

## To the Board:

The opening of this academic year brings with it one of the most significant developments in UMass Boston's 54-year history: the beginning of residential life on our waterfront campus. I was pleased to welcome more than 400 guests to the ribbon cutting for the new residence halls on August 28 (right) and to celebrate the opening of this important part of our campus operation. We look forward to the enhanced student life and academic success that this new facility will make possible.

While our new residence halls are drawing much attention, our faculty and staff have been focused on a broad range of projects, from putting the finishing touches on our new parking garage (page 2) to securing funding from the Mellon Foundation to enhance our efforts around teaching the humanities (page 4).

Our faculty members continue to do important work that informs public policy on issues such as the state's paid leave program, and they lead public debates around elections. (page 4) Our accomplished students constantly impress us as they advise the city of Boston on how to enhance its digital representation (page 5) and secure grant funding for PhD studies (page 6).

It is a pleasure for me to submit my first report to the Board of Trustees. In the pages that follow you will find a campus engaged on all fronts, in important academic endeavors and research; in enhancing the campus as a learning, teaching, and living environment; and a university committed to civic engagement, participating in and leading important discussions of the day.

I look forward to keeping you abreast of our progress as we continue to strengthen Boston's public research university.

—Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman



*Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, UMass President Marty Meehan, and other UMass and state and local leaders, joined Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman and student resident assistant Baila Mir to cut a ceremonial ribbon for the new residence halls.*

## University Cuts Ribbon on First-Ever Residence Halls

UMass Boston welcomed more than 1,000 students into its first-ever residence halls this month, celebrating the milestone of becoming a 24/7 residential campus.

The university held a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 28. Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman was joined by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, UMass President Marty Meehan, local and state officials, and more than 400 UMass Boston students, faculty, staff, and friends excited for the occasion.

The 1,077-bed student-housing complex consists of two buildings, ranging from seven to twelve stories, offering a mixture of single- and double-occupancy apartments and four-person units. It includes living-learning amenities open to the entire UMass Boston community, such as seminar rooms and study lounges, and features a 500-seat dining commons.

The 24/7 living-learning educational experience will help the university improve retention and graduation rates.

The \$120 million, 260,000-square-foot complex was built through a public-private partnership, a model that is the first of its kind for the UMass system. The UMass Building Authority contracted with Capstone Development Partners to lease a portion of the UMass Boston campus to construct the student housing. Provident Commonwealth Education Resources, Inc., a nonprofit management entity, owns and operates the facility, and UMass Boston oversees student life.

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## INCREASE ENDOWMENT

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### Just Imagine Campaign Reaches \$91 Million

UMass Boston's Just Imagine campaign is over 90 percent of the way to reaching its \$100 million goal, having raised \$91.3 million as of June. 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.

### Bequest of \$2.5 Million to benefit Nursing and Health Sciences Students

An anonymous donor has bequeathed \$2.5 million to an endowment fund providing financial support for undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, furthering the university's mission to ensure student success. The award may offset the cost of tuition and fees, programmatic support such as tutoring and career counseling, internship programs, symposiums, and travel related to academic projects and study.

### Local Technology Execs Support Scholarships for Entrepreneurial Students

UMass Boston has established the Entrepreneur Scholarship and Workforce Development Program with the support of founding donor Dan Phillips, chairman of CloudHealth Technologies and an advisor to the university's Venture Development Center. Former MBA student Sean Maney has also made a gift.



### Adam Wise Joins UMass Boston as Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Adam Wise, a well-respected leader in the world of philanthropic advancement, has joined UMass Boston as vice chancellor for university advancement beginning September 4. Wise's career in the field of advancement spans more than 25 years, and he comes to UMass Boston after two decades at Boston University, where most recently he served as the associate vice president for development and alumni relations. As a member of BU's senior leadership team since 2006, Wise was directly involved in planning, launching, and implementing BU's current \$1.5 billion comprehensive campaign.

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## CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

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### UMass Boston Receives \$1.3M NIH Grant to Increase Diversity in Biomedical Research Workforce

The National Institutes of Health awarded biology professors Rachel Skvirsky and Adán Colón-Carmona an additional five-year \$1.3 million grant to continue their work preparing undergraduate students at UMass Boston for PhD programs and careers in the biomedical research industry. The Initiative for Maximizing Student Development program, which was first funded by NIH in 2008, is a research-intensive, skill-building mentoring program that seeks to increase diversity in the biomedical research workforce at the PhD level.

The program aims to provide a comprehensive mentoring and research training program to undergraduate students from underrepresented minority or disadvantaged backgrounds so they are exceptionally prepared and highly motivated to enter PhD or MD-PhD programs in the biomedical sciences.

