



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

December 2018

To the Board:

This fall has been unlike any other in the history of the University of Massachusetts Boston. Since moving more than a thousand students into our new residence halls over Labor Day weekend (page 5), we have truly transitioned into a 24/7 campus. One can see it across campus, in the Clark Athletic Center, and in the residence halls themselves, an organic increase in student engagement.

We were extremely proud to announce in September UMass Boston's largest gift in the university's history (right) — a \$5 million donation from New Balance that will support a newly created sports leadership and administration program. This is one of several significant recent gifts as the university approaches completing our largest fundraising goal ever of \$100 million (page 2).

This progress in fundraising is evidence of a university on the rise—and U.S. News & World Report agrees. UMass Boston jumped 11 spots in the National Universities classification in this year's rankings (page 7). In addition, UMass Boston was named among the top public universities for the success of our African American students in a new study by the Race and Equity Center at The University of Southern California University (page 8).

Our researchers are exploring such areas as mutant zebrafish and limb-regenerating salamanders to lay the groundwork for human applications; research in quantum computing may help to advance our understanding of this complex field and open significant new technological possibilities (page 4). Our students recently took the initiative to become Boston City Hall "insiders" for a day to explore opportunities in public service (page 3), and faculty and staff worked to host a series of debates prior to this fall's election (page 2).

I am very proud of UMass Boston and look forward to letting you know of the extraordinary achievements of our faculty, staff, and—most of all—our remarkable students.

—Katherine S. Newman, Interim Chancellor



Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman, Dr. J. Keith Motley, and Vice Chancellor Charlie Titus met with Rob DeMartini, president and CEO at New Balance Athletics, Inc.

New Sports Leadership and Administration BA Program Launched

Supported by a \$5 million pledge from New Balance — the largest gift in university history — UMass Boston announced the creation of a new sports management and leadership bachelor of arts program on campus. The gift established the Dr. J. Keith Motley Chair for Sports Leadership & Administration.

Available beginning in fall 2019, the program will take 25 full-time and 10 part-time students in the first year and scale up to a total of 140 majors. It will educate them in the foundations of sports, leadership and management, finance and economics, sports marketing and communications, ethics and sports law, and innovation and entrepreneurship.

In searching for the inaugural chair, UMass Boston will seek an internationally renowned scholar with expertise in the global sports industry and a deep understanding of current sport management. This background will be invaluable in defining the direction of the program.

A distinguished advisory board of sports legends including Olympic track gold-medalist Edwin Moses, former New England Patriot Andre Tippett, and Boston Celtics star Tom "Satch" Sanders will help to guide the program and develop internships for the students. Representatives from organizations including the Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins, Boston Athletic Association, Boston Celtics, Bank of America, Citizens Bank, New England Patriots, ESPN, and New Balance will round out the powerhouse board.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT



Jack Carvalho '92 met with first-generation students and students in the College of Management on a recent trip to campus.

Alumnus Jack Carvalho '92, Gives \$100,000 to Men's Lacrosse

During a visit to campus in October, Jack Carvalho '92 met with first-generation students and students in the College of Management. He also met with the men's lacrosse team and their coach, to whom he presented an unexpected \$100,000 gift. Carvalho sponsors the annual Roger Feinstein Memorial Scholarship, which supports two undergraduates each year, and he endowed the Winston Langley Graduate Scholarship in December 2018 with a \$250,000 gift.

Just Imagine Campaign Reaches Over \$95 Million

Thanks in part to the \$5 million commitment from New Balance, UMass Boston's Just Imagine campaign is over 95 percent of the way to reaching its \$100 million goal, having raised \$95.6 million as of September. As the largest campaign in the university's history, Just Imagine aims to support key areas of the university's strategic plan, including student success, building the research enterprise, enhancing the campus, and annual support.

Alumni Board President Endows Young Alumni Council Scholarship

UMass Boston Alumni Association President Charlie Brown '09 has pledged \$25,000 to endow the Young Alumni Council Scholarship. The scholarship fund was established last year by the Young Alumni Council, which raised \$9,582 and was able to award three \$2,000 scholarships to students. Brown's gift will ensure that the fund will support students for years to come.

Celebration of Philanthropy Honors New Members, Dedicated Donors

University Advancement hosted its annual Celebration of Philanthropy event on October 30. Eighteen new members were added to the Founders Circle this year. The cumulative lifetime giving for the members is \$5.8 million. Also celebrated at the event were the 55 charter members of the Chancellor's Council who have been annual leadership donors for ten or more consecutive years.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Massachusetts Appeals Court on Campus for Outreach Program

UMass Boston students, alumni, faculty, and staff had a rare opportunity to see the judicial system at work without leaving campus. The Massachusetts Appeals Court brought its educational outreach program to campus in September, transforming the Campus Center Ballroom into a courtroom as Associate Justices Sydney Hanlon, Mary T. Sullivan, and Kenneth V. Desmond, Jr. presided over three criminal cases and three civil cases. Oral arguments for each case lasted approximately 30 minutes and included hearings for a second-degree felony, alimony provisions, and a drug conviction. Throughout the semester, these hearings will be integrated into courses to provide students with a better understanding of the judicial process.



Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman welcomed the audience at the live debate with Attorney General Maura Healey and challenger James "Jay" McMahon.

UMass Boston Cofosts Questions 1-3, Attorney General, and Governor Debates

UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, WBUR, WCVB, and The *Boston Globe* hosted several debates leading up to the November 6 election, broadcasted as part of WBUR's live *Radio Boston* programs and on WCVB-TV. UMass Boston hosted a live debate with the candidates running for attorney general, incumbent Democrat Maura Healey and Republican challenger James "Jay" McMahon, on campus in October. A gubernatorial debate was held on November 1 at WCVB studios.

Professor Launches Toolkit on Organizing to Cut School-to-Prison Pipeline

The Dignity in Schools Campaign and UMass Boston Professor Mark Warren released a new online toolkit, "Organizing to Combat the School-to-Prison-Pipeline." The toolkit, developed with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, contains over 130 resources produced by students, parents, advocates, and organizations, each created to assist new and more established community groups with their organizing efforts against the school-to-prison pipeline in their local communities.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



UMass Boston students and alumni gathered inside Boston City Hall for small group speed-talk sessions.

Students Become Boston City Hall 'Insiders' for a Day

More than two dozen UMass Boston students spent the day at Boston City Hall learning about internship and fellowship opportunities at an event this fall designed to establish a pipeline of student talent and prepare them for premiere public service career opportunities in municipal government. Students were introduced to top city officials who are shaping the way Boston is managing issues ranging from criminal justice and education to immigration and housing. This was an initiative of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Office in collaboration with the university's Office of Community Partnerships, Career Services, and the College of Liberal Arts.



Hamilton actor Peter Matthew Smith (l) shakes hands with theatre arts student Travis Rogers after giving feedback to him during an on-campus workshop.

Hamilton Cast Member Gives Vocal Audition Pointers to Students

Nine UMass Boston performing arts students and alumni got a chance of a lifetime when they got to sing audition pieces for actor Peter Matthew Smith, currently starring as King George in the touring production of *Hamilton*. Performing arts faculty, spearheaded by Associate Lecturer in Music Jessica Cooper and Program Director of Theatre Arts Carrie Ann Quinn, brought Smith to campus for the audition workshop.

English Department's Composition Program Launches *Undercurrents*

The English Department's Composition Program launched *Undercurrents: A Journal of Undergraduate Student Composition* this fall, planning to publish annually in order to showcase the best works written by the more than 3,000 undergraduate students enrolled in first-year composition courses at UMass Boston. The journal is intended not only to celebrate the most accomplished written works produced by students in these first-year classes, which include ESL and Honors sections, but also to inspire and serve as a resource for students writing in these same classes now or in the future.



Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman recently invited students to dine with her in the residence halls before heading to a talk at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. The chancellor plans to hold several dinners like this throughout the school year.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

UMass Boston Leads Efforts to Restore Vietnam Veterans Memorial

UMass Boston stepped up to make repairs to the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Morrissey Boulevard this fall, following an act of vandalism estimated to have caused over \$20,000 in damage. University workers cleaned up the debris from more than 20 shrubs that were cut up by a saw, and they will replace the ropes and flags that were cut down. Replanting severely damaged shrubs and other landscaping will be performed in the spring, as will repairs to the monument. UMass Boston will also contribute \$15,000 toward the full restoration of the memorial, which is located on UMass Boston property, near the Morrissey Boulevard entrance to the campus.

Report Recommends Laws Revamp for 'Good Governance' in Climate Change Era

A new report from UMass Boston's Sustainable Solutions Lab finds that for Boston to be ready for climate change, governance structures have to be upgraded. *Governance for a Changing Climate: Adapting Boston's Built Environment for Increased Flooding*, sponsored by the Green Ribbon Commission with support from the Barr Foundation, was released this fall. The report's authors recommend putting in place a new joint state-municipal commission to determine a strategy, guided by a set of necessary functions outlined in the report to update the definition of "good governance" in an era of climate change.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

Mutant Zebrafish Might Hold Keys to Identifying, Reversing Causes of Infertility

Assistant Professor of Biology Kellee Siegfried is using mutant zebrafish to explore male infertility. Because 70 percent of the fish genome has a human counterpart, if Siegfried and her team can figure out what makes the male zebrafish infertile, they might gain an understanding of what makes human men infertile, and perhaps be able to reverse the effects at the genetic level.

The National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development awarded a three-year \$457,500 grant to Siegfried's project, Mechanisms Underlying Telomere Function in Germ Cell Development. It includes funding for undergraduate students as well as graduate students.

Professor Earns \$992K NSF Grant to Make Quantum Computing More Coherent

UMass Boston Assistant Professor of Engineering Matthew Bell is the recipient of a National Science Foundation award to support his research in quantum computing as part of a national effort to advance quantum information science research and development.

Because of the promise of quantum computing, the National Science Foundation awarded Bell and colleagues at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Rutgers University with a grant of \$991,764 over four years for the project RAISE-TAQS: Symmetry Protected Quantum Bits through Fluxon Pairing.

Professor Finds Darwin's Finches Developed a Taste for Junk Food, and It May Impact Their Evolution

UMass Boston Assistant Professor of Evolutionary Biology Luis De León and his colleagues have published new research showing that feeding on human junk food may be altering the course of evolution in Darwin's finches in the Galápagos Islands. De León says feeding on human foods is weakening natural selection on ground finch beaks, which is what drives the formation of new species in the wild. The findings were published in the journal *Evolutionary Applications*. De León and PhD student Elaine Montes will return to the Galápagos in January.



Assistant Professor of Evolutionary Biology Luis De León is studying Darwin's finches.



Assistant Professor of Biology Catherine McCusker with Number 76 (far left) and other Mexican axolotl salamanders that she is studying.

Studying Regenerating Salamanders Could Pave Way for Application in Human Medicine

Assistant Professor of Biology Catherine McCusker is using the Mexican axolotl salamander to understand how regeneration happens normally in adult animals and what kind of lessons can we take away from that to apply to human medicine—specifically regenerative medicine.

The National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development awarded McCusker \$444,004 over the course of three years for her project, The Function of Chromatin Remodeling in the Patterning of the Salamander Limb Regenerate. The award includes funding for two undergraduate students, as well as three graduate students and a post-doc in the McCusker Lab.

