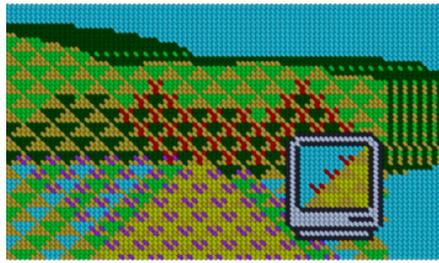


EXCITING NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS!

On February 14th, 2026, CLA premiered its first international exhibition! Opening at the Golden Thread Gallery of Belfast, *Insight into the Other* featured artworks by faculty, staff, and alumni from UMass Boston's Art & Art History Department.



Wenhua Shi, still from *Mother*, 2025



Cat Mazza and Ross Goldstein, still from *By & By: With Psychedelic Features*, 2024



Erik Levine, still from *coyoteNorth*, 2013



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

MARCH 13, 2026

THE FINAL DAY TO APPLY FOR MAY/AUGUST 2026 GRADUATION

**MARCH 15, 2026 - MARCH 22, 2026
SPRING BREAK- NO CLASSES!**



APRIL 6, 2026

**FALL REGISTRATION BEGINS
BE SURE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
WITH YOUR ADVISOR!**

STUDY ABROAD AND EARN A MINOR IN ASIAN STUDIES

Earn A Minor in Cross-Cultural East Asian Studies
Choose your semester abroad in one of these exciting places and take just two additional courses at UMass Boston

Zhuhai, China

Seoul, South Korea

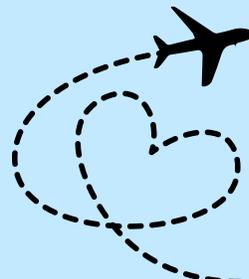
Tokyo or Nagoya, Japan

Earn a Minor in South Asian Studies
Choose your semester abroad in one of these exciting places, and take just two additional courses at UMass Boston

Bengaluru, India

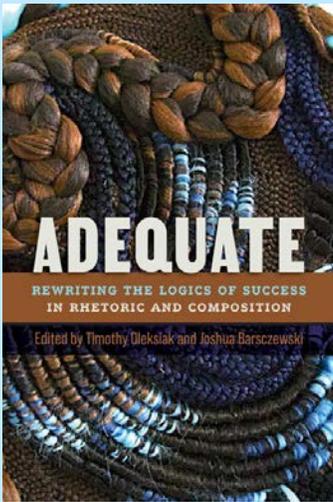
Bangkok, Thailand

Chiang Mai, Thailand



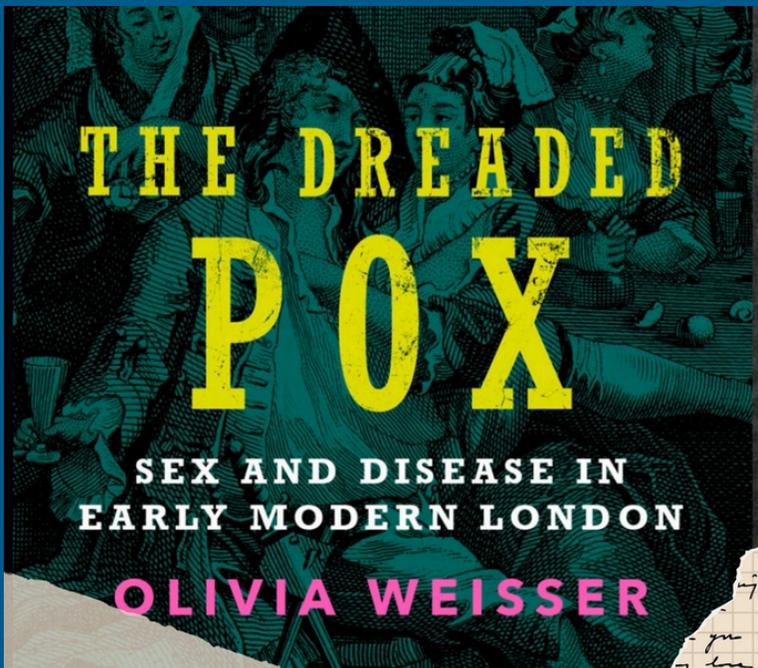
**CONTACT THE
ASIAN STUDIES
OFFICE FOR
MORE
INFORMATION**





English Professor Timothy Oleksiak and co-editor, Joshua Barszczewski were interviewed on *The Big Rhetorical Podcast* about their latest collaboration: *Adequate: Rewriting the Logics of Success in Rhetoric and Composition* (Utah State UP, 2026). You can catch the interview on [Apple](#) or [Spotify](#) or [Podcast Republic](#) and you can find a bit more about it at [The Big Rhetorical Podcast](#).

