



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

June 2021

To the Board:

Following a very challenging year, I am pleased to report that UMass Boston is hard at work preparing to bring back our students, faculty, and staff to campus. We are making these plans with the number one priority being the safety of our campus community, while striving to present the most engaging campus educational and extracurricular experience for our students. As part of our return to a new normal, we will be holding in-person commencement ceremonies for the classes of 2020 and 2021 on August 26 at the TD Garden. (right)

Although the university has been in a remote modality during the spring semester, the work of our faculty, staff, and students continued to move the university forward. Highlights in this report include:

- UMass Boston's graduate programs in sociology, education, nursing, and public affairs have been ranked as top 100 programs on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022 Best Graduate Schools list, released this spring. The biggest jumper is UMass Boston's graduate programs in education, up 14 spots from the 2021 list. (page 8)
- The Academic Reorganization Task Force (ART) released a report this spring providing an analysis of the impact of the current organization of UMass Boston's eight major academic units and evaluating possible scenarios for reorganization. (page 7)
- Three new gifts established scholarship funds to expand opportunities for UMass Boston students. (page 4)
- While most people studied and worked remotely this past year, UMass Boston's campus began a dramatic transformation. A new 3D video rendering released this spring gives an enticing preview of the end result— a dynamic and accessible green space dubbed the Quad. (page 10)

I thank the board of trustees for your continued support of our great urban research university, and I hope you will find this report on our progress as engaging as I do.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



UMass Boston has announced a full return to campus for all students, faculty, and staff in fall 2021.

University Announces Return to Campus in Fall, In-Person Commencement in August

Based on current trends—increased daily vaccination rates and availability of vaccines, low classroom transmission rates, and plans for public school reopenings, among others—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco has announced that all UMass Boston students, faculty, and staff should plan for a full return to campus in fall 2021.

Mostly face-to-face instruction, full residence halls, available dining, and a full complement of student events, activities, and support services are expected.

“It is important to reiterate that our planning is built on the assumption that local vaccination rates will continue to rise and that community COVID-19 cases will fall precipitously,” Chancellor Suárez-Orozco said.

UMass Boston also announced that all students will be required to be vaccinated for the fall 2021 semester, and all faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. The university has held mobile vaccination clinics to provide members of the campus community and their families with easier access to the vaccine.

Along with a return to campus in the fall, Chancellor Suárez-Orozco announced that UMass Boston will host two in-person commencement celebrations on Thursday, August 26 at the TD Garden in Boston, celebrating the classes of 2020 and 2021. A virtual component will feature congratulatory remarks from two keynote speakers: Boston Globe columnist Adrian Walker and Secretary of Energy and Environmental and Affairs Kathleen Theoharides G'07.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



Students and community members attended UMass Boston's first mobile clinic in April.

UMass Boston Hosts Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics

This spring, Boston's overall vaccination rate was 55 percent, with 22 percent of the eligible population partially vaccinated and 33 percent fully vaccinated. The city began opening walk-in clinics in various neighborhood locations.

In April, more than 300 students and community members got vaccinated at a mobile clinic hosted by UMass Boston, the City of Boston, CIC Health, and Cataldo Ambulance. A second clinic was hosted in May, and there will be a third clinic in June.

Center Announces New Distinguished Public Service Fellows

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (CWPPP) has announced the selection of its third cohort of Distinguished Public Service Fellows whose mission for the next two years will be to help bridge the gap between generations of women leaders and prepare the next generation of leaders, with a particular emphasis on advancing the leadership of women of color.

The four new fellows are Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; former Executive Director of the North American Indian Center of Boston Joanne Dunn; Executive Director of the Chelsea Collaborative Gladys Vega; and Winchester Town Manager and former Mayor of Fitchburg Lisa Wong.

The fellows will give public lectures, mentor students in CWPPP's Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy Program, and share their papers and leadership narratives and lessons, which will be contributed to the Women's Public Leadership Archive, based in UMass Boston's Healy Library.

