



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

June 2017

To the Board:

It has been my honor to serve as the chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Boston. My ten years leading this institution have been among the best years of my life. I am heartened by the recognition of all that we have accomplished, and the knowledge of all the incredible things yet to come. Our inspiring students, brilliant faculty, and dedicated staff deserve every good thing, and it is our obligation to provide it.

This report offers a brief outline of some of our recent progress. Next month, University Drive South (part of our larger roadway project) reopens after a two-year closure. This reopening is a crucial milestone in our effort to improve our physical environment (Page 3).

As the spring semester came to a close, our undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral student researchers had the chance to shine, showcasing their research on a wide variety of issues with real-word impact (Page 4).

Our faculty continue to produce extraordinary work. Professor Arthur Eisenkraft was recently recognized with a National Science Board Public Service Award. (Page 2) And Professor Jan Mutchler has been named a *Boston Globe* Game Changer for her work with policymakers to ensure Massachusetts residents have economic and housing security as they age (Page 2).

—Chancellor J. Keith Motley

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN HIGHER ED MARKETPLACE



The Performing Arts Department hosted the first dance concert to be held in the configurable University Hall Theatre this spring.

Spring Performing Arts Recitals Play to Sold-out Crowds

In celebration of International Jazz Day last month, three UMass Boston music students who call themselves the UJazz Trio took the stage in University Hall for a free live performance and album recording—the first live album to be recorded in the university’s new Recital Hall.

The recording was just one event in a week full of spring performances. The Performing Arts Department also hosted the first dance concert to be held in the configurable University Hall Theatre. The concert featured nine dancers from

the dance program, including graduating senior Joanne Caidor, who choreographed three pieces. On the same weekend, the university hosted two nights of jazz performances with more than 30 musicians taking the stage, exploring improvisational jazz across multiple ensembles.

The Recital Hall also saw the world premiere of a composition for orchestra and chorus by Professor of Music David Patterson. *On the Legacy of a Thousand Days* was written for the centennial of President John F. Kennedy’s birth.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN HIGHER ED MARKETPLACE (CONT.)

Global Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program Nationally Recognized

The Global Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program (GEIR), developed at UMass Boston's Venture Development Center in 2014, has spread to five other states and has become a model for the tech community nationwide. It uses the H1-B visa program to assist foreign entrepreneurs who wish to remain in the United States. Media outlets like NPR, WBUR, and NBC Nightly News have all featured stories on the GEIR program this spring.

UMass Boston Named One of the Best Values in Massachusetts

A UMass Boston degree is among the best education values in the commonwealth, according to a new industry survey. The evaluation by SmartAsset.com weighed scholarships and grant opportunities, average starting salaries for graduates, and student retention rate against tuition and living costs. UMass Boston came in at No. 5 on the list of Massachusetts schools and No. 63 overall.

UMass Boston Student, Professor Make Boston Globe's 2017 Game Changers List

Renata Teodoro, an undocumented immigrant who graduated from UMass Boston last month with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and public policy, was featured in the *Boston Globe's* annual "Game Changers" publication, highlighting Boston-area residents who are making a difference. Teodoro helped establish the Tam Tran and Cinthya Felix Immigrant Achievers Scholarships for undocumented UMass Boston students.

Also recognized was Jan Mutchler, professor of gerontology and director of the McCormack Graduate School's Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging. She created the Elder Economic Security Standard Index, which summarizes the cost of living for older adults nationally. Teodoro and Mutchler are the only representatives of the UMass system to make this year's list.

Poetry Faculty Publish New Works

Three members of the poetry faculty at UMass Boston have published new volumes of their work this spring. Lloyd Schwartz, the Frederick S. Troy Professor of English, released *Little Kisses*, his first new collection in 17 years. MFA Program Director Jill McDonough is out now with *Reaper*, which considers the power of technology and the international echoes of the U.S. drone warfare program. And Assistant Professor Lillian-Yvonne Bertram just released *Personal Science*, which blends poetry and creative nonfiction. The three faculty poets held a joint reading on May 26 at Brookline Booksmith.

