UMass Boston Receives First Ever IGERT Grant for $3.1 Million

UMass Boston has received a $3.1 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) grant from the National Science Foundation for a new program, “Coasts and Communities: Natural and Human Systems in Urbanizing Environments.” In partnership with several academic, intergovernmental, and non-governmental institutions in the Horn of Africa, the program will train doctoral students to apply innovative and sustainable solutions to environmental problems across disciplines, scales, and geographies.

Founding Dean of the School for the Environment and Professor Robyn Hannigan and McCormack Graduate School (MGS) Assistant Professor of Global Governance Maria Ivanova spearheaded the initiative engaging faculty across UMass Boston, Addis Ababa University, and the University of Nairobi.

MGS Dean Ira A. Jackson praises the IGERT grant as, “a game changer for UMass Boston and a huge accomplishment,” noting that it is “both local and global, (continued on page 6)

Maria Ivanova Appointed to Newly Established U.N. Scientific Advisory Board

UMass Boston Assistant Professor Maria Ivanova, an internationally recognized expert on governance and sustainability, has been appointed to the new United Nations Scientific Advisory Board by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Ivanova, a Boston resident, is one of 26 members appointed to the new Scientific Advisory Board of the U.N. Secretary-General, which is comprised of experts from the natural, social, and human sciences. The advisory board is designed to “strengthen the interface between science and policy, so that the latest scientific findings are reflected in our high-level policy discussions,” said in a press release issued by Secretary-General Ki-moon’s office.

“Governments have been exploring ways to improve the science-policy interface for sustainability, and the creation of the U.N. Scientific Advisory Board is a very positive development,” Ivanova said. “Contemporary global problems require innovative solutions that combine insights from a number of fields. The board will seek to bring such innovation from the academy into the global policy process.” (continued on page 7)
Water, that chemically unique, mundanely ubiquitous and increasingly precious commodity of life itself, is the chief passion of UMass Boston Associate Professor of Hydrology Ellen Douglas. In recognition of her accomplishments and her potential to contribute even more knowledge for building an environmentally sustainable future, she is the recipient of a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship.

"Globally, we humans gobble up about half of all accessible freshwater," says Douglas. "Either directly through agriculture, industrial, and domestic water use, or indirectly in the form of instream uses such as pollution, abatement, and cooling."

Douglas will travel to Australia in November 2013 in order to continue her work on hydrology and climate change impacts, spending eight months in the cities of Adelaide and Canberra. She will work with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia’s national science agency, to assign an economic value to the Murray-Darling Basin, a 400,000-square-mile agricultural area named for two major rivers that run through it. Douglas calls the river basin Australia’s “bread basket.”

“The Murray-Darling is highly overused. Everybody wants water, and at some point there’s not enough to go around, so how do you decide who gets water and who doesn’t?” asks Douglas. “One way of doing that is assigning some sort of a dollar value and then trading the value of the water like we do other things that we purchase.”

Douglas further explains, “One of the major reasons for human overuse of water is that conventional economic analyses do not assign a value to freshwater ecosystem services; we use the water for free, typically only paying for the cost of developing and transporting it to where we need it. In order to reverse this unsustainable, and some argue, unethical practice, ecologists and economists have gotten together to properly value our ecosystem services.”

She says conditions in the Murray-Darling Basin are similar to those near the Yakima River in eastern Washington, which she has previously studied. Douglas’s research has involved the analysis of regional to global scale hydrologic processes and the impacts of human water use (particularly agricultural irrigation) on the hydrologic cycle.

Specific research activities include quantifying non-sustainable water use globally, identifying the role of water scarcity in social conflict in Africa, and investigating the impacts of moisture fluxes from irrigation on land-atmosphere interactions in India.

“Quantifying the value of freshwater ecosystems, and then incorporating those values into water management models to support water savings, will be the focus of my research in Australia,” says Douglas.

New England, indeed much of the U.S., is facing many of the same water-related challenges but Australia is leading the way in meeting them. Douglas expects that her research with the CSIRO will be directly transferable to water management here at home. As such, her research directly supports UMass Boston’s global mission for cross-cultural and comparative research initiatives.

