

To the Board:

As the academic year comes to an end, I am pleased to present this report highlighting recent progress.

The ResilientMass Summit hosted by UMass Boston in March built on efforts launched at the Vatican's climate summit, From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience. It was convened in May 2024 by the late Pope Francis, catalyzing a global movement to build climate resilience and protect all citizens from the climate crisis. The ResilientMass summit brought together state and local officials from dozens of municipalities, scientists, academics, UMass Boston faculty and students, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and advocates from around the world for discussions on making communities climate resilient.

Also in this report:

- UMass Boston has updated the name of one of its heritage buildings to Phillis Wheatley Peters Hall. The update honors the 18th-century poet's full identity, including her marriage to John Peters, and acknowledges her life beyond enslavement as a free Black woman, writer, and wife—the first American slave, the first person of African descent, and only the third colonial woman to have her work published. (page 5)
- I was pleased to join Congressman Stephen Lynch and UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Stephen Karam at a ribbon cutting inaugurating the Home Care Digital and Simulation Lab, a new immersive reality nursing lab to enhance training of future nurses. A first of its kind in Massachusetts, the new lab was made possible with \$3 million in federal funding secured by Congressman Lynch and will expand training opportunities in the Donna M. and Robert J. Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences. (page 3)
- In April, the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named UMass Boston as one of 49 universities nationwide as R1 research universities that also provide *high access*. This is an excellent and timely distinction for UMass Boston and is a tribute to our commitment to student success. (page 3)

I trust you will appreciate this report on our progress.

– Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco talks local climate actions in the context of global challenges with Governor Maura Healey, Governor Wilbur Ottichilo of Vihiga County, Kenya, and PASS Academician Gustavo Beliz, the former attorney general of Argentina.

ResilientMass Summit Sparks Call for Local, Global Collaboration on Climate Resilience

On March 27 UMass Boston convened the ResilientMass Summit, where a diverse coalition of more than 300 individuals—including state officials, representatives from dozens of municipalities, mayors, scientists both locally and internationally, Indigenous and community leaders, researchers, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs—gathered in-person, with another 100 virtually, to engage in scholarly and policy exchanges on the significant impacts of climate change on our communities and shared innovative strategies for building resilience.

The ResilientMass Summit highlighted the need for collective action, with Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu highlighting the whole-of-government approach, as well as scientists, leading policy experts from around the world, driving home the message: building climate resilience is a global challenge that demands local action.

The summit builds on the efforts launched at the Vatican climate summit, From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience, hosted in May 2024 by the late Pope Francis, to catalyze a global movement focused on protecting all citizens from the climate crisis.

“The ResilientMass Summit offered us an opportunity to expand the ways we think about climate resilience strategy and share best practices. And in doing so, we see how, through rigorous research, analysis, and planning, we

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Cover story (cont.)

can make them better practices,” said UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

The summit is a launching pad for 10 global, regional summits scheduled for 2025 and 2026, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco and Ram Ramanathan, professor emeritus at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, are leading the regional summits alongside dedicated task forces from the two academies, as well as local scientists and leaders from each of the 10 regions across Africa, Asia, Australia and the South Pacific, Europe, North America, and South America. Leading global foundations philanthropically fund all summits.

Improve Delivery of Administration and IT Services

UHS Launches Lifestyle Clinic

University Health Services announced the launch of its new Lifestyle Clinic, a groundbreaking initiative that integrates diverse health services—medical, dental, mental health, fitness, nutrition, and more—within a lifestyle medicine framework.

This holistic and student-centered approach delivers comprehensive, personalized health plans, addressing various aspects of well-being to foster long-term lifestyle improvements. The clinic is committed to breaking down barriers to care by improving access for students who face challenges such as cost, transportation, and lack of information, unifying services to simplify students' health care journey.

Under the expert clinical guidance of a board-certified lifestyle medicine nurse practitioner, the clinic ensures evidence-based, holistic practices through dedicated leadership and training. Streamlined referrals and collaboration, supported by shared scheduling, online booking, and regular case conferencing, enable seamless provider interactions. Partnerships with entities such as Athletics and Recreation and Children's Hospital extend the clinic's reach and impact, both on campus and beyond.

Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access

TheDream.US Scholarship Program Thrives at UMass Boston

In 2023, UMass Boston began partnering with TheDream.US to provide scholarship assistance to undocumented students with demonstrated academic excellence. In the 2024–2025 academic year, the university supported 20 Dream.US scholars. The Division of Enrollment Management expects to nearly double that number in 2025–2026. For fall 2025, there were 60 percent more UMass Boston undocumented students who applied for the scholarship, and 36 recipients were selected.

