To the Board:

In what has been a historic winter for the city of Boston, the University of Massachusetts Boston has continued to flourish, celebrating new partnerships, opening a new building, announcing new programs, and continuing to attract new students to our harborside campus.

In late February, we welcomed 300 prospective students and their family members to campus for the first of what will now be two Welcome Day events held during the spring semester. This additional early action Welcome Day is part of a new strategic plan undertaken by the Division of Enrollment Management to enhance our ability to compete for the best and brightest students.

As we look forward to many of our spring events, I invite you to review the progress we’ve made during the last quarter. Of particular interest:

- UMass Boston earned a coveted community engagement honor (page 8).
- Beacons men’s basketball Head Coach Charlie Titus, profiled in The Boston Globe for his work as being more than just a coach, retired from coaching after a remarkable 40-year career (page 9).
- The spectacular Integrated Sciences Complex officially opened to researchers, faculty, and students (page 9).

I hope you enjoy this account of our progress, and thank you for your committed service to our university.

—J. Keith Motley, Chancellor

Mayor’s Symposium Included in Honors College Curriculum

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Chancellor J. Keith Motley, and Provost Winston Langley signed a memorandum of understanding establishing the Mayor’s Symposium course as an annual offering in the Honors College.

The students spent time in the Upham’s Corner neighborhood interviewing community members, and researched similar situations elsewhere. Associate Professor of Political Science Erin O’Brien, who taught the class, also brought in guest speakers, including former Governor Michael Dukakis, former Senate President William Bulger, and Boston’s economic development chief John Barros to provide students with a political context as they researched the issue.

The students’ ideas ranged from using the theater as a rental facility to turning it into an arts and cultural destination that would meet the needs of all community constituents.
University Joins Innovative Higher Education Collaborative

Former Governor Deval Patrick joined leaders from UMass Boston, Massasoit Community College (MCC), and Bridgewater State University (BSU) in late November to announce $21.5 million in state funds in support of the renovation of a Main Street property in downtown Brockton that will become a new higher education campus.

The renovation marks the first stage of the Downtown Brockton Education Collaborative, a first-of-its-kind collaboration among the commonwealth, the city of Brockton, and the three higher education institutions. The downtown Brockton higher education campus will provide students the opportunity to participate in programs from MCC, BSU, and UMass Boston under one roof. It is expected to serve approximately 1,000 students.

New Strategy to Yield High-Caliber Students

The Division of Enrollment Management has launched a new strategy to grow enrollment and compete for high-caliber students who desire a public research university experience in Boston. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions introduced Early Action and Regular Decision deadlines, employed a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software tool to track and personalize communications, added an assistant director of veterans recruitment, and increased out-of-state recruitment travel. The office also launched a pilot program providing $10,000 in out-of-state merit scholarships.

Introduction of the Early Action December 1 deadline resulted in an increase in undergraduate admission applications, significantly more completed applications, and the opportunity to make decisions on these high-quality applicants as early as December 19. Undergraduate Admissions hosted a Welcome Day for accepted students in February, two months earlier than in previous years. This strategy also allowed the Office of Merit-Based Scholarships to offer 319 accepted students full Chancellor’s Scholarships and 109 out-of-state students merit scholarships as of the end of February, prior to the March 1 regular decision deadline.

With 1,831 prospective students knowing of their acceptance earlier in the admissions cycle, the university is poised to compete more effectively with its peers nationally and internationally for the best and brightest students.

College of Management Introduces the Professional MBA

The College of Management has introduced the Professional MBA, offering students the opportunity to complete their MBA over 16 months by taking courses on Saturdays and online. Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2015 semester.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

UMass Boston Earns UTeach Grant

The National Math and Science Initiative, in collaboration with the UTeach Institute, selected UMass Boston to receive a five-year, $1.45 million grant to launch the UTeach STEM Teacher Preparation Program.

The UTeach program recruits college students studying STEM subjects into secondary teaching careers by enabling them to receive both a degree in the major and a teaching certification without additional time or cost. This spring, current university STEM majors are being recruited to join the program for the fall semester, when the first of nine UTeach classes will be offered.

Arthur Eisenkraft, director of the Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC) and distinguished professor of science education, and Dean Andrew Grosovsky of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) are co-principal investigators on the grant, which will be administered jointly by CSM and COSMIC.
New Urban Planning and Community Development Master's Degree Offered

UMass Boston will begin offering a master's program in Urban Planning and Community Development with the fall 2015 semester. The two-year program will offer courses in a wide range of disciplines, from public policy and economics to renewable energy and GIS. Faculty members from several colleges will teach in the program, which is housed in the School for the Environment.

UMass Boston has offered courses in urban studies since the early 1980s, but this will be the university’s first graduate-level degree in urban planning. The School for the Environment began accepting applications in January, and expects to have 15 to 20 students enrolled by fall.

Women in Science Club Takes Students to IBM

Nearly 100 UMass Boston students visited IBM’s Cambridge Innovation Center in early December to hear a panel of speakers talk about careers in research, technology, and business. The all-women panel included Frances West, chief accessibility officer at IBM and a former honorary degree recipient. Students also lunched with IBM staff and researchers, taking the opportunity to ask for advice about internships, classes, and entry-level jobs.

The field trip to IBM was organized by Wei Ding, professor of computer science and faculty advisor for the club, who arranged the visit as a way to expose students to possible career paths in a world-class environment.

$8.3 million Award Supports Biologist’s Collaborative Research

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, part of the National Institutes of Health, has awarded UMass Boston and the University of Wisconsin-Madison $8.3 million over five years to create a research center that will advance knowledge in the treatment of benign urologic disorders and diseases through the George M. O’Brien Urology Cooperative Research Centers Program.

The award will support the research of UMass Boston biologist and Alton J. Brann Endowed Distinguished Professor in Science and Mathematics Jill Macoska, who is also the director of the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy. Macoska hopes to uncover new ways to diagnose and treat an aging population in need of more targeted urological care. She will collaborate with several faculty members from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Client Wins MassChallenge Prize

For the fifth consecutive year, a client of the College of Management’s Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) has won a cash prize from MassChallenge, the state’s largest business accelerator.

Sano LLC co-founders Paul Hayre and Jeff Farmer flank MSBDC Regional Director Mark Allio (center) during the presentation of the $50,000 MassChallenge Prize.

Sano LLC co-founders Paul Hayre, an MSBDC client, and Jeff Farmer received a $50,000 prize from MassChallenge. MSBDC Regional Director Mark Allio worked with Hayre on honing his business development and funding strategy.

Sano offers a disposable, low-cost, point-of-care diagnostic platform that tests enzymes in chronic wounds, enabling medical professionals to personalize treatment, promote faster healing, and reduce treatment costs.

Researchers Benefitting from Sanofi Genzyme Fellowships

Twenty graduate and undergraduate Sanofi Genzyme Research Fellows are working on advanced research in life sciences in the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM), thanks to funding through the Sanofi Genzyme Fellowship program. The program was made possible last year when Sanofi and its Cambridge-based biotechnology company, Genzyme, generously pledged $1 million toward CSM student success programs.

Examples of student research thus far include a project using big data to help doctors discover new cancer subtypes and work designed to discover why some oysters develop colonies of bacteria that make people sick. The fellowship program helps ensure that students have research opportunities at every level of their education and enhances students’ prospects for pursuing careers in STEM fields.
Scientist Uses Coral to Reveal Connection between Climate Trends and El Niño

Jessica Carilli, assistant professor of coastal geochemistry in the School for the Environment, uses coral to learn about climate conditions in the Pacific Ocean. She is the lead author of a paper published in *Paleoceanography* last November that reveals how the tropical Pacific climate has changed to increase the chance of El Niño conditions in the future.

Carilli has been studying coral from the Gilbert Islands in the Republic of Kiribati, an island nation in the central tropical Pacific Ocean. Her work contributes to a network of coral records throughout the Pacific that scientists can use to examine the climate of a region over time. The Kiribati coral indicate that conditions have changed over the past half-century, and that the Pacific is primed for El Niño events.

Researchers Bring in More Funding in FY14

Faculty, students, and alumni attending UMass Boston’s annual research luncheon in mid-December learned that university researchers received $60.15 million in funding in FY14—a five percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

Major New Grants Awarded to UMass Boston Faculty

- Associate Professor Laura Bozeman of the School of Global Inclusion and Social Development was awarded a five-year, $1,249,656 grant by the U.S. Department of Education in support of “Collaborative Partnerships in Orientation & Mobility.”

- Interim Director of the Center for Survey Research Lee Hargraves was awarded a $930,431 grant by Yale University to support the ongoing “Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS IV).” The National Institutes of Health is the prime sponsor.

- Research Scientist John Steinberg of the Department of Anthropology was awarded a three-year, $682,893 grant by the National Science Foundation for the project “Colonization and Christianity: The Development of Viking Age and Medieval Hierarchy.”

- Professor Zhongping Lee in the School for the Environment was awarded a three-year, $724,715 grant by the National Aero and Space Administration for “Development of a New Solar Radiation and Primary Products from MODIS.”

- Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics Andrew Grosovsky was awarded a five-year, $1,345,370 grant by the U.S. Department of Education to support the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program.
International Relations Students Earn Diversity and Inclusion Award for Setting up Children’s Library in Rwanda

Parfait Gasana and Wade Cedar, students in the graduate program in international relations at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, won a 2014 Diversity and Inclusion (DANDI) Award in December for their dedication to civil and human rights and social justice.

The classmates collected books and funds to develop the Kigali Reading Center. They then launched a CrowdSource campaign to collect funds to build bookshelves. They also developed a YouTube video to promote fundraising that caught the attention of many in Boston, including Adrian Walker, who wrote a Boston Globe column about their efforts.

With airline tickets donated by the McCormack School, Gasana and Cedar traveled to Kigali last August to spread awareness, build relationships with NGOs, purchase furniture, and hire a management team to operate the library and its programs. On August 25, the library opened and immediately began serving more than 50 children.

CONTINUE A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

Journalist Soledad O’Brien Visits Campus on ‘Black in America’ Tour

In early February, journalist Soledad O’Brien visited UMass Boston as part of her “Black in America 2015” tour, showing clips from her CNN documentary and leading a panel discussion on the issue of race in America and, specifically, police brutality. Assistant Professor of Africana Studies Aminah Pilgrim participated in the panel, and rapper and hip-hop producer Warren G. joined the conversation via Skype. More than 250 students and faculty attended the event.

Boston Health Chief and Harvard Pilgrim CEO Examine Health Disparities

Felix G. Arroyo, chief of health and human services for the city of Boston and a former city councilor, joined Eric Schultz, president and CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Chancellor Motley for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences’ “Set Sail for Success” panel in late October.

All three panelists noted the unfortunate reality of health disparities in Boston—the differences in care and outcomes experienced by people according to their socio-economic conditions. Arroyo said that Boston has addressed the problem by encouraging the development of a thriving network of community health centers that can compete with prestigious hospitals.
Poet Jill McDonough Wins Lannan Fellowship

Assistant Professor of English Jill McDonough received the 2014 Lannan Literary Fellowship in Poetry, which honors English language writers whose work is of exceptional quality. Writers cannot apply for the fellowship, nor are candidates made aware that they are under consideration in advance.

McDonough plans to use a portion of the award from the Lannan Foundation to complete her current project, “Reaper.” This series of poems examines issues around secrecy, technology, and the military. McDonough is the winner of three Pushcart prizes and the author of three books of poetry.

Women’s and Gender Studies Department Celebrates 40 Years

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department in the College of Liberal Arts celebrated its 40th anniversary on November 1, with a multi-generational gathering of more than 60 alumnae, current and retired faculty, and friends, and stimulating discussions that featured a panel of current students and recent graduates.

UMass Boston was among the earliest universities to see the need for a new curriculum focused on women and gender. By 1969, a cluster of 13 courses was being offered at the university’s former Park Square campus. After moving to its current harbor location in 1974, Women’s Studies was quickly approved as an interdisciplinary concentration.

Professor Rosanna DeMarco Accepts the 2015 Excellence in Research Award

Chair and Professor of Nursing Rosanna DeMarco has been named the 2015 recipient of the Excellence in Research Award given by the New England Regional Black Nurses Association. DeMarco was recognized for her community service and her research, which focuses on the use of community-based participatory research to identify culturally relevant and gender-sensitive prevention interventions with women at risk and living with HIV infection.

Dropkick Murphys Frontman Donates $10,000 to Joiner Institute

Rockband Dropkick Murphys’ frontman Ken Casey gave $10,000 to the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences in January, in support of the institute’s community outreach programs for veterans.

The outreach programs include writer’s workshops, mentoring programs for those veterans involved with the criminal justice system, and music therapy programs for both male and female combat veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and substance abuse.

Boston Teachers College Alumnus Establishes Scholarship Fund with $440,000 Gift

The late Nancy J. Lake ’53 established an endowed scholarship fund with a gift of $440,000, prior to her untimely passing in early March. Lake had established the fund in memory of her late sister Mary Lou Roumacher, who often accompanied Lake to UMass Boston functions, including the Boston Teachers College Brunch and Lampus Luncheon.

