

Telling and Selling the MGS Story:

News from John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
for the Chancellor's Report to the Board of Trustees, November 2012-January 2013

Appointments

On January 7, **Ira Jackson** took the helm as interim dean of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. Jackson brings a wealth of experience in higher education, government, business, and public affairs to the position. He has served as the dean of a business school and deputy dean of a school of government, led a major public university foundation, and held other senior positions in public service.

In January 2013, **Jeffrey Burr, Department of Gerontology**, was appointed as editor-in-chief of *Research on Aging*, an international, peer-reviewed journal from SAGE that publishes research on the critical issues that face today's elderly population such as Alzheimer's disease and caregiver support, age discrimination and inequality, the aging workforce, retirement satisfaction, and social support.

Awards

Robert Turner, Boston Globe fellow and senior advisor to Commonwealth Compact, earned a 2012 Yankee Quill Award from the New England Academy of Journalists. Selection was based on lifetime accomplishments. The committee was "impressed with Turner's rich involvement with the Boston community as well as his journalistic achievements that included years of political reporting and editing" as a former deputy editorial page editor for the *Boston Globe*. As one of the co-founders of McCormack Graduate School's Commonwealth Compact, Turner is actively working to encourage Massachusetts organizations to recognize the economic and social benefits of a diverse workforce.

Publications

Randy Albelda, Center for Social Policy and Department of Economics, and Diana Salas Coronado, Center for Social Policy research assistant and Public Policy PhD student, co-authored a paper with two researchers from Boston College, "How Youth Are Put At Risk by Parents' Low-Wage Jobs". The authors found that of the 20 million adolescents with working parents, 3.6 million (1 out of every 6) are in low-income families. Funded by the Ford Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this report presents a first-ever overview of this topic, identifies several ways that young people are harmed by their parents' employment status, and suggests three core approaches to address this urgent social issue. The report received considerable media coverage and triggered a wide national public relations outreach and dissemination in December.

The **Gerontology Institute**, in collaboration with Wider Opportunities for Women, has developed a new tool to measure the income that older adults require to maintain their

independence in the community and meet their daily costs of living. In their report, *National Elder Economic Security Standard Index*, they have found that, in every state and every county, elders who live at the federal poverty level, or who are totally dependent on the average Social Security benefit of 2011, need housing and health care supports to cover their expenses.

Developed by a team of faculty and research staff led by **Jan Mutchler, Alison Gottlieb, and Ellen A. Bruce**, the National Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) measures what it costs to live modestly in the community. It is geographically-specific, enabling policymakers, older adults, family caregivers, service providers, aging advocates, and the public at large to compare costs to income to determine where gaps exist. The development and use of the tool promotes a measure of income adequacy that respects the autonomy goals of older adults, rather than a measure of what we all struggle to avoid – poverty.

Cambridge Scholars Publishing, an academic publisher in England, has selected *Rebuilding Sustainable Communities with Vulnerable Populations after the Cameras have Gone*, edited by **Adenrele Awotona, Center for Rebuilding Sustainable communities After Disasters**, as their ‘Critics’ Choice’ title for their January *Book of the Month* newsletter.

Padriag O’Malley, John Joseph Moakley Chair for Peace and Reconciliation, is reviving the *New England Journal of Public Policy* with its first online edition to be published in late January. Once again, O’Malley will serve as the journal’s editor.

Collaborations/Community Engagement

Provost Winston Langley joined **Maria Ivanova, Center for Governance and Sustainability and the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Global Governance**, and her **Research Associate Michael Denney** to travel to Ethiopia to sign a memorandum of understanding between Addis Ababa University and UMass Boston. This collaboration with the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre/Network dates back to 2009 and has now transformed into a long-term partnership between the two schools. While in Ethiopia, Langley and Ivanova also hosted a conference on “Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities” and explored future partnerships with a number of other African universities. To that end, they spent two days in Djibouti meeting with government and university officials including the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of finance, and the president of the University of Djibouti.

In January, representatives from Addis Ababa University visited UMass Boston in an effort to identify areas and projects for future partnership and to establish exchange opportunities between faculty and students.

