State Awards $5 Million for Center of Excellence in Nanomanufacturing

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative recently granted its first award for university-based technology research—a $5 million check to UMass Lowell for a Center of Excellence in Nanomanufacturing.

“This is just the kind of strategic investment we intend to make. This is the model,” said Mitchell Adams, executive director of MTC, at a December press conference in Cumnock Hall.

Initial funds will be used to hire someone to work with industry, purchase equipment, fund student projects, and to work with the Museum of Science in Boston on an educational museum component. Additional funding, up to the $5 million total, will arrive from the state.

Students Prepare for College—With a Little Help From Nellie Mae

The University of Massachusetts Lowell and Lowell High School won a competitive grant recently to improve college preparation for all students. The Nellie Mae Education Foundation’s Partnerships for College Success program awarded the project $250,000 per year for five years.

Nellie Mae is New England’s largest public charity dedicated to improving academic achievement. They provide grants and technical assistance to programs that concentrate on academic enrichment, college planning, advising, preparation and retention support for low-income, under-served students.

Future of Work Project Rides the Wave of Change

When it comes to rapidly changing working conditions, it feels like the future is now.


How to make sense of it? How to survive?

The University of Massachusett’s President’s Office and the state legislature have funded a Future of Work project for the Labor Programs at the four undergraduate campuses. The project will build a picture of the changing nature of work, from the point of view of workers, and will explore ways to influence working conditions.

UMass Lowell’s Labor Extension program held a regional meeting in December of union leaders and activists along with community organizations, academics and others interested in workplace issues. More than 50 people attended for a morning of presentations, and large group and small group discussions.

Three speakers drew on their own experiences for their presentations.

Darcie Boyer drew on the experience of community residents to say, “You can’t talk about work without talking about housing, transportation, healthcare and decision-making power.” Boyer is an organizer with the Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell.

Bill Lazonick described changes in the culture of finance capital that are taking down companies like Lucent and replacing them with a globalized, increasingly contingent workforce. Lazonick is a professor in Regional Economic and Social Development and co-

Water + Gravity + Anything Else ~ [Random Teams] ~ Small Light On and Off = Seven Winners of Rube Goldberg Competition

Say “Rube Goldberg” and almost everyone knows what you mean, although the master cartoonist himself died more than 30 years ago.

Goldberg drew a series of wacky “inventions” that used the most convoluted and absurd methods to complete simple tasks. He described his cartoons as symbols of man’s capacity for exerting maximum effort to accomplish minimal results.

Rube Goldberg’s roundabout approach to problem solving recently inspired some remarkable inventions, created by UMass Lowell freshman engineering students. Seven are now on permanent display in the Tsongas Industrial History Center’s inventions lab. The Center is an educational partnership between the Lowell National Park and UML.

“The set the students an open-ended problem to turn a small light on and off,” says Plastics Engineering Assoc. Prof. David Kazmer, who teaches the Introduction to Engineering course to about 200 students. “They could incorporate water, various power sources, gravity, and any materials they could find in addition to the
Graduate School of Education Presents Papers at Montreal Conference

The Graduate School of Education’s Leadership in Scholarship program will be well represented at the forthcoming American Educational Research Association’s annual conference to be held in Montreal in April. Asst. Prof. Michaela Colombo will present her paper “Professional Development: Teachers’ Cultural Awareness and Knowledge of Effective Instruction for Culturally Diverse Latino Children.” Asst. Prof. Laura O’Dwyer will present two papers, “Estimating the NAEP Population Distribution: Imputing Scores for Excluded Students using Hierarchical Linear Modeling Techniques” and “Examining the Relationship Between Computer Use at Home and in School, and Student Achievement.” Asst. Prof. Judith Davidson will present her paper, “Genre and Qualitative Research Software: New Modes of Literacy in Qualitative Research.”

Davidson will also present a paper, “Reading ’the project’: Qualitative research software and the issue of genre in qualitative research,” at the First International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry to be held at the University of Illinois Champaign in May. As well, O’Dwyer has had a paper, titled “Middle and High School Teachers’ Use of Educational Technology: A Multilevel Regression Modeling Investigation,” accepted to the New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO) which she will present in Northampton, also in April.

CITA Hosts Cinema Series

The Committee on Industrial Theory and Assessment (CITA) will host a film series on Thursdays in April in downtown Lowell. The four-part series will examine issues of sustainable social and economic development. Food from local restaurants will be served.

April 7 will feature Uprooted, a short film that presents three stories of immigrants who left their homes in Bolivia, Haiti and the Philippines and came to the U.S. On April 14, Monkey Dance, a new documentary film, tells about three Cambodian-American teenagers who are members of the Angkor Dance Troupe based in Lowell. The Value of Life: AIDS in Africa Revisited will run on April 21. And, Is Wal-Mart Good for America?, the recent Frontline special on PBS, will conclude the series on April 28.

The exact location and time will be announced in the coming weeks. The series is part of CITA’s year-long effort to broaden the discussion on these issues on campus.

UML Hosts Qualitative Research Network Forum

A panel of UML qualitative research instructors held a discussion last month entitled, “A Lot of What You’ve Always Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask About Qualitative Research Courses on the UML campus.” Panelists described course approaches, materials and learning in the field of qualitative research. The presentation was a response to faculty, staff, and student questions about where one should go on campus to learn how to do qualitative research.

“We discussed how we might craft high level qualitative research training that is interdisciplinary in nature.”

In addition to providing a brief overview of their qualitative research courses, panelists shared syllabi and materials with one another and students.

“We discussed how we might craft high level qualitative research training that is interdisciplinary in nature,” says Davidson. “We also addressed the ways we might help students to experience qualitative research in applied formats, how to expand the use of and range of technologies and build a strong users community around the use of qualitative research software and how faculty can receive training in qualitative research methods, particularly the use of the software tools.”

Lewis Hosts Political Science Dinner

More than two dozen students and alumni of the Political Science Department—including identical twins who have excelled in the field—attended a dinner hosted by Prof. Fred Lewis.

Derek and Geoff Beckwith, who were students at the University in the late 1970’s, shared their political experiences with current students, many of whom hope to one day follow in their footsteps.

“Derek, who has been a political consultant and major event organizer for more than two decades, is on the faculty at Emerson College and Geoff, who was a state representative in the 1980’s, has served in recent years as executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

“The informal dinner gave the current students a chance to chat with the Beckwith brothers and gain some insight into how their predecessors moved into the world of political work, and the satisfactions and difficulties they have encountered,” Lewis said.

Lewis was well prepared for the evening’s political discussions, as the previous week he had attended a conference on “The Transformation of the American Polity” at Harvard University.
**COM Professor Pulls Down the Veil on Virtual Teams**

In a global economy where different skills sets can become suddenly necessary at any given moment, the use of virtual teams collaborating around the world through the latest in computer mediated technology is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. However, virtual teams are not without drawbacks. Many may see them as poor substitutes for the age-old conference room. College of Management Asst. Prof. Sheila Weber is conducting research to solve the inherent problems of virtual teams.

