Shea Follows Idea to Possible Cancer Treatment

Tom Shea hadn’t been planning to do cancer research. His field is Alzheimer’s. Years of studies have made Prof. Thomas Shea of the Biological Sciences Department an expert on the use of antioxidants in slowing the effects of neurological degeneration in aging.

Neuroblastoma, on the other hand, is the most common form of solid tumor cancer in newborn infants. It starts when some neurons don’t mature normally and begin continuously dividing; it may progress to cancer or the neurons may spontaneously start acting normally.

“Babies are dying,” says Shea. “Neuroblastoma is so hard to treat. It starts when some neurons don’t mature normally and begin continuously dividing.” Radiation poses similar problems and some neuroblastomas don’t respond at all to classical treatments.

“I realized that even in our Alzheimer’s studies, we have used tumors of brain cells that grow continuously and that’s similar to cancer. A new idea: The antioxidants stopped neuron growth in our studies. Would it work for neuroblastoma?”

This “revolutionary approach,” says Shea, provoked interest at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which awarded him a one-year pilot grant of $170,000 along with co-investigators Prof. Emeritus Arthur Watterson, chemistry, and Prof. Robert Nicolosi, health and clinical sciences.

For the initial experiments, Shea turned to Watterson to see if an antioxidant formulation could be encapsulated in nanospheres that would “pop right into” the cancerous tumor. Shea and colleagues are investigating the use of antioxidants encapsulated in nanospheres to treat neuroblastomas, a dangerous form of cancer in newborn infants.

Professors Aim to Protect Mobile Homes from Hurricane Destruction

In the span of six weeks, four hurricanes ravaged parts of Florida and caused an estimated $23 billion in damage. Residents saw their mobile homes literally disintegrate in high winds. The homes were torn apart and the debris became deadly shrapnel causing further devastation and loss.

To prevent such destruction of mobile homes, Mechanical Engineering Prof. Gene Niemi and Majid Charmchi are testing a new tenting modification that could possibly save these structures from windstorms and other severe weather conditions.

The two were approached by Stormshield, a Rochester, N.Y. company, which has a patent on an idea that may prevent or reduce such damage. The concept involves installing a “tent” over a single- or double-wide mobile home that can be deployed when warnings of approaching storms are issued. The tent is buried in trenches or footings around the home and, once manually secured, it streamlines the wind flow over the mobile home model with a tent designed to protect it against hurricane-force winds.

Seminar Series Explores Environment—Health Links

Why is it that the city preschool asthma rate of 13 to 18 percent is double the rate for non-urban preschoolers? Why is it that low-income women’s children show biomarkers for certain chemicals? Are these health care issues, environmental issues or both?

As UMass Lowell researchers in both areas have come together in the new School of Health and Environment, Asst. Prof. Joel Tickner of the Department of Community Health and Sustainability set out to explore the links in an Environmental Health seminar series.

The series kicked off last month by showcasing campus research related to asthma. Six faculty associated with the seminar are:...
Classroom Climate to be Discussed Dec. 2

How do you respond when a student makes a sexist/racist/homophobic remark in class? What strategies can be used to create a climate of inclusion and openness in the classroom?

There are the kinds of questions a panel will explore with faculty, staff and students at an upcoming conversation dinner sponsored by the Council on Diversity and Pluralism Thursday, Dec. 2, in the Library. From 3:30 to 4 p.m. the Council is sponsoring a welcoming reception. The program will begin at 4 with dinner to follow.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Brenda_Evans@uml.edu.

Deadline Approaching for Local Aid Campaign

A little more than two weeks remain for UMass Lowell employees to commit their pledges to a cause they support every year: the plight of local victims of society’s ravages, from AIDS and hunger to gang violence and domestic abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees’ Charitable Campaign (COMECC), a yearly initiative to raise funds for the organizations that support these victims—the United Way, Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Clubs, and many others—enables employees to direct their contributions to the agency of their choice. The COMECC brochure of human services agencies, available through the Office of Human Resources, includes a list of close to 1,000 such organizations, both local and national, to which funds may be donated. Contributions may be made through payroll deductions, for as little as $1 per pay period.

The deadline for pledge cards, which are available through the Human Resources Office and should be returned there, is Dec. 10. For more information, call the Office at (978)-934-3560.

Holiday-Time Stresses to be Addressed at Dec. 7 Program

The Office of Human Resources, recognizing that the holidays can be a stressful time for families and individuals, is planning an event designed to ease the stress, or at least to make it tolerable.

“Stress Management for the Holidays,” a 90-minute symposium organized around a variety of holiday-related subjects—family dynamics, how to handle guests, gift-giving, behaviors to avoid, etc.—is planned for Dec. 7 on both UML North and South, as follows: Coburn Hall: 10:11:30 a.m. Alumni Hall: 1:2:30 p.m.

All staff and faculty are welcome to attend. Those interested should register with Lee Ann Alden in the Office of Human Resources, at ext. 3458, or by e-mail to leeann_alden@uml.edu.

The registration deadline is Dec. 1.

Literary Journal Submissions Now Being Accepted

The UMass Lowell Literary Society is now accepting submissions of prose, poetry, photography and artwork for inclusion in the 2004 edition of The Offering, the University’s literary journal. All students, staff, faculty and alumni are invited to submit their work.

To be eligible for consideration, all submissions must include the following:

1. two original hard copies (typed, double-spaced);
2. one disk copy (please specify file name and program type);
3. cover sheet with personal and contact information, including name, campus or home address, phone number and e-mail address, and affiliation with the University (student, faculty, staff, etc.).

Poetry submissions should be limited to six poems or fewer; prose submissions should not exceed 4,000 words.

Submission packets may be dropped off in person at the UML South English Department office (O’Leary 412) or sent through campus mail. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 17.

For more information, or to receive a copy of the 2003 edition of The Offering, contact Asst. Prof. Julie Nash at ext. 4191; or julie_nash@uml.edu

Breakthrough Technologies Featured at Tripathy Symposium

The 2004 Sukant Tripathy Memorial Symposium takes place on Friday, Dec. 3, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Wannalancit Mills Conference Center. The symposium is held annually in memory of the late Prof. Sukant Tripathy, founder and director of the Center for Advanced Materials; the topics reflect the broad and pioneering nature of his research in polymer and materials science.

The exciting progress in solar cell research will be touched on by several speakers, including Russell Gaudiana of Konarka Technologies, who will discuss the technology and applications of Konarka’s break-through low cost, flexible photovoltaics. UMass Lowell Prof. John Warner, a leading expert in green chemistry, will discuss entropic control in materials design. Other topics include electroactive organic molecules and polymeric pharmaceuticals.

Registration opens at 8:15 a.m. A complete symposium listing is available on the UML Web site news page.

Psi Chi Mounts a Holiday Food Drive

Area shelters and food banks will benefit this year from the Holiday Food Drive being conducted by the University’s chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology.

Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Assoc. Prof. Joan Cannon at ext. 3966 or joan_cannon@uml.edu.

Engineering Leads Robotic Revolution

The College of Engineering is hosting a FIRST Lego League (FLL) Robotics Tournament, the “James B. Francis Robotic Revolution” on Saturday, Nov. 27, from 2 - 7:30 p.m. in the Costello Gym. FLL is the middle school version of the international FIRST Robotics program founded by Segway inventor Dean Kamen in 1989. Each September the program announces a new FLL robotic design challenge and theme for the competition, and students use Lego robotics kits and software to accomplish the missions. This year’s FLL challenge, “No Limits,” requires teams to design, build and program robots that can accomplish tasks to help people with disabilities: robots that can climb stairs, serve food at a table, feed pets, open a door and identify the correct bus stop sign. Student teams earn points for robot performance, based on how many missions they can accomplish in 2-1/2 minutes, and are judged on robot design, teamwork and team spirit.

The UMass Lowell tournament is open to 20 FLL teams.

Mason Recounts Tales of Disabled Working Women

Psychology Prof. Meg Bond, left, director of the Center for Women and Work (CWW), greeted Mary Grimley Mason before a recent campus talk. Mason, who is professor emerita and former director of the Women’s Studies Program at Emmanuel College, is the author of Working Against Odds: Stories of Disabled Women’s Work Lives. The CWW sponsored the event.

Connolly Details the Proper Role of Women in Business

Nancy Connolly, right, CEO and founder of the Lasertone Corporation of Littleton, recently spoke with Asst. Prof. Sheila Webber’s Managing Teams and Projects class. Lasertone is a printer supply and services company making $15 million a year. Connolly discussed her commitment to the place of women in business and the role of corporations in their communities.
Blended Learning: Is That a New Kind of Smoothie?

The food was tasty, but smoothies were not part of the menu at a recent conversation dinner on blended and hybrid courses.

“Blended and hybrid” refer to the use of online technology in classroom-based teaching and the discussion was sponsored by the Enrichment Task Force of the Council on Teaching, Learning and Research as Scholarship. “The UMass Lowell faculty have made remarkable progress in integrating the use of Web-based and online elements in their pedagogy,” says Mary Beaudry, director of the Faculty Teaching Center. “They have extensive insight into the benefits and challenges of these new approaches to teaching and learning.”

The benefits and challenges were evident in the personal experiences of three members of the faculty.

Marlowe Miller, associate professor of English, described the use of online communication in an undergraduate course and the ways this encouraged and enhanced student participation. As online requirements were added, in-class time was reduced.

Michael Carter, associate professor and chair of the Economics Department, taught a course that included honors students. Online assignments gave honors students the opportunity for more extensive, high-quality work.

Anita Greenwood, professor of education and chair of the Graduate School of Education, taught a graduate class in which some students participated from a remote location.

Converting large portions of the syllabus to online learning and creating online teams met the challenge of making this run smoothly with equivalent standards and experiences for all.

“I think I was kidding myself a little bit when I thought that my face-to-face teaching was automatically superior to the online experience,” said Greenwood.

In the panel discussion, all agreed that teaching with online technology can be time-consuming—answering email, leading online discussions, preparing and posting course material to the Web. The rewards are well worth it.

“You can run a live chat in the evening from your home, wearing slippers and old clothes,” said Carter. “But you have to be up for it mentally. This is ‘mind-to-mind’ teaching, instead of face-to-face.”

TURI Helps Companies Explore Safer Solutions for Flame Retardants

As companies face deadlines to eliminate certain flame retardant chemicals from their products, the Toxics Use Reduction Institute is helping them find safer alternatives.

TURI recently presented a Fire Safety and Flame Retardants Workshop in Worcester to about 75 business representatives, primarily from Massachusetts electronics and coated wire and cable industries.

TURI brought together Environmental Protection Agency representatives, UMass Lowell researchers and equipment manufacturers to update the companies on the latest regulations, health risk factors and potential solutions. The companies are facing increasing regulations from the European Union and states such as California to eliminate certain brominated flame retardants from their products.

Evidence has shown that, in particular, PBDEs (Poly brominated diphenyl ethers) have been building up in the environment, with increased levels being found in fish and wildlife and human breast milk.

While the expected view may be that restrictions on these chemicals are problems for manufacturers that need to create fireproof materials, Liz Harriman, TURI’s deputy director who facilitated the conference, sees them as opportunities.

“By delivering high quality, reliable and sustainable products, Massachusetts manufacturers who lead the way in developing solutions that don’t use the restricted materials will be their customers’ supplier of choice,” Harriman says.

The interactive workshop explored the latest science about the health and environmental threats of flame retardants versus the need for fire safety, strategies to meet new requirements and alternatives to restricted substances. TURI also has sponsored a series of meetings on the issue.

At the seminar, TURI recognized leaders who have worked with the Institute to develop new technologies, materials and processes that are more environmentally sound. They included: Plastics Engineering Assoc. Prof. Joey Mead, Mechanical Engineering Assoc. Prof. Sammy Shina, AlphaGary Corp. of Leominster and M/ A-COM of Lowell.

“These vitally important researchers and industry collaborators have demonstrated leadership and vision that have helped TURI use research and information dissemination to make companies in the Commonwealth safer and more competitive,” says Prof. Michael Ellenbecker, director of TURI.

Role Models Offer Guidance to New Students

At a recent gathering to celebrate the College of Management’s new Student Mentor program, visiting instructor Frank Andrews, who heads the program, mingled with a handful of mentors, from left, Bindiya Shah, Christine Hutchins, Hanna Orange and Stephanie Coudreault. According to Andrews, the program’s 22 student mentors serve as role models in academic achievement and curricular involvement to help first-year business majors successfully adjust to University life.

M/A-COM, a division of Tyco Electronics located in Lowell, was recognized at TURI’s flame retardant conference for its efforts in helping to evaluate alternatives to lead for the electronics industry.

From left are Greg Morose, TURI research associate; George Wilkish, senior quality engineer, and Dick Anderson, senior principal engineer, both of M/A-COM; Prof. Michael Ellenbecker, TURI director; and Liz Harriman, TURI deputy director.
Shea Follows Idea to Possible Cancer Treatment

Cells. Watterson’s team has developed a "green" synthesizing method, using an enzyme, that can encapsulate any size molecules.

The encapsulated antioxidant was mixed with tumor cells in a test tube. "The antioxidant in nanospheres was 10 to 20 times more effective in vitro than Taxol or other cancer drugs under the same circumstances," says Watterson.

The next step was to observe the effects on tumors in a living organism. Shea’s team uses immune-deficient mice (known as “nude” mice) to grow tumors. The encapsulated formula was injected directly into the tumors and results were mixed.

