Message from the Interim Director

As we begin the Spring 2016 semester, our second semester of courses in the first year of our TCCS MS program, we wanted to share program news and accomplishments in a Winter Newsletter, along with a calendar of events.

First, we are excited to welcome Karen Suyemoto as TCCS Director, a UMass Boston Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies who has already been an integral part of the development of TCCS. The TCCS faculty believed her national and international recognition as a leader in scholarship and training for multicultural psychology practice incorporating social justice, commitment to diverse student mentoring at graduate and undergraduate levels, administrative experience, and deep knowledge of both graduate education and ethnic studies programs locally and nationally, were the ideal match for TCCS. See Karen's brief bio below, and visit her web page to learn more about her work. I will continue as TCCS Director for the rest of this academic year, and Karen has already been active in planning for next year's programs.

TCCS faculty and the first MS student cohort enjoyed the first semester of courses, while engaging in continuing conversations about how to best support each student in their unique interests, academic and professional goals. We want to thank Loan Dao, Curriculum Committee Chair, and committee members Rosalyn Negrón and Raul Ybarra for their stellar contribution to planning our first year of courses, as well as faculty teaching these courses. I had the pleasure of teaching TCCS 600 (Professional Development seminar), getting to know students' talents and goals; students remarked that the extraordinary diversity and social justice perspectives shared by both their student cohort and program faculty made their educational experience exceptional. Each student sought out TCCS for ways our unique focus on diverse communities, transdisciplinary research methods and social justice mission matched their own professional goals, discovering exciting new synergies through program participation. We are grateful to faculty, administration and staff, UMass Boston Institutes and Centers, campus and community partners and students as we implement our shared mission, to learn from/with community efforts to improve lives and promote equity through the power of knowledge.

Halfway through this first year for TCCS, we have succeeded in creating an educational environment and intellectual community with our unique UMass Boston mix of critical, comparative and transnational perspectives on race, ethnicity, and immigration, transdisciplinary methods using knowledge for social change, and university/community partnerships. We are hearing from prospective applicants excited about TCCS who can see how our current graduate students are using the program creatively and meaningfully to shape professional pathways, developing knowledge to promote social justice through community-engaged work in many settings.

This semester, our events feature co-sponsored activities focused on Immigrant and Refugee Issues, a TCCS Open House for prospective students, and an end-of-the-year celebration. Want to share events with the TCCS community or feature accomplishments in our Spring 2016 Newsletter? Please email us!

Ester R. Shapiro, PhD (aka Ester Rebeca Shapiro Rok)
Interim Director, Transnational Cultural and Community Studies (TCCS)
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Karen L. Suyemoto

Karen L. Suyemoto, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies at UMass Boston and a licensed psychologist. She has taught and supervised undergraduate students in both programs and graduate students in the Clinical Psychology PhD program since arriving at UMass Boston in 2000.

Her teaching, scholarship, and community coaction reflect her commitment to contributing to social justice and empowering those who have been oppressed, marginalized, or silenced. Her courses focus on issues within her joint disciplines related to racialization, culture, and diversity, with applications of psychology and qualitative methods.

With her intergenerational research team, she focuses her scholarship on the processes of resisting oppression from both privileged and marginalized statuses; on meanings, constructions, and operationalizations of identities and concepts related to power and privilege; and on connections between research/theory and practice in order to contribute to mental health and social justice. Her publications and presentations have focused on inter-minority race relations, training psychologists for cultural sensitivity, teaching for transformation and social justice, and feminist applications and connections with multicultural understandings in psychotherapy.

She has provided consultation and training focusing on diversity and anti-racist therapy and education, contributing leadership and service to national and regional associations such as the New England Center for Inclusive Teaching, the Association for Asian American Studies, and the American Psychological Association’s Minority Fellowship Program. Dr. Suyemoto has served as President of the national Asian American Psychological Association [AAPA] and was one of the first co-chairs of the AAPA Division on Women.

She currently serves as the AAPA observing representative to the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives. In 2012, she was the first recipient of the Joan H. Liem Award for Outstanding Doctoral Mentoring. In 2013, she was recognized as a White House Champion of Change: Asian American Pacific Islander Women and also received the Asian American Psychological Association’s Distinguished Contributions Award.

TCCS will benefit greatly from her highly regarded scholarship, her national recognition as a stellar mentor and leader, and her deep knowledge of UMass Boston’s approach to cultural and community studies across the University. You can learn more about her work and about her research team at http://klsuyemoto.net/index.html
**Events & Announcements**

Learn about events and opportunities relevant to the TCCS community.

