



# Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

August 2012

## To the Board:

After a busy and energizing summer, the University of Massachusetts Boston community – including some 16,000 students – is ready to welcome the 2012-2013 academic year.

This year's freshman class are, and will be, the beneficiaries of many firsts: the first Boston City Scholarships, the first engineering and communications majors on campus, the first new academic building on campus since 1974, and many more firsts you will find within this report.

Of particular interest:

- In partnership with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the University of Massachusetts Boston was awarded a \$6.7 million grant to research and eliminate disparities in health care treatment among minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations (right).
- Associate Professor of Biology Brian White has won *Science* magazine's Inquiry-Based Instruction Prize for a tool he developed to teach students genetics (page 2).
- The General Academic Building No. 1 has moved from schematic design to design development, with a newly finalized architectural rendering, and a groundbreaking date scheduled for early next year (page 5).

I hope you will enjoy this quarter's account of our university's progress toward becoming a preeminent student-centered urban public research university.

— J. Keith Motley, Chancellor

## UMass Boston Receives Grant to Establish Joint Center on Health Equity Research

The University of Massachusetts Boston has been awarded more than \$1.9 million from the National Institutes of Health to develop a messaging campaign on sexual health and teen pregnancy for Puerto Rican families living in Springfield, and to create a minority health scholars program on campus. The award is part of a \$6.7 million grant received by the system to create the UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research, through a partnership between UMass Boston and UMass Medical School.

Maria Idali Torres of the Gastón Institute is the principal investigator for the UMass Boston work. Torres and co-investigators Phil Granberry and Sarah Rustan have already begun work on the project, which will survey Puerto Rican families in Springfield on their attitudes toward and communications about sexual health issues and teen pregnancy. The data will be used to create TV, radio, and print campaigns that encourage mothers to openly address those issues with their teen and preteen children.



*Maria Idali Torres is associate professor of anthropology and director of the Gastón Institute. She will jointly lead CHEIR at UMass Boston.*

After the media outreach is completed, researchers will conduct a follow-up survey to determine whether attitudes have changed.

Part of the UMass Boston grant will be used to create a minority health scholars program. The Gastón Institute will join with the William Monroe Trotter Institute and the Institute for New England Native American Studies to develop the program in the coming months. Next spring, students will be able to enroll in a class focusing on health disparities research.

## MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

### First Class of Boston City Scholarship Students Begins

This fall's incoming freshman class at UMass Boston will include 72 students who are the first beneficiaries of the new Boston City Scholarship.

The new scholarship, established last year with the City of Boston and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission in exchange for the Calf Pasture Pumping Station property, rewards students graduating with at least a 3.0 GPA from one of Boston's public high schools with a \$1,000 scholarship toward tuition, fees, or other school-related costs, if they enroll at UMass Boston the semester directly following their graduation.

To support students' success at UMass Boston, the scholarship is renewable for up to three additional years, provided they maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher and stay continuously enrolled.

## ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### Bloomberg Trading Floor Installed for Management Students

This fall, in a room located on the third floor of the Healey Library, College of Management students are watching foreign markets, calculating currency exchanges, and making trades on a newly installed Bloomberg trading floor, applying their in-class learning to a practical setting. Bloomberg trading floors give students valuable hands-on experience with managing investments. In addition to managing the graduate and undergraduate Student-Managed Funds, the trading floor time will help to prepare them for careers in finance.

### Freshman Communities Fostering Success

Freshman Success Communities – small cohorts of freshmen students in the College of Science and Mathematics who take classes together over the school year – have proved since their implementation in fall 2009 to be an effective means of increasing student retention rates and academic performance. The average retention rate since 2009 is 81 percent; from 2011 to 2012, it was 94 percent. Of the 314 total students enrolled since 2009, 255 were enrolled as of last semester. This academic year, approximately 200 students will join Freshman Success Communities.

### Two New Certificate Programs in Emergency Management

For students interested in studying emergency management, University College is offering two new certificate programs. The non-credit programs combine the expertise and resources of the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness with academic programs in post-disaster reconstruction at UMass Boston. The DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness is a program of Boston Emergency Medical Services, a bureau of the Boston Public Health Commission.



*This summer, crews put in a new hardwood floor and bleachers at the Clark Center gym and installed new lighting and Wi-Fi. Volleyball, basketball, and intramurals are breaking it in this fall.*

## STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

### Biology Professor Earns Science Prize

Associate Professor of Biology Brian White won *Science* magazine's Inquiry-Based Instruction Prize for his creation of Aipotou, a computer-simulated world in which students apply the tools of genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, and evolution to develop an understanding of the formation of color in a flower.

