

## To the Board:

As we begin the 2024–2025 academic year, I am pleased to present this report highlighting recent progress.

Our cover story highlights the awarding in June of the inaugural Robert and Ruth Starratt Endowed Scholarship to a student at the Ruth Batson Academy on Columbia Point. The Starratt Scholarship—which covers all costs for a Boston Public Schools (BPS) graduate to attend UMass Boston and then pursue an education career with BPS—is an offshoot of the historic partnership between UMass Boston and the City of Boston to create the first university-assisted community hub school in the commonwealth.

Also in this report:

- UMass Boston secured \$81.1 million in annual research funding in fiscal year 2024, a growth of 35 percent over the past 10 years, moving the university into the R1 category on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. (page 2)
- UMass Boston recruited two outstanding diversity and inclusion leaders with the appointments of Calvin T. Hill as the university’s inaugural vice chancellor for inclusive excellence and belonging, and Michael Johnson—a professor of public policy and public affairs at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies—as the special assistant to the chancellor for Black life. (page 6)
- With the Health Equity Compact—a coalition of leaders from the public and private sectors working to advance health equity in the commonwealth—UMass Boston hosted the second annual Health Equity Trends Summit in June, bringing together over a thousand experts from higher education, community organizations, industry, and government. The work of the compact is consistent with a core strand of our mission, to be an antiracist, health-promoting university. (page 8)

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress building on our distinctive strengths: devotion to student-centered learning and success, dedication to community engagement and partnership, and commitment to impactful education and research.

– Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



*Johanna Peña with Tara Parker, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, during the BCLA/McCormack graduation at White Stadium.*

## UMass Boston Presents Scholarship to Graduate of Ruth Batson Academy, City’s First University-Assisted Community Hub School

UMass Boston and Boston Public Schools (BPS) have partnered to create the city’s first university-assisted community school, the next advancement toward creating more equitable public education in Boston.

This unique partnership will transform the Ruth Batson Academy (formerly BCLA/McCormack) on Columbia Point into a University-Assisted Community Hub School, establishing a center for educational and community support services, fostering a holistic approach to student development and creating a seamless pathway for BPS graduates into UMass Boston.

At the Ruth Batson Academy Class of 2024 graduation, UMass Boston presented an inaugural full-ride scholarship to a Batson student. With a newly established scholarship fund—the Robert and Ruth Starratt Endowed Scholarship—UMass Boston will provide need-based partial scholarships (up to the total cost of attendance) for graduates who plan to pursue a career in education in the Boston Public Schools. The Starratt Endowed Scholarship is funded by a \$1.9 million donation from the lifelong educators to the UMass Boston College of Education and Human Development (CEHD).

Johanna Peña, 17, of Roslindale, received the first Starratt Scholarship. She would like to teach elementary school.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in January between BPS and UMass Boston intends to create access to college coursework and resources, partner educators from both institutions, and create a seamless pathway into UMass Boston

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



Professor Chris Bobel will travel to Turkey to teach PhD students this fall as part of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.

**Professor Chris Bobel Receives Fulbright Scholar Award**

Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Chris Bobel has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to teach in Istanbul, Turkey, this fall.

Through the prestigious Fulbright award, Bobel will teach PhD students in gender studies at Kadir Has University for a full academic year, an experience she says will challenge her in exciting ways as a public intellectual and feminist educator and mentor.

"I love travel as the best means of accessing and learning from cultures different than my own. And the chance to do my job in another place really excites me," Bobel said. "The complexities of Turkey today are a fruitful site for thinking critically about the gendered dimensions of a range of pressing social issues."

A UMass Boston faculty member since 2001, Bobel teaches courses on Gender and the Body, Feminist Theory, Feminist Research Methods, Women in U.S. Social Movements, and Feminist Activism.