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**TCCS SPONSORED EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**February 22, 12-1:30, CC-3-3540 – Dreams Deported: Immigrant Youth and Families Resist Deportation**
The Immigrant Student Task Force is hosting a special book event and dialogue for *Dreams Deported: Immigrant Youth and Families Resist Deportation* (2015), including a keynote speech by Kent Wong (Editor and Director of Center for Labor Research and Education at UCLA). *Dreams Deported* is the third volume of a book series published by the UCLA Labor Center, written by and about immigrant youth. The book features young leaders who are risking their lives to change immigration policies, have led the national campaign against deportations and successfully challenged the president of the United States to act. Co-sponsored by TCCS, this event features Kent Wong with a diverse panel of community leaders, professors, and students, including Renata Teodoro (Lead Organizer at Student Immigrant Movement), Natalicia Tracy (Executive Director at Brazilian Immigrant Center and Education at UCLA). For more info, please contact Alessandra Bazo Vienrich (Alessandra.Bazovi001@umb.edu).

**February 24, 4-6 PM, CC-2-2545 – TCCS Admissions Open House**
Join us at the TCCS Admissions Open House! Learn about the MS program from faculty and current students. For details, contact Marisol Negrón (Marisol.Negron@umb.edu) or Armando Vizcardo (TCCS.Program@umb.edu).

**March 23, 4-6 PM, Healey-4-Center for Library Instruction – UMass Boston/Casa de Las Americas Cuban American Archives: A Transnational Dialogue on Cuban Diaspora Activism Supporting Cuba.**
Following a planning trip to Casa de las Americas in Havana, which included Professor Miren Uriarte, Dean of the University Libraries Daniel Ortiz, and Provost Winston Langley, the archives project titled Movement in support of Cuba on the part of members of the Cuban diaspora in the US, Puerto Rico and other countries (1960's-1990's)/Movimiento en apoyo a Cuba por miembros de la diaspora Cubana en los EEUU, Puerto Rico y otros países (1960's-1990's) has expanded to include both the Antonio Maceo Brigade and other members of the Cuban diaspora who supported Cuba. The panel will present the history and purpose of the collaboration, and will include participants in the Antonio Maceo Brigade and discussion of the personal and political impacts of these Cuban American activists, with invited guests linked in from Casa de las Americas in Havana. The panel will itself provide a chance to further the work of the archives, as the event will be recorded and students will have the opportunity to contribute to oral history interviews of panelists. If you have interested students who would like to contribute to the oral histories, please have them contact Ester.Shapiro@umb.edu.

**April 11, 10-2 PM – EMK Institute and UMass Boston: The National Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis**
The Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Institute is producing a program with UMass Boston on refugees as part of the UMB-EMK Coordinating Committee, including Professors Rajini Srikanth and Paul Watanabe and Dean William Kiernan. Held in the EMK Senate Chamber (UMass Boston), experts on immigration will gather and focus on the national response to the Syrian refugee crisis and America’s role and responsibility vis-à-vis international law.

**April 11, 2-4 PM – UMass Boston Working Group at the EMK Institute**
After the EMK event, a UMass Boston faculty Working Group on immigrant and refugee issues will meet to discuss individual and collaborative work on these topics and future programs. The Working Group draws on the Mission Statement and work of the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment (CIRCLE) Program, founded by Peter Kiang and established in 1994 at UMass Boston in collaboration with Lowell and Amherst campuses. CIRCLE’s mission was to work with refugee/immigrant communities, developing and documenting innovative models and practices strengthening those communities’ collective leadership and multicultural competence for sustained community development. Drawing collaboratively on the strengths, traditions
and resources of refugee/immigrant communities and the University system, CIRCLE sought to facilitate the positive transformation of individuals, communities and institutions with the long-term goal of building and sharing a thriving democratic society. CIRCLE was funded with major support from the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants, coordinating activities including courses, training workshops and conferences, participatory action research projects, technical assistance and ongoing linkages to a broad array of community-based and university-based resources and networks. At an initial planning meeting for the working group, we appreciated the many faculty across the campus conducting scholarship, pedagogy and practice focused on immigrant and refugee concerns. We also recognized that both public attitudes and financial support for immigrant and refugee integration have changed substantially. The TCCS community looks forward to continuing conversations about immigrant and refugee experiences and leadership in community development during these times of heightened anti-immigrant sentiment. The rich immigrant diversity of UMass Boston, our faculty expertise and community partnerships can contribute meaningfully to knowledge about immigrant and refugee success.

