

To the Board:

Fall is a very important season on any college campus—it brings the start of a new semester, and the first taste of college for hundreds of new students. The season also gives us a rare opportunity to embrace the changes happening around us while also appreciating those things that remain reliably the same.

At UMass Boston, I had the privilege of cutting the ribbon for the official opening of University Hall, our newest state-of-the-art academic building. I was proud to celebrate this great achievement alongside President Marty Meehan, members of the board of trustees, elected officials, our friends in the community, and, of course, our incomparable students, faculty, and staff.

Though our physical campus is transforming before our eyes, our commitment to excellence remains unchanged. UMass Boston was named a Best College by *U.S. News & World Report*, and has again made *The Princeton Review's* list of Best in the Northeast. (page 5)

And a new \$17.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health is enabling us to continue our high-impact U54 partnership with the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. Together we are working to eliminate disparities in cancer outcomes and train a diverse new generation of cancer researchers. (page 6)

As always, there is more good news to share than space in this column. I encourage you to take a look at the following pages inside for even more about our capital city's public research university.

—Chancellor J. Keith Motley

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



Chancellor Motley was joined by local and state officials, alumni, and guests as he cut the ribbon at the new University Hall.

UMass Boston Celebrates Ribbon Cutting at University Hall

The campus marked the official opening of its state-of-the-art \$130 million University Hall on October 17, celebrating the second new academic building to open on campus in the past two years. The four-story, 190,000-square-foot facility provides nearly 2,000 seats of classroom space, along with specialized studios and exhibition spaces for the visual and performing arts.

Chancellor J. Keith Motley was joined by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, UMass President Marty Meehan, former UMass President William Bulger, local and state officials, and more than 300 students, faculty, and alumni for the ceremony in University Hall's 500-seat auditorium.

The copper-cladded building, which opened for classes earlier this year, boasts a 150-seat recital hall, and a black box theater with adjacent costume and scene shops. It also houses chemistry labs, study spaces, and specialized instructional spaces.

University Hall also began its first season of student and faculty performances. #FERGUSON, a new composition by Professor of Music David Patterson, played to an over-capacity crowd on October 21 and was featured in *The Boston Globe* and WGBH's *Greater Boston*. The Theatre Arts program opened its first musical production this month — the wild comedy/horror *Bat Boy: The Musical*.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE (CONT.)

ISC Earns LEED Gold Certification

The Integrated Sciences Complex became the first campus building to achieve LEED Gold certification earlier this year. UMass Boston is seeking the same certification for University Hall. UMass Boston also made the Princeton Review's Green Colleges Guide for the seventh year in a row. The Princeton Review lists UMass Boston as one of the 361 greenest colleges nationwide.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS



Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management John Drew gives a tour to prospective students and parents during October's Open House.

Over 1,600 People Attend UMass Boston Open House

More than 1,600 prospective students, parents, and family members attended the annual Freshman Open House on October 15. Prospective students and guests had an opportunity to interact with faculty, staff, and current UMass Boston students as they explored the university, learning how to prepare for college and apply for financial aid, and what being a student at the waterfront campus is really like.

Corey Ford, director of undergraduate admissions, was excited to see the huge turnout for Open House this year. "It was so nice to speak with so many students and families today," Ford said. "Our guests' excitement was electric and clearly representative of all of the exciting changes taking place here at UMass Boston."

Alumni Association Supports Beacons Student Success Fellowship

The UMass Boston Alumni Association has made a three-year commitment of \$170,000 to support the Beacons Student Success Fellowship, which gives UMass Boston students an edge in the job market. This year 45 UMass Boston students had a chance to study abroad, work alongside faculty on research projects, and get paid for their internship experiences thanks to the fellowship. The fellowship also received \$318,000 in new funding from an anonymous donor.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND IT SERVICES

UMass Boston's New MakerSpace Offers 3D Printing for Professors, Students

The university recently opened its new MakerSpace, which houses five 3D printers, free to use for all faculty, staff, and students. Students have already taken advantage of the new machines, designing and printing gears and pieces to build objects, while faculty and staff have discussed how to incorporate the lab into their curriculum. Three professors were already making use of the MakerSpace for their classes in the month after its opening, including a biology class in which students will be designing and printing replicas of livers, stomachs, and hearts. The UMass Boston MakerSpace is a collaboration among the School for the Environment, Department of Engineering, and Information Technology Services.

