

To the Board:

As we open a new academic year, I am pleased to present this quarterly report. Of particular interest are stories that showcase the university's partnerships with Boston and the Commonwealth, and faculty research highlights.

- A \$20 million commitment—\$10 million from Mass General Brigham; \$10 million from UMass Boston—will expand the Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing program at our Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. This investment takes our partnership with MGB to a new level of excellence, recruiting, and retaining students from historically underrepresented groups, promoting health equity, and supporting a workforce development pipeline.
- As part of an NSF Cool Science collaboration with our School for the Environment, 3rd-8th grade art students at the Umana School in East Boston, located on landfill near Boston Harbor, installed a multi-panel tile mural rich with information about sea-level rise to educate the community and encourage planning for nature-based solutions to coastal flooding.
- New faculty research awards include:
 - o Professor Lindsay Fallon/Counseling & School Psychology received \$5.7 million from U.S. Department of Education for *Project Beacon SEAS: Advancing Student Equity, Access, and Success in School Mental Health*.
 - o Professor Jill Macoska/Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy received \$1.3 million from Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for *Transcriptomics: In Situ Tissue-Based Gene Expression Profiling at the Cellular Level*.
 - o Professor Jesse Farmer/School for the Environment received \$300 thousand from NSF for *Collaborative Research: Bounding global ice volumes over the last glacial cycle using reconstructions of Bering Strait flooding*.
- The Summer Program in Urban Planning introduces young students of color in Roxbury and Dorchester to careers in urban planning, design, and development to expand diversity in the field. Working with faculty, students toured Roxbury neighborhoods using sensors to record varying temperatures in public places and explored best practices to combat the effects of urban heat islands.

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



Governor Healey joins Chancellor Suárez-Orozco on a visit to the nursing lab.

UMass Boston, Mass General Brigham Invest in Nursing Clinical-to-Career Pathway

Mass General Brigham and UMass Boston's Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences have announced an expanded collaboration to enhance the college's Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing program.

With a \$20 million investment—\$10 million from Mass General Brigham and \$10 million from UMass Boston—the goal is to recruit and retain nursing students from under-represented communities as they start their clinical rotations.

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Increase Endowment

Alumnus Supports Veterans' Dreams Through Academic Opportunity

UMass Boston's active commitment to the success of our nation's veterans and their families is a point of pride across the Beacon community. It also serves as a frequent motivation for the generosity of university alumni and friends.

In the case of Bill Perry '95, G '98, his own experiences as a UMass student after serving in the U.S. Coast Guard solidified for him the value of veteran access to educational opportunity. He established the Bill and Rose Perry Endowment for Student Veterans in 2022 with an initial gift of \$25,000 as a part of his personal dedication to the continued advancement of those who have served.

After hearing the first recipient of his scholarship speak to the impact of his support at UMass Boston's annual Joiner Institute event, Perry elected to double his commitment to the university, thereby expanding his initial investment three-fold due to the availability of state matching funds.

Alumnus Invests in Helping Students Finish Strong

Andrew Putney '96 came to UMass Boston's College of Science and Math as a transfer student and worked full time while attending UMB. He hadn't returned to campus in years when outreach from University Advancement brought him back to see the ongoing mission-driven work of his alma mater. The visit left a meaningful impression on Putney.

"Reflecting on our meeting and the tour yesterday, I was struck by the feeling of pride in UMB that I honestly hadn't felt when attending," he wrote in a follow-up message. "I'm proud of what the UMB community is doing to create an environment that matches the quality of education that is delivered there to a body of students who, each in their own way and from their own history, are pulling themselves out of the past in pursuit of the opportunity for a better future. What a marvelous undertaking."

Putney felt so strongly about supporting our students that he established the Final Stretch Scholarship Fund in May—a fund aimed at providing support for students at the tail-end of their studies who need financial assistance during their last two semesters.

The Next Generation of Cause-Based Philanthropy in Action

Current UMass Boston student Rachel Green made her first gift to the university this year, a \$1,500 contribution to the George Floyd Honorary Scholarship Fund. Her generosity was inspired, in part, by coursework that increased her awareness of gaps in equitable access to education and socio-economic mobility.

"I want these funds to go specifically to Black, Indigenous, or students of color as a form of micro-reparations," Green wrote upon making the gift. "I would also hope that the university as a whole is systematically investing in the Africana Studies department, and other ethnic studies departments which are historically underfunded."

