UMass Boston Celebrates
Ribbon Cutting at University Hall

UMass Boston cut the ribbon on its state-of-the-art $130 million University Hall on October 17, 2016, celebrating the second new academic building to open on campus in the past two years. The four-story, 190,000-square-foot facility provides nearly 2,000 seats of classroom space, along with specialized studios and exhibition spaces for the visual and performing arts.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley was joined by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, UMass President Marty Meehan, UMass Building Authority Executive Director Patricia Filippone, state Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, local and state officials, and more than 300 students, faculty, staff, and alumni for the ceremony in University Hall’s 500-seat auditorium.

“This building is a testament to this campus and its legacy,” Motley said. “It is a physical manifestation of our investment in our students, their success, and the future of Boston, the commonwealth, and the world beyond.”

The copper-cladded building, which sits at the northeast corner of campus by Dorchester Bay, also boasts 26 classrooms, a 150-seat recital hall, and a black box theater with adjacent costume and scene shops. In addition, it houses chemistry labs, study areas, and specialized instructional spaces.

“I want to congratulate UMass on this new facility, and I want to thank UMass for everything
Being Here Has Never Been Better

As the calendar turned to 2017, many of us tried to keep our list of resolutions for the year to come. Maybe we wanted to learn a new skill or strengthen an important relationship. Whatever our specific goals, we must realize that our journey to achieve them will not be without hurdles. Hard work is rarely glamorous.

So it is at UMass Boston. If you stop by our harborside campus for a visit this new year, you may find the surroundings are different than you remember. The roadways have been redesigned. Construction crews are preparing the site of our first residence hall and work is beginning on our first parking garage.

Our campus is in the midst of a transformation, and our students, faculty, staff, and neighbors are experiencing the changes together. Projects like these inevitably

University Hall Ribbon Cutting

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you do for the city of Boston,” Walsh said. “In our challenges that we have in our city, there’s one common bond that helps all the time – that’s UMass Boston.”

University Hall opened for classes earlier this year, and is already a favorite study spot for students, who flock to the atrium to take in stunning views of the harbor, grab a snack at the Beacon Café, or take advantage of the sustainable design strategies and environmental responsibility measures, such as the use of energy efficient building materials.

The Integrated Sciences Complex and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate as the newest buildings to open on campus – all within the past two years.

Funded by UMBIA and designed by Wilson Architects, the new building incorporates many sustainable design strategies and will seek LEED Gold certification. Gilbane Building Company served as the project’s construction manager.

“Oftentimes I’ll hear people say, ‘Well, why do UMass Boston students and faculty need to have world-class facilities and buildings?’ You know what the reason is? Because UMass Boston has world-class students and faculty, and they deserve the best,” Meehan said.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley present challenges, but I think I speak for all of us when I say that being at UMass Boston has never been better.

The evidence is right in front of us: two gorgeous, new academic buildings that are the envy of our university peers throughout Greater Boston and across the country.

An expanding research enterprise provides faculty and students with the facilities and financial support needed to pursue major breakthroughs. Innovative performing arts spaces that bolster our student life experience offer new opportunities for artistic collaboration. And the list goes on.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, we are focused on the great things already happening at UMass Boston, and the important additions still to come.

Happy New Year,

Chancellor J. Keith Motley

Integrated Sciences Complex Earns LEED Gold Certification

No matter the season, it’s green year-round at UMass Boston thanks to ongoing efforts to create an environmentally sustainable campus, including the newly LEED Gold-certified Integrated Sciences Complex.

The university’s commitment to sustainability is reflected in the Princeton Review, which has included UMass Boston in its Green Colleges Guide for the seventh year in a row. The publication reviewed more than 2,000 colleges and universities nationwide, but chose only 361 institutions for inclusion in the guide.

The Integrated Sciences Complex became the first campus building to achieve LEED Gold certification last fall.

UMass Boston is seeking the same designation for University Hall, which celebrated its grand opening in October 2016. LEED standards rate buildings on a variety of environmental responsibility measures, such as the use of energy efficient building design and materials, renewable energy sources and technologies, and recyclable and locally available materials.

UMass Boston also received the 2016 Excellence in Commuter Options (ECCO) Leadership Award and a 2016 Spotlight Award for Walkability. UMass Boston participates in an alternative commuting rewards program, the Hubway bike-sharing program, and an Emergency Ride Home program.

UMass Boston is part of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a network of colleges collectively addressing global warming through the reduction of emissions and the development of technologies that can help stabilize the climate. In March 2016, UMass Boston was one of 91 charter signatories to the new ACUPCC Integrated Climate Commitment (Carbon Neutrality + Resilience).

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Parking Garage Construction Starts

UMass Boston has started construction on the campus’s first free-standing parking garage as envisioned in the campus master plan. The new garage will be located along University Drive West near the Monan Park baseball complex.

The 500,000-square-foot garage will house up to 1,400 parking spaces on eight levels including dedicated spaces for carpoolers, electric vehicles, and persons with disabilities. A high-capacity indoor bicycle storage room will be located on the ground floor. Design details are being finalized on the facade, which will be enhanced with colorful elements.