Campus Launches Responsive HR Website

On October 31, Human Resources, the Office of Communications, and the IT Web Services Team launched a new, responsive HR website. The new website, hr.umb.edu, is organized by audience type (employees, supervisors, and prospective employees), and makes the most commonly used areas of the website accessible at all times via a "Quick Links" navigation bar. Most importantly, the website adapts to the visitor's device, making it easier to access information whether on phones or tablets.

UMass Boston Improves Campus Wi-Fi Connectivity

To provide pervasive Wi-Fi connectivity on campus, IT staff have improved the network by replacing and tuning over 1,000 access points on campus. This includes replacing the hardware with next-generation equipment, and configuring load groups to meet the demands of crowded areas such as cafeterias, large classrooms, and event spaces. The major enhancements provide improved and ubiquitous Wi-Fi coverage within the academic buildings, including the on-campus outdoor bus stops, but excluding stairwells and bathrooms.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



Secretary of Education James Peyser speaks at fall convocation.

Chancellor Motley Encourages Excellence at Convocation

Chancellor J. Keith Motley used his annual fall convocation address to speak on the theme of excellence, and the ways in which individuals can take it upon themselves to bolster the excellence of the university as a whole. “Our university will continue to move forward and overcome any obstacles in our way with excellence in our sights,” Motley said. “The excellence we have pursued for five decades remains at the center of our pursuits today.”

Secretary of Education James Peyser delivered the convocation’s keynote address, offering robust praise for the UMass system and UMass Boston in particular. “Enrollment is growing, quality is high and improving, and UMass’s reputation across the country, and around the world, and in this city is steadily and deservedly gaining ground,” he said.

MOU Joins McCormack, Kumamoto for Exchanges

The McCormack Graduate School signed a memorandum of understanding with Kumamoto University’s Graduate School of Social and Cultural Science in Japan. The two universities have agreed to exchange students, faculty, and staff for joint research and educational programs. Dean Hironori Ito has shown a great interest in the college’s Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration and wishes to replicate it in Japan. In October, Ito and his graduate students came to campus to discuss public disputes after the Fukushima earthquakes, tsunami, and nuclear disaster.

SGISD Launches New Concentration

The School for Global Inclusion and Social Development recently launched a new concentration: transnational, cultural, and community studies. The concentration enables students to respond to the dramatic changes in the nature of population movements across the world and their profound impact on the experience and meaning of culture, community, identity, citizenship, and other relations between individuals and societies in both the sending and receiving nation-states.



McCormack Graduate School Dean David Cash, left, with U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz

U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz Visits Campus

U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz visited campus in September to discuss America’s progress toward a carbon-free economy and the value of public education in hastening a clean-energy future. Moniz addressed several important topics in a wide-ranging informal conversation with students, faculty, and members of the university’s new Sustainable Solutions Lab. The Fall River native was back in his home state to visit the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center’s Wind Technology Testing Center in Charlestown, and announce a new federal strategy for offshore wind development.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE



Sacha Pfeiffer, Todd Wallack, and Scott Allen, former and current members of the Boston Globe's Spotlight Team, talk about investigative journalism during a lunch panel discussion at IDEAS UMass Boston.

12th Annual IDEAS UMass Boston Continues Tradition of Bringing Innovators to Campus

The top innovators from Massachusetts' laboratories, incubators, lecture halls, and even newsrooms came together at UMass Boston in October for the 12th annual IDEAS UMass Boston conference. More than 100 audience members heard the next big ideas from UMass Boston Professor of Hydrology Ellen Douglas; Jose Gomez-Marquez, director of the Little Devices Lab; Justin Kang, executive director of City Awake; Laura Ligouri, founder of Mindbridge; Steven Koppel, founder of the EDI Institute; and Alexie Torres-Fleming, executive director of Access Strategies Fund.