April 25-29 – Cape Verdean Week at UMass Boston
Co-sponsored by Cape Verdean Student Association, Trotter Institute, and TCCS, students are developing a full week of social and educational activities to raise campus awareness of Cape Verdean students and communities. For details, please contact Candida Rose Baptista (Candida.Baptista001@umb.edu).

FOCUS ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AT UMASS BOSTON & BEYOND

UMass Boston established the Office of Minority Health Disparities Research
Interdisciplinary and community-engaged, the newly established Office of Minority Health Disparities Research (OMHDR) at UMass Boston reflects the need for strategic and intentional efforts toward health equity in Massachusetts and the US. OMHDR aims to serve as an infrastructure for supporting and expanding health disparities research, education, and training at UMass Boston. TCCS Student Tariana V. Little is Assistant Program Manager of OMHDR and will make recommendations to the TCCS community about upcoming events in this area.

February 16, 12-1:30 PM – Racial & Ethnic Health & Health Care Disparities & Dysfunction Seminar
The Looking Back seminar reviews a key historical topic in racial and ethnic disparities and highlights its impact on present-day disparities. This event is free and open to the public; members of local health care organizations are encouraged to attend. Reserve your spot (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCBXMXV) and for more info visit the Massachusetts General Hospital Disparities Solution Center website (http://mghdisparitiessolutions.org).

PAST EVENTS

January 28 – Getting to the Point on New England’s Response to Refugee Crises
UMass Boston students and faculty participated in Getting to the Point, a program at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute (UMass Boston campus), and Today’s Vote. The program began with a panel discussing New England’s response to the challenge of immigrant integration given Ted Cruz’s Bill on the refugee crisis in the Middle East (Bill S. 2302, the Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act of 2015). The panel included Phil Nadeau, involved for decades with support for Somalian refugees in Lewiston, ME, Eva Millona (MIRA Coalition), Jessica M. Vaughan (Center for Immigration Studies), and moderator Maria Sacchetti (Boston Globe).

January 18 – 19th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr./Amilcar Cabral Commemorative Program
The 19th annual MLK/AC program, “The Urgency of Now”, was held on campus and sponsored by the Africana Studies Department and the Center for African, Caribbean and Community Development at UMass Boston. Faculty, staff, students and community members heard from Dr. Nteri Nelson on education and wellness, from Vanessa Silva and Lanise Fraizer on Boston actions in the #BlackLivesMatter Movement, and a UMass Boston student panel on their travel to Africa. Candida Rose Baptista, an acclaimed singer and student in TCCS, offered musical selections throughout the day’s program. An event highlight was the UMass Boston student panel, chaired by Lashon Amado (Youthbuild), and comprised of Tao Clarke, Jessica Tavares, Fantasia Fernandes and Deadra Lopes, who spoke very meaningfully about the impact of travel to African nations of personal and collective origin including Cabo Verde, Ghana, and Morocco. The students spoke eloquently to the value of Africana Studies and Pan-African perspectives in connecting to their African roots either personally, as for students visiting Cabo Verde whose families immigrated from there, or collectively, as students experienced African countries and had the opportunity to see its rich resources of natural beauty and connected to the warm welcome from the people and communities they visited. The student panelists shared their insights about challenging myths perpetuated by colonial legacies, and their learning from the opportunity to offer English language education while also learning
January 12–14 – Latino Student Success Institute: Building Pathways from High School to Baccalaureate

