



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

November 2017

To the Board:

My first semester as interim chancellor at the University of Massachusetts Boston has been, quite simply, a revelation. In the months since I arrived, students, faculty, staff, and alumni have shared their affection for this vital institution, and described its unique character—brilliant and tenacious, yet welcoming and supportive. Now that I have experienced UMass Boston for myself, I could not agree more.

The stories in this report are a testament to this unique character and the significant learning, teaching, and research breakthroughs that are possible in an academic climate like ours. These successes have once again been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*, which placed UMass Boston in the first tier of national universities for the second straight year (page 3). This fall, we welcomed the largest freshman class in our history, meaning more students than ever have access to the nationally recognized education we provide (page 2).

These record-breaking enrollment numbers were fueled in part by our fruitful partnership with Boston Public Schools (right), which sent 194 of its graduates to Columbia Point this fall as Boston City Scholars. I was proud to welcome Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to campus this fall to celebrate these students and our strong bond with the city.

As always, our professors are standing out for all they do, from climate-change research that earns national awards (page 3), to thought leadership on international relations and dark money in politics (page 6), to lab work that signals an imminent breakthrough in the diagnosis and treatment of Zika virus (page 7).

Thank you for reading, and I hope this report serves as a reminder to all of us of the importance of our mission and our obligation to the students we serve.

—Interim Chancellor Barry Mills



Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Interim Chancellor Barry Mills met with Boston City Scholars and their families in September.

Mayor Walsh Celebrates Freshman Scholarship Recipients

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh joined Interim Chancellor Barry Mills earlier this fall in welcoming freshman students who attended Boston Public Schools and earned merit-based scholarships to attend UMass Boston, calling them the “thinkers, the creators, and the leaders of the future.”

This fall, UMass Boston welcomed 194 new Boston City Scholars, representing 24 city high schools. The Boston City Scholars program provides annual \$1,000 scholarships to qualified BPS students for up to four years.

“The graduates of this school go on to do some incredible, great things. ... They teach in these schools. They work for the City of Boston. They are nurses in our hospitals. They’re important because they help us move forward in this society,” Walsh told the students.

Over the past five years, the program has supported more than 660 Boston students with \$1.25 million in aid. Many of the students also received additional merit scholarships: 15 students received Dean’s Scholarships; 82 students received Beacon Scholarships; and 13 received chancellor’s scholarships.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY



Student Affairs staff cut the ribbon on a newly expanded U-ACCESS food pantry on November 2.

U-ACCESS Cuts Ribbon on Expanded Food Pantry for Students in Need

As part of its commitment to support students inside and outside the classroom, UMass Boston has opened a new expanded food pantry to serve those who are experiencing food insecurity. In early November the university held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and gave tours of the new space to students, faculty, staff, and donors.

The opening of the 140-square-foot pantry is part of a larger relaunch of the university's Office of Urban and Off-Campus Support Services (U-ACCESS), an innovator in care for economically disadvantaged students, which has added new services and staff.

The food pantry will provide students with nonperishable food items, toiletries, women's hygiene products, and other supplies.

UMass Boston Enrolls Largest Freshman Class in History

September marked the end of one successful undergraduate recruitment cycle and the beginning of recruitment for fall 2018. Enrollment Management exceeded both their new freshmen and transfer student goals for fall 2017, enrolling the largest freshman class in the history of UMass Boston.

The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning reported that the university enrolled 1,881 new freshmen (a 14 percent increase over fall 2016) and 1,544 new transfer students — a total of 3,425 new students. Many new, effective enrollment strategies contributed to the increase and are being deployed again and expanded upon.

Enrollment Management Hosts Guidance Counselors

Enrollment Management cultivated relationships with hundreds of high school counselors at key events this fall, raising awareness of UMass Boston's brand-new residence halls opening in fall 2018.

More than 60 out-of-state guidance counselors from as far away as Hawaii and California got a glimpse of UMass Boston's waterfront campus on September 13 aboard a sunset cruise on the *M/V Columbia Point*. The event was part of the annual National Association for College Admission Counseling conference. The university also hosted an annual fall counselor workshop in October, welcoming 69 Massachusetts counselors.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND IT SERVICES

Dean of Students Office Offers New Student Care Services

In September, the Dean of Students Office launched two new services to provide student care in a more accessible manner. The first is a 24/7 Administrator on Call system for students involved in emergency situations, night or day. The office also started offering open office hours throughout the week. Since the semester began, the office estimates over 30 students have taken advantage of the open office hours.