UMass Boston Partners with UNAM and BU on Second International Colloquium on African Studies

UMass Boston's Africa Scholars Forum (ASF) cohosted the second International Colloquium on African Studies, which gathered over 30 experts from the U.S., Mexico, Europe, and Africa to virtually discuss several themes of African Studies at a global scale, including migration, security, and inequalities.

The colloquium was a collaboration of National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), UMass Boston, and Boston University. McCormack Grad School Associate Dean Rita Kiki Edozie, chair and founder of ASF, says the project was not only exciting in covering real-time African issues, but also in establishing partnerships with a global institution like UNAM and New England's largest African Studies Center at BU.



Betty Taymor (left) with Elizabeth Sherman, the founding director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy

CWPPP Celebrates Betty Taymor's 100th Birthday

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (CWPPP) at the McCormack Graduate School honored Betty Taymor's life and achievements on the occasion of her 100th birthday this spring with a virtual celebration.

Local and national political luminaries, including iconic feminist figure Gloria Steinem and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, came together to talk about how they have been inspired by and benefitted from her vision and promotion of gender equality. In addition to founding the Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy graduate certificate program at UMass Boston, which has trained more than 900 women for leadership roles in government and the nonprofit sector, Taymor was instrumental in founding CWPPP.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

Chancellor Co-authors Op-Ed on Solving Student Debt Crisis in National Publication

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco is collaborating with Robert Hildreth of the Hildreth Institute to solve the student debt crisis using a reverse pension type model. The two recently penned an op-ed in *The Hill*.

Given that the growing student debt crisis is undermining the mission of public colleges and shutting the doors of opportunity to millions, UMass Boston and the Hildreth Institute are developing a new model that would draw on the principles of the pension system to lower students' debt burden without adding to the nation's debt.

Suárez-Orozco and Hildreth explain that Americans pay for their retirement over a lifetime. The same model could be adapted to paying for higher education. This would reduce monthly payments to about \$50 from \$370 on the average debt load of \$35,000—and much less on the smaller amounts that community college students typically borrow. This would be accomplished by adopting two characteristics of pensions: payments spread over a lifetime, and zero interest.

Physics Major Earns Prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

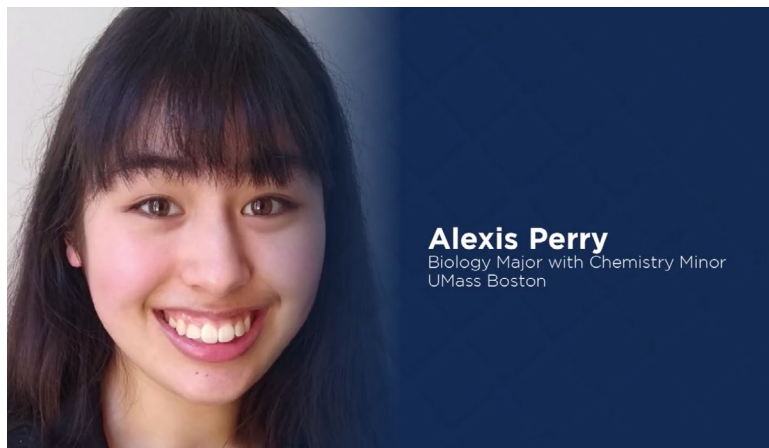


Sarah True

UMass Boston junior Sarah True has received the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. This is the third year in a row that UMass Boston students have been named Goldwater Scholars; four students in total have received the honor. The Goldwater Scholarship is given annually to college

sophomores and juniors who demonstrate excellence in natural science, engineering, and mathematics.

True, of Newburyport, is a physics major with a computer science minor. She plans to continue her studies after graduation to pursue a PhD in computational physics, with a goal of conducting “research in quantum physics and expanding upon the ways that computer science can be used to advance our understanding of how nature behaves at the quantum level.”



