Seventeenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon Celebrates Research

On October 3rd, 2014, Provost Winston Langley welcomed more than 75 guests to the Seventeenth Annual Retired Faculty Luncheon. As guests arrived, they were greeted by live music from a student jazz trio. The event’s emcee was Jack Looney, professor emeritus of environmental, earth and ocean sciences, who also serves on the Retired Faculty Leadership Council. In recognition of the university’s 50th anniversary, this year’s luncheon featured a guest panel of previous Faculty Career Development Award winners, including Victoria Weston, associate professor of art (1999); Lynnell Thomas, associate professor of American studies (2006); Lisa Cosgrove, professor of counseling and school psychology (2007); Eileen Stuart-Shor, associate professor of nursing (2009), and Susan Zup, assistant professor of psychology (2010). The panel was moderated by Patricia Davidson, professor emerita of mathematics.

Last year’s Faculty Career Development Award recipient, Professor Helen Poynton, assistant professor of molecular ecotoxicology made a presentation on her research accomplishments that were supported by the award.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Retirement Is a Special Gift: A Q&A with Professor Joan Garity

Retired Professor Joan Garity views retirement as an opportunity to redefine one’s direction in life and pursue activities for which there may have been little time during a busy academic career. As an associate professor of nursing at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, she taught medical surgical courses and initiated ethical, legal, and health-policy courses for undergraduate, graduate, and online programs. Since her retirement in 2009, she has volunteered at the Pat Roche Hospice Residence in Hingham and at her church’s pantry, while also pursuing her passion for the arts.

Why do you volunteer at a hospice and what work do you do there?

When you volunteer, you receive much more than you give. There are so many things to do and so many places where you can help people. At the hospice, I greet families, prepare meals, and provide companionship to patients. My work involves vigils in patients’ rooms so they don’t die alone.

Were you always interested in the arts or was this a passion you developed during retirement?

I always wanted to have the time to pursue the arts. With a heavy emphasis on science in my field, I didn’t have the time when I was working. For the past six years, I’ve participated in numerous OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) courses, including art instruction in drawing, watercolor, and oil painting.

What does retirement mean to you?

Retirement is given as a gift to explore, retool, and refine your interests in life. I’m mindful that it is a precious gift not everyone receives, so I attempt to make the best of every moment in this chapter of life!
Many retired UMass Boston faculty have generously shared their knowledge, expertise, hobbies, and passions in classes that they conduct for the UMass Boston Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), an education program for adults aged 50 and older.

During the spring semester, Jim Campen, a member of the economics faculty from 1976 to 2003, taught a six-week course, “Understanding the U.S. Economy: The Big Picture.” Pam Annas, retired English professor and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts presented another six-week course, “Poetry and Memory.” Retired faculty member Irene Roman taught a five-week course, “Basic Italian II,” to prepare a group of OLLI students for a 10-day classical studies trip to Italy in April to discover the country’s vibrant history.

Retired faculty members who taught classes during previous semesters include:

- Jack Spence, retired associate professor of political science, facilitated timely brown bag presentations on climate change issues and talked about war and peace issues in Central America;
- Marty Quitt, professor emeritus of history, conducted a live video conference presentation on the courtship of Abraham Lincoln to over 100 OLLI students in four locations;
- Robert Weiner, professor of political science, gave a talk on the Snowden affair and U.S. intelligence;
- Claire Golomb, professor emerita of psychology, talked about the creation of imaginary worlds in child art, pretend play, dreams, and story-telling;
- Frank Caro, professor emeritus of gerontology, gave a presentation on efforts to make cities and communities more age friendly;
- Ted Richer, a founding faculty and professor of English and creative writing, taught an eight-week course on writing poems at one of OLLI’s offsite locations—the Hingham Public Library.