Immunopalooza '17 Helps Prepare for New Residential Population

On September 28, University Health Services, the Office of Emergency Management, and the Office of Communications collaborated in a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise. Immunopalooza '17 was designed to test the plans and procedures to respond to an outbreak of Meningitis B on campus by setting-up, operating, and demobilizing an emergency vaccine dispensing site. The dispensing site was also used to offer the flu vaccine; 320 students, faculty, and staff were immunized.

Veracity USA Donates New State-of-the-art Video Management System

The office of Student Affairs Information Systems and Technology (IST) recently received a gift from Veracity USA Inc. for a new video management system (VMS) to replace the current system. Going forward, IST estimates that this gift will save the division and the university approximately \$16,000 to \$20,000 a year. The gift includes installation, setup, and servicing. UMass Boston will be the first organization to use this system in the United States.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

UMass Boston Ranks in Top Tier Nationally for Second Straight Year

U.S. News & World Report has ranked UMass Boston in the first tier of national universities for the second year in a row, according to a report released this fall. The university climbed 18 spots in the past year, placing at No. 202 in the new rankings.

UMass Boston also placed at No. 32 for ethnic diversity among national universities, and tied at No. 45 with several schools for its percentage of international students. The university's undergraduate business program ranked No. 151.



Professors Ellen Douglas and Paul Kirshen received the Federal Highway Administration's 2017 Environmental Excellence Award.

Climate Scientists Receive National Award

School for the Environment professors Ellen Douglas and Paul Kirshen and their research team were one of 18 groups nationwide to receive the Federal Highway Administration's 2017 Environmental Excellence Award this fall. The award recognizes their work assessing the vulnerability of Boston's tunnels and bridges to sea level rise. Only one other Massachusetts project won the biannual award.

McCormack Professor Featured in United Nations Podcast

Professor of Global Governance and Human Security Maria Ivanova was interviewed by Mark Leon Goldberg, a correspondent for the United Nations' *Global Dispatch* podcast, for an episode titled "Can the International Community Do Hurricane Response Better?" Following the devastation of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, Ivanova discussed the global need to better organize to address climate change issues.

Experts Take Lead Role in HUBWeek 2017

UMass Boston faculty and staff showed off their expertise at this year's HUBweek events, exploring the future being built in Boston at the intersections of art, science, and technology.

Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy Director Jill Macoska, Associate Professor of Psychology Tiffany Donaldson, and Associate Professor of Biology Adán Colón-Carmona discussed addressing cancer health disparities in minority populations and preparing students of color for careers in the life sciences cluster. Venture Development Center Director Bill Brah participated in a session on attracting global entrepreneurs to Boston, and McCormack Dean David Cash spoke about what Boston and other global cities are doing to build resilience and spark innovation.



National track and field champions Wadeline Jonathas '20 and Hulerie McGuffie '16, with Charlie Titus and Head Coach Consandria Walker-Hall, show off their championship rings.

Student Athletes Honored at Annual Ring Ceremony

UMass Boston Athletics honored nearly 100 student athletes at its annual ring ceremony, a record for the university in a given academic year. Teams and individuals from track and field, men's soccer, men's tennis, volleyball, softball, and baseball received conference rings earned during the 2016-2017 academic year.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



David Ortiz poses for photographs with students during the university's annual Freshman Investiture Ceremony.

David 'Big Papi' Ortiz Visits UMass Boston

Former Red Sox slugger David Ortiz spoke about the importance of education at UMass Boston's annual Freshman Investiture Ceremony, congratulating the Class of 2021 on beginning their college careers and encouraging them to continue working hard. Ortiz, a 10-time All-Star who was instrumental in helping the Red Sox win three World Series titles, spent over an hour answering students' questions about his baseball career, his path to success, and his foundation, the David Ortiz Children's Fund. He also posed for students' selfies, and signed dozens of autographs.



