



# Report to the Board of Trustees

from the University of Massachusetts Boston

February 2013

## To the Board:

Last month, I met with a group of stakeholders and planners to kick off the University of Massachusetts Boston's plans to commemorate our 50th anniversary. We've established a number of committees to plan a yearlong celebration of this landmark anniversary, as we honor our past and position the university to lead in the future.

The university was founded on June 18, 1964, by the Massachusetts legislature; our first class entered in September 1965. Since those earliest days, we've been driven by our commitment to provide a world-class education to all, while serving the public good of our city, our Commonwealth, our nation, and our world—the most recent evidence of which can be found in the following report.

Of particular interest:

- We're piloting a program of study on Nantucket for students of environmental, earth, and ocean sciences, who are getting hands-on research experience on our satellite campus (right).
- Two million-dollar gifts will help expand programs at UMass Boston that serve students from 19 to 91 (page 4).

I hope you will enjoy this quarter's account of our progress toward becoming a preeminent student-centered urban public research university.

— J. Keith Motley, Chancellor



*In 1963 the Nantucket Island estate of the late Stephen Peabody was donated to the University of Massachusetts by the Nina Hazen Foundation for use as a teaching and research field station. The UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station will be a focal point for a year-round satellite campus.*

## Living Lab Opens on Nantucket Island

Beginning this semester, 20 University of Massachusetts Boston students studying earth and ocean sciences are living and attending classes 100 miles from campus, in a pilot program held on the island of Nantucket. Called "The Living Lab," the 16-credit semester offers students a customized curriculum focused on ecology and environmental sciences, as well as Nantucket history and culture, using a combination of classroom time, field research, and lab techniques.

The 20 students are working closely with island residents to identify key environmental issues they can study, and conducting research that addresses those issues. One project has the students collaborating with Nantucket's scallop fishermen to learn more about how

the water quality around the island affects their catches.

The Nantucket Field Station, built on land donated to UMass 50 years ago, is the program's home base, but classes will also be held at the island's public library, the African Meeting House, and other locations. Prior to this semester, UMass Boston has held summer classes at the station; this program marks its first-ever year-round use.

The program, led by UMass Boston's Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences Department, solicited students from all environment-related majors on campus. The aim is to build the program to serve hundreds more students who wish to study at the island satellite campus.

## ENHANCE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### Marketing Students Present Ideas for Neighborhood Revitalization

Undergraduate students at the College of Management recently developed and presented their ideas for promoting the arts and bringing businesses to the Upham's Corner neighborhood in Dorchester.

Assistant Professor of Marketing Werner Kunz asked students in his Services Marketing class to come up with proposals to strengthen the community's cultural offerings and bring outsiders to the neighborhood, while tapping the existing resources of its residents. The students presented their ideas to the executive director of Upham's Corner Main Street.

The Upham's Corner planning agency received pro bono consulting, while students gained valuable hands-on experience with developing and presenting proposals. The partnership between the College of Management, the Trotter Institute, and Upham's Corner Main Street is one of 300 community-engaged partnerships on the UMass Boston campus.

## MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

### UMass Boston Offers Massive Open Online Courses

The Center for Innovation and Excellence in eLearning (CIEE) in the College of Advancing and Professional Studies, formerly University College, is offering two massive open online courses (MOOCs) for the spring semester. These two online courses—"Molecular Dynamics" and "Coasts and Communities"—are open to the public, free of charge, and offered solely through UMass Boston.

### Agreement with Plymouth University Opens Opportunities



Students at UMass Boston's College of Management will soon have the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom, thanks to a memorandum of understanding signed in December between the college and Plymouth University, located in southwest England.

The agreement will allow for student exchanges, collaborative projects, conferences, and scholarships between the two business programs. The details have not yet been finalized, but representatives from Plymouth University say they envision a co-op program starting in the 2013-2014 academic year that will offer study-abroad opportunities for students at both schools.

*Left: Chancellor J. Keith Motley and Plymouth University Chief Executive Wendy Purcell after signing a memorandum of understanding between their universities' business schools.*

### Trips to, from Addis Ababa University Open Exchange Possibilities

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Winston Langley led a delegation to Ethiopia in November for a sustainability conference, concluding his visit by signing a memorandum of understanding with Addis Ababa University. This MOU will serve to allow student and personnel transfers between the two institutions, as well as facilitating joint projects in Africa and elsewhere. In January, representatives from Addis Ababa University visited UMass Boston in an effort to identify areas and projects for future partnership and to establish exchange opportunities among faculty and students.

## STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE

### New Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging

The Gerontology Institute continues to grow, with the establishment of the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, led by Professor Jan Mutchler. The core activities of the center include initiating and conducting externally funded applied and demographic research projects; establishing a scope of expertise to be provided on a cost recovery basis to other researchers and units on campus; establishing a set of products to be generated on a routine basis and disseminated widely in electronic and printed form; and providing analyses and information to the community and the media.

### Professor's Article Selected as Among Most Influential in 50 Years of Applied Optics

In September 2002, five months after NASA's successful launch of the MPDIS-Aqua satellite into space, *Applied Optics*, one of the world's top optics journals, published ZhongPing Lee's article "Deriving Inherent Optical Properties from Water Color: A Multiband Quasi-Analytical Algorithm for Optically Deep Waters." Recently, the journal's editors selected Lee's article as one of the "Most Influential Articles" published over the 50-year life of the journal. In the article, Lee, who is a UMass Boston associate professor specializing in optical oceanography, and his co-authors articulated a new idea for ocean color remote sensing. Today, his work continues to have important implications for the fast-growing discipline of environmental sustainability.

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

### Selected Recent Sponsored Awards

- **Crystal Schaaf** and **ZhongPing Lee**, professors of environmental, earth, and ocean sciences, were awarded a five-year \$973,275 grant by the U.S. Geological Survey for the project "North American Land Surface Albedo and Nearshore Shallow-Bottom Properties from Landsat and MODIS/VIIRS Measurements."
- **Wanli Hu**, director of the China Program Center, was awarded a two-year \$568,991 grant by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct a Chinese language immersion program.
- **William Kiernan**, dean of the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, was awarded a \$437,525 grant by the BCT Partners for "Technical Assistance to One-Stops in Becoming Employment Networks." The prime sponsor is the U.S. Department of Labor.
- **Susan Foley** of the Institute for Community Inclusion was granted \$3,250,000 by the U.S. Department of Education for the project "RRTC on Vocational Rehabilitation."
- **Robert Chen**, professor of environmental, earth, and ocean sciences, was granted \$164,140 from the National Science Foundation for the project "Innovative Engagement: A Mass Transit Model for Informal Science Learning."
- **Lois Biener**, senior research fellow at the Center for Survey Research, was awarded a \$284,434 grant by Wake Forest University to design, implement, and analyze the results of the survey "Dissolvable Tobacco Perceptions and Use Among Young Adults." The prime sponsor is the National Cancer Institute.

## RENEW THE FACULTY

### Associate Dean Wins Excellence in Nursing Award

Marion Winfrey, former interim dean and current associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, has won the 2013 Excellence in Nursing Award from the New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA).

### Distinguished Faculty Lecture Shines Spotlight on Outstanding Professors

Each winter, the winners of the chancellor's awards for distinguished teaching, research, and service—presented each year at commencement—are invited to speak on the topics of their choice as the stars of the Distinguished Faculty Lecture. This year, faculty winners Stephanie Hartwell (teaching), Rachel Rubin (scholarship), John Tobin (scholarship), and Joan Liem (service) presented on their careers and research interests, united by the theme "Building UMass Boston: The Pursuit of Excellence."

Praising the high turnout at the event, Chancellor Motley told the assembled audience of faculty and administrators, "It means a lot to me to see you all here. This spirit of support and solidarity is what faculty members tell me they love about their work here, so let's keep it going."

## CONTINUE A FOCUS ON DIVERSITY AND POSITIVE CLIMATE

### UMass Boston Partners with Team IMPACT

UMass Boston has partnered with Team IMPACT, a nonprofit group that aims to improve the quality of life for children with serious illnesses by matching them with team-based sports. Beacons hockey, basketball, and baseball teams selected children to play for their teams on "draft day"; each child will get a chance to be on the ice, court, or field on game day.



*Hockey lover Will L., who is fighting cancer, was "drafted" by the UMass Boston Beacons men's hockey team and was on the ice for their home opener on November 3.*

### Students and Faculty Help Hurricane Sandy Victims in New York City

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences' Clinical Assistant Professor Adrienne Wald led a collaborative student effort to organize shipments of needed items to Hurricane Sandy victims, in partnership with two affected universities, Monmouth University and City University of New York. A group of students traveled to the areas to distribute the supplies; some volunteered to clean up debris that remained from the storm in New York City.

## INCREASE ENDOWMENT

### Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Receives \$1 Million Grant

UMass Boston has received a \$1 million gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation to continue funding of the university's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which offers an array of educational opportunities for seniors in Greater Boston. The \$1 million gift will provide needed support for the growing program in the years ahead.

Founding director Wichian Rojanawon began OLLI at UMass Boston in 1999 with 90 members. In the following 13 years, OLLI has grown to more than 1,000 members from 80 cities and towns in Greater Boston. They choose from more than 100 noncredit courses and more than 80 lecture series each year.



*Wichian Rojanawon, director of OLLI at UMass Boston, and Chancellor J. Keith Motley at the December announcement of a \$1 million gift to maintain and expand the institute's programs.*

### Another \$1 Million Gift Investment Supports Student Retention and Degree Completion

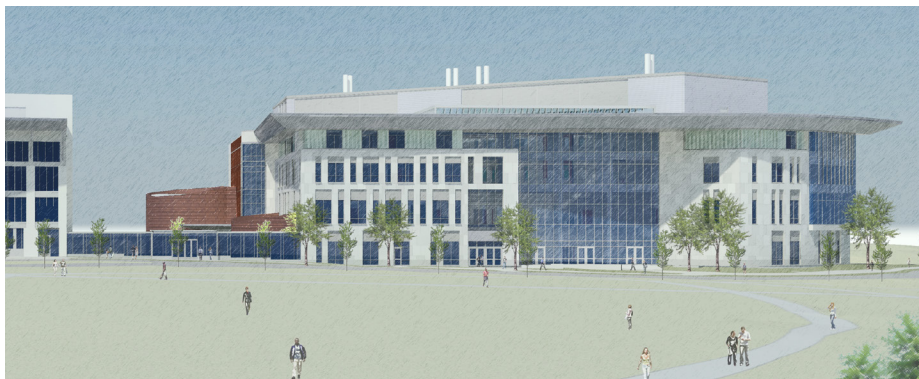
An anonymous donor has given UMass Boston a gift of \$1 million to be used to establish and strengthen student retention programs. This gift will fund academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities sponsored by Academic Support Services in each college. Model programming such as "Start on Track; Stay on Track" and "Early and Often; Connect, Engage and Build Community" will be enriched and new interventions developed to improve student retention, persistence, and degree completion.

With this gift and others, University Advancement's second quarter of fiscal year 2013 resulted in a cumulative giving total—including cash, pledges, and gifts in kind—of \$12,847,380.

## DEVELOP FIRST-RATE INFRASTRUCTURE

### Clark Center Renovations Completed

In March, the Clark Center gym closed for much-needed renovations. Construction was completed in late November, and now the 3,000-person facility has a new maple hardwood floor that provides student-athletes with better shock absorption, upgraded bleachers and entryways, and specialty lighting and audiovisual systems. On Tuesday, February 5, the university community celebrated the grand re-opening—with a reception and viewing of the new facility—before a double-header basketball game played on the new court.



*Pictured is the latest rendering of General Academic Building No. 1, slated for groundbreaking on February 27. When it is completed, the facility will house performing arts venues, classrooms, rehearsal studios, and study spaces.*

## DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

### McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies Hosts Panels, Conferences

This fall, four high-profile conferences and panels came to UMass Boston as guests of various centers and departments at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies.

- The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy hosted an interactive panel on November 15 to explore how women access and utilize political leadership at the local and state levels in the Commonwealth. The event, Women and Political Leadership in Massachusetts, was part of the "Leading Women" speaker and film series on women's public leadership.
- The Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs co-hosted the third annual Northeast Conference on Public Administration on November 3. Michael J. Ahn, Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, chaired the conference, discussing emerging challenges facing American public administration and addressing solutions.
- The Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters hosted an international conference on "Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters in China: Best Practices and Lessons Learned" on November 15-16. The event included four keynote speeches, six sessions examining proven strategies to reduce the socio-economic impact of various forms of disasters on vulnerable communities in China, and networking sessions.
- On December 3, the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, in collaboration with MIT and Northeastern, organized the "Leading Change: Improving Student Achievement through Labor Management Collaboration" conference.

## DEVELOP A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE (CONT.)

### Professor Invited to Serve on MA Financial Literacy Committee

Eric Hayden, Accounting and Finance Department, has been invited to serve on the Financial Literacy Advisory Committee of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The committee has been tasked to initiate, implement, and then monitor a competitive pilot program for 10 high schools in Massachusetts.

### MA Small Business Development Center Helps Local Business Win Mass Challenge

With a winning idea for helping first responders to crises safely scope out dangerous areas, two young entrepreneurs sought out the expertise of Mark Allio, director of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC), a business assistance program with a city chapter based at UMass Boston.

On the strength of their idea to create an extremely portable and durable ball-shaped scouting camera, David Young and Francisco Aguilar were accepted into the MassChallenge Class of 2012. The pair asked Allio to be one of their senior mentors because of his experience with small business development.

Allio worked with Aguilar and Young in the fall, and in October, the young businessmen won \$50,000 from MassChallenge, an annual \$1 million global startup competition and accelerator program. They also took home an additional \$10,000 from NYC VenCorps. Last month, TIME named Bounce Imaging one of the best inventions in 2012. Aguilar and Young hope to have a product ready for field-testing by SWAT teams and Massachusetts police departments next month.

This is the third consecutive year that an MSBDC-backed new venture client has won \$50,000 from MassChallenge.

## IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF IT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### Interim Dean Ira Jackson Appointed for McCormack Graduate School



*Ira Jackson, newly appointed interim dean of the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies.*

On January 7, Ira Jackson took the helm as interim dean of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. Jackson brings a wealth of experience in higher education, government, business, and public affairs to the position, including his tenure as dean of the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at Claremont Graduate University, as executive vice president and executive director of external affairs of BankBoston, and as revenue commissioner for the state of Massachusetts. He has also held a variety of positions at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, including associate dean and senior fellow at the Center for Public Leadership.

## POSITION THE UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE

### Beacons Shine on the Field, Court, and Ice

UMass Boston's student-athletes continue to achieve competitive excellence:

- The women's soccer team enjoyed the greatest season in the history of the program. Led by 2012 Little East Conference Coach of the Year Amy Zombeck, the team earned their first-ever LEC regular-season and tournament championships, and the program's first trip to the NCAA Division III tournament.



- The women's volleyball team earned their second NCAA Division III regional title in three years, and the program's fourth straight Little East Conference regular season and tournament championship.
- Men's ice hockey started the 2012-13 season strong, with a 10-3-1 record to date—and for the first time in the program's history, they've broken into the top 15 of the USCHO.com national poll. During their hot streak, the team outscored their opponents 45-25, and is currently one of the top-scoring teams in all of Division III men's hockey, averaging 5.2 goals per game.

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**POSITION THE UNIVERSITY IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION MARKETPLACE (CONT.)**

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**The Boston Globe Praises  
Chancellor Motley on Diversity**

Chancellor J. Keith Motley was featured in the Winter 2012 issue of *The Boston Globe's* magazine *Diversity Boston*, as one of twelve local leaders who are "breaking down barriers in Boston." Recognizing UMass Boston as the most diverse university in Massachusetts, and among the most diverse public universities in the country, the article points out that under Chancellor Motley's leadership, people of color now represent greater percentages of the student body, graduate and undergraduate, and of administrators. He is represented as a "pioneer" in higher education, who has forged "a new model for campus inclusivity." In an educational supplement published in January, the *Globe* again highlighted UMass Boston's diversity as an asset for students.

**Student Arts and Events  
Council Wins Design Award**

UMass Boston's Student Arts and Events Council recently won an award for their work designing 2012's Welcome Week materials at a National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) Northeast graphics competition. In winning the "Best Theme Campaign" award for last fall's "UMass Boston: Your Social Network," students beat out several larger colleges and universities that entered the category.

Many universities hire professionals to help students carry out their design ideas. At UMass Boston, the SAEC's student program coordinators produce their own promotional materials. The students received their award at the NACA regional conference in November.

**College of Management Graduate  
Students Place in Alpha Boston  
Equity Pitch Challenge**

College of Management graduate students won second place in the Alpha Boston Equity Pitch Challenge, hosted by Brandeis University in November. Four teams were chosen as finalists and after presenting their research report on McCormick & Co (NYSE MKC), UMass Boston's College of Management team placed second in the competition.

All team members were members of the Graduate Student Managed Fund, which provides opportunities to manage real investments in the stock market using the fund's capital. As members of the GSMF, all members are Bloomberg-certified, and used the new College of Management trading room for their fundamental analysis.