This award was developed to showcase outstanding, inquiry-based educational materials, usable in a wide range of schools and settings, for teaching introductory science courses at the college level. Winners were selected by the editors of *Science* and a judging panel made up of teachers and researchers in relevant fields. After winning the prize for Aipotou, White was invited to write an essay describing his project for publication in *Science*.

### Recent Grant Awards

**Alice Carter**, professor of psychology, was awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Spencer Foundation for her project "Pathways to Resilience Following Exposure to Violence in Early Childhood."

**Anne Douglass**, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, was awarded a three-year \$1,068,891 grant by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to develop a post-master's certificate program in early education research.

**Elizabeth Glenn Mitchell**, Institute for Learning and Teaching, was awarded a \$20,000 grant by the National Writing Project for the "Boston Writing Project."

**Andrew Grosovsky**, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, was awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Genzyme Corporation to conduct the "Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Genzyme Workshop."

**Crystal Schaaf**, professor of environmental, earth, and ocean sciences, was awarded a two-year, \$390,400 grant by NASA for her project "MODIS Albedo, Nair Reflectance Anisotropy for Environmental Modeling and Monitoring."

**Michael Ward**, director of municipal services in the Collins Center for Public Management, was awarded a \$294,400 grant by the City of Lowell for the project "Municipal Performance Management Expansion in FY 2013."

## CONTINUE A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

### Mentoring Awards Honor Faculty, Staff

Former Dean of Graduate Studies Joan Liem this spring established a new awards program to honor the mentoring and outreach work performed by graduate program–affiliated faculty and staff, and recognize the positive effect such work has on students. The inaugural Awards for Outstanding Mentoring were presented at Graduate Convocation on May 31, in the categories of outstanding mentoring in a master's program, in a doctoral program, and by staff mentors, to faculty and staff nominated by their peers.

Liem said the awards process was competitive, with colleagues, students, and supervisors writing in-depth nomination letters on behalf of the candidates, who provided their own curricula vitae with the nominations.

Because of a tie, four winners were named this year: Judith Smith, graduate program director in American studies; Cheryl Nixon, former graduate program director in English and now department chair; Karen Suyemoto, associate professor of psychology in the clinical psychology doctoral program; and Roni Lipton, associate director of the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance.

Provost Winston Langley and Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies Zong-Guo Xia surprised Liem at the ceremony by presenting her with a lifetime achievement award for mentoring – and announcing that the yearly awards would be named after her, in honor of her 40-plus years of mentoring at UMass Boston.

### UMass Boston's Diversity Initiatives a Model for International Schools

UMass Boston's diversity and student outreach initiatives are being studied on a global scale. Margaret Fairman, director of the Office of Prospective Students & Scholarship at the University of Queensland, Australia, visited UMass Boston over the summer to obtain information on programs aimed at recruiting and retaining minority youths.

The University of Queensland is one of Australia's leading learning and research institutions and a member of the global Universitas 21 Alliance, a network of universities that aim to enhance the quality of university outcomes through international benchmarking. Fairman oversees the university's Young Achievers program, an initiative aimed at addressing the financial and practical barriers preventing Indigenous and first-generation students from attending college.

Fairman will compile the information she learned at UMass Boston into a report that will be presented at her home institution. The meeting served as a platform to showcase UMass Boston's successful student outreach, scholarship, and mentoring initiatives and increase the university's profile on a global scale.

## RENEW THE FACULTY

### Math Conference Draws International Scholars

Leading math scholars from around the globe were at UMass Boston in July to participate in a conference on representation theory, a field of inquiry that has important applications in chemistry, physics, and biology.

Professor Alfred Noel organized the five-day conference, titled "Unitary Representations of Reductive Groups." It was one of only nine conferences in the 2012 series funded by the National Science Foundation and the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS). UMass Boston and Brown University are the only universities in New England to host a CBMS gathering this year.

Representation theory exists at the intersection of math and science. Though it is studied by mathematicians, advances made in the understanding of representation theory can guide scientists, economists, and others.

### Two Professors Receive Creativity Grants

Professor Paul Atwood and University College Dean Philip DiSalvio received \$45,000 in grants from UMass President Robert Caret's Creative Economy Initiatives Fund to support projects they each proposed to promote arts and culture in Massachusetts.

The Creative Economy Fund, established in 2007, provides seed funding for faculty research and scholarship activities in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, and underscores the university's commitment to enhancing the social and cultural fabric of Massachusetts.