UPCOMING EVENT MARCH 9, 2026



A BOOK TALK
HISTORY DEPARTMENT
UMASS BOSTON

MARCH 9
TIME: 3-4:30PM
ISC-3-3300

UPCOMING EVENT MARCH 11, 2026



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

You are invited to the Pathways to Law:
Alumni Insights Panel and Q&A

- Date: March 11, 2026
- Location: Campus Center, Ballroom, Floor 3-3550A
- Time: 4 to 5:30 pm.
- Refreshments will be served.

- Our Alumni panelists will answer questions about planning a career in law.
- What factors helped you determine that law school was the right path for you?
 - What do you think made your application stand out?
 - What factors mattered most to you when selecting where to attend?
 - What classes, clinics, or experiences shaped your career path the most?
 - What experiences outside the classroom helped you most (internships, student organizations, research)?
 - How do you transition into early career?
 - How did you manage the financial side of law school (loans, scholarships, budgeting)?
 - What do you think are the biggest myths about becoming an attorney?

A list of participating alumni, will be shared via the CLA Blog!
If you or someone in your party requires a disability related accommodation, please go to ada.umb.edu

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL BAKER

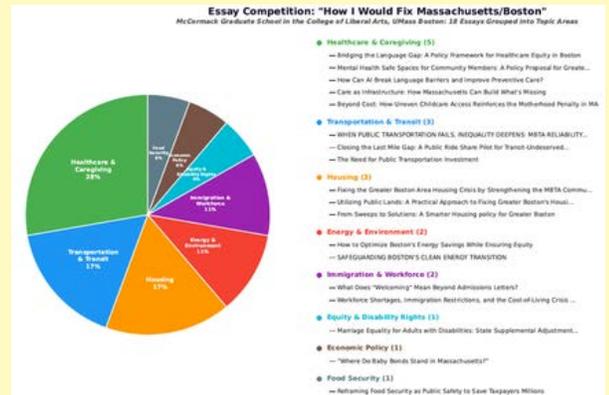
Winner of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies Essay Competition



Graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts were invited to submit essays on “How I Would Fix Massachusetts/Boston” for the February McCormack Graduate School essay competition. **Michael Baker** was awarded \$1000 for his essay, *“Closing the Last Mile Gap: A Public Ride Share Pilot for Transit-Underserved Communities in the Outer Boston Region.”*

The committee also selected the following three runners-up:

- Sampurna Basu, *“Bridging the Language Gap: A Policy Framework for Healthcare Equity in Boston”*
- Elham Hesari, *“Utilizing Public Lands: A Practical Approach to Fixing Greater Boston's Housing Crisis”*
- Max Mian, *“Fixing the Greater Boston Area Housing Crisis by Strengthening the MBTA Communities Act”*



UPCOMING EVENT MARCH 12, 2026

POLITICAL SCIENCE CAREER AND ADVISING DAY

- Meet your advisors
- Learn about the Poli Sci and International Relations program
- Get ready to register for the next semester (and remove your advising hold)
- Learn more about careers in your major
- FREE PIZZA!