Grant Awarded for Data Collection and Research Pertaining to People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Institute for Community Inclusion's ThinkWork project received a \$400,000 continuation of its data grant, Access to Integrated Employment: National Data Collection on Day and Employment Services for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. The project collects data and maintains national longitudinal research that describes day and employment services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The research will contribute to an understanding of the factors that influence employment at the individual, service provider, and state levels.

RENEW THE FACULTY

New Pilot Practitioner Scholars Program Kicks Off

UMass Boston is launching a new Practitioner Scholars Program, a unique model matching up four faculty members — Professors Sommer Forrester, Anthony Van Der Meer, Tahirah Abdullah, and Paul Kirshen — with community practitioners to co-teach a course this spring, providing students with real life applications of their educational experiences. Students will produce projects that benefit the practitioner and/or the greater community and will have the opportunity to expand their personal network. The program is an initiative of the Office of Community Partnerships in collaboration with eLearning and Instructional Design, and is partially funded through the College of Liberal Arts' Mellon Foundation grant for the humanities.

UMass Boston Hosts Six HUBweek Events

UMass Boston faculty experts partnered with individuals from some of Boston's leading innovators — including New England Venture Capital Association, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, and Kayak — to facilitate important discussions on how we can make our region an even better and more welcoming environment to live, work, and raise a family as part of the city's HUBweek 2018. The annual festival brings together thought leaders from across the country and world to address the most pressing innovation issues.

UMass Boston professors Paul Kirshen, David Levy, Anne Douglass, Banu Ozkazanc-Pan, Nir Eisikovits, Dan Feldman, and Lisa Rivera, McCormack Graduate School Dean David Cash, Sustainable Solutions Lab Director Rebecca Herst, Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Director Jill Macoska, Director of Career Services Mark Kenyon, and Venture Development Center Director Bill Brah all participated in talks.

Annual Faculty Research Celebration Highlights Student Researchers

Faculty-student projects supported by the UMass Boston–Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center U54 Partnership were the focus of this fall's Chancellor's Faculty Research Celebration, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. A core component of the partnership is providing training opportunities for minority students. Since the partnership began in 2002, more than 250 UMass Boston undergraduate students have been trained. Graduate Jude Owiredu '18 and senior biology major Anuoluwapo Ajao spoke of their experiences working in UMass Boston labs as students, having the opportunity to present at conferences and publish.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



More than 1,000 first-year students moved into the new residence halls on Labor Day weekend.

University Welcomes 1,000 New Students on First Move-In Day

More than 1,000 students and their families, coming from as far away as Thailand and Ghana, moved into UMass Boston's new residence halls at the start of the semester, marking a milestone for the university as it became a residential 24/7 campus.

Led by Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman, a team of more than 200 faculty, staff, and students, along with 31 resident assistants, helped students haul in everything from refrigerators and microwaves to desk lamps, books, plants, and wardrobes. Students arrived from everywhere, with 81 percent calling Massachusetts home, 16 percent arriving from out of state, and three percent international.

The 1,077-bed, 260,000-square-foot residence halls, located at the campus's Mt. Vernon Street entrance, consist of two buildings, offering a mixture of styles ranging from single-occupancy apartments to four-person units. It includes living-learning amenities open to the entire campus community, such as seminar rooms, study lounges, and a 500-seat dining commons.

Utility, Roadway Work Nears Completion

Construction on the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation (UCRR) project, the largest infrastructure project in the Commonwealth since the Big Dig, has progressed well in recent months. The campus has experienced milestones on this project including the cutover of all utilities to the new campus loop, providing reliable and redundant services to the buildings. The campus has also opened the entire new roadway network after four years of phased incremental impacts to roadways and landscapes, providing modern and safe transportation infrastructure including bicycle lanes and sidewalks. The three-acre Campus Center Lawn also opened this fall as the signature landscape feature of the UCRR project providing a picturesque gathering space at the waterfront-face of the campus.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS



For the first time in recent university history, Chancellor Newman, along with the university's deans and executive leadership team, donned full academic regalia at convocation, and processed into the ballroom to "Pomp and Circumstance."