All this work supports the university's mission and goal to bring diverse people and ideas together to seek knowledge and improve lives.

Established in 2013, TheDream.US is the largest college access and success program in the United States for undocumented students. So far, over 11,000 scholarships have been awarded to students across the states, totaling more than \$214 million in awards.

These scholarships are for highly motivated undocumented students who may struggle to get a college education with no access to federal aid.



More than 120 guests—including 68 prospective students—attended the Graduate Student Open House.

April Graduate Open House a Success

The Division of Enrollment Management this spring hosted a Graduate Student Open House to provide more information about the value of the university's 100-plus graduate programs to prospective students and families. More than 120 guests—including 68 prospective students—attended the event, which was the first of its kind in many years.

The successful open house included a series of engagement opportunities, including a current student panel, a Q&A session, financial aid workshop, graduate admissions workshop, New Student and Family Programs table, an academic fair with 38 graduate programs represented, and a university resource fair that included Off-Campus Living, Veterans Affairs, Graduate Student Government, and other university resources. Students were also encouraged to tour campus and speak with representatives from their major to learn more about the curriculum and gain insight into their respective programs as well as the graduate student academic experience.

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace



Provost Joseph Berger, Chairman Stephen Karam, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Dean Bo Fernhall, and nursing students and staff cut the ribbon on a new lab.

Digital Home Care Simulation Lab Opens at UMass Boston

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Congressman Stephen Lynch—along with UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Stephen Karam, Provost Joseph Berger, Donna M. and Robert J. Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean Bo Fernhall, and students—cut the ribbon on May 12 on a new immersive reality nursing lab to enhance simulated training of future nurses.

A first of its kind in Massachusetts and the country, the new Home Care Digital and Simulation Lab was made possible with \$3 million in federal funding secured by Congressman Lynch. The new lab will expand training opportunities at the Center for Clinical Education and Research, housed within the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences, which has the largest Department of Nursing in New England.

“This is a very big deal for UMass Boston,” said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco. “As the only public research university in Boston with nationally recognized nursing programs—in fact, we have the third-largest nursing department in the country and produce the most NCLEX certified nurses in New England annually—UMass Boston embraces our responsibility to educate health care providers in ways that serve our increasingly diverse and aging population.”

The new Home Care Digital and Simulation Lab enables the Manning College to train the next generation of nurses in care technologies in settings outside of medical facilities that replicate where they may deliver care when they are working as nurses.

“This is a reflection of the changes in our health care system,” said Congressman Lynch. “We desperately need new nurses, and we have so many young men and women who would love to be become part of that profession. It’s actually the perfect storm for us in terms of having the talent here in the Greater Boston area and now having this facility as well to make that happen.”

The new lab is located on the second floor of the Quinn Administration Building and has two specially designed rooms that use video imaging on walls, floors, and ceilings to create immersive settings in which health care needs or emergencies could arise. Scenarios include inside train stations and airports or childhood playgrounds, among many others. Each immersive reality room is connected to an external observation room for viewers to monitor the trainings.

New Carnegie Classification Recognizes UMass Boston as a High-Access University

The American Council on Education (ACE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (Carnegie Foundation) recently published the latest in a series of updates to the Carnegie Classifications, which included naming UMass Boston as one of 49 universities nationwide—and one of seven in the Northeast—as an R1 research university that also provides high access.

The new high-access designation reaffirms the university’s commitment to providing the highest student access to an excellent education.

In February, Carnegie raised UMass Boston’s research classification to R1, very high research activity—very high spending and doctorate production. In fiscal year 2024, UMass Boston reported \$81.1 million in annual research funding, a growth of 31% over the past four years, and research expenditures grew to \$71.34 million, a growth of 33.7% over the past four years. Doctoral degrees conferred have reached record levels over the past four years, to 124 in 2024, nearly double the number a decade ago.

“I am pleased that the Carnegie Foundation once again recognizes excellence at UMass Boston,” said Provost Joseph Berger. “Our high-access mission is a point of pride, and this new classification is further validation of the essential role UMass Boston plays as a leading research institution that promotes inclusive excellence for the communities we serve.”

Position University in the Higher Education Marketplace (cont.)



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco with (from left) Christopher Osgood, Oliver Sellers-Garcia, and Brian Swett from the City of Boston

City Recognizes Chancellor Suárez-Orozco for Climate Leadership with Inaugural Award

UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco has been honored with a Resilient Boston Award by the City of Boston, recognizing his impactful leadership in advancing climate resilience and sustainability efforts both locally and globally.

Chancellor Suárez-Orozco is spearheading a global effort on climate resilience, linking local and international action through regional summits, including one in Boston, and shaping a worldwide framework for a more sustainable future.

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston's Environment Department hosted the inaugural Boston Climate Leader Awards at Millennium Partners' Winthrop Center, bringing together civic leaders, community partners, advocates, businesses, and innovators to recognize climate action across buildings, energy, climate resilience, and environmental protection.

Under Chancellor Suárez-Orozco's leadership, UMass Boston has prioritized climate equity and urban coastal resilience, positioning the university as a key partner in city and state-wide efforts focused on climate resilience planning. He has also played a pivotal role on the global stage. In May 2024, he co-authored the *Planetary Protocol for Climate Change Resilience*, a landmark compact signed by international leaders, including Pope Francis, at a Vatican climate summit.



Aryianna Garceau (center) holds up her trophy on the podium.

Aryianna Garceau Becomes UMass Boston's 21st NCAA National Champion in Track and Field History

Junior Aryianna Garceau has claimed the 2024–2025 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Women's 60m Hurdles National Championship, posting a historic time of 8.35 seconds at the Golisano Center in Rochester, New York.

Her championship-winning performance is an NCAA Division III Championship meet record and places her among the top two fastest hurdlers all time in NCAA DIII, capping off an unforgettable indoor season.

"This championship couldn't have gone to a more deserving and hardworking young woman, and as I told her, this is just the beginning," said Ozzie Brown, men's and women's head cross country, track and field coach.

Garceau finishes the season undefeated against DIII competition. She is a three-time All-Little East Conference honoree, the 2024–2025 LEC Track Runner of the Year, a seven-time school record breaker, the facility record holder at the Golisano Center, and now a national champion.

Continue a Positive Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate



(From left) Vice Chancellor Kathleen Kirleis, Provost Joseph Berger, State Rep. Russell Holmes, incoming USG President Cristian Orellana, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Jordan Cherry, current USG President Christelle Joseph, Vice Chancellor Karen Ferrer-Muñiz, and Vice Chancellor Calvin Hill

UMass Boston Honors Poet with Heritage Building Naming Update

In a ceremony held on what would have been her 272nd birthday, UMass Boston officially updated the name of one of its heritage buildings to Phillis Wheatley Peters Hall.

The update marks a moment of recognition and restoration for 18th century poet and intellectual Phillis Wheatley Peters—the first American slave, the first person of African descent, and only the third colonial American woman to have her work published.

“When I entered UMass Boston, I had no idea who Phillis Wheatley Peters was,” said incoming Undergraduate Student Government President Christian Orellana. “It was through me inquiring and searching online about Phillis Wheatley Peters’s life that I learned why she was so important to our community....I’m joyful that we can celebrate the legacy and words that are still being taught in this building that bears her full name now on our diverse campus almost 250 years later.”

Orellana, also a student member of the Restorative Justice Commission, spearheaded a proposal that called for updating the hall’s name from Phillis Wheatley Hall to Phillis Wheatley Peters Hall.

Updating the name to Phillis Wheatley Peters Hall honors the poet’s full identity, including her marriage to John Peters, and acknowledges her life beyond enslavement as a free Black woman, writer, and wife—restoring agency and historical accuracy to her legacy.



The community came together for the second annual UMass Boston powwow on May 4.

UMass Boston Hosts Second Annual Powwow

The UMass Boston Powwow was held on Sunday, May 4, in the Clark Athletic Center, with music, food, dancing, and a celebration of Native and Indigenous communities on campus and within the region.

The powwow is an important tradition at UMass Boston to express our support for our Native American and Indigenous communities and partners here on campus and within the region. Last year marked the return of the UMass Boston annual powwow after a hiatus since 2017.

A Native American gathering that features dancing, singing, and cultural sharing, a powwow is an event that celebrates Native American cultures, where communities can come together to honor traditions, socialize, share food, and connect. By welcoming members of the public to partake in the gathering, it is also an opportunity for everyone to learn more about local tribal communities and cultures.

Podcast Spotlights the People Who Create Solutions for Tomorrow

Harry Margolis, a fellow with the Gerontology Institute at UMass Boston, created a podcast to foster a crucial conversation that he believes more Americans need to have: an upcoming crisis that the country is not prepared to handle.

“We’re going to have an elder care crisis in about 10 years,” Margolis says, “when the oldest baby boomers will reach their late 80s. They’re going to need assistance, and we don’t have the infrastructure, or the people, needed to help. It’s going to be a real crisis unless we do something now.”

Margolis’s podcast, *Risking Old Age in America*, features guests who are doing something about this emerging crisis in care for older adults. The conversations reveal not just the immensity of the problem but the ingenuity of those who are working to devise solutions that may alleviate it.

Increase Endowment

New Verdon Gift Endows Permanent Faculty Support in the College of Liberal Arts

In a significant demonstration of her enduring commitment to UMass Boston, longtime supporter Anne Verdon '78 has made a \$500,000 gift to endow the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Faculty Development Fund. This transformational contribution ensures that critical faculty research and professional development activities will be sustained in perpetuity.

Since 2014, the fund has provided more than \$160,000 in support of faculty scholarship and travel across all disciplines in the college, from the performing arts to the social sciences. Verdon's new endowment will permanently secure this impact by generating approximately \$20,000 each year in award funding, with each award—typically \$5,000—helping to launch research projects, advance early career faculty, and support scholarly exploration that enriches both teaching and public understanding.

"The CLA Faculty Development Fund is transformational for our faculty as they conduct innovative research in the social sciences, humanities, and arts," said CLA Dean Pratima Prasad. "The funding is a cornerstone of their scholarship and professional development as faculty. And when they bring the fruits of their research to the classroom, it deeply enriches the education of our students as well."

New Sloan Foundation Gift Expands Graduate STEM Access and Experience

UMass Boston received a \$500,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, titled "Expanding Culture Change Across STEM Disciplines at the University of Massachusetts Public University System: Scaling the Partnership Between UMass Boston (MSI) and UMass Amherst (PWI)." This award expands the impact of a previously established Sloan Foundation grant at UMass Amherst to the UMass Boston community.

Under the leadership of Principal Investigator Daniel Haehn, an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department, the goal of the project is to create and sustain STEM environments that promote inclusive excellence. Additionally, the program will encourage students who may not have originally considered bringing their talents to advanced STEM work to pursue graduate education through increased mentorship opportunities with research labs across institutions. The initiative aims to create a comprehensive approach across seven STEM fields: engineering, computer science, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Ultimately, the project will advocate for cross-campus graduate school pathways with holistic admission practices and expanding this partnership to the UMass system level.

Athletics Celebrates Record-Breaking Beacons Day of Giving

UMass Boston Athletics' second annual Beacons Day of Giving, held in April, set new records across the board—marking a historic moment for the department in total dollars raised, total number of donors, and alumni participation.

This year's Day of Giving saw a remarkable 123 percent increase in total dollars raised compared to the previous year. For the second consecutive year, the event drew support from more than 1,000 donors, each one helping to shape the future of Beacon student-athletes. Alumni engagement surged as well, with nearly 450 alumni making contributions, representing a 114 percent increase in alumni participation over 2024.

Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation Grant Advances Community School Model

The Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation has awarded a two-year, \$960,000 grant to the UMass Boston College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) to support research, training, and partnership efforts to advance the university-assisted community school model in Boston and surrounding areas.

The grant to CEHD will enable faculty and staff to conduct innovative research and deliver professional development aligned with best practices in community schools. Activities supported by the grant include community school-focused coursework and microcredentialing, youth participatory action research, and mixed-method evaluations that explore student, school, and community-level outcomes.

The funding will also support CEHD in training educators, administrators, and community stakeholders through new curricula and online modules rooted in culturally sustaining pedagogy and inclusive practices. These efforts aim to build capacity within schools and districts themselves to implement the community school model with consistency and impact. Each year, CEHD will support a cohort of predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers to contribute to community school scholarship and expand the field.

Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise



Kurt Jancsy works in the lab.

Biology Major Wins Prestigious Goldwater Prize

Kurt Jancsy, a junior majoring in biology and cognitive science at UMass Boston, has been named a 2025 Goldwater Scholar. The Goldwater Scholarship Program is widely considered the most prestigious award in America for undergraduates in natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering. He is the sixth UMass Boston student in the past seven years to be named a Goldwater Scholar.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, which allocates the awards, was founded to identify, encourage, and financially support outstanding undergraduates. From a pool of 5,000 applicants, Jancsy was one of the 411 scholars selected this year.

Jancsy, 20, is planning to pursue a veterinary surgery residency and eventually a PhD in cancer biology. His goal is to become a clinician-scientist who advances cancer treatment across species through translational research and surgical innovation.

He works in Associate Professor of Biology Catherine McCusker's lab, studying nerve and limb regeneration using the Mexican axolotl as a model species. Jancsy also contributes to research on tumor treating fields in the Brain Stimulation and Simulation Lab, investigating how low-intensity electrical fields disrupt glioblastoma growth.

Biology Professor Awarded \$2.1 Million NCI Grant for Research on Prostate Cancer Therapy Resistance

Associate Professor of Biology Changmeng Cai has received a five-year, \$2.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to conduct research on how a protective protein, SETD7, can slow the progression of prostate cancer and help curb resistance to hormone therapy.

"In prostate cancer, changes in proteins that control how DNA is packaged and accessed can play a major role in how the disease develops and becomes resistant to treatment," said Cai. "We found that in a portion of advanced prostate cancer that no longer responds to hormone therapy, levels of SETD7 are much lower."

The funding will support laboratory research carried out by graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, said Cai. It will also fund the testing of new treatments in mouse models of prostate cancer and the analysis of tumor samples from prostate cancer patients.

Cai's collaborators include Professor Kourosh Zarringhalam of UMass Boston's mathematics department, Professor Hansen He of the University of Toronto, Dr. Jiaoti Huang of Duke University, and EpiAxis Therapeutics, an Australia-based biotechnology company.

University Research Awards for the Past Quarter

PI Changmeng Cai/Center for Personal Cancer Therapy (CPCT) received \$2,107,550 from the NIH - National Cancer Institute for *Targeting FOXA2/AP-1 Axis to Overcome Lineage Plasticity and Therapy Resistance in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer*.

PI Mary Kate Di Biase/Institute for Community Inclusion received \$2,053,163 from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development for *EvolveVR Minnesota Blind DIF*.

PI Christina St. Thomas/Department: Biology received \$361,454 from the NIH - National Institute of General Medical Science for *Deciphering Metabolic and Cellular Effectors of Nutritional Compensation in the Circadian clockMIRA*.

PI Caitlin Coyle/Gerontology Institute received \$169,829 from the Retirement Research Foundation for *Me Siento Solo: Exploring the Experience of Loneliness and Opportunities for Intervention Among Older Latinx Adults*.

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



(From left) Juan Hincapie, Aryan Rashid, Ryan Kelley, Kaiden Gliniewicz

UMass Boston Engineering Students Selected to Launch CubeSat for NASA-HASP Mission

A team of UMass Boston engineering students was selected to participate in the NASA High Altitude Student Platform (HASP) mission. This will be the first time UMass Boston has been selected to participate in the esteemed program.

The NASA-HASP project will allow the students to send a CubeSat payload into the stratosphere in July 2025. Their payload, the StratoSentinel, is a student-built experimental device launched into the atmosphere by a NASA balloon to collect data and test new technology in near-space conditions. The payload will analyze the effects of the extreme high-altitude conditions on low-cost, commercially available electronics.

The team consists of four UMass Boston engineering seniors: Juan Hincapie and Ryan Kelley in electrical engineering, and Kaiden Gliniewicz and Aryan Rashid in computer engineering, and their faculty advisor, Tomas Materdey. Their work is being conducted as part of the students' senior capstone project.

To support their work, the students will have access to UMass Boston's Engineering Department research facilities, where they will conduct critical validation tests before finalizing the StratoSentinel for launch. The 2025 launch will take place on a large balloon program in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, managed by the Louisiana Space Consortium, LSU, supported by the NASA Balloon Program Office.

Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service



Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco signs an MOU with Derry City and Strabane District Council Mayor Lilian Seenoi-Barr.

UMass Boston, Derry City/Strabane District Council Sign MOU on Academic, Research Collaboration

UMass Boston recently hosted officials from the Derry City and Strabane District Council to sign a memorandum of understanding strengthening their respective and mutual roles in education and research.

The purpose of the MOU is “to develop inter-academic and educational cooperation in terms of equality and reciprocity to help promote agreements between the two parties in an atmosphere of cordiality and respect.”

“Over time, this could take many forms—developing research and practice collaborations around climate resilience or the ethical uses of artificial intelligence; faculty and student exchanges; activities that promote economic vitality; and opportunities that highlight conflict resolution in our two nations, with special attention to restorative justice in policing,” said Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.

The agreement was signed by Chancellor Suárez-Orozco and Derry City and Strabane District Council Mayor Lilian Seenoi-Barr, who met previously when a UMass Boston delegation traveled to Ireland to strengthen educational ties.

Enhance the Learning Experience



Students are costumed as mermaids during a scene in *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

Performing Arts Stages *Peter and the Starcatcher* at University Hall Theatre

UMass Boston Performing Arts staged *Peter and the Starcatcher* this spring to sold-out crowds. The play, which opened April 9 for eight performances in the University Hall Theatre, is in simplest terms the Tony Award winning backstory of Peter Pan, “the boy who would not grow up.”

“It’s about figuring out what it means to be a leader, a hero, and a family,” says Alex Lonati, a Boston-based director who joined UMass Boston for the production. “But it’s also a jolly and silly romp. There are pirates, mermaids, flying cats, stolen trunks, sword fighting. It feels like the right time to play in this crazy world where anything is possible, and adventure is there for the taking.”

Based on the book by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson and adapted for stage by Rick Elice, *Peter and the Starcatcher* opened on Broadway in 2012. It was nominated for nine Tony Awards, winning five.

A total of 12 actors played nearly 100 characters in all in a University Hall Theatre that was once again transformed to create an otherworldly, multi-level, pirate jungle-gym dreamscape with seating on three sides.

Urban Planning Community Development Students Focus on Challenges Faced by Older Adults

Graduate students in the Urban Planning Community Development (UPCD) program have worked with an interdisciplinary capstone studio focusing on the challenges faced by older adults living in subsidized housing in coastal flood-prone areas of Massachusetts.

Students engaged directly with affected communities to better understand lived experiences, service access, and institutional support systems. Using a combination of surveys, interviews, and focus groups in selected pilot sites, students examined vulnerability to flooding, health care and social service gaps, and the readiness of other communities to support aging populations.

The studio guided students through data analysis, case study research, and fieldwork to support the development of two applied planning tools: the Social and Health Vulnerability Index (SHVI) and the Elder Ease of Managed Retreat Index (EEMRI). The course culminated in actionable insights for planners, aging service providers, and policymakers.

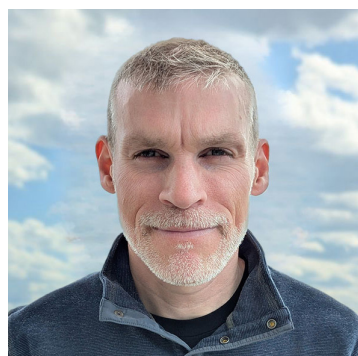
Renew the Faculty

Professor Joseph Cooper Explores Social Change Through Sport in His New Book

Professor Joseph Cooper, the inaugural Dr. J. Keith Motley Endowed Chair of Sport Leadership and Administration at UMass Boston, explores global sporting resistance in his third solo-authored book, *Black Sporting Resistance: Diaspora, Transnationalism, and Internationalism*. He looks at how Black sportspersons (including athletes, coaches, spectators, scholars, and organizers) around the world have used sport as a platform to advance racial and social justice causes across different cultures, countries, and eras.

Cooper's new book highlights the potential of sport to create global alliances in the pursuit of human rights, racial justice, social justice, political and civil rights, and economic justice. Whether through boxing, cricket, rugby, racing, tennis, fútbol (also known as soccer), basketball, the Black baseball leagues, capoeira, or rodeo, athletes from all corners of the globe have used sport to advance collective struggles for human rights. By shedding light on these stories, *Black Sporting Resistance* invites readers to reconsider the power of sport as a force for global change.

"I hope readers walk away from this book inspired, and encouraged," said Cooper. "I hope they are empowered to build international alliances with people who share similar human rights ambitions as they do."

Biology Professor Liam Revell Named AAAS Honorary Fellow

Liam Revell

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the foremost scientific institution in the United States and the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the *Science* family of journals, has elected a UMass Boston biology professor to the newest class of AAAS fellows. As an AAAS

Honorary Fellow, Professor Liam Revell joins a select group of scholars and innovators who have been recognized for their exceptional contributions to the advancement of science. This prestigious honor not only highlights Revell's distinguished career but also reflects the broader impact of his work on the scientific community as a whole.

According to the association's website, AAAS fellows are a "distinguished cadre of scientists, engineers and innovators who have been recognized for their achievements across disciplines, from research, teaching, and technology to administration in academia, industry and government, to excellence in communicating and interpreting science to the public."

Revell is recognized for his work in phylogenetic biology. His research focuses on developing methods and software to analyze phylogenetic data.