This year the event concluded with a panel discussion with The *Boston Globe's* Spotlight Team, which earned international notice last year with the release of the Academy-Award-winning film *Spotlight*. WGBH's Callie Crossley moderated the event.

Men's Hockey Team Part of Capital One Frozen Fenway 2017

The UMass Boston men's ice hockey team will take on rival Babson College on Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m., as part of Capital One Frozen Fenway 2017—marking the second time the Beacons will play beneath the Green Monster. Frozen Fenway will be played over a stretch of 13 days at Fenway Park and feature some of the top collegiate and high school hockey teams from the greater Northeast region.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

Just Imagine Campaign Tallies \$71.6 Million

UMass Boston's *Just Imagine* campaign is 71 percent of the way to reaching its \$100 million goal, having raised close to \$71.6 million as of November. As the largest campaign in the university's history, *Just Imagine* aims to support key areas of the university's strategic plan, including student success, building the research enterprise, enhancing the campus, and annual support.

Edward Barry Rink Campaign Goes Public

In its quiet phase, the Edward Barry Ice Rink project received a lead gift of \$150,000 from hockey player Richard Leahy '71. The \$5 million campaign went public with an event in November.

Gina Cappello Scholarship Fund Will Reach \$100K

The new Gina M. Cappello Scholarship Fund has raised more than \$80,000 and will reach \$100,000 by the end of the year thanks to a challenge grant from alumna Pam Trefler '93. Cappello was vice chancellor for university advancement before her tragic death in May 2016.

Make Your Mark in University Hall Auditorium

The University Hall Make Your Mark initiative for donor-purchased seats has sold 275 seats. Many of the donors had the chance to sit in their seats at the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony. Building on the initiative's fundraising success, especially from first-time donors, a complementary initiative, Take Your Seat, has been launched to offer seats for purchase in University Hall's recital space.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE (CONT.)



The Beacons women's volleyball team won their seventh LEC Tournament crown this month in the Clark Athletic Center Gymnasium.

Women's Volleyball, Men's Soccer Teams Win LEC Titles

The women's volleyball team and the men's soccer team each won Little East Conference Tournament titles this month, and are moving on to play in the NCAA Division III tournaments in their respective sports. The victory marked the seventh LEC tournament title in eight years for volleyball, and the third in a row for men's soccer.

The men's soccer team entered LEC Tournament play ranked as one of the top 15 Division III teams in the country. The 2016 squad was ranked as high as No. 4 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll and No. 8 in the D3Soccer.com Top-25 poll. Before this year, a UMass Boston men's soccer team has never cracked the top 10 in a national poll.

UMass Boston Ranked in First Tier of "National Universities" by U.S. News

U.S. News & World Report has ranked UMass Boston in the first tier of "national universities" in the United States. High scores in categories such as peer reputation and high-school counselor reputation propelled UMass Boston into the top tier nationally for the first time. The university was also ranked favorably for its admission rate, retention rate, and class sizes.

UMass Boston is one of the featured schools on The Princeton Review's "Best in the Northeast" list for 2017. The university is also one of the 228 northeastern colleges highlighted in the "2017 Best Colleges: Region by Region" web feature.

This is the second year in a row UMass Boston has been named to this list, and the fourth time overall. The schools on the list are considered to be outstanding academically and deserving of strong consideration in a college search.

In other rankings news:

- The College of Management was named a 2017 Best Business School by the Princeton Review, and ranked No. 4 on the Greatest Opportunity for Minority Students list.
- *The Financial Engineer Times* ranked the College of Management's MS program in finance No. 48 and the MS program in accounting No. 86 in its 2017 rankings.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



City Councilor Tito Jackson, left, and former state Representative Marty Walz had a polite but pointed debate on charter schools in the McCormack Theater in September.

McCormack Grad School, WBUR, Boston Globe Host Election Ballot Debates

UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, WBUR radio, and *The Boston Globe* hosted a series of live weekly debates exploring in depth the four statewide ballot questions decided by Massachusetts voters in this month's election. The debates were conducted each Tuesday as part of WBUR's "Radio Boston" program before a live audience in the McCormack Theatre, and were live streamed on the sponsors' websites. The video recordings of the debates were then made available to public access TV stations across the state for airing. The debate series was intended to raise the profile and further the discussion of the important ballot questions voters faced, as often ballot questions get little public notice.

