Joiner Institute Newsletter - Summer 2019

Newsletter Features:

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  ○ Veterans Poetry Workshop in UK (fully funded) - July 1
  ○ Minoo Emami "Wounded Beauty" on view until June 29
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- Joiner Spring Events Recap
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  ○ Building Trust: Conversations with Student Refugees

- Welcome Renee Jean and Tony Martin

- Mitch Manning’s new book

- Thank you to our Joiner community!

Summer greetings from the Joiner Institute. Though we are sad to not be organizing our annual Writers’ Workshop this Summer we are proud of the thirteen events we organized or co-sponsored this past academic year, with a reach of over 600 community members, students, veterans, faculty, and staff. Plus the continued free, on-campus counseling offered for student veterans in partnership with the Boston Vet Center, our educational outreach programs and ongoing research and archives work.

This year the Joiner helped to organize events that focused on the impact of war on refugees in Syria, Myanmar, Liberia, and Iraq; looked at the increasing challenge of restoring rights for deported U.S. Veterans; brought UMass Boston student veterans into high schools to discuss their experiences as soldiers in order to help humanize the experience of service during wartime; and culminated the year with a powerful discussion about the war in Iraq with CONSEQUENCE Magazine.

We are proud of our continued public programming despite the austerity budgets enforced by Interim UMass Boston Chancellors Newman and Mills. The Joiner
Institute continues to reach out to stakeholders, legislators, donors, grant agencies, and allies to support our ongoing mission to provide a public research institute where the consequences of war and conflict can be studied, discussed and understood. We hope for a favorable state budget to be released on July 1st that supports the UMass Boston's centers and institutes and the overall urban mission of the campus. Please continue to reach out to your local legislators in support of UMass Boston and the Joiner Institute.

Below are some highlights and photos from our year and a few upcoming events and opportunities. As always, thank you for your continued support of our work!

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**Upcoming Events**

**Next Week: Warrior Writers Reading at the Longfellow House**

![Warrior Writers at the Longfellow House](image)

**When:** June 26, 5:30-7:00 PM  
**Cost:** Free

**Where:** Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St, Cambridge, MA.  
*Please be advised that some content may be adult in nature. Program may not be suitable for children.*

**Description:** Please join Warrior Writers Boston for a public reading of poetry, prose, and stories by veterans of all eras, backgrounds and experiences. Warrior Writers Boston have hosted biweekly writing workshops on site since April. These creative workshops offer prompts that cover a variety of military and veteran issues and experiences to encourage storytelling and the sharing of opinions and ideas for writing, reflection, and art making.

All are welcome to attend this moving reading of military experience by veterans and their family members. This is the fifth year that The Longfellow House has hosted Warrior Writers for a spring workshop series.

**To sign up as a reader, email boston@warriorwriters.org.** About 15 readers are chosen based on their contribution to an honest dialogue about war. The selection of readers will favor those who participate in the free workshop series at The Longfellow House. For details and regular updates join the Warrior Writers Boston Facebook Group. Proceeds from any books and artworks sold during this event go to Warrior Writers.

Check out the [Eventbrite page here](#) and the [Facebook event here](#)
The Oxford Brookes University Poetry Centre is seeking 2-3 veterans for an August 16-18 poetry workshop in the UK. The project is funded by Oxford Brookes University, and travel to and from Oxford, accommodation, and subsistence will all be covered. For more details or information, please contact the project leader, Dr Niall Munro: niall.munro@brookes.ac.uk

In 2019, the Poetry Centre began a series of workshops at Oxford Brookes University for military veterans and former members of the armed forces. Drawing on the expertise of the Poetry Centre - a home for research into poetry and advocacy of its value in society - these workshops, designed and led by poets, veterans and academics, seek to explore how poetry can enable veterans to think through their experiences. In particular they consider:

- how poetry might be read and used by military veterans
- how far 'war poetry' represents - or fails to represent - military service
- the role that poetry can play in post-war commemorative events.

