Kamal Bawa is Elected Fellow of the Royal Society

UMass Boston Distinguished Professor of Biology Kamal Bawa, an internationally recognized and honored evolutionary ecologist and one of India’s most prominent conservation biologists, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society last April and was formally admitted on July 10, 2015.

Bawa joins former and current Fellows such as Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking, and about 80 Nobel laureates. Established in 1660, each year the Society’s existing Fellowship proposes about 700 candidates for election, and then elects up to 52 Fellows from England and the Commonwealth countries and up to 10 foreign Fellows.

A statement published on the Society website reads: “His pioneering contributions to understanding the population biology of tropical forest trees led to new strategies for their conservation, and also for the sustainable use of non-timber forest products... he has provided leadership in conservation science in India by establishing ATREE, an influential NGO that generates interdisciplinary knowledge, guides (continued on p. 10)

On 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Jean Rhodes’s Research Shows Resiliency

Ten years ago, UMass Boston’s Jean Rhodes was studying low-income parents from New Orleans to see if college scholarships would increase their wellbeing.

On August 29, 2005, everything changed when Hurricane Katrina damaged an area the size of the United Kingdom and disrupted the lives of millions. It also complicated Rhodes’s long-term study, which began two years earlier. But the psychology professor and her co-investigators were able to reconnect with 86 percent of the original study participants (who ended up in 35 states) to see how the disaster affected this vulnerable population. The result was The Resilience in Survivors of Katrina Project.

Just prior to this past August 29, Rhodes talked to the Huffington Post, NPR’s Morning Edition, and Nature about the decade-long study. The researchers found that more than 60 percent of respondents bounced back to pre-disaster levels of mental health, (continued on p. 9)
UMass Boston Genomics Core Facility Officially Opens

Further building on the momentum of its new state-of-the-art Integrated Sciences Complex and the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy (CPCT), UMass Boston recently announced the official opening of the center’s Genomics Core facility.

“Once again we are demonstrating our commitment to cancer research for the benefit of all people,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “We are grateful for the generous and ongoing support of the National Cancer Institute as well as the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. We are extraordinarily proud of Dr. Jill Macoska for her outstanding leadership in so quickly bringing the Genomics Core, in collaboration with the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, on line.”

According to Macoska, CPCT director and UMass Boston distinguished professor in science and mathematics, “The Genomics Core began operations in 2014. Now we are ready to begin operating at full capacity to further enable UMass Boston investigators and academic and industry collaborators to carry out basic and translational genomics research.”

The Core leverages cutting-edge technologies and next-generation sequencing capabilities for research and clinical applications. The CPCT research team helps investigators and clinicians analyze samples, identify genetic variants contributing to disease risk, and reveal complex mechanisms involved in human disease.

Specific Core services include cost-effective massively parallel sequencing with the Illumina HiSeq 2500 (v4, 1TB enabled); next-generation sequencing library preparation from RNA and DNA, and nucleic acid quality assessments using Bioanalyzer, Tapestation, Nanodrop and Qubit assays. Additional instruments include a Nanostring nCounter Analysis System, a Biomek FXp automated workstation, and a QuantStudio 12K Flex Real-Time PCR System.

For service inquiries or additional information, contact Amy Avery, lab manager, at 617.287.6578 or genomicscore@umb.edu.

Macoska on a Roll!

Named One of 2015’s Women to Watch in Science and Technology

Jill Macoska was one of 20 honorees at the 12th annual Women to Watch event hosted by the Boston Business Journal. Held on May 7, 2015 at the Westin Waterfront, the Women to Watch event recognized influential women in technology and life sciences.

“Boston is a global leader in technology and the life sciences, and nowhere in the world are there more bright and powerful women poised to improve our lives and our communities than in Greater Boston,” said Gale Murray, publisher of the Boston Business Journal.
Much of Keisler’s current research involves developing and using applications for public sector problems by using focused methods. One of his focus areas is value-of-information, a DA method for “quantifying the potential benefit of additional information in the face of uncertainty.” He defines this process more clearly, “We build models for the range of decisions people may face, and identify the potential trends and patterns in data that would affect those decisions. Beyond their tactical role of helping to choose the right option, we see information and analysis having the strategic role of improving the options from which to choose.”