Atwood received the grant for his Tamziq Project, which seeks to bridge cultural divides and misperceptions through artistic expression in painting, sculpture, literature, music, and theater. Chief among the public events is an art exhibit scheduled for October 20 through November 30, 2012, at the Art@12 Gallery in Boston's Fort Point arts district. A film series and a speaker series will supplement the art exhibit. Other participating groups are the Center for Arabic Culture, the New England Institute of Art, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard, and the Fort Point Artists Community.

DiSalvio will use his grant to fund workshops next spring in Chinese calligraphy, traditional painting, traditional Chinese folk dance, and the history of Boston's Chinatown for university students, Chinese-language teachers, high school teachers, and others. These events will culminate on Chinese Culture Day – June 1, 2013 – when University College will partner with two schools in Boston's Chinatown to produce a day of performance, presentation, and cultural understanding. The programming will be abundant, with two auditorium stages on which numerous public, charter, and independent/heritage school groups will perform.

## CONTINUE A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE (CONT.)



*Revelers dance at the Boston Harbor Islands Native American Festival on Peddocks Island, cosponsored by UMass Boston.*

### UMass Boston Cosponsors Native American Festival

UMass Boston's Institute for New England Native American Studies cosponsored the Boston Harbor Islands Native American Festival on Sunday, July 22, on Peddocks Island. The Native American Festival celebrates connections among native peoples along the rivers and coastline of the Massachusetts Bay region.

### Trotter Institute Participates in Project 1 Voice, Honoring Playwright

The William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture and the Boston Black Theatre Collective participated in Project 1 Voice this July, performing a simultaneous reading of James Baldwin's play "The Amen Corner," along with 25 other theatres nationwide, to mark the 25th anniversary of Baldwin's passing. A celebrity cast, including Trotter Institute Director Barbara Lewis, performed the play at Boston's Museum of African American History.

## RENEW THE FACULTY (CONT.)

### Physics Professor Elected as Fellow to Prestigious Society

Professor of Physics Maxim Olchanyi has been elected a fellow of the American Physical Society (APS). The APS Fellowship Program was created to recognize members who have made advances in physics through original research and publication, or made significant innovative contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. Olchanyi was elected a fellow for contributions to theories of confined ultra cold collisions and quantum-degenerate Bose gases in one dimension.

## INCREASE ENDOWMENT

### Arts on the Point Draws Support

Arts on the Point, UMass Boston's public art program, recently received \$15,000 from the Jane Lawton Trust Fund. This gift came as a result of a special event, "Monet's Garden," at the New York Botanical Gardens, curated by Distinguished Professor of Art Paul Tucker. An in-kind gift from Anne Woodbury of an American oil painting, "The Clipper Ship," valued at \$120,000, will also enrich the university's fine arts program.

### OLLI Holds First Fundraising Gala

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) held its first fundraising gala in June. Emily Rooney, host and executive editor of WGBH's Greater Boston, delivered the keynote speech; honorary committee members included Governor Deval Patrick, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and Senate President Therese Murray. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction. According to OLLI Director Wichian Rojanawon, successful fundraising efforts are an important prerequisite as OLLI prepares to apply for its next million-dollar endowment from the Osher Foundation.

### Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Athletics

The 26th Annual UMass Boston Golf Classic teed off Monday, July 9, at the Granite Links Golf Course in Quincy as alumni, students, faculty, and others came to play, win awards, and fundraise for the Division of Athletics and Recreation, Special Programs, and Projects. The Golf Classic continues to be the largest annual fundraising event for the division, this year raising \$8,300.

"With several facility expansion and improvement projects underway, proceeds from this event ensure that we can continue to provide our student-athletes, the university community, and the people of Greater Boston with the best in athletics facilities, sports programs, and recreation," said Vice Chancellor for Athletics and Recreation Charlie Titus.

### Alumni Giving Increases with Launch of New Efforts

The new Student Philanthropy Council, the university's first significant effort to cultivate student giving, marked a successful beginning by recruiting student leaders and a circle of new donors. Another initiative to attract funding from graduates of the last decade (GOLD) is also attracting new donors and building momentum. Total alumni giving increased by 40 percent from last year to \$677,444. Total giving for FY 2012 was \$11,401,879.

## DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



*The General Academic Building No. 1 will house a fine arts studio; rehearsal and performance space for dance, theatre, and music; chemistry labs; lecture halls; and seminar rooms.*

### General Academic Building Takes Shape

The planning of the General Academic Building No. 1 (GAB No. 1), the second new academic building in the UMass Boston Master Plan, took a significant step forward over the summer, moving from schematic design to design development.

The new building's design takes advantage of the site's waterfront views and complements the neighboring Campus Center. The building will help to meet the university's growing need for instructional space, with more than 25 new classrooms. GAB No. 1, which will be located on the existing North Parking Lot and built by the UMass Building Authority, is scheduled to break ground in early 2013 and to open in summer 2015.

## DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

### BATEC Finds Employment Opportunities for Middle-Skilled IT Workers

Broadening Advanced Technological Education Connections (BATEC), based at University College at UMass Boston, together with the TechAmerica Foundation, has been collecting and analyzing Bureau of Labor Statistics and real-time labor market information to better understand the challenges and opportunities for middle-skilled IT workers.

Members of BATEC led a workforce summit at the IBM Innovation Center, sharing data on areas of prospective employment and collaboration in the IT arena for middle-skilled workers with leaders from business, industry, policy, and education, including Monster, Commonwealth Corporation, Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council, Boston Private Industry Council, SkillProof, IBM, and others.

"This collaborative effort with the TechAmerica Foundation has uncovered data that we hope will help us close the gap between those who are looking for quality workers and those who are seeking retooling and employment," says Deborah Boisvert, executive director of BATEC.

## DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

### Pension Action Center Expands Services

The Pension Action Center of the Gerontology Institute at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies received a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation to expand its pension counseling services to Illinois. The Illinois Pension Assistance Project will replicate the Pension Action Center's highly successful New England Pension Assistance Project. The Midwestern center began offering free pension counseling services to Illinois residents earlier this summer.

### University College Launches New Center to Study eLearning

University College has launched the Center for Innovation and Excellence in eLearning (CIEE) to promote, encourage, and sponsor the study of eLearning in higher education and in the corporate and public sectors. Based at UMass Boston and working with other campuses in the UMass system, the center serves as a linchpin for research and critical thought on eLearning in its many forms, including online education, mobile learning, and multimedia education.

### Students Volunteer in South America

A dozen UMass Boston students spent the beginning of their summer break volunteering at an orphanage in Quito, Ecuador. Working through the Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement's Beacon Voyages for Service program, the students painted over graffiti, planted new grass for a playground, and taught English to older students.

## IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF IT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### Team That Helped Vision- and Hearing-Impaired Students Wins Innovators Award

A team of 17 people who helped a blind and deaf student participate in online courses has won an Innovators Award from *Campus Technology* magazine.

Valerie Haven, academic technology coordinator for the Ross Center for Disability Services at UMass Boston, led the team, which was one of 10 winners from a pool of 354 nominees. Twelve of the team were from UMass Boston, which was honored in the teaching and learning category for two projects.

In one, Haven and other staff members worked to translate online class conversations into Braille in real time. The group's work allowed a blind and deaf business management student to fully participate in virtual class sessions. The live-captioning system was so fast, the student could vocalize a response six seconds after the captions were rebroadcast to her Braille keyboard.

The second project was the result of a 2010 partnership between UMass Boston and WGBH-TV. That team developed a synchronous conferencing system allowing a deaf and sighted student to see live captioning of a videotaped counseling session being shown in class.

Haven said after the first clinical video was live-captioned during class that the deaf student reported feeling fully included in a course meeting for the first time. Meanwhile, other students reported that the captions helped them understand the course content better.

The university team included staff members from the Ross Center, the Information Technology Services Division, the Video Production Center, University College's Center for Innovation and Excellence in eLearning, and Customer Service. Haven accepted the award in July at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston.

## POSITION THE UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

### Naval Secretary Honored at First Global Conference on Oceans, Climate, and Security

In May, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick presented Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus with the Collaborative Institute for Oceans, Climate, and Security's (CIOCS) Energy & Environmental Safety Award at the Global Conference on Oceans, Climate, and Security at UMass Boston.

The three-day conference brought together hundreds of participants from 16 countries and multiple sectors, under the theme of "Collaboration and Action to Address the Impacts of Climate-related Ocean Change on Human, National, and International Security." The conference provided participants a unique opportunity to assess current global climate change science and policies, and to develop recommendations for action.

CIOCS, which sponsored the conference, is a public-private think tank located at UMass Boston that aims to strengthen the understanding of the human and national security implications of changing oceans and climates, and to inform policy decisions through the application of sound scientific research and technology.