“The large tumors showed no effects and the small tumor growth was delayed,” says Watterson.

“In a test tube, the cancer is stopped a hundred percent,” says Shea, “but in a living organism, the formula is eliminated quickly from the body. Of course, the beauty of the antioxidants is that they don’t cause harm; in fact they’re good for you.

“We’ve shown that nanospheres enter the cells easily and quickly. They can even deliver a substance that otherwise wouldn’t penetrate the cell wall. They also are absorbed through skin.

“The NIH grant will fund further exploratory research—multiple injections into tumors or rubbing into the skin, studies on absorption and uptake by the cells, and methods to target the nanospheres directly to the tumor cells in the living organism. Shea is also working with nanospheres developed by Prof. Stephen McCarthy, plastics engineering, which have also been shown effective.

Meanwhile, Shea has been invited to speak to the neuroblastoma group at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. “I was amazed, because the results are so preliminary and they are the clinical experts,” says Shea. “But they said that’s what they need—to hear new ideas from researchers like me.”

Black Friday for UML Sports

It all came crashing down with a thud, figuratively.

The autumn sports season at UMass Lowell came to abrupt end on a recent Friday night when athletic teams would much prefer a party to post mortems.

Field hockey and men’s soccer both saw outstanding seasons end with a loss.

The volleyball team got a second chance thanks to the NCAA.

The volleyball River Hawks were defeated by Merrimack College in the opening round of Northeast-10 tournament play. For the 15-10 Volleyball squad there was good news three days after the loss. The River Hawks were invited to the NCAA Division II tournament.

The future remains bright, volleyball Coach Karen McNulty’s squad featured just two seniors. Julie and Jessie Handy, expected to lead next year’s edition, was twice named the Northeast-10 Player of the Week.

The frustration was even greater for the field hockey and men’s soccer teams. Each won their conference tournaments and was trying to realize a dream on the national stage.

Ted Priestly’s men’s soccer team came up short in the opening round of the NCAA Division II Northeast Regional Tournament. The River Hawks lost to Franklin Pierce College; a school they had beaten twice during the season.

“It’s obviously disappointing,” says Priestly. “We expected more of ourselves in this setting. The results were unfortunate.”

The loss should not obscure the fact that the soccer River Hawks put together what was the team’s best ever season. UMass Lowell finished with a 15-3-2 record and the school’s second consecutive Northeast-10 tournament championship. Not bad for a program that once went 10 years without a conference title.

The stage is set for the future.

“This Lowell team has continued our trend of consistent improvement over the years,” Priestly says. “This year was another step forward for this program, in terms of overall record and another conference championship. Now we need to focus on developing our program to play at a high level in the national tournament.”

The UML field hockey season ended a single game too soon. The River Hawks lost to Bentley, with the winter’s first snow blowing about, in the National Championship Tournament semi-final. UMass Lowell hosted the national championship tournament for the second consecutive season and that reflects just how far the program has come. A year ago the team lost in the final.

The field hockey River Hawks ended its best season ever with a 19-3 record and won the Northeast-10 tournament championship. The season included a 15 game winning streak and the squad’s first ever No.1 ranking in the national polls. The River Hawks occupied that top spot for a month.

“It was an amazing season; our players have nothing to be ashamed of,” Head Coach Shannon Flechichuk said after the season-ending loss. “It is hard when you make it this far because you either win the whole thing or you lose. "It is hard for the seniors; the last two years have been an unbelievable experience for them. In time, we will look back and appreciate this season.”

Employees’ Personal and Professional Needs are Focus of Two New Programs

Two new initiatives by the UMass Lowell Office of Human Resources, both in place since the start of the academic year, are aimed at addressing the psychological—as well as the professional—needs of the University community.

The first of the two, the recent hiring of a part-time training and development specialist, Lee Ann Alden, is designed to refine the management skills of those in supervisory positions.

“Lee Ann is going to help our supervisory people on several different fronts,” says University HR Director Jack Giarusso. “Performance evaluation, team-building, conflict management and communication—are these all areas in which our people can use a hand?”

In addition, says the director, Alden, formerly a training consultant with Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates of Chelmsford, will be of aid in other areas not restricted to supervisors—including programs on developing customer-service practice and the “Stress Management for the Holidays” program recently promoted via University e-mail.

The second initiative, the newly-formed Employee Assistance Program (EAP), being administered by an independent Massachusetts firm, is designed to be of help to University personnel across a broad range of issues, both personal and professional.

“Emotional issues, substance abuse, family-life problems, as well as problems at work—these are all areas in which our people can now count on getting help,” says Giarusso. “Thanks to the support from Chancellor Hogan and the vice chancellors, this is a valuable service we’re able to offer, something we’ve not been in a position to do in the past.

“The Wellness Corporation, a 20-year-old firm based in Shrewsbury, is under contract with the University to administer the new program. Founded in 1984 by a nurse and health-insurance executive, it has evolved into a risk-management company, fully staffed by professional counselors, that offers assistance on problems ranging from depression, domestic violence and substance abuse to legal and financial matters. Its services are offered at no cost to callers; for emergencies, a counselor is available by phone 24 hours a day.

For more information on the programs overseen by Lee Ann Alden—including holiday-time stress management—she may be called directly on ext. 3486, or contacted by e-mail at leann 알든luml.edu

For information on the Wellness Corporation, or help in finding a counselor, call 800-826-6025.

Bell Explores the Legacy of the Haitian Revolution

Assoc. History Prof. Caryn Cossé Bell described the Haitian revolution’s legacy in Creole New Orleans at the November Salon, the faculty colloquium in fine arts, humanities and social sciences. She presented her findings for a project she’s conducted for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library. Bell has composed a narrative for the Center where a comprehensive digital archive and Web site is being created entitled “In Motion: The African—American Migration Experience.” For more information, go to her January on the Schomburg’s Web site: www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html.
Continued from Page 1

**Unexpected $1 Million Gift Will Fund Student Scholarships**

UMass Lowell students have been benefiting from Cook’s generosity for years. The Cheney Cook Scholarship Fund, established in 1961, has made a $2,000 scholarship available each year for an undergraduate or graduate student with demonstrated financial need. The fund is worth more than $50,000 today.

Cook was well known throughout the world in the wool and leather industries in the early part of the 20th century. He served as president of Winslow Brothers and Smith Co. for almost 20 years, from 1929 until he retired in 1948. He died at age 78, leaving his wife, Gretchen. —Kris

Continued from Page 1

**Professors Aim to Protect Mobile Homes from Hurricane Destruction**

the structure. This lowers the harsh forces acting on the mobile home.

In order to conduct their research, Niemi and Charmchi, along with graduate assistants Pradeep Govindaiah and Linghua Chen, created a small scale model of a mobile home measuring nine inches by eighteen inches. Using a two-foot by three-foot, 200 m.p.h. subsonic wind tunnel, they placed the model on a rotating turntable to measure various force components when high winds come from different directions.