McCormack School Secures Nearly \$1 Million Grant

The Center for Peace, Democracy, and Development (CPDD) at the McCormack Graduate School has been awarded a three-year, \$943,000 grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to strengthen administrative justice in Rwanda.

UMass Boston will carry out the Rwanda Administrative Justice Project with two Rwandan sub-grantee partners—the Institute for Policy and Research and the Rwandan Legal Aid Forum. Malcolm Russell-Einhorn, a lecturer in international relations and a comparative law and public administration specialist at CPDD, will serve as principal investigator.

Research findings will be used to spur critically needed training, civic awareness, and citizen legal aid activities, as well as possible legal and/or regulatory reforms.



Arthur Eisenkraft

Professor Arthur Eisenkraft Receives National Science Board Public Service Award

The National Science Board (NSB) honored Arthur Eisenkraft with its 2017 Public Service Award in May, during the National Science Foundation annual awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C. Eisenkraft is a distinguished professor of science education, professor of physics, and director of the Center of Science and Mathematics in Context (COSMIC) at UMass Boston.

The award honors exemplary public service in promoting public understanding of science and engineering. Eisenkraft is this year's sole recipient of the Public Service Award for an individual.

"His tireless efforts have undoubtedly inspired countless students to pursue careers in math and science," said Vicki Chandler, chair of the NSB's Committee on Honorary Awards.

Past Public Service Award individuals include Jane Goodall, Stephen Jay Gould, Craig Barret, and Alan Alda.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE

State Honors UMass Boston with Highest Award for Eco-friendly Commuting

UMass Boston received its first Pinnacle Award — the state's highest award for eco-friendly commuting — at the annual Excellence in Commuter Options (ECO) Awards at Fenway Park this spring. MassRIDES, MassCommute, and MassDOT have sponsored the awards since 2011.

Pinnacle Award winners must meet several criteria, including offering services such as emergency ride-home programs, flexible work schedules for employees, vanpools, discounted transit passes, and ride-matching services like NuRide. The university's green transit options and incentives include eco-friendly free shuttle buses, the Hubway bike sharing program, the HarborWalk, and motorbike parking.



Crews plant trees along University Drive South.

University Drive South to Open to Traffic

University Drive South, with its sweeping view of Dorchester Bay, is scheduled to open this month, after being closed since December 2014 as part of the ongoing Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation Project (UCCR). Construction crews made the finishing touches this spring to the new tree-lined, two-way street, which boasts wide sidewalks and bike lanes near a new Fox Point Dock.

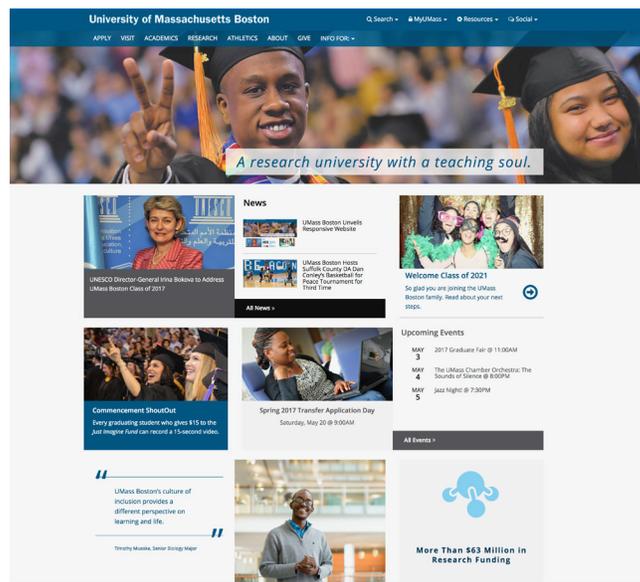
The UCRR project is moving campus utilities from the decommissioned garage under the plaza into new modern utility corridors beneath a reconfigured roadway. Once University Drive South is open, work will progress on University Drive West, closing the part of the roadway that runs near the new parking garage construction site and main loading dock.