March 12th
12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
W-5-70 (Hallway)



For accommodations & disabilities please contact
linda.uch@umb.edu

UPCOMING EVENT MARCH 23, 2026

The Departments of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Boston invite you to

THE JALAL ALAMGIR LECTURE

PALESTINE IS SHRINKING, PALESTINE IS EVERYWHERE

This talk reflects on what it means to live in and through genocide, taking Gaza and Palestine as a paradigm for understanding time and space. Palestine is shrinking, Palestine is everywhere. It is territorially constricted through military control, annexation, and siege, yet globally present as a lens through which power, profit, and repression are organized. The lecture traces how mass death, starvation, and the dismantling of healthcare have been coupled with technocratic fantasies of reconstruction and profit-driven plans for a “day after” premised on Palestinian dispossession. It situates Gaza within a wider regional architecture of subordination linking Israel, the United States, and Arab regimes through arms, surveillance, and AI. Extending beyond Gaza to the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria, the talk also connects Palestine to the repression of dissent in universities and liberal democracies. Against this, it centers Palestinian endurance, storytelling, and practices of return as ethical and political lessons for confronting cumulative catastrophe.



Professor Sherene Seikaly
University of California,
Santa Barbara

MARCH 23RD, 2026 |
3-5:30 PM

ALUMNI LOUNGE, CAMPUS
CENTER, 2ND FLOOR, ROOM 2551

Anyone requiring disability related accommodations, including dietary accommodations, contact linda.uch@umb.edu

COURSE SPOTLIGHT: HISTORY 625

Have you ever wondered what these buildings are?



Three images of buildings on campus related to the Calf Pasture Pumping Station

Many people have wondered about the castle-like structure that sits on the edge of our campus—the Calf Pasture Pumping Station. The arresting architecture of the station and its related buildings once housed a pioneering marvel of Boston’s sanitation infrastructure—giant machines built to send millions of gallons of the city’s sewage out into the harbor and protect the public health of city dwellers. The pumping station functioned for almost a century after its opening in 1884, and has been a major fixture of Columbia Point for more than a century. Decades of neglect and disuse have rendered it an imposing ruin, masking the significance of this system to the health and growth of the city.

This spring, graduate students in **Jane Becker’s HIST 625: Interpreting History in Public: Approaches to Public History Practice** are collaborating with the university’s administration to share the history of the Pumping Station with the Boston community and its visitors. Students have met with major stakeholders from the EMKI, The JFK library, Mass Archives, and the Mass Historical Commission, Boston Landmarks Commission, and the Friends of the Boston Harborwalk. What has the pumping station meant to the people of Boston, this land and neighborhood we call Columbia Point, and how can we share those histories with the public? Stay tuned!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HISTORY 625,
CHECK OUT THE CLASSWORK BLOG BY SCANNING
THE QR CODE!**



PATHWAYS TO LAW: ALUMNI INSIGHT PANEL, Q&A

ALUMNI PANELISTS (Continued on next page)

Marijo McCarthy earned her BA in Psychology from UMass Boston in 1978 and her JD from Suffolk University in 1982. Since 1995, she has been the president and owner of Widett and McCarthy P.C., a law practice specializing in contracts and small-business transactions. Her career includes roles with the American Library Association in Chicago and Washington, D.C., as well as service on the Legal and Legislative staff of Governor Michael Dukakis. She later helped establish the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency. A longtime member of the Smaller Business Association of New England (SBANE), Marijo served as Chair of the Board from 2001 to 2003. She is also a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association and serves on the Board of Directors of the Boston Local Development Corporation, which supports neighborhood investment through small-business lending.

Lee Harrington earned his BA in History and Economics from UMass Boston in 1996 and his JD from Boston College in 1999. Lee is a partner of Ascendant Law Group LLC. The firm is focused on bankruptcy, reorganization, commercial lending, and an extensive litigation practice. Much of Lee's work focuses on distressed asset acquisition and restructuring litigation, where he practices in both federal and state courts.

James "Jay" Sylvester Fleming received a BA in Political Science from UMass Boston (2012) and a JD from Suffolk University (2016). Since December 2016, he has served as an associate attorney at Doherty, Cella, Keane LLP, a law firm in Beverly, MA. Doherty, Cella, Keane LLP is a law firm that represents clients nationwide in claims for Social Security disability benefits. Jay ran the Boston Marathon for Team Krystle in 2023 and 2024 and now serves on the UMB Young Alumni Council. He also enjoys offshore fishing and big game hunting.