Keisler has applied this research in important decision making including environmental, housing, and other governmental policy projects, some of which he collaborates with UMass Boston and UMass faculty at other locations.

“My research focuses on decision strategies for projects that address major societal problems,” Keisler explains. His approach bridges application and theory. That is, Keisler obtains data on probabilities and on stakeholder beliefs and concerns in order to establish effective decision models for public projects.

One such project began in 2010, when Keisler, along with researchers at UMass Lowell and UMass Amherst, were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to improve decision making for housing foreclosure acquisition. Johnson was the project principal investigator and associate professor of public policy in the UMass Boston McCormack Graduate School for Policy and Global Studies. Their research is ongoing resulting (continued on p. 9)
Since graduating in 1997 with her PhD from the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, Ambassador Jeanette Hyde Distinguished Professor at Western Carolina University (WCU) Turner Goins has become a leading scholar in issues of aging, especially among American Indians.

While attending college in eastern North Carolina, Goins witnessed low-income older African Americans struggle to live independently. Navigating the often complicated social service and health care systems to obtain needed services and benefits proved to be challenging and disheartening for these individuals, affecting both their emotional and physical health. These issues are what influenced Goins’ pursuit in the study of aging and what prompted her to focus her research on disenfranchised older adults.

Part of her research aspires to better understand why older racial and ethnic minorities experience disproportionately reduced access to services as well as poorer health. Those with poor health typically experience increased hospitalizations, doctor visits, prescription medications, and nursing home placements. Goins found a specific need for research on how such issues affect aging American Indians.

There are currently 410,000 American Indians age 60 or older living across the United States. By 2050, that population is expected to more than triple in size. With this expected increase comes a need for addressing social service and health care gaps that exist in some communities. Goins’ work ultimately seeks to improve the quality of life and facilitate independence among aging American Indians.

“What struck me is that American Indians experience some of the highest rates of chronic conditions and yet there are only a handful of researchers examining these issues,” Goins says. Older American Indians experience higher death rates, disability, and type 2 diabetes. In addition, they generally reside in households with lower incomes and worse living conditions than the aging white population. And in some tribal communities, there can be limited long-term support services provided by the tribe along with barriers for older American Indians to seek non-tribally delivered services.

For nearly two decades, Goins has committed herself to understanding these health disparities among older American Indians. “Identifying best practices for elder care in Indian Country and disseminating this to Native communities can be one way to help ensure aging tribal members have their needs met,” she says.

One goal of Goins’ work is to build trusting and collaborative relationships with these communities so the research addresses the tribal communities’ priorities and that tribal leaders and key decision makers may use the research findings to inform programming and services. Goins’ current position places her within 20 minutes of Cherokee, North Carolina, allowing her to continue her long-standing relationship with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

In 2013, she joined the WCU faculty. Alongside her work preparing students for meaningful careers addressing health-related issue for aging adults, she works closely with the EBCI in areas such as physical functioning, service needs and preferences, mental health, and type 2 diabetes.

In her career to date, the gerontologist has been awarded 30 research grants on health initiatives for the American Indian aging population as well as aging adults in rural communities. She has published over 60 refereed journal articles and one edited book, *Service Delivery to Rural Older Adults: Research, Policy, and Practice* (Springer Publishing 2006), and also contributed to four anthologies on issues in aging.

She was the 2001 recipient of the Betty J. Cleckley Minority Issues Research Award and received Honorable Mention for the 2002 Excellence in Research on Aging and Rural Health Award. In addition to her work at WCU, she is an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill’s School of Medicine. (continued on p. 9)
The nation’s second oldest and one of the most influential programs in aging, one in four gerontology PhD holders in the nation earned their degrees from UMass Boston.

