UMass Boston Students Visit Brazil, Research Coastal Environment

UMass Boston environmental science students traveled more than 4,000 miles in July to northeast Brazil to better understand global climate history through a partnership with Universidade Tiradentes. Undergraduate students from the School for the Environment and professor Allen Gontz conducted research in the coastal state of Sergipe, near the Rio Vaza-Barris, for evidence of past sea-level storms and changes in climate by using ground-penetrating radar and extracting sediment cores.

The trip was funded by a grant from the Partners of the Americas 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, which Gontz and Chancellor J. Keith Motley accepted at a White House ceremony in December.

While in Brazil, students also explored the geology of the oil-rich Alagoas Basin, and looked at coastal dune fields. They visited sites of significant societal and cultural importance in Aracaju and in Canion Xingo. “What better way to teach them than to bring them to one of the most dynamic coastal zones in the world,” said Robyn Hannigan, dean of the School for the Environment.
Emerging Leaders Program Celebrates 15th Cohort, Presents Nonprofit Corporate Solutions

In July, the Emerging Leaders Program graduated 41 participants as part of the fifteenth annual “Changing the Face of Leadership” luncheon at the Seaport Boston Hotel, featuring keynote speaker UMass President Marty Meehan. Later that month, the cohort presented research, marketing, and analysis work they undertook for seven nonprofit and government organizations.

Housed at the Center for Collaborative Leadership within UMass Boston’s College of Management, the Emerging Leaders Program molds fellows from the region’s corporate, nonprofit, and government sectors into inclusive and collaborative leaders through nine months of development training. Sponsored by their individual organizations, fellows have backgrounds in finance, information technology, marketing, the medical field, and other areas. Since the program’s inception in 2002, more than 600 fellows have graduated from it, and another 42 fellows will begin the 2017 program in September.

Honors Students Share Marketing Ideas with Boston Mayor

At the end of the spring semester, 13 students who had been invited by the Honors College to participate in the Mayor’s Symposium: Branding Boston last fall presented their ideas for marketing the city to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Boston’s Chief of Economic Development John Barros. Following months of research guided by Chair and Professor of English Cheryl Nixon, the students used pitch books and prototypes to present a tagline, "Boston: The hub of revolutionary thinking.” They broke down Boston’s health care, education, and history into chapters, including “Boston first” groundbreaking events in the city, and added profiles on Bostonians who are making impacts in various fields.

UMass Boston Offers Dual Enrollment Program at Quincy High School

This summer, UMass Boston implemented a dual enrollment program through a collaboration between the Division of Enrollment Management, the College of Advancing and Professional Studies, and the Quincy Public Schools. It is the first year the university has partnered with a high school directly in a dual enrollment program. Quincy High School students who met academic requirements and took a math placement exam were invited to participate in a course at the high school every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from July 6 through August 5. Rising seniors could earn college-level credit, complete a gateway math course, and hear from administrators about college searches and applying for financial aid and merit scholarships. They have the opportunity to continue the program in the fall by taking an additional course at UMass Boston in information technology or environmental studies.

David Nyhan Fellowships Awarded

Two UMass Boston students received David Nyhan Fellowships in honor of the late Boston Globe editor, a newspaperman for more than 30 years. Elly Rostoum, a PhD student in global governance and human security in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, and Sarah Yellamaty, a rising senior in the College of Liberal Arts, received the awards. The Center on Media and Society established a David Nyhan Student Journalism Award in 2005 to honor Nyhan, who helped found the center shortly before his death in 2005. The award recognizes students who display the skills, tenacity, ethics, and temperament to serve the public as journalists. Voluntary donations fund the award, and UMass Boston’s Communication Department selects the winners.
MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS (CONT.)

Honors College Signs MOU to Create Roxbury Prep Pipeline

UMass Boston’s Honors College has signed a memorandum of understanding to create an Honors College admissions pipeline for talented Roxbury Preparatory High School students. Roxbury Prep will identify which students will be selected to potentially enter the Honors College starting in 2018-2019. Admissions decisions are expected to be based less on standardized testing scores and more on leadership and community service. Also part of the agreement is that UMass Boston will invite Roxbury Prep students to special events and offer information sessions targeting college readiness. The arrangement may lead to the Honors College offering a one-semester dual-enrollment honors class to Roxbury Prep students.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY’S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE (CONT.)

