Construction on Second Academic Building Begins

From left, UMass Building Authority Executive Director Katherine Craven, Provost Winston Langley, Student Trustee Alexis Marvel, State Representative Nick Collins, Angela and Chancellor J. Keith Motley, State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, State Representative Marty Walsh, UMass President Robert Caret, and UMass Board of Trustees Chair Henry Thomas III at the GAB No. 1 groundbreaking.

UMass Boston broke ground on a $113 million, approximately 190,000-square-foot general academic building on February 27, in the former North Parking Lot adjacent to the Campus Center.

General Academic Building (GAB) No. 1 is the second new academic facility in UMass Boston’s 25-year campus master plan. The Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC), opening next fall, is the first new academic building to be constructed on campus since 1974.

Addressing an audience of elected officials, construction and design partners, students, faculty, staff, administrators, members of the UMass Board of Trustees, and system President Robert Caret, Chancellor J. Keith Motley said that the start of construction on the new facility symbolizes a new chapter in UMass Boston’s history.

“What this signifies is progress,” Motley said. “What this signifies is a trajectory of further growth and revitalization.”

State Representative Marty Walsh credited Motley for his leadership in achieving a balance between enthusiasm for growth and expansion, and retaining the university’s values.

Student Trustee Alexis Marvel explained that from her perspective, GAB No. 1 repren...
Summer Construction Season Is Upon Us

Now that it’s summer and perfect outdoor working weather, I hear what has become a familiar sound on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus: the clank-clank-clank of pile drivers on the site of General Academic Building (GAB) No. 1.

Two years ago, the same sound filled the summer air from the direction of what is now the Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC), where crews are currently working on what will be a beautiful interior, full of research spaces and classrooms for our students. It wasn’t that long ago that the ISC was just an idea, then a steel skeleton. Today, it’s a solid building scheduled to open its doors next fall. Now that we’ve broken ground on GAB No. 1, I look forward to similarly speedy progress.

In the weeks and months ahead, there are sure to be disruptions to our daily routines as crews begin work on the Utility Corridor and Road Relocation project, routing our roads and utility conduits where they make the most sense for traffic flow and to accommodate our new buildings. I encourage the university community and visitors to our campus to take the long view of this construction and trust, like I do, that this project will quickly flow from idea, to temporary inconvenience, to elegant solution.

You can trust that our master planning and communications teams will keep the community informed about the latest plans for construction, especially when it affects the way you navigate our campus, through updates to www.umb.edu/construction, emails, social media, and this newsletter.

In this issue, you’ll get the big picture on the groundbreaking we hosted in February for GAB No. 1; you’ll learn more about how we’re preparing for the Utility Corridor and Road Relocation project; you’ll join us in bidding a fond farewell to Huru, the steel sculpture we displayed on campus for 16 years; and you’ll see the wonderful results of our recent gymnasium renovation.

I’m grateful to the University of Massachusetts Boston students, faculty, staff, and community members like you who have helped make these changes possible.

Construction on Second Academic Building Begins (continued from page 1)

sents an investment in students.
“For students, it symbolizes that the hard work they’re putting into this education and degree has weight. It symbolizes that we’re worth it,” she said.

When the doors of GAB No. 1 open in 2015, students, faculty, and staff will have access to chemistry teaching laboratories, studio space and recital venues for fine arts and the performing arts, study and lounge areas, a café, and nearly 2,000 seats in 26 classrooms. New offices for both faculty and staff will also be located in the building.

The busy GAB No. 1 construction site is now populated with construction trailers and equipment. Crews are excavating, doing utility work, and driving piles for the foundation of the new building. The site is being elevated to protect against potential sea level rise.