Our online Management of Aging Services program is the second largest program of its kind and has trained hundreds of aging services professionals. The Department of Gerontology and the Gerontology Institute help set the national agenda on aging with research and policy analysis across a variety of issues, including economic security for seniors, retirement and pensions, healthy aging, racial and ethnic disparities, risks for elderly drivers, long-term care, and volunteerism among elders. Most recently, the institute collaborated on a new “Aging in Boston” report in concert with Mayor Martin Walsh and the City of Boston’s Commission on the Affairs of the Elderly.

The Gerontology Institute is home to the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, which works with municipalities to understand the needs of their senior residents, and the Pension Action Center, which helps retirees and their families in seven states recover their earned benefits.

Gerontology is the study of social, psychological, economic, public health, and policy aspects of aging in populations and individuals. People are living longer than ever before and the demand for policy changes and services to support the aging population is increasing at a rapid rate. Our PhD graduates work as policy makers, researchers, professors, and policy analysts, as well as for non-profit and for-profit organizations. One of the first of its kind in the country, our Management of Aging Services program graduates administer elder care organizations, establish community-based services for the elderly, and work in the private sector.

One in Four Gerontology PhD Holders’ Degrees from UMass Boston

Graduates of the UMass Boston PhD Program in Gerontology have received post-doctoral fellowships at such prestigious institutions as Yale University, Duke University, University of Southern California, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, National Institute on Aging, and the University of Texas Medical School, to name a few.

Graduates are also employed in a variety of academic, policy, and research positions at Duke University, University of Southern California, University of California Los Angeles, University of Georgia, Yale University, University of Massachusetts Medical School, West Virginia University, California State University, Tufts University, Boston University, American Association of Retired Persons, Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Partners Healthcare, etc.

Alumni of the PhD Program in Gerontology have produced more than 1,000 peer-reviewed articles, reports, book chapters, and books; 1,200 professional presentations; and $35 million in grants and contracts. While the vast majority of our graduates have already or will soon make major accomplishments on national and international scales to the study of the social, psychological, and policy aspects of aging in populations and individuals, here are three particularly successful alums who represent the ethos of our program and university.

Gerontology Student Earns Competitive NIA Dissertation Grant

The National Institute on Aging has awarded McCormack Graduate School PhD student Mai See Yang an R36 Aging Research Dissertation Award to Increase Diversity. Yang’s $69,000 award covers two years, including a research stipend and data collection and travel expenses.

Yang’s dissertation will explore the impacts of life events on depression in later life in older Hmong immigrants. Her study will focus specifically on three life phases: pre-migration, transition, and post-migration.

Yang was born in Fresno, California, the location of the largest concentration of Hmong in the United States. Settling there after being admitted to the United States as refugees, her Hmong family struggled with the traumatic challenges of displacement and community disruption.

Jan Mutchler, Yang’s dissertation chair, comments, “The study that Mai See has proposed is challenging and demanding. Indeed, very few people in the world have the cultural insight to accomplish this research, and fewer still have the access to this insular population needed to secure cooperation of study participants. Mai See has both.”

Praising the gerontology faculty and staff, Yang says, “The mentorship is extraordinary. My interests are specific and difficult to research. These limitations have not stopped Professors Jan Mutchler and Jeffrey Burr from working with me and guide me through several projects. Their investment and trust in me as a scholar and a colleague are unprecedented. My success and growth are a reflection of our great PhD program leadership and the faculty’s dedication to students.”
UMass Boston Professors, Staff Member Honored for Mentoring Graduate Students

On May 28, 2015, the recipients of the prestigious Joan H. Liem Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Awards were recognized at the Graduate Student Honors Convocation, attended by hundreds of family, friends, faculty colleagues, and, of course, graduating graduate students receiving academic honors and awards.