To apply, please e-mail a short statement (of not more than 250 words) by Monday 1 July, explaining why you would like to be considered for a place at the workshop to niall.munro@brookes.ac.uk Given the small number of places available, the selection process is likely to be competitive, but the project team will make a decision quickly. If you are not selected, there may be a chance to take part in future workshops.

More info at the Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre website here.
Gender, Public Policy, and Leadership:  
An Online or On-campus Graduate Program - Deadline July 1

Build on leadership skills gained in the service to advance your career! The 9-month, 18-credit Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy graduate certificate program prepares students to serve at all levels of government, hold elected office, and lead non-profit and non-governmental organizations.

GLPP graduate certificate students can opt to apply for the Master of Public Administration-GLPP track and complete an MPA degree in one additional year. Now offered either online or in the evening on-campus, the GLPP program combines the political theory of social change with an intersectional analysis of current issues, coupled with an individualized internship designed to equip students with the skills, experience, and network for their next career step.

Based at UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies and affiliated with its Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the program is accepting applications through July 1. For more information, contact Assistant Program Director Muna Killingback: muna.killingback@umb.edu or 617.287.6785.

Minoo Emami's "Wounded Beauty" at Gallery Kayafas
Closing June 29th

"Minoo Emami is a painter, a sculptor, a photographer, a performance artist - each and every object she creates is part of her mission to bring a better understanding of the destruction of a person's body and soul from the cruelty of war...she concentrates on the consequences of war through the eyes of a woman." - from Gallery Kayafas.
On view until June 29, visit Gallery Kayafas in Boston's South End to see Minoo Emami's moving new show "Wounded Beauty" featuring work from her 2016 Joiner Institute show *The Aura of War*.

On May 24 the Joiner's Mitch Manning sat down with Minoo for an artist conversation about her process and art that responds to war and conflict. A show not to be missed!
We are honored to host the traveling exhibition (and soon-to-be book from NYU Press) *Waging Peace in Vietnam: U.S. Soldiers and Veterans Who Opposed the War* from September 3 - September 20 in the Grossman Gallery of the Healey Library at UMass Boston in collaboration with UMass Boston Archives and Special Collections and organized by Ron Carver, of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington D.C. The show was been exhibited in Vietnam and at the Kroc Institute for Peace Studies at Notre Dame.

The Joiner Institute is home to special collections from the Vietnam War including captured documents of the Vietnam War,
Joiner Institute Spring Event Highlights

Unpacking Iraq: Bearing Witness to the War on Terror

On May 3rd, the Joiner helped organize an important public discussion about the
Legacies of the Iraq War, in partnership with CONSEQUENCE Magazine and in honor of their 11th print issue, with a focus on Iraqi and Kurdish writing in translation (guest edited by Joiner friends Amir al-Azraki and Brian Turner),

Featuring the voices of veteran and writer Ross Caputi (author of the most recent book *The Sacking of Fallujah: A People’s History (Culture, Politics, and the Cold War)*), Dr. Kali Rubaii, M.C. Armstrong, and French-Iraqi journalist Feurat Alani (who’s brilliant animated film *L’Parfume d’Irak* was screened during the panel). A powerful evening of experiences from Iraq and the possibilities for reconciliation and reparation in the future. More photos on Facebook here.

Our sister event in Basra, Southern Iraq in collaboration with Her Story Is and CONSEQUENCE highlighting Iraqi Women’s Writing

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**CONSEQUENCE Magazine**
and the Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences present

**UNPACKING IRAQ: BEARING WITNESS TO THE WAR ON TERROR**

Join us for a panel discussion about the legacies of the war in Iraq with young veterans, journalists, anthropologists, and filmmakers:

- Feurat Alani
- Dr. Kali Rubaii
- M.C. Armstrong
- Ross Caputi

Plus the launch of Volume 13 of CONSEQUENCE Magazine, with a special feature on Iraqi writing in translation.

Food & refreshments. Free to the public.

