



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

University of Massachusetts-Boston

Harbor Campus

Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3393

Dear Colleague:

For the past five years, in spite of massive cuts in state funding, the University of Massachusetts at Boston has substantially strengthened its commitment to serving Asian American students and communities. On Monday, March 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., we will host a fundraising celebration for Asian American teaching, research and service at the university. Please join us!

The evening will feature Mr. Sichan Siv, the Asian community liaison for President Bush. A former refugee from Cambodia, Mr. Siv is the first Asian American to serve as Deputy Assistant to the President. We will also feature a panel on Asian American Studies and recognize the C. J. Huang Foundation for its generous leadership in enabling us to expand our Asian American Studies initiatives.

UMass/Boston offers the most developed Asian American Studies curriculum of any university in New England. This semester we are offering courses on Asian American history, Southeast Asian refugees, and Asian American women. Students are also doing internships at local Cambodian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Asian American community organizations.

We hope to establish an Asian American institute which will complement both our Trotter Institute for the study of Black Culture and our Gaston Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. An Asian American institute will conduct applied research on Asian Americans in Massachusetts to better inform community development and public policy.

To continue expanding our Asian American teaching, research, and service activities, we have established a multi-purpose Fund for Asian American Studies. The March 30th evening celebration will be the first in a series of events that we hope will generate community support for our efforts. Please mark the date in your calendar. We invite you to join us in this vital university-community partnership.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic support. We wish you and your family peace and prosperity in the new year of the monkey.

Warmly,

Sherry H. Penney

Sherry H. Penney
Chancellor

Peter N. Kiang
Peter N. Kiang
Assistant Professor
Graduate College of Education