The garage is designed to handle peak commuter traffic during morning and evening hours. The layout will include three vehicular entrances and three exits, two pairs of elevators, and stairs for pedestrians. Traffic at garage exits will move more quickly thanks to the introduction of validation via pay-on-foot machines, with payments collected before drivers enter their vehicles. Electronic smart signs will notify drivers of available parking on different levels.

Site preparation, including soil removal, has begun. Crews will drive more than 300 piles up to 200 feet to bedrock throughout the winter. Vibration monitoring will take place. Soil management procedures will adhere to monitoring plans developed with the university’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety and the Department of Environmental Protection.

The garage is targeted to open in approximately one year. The UMass Building Authority is financing the $71 million project, which is designed by Fennick McCredie Architecture and will be built by Suffolk Construction. The owner’s project manager is Skanska.

Other elements of the garage project have been planned and designed, and will go before the Board of Trustees for approval soon. These include a pedestrian bridge, a separate building for the Department of Public Safety, and amenities supporting the nearby athletics facilities.

Fox Point Dock Improvements Underway

The Fox Point dock area, the university’s waterfront research and recreation area, is getting a facelift as part of the 25-year campus master plan. A new dock system will replace the current 35-year-old setup.

The UMass Building Authority awarded a $1.5 million construction contract to pay for work that began in late fall and will continue through early 2017. Changes will include the addition of a fully ADA-compatible multi-level ramp system able to accommodate mobility-impaired individuals at all tide levels.

Waterfront recreation will get a boost with enhancements such as a built-in, low freeboard sail and kayak float; secure indoor storage space for aquatic gear such as life vests and paddles; and a large 12-by-40-foot indoor instructional space. Faculty and student researchers will have secure, indoor storage space for marine science projects, electrical power, and the capability for future flow-through water systems.

The larger commercial outboard floats built into the new dock system offer the potential for water taxi service to the Harbor Islands and downtown Boston. And the university’s Marine Operations office will be moved out of the substructure to a new separate building for the Department of Public Safety and amenities supporting the nearby athletics facilities.

Utility Corridor and Roadway Work Ramps Up

Nearly 100 workers continue to work on the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project, installing utilities to serve the campus and neighbors as the JFK Library, Edward M. Kennedy Institute, and the Massachusetts State Archives.

As new sections of the project are completed, campus visitors will see soil stockpiles, fences and Jersey barriers, construction equipment, and trucks give way to a complete two-way road with bicycle lanes, tree-lined sidewalks, and convenient HarborWalk access. Campus utilities will be moved out of the substructure to a new utility loop running under the roadway.

The campus community and Columbia Point neighbors are feeling the impact of the work, with roadways and pedestrian access routes being adjusted to accommodate construction. The parking, pedestrian, and roadway changes this semester have focused on clearing the way for the residence hall construction near the entrance to Mt. Vernon Street. More than 20 utility lines were either installed or relocated in this area.

Crews continue to connect utility systems in existing campus buildings to the new utility corridor. The new parking garage and residence hall will be tied into the new corridor as part of the construction process.

The University Drive South and a portion of University Drive East, which have been closed for two years, are expected to reopen to traffic this spring. After that, a portion of University Drive West from the Integrated Sciences Complex to the softball field is scheduled to close in order to install new utilities in that area and provide room for the construction of the parking garage. Next, University Drive East in front of the Campus Center will be reconfigured.

Work will continue through 2018 to align University Drive North with Mt. Vernon Street, complete University Drive West, establish drop-offs, and finalize landscaping.

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Punch List

- **Clark Waterproofing Underway**
  The gym roof was replaced in a six-week project last fall, the first step in the Clark Athletic Center’s $2 million project. Also, crews removed bricks and installed temporary waterproofing on the south facade of the ice rink near the Service and Supply Lot. The project will continue through spring with waterproofing, and bricks will be reinstalled in this area. Replacement skylights, aluminum window system, improved lighting, and doors will be installed near the exterior stairs by the Clark circle.

- **Nantucket Field Station Laboratory Repairs**
  Repairs to UMass Boston’s Nantucket field station and teaching laboratory on Nantucket were completed last summer. The UMass Building Authority project reconfigured the HVAC and other building systems and installing new lab benches and an accessible restroom. Deteriorated wood siding, windows, and framing were replaced in compliance with island-wide historic district requirements.

Bayside Demo Continues

Three exposition halls and their base slabs at the former Bayside Expo Center have now been demolished. The fourth hall is currently being taken down. Plans are under review for expansion and improvement of the parking area.
From left, UMass Building Authority representative Karen Courtney, freshman Ursula Barth, Undergraduate Student Senate President Ciro Castaldi, former UMass Building Authority Chairman Philip Johnston, Secretary of Education James Peyser, Chancellor J. Keith Motley and Angela Motley, alumnus Bill Walczak, Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, Representative Nick Collins, and Senator Walter Timilty pose for a photo at the December 1 event.