Friday, May 3 2019 6 PM
Old South Church, 4th Floor
645 Boylston St., Boston, MA

Questions: Contact mich.manning@umb.edu

Watch the video for Unpacking Iraq: Bearing Witness to the War on Terror
Building Trust: 
Conversations with Local and Student Refugees

Co-organized by UMB student, Joiner intern, and Liberian refugee Winston Kesseh, the Joiner Institute hosted two conversations this spring about “Building Trust” and creating community tools for understanding the refugee and diaspora experience, and opportunities to provide support and services. With the town of Sharon and their One Book, One Town project, Winston, Jassie Senwah (Liberia), and Kempton Fleming (Saint Kitts) shared their powerful stories of asylum and moving to the U.S.

Watch a video of the event from April 10th on Sharon Community TV here.

At UMass Boston on April 17th, students Luidgi Lalanne (Haiti), Daniela Bravo (Chile), Winston, and others shared their experiences as asylum seekers, DACA recipients, and refugees. The stories of immigration and refuge are unique and different to each person and the Joiner is working to continue this series in the Fall with folks from the Sociology Department and other campus groups to offer a model for building trust in our communities. The Joiner will also reapply for an NEH grant this Fall on Dialogues about the Experiences of War to work with both refugee and veteran populations in the Boston area.
Renee Jean is a second year History MA student and a UMB Teaching Assistant. Currently, Renee is developing a one day symposium to address the heightening issues in Northern Ireland due to Brexit and other systemic problems, including faults in the peace process and inadequate aid for radicalization prevention in low-income communities. Renee spent the summer of 2018 studying the Irish conflict at Queens University, Belfast and worked with professors at California State University, Fullerton to develop exhibits and research surrounding how government policy affects violent action and terrorism.

Anthony Martin has worked as a student veteran intern at the William Joiner Institute...
for the past two years after many years of service in the Coast Guard, Army and National Guard. Tony has been instrumental in cementing partnerships with the Berklee School of Music for Music Therapy programs for veterans. Tony has helped organize international Jazz events for the family of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tony has been a Gilman scholar, working with orphanages in Trinidad, has studied at Renmin University in Beijing, China, and last summer was a Warrior Scholar at Syracuse University.

Tony’s veteran outreach work with Joiner includes the Joiner-supported Dorchester Art Project, that brought local veterans together with teen artists to have veterans portraits painted; the Vet to Vet support groups on and off campus; and a short documentary film he created about veteran suicide. Tony will continue his veterans focused service as a Graduate student at UMass Boston this fall in the Transnational, Cultural, and Community Studies program. He will be working on issues affecting Millennial Men of Color, including veterans and soldiers.

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Joiner Associate Director Mitch Manning’s new book of poems is now out from Arrowsmith Press and available for purchase through the Harvard Book Store [here](https://www.harvardbookstore.com/). Joiner Writers’ Workshop faculty member Fred Marchant wrote of the book:

"Troubled, troubling, dangerous times, and everything around us seems wavery and in flux. Nothing is stable, not the truth, not the heart, not the self. Collectively we do not or cannot aspire any longer to create the city on a hill... This is a poet who knows what it's like to feel deracinated and adrift, and at the same time deeply rooted and yearning for even more authentic connection. In this, his first book, Mitch Manning shows us our own watery waste-land, and some fragmented glimpses of the spiritual courage it will require of us to do more than merely survive it."

Read more [online](https://www.consequence.com/) at CONSEQUENCE Magazine.
Thank you to our Joiner community!!

UMB student veterans visited Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School to share their experiences of military service with students, along with Professor Paul Dyson and the Joiner's Mitch Manning.

The Joiner Institute is grateful to all of our many supporters, writers, veterans, and community members. We look forward to another year of important programming, research, and advocacy around the consequences of war.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate are currently negotiating the FY20 Mass. state budget. Once those closed door sessions are made public and the budget finalized, we will have a better idea of what the future holds for the Joiner and other urban and ethnic research institutes on campus. Updates on the state budget can be found here.

As always, please reach out with any questions, updates, or proposals to joinerinstitute@umb.edu or mitch.manning@umb.edu.

And please follow the WJI online on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

Enjoy the summer!
STAY CONNECTED with the JOINER INSTITUTE: