



Joiner Institute Spring 2019 Newsletter



Joiner intern Anthony Martin, along with Katharine Fanara, receives the Kyran Kennedy Memorial Scholarship from Kennedy family members at UMass Boston's annual Celebration of Service, Veterans Day event 11/10/18

Dear Joiner Friends, Supporters and UMass Boston Faculty, Staff and Students,

The Spring term has begun at UMass Boston and it is a busy time on campus with many positive changes and some difficult developments.

On the positive side we have some great events upcoming in February and April with an eye towards engaging students around issues of war. We continue our High School Teachers Project: Humanizing How We Teach and Learn about War and Conflict; are actively drafting new grant proposals that increase community participation in dialogues of war; we continue our partnership with the country of Vietnam including participation in the upcoming 3rd Annual International Poetry Festival in Hanoi and Halong Bay, Vietnam next week; and we remain engaged with

local veterans issues, both on campus with UMass Boston veterans at the Student Veterans Center, and in the greater Boston community.

In difficult news, we continue laboring under the austerity budget set forth by UMass Boston, who continue to insist that Centers and Institutes on campus must be primarily self supporting without sustaining contributions from the University, including for basic operating funds. This has left the Joiner Institute in a fragile position as staff attrition, years of budget cuts, and the threat of more cuts this summer, as outlined in the university's 'glide path', make our future uncertain. We are grateful for the impressive support of friends, allies, local state legislators, and many others for articulating the necessity of the Joiner Institute mission, and we thank you for your enthusiastic support.

As the draw down begins of American involvement in major wars in the Middle East, it is important to keep the struggles many returning veterans and service men and women face at the forefront of our minds and to continue the process of reconciliation with countries with whom we've been at war. The Joiner Institute hopes to continue its mission addressing these longterm consequences of war through research, advocacy, outreach, and education.

Below are some updates regarding recent and upcoming Joiner events, and other news and announcements. As always, feel free to direct inquiries to our main email - joinerinstitute@umb.edu or to mitch.manning@umb.edu, our newly appointed Associate Director.

Follow our updates on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), we hope to continue to grow our active online network.

Peace in the new year to all. Hòa bình. - The Joiner Institute

**Writers' Workshop:
Postponed to June 2020**



We are sorry to report that, short of a full restoration of our Joiner budget, **we are forced to postpone this year's Writers' Workshop until June 2020**. Ongoing budget constraints imposed by the University and a shortage of staff have left us in a difficult position. We aim to spend the next year rededicating our efforts to improving our financial standing and seeking support to sustain the Workshop for years to come.

We are optimistic that we can continue to offer our longstanding workshop to our community of veterans and writers in the future, and continue to explore the human costs of war through creative expression. We are grateful to the Boston Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, generous individual donors and other organizations and community partners whose contributions have helped support Writers' Workshops in the past, and will continue to do so during next year's workshop.

Suggestions for workshop ideas, panel discussions, visiting writers and faculty, films and other contributions that could help strengthen our annual summer Writers' Workshop are always welcome. Feel free to send ideas to mitch.manning@umb.edu.



Share your Feedback with the University about Joiner Budget Cuts!

**UMass Boston Taskforce on Centers and Institutes
Third and Final Listening Session:**

Wednesday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m.
Location: Campus Center, 3rd Floor, Room 3540

The UMass Boston Taskforce on Centers and Institutes, established by the provost, is looking for input from the campus community, center and institute constituents, and other key stakeholders on the categorization of centers and institutes, funding options for centers and institutes, and evaluation of centers and institutes. The third and final listening session is Wednesday, February 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 3540 of the Campus Center.

If you can't attend in person please submit written testimony to UMass Boston leadership about the value of the Joiner Institute in your life! If you are a workshop participant, faculty member, ally, long time friend, veteran, or someone concerned about war and militarism, please share your statement at the link below by March 1st.

Please write your message in the 'Other Comments' box at the bottom of the page. <https://www.umb.edu/centersfeedback>



From left to right: Joiner's Mitch Manning with UMB Veterans Michael D'Angelo, Sara Wulff, Kim Matunis, Cynthia Brewington, Tony Martin, Veronica DeLane, and Professor Paul Dyson

UMB Student Veterans Share Their Stories with High School Students

As part of our ongoing [Humanizing How We Teach And Learn About War](#), founded by Dr. Alan Stoskopf and former Joiner staffer Erin Leach-Ogden, we continue our partnership with local area high schools to bring the voices of veterans and those affected by war into the classroom.

This past January a group of veterans affiliated with the [UMass Boston Student Veteran Center](#) visited Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School to share their perspectives on their military experiences with 9th grade History students. There is no single veteran story and students were able to hear diverse perspectives on military experience and to wrestle with the human stories of conflict, service, modern history, and war.

