

Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

September 2019

To the Board:

This summer has been a welcome respite for our campus community to reflect on our accomplishments during the past academic year, plan for building upon them in the coming year, and recharge for the fall semester. But even during this time, our faculty, students, and staff continue to demonstrate their important contributions and excellence both locally and nationally.

In June, UMass Boston convened its inaugural Small Business Summit, hosting more than 100 small business owners, local and state officials, business executives and owners, and community members (right). The summit provided a venue to discuss important issues facing small businesses as well as impress upon this community UMass Boston's commitment to supporting their efforts.

Other highlights in this report include:

- UMass Boston researchers continue to make important progress on real problems. Associate Professor Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli and her students, for example, are working on a new paper-based test that can quickly detect whether someone has a viral infection as opposed to a bacterial infection, a distinction that would better inform diagnoses and could save lives (page 4).
- The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been working closely with Roxbury Community College to provide their nursing students a pathway to gain entry to UMass Boston's program (page 3).
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation named Camp Shriver at UMass Boston as one of 12 finalists for the 2019 Sports Award. The summer camp uses sports as a platform to address the social, economic, and abilities barriers that prevent some children from engaging in activities that promote health and well being (page 7).
- And our students: Our PhD candidates are receiving national fellowships and awards, while our undergrads are once again on the stage to receive national theater awards (page 2).

I'm pleased to share this report, and I hope you will find it as inspiring as I do in sharing it.

-Katherine S. Newman, Interim Chancellor



Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman with panelists and attendees at the Small Business Summit.

UMass Boston Hosts Small Business Summit, Tackles Important Issues Facing Businesses Across City

UMass Boston hosted more than 100 small business owners, local and state officials, business executives, and community members for its inaugural Small Business Summit this summer, providing a venue to discuss important issues facing small businesses across the city and commonwealth.

Attendees heard updates from leaders in the public and private sectors, participated in a Q and A with a panel of business and agency executives, and visited information tables on how to access services.

Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman said UMass Boston is eager to become a home and support structure for small businesses. She spoke of how small businesses in Boston can benefit from UMass Boston students, hiring them as interns and utilizing their expertise. Along with industry clusters, this is another way the university is working to bridge the gap between UMass Boston students and the city's major employers.

Boston's Chief of Economic Development John Barros and Jay Ash, CEO of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership and the former Secretary of Housing and Economic Affairs, served as keynote speakers. Newman also moderated a panel featuring Barros; Nhat Le, chief operating officer of the Massachusetts Office of Business Development; Glynn Loyd, executive director of Eastern Bank's Business Equity Initiative; Joyce Stanley, executive director of Dudley Square Main Streets; and Roxann Cooke, regional director of consumer banking and wealth management at JPMorgan Chase Bank.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



Kelsey Ferdinand (left) as Vera Stark and Caroline Clancy as Gloria Mitchell. Ferdinand is nominated for a Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival honor.

Students Nominated for Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Honors

Two actors and two designers from last spring's production of *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* will attend the Region 1 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival this winter, competing with fellow northeast actors and designers for a chance for national recognition. Kelsey Ferdinand, nominated for her portrayal of Vera Stark, and Lorraine Kanyike, nominated for her dual roles as Anna Mae and Afua Assata Ejobo, will both compete for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, a national award. Makeup and Hair Designers Caroline Clancy and Li Vaillette were both nominated for awards in Design, Technology and Management.

PhD Student Accepted into Minority Fellowship Program

The American Psychological Association (APA) is paying for the rest of Darrick Scott's tuition at UMass Boston. Scott, a Chicago native who just finished his second year in UMass Boston's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, has been accepted into the APA's Minority Fellowship Program. The program's selection rate in recent years has ranged from five to seven percent. Scott is a graduate student in the Black Mental Health Advocacy in Research Lab, where he supports his advisor, Assistant Professor of Psychology Tahirah Abdullah. He came to UMass Boston because he wanted a program that integrated diversity and social justice within its mission. He is studying stigma within Black American mental health on a broader level and how Black Americans navigate therapy.

Clinical Psychology PhD Student Wins National Student Leadership Award

The Society of Clinical Psychology chose UMass Boston student Natalie Arbid as this year's sole winner of the Distinguished Student Leadership Award in Clinical Psychology. This award recognizes Arbid's local and national and formal and informal leadership roles across scientific organizations, student organizations, the program's Diversity Committee, UMB-UR-BEST, and Professor Elizabeth Roemer's research team. For her efforts, Arbid has received a plaque and a \$200 honorarium.

