Assistant Professor Jason Green writes an equation on a glass wall in his new Integrated Sciences Complex laboratory, where he and his team research theoretical and computational chemistry.

Biology Professor and Graduate Program Director Linda Huang only recently moved into the new Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC), but she already has a favorite spot in the building. On the fourth floor, a small graduate student lounge juts out from the building’s facade, giving the illusion that the desk and tables are floating over the roadway below.

“You’ve got the Boston skyline; you’ve got the harbor,” Huang said. “Does it get any more gorgeous than this?”

The whole of the ISC is designed with spaces like these in mind—spaces where students and faculty can connect, collaborate, and reflect. In the first week of the new year, professors and graduate students began painstakingly moving their labs into the ISC. Huang says that any lost or broken pieces of equipment could stop her research in its tracks. She compares the move to an extreme version of packing up grandma’s china plates.

Huang is one of three cell biologists sharing an enormous open laboratory space on the fourth floor. Alexey Veraksa and Katherine Gibson are biologists whose research overlaps with Huang’s in interesting ways.

“There’s a lot of sharing and collaboration between my lab and the Veraksa lab,” Huang said. “Not only do students learn from Alexey and I, but they learn from each other. That’s only going to increase with the other people who are here.”

For the first time, the university departments involved in laboratory research and scientists move to ISC, research begins
New Signs of Our Campus Transformation

As professors, researchers, and staff settle into their new surroundings in the Integrated Sciences Complex, some might be tempted to take a deep breath, relax, and rest on our accomplishments. But rest isn’t in our vocabulary here at the University of Massachusetts Boston. As proud as we are of the new ISC—and you’ll see, in the pages of this issue, that we are very, very proud—we know this is just the beginning. Our new state-of-the-art research center is a hub for teaching, learning, and discovery, and it serves as a gleaming gateway to our campus. But it is just the first of many milestones in the continuing transformation of our campus.

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate will open later this month, and we are hard at work with our friends there to create collaborative learning opportunities that will benefit our students, visitors to the institute, and the community at large.

General Academic Building No. 1 is quickly taking shape adjacent to the Campus Center. Plans are also underway to build General Academic Building No. 2 on the site of the former South Parking Lot near Wheatley Hall. In addition, we are actively exploring the possibility of a public-private partnership to build a 1,000-bed residence hall on our campus—the first of two such facilities called for in our master plan. Our students have told us they want on-campus housing, and Mayor Marty Walsh has called on colleges and universities in Boston to provide more of these options to our students.

And when the weather warms up, we’ll all be celebrating the completion of the HarborWalk project. I could not be happier with the progress of our transformation, and I’m excited to share it with you in this issue of Building Connections.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley

In addition, we are working with senior Felicia Woods to set up experiments in his new lab. Robinson studies bivalves (such as mussels and oysters) that he collects from New England coastal waters. Some of his samples come from Dorchester Bay, which he can see from his desk in his ISC office.

“This is the first time I can see the ocean,” he said. “I can see what I’m working on!” Robinson believes that the new spaces will also be conducive to more undergraduate and graduate research. Woods will be conducting her honors thesis research with Robinson next semester.

“The biggest change is being revitalized. This is something that I’ve been looking forward to for the last five years,” Robinson said. “I think that’s true for everyone I run into. . . . It really has revitalized and reenergized a lot of people in really good ways, and I think that’s going to continue.”

The ISC is a highly efficient building that qualifies for LEED Silver status (see story, page 3). The building was designed by Boston-based architects Goody Clancy, constructed by Walsh Brothers, and was supervised by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. The $182 million ISC is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Higher Education Bond Bill, the UMass Building Authority, and MassDevelopment.

ISC Move (continued from page 1)

Teaching can work together in one building. The ISC is already a catalyst for cutting-edge laboratory research, with a versatile sandbox lab, biology teaching labs, and space to support faculty-led research in biology; chemistry; environmental, earth, and ocean sciences; as well as physics and psychology.

The energy inside the ISC is infectious. Faculty and graduate students check floor plans, rearrange furniture, and fret over their most precious equipment making the 1,500-foot journey from their old laboratories to the new. It’s a little like the first day of school.

