



Improving the Aging Experience for All

UMass Boston Gerontology
2021-2022 Impact Report



Department of Gerontology | Gerontology Institute
University of Massachusetts Boston

Welcome

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



Jan Mutchler, left, and Edward Miller.

On the cover: Portraits of older adults and their parents, participants in UMB Professor Kathrin Boerner's Boston Aging Together Study, by Gretjen Helene

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

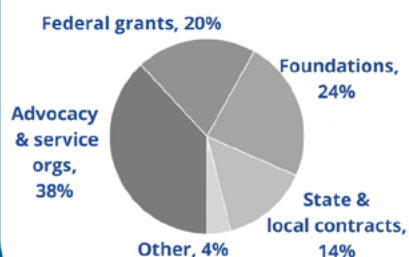
\$349,000

gifts received to establish Caro Scholarship

\$4 million

market value of endowment funds

FUNDING AWARD SOURCES



SHARING OUR STORY



40%

growth of online network (social media & monthly newsletter) 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.



Click on each quote to hear more, or visit [UMass Boston Gerontology on YouTube](#)

“ 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. ”



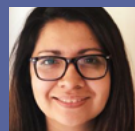
John Cheney
Board member, student
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

“ 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