UMass President’s Office Funds Visual Art, History Projects

Faculty and staff received a combined $73,060 from UMass President Marty Meehan’s office and the Creative Economy Initiatives Fund for the following initiatives:

- Susan Crandall, director of the Center for Social Policy, and Juan Leyton, executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), are using their $23,750 grant to work with youth in Boston's Dudley neighborhood, which has recently been declared a Neighborhood Innovation District.
- David Landon, associate director of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, and Jessica Rudden-Dube, deputy director of media, design and collections for Plimoth Plantation, will be using their $24,927 grant to digitize information about artifacts, past expeditions, and site records for Plimoth Plantation.
- Rachel Rubin, professor of American studies and director of the Center for the Study of Humanities, Culture, and Society, will use her $24,383 grant to organize, preserve, and increase the accessibility of the Allan MacDougall Popular Culture Archive.

Faculty Earn Grant for Optical Computing Research

A team of engineers from UMass Boston, in partnership with UMass Lowell, received a $25,000 Science and Technology Initiative Grant from the University of Massachusetts to conduct research in optical computer technology. The team, led by engineering department chair Greg Sun, will use the funds to further its research into this emergent technology. Sun’s team includes professors Walter Buchwald and Matthew Bell from UMass Boston, and professor Xuejun Lu of UMass Lowell.

Economist Analyzes Impact of State’s Leave Proposal

Randy Albelda, professor of economics at UMass Boston, coauthored a report entitled It’s About Time: Costs and Coverage of Paid Medical and Family Leave in Massachusetts. The report analyzes the impact of Senate Bill 1008/House Bill 1718, which received the green light from the Massachusetts Legislature’s Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development this spring. The report determined the proposed program would provide paid leave for medical and family caregiving covering 3.1 million Massachusetts workers and leveling the playing field for women, minorities, and low-income workers, at an average cost of only $3 a week per each employee taking a leave.

Scientists Predict Heat, Sea-Level Rise for City

School for the Environment Associate Professor of Hydrology Ellen Douglas and Professor of Climate Adaptation Paul Kirshen, working with a team of researchers from other area universities, led the development of a new report for Climate Ready Boston detailing the severe storms, higher coastal waters, and extreme heat waves that are expected in Boston in the near future as the result of greenhouse gas emissions. The report, which can be found on the Climate Ready Boston website, provides a scientific consensus that will be used to guide long-term planning for the city of Boston. Kirshen is part of the Climate Ready Boston project team that is assessing Boston’s vulnerabilities based on the report’s data.
CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

University Named Military Friendly

For the third year in a row, UMass Boston has been named to Victory Media Inc.’s Military Friendly School list, which recognizes schools that use leading practices to recruit and retain students with military experience. The university’s recent programs and offerings geared toward veterans include the Office of Veterans Affairs’ collaboration with the English Department, the Office of Community Relations, and WUMB-FM on an oral history project featuring five Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. In fall 2015, the Office of Veterans Affairs and the Home Base program also started offering a free, one-credit course to UMass Boston students called Resilient Warrior. Four sections were offered this spring. In May, two UMass Boston ROTC cadets, Melanie Mullinger ’16 and Amber Samid ’16, were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

WUMB Hosts Free Castle Island Concerts

This summer WUMB, UMass Boston’s public radio station, again partnered up with Berklee College of Music to present a free Summer Concert Series. For four Saturdays in August, musical groups that included students from both institutions gave live performances on Castle Island from 2 to 4 p.m. for friends and neighbors. This year marks the fourth annual concert series the station has held on Dorchester Bay.

College of Management to Launch New Global MBA in Fall 2017

The Global MBA (GMBA), the College of Management’s newest MBA track, will launch in fall 2017. The GMBA is a cohort-based, full-time, day MBA program with a global focus in its course offerings—a diversified mix across the fields of accounting and finance, management and marketing, and informational systems and technology. The program aims to prepare both domestic and international students for today’s global-centric workforce and the world of business. As domestic companies become more international, the demand for a globally trained and educated workforce grows. The program offers students knowledge of and training in global management and leadership practices along with a keen understanding of global finance and markets.

29th Writers’ Workshop Kicks Off with ‘Women Veterans Speak’

The William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences sponsored its 29th Writers’ Workshop, a two-week session featuring classes and individual consultations in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, and memoir. Topics included songwriting, using theater for social change, and using art to build bridges in Iraq. It kicked off in June with a panel titled “Women Veterans Speak,” with panelists Margaret Laneri, director of the Worcester Vet Center and a 22-year veteran of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Reserves; Savina Martin, a U.S. Army veteran, social justice activist, advocate, and writer who is working on a play about veterans; Giselle Sterling, a Marine Corps veteran and commissioner of veterans services for the city of Boston; and Nicole Waybright, who was part of the first wave of women to serve at sea on combat vessels and published her first book, *Long Way Out: A Young Woman’s Journey of Self-Discovery and How She Survived the Navy’s Modern Cruelty at Sea Scandal*, in February.

Summer Camps, Classes Held On Campus

A number of camps and workshops convened at UMass Boston this summer, while 6,200 college students also engaged in traditional, online, and study-abroad opportunities. Camp Shriver returned for its eleventh season, bringing 120 children with and without disabilities together. Project ALERTA enabled 50 local students to continue their education over the summer through intensive academic instruction with Boston Public School teachers, and Project REACH, a national model of inclusion of youth with disabilities, also held summer programming for low-income, urban youths. Two hundred students from Boston public middle schools and high schools participated in the Talented and Gifted Latino (TAG) program, spending five weeks taking classes and engaging in recreational activities on Columbia Point, and another 100 Urban Scholars participated in a seven-week summer institute around college readiness. Thirty-five middle and high schoolers from Boston Public Schools also participated in a writers’ workshop, and Beacons baseball coach Brendan Eygabroat held a clinic for 30 players in June.
Professor Receives International Young Researcher Award

Assistant Professor of Economics Guy Numa was one of just two researchers worldwide to receive the 2016 Young Researcher Award from the European Society for the History of Economic Thought. Five senior scholars nominated Numa for the award, which is given to academics under 40 with outstanding publications in the field. The award has a monetary value of 1,000 euros and increases the researcher’s visibility; Numa has already been contacted by editors interested in publishing his forthcoming first book about Say’s Law. Numa’s main areas of expertise are the history of economic thought, monetary economics, and development and industrial organization. He just completed his first year at UMass Boston as a tenure-track professor in the Economics Department and the Honors College—the first joint tenure-track professor in the Honors College since its elevation to college status in 2013.

Psychology Professor Awarded Inaugural Manning Prize

Assistant Professor of Psychology Susan Zup was one of five professors across the University of Massachusetts system to be selected as inaugural winners of the Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching. UMass President Marty Meehan hailed her “highly demanding” and “scientifically inspirational” educational style during a ceremony held to celebrate the winners at the UMass Club. Established by UMass Lowell alumni Robert Manning ’84 and his wife, Donna ’85, ’91, the award honors outstanding faculty members who demonstrate excellence in teaching, along with exemplary dedication to students and the campus community.

Physics Professors Sign Licensing Agreement

Physics professors D.V.G.I.N. Rao and Chandra Yelleswarapu have reached a licensing deal with Lab Engineers (India), a registered corporation in Bangalore, India, based on their patent for a Fourier phase contrast and multimodal microscope. This is the first licensing deal for an invention solely owned by UMass Boston. Biomedical researchers in India will soon be using microscopes invented at UMass Boston with new technology that is less cumbersome, has fewer moving parts, and is more user-friendly. The images created by the microscope also will be brighter.

Professor Studying Criminal Justice Reform with NIJ Grant

Assistant Professor of Sociology Kevin Wozniak was the only recipient of this year’s W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship for Race, Gender, Culture, and Crime, awarded by the National Institute of Justice. Wozniak is using a $144,000 fellowship to study public opinion around justice reinvestment, a brand of reform that advocates say could save billions of dollars by rewriting mandatory sentencing rules to reduce the headcount in overcrowded prisons. Wozniak prepared questions for Greater Boston focus groups in his first study phase and launched a survey this summer. He is the second UMass Boston scholar to receive the fellowship, following Assistant Professor of Sociology Bianca Bersani in 2011.

Planning Begins for First Free-Standing Parking Garage

UMass Boston has begun the planning and design process for the campus’s first free-standing parking garage as envisioned in the Campus Master Plan. The garage will be located along University Drive West and the Monan Park baseball field and is planned to include new space for the Department of Public Safety and amenities to support the nearby athletics facilities. The project is being funded by the UMass Building Authority, designed by Fennick McCredie Architecture, and constructed by Suffolk Construction. The owner’s project manager is Skanska.
DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Researchers Release Age-Friendly Boston Report and Elder Economic Security Standard Index

Researchers at the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging (CSDRA) released the Age-Friendly Boston Report at a community meeting in June. Gerontology Professor and Center Director Jan Mutchler and colleagues shared analysis of 18-months of data collected from Boston’s senior residents and asked for input to shape the priorities of the initiative.

