

To the Board:

At the University of Massachusetts Boston this May, our Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) is sprouting up faster than our spring bulbs can bloom.

The steel for the pedestrian bridge that will lead to the ISC was poured in April. This month, crews are preparing for drywall, fireproofing, and sewer and drain installations. It's beginning to look more and more like a building each day, as one of our students told me recently. I credit the years of careful, detailed planning by our teams on campus with the relative ease of this blossoming.

You'll learn about other construction-related developments in this report, as well as the progress the university has made on achieving Trustee priorities. Of particular interest:

- Professor Kamal Bawa wins the first-ever Gunnerus Award for Sustainability – a prize meant to equal the Nobel in stature (right)
- UMass Boston earns the designation of “Best Value College” (right) and re-qualifies as a “Green College” (page 4), according to the *Princeton Review*
- U.S. Senator George Mitchell visits campus to deliver a talk on Middle East peace and meet with students at the annual Slomoff Lecture (page 7)

I hope you find this report enlightening and informative as you read about our university's progress toward becoming a preeminent student-centered urban public research university.

-J. Keith Motley, Chancellor

UMass Boston Named a ‘Best Value College’

The University of Massachusetts Boston is among the nation's 75 “best value” public colleges and universities, according to the *Princeton Review*.

The education services company identified top undergraduate schools offering excellent academics and generous financial aid and/or low cost of attendance. The list includes 75 public and 75 private colleges.

The *Princeton Review's* selection of its “best value” schools was based on analyses of data the company collected from 650 institutions it identified as having excellent academics. More

than 30 data points were assessed across three areas: academics, cost of attendance, and financial aid.

The 2012 list includes 10 private colleges and universities in Massachusetts and one public, UMass Boston. The list appears in the *Princeton Review* book, *Best Value Colleges: 2012 Edition*, and on the company's website.

“We recommend these extraordinary colleges as our ‘best buys’ for 2012 and salute them for all they are doing to keep costs down,” said Robert Franek of the *Princeton Review*.

Kamaljit Bawa Wins First-Ever ‘Nobel Prize’ for Sustainability

Distinguished Professor of Biology Kamaljit Bawa, a faculty fellow at the Center for Governance and Sustainability, earned two notable honors this spring.

In February, Bawa received the Royal Norwegian Society of Science and Letters' Gunnerus Sustainability Award, the first major international award for work on sustainability.

Society President Kristian Fossheim said that the society “aims to make this a global prize of quality and importance worthy of comparison to the Nobel Prizes in science. We are pleased to have selected such a worthy winner of the first Gunnerus award.”

In April, Bawa was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an independent policy research center that studies complex problems in the sciences, social policy, and humanities fields. Bawa is now a public affairs and journalism member, along with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

A pioneer in tropical biology and international conservation, Bawa joined UMass Boston's Biology Department in 1974. Bawa is most noted for his research on population biology in rain-forest areas. Specifically, he explores the role of institutions and market-based approaches to conservation.



Kamaljit Bawa (right) traveled to Norway to receive the first-ever Gunnerus Sustainability Award on April 17.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

University College to Confer First Degrees and Certificates at June Commencement

On June 1, University College will mark a milestone as it confers honors on its first graduates.

Nearly 25 University College students will receive their MEd degrees in instructional design and another eight are expected to receive graduate certificates in instructional technology design.

“As UMass Boston’s newest college and degree-granting academic unit, we are particularly proud of our first class of University College graduates,” says founding dean Philip DiSalvio. “[This] lays the groundwork for great things to come.”

The students from the Instructional Design Graduate Program are part of a 27-year legacy that began under the auspices of what is now the College of Education and Human Development.

“Instructional media was a relatively new field in the 1980s, and we were one of the first instructional design programs to explore the intersection of technology with andragogy,” says Judith Erdman, the interim program director. “With [University College’s] new status as a college, the instructional design [degree] was a perfect fit as the first degree to be conferred.”

Today, more than 150 students are matriculated in the instructional Design Program, with 30 pursuing the graduate certificate in instructional technology design, a track within the master’s program.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Students Win Intercollegiate Broadcast System Award

This March, seniors Caleb Nelson and Jacob Sommer won an Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) award, receiving top honors in the Best Public Affairs Program category for their project “JFK 50.”

