Updates from Past Award Recipients

In recognition of the university’s 50th anniversary, here are updates on some of the previous Endowed Faculty Career Development Award recipients.

1999: Victoria Weston, associate professor of art, used the fund to publish color images in her book, *Japanese Painting and National Identity: Okakura Tenshin and His Circle*. Since then, she has published the articles “What’s in a Name? Rethinking Critical Terms Used in Art History.” Weston was also co-curator of the exhibitions, *Portugal, Jesuits, and Japan: Spiritual Beliefs and Earthly Goods*, at Boston College. She received tenure in 2002.

2006: Lynnell Thomas, associate professor of American Studies, has published *Desire and Disaster in New Orleans: Tourism, Race, and Historical Memory*. The award funding enabled her to conduct fieldwork in post-Katrina New Orleans, which was pivotal for the completion of the book and publication of the article, “Roots Run Deep Here: The Construction of Black New Orleans in Post-Katrina Tourism Narratives,” in *American Quarterly*. She received tenure in 2011.

2007: Lisa Cosgrove, professor of counseling and school psychology, has learned that her National Institutes of Health ROI grant, “A cross-sectional study of clinical practice guidelines for depression: Is independence from industry associated with higher quality guidelines?” was approved for funding. Her start-up funding was critical to her research agenda. She received tenure in 2008.

2009: Eileen Stuart-Shor, associate professor of nursing, continues work on the Kenya Heart and Sole project. The award allowed her to analyze data on more than 800 patients. One of the project’s articles on global cardiovascular risk, published in *BioMed Central*, has been ranked as a high-impact international health article. She received tenure in 2012.

2010: Susan Zap, assistant professor of psychology, has used her funding to further her research into sexual differentiation. The research aids our understanding of neurological disorders, since most disorders of development occur more frequently in boys than in girls. The funding allowed Professor Zap to buy materials and hire a UMass Boston undergraduate technician. The study led to a publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

On October 4, 2013, Provost Winston Langley welcomed more than 75 guests to the Sixteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon. The event’s emcee was Jack Looney, professor emerita of environmental, earth, and ocean sciences, who also serves on the Retired Faculty Council. The luncheon featured guest speaker Elsa Auerbach, professor emerita of English. Professor Emerita Auerbach, who has worked extensively in South Africa and continues to be involved in activist work there, spoke about her post-retirement life and the transition involved in retiring from a faculty position.

Last year’s Faculty Career Development Award recipient, Professor Aaron Lecklider of the American Studies Department, made a presentation on his research accomplishments that were aided by the award.

Retired Faculty Newsletter

UMass Boston’s Sixteenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon

Hannigan stated that Professor Poynton’s “novel perspective has the potential to dramatically shift the way managers and risk managers approach cancer research.” 

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Message from the Provost

The fall semester of our 50th anniversary is with us, and so I am doubly pleased to share with you some of the new developments at your university.

These developments cannot be adequately captured and represented here, but I will make an attempt to offer you a flavor, which I hope will also give you a sense of the dynamism of the campus. We have had some new programs, new students, new faculty, new evidence of goal-realization from recent initiatives, improved achievements in research, an expansion of our diversity, improved shared holdings, and recruitment of leaders.

With respect to new programs, we moved ahead at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In the former, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) approved two more programs—a BA in community development studies and a BA in global studies. The latter an online program. At the graduate level, the BHE approved four of our programs—an MA program...
assessors perceive ecological risk...that her research...is strategically aligned with the School's goals and objectives.” The retired faculty members who served on the committee to determine the recipient were professors Patricia Dav- idson, Herman Hemingway, and Peter McClure.

This year’s Annual Retired Faculty Lun- cheon will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014. We hope to see you there!

Photo Transformations with Estelle Disch

(Vendy for almost a year, until next spring. In addition, she is about to begin the Atelier Program at the Griffin Museum of Photography.

For more information, and to see more of Professor Emerita Disch’s photography, please visit her website at www.estelledisch.com.

Professor Robert Weiner Retires, Marks Nearly 50 Years of Excellence, Student Focus

By Krishna K. Sapkota
McCormack Graduate School

"Looking back at a teaching career of nearly 50 years, I never cease to be amazed by the infinite complexities of global affairs.” These are the words of recently retired professor, Robert Weiner, reflecting on his half-century of teaching experience at the University of Massachusetts Boston, since its inception.

Professor Robert Weiner is the consum- mate UMass Boston professor: intellectually engaged, a prolific scholar, and always student-oriented. After earning a PhD in international relations from New York University in 1963, he was hired as a professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts. He then became a senior fellow at the Center for Peace, Democracy, and Development at the Mc- Cormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, and a center associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eur- asian Studies at Harvard University.

