

# the massmedia

UMASS BOSTON'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

## UMass Boston COVID-19 test results being released weekly, instead of daily

By Grace Smith  
Editor in Chief

UMass Boston has been updating their COVID-19 numbers on the university website weekly, while other universities in the Boston area are updating their numbers daily. As of fall 2020, UMass Boston has a total of 16,259 students attending, including undergrad and graduate students (1). UMass Boston also has 39 different departments and colleges among the university that are fully staffed. The COVID-19 test results on campus have been updated twice since the fall semester started on Sept. 7, 2021.

Other college campuses in the Boston area have been updating their numbers daily, such as Harvard (2), Northeastern (3), Boston University (4), and Simmons (5). Not every college is updating their test results daily, however. Boston College (6) and MassArt (7) update their COVID-19 test results weekly. Since June 3, 2021, Suffolk University (8) has not released or updated their COVID-19 test results on their website, and it does not appear as though they are going to do so.

In comparison to the other University of Massachusetts campuses, UMass Lowell (9) reports their numbers weekly, as does UMass Amherst (10). Interestingly enough, UMass Dartmouth (11) has not updated their COVID-19 test results since May 5, 2021. According to Mass.gov, all higher education institutes in Boston will release weekly data regarding their COVID-19 test results and numbers onto their website (12).

Robert Pomales, the director of University Health Services, did not respond for a comment on the status of updating campus' COVID-19 test results when the Mass Media reached out.

Having daily vaccination numbers reported is important



A group of students pass through the Campus Center-McCormack-Wheatley junction. Photo by Dom Ferreira / Photography Editor.

for large communities, such as universities. It allows them to see patterns as they are happening and make decisions proactively for the safety of our community. Because UMass Boston is one of the only public institutions in the Boston area, we may lack the resources that are available to other private schools. Regardless of the fact, each of these campuses hold a large number of students who are

congregating in one place every day. It is not beneficial to release COVID-19 test results weekly to some groups of people and daily for others. In order to get ahead of COVID-19 and the spread throughout our community, it is imperative to have all available data presented to us at all times, regardless if an institution is privately funded or not.

**SPORTS** In the aftermath of 9/11, sports provided healing to the nation

pg. 5

**ARTS** Taking advantage of your student discount

pg. 9

**OPINIONS** International Relations for beginners

pg. 11

## Letter from the Editor: Anonymity gets us nowhere

By Grace Smith  
Editor in Chief

As the Editor-in-Chief of the independent student newspaper of UMass Boston, I feel eternally grateful for my position and the opportunities it gives me. I've met countless people, had experiences I could have only dreamed, and I've been put into many unfamiliar situations where I had to behave or respond differently than what may have come natural to me. With my gratitude for the job comes gratitude for our readers and our staff. Knowing that people pick up the paper that we work on tirelessly each week is what pushes me to do better and be better for the paper. I want it to be at its absolute best while I am the Editor-in-Chief. There is nothing I want more than to see the Mass Media thrive in the way it deserves to, but as many newspapers these days, it struggles to keep up with the times in an all-digital world. It's extremely difficult to thrive as a newspaper when Twitter is at everyone's fingertips.

Earlier this week, I came into my office at the Mass Media, and I found a copy of a last week's edition of the paper that had been edited and critiqued throughout with a red pen. Initially, I thought it was from our faculty advisor, which I found odd because the notes were ones I had already

gone over with my staff. Still, I figured it was part of the job, so I was open to hearing his critiques in order to improve. However, when I asked my advisor about his notes he left on my desk, he had no idea what I was talking about. He mentioned maybe it was notes from my Managing Editor, which also wouldn't make sense given the comments. The copy of the paper with red ink throughout was left on my desk anonymously by someone who wants to see the paper head in a different direction.

That's when I decided to write this letter and express my gratitude to the community I have found in UMass Boston and in the Mass Media, as well as our readers. Any time there is someone new who could possibly be interested in a position or have some sort of involvement with the paper, I jump on the opportunity to speak with them. While typically people express their interest with a verbal conversation or an email, this reader wanted to take another route. I feel compelled to invite them back into my office (with myself sitting at the desk this time) and have a conversation with them. Whatever changes you think need to take place in the Mass Media would be insightful for us to hear, and we are always happy to

have someone else with an interest in journalism in our office.

The red ink and handwriting make me believe that the anonymous author was a professor. If that's the case, better yet, we are looking to take on more faculty involvement.

I want this paper to succeed more than anyone. My decision in coming to UMass Boston was based upon their newspaper involvement, and my ultimate goal from day one has been to be in the position I am currently in. I cannot improve the paper based on anonymous comments left on my desk. Conversations must be had in order for change to be made.

*"Being a critic is easy. But if the critic tries to run the operation, he soon understands that nothing is as easy as his criticisms. Criticism without a solution is merely an inflation of the critic's ego."*

- Haemin Sunim

Continued on page 3

## Interview with new Assistant Dean of Students

Abigail Basile  
News Editor

This year, UMass Boston hired a new Assistant Dean of Students, Chiquita Baylor. The Mass Media conducted an interview with Baylor regarding her new position.

**Question: How would you describe your role as Assistant Dean of Students?**

Chiquita Baylor: So, I think I would describe my role almost kind of more [like] who I am as a professional, because I think that this role definitely suits me and where I am in my career, but also who I am as a professional, meaning that I see myself as an advocate for students first and foremost—when you're Assistant Dean of students, you are for the students. So, I see myself as a student-centered professional, and all the things that I do as a professional are for the benefit of the student population. I would also see my role as [that of] a supervisor, so supervising the New Student and Family Orientation Program, as well as the Student Activities and Leadership Office. That was one of the big things that really attracted me to this position; [it] was to be able to elevate myself as a professional, but also still continue to work in two areas that I felt to be a passion of mine throughout my career.

**Q: What are some of the projects or tasks that you are most excited to accomplish as Assistant Dean of Students at UMass Boston?**

CB: So, that's really hard to say right now, because I'm still learning everything. So, any project or anything is giving me a new understanding of the student culture at UMass Boston—it is giving me

those keywords, I was like, 'yes, this makes sense for me.' This makes sense for the next step in my career, but it also will still allow me to work in areas that I have been passionate about working in. I started in orientation when I was an undergrad—I was an orientation leader myself—and so that has been a part of my career since day one. I think it's what got me into this field, and to be able to continue to work in it throughout my career, [to] see how orientation has developed since I was an orientation leader, to [see] now the new things of bringing in technology and social media into orientation, it has completely changed the scope, as well as working with families, and adding that into the mix of New Student Orientation. So I think it continues in that line of passion for me to be able to be at UMass Boston and doing New Student and Family Orientation, as well as working in Student Activities.

**Q: What are some improvements you believe can be made at UMass Boston?**

CB: I don't know. Again, that's really a hard question to answer right now, because I'm so new. I mean, you're talking to me [and] I'm just a month old, and I'm still in the 90 days of learning what the system is, what the two offices provide, and what actually a Dean of Students really [does] at UMass Boston.

So, I'm still in that learning part that I'm not sure what improvements I can make. But, just looking at it, [ . . . ] I'm here to listen to the students, and so if there are specific things that the students feel need to be changed, I encourage them to come in, sit down, and talk with me, and we can come up with a solution of how to change them or to talk through processes of why some things may be in place. So, I would encourage students to come in, sit down, and have conversations with me. So you can inform me of what are some of the major improvements that you would like to see within Student Affairs and UMass Boston, and we can talk about how my position can help advocate for some of those changes and improvements.

**Q: What is one thing you'd like the students at UMass Boston to know about you?**

CB: So one big thing is I feel like my motto is: 'I work hard, I laugh harder.' And so, if ever

and within my month or so of being at UMass Boston, I've learned so much about unions and the students that make up UMass Boston, and so I feel like—I shouldn't say a nerd, but I really am one—a nerd to say that I am so super excited about the learning that I'm gonna be doing within the next year or so.

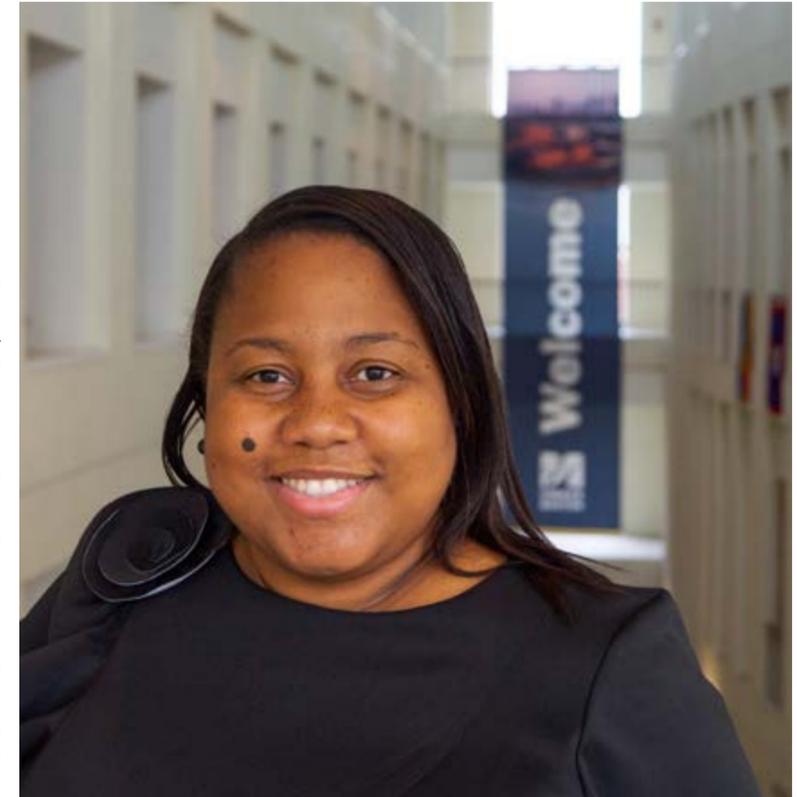
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The new assistant dean of students, Chiquita Baylor, stands proudly in the Campus Center. Photo by Mel Berilo / Mass Media Staff.

students see me around campus, come laugh with me, joke with me, have fun with me, because I'm an easy-going person. I'm a big student advocate, as I said before, so please come in, talk with me, let's talk about the challenges that you are experiencing at UMass Boston. I have an open door policy, so come right on in, even if you just need someone to talk to on that day. We can talk about Drake versus Kanye if that's what you're in the mood to talk about, or we can just have a conversation about life. I am so interested in learning more about people and the students of UMass Boston, so come in, have conversations with me, introduce yourself to me, so that I know who you are and we can start building

that if there is a student who is thinking about potentially leaving higher education, that they come in and they talk to someone. I am a first generation college student myself, and someone had to support me through the process of getting to graduation. And now when I look back at it, in the process of pursuing my doctorate degree, I realize that it is a ladder-let-down, and it is my pay-it-forward for those who helped me get through my four years at George Mason. And so, I would definitely encourage students to reach out to people and let them know—even if it's me—to let someone know that they need assistance.

My grandfather told me right before I left to drive out of the gate:

**“My grandfather told me right before I left to drive out of the gate: ‘closed mouths don’t get fed.’ It took me a long time to realize what that meant, but I get it now.”**

‘closed mouths don’t get fed.’ It took me a long time to realize what that meant, but I get it now. You have to speak up for yourself, you have to be an advocate for yourself, you have to let people know that you need help. So I would encourage any student who knows that they need help to come into the office—I am located in the Student Activities and Leadership Suite—and let me know, or anybody who is a part of that suite upstairs, [ . . . ] that they need assistance. That is what that office is there for, that is what I'm here for, and I would encourage students and welcome students to come in and talk with me about those things.

**Q: Is there anything that I missed that you wanted to add?**

CB: I would add that I am very passionate about access to higher education for all students, specifically underrepresented and marginalized populations of students. That is a strong area of passion of mine and however I can assist students in accessing higher education—if that means talking on panels or if you need a person to come with you to meetings to help advocate for you—I am there to do that for you. So I would encourage

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## Boston University professor dies after falling through stairs at MBTA stop

Genevieve Santilli  
News Writer

A Boston University professor died on Saturday, Sept. 11, after falling through a gap in rusted-out stairs at the JFK/UMass train station.

David Jones, 40, lived in Milton and was an associate professor at Boston University's Department of Health Law, Policy and Management.

A colleague of Jones, Michael Ulrich stated that many people described Jones as inspiring.

"I don't think there's any person who had a bad word to say about him, or even had a negative experience with him," Ulrich stated in an article written by Boston.com.

The Dean of the School of Public Health at BU, Sandro Galea, said in a statement quoted by an article written by Boston.com, "He cared for the students, and the students really loved him. He was a wonderful colleague to many in our community."

Jones leaves behind his wife and three children. His wife, Sarah Sacuto, wrote in a social media post, "He was the most loving, kind, considerate person I knew. He was the best father. He loved to dance to Phish, be outdoors, and run. He loved unconditionally and was the proudest father to his kids. I loved him."

A GoFundMe campaign for Jones' wife and children was set up, and as of Monday, Sept. 13, it has

raised over \$71,000, with a goal of raising \$100,000.

Jones' body was found on Saturday, Sept. 11, early in the afternoon by a passerby. He was found underneath the stairs connecting Old Colony Road and the Columbia Road Overpass.

The stairs have been closed for around 20 months. Wire fencing covers the top of the stairs near Columbia Road and the bottom of the stairs near Old Colony Road, and there is a large gap between steps in the rusted out stairs.

State police are investigating Jones' death. As of Wednesday, Sept. 15, there have been no updates into the investigation of Jones' death.

Suffolk District Attorney Rachel Rollins said in a statement,

"We continue to look at how Dr. Jones accessed a stairway that had been closed for some 20 months. Whether accidental or intentional, any death is a tragedy and the harm to loved ones is the same. While the investigation is ongoing, we are available to offer his family support and connect them to community resources through our victim witness assistance program."

Jones' family said in a statement to the Boston University School of Public Health, "Our lives were changed forever last weekend [weekend of Sept. 11] with the sudden, tragic and preventable passing of our beloved father, husband, son, brother David Kline Jones. He cherished each and every one of his students and colleagues. He loved to have deep

conversations where he would listen intently to try to understand the perspective of others and share his ideas."

Dean Sandro Galea wrote in his statement to the Boston University campus community, "He was founding Editor-in-Chief of the Public Health Post, he was awarded AUPHA's John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators, AcademyHealth's Outstanding Dissertation Award, and the BU School of Public Health Excellence in Teaching Award. He cared deeply about bridging research and policy, and conducted work in places as far as France and the Mississippi Delta."

Galea stated, "He really left behind a wonderful legacy."



Main corridor leading into the JFK/UMass MBTA station. Photo by Dom Ferreira / Photography Editor.

## The results of Boston's preliminary mayoral election

Genevieve Santilli  
News Writer

The city of Boston is gearing up to elect a new mayor, and with the election just around the corner on Nov. 2, a preliminary election was held to see which two candidates would be moving on to become the two choices on the ballot in November.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 15, Michelle Wu took victory in the preliminary election with 33.4 percent of the votes, and Anissa Essaibi George took second with 22.5 percent of the votes, making these two the candidates for the final mayoral ballot.

Candidates for the mayoral race included: Michelle Wu, Anissa Essaibi George, Andrea Campbell, Kim Janey, John Barros, Robert Cappucci, Jon Santiago, and Richard Spagnuolo.

Results of the preliminary election slowly came in early morning Wednesday, Sept. 15, with the Associated Press declaring Michelle Wu the winner at around 3 a.m.

Michelle Wu has been the front runner of the mayoral race polls for the past few weeks. A poll from the Boston Globe and Suffolk University from early September showed Wu leading at 31 percent, followed by acting mayor Kim Janey at 20 percent,

and followed by City Councilor Anissa Essaibi George closely behind at 19 percent.

Acting mayor Kim Janey conceded the race around midnight on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Janey later wrote in a statement, "While we are still waiting on some results, it appears that we have come up short in the election. I want to congratulate Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi George on their victories this evening. This was a spirited and historic race, and I wish them both luck in the final election."

Michelle Wu was elected to the Boston City Council back in 2013, becoming the first woman of color to serve as City Council president. She is originally from Chicago, but moved to Boston to attend Harvard University. Wu has also worked under the late Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

Anissa Essaibi George has been an at-large city councilor since 2015. She is a former school teacher and owns the Stitch House in Dorchester. Essaibi George is the daughter of immigrants from Tunisia and Poland.

Wu and Essaibi George held events on Wednesday to thank their supporters.

Wu spoke at Forest Hills Station, while Essaibi George spoke at Mike's Diner in the South End.

The preliminary election shows a shift in Boston, which for the past 200 years has "elected an unbroken string of white men to be mayor," according to NBC.

Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi George are both women of color and the other candidates, Kim Janey, John Barros, and Andrea Campbell are people of color.

"It's been an honor to be part of this historic field. And for the last year, we have seen an incredible conversation all across every neighborhood across every

community, so I'm humbled to be part of this moment in Boston," stated Wu on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

"It's certainly pretty exciting, I don't know if it's sunk in yet. To have this success indicates that things have changed, but there's also a lot of work to do," stated Essaibi George.

Both Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi George have seven more weeks of campaigning before the final mayoral election on Nov. 2.



Boston City Hall on the day of the preliminary municipal election, Sept. 14, 2021. Photo by Josh Kotler / Mass Media Contributor.

# beacon update

Soccer Edition!

Jonathan Hopkins  
Sports Editor

Catch up with our men and women in uniform

Now that we are officially wrapping up our second week of the semester, we can now begin to get a better idea on the kind of seasons we can expect from our UMass Boston fall sports teams. This week we are going to check in on both the men and women's soccer teams.

## Men's Soccer

In 2019, the UMass Boston men's soccer team had a great regular season, but their postseason hopes were squandered in the Little East Conference quarterfinals when Western Connecticut State University defeated UMass Boston in a penalty shootout.

So far this season, UMass Boston has gotten out to a solid start, going 3-1 with their only loss coming by a slim one goal margin to SUNY Oneonta. UMass Boston's first LEC matchup will come on Sept. 18 when they play Eastern Connecticut State University. Historically, UMass Boston has had their struggles beating ECSU as they haven't defeated Eastern since 2016.

Although they are off to a good start, it would be tough to call the UMass Boston men's soccer team the favorites to win the conference until they show they can beat the teams that have dominated in the past few seasons, like ECSU and Keene State. If UMass Boston can pull out a win this weekend against ECSU, then it would be a safe bet to say that the Beacons could be considered to be a favorite to win the LEC.

## Women's Soccer

In 2019, the UMass Boston women's soccer team was a force to be reckoned with as they won the Little East Conference championship by a score of 4-0. However, that was two years ago. This year, the Beacons have come out with a very strong start, having not lost a single game through four games. The only team they haven't beaten thus far was Endicott College due to the fact that the game ended in a 1-1 draw after double overtime.

The Beacons first LEC matchup will come Saturday, Sept. 18 when they face off against the 2-1 Eastern Connecticut State University. I expect this to be a matchup that favors UMass Boston as ECSU hasn't defeated the Beacons since October of 2018. ECSU also played an abbreviated season in 2020 where they finished with a sub .500 record.

It will be a lot easier to gauge the season once UMass Boston plays their first conference game. I would be willing to say that the UMass Boston women's soccer team should be the early favorite to win the LEC. However, they need to show that they can still dominate in their division. That all starts this weekend when they truly begin to defend their conference title against ECSU.

Going into the season, one could argue that UMass Boston could be at a slight disadvantage considering they haven't played competitively since 2019, when a lot of their competition played an abbreviated season a year ago. Well, if there was any sort of disadvantage, the Beacons have battled through tremendously because both of these teams have come out of the gate playing well. However, it obviously has been quite a long time since these two teams have had a full season, so it will be very interesting to see how the rest of their seasons play out.