JamJames M. O'Sullivan is a graduate of UMass Boston (1980) and Northeastern University School of Law (1983) and a principal with O'Sullivan & Connolly, PC, Norwell. Engaged in the general practice of law, the firm represents ten elder protective services agencies in Massachusetts, filing petitions for protective orders, emergency protective orders and for restraining orders, under the Massachusetts Elder abuse statute, guardianships, and conservatorships, in six counties in eastern Massachusetts. In addition, he has conducted many trials in probate, domestic relations, civil, and real estate litigation. Mr. O'Sullivan is Past President of the Bar Association of Norfolk County, Town Moderator for the Town of Westwood (since 2018), and former chairperson of both Westwood's Council on Aging and Board of Health. In 2015, the Bar Association of Norfolk County awarded him with its Pro Bono award.

UPCOMING EVENT

MARCH 11, 2026



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PATHWAYS TO LAW: ALUMNI INSIGHT PANEL, Q&A

ALUMNI PANELISTS (Continued from previous page)

Sarah Bazir received her BA in Political Science from UMass Boston in 2017 and her JD from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in Chicago, IL in 2023. While in law school, she was a summer associate at the NYC law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell. After graduation in 2023, she returned to Davis Polk full-time as an associate in their litigation group. Currently, Sarah is completing a one-year federal clerkship with the Honorable Janet C. Hall for the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Elizabeth Proctor West received a BA in History summa cum laude from UMass Boston in 2019 and a JD cum laude from Suffolk University Law School in 2022, where she also completed a concentration in intellectual property with distinction. Elizabeth is an associate attorney with Bay State IP LLC in Boston. She manages a broad range of domestic and international intellectual property matters, and specializes in securing, protecting, and enforcing trademarks and copyrights for her clients. While attending Suffolk University Law School, Elizabeth served on the Editorial Board of The Journal of High Technology Law, taught practical constitutional law to high school students as a fellow in the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, and acted as a student attorney in the Transactional Clinic, where she counseled clients on a range of transactional law matters and assisted clients with entity formation. Liz has been a member of the UMass Boston Young Alumni Council since March 2021 and currently serves as president.

The Honorable Robert J. McKenna, Jr. (Ret.) Received a BS in Education from Boston State College in 1969 and a JD from Suffolk Law in 1974. Rob was an associate justice of the Boston Municipal Court in Massachusetts. He was appointed to the bench by former Governor Paul Cellucci in 1997 and retired in 2016. During his tenure at the Municipal Court, he served as first justice of the Concord Division and as an associate justice of the South Boston and Central Divisions. He began his career as an assistant district attorney with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, where he had worked as a legal assistant.

Jessica (Rich) Murphy received a BA in Political Science magna cum laude from UMass Boston in 2000 and a JD magna cum laude from Suffolk University Law School in 2005. While at Suffolk University Law School, she was Managing Editor of the Law Review and participated in an internship at the Federal District Court in Boston. She is currently a partner in the Litigation Department with Shipman & Goodwin, LLP. She represents businesses, contractors, lenders, and professionals in commercial litigation and construction law. She was named a 2025 "Go To Construction Lawyer" by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and included on Boston Magazine's Top Lawyer list in recognition of her outstanding work in construction law. She is the Chair of the Legislative Industry Issues Committee for the National Association of Women in Construction.

She has represented general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and lenders in cases involving contract performance, mechanic's liens, payment disputes, and change order claims. Her practice also extends to commercial disputes for banks, manufacturers, and service providers in a variety of industries. Jessica frequently represents clients in court securing prejudgment attachments, recovering debts, and navigating their risk.

Continued on the following page...



PATHWAYS TO LAW: ALUMNI INSIGHT PANEL, Q&A

Rontear Pendleton is currently the Deputy Attorney General at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Prior to returning to the Office, Ms. Pendleton was the General Counsel at the Department of Labor Standard (DLS) where she served as the Chief Legal Advisor for the agency. Before transitioning to DLS, she was the Grand Jury Director and an Assistant Attorney General for the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Prior to relocating to Boston, Massachusetts, Ms. Pendleton was an Assistant District Attorney and Deputy Division Chief of the Felony Family Violence Division at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office in Dallas, Texas, where she supervised misdemeanor and felony family violence prosecutors. During her tenure, she prosecuted over one hundred criminal cases.