### Students Recommend Changes to City's Website to Reflect Boston's Neighborhoods

Undergraduate students in UMass Boston's Latino Leadership Opportunity Program (LLOP) met with representatives from multiple city departments at Boston City Hall in May with their recommendations on how to better represent the city's residents through the city website, Boston.gov.

Associate Professor of Anthropology Rosalyn Negrón, who cotaught the 2018 LLOP cohort with City of Boston Immigrant Integration Fellow Celina Barrios-Millner, said the "Boston.gov Revisited: Raising the Voices of Our Communities" website project was inspired by a *Boston Globe* Spotlight series, Image vs. Reality. That series highlighted how Boston is primarily seen as a white, Irish city, even though 63 percent of Boston residents are non-white. As part of the web project, the students spoke with residents, local business owners, and leaders in the community to learn about what they would want to see on the city's website.

## STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

**Professors Receive \$1.4M Grant to Improve Classroom Experience for Autistic Students**

UMass Boston professors Abbey Eisenhower, Alice Carter, and Melissa Collier-Meek and their collaborators have received a four-year, \$1.4M Institute of Education Sciences grant to help improve outcomes for elementary children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in general classrooms. During the course of this new grant, which started July 1, Eisenhower and team will be building a professional development program for general education teachers with one or more students with ASD. In this first year, they will be conducting focus groups and interviews and developing a program for eight student-teacher pairs to try out.



*PhD student Kelly Luis has won a \$72,000 Ford Foundation Fellowship.*

**Marine Science PhD Student Earns \$72K Ford Foundation Fellowship**

Kelly Luis, a PhD student in marine science and technology in UMass Boston's School for the Environment and an IGERT fellow, won a \$72,000 Ford Foundation Fellowship, allowing her to focus on researching the clarity of our ocean waters and her goal of becoming a professor. Through the fellowship program, the Ford Foundation aims to increase the diversity of college faculties and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. This year, 125 scholars were awarded fellowships; Luis, who is Hawaiian, was the only person from a UMass campus to receive the award. The award means Luis will have funding for the duration for her PhD. She is receiving \$24,000 a year for three years.



*Associate Professor of Chemistry Jonathan Rochford and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Neil Reilly each won NSF grants.*

**UMass Boston Chemistry Faculty Receive \$807K in NSF Grants**

Two UMass Boston chemistry faculty members have received major grants from the National Science Foundation. Associate Professor of Chemistry Jonathan Rochford received a \$405,000 grant for "Outer Coordination Sphere Optimization of Electrocatalytic CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction." Assistant Professor of Chemistry Neil Reilly received a \$402,084 grant for "Spectroscopic Interrogation of Reactive Intermediates Implicated in Hydrocarbon Combustion and Pyrolysis."

**Grant from UMass President's Office to Fund Paper-Based Tests for Emerging Diseases**

Last year, Associate Professor of Engineering Kimberly Hamad-Schifferli helped develop a paper-based test that can diagnose a Zika or dengue fever infection within 15 minutes. Now, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the President's Office and the Technology Development Fund, she will be working on paper-based tests to diagnose other diseases—some of which we don't even know about yet.

Hamad-Schifferli's project, Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Emerging Outbreaks, uses multicolored gold nanoparticles to make low-cost tests for infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, Zika. Because these paper tests don't require lab facilities and cost less than \$5, the tests will be affordable in developing countries.



## DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



*UMass Boston's first free-standing parking garage opened this month.*

### UMass Boston Opens Parking Garage on Campus

The university opened its 1,400-space parking garage this month on University Drive West, giving more commuters the option to park on campus. UMass Boston began construction on the project in late 2016. It is the university's first free-standing parking garage and features colorful blue metal elements facing the campus and the community.

## IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

### Health Services Opens New TB Clinic on Campus

University Health Services (UHS) General Medicine has developed an on-campus tuberculosis (TB) clinic. This clinic will allow UHS to enhance the services available to individuals, increase follow-up and ensure appropriate treatment, and protect the health of the campus and the larger community. This resource will ensure that students who need this specialized care are able to access it without the obstacles to care that can be present in a larger system of care.

### New Human Rights Website Showcases Academic Opportunities at UMass Boston

Over the past two decades, intergovernmental organizations, governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and social justice activists have adopted human rights frameworks, strategies, and tools to advance their goals. Now, there's a new one-stop-shop to learn about the many academic programs, research projects, and resources related to human rights at UMass Boston, [www.umb.edu/humanrights](http://www.umb.edu/humanrights).