Green's use of philanthropic action to make a positive difference in the Beacon community is a shining example of a UMass Boston education inspiring students to live out the values of human dignity, social justice, and personal respect for all individuals that are central to the university's mission.

Optimizing Tech in Service of Employment Equity

Kessler Foundation awarded a \$500,000 grant to an innovative program at UMass Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion aimed at increasing employment opportunities for those living with disabilities.

With the goal of improving the employment outcomes of adults with disabilities through the adoption of evidence-based employment assistance, the program supports more than 50 external employment programs and their consultants in using the ES-Coach application—a data-enabled performance tool that helps them more effectively document the adoption of practices, reflect, set goals, and take action for quality improvement. This initiative targets employment programs across the country that support job seekers with intellectual disability, autism, and other developmental disabilities, a combined group with one of the lowest employment rates in the nation. It also focuses on geographical areas with diverse populations in terms of race, ethnicity, gender orientation, and poverty.

The project hopes to contribute to changing the paradigm of how specialized employment services are supported in their efforts to improve quality. The institute projects an estimated 1,250 job seekers will gain competitive integrated employment during the initial two-year grant period.

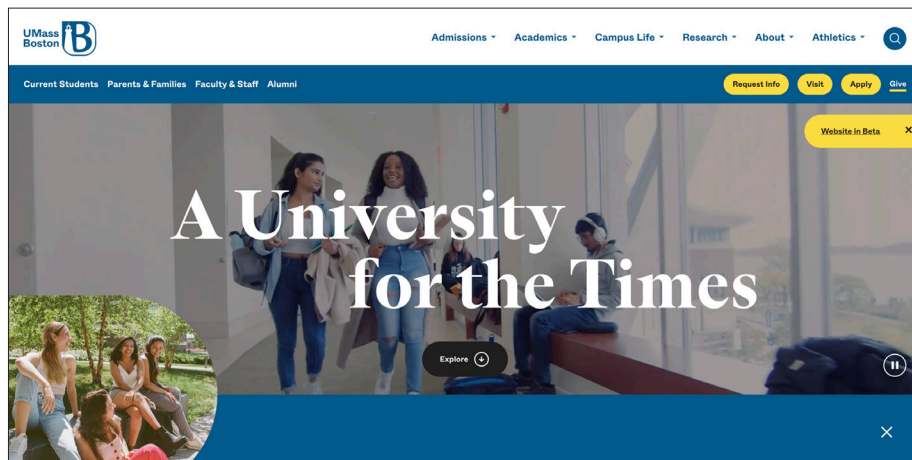
Increase Endowment (cont.)

Leaving a Legacy of Educational Excellence

Professor Elizabeth Bussiere, former chair of the Political Science Department, has been a consistent annual donor to the university, adding financial support to her invaluable contributions as colleague and educator. In advance of her retirement, she made a \$50,000 pledge to add to the Professor Elizabeth Bussiere Scholarship for Political Science started by UMass Boston alumnus, Brennan Adams '04. Adams created the scholarship in her name to honor the impact the department had on his career and business success.

Her \$50,000 contribution, made over five years, will be matched by another \$25,000 from the state matching gift program. Her family and friends have also started to contribute at her request, instead of giving birthday or holiday gifts. Many of her political science colleagues also plan to direct their retirement gifts to her toward the Bussiere scholarship. This generosity and appreciation for a beloved professor will now leave a legacy of support for current and future Beacons.

Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services



A new UMass Boston website launched this summer.

University Launches New Website

UMass Boston launched a new website at umb.edu on July 27, focusing on engaging imagery, unique typography, and easy-to-use navigation. The new website will be a valuable resource for prospective students, current students, faculty, staff, and alumni alike.

Over the past 18 months, a dedicated team of web developers, designers, and content creators have worked diligently to create a fresh and user-friendly online experience that aligns with the university's goals and values. The new website enhances UMass Boston's digital presence and provides improved functionality and navigation for all users.

The web design team took into consideration usability, accessibility, and responsiveness across different devices to provide an optimal browsing experience. The new site is optimized for mobile devices, so visitors will have a seamless experience regardless of what device they are using.

Cover story (cont.)

"As the only public research university in Greater Boston, one with nationally recognized nursing programs, we have a responsibility to educate future health care providers in a way that serves our increasingly diverse and aging population," said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. "We are grateful to Mass General Brigham for this renewed commitment, which builds on our long-term partnership to diversify the career pipeline for nurses and opens opportunities for many more students."

