Charles Hoff ‘66 and Wife, Josephine, Create $3 Million Scholarship Program

Charles J. Hoff and his wife, Josephine, have created a $3 million scholarship program for University of Massachusetts students, the largest privately financed scholarship program in the history of the University.

The gift brings the Hoff’s lifetime giving to the University to $5.5 million and, with matching funds included, creates a $10 million Charles J. Hoff Scholarship program that will benefit students on all five UMass campuses. The largest number of scholarships is available to students of UMass Lowell, Hoff’s alma mater, but the program also benefits students at the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Worcester campuses.

In announcing the gift, UMass President Jack Wilson said, “Charles and Josephine Hoff are making a dramatic statement about their commitment to and confidence in the University of Massachusetts. The Hoff scholarship program and endowment will stand in perpetuity and will fuel the aspirations of students and their families throughout the generations.”

UML Chancellor Marty Meehan said, “Charlie Hoff is a loyal alumnus, a distinguished business leader and a visionary philanthropist. I am so proud that a UMass Lowell alumnus has made such an extremely generous gift—a gift that will have an enduring impact on this University and its students.”

Meehan said he was impressed by Hoff’s “sincere interest in the life goals of each of his scholarship recipients” and that his commitment to Lowell and the UMass system “demonstrates a philanthropic spirit that I hope others will take to heart and emulate.”

With their new $3 million gift, the Hoffs are expanding on a scholarship program that, as a result of their previous giving, has provided support to more than 1,000 students since 1991.

With matching funds from the campuses and the University president’s office, this scholarship will have supported more than 2,500 students by the year 2017 with more than $10 million in scholarship aid, making it the largest privately initiated scholarship program in the University’s history.

Honors Banquet Raises Record $117,000

Goal Exceeded by 50% as Hundreds Support Exceptional Students

Chancellor Marty Meehan welcomed more than 200 guests to an Honors Fellows Fundraiser that raised more than twice its original goal, bringing in an estimated $117,000—the largest amount ever by the University at a single event—to support the educational pursuits of 200 exceptional students.

The event, hosted in early October at Allen House and the Comley-Lane Theatre, celebrated eight distinguished retired faculty and staff members who have made significant contributions to the legacy of undergraduate scholarship. This year’s honorees, selected by a committee, reflect a broad cross-section of the University community (see sidebar). “We are re-establishing a tradition that must be a part of our character as a University,” said Chancellor Meehan. “Tonight, we honor scholars and scholarship. We must nurture those with potential for excellence and recognize those whose performance has been excellent.”

UML’s Honors Program was created in 1994 to provide enriched academic opportunities to meet the educational needs of exceptionally talented students, and to foster the pursuit of scholarly excellence in undergraduate higher education. Fundraising underwrites extracurricular activities for UML’s honors students, including cultural trips and special speaker’s engagements as well as research support and student scholarships. This year, six student honors scholarships were awarded.

Chancellor Sees Campus Reaching New Heights

After three months on the ground at UMass Lowell, Chancellor Marty Meehan laid out a plan to help the campus reach new heights, literally and figuratively, at recent presentations to faculty and staff on UML North and South.

New buildings, stronger recruitment and retention, a vibrant campus experience, expanded research, scholarship and outreach—all can be achieved, said Chancellor Meehan. “We need to work as a team and tap into the brainpower we already have,” he said. “If we do that here, the sky’s the limit.”

“The faculty is world class; the staff care deeply about this institution, as I do,” he said. “We are the best hope for the students who come here. We are the best hope for the regional economy.”

‘Institutionalizing Peace’

Generous Gift Establishes Endowment for Visiting Peace Scholars

Peace Studies at UMass Lowell will take on a new dimension thanks to a $511,000 endowment fund created by a generous gift from the Dana McLean Greeley Foundation and a matching state grant. Starting in 2008, the University will host a distinguished advocate for peace and justice each year, funded through the Dana McLean Greeley Endowment for Peace Studies. This visiting scholar will help advance the cause of peace and justice, continuing the legacy of the late Rev. Dana McLean Greeley.

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Mon.- Fri. 7 to 9 a.m.
Bright Radio to Start Your Day
Hoff scholarships are available to students who are Massachusetts residents and who demonstrate financial need as defined by federal guidelines. Recipients are required to maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 or better.

When the announcement was made on Sept. 19, Hoff said, “UMass Lowell shaped my life and shaped my career. The success that I have been able to enjoy is directly attributable to the education I received there.” As was the case for so many students who preceded me and for those who have followed, UMass was the ticket to something better. My education gave me the tools and placed me on a path, and I am forever grateful. This scholarship program will continue to benefit highly motivated students from all walks of life—recent immigrants, minorities, students from low-income or one-parent families, physically and learning challenged students.”

