



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

June 2022

To the Board:

I am pleased to present this quarterly report highlighting the progress we have made in enacting the mission of the University of Massachusetts Boston.

With a view to reframing UMass Boston's story and building on our distinction as Boston's public research university, we launched an exciting brand and marketing campaign in April. The campaign features a new visual identity that better reflects who we are and what we aspire to be—a university committed to Boston and the Commonwealth, dedicated to student success and cutting-edge research that informs policy and powers innovation. It also names our steadfast belief that diversity is at once the demographic future of the Commonwealth and cornerstone of academic excellence. We are confident that our enhanced identity will enable UMass Boston to lead in a new era of higher education.

- On the strength of a \$999,000 grant awarded to UMass Boston by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, we launched a new multisector collaboration to support quantum computing infrastructure, workforce development, and commercialization. It is a win for the university and the Commonwealth, which continues to bring together diverse stakeholders, capital, and research at the intersection of economic development and technology, expanding commercial and educational opportunities across the state.
- UMass Boston succeeded in recruiting new extraordinary leadership with the appointments of two academic deans: Venky Venkatachalam, PhD, as dean of the College of Management and distinguished professor of management science & information systems, effective July 2022; and Bo Fernhall, PhD, as dean of the Manning College of Nursing and Health Science and professor of exercise health science, effective August 2022.
- Our Institute for Asian American Studies released an important report highlighting the disparate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable Asian American populations in and around Boston. Notably, the report chronicles how racial prejudice and social isolation, have significantly worsened the health, mental health, and financial hardships of Asian Americans with limited English proficiency.

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



UMass Boston Launches New Brand Campaign for a New Era in Higher Education

UMass Boston has launched a new brand and marketing platform aimed at telling its story and updating the university's visual identity to reflect its unique and increasingly important place in the Commonwealth as a source of academic and research excellence, upward mobility, and social enlightenment and leadership.

UMass Boston represents the demographic future of higher education. It is an engine for upward mobility for students and economic growth for Boston and the region, fueled by the excellence of its teaching and research faculty. It is the most diverse public university in New England, with a student body that is 60 percent first-generation. And it promotes a culture of respect and curiosity for the differences among its community.

"Today, we share UMass Boston's story and endow our distinction with a renewed commitment to our legacy of excellence and a new look to better reflect who we are and what we aspire to be," said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. "This is a pivotal moment for UMass Boston. Inspired by a vision of tomorrow's UMass Boston—scanning the horizon of local and global challenges, marshaling research and teaching expertise, and pioneering solutions—we are a university *for the times*," he said.

UMass Boston's enhanced visual identity will include a new brand mark that highlights the university's connection to Boston and its mission and service as a beacon in urban higher education.

(Continued on page 2.)

COVER STORY (CONT.)

The new visual identity will be highlighted in multiple marketing platforms, including billboards, broadcast, social and print media. A For The Times commercial, which focuses on the UMass Boston student experience, was broadcast to hundreds of thousands of viewers on CBS/WBZ, NBC, WCVB, and Telemundo at times of increased viewership, including the Celtics playoffs.

During a two-day launch celebration in the Campus Center on April 26 and 27, team members in the Division of Marketing and Engagement had a chance to engage with thousands of current students and faculty around the new brand. Students expressed excitement over the brand campaign, with many standing in line for more than an hour to receive swag with the new UMass Boston logo—from sweatshirts and hats to water bottles and tote bags. The event also included incredible student performances by Bollywood group UMB Naach, spoken word artists Celine Voyard and Layanie Oscar, and Kpop dance crew WHISPER.



Hundreds of UMass Boston students, faculty, and staff came out for the university's brand launch event.



Bollywood group UMB Naach performs at the brand launch event.



A billboard featuring the new marketing campaign.

**Learn more about
UMass Boston's new
look and campaign.**



DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

New Report Highlights Impact of Pandemic and Racism on Asian American Community

A new report from UMass Boston's Institute for Asian American Studies documents the experiences of Asian Americans hit hardest by the pandemic, looking at racial prejudice, health and mental health concerns in the community, and economic loss.

The report is the first to reach out to the Asian American community in lower-income neighborhoods using a multilingual questionnaire — another recent survey was in English and focused more broadly on pandemic experiences of Boston residents as a whole. The survey reached 199 respondents from neighborhoods including Boston's Chinatown, Dorchester, Malden, Quincy, Everett, and Cambridge.