**Cover story (cont.)**

for graduates. As a University-Assisted Community Hub School, UMass Boston will serve as a center for educational and community support services, fostering a holistic approach to student development. It will have a range of enrichment and social services for students, families, and community members, such as academic support and college readiness, health and wellness programs, out-of-school-time activities and internships with community partners, parent and community engagement initiatives, and counseling services. Also as part of the MOU, BCLA-McCormack students will have access to coursework on the UMass Boston campus, including early college and dual enrollment, as well as university-centered opportunities and resources on the UMass Boston campus.

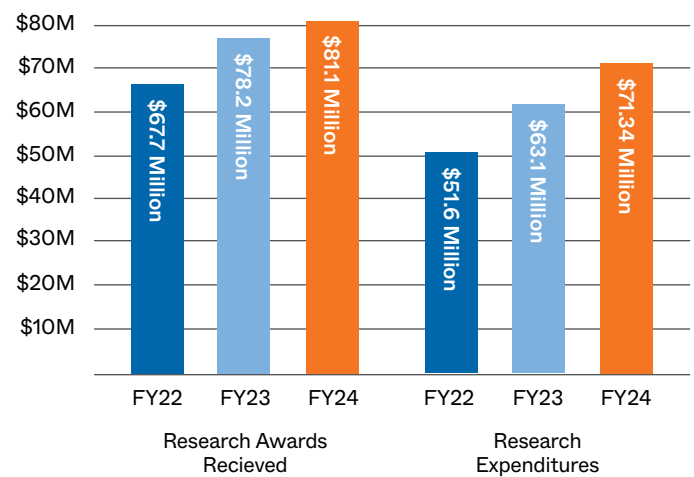
**Report Shows Potential for Reducing Racial Inequities in Child Care and Early Education**

A report released by the UMass Boston Early Education Cost and Usage Simulator Project (CUSP) demonstrates that increased family financial assistance for early child care and education will make quality licensed child care for children of all racial and ethnic groups more affordable. Provided that there is an adequate supply of quality child care to meet the expected increase in demand, increased family financial assistance holds the potential to virtually eliminate existing racial/ethnic gaps in access to quality child care.

Led by the Early Education Leaders Institute and Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the UMass Boston CUSP has developed a statistical model to produce estimates of key impacts of proposed legislation in Massachusetts to expand access to affordable, quality child care and early education.

The model predicts changes in the utilization of licensed care and education, out-of-pocket costs for families, parental employment, and family income when family financial assistance for child care is increased.

**Record-Breaking Year Highlights UMass Boston's Commitment to Research**



UMass Boston reported \$81.1 million in annual research funding in fiscal 2024, a growth of 35 percent over the past ten years, and because of this, the university has moved into the R1 category on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. In fiscal 2024, research expenditures grew to \$71.34 million.

## Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise (cont.)

### University Research Awards for the Past Quarter

- PI Marc Cohen/Gerontology Institute received \$4,367,065 from Community Catalyst, Inc. for *State of California Project*.
- PI Marc Cohen/Gerontology Institute received \$649,189 from The Scan Foundation for *Initiatives to Advance Long-term Services and Supports Reform*.
- PI Mohamed Amine Gharbi/Physics received \$601,481 from the National Science Foundation for *CAREER: Interfacial Behavior of Motile Bacteria at Structured Liquid Crystal Interfaces*.
- PI Marc Cohen/Gerontology Institute received \$536,935 from Community Catalyst, Inc. (Sub from Administration for Community Living) for *Community Catalyst Caregiving Evaluation Project*.
- PI Liya Escalera/Student Equity Access & Success received \$495,984 from the University of Massachusetts - Lowell (Sub from the U.S. Department of Education) for *UMass Asian American Leadership, Education, Access, and Data (AA LEAD)*.
- PI Rachel Skvirsky/Biology received \$464,935 from the National Science Foundation for *REU Site: Research Experience in Integrative & Evolutionary Biology*.
- PI Zsuzsa Kaldy/Psychology received \$457,294 from the National Institutes of Health for *The Development of the Trade-off Between Sampling and Remembering the Visual World*.
- PI Cynthia Thomas/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$344,403 from Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs for *LGBT Aging in Massachusetts Training*.
- PI Ana Lindsay/Exercise and Health Sciences received \$216,723 from Merck Sharp & Dohme for *Engaging Brazilian and Central American Young Adults (18–26 years) in the United States to Assess Factors Influencing HPV Vaccination Uptake*.
- PI Jan Mutchler/Gerontology Institute received \$209,438 from Boston College (Sub from U.S. Social Security Administration) for *Retirement and Disability Research Consortium*.
- PI Joyce Morgan/Student Equity Access & Success received \$184,733 from University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (Sub from Administration for Community Living) for *Peer Academic Coaching for Students with Mental Health Disabilities*.