The very first Latino Student Success Institute event, Latino Student Success: Building Pathways from High School to Baccalaureate, hosted at UMass Boston and the Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) Chelsea campus offered an opportunity for faculty and staff from Chelsea High School, BHCC, and UMass Boston to collaborate in exploring culturally inclusive pedagogies and practices, engaging Latino families, and supporting the success of Latino students. Modeled on an established collaboration between the UMass Boston Asian American Studies program and BHCC, the Institute was part of a collaborative grant funded by the Vision Project, a Massachusetts Department of Higher Education initiative supporting public campus programs intended to advance goals including college participation, college completion, student learning, workforce alignment, preparing citizens and eliminating disparities among students from different ethnic, racial, gender and income groups. The grant brings together BHCC, Chelsea High School, UMass Boston and local community-based organizations to collaborate on greater engagement of Latino students and their families, career and educational planning, community-based and experiential learning and aligned and accelerated curricular pathways. In addition, Latino Studies Program faculty at UMass Boston will work with BHCC faculty to integrate Latino studies into the College’s curricula. Director of Learning Communities Liya Escalera, team leader for BHCC, and Lorna Rivera, associate professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, Director of Latino Studies, and UMass Boston’s team leader for the project, planned an informative and engaging 3-day program that included Professor Lorna Rivera’s overviews of Latino student educational outcomes nationally and locally, and what studies say about barriers to success, along with a dynamic presentation by Professor Marisol Negrón on Latino Studies at UMass Boston, student, faculty and staff panels, roundtable discussions of action steps, and a walking tour of Chelsea. UMass Boston. TCCS student Tariana V. Little, Gastón administrative staff member and UMass Boston student Daniela Bravo, and UMass Boston Professor Raul Ybarra participated as invited panelists on the intersections of race, ethnicity, culture, class, and gender.

Our TCCS Staff

Our Administrative Assistants offer dynamic skills and perspectives.

Armando Vizcardo

Armando is pursuing a BA in Economics and minoring in Psychology and Sociology (UMass Boston) to explore how social and economic conditions impact individual and community wellbeing. He is experienced in grant writing, event planning, and office management, through work at the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts and the Children’s League of Massachusetts. A Latino Leadership Opportunity Program alum, he received The Robert Hildreth Award, designed to support UMass Boston Latino students in a research project in Latin America. Armando spent a month at the University of Quintana Roo, for his study “Micro-Entrepreneurship Strategies of Maya Migrants: A Socioeconomic Analysis”, which he will present in a campus forum this spring. He is also involved with ¡Todos Juntos!, a Gastón Institute community project assisting Boston immigrants obtain MassHealth insurance, and a study on cultural factors facilitating the success of under-represented students in STEM. Armando aspires for a career in research and social policy to improve Latino communities.

Sarra Bensabeur

Sarra is seeking a BA in Social Psychology (UMass Boston) and is fluent in Arabic, French, and Spanish. In her original country, Algeria, she was a private tutor, part-time teacher and host/event planner of an international book gala in The Institute Cervantes (Language school and cultural Center). Even though Sarra was finishing a BA in Spanish, immigrating to the US was the turning point in her life. She became a mother, a US citizen and a graduate with Honors from Bunker Hill Community College (AA in Foreign Language Concentration and Certificate in World Studies). She has been involved in many community and nonprofit organizations, such as volunteering at the Jewish Vocational Service and Asian American Civic Association. As a Muslim immigrant experienced in linguistic and cultural diversity, being involved with TCCS is a privilege. For Sarra, the TCCS program is a hope for a more peaceful future because it brings attention to the needs of diverse migrants.
Our TCCS Students
Our students bring diverse and rich backgrounds and perspectives.

**Candida Rose Baptista**
Candy is a 2nd generation Cape Verdean-American from New Bedford, MA. She is a vocalist, entertainer, songwriter, educator, mother and grandmother. She received a BA (high honors) in Music (UMass Dartmouth) in 2015, specializing in African-American/World music performance with a minor in African-American Studies. In 2006 Candy debuted “KabuMerikana: The Sum of Me”, a 10-song CD about her Cape Verdean-American identity. Her interests in TCCS include developing a curriculum to teach Cape Verdean and Cape Verdean-American history through the eyes of music and culture. She is a Graduate Assistant in the Trotter Institute, focused on Black Cape Verdean and Lusophone communities and connecting with Cape Verdean students on campus.

**Sarah "Roo" Franzel**
Roo holds an AA in Graphic Design and a BA (high honors) in Anthropology (UMass Boston). An artist at heart, Roo is most proud of her photography and collaborative art. In 2002 she and world-renowned artist Joe Davis collaborated on his "DNAographies" (photographs using DNA as photo emulsion), which has been shown globally. Born with a desire to empower women with low self-esteem, Roo and photographer Craig McCormack created Heroine Adventures, an online graphic novel that shares women’s stories of heroineship, and has showed some of the novel’s cover designs in a South Boston gallery in 2010. Roo has tutored since 2002; for her work with elementary school children at Tutoring Plus of Cambridge in 2014, she received the Louis Menand III Volunteer Appreciation Award. In this spirit of collaboration and dedication to work with diverse communities, Roo aims to bring her talents to TCCS. She is the TA in Chorus.