“Our survey aimed to provide a more complete picture of the pandemic's impact on Asian Americans by recruiting participants with limited English proficiency, and who face social isolation and economic disadvantage,” said report co-author Carolyn Wong, a research associate at the institute. “These circumstances significantly worsened the pandemic's financial hardships and stress.”

Almost 75 percent of respondents said their risk to COVID-19 increased because their work put them in close proximity to the public. Fifty-four percent of Chinese respondents and more than a third of Vietnamese respondents said people acted afraid of them because of their race, according to the survey.

The UMass Boston report suggests increasing funding for mental health services and research on the effects of anti-Asian racism, and socio-economic research on how to help low-income workers and businesses in Asian American communities recover from the pandemic. It also calls for an expansion of social services for people with limited English proficiency, as well as for those who are isolating because of anti-Asian racism, which stops them from connecting to social service providers.

ICI Launches Inclusive Civic Engagement Program in Africa

Dr. Heike Boeltzig-Brown from UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion has partnered with Humanity & Inclusion to introduce a new professional fellowship program for African disability leaders committed to inclusive civic engagement, the Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement.

Funded by the U.S. Department of State, the program will support 19 disability rights professionals from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia to participate in a five-week fellowship. Fellows will complete an individual fellowship placement with a university-based research and education center for disabilities or similar host site organization in the U.S. The fellowship training will also include weekly leadership seminars, mentorship, and community service.



Assistant Professor Michelle Jurkovich traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with Congressman James P. McGovern.

Professor Discusses Hunger and Food Insecurity with Congressman McGovern

As American hunger hits new highs, legislators are planning a national White House conference on food, nutrition, hunger, and health to discuss the root causes and identify solutions to the hunger, food, and nutrition insecurity epidemics. Assistant Professor of Political Science Michelle Jurkovich traveled to Washington D.C. in April to meet with Congressman James P. McGovern, one of the conference planners, to discuss her research on hunger.

Jurkovich spent an hour with McGovern talking about her recent book, *Feeding the Hungry: Advocacy and Blame in the Global Fight against Hunger*, and listening to the challenges the congressman has faced trying to enact legislation that could help to reduce hunger both domestically and internationally.

For Jurkovich, this meeting was a great example for her students. She teaches a hybrid modality Politics of Food Security course, which examines food through the lens of development, human rights, governance, and security concerns.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

New Dean Appointed to Lead College of Management



College of Management Dean Venky Venkatachalam

Venky Venkatachalam, PhD, has been appointed dean of the College of Management and Distinguished Professor of Management Science & Information Systems. The appointment will take effect in July 2022.

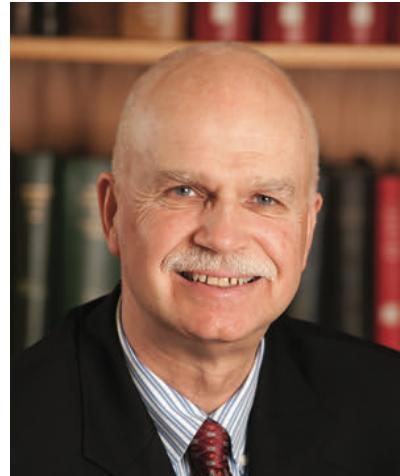
Dr. Venkatachalam is currently in his eighth year as dean of the Beacom School of Business at the University of South Dakota's flagship campus. During his tenure he established a track record of

championing transformative changes, focusing on distinguishing his school globally and attracting and retaining world-class faculty and students. Under his leadership the Beacom School of Business realized significant enrollment growth, achieved the highest retention and graduation rates among the USD's academic divisions, climbed high in national rankings, and developed strategic partnerships with South Dakota businesses for executive education and experiential learning opportunities.

"CM has world-class faculty who are great teachers and researchers. I am very excited about the opportunities that we can collectively pursue to grow enrollment, boost student success, and secure high national and global rankings for the College of Management," Dr. Venkatachalam said.

Joining UMass Boston will be a bit of a homecoming for Dr. Venkatachalam, who was previously a professor and academic leader at the University of New Hampshire at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics for 22 years.

New Dean Appointed to Lead Manning College



Manning College Dean Bo Fernhall

Bo Fernhall, PhD, dean for the College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS) at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), has been appointed dean of UMass Boston's Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Professor of Exercise Health Science, effective August 15, 2022.