Alexis Perry
Biology Major with Chemistry Minor
UMass Boston

Alexis Perry was honored as one of “29 Who Shine.”

Biology Major Alexis Perry Named “29 Who Shine” Award Winner

Alexis Perry '21, an Honors College student majoring in biology, has been selected as one of the “29 Who Shine” by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. The 29 Who Shine is a commencement season awards program that recognizes outstanding student graduates from each of the Commonwealth's public higher education institutions.

Perry, who holds a 4.0 grade point average, was a peer mentor for the College of Science and Mathematics' Freshman Success Community. She was nominated for the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship for her research identifying novel proteins that slow down the deterioration of photoreceptor cells and novel proteins that serve as tumor suppressors, which could improve our understanding of human cancers. She plans to become a physician-scientist with a career involving both clinical care and biomedical research.

Perry also ran a music program—through Hingham Active Day—for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's to enhance cognitive skills, stimulate brain activity, and enhance motor coordination.

UMass Boston Gerontology Celebrates 100-plus PhDs

This spring, UMass Boston's Gerontology Department awarded its 99th, 100th, and 101st PhDs. Established in 1989, the globally renowned PhD program is one of the oldest in the world and has produced more PhDs in gerontology than any other institution.

Alums live all over the United States and across the globe, including in Canada, China, Israel, South Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and Thailand. They work in universities as educators, researchers, and administrators; in health care settings; for local, state, and federal government agencies; as well as for nonprofit and for-profit organizations that address aging issues.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT



College of Management advisor Lizzy Cantor and her son, Noah, participate in the Beacon 5K.

Beacon 5K Raises Nearly \$15,000 for Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund

Nearly 500 members of the UMass Boston community, representing 25 states and five countries, took part in the Office of Alumni Engagement's virtual Beacon 5K this spring. Together, registrants raised nearly \$15,000 for the Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund, which was established by former UMass Trustee Richard Campbell '70 in honor of alumna Krystle Campbell, who lost her life in the Boston Marathon bombing. To date, the scholarship fund stands at over \$1 million, making it one of the largest named funds in university history.

Alumnus Establishes Scholarship in Honor of Former Professors

Mark Richards '91 and his wife, Susan Deskis, committed to a \$2 million bequest to establish undergraduate scholarships in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Science and Mathematics in the names of two inspiring professors.

Richards credits Professor of Psychology Ina Samuels, who passed in 1998, and Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Bernice L. Auslander with his career success. The scholarships will be need-based, with a preference for students majoring in psychology or mathematics, and will cover tuition, fees, books, and on- or off- campus housing for eight semesters within a five-year period. Richards has been a loyal donor to UMass Boston since 1996.

Alum Creates Internship Opportunities with \$50,000 Gift

Robin and Vincent Loporchio G'89 have invested \$50,000 to establish paid internships for McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies students to work with the Massachusetts State Legislature. The Robin and Vincent Loporchio Internship "On the Hill" offers two \$5,000 internships each summer over the next five years. Students will gain real-world experiences on matters of public policy, government management, communications, and myriad other skill sets to successfully move into public service careers upon graduation.

Charter Class Member Provides Undergraduate Employment through \$100k Gift

Earlon L. Seeley, Jr. '69 and his wife, Ann, have established The Seeley Family Endowed Scholarship with a gift of \$100,000, to ease students' financial hardships, reduce dependence on full-time undergraduate employment, and create opportunities to spend more time engaged in meaningful coursework and campus life. Seeley, a member of UMass Boston's charter class, has been an active class member since graduation, participating in his 25th and 50th reunion committees and remaining connected with fellow classmates.

Church Congregation Creates New Scholarship Fund at UMass Boston

The Church on the Hill on Bowdoin Street in Boston's Beacon Hill neighborhood has committed to a \$456,000 gift over five years to UMass Boston's Philosophy Department in honor of a former member and pastor, the Rev. Dr. Theodore "Ted" Klein. Dr. Klein passed away in August at the age of 79, shortly after retiring as a faculty member in the Philosophy Department, where he taught for three decades.