UMass Boston will provide financial support for the students recruited from the traditional and accelerated nursing programs to participate in the Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing program. These students will then be eligible for employment by the Mass General Brigham system hospitals, creating a workforce development pipeline from classroom to career. The additional funding will also support the creation of a behavioral health equity certificate for program participants. Over five years, 400 students will be recruited to complete the program.

The Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing is a health equity partnership founded by UMass Boston and Mass General Brigham in 2008 to support diversity, practice preparedness, and behavioral health competency. It has provided hands-on hospital experience and career opportunities to 135 graduate and undergraduate nursing students. Participating students achieved a 100 percent certification rate and a 92 percent placement rate at Mass General Brigham hospitals.

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise

NIH Awards \$2.9M Grant to Physics Professor for Transcranial Temporal Interference Stimulation Research

Sumientra Rampersad, a professor of physics in the College of Science and Mathematics, received a \$2.9 million grant from the NIH-NINDS (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke). The award will fund a five-year research project titled, *Overcoming the Barriers to Effective Transcranial Temporal Interference Stimulation in Humans*.

At the root of the project is the dilemma that for a third of patients, current treatments for neurological and psychiatric disorders do not work. Neuromodulation, a method used to directly stimulate nerves, may offer promising new options for treatment-resistant patients. While invasive neuro-modulation approaches (e.g., surgery) carry significant risk, noninvasive approaches (e.g., external devices) cannot stimulate deep brain areas. Rampersad's project will explore transcranial temporal interference stimulation (TIS), an innovative tool that combines noninvasive neuromodulation with deep stimulation.

The project was born out of a prior collaboration between Rampersad and her co-investigators from Northeastern University and University of Utah. In 2019, they published a paper together in *NeuroImage*, which presented simulations of TIS in mice and humans. The three components of the NINDS-funded project are designed to see if TIS can be effectively applied to the human brain.

The award will fund computational research at UMass Boston, including the acquisition of high-performance workstations and the salaries of a full-time graduate research assistant and a postdoctoral researcher for five years.

University Research Awards for the Last Quarter

- PI Lindsay Fallon/Counseling & School Psychology received \$5,659,982 from U.S. Department of Education for *Project Beacon SEAS: Advancing Student Equity, Access, and Success (SEAS) in School Mental Health*.
- PI Liya Escalera/Precollegiate & Educational Support Programs, Academic Support Services received \$1,900,000 from the Richard & Susan Smith Family Foundation for *Early College - Smith Family Foundation*.
- PI Jill Macoska/Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy (CPCT) received \$1,288,464 from Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for *Transcriptomics: In Situ Tissue-Based Gene Expression Profiling at the Cellular Level*.
- PI Jessica Whiteley/Nursing & Health Sciences received \$771,500 from Massachusetts General Hospital for *2.2 Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing (CLCDN)*.
- PI Melissa Pearrow/Counseling & School Psychology received \$749,553 from Boston Children's Hospital for *BIRCh Project Fellow: Diversifying Children's Behavioral Health Providers Across the Commonwealth*.
- PI Albert Kao/Biology received \$468,934 from National Science Foundation for *BRC-BIO: Emergent dynamics and leadership in collective timing decisions*.
- PI Kimberly Hamad/Engineering received \$350,000 from the U.S. Army CDC Soldier Center for *Bio and Nano-material Systems for Soldier-Effective Performance*.
- Jesse Farmer/SFE - Dean's Office received \$313,799 from the National Science Foundation for *Collaborative Research: Bounding global ice volumes over the last glacial cycle using reconstructions of Bering Strait flooding*.
- PI Julisa Cully/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$282,783 from New Hampshire Department of Education for *VR101 Comprehensive Assessment and IPE Development Training for the New Hampshire Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation*.
- PI David Landon/Anthropology received \$222,357 from National Park Service for *Catalog and Curate Archeological Collections for Region 1 Parks*.
- PI Kristin Uiterwyk/Urban Harbors Institute, School for the Environment received \$200,000 from the Walton Family Foundation for *National Working Waterfront Network*.

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



Professor of Physics Maxim Olchanyi

Physicist Receives NSF Grant to Use Quantum Mechanics to Study Number Theory

Professor of Physics Maxim Olchanyi has been awarded a \$212,358 three-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project entitled “Number-Theory-Inspired Effects in Cold Atoms.” The study is one of only a few attempts in the world to use quantum mechanics to study number theory.