Dean Fernhall provided exemplary leadership

during his 11 years at UIC that led to remarkable growth and development for AHS. The college added five new academic programs, nearly doubled undergraduate enrollment, and increased overall enrollment by 50 percent. His expansion of and investment in student success initiatives resulted in AHS achieving the highest graduation rate for undergraduate students at UIC for the past three years. In addition, the reputation of AHS was also greatly enhanced, with eight academic programs in the top 10 for national rankings. The college is a national leader in research and training on disabilities, with significant large externally funded centers.

Dr. Fernhall's previous appointments include University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he was professor of kinesiology and community health, and associate dean for research and academic affairs; professor and chair of the Exercise Science Department at Syracuse University; and academic and administrative appointments at George Washington University Medical Center and the University of Rhode Island.

UMass Boston Launches 24/7 Medical and Counseling Outreach Efforts



As part of the ongoing efforts resulting from a collaboration with the Jed Foundation, a nationally recognized college mental health nonprofit, the Division of Student Affairs and several partners launched a new outreach effort around its 24/7 medical and counseling support hotline. This number connects students with live general medicine and counseling support night or day. The outreach included print and digital signage in campus buildings, table tents in dining and social spaces, stickers for employees to wear, and syllabus boilerplate language inclusion.

"Outreach such as this is a vital component of our aspiration to have a health-promoting campus ecology rooted in an ethic of care," said Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Shawn De Veau.

RENEW THE FACULTY



Abiola Farinde-Wu has received the Division K Early Career Award.

CEHD Professor Receives Early Career Award

Assistant Professor of Urban Education, Leadership, and Policy Studies Abiola Farinde-Wu has received the American Educational Research Association's Division K Early Career Award for her inspiring, high quality, and impactful research on recruiting and retaining Black teachers.

Honoring exemplary research and service in the education research field, the Early Career Award is given once a year to a scholar who received their doctoral degree within the past 10 years.

"As researchers, we all try to engage in meaningful, impactful, and powerful work for the public good," she said. "To be recognized by my peers and the academic community for my scholarship is both humbling and mind-blowing. I hope that Black and Brown women in academia see my picture and think if she can do it, so can I."

Dr. Farinde-Wu has been engaging in research, teaching, and service at UMass Boston since 2017. She also serves as the program director for the Urban Education, Leadership, and Policy Studies doctoral program in the Department of Leadership in Education. Her scholarship explores the experiences of teachers and students of color, with an emphasis on Black women and girls. She is interested in the schooling experiences of Black women and girls and their educational and life outcomes.



María Carvajal Regidor



Florianne (Bo) Jimenez

Writing Center Directors Honored with Dissertation Awards

Two faculty members who will co-direct the new university-wide Writing Center—on track to open for tutoring in the fall of 2022—have received significant recognition for the quality of their dissertations.

Assistant Professor of English María Carvajal Regidor is one of two academics to be named 2022 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) James Berlin Memorial Outstanding Dissertation Award winners. The CCCC award is the most prestigious recognition in the area of composition nationally and is given for a dissertation that "improves educational process in composition studies, or adds to the field's body of knowledge."

Assistant Professor of English Florianne (Bo) Jimenez was the recipient of the 2021 American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) Outstanding Dissertation award for her dissertation, "Echoing and Resistant Imagining: Filipino Student Writing Under American Colonization."

Carvajal Regidor and Jimenez have already begun offering workshops for graduate student instructors and Intermediate Seminar faculty on responding to multilingual writing and starting a new Faculty of Color writing group, among other activities.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE



Associate Professor of Engineering Matthew Bell highlights the existing quantum computing infrastructure on campus.

UMass Boston Receives \$1 Million for Quantum Computing Lab

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development has awarded UMass Boston \$999,000 to fund new quantum computing infrastructure on campus. The grant is from the Collaborative Research and Development Matching Grant program, an effort managed by the Innovation Institute at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, and will support a three-year, \$1,999,774 project managed by UMass Boston in partnership with Western New England University in Springfield.

The project will create a collaborative network among the research centers at the two universities and with three Massachusetts-based small businesses: Millimeter Wave Systems, LLC, Cohasset's Quantum Microwave, and JanisULT. This network will boost the commercialization of computing hardware and support workforce development for the quantum information industry.

