University Hall Opens

The physical transformation of the UMass Boston campus continued last spring with the debut of University Hall, the second new academic building to open for classes in the past two years.

The 190,000-square-foot building is an instantly recognizable addition to campus, distinctive with its copper siding and an all-glass atrium with breathtaking views of Dorchester Bay.

In January, with the opening of the spring semester, students began using University Hall, the second building of the campus master plan. Initially, nine classrooms on the building’s fourth floor hosted classes in philosophy, medicine, and other subjects. Many of the other 17 classrooms were used for finals. Student costume designers took advantage of their new shop to create costumes for the spring theater production. And the sun-filled atrium quickly became a destination for studying, collaborating, and relaxing.

“University Hall is a gorgeous building that represents the best of UMass Boston,” said Chancellor J. Keith Motley. “With chemistry labs, dance and art studios, and classrooms for many different fields of study, our new building is a diverse and inclusive place that encourages our community to learn, study, and spend time together. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are enjoying all of the new perspectives the building offers to our campus community.”

Message from the Provost

It is with pleasure that I again take this opportunity to share with you some information about our university, the University of Massachusetts Boston.

The Budget

You have most likely heard that the budget picture for the University of Massachusetts system as a whole, and for UMass Boston in particular, is not a bright one. It is one that embodies great challenges for us, in part because the Commonwealth did not honor its promise to finance us at a certain level, and also because some decisions by the Board of Trustees do not permit us to have deficits to support certain strategic investments, as had been agreed earlier.

To compound the challenges, we are not only being asked, in a very short time, to move from a budget allowing for a modest deficit to one which is balanced, but to a budget that has a surplus. This drastic turn in expectations has required us to move in a variety of directions to help shape university life, including increases in the size of classes, in order to effect a corresponding increase in the ratio of students to faculty; reductions, where possible, in the number of non-tenured faculty; and reductions in the number of new faculty to be hired, most likely for some years to come.

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University Hall Opens
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The building’s multidisciplinary features were revealed throughout the spring as the acting, dance, keyboard, and tech design studios opened; several Wenger sound-isolation studios were made available for music students; and as dozens of faculty moved into their offices.

The second-floor Beacon Café, third-floor chemistry labs and learning spaces, Art Department studios, recital hall, theater, and the building’s centerpiece, a 500-seat auditorium that can be used for large lecture classes and special events, were expected to be completed for the start of the fall semester. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on October 17, 2016.

A Q&A with Professor Mary Huff Stevenson

During her 40-year career at UMass Boston, Professor Emerita Mary Huff Stevenson studied urban economics, urban labor markets, and low-wage workers. She was a founding member of the women’s studies program and the public policy PhD program, and coauthored two books, *The Boston Renaissance: Race, Space and Economic Change in an American Metropolis* and *The Urban Experience: Economics Society, and Public Policy*. Her encore career as a fitness instructor for older adults and people with physical limitations has been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal* and by PBS.

When did you begin teaching as a fitness instructor?
I had a three-year period from 2009 to 2012, ramping down my academic career and ramping up my fitness career. I trained to teach Nia, Zumba Gold, and a chair exercise called Ageless Grace.

Why did you decide to teach fitness?
It unfolded almost organically. I didn’t have a plan and wasn’t particularly athletic as a kid. I wanted to take better care of myself and I’ve always enjoyed dancing. I understood from my years as an economics professor that the way to teach was to understand it myself. From there, I thought it would be most productive to teach other older students.

What have you learned from teaching fitness?
I’ve taught at a range of facilities, from public housing and seniors projects to upscale fitness communities. Some issues of aging are universal. I’ve had fitness students in their late 80s standing for an hour and moving around. They can do it and enjoy it with smiles on their faces. I’ve learned a lot about determination, attitude, and aging gracefully.

What advice do you have for other retired faculty?
Find something you really enjoy, and if that something doesn’t make you move, find something that does!
Faculty Retirements
2015–16

Luis Aponte-Pares
College of Public and Community Service

Fiora Bassanese
College of Liberal Arts

Ann Blum deceased
College of Liberal Arts

Dwight Giles
College of Education and Human Development

Deborah L. Mahony
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Maximiliane Szinovacz
McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Miren Uriarte
College of Public and Community Service

Sally Wright
College of Management

Weili Ye
College of Liberal Arts

Judith Zeitlin
College of Liberal Arts

To learn more about what’s happening in the Provost’s Office, visit us at:
www.umb.edu/academics/provost

Phone: 617.287.5600
Location: Quinn Administration Building, 3rd Floor, Room 61A

For Retired Faculty Newsletter story ideas, please contact Cindy Gullicksen or Aimee Ladner.

Upcoming Events

October 17, 2016
University Hall Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

October 26, 2016
IDEAS Boston Conference

November 2016
Retired Faculty Leadership Council Meeting

December 1, 2016
Boston State College Education for Service Awards

Message from the Provost
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Non-Tenure Track Faculty
The report you may have heard about our plan to terminate the employment of large numbers of non-tenure track faculty (NTT) is not true. Our faculty contract requires that we give timely notice to NTTs if it is likely that we may terminate their employment. We gave the required notice, and because we did not know exactly how many we would be re-employing, we sent notice to all those who could be affected by the budget problems. Most of the recipients of the notice will be re-employed.