Chancellor Newman: Student Success Tops University Priorities

Officially launching the new academic year with a convocation address, Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman said UMass Boston will make major investments in student success this year as it works to continue improving its rising retention and graduation rates. Over the past 10 years, UMass Boston has made significant strides in this area: Among first-time freshmen, the six-year graduation rate has risen by 15 points.

Newman announced that Provost Emily McDermott will lead the development of an Academic Master Plan, which will look at where the university should concentrate its resources going forward. This work will be complemented by a new Capital Plan and Master Plan.

Also speaking at the convocation was renowned sociologist on race and inequality William Julius Wilson, the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor at Harvard University.



Mariely Guerrero, a senior in the International Relations accelerated graduate program, spoke during Open House.

Open House Draws Record Attendance

On Saturday, October 13, nearly 2,000 prospective students and their families attended UMass Boston's annual Open House— a record-breaking number of visitors. Prospective students came from as far as Washington and Kansas.

Faculty and staff from 10 colleges were on hand to explain programs and curriculum at an academic showcase, and current students highlighted the 100 clubs, organizations, and championship-winning athletic teams. There were also several resource fairs where students and their families learned about study abroad programs, financial aid, veterans' services, and other support areas of the university.

RENEW THE FACULTY (CONT.)

Professor Elected Fellow of Optical Society of America

UMass Boston Professor ZhongPing Lee is a new fellow of the Optical Society of America, the leading professional association in optics and photonics. Lee, a professor of optical oceanography in the School for the Environment, was selected specifically for his outstanding contributions in ocean optics and ocean color remote sensing and breakthroughs in underwater visibility theory.

Chinese Historical Society Honors Professor

The Chinese Historical Society of New England honored Peter Kiang, a professor in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, with the Sojourner Award at their annual meeting at Hei La Moon in Boston. Kiang, a second-generation American with Chinese and Scottish heritage born in Boston, is professor and director of the Asian American studies program and has taught at UMass Boston since 1987, educating students, empowering communities, and honoring history.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE



Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman signs a memorandum of understanding while UNAM's Carmen Alanis (center) and Associate Provost Cheryl Nixon (far left) look on.

New Center for Mexican Studies Established

UMass Boston signed a memorandum of understanding with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) this fall, cementing a relationship that includes a new Center for Mexican Studies, also called UNAM-Boston.

The partnership will create student and faculty exchanges, bringing UNAM students here and giving UMass Boston students the opportunity to study at UNAM's five national schools throughout Mexico. Associate Provost and Director of the Office of Global Programs Cheryl Nixon said the new partnership would also involve innovative language programming. The center is located on the eighth floor of the Healey Library.

UMass Boston Jumps 11 Spots in U.S. News & World Report's National Rankings

The university has jumped eleven spots in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges List. UMass Boston is ranked No. 104 in the Top Public Schools category, and ranked No. 191 in the National Universities category, up 11 spots from 2017 (202), and 29 spots from 2016 (220).

This is the third straight year UMass Boston has been ranked as a Tier One university. UMass Boston was also noted for its ethnic diversity, and the university's undergraduate business program is ranked No. 147, up four spots from No. 151 in 2017.

School for the Environment Hosts Engineers, Planners from Shenzhen, China

UMass Boston's School for the Environment hosted 17 visiting engineers, planners, and architects from the Urban Planning, Land and Resources Commission of Shenzhen Municipality, in China. This is the second delegation from Shenzhen Municipality that the school has hosted. This program was developed in cooperation with Kevin Zhang, the deputy secretary general of the Chinese Municipal Engineer Association and the director of Archicity Consulting.

UMass Boston Honors Student-Athletes at Ring Ceremony

UMass Boston Athletics handed out nearly 100 rings at its annual ring ceremony in October. Teams and individuals from women's basketball, baseball, volleyball, softball, and track and field received Little East Conference rings earned during the 2017-2018 academic year. In all, 94 rings were handed out.