Center for Social Policy to Manage the Commonwealth Workforce Coalition

The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation and UMass Boston's Center for Social Policy (CSP) announced a new partnership to manage the Commonwealth Workforce Coalition, a statewide initiative that seeks to strengthen the capacity of Massachusetts' education, training, and workforce system to produce better employment and earnings outcomes for unemployed and underemployed residents. The partnership began in July 2016 and will extend for one year, after which the CSP will operate the program.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE



UMass Boston and Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center U54 Partnership Receives \$17.8 Million

The UMass Boston and the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DF/HCC) have been awarded \$17.8 million over five years by the National Institutes of Health to support their U54 Comprehensive Partnership for Cancer Disparities Research. The university has been in partnership with DF/HCC for more than a dozen years, working to end cancer disparities and train the next generation of cancer researchers. Approximately \$8.5 million will go to UMass Boston, while nearly \$9.3 million will be allocated to DF/HCC.

The U54 partnership takes a two-pronged approach to cancer research. The program funds research that seeks to address disparities in cancer and cancer care, and traineeships at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels for underrepresented minority students in the life sciences.

Since 2005, the partnership has attracted more than \$35 million in NIH funding to address cancer disparities. It has spurred the production of 222 research manuscripts and 123 grant applications, resulting in \$42.9 million in additional funding. And it has received nearly \$1 million in NIH supplemental awards.

Professor Receives NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded a three-year, \$344,652 grant to Assistant Professor of Engineering Matthew Bell to further his research into quantum limited amplifiers. This technology is used to boost very faint signals, and separate signals from noise. It is especially useful for amplifying weak signals present inside prototype quantum computers to read information stored in “quantum bits.”

Professor Receives \$1.6 Million Grant for Research on Cell Signaling

Associate Professor of Biology Alexey Veraksa has earned a \$1.6 million five-year grant to fund research that could lead to improved gene therapies for people with Down syndrome, and improved treatment for cancer patients. Veraksa’s research focuses on the signaling pathways that determine how cells develop and multiply. The research, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health, is in collaboration with Stanislav Shvartsman of Princeton University.

McCormack Grad School Experts Contribute to Path-Breaking UN Report

The world’s most pressing challenges — whether climate change, population growth, infectious diseases, or massive inequalities of resources – will only be met successfully if science is brought to the task far more effectively, according to a United Nations report drafted by a team at UMass Boston. The 34-page report, “The Future of Scientific Advice to the United Nations,” presents the findings of the UN’s 26-member Scientific Advisory Board. It was drafted by a team from the McCormack Graduate School that included Professor Maria Ivanova and Distinguished Visiting Fellow Susan Avery, who are both members of the Scientific Advisory Board, along with Senior Fellow Robert L. Turner and Dean David W. Cash.

McCormack Centers Attract Funding

The Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL), a cross-discipline collaboration, was awarded \$330,000 from the Barr Foundation to support Climate Ready Boston Phase II, a series of research and implementation efforts to enhance resilience of the City of Boston in the face of impending climate change.

The Center for Social Policy received a \$40,000 grant award from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation to develop an overview of social service programs in Massachusetts to help inform accountable care organizations on how to create partnerships and positively impact the social determinants of health.

As the state dispute resolution agency, the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration awarded fiscal year 2017 grants totaling \$600,000 to local community mediation centers allowing them to continue to deliver important free and low-cost local services to primarily low-income citizens. Trained volunteers will mediate disputes ranging from consumer, neighborhood, family, school, housing, and workplace to minor criminal and juvenile cases.

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

PhD Student Earns Fellowship to Study Gulf Coast Resilience

Debra Butler, a PhD student in UMass Boston's College of Management and an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Fellow, is the recipient of a Gulf Coast Research Program Science Policy Fellowship through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The one-year program offers a \$45,000 stipend, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to PhD students and recent graduates. Butler plans to study the coastal communities of the Gulf region and find ways to translate indigenous and local knowledge into public policy action.

