposals submitted from across the country, the National Institutes of Health awarded UMass Boston a prestigious $13.7M U54 grant, providing the UMass Boston-Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) partnership with the funds to further contribute to developing and strengthening the country’s national cancer research program.

Specifically, the partnership focuses on understanding the reasons behind the significant cancer disparities and impact on racial and ethnic minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged or underserved populations. Thanks to the partnership’s outstanding project team led by UMass Boston’s Dr. Adan Colon-Carmona (pictured on the left) and the DF/HCC’s Dr. Karen Emmons, UMass Boston joined the ranks of Boston University, Harvard University, and Tufts University as a member of those elite institutions waging war on cancer for the benefit of all people.

ICI Receives $16.8M Grant to Improve Employment Services for People with Disabilities

Thanks to William Kiernan, director of the Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston was awarded a $16.8 million, five-year grant by the U.S. Department of Education—the largest in UMass Boston’s history. The grant’s purpose is to help state agencies assist people with disabilities find paid work in their communities.

The project focuses on people who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and are using their state’s vocational rehabilitation agency services. Those who are eligible for both SSDI and state vocational services are likely to have significant physical, health-related, psychiatric, sensory, intellectual, or communication disabilities. In most cases, these people acquired their disability after taking part in the workforce for some number of years and contributing to Social Security.

The project’s first goal is to create a national model for state agencies, train agencies to implement this model, and evaluate the model’s effectiveness. The project’s second goal is to demonstrate the value of employment services to SSDI beneficiaries, the Social Security Administration, other state and federal agencies, disability advocates, politicians, employers, and the nation’s citizenry.

Masters In Nursing Online Names Fawcett One of Most Influential in Nursing

Professor of Nursing Jacqueline Fawcett, PhD, RN, FAAN, was named one of the top 20 most influential in the nursing field by Masters In Nursing Online. Dr. Fawcett is an internationally recognized authority on conceptual models of nursing and nursing theory. Her ongoing programs focus on functional status in normal life transitions and serious illness and women’s responses to cesarean birth. Her colleagues describe Fawcett, one of five editors of the international Journal of Advanced Nursing, as one of the most influential scholars in the nursing profession.
Professor of Sociology Russell Schutt published his 12th book, *Homelessness, Housing and Mental Illness* (2011, Harvard University Press). In it he examines the divergence of consumer housing preferences and clinician housing recommendations, the meaning and impact of mental illness, the consequences of substance abuse, the process of developing social relations, changing staff roles and empowering tenants within group homes, and the impact of these factors on residential stability. This work contributes to a growing literature on the influence of the social environment on attitudes, behavior, and cognitive functioning. His publication record is nationally recognized as a major achievement, with one of his books in its 7th edition, one in its 4th edition, one in its 3rd, and two others in their 2nd.

### Sociologist Schutt Inspires in Others to Work Harder and Do More

**Professor of Sociology Russell Schutt** published his 12th book, *Homelessness, Housing and Mental Illness* (2011, Harvard University Press). In it he examines the divergence of consumer housing preferences and clinician housing recommendations, the meaning and impact of mental illness, the consequences of substance abuse, the process of developing social relations, changing staff roles and empowering tenants within group homes, and the impact of these factors on residential stability. This work contributes to a growing literature on the influence of the social environment on attitudes, behavior, and cognitive functioning. His publication record is nationally recognized as a major achievement, with one of his books in its 7th edition, one in its 4th edition, one in its 3rd, and two others in their 2nd.

### Psychologist Rhodes Takes Center Stage on Youth Mentoring Research

**Professor of Psychology Jean Rhodes**, a globally recognized expert on youth mentoring research, was appointed the first research director of the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership Endowed Chair.

The endowed chair is the result of a new alliance between UMass Boston and the nonprofit MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. In an effort to build on the momentum the field has gained over the past 20 years, the alliance will create an open and efficient exchange of evidence-based youth mentoring research among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers.

### A National Center for Advanced Technological Education Established at UMass Boston

**Led by principal investigator Deborah Boisvert**, a National Center for Broadening Advanced Technological Education Connections was established at UMass Boston with a $5M grant from the National Science Foundation.

The new national center will spread the success of the Boston Area Advanced Technological Education Connections, or BATEC. Over the past eight years, BATEC has developed a regionally coordinated system for attracting talented students from demographically diverse backgrounds to IT careers, promoting lifelong learning of technical skills, and meeting our region’s IT workforce needs.

### First Lady Presents ALERTA Program with National Award for Excellence

**On October 20, 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama** honored Project ALERTA with the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. This is the nation’s highest honor for after-school and out of school arts and humanities programs, particularly those that reach underserved children and youth. ALERTA was selected as one of 15 programs from more than 400 nominations for its excellence in developing new pathways to creativity, expression, and achievement outside of the regular school day in partnership with Boston Public Schools. Receiving the award is Lucia Mayerson-David, director of the UMass Boston Institute of Learning and Teaching.
Hannigan Elected Fellow of American Association for Advancement of Science

Professor of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences Robyn Hannigan was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for her contributions to science and technology. She is also a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow, and the 2007 recipient of the American Chemical Society Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. Her research and student mentoring have been highlighted by the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, AAAS, and the National Science Foundation.

She joined other current and retired UMass Boston faculty who are also AAAS Fellows: Manickam Sugumaran, biology; Kamaljit Bawa, biology; Michael Shiaris, biology; Elizabeth Davis (retired), biology; Lawrence Kaplan (retired), biology; and Arthur Eisenkraft, science education.

Tucker Honored for Curating Monet Exhibition

*Claude Monet: Late Work*, a show curated by UMass Boston Professor of Art Paul Hayes Tucker, was named Best Show in a Commercial Gallery in New York by the U.S. section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA).

Each year, in a widely covered event, AICA-USA presents museums, galleries, and alternative spaces with Best Show awards. Winning projects were voted on by the 400 active association members. AICA is the only organization that awards excellence in museum and gallery exhibitions.

Tucker, who has taught art history at UMass Boston since 1978, is currently The Paul Hayes Tucker Distinguished Professor of Art, a Chair established in his name by two Boston patrons of the arts, Barbara Lee and Ellen Poss. He has been hailed by *Time Magazine* as one of America’s foremost authorities on Claude Monet and Impressionism. He also founded Arts on the Point in 1997, a distinguished collection of sculptures by internationally renowned artists that are housed across the UMass Boston campus.

FY 2011 External Grants with an Annual Budget of $500,000 or More

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grant Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stephen Reuys</strong>, Adult Literacy Resource Institute</td>
<td>$559,777 from the Massachusetts Department of Education. (9/1/10-8/31/11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adán Colón-Carmona</strong>, Biology</td>
<td>$1,279,856 from the National Cancer Institute for the “UMass Boston Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center U54 Partnership.” (9/28/-8/31/15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Robert Chen</strong>, Center on Science and Math in Context</td>
<td>$699,982 from the National Science Foundation for “Boston Energy in Science Teaching.” (8/1/10-7/31/13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arthur Eisenkraft</strong>, Center on Science and Math in Context</td>
<td>$654,130 from the National Science Foundation for “Active Physics.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lois Biener</strong>, Center for Survey Research</td>
<td>$595,490 from the National Cancer Institute for “Receptivity to New Smokeless Tobacco Products among Test Market Population.” (7/1/1-6/30/13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Steve Crosby</strong>, Collins Center for Public Management</td>
<td>$809,124 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance “To Begin Implementation of a Comprehensive Performance Management System across All of State Government.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Laura Vanderberg, Education and Human Development

Susan Foley, Institute for Community Inclusion
$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for the “Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Vocational Rehabilitation.” (10/1/07-9/30/12)

John Halliday, Institute for Community Inclusion
$1,223,109 from the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance for “FY 2011 Rapid Response and Financial Planning.” (7/1/10-6/30/11)

Debra Hart, Institute for Community Inclusion
$800,000 from the Administration for Children and Families for “A Consortium on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.” (10/1/08-9/30/10)

Debra Hart, Institute for Community Inclusion
$660,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for “Think College: Coordinating Center for Transition and Postsecondary Programs.” (10/1/10-9/30/12)

Debra Hart, Institute for Community Inclusion
$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for the “Center on Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities.” (10/1/08-9/30/11)

William Kiernan, Institute for Community Inclusion
$521,475 from the Corporation for National and Community Service for “Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers.” (10/1/08-9/30/11)

William Kiernan, Institute for Community Inclusion
$842,000 from BCT Partners, LLC, for “BCT Technical Assistance to One-Stops in Becoming Employment Networks.” (9/29/10-9/28/11)

William Kiernan, Institute for Community Inclusion
$1,500,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service for “National Service Pathways to Employment: Training and Technical Assistance.” (10/1/09-9/30/12)