More importantly, an Intelligence Community Assessment report to the U.S. State Department in February 2012 warned that “water problems will hinder the ability of key countries to produce food and generate energy, posing a risk to global food markets and hobbling economic growth.” The partnership Douglas hopes to begin developing between the U.S. and Australia during her Fulbright experience may well prove to be one small but important step towards reducing that risk and improving global water security.
Faculty Profile: Spencer Di Scala, Professor of History

His scholarship, he insists, has not simply gone hand-in-hand with his teaching, but has been to a large extent inspired by his teaching.

Teacher, scholar, innovator, public intellectual—these words best describe the many contributions of Spencer Di Scala to the community, national, and international scenes since his arrival at UMass Boston as an assistant professor of history in 1970.

His scholarship, he insists, has not simply gone hand-in-hand with his teaching, but has been to a large extent inspired by his teaching. “I found that my students were curious about a certain event and always wanted to know more,” he explains. “So I went back further and put historical events in a longer context.” It was the need for good textbooks that has led him to write 12 books about Italian and European history, including his latest book, *Europe's Long Century: Society, Politics, and Culture 1990 - Present* (2013).

Known for his innovations in both online and face-to-face courses, he routinely utilizes such techniques as speaking from the perspective of a historical character in order to spark student interest. For example, imagine you are taking a course on World War I. You just learn that Archduke Franz Ferdinand has been killed by a Bosnian rebel, leading to mobilization of Russian, French and German armies. The German army intends to invade France and Russia, a decision that will dismantle decades of German diplomacy set in place by Otto von Bismarck. At this juncture you discover a personal memo from Bismarck in which he explains to his successors how diplomacy should be conducted.

Di Scala’s research has long sparked the interest of Italian politicians. His books have been debated in the Italian senate and in the chamber of deputies. They are regularly reviewed and praised by former Prime Ministers in Italy’s major newspapers and literary supplements such as *La Repubblica*, the *Corriere della Sera*, and *La Stampa*.

In 1995, Di Scala was honored with the title of Commendatore (Commander) in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic — the equivalent of a legion of honor — for his scholarly contributions to the study (continued on page 8)
At UMass Boston, Associate Professor of Leadership in Education Jay Dee teaches by setting the right example.

"The goal of higher education is to educate millions, to carry out the most innovative research, and, above all else, to improve the human condition. That’s asking a lot from any organization," explains Dee.

It’s awe-inspiring and immensely challenging to prepare educational leaders who can transform universities and colleges because, says Dee, these institutions are easily the most complex organizations in the world. So as director of the UMass Boston Doctoral Program in Higher Education, Dee has a lot riding on his shoulders.

At any given time the EdD program has 60 to 65 students. Each of these students goes on to become an educational leader who seeks to transform the educational experience of students the world over. The program trains these leaders by providing a rich learning environment that emphasizes the dynamic connections among theory, research, and practice.

"This is the community," says Dee enthusiastically, "that produces new knowledge, and trains new leaders of higher education for a global society." Dee should know because he has served as faculty adviser to more doctoral students than any member of the UMass Boston faculty—current or retired.

As a graduate program director and a teacher, Dee's role in preparing educational leaders who can solve such problems, is to provide his community his intellectual leadership. “To be a good leader, I have to be a learner and I have to listen,” he explains. “I have to learn within my field and I have to learn from my students.” But that’s not enough, he adds, “I have to be a good manager.” It is his job, he believes, to provide a supportive environment. “I can’t just focus on the big ideas. I have to look after the small details, so students and faculty don’t have to. If I can take care of the little things, they are freed up to do their work.”

Like any good manager Dee is committed to making sure everyone’s needs are met, right down to the newest member of his faculty, and the newest student. “I have the vision in sight,” he explains, “but I also have to manage the small details. It is in between these two roles, as a leader and a manager that a higher education professional learns to negotiate the many challenges and complexities of a college or university.”

When asked what some of the most important challenges are for higher education, Dee mentions the high student dropout rates and high tuition. The way out of this problem, he believes, is to help faculty and staff to improve student learning, and to strongly encourage university and college departments to collaborate more effectively. There aren’t enough structures and models to inspire interdepartmental collaboration, Dee says. As a result, departments end up working in silos, isolated from one another.