Number theory is a branch of mathematics that looks at the relationships and properties of integer numbers. It is a theoretical foundation of cryptography, including the ubiquitous RSA encryption algorithm.

The primary goal of Olchanyi's project is to build a quantum machine that will provide new tests of the validity of the Goldbach Conjecture, a well-known, but yet-to-be-solved problem in number theory. The Goldbach Conjecture states that for any even number, the sum of at least one pair of prime numbers equals that even number (e.g., $12=7+5$, $40=3+37$, etc.). Although the correctness of the conjecture has been confirmed for relatively small numbers (less than approximately 4×10^{16}), Olchanyi's research is exploring ways quantum mechanics can push this limit even further.

Olchanyi's group at UMass Boston will run the project in close collaboration with Oleksandr Marchukov of Technische Universität Darmstadt in Germany, and Donatella Cassettari's experimental group at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



Students have toured Roxbury's historic Wakullah Dale neighborhood.

BPS Students Partner with UMass Boston to Combat Extreme Heat in Roxbury

While many of their classmates were enjoying cool ocean breezes, 25 Roxbury high school students spent the month of July working with faculty from UMass Boston and Roxbury Community College to study Roxbury's extreme heat crisis and what can be done about it.

The students participated in the 2023 Summer Program in Urban Planning, designed to introduce youth of color from environmental justice communities such as Roxbury and Dorchester to careers in urban planning, design, and development where there has been a glaring and persistent lack of diversity.

The students toured Roxbury's historic Wakullah Dale neighborhood and used temperature sensors to record air temperatures at important public places in the community, conducted interviews with residents struggling to cope with Boston's increasing temperatures, and investigated “best practices” to combat the effects of urban heat islands. They found that the air temperatures were, on average, ten degrees warmer in Roxbury than at Logan Airport where so-called “city-wide” temperatures are recorded.

A subgroup of the students also worked with local urban designers to formulate guidelines and proposals for a new children's playground to be constructed on the Roxbury Community College Campus near the historic Dudley House. Students shared their research findings with community residents and local officials at Roxbury Community College in July.

The Summer Program in Urban Planning is a joint venture of the Boston Planning and Development Agency, the Boston Public Schools, Roxbury Community College, and UMass Boston's Department of Urban Planning and Community Development and Sustainable Solutions Lab.

Enhance the Learning Experience



Sea Level Rise Mural, an impressive 600-plus tile bilingual mural housed in Umana Academy.

School for the Environment, Students in East Boston Raise Climate Awareness by Creating Sea Level Rise Mural

Umana Academy, a dual-language public K–8 school in East Boston, joined forces with Cool Science, an organization that uses youth art and science to deliver impactful climate education for adults. Together, they created the Sea Level Rise Mural, an impressive 600-plus tile bilingual mural that celebrates the community's strengths, while also depicting the urgent climate issues facing the area along Boston Harbor where the school is situated.

Cool Science is a collaboration among UMass Boston's School for the Environment and Urban Harbors Institute, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, UMass Lowell's College of Education and Art and Design Department, and additional organizations dedicated to the environment, education, and art.

As they worked on the mural, students learned about climate issues facing their school, community, and East Boston. Communities like East Boston, which have a significant immigrant population situated in a location vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges, are disproportionately affected by climate change.

At the end of the school year, the completed Sea Level Rise Mural was installed around a colorful staircase in the school. The mural's presence serves as a powerful tool for educating the community and reinforcing the pressing issue of climate change, its impact, and ways to address it.

The project was made possible through funding from the National Science Foundation.

University Continues Mental Health Efforts

During the second half of the 2022–23 school year, UMass Boston's University Health Services (UHS) continued to make significant efforts to address the ongoing mental health challenges prevalent nationwide. UHS aimed to further strengthen their approach to mental health through prevention efforts, building upon the initial work carried out in the first half of the year. This included state grant investments in Counseling Center staff recruitment and retention, the launch of the Togetherall Peer-to-Peer 24/7 online mental health support platform, multichannel community outreach, and partnerships with faculty and staff.

One specific achievement this spring was the complete reorganization of wellness education, which involved embedding wellness educators within UHS General Medicine and the Counseling Center and ensuring a more comprehensive focus on preventing common mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, and stress among students. The role of these wellness educators is to empower students by providing them with knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed decisions and adopt healthy habits that contribute to their overall well-being. Additionally, educators seek to increase campus awareness of available resources, including diversifying clinical staff and supplying programming tailored to affinity groups.

As a result of this year's clinical and non-clinical upgrades in UHS, wait times for non-emergency follow-up appointments at the Counseling Center have been reduced, and the provider-to-student ratio has improved. These achievements occurred amidst historic levels of demand as shown by the Counseling Center seeing a 34 percent increase in students seeking help compared to the previous academic year, with a 21 percent rise in urgent call-ins.

Enhance the Learning Experience (cont.)



Christa Beranek works with dig team members Mia Armstrong, Cal Mikowski, and Emily Barry during excavation at the Jeremiah Lee Mansion in Marblehead.

Student Archaeologists Wrap Up Five Week Excavation of Lee Mansion

This summer, nine UMass Boston student archaeologists and faculty worked on a five-week-long excavation of the Jeremiah Lee Mansion and Brick Kitchen property in Marblehead, conducted by The Fiske Center for Archaeological Research and the Marblehead Museum.

Led by Fiske Center staff Christa Beranek and John Steinberg, students and volunteers recovered approximately 50,000 artifacts, which will be cleaned and analyzed during the academic year. Some of this data will contribute to a master's thesis being written by Carolyn Mikowski, one of the graduate students in the Historical Archaeology MA program. Results of the project will also be shared with the scholarly and public communities through conference presentations (Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, October 2023), public talks to the Marblehead Museum community, a technical report, social media posts, and eventual scholarly publications.

The museum is working to redesign how the Lee property is interpreted to reflect the fact that Lee held enslaved people, to use the property to help tell the story of enslavement in Massachusetts in the 18th century, and to highlight the stories of people of color in Marblehead history.

The students who participate learn archaeological field and lab methods in a unique field environment, which allows them to go on to jobs, to graduate school, or to conduct their own research. The fourth grade of one of the Marblehead public schools visited, and students developed and ran the program for their visit.



Kate Butterworth Dawn Colquitt-Anderson

Two PHD Students Named to Fulbright US Student Program

Two UMass Boston PhD students have been selected to receive awards through the Department of State's prestigious Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The highly competitive scholarship opportunity provides funding for American students to conduct research or teach English in more than 140 countries overseas.

PhD candidates Dawn Colquitt-Anderson and Kate Butterworth received Fulbright Research Awards to study in Canada and Georgia, respectively.

Colquitt-Anderson, an Illinois native and PhD candidate in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, will leave for Canada this fall to internationalize her research on culturally and community responsive teaching in K-12 schools using local history, particularly of Black and indigenous communities. Butterworth, an upstate New York native and PhD candidate in the Global Governance and Human Security program, will head to Georgia this September to conduct field work for her dissertation and engage widely with the local community.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



Philanthropist Rob Hale gave each graduate \$1,000.

Philanthropist Rob Hale Gives UMass Boston Graduates a \$1,000 Surprise Cash Gift

At this year's 55th commencement ceremonies, students got to hear from U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, who encouraged the sea of graduates to choose hope. "You chose hope to get yourself here today. Now I'm asking you to choose hope for our world. Because *hope is the spark that ignites change*," she said.

And while 2,000 UMass Boston undergraduates received this charge to choose hope and make change, they also received an unexpected surprise.

As Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco began the conferral of degrees, co-keynote speaker Rob Hale, the cofounder, president, and CEO of Granite Telecommunications who gave an address earlier in the ceremony, interrupted to make an announcement.

Hale, and his wife, Karen, said they would give each UMass Boston graduate in attendance \$1,000 just moments before students began crossing the stage. Graduates received \$500 as a gift and \$500 to give to an organization, family member, or supporter.

"We want to share in that celebration with you. We want to give you two gifts. The first is a gift to you. The second is the gift of giving," Hale said.

The gift was covered by dozens of local and national media outlets, including CNN, *The Today Show*, and *Forbes*.



Read about how one graduate paid his gift forward to an employer who changed his life.

Professor Releases New Study on Voting Habits of Religiously Unaffiliated People

Religious institutions have long been important places for political participation in the United States, especially for voter mobilization. But today almost a third of Americans do not identify with any particular religious group. Exit polls from recent elections indicated that the unaffiliated may not be turning out to vote as often as a result, but a new UMass Boston study argues that these polls might miss key details about this large and diverse community.

Study author Evan Stewart, assistant professor of sociology at UMass Boston, used data from the Cooperative Election Study, which surveyed over 100,000 respondents across four election years and matched survey respondents to validated records of voter turnout to evaluate whether and how respondents voted in each election. According to the study, recently published in the journal *Sociology of Religion*, the large group of religiously unaffiliated Americans is divided in its voter turnout.

The study's findings have important implications for political campaigns and policymakers, especially as more groups are trying to reach the growing population of religiously unaffiliated voters.

Student Athletes Continue to Shine Academically

In June, the Little East Conference (LEC) announced the Team Academic Awards, awarded to the teams with the highest grade point average in the current academic year among each of the league's 21 championship sport offerings. UMass Boston took home three awards with women's indoor track and field (3.65), women's outdoor track & field (3.58), and women's volleyball (3.66), all leading their respective sports.

The LEC also announced its Spring All-Academic Teams, where the Beacons saw more success as it had 30 student-athletes achieve this honor.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)

Chancellor Pens Op-Ed on Boosting the Diverse Student Pipeline

After the Supreme Court's rejection this summer of decades-long precedent on affirmative action in college admissions, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco authored a piece in *The Messenger* explaining why it's more important than ever to boost student diversity and educational opportunity.

In "How to Boost the Pipeline of Diverse Students in the Anti-Affirmative Action Era," Suárez-Orozco wrote that a model he helped develop as dean of UCLA's School of Education and Information Studies offers a ray of hope.

"Because opportunities to learn are differentially distributed by race, and ethnicity and class all start in the early years, we need to significantly increase the role of higher education in K-12 schooling in constructing a muscular pipeline of diverse students who are ready to thrive in higher education," he wrote.



Read the op-ed.



Hannah Khin has been hired as the inaugural women's lacrosse head coach.

Hannah Khin Named Inaugural UMass Boston Women's Lacrosse Coach

The Division of Athletics and Recreation continues to grow with the addition of women's lacrosse as the 19th NCAA-sponsored sport. Hannah Khin has been hired as the inaugural head coach, and the team will begin play in the 2023-2024 academic year.

"This is a great day for UMass Boston Athletics and our women's lacrosse program. To have the opportunity to hire a head coach for a first-year program with the credentials that Hannah has speaks to the special place that we have here in Beaconville," said Vice Chancellor for Athletics and Recreation Jacqui Schuman. "During the search process, Coach Khin quickly rose to the top of our list as someone we knew could come in and build a competitive program immediately."

Develop First-Rate Infrastructure



A new central quadrangle is taking shape at the heart of the UMass Boston campus, with tree plantings, pathways, and, in the lower right, a new basketball court.

Renew the Faculty



*Developmental psychobiologist
Randy Corpuz*

Psychology Professor Receives Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching

Assistant Professor of Psychology Randy Corpuz, PhD, was honored during a luncheon in June as one of five University of Massachusetts faculty to receive the 2023 Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

The five UMass faculty members—one from each campus—will receive \$10,000 awards in recognition of their commitment to exemplary teaching and dedication to students. The Manning Prize was established in 2016 by UMass Lowell alumni Rob and Donna to honor UMass professors who excel in teaching and service.

Corpuz is a developmental psychobiologist whose research examines the neuroscience of relationships and child development with a particular focus on first-time fathers and their infants. In addition to teaching classes in psychology and statistics, Corpuz created courses on the biology of romantic relationships and the neuroscience of fatherhood.

UMass Boston students in Corpuz's lab have co-authored top-tier publications, presented research at national conferences, received research and travel grants, and have pursued graduate studies in psychology and/or neuroscience.



*Senior research associates John Butterworth and Alberto Migliore from the
Institute for Community Inclusion.*

Professors Receive Technology Development Fund Awards

Senior research associates Alberto Migliore and John Butterworth from the Institute for Community Inclusion will receive \$25,000 in seed funding as one of this year's award recipient teams of The Technology Development Fund, an initiative which helps to commercialize scientific breakthroughs throughout the five-campus University of Massachusetts. The fund is overseen by the Office of Technology Commercialization and Ventures (OTCV) at the UMass President's Office in Boston.

The Technology Development Fund awards provide supplemental funding to help close the gap between UMass research discoveries and proven technology that address local, national, and global challenges.

Migliore and Butterworth developed the ES-Coach, a smartphone-based tool which helps specialized employment consultants visualize their support, set goals, and improve the quality of their individualized services for adults with disabilities. OTCV grant funding will boost the ES-Coach data dashboard redesign, making it more user friendly and effective so that employment consultants can implement best practices and assist job seekers with disabilities in their career goals.

Vision Studies Director Given International Award

Laura Bozeman, professor and graduate program director for Vision Studies, was presented with the Suterko-Cory Award in recognition of her international leadership, dedication to the profession of orientation and mobility, and distinguished efforts to improve services to individuals with a visual impairment.

This award recognizes Bozeman as an international ambassador and role model to orientation and mobility specialists throughout the world. It reflects her commitment to the field of vision studies and its expansive reach beyond her home boundaries, with an international impact across the United States as well as the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, and Ireland. She received the award at the 18th International Mobility Conference held in Warsaw, Poland.

 Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate

Dr. Hettie Williams Appointed as Director of Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture



Dr. Hettie Williams

Dr. Hettie Williams has been appointed the new director of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for the Study of Black Culture. Williams is a renowned scholar who comes to UMass Boston from Monmouth University in New Jersey, where she served as a professor of African American History in the Department of History and Anthropology.

Her research focuses on African American intellectual history, Black women's history, and race/ethnic studies. Currently serving as the president of the African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS), Williams is the author/editor of six books and numerous essays, articles, and book chapters. She is an active leader in the production of digital humanities projects and has extensive experience engaging with local communities while making her scholarly contributions more widely accessible through the innovative use of social media and podcasts.

Student Affairs Launches Action Plan Focused on Wellness and Belonging

This spring, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Karen Ferrer-Muñiz launched the Division of Student Affairs' *Voyage Plan*, which will serve as the division's action plan for the next five years. It is fully aligned with the university's strategic plan and is the result of Dr. Ferrer-Muñiz's first 10 months at UMass Boston listening and learning about campus, which included scores of transitional meetings with students, staff, and administrative colleagues. It charts a course for the future of UMass Boston Student Affairs that aims to strategically advance student safety, wellness, and belonging.



Read the report.

Martha Nelson Patrick Appointed as Inaugural University Ombudsperson



Martha Nelson Patrick

Martha Nelson Patrick has been appointed as UMass Boston's university ombudsperson and director of ombuds services. This newly created position will report directly to the chancellor and serve as an independent resource for impartial dispute resolution.

Patrick comes to UMass Boston from UMass Amherst, where she served in several roles over the past 23 years. In 2021, she was named university ombudsperson there, following more than a decade of serving as the associate and assistant ombudsperson. Before joining the Ombuds Office, she served as director of community relations at UMass Amherst for 10 years.

In her new role, Patrick will provide confidential assistance to our UMass Boston community — students, faculty, and staff — with university-related conflicts or concerns. She will help individuals navigate our campus policies and resources, offer informal conflict resolution services, and advocate for fair treatment and a fair and equitable process.

In addition to providing ombuds services for individuals and groups, this new position will be instrumental in furthering our university's mission. The ombudsperson helps to identify emerging trends and institutional decisions or policies that may warrant review and elevates those emerging trends or issues to the campus leadership as appropriate. The creation of the ombudsperson position reflects our university's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, and the ideals of fairness, equity, dignity, and respect for all members of our campus community.

Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access



*View of the newly restructured
The One Stop*

UMass Boston Renovates The One Stop

The One Stop, the university's multipurpose shop for students with questions on everything from financial aid to class registration and billing, recently underwent a major renovation. The restructured space, located on the lower level in the Campus Center, reopened its doors to students this August. It features a service desk, self-service kiosks, a contemporary waiting room with new furniture, and back-office space for staff to accommodate Zoom and online chat interactions. While the former space was designed to suit in-person appointments, over the past few years, the office, which assisted with over 17,000 interactions from January – May of 2023, has expanded the ways in which students can get support. With more students looking to have virtual appointments or to chat online or over email, the modern area allows workers to meet the demand of the current market.

The space not only offers increased convenience, but it is truly welcoming and efficient. Each staff member now has access to office space in a quiet setting that allows for increased concentration and privacy during chats and Zoom appointments. The walk-in area now allows for staff members to share screens during student visits, and with docking stations in the waiting area, staff members can move with ease from an office space to the waiting room to assist students with questions on the fly.

In addition to photos from around the campus, the space will feature a rotating student art display, curated by the UMass Boston Art Department. The sleek and modern look of the space nicely complements the overall style of the Campus Center and will provide students and parents alike with a great help desk experience for many years into the future.