More than 250 Trees Planted Across Campus

Crews have started planting a first batch of 274 trees this spring as part of the final landscaping work for University Drive South.

The trees, a collection of white oak, ironwood, Heritage River birch, sweet gum, tulip poplar, eastern red bud, black gum, and American beech, are also being planted near Bianculli Boulevard by BC High and near University Drive East in front of the Campus Center and University Drive. The UCRR project, which is expected to be completed in 2018, will add more than 600 trees to campus.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND IT SERVICES



The UMass Boston website has a new look.

UMass Boston Unveils Responsive Website

UMass Boston's Office of Communications and IT Web Services recently unveiled a responsive website with pages that automatically adjust to the user's device. Mobile users will now have an experience tailored to their needs, with a larger font and a display that changes depending on how the phone is held, while desktop users can expect larger images and text content that takes up more of the screen.

Website URLs will not change, but users will notice a few changes to the header of the website, which has been streamlined to take up less space.

University Redesigns One Stop to Better Serve Students

Enrollment Management has launched a redesign of the One Stop student center to ensure it is providing the services needed to meet the demands of UMass Boston's growing student population. More than 600 students a week visit for assistance with financial aid, registration, or billing.

As part of the redesign, a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system was launched on April 27. The new system allows students at the One Stop to check in using an online form, rather than standing in a physical line. Since it was implemented, over 1,100 cases have been opened and resolved. In the coming months the system will begin to accept web cases, allowing students to interact seamlessly with the One Stop online.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND IT SERVICES (CONT.)

UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion Hires New Director

Former state Representative Thomas Sannicandro has been named director of UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI). On Beacon Hill, Sannicandro was a champion for the rights of people with disabilities, establishing and chairing a statewide task force for the inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities in higher education settings. The ICI's current director, William E. Kiernan, will remain at UMass Boston in his role as dean of the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



This year's College of Science and Mathematics Showcase featured 250 students presenting their research.

UMass Boston's Student Research Showcases Highlight Academically Ambitious Students

Three recent college-level poster sessions on campus gave undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students opportunities to showcase their research on a wide variety of issues with real-world impact.

The College of Science and Mathematics, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences all convened public presentations of student research in the final weeks of spring semester.

The research topics were as creative and diverse as the students who investigated them. One group of freshman biology and biotechnology majors studied why and how often students "code-switch," or change their style of speaking depending on the audience. Another group looked at improving genetic tests for Huntington's Disease, a fatal neurological disorder that remains poorly understood. And one student examined whether foreign-born athletes face a wage gap in Major League Baseball.

More than 300 students participated in the poster sessions, confirming the university's status as a hub for vital research.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

Two UMass Boston Students Earn \$5K Krystle Campbell Scholarships

Chancellor J. Keith Motley presented two UMass Boston students with Krystle Campbell Scholarships at an event this spring celebrating Campbell's legacy and the Boston Marathon team that runs in her name. Eden Blakeley '18, of Dorchester, and Leona Smith '17, of Revere, each received \$5,000 scholarships to pursue their management degrees. The Krystle Campbell Scholarship Fund has raised \$680,000 in cash and pledges toward its \$1 million goal.

Shouting Out Student Achievement

University Advancement and the Office of Communications held the annual Commencement ShoutOut program this spring, promoting student philanthropy and attracting a large group of new donors. More than 125 graduates and 25 faculty and staff groups recorded messages celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2017 and thanking family and friends. A \$15 gift to the *Just Imagine* Fund allowed graduates and community members to record a 15-second video, which will be shown on the Jumbotron at commencement. The program cultivates a culture of philanthropy among the university's newest alumni.