Dwight E. Giles, Jr., Professor in the Doctoral Program in Higher Education and Senior Associate in the New England Resource Center for Higher Education

Giles received the 2015 Liem Award for Distinguished Mentoring of Doctoral Students. The faculty member who nominated Giles wrote: “Since joining the UMass community in 2001, he has served on 57 dissertation committees and chaired 18.

His students have been recognized with national dissertation of the year awards from scholarly associations including the American Association of University Administrators, the National Society for Experiential Education, and International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement. His mentees from several disciplines have advanced into senior academic leadership positions in Massachusetts as well as nationally.”

Joyce Peseroff, Distinguished Lecturer in English and Creative Writing

Peseroff received the Liem Award for Mentoring in a Master’s Program. Letters of nomination underscored Peseroff’s exceptional mentoring of both graduate students and faculty. She has mentored several teacher-poets at UMass Boston and is lauded by faculty in her department as a superlative mentor and teacher and brilliant poet whose precise titanium tough verse sets a benchmark young writers aspire to reach.

One of Peseroff’s nominators wrote: “She has that rare gift of patience necessary for effective mentoring and knows how to translate the subtle process of composition into a clear set of prompts and possibilities so that her students emerge with skills and competencies that give them a huge head start in their teaching.”

Joycelyn Noyes Burke, Program Assistant for the Advanced Practice Nursing Master’s Program and Post-Master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Burke received the Liem Award for Outstanding Staff Support of Graduate Students. Wrote one of Burke’s nominators: “Jocelyn is the consummate mentor; bright, articulate, a wonderful listener, a tenacious advocate, and, perhaps most important as a mentor, she is acutely attuned to the needs of the mentee, be they student or professor.

In 2012, with the support of the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the Office of Graduate Studies, Liem created the Awards for Outstanding Mentoring.

Shortly after, Provost Winston Langley and Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies Zong-Guo Xia surprised Liem at a ceremony by presenting her with a lifetime achievement award for mentoring – and then announced the awards would carry her name, in honor of her 40-plus years of mentoring at UMass Boston.

The mentoring awards are given out just every two to three years. Each honoree receives a certificate, a plaque, and a $1,000 award.
Professor Crystal Schaaf of the School for the Environment has been appointed editor in chief of Remote Sensing of Environment. The interdisciplinary journal, which was first printed in 1969, publishes the theory, science, applications, and technology of remote sensing. The interdisciplinary journal is an important resource for scientists who study the earth, sea, and sky using satellite and aircraft sensors. Schaaf will serve on a board of four editors in chief from three different countries.

"Over the years, Remote Sensing of Environment has grown steadily not only in impact, but also in size. As a result, the number of submissions has increased from 250 per year to over 1,300 in 2014," said Elaine van Ommen Kloeke, publisher of Remote Sensing at Elsevier. "We believe this new team will do an excellent job in ensuring Remote Sensing of Environment remains the No. 1 journal in the field and move the journal to the next level for a bright future."

"The appointment of Professor Crystal Schaaf as one of the editors in chief of this most prestigious journal is a testament of her status as a highly respected leading scholar in the discipline," said Zong-Guo Xia, vice provost for research and dean of graduate studies at UMass Boston. "Our students benefit from her teaching, mentoring, and participation in her externally sponsored research projects. UMass Boston becomes nationally and internationally distinguished through the collective accomplishments of our faculty and research scholars like Professor Schaaf."

“It is a privilege to be able to serve the remote sensing community in this way and see the depth and breadth of the scientific applications,” Schaaf said of her new role.

Schaaf is an expert in remote sensing and has partnered with NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey on various projects that allow scientists to better understand our earth's ecosystems. She is a member of the science teams for the MODerate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer on board the Terra and Aqua satellites, the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite on board the Suomi-NPP satellite, and the Operational Land Imager on board Landsat-8. Most recently, Schaaf became a collaborator on NASA’s Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation Lidar mission for the International Space Station. This particular mission will focus on quantifying the impacts of climate change on a global scale by observing tropical and temperate forests from above.