Hoff received a bachelor’s degree in industrial management at UMass Lowell and a master’s degree from Northeastern University. He has been a senior vice president of operations for Bausch & Lomb and held senior management positions with Wang Labs, Lawrence, Polaroid and Gillette. From 1983 to 1986, he was president, CEO and owner of ARL Analytical Instruments Co., which generated more than $100 million in worldwide sales. He then became owner, chairman and CEO of Universal/Univis, Inc., a group of designer eyewear companies.

—JMcD

Continued from Page 1

Charles Hoff ’66 and Wife, Josephine, Create $3 Million Scholarship Program

Meehan pointed out that recent successes in private fundraising as well as heightened visibility of the campus are areas that are improving and could offer rewards in the future.

An early October honors program dinner, he said, would be the single highest grossing fundraising event ever for the University. For visibility, he pointed out that the new signs on buildings all over campus are the result of “a little idea that didn’t cost a lot of money, but really changes the feel of the whole campus.”

Meehan said that the Emerging Technologies Center, with a new 500-car garage will be sited on North, while plans for a new academic building on South, an academic building on North and a business incubator are in the idea stage. Dean Cathy Carter has pulled together a list of College of Management alumni who might be willing to contribute to a business and engineering building. Funds for a new South academic building are included in a higher education bond bill Gov. Deval Patrick is submitting. More residence halls are also on the table, particularly on UML East. “We want to get closer to a 50-50 percent of residence and commuter students,” Meehan said. “It will help our ability to attract students and campus life will be enhanced.”

Meehan said faculty are receiving prestigious grants, adding that “we have to work harder at realizing a return on our investment” in research.

Reaching out to the region is important—“from Worcester all the way up to southern New Hampshire, up the river to Newburyport,” Meehan said. Outreach to Lawrence must in part be focused on gaining the best Latino and Latina students from the high school. “We need to become a more diverse university,” he said.

As for campus operations, Meehan said a management review of UMass Lowell has been completed by an outside company and a campus faculty/administration Audit Review Committee is charged with making final recommendations. A financial review was conducted by the UMass President’s Office and is now publicly available. Korn Ferry, a search firm, is seeking campus input and advising the Provost Search Committee, co-chaired by Prof. Julie Chen of Mechanical Engineering and George Behrakis, chairman of Gainesborough Investments. The Deans Council is meeting with Transformation Teams, which former Chancellor William T. Hogan had charged with recommending changes to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Meehan encouraged “exchange and dialogue” on campus, and solicited feedback, including complaints, following his talk on North. “It doesn’t matter where you work or what you do, give us your ideas.”

—RC

Discover Treasures Close to Home!

Professional Performances for Families at Durgin Hall

The Discovery Series offers the flexibility to package four or more shows together for savings, and group rates are also available. The Discovery Series is supported by Nancy & Richard K. Donahue, Enterprise Bank & Trust Company, the James L. Cooney Agencies, Community Teamwork, Inc., and Mary Jo Leahy. For more information or on-line ordering (convenience fees apply) go to: www.uml.edu/centerforarts.

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To submit information for possible inclusion in UMass Lowell enews or The Shuttle email us at: enews@uml.edu

The 21st season of UMass Lowell’s Center for the Arts Discovery Series, entitled “Discover Treasures Close to Home,” comprises six series performances plus one special event, and includes comedy, juggling, music, Chinese acrobatics, theatre, puppetry, Japanese Taiko drumming and storytelling. Each performance has been carefully chosen for audiences aged four and up.

Center for the Arts Director Chris Brown says, “If you live in the Merrimack Valley, you don’t have to go far to discover treasures from around the world in your own backyard. The Discovery Series presents a wide variety of world-class arts and entertainment at a reasonable price.”

Faculty, staff and students are eligible to receive two tickets for the price of one (or two tickets for only $12) once per season, with valid UML ID. This year’s Discovery Series events are listed below.

Oct. 4: The Gizmo Guys—rapid fire comedy and juggling extravaganza
Nov. 4: The Shangri-La Acrobats—amazing acrobatics and dare-devilism
Dec. 2: John McCutcheon—“Celebration of Peace” concert
Feb. 3: Snow White (special event)—with German puppeteer, Matthias
Mar. 9: Portland Taiko—pulse-racing Japanese drumming
April 6: Anne of Green Gables—sings and charms her way into audiences’ hearts
May 4: Mozart, Monsters & Matisse—enchanting, engaging, artistic puppet show

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October 10, 2007
Tsongas Center Welcomes New Director

New Goals Include Increased Outreach, Collaboration

On one of her first mornings arriving at work as the new director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, Beryl Rosenthal walked into the building and tried to imagine all of the workers who had come before her during the Industrial Revolution. The thoughts of the mill workers hurrying about, the sound of their footsteps and the hum of the machines put into perspective for her how many stories there are to be told at the Center.

