



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

April 2019

To the Board:

This is a remarkable time at the University of Massachusetts Boston. On behalf of the entire university community, we are thrilled that the Board of Trustees has moved forward in selecting a developer for the former Bayside Exposition Center site, and that proceeds from the long-term lease will come to the Boston campus. We look forward to these new resources to help make a UMass Boston education an even more valuable experience.

The value of a UMass Boston education was on display in our nation's capital, when newly-elected Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley hosted sophomore DACA recipient Estefany Pineda at the president's State of the Union address (right). Pineda's visit drew attention to the work our university does to ensure that undocumented students are supported and provided the resources they need to succeed. We thank Congresswoman Pressley for highlighting UMass Boston, and for agreeing to be our undergraduate commencement speaker, along with former interim chancellor Barry Mills, who will join us for the graduate commencement (page 2).

As we look forward to commencement, I want to share some recent highlights:

- Our School for the Environment students recently worked with restaurants and caterers to advise them on how to reduce their use of plastic as Boston implemented its ban on plastic bags (page 3).
- Alumna Talita Guerro established a new scholarship fund less than four years after graduating from UMass Boston to help students like her (page 5).
- Faculty members awarded grants to develop new high impact humanities courses (page 8).

I am very pleased to share with you these and other examples of the wonderful strides we are making at UMass Boston.

—Katherine S. Newman, Interim Chancellor



UMass Boston student Estefany Pineda accompanied Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley as she spoke to the press before the President's State of the Union address.

DACA Student Attends State of the Union Address with Congresswoman Pressley

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley took UMass Boston student and DACA recipient Estefany Pineda as her guest to the President's State of the Union address on February 5, calling Pineda's outspoken advocacy in defense of her family and the thousands of young people like her courageous and inspiring.

Pineda, a sophomore studying international relations, came to America at age 9 when her parents emigrated from El Salvador. Her father is an asylum seeker, and her mother is a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holder. On her first day as a college freshman, Pineda found out that the DACA program was being eliminated.

Pressley, who is this year's UMass Boston undergraduate commencement speaker, announced Pineda as her guest on MSNBC, calling for a more comprehensive, compassionate immigration reform.

UMass Boston helps support the more than 100 undocumented and DACA students on campus like Pineda through the Immigrant Student Program (ISP). Operating out of the department of Student Multicultural Affairs in the Division of Student Affairs, the ISP provides access to updated information regarding immigration, nationally and locally; and pursues resources, financial and other, to support the educational experiences and pursuits of this population.

Pineda said that just sitting in the House chambers with others like her was powerful, adding, "I may not be saying anything, but just me being here says a lot more than saying anything."

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

Online Bachelor's Program Ranked Among Top 50 in Nation by *U.S. News & World Report*

UMass Boston's online bachelor's program ranked No. 49 in the nation and No. 3 in New England — jumping 11 spots from last year — in the *U.S. News and World Report's* annual list of the Best Online Programs, released in January.

One of the leading voices on excellence in higher education, *U.S. News* also ranked several of UMass Boston's online graduate programs among the top 100 in the nation. UMass Boston's online graduate education programs rose 34 spots to rank 54th nationwide, online graduate education programs for veterans ranked 17th, and online graduate business programs (non-MBA) ranked 89th.

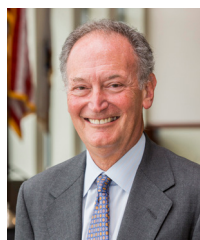
This is the third year UMass Boston has been recognized for outstanding online programs.

2019 Commencement Speakers Set



Congresswoman
Ayanna Pressley

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who made history in November when she became Massachusetts' first African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, will deliver the keynote address at UMass Boston's 51st undergraduate commencement on Friday, May 31, held on the university's waterfront lawn. Former UMass Boston Interim Chancellor Barry Mills, who is also president emeritus at Bowdoin College, will serve as keynote speaker at the university's graduate commencement ceremony on May 30.



Barry Mills

Also, for the first time since 2014, UMass Boston will hold commencement exercises on campus. The university has held its ceremonies at the TD Garden and the Blue Hills Bank Pavilion over the last four years while undergoing a massive transformation into a cutting-edge, sustainable, and attractive campus.

UMass Boston Returns to Military Friendly List for Sixth Time

UMass Boston has received Victory Media Inc.'s 2019–2020 Military Friendly® Schools Designation. This is the sixth time that UMass Boston has been named to the list. Schools are chosen based on student retention, graduation rates, job placement, affordability, and a commitment to programs and issues of specific importance to veterans.

UMass Boston currently serves more than 650 student veterans, their family members, and guardsmen and women. The campus's Office of Veterans Affairs recruits, provides financial assistance, and guides veterans and their dependents through their higher education experience and beyond, managing \$4 million in federal GI benefits.



The men's hockey team earned their regular season title on Senior Night.

UMass Boston Men's Hockey Takes Home Conference Regular Season Title

UMass Boston's men's hockey team secured the New England Hockey Conference (NEHC) regular season title with an 8-4 win over rival Babson College in February. They advanced to the New England Hockey Conference semifinals for the third time in four seasons, before being knocked out by Hobart College.

Professor Lloyd Schwartz Named Somerville's Poet Laureate

The City of Somerville selected UMass Boston's Frederick S. Troy Professor of English Lloyd Schwartz as its Poet laureate earlier this year. Schwartz, a longtime resident of Somerville and professor at UMass Boston since 1982, has an impressive body of work, including four collections of poetry. His poems have been published in many journals, including *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic*, and have been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry* and *The Best of the Best American Poetry*. In 1994 he won the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism for his writing about classical music.

Schwartz helped to establish the highly successful Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at UMass Boston, whose graduates over the past decade have produced award-winning poetry collections and novels.

Residence Halls and 24/7 Transformation Receive Recognition

At national student affairs conferences in March, UMass Boston received two awards honoring the campus's 24/7 transformational efforts and the work to bring residence halls to the campus.

At the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference in Los Angeles, the campus received a Bronze Excellence Award in the Housing Residence Life, Contracted Services, Judicial, and related category.

At the American College Personnel Association conference in Boston, the committee awarded the UMass Boston campus their Program of the Year for 2018. Award nominations included a letter of support from Boston Mayor Martin Walsh. Both awards recognize years of work by students, staff, and faculty from every corner of campus.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE



Student Samantha Pham (second from left) designed a Proud Protector of the Oceans window decal and button.

School for the Environment Students Work with Restaurants on Alternatives to Plastic

As the City of Boston's ban on single-use plastic bags went into effect for large retail establishments this winter, UMass Boston's School for the Environment students had already been working with local restaurants and catering companies to get them thinking about how they can reduce their ecological footprint.

Last semester, seven groups of seniors in Professor of Hydrology Ellen Douglas's capstone class were tasked with contacting a restaurant/catering company that they frequent, doing an assessment of their plastic/single-use dishes/bags/straws, and making recommendations for replacements. An eighth group developed fact sheets and business cards for the students to bring to their restaurant clients during their initial meetings. Student Samantha Pham designed a Proud Protector of the Oceans window decal and button for that eighth group. Along the way, students learned about product stewardship.

Barr Foundation Awards Sustainable Solutions Lab \$1 Million for Climate Resilience Work

The Barr Foundation announced in December that it is awarding \$1 million to the UMass Foundation to support the Sustainable Solutions Lab's (SSL) climate resilience work. The money will support research, convenings, and pilot projects to tackle challenges at the intersection of climate change and social equity.

In 2018 alone, the SSL released major reports on financing climate resilience, the feasibility of a harbor barrier in coming decades as part of larger resilience efforts, and the need for upgraded governance structures. As an interdisciplinary center of research and action, SSL plays an important role in supporting equitable climate resilience.

Institute Leads Public Health Initiative Preventing Addiction Among Native Youth

The Institute for New England Native American Studies (INENAS), based at the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, is taking the lead on a new initiative to prevent addiction and substance abuse among Native American children and youth throughout New England.

