November 2018

- Biology Professor Luis De Leon along with his lab had a paper entitled, “Mitogenomics of Central American Weakly-Electric Fishes” published in GENE. Also, his paper on the impact of urbanization on Darwin’s finches was covered by PBS.

October 2018

- Biology Professor Luis De Leon had his latest article entitled, “Urbanization Erodes Niche Segregation in Darwin’s Finches” published in Evolutionary Applications.

September 2018

- Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Professor Shailja Pathania was awarded a grant entitled, “U54 Pilot: Environmental Carcinogens Drive Risk for Breast Cancer in BRCA2 Mutation Carriers: A Mechanistic and Epidemiology Study.”

May 2018

- Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Professor Shailja Pathania was the recipient of The University of Massachusetts, Boston – Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center U54 Partnership’s Pilot Grant Award.

March 2018

- Biology Professor Douglas Woodhams and Smith Conservation Fellow Molly Bletz had an article published entitled, “Shifts In Disease Dynamics In A Tropical Amphibian Assemblage Are Not Due To Pathogen Attenuation.”

- Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Professor Shailja Pathania's grant entitled, “Identifying Drivers of BRCA2 Mutation Associated Predisposition to Cancer” was selected for funding by the Basser Center at the University of Pennsylvania’s Abramson Cancer Center.
February 2018

- Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Professor Jill Macoska alongside undergraduate students Susan Patalano-Salsman and Diego Almanza and graduate students Cory Colaneri, Justin Cotellesa, and Alisa Zhilin-Roth had a manuscript accepted into Scientific Reports entitled, “CXCL12/CXCR4-Mediated Procollagen Secretion Is Coupled To Cullin- RING Ubiquitin Ligase Activation.”

- Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Professor Shailja Pathania received two grants this month, the UMass Boston Joseph P. Healey Research Grant Award and the Career Development Grant from DF/HCC SPORE in Breast Cancer and DF/HCC Breast Oncology Program.
Graduate & PhD Student Achievements

September 2018

- Graduate Student Daniel Buitrago selected for the recipient of a Scholarship from The Institute for the Training and Use of Human Resources (IFARHU) and the National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (SENACYT) scholarship program to pursue a doctorate in Environmental Biology here at UMass Boston Biology Government of the Republic of Panama.

May 2018

- Graduate Student John DeFilippo and Biology Professor Gregory Beck published an article entitled “Cytokines of Invertebrate Immunity.”

- Graduate Student Hanine Barek from Dr. Sugumaran’s lab published two papers on insect melanin. In the first paper, she shows that insect melanin is distinctly different from that of mammalian melanin. This paper is coauthored with Japanese collaborators. In the second paper, she shows that Drosophila brain has the enzymatic machinery to make eumelanin component, thus demonstrating the capability of insects to make neuromelanin. This paper is coauthored with biology Prof. Alexey Veraksa.

April 2018

- Graduate student Daniel Buitrago received a Short Term Fellowship from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in the amount of 5K. This award will allow Daniel to continue to work on the Hummingbird project during the summer in Panama.

February 2018

- Graduate Students Fei Chai, Sean McCanty, Kaitlyn Webster, and Stuart Morey each received a dissertation grant of $2,000.00 from the Provost.

- Graduate Student Breck McCollum received the Marine Conservation Grant from the Women Diver’s Hall of Fame. Breck is using her grant towards building a mesocosm where she can test the effects of rising ocean temperatures on the physiology of marine invertebrates from the rocky subtidal zone.
Over winter break, Graduate Student **Brianna Shaughnessy** visited the “SubeLab” at the **Estación de Coserta de Investigaciones Marinas (ECIM) in Las Cruces, Chile**. This Marine Field Station is run by the Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile. While at ECIM, Brianna was hosted by fish biologist and ecologist, Alejandros Perez-Matus. Alé is a long-time collaborator and friend of Jarrett Byrnes' Lab. The Byrnes lab runs a global collaborative research effort known as the Kelp Ecosystem Ecology Network (KEEN), and with the help of Alé and his phenomenal dive team we were able to collect standardized data on Central Chilean kelp forests to be added to the growing open-source database for KEEN research. At ECIM, Brianna also presented on the development of KEEN's network goals, research, and standardized protocols. She attended a symposium on modern interdisciplinary research in Chilean Ecology.
Undergraduate Student Achievements

May 2018

- McNair fellows Rodney Bruno, Jessie Ngandjui, Sendy Lamour, Ana Escuariza, Tin Than, Udoka Ibeh, Latifa Pina, Mohamed Anwar and Tiego Da Silva all graduated from Biology.

February 2018

- Undergraduate students Roni Milgrom, Jude Owiredu, Clara Poupault, Yang Chang, and Lucy Pullan were all awarded funds to purchase research materials. Roni Milgrom, Christian Mbah, Jude Owiredu and Clara Poupault were also awarded additional funds to travel to scientific conferences.