“The power of place here at the Tsongas Center is incredible,” she says. “There are so many stories to be told—stories of immigration, work, and the evolution of work, as well as science and technology stories.”

Rosenthal comes to the Center with a broad range of experience in the field of museum education. She was most recently director of Exhibitions and Public Programs for the MIT Museum. Prior to that, she served as director of Museum Education for the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology at Phillips Academy, and spent nine years as director of Science and Galleries at the St. Louis Science Center.

“Beryl’s experience will help to reinforce and extend the link between the Center’s focus on industrial history and technology,” says Anita Greenwood, interim dean of the Graduate School of Education. “Beryl has a proven track record of working with the community and helping to draw the public to informative education.”

In talking about her goals for the center, Rosenthal sees possibilities for additional collaborations, both with external groups and the UML community.

“As a resident of the Merrimack Valley, I love this area and look forward to contributing to the community in a very real way,” she says. “I see a lot of opportunity in terms of reaching out to the international community and working with local groups to help in that regard. I would also like to develop more adult and family programming in order to offer something that will appeal to people of all ages.”

As far as her thoughts for building on partnerships with UML, Rosenthal is equally as enthusiastic. “There is a lot of room to build on what we do and increase the level of collaboration we currently have with the University,” she says. “I see the Tsongas Center as a natural venue for more service learning, internships and partnerships.”

UML Center Tackles Toxic Hazards in Children’s Toys

Initiative Aims to Make Toys Safer for Kids and the Environment

The problem of hazardous levels of lead found in children’s toys imported from China has been in the spotlight in recent months. Companies have already recalled millions of these tainted products, with more expected to follow. And with the Christmas shopping season just around the corner, it’s a huge concern for retailers and parents alike.

“It’s a serious problem,” says Sally Edwards, a research associate at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production. “Lead is a known neurotoxin and can harm intellectual development. Lead is not only in painted toys, but in children’s products such as jewelry and vinyl lunch boxes. In addition, lead is not the only toxic chemical we should worry about in children’s toys. For example, phthalates, a class of chemicals commonly used as softeners in many plastic infant toys, can leach from the plastic when the baby sucks or chews on the toy. Phthalates are associated with adverse reproductive and developmental health effects.”

That’s why Edwards, together with Ken Geiser, co-director of the Lowell Center and professor in the Department of Work Environment, are in the early stages of developing a Sustainable Toys Initiative. Their goal is to engage toy manufacturers, vendors, designers, non-governmental organizations, researchers and government policy makers on ways to improve toy safety and sustainability.

It is the researchers’ hope that the initiative will encourage innovation in toy design and production, reduce potential liabilities and boost public knowledge and confidence in these products. UML’s Toxics Use Reduction Institute is collaborating closely with the Lowell Center to find safer alternatives to lead and other hazardous materials and chemicals. For more information about the initiative, visit http://sustainableproduction.org/proj.toys.abou.shtml.

“The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is responsible for ensuring the safety of more than 15,000 consumer products in the country,” says Edwards, who worked 14 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before coming to UMass Lowell. “Unfortunately, the commission is understaffed - with only about 400 employees - and lacks enforcement authority, so the toy industry is mostly self-policed.”

Edwards says that China produces approximately 80 percent of the toys sold in the U.S. Toys produced in Europe undergo some premarket testing. This is not required in the U.S., though this may soon change.

“U.S. and Chinese companies are aware of the federal safety requirements,” says Edwards. “But there is a lot of pressure on factory owners in China to cut production costs, which may have resulted in the use of low-quality materials. Paint containing lead is cheaper.”

Many U.S. companies are retesting their toys to make sure they are safe before placing them on store shelves for the upcoming holiday season. But what about toys that had been sold in previous years?

“The only way to know for sure is to test these toys for lead and other harmful chemicals,” says Edwards. “It’s certainly possible that the current testing systems have missed tainted toys.”

As far as the future, Edwards says she hopes to have the initiative in place and set up to test 100 toys by the end of the year.