In addition, Professor Weiner served as the founding director of the international relations master’s degree program from 2001 to 2012. He was instrumental in setting up the graduate program, which focuses on human security and prepares students for a wide variety of interna- tional careers.

"This focus on human security has be- come especially important as academics in the field increasingly emphasize, along with governments, of course, human rights and humanitarian intervention,” says Weiner.

The international relations program has attracted students from all over the world. According to Weiner, the students have been committed to constructing a world order based on peace and justice. Graduates have gone on to work for the U.S. State Department, government organizations, and corporations; others continued their studies in law, medicine, and various PhD programs.

Paul Watanabe, Weiner’s colleague in the Department of Political Science, notes, “Robert offers us all a perfect blend of wisdom drawn from long experience and informed by fresh ideas and perspectives.”

Dean A.J. Jackson of the McCormack Graduate School, says that “Robert epitro- mizes the very best that we strive for. As the longest-serving faculty member at UMass Boston, he has contributed to the academic success of our students.”

Retirement does not completely mean Weiner is putting aside his research and teaching. He was the architect of the new online undergraduate degree in global affairs. The first online bachelor of arts degree program at UMass Boston, it began in 2007 with the Davis Center for Advancing and Professional Studies.

Having moved to the Washington, DC, area, Weiner plans to expand his profes- sional network and continue his scholar- ship from his new home. As Dean Jackson concludes, “Robert so deserves this retirement as well as our enduring gratitude.”

Message from the Provost

In transitional cultural and community studies, an MS in higher education, and a PhD program in each of the two fields. Our Board of Trustees has also approved an MS degree in urban studies and planning; MA and PhD degrees in comparative public administration, leadership in urban schools, and higher education administration; and PhD programs in early childhood and in ap- plied physics.

Accompanying the expansion of our academic programs are our record numbers of students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have the largest freshman class in our history—more than 1,500 students; and the number of our graduate students has grown to more than 4,000. The total number of students has not yet been determined, but I think we will be close to 17,000.

A university cannot properly expand, enrich its academic offerings, and increase its number of students without also increasing the number and quality of its faculty. We think we have done both. We have recruited a record number of new faculty, 53, including clinical and research faculty. We have also added another 14, who have joined us through asso- ciational, academic, and research alignments. All promise to be reliable bearers of the cherished values of teaching and research.

We are also pleased to report on the creation of the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development (SGISD) and the School for the Environment (SF). In the case of SGISD, it opened its first fall with more than 200 students, including 14 doctoral students; all of the new students at the MS level are paying students, not requiring subsidy from the state. The school has also engaged in a training pro- gram with Japan to develop future leaders in the field of disability. In the case of the SF, its success may be measured in many ways, including its new research professors, the grants its faculty have generated, the growth of its student body, collaborations here and abroad, and its being ranked in the top five U.S. environmental schools/colleges in the areas of innovation and sustainability. In addi- tion, the Honors College now has more than 425 students and faces a major space issue.

In the case of research and scholarship, whether we look at the number of books, book chapters and articles, translations, research in progress, scholarly conferences, plays, or poems written, the university’s achievements were commendable. Consistent with these achievements were the monies raised through extramural funding—a record amount of more than $60 million.

In addition to looking at these figures, how- ever, we must also note the quality of our faculty, sharing our curiosity to see whether they are teaching, service, or research grants, and in case of the latter, whether they are among the most competit- ive. Through this type of examination, we have found that our faculty have become more competitive, nationally and globally. This determination is reinforced through the work of Academics Analytics, a consulting organiza- tion that helps universities compare their graduate programs to those of other research universities.

We also realized success in campus diversity as reflected in the fact that at our university minorities have become the majority in our student body, with increases in the cultural diversity of our faculty and staff as well. The freshman class of fall 2014 comes from 46 countries, more than 40 percent of our new faculty are from outside the Americas, and our study abroad program (for those who come and those who go) has resulted in a campus that is culturally more complex.

Research libraries are critical to the develop- ment of research universities. In this case, the holdings and access for these libraries are important for professors, graduate students, visiting scholars, and others. We increased our holdings and access to valuable research- ing holdings have been made newly available to the campus and other constituencies.

Finally, we have successfully recruited some new leaders. These include a new dean for the College of Education and Human Develop- ment, Dr. Michael Middleton, who joins us from the University of New Hampshire; a new dean for the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. David Terkla, from our Economics Department; and a new dean for the College of Management, Dr. Jorge Haddad, who joins us from George Mason University.

The frequent use of the term new does not mean we seek to escape our past, far from it. What has shaped the preceding paragraphs has shown is that the campus is changing, and that change represents continuity, renewal, and growth, including growth in stature.