UMass President’s Office Funds Three UMass Boston Projects

Last May, UMass Boston faculty and staff members received funding for their latest projects from the UMass President’s Office. In total, they received $174,500 as part of the President’s Science and Technology Initiative and Creative Economy Initiative, which are system-wide programs for providing seed funds.

Robyn Hannigan, Founding Dean of the School for the Environment

Sustainable Seafood Collaboratory, a joint effort of UMass Boston, UMass Amherst, UMass Dartmouth, and the New England Aquarium to address issues in the state’s marine economy, received $125,000. Researchers in the collaborative will initially focus on oysters and the impact that ocean acidification may have on diseases such as vibrio, which not only make people sick but cost growers millions of dollars in lost production. The research team will also work with local shellfish farmers.

J. Cedric Woods, Director of the Institute for New England Native American Studies

Woods received $35,000 for his project, Circles of Care and Native Crafts: A Culturally Focused Intervention Addressing Violence Against Native American Women. A 2013 report by the National Congress of American Indians found that Native Americans are 2.5 times as likely to experience violent crimes and at least 2 times as likely to experience rape or sexual assault than women of any other race or ethnicity in the United States.

Thomas T. Kane, Director of the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences

Kane received $14,500 for his project, From Boston to Baghdad: Healing the Wounds of War through Art, Theater, and Community Engagement. The grant will fund theatrical productions, art exhibits, and community social and cultural dialogues about the Iraq wars of the past three decades, including readings of Amir Al-Azraki play The Widow.
The Changing Digital Publishing Landscape

Early in 2015, in the midst of the Boston blizzards, I gave a campus talk called "Mapping the Digital Publishing Landscape," in which I provided a snapshot of the current opportunities available for scholars from university presses.

I included programs in which presses created digital short volumes out of previously published books, such as Princeton Shorts from Princeton University Press and INshort from Indiana University Press. I also discussed imprints for original digital short books, such as the University of Minnesota Press's Forerunners, a "thought-in-process series" focusing on "works written between fresh ideas and finished books." Georgetown Digital Shorts are advertised as original texts that are easily and widely available on a variety of platforms. Stanford Briefs are "essay-length works freed from the technical requirements of the scholarly journal article and the elaborate documentation of the full length research monograph."

Just outside the university press world, we find Palgrave Pilot, "a digital-first, mid-length research format which offers rapid publication and is more flexible than traditional publications," with works between 25,000 and 50,000 words – "longer than a journal article, but shorter than a monograph."

Each of these programs play to the press in question’s strengths, and all of them are advertised, quite explicitly, as peer reviewed, so as to assure authors and potential readers that a new format does not mean a different screening process. With newer initiatives, recently funded with large grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, presses will invest in platforms that will allow them to work with scholars in their areas of strength to create work utilizing newer forms of technology, often producing open access scholarship.

The most prominent project, which emerged earlier this year, is the University of California Press's LUMINOS, a fully open access (OA) monograph imprint that will offer a digital version of each project, with the potential for "rich multi-media content," as well as a more limited print-on-demand version. Stanford University Press will launch a digital publishing platform that will allow them to publish "complex and interactive scholarship that makes use of visualization tools." They are working with the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab. Yale University Press will create "an electronic portal" for art and architectural history content, where scholars will be able to customize scholarship. The portal will be populated by content from Yale University Press and their partner, the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mellon just announced more such grants, including support for Manifold Scholarship, "a publishing platform that will give publishers the capability to incorporate — in an ongoing way — datasets, sound, video, and other digital content into electronic versions of scholarly monographs." This project is a partnership between the University of Minnesota Press and the GC Digital Scholarship Lab at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Mellon gave similar grants to both New York University Press and the University of Michigan Press (separately), to support electronic publications in the digital humanities. Many of these platforms, once launched, will be available for use by other presses.