Continued from back page

Hockey Team Poised to Break Out

Thanks to a marketing effort led by a volunteer committee of alumni, faculty and staff, almost 1,500 season tickets have been sold so far, including close to 1,000 club seats. Club seats sell for $299 and include extras like access to a hospitality suite with a cash bar and buffet dinner, parking privileges, an annual dinner with the chancellor and first dibs on tickets to other events held at the Tsongas Arena.

These many new season ticket holders will witness a young, but experienced team with great potential, according to MacDonald. Last year’s team, with a roster of 15 freshmen and four sophomores, dealt with “learning to win” issues for much of the season, he says. The team finished 8-21-7 but won five and tied two of its final nine contests.

“I thought we were very competitive the entire year,” says MacDonald. “We never really got blown out and often times out-shot and out-played our opponents. But we essentially lost nine one-goal games and tied seven. So we were that close, but that far away as well.”

He says the team as a whole needs to take the next step if it’s to return to the Hockey East playoffs. Four players who will shoulder the load are the captains: Junior Mark Roebothan and sophomores Ben Holmstrom, Jeremy Dehner and Barry Geenen.

As with any team, leadership is vital to success, says the coach.

“We have great leadership,” says MacDonald. “They all have different skills and abilities when it comes to leadership and their dynamics within leadership. I think they’ll work very well together.”

The River Hawks take to the ice on Saturday, Oct. 13, for an exhibition game against New Brunswick at the Tsongas Arena. The team will officially open its season against UMass Amherst at the Mullins Center in Amherst on Friday, Oct. 19. The first two home games of the season are against the University of Alabama-Huntsville on Friday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Oct. 27.

Single game tickets went on sale Tuesday, Oct. 9. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.goriverhawks.com.

October 10, 2007
Honors Banquet Raises Record $117,000

“Students in the Honors Program come from all majors and all walks of life,” said Doreen Arcus, director of the Honors Program. “What binds them together is their desire to challenge themselves to take the best that Massachusetts public higher education has to offer to the next level. This tremendous support will allow us to provide more merit-based scholarships for truly deserving students and enrich the UML honors experience. It is testament to the spirit of the University community and our celebration of excellence.” — SE

2007 UMass Lowell Honors Student Scholarship Winners

- Jennifer Fernandes, English major, Hudson, N.H.
- Sarah Fisher, Nursing major, Hamilton
- Curran Kelleher, Computer Science major, Paxton
- Paul Litchfield, Accounting & Finance major, Burlington
- Timothy Watts, Plastics Engineering major, Peabody
- Scott Walfied, History major, Watertown

Each year, a committee appointed initially by the University and the Greeley Foundation will select a distinguished advocate for peace, noted humanitarian or faith leader to teach and engage in public discussions. The Greeley Scholar will be hosted by UMass Lowell’s Peace and Conflict Studies Institute (PACSI).

“With this gift, we are institutionalizing peace,” says UMass Lowell Prof. Robert Gamache, co-director of PACSI and dean of the University of Massachusetts School of Marine Sciences.

“This endowment will allow PACSI to expand its mission to promote education, research and practice concerning peace and conflict issues.”

“Rev. Dana McLean Greeley gained an international reputation for a life spent waging peace,” said Chancellor Marty Meehan, in announcing the gift at a September luncheon. “In his life’s journey, Rev. Greeley walked shoulder-to-shoulder with Martin Luther King, Albert Schweitzer and thousands around the world who worked for peace. He asked ‘Is peace possible today?’ and answered, ‘We must make it possible.’ Today, let’s commit ourselves to making his dream come true.”

The Greeley Foundation for Peace and Social Justice is based in Concord and for 20 years kept Rev. Dana McLean Greeley’s message of peace and justice alive by awarding grants to socially conscious organizations. Greeley was a Unitarian minister and international peace activist who believed the collective efforts of all humans can ensure social change

Continued from Page 1

‘Institutionalizing Peace’

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“The creation of The Rev. Dana McLean Greeley Endowment for Peace Studies at the University of Massachusetts Lowell’s Peace and Conflict Studies Institute will continue the work the foundation has been doing for the past 20 years,” said Edward Perry of the Greeley Foundation. “The Greeley Endowment will fund a distinguished advocate for peace, noted humanitarian or faith leader in a limited residency during one semester each year.”

Between 1986 and 2006, the Greeley Foundation awarded more than $1.5 million in grants to grassroots organizations in Greater Boston and Greater Concord, including the Merrimack Valley cities of Lowell and Lawrence. In the 20th anniversary year of the foundation, the trustees resolved to award nearly $1 million to five non-profit organizations that will carry on the work of the foundation over time and stand as a permanent legacy to the vision of Rev. Greeley.