The simulation tent, made from a lightweight parachute material, will serve as the basis for the first round of testing. Other fabrics will be utilized as the basis for the first round of testing.

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**Seminar Series Explores Environment—Health Links**

School, with the Center for Sustainable Production, and with the Center for Family, Work and Community, presented their findings. Among them:

- Lowell’s ethnic communities present challenges for educational outreach efforts, as well as efforts for asthma and other health education must be devised;
- UMass Lowell’s students have high rates of depression among those with asthma;
- It looks as if there is no link between vaccinations and asthma.

**Sherwood’s Pitch: World Series Balls Hit the Target**

One could say that Mechanical Engineering Prof. James Sherwood had his fingerprints on all the baseballs pitched in the World Series.

As director of the University’s Baseball Research Center, Sherwood tested the baseballs for liveliness and hardness at the request of Major League Baseball and the manufacturer, Rawlings. The verification was initiated to avoid the repeat of claims in 2002 that baseballs in that Series were harder than those used in the regular season.

The process involves using the center’s specialized machinery to squeeze and dissect the balls, then collecting and analyzing the data.

“We take it apart layer by layer and measure the size and shape to make sure it conforms to Major League Baseball’s specifications,” Sherwood said.

The verdict: the 2004 World Series balls were created by Rawlings in the exact image of their regular season counterparts. As the official certification site for Major League Baseball and the NCAA since 1998, the Baseball Research Center has been asked to make the call on the World Series balls since 2003. But this year took on increased local significance since the hometown team would be SWATting these very balls over the Green Monster in pursuit of an 86-year-old dream.

While the center currently devotes most of its certification efforts to non-wooden bats used in the minor league and college levels, Sherwood enjoyed an opportunity to play a role in the Major League showdown of America’s favorite pastime.

“I still say it’s the best job in the world,” he said.

And, despite being a Cleveland Indians fan, Sherwood held on to a souvenir ball.
Raytheon Makes Gift to Mechanical Engineering

The machine shop in the Mechanical Engineering Department will be upgraded thanks to a $10,000 gift from Raytheon Company. Mark Russell, right, vice president of engineering for Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems, presents the check to John McKelliget, chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department, joined by Michael Kizner, program manager of Raytheon’s Computer Engineering to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department for its microwave lab, along with $100,000 in microwave equipment.

Sustainability Examined at CITA Seminar

Prof. Bill Mass of the Department of Regional Economic and Social Development led a discussion on sustainability at the recent CITA lunchtime seminar, using as a text "The Sustainable Urban Development Reader," edited by Stephen Wheeler and Timothy Bentley. Among those joining the discussion was Cathy Crumbley, program director at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production. More than 20 faculty, staff, and students gathered in the RESD conference room to exchange views about how the authors in the reader treated various aspects of sustainable development.

Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**

- **Women's Basketball**, vs. LeMoyne College, 5:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.
- **Men's Basketball**, vs. LeMoyne College, 7:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

**Friday, Jan. 14**

- **Hockey**, vs. Merrimack College, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

**Saturday, Jan. 15**

- **Weekend Snapshots**, each on-campus session gives potential undergraduate students an overview of the University and campus life, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For additional information and to register, visit www.uml.edu/admissions/weekendsnapshots.
- **Women's Basketball**, vs. College of St. Rose, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.
- **Men's Basketball**, vs. College of St. Rose, 4 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

**Monday, Jan. 17**

- **Seminar, Plastics Engineering Seminar Series**, “Polymer Nanocomposites: Interface Control,” by Prof. Linda Schadler, Materials Science and Engineering Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Ball 214. For more information, call Plastics Engineering (978) 934-3420.

**Friday, Jan. 28**

- **Hockey**, vs. University of New Hampshire, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

**Wednesday, Feb. 2**

- **Exhibit Reception**, “Mixed Media Installation,” by Meagan Shein, Artist Talk at 3 p.m., exhibit runs Jan. 26 through Feb. 23, 3 to 5 p.m., University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.
- **Women’s Basketball**, vs. Bryant College, 5:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.
- **Men’s Basketball**, vs. Bryant College, 7:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

**Monday, Jan. 24**

- **Talk at 3 p.m., exhibit runs Jan. 26 through Feb. 23, 3 to 5 p.m., University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.
- **Women’s Basketball**, vs. St. Anselm College, 7:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

First Superintendent Friday Forum at CFSS of the Academic Year Focuses on China

The Center for Field Services and Studies (CFSS) hosted its first Superintendent Friday Forum, entitled, “China: Modern and Ancient,” in November. Elizabeth Keroac, assistant school superintendent in Malden, and Maureen Lacroix, school superintendent in Bedford, gave the CFSS a report of their experiences this summer during a study tour of China that they participated in this summer.

Sponsored by Primary Source, a non-profit center for the interdisciplinary study of history and the humanities, and joined by other professional educators, Keroac and Lacroix sought to expand their understanding and awareness of China’s ancient and modern culture and its developing educational system.

“I had a perception of China as a third world country,” Lacroix told the audience. “I left so much more informed. Our students need to be committed to understanding China because it will have such a major influence in the future.”

Participants visited Beijing, the center of the Chinese government, Xi’an, the center of its ancient arts and culture, and Shanghai, the country’s leading commercial center. They toured a school for children of migrant workers, practiced Tai Chi, visited the Great Wall, and made informal connections with Chinese people from many backgrounds.

“One in five of all the people on the planet live in China,” said Keroac. “You can disagree with their politics but you can’t ignore 1.3 billion people. This could be the beginning of a chance to work with this country and their educators. I see it less as competition and more as an opportunity for symbiosis.”

The CFSS has been hosting the Friday forums for 10 years to further foster viable educational partnerships among University faculty, professional groups, community agencies and the private sector in order to respond to the needs of public schools. Four more forums are planned for this year: “On-line Learning” on Jan. 7, “The Civic Mission of Schools” on March 11, “Expanding the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Pipeline” on April 1, and “Fit for Learning” on May 13.
Francis Cabot Lowell Awards Honor Individuals Who Make an Impact

Two UMass Lowell faculty and one staff member were among seven individuals honored at the Francis Cabot Lowell Awards Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Lowell Textile Museum. In addition, the 1988-89 men’s basketball team was inducted into the UMass Lowell Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Francis Cabot Lowell Awards, presented by the Alumni Relations Council and named for the businessman who introduced to America the first workable power loom, celebrate faculty, staff and alumni whose generosity, commitment and diligence have made an impact on the individuals and institutions that surround them.

“Some of our recipients have made their contributions one person at a time, providing essential support and guidance at a critical time. Other recipients have had an opportunity to shine in the public arena, and have allowed the University to share in their achievement. All have brought great distinction to UMass Lowell,” said Diane Earl, director of programs and alumni services.