“I knew we had one of the best entries in public affairs, a field I am very interested in. Having the best collegiate public affairs program in the country, I’m still grinning!” says Sommer, a political science major.

“JFK 50” is a 26-part series of 90-second segments that began running on WUMB 91.9FM in October. Each piece covers a different aspect of John F. Kennedy’s presidency, from his inauguration to his handling of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and includes portions of his speeches, telephone conversations, and recorded interviews.

“‘JFK 50’ was Caleb’s brainchild,” Sommer says. “He talked with the JFK Presidential Library and Museum and WUMB about it, and got approval to do a radio series of short pieces about John F. Kennedy’s presidency.”

Sommer and Nelson put the project together over this past summer and fall.

“I had a blast researching and writing the episodes,” says Nelson, a philosophy and public policy major.

Another UMass Boston student, junior art major Aran Gilmore, a student DJ at WUMB, was a finalist in the Best On-Air Personality category.

First Musical to Hit the Stage in 15 Years Wows Audiences

For the first time in 15 years, the UMass Boston Performing Arts Department held a musical production on campus, performing *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* this spring. Fifteen student actors participated in the show, along with nearly 45 students who got involved behind the scenes, working on props, costumes, publicity, house management, set construction, and lighting.

The Spelling Bee is the tale of six teenaged outsiders hoping for a chance to win the Putnam County Spelling Bee, the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

The show ran for two weeks in April at the McCormack Theatre, drawing rave reviews from audiences – and *The Boston Globe*’s sister site boston.com, whose *Design New England* editor wrote, “We have attended many a show in downtown theaters, and this production can hold its own against any one of them.”

Assistant Professor of Performing Arts Carrie Ann Quinn directed and choreographed the production. Now in her fourth year at UMass Boston, Quinn has been working to heighten the acting program and the professionalism of the productions on campus. She collaborated with UMass Boston’s first tenure-stream professor in design, Anthony Phelps, who served as the technical director and scenic designer for the production.

“I felt that the students and department were finally ready for this challenge now that we are a stronger department, and with the popularity of [television shows] *Glee* and *Smash*, the timing seemed to be right,” Quinn says.

Quinn adds she hopes to be able to put on a musical every other year.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

Students Travel to China for Summer Study on Disaster Recovery

The Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters (CRSCAD), in collaboration with University College, is offering a unique opportunity for students to study best practices and witness first-hand successful examples of post-disaster community building in China this summer. Hosted by Sichuan University, participants will spend two intensive weeks in Chengdu, learning about various dimensions of post-disaster reconstruction. To expand their educational experience beyond the lectures, research, and case studies, students will have field trips to reclaimed lands ravaged by the flooding of the Minjiang River.

Student Managed Fund Pays Big Returns

Every Monday night, about 30 undergraduate financial analysts in UMass Boston's Student Managed Fund (SMF) gather in a basement room in the Healey Library to discuss the state of the market, review how much money their investments earned and lost over the last week, and pitch new investment ideas.

These meetings are no simple class exercise: at stake is about \$40,000 of their investors' money. The amateur analysts are the stewards of a student-run investment fund that has consistently outperformed the market since its inception, with a return rate of 23.49 percent as of this writing.

The SMF meets as a class for credit, and has received donations from various investors and friends of the university – including a recent \$12,000 gift that has bumped up their fund to its current level.

According to the class prospectus, should the fund exceed \$100,000, any money above that total will be donated to scholarships for UMass Boston students.

Their model has been so successful that College of Management graduate students have begun their own SMF, led by Associate Professor of Finance Atreya Chakraborty.

“The experience of being active in the Student Managed Fund is invaluable,” said president Devansh Bajaj, a senior. “[It] helps to bridge the gap between the theoretical knowledge students learn in school with the actual knowledge that comes from working in a corporate environment.”

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

Professor Wins Young Investigator Award

The American Society of Naturalists has chosen Assistant Professor of Biology Liam Revell to receive the Jasper Loftus-Hills Young Investigator Award.

