Campus Construction Update

After many years of construction, UMass Boston will wrap up projects for a residence hall, parking garage, and utility/roadway work over the course of the 2017–2018 academic year. All construction is expected to be completed by fall 2018, when the opening of the residence hall transforms the campus to a 24/7 university.

Residence Hall

The 1,077-bed residence hall forms the new northern gateway to campus. This $120 million complex includes two buildings and three wings, located near the intersection of Mt. Vernon Street and University Drive North. This first-ever student housing on campus has amazing waterfront views of the Boston skyline and the harbor islands. The 12-story east building will house first floor dining commons and living/learning spaces for all university students, faculty, and staff. A seven-story wing attached to the east building matches the height of the nearby Harbor Point Apartments. It will include a mixture of apartment styles, from single-occupancy to four-person units, for first-year students.

More than 200 on-site construction workers are involved with the project, which is being built with a public-private partnership. This fall, crews will make the buildings weather-tight for winter. Most of the windows, roofing, plumbing, and electricity are in place and the east building’s brick façade is currently being installed. Interior work will continue throughout the winter. The nine-story west building, which is the height of the nearby Peninsula Apartments, is halfway complete.

Progress on construction can be viewed on the UMass Boston website at www.umb.edu/news_events_media/news/construction/residence_hall_webcam.
After six children, ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, Joan Donovan, 84, earned a bachelor’s degree in English. When her name was called, the TD Garden crowd erupted in applause and gave her a rousing ovation. She, in turn, recognized them—arms raised in triumph.

UMass Boston awarded more than 4,100 graduate and undergraduate degrees in 2017. The undergraduate commencement was held at TD Garden and the graduate commencement was held at the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion.
Faculty Retirements 2016–17

William Campbell
College of Science and Mathematics

Constance Chan
McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Linda Dumas
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Judith Goleman
College of Liberal Arts

Robert Johnson
College of Liberal Arts

Jack Leonard
College of Education and Human Development

Marc Prou
College of Liberal Arts

D.V.G.L.N. Rao
College of Science and Mathematics

Mitchell Silver
College of Liberal Arts

Ed Tronick
College of Liberal Arts

Sally Wright
College of Management

Vivian Zamel
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.

2017–2018 Upcoming Events

November 17, 2017
Retired Faculty Leadership Council Meeting

May 24, 2018
Graduate Commencement

May 25, 2018
Undergraduate Commencement

Campus Construction Update

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Parking Garage

The 1,400-space parking garage is rising near Monan Park, the baseball fields the university shares with Boston College High School. The garage is being built with 1,100 precast concrete slabs that assemble like Legos. Construction on the eight-story structure will be completed by the end of the spring 2018 semester and operational by the fall 2018 semester.

Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation

The Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation is a critical infrastructure project that replaces the university’s aging campus utilities distribution system, currently located beneath the central plaza. Crews are constructing a modern utility corridor under the newly-configured campus roadway system. Over the next year, additional roadway changes will be necessary to accommodate the completion of work, especially along Bianculli Boulevard near Morrissey Boulevard and on the north and west sides of campus. Most of the utility, roadway, and landscaping work on the south side of campus is complete, with approximately 400 trees planted to replace those that were cut down at the beginning of the project. An improved Fox Point Dock, offering research and recreational boating, opened last summer.

Other News

A comprehensive elevator replacement project is underway with work in Wheatley Hall, McCormack Hall, and the Quinn Administration Building, and a waterproofing project will continue at the Clark Athletic Center through December.

The Bayside lot continues to be the most popular parking area at UMass Boston. This semester, two additional satellite lots are being used at 135 Morrissey Boulevard (the former Boston Globe lot) and at 265 Mt. Vernon Street (St. Christopher’s Church). A new pick-up/drop-off area for ride-sharing services and private vehicles is located in front of the Integrated Sciences Complex. Motorists are no longer permitted to stop in front of the Campus Center, where a new busway for the university shuttles has been created. MBTA buses, The Ride, and private vehicles serving disabled customers now pick up and drop off in a new bus area between Wheatley and the Campus Center.
In the News


Thomas Ferguson, professor emeritus of political science, was mentioned in the Boston Magazine article, “How Much Money Does It Take to Buy Votes in Congress?” He led a team that examined political contributions received by House Democrats who changed their mind about Dodd-Frank banking regulations enacted in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

Jim Campen, professor emeritus of economics, was quoted in the Boston Globe article, “Around Massachusetts, Racial Divides Exist.” He said that disparities in black households receiving home-purchase loans reflect the lack of minorities applying for mortgages in certain areas. He was also interviewed on this subject for the WBUR show, Radio Boston.

Lawrence Blum, professor emeritus of philosophy, wrote a letter to the editor, “UMass Boston has been an engine not just of opportunity but of a meaningful life,” published in the Boston Globe. His letter was in response to an article about the state’s share of support falling from 75 percent in 1985 to 29.5 percent today.

Paul Tucker, professor emeritus of art, was quoted in the Concord Monitor article, “Beloved Monet Returns to Currier.” He said that the 1869 landscape, The Bridge at Bougival, is “one of the great pictures” and a real mark of Monet’s achievement at that moment. The painting returned to the Currier Museum of Art after an eight-month tour.

Miren Uriarte, retired professor of human services, was interviewed for the WBUR’s Radio Boston story, “Mass. Lawmakers Weigh Move Away from English Immersion Requirement in Schools.” She commented on a bill that would allow school districts to bring back bilingual education. Professor Uriarte was also quoted in the WBUR article, “Why Mass. Is Making a Third Attempt at Reforming English Language Ed.”