Gina M. Cappello Scholarship Honors Former Vice Chancellor's Legacy

Somerville resident Lynae Carvalho '18 is the first recipient of a scholarship established in memory of former Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Gina M. Cappello, who passed away last year. The first in her family to attend college, Carvalho came to UMass Boston after a 28-year career working as an EMT. She hopes her psychology degree will prepare her for graduate study to become a counselor and help the rescuers and caregivers of trauma victims. The Cappello Scholarship Fund endowment has received more than \$110,000 in gifts and pledges.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

UMass Boston Offers Dual Enrollment Program

The Division of Enrollment Management received a \$30,000 grant for the 2016-2017 academic year from the Massachusetts Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program. The grant allows UMass Boston to partner with four high schools—Quincy High School, North Quincy High School, TechBoston Academy, and Excel High School—to offer college credit opportunities to rising juniors and seniors. Over 50 high school students have completed a college-level pre-calculus course or an Introduction to Environmental Studies course.

The goal of dual enrollment at UMass Boston is to increase the population of high school graduates who are college-ready, and to expose them to the academic opportunities available on campus.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)



As part of Beacon Voyages for Service, students served in shelters and pantries, hearing first-hand from people struggling with hunger and/or homelessness.

Students and Faculty Participate in Beacon Voyages for Service

Over spring break, Beacon Voyages for Service (BVS) engaged 86 student, faculty, and staff volunteers in service projects spanning six states, two countries, and various social and environmental issues.

Housed within the Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement, BVS provides UMass Boston students with a yearlong service-learning experience, which culminates with a weeklong service immersion focused on a specific social or environmental issue in a community outside of Boston. Students served and learned in communities from Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles, New Mexico, and Tijuana, Mexico.

Through these programs, UMass Boston students not only served, but learned about the root causes that their community action sought to address—for example, economic inequalities, gender identities, immigration reform, and renewable energy.

UMass Boston Honors Community Leaders at Annual Community Breakfast

Chancellor J. Keith Motley presented Joyce Linehan '96, '04, chief of policy for Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, with the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership at the university's annual Community Breakfast in March. Motley also presented the Chancellor's Award for Longstanding Community Commitment and Service to Jean McGuire '61, the former executive director of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

Professor Named Editor of Prestigious Journal

Susan Tomlinson, associate professor of English and chair of the Africana Studies Department, has been named the next senior editor of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*. Her five-year term as editor begins June 15. *Legacy* is the premier journal in the fields of American women's literary history and criticism. Tomlinson says she hopes the position will draw further attention to UMass Boston's English and American Studies master's programs.

UMass Boston Postdoctoral Researcher Works to Save Salamanders from Deadly Fungus

Postdoctoral researcher Molly Bletz recently received a 2017 David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship from the Society for Conservation Biology and the Cedar Tree Foundation. Bletz will work to find ways to protect North American salamanders from the spread of the deadly salamander chytrid fungus. The fellowship will support her research at UMass Boston, and her collaboration with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to translate that research into effective policy and conservation action.

UMass Boston Scientist Receives Harvard University Bullard Fellowship

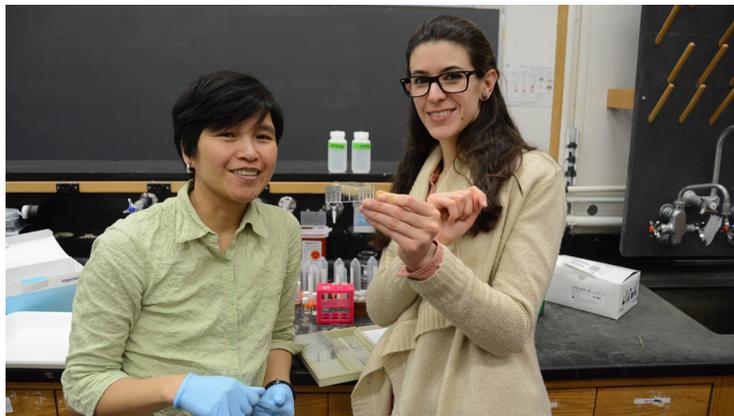
Crystal Schaaf, professor of remote sensing in the School for the Environment, has received a Charles Bullard Fellowship in Forest Research from Harvard University. She will study an invasive insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid, which is threatening to overtake hemlock trees throughout the East Coast. Working in the Harvard Forest, she hopes to find new ways to track the hemlock woolly adelgid, assess its impacts, and hopefully contribute to efforts to slow its proliferation.