Quantum computers consist of quantum bits, or “qubits,” which can store more information than traditional computers, but need super-cooled systems in order for researchers to study them. The Commonwealth's investment in these low temperature R&D facilities will create new opportunities for Massachusetts companies to validate and test their products.

“Through this investment and by working in partnership with UMass Boston and Western New England University, we can also give students a head start by providing access to the tools and training as they look to join the workforce in this important field,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy.

For UMass Boston, it will help expand on existing academic programs, such as the Quantum Information Certificate program within its College of Science and Mathematics.

New Research in the Sport Industry Advocates for Better Work-Life Balance

A new study co-authored by Assistant Professor of Sport Leadership and Administration Allison Smith shows the need for a better work-life balance in the sport industry to encourage a healthier work environment, prevent job burn-out, and build a more diverse workforce.

Smith authored the study, “Work and Life in the Sports Industry—A Comparison of Work-Life Interface Experiences Among Athletic Employees,” with Jeff Graham, associate professor of Sport Management at the University of Tennessee Knoxville for a special work-life balance issue of the *Journal of Athletic Training*, the National Trainers' Association scientific journal.

The study examined peer-reviewed journal articles between 2011 and 2020, which provided a look into the challenges that athletic trainers, coaches, athletes, and general athletic industry employees face and strategies to combat those challenges going forward. According to Smith, the sport industry is one of the few industries that demands employees always be on-call and prioritize their professional lives over their personal lives, leading to a non-existent work-life balance.

Of the major findings from this study, Smith emphasizes the need for organizations to introduce industry-wide policy changes instead of putting ownership solely on the individual. To keep people in the workforce, organizations need to set clearer expectations for policies such as maternity and paternity leave and allow family members to attend games, which more cutting-edge organizations are doing.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE (CONT.)

UMass Boston Professor Finds that Black Farmers Lost \$326 billion Worth of Land in 20th Century

Professor of Economics Dania Francis is the lead author of a study that finds Black farmers in the United States lost roughly \$326 billion worth of acreage during the 20th century—the first study to quantify the present-day value of that loss. The study was published in the American Economic Association's *Papers and Proceedings* journal.

In 1910, Black farmers owned more than 16 million acres of land, according to experts. In 2017, when the most recent agricultural census was done, that figure was just 4.7 million acres, about 0.5 percent of all farmland. The study found that discriminatory USDA lending policies and forced sales of co-owned land called heirs' property, among other factors, led to the land loss, a contributor to a racial wealth gap in the United States.

"Wealth and land is one way in this country that you're able to grow opportunity for your family," Francis recently told *Reuters*. "When huge groups of African Americans were denied that opportunity, it speaks to the intergenerational wealth gap that opened up in part due to this type of land loss."

The study calculated the compounded value of declining acreage owned by African Americans between 1920 and 1997 in the 17 states where almost all Black-owned farms were documented, using data from the USDA Census of Agriculture. Study authors say the \$326 billion figure is a conservative estimate.

UMass Boston, Wipro Partnership Awarded \$4.5 Million in New Funding

The UMass Boston-led Wipro Science Education Fellowship (Wipro SEF) has received an additional \$4.5 million award to extend its agreement to 2026. The additional funding brings to \$18 million in external funding for the partnership over the past decade.

Wipro SEF is a partnership among UMass Boston, Montclair State University, Mercy College, University of North Texas Dallas, Stanford University, University of Missouri, and the University of South Florida, with funding from Wipro. Its objective is to foster teacher leadership and science teaching excellence among teachers in partnering school districts from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Texas, California, Missouri, and Florida.

"This is evidence of a successful collaboration of private industry, university, and school district partnerships that other companies could emulate. UMass Boston takes pride in the ways in which it can contribute to improving science education within the Boston area and nationally," said Arthur Eisenkraft, Distinguished Professor of Science Education and Director of the Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC) in the College of Education and Human Development.

The program grew out of the success of the UMass Boston-based Boston Science Partnership's Science Education Fellowship, a grant initiative funded by the National Science Foundation from 2009-2012. The Wipro Science Education Fellowship professional development model emphasizes thinking about teaching, leadership to peers, and individual growth opportunities.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

Alumna Commits \$25,000 to Establish Economics Scholarship

Mary Slayter '97, who earned her bachelor's in economics summa cum laude from UMass Boston, recently pledged \$25,000 to create the Ida Flynn Slayter Scholarship Endowed Fund in Economics in honor of her late mother. Slayter also established a bequest amounting to approximately \$800,000 that will fund the scholarship. The fund will provide scholarship support to economics majors who come from an educational, cultural, or geographic background that is underrepresented in the field of economics.

Former Faculty Member Creates Scholarship Endowment Fund



Barry Bluestone

Former faculty member Barry Bluestone established the Dr. Barry Bluestone Scholarship Endowment Fund with a \$50,000 gift. The fund will provide financial need-based scholarships to students enrolled in any of the accelerated master's degree programs offered in the McCormack Graduate

School of Policy and Global Studies. The recipients will be known as Bluestone Scholars.

Bluestone was a senior fellow in the McCormack Graduate School and later became the founding director of the school's PhD program in public policy. He wanted to support a scholarship that would provide affordable and accessible graduate education to deserving students. While Bluestone is starting the endowment at \$50,000, he intends to support \$10,000 annually to grow the endowment.

Anonymous Donor Pledges \$1M to Support Biology Professor

An anonymous donor recently pledged \$1 million to support the work of Assistant Professor of Biology Albert Kao. The donor chose to support Professor Kao's work, which specializes in the study of collective behavior and related topics and education within the Biology Department. This funding can support a variety of research and education functions, including, but not limited to research supplies, materials, and equipment; travel for fieldwork, collaborations, or conferences; publication costs; salaries and wages for research personnel; and educational materials for courses or outreach.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia met with Civic Action Fellows at their end-of-year ceremony.

Civic Action Fellowship Program Celebrates with Councilor Julia Mejia

In early May, 13 undergraduate student fellows completed the Civic Action Fellowship Program, a year-long scholarship experience that included bi-weekly workshops with community leaders and community-based internships. The program was founded to engage a diverse cohort of students in civic life.

Community partners included the Mass Budget & Policy Center, Commonwealth Seminar, Boston While Black, Boston City Councilor-At-Large Julia Mejia, Massachusetts Voter Table, 826 Boston, King Boston, State Representative Jessica Giannino, City of Boston Language & Communications Access, Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School, and New Boston Coalition. Fellows were able to receive credit for their work through a new course hosted in the Africana Studies Department.

Councilor Julia Mejia spoke with the fellows at the end-of-year ceremony about the importance of their activism, commitment to community, and standing in their power. The Civic Action Fellowship Program is sponsored by Student Leadership & Community Engagement, Student Multicultural Affairs, and the Office of Community Partnerships.

PhD Grad Awarded 2022 KPMG Outstanding Dissertation Award

College of Management recent PhD graduate Xiaochuan Tong '21 was awarded the 2022 KPMG Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Accounting Association (AAA) in the Gender Issues and Work-Life Balance section, which is awarded to only one recipient each year.

All PhD graduates studying either accounting or finance are eligible to submit their dissertations one year after graduation to be chosen for this prestigious award.

Tong, an assistant professor of finance in residence at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, chose to complete his dissertation on "Essays on Government Ownership." One of his essays looks at how female CEOs interact with government ownership and influence firm performance. Tong's research discovered that female CEOs thrive in government-run businesses due to a more compliant work environment. These businesses tend to be more flexible, allowing women more stability, respect, and family-work balance, taking the pressure off women.

UMass Boston Graduates 4,013 Students

On Friday, May 27 UMass Boston held commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2022, conferring degrees on 2,815 undergraduate students and 1,198 graduate and doctoral students at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center.

The ceremonies included a keynote address by The Honorable Michelle Wu, the first elected woman and person of color to serve as mayor of the city of Boston. Student addresses were delivered by MG Xiong, the undergraduate JFK Award Winner, who graduated with a bachelor's in philosophy and public policy, and minors in Spanish language and women, gender, and sexuality studies. The graduate student speaker was Courtney Humphries, an award-winning researcher and science writer graduating with a PhD in environmental studies.

As part of the academic year-end ceremonies, three faculty members were recognized for their academic achievements. Professor of Public Policy and Public Affairs Mark Warren received the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Scholarship for his significant impact on crucial issues for disadvantaged communities across the nation, including community engagement, racial equity, and social justice in education and community development. Professor of Psychology Laurel Wainwright was presented with the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching for her stellar track record of providing accessible, engaging, and compassionate education with a student-centered teaching perspective. And Associate Dean of Liberal Arts Pratima Prasad earned the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Service for her work in developing student success initiatives and strengthening her field of scholarship by increasing the membership of junior faculty and conference organizations for an international stage.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco (center) celebrated with scholarship winners, runners, and Krystle Campbell's family on Marathon Weekend.