IT Major Looks to Expand Language Fluency Through Boren Scholarship

Tiffany Tran, an information technology major in the College of Science and Mathematics, is one of this year's winners of the prestigious Boren Scholarship. Tran will be in a Korean language program at Sogang University in South Korea, starting in the fall and continuing through the end of the next academic year. Last year 207 students in the U.S. earned the scholarship, which pays tuition and expenses to undergraduate students willing to immerse themselves in less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests in exchange for working for the federal government for at least one year after graduation.



UMass Boston PhD student Adrianna Nava starts a one-year U.S. Latino Leadership Fellowship through the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership this fall.

Nursing PhD Candidate Selected as U.S. Latino Leadership Fellow

Adrianna Nava, a candidate in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences's Nursing PhD Program, starts a one-year U.S. Latino Leadership Fellowship through the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership this fall. At UMass Boston, Nava's concentration is in health policy. At Harvard, Nava will be getting leadership training and completing an MPA through the fellowship, which is highly competitive. In the 2018-2019 cohort, there were only three fellows. Nava is a nurse at the VA in Boston, working with front-line nurses on quality improvement projects and figuring out how to improve processes.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

UMass Boston Launches D4 CommLab Initiative

The McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies has developed and launched a new initiative intended to provide Boston City Council President Andrea Campbell's office with detailed access to demographic data about her district to help shape public policy. Although the initial launch is focused on Council President Campbell's district (District 4 Community Lab), the intent is that the model can be replicated for other city councilors and their districts.

Over the past several months, deans from the College of Liberal Arts, the School for the Environment, and the McCormack Graduate School have been working with the council president and her staff to develop the program. It will include two students working for the Council President's Office for the summer under the guidance of McCormack Graduate School Professor Michael Johnson. The goal is to create tools that provide ready access to demographic and other data about the district and to help the councilor use that data to shape public policy proposals.

University Helps Facilitate Redesign of McCormack Middle School

The College of Education and Human Development has been designated as a partner to help facilitate the redesign of the McCormack Middle School as it merges with the Boston Community Leadership Academy to become a grade 7-12 Middle/ High School, slated to open in fall 2022. The new school will keep intact specialized programs, including those for English learners and students with disabilities.

Community Inclusion Staffer Testifies in Support of Inclusive Higher Education

Debra Hart, a longtime Institute for Community Inclusion staff member and the principal investigator of the Think College initiative, testified at the Massachusetts State House in June. Hart spoke in support of legislation that would expand access to higher education for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Students with IDD can already participate in higher education experiences at several Massachusetts colleges and universities through the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative. If passed, new legislation will expand access to all 29 public institutions of higher education in the state.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Renovations to Academic Buildings, Relocations Underway

UMass Boston is well on its way to completing the first phase of the 25-year campus master plan. This phase encompassed the now-complete Integrated Sciences Complex, University Hall, Residence Hall, West Garage, Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation, and HarborWalk Revitalization. The two remaining large-scale construction projects are the Renovations to Existing Academic Buildings (REAB) project, which is approximately 50 percent complete, and the Substructure, Science Center, and Pool Building Demolition and Quadrangle Development (SDQD) project.

Faculty and staff relocations have been underway as part of the REAB project since December 2018, enabling renovations to begin in four original campus buildings. In August, the first renovated area was completed as the eleventh floor of Healey Library was converted from an underutilized event and office space to new offices. Throughout the fall and winter, academic programs will relocate from the Science Center to McCormack Hall, Wheatley Hall, and the Quinn Administration Building.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

College of Management Launches Summer Start MBA Program

The College of Management enrolled 21 students in its first-ever Summer Start MBA program. Courses began at the end of May and ran at an accelerated schedule, with face-to-face classes meeting twice a week for seven weeks over two summer sessions. Full-time students can complete four courses over the summer. Part-time student can choose to take fewer classes at their own pace.

UMass Boston Helps Roxbury Community College Nursing Students

Given UMass Boston's longstanding partnership with Roxbury Community College, and a shared mission to serve the commonwealth's diverse students, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences knew it was necessary to work together to support RCC students after the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Nursing pulled the Roxbury program's accreditation. CNHS and admissions went to RCC and reviewed the transcripts of approximately 50 affected students with the students' permission, and invited qualified students to apply to UMass Boston. All qualified students will be admitted.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE



Professor of Engineering Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli holds a new paper-based test that can detect whether someone has a viral or bacterial infection.

Researchers Develop Paper-based Test to Detect Viral Infections

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year in the United States at least 2 million people get an antibiotic-resistant infection, and at least 23,000 people die. At UMass Boston, Associate Professor of Engineering Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli and her students have been working on a new paper-based test that can detect whether someone has a viral infection as opposed to a bacterial infection.

Hamad-Schifferli is one of the authors of a paper, published in *Nanoscale*, that shows how the UMass Boston team used the biomarker Myxovirus protein A (MxA) and what looks like a sort-of pregnancy test to distinguish between viral and bacterial infections. Hamad-Schifferli specializes in these types of tests. In 2017, she helped develop a paper-based test that can diagnose a Zika or dengue fever infection within 15 minutes. She's also received funding to work on low-cost paper-based tests to diagnose other diseases.

Professor Discovers First Recorded Instance of Corals Eating Plastic

Professor Juanita Urban-Rich is part of a team of researchers that is the first to show that some corals are eating tiny bits of plastic debris found in the ocean. The team discovered that these corals often prefer "microplastics" over natural food, like brine shrimp eggs, even as the plastic potentially carries harmful bacteria that can kill them.

A type of coral called *Astrangia poculata* ingested the microplastics both in the wild and in the lab, Urban-Rich and her coauthors write in a new paper published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. The researchers found that bacteria, at times harmful bacteria, would grow on the microplastics as a biofilm. They then laced the biofilm with *E. coli* and fed the beads to lab-raised corals. Even though the corals spit out the beads two days later, they all died from *E. coli* infections. These findings suggest corals in the wild might be dying because of infections carried by plastics.

College Receives \$226K Grant Focused on Closing Skills Gap

The College of Education and Human Development, under the leadership of Dean Joseph Berger and Associate Dean for Grants and Research Takuya Minami, has been awarded a sub-contract from nonprofit human development organization FHI 360 for a program sponsored by the United States Department of State titled "Youth, Education, and Closing the Skills Gap: Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders." The grant provides \$226,310 to enable four cohorts of 20 undergraduate students from Europe to attend an intensive academic program focused on youth, education, and closing the skills gap.



Kazi Islam, who just finished his third year as a graduate student, watches as Assistant Professor of Biology Kellee Siegfried checks out a zebrafish sample.

Biology Professor Earns Additional NIH Grant to Study Fertility in Zebrafish

Within months after receiving a grant from the National Institutes of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to look at the connection between the ends of zebrafish chromosomes and infertility, Assistant Professor of Biology Kellee Siegfried received another NICHD grant to identify genes important for fertility by studying mutant zebrafish. The NICHD awarded Siegfried and her collaborator, developmental geneticist Katrin Henke of Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, \$170,522 over the course of two years for their project. 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.

RENEW THE FACULTY

Fellowship to Fund Work on Latin American Studies Professor's First Book

This fall Assistant Professor of Latin American and Iberian Studies Isabel Gómez will be an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) fellow. Selected from more than 1,100 applicants, Gómez is using her \$40,000 award to work on her in-progress book, *Cannibal Translation: Literary Reciprocity in Contemporary Latin America*, for six months. She is interested in how what she calls deliberate creative liberty translated itself from Brazil to other parts of Latin America in Spanish.

Assistant Professor Selected for American Psychological Association Award

Melissa Collier-Meek, assistant professor of counseling and school psychology in the College of Education and Human Development, received the American Psychological Association's Lightner Witmer Award in August. The award acknowledges early career school psychologists whose scholarship has advanced the field of school psychology as a discipline and profession. Collier-Meek's scholarship focuses on behavioral interventions with families and schools to support development of children with special learning needs. She is also the graduate program director for UMass Boston's School Psychology PhD Program.



Sofya Aptekar is one of the Russell Sage Foundation's incoming visiting scholars.

Sociology Professor Selected As Russell Sage Fellow

Each year, the Russell Sage Foundation invites a small number of scholars to its New York headquarters to investigate topics in social and behavioral sciences. Starting in September, Assistant Professor of Sociology Sofya Aptekar will be one of the foundation's 15 visiting scholars. Aptekar and Russell Sage fellow Amy Hsin, an associate professor of sociology at Queens College, will be writing a book based on their research on how the lack of legal status affects the lives of undocumented youth attending colleges in the City University of New York system. Tentatively titled "Beyond DREAMers,"

the book will explore differences in educational and employment trajectories, family dynamics, and identities among a diverse sample of young undocumented New Yorkers from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia.

Professor's New Book Helps Businesses Prepare for Climate Change

Associate Professor of Management Nardia Haigh has published a new book, *Scenario Planning for Climate Change: A Guide for Strategists*, providing a guide on how business leaders can adapt to what climate change may bring using a step-by-step approach. Everything from extreme weather and droughts to policy changes and social movements can affect business. Haigh has spent 15 years researching how businesses react to climate change. She delves into the hard questions that organizations face, and focuses on helping readers identify the risks and driving forces that could impact their business.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE (CONT.)

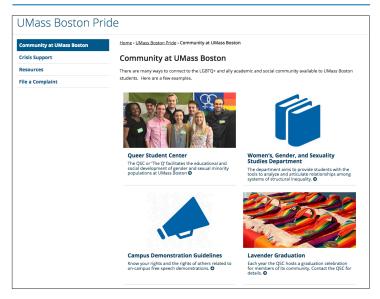
ICI Researchers Win \$600K Grant from Department of Education

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) has been awarded a two-year, \$600,000 grant from the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences National Center for Special Education Research. The grant will fund a study titled "Moving Transition Forward: Exploration of College-based and Conventional Transition Practices for Students with Intellectual Disability and Autism." The grant will enable ICI staff to examine how currently provided transition services reflect research-based practices and identify interventions that support employment and college preparation for youth with intellectual disability and autism.

Nursing Professor Awarded American Heart Association Research Grant

In July Assistant Professor of Exercise and Health Sciences Huimin Yan was awarded an American Heart Association Institutional Research Enhancement Award to support her study entitled "Effect of Exercise Training on Microvascular Function and Sympathetic Reactivity in African American and Caucasian Women." Her research examines the interaction of diet and exercise on vascular function in health, disease, and disability throughout the human lifespan, with a special focus on health disparities. Findings from her work will improve the mechanistic understanding of the microvascular function in hypertensive African Americans and may inform different/ additional strategies to prevent and treat hypertension in African Americans and Caucasians.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE



UMass Boston's Pride website offers resources for the LGBTQ+ community.

UMass Boston Launches Pride Website

In a partnership between Student Affairs and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, UMass Boston Pride (www.umb.edu/pride) went live this summer. The site acts as an online campus hub for resources, programs, and services to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) and ally students. It also aims to support the development of LGBTQ+ and ally student leaders. This online space is a testament to a UMass Boston campus and community that seeks to be a welcoming environment where everyone is celebrated for who they are.

Boston Schools Partner to Develop Student Housing for Homeless Students

A recent national survey that UMass Boston participated in found that 1,392 UMass Boston students experience homelessness in one year. To help these students in need, UMass Boston's Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-ACCESS), along with Bunker Hill Community College, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and Roxbury Community College, have partnered to develop permanent housing for students in need.

The program, known as the K House College Scholars, will offer housing and supportive services for up to 11 homeless or at-risk college students. The program consists of two primary components: occupancy of a single room occupancy unit as a tenant, and services, including case management and academic counseling.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

Robin Côté Appointed as College of Science and Mathematics Dean

Following a national search, Robin Côté has joined UMass Boston as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics beginning August 18. Côté comes to UMass Boston from the University of Connecticut, where he served as the associate dean for the Division of Physical Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and where he also oversaw Graduate Studies. His research interests focus on ultracold physics and chemistry, quantum information science, and mesoscopic systems. His scholarly activities encompass 136 publications with more than 8,000 citations. Over the past six years, Côté has been awarded grants totaling more than \$3 million. A member of the NASA Fundamental Physics Science Standing Review Board, he oversaw the development of the Cold Atom Laboratory that was launched to the International Space Station in 2018.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

Endowment Boosted by \$5.6 Million

Throughout fiscal year 2019, 13 new endowments were created, adding a total of \$5.6 million to the total campus endowment. The gifts included operational budget-relieving professorships, as well as scholarships benefitting both undergraduate and graduate students.

School for the Environment Receives \$380,000

The James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation have awarded the UMass Boston School for the Environment and its subcontractor, the Woods Hole Group Inc., a \$380,000 grant to design a living laboratory on one of the Boston Harbor Islands. The Stone Living Lab will support the development of innovative coastal resilience strategies for the natural and built environments through *in situ* experiments and public engagement, education, and policy development. The outcomes of the Stone Living Lab will directly support adaptation to climate change in metro Boston and provide transferable and critical knowledge for national and international benefit. In addition, the Stone Living Lab will provide opportunities for researchers throughout the world to use the laboratory facilities for their own experiments and to collaborate with ongoing lab research efforts.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

New Sport Leadership and Administration Program

Registration is now open for the first course in UMass Boston's new Sport Leadership and Administration Bachelor of Arts program, the first undergraduate program in the College of Education and Human Development's Department of Leadership in Education. SL101 Foundations of Sport Leadership examines the historical and contemporary role of leadership in the globalized sport industry. Students will have the opportunity to study and identify effective leaders across the sport industry and create a personal leadership portfolio.

The Sport Leadership and Administration BA is designed for those of diverse backgrounds looking to coach, become an athletic director or team owner, get into sports marketing or sports broadcasting, or explore many other aspects of the sport industry, including finance, social media, and event management. A distinguished advisory board of sports legends will help to guide the program and develop internships for the students.



Since 2006, UMass Boston's Camp Shriver has welcomed more than 1,500 children to a free, inclusive summer sports camp.

RWJ Foundation Names Camp Shriver a Finalist for Sports Award

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has announced Camp Shriver at UMass Boston as one of 12 finalists for the 2019 Sports Award, an honor recognizing professional teams, individuals, and organizations that strengthen and serve communities through sport. Winners will be honored on November 7, during an awards presentation at the foundation's headquarters in Princeton, N.J. The Sports Award recognizes innovative and influential approaches to using sports to make communities healthier places to live.

Camp Shriver at UMass Boston uses sports as a platform to address the social and economic barriers that prevent some children from engaging in activities that promote health and well-being. Bringing together children from low-income areas in Boston, half of whom have a disability, Camp Shriver improves the quality of life for campers with and without disabilities by promoting motor development, social skills, and positive peer relationships.



New England Women in Energy and the Environment Director Jacqueline Ashmore and Attorney General Maura Healey speak with Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman and McCormack Graduate School Dean David Cash.

University Hosts Attorney General Maura Healey at Panel Discussion Series

The John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies and the Chancellor's Office hosted the 5th annual New England Women in Energy and the Environment panel discussion series, featuring keynote speaker Attorney General Maura Healey.

Addressing a packed campus center ballroom, Healey discussed issues of gender equality, the role of education in decreasing gender disparities, and the importance of moving into a clean energy future. Her address was followed by women leaders in state government and energy and environmental agencies from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Healey Library Dean Selected for Bay State Legacy Award

The Massachusetts History Alliance honored Interim Dean of University Libraries Joanne Riley with the 2019 Bay State Legacy Award at its conference in June. The award honors individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the interpretation and presentation of Massachusetts history.

Riley is perhaps best known for the Mass. Memories Road Show, the public history project she launched at UMass Boston in 2004. The Road Show, which has been recognized as a trailblazer in community archiving, has preserved 11,000 photographs and stories from more than 75 Massachusetts communities and has engaged hundreds of volunteers and contributors across the commonwealth.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE (CONT.)



Vice Chancellor Charlie Titus was inducted into the 2019 Bay State Games Hall of Fame alongside Orlando Vandross, Yvonne Chern, and Beth Spoka.

Charlie Titus Inducted into Bay State Games Hall of Fame

Vice Chancellor for Athletics and Recreation, Special Projects and Programs Charlie Titus was inducted into the 2019 Bay State Games Hall of Fame in June during a pre-game ceremony at Fenway Park. Titus has been on the board of directors for the Bay State Games for more than 25 years. He has also enabled Games events to take place at UMass Boston facilities since the mid-1980s.

Titus served as the first head coach of UMass Boston's men's basket-ball team, and coached for 39 years until he retired from that position in 2015, continuing on as vice chancellor. He is also a member of the Little East Conference Hall of Fame and the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

Professor's Personal Book on How Society Judges Mothers Hits Bookshelves

When Professor of Counseling and School Psychology Sharon Lamb serves as an expert witness, her assessment of a parent can mean that parent will never see their children again. As Lamb often argues before the family court in Vermont, some of these children have been in foster care for two or three years, and the termination of the parental rights of their mothers can be in the best interest of the child. Lamb has weaved stories of the mothers and children she evaluates with her search for the right treatment for her opioid-addicted son in her well-received new book, *The Not Good Enough Mother*, which came out in June.

University Hosts Corporate Social Responsibility Conference

In partnership with French business school EM Normandie, the first conference on Corporate Social Responsibility across the Atlantic was held at UMass Boston on May 22 and May 23. Given that the political, legal, and business systems underlying corporate social responsibility activities in the U.S. and Europe can differ significantly, this conference explored how such differences impact practices and outcomes.

Twenty researchers from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia presented their research. The conference was associated with a special issue to be published at the *Society and Business Review*, which will feature the best papers from the conference. EM Normandie will organize the next conference, which will be held in June 2020 in Paris.