This summer, CSDRA also released the first comprehensive update of the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) since its debut in 2011. The Elder Index uses a market basket of goods and services—specifically adapted to seniors—to measure the costs faced by households with one or two people 65 or older. In the recent Massachusetts Elder Economic Security Commission report, their number one recommendation is that “Massachusetts should adopt the Elder Economic Security Standard Index as a benchmark for determining the economic needs of older adults in Massachusetts.”

Endowed Scholarship Established in Late Vice Chancellor’s Memory

A new endowed scholarship has been established in honor of UMass Boston’s late vice chancellor for university advancement, Gina Cappello, who died tragically in a car accident in May. Cappello, a longtime member of the UMass Boston family, was a visionary leader and architect of the Just Imagine campaign. The Gina M. Cappello Scholarship will provide an annual award to students served by our Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-ACCESS), helping those who experience issues such as homelessness, emancipation from foster care, domestic violence, chronic poverty or hunger, and financial hardship.

The Boston State College Class of 1966 also directed its 50th reunion gift of $19,660 to support scholarships, the College of Education and Human Development, and other designations. The majority of the members of the class served as teachers, counselors, and school administrators following graduation.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

WUMB End-of-Fiscal-Year Fundraiser Tops $50k

UMass Boston’s public radio station WUMB exceeded its goal of raising $40,000 from 400 donors for its end-of-fiscal-year fundraiser. It raised $57,126 from 579 donors.

Alumni Support Childhood Education, Other Programs

Boston Teachers College alumna Irene Nichols has committed $500,000 to augment the Jessie A. Nichols Early Childhood Education Scholarship Fund. Nichols’s career as a teacher of young children and as a university professor of education convinced her that early childhood is the most important period of human development. Nichols said her gift honors her mother and prepares educators to cultivate environments where children can thrive, no matter what their circumstances.

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Campaign Updates for Just Imagine, “Make Your Mark”

The Just Imagine campaign, the largest fundraising effort in university history, has reached more than 70 percent of its $100 million goal after tallying $70,635,397 funds raised as of July. At the same time, more than 230 donors have donated money to name seats in University Hall’s state-of-the-art lecture auditorium through the “Make Your Mark” campaign. Another seat-dedication campaign will be offered to donors who wish to dedicate seats in the facility’s theater and performance space.

UMass Boston Launches New, Mobile-Friendly Platform for Student Services

WISER, UMass Boston’s online platform that enables students to check their grades, find classes, and other services, recently became mobile responsive. The new capability will allow students to conduct all of their university business on the go as the platform adjusts based on whether users are accessing WISER on a laptop, tablet, or smartphone. The upgrade was the result of several months of student and staff testing that determined the new intuitive design to make it easier for students to navigate and complete essential tasks.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND IT SERVICES

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DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

University Partners with BPS to Provide Additional Training for Minority Women Educators

UMass Boston is partnering with Boston Public Schools on the new Women Educators of Color (WEOC) Executive Coaching Program. The 15-month program provides minority women educators with mentors, peer support, and the opportunity to take classes in UMass Boston’s educational administration programs for credit. Jack Leonard, an associate professor and director of graduate programs in educational administration at UMass Boston, says that, over the course of the program, the 20 participants will take three UMass Boston courses: leadership, organizational analysis, and a practicum support class.

Nursing Student Spearheads Effort for Public Needle Kiosk

Rachel Moloney, who graduated in May with a RN-BSN from UMass Boston’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences, led an effort to place a public needle kiosk outside the Dimock Center as part of a project for her Community and Public Health Nursing class. The kiosk enables community members to deposit needles safely and anonymously to help reduce unsafe needle disposal and keep children and others away from the dangerous items.

Dean, Professor Accompany Leaders on European Clean Energy Mission

McCormack Graduate School Dean David Cash and Sustainable Solutions Lab Professor Paul Kirshen accompanied state lawmakers, state and city officials, and other leaders on a Boston Green Ribbon Commission mission to the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden to learn more about clean energy strategies abroad. John Cleveland, executive director of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission, told the State House News Service in June, “The intent of this trip is to bring together business, institutional, and civic leaders in Boston and the Commonwealth to learn about cutting-edge European practices for achieving carbon neutrality, and long-term climate preparedness.”

The Brattle Group also commissioned Dean Cash to prepare a report on clean energy in Massachusetts, funded by the Barr Foundation. “Considering the importance of energy to the state economy, and the need to plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors of the economy, the fact that no entity is charged with comprehensive energy planning authority makes it almost impossible to create optimal solutions to meet Massachusetts’ energy challenges,” the report said.

Athletics Renews Commitment to Pine Street Inn

UMass Boston Athletics will once again make a full-year commitment to the Pine Street Inn, one of the largest homeless shelters in Boston, for the 2016-2017 academic year. In October, UMass Boston Athletics became the first program in the state to make a full-year commitment to the shelter. Over the course of the past year, all 18 teams participated and volunteered at the Pine Street Inn in various capacities.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

Enrollment Management Begins Marketing Future Student Housing

Enrollment Management has started marketing the campus’s first future residence hall, slated to open in fall 2018, to the Class of 2018 using the theme “We’re Building Your Future.” The residential option will help UMass Boston attract and retain students interested in an urban research university.

This 1,000-bed complex will enhance UMass Boston’s community with 24/7 living and learning space and a new on-site dining facility. The Division of Enrollment Management announced the addition of student housing with printed materials at two major recruiting events: Spring Visit Day for Sophomores and Juniors on May 7, 2016, which attracted 300 high school students and their families to UMass Boston, and the annual Boston National College Fair held May 22-23, 2016, with 1,324 high school sophomores, juniors, and rising seniors.

College of Management Celebrates 10 Years of State Street Scholars Program

UMass Boston’s College of Management, alumni, and the State Street Corporation celebrated 10 years of the State Street Scholars Program in May. Two hundred and forty of the 316 State Street Scholars to date—80 percent—have been offered full-time jobs at State Street after completing their internships. There are currently 105 State Street Scholar alumni working at State Street, holding jobs that range from entry-level posts to assistant vice president.

The college recently was included among The Financial Engineer’s rankings, considered the “most comprehensive rankings for financial engineering, financial mathematics, quantitative finance, computational finance, and mathematical finance graduate programs in the United States” in the areas of finance (no. 48), accounting (no. 86), and MBA programs (no. 124).
Alumna Wins St. Botolph Club Foundation Award

Kansas City native Krysten Hill ’13 recently won the prestigious St. Botolph Club Foundation’s Emerging Artist Award in literature. She is the second UMass Boston MFA student in two years to earn the award, which is designed to encourage artists earlier on in their career and “identify individuals to whom it can ‘make a difference’ through the combination of financial support, recognition, and endorsement.” Hill has been writing and performing poetry for many years, on top of her job as an adjunct faculty member teaching in the critical reading and writing department and tutoring in the graduate and undergraduate writing centers at UMass Boston. She has performed poetry in locations such as the Haley House Café, and the Blacksmith Poetry Series, among others.

Beacons Earn Fulbright, Boren Awards for International Teaching and Study

Several UMass Boston students, alumni, and faculty are engaged in teaching and research projects abroad through Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships, a Fulbright grant, and a Boren Fellowship:

- Tyler Murphy ’13, ’16, who graduated with honors in English and just earned his English master’s degree from the College of Liberal Arts, won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach English in Montenegro.
- Abrar Ahmed ’16, an Honors College student and senior biology major in the College of Science and Mathematics, is teaching English for the Fulbright program in Turkey.
- Catherine “Cat” Roberts ’14, who received university honors and honors in English as she completed her bachelor’s degree with English and theatre arts majors and a Spanish minor, received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship and is teaching in India.
- Alex Gordillo ’15, who graduated with honors in English, is teaching English for the Fulbright program in Vietnam.
- Kaia DeMatteo, who is pursuing her PhD in global inclusion and social development, returned to Tanzania this summer on a Boren Fellowship, a National Security Education Program initiative for U.S. graduate students to study less common languages in global regions critical to U.S. national security interests. She previously traveled to Tanzania to study Swahili on a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.
- Assistant Professor Angela Stone-MacDonald, from the College of Education and Human Development’s Early Education and Care in Inclusive Settings Program, also returns to Tanzania in September on a Fulbright Scholar grant.

Assistant Professor Angela Stone-MacDonald teaches in Tanzania.