“Virtual teams, regardless of field or discipline, are groups of people who carry out interdependent tasks using technology to communicate rather than traditional face-to-face contact. They are used by organizations to compensate for scarce resources or to carry out projects that involve multiple locations. Vital as they are, they are not without their problems.”

“The biggest problem with virtual teams is that it is more difficult to communicate in the way we are accustomed to,” says Weber. “Social cues that we take for granted and which are so vital for communicating, such as eye contact, humor, tone, gestures, and all the other non-verbal cues that are often lost through mediums such as e-mail and instant messaging.”

Weber contends that it is not only this lack of social cues that can disrupt virtual team performance. Environmental stressors are also a factor.

“One team member conferencing on a phone while sitting on a beach in Malibu may not feel the same environmental pressures that, say, someone conferencing on a phone stuck in city traffic during a snow storm may feel,” says Weber. “Estrangement between environments—the pressures or lack of pressure in one environment are hard to relate to another environment with different pressures and external factors.”

According to Weber a negative effect can result, then, not from any lack of performance by the team but by a lack of perception among team. And while there was much research on face-to-face team dynamics, very little existed about virtual, computer-mediated teams. To examine this, Weber and her colleague, Catherine Crompton of the George Mason University School of Management, conducted a study of 218 members of 39 software development teams. The results showed that geographical dispersion significantly and negatively related to work process and team effectiveness.

“The findings were fairly intuitive,” says Weber. “What was a surprise was the low score on perception of a team’s work as opposed to how it really performed. Even when a team was performing well, the perception that it was not was troubling. It could affect the team’s sense of performance. A team member could think that project is doomed, so they just give up or they could do the opposite and kill themselves trying to do everything, which eliminates the whole advantage of working in a team in the first place.”

The problem, suggests Weber, may be that team members are getting all the big news but none of the little news. Major tasks are seen to be done but the little tasks, the mortar that holds the rest together, can be perceived as not completed. Weber says this is because you don’t see what your team member 3000 miles away is doing every day to reach the larger goals. This creates a perception that not enough is being done and that your team is not cohesive or competent. According to Weber, occasional face-to-face interaction can fill in the gaps left by a purely virtual collaboration and can strengthen team performance and perception.

“Right now, virtual teams are not as effective as face-to-face teams but, given the global context, they are a necessity,” says Weber. “But just because you have the technology to use virtual teams doesn’t mean you’re using them to the greatest effect. The goal of this research is to help companies improve the effectiveness of virtual teams by showing them what works, what is missing, and what more can be done.”

---

**Students Make Lowell Fund Appeal**

Three students will be the face of the Lowell Fund this year, giving alumni a taste of what real students are doing on campus while demonstrating the effect the Lowell Fund has on the University. These profiles, called “Works in Progress: Stories from UMass Lowell,” are part of a direct mail campaign targeting all alumni.

Lowell Fund Director Kathrine Hastings says she hopes the campaign, which started in September, will help the Lowell Fund reach its $1 million goal—never before accomplished—by the end of the fiscal year, June 30. The campaign’s goals are to educate donors about how their Lowell Fund gifts impact students, and to generate pride and excitement among alumni.

Alos Diallo ’05, a biology/bioinformatics major and philosophy minor, was the first to be featured in the fall mailing. A Lowell native, Alos receives financial assistance through the Lowell Fund, which supports campus-wide, current priorities, including scholarships, faculty development, library and computer resources, special research projects and facilities management.

The second mailing, sent in January, features Mariette Guillaume ’06, a psychology major and French minor who is also on the women’s basketball team. Rad Martinez, a junior majoring in electrical engineering, will be featured in the final mailing, scheduled to be sent in June.

Hastings says this student-centered approach came out of focus groups with alumni, who were asked what would motivate them to give to UML.

“We wanted to show our alumni what is happening on campus today, and how their gift will have a direct effect on current students. Alumni often ask, what will my money do? This campaign gives three great examples,” she says. “The students profiled illustrate the hard-working, well-rounded, interesting, dedicated kids that attend UMass Lowell.”

All gifts to the Lowell Fund are put to work within the year they are received. Lowell Fund donors can choose to restrict their gift to college, department, athletic program or research center, for example—or designate their gift as unrestricted, which enables the University to use it to meet campus-wide priorities.

Hastings hopes to feature faculty in next year’s campaign and alumni the following year.

To view the direct-mail pieces, and learn more about the students profiled and the Lowell Fund, visit www.uml.edu/alumni.

---

**Staff Members ’Continue’ to Give During the Holidays**

▲ Staff members from the Continuing Studies and Corporate Education office showed the true meaning of the holiday spirit when they decided to forego their annual “Secret Santa” gift exchange and instead collected $800 through office contributions, which they donated to the Lowell Sun Santa Fund.
State Awards $5 Million for Center of Excellence in Nanomanufacturing

as matching funds flow in for the project. Already, the NSF has awarded a five-year $12.4 million NSF grant to UMass Lowell, Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire for nanomanufacturing research.

“We’re very excited,” said Prof. Julie Chen, lead researcher on the nanomanufacturing team. “We see this Center of Excellence as a way to bring together what we need to make things happen.” Assoc. Profs. Carol Barry and Joey Mead round out the team.

“We’re here to talk about the biggest little thing in the world,” said Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos of Lowell, who played a key role in securing university research funding.

“A lot of times we work on legislation and we never get to see its impact locally. Here, they’re working on all Massachusetts students,” said Mayor Armand Mercier.

Other members of the Lowell legislative delegation, Lowell Mayor Armand Mercier, and other state and regional officials also joined Chancellor William T. Hogan and other campus representatives at the announcement. —RC

STEM Fellows Bring Students Back to Math and Science

Mass Lowell and its affiliated partners recently launched its STEM Fellows Program to focus attention of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education in middle and high schools throughout the north region of the state. Supported by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education through its Pipeline Fund, the STEM Fellows Program’s goal is to direct students toward professions in these fields.

“More and more we see that students are shying away from fields like math and science,” says Marjorie Dennis, project coordinator for the STEM Fellows Program through the University’s Center of Field Services and Studies (CFSS). “Why is this? The STEM Fellows hope to find that hook that gets students excited about studies in science, technology, engineering and math.”

Scores released this fall by the international student assessment test administered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development underscored this problem. Students from the United States had some of the poorest scores of any industrialized nation. A recent Wall Street Journal article, in particular pointed to the link between these low numbers and the potential future dearth of professionals and researchers in this field and the resulting negative effect on the U.S. economy.

“The STEM Fellows Program represents a coordinated effort, among schools, colleges, and private industry in the northeast region of Massachusetts, to respond to the urgent need for more highly qualified people to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” says Don Pier-

The competition aims to help new business leaders create a compelling story for raising funds from government sources, “angel” investors, and venture capital firms. The aim is to teach entrepreneurs superior presentation skills, and also to encourage networking among participants and industry leaders.