The involvement and volunteer efforts of our retired faculty and staff have significantly contributed to the growth of OLLI since its debut in 1999. It is now the largest lifelong learning program in Massachusetts with over 1,100 members. The program is endowed by the Osher Foundation, which has given the university over $3 million in endowment ($2 million for OLLI and $1 million to the Reentry Scholarship Fund). OLLI offers non-credit courses and one-time presentations at four different locations—the UMass Boston campus, Hingham Public Library, Cordage Park in Plymouth, and 56 Centre St. in Nantucket. Get more information at www.olli.umb.edu or contact Jerrilyn Quinlan at 617.287.7322.

THE INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS OF OUR RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROWTH OF OLLI...
Faculty Pleased as Integrated Sciences Complex Opens

The energy inside the ISC is infectious. Faculty and graduate students check floor plans, rearrange furniture, and fret over their most precious equipment making the 1,500-foot journey from old laboratories to the new. It’s a little like the first day of school. Professors dart around the building, barely suppressing wide grins as they pass their new neighbors and colleagues.

“On Friday, Alexey and I were both here early. He said ‘I felt like a little kid getting new toys.’ I was here at 7:30 in the morning, not because anyone made us come in, but because we wanted to move into our new offices!” said Bill Robinson, a professor in the School for the Environment, who is working with senior Felicia Woods to set up experiments in his new lab. Robinson believes that the new spaces will also be conducive to more undergraduate and graduate research. Woods, a senior who works in Robinson’s lab, will be conducting her honors thesis research with Robinson next semester.

“The biggest change is being revitalized. This is something that I’ve been looking forward to for the last five years,” Robinson said. “I think that’s true for everyone I run into…it really has revitalized and re-energized a lot of people in really good ways, and I think that’s going to continue.”

Huang said it get any more gorgeous than this?”

The whole of the ISC is designed with spaces like these in mind — spaces where students and faculty can connect, collaborate, and reflect. In the first week of the new year, professors and graduate students began painstakingly moving their labs into the ISC. Huang says that any lost or broken pieces of equipment could stop her research in its tracks. She compares the move to an extreme version of packing up grandma’s china plates.

“I think that proximity is going to work really well,” Robinson said. “I can see what I’m working on!”

Biology professor and graduate program director Linda Huang only recently moved into the new Integrated Sciences Complex, but she already has a favorite spot in the building. On the fourth floor, a small graduate student lounge juts out from the building’s facade, giving the illusion that the desk and tables are floating over the roadway below.

“You’ve got the Boston skyline, you’ve got the harbor,” Huang said. “Does it get any more gorgeous than this?”

Huang is one of three cell biologists sharing an enormous open laboratory space on the fourth floor. Alexey Veraksa and Katherine Gibson are biologists whose research overlaps with Huang’s in interesting ways. Huang and Veraksa have kept the door open between their labs in the McCormack Building for the last 10 years, and have seen firsthand how students benefit when they interact with their peers from other biology labs.

“There’s a lot of sharing and collaboration between my lab and the Veraksa lab,” Huang said. “Not only do they learn from Alexey and me, but they learn from each other. That’s only going to increase with the other people who are here.”

For the first time, the university departments involved in laboratory research and teaching can work together in one building. The ISC is already a catalyst for cutting-edge laboratory research, with a versatile sandbox lab, biology teaching labs, and space to support faculty-led research in biology; chemistry; environmental, earth and ocean sciences; as well as physics and psychology.

In the last few days I’ve seen faculty in the biology department and in the physics department where I wouldn’t see them normally or I’d only see them at meetings,” he said. "I think that the ISC office."

The whole of the ISC is designed with spaces like these in mind — spaces where students and faculty can connect, collaborate, and reflect. In the first week of the new year, professors and graduate students began painstakingly moving their labs into the ISC. Huang says that any lost or broken pieces of equipment could stop her research in its tracks. She compares the move to an extreme version of packing up grandma’s china plates.

“I think that proximity is going to work really well,” Robinson said. “I can see what I’m working on!”