## Develop First-Rate Infrastructure



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Vice Chancellor Karen Ferrer-Muñiz, and Police Chief Stacey Lloyd pose with members of the UMass Boston Police Department at the “wall-breaking” event.

### UMass Boston Breaks Ground on New Consolidated Public Safety and Police Station

University officials, along with the Commonwealth's Division of Capital Management and Maintenance, broke the wall on a new consolidated Public Safety and Police Station in June. This new space is intended to create a place that can strengthen the relationship between the department and the community, and it will avoid an estimated 265,000-plus metric tons of carbon annually by not building a new structure. The project is anticipated to be completed in the second half of 2025.



## Increase Endowment



*Goddard House Assisted Living trustees, Goddard House President and CEO Candace Cramer, with UMass Boston Manning College Dean Bo Fernhall and Goddard House–Doane Scholars at the 2024 reception celebrating the scholarship program.*

## Goddard House Renews, Expands Support for Boston Nurses

Goddard House Assisted Living, the oldest nonprofit elder care organization in Massachusetts, has pledged a \$750,000 gift over five years to renew and grow the Goddard House – Doane Scholarship program at UMass Boston. The scholarship provides financial support for UMass Boston nursing students with at least 10 years of experience working in the city of Boston as a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified nursing assistant.

The ninth largest nursing school in the country, UMass Boston's Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers the only publicly supported nursing programs in Greater Boston to graduate a significant number of diverse bachelor's-, master's-, and doctorate-prepared nurses. Since the creation of the Goddard House – Doane Scholarship program in 2015, Goddard House has provided 129 awards to 80 experienced nurses in UMass Boston's nursing degree programs. Over the program's first decade, Goddard House – Doane Scholars have received between \$2,500 and \$10,000 each year, based on need and other factors.

This new five-year commitment represents a 50 percent increase in Goddard House's investment in the program, enabling more robust awards and boosting the number of scholarships awarded each year.

"I am a dedicated nurse with over 20 years of experience, and I have witnessed the evolving landscape of health care and the crucial role of practitioners in delivering quality patient care," said Kristina Donovan, a Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate and Goddard House – Doane Scholar. "Attending UMass Boston and receiving this scholarship...enables me to pursue my lifelong goal of advocating for policies that improve health care quality and, ultimately, make a positive difference in the lives of patients and communities."

## Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service

### Joiner Institute Pairs with State Veteran Services on Statewide Listening Sessions

UMass Boston's William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences recently joined in a memorandum of understanding with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veteran Services to provide listening session support and documentation in order to synthesize and assess data, interpret results as they relate to other relevant studies, and provide input to help shape the ultimate recommendations of the Women Veteran Advisory Committee (WVAC) to Governor Maura Healey.

Governor Healey's WVAC held listening sessions throughout the commonwealth through the end of July 2024 to gather information around concerns, challenges, needs, and best practices as it relates to female veteran supports, benefits, services and opportunities. The information being collected will be used to help guide and advise the WVAC in putting forward recommendations to enhance the women veteran experience in Massachusetts.

"Partnering with the Joiner Institute team has added some much-needed support and research expertise that will be critical in evaluating the data and input received so we can identify actionable recommendations that will make a positive difference for our women veterans across the state," said Dr. Andrea Gayle-Bennett, deputy secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veteran Services.