William Bulger and Michael Dukakis visited with political science classes in October.

Dukakis and Bulger, Stars of Mass. Politics, Talk Policy with UMass Boston Students

Continuing a 17-year tradition, Michael Dukakis, the former three-term governor of Massachusetts, and William Bulger, the former president of the Massachusetts Senate and UMass, met with students in UMass Boston's political science classes in October.

Students in Caroline Coscia's public policy class and Ursula Tafe's introduction to politics and political science class engaged in a discussion with the longtime politicians on progressive policies, health care, income inequality, affordable housing, public transportation, and education.

Student Success Fellowship Creates Internship, Research Opportunities

Since 2014, the Beacon Student Success Fellowship has supported 184 students with a total of \$250,000, giving them the ability to take unpaid or low-paying internships, do research with faculty, volunteer, and study abroad. Sixty-seven students participated in the program this past year. They recently shared their experiences during a poster session and speaking program.

New Peace Corps Certificate Prepares Undergrads for International Opportunities

The School for Global Inclusion and Social Development has teamed up with the Honors College to offer a new certificate program available to all UMass Boston undergraduates. The Peace Corps Prep Certificate will prepare students to apply to the Peace Corps or to other international opportunities. UMass Boston is one of three schools in Massachusetts approved to offer this program.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE

Making Strides to Address Racially Equitable School Discipline

On October 19, over 100 participants attended a special McCormack Graduate School event sponsored by the Department of Public Policy and Policy Affairs, Mass Budget, and Youth on Board to assess progress in addressing harsh and racially inequitable school discipline through Chapter 222. The event, organized by professor Mark Warren and doctoral student Andrew King, engaged students, teachers, principals, state and local administrators, and advocacy group members on strategies for advancing more positive and restorative approaches to discipline.

University Offers Support for



Student Advocacy Coordinator Renata Teodoro

DACA and Dreamer Students

In September, Student Affairs brought immigration attorneys to campus to provide private, confidential legal advice to those who may have been affected by the recent rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood (DACA) or remain undocumented. The division also hired alumna Renata Teodoro as a student advocacy coordinator. Teodoro will become the key contact for DACA and undocumented students. She will also provide outreach, visibility, and student support activities for cultural and affinity organizations and centers that serve students from marginalized groups.

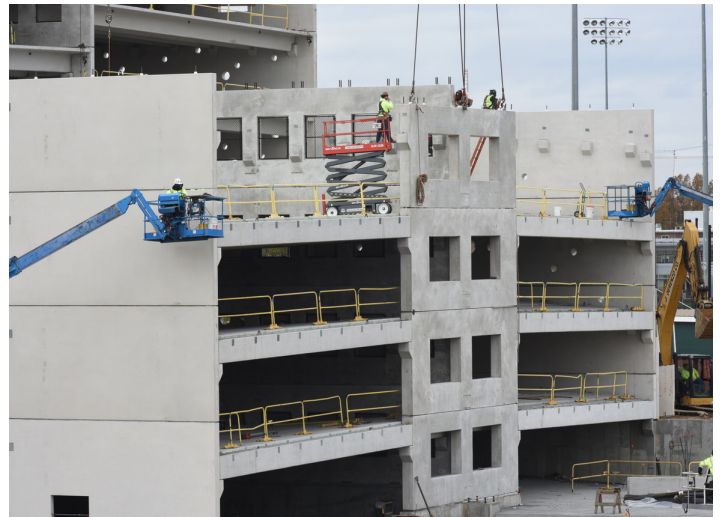
DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE

1,400-Space Parking Garage Taking Shape

Work is underway on the university's first freestanding parking garage. Large precast concrete sections, which fit in place like Lego pieces, are being assembled this fall. The 1,400-space garage is scheduled to be complete by the end of the academic year. It will be operational by next fall.

UMass Boston Named Green College by Princeton Review

The Princeton Review has included UMass Boston in its Green Colleges Guide for the eighth year in a row. The publication chose 375 colleges and universities with an overall commitment to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation, campus policies and initiatives, and activities, after reviewing more than 2,000 colleges nationwide.