Judith Kurland, Center for Community Democracy and Democratic Literacy, was appointed as a senior policy advisor to the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (02119). This Roxbury/North Dorchester community group received a planning grant in December 2010 from the US Department of Education’s Promise Neighborhood

Program and a four-year, \$6M implementation grant in December 2012. Boston's Promise Neighborhood was one of only seven in the country so awarded.

Events

McCormack Graduate School's **Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs** co-hosted the 3rd annual Northeast Conference on Public Administration on November 3 at UMass Boston. **Michael J. Ahn, Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs**, chaired the conference which featured over 110 presenters in more than 30 breakout sessions discussing emerging challenges facing American public administration and addressing solutions to them. Faculty, current graduate students, and alumni from the McCormack Graduate School presented 21 sessions at the conference.

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy hosted an interactive panel on November 15 to explore how women access and utilize political leadership at the local and state levels in the Commonwealth featuring two state representatives and a former Boston City Council candidate. The event, *Women and Political Leadership in Massachusetts*, was part of the "Leading Women" speaker and film series on women's public leadership.

The Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters hosted an international conference on "Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters in China: Best Practices and Lessons Learned" on November 15-16. The event included four keynote speeches, six sessions examining proven strategies to reduce the socio-economic impact of various forms of disasters on vulnerable communities in China, and networking sessions.

On December 3, the **Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management** in collaboration with MIT and Northeastern, organized the "Leading Change: Improving Student Achievement through Labor Management Collaboration" conference. Over 300 people representing more than 12 school districts and other organizations attended the event in Marlborough (01752). Conference topics included educator evolution, peer assistance and review, innovation and extended learning time, and interest-based bargaining. The Massachusetts Education Partnership, formed early this fall, is designed to improve collaboration between labor and management in public schools in Massachusetts and includes the three universities as well as the Massachusetts Teachers Association, Massachusetts Association of School Committees, and Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. Funding for the partnership and conference was made possible with funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and an Institutional Service Agreement from the Department of Secondary Education.

On December 11, some 250 faculty, staff, and administrators gathered in the Campus Center Ballroom for a celebration of research at UMass Boston. **Mark Warren, Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs**, shared highlights of his community organizing and school reform project.

Grants

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) received a second \$1M grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation to continue funding an array of educational opportunities for seniors in Greater Boston. Founding director Wichian Rojanawon began OLLI at UMass Boston in 1999 with 90 members. Since then, OLLI has grown to more than 1,000 members from 80 cities and towns in Greater Boston. Members can choose from more than 100 noncredit courses and more than 80 lecture series each year on campus or at satellite locations in Hingham or Plymouth.

New Center

The Gerontology Institute continues to grow with the establishment of the **Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging** led by **Professor Jan Mutchler**. The core activities of the center include initiating and conducting externally funded applied and demographic research projects, independently or in partnership with other units; establishing a scope of expertise to be provided on a cost recovery basis to other researchers and units on campus; establishing a set of products to be generated on a routine basis and disseminated widely in electronic and printed form; and providing analyses and information to the community and the media.

Alumni News

Gerontology alumna Kirsten Corazzini, PhD, has been selected as a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging. The status of fellow is an acknowledgment of outstanding and continuing work in gerontology. Fellows are chosen from each of GSA's four membership sections. Corazzini, who was selected for the Health Sciences section, received formal recognition of her status at a reception on November 15 at the organization's annual meeting in San Diego.

Three **Public Affairs and International Relations alumni, Sandra Blanchette, Tim Glyn-Burke, and Sisay Zemedkun** serve on an executive committee of a nonprofit start-up that is launching an urban training farm in Addis Ababa. The goals of the project include career development, financial independence, and food security for disconnected youth. According to their fundraising website, "Ethiopia is home to one of the largest youth populations in Africa, yet more than 75% of Ethiopian youth have never been to school. As young people grow older and enter the workforce, they lack the skills to ensure secure and promising work—making them vulnerable to poverty and other hardships." View the photos or watch the video featuring our alumni:

<http://www.indiegogo.com/urbantrainingfarm?c=home>