The GAB No. 1 project is financed through and managed by the UMass Building Authority (UMBA). Joslin Lesser Associates is UMBA’s project manager. Gilbane Building Company is serving as the project’s construction manager. Designed by Wilson Architects, the new building incorporates many sustainable design strategies that should make it eligible for LEED Silver certification.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley

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Building Projects Promote Diverse Workforce

As the Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) construction project at UMass Boston continues to make progress, the labor access and opportunity numbers for Boston residents, minorities, and female workers have consistently met or exceeded the stated expectations.

Boston residents make up 50 percent of the nearly 700 ISC jobs, the project labor agreement (PLA) target. Thirty-five percent of ISC workers are Dorchester residents. Thirty percent of ISC skilled trades are minorities, exceeding the 25 percent target, and 10 percent are female workers, meeting the goal. Six percent of the workforce are veterans.

The goals were set through the all-union PLA signed in 2010 by the two groups overseeing the construction of new facilities on the UMass Boston campus: the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and the UMass Building Authority.

Three hundred jobs have been created for construction of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. As construction proceeds on General Academic Building No. 1 and the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project, more jobs are being added.

Union members can learn more about job opportunities at UMass Boston at massbuildingtrades.org or by emailing Linda Shaughnessy at lshaughnessy@walshbrothers.com.

Diversity Manual Cites Integrated Sciences Complex

The work underway on UMass Boston’s Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) is cited in a new manual for construction owners, managers, contractors, and building trade unions that want to ensure a diverse workforce.

Susan Moir, director of UMass Boston’s Labor Resource Center, is one of the co-conveners of the Policy Group on Tradeswomen’s Issues, whose manual, Finishing the Job: Best Practices for a Diverse Workforce in the Construction Industry, was published earlier this year. The manual is a companion piece to a 2011 report, Unfinished Business: Building Equality for Women in the Construction Trades, coauthored by Moir and Christa Kelleher, interim director of UMass Boston’s Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy.

The new manual provides checklists of best practices especially designed for five groups: owners and developers, construction managers and general contractors, subcontractors, building trades unions, and community-based organizations.

“Giving high-paid career opportunities to women and people of color who are our neighbors is the right thing to do,” Moir said.
University Prepares for Utility and Roadway Work

In 2015, after utility and roadway improvements are completed, the campus will have a new road system with bike paths and sidewalks.

Work on the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation (UCRR) project, critical to the renewal of the UMass Boston campus, is scheduled to begin this summer and is expected to affect campus traffic and parking for the next two years.

Campus utilities, which are currently housed in the garage under the plaza, will be moved to a new corridor beneath the reconfigured campus roadway so they can be connected to new and existing buildings. This project will also allow the university to remove the center plaza area and build a greener, more inviting campus.

University officials are now determining how to best balance construction demands with the needs of the campus community and neighbors. They are also looking at how disruption can be minimized.

Construction crews are preparing to install underground mechanical vaults in several locations, which will result in changes. Two parking lots are closing: the short-term lot between McCormack and Wheatley halls, and Lot A, between the track and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate construction site. The short-term lot will reopen in the fall, but Lot A will remain closed.

In addition, the section of University Drive North between the General Academic Building No. 1 construction site and the Massachusetts Archives will close throughout the summer and fall, and traffic will be detoured.

In the fall, work on the UCRR project will continue, along with the lot and road closures. Approximately 50 spaces in Parking Lot C will also be closed off.

The new utility corridor will include 17 miles of underground piping and duct banks to provide reliable and redundant utility services to all campus facilities. Once fully rebuilt, University Drive will be a two-way street that will improve overall traffic circulation. University Drive North will be relocated to become an extension of Mount Vernon Street. It will provide direct access to future UMass Boston facilities as well as neighboring institutions such as the JFK Library, Edward M. Kennedy Institute, and Massachusetts Archives.

To find out more about the different phases of the UCRR Project, visit www.umb.edu/the_university/masterplan/ucrr. 🏢.
Upgrading the Utility Plant

Initial work on the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project has begun out of sight, in the university’s central utility plant. Modifications and upgrades are underway as crews prepare the utility source to feed the future corridor. A new chiller, boiler, hot water pumps, valves, pipes, concrete pads, and other materials are being installed.