## Three biggest question marks for the Celtics this season

Josemanuel Cruz  
Sports Writer

Last season, it was no secret that the Celtics under-performed. They were the seventh seed and lost in the first round to the Brooklyn Nets. Throughout the season, they suffered many setbacks. Kemba couldn't play back-to-back games due to his injury, Brown missed the whole playoffs with an ankle injury, and they had the most time missed by players in health and safety protocols, including Jayson Tatum. Injuries are unpredictable but hopefully this year we will be luckier.

Even without injuries there are plenty of questions that the Celtics must answer if they want to have a successful season:

**What does success look like for this team?**

Success does not necessarily mean always winning the championship. Let's look at the Knicks for example. Last season

was a successful one for them because they did much better than many people expected. For the Knicks to be comfortable in the playoffs after nearly a decade as a bottom feeder team was a success. They were able to develop Julius Randle into an All-NBA player, they were able to see lots of potential in Immanuel Quickley, and in the off-season they acquired players who could help them win even more games.

The Celtics have to evaluate what it means to be successful this season. Do they want to win a championship right now, or do they want to continue to develop young players? This off-season did not make their decision clear. They traded Kemba, who despite having a history of injury, could still have helped them win games, and they let go of Moses Brown who had a lot of potential. They also signed a mix of younger players, who might still have some potential, and older players

who can help them win now.

Personally, I would love to see a big jump from Payton Pritchard and Robert Williams. I hope that Pritchard can improve his playmaking and develop his skill as a starting caliber point guard. I would also like Robert Williams to continue the skill he showed in his breakout season last year, and to continue to improve his defensive intensity. Aaron Nesmith is another player I want to see advance his skill. Hopefully, if given the chance, he will have to ability to become a reliable three and D player.

**Can Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown be the two best players?**

For the last couple seasons, the Celtics have surrounded Tatum and Brown with other All-Star caliber players. Since they've been together, they have always had either Kyrie, Kemba or Hayward on the team. This will be the first season that Tatum

and Brown will be the clear, and uncontested, first and second options. Obviously, last year you could argue Tatum and Brown were already the first and second picks, but trading Kemba Walker really solidifies this fact.

Last year, Brown proved that he deserved his max-contract by becoming an All-Star for the first time in his career. However, is this enough? The All-Star duo last year played really well yet the team did not perform well. Again, it wasn't completely their fault, there were a lot of injuries the point still stands, can they be your two best players on a championship team.

**How good of a coach is Ime Udoka?**

One of the biggest changes from this off-season was our coaching change. This summer, Celtics Coach Brad Stevens was promoted to Celtics General Manager after Danny Ainge retired. After weeks of looking

at potential coaching hires, it was decided that Ime Udoka would be the future coach for all upcoming seasons.

Udoka has never been a head coach, but he has been on the staff for many great teams over the years, like the Spurs, 76ers and the Nets. Most notably, he was a member of the coaching staff of the 2019 FIBA World Cup team, where he coached three current Celtics players. One of the biggest criticisms of Brad Stevens' coaching style was that he was unable to motivate his players. However, Udoka—who was endorsed by players Tatum, Brown and Smart—already has a great reputation with the players on the team, which will hopefully translate to motivation in the locker room. Will this be enough, though? We will have to wait and see.



# Welcome Week returns to campus

Jack Sherman  
Sports Writer

Following a year of holding online events, UMass Boston's Student Arts and Events Council is now holding its Welcome Week events in-person and on campus. The carnival-themed events began on Tuesday, Sept. 7, and will end on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Though Welcome Week has nearly reached its conclusion, SAEC Student Coordinators Allison Gaudreau and Hayley Bartlett emphasized that some major events are still scheduled for the week of Sept. 20.

Gaudreau spoke to the "Monday Munchies" event, which will occur at 1 p.m. at a location which will be announced on the SAEC Instagram account (@umbsacc).

"We have food trucks coming on the Beacon Walk and any student can get food," explained Gaudreau. "Monday Munchies" also occurred on Monday, Sept. 13.

Following "Monday Munchies," the Student Activities Involvement Fair will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21 in the Campus Center Terrace from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bartlett highlighted the Chancellor's Barbecue—which will close out Welcome Week on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at noon—as one of Welcome Week's largest events. The event will feature food, novelties and music, and will take place on the Campus Center Front Lawn.

"It's a chance for the Chancellor to give another welcome," said Bartlett.

Both Bartlett and Gaudreau expressed excitement at being able to hold an in-person Welcome Week for the Fall 2021 semester.

"Last year we had to do it

all online, which was really sad because everybody gets so excited for all of our events, including us who work so hard on them," said Gaudreau. "Last year [ . . . ] we still got a lot of participants and we still tried really hard, but it's so much better to see people actually enjoying your events."

"I'm a senior this year, so my freshman year we were able to do stuff in person, and it made a big difference to be able to see students making connections and having a space to make friends and to invite new friends places to actually go, instead of having to be online," said Bartlett. "So, as much as we were happy to do what we could to adapt last year and keep everybody safe and healthy, we've been really excited to bring that aspect of in-person meeting back."

Bartlett and Gaudreau also commented on the events that occurred during the first two weeks of Welcome Week.

"Our big events right now are the Connections Carnivals which have been going really well," said Gaudreau. "[They occurred] during the middle of the school day outside on the front lawn, where we have lots of games, and we have food, and everybody comes out and gets some free novelties. Everybody seems to be loving that."

SAEC also held one of UMass Boston's traditional Welcome Week events, "Lawn on B," on Friday, Sept. 17.

"If anybody's been to the swings at Lawn on D it's pretty similar to that," explained Bartlett. "We bring a lot of different glow-in-the-dark activities; in the past we've had swings, seesaws, glow-in-the-dark games [ . . . ] It's like a fun little activity after getting through your second week of school."

SAEC also held two movie



UMass Boston student at the Lawn on B celebration. Photo by Dom Ferreira / Photography Editor.

nights, one in which they showed "Shrek" and the other in which they showed "In the Heights".

When asked if the ongoing campus construction had affected Welcome Week, Gaudreau stated that it has had little effect. Although SAEC can no longer

hold events in the plaza, they have adapted by holding events on the front lawn and in Campus Center.

Bartlett and Gaudreau urged students to follow SAEC on Instagram (@umbsacc) in order to see which SAEC events are

coming up.

In order to join SAEC, visit [UMBInvolved](mailto:UMBInvolved), or email student. [activities@umb.edu](mailto:activities@umb.edu).



Two students enjoy a game of Madden on the Playstation. Photo by Maya Martinez / Mass Media Staff.



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Photos by Maya Martinez / Mass Media Staff.

## In the aftermath of unspeakable horror on 9/11, sports provided healing to a battered nation

Jack Sherman  
Sports Writer

For New York Giants defensive end Michael Strahan, Sept. 11, 2001 started just like any other. But then, he got a phone call from a friend who told him to wake up, look outside the window of his house in the sleepy New Jersey bedroom community of Hackensack, and to turn on the news. When he looked outside, Strahan couldn't believe his eyes. Smoke was billowing from the World Trade Center in Lower

Manhattan. A plane had struck the North Tower. Seventeen minutes later, another plane struck the South Tower. Strahan would go on to say that "[L]ife was never the same. It was overwhelming. It was just an unreal time. And it seems like even being here in New York, and when it was happening and we're watching it in real time, it was scary, but yet it felt surreal. It felt like you were in an alternate universe. And of course you think in this country nothing like that could happen to us." A view that was shared by, and shattered for,

countless other Americans on that awful September day.

20 years after the events of Sept. 11 that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 American citizens, there continues to be an enormous impact on the American psyche. Sports proved to be no exception. In the aftermath of the attacks, Strahan and New York Jets center Kevin Mawae both told then-NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue that they would not play the following week's games. This led to the NFL canceling an entire week's worth of games, something they had never done before—not even when President Kennedy or the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated in the 1960s. Major League Baseball also put its season on hold, canceling almost two weeks of games. When baseball returned to cheers and tears on Sept. 23, it was an emotional affair. The Yankees, playing a road series in Chicago, were given a standing ovation by what would have been a normally hostile crowd. The Mets were the first professional team in New York to play after the attacks, and what a memorable game it was. The home nine wore "FDNY" on their hats, in tribute to the brave firefighters who gave their lives trying to rescue civilians out of the burning towers. Trailing 2-1 in the eighth inning, Mets catcher Mike Piazza came to the plate with a runner on first. He then hit a two-run home run, giving his team the lead, and sending the capacity crowd into a frenzy—making it seem, for a brief moment, like everything was going to be alright.



President George W. Bush throws out the ceremonial first pitch Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2001, at Yankee Stadium before Game Three of the World Series between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the New York Yankees. Photo by Eric Draper, Courtesy of the George W. Bush Presidential Library.

The Yankees would end up making it to the World Series in 2001, giving New York a feel-good story to latch onto. In game three, the tattered American flag found in the wreckage of Ground Zero was unveiled on the field. A banner in the crowd aptly read "USA FEARS NO ONE - PLAY BALL". President George W. Bush was at the game to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Before the game, Yankees star shortstop Derek Jeter told Bush that he better throw from the rubber; otherwise, the notoriously tough

New York fans would let him hear it. Throw from the rubber he did. Less than two months after the attacks, wearing a bulletproof vest, not even nine miles away from Ground Zero, Bush threw a pitch that consistently ranks as one of the greatest ever. He threw right down the middle, to a standing ovation from the crowd. For just a moment, it seemed as if, through so much heartache, grief, and agony that followed the attacks, America could band together and show unity in the face of an unspeakable tragedy.

## Patriots drop heartbreaker in week one

Jonathan Hopkins  
Sports Editor

The Patriots week one loss to the Miami Dolphins may have been the most un-Patriot loss we have seen. Typically, when you think about the Patriots, you think well disciplined, great ball security and will make the most out of the opportunities they were given. Safe to say that the Pats did the complete opposite in week one.

First and foremost, the Patriots cannot, and will not, win if they are fumbling the ball a total of four times over the course of the game, let alone just once. Many people talk about how great Mac Jones looked in his first game, but don't want to talk about how he blatantly threw the ball at the ground behind him on his first pass attempt, which took the Patriots out of field goal range. In a one-point game, it is mistakes like this that really hurt the team.

Then there are the two fumbles that the Patriots actually lost. The first one came on rookie Rhomondre Stevenson's first career reception, which ultimately led to him being put in Bill Belichick's doghouse, and

was not seen on the field for the rest of the game. Then, the most cost-worthy fumble came in the Patriots final drive when the Pats were primed to take the lead until Damien Harris fumbled the ball inside the red zone. These are the mistakes that typically are not made by a Belichick-coached team and will most certainly be emphasized at practice leading up to the week two matchup against the New York Jets.

Ultimately took a touchdown off the board for the Pats. It's penalties like this—and silly, unnecessary 15-yard penalties—that negate good punt returns and really killed the Patriots' flow on Sunday. Eight penalties for a total of 84 yards will undoubtedly be a point of emphasis for the coaching staff going into week two.

game, Jones went 29-39 on pass attempts with 281 yards. He didn't have too many chunk plays, but he looked like he had control of the game at the quarterback position. Probably the most promising stat was that the Patriots were 11-16, and Jones looked comfortable throwing in third downs as well.

Another positive the Patriots

receptions for 72 yards and a touchdown. The tight ends also made an impact, combining for eight receptions and 73 yards. As the season goes on, I expect both tight ends, Jonnu Smith and Hunter Henry, to make a bigger impact, especially in red zone situations.

Week two provides a tremendous opportunity for the Patriots to bounce back in a big way against a clearly

inferior team who have a rookie quarterback and head coach. These

are the kinds of games the Belichick usually thrives in and exposes the opposition's weaknesses. However, if for some reason the Patriots lay another egg and drop down to 0-2, I would be willing to dub the season all but over, so let's hope the Pats fix those mental miscues they had from week one.

Illustration of New England Patriots Logo. Graphic by Delaney Hooper / Mass Media Contributor.

Although fumbles are arguably the biggest reason the Patriots lost the game, the excess in penalties cannot go unnoticed as these penalties could have absolutely cost the Patriots points.

The most noticeable penalty came in the second quarter when left tackle Isaiah Wynn was called for a holding penalty, which

Now we can talk about the positives that they need to carry into week two.

Aside from his first pass attempt, Mac Jones looked poised to make an impact, and with the small sample size that we have, it looks like he has what it takes to at least carry a team of this caliber to the playoffs. In his first

can take out of week one was the fact that there was a noticeable skill gap between last year's and this year's receiving corps. After having a quiet preseason, Nelson Agholor popped in week one with five

## Taking advantage of your student discount

Mikayla MacKay  
Arts & Lifestyle Editor

From community colleges to public and private universities, Boston is the college capital of the United States. Not only do students from across the country find themselves making this historic town their home, but even international students move here to get the Boston college experience.

Arguably, Boston is one of the best areas to study in, as it perfectly balances the professionalism needed for students and numerous opportunities during and after school, while also providing students a fun, social environment to make new friends and go on adventures in.

The city of Boston recognizes the quantity and overall quality of its student life. Students really are a critical part of this town. Therefore, there are multiple locations and services that provide student discounts. I highly recommend taking advantage of your student discount throughout your studies!

I wrote this article highlighting some of my favorite places and/or services that provide a student discount with some other important information needed.

Firstly, the arts scene in Boston is huge. The arts community thrives here and in my experience, it is a pleasure to be able to see. For example, the famous Museum of Fine Arts provides the majority of Boston colleges with discounted or free entry. You, and maybe a friend or

two, will be able to stroll through the beautiful exhibits the museum has worked so hard on curating. Depending on the time of year, the MFA sometimes includes special limited exhibitions for their guests to enjoy. One of my favorites was their exhibition on fashion, specifically highlighting unique eras and trends such as the Peacock Revolution, the female suit, etc. If you're unsure of what may be new, feel free to check out the MFA's website or their socials for more info.

Another great museum that provides us with a student discount is the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Their alternative art is captivating and overall more intimate. Fun fact about this particular museum, it actually was victim to one of the largest art heists in history that, to this day, still remains unsolved. You may have heard of the case! So all love and positivity is appreciated at Isabella Stewart. They work so hard on their exhibits and encourage students to enjoy their discount.

However, if the arts are not really your thing, maybe sports are! Boston lives and breathes sports. The sports community here is one of the largest and most loyal in the country. A lot of the time throughout the semester, The Office of Student Activities sells discounted sports' game tickets. They are usually around \$8-\$15! If student activities are sold out or not selling these tickets, you could also check out sports sites to sign up for any student programs they have. For example, the Red Sox have a program called Student9s. They sell discounted tickets for

students on select home games. Just make sure to bring your student ID with you along with your tickets.

Lastly, with UMass Boston being mostly a commuter school, transportation is dire for UMass Boston students. Based on availability, our transportation department sells MBTA passes

for students. If you got your pass, I hope you're making good use of it! Amtrak also offers a 15 percent off discount to students aged 17 to 24. You can look into their website for more information on this program.

To wrap up this article, I cannot stress enough: use your student discount! Time does

fly and you might get lost in your academics, but at least try to find some time for yourself. Go out and do something fun. Take advantage of your student discount and see the city.

Going out and experiencing Boston made it more of a home for me, I hope it does the same for you!



Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, as seen from Huntington Ave. Photo by Josh Kotler / Mass Media Contributor.

## “The Platform” review

Mikayla MacKay  
Arts & Lifestyle Editor

“The Platform” is a sci-fi thriller directed by Spaniard David Desola. It was originally released back in 2019. However, it wasn't until the last couple of months that its popularity skyrocketed here in the US. Thanks to social medias like TikTok and Instagram, “The Platform” became a must-watch during the pandemic.

However, more credit needs to be given where it is due. This movie is a fairly great commentary on capitalism, the classes, and the overall greed of society.

Desola paints the hell of capitalism with an allegory of a vertical prison called the Pit. In the Pit, there are two inmates on each floor. In the middle of their cell is a gap where a board of food—their only source of food—descends every 24 hours.

The catch: each floor gets only a few minutes to eat before the board moves down to the next floor where those inmates get to feast from the leftovers of the floors above. This process repeats for who knows how long. That is the problem.

I mean, it isn't the only problem, but no one knows how many floors there are.

As greed inevitably takes

over, floors indulge versus eating only what they actually need. This leaves the floors below to have little to nothing left by the time it reaches them.

If everyone only ate what they needed, everyone in the Pit would eat. Of course, we know that's in an ideal world.

Although this allegory may seem extreme, it is really that far from our society?

In this film, we get to meet one of the inmates, Goreng (Iván Massagué), and his roommate, Trimagasi (Zorion Eguileor), who are the perfect comparisons to one another. The juxtaposition between the naivety of Goreng and the experience of Trimagasi is painfully obvious. Trimagasi explains to Goreng, “There are three types of people... those at the top, those at the bottom, and those who fall.”

Eguileor plays the perfect extreme of what the Pit does to a person as we watch him feast on nasty leftovers, piss on inmates below, etc., even while Goreng lectures him on the ideals of the functioning of the Pit.

I will say that if you have a weak stomach, you should watch this movie with caution. However, as someone who has a pretty weak stomach themselves, the theme of the movie and the cinematography made these vile

scenes worth it. If you could not care less about social and political commentaries, then save yourself the time and slight trauma.

You may be wondering, what do the lower floors do? The lowest? As you may have guessed, inmates will turn on each other and even feed on each other just to survive.

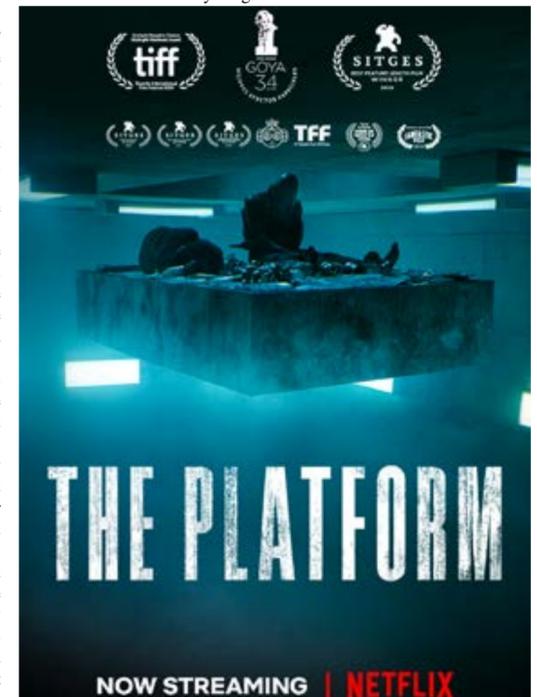
Similar to our capitalistic society, those who are lowest will do whatever it takes to get by, while those higher get to indulge with ease and lack of care.

If only capitalism had more compassion, just like the ideals Goreng lectures us on, more people would eat. Less people would starve. Less people would suffer just to get by.

Greed is our enemy. It is exactly why we may never achieve a fair system. The higher class and corporations are the higher floors, and the middle class and below must eat from their leftovers and twist themselves to fit the higher class and businesses' desires and agendas.

With the use of music and lighting, Desola conveyed the darkness of this system perfectly in this allegory of the Pit. This movie is not an easy one to sit and watch, but would the message get across as well if it had held back on its gore and vulgarity? I really don't think so.

I highly recommend thrown right into the Pit alongside watching and forming your own opinion. Again, just watch with caution and reflect as you get



“The Platform” Promotional poster. Graphic sourced from IMDb. Copyright Netflix.

# Performances in the pandemic: perfect melody or missing the note?



Entrance to the Royale music venue at night. Photo by Mel Berilo / Mass Media Staff.

Katrina Sanville  
Arts Writer

In the midst of the pandemic, one of the most desired things music fanatics missed was the atmosphere of live music and the feeling of concerts. Whether their choice of genre was rap, pop or indie, music lovers around the world were counting down the days until the world would 'open up' once more and they could begin to go to live shows and concerts for their favorite artists. However, as the world begins to return to a sense of semi-normalcy, many are wondering if it's best to begin having live performances like before.

As vaccines began to roll out and COVID-19 cases began to decrease, many performers saw the chance to begin live concerts and shows. In addition to this, those who may have scheduled tours that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic saw this as an opportunity to go on tour again. Within the weeks following vaccines becoming readily available, dozens of artists started to announce their tour dates, ranging from beginning in the fall or winter of 2021 to early 2022.

Many of these artists—before their performances even

began—required their fans and attendees to wear masks and/or be vaccinated in order to attend. Artists such as Harry Styles and Phoebe Bridgers have put out statements saying that those attending their concerts must be vaccinated and/or wear a mask. The Broadway League, which oversees all of the business ventures and plans of the Broadway theatre community, put out a similar statement as well. Phoebe Bridgers also stated that she will be moving as many of her concerts to outside venues as she can, in order to reduce the spread of the virus as best as possible. As Bridgers posted on her Instagram, and Christi Carras for the LA Times transcribed:

“We are moving all previously scheduled indoor shows to outdoor venues and we've needed to postpone shows in a couple cities so please check the updated schedule. At my request, there are updated health and safety requirements ... And please wear a mask. I love you. See you soon.” (1)

However, some artists have cancelled their performances before they could even begin. Country music star Garth Brooks cancelled several of his tour

stops—with full refunds—due to the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases and the several variants. As AP News writes:

“Brooks had said weeks ago that he would be reassessing the tour in light of the surge in cases. Tickets will be refunded for shows scheduled in Cincinnati; Charlotte, North Carolina; Baltimore; Foxborough, Massachusetts, and Nashville, Tennessee. He had also planned to play in Seattle but declined to put tickets on sale.

“In July, I sincerely thought the pandemic was falling behind us,” Brooks said in a statement on Wednesday. “Now, watching this new wave, I realize we are still in the fight and I must do my part.” (2)

However, with these great ideas and standards, there were a few flaws and other performers who fell flat. Many performers were able to begin their tours but had to partially or fully cancel due to positive test results. Bands such as Fall Out Boy and Lyrnyrd Skynryd released statements cancelling a portion or all of their shows. As Fall Out Boy wrote on their Instagram, and Elise Brisco for USA Today transcribed:

“Out of an abundance of

caution, Fall Out Boy will not perform at the New York and Boston shows,” the statement said. “It is important to note that everyone on the entire tour, both band and crew, are fully vaccinated.” (3)

So, should live performances be permitted? The answer is complicated. Positive cases for COVID-19 have rapidly been increasing since July according to the CDC (4), and though there seems to be a bit of a decline, the numbers are still extremely high in comparison to April and May when most artists released their tour dates.

However, there are, theoretically, ways to have a safe performance in the midst of the pandemic. While these performances would not be completely safe, taking the necessary precautions can at least alleviate some of the risks of having a super spreader event. Following the ideas of Phoebe Bridgers and Harry Styles, requiring masks and vaccinations, as well as having outdoor performances wherever possible, can slow or cease the spread of the virus for the event.

In addition to this, smaller groups with smaller venues will

limit the amount of people who could be exposed or be carriers to the virus, as well as making it easier to perform contact tracing. While this is easy enough for smaller artists, asking large names such as Billy Joel, Drake, or Ariana Grande to do small, intimate shows may not be as accessible.

No matter how or when live performances come back—in the next few weeks to crowds of thousands, or gradually and safely with the right measures taken—live experiences are slowly on their way back for the general public. The impact of this in the future will be interesting to see. However, as for right now, all that can be done is to stay safe as best as possible.

(1) “Want to see Phoebe Bridgers in concert? You'll have to be vaccinated”

(2) “Garth Brooks cancels tour dates due to COVID surge”

(3) “Fall Out Boy withdraws from tour after team member tests positive for COVID-19”

(4) “Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory”

# International Relations for beginners

Matthew Reiad  
Opinions Editor

If you aren't a Political Science or International Relations major, chances are you won't be extremely familiar with the complex matters surrounding the rules that govern the international arena. From the news to social media, issues surrounding international relations substantially change the way the global economy functions and how nations interact with each other on a year-to-year basis. While you may be familiar with the United Nations and major global alliances, you might not be familiar with the overarching themes that govern the international world we live in. Understanding these things, concepts such as global supply chain management and international allyships become more and more clear. While international relations is, by no means, a simple concept, there are key features that any university-educated student should know.

**The International Arena is anarchic**

If you've ever taken an intro to international relations, you will probably remember your professor stressing that the international stage is anarchic. International relations cannot and will not force nation-states to act in a certain manner, all they can do is use external pressures to try. However, success is not guaranteed. In this way, nations nearly always act in their best self-interest, from the United States to China, to smaller nations such as El Salvador and Singapore. Regardless of their status on the international stage, nations always act in their own self-interests despite perhaps acting to care about international concerns, such as climate change.

Despite the plethora of international organizations such as the United Nations, NATO, and the World Bank, nations have no rules that govern the way they act. Although there are internationally recognized treaties such as the Geneva Convention, nations are free to act however they wish,

unless they join some kind of confederation, as is the case of the European Union. And as we have seen with Brexit, although it is difficult, nation states are free to leave international confederations at their own will. Although the rules that govern the international arena can in ways influence nations' decisions, nations are free to act in the way they wish, with no regard for other nations.

**Nations can use measures to isolate other countries**

In many ways, nations have a tendency to act like young children in the school yard. If a nation such as North Korea was not complying with the international standards, the United Nations can use sanctions or the threat of sanctions to force North Korea to comply. Sanctions can be levied by individual nations as well as international organizations as leverage to require nations to improve their human rights record, as an example. However, nations are by no means required to follow the UN's sanctions; nations such as

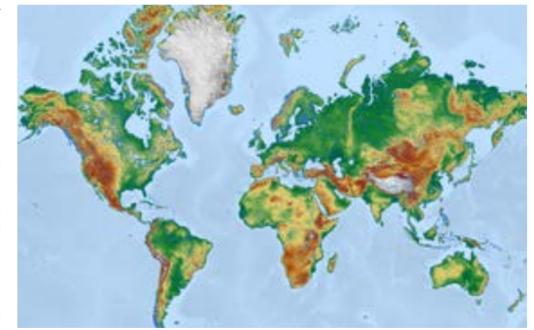


Photo of a global map. Graphic courtesy of Mapswire via Public Domain.

China and Russia regularly violate sanctions against nations with poor human rights.

The international arena is often a complicated, messy and frustrating place to exist. The hypocrisy that occurs by nations such as China and the United States can make even the most optimistic IR researcher feel helpless. However, modern conventions such as consulates and diplomats have increased the rate at

which countries communicate with each other. As nations continue to interact in positive ways, the world will continue to strive towards a place where nations are best equipped to interact with each other in a peaceful, respectful manner.

# Investing as a college student

Matthew Reiad  
Opinions Editor

*The following information is for educational purposes only and should not be taken as financial advice. Please do your own research before investing in stocks or securities.*

As a college student, money is often one of your biggest concerns. From paying rent to paying tuition, college students are often strapped for money. However, that does not mean you can't invest. Anyone can invest with very little money and it is all meant to grow your portfolio in the long term. As a college student, you have time on your hands, meaning if you start now, your portfolio has a great deal of potential in the long run. Investing may seem difficult and scary. However, there are basic rules you can follow to ensure

that you make smart moves in the stock market.

**Don't keep all your money in a low-yield checking account**

One of the most ignorant things you could do to your money is leave it in a low-yield checking account. For the most part, if you are not using in-person banking services, I recommend everyone switch to an online-only bank, such as Ally Bank. These online banks save money by not having physical branches and thereby offering customers higher rates on their checking accounts. If you leave all your savings in a low-yield checking account, you could be missing major returns just for leaving your money in a competing bank. Although the paperwork to open a new bank account may seem overwhelming, you might find yourself with a checking account with ten times the interest rate of a typical brick-

and-mortar bank in the long run.

**Understand your risk tolerance**

Before you invest, you should certainly note your risk tolerance and take note of how much money you are willing to invest. Are you planning to invest 40-50 percent of your savings? Will you take 30 percent of every paycheck to put it into the stock market? Before you open a brokerage account, be sure to understand your risk tolerance. Will you stick with broad stock market ETFs such as SPY or will you be trying to invest in the next Amazon? If you go into investing without a game plan, you may find yourself listening to bad advice from people telling you what to invest in. Study the fundamentals of a company; are they on an upward trajectory? What are the ratings that it is getting from large investment

firms? All this information is key in understanding what stocks you should buy.

**When you begin, invest in low-risk securities**

For the most part, the more you invest, the more comfortable you will be with buying and selling securities. However, if you begin trying to invest in penny stocks, you may get burned and refuse to invest anymore. For a beginner investor, particularly a college student, I recommend investing in simple, low-cost, sector or index ETFs. These ETFs allow you to invest in a certain sector or index, through low-cost securities. When investing in ETFs, be sure to take note of the expense ratios to ensure that your investment does not lose money in the long run. Are you interested in investing in green companies? There are ETFs for that. An example would be iShares Global

Clean Energy UCITS ETF. Are you interested in investing in AI technology? There's an ETF for that: Global X Robotics and Artificial Intelligence ETF. Please do take note, the more selective and specific an ETF, the more expensive the expense ratio is. The inverse is also true; the more broad an ETF, the cheaper the expense ratio is.

As you invest more and more, you may find yourself more willing to make riskier investments, and that is totally fine. You will be better at analyzing the fundamentals of a company and seeing trends in earnings per share. You may find yourself more comfortable and even willing to invest in derivatives. As always, invest smart, save safely, and use compounding interest.

# Kindness and why it matters

Aanchal Kumar  
Opinions Writer

Kindness is shown through the everyday acts we do in our daily lives. From small acts of kindness, like holding the door for the next person entering the building as you step inside, to larger expressions of kindness, like donating a kidney to save someone's life, kindness is something that gives us happiness and puts smiles on others' faces.

Remember to always be kind to everyone because you never know what they're going through. Life is too short to spend time being mad at someone or holding a grudge. We need to let go of negative thoughts and bring positivity to our minds. “Be Kind. Always.” is a movement created by Jessica and Timothy Griffin to eliminate the stigma on mental health and support a great cause. The “Be Kind. Always.” Foundation inspires people by spreading awareness

about suicide prevention and mental health. Kindness is free, and you can share it with anyone in the world! Whether it is with your friends, family, loved ones, or even someone you don't know, kindness can bring you the greatest happiness.

Always remember to treat people with kindness because it can truly affect their mental health. They may be going through a rough time and, more often than not, it's something we may not realize. According to BuzzFeed, kindness is actually beneficial to your mental health. From my experience, in high school I volunteered at a library in my city. When I helped someone find a book they were looking for, it gave me a sense of satisfaction and happiness. From the scientific point of view, as mentioned by BuzzFeed, being kind is good for your heart. By doing small acts of kindness each day, we make ourselves better people. For example, by saying

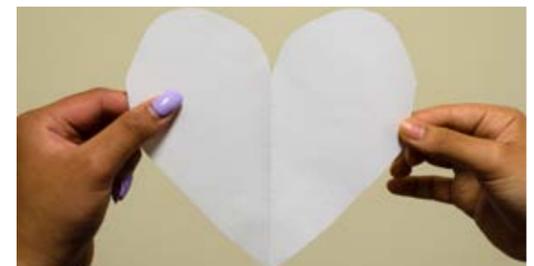
words like “please” and “thank you”, we make people feel like we are grateful for their help. Ultimately, it gives us happiness to see how others appreciate our kindness. We feel more connected with people if they are nice to us. By expressing kindness, we can eliminate negative thoughts from our minds and make this world a better place.

Have you ever thought about what's going through the mind of the person sitting next to you on the bus? Chances are they may be stressed about something or feeling lonely. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, people have experienced extreme levels of loneliness—levels that can be detrimental to their health. Many of us avoided social gatherings, ordered groceries online and rarely stepped out of our own each week.

Just by giving someone a smile, you could help to eliminate their stress. Kindness is the start of friendships. Before you

know it, someone might feel comfortable enough to share their feelings with you without feeling like they will be judged. It is one of the most powerful things in the world and a form of humanity. Kindness.org has many different ways you can be kind in your own community. We need to have more respect for each other, and rather than judging people, we should make them feel as though they belong in this world.

Millions of people are struggling with depression, anxiety, bullying and more; kindness can help them recover through happiness. More often than not, we aren't taught to be kind and, instead, the ability comes to us naturally. Kindness is necessary for all of our relationships whether they are personal or professional. Without it, our world is incomplete.



Two different hands hold a paper heart. Photo by Maya Martinez / Mass Media Staff.

# HERE4U



## Campus Questions? Concerns? Feedback?

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Learn more:  
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Also available in the UMass Boston app. Download from the App Store or Google Play.