The approximately \$1.1 million grant was awarded by the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services in the Massachusetts Department of Health. INENAS and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences will partner with local tribal communities to provide life skills training to Native middle school students. The training aims to increase the students' self-esteem, decrease their stress levels, and make them more resilient in resisting drug use, including opioid use.



UMass Boston researchers are looking at ways to control, prevent, and fight amphibian-killing fungi.

Researchers Find Temperate Climates Better for Amphibian Microbiomes

A team of international researchers led by two researchers at UMass Boston have found there is a correlation between where amphibians are living and the organisms living on their skin. Molly Bletz, a post-doctoral research associate in the lab of Assistant Professor of Biology Douglas Woodhams, is the co-lead author of a paper published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* in February.

Bletz, Woodhams, and others were able to show that skin microbiomes, or the group of microscopic organisms that live on host animals, were more diverse in environments that had distinct seasons and colder winters compared with environments with warm winters and less temperature variation over the course of the year. More than 2,300 amphibians — frogs, toads, and salamanders — were studied all over the world. These findings are critical as researchers look at ways to control, prevent, and fight amphibian-killing fungi.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE



An aerial view showing the location of the Bayside Expo Center property

Selection of Developer for Bayside Property Could Generate \$235 Million for UMass Boston

The UMass Board of Trustees and the UMass Building Authority (UMBA) voted on February 14 to designate Accordia Partners to build a mixed-use urban innovation campus at the site of the former Bayside Expo Center. The developer selection is the first major milestone in the eventual development of the 20-acre site adjacent to UMass Boston, one of the last remaining developable waterfront parcels in the city.

Accordia Partners has proposed a mixed-use project of up to 3.4 million square feet, creating a new gateway to UMass Boston and increasing connectivity between the campus, the surrounding communities, the MBTA's JFK/UMass station, and the Boston HarborWalk. In addition to the new revenue stream, the development is intended to attract business, industry, and research partners to co-locate with UMass Boston by becoming tenants in the development, providing potential opportunities for linked research, student internship and co-op opportunities, and new housing options for students, faculty, and staff.

Renovations Under Way for Vacating Science Center

The campus is progressing in its efforts to relocate all programs and occupants out of the Science Center to enable the Science Center and Substructure Demolition and Quadrangle Development project. This is largely in the form of the Renovations to Existing Academic Buildings (REAB) project, which will renovate and repurpose approximately 80,000 square feet of campus space across four original buildings. Construction began earlier this winter and will last for approximately one year. Designs and plans have been developed for the remainder of the functions in the Science Center, intended to allow the demolition to begin in 2020.

UMass Boston Gets Near Perfect Marks in Princeton Review's 2018 Guide to 399 Green Colleges

With a "Green Rating" of 96, UMass Boston is a part of the 2018 edition of *The Princeton Review Guide to 399 Green Colleges*, the Princeton Review's ninth annual guide to the most environmentally responsible "green" colleges. UMass Boston earned 96 out of a possible 99 points.

UMass Boston has been part of this guide since it was first published in 2010. This year, the Princeton Review looked at more than 2,000 schools, making the final selections based on academic offerings, campus policies, initiatives, activities, and career preparation for students.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES

Campus Labs Recognizes Division of Student Affairs as a Rising Star at Annual Awards Program

UMass Boston's Division of Student Affairs has been recognized by Campus Labs—a leading company that works with institutions to transform higher education through data and analytics—as a "Rising Star" at its annual awards program. The Campus Labs awards recognize institutions using the Campus Labs platform to drive genuine improvement and bold innovation on campus, from streamlining administrative processes to enhancing the overall student experience.

UMass Boston was one of only 17 campuses nationwide to receive an award for their assessment work. For the past two years, Student Affairs has dedicated countless hours and resources to updating the division's assessment work, focused on creating a new, data-centric division.

UMass Boston Police Department Inks MOU with Boston Police

In February, the UMass Boston Police Department (UMBPD) and the Boston Police Department completed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which should help both agencies work together to better serve the campus and surrounding community. This new understanding will aid in timely and responsive law enforcement intervention that could increase the reporting of sexual violence, enhance the community's confidence in both agencies, strengthen investigations, and facilitate successful prosecutions. This is the first MOU that the UMBPD has established and executed, and it will remain in effect for three years.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES, CONT.



Theatre Arts students provided moulage to simulate mock injuries, providing a more realistic situation for first responders.

University Hosts Active Shooter Exercise

In January, the Office of Emergency Management and UMass Boston Police Department ran its annual full-scale active shooter exercise in University Hall, testing police and community responses to carefully planned active shooter scenarios. Players in this year's emergency exercise included UMass Boston police officers and dispatchers, as well as many other members of the university community, including students in the Performing Arts department who provided moulage to simulate injuries to create a more realistic situation for first responders.

Using campus buildings allows UMass Boston police officers to bring home their off-site training. It also allows the campus to see just how serious and disciplined the officers active threat response training is. These full-scale exercises have grown larger and more complex with each year. Representatives from 14 different police agencies, including the FBI, attended. The university also welcomed neighboring institutions and higher education emergency management professionals from MIT, Harvard, Tufts, Berklee, Brandies, Fitchburg, Northeastern, Babson, UMass Lowell, and UMass Medical School, who helped to evaluate or observe the exercise scenarios in detail.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT



Talita Guerrero '15 recently endowed the Talita Guerrero you CAN Scholarship Fund.

Management Grad Endows Scholarship

Talita Guerrero '15, founder of the Right Key Mortgage Company, endowed the Talita Guerrero you CAN Scholarship Fund in December. Guerrero, who moved to the United States from Brazil at age 12, faced many challenges as an immigrant. She raised two children, worked two jobs, and attended UMass Boston full time in pursuit of her business degree. She had help and inspiration along the way thanks to the Charles J. Hoff Leadership Scholarship.

Guerrero wanted to make sure she paid it forward. The Talita Guerrero you CAN Scholarship Fund will provide an annual award to aid determined students in the same way that former Trustee Charlie Hoff encouraged her. She wants to ensure the success of students like her, who do everything in their power to advance themselves and their families through a UMass Boston degree.

Endowed Scholarships Receive a Boost of \$400K

Eight endowed scholarships were created or given a significant boost, adding a total of \$400,000 to the endowment. Professor D.V.L.G.N. Rao, who has taught physics for 50 years at UMass Boston, and his wife, Lalitha, endowed an award to promote diversity in physics. Albert Beaton '55 endowed a scholarship to support undergraduate College of Science and Mathematics students. Sona Hovagimian '52 left the university a \$100,000 bequest for the Boston Teachers College Scholarship.

Alumnus Jack Carvalho '92 Invests in Future of Student Athletes with Generous Gift

Jack Carvalho '92 has once again demonstrated his support for his alma mater. He is honoring the university with another gift to the UMass Boston men's lacrosse team. Carvalho, who played lacrosse during his time at UMass Boston, said his experience on the field had a major impact on his success as a student and in life.

This is Carvalho's second gift to the lacrosse team. In October, Carvalho, who is currently one of the managing directors of Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management in Miami, donated \$100,000 to the team. He has also established the Roger Feinstein and Winston Langley scholarships as a tribute to his former professors.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY



More than 1,650 admitted students and their guests came out for Welcome Day on February 23.

University Welcomes Largest Group of Admitted Students at Welcome Day I

UMass Boston greeted more than 1,650 admitted students and their guests who visited campus on Saturday, February 23 for the first Welcome Day event of 2019. Attendance increased 9 percent over last year's event. Submitting their enrollment deposits, 55 admitted students chose Welcome Day as their moment to say "yes" to ensure their place in the Class of 2023. To accommodate the growing interest in the university, a second Welcome Day will take place on Saturday, April 6.

The increase in attendance can be attributed to increased admissions travel, more personalized communication via the new Enrollment Portal, a personalized acceptance video that Enrollment Management launched for first-year applicants in 2018, and continued excitement about the new residence halls.

Hack.Diversity Selects Nine Students for Fellowships

The New England Venture Capital Association's Hack.Diversity has selected nine UMass Boston students, all computer science or information technology majors, as part of their 2019 cohort. The fellows will each receive training, coaching, and mentoring during the program, with the goal of addressing the underrepresentation of high-skilled minority employees in Boston's tech industry.

The program aims to help fellows land full-time positions in the tech companies where they held internships. Some of the Boston-based companies that have partnered with Hack.Diversity's program include Carbonite, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Athenahealth, and DraftKings. A total of 50 fellows were selected from 20 different universities, making 18 percent from UMass Boston.

New Retention Grant Program

In an effort to increase the fall to spring retention rate of undergraduate students, the Division of Enrollment Management introduced a retention grant this past semester. Continuing undergraduate students who had outstanding balances preventing them from registering for future coursework were invited to apply for a grant up to \$400 to help reduce their balance and allow them to register for the spring semester. To be eligible applicants for the grant had to demonstrate how they intended to pay their remaining account balance, had to clear all non-financial holds including advising and immunization, and were required to add classes to their shopping cart in WISER.

This new effort generated 154 applications, of which 62 were awarded a retention grant. An analysis showed that grant recipients were 11 percent more likely to reenroll for the spring semester. This pilot program has been introduced at other urban research university's and demonstrated equally positive results. The Division of Enrollment Management hopes to expand on this opportunity in the future.



Maria Vasco is the first-ever recipient of UMass Boston's inaugural Entrepreneur Scholarship.

UMass Boston Awards First-Ever Entrepreneur Scholarship

Honors College junior Maria Vasco is the first-ever recipient of UMass Boston's Entrepreneur Scholarship. In addition to receiving \$5,000, the environmental studies and sustainability major is being mentored by the scholarship's founder, Dan Phillips, for the next two years. Phillips, the founding director of UMass Boston's Entrepreneurship Center and an advisor in the Venture Development Center, recently sold his 6-year-old company, CloudHealth Technologies, to VMware for \$500 million. Vasco dreams of setting up her own zero-waste store.

RENEW THE FACULTY

Professor Receives Fulbright Scholarship to Study in Sweden

Professor of Psychology Karen Suyemoto has received a Fulbright Award for her project, "Ethnocultural Socialization and Racialization in Comparative Contexts: Education for Understanding and Negotiating Social Differences." She will study at the Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity, and Welfare at Malmö University, Sweden in spring 2020.

Suyemoto will be sharing her extensive scholarly and pedagogical expertise in psychological issues of racialization, ethnic relations, immigration, and race relations, and transformative education in these areas, exploring the connections between the U.S. and Swedish context as Sweden becomes more ethnically and racially diverse.

Professor Douglass Named 2019 Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow

Professor Anne Douglass, founder and executive director of UMass Boston's Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation, has been named a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow for spring 2019. Douglass will join a cohort of more than 20 individuals from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors who have achieved significant success in founding or leading organizations dedicated to improving public education for underserved communities. Douglass will undertake a two-year program focused on advancing new solutions, practices, and policies to ensure high quality educational opportunities for all children.

Professor Wiggin Receives 2018 Distinguished Service Award for Coastal Planning Leadership

Jack Wiggin, a professor of practice in coastal urban planning in the School for the Environment, is the recipient of the American Planning Association Massachusetts Chapter's 2018 Distinguished Service Award. Wiggin, also an associate lecturer in the Urban Planning and Community Development (UPCD) program and a senior research fellow in the Urban Harbors Institute, was recognized for his role in helping to launch the UPCD program at UMass Boston and his leadership in advancing coastal planning and management in the state through research, technical assistance, and teaching.



Professor Pdraig O'Malley speaks to the audience after a screening of 'The Peacemaker,' a documentary chronicling his work across the globe.

Peace Abbey Honors O'Malley with Courage of Conscience Award

The Peace Abbey honored UMass Boston's Pdraig O'Malley with the 2018 International Courage of Conscience Award during a special ceremony this winter at the Community Church of Boston. The mission of the Peace Abbey Foundation is to create and install public works of art that promote peace and nonviolence. UMass Boston's Joseph P. Healey Library hosts its archives.

O'Malley, the John Joseph Moakley Distinguished Professor of Peace and Reconciliation in the McCormack Graduate School, is an award-winning author and expert on democratic transitions and divided societies. He has played major roles in breaking the gridlock and promoting peace in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and the Middle East.

The award-winning documentary *The Peacemaker* is about his life. O'Malley and filmmaker James Demo brought *The Peacemaker* to campus for a screening and Q & A at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate in February.

Professor Lamb Honored with Association for Moral Education's Kuhmerker Career Award

Sharon Lamb, a professor of counseling and school psychology in UMass Boston's College of Education and Human Development, is the 2018 recipient of the Association for Moral Education's Lisa Kuhmerker Career Award. The Kuhmerker Career Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding, long-term scholarly contributions to the field of morality, as well as to the Association for Moral Education.

Professor Bozeman Awarded Distinguished Service Award

The Division on Visual Impairments and Deafblindness (DVIDB) of the Council for Exceptional Children awarded Laura Bozeman, associate professor and director of Vision Studies at the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her generosity, leadership, and commitment to excellence. The DVIDB Distinguished Service Award recognizes exemplary leadership and commitment to the field of education and rehabilitation of students with visual impairments and deafblindness.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Mellon Grant Boosts CLA's Humanities Curriculum

Nine faculty members from UMass Boston's College of Liberal Arts have received the first round of mini-grants to develop high impact humanities courses as part of a broader effort to encourage greater student interest in the humanities and further their academic success in this area.

UMass Boston's "High Impact Humanities Initiative Program: Connecting Curriculum, Community, and Careers for Student Success" is supported by a three-year \$515,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation announced in June. It will fund creative faculty initiatives to enrich existing high-quality courses and develop new student-centered, experience-based humanities curricula. By participating in a semester-long collaborative process, the selected faculty will learn how to employ best practices in student-engaged learning in the classroom. Through transforming the university's already substantial and innovative humanities curriculum, the program aims to ultimately stimulate academic engagement in the humanities and promote degree completion and interest in post-graduate education.



The UMass Boston Orchestra played to a sold-out audience in the Recital Hall, premiering a composition by Chaerin Kim.

Standing Ovation for UMass Boston Orchestra

Last fall, the UMass Boston Orchestra played to a sold-out audience in the Recital Hall, premiering a composition by UMass Boston's Chaerin Kim alongside works by Rachmaninoff and Bernstein. Kim, an internationally acclaimed harpist and pianist, scored 92 versions of her composition *Rendezvous*, originally commissioned for a film project in her native South Korea. Kim is a beloved piano instructor at UMass Boston, with performance credits from Tanglewood to Carnegie Hall to Moscow, and beyond. With Kim on piano and a 34-piece orchestra, conducted by Sommer Forrester, her work stunned the audience with a musical journey of lost love and mistaken identity. For the orchestra – comprised of UMass Boston students, faculty, staff, and local musicians – it was a rare opportunity to perform collaboratively with a living composer.



Maria Rodriguez (lower left) took this selfie of her fellow Green Planet LLC members during the September beach cleanup day.

Living-Learning Communities Create Opportunities for UMass Boston's Newest Students to Connect

UMass Boston has set up three Living-Learning Communities in the new residence hall as a way for students to connect with classmates with the same interests.

Students in the Beacon Explorers Living-Learning Community get help discovering their talents, identifying their goals, and designing a plan to meet them. In the Social Justice Living-Learning Community, students develop their leadership abilities by identifying and addressing social injustices. Students in the Green Planet LLC lead the charge in greening the campus.

Living-Learning Communities offer students the opportunities to pursue academically related interests outside of the classroom in their residential environment. When LLCs are coupled with a first-year residential experience, such as UMass Boston's, they also offer a strong support network to help first-year students adjust to college.

Honors College's First Minor Offers In- and Out-of-Class Exploration

The Honors College has announced its first minor. The Minor in Wealth, Poverty, and Opportunity offers students the chance to wrestle with the complex concepts of income disparity, mobility, opportunity, privilege, and inequality. Open to all UMass Boston students, the minor combines traditional in-class training and experiential learning. The 21-credit minor includes four 3-credit courses, 30 hours of experiential learning and a portfolio of reflections, and a senior thesis research project.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Professors and Community Leaders Discuss Building a More Equitable Boston

How can we make Boston a more equitable city? And what would that look like? More than 100 people gathered in UMass Boston's Alumni Lounge on February 7 to hear faculty members and community leaders tackle these questions and share their experiences working on equity issues — sparking a dialogue between the campus and community on an issue integral to Boston's future.

The discussion, “Our City, Toward an Equitable Boston: A Fireside Chat with Community-Engaged Faculty and Partners,” was hosted by the Office of Community Partnerships, and facilitated by *Boston Globe* reporter Meghan Irons. Katrina Shaw, chief executive officer of the Freedom House, Inc.; Leverett Wing, executive director of the Commonwealth Seminar; and Rahsaan Hall, director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, all participated.



Lorna Rivera was sworn in by Mayor Marty Walsh at a ceremony in City Hall on February 5.



(From left) Congressman Rodney Davis, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Chancellor Katherine Newman, Congressman Joe Kennedy, and Congressman Markwayne Mullin

Members of Congress Visit UMass Boston to Talk Bipartisan Cooperation on Capitol Hill

U.S. Representative Joe Kennedy and three of his fellow members of Congress visited UMass Boston during their winter break to discuss the current state and future of bipartisan cooperation on Capitol Hill with students, faculty, and staff.

Kennedy (D, MA), Congressman Rodney Davis (R, IL), Congressman Markwayne Mullin (R, OK), and Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D, DE) fielded questions on everything from their proudest moments passing bipartisan legislation to the challenges of working across the aisle and what young people should know before running for office.

The representatives, along with Interim Chancellor Newman, also visited the Burke High School earlier in the day to host a civics discussion with students, an event made possible by UMass Boston's partnership with Boston Public Schools.

Mayor Appoints Professor Rivera to Boston School Committee

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has appointed Lorna Rivera, the director of UMass Boston's Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, to serve on the Boston School Committee. Rivera replaced Professor Emeritus of Human Services Miren Uriarte, who stepped down earlier this year.

Rivera was sworn in by Walsh at a ceremony in City Hall on Tuesday, February 5. Also an associate professor of women's, gender, and sexuality studies at UMass Boston, Rivera conducts research on Latinx communities, women's health disparities, and the education of Latinx students and immigrant students.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

UMass Boston Hosts Africa Day to Celebrate African Scholarship and Culture

UMass Boston hosted the campus's first Africa Day, with the theme “Pan Africa Rising.” The event included lectures, panels, music, and food reflecting cuisines from across the African continent. The Africa Scholars Forum brought together the many UMass Boston faculty and students from countries across Africa with their colleagues who have made Africa their preferred site of study and allies who are invested in the continent's future.



Junior softball player Kiera Prusmack represented UMass Boston at the NCAA Convention.

Beacons Softball Player Represents UMass Boston at NCAA Convention

Junior softball player Kiera Prusmack spent part of her winter break representing UMass Boston at the NCAA Convention in Orlando, Florida. The Houston native and outfielder for the Beacons was one of only 40 who took part in the Division III Student Immersion Program.

The goal of the Division III Student Immersion Program is to build a pipeline of talented ethnic minority candidates, with an interest in Division III coaching and/or administration, in an effort to ultimately diversify the division. At the convention, Prusmack, an exercise and health sciences major and theatre arts minor, joined fellow program participants in discussing mental health issues, sexual violence prevention, and building toolkits for their own campuses.