

## Faculty Profile: Russell Schutt

*If we really want to fight the alligators of health inequalities, we have to drain the swamp.*

—Sir Michael Marmot, former chair of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health

In recognition of his commitment to making the world a better place through his research, Professor of Sociology Russell K. Schutt received the Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award at the University of Massachusetts Boston commencement exercises in June 2007.

"Through his commitment to excellence, UMass Boston and service, he inspires in others that it is possible to work harder to do more," one nominator wrote. "He embodies what it means to be a professor, but more importantly a professor at UMass Boston – a place steeped in the community and public service."

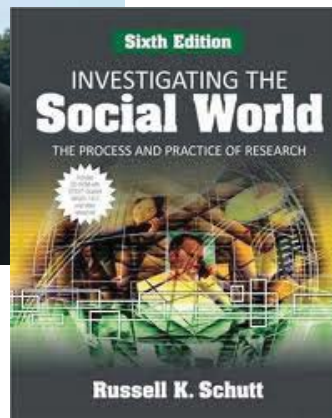
"I am myself a graduate of a public urban university, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and I feel students at a school like ours deserve the best from their faculty and can achieve at the highest levels with the appropriate opportunities," Schutt said when presented with the award. "I have been very committed to providing opportunities for our students to engage in the types of research projects that both allow them to develop their skills and interests and also provide meaningful service in the urban community."



**Russell Schutt**

Upon earning his PhD from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and completing his postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University, Schutt joined UMass Boston in 1979 as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology. Since his arrival, he has had a profound impact on shaping the department, the university, and the community.

As graduate program director, Schutt is credited with developing the Graduate Program in Applied Sociology into what "may well be the best program in applied sociology in the United States," according to one academic reviewer. As chair of the Department of Sociology, Schutt helped create the criminal justice major, recruit new faculty, mentor existing faculty, and lead a major academic review.



The author of *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research* (now in its 6th edition) and of *Organization in a Changing Environment*, co-author of *Responding to the Homeless: Policy and Practice*, and co-editor of *The Organizational Response to Social Problems*, Schutt has authored or co-authored more than 50 articles and book chapters, on topics including homelessness, mental illness, law, substance abuse and sociology. His publications in peer-reviewed journals range in focus from the effect of social context on cognition, satisfaction, and functioning to the service preferences of homeless persons and service personnel, the admission practices of craft unions, and the social factors in legal decisions.

Schutt's latest research book, *Homelessness, Housing and Mental Illness* (2011, Harvard University Press) examines the divergence of consumer housing preferences and clinician housing recommendations, the meaning and impact of mental illness, the consequences of substance abuse, the process of developing social relations, changing staff roles and empowering tenants within group homes, and the impact of these factors on residential stability. This work contributes to a growing literature on the influence of the social environment on attitudes, behavior and cognitive functioning.

- **11 books published**
- **6 editions of *Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research* published**
- **47 articles published in refereed journals**
- **Editorial Board Member, *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal***