



Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

April 2022

To the Board:

In challenging times like these – with the outbreak of a catastrophic war in Ukraine, a grinding COVID-19 pandemic still posing a global threat to public health, and daunting new assessments suggesting that we have reached a turning point in the battle against climate change – we are reminded of the critically important role of public research universities. Our responsibility, as a community of students, educators, and concerned global citizens, is to learn about the causes and consequences of these challenges, so that we may better understand them and address them, with rigor, innovative thinking, compassion, and solutions. UMass Boston embraces this responsibility, and our recent work reflects the progress we continue to make in enacting our mission.

- A pioneering Urban Public Health Department will be established within the recently endowed Robert and Donna Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The new department will begin offering BA and BS majors in urban public health in fall 2023, and its academic programs will address urban populations, the social determinants of health, and health equity challenges across the lifespan. We envision the department educating students to be innovative thinkers, strategizing to find public health solutions to the enduring problems of health inequity in diverse urban populations. (Page 2)
- Our Sustainable Solutions Lab – a collaborative research and action institute centered on ensuring the environmental safety, health, and well-being of historically marginalized communities – issued a timely research report on equitable climate resilience in East Boston. The report examines East Boston’s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and offers recommendations for prioritizing residents’ vision of a resilient waterfront community. This research underscores UMass Boston’s commitment to infusing an ethic of sustainability into its culture and curriculum through teaching, research, service, and campus initiatives that promote knowledge and action on climate change mitigation. (Page 3)
- We launched the U.S. Coast Guard Academy – UMass Boston Scholars Pilot Program, a unique educational partnership between the University of Massachusetts Boston and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy that will focus on developing scholars for a future in engineering and cyber systems. The pilot offers UMass Boston an excellent opportunity to encourage women and historically underrepresented minorities to pursue STEM careers in cybersecurity and engineering while working toward a Coast Guard commission, as well as a new pathway to public service. (Page 2)

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

—Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu to Speak at 2022 UMass Boston Commencement

Michelle Wu, the first female and person of color elected to lead the city of Boston as mayor, will deliver the keynote address at the university’s 54th commencement ceremony on Friday, May 27. The Class of 2022 graduation will be held, for the first time, at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center.

Mayor Wu is a daughter of immigrants, first elected to the Boston City Council in November 2013 at the age of 28. She was the first Asian-American woman to serve on the council. In January 2016, she was elected president of the City Council, becoming the first woman of color to serve as council president.

Mayor Wu has been a forceful voice for accessibility, transparency, and community engagement in city leadership, leading efforts such as Boston’s Paid Parental Leave ordinance and Healthcare Equity ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. She graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

“It is a privilege and an honor to have Mayor Wu address our graduates,” said Chancellor Suárez-Orozco. “It is also fitting in that Mayor Wu shares with so many of our students the immigrant experience, the value of diversity, and the commitment to effect positive change in our society. We look forward to welcoming her to Boston’s public research university.”

Degrees will be conferred to approximately 3,900 undergraduates, graduate, and doctoral students in the Class of 2022.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



USCGA Superintendent Rear Admiral William Kelly and UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco sign the agreement.

UMass Boston, US Coast Guard Academy Partner to Provide Cadets with Expertise in Engineering, Cybersecurity

UMass Boston and the United States Coast Guard Academy are partnering on a pilot program that will help recruit a diverse cadet corps and prepare them for successful careers in the Coast Guard's engineering and cybersecurity workforce.

The partnership, known officially as the Engineering & Cyber Security 5-Year STEM Pilot Program, will provide students who are studying engineering and cybersecurity the opportunity to take one year of classes in their field at UMass Boston before entering the Coast Guard Academy.

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco praised the agreement's commitment to service, a core tenet of both UMass Boston and the Coast Guard Academy.

"We are grateful to the Coast Guard for partnering with UMass Boston on this pilot program. We stand ready to honor this partnership to ensure that participating students are prepared to be Coast Guard officers who serve with distinction," he said.

The partnership, which will start with a three-year pilot, was designed strategically with UMass Boston's strengths in mind. As a minority serving institution, the third most diverse campus in the country, offering STEM programs that enroll significant populations of men and women of color, there is perhaps no better institution from which to begin a pipeline. The university's waterfront location and proximity to the academy was another key factor in the partnership.

UMass Boston Launches Urban Public Health Department in Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences

UMass Boston is launching an innovative department of Urban Public Health (UPH) with the goal of preparing students for jobs in public health fields uniquely focused on improving the health of diverse urban populations.

Housed within the recently endowed Robert and Donna Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences (MCNHS), the new department will begin offering BA and BS majors in Urban Public Health in fall 2023. The program will focus on urban populations, the social determinants of health, and health equity challenges across the lifespan.

According to the United Nations, more than two-thirds of the world population will be living in urban areas by 2050. Humans will therefore have to adapt to living in close quarters that are further threatened by climate change. Communicable diseases spread quickly in urban settings, making exposure to more pollutants, allergens, and toxicity, as well as chronic and behavioral health issues more prevalent than in less densely populated areas.

"For these reasons, among others, there is a significant burgeoning need for highly skilled diverse professionals. Thousands of new job opportunities will emerge in public health and related fields," said UMass Boston Provost Joseph Berger. "Students who graduate with a BA or BS in public health are the future leaders in the full range of health care agencies and organizations."

The BA and BS degrees are geared to prepare students for careers in state and local health departments, nongovernmental organizations, health care organizations, the private sector, and federal agencies to promote health equity.

"The UPH department will be a leader in educating students to be innovative thinkers, strategizing to find public health solutions to the enduring problems of health inequity in diverse urban populations in our state and beyond," said Dean Rosanna DeMarco.



UMass Boston is performing *Pride and Prejudice* after a two-year delay.

UMass Boston Performs *Pride & Prejudice* After Two Year Delay

Back in February 2020, UMass Boston's Theatre Arts was deep into rehearsals and beyond excited to stage Kate Hamill's raucously funny, lovingly irreverent adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel *Pride & Prejudice*. Director Carrie Ann Quinn had an amazing cast and tickets were selling fast, but then the production was shut down as the campus went remote.

Two years after canceling the production at the onset of the pandemic, Quinn finally was able to cast and direct *Pride & Prejudice* on campus in Spring 2022. Most of the original cast had since graduated. A few members of the cast were still enrolled, and Quinn saw it appropriate to honor their original role offers. Most roles, including principal characters, were wide open.

STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

Report Cites Factors in State's Paid Leave Compromise

Considered one of the strongest in the nation, the Massachusetts paid family and medical leave law is notable for its robust caregiving supports and protections for workers. A new report from UMass Boston's Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, *Getting to Yes: The Makings of Paid Leave in Massachusetts*, offers an in-depth look at the negotiation process between labor and business that led to the passage of paid family and medical leave legislation in 2018.

The report also offers data on the initial year of program utilization by workers and overall program implementation. With 85,887 approved leave applications in 2021, employees across the commonwealth have benefited from the program.

Based primarily on in-depth interviews with those closely involved in the negotiation process that led to the compromise legislation, the report, details the multi-faceted effort to achieve consensus on a feasible program in Massachusetts and offers recommendations for effecting paid leave laws in other states. Mainers for Working Families sponsored the report, as legislators and advocates look at offering paid family and medical leave for Maine's families and businesses.

Sustainable Solutions Lab Research Explores True Community and Climate Resilience in East Boston

The Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston has released new research exploring the question of what is necessary for true community and climate resilience in East Boston. The report, *Opportunity in the Complexity: Recommendations for Equitable Climate Resilience in East Boston*, was requested by the Waterfront Partners, a group of local advocacy organizations convened by the Barr Foundation.

The report was authored by Patricio Belloy, PhD candidate in public policy and public affairs; Antonio Raciti, assistant professor of community planning and ecological design; Katsyris Rivera-Kientz, PhD candidate in the College of Liberal Arts; and Rebecca Herst, director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab.

East Boston is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly flooding. Some of the projects the City of Boston would like to advance in East Boston are not currently possible due to the regulatory restrictions that the Boston Planning and Development Agency have requested the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to review. Local residents are concerned that if these areas are de-designated, high-end housing developments will come in.

Recommendations include using neutral professional mediators to help manage community engagement and prioritizing the vision East Boston residents have for access to the waterfront for community members and small businesses.

ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)



Erin Noël plans to pursue a dual PhD and JD program.

Erin Noël '22 Awarded Udall Scholarship for Work on Sustainability, Environmental Justice

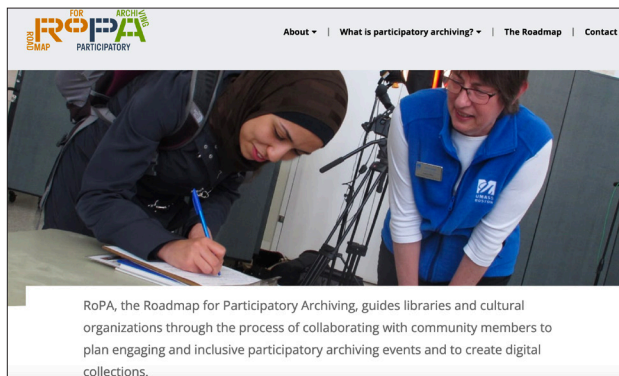
Environmental Studies student Erin Noël's passion for the environment and inclusion has won her the prestigious Udall Undergraduate Scholarship, awarded by the Udall Foundation to one student from each state and territory every year who does exemplary work in tribal policy, native health care, or the environment.

Her research portfolio includes time at Stanford University studying the effects of climate change on human conflict, specifically whether increasingly hotter weather in regions closer to the equator contributes to increased levels of unrest. She also spent two summers as a Doris Duke Conservation Scholar at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, where she researched how farmers markets can bridge gaps in food instability, and how they can become more equitable spaces.

Noël has her sights set on a career built around protecting the planet and making it a more inclusive place. She's planning to pursue a dual PhD and JD program, knowing that becoming both a doctor and a lawyer will better position her to drive real progress in environmental justice.

"My parents came here with nothing, and they became something, and for their child to be a doctor and a lawyer, that's a lot in one generation ... it memorializes their struggles, and everything they gave up for me to have a better opportunity," she said.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



Screenshot of the newly-launched RoPA website

Library Launches Online Roadmap for Planning Participatory Archiving Events

UMass Boston's Joseph P. Healey Library has launched RoPA, the Roadmap for Participatory Archiving, at ropa.umb.edu.

Supported in part by a \$250,000 National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), RoPA is an online resource designed to guide libraries and cultural organizations through the process of collaborating with community members to plan engaging and inclusive participatory archiving events and to create digital collections.

RoPA is a response to an increasing interest in public digitization events, which are part of the emerging phenomenon of participatory archiving. At these events—commonly called “scanning days” or “digitization days”—individuals connected with a theme, topic, event, or community come together to share personal and family photographs and stories, which are copied and added to a digital collection.

More and more, librarians and museum curators recognize the potential for these types of projects to break down hierarchies and enrich local, regional, and national histories. By playing an active role in selecting and describing what should be preserved in an archival collection, community members can transform our collective understanding of the past. Through participatory archiving, these groups come together to build a more inclusive archival record.

Research Team to Estimate Cost of Providing Quality Early Care and Education for Children in MA

A UMass Boston-based interdisciplinary team of researchers has launched a new research project that will build a cost simulator to inform policy recommendations around universal childcare. The simulator will model the amount of funding required by the Common Start legislation to provide affordable, high-quality early care and education for families in Massachusetts.

The team has expertise in economics, early education, and public policy and will include researchers from the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation at UMass Boston, the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston, and the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University. The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Children's Fund, which invests in public policy and other initiatives that support children in Massachusetts from birth to age five.

