Improving the Aging Experience for All
UMass Boston Gerontology
2021-2022 Impact Report
The UMass Boston gerontology program experienced plenty of transitions in 2021-2022. Jan Mutchler succeeded Len Fishman as director of the Gerontology Institute, and Edward Miller succeeded Jeffrey Burr as department chair. The ongoing COVID pandemic presented challenges but also spotlighted the concerns which are at the heart of much of our work in aging equity, financial security, long-term supports and services, and more.

Here we offer a brief overview of our work over the past year. To learn more, visit: umbgerontologyimpact.com

Gerontology highlights, 2021-2022

AGING EQUITY & DISPARITY
- Create Caro Scholarship for Justice in Aging for doctoral students
- Host Reframing Aging workshop for faculty, staff, and students

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES
- Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging helps transform senior centers with record number of municipal contracts
- *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, with special issues on age friendly communities and COVID’s impact, sees steep jump in impact ranking from 2.2 to 7

EDUCATION & MENTORING
- McCormack Graduate School honors Eddie Miller with mentorship award
- Team develops, pilots reframing aging curriculum for nursing students, others
- Management of Aging Services alumni launch online networking group

FINANCIAL SECURITY
- Publish report, *Social Security Benefits Continue to Fall Short of Covering Cost of Basic Needs for Older Americans*, 2021
- Publish 2 studies examining long-term impact of pandemic food insecurity and the benefit of federal help

LONG-TERM SUPPORTS & SERVICES
- Publish 2 reports with Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation: *Person-Centered Care: Why Taking Individuals’ Care Preferences Into Account Matters* and *Building a National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers*

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
- Publish numerous studies on the impact of aging, housing, and relationships/loneliness on mental and physical health and cognition
- LTSS Center publishes report, *The Impact of Climate Change: Why Older Adults Are Vulnerable*

Read about these activities and more: blogs.umb.edu/gerontologyinstitute
UMASS BOSTON GERONTOLOGY
2021-2022 BY THE NUMBERS

EDUCATING NEW LEADERS

50
Gerontology PhD students

44
Management of Aging Services master's students

10
graduate certificate students

24%
of external funding supports graduate assistantships and other student support

RESEARCH

PRODUCED BY FACULTY, FELLOWS, & PHD STUDENTS

84
articles in peer-reviewed journals

8
book chapters; 2 books edited

66
circulated reports/other publications

85
presentations at academic conferences

SERVING COMMON GOOD

APPLIED RESEARCH
• key research partner for City of Boston's Age Strong Commission
• partner with AARP Massachusetts on statewide loneliness task force

DATA & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP
• edit 2 academic journals: Journal of Aging & Social Policy and Research on Aging
• produce and disseminate Elder Index

POLICY IMPACT
• publish report that leads to PA governor adding $300M+ annually for nursing homes
• partner with National Council on Aging to build awareness of true cost of growing older

Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging
16 community and other contractual projects totaling $476,000
16 graduate students and undergrads employed as research assistants
3,143 counties (all of U.S.) updated for cost of living data in Elder Index
21 presentations for stakeholders

LeadingAge
LTSS Center
@UMass Boston
7 new funding awards for projects totaling $700,000
8 graduate students' applied research supported
21,577 downloads of Making Care Work Pay report in 2021
38,623 unique visits to center's website, 2021-2022

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
650 members living in 80+ municipalities in Greater Boston
140 courses taught
135 presentations given
22 graduate students taught classes as OLLI Scholars

Pension Action Center
530 clients served in fiscal year
$1.88 million retirement benefits recovered
$90,000 legal work donated by attorneys for low-income clients
$80,000 raised at 2021 annual fundraiser to support free pension search services

GARNERING SUPPORT

$2.1 million awarded in 43 active grants & contracts, FY 2022
$110,000 charitable gifts received, FY 2022
$349,000 gifts received to establish Caro Scholarship
$4 million market value of endowment funds

FUNDING AWARD SOURCES

Federal grants, 20%
Foundations, 24%
Advocacy & service orgs., 36%
State & local contracts, 14%
Other, 4%

SHARING OUR STORY

40%
growth of online network (social media & monthly enewsletter) from 5K to 7K
36
mentions in major media, including New York Times, Washington Post, and Boston Globe
47
news & feature stories published on Gerontology Institute blog, generating 12,869 views
Voices of Impact
Six stakeholders—partners, board members, and a doctoral student—share their perspectives on the value of UMass Boston Gerontology’s work.

I apply learnings from the doctoral program to my work every single day.

Elizabeth Chen, PhD ’16
Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs

It’s really amazing the amount of new people who have entered my life because of OLLI.

John Cheney
Board member, student Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The work that UMass Boston Gerontology is doing is so supportive of our work.

Kim Brooks
Chief Operating Officer Hebrew Senior Life

The courses are great, the professors are great, and my mentor has been nothing but great.

Nidya Velasco Roldan, MS
Doctoral candidate UMass Boston Gerontology

This work is being seen and making an impact throughout the country.

Sandra Harris
President AARP Massachusetts

Helping people recover their retirement benefits makes a real difference in their lives.

Neil Downing
Former Chief Revenue Officer RI Division of Taxation

Click on each quote to hear more, or visit UMass Boston Gerontology on YouTube.