The competition will consist of three events: a coaching session on presentation skills on Feb. 15, the first round competition on March 21, hosted by UMass Lowell; and the final competition on April 27. Five winners will be selected.

“Start-up companies need management guidance and other resources as well as cash,” says Paul Wormser, entrepreneur-in-residence at CVD. “So we are excited to offer to the winner a one-year membership that includes office space and mentorship by energy experts and experienced entrepreneurs.”

For more information contact Wormser at paul_wormser@uml.edu.

UML, MIT Sponsor Clean Energy Competition

Mass Lowell and MIT Enterprise Forum are launching a new business plan competition, awarding a total of $50,000 in prizes. The winner will receive $15,000 and a one-year membership in UML’s Commercial Venture Development (CVD) incubator.

The contest will focus on an ignored aspect of entrepreneurship: crafting the initial pitch. The sponsoring hope to identify emerging entrepreneurs involved in developing the next generation of clean energy.

A common complaint of venture capital investors and business analysts is that entrepreneurs’ presentations are disorganized, self-serving, jargon-filled, and irrelevant,” says Jim Walker, chair of the energy group of MIT’s Enterprise Forum.

Competition organizers are calling on all Massachusetts students, researchers, and entrepreneurs involved in emerging energy technologies to enter.

Scores released this fall by the international student assessment test administered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development underscored this problem. Students from the United States had some of the poorest scores of any industrialized nation. A recent Wall Street Journal article, in particular pointed to the link between these low numbers and the potential future dearth of professionals and researchers in this field and the resulting negative effect on the U.S. economy.

“The STEM Fellows Program represents a coordinated effort, among schools, colleges, and private industry in the northeast region of Massachusetts, to respond to the urgent need for more highly qualified people to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” says Don Pier-

The competition aims to help new business leaders create a compelling story for raising funds from government sources, “angel” investors, and venture capital firms. The aim is to teach entrepreneurs superior presentation skills, and also to encourage networking among participants and industry leaders.

The competition will consist of three events: a coaching session on presentation skills on Feb. 15, the first round competition on March 21, hosted by UMass Lowell; and the final competition on April 27. Five winners will be selected.

“Start-up companies need management guidance and other resources as well as cash,” says Paul Wormser, entrepreneur-in-residence at CVD. “So we are excited to offer to the winner a one-year membership that includes office space and mentorship by energy experts and experienced entrepreneurs.”

For more information contact Wormser at paul_wormser@uml.edu.
Water + Gravity + Anything Else ~ [Random Teams] ~ Small Light On and Off = Seven Winners of Rube Goldberg Competition

few components provided. And I assigned them to random teams, because that’s the way you work in industry.” Kazmer saw the project as an opportunity for students to apply the engineering principles they are learning, to be creative and have some fun. The project also is part of Service Learning at the college, since the inventions were created for a community client.

Beverly Perna, museum education specialist at the Center, is delighted with the display of inventions. “Teachers demonstrate them to the students in the Invention Factory program,” she says. “Here we have seven different approaches to the same problem. It brings the engineering design process to life and reminds people that UMass Lowell has a famous engineering school.” More than 60,000 schoolchildren and teachers visit the Tsongas Center each year for a variety of interactive programs.

Why Rube Goldberg?

“It’s fun and captures the imagination,” says Perna. In the end, Perna and colleagues Dr. Timothy LaVallee and Martha Barrett, project assistants at the Center, judged 70 projects. The inventions were rated on originality, creativity, playfulness and use of materials, in addition to meeting the performance requirements.

Perna is especially pleased about forging a closer relationship with the College of Engineering. “The Center’s focus, the Industrial Revolution, is all about engineering,” says Perna. “James B. Francis [for whom the Francis College of Engineering is named] was the engineer of the Industrial Revolution—he’s our hero, too.”

—SS

A Christmas Gift, High Over the Doors

The three large Christmas wreaths you saw last month over the front entrance to Cumnock Hall were there—for the second year in a row—as a courtesy of the same man who has been laying wreaths, installing telecommunications, rehabbing classroom wiring and rigging electronic ID-card systems at UMass Lowell now for better than a decade. “We get a lot of work from the University,” says Jason Mercier, “and have for a long time now. So it really wasn’t much to donate our time to put up the wreaths.”

Mercier, with his father Jerry, is the proprietor of Mercier Electric and Communications, Inc., the Dracut-based family firm that began doing telecommunications work for UMass Lowell in the early nineties. They expanded into electronics six years ago, and since then have been doing a major part of the University’s electrical work.

To install the wreaths, says Mercier, required the services of two men and a bucket-truck with a 35-foot boom—one of the men to place and connect the wreaths, the other to spot him from the ground. The boom, he says, was fully extended.

“Thirty-five feet—it doesn’t sound like much till you’re up there. But once you are, it’s a long way down to the ground.”

New Affirmative Action Head Brings Wide Experience to Job

Oneda Blagg, the newly-hired UMass Lowell director of Affirmative Action Compliance and Equal Opportunity, who replaced Barbara Lyman as head of that Office at the start of this year, brings with her a diverse background in human resources and equal opportunity.

As a consultant and assistant to the dean of the College of Health Professions at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff—and formerly as director of Student Services there—she prepared recruitment videos, initiated a student ambassador program, provided referral assistance to probationary students, established unprecedented rapport with Phoenix’s largest African-American church, and wrote the university’s first strategic recruitment plan to be considered by the dean and faculty focusing on increasing minority enrollment.

Prior to that, she served as director of Equal Opportunity, then of Human Relations, to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners in Fort Myers, Fla., and has taught courses in business, communication and the social sciences at several colleges and universities in Florida and the southwest.

In addition, she served as state equal employment manager for both the Washington and Arkansas Army National Guard, in which she continues to serve as a major. She earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., where her graduate degree focus was on conflict resolution/organization conflict.

Looking ahead to her new role at UMass Lowell, she describes her mission as that of “providing training and guidance in the resolution of specific issues, as well as making certain the University is doing everything it can to be consistent with the phrase we all hear so often—‘We are for diversity.’”

Students Prepare for College—With a Little Help From Nellie Mae

The grant program strengthens existing collaborations between universities and high schools. The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation will provide technical assistance as the intermediary for the program.

“The University of Massachusetts Lowell and Lowell High School have a long history of highly collaborative work focused on improving academic achievement,” said Blenda J. Wilson, president and CEO of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

“Through this grant, our faculty and Lowell High School teachers will work closely to coordinate their course content and will concentrate on strong preparation for college,” Provost John Wooding said.

“As partners, we share the same desire—to see our students fully develop their abilities and understanding of the world that awaits them. We hope that our graduates leave this university as thoughtful, capable and compassionate human beings who contribute to a vibrant economy and community.”

UML and Lowell High School will be part of a cluster along with the three other grant recipients in New England: UMass Boston and the Dorchester Education Complex, Clark University and the University Park Campus School, and the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

“We are for diversity.”

Continued from Page 1
New UMass Lowell Web Page Aims to ‘Catch the Buzz’

If you’ve visited the UMass Lowell Web page lately, you probably know it already—there have been some changes made.

What you used to see was pretty generic: a name and logo, some listings of upcoming events, rollover images of student and University life. Useful for the information it provided, but largely static, without much variation from week to week.

No longer. Today, if you click on the UML Web site, what greets you is a color photo, modified by a catchy caption: “Honey, I Shrunk the Technology” was a recent example—a reprint of a piece about the advances in nanotechnology at UMass Lowell. Also on the site recently were pieces on the Computer Science Department’s work with robots and the initiatives on “green chemistry” being advanced by Prof. John Warner of the Community Health and Sustainability Department, which was featured in USA Today.

“It was an idea that just sort of bubbled up,” says Elaine Keough, of Communications and Marketing, who serves as the University’s Web content manager and is among the group that selects stories for inclusion. “We were looking for a way to freshen our Web page—something that, at the same time, would tell the world about some of the really cool things that are happening on this campus. But things too, like robots or nanotechnology, that have an application in the wider world.”

The Web-page update, says Keough, began last October—around the time of the World Series—with a story reprinted from The Shuttle about Engineering Prof. James Sherwood’s work testing balls and bats for Major League Baseball. “It seemed like a timely subject to start with,” Keough says. “And it’s the kind of story that tends to catch a buzz—that’s what we try to look for.”

Others involved in the selection process with Keough include Communications and Marketing Executive Director Christine Dunlap, and C&M staffers Elizabeth James, Gerry Nelson, Ferny Lopez and Kareem Abu-Zahra.

Others subjects that either have or will be featured on the Web page include the University’s business incubation initiatives and the Sound Recording Technology Program’s critical listening and recording studio.

Szczesiul Seeks to Enhance the Gen Ed Experience for Students

Ideally, says Tony Szczesiul, students should view General Education courses as educational opportunities that complement their major courses of study and not as onerous requirements.

“We need to do a better job of explaining to students why these courses are required. They should view them as an educational opportunity and not as hoops that they have to jump through,” he says.

Szczesiul, an associate professor of English, became General Education Coordinator last semester, succeeding History Prof. Jonathan Liebowitz, who had presided over the program since its revision in 2000.

“During the first five years it was necessary to review and approve all the courses that were going to qualify for General Education,” says Szczesiul. “It was a pretty arduous task. The Gen Ed committee had to make sure that each course met its stated learning objectives.

“Now, Szczesiul says he would like to enhance the program, making it more meaningful for students.

“We need to do a better job of ‘selling’ the program and having the students buy into it.

“When students consider it in the abstract, they often tend to complain about the need to take some of the courses. But if you talk to them afterward about the individual courses they actually took to fulfill their Gen Ed requirements, you often get a more positive response. They see the value of the material and understand how it relates to and enhances their major course of study.”

One initiative that Szczesiul believes would be beneficial would be the creation of a more interactive web site that would give students a clearer, more complete picture of each course offered and help them see how it complements their personal interests or chosen field of study.

“It was an idea that just sort of bubbled up,” says Elaine Keough, of Communications and Marketing, who serves as the University’s Web content manager and is among the group that selects stories for inclusion. “We were looking for a way to freshen our Web page—something that, at the same time, would tell the world about some of the really cool things that are happening on this campus. But things too, like robots or nanotechnology, that have an application in the wider world.”

The Web-page update, says Keough, began last October—around the time of the World Series—with a story reprinted from The Shuttle about Engineering Prof. James Sherwood’s work testing balls and bats for Major League Baseball. “It seemed like a timely subject to start with,” Keough says. “And it’s the kind of story that tends to catch a buzz—that’s what we try to look for.”

Others involved in the selection process with Keough include Communications and Marketing Executive Director Christine Dunlap, and C&M staffers Elizabeth James, Gerry Nelson, Ferny Lopez and Kareem Abu-Zahra.

Others subjects that either have or will be featured on the Web page include the University’s business incubation initiatives and the Sound Recording Technology Program’s critical listening and recording studio.

GearUp Makes the College Connection Personal

Not too many high school juniors get a personal invitation to campus.

And get a private tour.

And get to meet and ask questions of leading faculty from many departments.

And get a delicious dinner.

In fact, only 23 Lowell High School juniors received invitations to the UML Tour and Dinner Reception, sponsored by the GearUp program. Each student brought one parent.

“This was a new and innovative program to connect promising students to the prospect of a college education,” said Letitia Porter, GearUp manager of parent programs. “The students have been working hard through GearUp offerings and represent very diverse populations, including African, Cambodian, Brazilian, Latino and disadvantaged students.”

Eight faculty members joined the students and parents at dinner, then made short presentations and answered questions.

---

WEB UPDATE
---

Craig M. Dickert
Performers Pay Tribute in ‘Safe Harbor’

Winter pushes inland up the rivers, bearing slabs of frozen sea into salt marshes…”

An excerpt from the work of former New Hampshire Poet Laureate Marie Harris paints a vivid picture of the coastal Maine area where she grew up and eventually drew the inspiration for her series of poems entitled Safe Harbor.

While an artistic sabbatical, Harris penned her collection of poems and met Newfoundland artist Sylvia Bendzsa, who was working on a watercolor sequence of seascape paintings entitled “Form of the Wave.” Together, their works formed the backbone of the recent performance of Safe Harbor: A multimedia celebration of music, art, poetry and video, organized and developed by Emeritus Professor Rawn Spearman, the performance served as a tribute to the work of Marie Harris.

As part of the UML Friends of the Library Cultural Series, the event drew a number of performers, including Keene State College Professor Emeritus Carlesta Henderson-Spearman; Northeastern Dean and former UML Music Prof. Bruce Ronkin; Professor Emeritus Anthony Mele; and Media Services Head Mitchell Shulmdan.

The performance was a collaboration of narration and musical accompaniment that included arrangements played on a piano and a wind synthesizer. Shulmdan also incorporated his “knee plays,” or short video interludes, which he says were “created as a decompression exercise after my dissertation.”

Spearman, an award-winning performer who has appeared on Broadway, also narrated portions of the performance and subtitled the event, “An Emerita Tribute to Marie Harris, New Hampshire Poet Laureate, 1999-2004.” The tribute gave the performers the opportunity to recreate the coastal experiences and impressions that Harris authored in her picturesque poetry.

“Our boat is in safe harbor, anchored to the forest floor, riding snow swells.”

― Professor Emeritus Rawn Spearman, left, organized the multimedia event “Safe Harbor” with the help of fellow musician Mitchell Shulmdan, head of the Media Services Division.

Chem Alums Give ‘A’ on Report Card

For science majors, they had a lot to say.

They reminisced about favorite faculty and difficult labs.

They reported on doctoral degrees, professorships and jobs in industry.