Charlie Titus Selected for Second Annual Larry Smith Award

Vice Chancellor for Athletics and Recreation, Special Projects and Programs Charlie Titus was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Larry Smith Award. The Larry Smith Award is presented annually to a former Small College Basketball player who has used the game of basketball to learn and apply life lessons that have significantly enhanced their life and then given back to impact the lives of others and change the world for good. Titus is the second-ever winner of the award. The first award went to a former Kentucky Wesleyan standout men's basketball player George Tinsley, Sr.



Dean of Students John Silveria and the UMass Boston choir sing "Sweet Caroline" in a social media video following the Red Sox World Series win.

Dean of Students Takes to Social Media to Make World Series Wager

In October, Dean of Students John Silveria issued a challenge to the UCLA Dean of Students— if the Red Sox won the World Series, she would have to wear a UMass Boston shirt to an event on campus, and if the Dodgers won, Dean Silveria would wear a UCLA shirt to a campus event and send chowder. Several friendly videos were exchanged between the two newly minted rival campuses that highlighted UMass Boston championship softball and baseball teams, the campus's brand-new residence halls, UCLA's connection to Jackie Robinson and its athletic tradition, and the UMass Boston choir singing a victory song of *Sweet Caroline*. The challenge videos received thousands of views on social media channels, bringing attention to UMass Boston and providing the deans with a fun way to connect with students.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE



Reign Spears is a graduate of the Native American Early Childhood Education Scholars Program.

Program to Train Native American Early Educators Receives \$1.3M Funding

The Native American Early Childhood Education Scholars Program has received a five-year, \$1.3 million renewal from the Office of Indian Education in the U.S. Department of Education. The program, which has been running at UMass Boston since 2015, gives Native students with an associate degree the opportunity to complete their bachelor's in early childhood education. Cedric Woods, director of Institute for New England Native American Studies, and Anne Douglass, director of the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation, are co-principal investigators of the grant.

UMass Boston Earns Top Marks from Race and Equity Center

UMass Boston has the second highest score on a new national ranking that assesses how well public universities serve African American students. Compiled by the Race and Equity Center at the University of Southern California—with support from the Ford Foundation—the new report card grades the nation's public, four-year universities in all fifty states on their ability to attract black students and faculty members, while retaining and graduating black students at rates equal to the campus average.

UMass Boston is among the top 20 universities in the country according to the new ranking. UMass Boston was one of 14 public universities to receive an equity index score of 3.25. With 14.8 percent black students, UMass Boston received an A in the representation equity category. It also received an A in the completion equity category.

ICI's Think College Awarded \$2.5M Stepping Up Technology Implementation Grant

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs has awarded Think College, part of UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion, a \$2.5 million Stepping Up Technology Implementation Grant. The project will fund the development of Future Quest Island - Explorations: Advancing College and Career Awareness for Elementary Students with and without Disability.

Project staff from the ICI will work with partners at FableVision Studios and Education Development Center, Inc. to develop, implement, and evaluate Future Quest Island-Explorations, an online curriculum which will support improved self-concept, social and emotional competence, and early college and career awareness for elementary students with disabilities. The tool will be developed in partnership with elementary schools in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

Police Department Earns MPAC Re-accreditation

This past October, the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) awarded the UMass Boston Police Department re-accreditation for another three-year period. Achieving re-accreditation is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence and proof that the department has met the rigors of 257 mandatory standards and 69 optional standards.

U-ACCESS Rolls Out Improvements to Help Students in Need

The Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-ACCESS) hired a new program coordinator and began updating and implementing protocols and procedures aimed at a more efficient and straightforward experience for their clients. Staff began rolling out new training classes for volunteers, preparing them to be pantry specialists, volunteer ambassadors, and benefits screeners. A new system for client engagement with the food pantry has also been implemented, which has eliminated the need for appointments or placing food orders in advance since the process is now completely electronic.