At the University of Massachusetts Press, as with most university presses, we are watching these developments closely while developing our own new work flow to accommodate digital content. I hope to update the UMass Boston community soon on our own exciting developments.
Rhodes...continued from p. 1

even though nearly half exhibited post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms a year after the storm.

Rhodes, the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership Professor of Psychology at UMass Boston and research director for the Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring, says having pre-disaster data on economic, social, health, and psychological status put her and her fellow researchers in a rare position. A meta-analysis of 160 disaster studies found that fewer than 5 percent of studies included any pre-disaster data.

“Most of us are naturally resilient,” Rhodes told UMass Boston This Week. “Within a few years of whatever stressors come our way, we return to our previous levels of happiness, prosperity, and health.”

As the Nature article pointed out, for 30 percent of survivors, the hurricane became a turning point and a chance to rethink their priorities.

“Such psychological growth does not come easy,” Rhodes said. “It appears on the same side of the coin as PTSD, and in situations that are often so severe that survivors’ fundamental beliefs about themselves and their place in the world are shaken to their core. But, particularly when given opportunities for cognitive processing of the experiences, such trauma results in a greater appreciation for life and its possibilities.”

Keisler...continued from p. 3

in the publication of several articles on their findings as well as a book in production, Decision Science for Housing and Community Development.

In addition to housing policy, Keisler dedicates research to environmental decision making. Keisler collaborated with UMass Amherst Professor Erin Baker on a U.S. Department of Energy funded research project where the team explored several ways in which the nation may invest in clean energy. The professors formulated model structures and met with leading energy researchers to predict outcomes for possible research plans. “We wanted to find more efficient ways to develop decision models for environmental issues. We also worked to expand the scope of decision models already in place,” Keisler says of their work. The project continues to be a success, as their results have become a useful resource in clean energy research.

Keisler also works closely with the US Army Corps of Engineers as a technical advisor for environmentally sustainable decision making. “There are a lot of challenges when deciding on national security. I help strategize approaches to those challenges,” Keisler says.

In addition to Keisler’s research and teaching, he is an associate editor of Interfaces, an editor of EURO Journal on Decision Processes, an editorial board member for both Decision Analysis and Environmental Systems and Decisions, and a fellow in the prestigious Society of Decision Professionals. He serves as Past-President for the Decision Analysis Society, a top academic society and one with the highest achieving DA representatives. He has published over 40 refereed journal articles and is co-editor of the book Portfolio Decision Analysis: Approved Methods for Resource Allocations, for which he received the 2013 INFORMS Decision Analysis Society Publication Award.

From January to June 2016, Keisler will use his methods for yet another ambitious project. The UMass Boston professor was awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Aalto University Distinguished Chair position where he will research potential technology investments at Aalto University, Finland’s science and technology institute located in Helsinki. He will collaborate with other faculty members at Aalto University to create modeling techniques that can better synthesize scientific and economic knowledge.

Goins...continued from p. 4

What makes Goins’ research so crucial is that little original research existed before it. “Some communities, with good reason, have been reluctant to participate in research for fear that it will be culturally insensitive or won’t address community concerns,” she explains. “That’s why it’s important to build close and collaborative relationships with these communities prior to conducting research.”

In that regard, Goins’ work in the classroom is equally as important as her work in the field. “Teaching is an opportunity to inspire and prepare future researchers to go out and do important things,” she says. “We need more researchers working with a true collaborative approach along-side key stakeholders in Native communities addressing issues that have been identified by the community as relevant and important.” And there’s no better teacher than Goins.
policymaking, disseminates information, and builds human capacity in biodiversity science. Through his work and popular writing Kamal Bawa has promoted international cooperation in science, while also strengthening biodiversity awareness and public support for conservation in Indian civil society."

In April 2012, Bawa received two notable honors: the Royal Norwegian Society of Science and Letters’ first Gunnerus Sustainability Award, which is the first major international award for work on sustainability; and he was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. More recently, he is the recipient of the prestigious International Midori Prize in Biodiversity (2014), and the Honorary Doctorate of Science, University of Alberta (2014).