UMass Boston Announces New Round of Krystle Campbell Scholarships

As part of Marathon Weekend, UMass Boston hosted a Krystle Campbell Scholarship Presentation and Marathon Team Celebration to announce new scholarship awards and recognize the team running the marathon to raise money for the fund. The annual event honors the legacy of alumna Krystle Campbell, who was killed in the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing.

Former UMass Trustee Richard Campbell (not related to Krystle) established this scholarship fund with his late wife, Barbara. The scholarship fund currently has a market value of more than \$1.5 million dollars. The first two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded in 2015. Because of annual gifts and marathon fundraising, the endowment has grown and enabled additional scholarships to be awarded each year. Four were awarded in 2020, five in 2021, and seven in 2022.

"Applying for this scholarship was a last ditch effort. After one of my roommates moved out due to the pandemic, I had ended up working two jobs to cover our additional expenses in addition to being a full time student," scholarship recipient Shanarah Bargan said. "It was a tough time and I really needed a break financially if I was going to be able to afford all of my commitments and be able to focus on my classwork.... this scholarship has provided me with opportunities I couldn't see coming, the type of relationships and connections that can really change someone's life."

The scholarship is intended to provide financial support to students interested in pursuing a degree in business. Students in the College of Management with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)



Fulbright Scholar Tristan Suarez is excited to work with Mongolian educators in the classroom.

Five Students Receive Fulbright Awards

Five UMass Boston students, including two alums, have been offered Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards for the upcoming academic year.

- Megan Brady G'18 received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) award to Bosnia/Herzegovina,
- Deborah Dauda won a Fulbright research award to Nigeria,
- Falianne Forges won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) award to Kenya,
- Sonja Haakonsen won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) award to Bulgaria, and
- Tristan Suarez G'19 received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) award to Mongolia.

Student recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as their records of service and leadership potential in their respective fields.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE



The UMass Boston Chamber Singers

UMass Boston Choruses Explore an Anti-Racist American Songbook

The UMass Boston Choruses welcomed live audiences to The Recital Hall in May—the first time since fall 2019—with their program *Stand Up!*, exploring historical spirituals and modern songs inspired by racial violence and difficult conversations.

The music honors the legacy of the storied Fisk Jubilee Singers of 1872—a group of college students from the still-new historically Black Fisk College, now Fisk University, whose arrangements and impact on American music is still celebrated today. Those historical spirituals are juxtaposed with modern songs like *Say Her Name* by Alysia Lee, prompted by stories of police violence against Black women, and *Stand Up! (from Harriet)*, originally sung and co-composed by Cynthia Erivo for the 2019 Harriet Tubman biopic.

JFK Award Winner Organizes Campus International Transgender Day of Visibility

In March, UMass Boston marked the International Transgender Day of Visibility with undergraduate student leader MG Xiong organizing the “*Energetic Trans: Transgender Day of Visibility 2022*.” The day aimed to bring attention and awareness to queer existence. Over their academic career, Xiong has demonstrated a significant commitment to student leadership and service, having served as a member of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Leadership Council, program and communication coordinator for the Asian American Student Success Program, and the chapter director and DEI coordinator for Strong Women Strong Girls. Xiong was recognized with the JFK Award at Commencement.



The Honors College's Banned Book Fair was featured on WBZ-TV.

Banned Book Fair at UMass Boston Celebrates Diversity

The Honors College hosted a Banned Book Fair in April, giving students access to literature that has been excluded from school libraries across the country.

Of the more than 1,000 books banned in parts of the country, 22 percent directly address issues of race and racism, while 33 percent address LGBTQ+ themes or have protagonists/prominent secondary characters who are LGBTQ+. Event organizers wanted students to be able to interact with stories that represent them, while letting everyone know that their voices can't be silenced. Over 100 students participated in the event, each receiving a free banned book.

The Honors College teamed up with local nonprofit BookTalk to put on the event. The book fair was featured on WBZ-TV.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE



Maddison Lessard aims to obtain a PhD in biology.