They commented on coursework, applauded improvements and suggested new curricula.

An alumni survey went out to Chemistry Department graduates from the past 35 years and more than 200 responded—many with extensive comments or attached letters. Alums were asked to rate their overall experience at the University, their education in chemistry, preparation for employment, preparedness for graduate school. They were also asked to pick the two most positive factors from faculty, courses, labs or faculty advising.

Department Chairman Gene Barry was most gratified with the level of response and the survey results.

“About 46 percent gave the highest possible ranking to their overall experience in chemistry.”

― "About 46 percent gave the highest possible ranking to their overall experience in chemistry,” says Barry. “That exceeds even the overall experience at the University, to which 28 percent gave the highest ranking.”

Preparation for employment and preparation for graduate school were parallel in their ranking, with 36-38 percent of respondents giving the highest mark and an additional 46 percent rating it above average.

In terms of positive factors, faculty and courses were most important.

Janet Sawyer, director of institutional research, designed the survey and interpreted the results.

What did these chatty alums have to say?

Many wrote about specific classes, like this one to Barry: “I was a sophomore when you first came to Lowell. I was in your first analytical class and was often late, since it was first thing Monday mornings. Of all the courses that I took, your course uniquely prepared me for industry and I will even say was solely responsible for several job offers when I graduated.”

Or this one: “I was fortunate to have Doc Scattergood as my mentor—that was a once in a lifetime experience. I highly encourage you to expand your outreach to young women, as an undergraduate degree in science (or engineering) can lead to tremendous opportunities—particularly to those who, like me, hail from a blue collar home.”

Sometimes size was a mixed blessing: “Lowell was the smallest Chemistry Dept. that I’ve been associated with in my life….This was probably a help in my personal social development. That same small size also resulted in a lack of facilities and resources…”

Or, from a female alum, “I am 100 percent confident that my technical background and experience in the aerospace sector were the reasons I was admitted to Harvard Business School. I heartily encourage you to expand your outreach to young women, as an undergraduate degree in science (or engineering) can lead to tremendous opportunities—particularly to those who, like me, hail from a blue collar home.”

Listen Up for the Assistive Listening Design Contest

Ears are perking up as Asst. Profs. Mufeed Mahd and Adam Elbird of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering seek to find the best design of a SHARC-based Assistive Listening Device (ALD). The two are running the UMass Lowell—Analog Devices Inc. (ADI) First Regional Contest in which the top three design teams will win a trophy and awards of $750, $500 or $250. Teams will use new digital signal processing equipment that allows designers to create processors in real time.

An ALD is designed to increase the desired sound for the listener without increasing background noise, a common complaint about hearing aids.

The first 15 schools to register before February 28, the due date for applicants, will receive, free, the software and hardware from the ADI to complete the design and operation device. In addition, all participants will receive plaques.

The contest will be held on Saturday, April 2, at the Real Time DSP and Medical Imaging Lab in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Ball Hall. This new lab has state-of-the-art processing equipment that are optimized for audio and image/video applications. The hardware and software were made available through donations by Analog Devices Inc, headquartered in Norwood.

More information and entry details can be found on the Web site http://faculty.uml.edu/Mufeed_Mahd/ADI/ADI/index.htm.
Montrie Becomes Scholar in the City

A

st. Prof. Chad Montrie, of the Department of History, has been named this year’s Scholar in the City to complete a history of Lowell’s Concord River corridor. The award, presented by the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, includes a $2,500 stipend.

The history began last year as part of the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust’s Concord River Greenway Project with initial support from the Mass. Foundation for the Humanities. The Trust is planning to build a path along the east side of the river’s last mile. Montrie’s research will provide material for brochures, trail markers, presentations and a published report with information about the significance of the area.

According to Montrie, his work will tie together the story of this often-overlooked portion of the Concord River and the people who have grown up around it. Four distinct neighborhoods about the river in Lowell: Back Central, Sacred Heart, Lowell Belvidere and Riverside. The scholar is conducting interviews with residents, seeking their recollections of the waterway and its role in their lives.

“Few of these stories have been captured,” says Montrie. “Yet people I’ve interviewed have very clear recollections of life along the river.”

One interviewee recalled how neighbors emerged to work together to salvage trees that often floated down the river for use as firewood or building material.

Typical of Montrie’s work, this study will take differing perspectives to the study of the river’s history: labor, environmental, industrial and social. In addition to interviews, he’s performing an exhaustive review of census data and examining the detailed maps that were created in the past 150 years.

Mehmed Ali, coordinator of Mogan Center programs, says “our support of this project is indicative of how the Mogan Center is moving toward initiatives that demonstrate greater environmental sensitivity.”

Montrie will present the results of his research later this year.

“We’re starting on a path to make the people of this area more connected to the city and the place,” says Montrie.

Miller Grant Project Is Pure Poetry

M

att Miller, a writer in the Department of Communications and Marketing, was recently awarded a $700 grant from the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center to establish a new community-based poetry workshop, “The Poetry of Place.” The workshop will take people of all ages on a journey through Lowell, not only on foot, but in ink as well.

Miller, a poet in his own right, encourages others to “develop a deeper understanding and awareness of community and a way to find meaning in that community through the art of poetry.”

During the 10 to 12-week program, participants will take tours of historic Lowell, engage in open discussion, study talented poets and write their own poetry to share with the group.

Denis Ludovino, a 2004 graduate of UMass with a BA in English, also received a $700 grant to produce two new volumes of literature and art drawn from Renovation, a publication he edits.

The Mogan Center works with the community to advance cultural and historical activities within the city. They seek out people or organizations that have new ideas for projects—such as community events, research or documentation projects—and help them convert their ideas into a portrait of Lowell’s historic and cultural richness.

Recreation Center Inspired by the ’Biggest Loser’

H

ot on the heels of a reality TV show that gave overweight contestants the chance to get in shape and compete for prize money, the Recreation Center has designed a program to help faculty and staff lose weight and develop a healthier lifestyle.

“Choose to Lose,” led by Fitness Coordinator Allison Sigler and senior health education student Jackie Perrin, is a 12-week program packed with enough nutrition and exercise to revive New Year’s resolutions and motivate participants to change their eating habits and make time for fitness in their everyday lives.

Faculty and staff members who join the program experience what most exercise buffs only dream of: fitness assessments with a personal trainer, lessons with a certified nutritionist, aerobics classes, cardio and free-weight sessions along with program incentives that can range from free group fitness classes to one-hour massages.

The popularity of the program could be seen weeks before its Feb. 2 inception. Registration began earlier this month and was scheduled to end on Jan. 25. “We origi- nally started with 12 participants, but had to open it up to more staff since there was a big interest in the program,” says Perrin.

In fact, the buzz about the program was so overwhelming that “by day two of registration, we hit our goal,” says Sigler, hoping that the success of the current program will lead to more offerings in the future.

...the buzz about the program was so overwhelming that “by day two of registration, we hit our goal.”