On the site, visitors can learn about faculty, students, and researchers working in the field of international human rights, the academic programs in human rights offered at the university, the current research projects on human rights that are under way, and the multi-disciplinary publications that result from this work.

## MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

### UMass Boston Offers Resident Students Campus Living Grant

The university has established a new program to give additional aid to students who want to live in the residence halls and come from low income families. With \$1.4 million in institutional funds, the Division of Enrollment Management created the Campus Living Grant for Pell-eligible students and established a goal of 20 percent of the inaugural residents being Pell eligible.

Through recruitment, marketing, and strategic financial aid, the first residential class of UMass Boston students includes more than 20 percent Pell-eligible students, who have an average family income of \$33,592. The awards, which ranged from \$5,000 to \$8,600, will help families afford the costs associated with the meal plan required of residential students and potentially some of the cost of housing. This financial support will enable students to fully engage in the living and learning opportunities now available at UMass Boston.



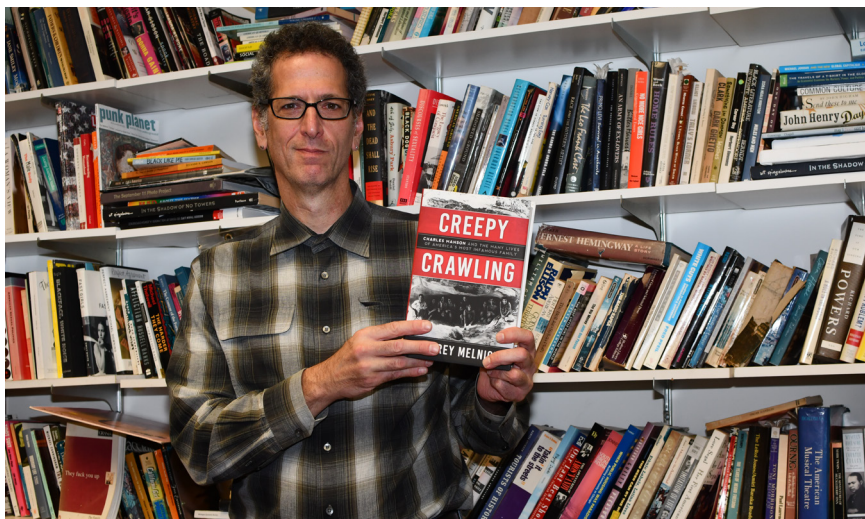
*A student demonstrates how those with low vision can use assistive technology to get a magnified view of their smartphone screens.*

### Future In Sight to Provide Scholarships to UMass Boston Vision Studies Students

The New Hampshire-based nonprofit Future In Sight has partnered with UMass Boston's School for Global Inclusion and Social Development to prepare more Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Specialists to assist people with visual impairment to achieve high-quality education, fulfilling employment, and safe, independent travel.

As part of a new partnership between the two organizations, Future In Sight will contribute up to \$4,000 for each student in UMass Boston's Vision Studies Program based on availability of funding and program need. The scholarships will be awarded with the expectation that the students will work for Future In Sight for two years upon graduation if there are job openings available.

## POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE



Professor Jeffrey Melnick has written a new book on the culture related to Charles Manson and the Manson Family.

### Professor Pens Book on Manson Family and Culture

Forty-nine years after the “Manson Family” murders rocked the country, UMass Boston Professor of American Studies Jeffrey Melnick has released a new book looking at the cultural history of the family and their influence from 1969 to the present. *Creepy Crawling: Charles Manson and the Many Lives of America's Most Infamous Family* is receiving a lot of attention, with excerpts and essays based on the book being published by *The New Yorker*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Salon*.

### Dean Thompson Joins South Shore Health System's Board of Directors

South Shore Health System has named Linda Thompson, dean of UMass Boston's College of Nursing and Health Sciences, to the system's board of directors. Thompson is internationally renowned for her role in promoting policies and programs to improve the quality of life for children and youth. She is also a champion of preventive care.

### University Holds Hip-Hop Mass. Memories Road Show at Boston Public Library

The Mass. Memories Road Show hosted a special hip-hop-themed road show in May at the central Boston Public Library, calling on rap musicians, DJs, dancers, and graffiti artists from around Boston to share their personal hip-hop related photos and stories to be digitized in an archive. “Show ’Em Watcha Got” Mass. Memories Road Show: Hip-Hop Edition gave the local hip-hop community the opportunity to decide what is important to document and preserve.

Participants could bring up to three items (such as demo tapes, flyers, clothing, etc.) to be digitized for the Road Show's online archive and the Massachusetts Hip-Hop Archive at UMass Boston. They also got to record a video about what they brought, providing an oral history of the birth and evolution of Boston hip-hop.