The newly established Rev. Dr. J. Theodore Klein Scholarship Fund at UMass Boston will provide a scholarship annually to one or more students with financial need studying ethics or philosophy.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE (CONT.)

Junior Darragh Fahey Named Unsung Hero Finalist

Lacrosse junior attackman Darragh Fahey has been selected as one of five finalists for the 2021 Yearley Reynolds Love Unsung Hero Award. Fahey is the first player in program history to be named a finalist.

The One Love Foundation's Yearley Reynolds Love Unsung Hero Award recognizes the accomplishments of student-athletes who demonstrate dedication, integrity, humility, hard work, community service, leadership, kindness, and sportsmanship.

Fahey is a member of the UMass Boston Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, playing a crucial role in helping advance the department's focus on mental health and student-athlete well-being. He spearheaded a series of "Mental Health Conversations" with the team physician on a variety of topics.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE



(Clockwise) Paul Watanabe, Lorna Rivera, Georgianna Meléndez, Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Charles Desmond, J. Keith Motley, Connie S. Chan, and Miren Uriarte

UMass Boston Faculty, Chancellor Named to Regional List of 50 Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education

Seven UMass Boston faculty and staff, including Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, have been named to Get Connected!'s inaugural list of the Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education. The list, which reflects the remarkable expertise and the diversity within the UMass Boston community, was unveiled earlier this month during a virtual event in partnership with GBH media.

Included in the list are: Paul Watanabe, director of the Institute for Asian American Studies; Lorna Rivera, director of the Gastón Institute; Georgianna Meléndez, assistant chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion; Miren Uriarte, professor emeritus of human services, and co-founder of the Gastón Institute; J. Keith Motley, professor of management and chancellor emeritus; Connie S. Chan, professor emerita in the McCormack Graduate School; and Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

Serving Indigenous Students Joint Staff Professional Development

This past spring, the university offered a two-session joint training for over 80 staff on serving Indigenous students. Facilitated by Institute for New England Native American Studies (INENAS) Director Cedric Woods, the sessions aimed to provide a basic awareness of the historical and contemporary context of the Indigenous communities to which native students belong and to discuss specific strategies for supporting Indigenous student success through college ready environments as well as practices.

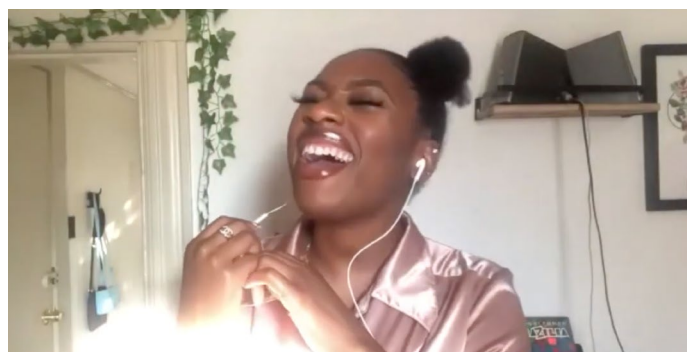
The sessions were hosted by the Division of Student Affairs, along with INENAS; the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Campus Services; and the Vice Provost for Academic Support Services.

New Hires Represent Diverse Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds

UMass Boston continues to emphasize the importance of diversifying its faculty. Searches completed in the 2020–21 academic year have resulted in 25 new faculty members representing diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. The new faculty hires include five Black, four Hispanic, six Asian, two Arab/Arab American, and eight white individuals; 15 of the 25 identify as female.

University Hosts UndocuWeek 2021

In Massachusetts, 34 percent of college students are of immigrant origin (either first- or second-generation). To support these important members of our community, Student Multicultural Affairs, the Immigrant Student Program, and the Student Immigrant Alliance hosted an inaugural UndocuWeek program in April. The program celebrated and highlighted immigrant communities, helped educate attendees on their undocumented peers' experiences, and unpacked other relevant issues in the areas of immigration, DACA, migration, and mental health.



Performing Arts alum Aidan Thomas '18 performs in the final Homegoing webinar.

Homegoing: A Restorative Justice Initiative Colloquium Culminates with Performances

A successful Homegoing colloquium wrapped up this spring with a collaboration between the Restorative Justice Initiative and the Performing Arts Department. Under the direction of professors Rafael Jaen, Jessica Cooper, and Ginger Lazarus, the final evening of the colloquium included theater and musical performances by UMass Boston students and alumni.

Through their art, each of these students affirmed their identity as artists of color in a moment where the country as a whole is having critical conversations about social justice, race, and equity. The Restorative Justice Initiative colloquium invited all students, faculty, and staff to engage with Yaa Gyasi's novel *Homegoing* through a series of six webinars and virtual discussions—part of UMass Boston's mission to become a leading anti-racist and health-promoting public research university.

RENEW THE FACULTY



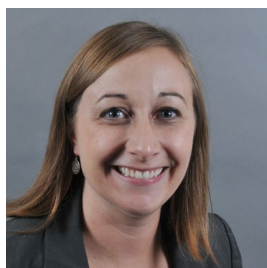
Associate Professor of Sociology Leslie Wang has published *Chasing the American Dream in China*.

Professor Publishes New Book, Chasing the American Dream in China

Few have studied the experiences of children of immigrants who move to their ancestral homelands—countries with which they share cultural ties but haven't necessarily had direct contact. Associate Professor of Sociology Leslie Wang examines the lives of highly educated American-born Chinese (ABC) professionals who "return" to the People's Republic of China to build their dreams in her new book, *Chasing the American Dream in China: Chinese Americans in the Ancestral Homeland*.

Wang's book is based on 60 in-depth interviews with ABC professionals who worked in the global cities of Beijing and Shanghai. Their stories demonstrate how these migrants maneuver between countries and cultures to further their careers and maximize opportunities in the rapidly changing global economy.

Assistant Professor of English Recognized with Manning Award



Lauren Marshall Bowen

Assistant Professor of English Lauren Marshall Bowen is one of five UMass faculty to receive the 2021 Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching for her exemplary dedication to students and the university. The faculty members—one from each of the five UMass campuses—will receive \$10,000 awards in recognition of their commitment to academic excellence.

Marshall Bowen directs the Composition Program, in which 65 instructors teach first-year writing to more than 4,000 undergraduate students each year. Under her directorship, the program has developed a research-informed writing curriculum to develop postsecondary writers' flexible, adaptable writing knowledge and practices.

Trotter Institute Director Wins African American Intellectual History Society Book Prize

Professor of Africana Studies and Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture Director Quito Swan is the recipient of the African American Intellectual History Society's (AAIHS) Pauli Murray Book Prize for his new book, *Pauulu's Diaspora: Black Internationalism and Environmental Justice*. The award recognizes the year's best book concerning Black intellectual history.

The AAIHS is a national professional association that's committed to the study of the Africana world, and the award committee includes scholar-activists and organizers such as Leslie Alexander, Ibram X. Kendi, Russell Rickford, and Chris Tinson.

Swan's book traces Pauulu Kamarakafego's global work as a Pan-Africanist organizer and ecological engineer across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. In addition to the AAIHS award, the book has won a 2021 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships Open Book Award. Swan conducted research for the book in nine countries, including Vanuatu, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE (CONT.)



Student Jacob Chin (left), seen here with his family on UMass Boston's Instagram account, spoke about how his great grandparents came to America to build a more successful life and what an honor it is to carry the torch.

University Celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

UMass Boston celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month this May, launching a social media campaign aimed at promoting awareness and pride of our AAPI students and their cultures, and advocating for their equity and safety.

Students were asked to talk about what it means to be Asian American today. They touched on the obstacles their families faced in coming to this country, health disparities, discrimination, and learning more about their own heritage.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE



Assistant Professor of Chemistry Niya Sa (left) and her student researchers

Chemistry Professor Receives CAREER Grant to Study Beyond Lithium Ion Rechargeable Batteries

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Niya Sa has been awarded the Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to understand the interfacial challenges of new battery materials, which are closely related to the development of next generation rechargeable battery technology.

Sa will receive \$589,037 over five years, starting in June 2021, for her proposal. She hopes to offer new design strategies for developing stable solid/liquid interfaces to improve the performance of the beyond lithium ion battery technology.

She said this grant will also give undergraduate students, especially those from underrepresented communities, an opportunity to see what scientists are doing “in the real world” and whether it’s something they are interested in working on for their own career.

MGS Report Finds Marijuana Host Communities Received \$2.5 Million In Unlawful Fees

A new analysis of host community agreements made by Massachusetts municipal governments and local cannabis business operators reveals that the agreements regularly violate state law. The study, which was paid for by the Cannabis Business Association and conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Moyer of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, finds that cannabis companies have paid at least \$2.46 million more than required under law, and communities often have no plan for how to spend the money they collect.

Moyer reviewed 460 host community agreements, which are required by law as a condition for licensure. The reports were obtained through public records requests to 149 municipalities across the Commonwealth.

The report makes several recommendations for the legislature, including promptly authorizing the Cannabis Control Commission to issue regulations on host community agreements.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

Academic Reorganization Task Force Releases Report

The Academic Reorganization Task Force (ART) released a report this spring providing an analysis of the impact of the current organization of UMass Boston’s eight major academic units and evaluating possible scenarios for reorganization.

The completion and public release of this report is one step in a much longer and more extensive campus-wide process that will engage stakeholders from across the community in a dialogue to envision UMass Boston’s path forward. To begin that broader dialogue, Provost Joseph Berger will consult with key stakeholders in the coming weeks as he considers how best to use this analysis to make a variety of strategic decisions.

The one immediate recommendation that Provost Berger will be rapidly advancing is the separation of the Office of Graduate Studies from the research administration functions. The university will establish a separate Office of Graduate Studies with a dedicated dean of graduate studies and a separate vice provost, who will have leadership responsibility for research and innovation.

Boston, Amherst Partner to Host Camp Shriver on Mount Ida Campus

UMass Boston’s Camp Shriver has relocated to the Mount Ida campus of UMass Amherst in Newton for summer 2021. The change of location was prompted by significant construction activity on the UMass Boston campus.

Camp Shriver at UMass Boston is a nationally recognized inclusive recreational program that brings children with and without disabilities together to provide opportunities for social and motor development. Since 2006, Camp Shriver has used sports as a vehicle to improve the social and emotional learning skills of over 1,600 children ages 8 to 12 from low-income families in the Boston area for free.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

U.S. News: UMass Boston's Graduate Programs Among Nation's Best

UMass Boston's graduate programs in sociology, education, nursing, and public affairs have been ranked as top 100 programs on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2022 Best Graduate Schools list, released this spring. The biggest jumper is UMass Boston's graduate programs in education, up 14 spots from the 2021 list.

Five UMass Boston programs have new top 100 rankings:

- Graduate programs in education – No. 48
- Master of Nursing – No. 63
- Master's programs in public affairs – No. 69
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – No. 86
- Sociology – No. 79

UMass Boston's part-time MBA program is also ranked, at No. 115.

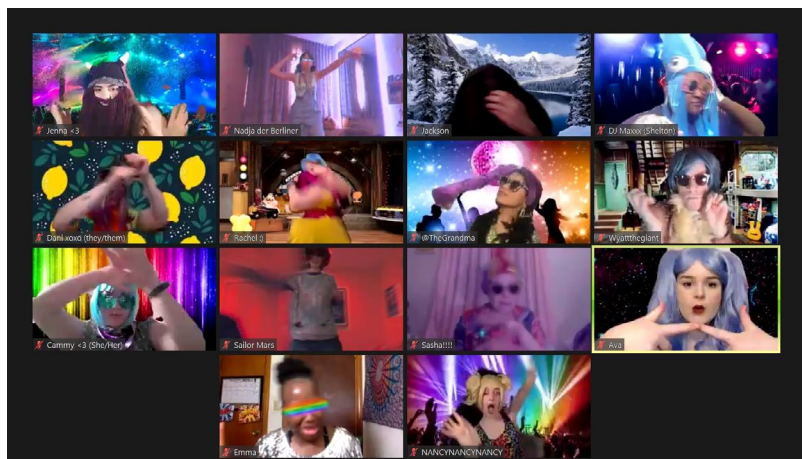
Welcoming Beacons in a New Way

Joining the UMass Boston community is traditionally a high-touch experience to help first year and transfer students prepare to be successful learners through an introduction to their collegiate environment, presentation of support resources, and connections with new social peers.

For summer 2021, New Student and Family Programs, in cooperation with over 40 campus partners, has reimagined New Student Orientation. The program will feature a new virtual platform, with hopes to offer a hybrid virtual/in-person model—pending increasingly positive health indicators as summer progresses—and will focus on academic success, student engagement, and creating an inclusive campus community.

College of Management Unveils New Sport Business Concentration

UMass Boston will now offer management majors a new sport business concentration, preparing students for careers in the sport entertainment world. This program, with its proximity to professional and semi-professional sports teams and corporate headquarters within the industry, is uniquely positioned to provide multiple robust learning and networking opportunities for our students.



Students held four live performances of *The Party Hop* over Zoom.

Party Hop Cast and Crew Members Going to Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

This spring's performance of *The Party Hop* by UMass Boston Theatre Arts will send two actors to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival's (KCACTF) Region 1 next year, and the work of a slew of students and staff was recognized in design and tech categories.

The play was written in 2020 specifically to be performed on Zoom, imagining a world years into social distancing and college students navigating a social life through online parties. Ema Almon, who played Ava, and Lola Balogun, who played Emma, were both nominated for the coveted Irene Ryan Acting Award and will compete at the Region 1 Festival next January.

Behind the scenes, five students were recommended for Merit Awards in the Design and Technology categories. UMass Boston's Theatre Arts program has a solid track record at the KCACTF, with students garnering national awards in acting and design and technology categories.

Students Make Art with Language in Ten Lines or Less

In its second year, "The Five to Ten Line Poetry Contest," hosted by the UMass Boston Creative Writing Program, encouraged undergraduate students from all majors to channel their experiences living through a pandemic into their writing. Forty-two students entered the contest, submitting a collection of five-to-ten-line poetry that captured the mixed emotions of grief, isolation, love, and loss that 2020 brought to the forefront.

English major Rose Flaherty took the top prize of the contest and received \$100 for her poem titled "Grandpa Is Emaciated and Only Eats Bananas," in which a family removes the lock from the bathroom to keep a confused grandparent from locking himself in.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

Supporting Summer Enrollment

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center has found that taking college courses in the summer improves graduation rates because it allows students to earn college credits and speed up degree completion. Summer courses provide many benefits including the opportunity for students to explore a new interest, get ahead in their academic program, or accelerate degree completion.

Knowing the potential benefits that summer courses could have on student success, UMass Boston expanded its program and committed to making summer affordable with a new Summer Scholarship.

For summer 2021, more than 2,000 current and prospective students sought the opportunity to receive a \$250 Summer Scholarship. Over 900 awards have been made with priority going to those with demonstrated financial need or who had registered for multiple summer courses. The scholarship, combined with increased marketing and additional course offerings, is boosting enrollment and is likely to make this summer a record setting year.

Creating a Path for Transfer Students

Throughout the 2020–2021 enrollment cycle, the Division of Enrollment Management has enhanced its outreach and communications with the transfer student population, creating a clearer pathway to UMass Boston.