Huang remarked, “On Friday, Alexey and I were both here early. He said, ‘I felt like a little kid getting new toys.’ I was here at 7:30 in the morning, not because anyone made us come in, but because we wanted to move into our new offices!”

Two floors down, Bill Robinson, a professor in the School for the Environment, is working with senior Felicia Woods to set up experiments in his new lab. Robinson studies bivalves (such as mussels and oysters) that he collects from New England coastal waters. Some of his samples come from Dorchester Bay, which he can see from his desk in his ISC office.

“This is the first time I can see the ocean,” he said. “I can see what I’m working on!”

Robinson believes that the new spaces will also be conducive to more undergraduate and graduate research. Woods will be conducting her honors thesis research with Robinson next semester.

“The biggest change is being revitalized. This is something that I’ve been looking forward to for the last five years,” Robinson said. “I think that’s true for everyone I run into. . . . It really has revitalized and reenergized a lot of people in really good ways, and I think that’s going to continue.”

The ISC is a highly efficient building that qualifies for LEED Silver status (see story, page 3). The building was designed by Boston-based architects Goody Clancy, constructed by Walsh Brothers, and was supervised by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. The $182 million ISC is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Higher Education Bond Bill, the UMass Building Authority, and MassDevelopment.

Professor Bill Robinson and senior Felicia Woods set up experiments in a new School for the Environment research laboratory.
**University Drive South Closes for Utility Relocation Work**

**Crews prepare the two-way roadway.**

**Two-way Traffic in Place**

Vehicular traffic on the UMass Boston campus is traveling in both directions for the first time, and the south portion of University Drive has been closed as construction crews continue their work on the crucial Utility Corridor Roadway and Relocation (UCRR) project.

The south side of the roadway is closed from the new Integrated Sciences Complex to the Campus Center, and drivers are now able to travel both ways on the northern side of University Drive.

The UCRR project will modernize campus utilities and provide service to all buildings on campus.

In the closed section of the roadway, crews are excavating an 80-foot-wide trench and laying down 17 miles of piping in new underground corridors. The closure of the south portion of University Drive will continue through 2016.

Many campus commuters have changed their habits in response to construction. The Bayside parking lot is being fully utilized, and shuttle buses run to campus from both the JFK-UMass MBTA station and the Bayside lot.

The university is also working with MassRIDES to allow students, faculty, and staff to participate in the NuRide rewards program and the Emergency Ride Home program, when necessary.

“We’re very pleased with the way the UMass Boston community has responded to these changes,” said Ellen O’Connor, vice chancellor for administration and finance.

“Our students, faculty, and staff realize this project is necessary to achieve our ambitious plans for the campus. It’s not an ideal scenario, but we’re all working hard to minimize the impact.”

**ISC Extends Sustainability Commitment**

The new Integrated Sciences Complex is more than a world-class research center and a sleek new gateway to UMass Boston’s Columbia Point campus—it’s also the latest example of the university’s longstanding commitment to sustainability.

The ISC, UMass Boston’s first new academic building since 1974, will be the first building on campus to earn the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Silver certification.

Bernard Dooley of Goody Clancy, the Boston-based firm that designed the ISC, worked on the sustainability aspects of the science building. When the Presidential Summit on Climate Leadership visited the university last fall, Dooley talked about the many features designed to reduce energy consumption in the ISC.

New laboratory spaces take advantage of natural “day lighting,” Dooley said, and extensive glazing along the building’s facade maximizes day lighting and views of the outdoors. Exterior sun shading has been provided for south facing offices.

Condensate, which is humidity condensed out of the air, is being reused in the cooling towers. A convection HVAC system, which uses chilled beams to heat and cool the building, is more energy-efficient than the alternatives.

A rooftop solar hot water system heats all the hot water in the building and uses excess energy to supplement the building’s heating system.

Conservation targets set for cooling, heating, air circulation, lighting, and water use in the building range from 20 to 40 percent more efficient than building-code standards.

The landscaping design also calls for more than 25 percent of the site to be green open space, providing a recreation area and allowing absorption runoff. The new meadow facing Dorchester Bay was regraded to more closely resemble the Harbor Islands. It will contain native species that require low irrigation and maintenance. In addition, the design features a meadow amphitheater classroom.