## RENEW THE FACULTY

### Professor Arthur Eisenkraft Named to STEM Education Advisory Panel

The National Science Foundation has named Arthur Eisenkraft, distinguished professor of science education and the director of UMass Boston's Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC), to a new advisory panel created to encourage U.S. scientific and technological innovations in education. Eisenkraft is one of 18 people named to the panel, which is made up of individuals from nonprofit, business, academic, and informal education organizations.



Assistant Professor Olivia Weisser (second from the left) received the 2018 Manning Prize.

### History Professor Earns Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching

Assistant Professor of History Olivia Weisser was honored recently as one of five UMass faculty to receive the 2018 Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching. The faculty members receive \$10,000 awards in recognition of their commitment to exemplary teaching and dedication to students. Weisser joined the history department at UMass Boston in 2012 after earning a PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 2010 and teaching writing at Princeton University for two years. She has developed and taught eight different courses at UMass Boston



## ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### UMass Boston Receives \$515K Mellon Foundation Grant to Create High Impact Humanities Programming

UMass Boston has received a three-year \$515,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to implement an ambitious High Impact Humanities program that will provide undergraduates with opportunities to engage in humanities-focused research, experiential coursework, internships, and community service as a path to student success and career development. The award is the Mellon Foundation's first for Boston's only public research university.

The three-year program will establish a humanities incubator on campus, which will encourage faculty development of new high impact courses, institute "Careers in Humanities" one-credit courses and internships, and form a High Impact Humanities Forum, featuring a student-advisory group that will plan arts and humanities events on campus. There will also be tutoring and mentoring support in writing.



*Assistant Professor of Psychology Tahirah Abdullah is UMass Boston's first Faculty-in-Residence.*

### Professor Looks to Engage Students in Faculty-in-Residence Role

Assistant Professor of Psychology Tahirah Abdullah will not only teach undergraduates this fall—she'll live alongside them in the university's new residence halls. Abdullah is UMass Boston's first faculty-in-residence, serving as a role model, mentor, adviser, and friend for students living

on campus. The Faculty-in-Residence Program was developed to provide students with the opportunity to engage outside the classroom with at least one faculty member. Abdullah has taught at UMass Boston since 2013.

### \$500K Cross-College Grant to Pay Undergraduate Students to Research Child and Family Health

Starting in summer 2019, and continuing through 2023, UMass Boston students will have the opportunity to apply for a paid summer research experience, exploring maternal, child, and family health alongside faculty mentors. It's all thanks to a \$500,000 R25 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Each summer over the next five years, 12 UMass Boston students will receive a salary of \$4,000 to conduct research alongside faculty mentors in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, and Honors College for a 10-week period. They will also do community-engaged work, meet regularly as a cohort, and take field trips.

## DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



*Congressman Michael Capuano and his primary challenger Ayanna Pressley debate at UMass Boston.*

### UMass Boston Coads Democratic Primary Debates

UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, WBUR, and *The Boston Globe* hosted two debates last month, prior to the September 4 primaries, broadcasted as part of *Radio Boston's* live hour-long program.

More than 300 people crowded into UMass Boston's Campus Center Ballroom on August 7 — and another 3,900 tuned in online — to watch Democratic incumbent Michael Capuano and his primary challenger, Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, face off in the Seventh Congressional District debate. A second debate, between incumbent Secretary of State William Galvin and his challenger Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim, was held on August 24 at the UMass Club.

### Paid Leave Analysis Demonstrates Costs, Benefits to Workers

McCormack Graduate School's Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy released a report in June demonstrating the equalizing effects and affordability of a paid family and medical leave program as Massachusetts becomes the sixth state in the country to have such a program.

Authored by UMass Boston economist Randy Albelda and Alan Clayton-Matthews of Northeastern University, *The Massachusetts Paid Leave Program: What Workers Can Expect to Pay and Receive* provides estimates on how much workers will contribute to the paid leave program slated to go into effect in 2019. The policy brief also estimates how much workers taking advantage of the new program might receive once the program begins providing partial wage replacement in 2021.

### McCormack Professor Participates in Panel at UN Headquarters

Aroon P. Manoharan, associate professor of public policy and public affairs in the McCormack Graduate School, participated in a special panel at the UN headquarters in New York City in the spring. The panel, "Innovative Policy Approaches and Technologies to Foster Participation of All," was part of the 2018 UN Economic and Social Council Special Meeting. He stressed the need for competency training for public administrators through innovative approaches, such as online learning and certificate programs from global universities.