Lake taught for many years in the Boston Public Schools. The Nancy and Mary Lou Roumacher Scholarship Fund will provide financial aid to students enrolled full time at UMass Boston in the College of Education and Human Development who are interested in becoming science or math teachers in the Boston metropolitan area.

University to Establish the Deval L. Patrick Chair at Annual Gala

Former Governor Deval L. Patrick will be honored by UMass Boston at its Golden Gala in June. Proceeds from the gala will be used to endow the Deval L. Patrick Chair in Social, Political, and Economic Innovation, which will address critical social and economic inequities that impact the quality of life in the commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

The Deval L. Patrick Chair is expected to be held by a leading scholar who will engage in cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and advance knowledge of how government, business, and nonprofit organizations can foster innovation to impact areas such as public health, social development, sustainability, and STEM education and learning research.

The Golden Gala, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the university’s founding, will be held on Thursday, June 4, at the Seaport World Trade Center.
Professor Miren Uriarte speaks after being sworn in by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh as a member of the Boston School Committee.

Professor Uriarte Appointed to Boston School Committee

In February, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh appointed Professor Miren Uriarte to the Boston School Committee, which is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools. Uriarte has conducted extensive research on the achievement of Latinos and English-language learners and is a professor of human services and senior research associate at the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy.

EMK Institute Provides Internship Opportunities for UMass Boston Students

For the second summer, UMass Boston students will have an opportunity to intern for congressional leaders through the Young Leaders Network, a program offered through the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate.

In partnership with a bipartisan network of congressional centers, the Young Leaders Network program facilitates congressional internship placements in Washington D.C., a weekly policy discussion series with experts, and a Summer Senate session in Boston. Four UMass Boston students were accepted into the pilot program, which ran during the summer of 2014.

Collins Center Program Named Innovative Government Initiative

The Massachusetts Municipal Performance Management Program (MPMP), developed by the Collins Center for Public Management in the McCormack Graduate School for Policy and Global Studies, was recognized as an innovative government program for 2015 by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. The MPMP was among 124 “Bright Ideas” named by the Ash Center, which is part of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

The mission of the MPMP is to make systematic use of data, measures, and goals a permanent feature of government, and to accelerate idea-sharing among municipalities. The MPMP provides on-the-ground support on data and analysis through a team of centrally supervised analysts, each working directly with a portfolio of municipalities.

UMass Boston Selected for Innovation and Economic Prosperity Award

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities named UMass Boston a recipient of one of its second annual Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) University Awards in November. The recognition honors public universities actively engaged in and promoting regional economic development.

The IEP awards specifically recognize efforts of member universities working with public- and private-sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities—innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development.

UMass Boston received the “Talent” award for promoting a diverse STEM workforce; supporting educators shifting toward applied, industry-informed IT education; and building an integrated biomedical research and training facility, among many other efforts.

Alumnus Leads Entrepreneurship Center

Beginning this semester, George Kassas ’85 will serve as director of the Entrepreneurship Center. Kassas has already been serving as an executive-in-residence in the College of Management and has contributed to the current undergraduate and graduate curriculums as a member of the college’s advisory board.

As 2006 New Hampshire Entrepreneur of the Year and founder of Cedar Point Communications and Bireme Systems, LLC, Kassas has more than 30 years of experience in the technology, telecom, communications, software applications, analytics, and government affairs sectors.
POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

Graduate Programs Rise in Rankings

*U.S. News and World Report* released its 2016 rankings of the best graduate schools in the country, and three UMass Boston graduate programs rose in position.

Rehabilitation Counseling, one of the graduate programs in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, climbed from No. 56 in 2011 (the last year a ranking was available for this segment) to No. 24. Graduate Nursing moved up from No. 50 in 2011 to No. 41, and Graduate Education rose from No. 116 in 2014 to No. 76 in the new rankings.

UMass Boston Named an Innovative Public Service School

Using information from the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management as its guide, BestValueSchools.com has published its 2015 list of the 50 Most Innovative Public Service Schools in the United States. Noting the public service mission of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, BestValueSchools.com ranked UMass Boston 29th. The university earned a spot as the top public university in New England, and second among all colleges and universities in Massachusetts to Harvard University, which ranked first.

This is the second time UMass Boston has earned the Community Engagement Classification. The university was first recognized in 2006, the inaugural year of the award, and reapplied for the designation last year.

Chancellor Motley Joins Team to Pitch Boston Olympic Bid

In January, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) picked Boston to represent the United States in the worldwide competition for the 2024 Summer Games. UMass Boston and Chancellor J. Keith Motley were featured in a February article in *The Boston Globe*, highlighting the chancellor’s role as a member of the Boston team that traveled to California with Mayor Marty Walsh to pitch the city’s bid to host the US Olympics in 2024. Chancellor Motley represented the city’s colleges and universities, which could possibly host a majority of the games’ sports venues under Boston’s proposed plan.

Military Times Names UMass Boston Best for Vets

*Military Times* named UMass Boston one of the best schools for veterans, ranking the university No. 63 among four-year schools on the Best for Vets: Colleges 2015 list.

*Military Times*, which has been ranking schools for five years, chooses schools based on services offered, accommodations, financial services, and graduation, retention, and course completion rates. In 2014, UMass Boston’s Division of Enrollment Management added a veterans’ admissions recruiter and a veterans’ resource coordinator to accommodate a veteran population that has increased 44 percent in the past six years.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

Food Pantry Provides Students Extra Measure of Security

UMass Boston’s food pantry, which is run by the Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services, was highlighted in a December article in *The Boston Globe* on the growing trend among higher education institutions of establishing campus pantries for students. Experts say when faced with paying for their college education, students often experience financial limitations that make it difficult for them to pay for meals or afford groceries.

According to the *Globe* article, 12 of Massachusetts’ 29 public campuses operate food banks, and 140 students are signed up to collect food from the pantry at UMass Boston. In its first year of operation in 2013, the UMass Boston pantry distributed approximately 12,000 pounds of food donated by students, faculty, and administrators. The pantry is located in a discreet area of the Campus Center and students pick up food in staggered appointments to protect their privacy.

UMass Boston Earns Community Engagement Honor

UMass Boston has once again received the coveted Carnegie Community Engagement Classification—considered the gold standard for measuring the service provided by a university to its community.

UMass Boston is home to 938 unique community-engaged programs and initiatives, and has 1,975 community partners in these endeavors, according to statistics compiled by the university’s Office of Community Partnerships. One in five employees at UMass Boston is involved in one of these projects.

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Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace

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Campus Celebrates Coach's 40-Year Career

Hundreds of supporters gathered in the Clark Athletic Center February 21 to honor men’s basketball coach Charlie Titus as he coached his last regular season game with the Beacons. Titus is retiring after 40 years of coaching and mentoring.

The men’s basketball team capped Coach Titus’s career with a 95-79 win over Western Connecticut State University. At a mid-court ceremony, officials presented Coach Titus with proclamations, with Boston City Councilor Charles Yancey pronouncing that Saturday “Charlie Titus Day.”

The founder of UMass Boston athletics and Little East Conference Hall of Famer, Titus coached the men’s team to more than 300 wins, guiding them to the NCAA Division III tournament twice. Coach Titus has mentored countless student-athletes, emphasizing community service and involving the team annually in hands-on service projects. His legacy on, and particularly off, the court was profiled in a Boston Sunday Globe Sports page one story on March 1. Titus will continue in his role as vice chancellor for athletics and recreation, special programs and projects.

Edward M. Kennedy Institute Opens its Doors in March

The Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Institute for the United States Senate will formally open its doors to the public with a series of events, including a public dedication ceremony on March 30. These events will bring a distinctive group of attendees to Columbia Point, including senior Obama administration officials, current and former U.S. senators, and other national officials, as well as members of the Kennedy family.

Partnerships between UMass Boston and the EMK Institute are already in progress. In January, McCormack Graduate School Dean Ira Jackson announced the appointment of Bill DeWalt, the EMK Institute’s executive director and museum director, as an adjunct clinical professor.

UMass Boston students have also been participating in internships and serving as ambassadors at the institute, where they help facilitate the visitor experience as guides, and by assisting in policy research and content development for interactive educational platforms.

Scientists Move into Integrated Sciences Complex

Throughout the month of January, UMass Boston researchers began painstakingly moving their labs into the new Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) and are now conducting research in spaces designed to promote connection, collaboration, and reflection. Introductory biology classes are also being taught in the new building.

Faculty members moving into the new building brimmed with excitement. Bill Robinson, a professor in the School for the Environment, said he has been looking forward to this move for the past five years.

“I think that’s true for everyone I run into. . . . It really has revitalized and re-energized a lot of people in really good ways, and I think that’s going to continue,” Robinson said. The university will hold an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at the ISC on April 1.