The awards were given to:

- Dr. Jon Hellstedt, co-founder of the National Youth Sports Program at UMass Lowell, professor of psychology, emeritus; Faculty Award.
- Dr. Jon Hellstedt, co-founder of the National Youth Sports Program at UMass Lowell, professor of psychology, emeritus; Faculty Award.
- Sheila Riley-Callahan ‘90, ‘88, executive director of Academic Services and the Centers for Learning; Staff Award.
- Dr. Jon Hellstedt, co-founder of the National Youth Sports Program at UMass Lowell, professor of psychology, emeritus; Faculty Award.
- Bonnie Comley ’81, Tony-award nominated actress and producer, vice president of Stellar Productions; Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business.

L. Donald LaTorre ’60, president of L&G Management Consultants, Inc., member of the UMass Lowell College of Sciences Advisory Board; Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business.

State Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos, chair of the Massachusetts Senate Task Force on Public Higher Education, ardent supporter and promoter of UMass Lowell; Service to the University Award.

William J. Traynor ’79, executive director of Lawrence CommunityWorks, Inc., founder of Neighborhood Partners and Neighborhood Partners Fund; Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service.

In addition to these awards, the 1987-88 NCAA championship basketball team was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The team set or tied 45 school records en route to the national championship in 1988. UML defeated Assumption, New Haven, Alabama A&M, and Florida Southern (then ranked No. 1 in the country) before beating Alaska-Anchorage for the NCAA title.

“Everywhere I’ve been, and I’ve done my share of traveling, I’ve been asked about that team. It was a very special group. They had character,” said former head coach Don Doucette, now an assistant coach at the University of New Hampshire.

Members of the team were: Paul Considine, Gavin Cummings, Billy Herenda, Howard Holley, Tony Jackson, Pascal Jobin, Pat King, Bobby Licare, Steve Murphy, Brian Parath, Leo Parent, Mike Scocca and Bob Yalden and assistant coaches Steve Descher, Paul Faison and John Pagantetti.

Michael Kraten, an assistant professor in the College of Management, has conducted complex simulated negotiation “games” to teach negotiation skills and more accurately predict negotiation outcomes in a business setting. Kraten uses advanced Internet-based communication technologies to conduct these simulations with hundreds of business professionals around the globe.

“By analyzing the statistical results of these activities, I can put the latest academic theories to the test,” says Kraten. “Then we can modify these theories to really reflect the realities of the business world.”

Dr. Kraten asked over 400 business professionals to pair up into dyads and negotiate a labor outsourcing agreement for a simulated firm with two divisions, one facing a short term labor shortage in need of extra employees and the other employing surplus workers and searching for a way to avoid layoffs. The divisions were told to “do business with each other” with the understanding that an inability to reach an amicable agreement would force each business to contract with the outside market.

Half the negotiators were told that the outside market price was very high, thereby providing the “labor seller” division with a strong “power” advantage. The other half of participants were told that the market price was very low, thus providing the “labor buyer” discussion with an advantage.

Within each of these two negotiating groups, half of the dyads were permitted to haggle face to face. The other half were required to use a proprietary Internet-based price bid/ask system that was designed to accept and transmit numbers only.

The negotiators were asked to complete a series of surveys in order to test how their personal dispositions affected outcomes. Contrary to expectations, personality factors had little or no impact on final negotiated outcomes. Nor did emotional- ity have much impact. Rather, Kraten found that the negotiators’ levels of “comfort” with the communication medium (face to face or via internet) had the most significant impact on a variety of measurement scales.

Of the four groups, those participants without a “power” advantage and forced to negotiate by inputting numbers over the internet, opened with much more aggressive bids but completed the process with far fewer profits than the other groups.

“There was something about being powerless and unable to communicate face to face that unexpectedly stoked a tendency towards initial aggression,” says Kraten. “This tendency backfired significantly.”

Based on his findings, Kraten contends that individuals negotiating against more powerful adversaries should avoid Internet-based communication media and try to engage in face to face haggling instead. On the other hand, negotiators in a power position should wait out initial aggressiveness, secure in the knowledge that this tendency should hold for negotiators in weak positions.

Kraten did explore whether emotional and personality do matter in a negotiation context and whether new ways of measuring these factors must be created in order that they may be applied to business scenarios.

“I used traditional personality tests in the simulation experiment,” says Kraten, “But now I am investigating the possibility that measurement of cultural tendencies and preferences might, in fact, produce more relevant statistics than those instruments of classical psychol- ogy.”

To do this Kraten is doing a follow-up research project that engages business professionals from a wide variety of cultures worldwide in a global outsourcing simulation. The study continues to be part of Kraten’s ongoing research into business activities and his students are encouraged to serve as volunteers in the study.

The findings of his study are discussed in his students in order to understand how negotiation activities change when they are moved from “old media” to “new media” modalities and how negotiators should modify their strategies in order to exploit these changes. Both of these are important questions when determining theories of management. The study also hopes to demonstrate how organizational decisions about resource allocation policies change when the outcomes of negotiations change, an important variable in accounting theory.

“Of course I am using the sophisticated technical resources and the culturally diverse constituencies of UMass Lowell as the cornerstone of this work,” says Kraten. “I hope to conduct a new and improved version of the project with my class each semester.”

2004 Francis Cabot Lowell Award Winners: (Seated from left) Bonnie Comley ’81, Sheila Riley-Callahan ’80, ’76, Dr. Jon Hellstedt, head coach Don Doucette, (then ranked No. 1 in the country) before beating Alaska-Anchorage for the NCAA title. L. Donald LaTorre ’60, State Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos, Dr. Jon Hellstedt, William J. Traynor ’79.
Akyurtlu, Alkim  
$34,403  
Langley Research Center  
Experimental Investigation of Left-Handed Materials

Armiento, Craig  
$487,525  
Air Force Research Laboratory/ SNHC  
Development of Long Wavelength Technologies and Devices

Avitabile, Peter  
$74,970  
US Army Aviation and Missile Command  
System Modeling Approaches of Helicopter/Wing/Missile Configurations for the US Army Aviation and Missile Command

Barry, Carol  
$95,000  
Draper Laboratory  
High Rate Nanofabrication of Nanopatterned Polymers

Blackman, Anne Berlin  
$65,000  
US EPA  
Healthy Children in a Healthy Valley: Reducing Exposure to Air Toxins in Homes and Outdoors

Bobek, Leo  
$10,000  
US Department of Energy  
Nuclear Science Outreach Program

Chowdhury, Partha  
$40,000  
Radiation Monitoring Devices  
Novel Design for CZT Gamma Detectors

Crumbley, Cathy  
$24,986  
Maine DEP  
Proposal to Review the Use of Mercury in Button Batteries

Crumbley, Cathy  
$64,500  
Third Sector New England  
Scientific Knowledge and Public Policy Project

Crumbley, Cathy  
$24,986  
Maine DEP  
Proposal to Review the Use of Mercury in Button Batteries

Duffy, John  
$59,613  
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative  
Assessment of MTC Green Buildings

Ellenbecker, Michael  
$181,804  
Center for Disease Control  
Occupational Health & Safety Training Grants

Ellenbecker, Michael  
$6,000  
ENSR Corporation  
S. Korea IAPC Update

Ellenbecker, Michael  
$29,400  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Laboratory Ventilation Design and troubleshooting and Fume Hood Testing

Ellenbecker, Michael  
$55,000  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
The Smaller Business TCE Project: Targeting Smaller Business for Trichloroethylene Use Reduction in Massachusetts

Forrant, Robert  
$10,000  
University Partnerships Clearinghouse  
Community Development Work Study Program

Goodhue, William  
$847,525  
Air Force Research Laboratory /SNHC  
Development of Long Wavelength Technologies Devices

Grinstein, Georges  
$140,000  
Evident Software  
Evident Software Design Proposal

Kegel, Gunter  
$6,000  
MicroSemi Lawrence  
Gamma Irradiation of Semi- Conductors

Lawton, Carl  
$42,000  
Antigenics  
Massachusetts Bioprocess Development Center

Levenstein, Charles  
$1,009,003  
National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences  
Worker Health & Safety Training Cooperative Agreement

Lynch, Robert  
$55,000  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Permeability of the Lung to Water Soluble Solutes

Malloy, Robert  
$10,000  
Clariant Masterbatches Division  
Filled PBT Systems

M andell, Charlotte  
$8,250  
UMass Amherst  
Specialization in Development Disabilities

McCarthy, Stephen  
$9,937  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Exploring the Application of Functionalized Nanospheres for Pb Removal

Mead, Joey  
$269,995  
US Army Soldier Systems Center  
Transport Properties of Breathable Butyl Rubber

Montesalvo, Mary  
$10,000  
US Department of Energy  
Nuclear Science Outreach Program

Montesalvo, Mary  
$91,500  
Omnirel Corporation  
Irradiation of Electronic Devices

Montesalvo, Mary  
$9,500  
Assurance Technology Corporation  
Gamma Radiation Effects on Electronic Components

O’Connell, Peter  
$10,000  
US Department of the Interior  
Finalizing the Education Partnership Case Studies

The American Public Health Association has given its highest occupational health and safety award to Prof. Charles Levenstein and Dean David H. Wegman. Levenstein, professor emeritus of work environment, and Wegman, dean of the School of Health and Environment, were named as co-recipients of the Alice Hamilton Award for 2004 by the Association’s Occupational Health and Safety Section (OHS). The award is the section’s highest honor and is given only to persons who have made a lifetime contribution to the health and safety profession.

“Both of these men have contributed, each in his own way, to the occupational health and safety profession over the decades,” said Prof. David Kotelchuck, OH&S chairperson. “In recent years their careers have been inextricably intertwined as they and their colleagues have made the occupational safety and health program of the University of Massachusetts Lowell one of the leading health and safety programs in the United States.” Wegman, founding chair of the Department of Work Environment, has served on seven committees of the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council and on more than three dozen research and evaluation government commissions. Levenstein, professor emeritus of work environment policy, is editor of New Solutions: Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health Policy, and Work, Health and Environment.

The award ceremony honoring the two was part of the American Public Health Association convention in Washington, D.C.
New Students Develop Strategies for Success

The name says it all: “Strategies for Success” gives incoming students some of the basic tools that will help them succeed academically during their first year at UMass Lowell. Several optional one-day workshops, held each August, are sponsored by the Centers for Learning. Grouped by major, students meet professors, learn where to get tutoring and other academic help, and get an overview of what their academic life will be like.

“We started the Strategies program in 1988 as a way to provide incoming students with an academic orientation to campus,” says Sheila Riley-Callahan, executive director of Academic Services. “They hear from faculty about what to expect in the classroom, we teach study skills, and we try to connect them to other students in their major.”

“There were about 250 students and a dozen faculty members participating this summer,” says Suzanne Larnache, coordinator of Tutoring Services at the Centers for Learning, and coordinator of the Strategies program. “The consistent feedback from students is positive.”

“Other Students Develop Strategies for Success" gives incoming students some of the basic tools that will help them succeed academically during their first year at UMass Lowell. Several optional one-day workshops, held each August, are sponsored by the Centers for Learning. Grouped by major, students meet professors, learn where to get tutoring and other academic help, and get an overview of what their academic life will be like.

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DiNatale Sets Public Affairs Direction

ouls DiNatale hit University Avenue running this fall and in 90 days has become a familiar presence across campus. Charged with guiding public policy initiatives, providing marketing strategies, and researching and analyzing economic and social issues, UML’s executive director of public affairs has immersed himself in campus activities and already ranks high on the list of personnel in the category of most meetings attended per week.

“We’ve got excellent programs and world-class researchers doing work that’s recognized internationally,” says DiNatale, “and now we have to make sure people know about this high quality University. This campus is a leader in science, technology, and health. The emphasis on sustainability extends to healthy communities and the best kind of civic engagement. When the word about UML gets out more widely, and the image is transformed, it will make a difference in attracting support, obtaining resources, and deepening and broadening the pool of student talent that we draw upon.”

Initiative number one is a TV advertising campaign set to air by late fall, coinciding with the window of time during which high school seniors are beginning to look closely at college options. The first ad promotes UML’s leadership in nanotechnology.

DiNatale came to Lowell from the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he directed the Center for State and Local Policy. He was affiliated with the McCormick School of Public Policy Studies, where he was a Senior Fellow in Massachusetts Politics and taught in the master’s program in public affairs. He holds degrees from Brandeis University and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

“Excellent and affordable public higher education is an indispensable ingredient in the effort to attain a high quality community life for everyone in Massachusetts,” says DiNatale. “I’m grateful to be on the Lowell campus and working with a tremendous team of people committed to achieving that goal.” At Lowell, he has established the Center for Economic and Civic Opinion. His polling and survey work will help inform policy decisions on campus, especially as related to UML’s work on behalf of sustainable development. Collecting information about the economy and emerging trends will help Lowell researchers in their work with regional industries and communities.

A sought-after political analyst and commentator, DiNatale is now heard regularly on the Sunrise morning news and information program on the campus radio station, WUML, 91.5 FM. He is also a frequent guest on NECN-TV and is often cited in The Boston Globe. He has been featured in major media outlets such as The New York Times, Washington Post, TIME, ABC-TV, and the BBC.

Tech Transfer in Assistive Technology

Senior electrical engineering student Senait "Lidya" Hajeaselassie, above, and Alan Rux, technical associate with the Assistive Technology Program, gave a presentation on "Environment Control for Under Fifty Dollars" to the Boston chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. This was part of a technology transfer initiative to disseminate information gained from hundreds of student assistive technology projects. Participants at the invited presentation included disabled individuals and family members, care providers and hospital staff, as well as Mechanical Engineering Prof. Robert Parkin with four students considering service-learning projects.
Moir Constructs a Model for Women in the Trades

A
fter receiving both her master’s and doctoral degrees from UMass Lowell and spending more than 12 years as co-founder, first director and senior researcher of the Constructional Occupational Health Program (COHP), Susan Moir recently completed her research on women in the construction trades. As one of seven new faculty associates of the Center for Women and Work (CWW), Moir will share her findings with her fellow colleagues and campus community.

“My colleague, Elizabeth Skidmore of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, and I studied 60 construction programs around the country,” says Moir who received the funding for her research from Youth-Build of Providence.

Interviews were conducted with training staff, trainees and tradeswomen to gather data about their experiences and opinions on the construction trades. Moir’s goal was to outline a plan for a pre-apprenticeship model to serve as a guide for women who want to gain entry into the industry. She also focused on identifying key resources the women likely will need and any potential barriers they may face.

This project is one of many she has completed over the years. While serving as director of COHP from 1992 to 2004, Moir developed publications to communicate research results to workers and industry members, and conducted several research projects with construction workers. The findings from her current research on women in the trades will be presented in a report for YouthBuild and made part of a presentation to the University community, as required by the CWW.

Moir already has joined forces with her CWW associates, getting them involved in developing proposals to share their research at a UMass Boston conference on labor issues.

“I was pleased to be invited to become a member of the Center,” says Moir, who says she hopes her research will offer women insight on “what it really takes to enter and survive in the industry.”

—KP

Hockey East Officials in Good Hands

B
ill Riley sits and watches video tape.

It has been a long time since he has done that. Riley, the UMass Lowell Coordinator of Home Sporting Events, has been appointed by Hockey East as a special assistant to the Supervisor of Officials.

“He experience, both as a referee and a Division I head coach, gives him a unique credibility for the job that has been created,” says Hockey East Commissioner Joe Bertagna.

The position was created at the request of the conference’s coaches concerned about the quality and consistency of officiating. Riley will be responsible for observing the performance of officials, reviewing video tapes with on-ice officials, and providing other counsel in helping the officials meet conference and NCAA expectations.

“I review the tape (of a game) then meet with the officials and work with them to develop consistency and continuity so that all officials are in the boat and rowing in the same direction, calling the plays the same way,” says Riley.

“What constitutes a five-minute major for charging, for example? We want everybody on the same page.”

That job has become both more difficult and more significant this season following the NCAA decision to demand officials more strictly interpret and enforce the penalties for obstruction.

The move is intended to open the game up and allow for more offense.

“There was a lot of hooking, a lot of holding, a lot of interference in the game—clutching and grabbing,” says Riley. “They want to put more offense in the game, get more goals scored, and make it a better specta
tor sport.”

Riley says he is impressed with the level of officiating he has seen in Hockey East and believes the renewed emphasis on eliminating obstruction penalties is working.

“The coaches and players are doing a great job adjusting to the points of emphasis. There are fewer and fewer penalties being called each week because they know the officials are not going to back down, and, as a result, I’ve seen some very good offensive play.”

The last time Riley watched hockey this closely was when he was leading the UMass Lowell program. He was the head coach for 22 seasons, taking the program from practice in a frozen parking lot when the program was a member of Division III and Lowell Tech to Division I in the NCAA tournament as UMass Lowell.

Along the way his teams set all sorts of records and won three Divi
sion II National Championships. Riley compiled a coaching record of 363-270-22.

While that coaching history is known, often overlooked is Riley’s 12 seasons as a referee before the University’s program moved to Division I in 1983. His officiating resume includes several Beanpot Tournaments, ECAC League Championships and the 1976 NCAA National Championship game.

Chen and Vedula, Back from NSF Stints, Report Years of Renewal and Discovery

T
wo faculty members of the College of Engineering, including a former dean, have recently returned from terms serving with the National Science Foundation in Washington, and are now back at their classroom posts.

Krishna Vedula, UMass Lowell engineering dean for eight years, worked with the NSF last year as a program director in two departments: the Engineering Education Center and the Division of Undergraduate Education. In the course of his service time, he says, he developed programs in engineering education, joined in reviewing grant proposals to determine those most deserving of funding and generally pursued issues “relevant to the future of engineering education.”

“It was an exciting year,” he reports. “Very renewing. I learned a great deal about what’s going on in this country in the education of engineering students. But I’m happy, too, to get back to the classroom—where I want to bring that new understanding, as well as a fresh energy.”

Julie Chen, professor of mechanical engineering, has returned from a two-year NSF service stint, during which she worked as program director for both the Foundation’s nanomanufacturing and materials-processing & manufacturing programs. Much of her work, she says, included outreach to the technical community, as well as—much like the contribution of Prof. Vedula—the handling and consideration of grant proposals.

“I attended a good number of conferences,” she says, “and visited a lot of universities I would probably never have seen. One part of the job was to promote networking among people—to get them to talk to each other about common projects and ideas. But also to encourage proposals, and to help people understand just what types of proposals the NSF is looking to fund.”

Perhaps the greatest benefit to have come from her two-year service term, Chen says, was “the view I came away with of the big picture of things...”

“It was a chance to be exposed to people from all over the world—other professors, of course, but also people in industry, the people who work in the national labs—and to see what they’re pursuing, what sorts of things they’re thinking and talking about. It gives you a sense of context, which is very valuable. Also the chance to witness, even take part in, the most cutting-edge advances in your field...”

“It’s an experience, and a body of knowledge, you can’t help but bring back with you to the classroom.”
The films enhance As well, her proposal to the Asst. Prof. Judith magazine featured the ing” appeared in learning project initiated in the class. have published an article on a service Leaderhip in Higher Education course Hickey and Carolyn Siccama—in her Education and three doctoral recent published textbook, Research and Methods to coincide with the 17th on Epidemiology Research Principles three authors taught a one-day course Disparities Research Service Award of$15,000 from the National Institutes of teaching and teaching tools to improve students’ picture of science in a fun, non-traditional manner. Also at the gathering, a member of the steering committee, Karen Boufard, was presented with a plaque for her unwavering commitment since 1991. She has had a fruitful career as a science teacher in Massachusetts and is now moving on to Washington.

Mike Prokosch, who for the last five years has coordinated the global economy program for United for a Fair Economy in Boston, has been

Science magazine featured the recent research of Prof. Jayant Kumar, director of the Center for Advanced Materials, in the Oct. 15 issue. Kumar and his research team were able to synthesize greatly improved flame-retardant materials. Polymeric flame retardants typically release toxic and corrosive gases during combustion and are environmentally persistent. Kumar’s method obtained materials that were heat resistant up to 400 deg. C, completely decomposed and produced no toxic materials.