Paula Sotnik, Institute for Community Inclusion
$675,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service for the “National Service Inclusion Project.” (10/1/08-9/30/13)

Cynthia Thomas, Institute for Community Inclusion
$1,427,094 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for “Massachusetts Medicaid Infrastructure and Comprehensive Employment Opportunities.” (1/1/10-12/31/11)

Lisa Van Thiel, Institute for Community Inclusion
$600,000 from the National Institutes of Health for “Attentional Demand of Chronic Pain and Risk for Falls in Older Adults.” (4/1/11-3/31/16)

Suzanne Leveille, Nursing
$667,445 from the National Science Foundation for “The Synergy Collaborative for Research, Practice, and Assessment.” (5/31/11-8/31/12)

Deborah Boisvert, University College
$343,692 from the National Science Foundation for “Advancing the Successful IT Student through Enhanced Computational Thinking.” (9/1/09-9/30/12)
Bersani Receives Prestigious Du Bois Fellowship Award...cont’d from page 1

provided with an opportunity early in their career to elevate independently generated research and ideas to the level of national discussion. Although the specific areas of focus vary each year, any research funded by this program is deemed to have direct implications for criminal justice policy and practice in the United States.

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) was an early leader in the struggle for racial equality in the United States. As a social scientist, Du Bois used objective methods to challenge discriminatory ideologies and institutions to advocate for social change. His classic study *The Philadelphia Negro*, published in 1899, was a groundbreaking sociological study of the city’s black community, and one of the first research projects to combine urban ethnography, social history, and descriptive statistics.

Bersani’s current research projects include an examination of longitudinal patterns of offending among contemporary and early 20th century immigrants, tests of the “marriage effect” on offending trajectories, and the investigation of the relationship between language diversity and crime.

For more on Dr. Bersani, see: www.umb.edu/academics/cla/faculty/bianca_bersani/

National Forum on Civility and American Democracy in 2012...cont’d from page 1

The forum is the first in a series of public events planned for 2012 at the newly created Center for Civil Discourse at the McCormack Graduate School. Mary Jane Patrone, former senior vice president of *The Boston Globe*, has joined the center as director.

Two national “Democracy Debates,” based on the intellectual content of the forum and designed to demonstrate what civility looks like in practice, will follow in June 2012 and September 2012. These debates will focus on urgent and controversial issues of the day. Debaters will be drawn from academia, the media, and politics, and will personify the principles of civil discourse while arguing passionately for their positions.

“‘The goal of the forum is to produce original thinking by prominent humanities scholars and political thinkers on the meaning of civility and its role in American democracy,’” says Crosby. “‘The Debates will model civility in vigorous, fact-based discussions.’”

Both the forum and the democracy debates will engage a broad audience through radio and television broadcasts and live streaming on the Internet. An online community will participate before and after the events, extending the public conversation throughout the year and engaging ordinary citizens in the process of examination and discovery.

**About the Center for Civil Discourse**

Perhaps the most important avenue for sharing ideas in our democracy is public discussion and debate.

The Center for Civil Discourse is organized around the central principle that open, fair, and truthful debate, characterized by respect for opposing viewpoints, is essential to a healthy democracy.

The center advances the voices of reason and civility in our society. Experts at the center will examine the challenges that democracy and human nature bring to bear on the search for reasoned political discourse and common ground in our public institutions. It brings academic rigor and public scrutiny to the great issues that face the American democracy. The center is a convener and exemplar of civil discourse in American life.

For more on the Center for Civil Discourse, see: www.umb.edu/civil_discourse/
New Sponsored Awards

Randy Albelda, Economics
$50,000 by The Ford Foundation in support of her project “Linking Youth Development with Parents’ Low-Wage Work.” (2011-2012)

Lilia Bartolome, Applied Linguistics
$39,200 by the Massachusetts Department of Education in support of her work on the “Professional Development for Teachers of English Language Learners.” (2011)

Joan Becker, Academic Support Services
$7,000 by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services in support of the “Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Transition to Work Program,” which will be administered by the Ross Center for Disability Services. (2011)

Deborah Boisvert, University College
$5,100,000 by the National Science Foundation to increase the scale of the Boston Area for Advanced Technological Educational Connections from a regional to a national initiative through the establishment of a “National Center for Advanced Technological Education.” (2011-2013)

John Butterworth, Institute for Community Inclusion
$100,000 by the Health Resources and Services Administration for the project “Services and Outcomes for Transition-Age Young Adults with Autism.”