An overhaul of the transfer admissions website made our interactive course equivalency tool, Transferology, more prominent. The Transfer Admissions team created several short videos to guide students in the use of Transferology and now offers appointments that solely focus on helping transfer students understand how the credits they have accumulated at another institution will transfer to UMass Boston.

Prospective students can submit official transcripts from previous institutions and receive a document detailing what course requirements are fulfilled by their previous classes as well as how many courses will need to be completed to earn a bachelor's degree at UMass Boston. Through all of these transfer credit tools and improvements, the idea is to pair technology with a personal touch to ensure students feel both supported and empowered during the transfer process. Since launching these virtual appointments, 75 transfer students have met with a transfer counselor for this service.

Newly developed Transfer Planning Sheets detail the general education requirements for each college at UMass Boston to help students select which general education requirements to be taking at their community college before transferring.

U-ACCESS Addresses Student Needs at New Levels

During the spring semester, U-ACCESS addressed a total of 409 student cases — a new single semester high for cases addressed. Each case represents a student that was referred to U-ACCESS for basic needs support, which includes housing and/or food insecurity.

The U-ACCESS team was able to address these cases, some of which predate this semester, through the hiring of case manager student assistants, collaborating with the Dean of Students office, and creating a process for the case management team. The high number of cases demonstrates the acuteness and likely long-lasting effects of the pandemic on the UMass Boston community. This is also evidenced by a recent UMass Boston survey that indicated more than half of student respondents are having financial challenges that are presenting difficulties during remote learning.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Graduate College of Management Students Launch Bloomberg Trading Challenge

With many finance students unable to secure internships this past year due to COVID-19, a group of UMass Boston students organized the Bloomberg Trading Challenge (BTC), the only university investment competition to take place entirely within the Bloomberg Terminal. Members of UMass Boston's Graduate Student Managed Fund worked together to organize, launch, and run this challenge.

The group recruited 19 teams from UMass Boston, Clark University, and Bryant University. Each team was given remote access to the Bloomberg Lab, an on-campus center for the Bloomberg Terminal, at their respective universities. Over a period of seven weeks, from March 8 to April 23, each team invested \$1 million into U.S. equities. The three teams with the highest return on investment (ROI) presented their findings to BTC participants and various professionals in the finance industry.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



Rendering of the new Quad green space, set to open in 2022

3D Renderings Preview UMass Boston's New Quad

While most people studied and worked remotely this past year, UMass Boston's campus began a dramatic transformation. A 3D video rendering released this spring gives an enticing preview of the end result—a dynamic and accessible green space dubbed the Quad. To view the video, visit umb.edu/quad.

The Quad is the centerpiece of the Substructure, Science Center, Pool Building and Plaza Demolition and Quadrangle Development (SDQD) project, part of the 25-Year Campus Master Plan. In order to address structural issues with the original campus, campus planners opted to replace the original science building and underground parking structure with a rolling green.

Demolition, which began last fall, reached substantial completion in April. Contractors are now constructing supports for the Quad and cleaning the rubble for use as landfill. The green space is an engineering feat, requiring a gradual change in elevation of 40 feet. Designers were careful to ensure the space will be accessible to all. The Quad is expected to open in fall 2022.



Eleven new charging stations in the West Garage

UMass Boston Opens New EV Charging Stations

Transportation Services has unveiled 11 new EnelX EV Charging Stations in the West Garage, giving electric vehicle owners effective and convenient charging options on campus. The stations, located on the first floor of the garage, are available for public use.

The announcement comes as part of a partnership with UMass Boston and EnelX to add solar, storage, and EV charging to the campus through the installation of a 1,000kW solar photovoltaic system on the rooftop of West Garage, a 500kW lithium-ion battery system, and the EnelX Juicebox Pro EV charging stations.

UMass Boston was recently recognized for its leadership and commitment to EV adoption across the UMass Boston campus at the third annual MassEVolves recognition ceremony.