The society publishes *American Naturalist*, which is known as the premiere journal in evolutionary biology. Past winners of this award are among the most accomplished people in the field.

Revell will receive the award July 9 at the first Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology in Ottawa, Canada.

Revell's areas of interest include evolutionary ecology, empirical and theoretical genetics, computational biology, behavior, and natural selection. His research has taken him to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

New Center for Gerontology Research to Open this Summer

The Department of Gerontology will launch a new Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging this summer. The center will bring together expertise from its faculty and doctoral students in projects befitting a world-class research enterprise, thus increasing the university's capacity to attract additional grant funding for research on aging studies.

YMCA to Use Professor's Toolkit for Healthy Eating and Exercise

Department of Exercise and Health Sciences Associate Professor Jean Wiecha's research focuses on improving children's health through nutrition and exercise. Her efforts now form the cornerstone of the YMCA's efforts to provide better options for snacks and physical activity in their after-school programs.

The YMCA's goal is to train at least 550 staff members over this summer to use a curriculum Wiecha designed to create healthy after-school programs. YMCAs operate about 8,500 after-school programs across the country.

Center for Social Policy to Monitor Health Plan's Effectiveness

The Center for Social Policy was awarded a three-year contract in February to serve as a strategic evaluation partner to the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation. The overall goals for this evaluation are to assess the impact of the foundation's grant-making, services, and contributions to the community, as well as to measure the value of that work for the visibility and success of the organization and to help guide its future strategic planning.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE (CONT. FROM PAGE 3)

College of Nursing and Health Sciences Chosen for Jonas Scholars Program

The Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence has chosen the College of Nursing and Health Science's PhD program in nursing to participate in the Jonas Scholars program for 2012, with a \$10,000 grant funded by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to support one PhD scholar. The chosen PhD scholar will be joining an elite group of 250 Jonas Nurse Leaders from across the country.



Middle school students in the Boston's Bridge to Excellence mentoring program at the Cleveland Community Center created posters depicting their dream jobs, which UMass Boston's community relations and graphic design teams featured in a billboard design. Clear Channel donated ten billboards across the city to showcase the children's work.

CONTINUE A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

Students Spend Spring Break in Peru Constructing Aqueduct

Twelve UMass Boston students spent their spring breaks this March in Peru, where they constructed a water system in Santa Rosa de Huacaria, a small village of 160 located in the Andes Mountains that has never had running water.

They traveled to Peru through the Beacons Voyages for Service program, part of the Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement, which gives students the chance to take part in service trips outside of Boston.

Catriona Grant, a senior nursing major from Duxbury, was the student leader for the Peru trip. Grant, who led a trip to the Dominican Republic last year through the BVS program, says she was looking for an opportunity to make a direct impact on a community.

Grant says that she and her fellow students worked with a project manager and villagers from Santa Rosa de Huacaria to construct drainage canals and learn the craft of palm thatching as they built a roof over shower and toilet facilities.

Three Consecutive Years of Being Green

For the third straight year, UMass Boston has been named in the *Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges* for its longstanding commitment to sustainability.

The *Princeton Review* partners with the U.S. Green Building Council to produce the guide, which evaluates colleges and universities on their environmental policies, practices, campus infrastructure, and academic offerings.

UMass Boston Shares Recruiting Strategies at China Enrollment Conference

In April, representatives from educational institutions from across New England gathered to learn about UMass Boston's model for success in recruiting Chinese students. UMass Boston has been a leader in this area on two fronts: attracting Chinese students to study overseas, with more than 600 students from China enrolled in academic programs on campus, and creating exchange partnerships with Chinese institutions.

RENEW THE FACULTY

Research Celebration Spotlights Faculty's Work

During the annual Spring Enrichment and Renewal Days (SEEDs), three faculty members were invited to showcase their research on the theme of global governance. Students, fellow faculty members, staff, and administrators participated in a lively three-part presentation on governance: from a financial perspective, from a political perspective, and from a conflict resolution perspective, delivered by Associate Professor of Finance Atreya Chakraborty, Professor of Political Science Thomas Ferguson, and Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance Maria Ivanova.

DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation Plans Solidify

As part of the university's master plan, the UMass Building Authority is working with UMass Boston planners to develop schematics for a new roadway system and utility corridor. Currently, the university's utilities are contained in the closed parking garages beneath the campus's central plaza, which, according to the master plan, will be removed to create a green central campus quad. The utilities will need to be relocated to a corridor along the new campus roadway.

Starting later this year, the existing utility plant will be upgraded as part of this project. The campus roadway will be reconfigured to accommodate two-way traffic around the campus and encourage alternative means of transportation with improved sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

\$25,000 Gift Establishes New Teacher Training Fund

Alumna Selma Sax, Class of '63, and her husband Elliot Sax have made a \$25,000 gift to UMass Boston to establish the Sax Family Fund for Teacher Preparation at the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). The fund will support an undergraduate teacher-education candidate during the student-teaching component of the licensure process.

"CEHD is delighted that this gift will support our growing undergraduate programs. This scholarship is very important for our students, many of whom, like Selma Sax, are the first in their families to attend college," says Felicia Wilczenski, interim dean of CEHD.

Over Half a Million Raised for New Scholarship Endowment

Nearly 600 people filled the university's Campus Center on April 30 to attend UMass Boston's eighth annual scholarship gala, honoring alumnus Peter Berlandi '69. It was the largest fund-raising event in the university's history and resulted in the creation of the Peter and Jackie Berlandi Scholarship, which will support students from the metropolitan Boston area.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Holds Fundraising Gala

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is holding its first fundraising gala in June. Emily Rooney, host and executive editor of WGBH's Greater Boston, will deliver the keynote speech. Honorary committee members include Governor Deval Patrick, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and Senate President Therese Murray. The gala will have a cocktail reception, dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction. According to OLLI Director Wichian Rojanawon, demonstrated fundraising efforts are an important prerequisite as OLLI prepares to apply for its next million-dollar endowment from the Osher Foundation.



Freshman pitcher Kyle Szatrowski threw the first no-hitter in UMass Boston program history on April 25.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Recoveries by the Pension Action Center Top \$40 Million

The New England Pension Assistance Project, part of the Pension Action Center at UMass Boston, celebrated a significant milestone in January: \$40 million in recovered pension income since opening its doors in 1994. Hundreds of retirees in New England have more money to live on today as a result of the center's work.

"Pensions enable individuals to remain financially secure in retirement, helping them stay out of poverty," said Ellen Bruce, director of the center. "Unfortunately, complex pension laws and corporate red tape sometimes make it difficult for people actually to receive the pensions they have earned."

Assistance from the New England Pension Assistance Project is available free of charge to current residents of New England states, and to people whose pension plans or former employers are based in New England. The project handles a variety of issues relating to retirement income benefits, including eligibility and vesting, problems with 401(k) or other retirement savings plans, survivor benefits, and problems in finding pensions that have become lost due to corporate changes and bankruptcies.

Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, the New England Pension Assistance Project is part of AoA's Pension Counseling and Information Program, which serves 29 states. The project is operated by the Pension Action Center at the Gerontology Institute of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at UMass Boston.

Community-Engaged Partnerships Symposium Forges New Connections

The Office of Community Partnerships held a day-long Community-Engaged Partnerships Symposium in April, designed to showcase and advance community-engaged activities at UMass Boston. The event showcased more than 70 student, faculty, and staff projects with poster presentations, and also included workshops and a plenary session focused on the role of community-engaged partnerships involving research, scholarship, teaching, and service at UMass Boston.

Capstone Art Students Exhibit their Work as Part of Community Development

Thirteen UMass Boston Art Department capstone students displayed their work in an exhibition titled "Synonym for Change" while kicking off an arts-based initiative to rebrand the Dorchester neighborhood of Upham's Corner. The showcase, held in the Upham's Corner business district, was co-sponsored by UMass Boston's Trotter Institute, Upham's Corner Main Street and UMass Boston's Art Department, and included a reception and gallery showcase in one occupied and two vacant storefronts. The art is being displayed at 21 Stoughton Street, a vacant storefront.

"Showing on Stoughton Street is a great opportunity to foreground Dorchester's creative capital and activate underutilized space," said Associate Professor Ann Torke, who is teaching the capstone studio for graduating seniors. "And artists have always been integral to revitalization efforts," she added.

IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF IT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Dean Appointed at College of Education and Human Development

After a national search, Michael Gamel-McCormick has been appointed to serve as dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Currently, Gamel-McCormick holds the position of education and disability policy analyst for the U.S. Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. In that capacity, he serves as an advisor to the committee chair, Senator Thomas Harkin.

Prior to assuming that position, Gamel-McCormick had a faculty appointment at the University of Delaware, holding the rank of professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. He held a number of administrative positions at the University of Delaware, culminating in his appointment as dean of the College of Education and Public Policy.

His appointment as dean will be effective August 15, 2012.

McCormack Graduate School Transitions with Interim Dean

At a spring reception on February 22, students, alumni, and colleagues wished farewell to Dean Steve Crosby, recently appointed by Governor Deval Patrick as the Commonwealth's first chair of the Gaming Commission. The McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies' Associate Dean Connie Chan is serving as interim dean.

Information Technology Division Wins Innovators Award

UMass Boston's Information Technology Division was selected to receive the 2012 Campus Technology Innovators Award for supporting the efforts of two deaf students to gain access to their distance-based education courses. There were ten winners altogether, who will share the details of their technology innovation with a poster session.

The award will be presented at Campus Technology's annual conference, and the July issue of Campus Technology will also feature an article on the award.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

Senator George Mitchell Talks World Peace at Annual Slomoff Lecture

UMass Boston's Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance Department at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies hosted the Annual Sylvia and Benjamin Slomoff Lecture in April, featuring keynote speaker former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, who presented a talk on "Turmoil in the Middle East and Its Effect on U.S. Policy." Mitchell is a former senate majority leader, a Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree, and until last year was President Obama's Special Envoy for Middle East Peace. He was largely credited for helping to end the religious conflict in Northern Ireland during the Good Friday peace process.

Ninety-eight-year-old alumnus, Board of Visitors member, and lectureship sponsor Benjamin Slomoff travelled from California to attend the event, which was also attended by Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance students. The students participated in an early-April symposium on Mitchell's work and accomplishments in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, and were invited to discuss peace and politics with the senator in a private session following the lecture.

Volleyball Team Receives Rings for Third Consecutive LEC Championship

For the third year in a row, the UMass Boston Beacons women's volleyball team received championship rings. After defeating Plymouth State University for their third consecutive Little East Conference Tournament Championship, the nineteenth-ranked Beacons made it to the championship round of the 2011 NCAA Division III East Regional tournament for the second straight year.

Public Affairs Graduate Program Enjoys Bump in Ranking

The Graduate Program in Public Affairs at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies moved into the top 100 public affairs schools and master's programs in the 2013 US News and World Reports Rankings of Top Graduate Schools, at #87. This was a jump from last year's spot of 121, now placing the program in the top third of 266 ranked schools in the field of public affairs.



Ironworkers prepare to place a steel beam signed by UMass Boston community members, complete with a seedling tree to represent growth and good luck, atop the frame of the Integrated Sciences Complex. UMass Boston hosted a program of speakers for the topping-off ceremony on February 16.

Kenyan Ambassador Praises UMass Boston's Global Outreach

Kenyan Ambassador to the United States Elkanah Odembo and the commercial attaché at the Kenyan Embassy, James Kiiru, visited UMass Boston's campus in March.

Members of the Center for Governance and Sustainability and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences met with Odembo, Kiiru, and other guests from Kenya. Faculty members and students in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences have traveled to central Kenya for four years to survey and screen locals for heart disease and diabetes as part of a project called Kenya Heart and Sole: The Afya Njema Project.

"To hear that there are students from the University of Massachusetts Boston who go and spend time to learn about our situation in Kenya, that is very significant. To hear that we have Kenyan students who come here to earn their PhDs is very, very significant," said Odembo.