Crews continue work on the university's first freestanding parking garage.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT



(From left) Nicholas E. Tawa, Jr. '77 and Christopher Tawa '76 said seeing the instruments on display in the Professor Emeritus Nicholas E. Tawa Music Classroom was extraordinarily gratifying.

Gift from Retired Professor's Sons Makes Immediate Impact on UMass Boston Music Students

UMass Boston music students have new violins, cellos, horns, and flutes thanks to a generous gift from two UMass Boston alumni. The donation from brothers Christopher Tawa '76 and Nicholas E. Tawa, Jr. '77 also funded a dedicated music classroom that now bears the name of their late father, a retired professor.

The Professor Emeritus Nicholas E. Tawa Music Classroom was dedicated during a celebration this fall. Family, friends, and colleagues of Tawa—a founding faculty member and five-year chair of the Music Department—gathered in the building's Recital Hall to share memories and celebrate his lasting contributions to music at UMass Boston.

Just Imagine Campaign Reaches \$82 Million

UMass Boston's Just Imagine campaign is over 80 percent of the way to reaching its \$100 million goal, having raised \$82.4 million as of September. 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.

Early Education Institute Receives Funds for Professional Training

The Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation was awarded \$250,000 from New Profit, Inc. The funds will be used to train and support innovative, entrepreneurial, and skilled early educators to drive transformative change so that all young children and their families have access to high-quality early learning opportunities.

Alumni Establish Nursing Endowment

James O'Leary '70 and his wife, Joyce Lagana O'Leary '71, '94, both UMass Boston alumni, have established the James F. O'Leary and Joyce Lagana O'Leary Family Fund to provide scholarships to full- or part-time students who are registered nurses enrolled in the College of Nursing and Health

Science's RN-BS program. The endowment was established through a \$100,000 gift.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



Gina McCarthy '76, who served as EPA administrator in the Obama administration, visited campus for a panel discussion on climate change.

Former EPA Chief and Alumna Gina McCarthy Returns to Campus

UMass Boston alumna and former EPA administrator Gina McCarthy '76 visited campus on October 30 for a panel discussion looking at climate change challenges and opportunities. The program, part of President John F. Kennedy's 100th birthday celebration, was sponsored by the McCormack Graduate School, UMass Boston's Sustainable Solutions Lab, and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. MGS Dean David W. Cash moderated the discussion with McCarthy and Greentown Labs Executive Director and CEO Emily Reichert.

Professor Teaches Negotiation Tactics to Politicians in Jordan

Professor Emeritus of Conflict Resolution David Matz offered negotiation training for 24 Israeli and Palestinian politicians in Aqaba, Jordan. Sponsored by Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam, an Arab-Jewish intentional village in Israel, the training is part of a 15-month effort to knit the group together via joint projects, and is funded by the European Union.

Moakley Chair Leads New Muslim Youth-Led Global Movement

Moakley Chair Professor Pdraig O'Malley has established the Global Alliance of Muslims for Equality (GAME), a new Muslim youth-led global movement. Some 50 Muslim youth and community workers recently gathered from 12 cities across the European Union and the Balkans to write a Charter of Rights for their group. The charter, written by the youth themselves on the final day of the gathering, enumerates the collective rights of young Muslims, articulates their grievances in the language of human rights, and provides a code of conduct entrenched in a commitment to non-violence to achieve their goals and aspirations.

RENEW THE FACULTY

Counseling and School Psychology Professor Receives International Early Career Honor

Assistant Professor of Counseling and School Psychology Amy Cook received an early career recognition award for 2017 from the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement. Cook, in her fifth year at UMass Boston, was recognized for demonstrating a broad and deep impact on service learning and community engagement in her work.

Professor Uses NSF Grants to Spark Science Interest in Elementary, High Schools

Tej Dalvi, an assistant professor of science education and faculty at COSMIC, and her co-principal investigators have received three different National Science Foundation grants centered on helping teachers teach science, totaling more than \$1.7 million. Now in her second year at UMass Boston, Dalvi trains education students in the most effective methods for teaching science and math in elementary schools.

Professor Receives Public Service Award for 'Dark Money' Research

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees presented Associate Professor of Political Science Maurice Cunningham with its 2017 Distinguished Public Service Award at the group's annual convention in November. Cunningham has done extensive research on the amount of unattributed, or "dark money," spent on Massachusetts political campaigns, such as the 2016 ballot question to lift the cap on charter schools.