Though there are no competitions among participants and no million-dollar cash prizes, as seen on network TV, the program offers a far greater pay off. The limited class size and enthusiasm of the program administrators allows for the catering of individual needs in a small group setting.

Throughout the coming weeks, participants will set goals and be able to track their progress along the way. “We hope to have people slowly change their life to make some long-term difference in their weight and overall health,” says Sigler, who is eager to welcome a new group into a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Toy Drive a Success for Psychology Students

According to Montrie, his work will tie together the story of this often-overlooked portion of the Concord River and the people who have grown up around it. Four distinct neighborhoods about the river in Lowell: Back Central, Sacred Heart, Lowell Belvidere and Riverside. The scholar is conducting interviews with residents, seeking their recollections of the waterway and its role in their lives.

Workshop Explores Struggles for Disabled Students

Members of Psi Chi, the psychology honor society, and their faculty adviser, Prof. Joan Cannon, fourth from right, stand around more than 60 stuffed animals and many other presents they collected during a holiday toy drive on campus. The group gifted wrapped all of the donations and sent them to Community Teamwork Inc., of Lawrence. The gifts were distributed during the holidays to needy children and families in the area.

Assoc. Psychology Prof. Doreen Acors, standing, left, recently hosted a community workshop on the ongoing educational struggles faced by disabled students and their families. Featured speakers included Robin Foley, standing center, director of Special Education Projects with the Federation for Children with Special Needs; Julie Walsh, chair of the Citywide Parent Council; and Debbie Westaway, seated, assistant administrator for Special Education in the Lowell Public Schools. The Department of Psychology sponsored the workshop.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Institution/Sponsor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barry, Carol</td>
<td>$731,874</td>
<td>Northeastern University New England Nanomanufacturing Center for Enabling Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry, Carol</td>
<td>$11,439</td>
<td>Tulane University Design Engineering Modules for High School Level Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin, Ann</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Theodore Edison Parker Foundation Relocation and Expansion Planning for the Demonstration School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchholz, Bryan</td>
<td>$5,516</td>
<td>National Institutes of Safety &amp; Health Construction-Related Occupation Ergonomic Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christensen, Charles</td>
<td>$24,090</td>
<td>Greater Lawrence Technical High School Leadership Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumpley, Cathly</td>
<td>$87,204</td>
<td>Delegation of the European Commission Establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Integrated Chemicals Policy in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumeley, Cathy</td>
<td>$30,200</td>
<td>National Institutes of Safety &amp; Health Construction-Related Occupation Ergonomic Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faust, Rudolf</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Clean Production Action Safer Alternatives for Decabromidiphenyl Oxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freiser, Kenneth</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Cationic Polymerization Mechanisms of Mixed C4 Feeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flum, Marian</td>
<td>$87,074</td>
<td>Center to Protect Workers’ Rights Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriman, Elizabeth</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>US Environmental Protection Agency Lead Free Solder Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hellstedt, Jon</td>
<td>$37,000</td>
<td>NYSNP UMass Lowell NYSNP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holcroft, Christina</td>
<td>$11,615</td>
<td>Center to Protect Workers’ Rights Pilot Injury Study on the Big Dig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoppin, Polly</td>
<td>$11,315</td>
<td>The Medical Foundation, Inc. Environmental Investments for Asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Lee</td>
<td>$9,820</td>
<td>NYSN Corp Local Statistical Learning for Calibrating Pavement Proliferating Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazem, David</td>
<td>$102,200</td>
<td>Mold-Masters Limited Introduction to Decoupled Caging for Injection Molding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kegel, Gunter</td>
<td>$38,400</td>
<td>Omnir Corp Irradiation of Electronic Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koroskenyi, Balint</td>
<td>$9,937</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology Exploring the Application of Functionalized Nanospheres for Pb Removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kriebel, David</td>
<td>$64,500</td>
<td>Third Sector New England Scientific Knowledge and Public Policy Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kriebel, David</td>
<td>$11,615</td>
<td>The Medical Foundation, Inc. Environmental Investments for Asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kriebel, David</td>
<td>$72,707</td>
<td>Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine Disease Clustering and Epidemic Environmental Releases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumar, Jayant</td>
<td>$10,800</td>
<td>Polynx Award Polymer Characterization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumar, Jayant</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
<td>Konarka Technologies, Inc. Mobility Measurements on Liquid Crystalline Oligomers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lazonick, William</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research Business Organization and ICT Employment Opportunities in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levenstein, Charles</td>
<td>$36,194</td>
<td>Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical &amp; Energy Workers International Union Award Department of Energy NIEHS Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Lee</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>American Plastics Council Evaluation of Plastic Sledge Hammer and Axes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazem, David</td>
<td>$38,400</td>
<td>Omnir Corp Irradiation of Electronic Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$27,861</td>
<td>University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCormack, Arlene</td>
<td>$21,750</td>
<td>US Department of the Interior Northeast Center for Education Services On-lone National Park Service Education Course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
European and U.S. Experts Promote Sustainable Products

Silka, Linda $40,000 Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) CBA’s Planning for Environmental Change Project
Silika, Linda $20,000 Syracuse University Short Courses for Research Ethics in Environmental Health
Silika, Linda $100,000 Nellie Mae Education Foundation Lowell H.S.-UMass Partnership for College Prep and In-College Persistence
Siqueira, Eduardo $64,069 AFSCME Training and Education Institute Worker Health & Safety Training Cooperative Agreement
Slatin, Craig $1,009,003 National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Health & Safety Training Cooperative Agreement
Slatin, Craig $19,980 USEPA New England 40 Hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker Health and Safety Training Course
Slatin, Craig $12,322 USEPA New England 8 Hour Health and Safety Refresher Course for New England Tribes

New Faculty Member McEnany Explores Mysteries of Sleep

Silka, Linda $40,000 Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) CBA’s Planning for Environmental Change Project
Stacer, Ross $269,995 US Army Soldier Systems Center Transport Properties of Breathable Butyl Rubber
Thompson, Charles $10,813 Massachusetts Institute of Technology For Analysis and Modeling of Volume Grating
Tickner, Joel $87,204 Delegation of the European Commission Establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Integrated Chemicals Policy in the United States
Tilly, Chris $10,000 University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Programs
Tilly, Chris $90,000 US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Work Study Program
Tries, Mark $59,907 US Dept of Energy Reactor Equipment Upgrade
Turrce, David $10,000 University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program
Turcotte, David $40,000 Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) CBA’s Planning for Environmental Change Project

European and U.S. Experts Promote Sustainable Products

Silka, Linda $40,000 Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) CBA’s Planning for Environmental Change Project
Silika, Linda $20,000 Syracuse University Short Courses for Research Ethics in Environmental Health
Silika, Linda $100,000 Nellie Mae Education Foundation Lowell H.S.-UMass Partnership for College Prep and In-College Persistence
Siqueira, Eduardo $64,069 AFSCME Training and Education Institute Worker Health & Safety Training Cooperative Agreement
Slatin, Craig $1,009,003 National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Health & Safety Training Cooperative Agreement
Slatin, Craig $19,980 USEPA New England 40 Hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker Health and Safety Training Course
Slatin, Craig $12,322 USEPA New England 8 Hour Health and Safety Refresher Course for New England Tribes