True to his pioneer’s ethos 36 years after joining UMass Boston, Bawa says, “I am interested in developing new paradigms of conservation that take into account the need to alleviate poverty in biodiversity-rich areas through sustainable use of biodiversity. I also remain interested in the sustainable use of ecosystem services including such provisioning services as non-timber forest products. My third distinct interest in sustainable studies is land use and land cover change and its impact on biodiversity.”

Bawa notes that there is considerable debate about the success of integrated conservation and development projects in meeting the twin goals of conservation and poverty reduction.

He says that work on sustainable livelihoods at several sites in the Eastern Himalayas tests whether conservation and biodiversity can be enhanced while alleviating poverty, and his approach is to quantify changes in economic and social parameters resulting from economic and institutional interventions. Data are analyzed and findings integrated with results from other similar projects both within and outside South Asia.

"His election as a Fellow of the Royal Society further validates the critical importance of Professor Bawa’s contributions to and legacy as one of the chief founders of the field of sustainability,” said UMass Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley.

"His teaching and research have had a profound effect on hundreds of students and faculty members at UMass Boston and many other universities beyond the United States. He continues raising our awareness of the need for a healthy intertwined and interdependent relationship between the natural environment and humans that is the linchpin for assuring the existence of the planet and thus ourselves in the centuries to come.”

Bawa is the second of two faculty members from the entire UMass system to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. The first was Roger Davis, a professor at the UMass Medical School who teaches in the Program in Molecular Medicine. Davis was elected in 2002 for his research on the mechanisms by which growth factors regulate cellular proliferation.

About the Royal Society

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world’s most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society is the national Academy of science in the UK, and its core is its Fellowship and Foreign Membership, supported by a dedicated staff in London and elsewhere. The Fellowship comprises the most eminent scientists of the UK, Ireland, and the Commonwealth.

Some Past and Current Fellows

John James Audubon (1785-1851) was an American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was an English naturalist and geologist, best known for his contributions to evolutionary theory.

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) was a French chemist and microbiologist renowned for his discoveries of the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation and pasteurization.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist. He developed the general theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics (alongside quantum mechanics).

Stephen Hawking (1942-) was the first to set forth a theory of cosmology explained by a union of the general theory of relativity and quantum mechanics.

Anne Mills (1955-) is a British authority on health economics.

Gail Martin (1962-) is known for her pioneering work on the isolation from normal mouse embryos of pluripotent stem cells, for which she coined the term ‘embryonic stem cells’.
New Sponsored Awards Reported by UMass Boston*

**Philip Brenner** (Assistant Professor of Sociology) was awarded a $39,688 grant by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University for “Teaching Survey Fundamentals at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.”

**Changmeng Cai** (Assistant Professor of Biology) was awarded a three-year, $246,228 grant by the National Institutes of Health for “Molecular Basis of Androgen Receptor Mediated Gene Transcriptional Repression.”

**Avary Carhill Poza** (Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics) was awarded a $100,000 grant by the Nellie May Education Foundation for “Student-Centered Learning Opportunities for Adolescent English Learners in Flipped Classrooms.”

**Francoise Carre** (Research Director, Center for Social Policy) was awarded a $17,255 grant by the National Organization of Working Women for “Integrating Resources to Strengthen Low-Income Families.”

**Anne Douglass** (Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction) was awarded a $64,000 grant by Action for Boston Community Development for “Early Educator Access to Higher Education.”

**Ron Etter** (Professor of Biology) and **Robyn Hannigan** (Founding Dean, School for the Environment) were awarded a four year, $376,263 grant by the National Science Foundation for “Intertidal Community Assembly and Dynamics.”

**Patricia Favazza** (Professional Staff, Center for Social Development and Education) was awarded a three-year, $1,419,002 grant by the U.S. Department of Education for “Children in Action: Motor Program for Preschoolers.”

**Stephanie Hartwell** (Professor of Sociology) was awarded a $20,000 grant from Vigorous Interventions In Ongoing Natural Settings Inc. for an “Intergenerational Justice Program.”

**Stephen McGoldrick** (Assistant Professor of Sociology) was awarded $5,000 by the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management for the “DCAM Human Resources Project.”

**Joseph Marrone** (Senior Research Fellow, Institute Community Inclusion) was awarded a five-year $216,979 grant by the U.S. Department of Education (via the University of Massachusetts Medical School) for “Transition to Employment for Youth and Young Adults with Mental Health Conditions.”

**Tomas Materdey** (Senior Lecturer, Department of Engineering) was awarded a $57,940 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to conduct the “2015 Summer Transportation Institute at UMass Boston.”

**Jeanne Medeiros** (Research Fellow, Gerontology Institute) was awarded an $189,650 grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for “Year Three of the New England Pension Assistance Project.”

**Edward Miller** (Associate Professor of Gerontology) was awarded a $19,562 grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to “Inform Nursing Home use in the VA.”

**Takuya Minami** (Professor of Counseling and School Psychology) was awarded a $23,862 grant the Public School System of Burlington, Massachusetts to support graduate assistantships within that system.

**Lizabeth Roemer** (Professor of Psychology) was awarded a $1,481 grant by America Psychological Association for “Integrating Science in the Provision of Evidenced-Based Outreach, Prevention, and Intervention of an Urban Diverse Campus.”

**Diane Shea** (Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing) was awarded a $49,578 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education for “Academic-Practice Partnerships: Developing a Model to Encourage Incumbent Nurses to Advance Their Education Inclusive of Increasing Diversity Workforce Addressing Social, Cultural, Racial, Gender, and Disability.”

**Heather Zaykowski** (Assistant Professor of Sociology) was awarded a $49,263 grant by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for the “Senator Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative - Local Action Research Partner.”

*Questions or concerns about your sponsored award?

If your sponsored award is either missing or contains inaccuracies, please contact Matthew Meyer, associate vice provost for research and director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, at matthew.meyer@umb.edu with a copy to james.mortenson@umb.edu.
FY 2015 Brings Record Growth in Sponsored Awards

In FY 2015, UMass Boston was awarded $63.28 million by external sponsors, a 5.2% increase over FY 2014. The dollar total is an aggregate of the annual award budgets of all awards (new, continuing, additional) received from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (and not the total award values of the lives of all grants).

As was the case last year, while many research universities have seen significant decreases in external funding since the recession, the total amount of external grants and contracts awarded to UMass Boston has increased annually, setting a new record for the five-year period of FY 2011 until now.

A New Home for Office of Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions

The Office of Graduate Studies and Graduate Admissions has moved to its new home: First Floor of Quinn Administration Building.

Our new home will allow us to better serve our graduate students and applicants, graduate program directors and graduate faculty, and friends and supporters of our graduate programs to amplify the synergism between research and graduate studies, and to intensify our efforts in implementing our inspirational strategic plan, growing and enhancing our graduate programs, and transforming UMass Boston into a distinguished public urban research university.

You are welcome to visit us at any time. Please let your faculty, staff and students know where they can find us from this point forward.

Editor’s Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the folks mentioned below for their many fine contributions to this issue. Thank you!

Barbara Graceffa, Director of Marketing and Communications, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies (see page 5, “Gerontology Student Earns Competitive NIA Dissertation Grant”)

Colleen Locke, Digital Communications Editor, Office of University Communications (see page 1, “On 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Jean Rhodes’s Research Shows Resiliency”)

Anna Pinkert, Digital Communications Specialist, Office of University Communications (see page 7, “School for the Environment Professor Appointed Editor-in-Chief of Scientific Journal”)

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Editor: James G. Mortenson

Please send comments and story ideas to:

Annette Cameron, Administrative Assistant to the Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Initiatives
Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Initiatives
& Dean of Graduate Studies
(617) 287-7914, annette.cameron@umb.edu

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