**Thary S. Lim**
Thary is the daughter of Southeast Asian refugees and identifies as 2nd generation Cambodian American woman. She holds a BA in Asian American Studies (UMass Boston) and is the first in her family to receive an undergraduate degree. Thary serves as both a Teaching and Research Assistant on campus, working with Professor Rosalyn Negron on a study of cultural factors that can support underrepresented student success in STEM majors, an Executive Assistant for PointOneNorth Consulting, and an Intern for Merck Family Fund. In her spare time, Thary enjoys hiking, traveling, running, yoga, photography, peacemaking circles, and being involved in diverse community initiatives. Thary hopes to integrate in TCCS her many academic, professional, and personal experiences.

**Tariana V. Little**
Following her mantra of “intentional creativity for social change”, Tariana co-founded EmVision Productions, a media production agency, and her TVLENSES photography focuses on human strength and sensuality. Tariana serves on the National Millennial Advisory Board for BeVisible Latina, the first career-building platform in the US for Latinas by Latinas, and works with Chica Project, an intergenerational mentoring organization for Latina youth in Massachusetts. She holds an MS in Clinical Investigation (UMass Medical School) and is pursuing a Certificate in Digital Health Communication (Tufts University). Centered on social justice and her Afro-Dominican-German heritage, Tariana chose TCCS for graduate studies because it offers the opportunity to bridge creative arts with diverse study methods to better impact social change. She is Assistant Program Manager in UMass Boston’s new Office of Minority Health Disparities Research, and the TCCS program TA, for which she focuses on supporting students as well as social marketing strategies to recruit future TCCS applicants.
**Tri Quach**
Tri Quach and his family are ethnic Chinese refugees of the Vietnam War. Originally a community organizer in Boston's Chinatown, Tri was previously the Coordinator for the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth (CAPAY). Started in 1993, CAPAY was a youth organization focused on organizing training and critical analysis development towards positive community change. Continuing his work in student development and media/art, Tri is the Program Coordinator for Asian America Studies at UMass Boston and works with Professor Shirley Tang on the AsAmSt370 Media Literacy class, where students connect their under-represented stories to a political and social context. Tri has created and exhibited installations about issues of community organizing, history, and identity, such as “Laundry day: the next wave” and “Stories from Asian America”. Tri seeks to bring his various interests and backgrounds into TCCS.

**Iria Dopazo Ruibal**
Originally from Spain, Iria is a transnational student with educational experience in Europe and the US. She has a rich and diverse professional experience in the health care field in her home country, including working in primary care, hospitalization, education, entrepreneurship, and as an international health inspector for the Spanish government. To broaden her training, she obtained a graduate certificate in Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy (UMass Boston) before enrolling in TCCS. She currently works at the Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, and with professor Miren Uriarte in the Boston School Committee. Passionate about social justice, Iria is also interested in the intersections of health and education among immigrant populations.

**Kim Soun Ty**
Kim is a 2nd generation Cambodian American womxn from Lynn and Dorchester, MA. Her interests include the Cambodian diaspora, intersectional identities of womxn of color in the U.S., and Asian American youth. She served as a member of the AsAmSt370 Media Literacy teaching team for the national AANAPISI collaboration in 2014-2015. Kim received the East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) 2014 Trailblazer award. This award is given each year to a student who embodies ECAASU’s goal to inspire, educate, and empower those interested in Asian American issues and communities. As awardee, Kim spoke at the 2014 ECAASU Conference in Washington, D.C. She hopes to obtain a PhD and be a professor in Asian American Studies, focusing on the Cambodian diaspora. She has a Graduate Assistant to Professor Shirley Tang is continuing their work in Digital Storytelling. In her free time, Kim loves to eat, workout, and write.

**Nicole K. Young**
Nicole Young was born and raised in South Boston. She received a BA in Anthropology and a certificate in Labor Studies (UMass Boston). She is the Director of Programs at the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), Harvard University’s student-led nonprofit. In this capacity, Nicole supports the undergraduate student leaders who run programs in South Boston and the South End, as well as PBHA’s prison education, gender, special needs programming, and youth homeless shelter. She has worked in various professional capacities, with particular interests in substance abuse and trauma management. Nicole is excited to be in TCCS to explore race and ethnic hierarchy structures, criminal justice, specifically issues on gangs, prison reform, community identity, and activism.