Program Transfers
As part of an effort to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our operation, we have decided to transfer certain programs and their associated faculty from the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) to the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), the School for the Environment (SFE), and the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies (MGS).

The programs and the school or college to which they have been transferred are: Human Services to CLA; Community Development to Urban Studies and Planning in SFE; and the undergraduate program in Gerontology to the MGS. CPCS is being reorganized to accommodate a new body of programs.

School for the Environment
Some four years ago, we created the School for the Environment (SFE) within the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM). At the time, we were moved to give greater research and academic identity to matters of the environment—human-built and natural—in light of our growing understanding of its importance to human well-being, life on earth, and the planet itself. The decision to keep the school within CSM was in large measure to ensure that others understood the establishment of this new identity did not bear with it any weakening of the scientific study of the environment.

As well, we wanted to give the new school experience in handling its own affairs, with some mentoring from Professor Andrew Grosovsky, dean of CSM. We think that with praiseworthy curricular and other developments, along with planned, continuing collaboration between CSM and SFE, both objectives have been realized. Dean Robyn Hannigan will continue to lead the school’s academic growth and development.

Growth of the University
When all universities nationwide are examined from the perspective of increases in

the number of students from 2004 to 2014, we rank number 15 in the country. We have grown by over 43 percent during that time. This is an impressive number, because it so far exceeds the growth in the population of New England and in the Commonwealth. This growth, among other things, means that our programs, cost, quality of offerings, and growing stature have made us very attractive to prospective students. It also means we have been attracting significant numbers of students from outside Massachusetts and New England. We think this attractiveness will increase with the advent of residence halls.

Rankings and Accreditation
Our growing stature is reflected in some recent accreditations and rankings. The College of Education and Human Development has received accreditation for five years from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. The counseling psychology and school psychology programs have also received seven-year accreditations from the American Psychological Association. The rehabilitation therapy program, within the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, was given an unusual dual five-year accreditation by the Council on Rehabilitation Education and the Council on Accreditation for Counseling and Related Education Programs.

Research Profile
The university has made some significant strides in research expenditures, which the National Science Foundation uses to rank research universities. With over $61 million in research development expenditures for the year 2014 (the latest date available), we are ranked 177 out of 634 institutions, placing us among the top 28 percent. We are also ranked 128th among public institutions. When we are measured among non-science and engineering research institutions, we are now 18th in the country, advancing from 33rd in 2011. Finally, in education, we are ranked 10th in the country.

The last-mentioned ranking, while giving us cause to be proud, is also evidence of our considerable vulnerability. We are strongest in areas (social sciences and the humanities) which are always under threat of being defunded and which get less than 10 percent of available federal dollars for research. We must not only seek to protect ourselves in this vulnerable area, but must, concurrently, strengthen our capacities in the science and engineering areas of university life. We are in the process of doing so and will keep you informed.
In the News

Jim Campen, professor emeritus of economics, was quoted in three articles based on his annual study of home-lending trends: “How Black Americans face discrimination from mortgage lenders,” Digital Journal; “Black, Latino mortgage rejection rates still high,” The Boston Globe; and “Study: Being Black in the US Lowers Credit Score by 71 Points,” Mint Press News. He was also quoted in the Dorchester Reporter article “I’m One Step Out the Door – As Boston booms, Longtime Residents Feel the Housing Squeeze,” and his research was cited in the Bay State Banner article “City’s Racial Makeup at Risk in Housing Market.”

Thomas Ferguson, professor emeritus of political science, was quoted in the AlterNet article “Will Republican Elites Coalesce Around Trump or Try to Sabotage Him?” He was also interviewed on CNBC about Donald Trump, the Republican Party, and the New York primaries.

James Green, professor emeritus of history, was quoted in the Wall Street Journal article “Bernie Sanders Hearkens Back to Old-Time Socialist Presidential Candidate Eugene Debs.” He was also mentioned in a Boston Globe review of the documentary “The Mine Wars,” which aired on PBS. The documentary was based in part on his book The Devil Is Here in These Hills. He also served as a consultant on the film.

Arthur MacEwan, professor emeritus of economics, wrote the opinion piece “New York City’s Rising Number of Homeless” for The New York Times. He was also mentioned in the Lowell Sun article “University economists: Surtax on Mass. millionaires will aid state.”

Lois Rudnick, retired professor of American studies, was mentioned in the Taos News article “Harwood Hosts ‘Three Generations’ Talk.” The newspaper also reviewed her new book, Mabel Dodge Luhan: New Woman, New Worlds.

Paul Tucker, professor emeritus of art, was quoted extensively for the Investor’s Business Daily article “Claude Monet Pioneered Art For The Modern Citizen.”

Ann Withorn, professor emeritus of social policy, was quoted in The Boston Globe article “Let’s Hope Voters Understand We’re Not Playing Around Here.”