## Increase Endowment (cont.)

### University Fundraising Tops \$30M for Third Straight Year

Philanthropic donors made gifts and pledges totaling more than \$30.5 million to UMass Boston in FY2024, marking the third year in a row that the university's campus-wide fundraising total exceeded \$30 million. Prior to a reorganization of the University Advancement office in FY2019 and Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco's arrival in 2020, UMass Boston was averaging \$12 million in fundraising annually.

FY24 was also the third straight year in which the university received a \$10 million-plus philanthropic commitment: \$10 million from sportswear giant New Balance to establish the New Balance Institute for Innovative Leadership in Sport.

UMass Boston saw increases in donor participation and alumni engagement as well in FY24. The university received \$1,575,713 in gifts to the annual fund, a 21 percent increase over FY23, and 3,207 alumni donors stepped forward to make a gift, an 11 percent increase. The 39 events hosted by the alumni engagement team drew 3,701 alumni and friends, making FY24 the sixth year in a row of record-setting event attendance.



*The University Hall Gallery at UMass Boston hosted its inaugural alumni art exhibition and reception this past spring.*

### Alumni Art Show Brings Support for University Hall Gallery at UMass Boston

The University Hall Gallery at UMass Boston hosted its inaugural alumni art exhibition and reception this past spring. Aptly named "Looking Back, Facing Forward," the exhibition showcased over 40 pieces from 31 alumni, whose class years span more than five decades. In bringing together alumni with a passion for the arts, the show also paved the way for meaningful financial support for the arts at UMass Boston.

After participating in the exhibition as a featured alumni artist, School for the Environment alumna Katie Fitzpatrick '07 made a five-year \$30,000 commitment to establish an endowed Fitzpatrick Gallery Fund. Fitzpatrick's positive experiences with the gallery's student assistants and with the gallery's leadership led her to make the gift, which provides operational support in perpetuity and recognizes the gallery's role in enriching campus life and providing valuable cultural resources for the UMass Boston community.

University Hall Gallery Director Samuel Toabe said the idea to host an alumni exhibition stemmed from a long-standing desire to showcase the diverse voices and skills of UMass Boston alumni artists.

## Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access

### Enrollment Management Launches New Graduate Program Cost Calculator

To help graduate students quickly gain a clear understanding of the cost of a UMass Boston graduate degree program, this month the Division of Enrollment Management, with the support of the Division of Marketing and Engagement, launched a new cost calculator.

The virtual calculator allows prospective graduate students to gain an accurate estimate of total program cost for master's

and certificate programs at a glance, thus supporting the university's commitment to educational access and affordability.

The estimate, based on tuition residency, is designed to help students make an informed financial decision and to provide them with additional resources and information about financing options.

## Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access (cont.)

### UMass Boston Enrolls TheDream.US Scholarship Inaugural Class

This fall, UMass Boston will welcome 18 TheDream.US scholars to campus. As Boston's only public research university, UMass Boston's participation in this mission-aligned funding opportunity further expands access to higher education.

Established in 2013, TheDream.US is the largest college access and success program in the nation for undocumented immigrant students. Over 10,000 scholarships have been awarded to students across the country, totaling more than \$214 million. UMass Boston signed an agreement to partner with TheDream.US last October.

These scholarships are for highly motivated undocumented students, with no access to federal aid, who may struggle compiling the financial resources needed to get a college education. The Dream.US scholars are guaranteed to receive state, institutional, and TheDream.US scholarships covering tuition and mandatory fees.

On August 8, the university hosted an orientation for the scholars to help them kick off their first semester on campus, connect with fellow students, and learn about campus resources. Additionally, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco served as the presidential speaker at the national TheDream.US Scholars Welcome in August.

## Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services



Calvin Hill

### Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Excellence and Belonging Named

Calvin R. Hill, PhD, has been named UMass Boston's inaugural vice chancellor for inclusive excellence and belonging, bringing a demonstrated record of achievement in promoting diverse and inclusive academic communities to the position.

An accomplished administrator, teacher, and scholar with more than two decades of higher education experience, Hill joins UMass Boston from Springfield College, where he has served for nearly a decade as vice president for inclusion and community engagement.

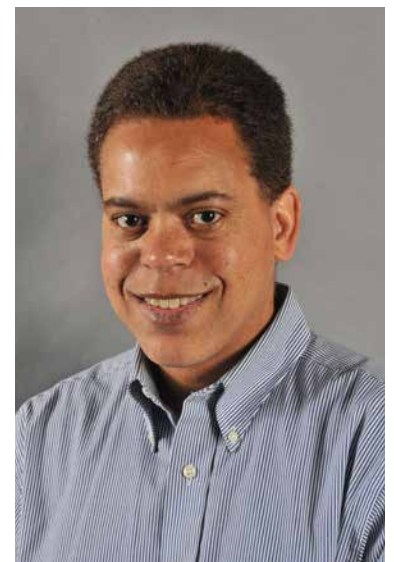
He previously excelled in leadership roles at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota; Worcester State University; Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions; and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In addition to his organizational leadership accomplishments, Hill has written and presented extensively on issues related to diversity and inclusion.

### New Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Black Life Named

Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Michael Johnson has been named special assistant to the chancellor for Black life. This position, created in fall 2020, is intended to bring greater focus across the campus community to issues of inequality, racism, and social justice.

Johnson joined the faculty of UMass Boston in 2007 and brings a wealth of scholarship, experience, and cultural insights to address the complex issues he will face in this position. A professor in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, Johnson has focused his scholarship on public and nonprofit decision modeling and analytics for service design and delivery, particularly in the areas of housing and community development; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and response to climate change.

While at UMass Boston, he has also held faculty positions in the Honors College, Critical Ethnic and Community Studies, and the Department of Urban Planning and Community Development, as well as serving in visiting scholar positions at Yale University School of Management and MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning.



Michael Johnson



## Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services (cont.)



*Lt. Frank Lombardo of Waltham Police preps student, faculty, and staff participants at the full-scale emergency preparedness exercise.*

### Emergency Management, Police Conduct Full-Scale Emergency Preparedness Exercise

UMass Boston's Residential Hall East became the scene of a realistic but fictional active threat response on August 13, as the UMass Boston Department of Public Safety and Police and Office of Emergency Management held a full-scale training exercise. The emergency exercise allowed campus police officers to practice active threat response in a university building and provided students, faculty, and staff with an opportunity to participate in an important emergency preparedness activity.

These active threat exercises provide the university with the opportunity to regularly evaluate its emergency protocols, ensuring a coordinated, timely, and effective response in the event of real threats to the campus. In addition to evaluating the police response, emergency communications were tested internally to establish accuracies in response time and dissemination of information.

Campus police officers responded to three scenarios, with students, faculty, staff, and community members acting as witnesses, bystanders, and victims, enacting lessons learned from active shooter awareness training.

### University Health Services Expands Offerings

University Health Services (UHS) launched an expansion to its scope of care in the General Medicine department.

In collaboration with the UMass Boston Athletics Department, UHS will provide a weekly sports medicine clinic. This specialized service will bring expertise in musculoskeletal conditions and will increase the ability to provide care for injuries that previously required off-campus referrals. This specialty service will be available to all students at UMass Boston but will be particularly impactful for student-athletes who will benefit from the ease of access and close collaboration with training staff.

This service, along with a dental clinic, optometry services, and reproductive health enhancements, is part of an ongoing commitment to student health and well-being.

## Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



*Arianna Garceau (right) of the women's track and field team competes at a recent meet.*

### UMass Boston Spring Sports See Competitive Success

Sophomore Arianna Garceau, of the women's track and field team, took sixth place nationally in the women's 100m hurdle at the NCAA Division III National Championship in May. With the sixth-place finish, Garceau became the program's twentieth All-American in history, the first since 2018.

Garceau qualified for the 100m hurdle finals with a blistering time of 13.97 seconds in the second heat of preliminary races on May 24. Garceau's time of 13.97 seconds is just 0.17 seconds off the 35-year-old school record.