Lisa Cosgrove, Counseling and School Psychology
$23,700 by the Harvard University Safra Foundation Center for Ethics for the project “An Ethnographic Approach to Understanding the History and Ethics of the American Psychiatric Association.” (2011-2012)

Steve Crosby, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
$400,000 by the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop and present “A National Forum on Civility and American Democracy.” (2011-2012)

Ellen Douglas, Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences
$68,539 by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust for the project “Monitoring Dam Removal in Massachusetts: Towards a Regional River Restoration Strategy.” (2011-2014)

Susan Foley, Institute for Community Inclusion
$116,000 by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a “Comprehensive Assessment of All Massachusetts Focus Academy Grant Activities.” (2011-2012)

Katherine Gibson, Biology
$305,000 by the National Institutes of Health and $300,000 by the National Science Foundation for the project “Cell Cycle Regulation in the Symbiont Sinorhizobium Melilot.” (2011-2014)

Andrew Grosovsky, Biology
$20,000 by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in support of the conference “Advancing in the Life Science and Uniting Universities, Corporate, and Government Partners” that will be held at UMass Boston on October 27-29, 2011. (2011)

Donna Haig-Friedman, Center for Social Policy
$10,000 by the Vinfen Corporation for the project “Strategies for Community-Based Services for Persons with Disabilities.” (2011-2012)

Judith Kurland, Center for Community Democracy and Democratic Literacy
$47,000 by the United Way of Massachusetts Bay in support of her project “Creating a Community of Practice Among Place-Based Community Change.” (2011-2012)

Kurt Jacobs, Physics
$460,000 by Telecordia to support the development of a “Quantum Computer Science Program.” (2010-2014)

Michael Rex and Solange Brault, Biology
$145,637 by the National Science Foundation in support of their project “Reproductive and Geographic Evidence for Source-Sink Dynamics in Deep-Sea Benthic Communities.” (2011-2014)

Crystal Schaaf, Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences
$140,775 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in support of her project “Land-to-Sea Carbon Export from the Northeast Watersheds of North America.” (2011-2014)

(cont’d on page 12)
New Sponsored Awards...cont’d from page 11

Crystal Schaaf, Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences
$153,616 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in support of her project “Albedo Trends Related to Land Cover Change and Disturbance: A Multi-Sensor Approach.” (2011-2014)

Crystal Schaaf, Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences
$34,100 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for work on “Mapping Change in Arctic Shrub Abundance and Woody Biomass.” (2011-2012)

Angela Stone-MacDonald, Curriculum and Instruction
$8,700 by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to participate in “Developing Early Education and Care On-line Courses.” (2011)

Eileen Stuart-Shor, Nursing
$5,000 by the American Nurses Association in support of her project “Global Cardiovascular Risk Assessment: Kenya Heart and Sole Program.” (2011-2012)

Heather Trigg, Anthropology
$10,500 by the University of Tennessee in support of her project “Analysis of Microbotanicals from Wingos Indian Camp, Poplar Forest Virginia.” (2010-2012)

Alexey Veraksa, Biology
$290,379 grant by the National Institutes of Health in support of his project “Regulation of Developmental Signaling by Beta-arrestin.” (2011-2014)

Kristan Wendall, Center of Science and Math in Context
$20,526 by Tufts University in support of the project “Integrating Engineering and Literacy.” The prime sponsor is the National Science Foundation. (2011-2012)

Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute
$179,585 by the Town of Southampton, New York to “Develop a Waterfront Revitalization Plan” for that town. (2011-2013)

J. Cedric Woods, Institute for New England Native American Studies
$15,000 “Leadership and Entrepreneurship Feasibility Grant” by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. The prime sponsor is the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011)

Wenfan Yan, Leadership in Higher Education Administration
$100,000 by the Beijing No. 2 Experimental Primary School as part of the “Collaborative Agreement for the Institute for International and Comparative Education and the Center for U.S.-China Educational Leadership.” (2011-2014)

Wei Zhang, Chemistry
$25,000 grant to host the “2011 American Chemical Society Pharmaceutical Roundtable” at UMass Boston. (2011)

RISC Quarterly
Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Initiatives
Quinn Administration Building, Third Floor
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
617.287.5614; E-mail: james.mortenson@umb.edu

Special thanks are due the following individuals: Barbara Graceffa of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, for her page 1 story on Steve Crosby and the NEH grant; and Crystal Bozek of University Communications for her contributions to the page 2 story on David Levy as well as her story on “IDEAS Boston Wows Audience of 450 at UMass Boston.”