In the ISC central hub, a kiosk will show real-time data on how these sustainability measures are translating into actual energy savings. The information will also be accessible online.
Integrated Sciences Complex Timeline

**June 2011**
Groundbreaking ceremony

**Summer 2011**
Cleared site and drove 320 concrete piles

**Winter 2011–Spring 2012**
Erected structural steel, placed steel decking and waterproofing

**Topping-off ceremony**

**Fall 2012–Fall 2013**
Installed roof

**Winter 2013–Spring 2014**
Placed granite, limestone, and glass

**Installed signature glass hub**

**Fall 2014**
Completed interior

**Tested systems**

**Toured ISC**
Summer–Fall 2011
Placed foundation
Constructed service and supply tunnel
Installed utilities

Spring–Fall 2012
Constructed building exterior
Installed electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems

Spring–Summer 2014
Constructed interior walls, ceilings
Outfitted 80 labs

Night lights at the new building

Construction Complete
New Academic Building Rising on Campus

Construction crews are making major progress on UMass Boston’s newest academic building, which will house the arts and performing arts departments and include 26 general classrooms. Lower left, a rendering of a dance studio that will boast one of the most enviable views in Boston. Lower right, a black box theater will be located off the first floor.
Planning and design for the $86 million General Academic Building No. 2 (GAB No. 2) is now underway, with an anticipated opening in 2018. GAB No. 2 will be located on a portion of the former South Parking Lot adjacent to Wheatley Hall.

GAB No. 2 will include many new general-purpose classrooms, student study and lounge spaces, a cafe, and academic and office spaces for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This new academic building will have the physical and functional flexibility to accommodate a variety of other uses and will further improve the learning, teaching, and working environments on campus as the university’s enrollment continues to grow.

Final siting and design of the building, which is currently underway, will capitalize on dramatic views of the harbor, complement the adjacent structures, and strengthen important pedestrian and visual axes identified in the campus master plan. The building project will be funded through the Higher Education Bond Bill and managed by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. International architecture firm NBBJ is designing the building.

Renovations to the existing academic buildings were originally envisioned in the 2007 campus master plan as a parallel effort to the construction of new facilities. Plans include $70 million in upgrades, primarily in Wheatley and McCormack halls. The renovation project will focus on improving the overall functionality and efficiency of space, in addition to improving the experience for students, faculty, and staff in these buildings, which will make up nearly a third of the university’s academic space.

Upgrades to building systems, public areas, classrooms, and departmental and student spaces will extend the functional life of these important buildings. These renovations are also critical to accomplishing the larger goals set forth in the master plan—to provide the academic capacity to support incremental enrollment growth to 18,000 students, and allow inhabitants of the existing Science Center to be relocated in preparation for the demolition of the substructure and completion of our new central campus quadrangle.

Hill International has been selected by the UMass Building Authority as the project management firm. Cannon Design will be working with the university and the project team to plan, program and design the new building.

In December, the UMass Building Authority released a request for qualifications from real estate developers interested in entering into a public-private partnership to build a 1,000-bed residence hall on the UMass Boston campus.

The 25-year campus master plan, adopted in 2007, calls for the construction of residence halls on campus to accommodate 2,000 beds. Half of these are included in the first phase of master plan construction, now under way. On-campus housing will enhance the university’s efforts to advance student success, increase opportunities for students to participate in research activities and community engagement, and support a financial model for the continued transformation of our campus. The UMass Building Authority is expected to issue a request for proposals later this year.

Construction updates are posted on the UMass Boston website, available on the homepage at www.umb.edu. To view the construction webcams or sign up for updates to be delivered to your email inbox, go to www.umb.edu/construction. If you have questions or concerns, contact UMass Boston Customer Service at 617.287.4000 or construction@umb.edu.
Crews have installed a concrete wall and placed tons of granite blocks, many recovered from the Big Dig’s Fort Point Channel area, as part of the HarborWalk improvement project. The blocks are being used to stabilize the previously eroded shoreline along the HarborWalk as it approaches the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and the HarborPoint Apartments. This section of the HarborWalk will reopen this summer.