Dean Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina
Gretchen Gerzina joined the Commonwealth Honors College as dean on July 1, 2015, and was named the Paul Murray Kendall Chair in Biography in April 2016. Gerzina came to UMass Amherst after ten years as a named professor at Dartmouth College where she held the Kathe Tappe Vernon Professorship in Biography, and served as chair of the English department and later as chair of African and African American studies. Previously she spent fourteen years as
Gerzina appears regularly on radio and television in both Britain and America. From 1997 to 2012 she hosted the nationally-syndicated public radio program “The Book Show,” and has done commentaries on National Public Radio and Vermont Public Radio. She recently completed a ten-part BBC Radio 4 series on Britain’s Black Past that will air in January 2016.

She is the recipient of two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has been the Fulbright Distinguished Scholar to Great Britain. Gerzina was an honorary visiting professor at the University of Exeter in Devon, England, and in 2009-10 she was the George Eastman Visiting Professor at Oxford, where she was given an honorary master’s degree by Balliol College. More information about Professor Gerzina can be found on her website: www.gretchenholbrookgerzina.com.