New Faculty Member McEnany Explores Mysteries of Sleep

Silka, Linda $40,000 Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) CBA’s Planning for Environmental Change Project
Stacer, Ross $269,995 US Army Soldier Systems Center Transport Properties of Breathable Butyl Rubber
Thompson, Charles $10,813 Massachusetts Institute of Technology For Analysis and Modeling of Volume Grating
Tickner, Joel $87,204 Delegation of the European Commission Establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Integrated Chemicals Policy in the United States
Tilly, Chris $10,000 University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Programs
Tilly, Chris $90,000 US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Work Study Program
Tries, Mark $59,907 US Dept of Energy Reactor Equipment Upgrade
Turrce, David $10,000 University Partnerships Clearinghouse Award Community Development Work Study Program
Turcotte, David $40,000 Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) CBA’s Planning for Environmental Change Project
UML Student Donates Part of a Lung to His Cousin

I t has been several months now since Mike Cuddy gave away part of a lung.

Early last October, through a rare surgical procedure at Massachusetts General Hospital, the UMass Lowell junior donated a portion of lung to his 24-year-old cousin, Kathleen, whose own lungs had been seriously damaged by cystic fibrosis and who had been on a respirator for two months prior to the operation.

Her 52-year-old father, John, also gave her a part of one of his lungs in the operation, a procedure that had been performed only 17 times before in Massachusetts.

“I’m doing good,” says Mike. “I’m all back to normal. I get winded easier now. That’s pretty much it. I think that after a year or so I won’t even notice it.”

Prof. Paikowsky Invited to Help Solve Construction Problem in Florida

O n April 13 of last year, one pier of an elevated highway under construction in Tampa, Fla., collapsed, causing two sections of the roadway to buckle.

Inspectors later discovered that another bridge support had settled beyond acceptable limits. The Hillsborough County Expressway Authority said this second failure was “evidence of a potentially more widespread problem.”

Initial findings indicated that engineers overestimated the strength of the limestone layer supporting the piers.

These failures in construction of the $350 million Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway are expected to delay completion of the project by at least a year—until 2006—and costs for repairing the nearly 200 piers supporting the span are estimated to be in the $70 million range.

Now the Florida Department of Transportation has invited Prof. Sam Paikowsky of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department to assist with the project.

Paikowsky says the department has asked him to review designs relating to the continued construction, review available published research on the subject and develop professional opinions on the proposals continue with construction.

“Disasters in engineering usually are caused by a combination of factors,” he says. “They commonly stem from problems in design, construction, supervision and natural or other unforeseeable factors.

“But this case is unique. It appears to me that this failure was simply the result of a design flaw. There’s no evidence that the contractor failed to follow the design.

“The main reason the department approached me is that I led a research team in the development of new specifications for foundations, and these specifications are controlling all public construction in the United States.”

The specifications, Paikowsky says, pertain to the parameters for the foundations of piers. Piers may be supported by many pilings (redundant) or by a single element (non-redundant), he explains. “If you use non-redundant supports you must use more conservative parameters,” he says. “You must be much more cautious.”

The roadway in Tampa was constructed with non-redundant supports.

Dr. Herbert Examines Environmental Links to Autism

A utism rates have been rising over the past 20 years, and heavily industrial areas show some of the highest rates of the disorder. These data have prompted some doctors and researchers to ask whether or not toxins in the environment play a role in its development.

The Nov. 13, 2004, issue of Science News quotes a leading psychiatrist as labeling the environment the “missing piece of the puzzle” in identifying the causes of autism.

Dr. Martha R. Herbert, M.D., Ph.D., a clinical pediatric neurologist at Mass General Hospital and Harvard Medical School professor, recently discussed her findings on those links in the third seminar in the Environmental Health Series sponsored by the UML School of Health and Environment.

Kids Shine at Choral Concert

Mass Lowell Art Prof. Arno Minkkinen, seldom known to be idle for long, has been busier than usual over the course of the past six months.

Just since the start of the academic year, Minkkinen has been featured in exhibits on two continents: in Modernism: 1890 to 1990 at the Park Avenue Armory in New York and in an exhibit at Paris-Photo at the Le Carousel du Louvre in Paris.

He was also invited to lecture recently at the Rochester Institute of Technology, at Holy Cross in Worcester and at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire.

Earlier this year, Prof. Minkkinen’s work Helsinki, 1975 was published in the nearly 450-page survey collection, Self Portraits of the 20th Century, a major compilation of self-portraiture that includes the work of 20th-century giants Warhol, Pollack and Picasso.

Minkkinen’s work was also the subject recently of a doctoral thesis, Psychology and Photography: The Self Portraits of Arno Rafael Minkkinen, by Francesca Barbiano di Belgioioso of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, which explores the role of life passages on artistic creation and development.

Finally, Prof. Minkkinen, who as an undergrad-uate was editor of his college literary magazine, returned to his roots earlier this year with an essay entitled “Photography and the Fine Art of Swimming,” published in Agni (59), the literary magazine of Boston University.
Robert Fiske, publisher of a widely read Web-based magazine on the state of the English language, became the new director of Technical Writing Workshops in the College of Engineering this past fall. A former development editor for the college division of Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., he has, for the last 16 years, owned Vocabula Communications Co., an editing and writing service.

For the last five years, he also has edited and published The Vocabula Review on-line (www.vocabula.com) and has written and published four books—the most recent being The Dictionary of Disagreeable English, A Curmudgeon’s Compendium of Excruciatingly Correct Grammar.

In succeeding Len Meuse as director of the workshops, Fiske’s main responsibility will be the supervision of the students’ report writing process. Four times during their last three years in school, engineering students must write a lab report that is graded and edited and published by workshop reviewers for grammar and spelling. The workshops, supervised by Fiske, are staffed with freelance reviewers.

Once a review is completed, the student re-writes the report, which is then given a grade of “pass” or “fail.” In addition to overseeing the workshops, Fiske also is responsible for delivering lectures to engineering classes. In the past, the workshops offered last summer and spelling.

It will be up to the faculty members to decide what lectures they would like their students to attend,” he says.

Another issue he plans to address is that of the format in which students must write their reports. For a number of years, they have had to follow one certain format, considered to be typical of what the students would later encounter in industry.

“But,” says Fiske, “formats vary from industry to industry and from employer to employer. My understanding is that some professors would like more variation in the format. Beginning with the spring semester, department heads will decide what format their reports will take.”