A 12,500-pound hatch was removed to allow installation of a new chiller in the utility plant.
Sculpture Moves from Construction Site to San Francisco

_Huru_, the imposing steel sculpture that greeted campus visitors since 1997 from its site near University Drive, was recently moved to San Francisco.

Sculptor Mark di Suvero and a team of contractors disassembled the 55-foot tall, 36,000-pound structure in late April. It joined seven other di Suvero works in an outdoor exhibit at Crissy Field, in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge.

_Huru_ had long been an anchor of UMass Boston’s Arts on the Point sculpture collection curated by professor Paul Tucker. The collection also includes di Suvero’s _Sunflowers for Vincent_, installed here in 2011 near the entrance to campus.

The university will use the space vacated by _Huru_ to house underground utilities as part of its Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project. After the utility work is completed, the area will become green space abutting the new Integrated Sciences Complex.

Construction Updates

Scan this QR code to visit the construction website.

Construction updates are posted on the UMass Boston website, available on the homepage at www.umb.edu. To view the construction webcam or sign up for updates to be delivered to your email box, 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.

UMass Boston is sporting a newly renovated gymnasium with a seating capacity of 3,000. To celebrate, the Division of Athletics and Recreation, Special Projects and Programs hosted a re-opening reception and double-header basketball game on February 5. The fully accessible facility now has a new maple hardwood floor, upgraded bleachers and entryways, and specialty lighting and audiovisual systems.
Soil Management Becomes Construction Priority

Excavation on the General Academic Building No. 1 site is underway.

Construction projects always involve moving soil. The Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation (UCRR) project alone will generate about 195,000 tons of excavated earth. Here at UMass Boston, built on the former Columbia Point landfill, the excavated material includes not only soil, but also a variety of other materials.

“UMass Boston is committed to safely and securely handling soil and excavated material on campus,” said Vice Chancellor Ellen O’Connor, who oversees the Environmental, Health & Safety Department that monitors this process.

Starting this summer, construction crews will set up soil processing and handling areas on campus. Parking Lot A, adjacent to the Massachusetts Archives building and the new Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, will close this summer as crews set up one such soil processing center.

Environmental firms working for the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, UMass Building Authority, and construction managers already have professionals examining and characterizing the excavated material on a regular basis. Depending on its composition, most of the soil will probably stay on site for reuse. It’s estimated that approximately 20 percent may not be reusable and will be trucked to appropriate disposal sites.

Some of the soil will be re-used to help elevate campus building sites to address potential sea-level rise caused by global climate change. The General Academic Building No. 1 construction site will be raised approximately five feet. Soil that covered the former landfill on Columbia Point is being excavated and stockpiled for later reuse. Crews are digging deeper into one area of the site to accommodate a 500-seat auditorium in the new building.

Eventually, the project will be capped with two feet of clean topsoil for landscaping and plants.

Punch List

HarborWalk Permitting Underway

Required environmental permitting is taking place this summer to prepare for a fall construction start on the HarborWalk Improvements and Shoreline Stabilization project. The project, managed by the UMass Building Authority, will restore and stabilize the 800-foot stretch of the HarborWalk on the north side of campus between the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum and Harbor Point Apartments.

Windows Installed in Campus Center

Thirty-two glass panels on the second and third floors of the Campus Center office wing are being installed to reduce noise interference between floors. The work is expected to be completed this summer.

Housing Studied

UMass Boston hired a consulting firm to assist with creating a business plan for residence halls on campus. Brailsford & Dunlavey conducted a student housing demand study earlier this year and has held meetings on campus to discuss and share preliminary data with students, staff, and faculty.
Construction has progressed on the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. When completed in mid-2014, it will be a significant new educational resource on campus. UMass Boston students and faculty will enjoy preferential access to the institute’s classes, programs, and digital library.