New UMass Boston Research Tackles West Nile Virus

New research from a team led by UMass Boston Assistant Professor of Biology Doug Woodhams suggests that the use of probiotics—the same kind of beneficial bacteria that make yogurt a go-to snack for humans—could also help keep mosquitos healthy. And healthy mosquitos are less likely to spread West Nile virus, which sickened more than 2,000 people in the United States last year.

Woodhams published a paper on the topic with Czech Republic professor Eva Novakova in the April edition of *Frontiers in Microbiology*. Their findings could open up a new avenue for public health officials to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile.

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



Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli, left, with postdoctoral researcher Maria Sanchez-Purra, right, holds a prototype of the nanoparticle infused diagnostic strip.

Nanoparticle Researcher Earns Foresight Fellowship

UMass Boston Associate Professor of Engineering Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli is making a testing device for contagious diseases that is as small as a drugstore pregnancy test – and works just as fast. Hamad-Schifferli was recently named a Foresight Fellow by the Foresight Institute in California. She is a part of the very first cohort of fellows, who have been selected to provide new perspectives on nanotechnology, space, longevity, mind uploading, and AI ethics.

Test results for Ebola or the Zika virus can take a week or more. Nanoparticle-infused test strips could give results to doctors and patients within minutes.

Grants

Tejaswini Dalvi, assistant professor of science education, was awarded a three-year, \$388,170 grant from Tufts University for “Connections in the Making: Elementary Students, Teachers, and Stem Professionals Integrating Science and Engineering to Design Community Solutions.”

Jack Wiggin, director of the Urban Harbors Institute, was awarded \$249,852 from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center for “Massachusetts Offshore Wind Ports and Infrastructure Assessment.”

Susan Foley, senior research fellow at the Institute for Community Inclusion, was awarded a four-year, \$1.5 million award from the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for “Transition Pathway Services.”

Daniel Dowling, assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a three-year, \$445,367 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for “Molecular Determinants of Natural Product Heterocyclization.”

Laura Ganley, a Biology PhD student, under the direction of Associate Professor of Biology **Solange Brault**, was awarded \$9,633 from *National Geographic* for “How Many Right Whales Are Missed? A Field Behavioral Study of Sightability to Correct Survey Counts for an Endangered Species.”

RENEW THE FACULTY

Faculty Research Celebration Highlights Mentorship on Campus

Attendees at this spring's Faculty Research Celebration learned about topics as diverse as robotic technology, human infant development, and health care policies and engagement with communities of color. The celebration, hosted by the Friends of the Library, showcased three undergraduate researchers and their mentors.

Grant Rudd, an engineering major in the College of Science and Mathematics, presented his work with Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering Filip Čučkov on the development of the Cyber-Physical Lab. Najah Walton, a nursing major, presented research with her mentor, Associate Professor of Psychology Tiffany Donaldson. Alyssa Benalfew, a philosophy and public policy major in the Honors College, worked with Lina Cañon, volunteer and intern program manager at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.

Professor Wins Excellence in Nursing Education Award

JoAnn Mulready-Shick, a clinical professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, received the Excellence in Nursing Education Award from the American Nurses Association of Massachusetts at a ceremony in Waltham this spring.

Mulready-Shick has nearly 30 years of experience in nursing education and is one of the leaders in her field. Her teaching and research focuses on faculty development and student success, with the aim of training a diverse new generation of nurses who can forge stronger cultural connections with their patients.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

University Celebrates DiverseAbility Month

In an effort to get more people talking and thinking about disability as a core part of the diversity conversation, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) hosted events for faculty, staff, and students during the month of April. The theme was the awareness of the DiverseAbility movement to re-brand disability through the power of community. Inclusion greatly influences how we see ourselves, helps us feel empowered and builds self-esteem and self-confidence.

ODI ran a four-week course for faculty and staff to learn American Sign Language (ASL) and understand its history, culture, and signs for simple conversations with deaf and hard of hearing people in the university community. Events also included an iPad Accessibility Tools and Apps Workshop, a Native American Pow Wow, and the 2017 Undocumented Graduation Ceremony.