Beacon teams also shined brightly this spring with three teams winning Little East Conference (LEC) Championships: baseball, softball, and men's lacrosse.

## Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)

### Chancellor, Governor Healey Pen Op-Ed: 'In the Face of Climate Change, Mitigation Is No Longer Enough'

UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Governor Maura Healey authored an op-ed in the *CommonWealth Beacon* calling for a sharper focus on adaptation and climate resilience in the face of climate change and showcasing the commonwealth and Boston's leadership in these efforts.

Chancellor Suárez-Orozco led a cross-disciplinary assembly of international government leaders, scientists, social scientists, and philanthropists in developing a Planetary Protocol for Climate Change Resilience at a three-day global climate summit this spring at the Vatican, presided over by Pope Francis. The group examined innovative, paradigm-shifting solutions for climate resilience, focusing on the interrelated issues of human health and protecting the world's most vulnerable.

"The world is at a crossroads. Now is the time to meet our greatest global threat with renewed courage and new ways of thinking. We must work together and take local action on the ground. Guided by the pope's call to action, American leaders from Massachusetts and beyond are stepping up," Suárez-Orozco and Healey wrote.



Healey and UMass Boston are planning to host the first regional climate summit, convening municipal officials, private sector partners, and others to develop adaptation blueprints to accelerate resiliency across the region.



Governor Maura Healey (center), Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco (right), and Dr. John Hatch (left) were joined by more than 100 health care leaders at Health Equity Compact's summit in June.

### UMass Boston Hosts Health Leaders, State Officials at Health Equity Summit

More than 1,000 state leaders and health care professionals met to discuss disparities in health care standards and showcase significant progress made toward health equity in this state at the second annual Health Equity Trends Summit on June 6 held at UMass Boston.

"We recognize that we are all in this together. Systemic change towards equity benefits everybody, with lower health care costs, improved standards of care and more vibrant communities," said Michael Curry, president and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, during welcome remarks.

The event, hosted by the Health Equity Compact, featured remarks and presentations from 32 speakers and panelists, including Governor Maura Healey and Dr. John Hatch, who co-founded one of the first community health centers in the United States.

## Enhance the Learning Experience

### The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMass Boston Celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2024

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UMass Boston is celebrating its 25th anniversary of providing a vibrant world-class education community for adults who wish to pursue lifelong learning and social connections throughout the Greater Boston area. OLLI held a celebration on campus in June.

UMass Boston launched its lifelong learning program as LETS, or Life Enrichment Through Studies. The brainchild of Frank Caro, former director of the university's Gerontology Institute and chair of the Department of Gerontology, the program began in 1999 with 13 class offerings and four brown-bag

presentations in its first semester. In 2005, the national Bernard Osher Foundation accepted the program into its national network of lifelong learning programs based at university campuses. Renamed OLLI at UMass Boston, the program gained funding to support professional staff and further grow its membership base.

Today, OLLI is an inclusive community of 700-plus members that offers more than 200 learning opportunities annually through courses, presentations, and special events for people aged 50 and older.



## Enhance the Learning Experience (cont.)



Students are learning to create art using recycled materials in the green printmaking workshop.

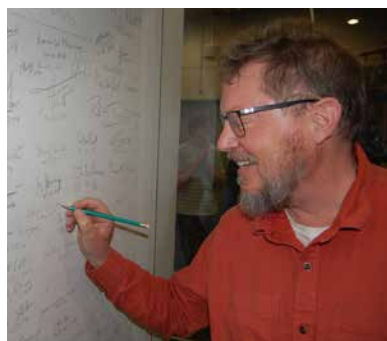
### UMass Boston Offers Green Printmaking Workshop for Art Students

UMass Boston hosted Recycle, Reprint, Repeat, an informal green printmaking workshop taking place in the Art and Art History Department's Print Lab this summer. It's an opportunity for current students and alumni to work with a print lab technician to experiment with making prints using safer "green" methods that are more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

There will be an exhibition of selected prints at the start of the fall semester in the Art Department critique space on the 4th floor of University Hall. They also plan to present their work at the Thinking About Climate Change: Art, Science, and Imagination in the 21st Century conference in October.