The Common Start legislation would create a system of affordable, high-quality early education and childcare for all Massachusetts families. The system would expand early education and care for children from birth through age 5, as well as after- and out-of-school time for children ages 5-12, and for children with special needs through age 15. The bill provides a framework to increase the scope of public investment in early education and childcare over five years that prioritizes the lowest-income, highest-need families and assures that no family pays more than seven percent of their income.

A report on key findings from the cost simulator will be disseminated during the fall of 2022. The Common Start legislation is currently under consideration by the Joint Committee on Education.

ICI Launches New National Youth Resource Center Website

Researchers from the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston have launched a new Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice (CYVYC) website. CYVYC is a national resource center for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

CYVYC promotes the use of alternatives to guardianship through research, self-advocacy, outreach, coalition building, and education. Alternatives to guardianship are tools other than guardianship that people with disabilities can use to get the support they need to make tough decisions about their lives.

The new CYVYC website features a U.S. map with information about alternatives to guardianship in different states, a 16-week Youth Ambassador training curriculum, and plain language resources for youth, parents, supporters, and educators.

The CYVYC is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion in partnership with the Center for Public Representation, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered, and the Human Services Research Institute, in consultation with experts from Harvard Law School Project on Disability and the Georgia Advocacy Office.

DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

Chancellor Leads International Conference on Impacts of COVID, Joined by White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator

Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University's School of Public Health and recently appointed as the White House coronavirus response coordinator, joined Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco at an international conference in Rome in early March. Entitled "The COVID Generation: Children and Youth In and After the Pandemic," the conference hosted by Chancellor Suárez-Orozco brought together leading scholars, policy makers, university administrators, philanthropists, faith leaders, and social scientists from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe to examine the pandemic's impacts on our most vulnerable populations around the world. Dr. Jha also delivered the 2022 Robert C. Wood Visiting Professorship in Public and Urban Affairs Lecture at UMass Boston on March 25. This was the only public lecture Dr. Jha has delivered since being named to his new White House position.



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Dr. Ashish Jha

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

Undergraduate Admissions Implements New Enrollment Technology

This past August UMass Boston's Office of Undergraduate Admissions launched Slate, a new customer relationship management (CRM) system. The Slate launch required intensive planning and collaboration between Enrollment Management staff and IT support from both the campus and system levels. Despite launching the new enrollment technology in the midst of an active application cycle, the rollout was fairly seamless from the vantage of admissions staff, applicants, and prospective students.

Slate incorporates all aspects of admissions prospecting including, but not limited to, email and SMS communication campaigns, inquiry/survey forms, and event creation and registration. All applications and related documents funnel into Slate and admissions staff review all academic credentials within the system.

Another feature of Slate that the team worked to design and make available to applicants is a native applicant portal that informs students of their status, their admissions decision, upcoming events, their financial aid award, and a transfer credit evaluation for transfer applicants. The array of information available to students in one place is helpful in their decision-making process.

The impacts of Slate have been significant in just a short amount of time. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions saw its largest spring class in more than three years and increased year-over-year enrollment by nearly 18 percent.

Student CARE Support Demand Grows

This past fall semester, key student support mechanisms met increased demand as the community returned to campus. The campus saw 597 student CARE cases, which are created when a student is connected to the Dean of Students Office because they are struggling, have mental or physical health issues, or are experiencing adjustment issues. This is an 18 percent year-over-year increase over the already historic highs during remote operations.

Additionally, the U-ACCESS food pantry distributed 7,101 pounds of food to student clients, representing a strong restart trajectory for the pantry service amidst a strained network of food donor partners.

Campus Takes on Continuing Student Financial Awareness

The Division of Enrollment Management has assembled a new Continuing Student Financial Awareness Working Group whose efforts will include expanding and adapting communications and outreach efforts to continuing students. The goal of the committee is to ensure students are aware of important deadlines and opportunities related to financial aid and student accounts.

Since their inaugural meeting in February, the committee developed and launched a campaign to increase on-time FAFSA submissions by continuing students. The efforts are focused on reminding students of the May 1 priority deadline across a variety of platforms, media, and spaces.

A targeted email campaign underlining the importance of meeting the May 1 deadline resulted in submissions increasing 110 percent as compared to the same week in 2021. There are also a series of visual reminders set to pop-up around campus, from shuttle bus ads and coffee cup sleeves to balloon displays and slides on 26 monitors. To complement these broad-stroke strategies, the working group will also be leveraging text messaging and individual outreach as the deadline approaches.

The committee has also introduced campaigns to alert students to the health insurance waiver deadline, the opportunity for payment plans, and payment due dates. The goal is that these enhanced efforts will contribute to retention by maximizing student aid and by decreasing outstanding student balances.

CONTINUE A POSITIVE FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

Track and Field Icon Edwin Moses Speaks at Black History Month Event

The Black Faculty, Staff, and Student Association (BFSSA) hosted “A History of Black Activism in Boston Sports” webinar in February, as part of the campus’s Black History Month activities. The event featured two-time Olympic gold medalist and track and field icon Dr. Edwin Moses H’09 and J. Keith Motley Endowed Chair of Sport Leadership and Administration Joseph N. Cooper, who presented the rich history of resistance and activism in and through sport in Boston. Moses and Cooper also tackled commercialization and politics in sport alongside the rise of performance enhancing drugs at the Olympics.

The BFSSA also hosted a Black History Month Film Discussion of *Passing*, *Summer of Soul*, and *Judas and the Black Messiah*; and a Celebration of Black Entrepreneurship, which encouraged the UMass Boston community to patronize as many Black-owned businesses in greater Boston as possible and discuss their experiences supporting Black entrepreneurs.

Campus Launches Professional and Personal Development Programs Around Racism and Inequities

As UMass Boston works to enhance its collective efforts toward becoming a leading antiracist and health-promoting institution, university leaders have announced two professional and personal development programs that will take place this spring and fall aimed at race and inequities.

They will also continue to work with the Restorative Justice Commission to provide additional professional and personal development opportunities for the campus community. The Restorative Justice Commission has already compiled a comprehensive list of resources that will be made available to the campus community and will continually be updated over time.

These programs will engage the campus community in ongoing conversations about racism and related inequities in all forms, while helping to provide tools and guidance around how to talk about race constructively in classrooms, in committees, within our university community, and beyond.

For the spring programming, the university has partnered with Inclusive Excellence Consulting, LLC, a higher education focused organization that provides strategic support for long-term change efforts of institutions that want to optimize diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.



Exercise and Health Sciences student Janet Adeyemo'23 says “Thinking about #BlackHistoryMonth makes me happy because it helps me remember what our ancestors did and sacrificed for us.”

University Celebrates Black History Month

UMass Boston celebrated Black History Month this February, launching a social media campaign aimed at promoting pride in our Black students, faculty, and staff and awareness of their history, cultures, and identity. Students and staff were asked to talk about what Black History Month means to them. They spoke of their pride, the monumental contributions of Black Americans to the history of this country, obstacles they still face, stereotypes, discrimination, and learning more about their own heritage.

“I like #BlackHistoryMonth. But honestly, we should be teaching Black History all the time because I’m Black all year round, and I incorporate my blackness all the time” wrote international relations student Shaveen Gachau '24.

POSITION UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE



Professor Bonnie Miller appeared on the History Channel in March.

Professor Featured on History Channel's *The Food That Built America*

Professor of History Bonnie Miller joined the History Channel's *The Food That Built America* to talk about the history of William Rosenberg, the founder of the Dunkin' Donuts franchise.

Miller said producers were looking for a food historian from the Massachusetts area, since the first Dunkin' store opened in Quincy. They flew her out to their Newark, New Jersey studios to film a three-hour interview with her that appeared throughout the popular half hour show.

Miller teaches AMST/HIST 285L: Food in American Culture, where she uses one class session to take a deep dive into the history of coffee. She talks about various aspects of the history of coffee, focusing on the influences of trade, cultural diffusion, and the rise of slavery on the political, environmental, and health impacts of coffee production in the last century.



Men's basketball standout Charles Mitchell goes in for a basket as Beacons returned to normal conference play this past winter.

UMass Boston Earns High Marks for Online Programs from *U.S. News & World Report*

UMass Boston's online bachelor's degree and online graduate programs, including the MBA and master's in education, were listed among the nation's best in the U.S. News and World Report Best Online Programs rankings, released earlier this year.

Most notable among the rankings was the university's online bachelor's program, which jumped 54 spots.

The new top 100 rankings include:

- Online bachelor's – No. 39
- Online master's in business (non-MBA) – No. 38
- Online MBA – No. 105
- Online MBA for veterans – No. 89
- Online master's in education – No. 77

"While the true measure of our online programs' success is in the successes of our students, I am pleased that these data agree that UMass Boston's programs rival the best in the country," said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

UMass Boston Athletes Make Their Return

UMass Boston athletics made their triumphant return to the hardwood, ice, and track this past winter. Sideline for the 2020–21 athletic season, the ice hockey, basketball, and track and field programs navigated the COVID-19 landscape and successfully competed throughout their respective regular and postseasons. All six programs qualified for their championships, with the women's and men's hockey teams both hosting conference tournament games. In total, 10 student-athletes earned postseason honors.

UMass Boston also served as the host to the first Black Collegiate Coaches Classic, which was a one-day men's basketball invitational. The two-game invite featured four teams from the state of Massachusetts who are led by Black head coaches. It also featured two officiating crews that were made-up of all Black officials.

INCREASE ENDOWMENT

Boston Endowment Bolstered by \$6M Gift

In January, an anonymous donor stepped forward with a \$6 million outright gift for an area to be determined within the university. This is the second largest endowment gift in campus history after the extraordinary \$15 million gift from Robert and Donna Manning.

So far this fiscal year, the University Advancement team has established 19 endowments, totaling over \$22.9 million to support various efforts on campus, with the majority benefitting student scholarships.

AEW Capital Management Establishes Scholarship in Honor of UMass Boston Alumna



UMass Boston alumna Pamela Strout Herbst '77

AEW Capital Management, L.P., a leading global real estate investment manager, recently committed a gift in honor of UMass Boston alumna Pamela Strout Herbst '77, a veteran of the commercial real estate industry who retired from AEW in December 2021.

The gift will be used to establish and endow the AEW Capital Management – Pamela Strout Herbst

Legacy Scholarship, which will support full-time undergraduate students pursuing a career in economics, investment management, and commercial real estate and who demonstrate a commitment to advancing equity and inclusion in business. Additionally, AEW will provide mentorship and professional advancement opportunities to scholarship recipients.

New Endowment Benefits Students Majoring in Classics

To commemorate Interim Provost Emily McDermott's retirement and in honor of her distinguished career, a number of her former students and colleagues made generous donations to benefit the Classics Department. Adding to this total, McDermott herself bolstered the fund enabling an endowment, and saw it fitting to name it in honor of Professor R.J. Schork, an impactful faculty member who recently passed away. Professor Schork served the UMass Boston Classics Department for 19 years, many of them as chair of the department before retiring in 1995 as professor emeritus. He was a renowned scholar of Greek and Latin languages and literature, an exciting and imaginative teacher, and beloved colleague.

Urban Scholars Volunteer Establishes Endowed Fund in Honor of His Mother

Michael Benway, Sr. '86 created the Jean Benway Urban Scholars Fund in memory of his mother, to provide operating resources for the program to better support academic learning opportunities for pre-collegiate program participants. This meaningful investment is a tribute to Jean in recognition and gratitude for her influence in cultivating Michael's academic interests at an early age and demonstrates Michael's belief in the Urban Scholars model of providing extra-curricular mentorship and learning opportunities for Boston Public School students.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES



UMass Boston is "mask welcome" to anyone who prefers to continue to wear a mask.

UMass Boston Lifts Mask Mandate

CDC has released new guidelines, UMass Boston has shifted to a mask optional policy in all spaces on campus, except for shuttle buses and University Health Services.

Campus leaders are still closely monitoring the changing public health guidelines and reviewing campus safety protocols on a regular basis.

"As we have done throughout the pandemic, we plan to follow the latest public health guidance and feel comfortable that it is safe for our community to loosen our masking policy," University Health Services Director Robert Pomales wrote to the campus.

Masks are still required throughout campus for those who are unvaccinated or unboosted. Anyone completing isolation or quarantine will also continue to wear masks for the full 10 days, according to existing protocols.

The university community continues to encourage masking for any individual based on their own personal situation or comfort level. As a campus, UMass Boston is "mask welcome" to anyone who prefers to continue to wear a mask on campus. Masks have been made available at a number of locations on campus.

RENEW THE FACULTY



Moderator Yawu Miller, community development student Shamia Hicks, Associate Professor of Anthropology Ping-Ann Addo, and public policy doctoral student Bianca Ortiz-Wythe participate in a panel.

Professors, Students, and Dorchester Community Leaders Discuss Place-Based Justice

UMass Boston's Office of Community Partnerships hosted its fifth annual fireside chat in February, bringing students, faculty, and community activists and leaders together to discuss Our Dorchester: A Home for Place-Based Justice Partnerships. Panelists explored ways in which the university can deepen its close community connections and expand its service to the communities it touches, relationships it has fostered since its founding in 1964.

"In a city that has more universities and university students than any other city in the country, we have a special place as Boston's only public research university," said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joseph Berger. "I'm proud to be at UMass Boston because we are so embedded in the fabrics of the very communities where we are located and that we have responsibilities to serve. That being said, we have no laurels to rest on. We have much work to do. We have much to learn from each other."

Panel members included UMass Boston students Shamia Hicks and Bianca Ortiz-Wythe, Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester Vice President Queenie Santos, City Councilor Frank Baker, Carney Hospital President and UMass Boston alum Stan McLaren '89, Lisette Le, executive director of VietAID, Associate Professor of Anthropology Ping-Ann Addo, and moderator Yawu Miller, senior editor of the Bay State Banner.

Students Celine Voyard and Layanie Oscar gave a spoken word performance.

Chief Data Officer Magazine Recognizes Professor as a Top Academic Data Leader

Professor of Management Information Systems Jeff Keisler was named to a list of 76 researchers recognized by *Chief Data Officer Magazine* for their remarkable academic leadership and for paving the way with breakthrough data and analytics-driven concepts.

Keisler had over 25 years of independently consulting for numerous Fortune 100 companies and government agencies before joining UMass Boston. He has published three books and 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals and was named Fulbright-Aalto University Distinguished Chair for 2015–2016.



Askold Melnyczuk



Listen to Professor Melnyczuk's interview on Connecticut Public Radio.

Professor Promotes Ukrainian Literature to the Masses

Professor of English Askold Melnyczuk has spent the past month raising awareness of Ukrainian writers and literature in outlets like NPR, *The Boston Globe*, and the *Where We Live* podcast as the war in Ukraine continues. Melnyczuk's parents were Ukrainian refugees and he also works as a Ukrainian translator. Melnyczuk also organized a virtual PEN America event bringing writers across the U.S. together with their Ukrainian colleagues to read in solidarity with all Ukrainian people.

IMPROVE DELIVERY OF ADMINISTRATION AND IT SERVICES (CONT.)

Health Services Named 2021 Commonwealth Citation Award Winner

At a ceremony in March, University Health Services received a Commonwealth Citation for outstanding performance. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco nominated the team based on their pandemic response efforts that began in January 2020, when the first COVID-19 case in Massachusetts presented itself at their front door in the form of a student traveling to the U.S. from China.

This team of general medicine and mental health professionals and support staff, under the leadership of Executive Director Robert Pomales, has worked 24/7 on the front line of the pandemic to guide institutional strategic decision making, keep the campus safe, and take care of those who contracted or were exposed to the virus. Their calm and composure in confronting this public health crisis has been admirable and provided a rudder for university leadership to guide the move to remote operations and resume in-person operations.