Gerontology Institute Releases Healthy Aging Data

The Gerontology Institute released the Rhode Island Healthy Aging Data Report detailing 120 healthy aging indicators for older adults in each of the state's 39 cities and towns. This is the first time in Rhode Island that individuals will be able to compare communities within the state on healthy aging indicators—from chronic conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and obesity to healthy aging behaviors like diet, exercise, and immunizations.

RENEW THE FACULTY



Paul Kirshen and Ellen Douglas pose with Chancellor Motley at the Norman B. Leventhal Awards Ceremony.

UMass Boston Professors Honored with Leventhal Environment Awards

The nonprofit business group A Better City honored Associate Professor of Hydrology Ellen Douglas and Professor of Climate Adaptation Paul Kirshen as the environment recipients of this year's Norman B. Leventhal Awards for Excellence in City Building. A Better City selected Douglas and Kirshen for their leadership of Boston's Research Advisory Group, whose consensus report serves as the basis for Climate Ready Boston's climate resiliency solutions initiative. The report describes the likely impacts of climate change on the city, from sea-level rise to rising temperatures to extreme precipitation.



Paul Anastas, Berkeley Cue, Nicholas Anastas, Amy Cannon, John Warner, Robert Carter, and Wei Zhang at the green chemistry workshop hosted by UMass Boston

Green Chemistry Stars Return to UMass Boston Roots

UMass Boston and Yale University co-hosted a green chemistry workshop on campus in September. UMass Boston has long been a leader in green chemistry, and many of the earliest innovators in the field got their start on the UMass Boston campus. UMass Boston alums John Warner, Amy Cannon, Paul Anastas, Nicholas Anastas, and Buzz Cue are all green chemistry pioneers, and all five returned to their alma mater to discuss their careers.

Professor's New Book Looks at Adoption in China

Professor of Sociology Leslie K. Wang has published a book on the popularity of international adoptions in China, and how it reveals some complex truths about the impact of globalization. *Outsourced Children: Orphanage Care and Adoption in Globalizing China* is now available from Stanford University Press and is receiving substantial of attention.

Sixth Annual Forum for Cities in Transition Held in Bulgaria

From October 16 to 21, Pdraig O'Malley, the John Joseph Moakley Chair of Peace and Reconciliation, hosted the sixth annual conference of the Forum for Cities in Transition, which took place in Stolat, Bulgaria, at the Stone and Compass Center, the forum's new permanent home. Representatives of Tripoli, Lebanon, hosted some 60 delegates representing 15 cities divided by conflict.

 CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

UMass Boston Wins Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

This month, UMass Boston is featured in *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine as one of the recipients of the magazine's Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Awards. The HEED Award honors colleges and universities that focus on all aspects of diversity, including gender, race, and ethnicity, and looks at populations such as veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community. UMass Boston was one of 83 recipients this year, and one of only three in Massachusetts.

Campus Hosts Diversity Month

In October, the university's Office of Diversity and Inclusion held a month's worth of diversity-themed activities. In past years, programming lasted just a week. Events included an interactive panel discussion with alumni on diversity in the workplace, a diversity fair, and a screening of *No Le Digas A Nadie (Don't Tell Anyone)*, a film about a Colombian immigrant living in New York City who was undocumented as a child.

Refugees Provided Support, Assistance

On November 5, Cambridge Support for Syrian Refugees, the McCormack Graduate School's Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance, and other nonprofits hosted the first Refugee Welcome Fair at UMass Boston. The event provided refugees with an opportunity to meet with students, faculty, staff, and the public in an open and safe space for support and networking. Also, refugees were offered assistance with résumé building and college applications and met with local service providers.



PhD student Tangela Roberts met President Barack Obama at the White House in June.

PhD Candidate Shares Research at White House Pride Event

Tangela Roberts, a PhD candidate in the counseling psychology program, met President Barack Obama and shared her research on monosexism at the White House Pride Celebration earlier this year. Roberts's research first drew attention last December, when she co-authored an article for *The Journal of Bisexuality* called "Between a Gay and a Straight Place: Bisexual Individuals' Experiences with Monosexism." The piece examines monosexism, the discrimination against bisexuals from both the heterosexual and gay communities.