Dee believes UMass Boston is solving some of these challenges. Its urban mission provides a unifying idea that allows departments to collaborate and focus on providing an outstanding educational experience. (continued on page 9)
Faculty Profile: Maria Ivanova, Assistant Professor of Global Governance

Her research into the effectiveness of global environmental governance, with an emphasis on the role that international organizations play, has been published across a broad spectrum of media.

Maria Ivanova is one of the world’s leading scholars of global environmental governance. Her research on the United Nations and its environmental institutions is particularly innovative in the way it bridges political science, organizational studies, and international law, and in the way it combines academic rigor with policy relevance and, notably, with effective policy involvement.

Over the course of her academic career, Ivanova has engaged in a long-term effort to measure, assess, explain, and advise the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), what she calls “the anchor institution for the global environment.” In September 2010, Ivanova joined the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at UMass Boston as part of a faculty team charged to develop a new doctoral program in global governance and human security, the first of its kind in the United States.

“I study institutions and the characteristics that make them functional or dysfunctional,” says Ivanova. “Engaging in institution building is therefore a privilege and a responsibility I take seriously.” The new doctoral program was approved in record time and has now two cohorts students comprising eighteen professionals from nine countries across five continents. “Students are drawn to the program because of its interdisciplinary nature,” notes Ivanova. “The new generation of students has a genuine desire to be able to solve global problems, and you cannot solve a problem with one discipline alone.”

In fall 2014, Ivanova and Robyn Hannigan, professor and founding dean of the UMass Boston School for the Environment, will launch a new doctoral concentration on Coasts and Communities: Natural and Human Systems in Urbanizing Environments across four schools and colleges – the School for the Environment, the McCormack Graduate School, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the College of Management. This program, funded by a $3.1 million grant from the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program of the National Science Foundation, will engage students across disciplines in finding solutions to global environmental problems and will likely be transformative for the students as individuals and for UMass Boston as an institution. A collaboration with the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network at Addis Ababa University lies at the core of the IGERT program and will allow our students to think and learn across fields, scales and geographies.

One of the most notable features of Ivanova’s work is the way in which it speaks simultaneously to the academic and policy communities. She clearly sees her job to be not only about understanding how global environmental governance works, but actively working to make it better. She is known at the same time as the key scholar of UNEP within the academic community and as the go-to academic for policy advice by global environmental governance practitioners. She served as coordinating lead author in the 5th Global Environmental Outlook, the U.N.’s flagship assessment of the state of the global environment. Václav Havel, noted author and intellectual and former President of Czechoslovakia, included her as one of 100 world thought leaders invited to the 15th Forum 2000 conference in 2011. Most recently, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon named her to the prestigious U.N. Scientific Advisory Board along with twenty-five other eminent (continued on page 9)
Jack Fowler Receives Highest Award for Survey Research

Dr. Floyd J. “Jack” Fowler, Jr., a senior fellow in the UMass Boston Center for Survey Research (CSR), is the recipient of the prestigious American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) 2013 Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Achievement.

“Jack is founding director and a guiding force of the Center for Survey Research,” says Mary Ellen Colten, a long-time colleague of Fowler’s and current CSR director. “UMass Boston and the CSR have been the beneficiaries of Jack’s endeavors and his special gifts. We are fortunate and very proud. There is truly no higher honor in the field than this award.”

The award inscription, provided by AAPOR President Paul J. Lavrakas, reads as follows:

“Dr. Floyd J. “Jack” Fowler, Jr. belongs to the honorable tradition of scholar-practitioners. He is one of the original and most productive survey methodologists conducting research on survey interviewing. His research into interviewer-respondent interaction has led the profession to a better understanding of the nature and sources of error in interviewer-administered surveys. He has particularly focused his methodological work during the past 30 years on question design and evaluation.

Fowler has also focused on the cognitive bases of the survey response process, and contributed to identifying problematic question formats using behavior coding and other techniques. He has also contributed to the profession’s understanding of interviewer effects on the question-asking process, which helps interviewer training and other areas.

Jack has produced seminal works designed to disseminate methodological standards of survey research to practitioners, academics, and students throughout the social science research community. His books include Survey Research Methods, Improving Survey Questions, Standardized Survey Interviewing, and Survey Methodology.

He has also contributed greatly to the improvement of data collection in the area of health outcomes and utilization of health care services. Jack’s work here has been ground breaking, advancing health outcomes research, and reflecting his abiding interest in health related quality of life. As a founder and long-time director of the Center for Survey Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Jack has shaped an organization devoted to the highest quality academic survey research. His unwavering dedication to “making truth” by utilizing and refining the methodological tools of survey research has been the basis of a lifetime of outstanding contributions to the fields of public opinion and survey research.

Like his mentor, Charlie Cannell, Jack’s modesty and unassuming demeanor belie the enormous, positive effect his work and talent have made to our profession. He has passed on his commitment to survey quality and his knack for balancing the art and the science of survey measurement to several grateful generations of social science researchers.”

First Ever IGERT Grant for $3.1 Million (continued from page 1)

highly collaborative, transnational, transdisciplinary, and transformative.”

The Coasts and Communities program is one of 18 IGERT grants funded by NSF in the 2013 fiscal year, out of the 156 proposals submitted. Fostering a culture of transdisciplinary collaboration and communication among scientists, practitioners, and scholars, the initiative will draw on resources and expertise from the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network and several UMass Boston groups, including the Urban Harbors Institute, the Nantucket Field Station, and the MGS Center for Governance and Sustainability.

The partnership with higher education institutions in the Horn of Africa will be critical, Ivanova points out. “Our students will apply scientifically rigorous and policy relevant methodologies for assessing and addressing environmental risks and improving the resilience of coupled natural-human systems in countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti. Under the guidance of outstanding mentors and in collaboration with peers, they will acquire a knowledge base and skills applicable to urban and urbanizing coastal areas across the world.”
President Caret Announces UMass Boston Recipients of the 2013 Creative Economy and Science & Technology Awards

The Creative Economy Initiatives Fund was established in 2007 to support faculty initiatives in the arts, humanities and social sciences that benefit the Massachusetts economy and improve its quality of life. The 2013 UMass Boston recipients are listed directly below.

Robert Lublin (Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Performing Arts) was awarded $30,000 to support a new cultural and potentially significant historical program, “The Emancipated Century,” a coordinated series of dramatic staged readings in theatres throughout Boston that pays tribute to the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Rajini Srikanth (Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Director of the University Honors Program) was awarded $37,000 to fund nine year-long Undergraduate Creative and Social Entrepreneurship Fellows, who have at least sophomore standing.

Askold Melnyczuk (Associate Professor of English) was awarded $10,000 for Instilling Hope in the Homeless through Reading and Writing.

Paul Atwood (William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences) was awarded $10,000 for Tamzig: A Multi-Media Arts Project.

The Science & Technology (S&T) Initiatives Fund is a tool to catalyze research collaborations that strengthens the research enterprise of the University and brings economic benefit to the Commonwealth. The 2012 UMass Boston recipient is listed directly below.

William Robinson (Professor of Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences) was awarded $120,000 to establish and implement the Lab for Urban & Coastal Environmental Science (LUCES) project.

The award recipients discuss their projects in a series of one-minute videos, produced by Colleen Locke, digital communications editor, Office of University Communications, at www.umb.edu/news_events_media/news.
scholarly contributions to the study of Italian history, and he continues to be considered an international authority in his field.

His latest book, *Europe's Long Century*, was hailed by a former Prime Minister of Italy as a “comprehensive, courageous book.” The book challenges Eric Hobsbawm’s notion of the 20th century as a short century, and argues that it was actually a “long” century lasting approximately from 1900 to 2000 with patterns and antecedents discernible before the century began and that continue to be elaborated today. In the book he also emphasizes the pioneering role of science.

In addition to his scholarly achievements, Di Scala has worked closely with the Italian community of Greater Boston. For example, he currently serves as president of the Boston Chapter of the Dante Alighieri Society. Established in 1889 by the Nobel laureate for Literature Giosuè Carducci, the society aims to promote Italian culture and language throughout the world and currently counts almost 500 member organizations. Under Di Scala’s leadership the Massachusetts branch of the society has organized lectures and conferences, hosted prominent Italian politicians, and launched Italian language classes certified by the European Union. In collaboration with the American Jewish Committee, the society organized a conference on the Italian rescue of Jews in France, Yugoslavia, and Greece that drew 800 attendees from both the Italian and Jewish communities and included the participation of the consuls general of Italy and Israel and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

This is the kind of work Di Scala likes to do as a historian, working within communities and disseminating history among the public.

“It consider myself a public intellectual,” he says. As a historian he wishes to break down popular myths about history. “History is like memory,” he explains. “If you don’t have any memory of what happened yesterday, you’re not a complete person, you can’t function.” For example, we can’t fix the current economic recession unless we understand the Great Depression. “If you have a good basis in history you can do anything.”

History, Di Scala believes, is that powerful.

For more information on Professor Di Scala, visit: www.umb.edu/academics/cla/faculty/spencer_di_scala.

### Books Published by Spencer Di Scala


*Dilemmas of Italian Socialism: The Politics of Filippo Turati* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1980); Pp. xii+209 [Updated with a long introduction and translated into Italian as *Filippo Turati e le origini della democrazia in Italia*]
Faculty Profile: **Dee (continued from page 4)**

He cites the work of centers and institutes that are providing incentives for interdepartmental partnerships. “We still have conflicts,” says Dee, “but I think our mission gives us a good model for building collaboration.”

In this respect, he believes, UMass Boston serves as a model for other universities. “There is an opportunity here to learn from one another and to understand the unique combination of problems and challenges that universities and colleges are facing today.”

The innovative cohort model of the program, in which students who are admitted in the same year take all of their required courses together, fosters a collaborative approach to learning, problem solving, and leadership. The students include early- to mid-career higher education professionals who work in community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and public as well as private universities. Each student, Dee explains, brings his or her own diverse set of contexts, skills, and perspectives to the program.

The core of the program contains 3 areas of emphasis: (1) a commitment to fostering leadership and organizational change; (2) a commitment to focus on issues of equity and social justice in higher education that ensure access to all; and (3) a commitment to increase the civic engagement of colleges and universities with their communities. As the program director, Dee ensures that all three areas are well supported via curriculum, research, publicity, and funding. Thus far he’s helped the program obtain grants through the Lumina Foundation, the Nellie-Mae Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. All of the grants supported conducting national studies on a variety of higher education policies and practices.

For more information on Associate Professor Dee and the Doctoral Program in Higher Education Administration, visit: www.umb.edu/academics/cehd/leadership/grad.

Faculty Profile: **Ivanova (continued from page 5)**

scientists, including three Nobel laureates, representing natural, social, and human sciences and engineering.

“The motivation behind my research and policy contributions stems from the work I engaged in as a graduate student at Yale, when in 1997, Professor Daniel Esty and I launched the Global Environmental Governance Project, a research initiative to bring analytical rigor into the incipient U.N. process on international environmental governance reform,” Ivanova says. In 2010, when she arrived at UMass Boston, Ivanova brought with her the Global Environmental Governance Project, which became the foundation upon which she and colleague Craig Murphy built the Center for Governance and Sustainability.

Thirteen core and partner research projects form the Center’s portfolio. Ivanova launched and edits the peer-reviewed *Governance and Sustainability Issue Brief Series* with a readership of academics and policymakers around the world and over 10,000 copies printed or downloaded.

Over the course of the two years since its creation, the Center has engaged 21 students from seven universities as research associates. Undergraduate and graduate students from Boston College, Harvard University, University of Gothenburg in Sweden, University of New South Wales in Australia, Vermont Law School, and Yale University, have joined UMass Boston students leading to joint research projects and productive long-term relationships. As part of research projects within the Center, UMass Boston students have traveled to Bern, Nairobi, New Haven, Rio de Janeiro, and Tokyo to witness first-hand the policy issues discussed in the classroom and learn directly from negotiators.

In her most recent work, Ivanova sets out to examine the implementation of multilateral environmental treaties. Working with a team of graduate students and colleagues at UMass Boston and beyond, she is assembling a database of indicators measuring the extent of implementation in those countries that are parties to nine global treaties ranging from biodiversity to climate change to chemicals.

Ultimately, the goal is to create an environmental conventions index that would allow countries to track their performance, compare it with others, and identify strategies for improvement.

For more information on Assistant Professor Ivanova, visit: www.umb.edu/academics/mgs/faculty/maria_ivanova.
New Sponsored Awards (a sampling)

Laura Bozeman (Associate Professor of Special Education) and Robert McCulley (Director of the Northeast Center for Vision Education) were awarded a five-year $1,025,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education to provide “Personnel Preparation: Related Services Low Incidence Teacher Preparation Visual Impairments.”

Philip Brenner (Assistant Professor of Sociology) was awarded a $13,232 grant by the Harvard Medical School to provide and disseminate recruitment materials to approximately 1,100 households to encourage them to participate in the “Harvard Flu Network Study.”

Jonathan Celli (Assistant Professor of Physics) was awarded a three-year $686,537 grant by the National Cancer Institute for the project “Mechanism-Based Therapies for Pancreatic Cancer Informed by Stromal Microrheology.”

Mary Ellen Colten (Director of the Center for Survey Research) was awarded a $40,525 grant by The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice for the project “Spine Patient Outcomes Research Trial.” Specifically, the Center for Survey Research will develop the research protocol, conduct focus groups, and create a methodology report. The prime sponsor is the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

Julisa Cully (Resource Manager in the Institute for Community Inclusion) was awarded a three-year $598,769 grant by the U.S. Department of Education for the project “Explore Vocational Rehabilitation: Increasing Adoption and Utilization of a Web-Based Open Share Public Portal of Survey Data on Vocational Rehabilitation and Other Employment Service Providers.”

Robyn Hannigan (Founding Dean of the School for the Environment) was awarded a $99,999 grant for the project “Networking and Mentoring Travel Scholarship Program.”

Ron Etter (Professor of Biology) and Robyn Hannigan (Founding Dean of the School for the Environment) was awarded a four-year $353,436 grant by the National Science Foundation for the project “Collaborative Research: An Integrated Theoretical and Empirical Approach to Across-Shelf Mixing and Connectivity of Mussel Populations.”

Patricia Gallagher (Senior Research Fellow, Center for Survey Research) was awarded a $86,259 grant by The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice to continue providing technical assistance in developing and testing a survey instrument for the study entitled “Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: A Public Health Concern.” The National Institutes of Health is the prime sponsor.

Robyn Hannigan (Founding Dean of the School for the Environment) and Maria Ivanova (Assistant Professor of Global Governance) were awarded a five-year $3.1 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant will fund the new IGERT Fellows program entitled “Coasts and Communities: Natural and Human Systems in Urbanizing Environments.” Fellows will study urban coastal management across disciplines—and across nations—with a special focus on the Horn of Africa.

Debra Hart (Educational Coordinator in the Institute for Community Inclusion) was awarded a $20,000 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to collect existing as well as develop new training and technical assistance tools and resources to support the department’s Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program.

Michael Johnson (Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs) was awarded a $21,373 grant by the City of Baltimore Department of Planning to provide technical assistance to develop a “Decision Modeling Tool for the Vacant Structure Demolition and Redevelopment Project.” The Abell Foundation is the prime sponsor.

Judith Kurland (Executive Director of the Center for Democracy and Democratic Literacy) was awarded a two-year $100,000 grant by an anonymous donor for the project “From Place to Place: Learning and Working Together Across Boston.” These funds will allow the center to continue its Community of Practice project for engaging in place-based initiatives in a collaboration that is both a learning and an action network.

Sharon Lamb (Professor of Counseling and School Psychology) was awarded a two-year $39,992 grant by the Spencer Foundation for the project “Sex Education as Ethics Education in the New Civics.”
Andrea Leverentz (Associate Professor of Sociology) was awarded a three-year $305,551 grant by the National Science Foundation for the project “The Influences of Place in the Community Reintegration of Former Prisoners.” Those data collected will provide valuable information to better understand the impact of community context and residential change on former prisoner desistance, how communities view and respond to returning prisoners, and how former prisoners understand and experience their neighborhood context.

Stephen McGoldrick (Director, Collins Center for Public Management) was awarded a $102,475 grant by the Metro Boston Homeland Security Regional (MBHSR) Center of Excellence to work with the Boston Fire Department to work with MBHSR partner agencies to schedule and offer training that results in certification at the Hazardous Materials - Operations Level.

Tomas Materdey (Senior Lecturer of Engineering) was awarded a $35,000 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to hold a two-week summer pre-engineering program to expose high school students to careers in engineering and transportation-related disciplines.

Francine Menashy (Assistant Professor of Leadership in Education) was awarded a National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship to further her research on “Policy Development and Consensus Building on International Financing to Public Private Partnerships in Education.”

Rosalyn Negron (Assistant Professor of Anthropology) was awarded a $40,000 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. She will seek to launch a new scholarly agenda that builds on her doctoral work on the study of ethnic flexibility among urban Latinos to further align and integrate her research interests with her pedagogical efforts to increase the participation of under-represented students in science and research fields.

Steven Reuys (Director of the Adult Literacy Resource Institute) was awarded a $475,360 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to support “Program and Staff Development Regional Support Centers for Adult Basic Education.”

Jonathan Rochford (Assistant Professor of Chemistry) was awarded a three-year $341,000 grant by the National Science Foundation for the project “SusChEM: Solar CO2 Reduction with Non-Innocent Ligand Transition Metal Photocatalysts.”

Hannah Sevian (Associate Professor of Chemistry) was awarded a three-year $355,901 grant by the National Science Foundation for the project “Collaborative Research: Crossing the Threshold of Problem Solving: Electrical Engineering vs. Chemistry.”

Timothy Shaw (Visiting Professor of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance) was awarded a three-year $60,900 grant by the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, for the project “Governance of Natural Resources in Africa; Advancing a Qatari Perspective and Economic Perspective. The Qatar National Research Foundation is the prime sponsor.

Cynthia Thomas (Staff Assistant in the Institute for Community Inclusion) was awarded a $78,363 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services to continue offering the Work Experience Program through Children’s Hospital Boston. The program uses a variety of work sites within the hospital that help individuals with disabilities learn more about their own interests and abilities, while developing work behaviors and social skills and independence that will enhance success on the job.

Kristin Uiterwyk (Research Associate in the Urban Harbors Institute) was awarded a $15,000 grant by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to coordinate Coastsweep, the annual statewide beach cleanup.

Juanita Urban-Rich (Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences) was awarded a three-year $101,095 grant by the Michigan Technological University for the project “Managing Impacts of Global Transport of Atmosphere-Surface Exchangeable Pollutants in the Context of Global Change.” The National Science Foundation is the prime sponsor.

Alexey Veraksa (Associate Professor of Biology) was awarded a four-year $533,750 grant by Emory University for the project “Steroid-Dependent Changes in the Yorkie Interactome.” The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is the prime sponsor.
**New Sponsored Awards** *(a sampling) (continued from page 11)*

**Felicia Wilczenski** *(Dean of the College of Education and Human Development)* was awarded a $12,377 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to implement the “Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Partnership Program for Students with Disability.”

**Marion Winfrey** *(Associate Professor of Nursing)* was awarded a three-year $997,556 “Nursing Workforce Diversity” grant by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant will allow the new College to continue supporting participants in becoming registered nurses. Program participants consist of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial and ethnic minorities, an underrepresented population among registered nurses.

**Carolyn Wong** *(Research Associate in the Institute for Asian American Studies)* was awarded a $10,000 grant by the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling to conduct a study of gambling activity among Asian American college-age students at UMass Boston.

**Chandra Yelleswarapu** *(Assistant Professor of Physics)* was awarded a $62,701 grant by East West Enterprises, Inc., for the project “Design and Development of a Compact and Rugged Phase and Fluorescence Microscope for Space Utilization.” NASA is the prime sponsor.

**Editor’s Acknowledgements**

**Barbara Graceffa,** director of marketing and communications for the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, wrote “UMass Boston Receives First Ever IGERT Grant for $3.1M” on page 1. Several days following Ms. Graceffa’s story, the UMass Boston Office of University Communications issued a press release which included additional details and is available at www.umb.edu/news/detail/igert_fellows_will_seek_environmental_solutions_across_disciplines.

The story “Maria Ivanova Appointed to U.N. Scientific Advisory Board” on page 1 includes excerpts from a press release with the same title recently issued by the UMass Boston Office of University Communications.

**Colleen Locke,** digital communications editor, and **Anna Pinkert,** digital communications specialist, both of the Office of University Communications, also deserve recognition for their many fine research and research-related web stories promoting the work of UMass Boston faculty and students, which are available at www.umb.edu/news as well as www.umb.edu/research/news.