## Renew the Faculty

### Professor Joins Physics Pioneers on the Ehrenfest Wall



Professor of Physics Christopher Fuchs signs the "Ehrenfest Wall."

Professor of Physics Christopher Fuchs's signature will forever appear alongside some of his personal heroes and the greatest scientists in history, including Albert Einstein, Max Planck, and J. Robert Oppenheimer.

"It's the biggest honor of my physics life so far," Fuchs said.

This past spring, Fuchs held a talk at Leiden University in the Netherlands as part of the prestigious lecture series Colloquium Ehrenfestii. In 1912, Paul Ehrenfest, a professor of

theoretical physics at Leiden, saw the need for a physics discussion group that would bring together students, professors, and researchers to discuss new research and reports. The colloquium became a sought-after event in which Ehrenfest demanded clarity to ensure every attendee, no matter their own level of expertise, could understand the subject matter in each presentation. Today, the colloquium continues to host scientists monthly to share exciting and developing theories in physics. The invitation to speak is considered one of the highest honors in physics.

As is tradition, to commemorate their talk, every speaker is invited to sign the "Ehrenfest Wall." Fuchs chose a spot on the wall near his "physics grandfather" and Nobel Prize in Physics recipient Kip Thorne, not far from the signatures of Einstein, Planck, Oppenheimer, Werner Heisenberg, and all of the founders of quantum theory.

His talk titled, "Repainting Quantum Mechanics in QBist Style," gave an overview of his QBist research program, including updates from recent technical results.

### UMass Boston Professor Elected as a National Academy of Kinesiology Fellow

Associate Vice Provost of Graduate Education and Professor of Kinesiology Tracy Baynard has been elected as a fellow to the National Academy of Kinesiology (NAK), the highest recognition in the field of kinesiology.

Baynard joined UMass Boston as a professor in the Manning College Department of Exercise and Health Sciences in 2022 and was appointed as the new associate vice provost for graduate education in 2023. Baynard's research has helped uncover physiological mechanisms for why exercise is difficult in clinical populations, such as persons with Down syndrome.

Baynard serves as the chair of the Steering Committee for the Environmental and Exercise Physiology Section at the American Physiological Society and is the associate editor of the prestigious research journal, *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*.

## Renew the Faculty (cont.)



Mohamed Gharbi

### UMass Boston Professor Wins Manning Prize for Excellence

Five UMass faculty members were awarded the 2024 Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching this summer, including Mohamed Amine Gharbi, an assistant professor of physics at UMass Boston.

The prize includes a \$10,000 stipend given to one faculty member from each campus in recognition of exemplary teaching and commitment to students and their campus community.

Gharbi has been at UMass Boston since 2018. He specializes in manipulating soft materials to assemble functional nanomaterials and biomaterials, aiming to create innovative “reconfigurable” systems with broad technological applications. He finds immense joy in simplifying complex concepts and sharing the wonders of physics with students from diverse backgrounds. Over the last six years, he has taught a range of courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

### Professor Rhodes Receives Distinguished Contribution Award

Jean Rhodes, UMass Boston's Frank L. Boyden Professor of Psychology, has received a 2024 Award for Distinguished Contribution to Theory and Research in Community Psychology from the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA).

This annual award recognizes individuals whose careers of high-quality and innovative research and scholarship result in a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in community psychology.

Recent author of *Older and Wiser: New Ideas for Youth Mentoring in the 21st Century*, which received the American Psychological Association 2023 Eleanor Maccoby Book Award, Rhodes has devoted her career to understanding and advancing the role of both natural and assigned mentoring relationships in the lives of marginalized youth.

“Dr. Rhodes's important work on mentoring has produced significant contributions to knowledge that make a compelling difference for improving the lives of young people around the world,” said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joseph Berger.

Rhodes is the founding director of the Center for Evidence Based-Mentoring at UMass Boston and has worked to establish similar centers in Europe and Asia.