### Sociology Professor Honored by Department of Mental Health

Professor Stephanie Hartwell has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for her work with the Plymouth Mental Health Court. She was selected to receive a 2012 Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance. The citation from Commissioner Marcia Fowler indicates that Professor Hartwell's "contribution serves as an example to others in the care and treatment of adults, children, and adolescents with mental illness."

### UMass Boston Sends Delegation to UN Sustainability Conference

A delegation of seven professors, students, and fellows from UMass Boston last month participated in Rio+20, a global sustainability conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which drew an estimated 50,000 people, including leaders from 130 nations. Members of the UMass Boston group conducted a research study, presented a proposal for sustainability initiatives on campus, and attended the conference centerpiece, a meeting of heads of state and non-governmental organizations from around the globe.

Access to the United Nations forum was limited, but UMass Boston was there because of the efforts of the Center for Governance and Sustainability. Natalia Escobar-Pemberthy, a research associate at the center and an incoming doctoral candidate in the new Global Governance and Human Security PhD program, worked to have UMass Boston granted consultative status with the United Nations, a designation that gave the group access to the meeting.

The consultative status also gives UMass Boston the ability to attend future meetings of the United Nations. Earning that designation required months of research and a compelling argument about how UMass Boston's activities are relevant to UN functions.

"This was a really major process we had to go through," said Maria Ivanova, co-director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability and an assistant professor in the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance at the McCormack Graduate School. "You can't just pack up and go to a UN meeting."

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 POSITION THE UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE (CONT.)
 

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*Andrea Leone, Class of 2012, won a Fulbright Award to teach English in Rome; only about 3 percent of applicants to the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program were accepted.*

### **Class of 2012 Alum Wins Fulbright Award**

Andrea Leone, who graduated in June, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship this summer and will spend the next year teaching English in Rome.

Leone, 25, is an East Boston resident who is originally from Hamden, Connecticut. She is one of 1,700 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2012-2013 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, administered by the Institute of International Education.

Competition for Fulbright awards to Italy is intense. Only about 3 percent of applicants to the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program received an award for the 2012-2013 year.

An honors graduate in anthropology from UMass Boston, Leone is no stranger to international adventures. During her time at UMass Boston, she spent a summer in Kassel, Germany, and also studied for 11 months in Verona, Italy. Her undergraduate thesis examined intercultural competence in commercial ESOL schools.

### **Peace Abbey Materials Create New Center, Archives for Peace**

This summer Lewis Randa, founder and director of the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, donated the interdenominational center's educational materials and peace and justice displays to the Joseph P. Healey Library's University Archives and Special Collections Department.

The materials are the foundation for UMass Boston's new Center and Archives for Peace, Social Action, Public Policy, and the Arts.

The Peace Abbey's materials are now readily accessible at the Curriculum Resource Center on the fifth floor of Healey Library. They include stored archival material from the Vietnam War, a grandfather clock, and commissioned art pieces of Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa. A peacemakers' table, around which Mother Teresa and other members of the peace movement once sat, is also part of the Peace Abbey's gift to UMass Boston.

### **IDEAS Boston Solidifies Speaker Roster**

IDEAS Boston, the annual meeting of minds where many of Boston's best innovators and thinkers share their latest big ideas, is open for registration for its second year at UMass Boston. On October 24, 14 speakers will present on topics of their choosing – including Associate Professor of American Studies Lynnell Thomas.

Thomas uses popular culture to expand understandings of American identity, the modern South, and multiculturalism in the post-Civil Rights era. Her current book project examines Hurricane Katrina through the lens of New Orleans' racialized tourism narrative. To learn more about the roster of speakers, and sign up to attend the conference, visit [ideasboston.com](http://ideasboston.com).

### **UMass Boston to Host Documentary Film Festival**

Beginning on September 26 and continuing over the fall semester, UMass Boston will screen six critically acclaimed independent documentaries on campus and host discussions with the filmmakers in a film series that will be free and open to the public.

The UMass Boston Film Series will showcase innovative and thought-provoking filmmakers and their work. The series represents a powerful and varied mix of independent film gems, audience favorites, and works that have shaped the cinema landscape.

### **Associate Professor Testifies Before Congress on Nigerian Violence**

This summer, Darren Kew, executive director of the Center for Peace, Democracy, and Development, was invited to testify before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs on recent religious violence in Nigeria. Kew, who also teaches in the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance at UMass Boston, was one of five experts who testified at the hearing on Capitol Hill. The professor spoke to members of the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, chaired by U.S. Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey.