
\$1 Million Gift Establishes First Endowed Chair in Math and Computer Science

In keeping with a pattern of philanthropy set several years ago, Alton Brann, UMass Boston '69, recently pledged \$750,000 to establish the first fully endowed chair in math and science. UNOVA Inc., headquartered in Southern California and the company for which Brann serves as president and ceo, will match his gift with \$250,000, making the total of Brann's contribution \$1 million dollars. With state matching funds at \$500,000, the contribution to UMass Boston comes to \$1.5 million.

This is Brann's third major gift to the University. While serving as president and ceo of Litton Industries, Brann, with a \$150,000 gift, established the

Litton Scholarship. A total of \$7,000 is awarded annually to two or more juniors and seniors studying math, computer science and physical science. When Brann left Litton Industries to become the chairman and ceo of Western Atlas, he established the Alton Brann Endowed Scholarship with a \$75,000 gift. "Alton Brann has set a wonderful example of continuous, faithful and generous giving to his alma mater," said Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement Michael Luck.

A native of Portland, Maine, Brann earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from UMass Boston in 1969. While

pursuing his degree, Brann worked at Dynamics Research Corporation based in Wilmington. He remained with that company until 1973, when he left to become president and ceo of Litton Industries in Beverly Hills, California.

In addition to being active in several professional associations, Brann is an honorary co-chair of the *UMass Boston First* Campaign Cabinet, the university's first capital campaign, which was launched in October 1996 to raise \$50 million dollars. To date, the campaign has raised \$28 million.

Weld Speaks at East Asian Lecture Series

The idea to study the positive and negative influences of Western culture on East Asian countries is not a new one, but it is a growing trend among scholars. At least Michael LaFargue, director of East Asian Studies, thinks so. And so do the average 20 to 30 participants attending each of LaFargue's "Modernization vs. Westernization in East Asia" lecture series.

The latest forum in the series, "Legal Reform in East Asia: From Grand Theories to People Concerns," was presented by Susan Weld, well-known professor at Boston College and associate at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, and the wife of former Massachusetts governor William Weld. Weld focused on conflicting

concerns driving East Asian law reform from three angles — modernization of law from within, modernization of law from without, and modernization of law from the top down.

"Is modernity a western project?" she asked her audience. "It seems unlikely there will be only one path." In fact, Weld surmised the world is experiencing what can be termed, "multiple modernity."

Coupled with Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences Director Kevin Bowen's comments on Vietnamese efforts in updating copyright law, and Harvard Law School East Asian Legal Studies Program affiliate John Ohnesorge's discussion of the International Monetary Fund and World

Bank's imposition of conditions on government loans, Weld's lecture hit LaFargue's target — to create an active discussion of the imposed westernization of East Asia.

LaFargue says past cultural clashes can often relate to today's experiences. "The West has, over the last century and a half especially, had a lot of destructive effects in imposing our behavior." LaFargue has three additional forums prepared: "Asian Values, Western Values, and Human Rights" on March 3; "China and the Internet" on March 24; and "Can Vietnamese Culture Survive Rapid Modernizations: Quick Noodles or Sticky Rice?" on April 21.