Ms. Pendleton is an alumna of the University of Massachusetts, Boston and Thurgood Marshall School of Law. She is dual licensed in the State of Texas and The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She is a member of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, Boston Bar Association, Women's Bar Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and sits on the board for Casa Myrna and UMass Law Advisory Council. In addition, she serves as faculty for the University of Massachusetts School of Law.

UPCOMING EVENT

MARCH 28, 2026

**3RD
UMB
UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY
CONFERENCE**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. THOMAS NOAH
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
9:00AM - 5:00PM

ALUMNI LOUNGE,
2ND FLOOR, CAMPUS CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON

FOR MORE INFORMATION
DR. THEODORE LOCKE,
UMASSBOSTONPHILOSOPHY@GMAIL.COM

SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ANYONE REQUIRING DISABILITY RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS,
INCLUDING dietary accommodations, SHOULD GO TO
WWW.ASALMB.EDU OR CONTACT
UMASSBOSTONPHILOSOPHY@GMAIL.COM

UMass Boston

UPCOMING EVENT

APRIL 29, 2026

**CLA Undergraduate Research
Showcase**

The College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Showcase is an opportunity for students across all disciplines within CLA to showcase research they have worked on during the academic year. Students are invited to design posters with the help of a faculty mentor to present their research at the event. The CLA Dean's office covers the cost to print the posters. The Research Showcase takes place every spring semester in the 1st floor Campus Center Terrace.

**Wednesday, April 29th
11:00 am - 1:00pm**

Prizes awarded for the top 3 posters!

Lunch provided to all participants

**ALL ARE
WELCOME TO
PARTICIPATE**

If you are interested in learning more about the Research Showcase, contact:
Lauren Brackett@umb.edu

CLA FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

By Nicholas Gentile, Political Science Major



Dr. Travis Johnston

Professor Travis Johnston, Political Science Department

Associate Professor Travis M. Johnston came to UMass Boston ten years ago after earning his PhD in Political Science from UC Berkeley in 2015. His passion for teaching, however, began well before that. As a high school student, he volunteered in special ed classrooms. After earning his BA (also from Berkeley), he took a two-year position with Teach for America, a leadership development program that connects college graduates who are aiming to work in education and advocacy with under-resourced public schools to expand opportunities and counteract educational inequalities.

As a middle school teacher, he not only watched schools struggle to cope with teacher shortages but also witnessed the many other challenges faced by students in poorly funded school districts, and particularly by young students of color. These systemic issues continued to resonate even after he returned to school to earn his PhD. He began to focus on underrepresented communities that are often ignored in the study of American Politics. While still in graduate school, he volunteered to teach prisoners at San Quentin at a time when national policy was dismantling education programs for the incarcerated. After completing his graduate studies, Johnston won a prestigious Congressional Fellowship from the American Political Science Association and went to Washington, DC to work for the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee as a congressional scholar and staffer under ranking committee member Patty Murray (D-Wash.). The legislation on which they worked—an updated approach to career-relevant vocational training—eventually found its way into law with bipartisan support. These experiences gave Johnston first-hand insight into the legislative process and both the formal and informal ways of getting things done in Washington. In class, Johnston often reminds his students that Congress is the body that makes the rules that govern our society and decides who wins and who loses in many different arenas.

These experiences, first as a teacher in underserved communities and later as a staffer on Capitol Hill, inspire Professor Johnston's current research and teaching. His primary focus is the legislative process and political behavior, but he also pays particular attention to the way political arrangements affect marginalized parts of society including students, laborers, and prisoners. Professor Johnston's work directs our attention to the causes and consequences of political inequality and the unequal distribution of resources in American society. His courses help students develop an in-depth understanding of the complexities and representational deficits within the legislative process, as well as the electoral pressures and motivations that shape the decision making of political elites. He also teaches a methods class that gives students the skills to evaluate scholarship for themselves. Working at a university like UMass Boston that serves students with diverse backgrounds and varying educational experiences, Johnston's teaching is built around what comes next, asking how students can apply the things studied in class to various career paths to prepare for post-grad success. By paying attention to the lived experiences of UMass Boston students, he strives to make their education as accessible and tangible as possible.