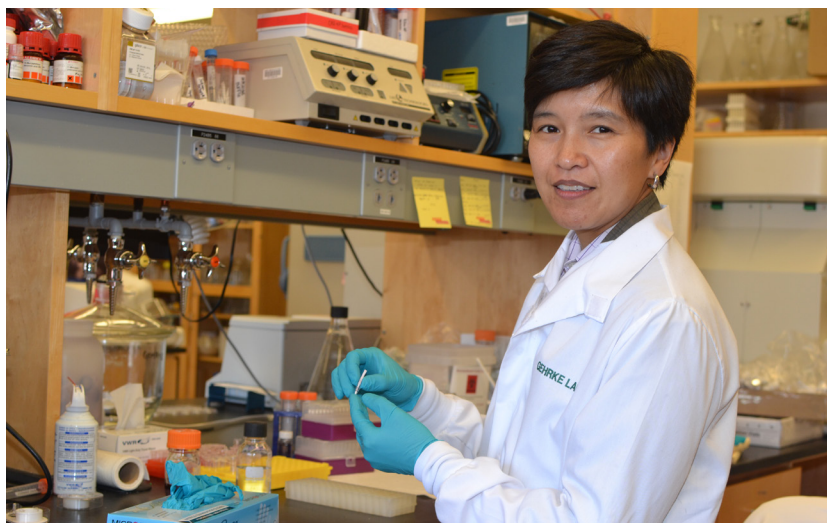


Professor of Political Science Maurice Cunningham

Urban Planning Professor Receives National Civic Engagement Award

Professor of Urban Planning Ken Reardon is the winner of the 2017 Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award. Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,000 colleges and universities, gives the award each year to one faculty member who demonstrates exemplary leadership in advancing student civic learning, conducting community-based research, and enhancing higher education's contributions to the public good.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE



Professor Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli helped develop a paper-based test for Zika and dengue fever.

UMass Boston Engineer Part of Zika Test Breakthrough

Associate Professor of Engineering Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli worked with a team of international researchers to create a paper-based test that can diagnose a Zika or dengue fever infection within 15 minutes. With a per-unit cost of less than \$5, the test is also affordable in the developing countries where the diseases are prevalent.

Hamad-Schifferli is one of the 53 coauthors of a paper on this breakthrough, published last month in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Professor Monitors Forest Health, Climate Change Impact at Harvard Forest

Professor of Remote Sensing Crystal Schaaf and her students have teamed with Harvard Forest, Boston University, and researchers from around the world to develop new ways of measuring the biomass of trees. These measurements help researchers understand how the workings of the forest ecosystem and the impact of climate change without damaging forests.

She is also featured in the third-grade curriculum in Boston Public Schools. Schaaf is a "Massachusetts Portrait" in a lesson called "New England." The text explains Schaaf's study of the ways changes in the forest affect Earth's climate, and highlights her role as a member of NASA's science team.

Gerontology Professor to Explore Ties Between Elders and Their Older-Adult Children

A new study may help providers of aging services better understand the unique relationship between residents and their older-adult children. Kathrin Boerner, an associate professor of gerontology in the McCormack Graduate School, will study the relationships of parents older than 95 with a child older than 65. Her research will be funded by a \$419,855 grant from the National Institute on Aging.

Grant to Put UMass Boston Engineers at Forefront of Computing Technology

Chair and Professor of Engineering Greg Sun has received a \$100,000 grant from UMass President Marty Meehan's office and the Science and Technology Initiatives Fund to upgrade UMass Boston's nanofabrication facility and position the university as a research leader in this emerging field. This project provides a rare opportunity for UMass Boston to take a lead in an up-and-coming technology that will change the way future computing is conducted.

Public Policy Professor Earns Three Grants to Study Urban Slums

Amit Patel, a professor of public policy and public affairs, has earned three research grants, including two from the World Bank, to study urban slums. He will study the effects of environmental degradation on women in slums in three cities of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India; create an analytical and planning tool for integrating multi-dimensional data in urban slums; and explore the impact of migration and residential mobility on living conditions in slums of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.