Upcoming Events

See below for upcoming events sponsored by the Joiner Institute including two events called "**Building Trust: A Conversation with Local Refugees**" to be held in Sharon, MA on April 10 and at UMass Boston on April 17 (flyer coming soon), co-organized by Joiner Intern Winston Kesseh.

Thank you to our intern, veteran and Music major Tony Martin for his leadership in organizing the 'Conversations with Millennial Men of Color'

event with the Trotter Institute for Black Culture as part of UMass Boston's Celebration of Black History Month.

2019 *One Book One Town* SHARON READS TOGETHER



UMass Boston's William Joiner Institute
for the Study of War and Social Consequences presents

Building Trust: A Conversation with Local Refugees

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 | 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Sharon Public Library

Have you been forced to flee your home and seek refuge? Do you wonder what the experience is like? Would you like to learn more about your neighbors, co-workers, and community members who have endured the refugee experience?

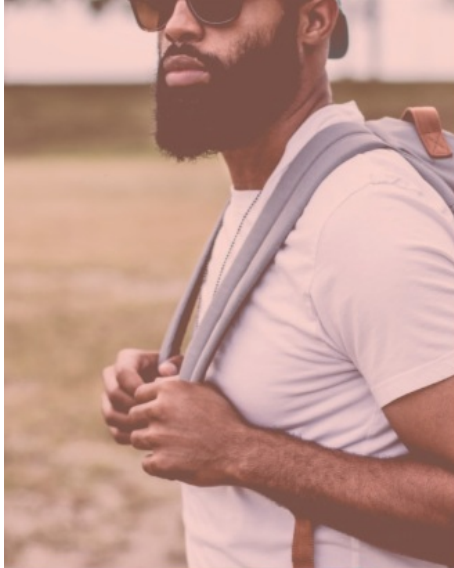
Join UMass Boston's William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences for a special discussion, "Building Trust: A Conversation with Local Refugees" as part of Sharon's One Book One Town project.

This evening will feature presentations by Winston Kesseh of Liberia and other local refugees and focus on how to create trust by getting to know your neighbor, their stories, and what they have been through. Everyone has a story, and until we take the time to talk to other people and hear their stories we may not fully understand their experience or how best to connect with them.

Join us for a night of powerful storytelling, open discussion, and community strategies for building trust, increasing awareness, and fostering dialogue with refugee communities in the greater Boston area.



Design by Carol Abram, www.dbrandesign.com



Join the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture

Conversations with Millennial Men of Color

The purpose of the event is to promote positive self-images and dispel negative stereotypes of millennial men of color.

Free Food | Music | Fun

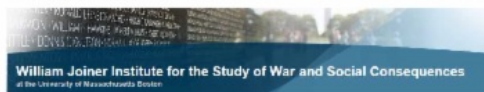
FEBRUARY 19, 2019 | 2P-4P

CAMPUS CENTER ALUMNI LOUNGE

In Collaboration with:



THE MAURICIO GASTÓN INSTITUTE FOR LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON



FOLLOW THE DISCUSSION:
#CONVERSATIONSWITHMILLENNIALMENOFCOLOR
#BLACKBOYJOY



For disability-related accommodations, including dietary accommodations, please visit www.ada.umb.edu two weeks prior to the event.

Recent Events

- **Ron E. Armstead**, the executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust, received the **Theodore Parker Award for Outstanding Service to the Veteran Community** at UMass Boston's **Celebration of Service Veterans Day** event on the Spirit of Boston.

"During the Vietnam War, Armstead was a medic who cared for the wounded when they returned from the battlefield. He has dedicated his life to serving veterans dealing with the invisible wounds of war, counseling families on why their sons and daughters are "not the same" when they return from their service and re-enter civilian life."
Congratulations to Ron!



Ron Armstead speaking at the UMB Veterans Day Celebration of Service

- The Joiner Institute participated in **UMass Boston's fall Jazz Night to celebrate and honor women veterans on campus.** Thanks to Tony Martin for his inclusion of women veterans and women in public service in the program.

Honorees included: Lovelle Seymore, Outreach Coordinator for Veteran's Affairs and Air Force veteran; student **Stephanie Beauvil**, Coordinator for the Black Student Center and Army veteran; student **Christine Connelly**, an Army veteran; and **Kim Matunis**, Army Veteran and recent UMass Boston graduate. Congratulations to our honorees!



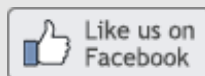
Joiner Associate Director Mitch Manning with Kim Matunis, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Gail DiSabatino, Stephanie Beauvil, and Lovelle Seymour

Donate Today!

William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences

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