—J McD

Unlocking the ‘Inner Gift’ for Beaudry, It’s the Ultimate Goal

Y ears ago — back in the days, she says, when administrative assistants were still known as secretaries — Mary Beaudry, then dean of a business school in Boston, added a required course in literature to a curriculum on executive secretarial skills. The initial reaction, remembers Beaudry, today director of the Faculty Teaching Center, was one of puzzlement — “What were Yeats, Shakespeare and Browning doing in a course about typing and shorthand?” But over the space of the semester, she says, things reversed: “By the time we were done, everyone was asking, ‘Oh, couldn’t we please do it again next semester?’”

It is a story Mary Beaudry enjoys telling — no doubt because it goes to the heart of much of what she believes, as an educator, to be the mission of her craft.

There are two kinds of knowledge, she explains: “The first is applied knowledge — that’s the understanding of how to do things, liking typing or shorthand or fixing a car. The other is trickier. It’s what’s come to be known as ‘privileged knowledge’ — ‘privileged’ because not everyone is able to pursue it. It’s the kind of knowledge that has to do with deeper, more abstract thinking, thinking that probes, develops insights, moves applied knowledge to new areas and levels. It’s the sort of thinking you encounter in the study of ethics or philosophy. Or in reading literature.”

The challenge of education, says Beaudry, is in bringing students to understand how this second, more amorphous form of knowledge is going to make a positive difference in their lives:

“Students tend to think of education only in terms of getting a job. Well, that’s part of it, certainly, but it’s only a part... Every student, every individual, has an inner gift. The job of education is to help them discover that gift in themselves. To empower them, to free them to understand not only their own uniqueness, but the uniqueness of those around them.”

One of the most direct means to this empowering, of course, is through the classroom. And Beaudry has done her time as a teacher. Today, though, as head of the Faculty Teaching Center, she is in a position to affect the process itself. Workshops, task forces, seed grants, conversation dinners — “Our job,” she says, “is to help our faculty with anything and everything they want. Whatever they need to be more effective in their work.”

The workshops presented through the Teaching Center are largely outgrowths of faculty requests, which tend to change as the time and technology demand. The most recent ones, held in mid-January, dealt with classroom cheating, blended learning and developing online surveys; several of the workshops offered last summer also featured an online emphasis. “The computer has certainly had an effect on teaching, on what goes on in the classroom,” says Beaudry. “But a computer is no different than any other tool, no different than the blackboard, for instance, when that was still a new concept. It all depends on how well you use it. In the end, a tool is just a tool.”

And whether through blackboards or computers, and no matter what the subject being taught — engineering, literature, or a typist’s skills — for Beaudry the challenge remains the same: “To convince people that it’s worth the work. That they themselves are worth the effort. Whatever else we teach them, we need to help them see that they’re more than just working machines.”

—GD

Obituaries

Prof. Wen Tang, who taught meteorology at Lowell for 26 years, until his retirement in 1994, died at his Lexington home on Dec. 19 at the age of 83.

Prof. Tang joined the Lowell Technological Institute in 1968 to assist in the development of a then new major in meteorology. He taught upper level atmospheric science and its predecessor departments.

A native of Nanking, China, he earned his bachelor’s degree from Nanking University before joining the National Chinese Air Force. He later took part in the evacuation to Taiwan when the Chinese Communists took over mainland China in 1949.

Shortly after that, he migrated to the United States and earned a doctorate in meteorology from New York University.

Known for his ability to mathematically model atmospheric phenomena, he held many contracts with the Navy, Air Force and other government and private funding sources.

Prof. Tang was also an accomplished artist and held several exhibitions of Chinese painting and calligraphy.
Mellissa Santos, seated, left, and teammates enjoy some free time while in Catania, Sicily, last summer where they played softball for the town team.
Wednesday, Jan. 26
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
Reception, "New and Returning International Students—Welcoming Reception and Orientation," includes information, presentations, refreshments, 2 to 4 p.m., Alumni Lounge. For more information, call the International Students Office (978) 934-2368.

University Night, "UMass Lowell Night at the Arena," the River Hawks take on the UNH Wildcats; a limited number of tickets are available. To reserve your tickets, contact (978) 934-3224 or Rick_Sherburne@uml.edu.

Wednesday, Feb. 2
Talk, Iraq War Veterans Michael Hoffman and Kelly Dougherty, founders of Iraq Veterans Against the War, will discuss their experiences in Iraq, noon to 1 p.m., O'Leary 222. For more information, contact (978) 934-3266 or Charles_Richardson@uml.edu.

Exhibit Reception, "Mixed Media Installation," by Meagan Shein, Artist Talk at 3 p.m., exhibit runs Jan. 25 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) 934-3491.

Thursday, Feb. 3
Demonstration, "The Video Camera as a Laboratory Tool," featuring Partha Chowdhury, UML Physics Dept., 3 p.m., Olney 218. For more information, call David Pullen (978) 934-3765.

Saturday, Feb. 5
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.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 9
Exhibit Reception, "Paper-making and BookArts," curated by Laura Mayotte, exhibit runs through March 2, 2 to 4 p.m., Dugan Gallery. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.

Open Meeting Hours, meet with Chancellor William T. Hogan, staff: 2 - 3 p.m., students: 3 - 4 p.m., faculty: 4 - 5 p.m., Trustees Room, Cumnock Hall. For information, call the Chancellor's Office (978) 934-2201.

Thursday, Feb. 10
Hockey, vs. Northeastern University, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Saturday, Feb. 12
Women's Basketball, vs. Merrimack College, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Men's Basketball, vs. Merrimack College, 4 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Tuesday, Feb. 15
Seminar, "Igniting Massaachusetts Clean Energy Future," presentation competition for Clean Energy Technologies, kick-off seminar and coaching session on presentation skills, held at MIT; registration deadline is March 1. For more information or to enter, check out http://www.mitfor umassbridge.org/EnergySIG/ignite-CleanEnergy.html.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Sunday, March 6
Performance, Discovery Series, "Frog and His Friends," life-size puppetry/musical by Theatre Terra/Netherlands, 2 and 4 p.m., best for ages 4-9, tickets $10, group discounts available, Durgin Concert Hall. For more information or tickets, call the UML Center for the Arts (978) 934-4444.

Wednesday, March 2
Lecture, "Last Lecture" Series, Mario Aste (Cultural Studies) answers the question, "If this were the last lecture you were to give, what would you say?" 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., McGauvran 410. To reserve a seat for lunch, contact Imogene Stulken at (978) 934-5014 or Imogene_Stulken@uml.edu.

Exhibit Reception, "One Cycle of My Journey," gelatin silver prints by Abigail Cohen, gallery talk at 3 p.m., exhibit runs through April 6, University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.

Saturday, March 5
Weekend Snapshots, on-campus sessions give 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.

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

Monday, Feb. 21
Women's Basketball, vs. Franklin Pierce College, 5:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

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

Wednesday, March 23
Seminar, Plastics Engineering Seminar Series, "Global Competitiveness of Polymers—Today and Tomorrow," by John Quinn, president, Excel Polymers Corporation, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Ball 214. For more information, call Plastics Engineering (978) 934-3420.

Continued on Page 13