Biology Major Earns Prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

Maddison Lessard has received the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, one of the most prestigious awards in the U.S. for undergraduates studying the sciences.

The scholarship is given annually to college sophomores and juniors who demonstrate excellence in natural science, engineering, and mathematics. Lessard is one of 417 recipients selected this year, and is the fifth UMass Boston student to earn a Goldwater Scholarship.

A junior biology major with a minor in English, Lessard is an Honors College student and an Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) scholar. She has been working in Professor of Biology Alexey Veraksa's lab over the past year, using the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* to investigate cell signaling mechanisms during organism development.

Lessard credits her advisors and professors at UMass Boston for putting her on the path of research.

"When I came into college, I didn't even really know what scientific research was," she said. "I'd never seen a pipette before my first Bio 111 lab, so I had no idea how any of this works. I was always interested in science but didn't know what I could do with it. Without my professors and advisors there's no way I'd be doing what I'm doing today."



The front cover of the transfer student recruitment brochure that won gold in the Annual Educational Advertising Awards.

Recruitment Materials Take Home the Gold

UMass Boston has been selected as a 2022 gold winner in Higher Education Marketing Report's 37th Annual Educational Advertising Awards in the brochure category for the transfer student recruitment brochure and merit winner in the direct mail category for the recruitment postcard series for first-year students.

UMass Boston's Division of Enrollment Management collaborated with Mindpower Inc., a brand strategy and branding execution agency specializing in education, on the ideation and creation of these recruitment materials. This recognition highlights the successful synergy between Mindpower and UMass Boston on the redesign of the suite of enrollment marketing materials, including the acceptance packet and yield postcards. Targeted campaigns were created specifically for first-year and transfer students to address their unique needs and communicate the core value propositions to each audience.

The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest and oldest educational advertising awards competition in the country. This year, UMass Boston was selected from over 2,000 entries from over 1,000 colleges, universities, and secondary schools from all fifty states and several foreign countries. Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals, and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE (CONT.)



*The cast of *Pride and Prejudice* with Director Carrie Ann Quinn (center).*

Live Performances Commence at UMass Boston

In recent months, the UMass Boston Performing Arts Department threw open the University Hall Theatre and Recital Hall doors to live public audiences for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Audiences responded with sold-out shows in theatre, music, and dance, and standing ovations. Most importantly, student musicians, actors, theatre techs, and dancers were performing live and in-person once again.

Theatre arts presented a modern adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* directed by Professor Carrie Ann Quinn, and half of the six-show run sold out. Next, the UMass Jazz Ensembles, led by professor Peter Janson, took the stage with a 14-member student crew of relative newcomers to the Jazz program, playing to sold-out houses that included dozens of jazz-musician alums to show support. The UMass Boston Orchestra, conducted by professor Sommer Forrester, played to a full-capacity Recital Hall. The dance program also held its first Spring Dance Concert since May of 2019, with two sold-out shows filled with student-choreographed pieces and guest artists. Finally, the UMass Boston Choruses, directed by professor David Giessow, had their largest audience ever, performing an evening of historical spirituals and modern gospel, capping off a semester exploring the intersection of race, incarceration, and the arts.

“We knew our students were missing live audiences and that it’s an essential part of their learning experience,” said Performing Arts Chair Rafael Jaen. “But I’m not sure we appreciated how much people were missing live performance. The lobbies before and after shows were abuzz, the standing ovations were electric, and the students onstage were beaming.”



The Beacons men's tennis team won the 2022 Little East Conference Championship.

UMass Boston Athletics Picks Up Awards and Tournament Wins in Spring Season

The 2022 spring season saw tremendous success for all UMass Boston athletic programs. Every team once again qualified for their respective conference tournaments and meets.

Freshman standout Dorinda Okorji became the first Beacon to win gold at the Little East Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championship, winning the 100-meter dash. The men's tennis and lacrosse teams made history this spring as they both recorded undefeated Little East Conference records in the same season. Lacrosse went on to claim their second-straight LEC Tournament crown, and Tennis cruised to the program's fifth LEC title.

UMass Boston Athletics also welcomed back their annual Battle of the Beacons event and UMBY's award banquet. At this combined event, student-athletes, coaches, and administrators came together to be recognized for their accomplishments and to celebrate an amazing first year under the leadership of Director of Athletics and Recreation Dr. Jacqueline Schuman.