Human Resources Director Jack Giarusso has been elected by his peers to represent them on the national board of directors of the University Professional Association for Human Resources.

Dean Jacqueline Moloney of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education and three doctoral students—Steven Dion, Charmaine Hickey and Carolyn Siccama—in her Leadership in Higher Education course have published an article on a service learning project initiated in the class. “Transforming Graduate Students into Leaders Through Service Learning” appeared in American Leader, a publication for academic deans and department chairs. The article describes the impact of the service learning project on their learning and their institution.

Assoc. Prof. David Kriebel of Work Environment co-authored a recently published textbook, Research Methods in Occupational Epidemiology, with Profs. Harvey Checkoway of the University of Washington and Neil Pearce of Massey University of New Zealand.

To celebrate the publication, the three authors taught a one-day course on Epidemiology Research Principles and Methods to coincide with the 17th International Symposium on Epidemiology in Occupational Health, held in Melbourne, Australia.

Asst. Prof. Michaela Colombo of the Graduate School of Education’s Leadership in Schooling program, published an article entitled, “Literacy for All Students: Professional Development for Cultural Continuity,” in the New England Reading Association Journal. As well, her proposal to the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE) was accepted and she will present her paper, “Professional Development for Mainstream Teachers of Culturally Diverse Students,” in San Antonio, Texas, in January. Colombo has also been nominated to the English Language Learners Advisory Council for the Massachusetts Department of Education and her dissertation was chosen as a semi-finalist for the NABE Outstanding Dissertation competition. Six were chosen throughout the country.

Asst. Prof. Judith Davidson of the Graduate School of Education’s Leadership in Schooling program will have her article, “I am a Fieldnote: Researching and Teaching With Visual Data,” published in the December issue of the Qualitative Research Journal, the publication of the Association for Qualitative Research. In addition, Davidson was named editor of the “Teaching Qualitative Research” section of the journal.

Newsletter Editor for Communications and Marketing Matt Miller published his poems “The Blades” in the Connecticut Review and “Playing the Mnemonica” in Entelechy International.

Asst. Psychology Prof. Khanh Dinh recently received a Health Disparities Research Service Award of $15,000 from the National Institutes of Health. The award will fund portions of two studies. One will explore whether factors such as ethnic pride and religiosity are predictors of the health status of Mexican American Women. The second will examine mental health predictors among Asian Americans.

Arbitrator Backs University on Wooding Appointments

A n arbitrator has ruled that the University properly filled the interim associate provost, interim provost and provost positions in 2003, in response to a grievance filed by the Massachusetts Society of Professors (MSP). Those positions were filled by Prof. John Wooding, who was chair of the Department of Regional Economic and Social Development prior to the appointments. “I am satisfied that the University did not violate the Collective Bargaining Agreement” by the way it filled the three positions, the arbitrator, Richard G. Higgins, wrote in his decision dated August 18, 2004.

Lowell had argued that a search committee should have been established before hiring someone for the interim positions; that those appointments had the effect of discouraging other applicants for the provost position; and that an external search should have been undertaken before filling the provost position.

“I am satisfied that Section B [of the collective bargaining agreement] does not require a search committee for Interim and/or Acting positions,” wrote Higgins.

Higgins also ruled in favor of the University on each of “two primary points of contention” over the process for filling the permanent provost position. “The Society’s position on the issue of interim experience…never cleared the first hurdle establishing the existence of said discouraged candidate,” wrote Higgins, regarding the first point of contention.

With respect to the contention that the collective bargaining agreement required an external search to fill the permanent provost position, Higgins wrote, “internal searches only for major academic administration positions…are permissible.”

Part of the record in the arbitration case is a memo from the chair of the search committee, Beverly Volier, chair of the Department of Community Health and Sustainability, to Chancellor William T. Hogan recommending Wooding for the appointment. “We unanimously and enthusiastically recommend the appointment of Dr. John Wooding to the position of Provost. We feel that Dr. Wooding is well qualified to carry out the job of Provost, that he clearly has the best interests of UMass Lowell in mind, and that he is honest, honorable, and capable person and will approach the job as such.”

Sadler Stands Up for Science

A standing room only crowd recently heard Dr. Philip Sadler of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics talk about connecting high school instruction and college performance in physics.

Sadler said there is no clear evidence that current preparation, such as honors classes, is enough for high school students to succeed in higher-level science during their college experience. To remedy this problem, he has come up with new teaching tools to improve students’ concept of science. He invented the Starlab Portable Planetarium and has developed curricula that are used by an estimated 12 million students every year.

Attendees of the Lowell Regional Physics Alliance (LRPA)-sponsored event received copies of the Harvard-Smithsonian’s award-winning films A Private Universe and Minds of Our Own. The films enhance students’ picture of science in a fun, non-traditional manner.

Mike Prokosch

Prokosch Named to Labor Extension Staff

Mike Prokosch, who for the last five years has coordinated the global economy program for United for a Fair Economy in Boston, has been named a member of the University’s Labor Extension Program staff.

In his previous post, Prokosch created and led popular economics workshops on outsourcing, the global economy, military spending and tax cuts.

In his new job at Lowell, he will be working on a new initiative linking University programs with workforce issues, such as changes in the Merrimack Valley’s population, jobs and workplaces. He will help identify new ways in which University resources can support worker organizations and bring new worker/community voices into campus programs.

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Also at the gathering, a member of the steering committee, Karen Boufard, was presented with a plaque for her unwavering commitment since 1991. She has had a fruitful career as a science teacher in Massachusetts and is now moving on to Washington.
Sunday, Nov. 28
Women’s Basketball, vs. Southern New Hampshire University, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Men’s Basketball, vs. Southern New Hampshire University, 4 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Monday, Nov. 29

Performance, Ensemble Series, Mixed Chamber, Prof. David Martins, director, 7:30 p.m., Fischer Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Tuesday, Nov. 30
Seminar, “Strategies and Tips for an Effective Application and Job Search Process,” Dr. Joan B. Cannon, faculty advisor, Psi Chi, will conduct this seminar on graduate school and the job search process, 1 to 3 p.m., O’Leary Library 222. For more information, contact (978) 934-3966 or joan_cannon@uml.edu.

Performance, Ensemble Series, Electric Guitar Ensemble, Prof. Jon Wheatley, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Wednesday, Dec. 1
Exhibit Reception, “Installation Art,” curated by Prof. Jim Coates, exhibit runs Nov. 17 through Dec. 14, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Dugan Gallery, Dugan Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.

Performance, Ensemble Series, Percussion Ensemble, Prof. Jeffrey Fischer, director, 7:30 p.m., Fischer Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Thursday, Dec. 2
Performance, Ensemble Series, String Ensembles, Dr. Kay George Roberts, director, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.