Biology professor and graduate program director Linda Huang only recently moved into the new Integrated Sciences Complex, but she already has a favorite spot in the building. On the fourth floor, a small graduate student lounge juts out from the building’s facade, giving the illusion that the desk and tables are floating over the roadway below.

“You’ve got the Boston skyline, you’ve got the harbor,” Huang said. “Does it get any more gorgeous than this?”

Huang is one of three cell biologists sharing an enormous open laboratory space on the fourth floor. Alexey Veraksa and Katherine Gibson are biologists whose research overlaps with Huang’s in interesting ways. Huang and Veraksa have kept the door open between their labs in the McCormack Building for the last 10 years, and have seen firsthand how students benefit when they interact with their peers from other biology labs.

“There’s a lot of sharing and collaboration between my lab and the Veraksa lab,” Huang said. “Not only do they learn from Alexey and me, but they learn from each other. That’s only going to increase with the other people who are here.”

For the first time, the university departments involved in laboratory research and teaching can work together in one building. The ISC is already a catalyst for cutting-edge laboratory research, with a versatile sandbox lab, biology teaching labs, and space to support faculty-led research in biology; chemistry; environmental, earth and ocean sciences; as well as physics and psychology.

The whole of the ISC is designed with spaces like these in mind — spaces where students and faculty can connect, collaborate, and reflect. In the first week of the new year, professors and graduate students began painstakingly moving their labs into the ISC. Huang says that any lost or broken pieces of equipment could stop her research in its tracks. She compares the move to an extreme version of packing up grandma’s china plates.

“I think that proximity is going to work really well,” Robinson said. “I can see what I’m working on!”

Biology professor and graduate program director Linda Huang only recently moved into the new Integrated Sciences Complex, but she already has a favorite spot in the building. On the fourth floor, a small graduate student lounge juts out from the building’s facade, giving the illusion that the desk and tables are floating over the roadway below.

“You’ve got the Boston skyline, you’ve got the harbor,” Huang said. “Does it get any more gorgeous than this?”

Huang is one of three cell biologists sharing an enormous open laboratory space on the fourth floor. Alexey Veraksa and Katherine Gibson are biologists whose research overlaps with Huang’s in interesting ways. Huang and Veraksa have kept the door open between their labs in the McCormack Building for the last 10 years, and have seen firsthand how students benefit when they interact with their peers from other biology labs.

“There’s a lot of sharing and collaboration between my lab and the Veraksa lab,” Huang said. “Not only do they learn from Alexey and me, but they learn from each other. That’s only going to increase with the other people who are here.”

For the first time, the university departments involved in laboratory research and teaching can work together in one building. The ISC is already a catalyst for cutting-edge laboratory research, with a versatile sandbox lab, biology teaching labs, and space to support faculty-led research in biology; chemistry; environmental, earth and ocean sciences; as well as physics and psychology.

The energy inside the ISC is infectious. Faculty and graduate students check floor plans, rearrange furniture, and fret over their most precious equipment making the 1,500-foot journey from old laboratories to the new. It’s a little like the first day of school. Professors dart around the building, barely suppressing wide grins as they pass their new neighbors and colleagues.

“On Friday, Alexey and I were both here early. He said ‘I felt like a little kid getting new toys.’ I was here at 7:30 in the morning, not because anyone made us come in, but because we wanted to move into our new offices!” said Bill Robinson, a professor in the School for the Environment, who is working with senior Felicia Woods to set up experiments in his new lab. Robinson believes that the new spaces will also be conducive to more undergraduate and graduate research. Woods, a senior who works in Robinson’s lab, will be conducting her honors thesis research with Robinson next semester.

“The biggest change is being revitalized. This is something that I’ve been looking forward to for the last five years,” Robinson said. “I think that’s true for everyone I run into…it really has revitalized and re-energized a lot of people in really good ways, and I think that’s going to continue.”