Perry noted the efforts of Paul Marion, executive director of Outreach, and Brian Andriolo, associate director of Development, in making the endowment a reality. “Paul worked hard to make sure that the proposal was fully reviewed and appreciated by the transition committee of the Foundation,” said Perry. “Brian spent many hours making sure the funding process was as smooth as possible and that the matching funds were protected and received. Without their hard work, I don’t think we would be here today.” — KO’R

2007 UMass Lowell Honors Fellows

- Ellen Duggan was a leader in UMass Lowell’s student affairs for more than 30 years. She finished her career as dean of Students, retiring in 2002.
- Mary Blewett was a UMass Lowell history professor for more than 30 years. She received numerous honors for women in the field—and historians in general—in her areas of expertise.
- Peter Blewett served the University for 36 years as a history professor. He was deeply involved in faculty affairs and served as dean of Liberal Arts.
- Robert Gower was a UMass Lowell education professor for 15 years and master teacher whose work benefited K-12 students throughout the region.
- Goang-Tzer (George) Liaw was a UMass Lowell management professor for more than 20 years. He played a key role in the growth of the undergraduate program, the development of courses in Management Information Systems (MIS), and the integration of technology in the classroom.
- Janice Stecchi was a UMass Lowell nursing professor for 32 years, capping her career as dean of the College of Health Professions. She served as the first female president of Saints Memorial Hospital.
- Arthur Watterson was a UMass Lowell chemistry professor for 40 years and served as chair of the department. He held leadership positions in his field of research and was awarded two patents.
- Thomas Vasilios was a UMass Lowell chemical engineering professor for 17 years. With research interests in ceramic dental material and polymer prostheses, he is the author of more than 50 published papers and the holder of several patents.
In Dorchester, a Step Toward Safer Lives

TURI, Work Environment Join in Grass-Roots Partnership

It has been three years now since the first of two house fires, in Somerville and Hull, claimed the lives of three Vietnamese immigrants and left three others badly burned. All the men were floor finishers; all were victims of explosions that detonated the flammable solvent they were using at the time—a flammable “lacquer sealer” marketed almost exclusively to the Vietnamese immigrant community.

It seemed likely to happen again. Floor finishing, at least since the 1980s, has been a huge draw for Vietnamese immigrants. It offers decent wages—$60 to $80 a day—to workers who are often not fluent in English. Few of those funds have come from NSF.

“All this—and more, it is hoped—has been the outcome of a shared initiative in which the University has been a leading player. It began with a study by UMass Lowell Work Environment Prof. Benyuan Liu, computer science. Lenore Azaroff, coauthored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, by Viet AID, and by the nonprofit New Ecologics, Inc., that took aim at the community’s “lacquer sealer” market by teaching the workers to avoid using them.”

But Azaroff’s Work Environment Prof. Benyuan Liu, computer science. Lenore Azaroff, coauthored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, by Viet AID, and by the nonprofit New Ecologics, Inc., that took aim at the community’s “lacquer sealer” market by teaching the workers to avoid using them.

But the inevitable has not happened. There have been no more floor-finishing deaths in Massachusetts. Several distributors have agreed to stop stocking flammable sealants; another has provided training. A pending state law, likely to see passage this year, would require finishers to be trained and registered before they could work in the industry; another would ban the sale of flammable sealants. The Vietnamese community in general is more aware, and more respectful, of the risks. All this—and more, it is hoped—has been the outcome of a shared initiative in which the University has been a leading player. It began with a study by UMass Lowell Work Environment Prof. Benyuan Liu, computer science. Lenore Azaroff, coauthored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, by Viet AID, and by the nonprofit New Ecologics, Inc., that took aim at the community’s “lacquer sealer” market by teaching the workers to avoid using them.

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Information Technology Expands Products and Services

Initiatives Benefit Students, Faculty and Staff

Expanded wireless access, a new emergency notification system and the purchase of new PCs and Macs for student labs and faculty offices are just a few of the things happening in Information Technology that will benefit students, faculty and staff throughout the University.

The biggest news for students is that we assessed wireless availability and identified locations that needed improvement on all three campuses and in the residence halls,” says Chief Information Officer Tom Costello.

“So, during August we wired as many outdoor areas as we could, including the quad on South, the front of Coburn Hall and the bus stop across the street, the public area in Weed Hall, the front of Cumnock and Eames halls on North, and the areas in front of Donahue and Fox halls on East, and all areas inside Leitch and Bourgeois halls.”

Another upgrade, not visible to users, is the creation of a redundant off-campus access to the internet. This initiative was prompted by an outage that occurred during part of one day recently. The UMass

President’s office has installed a patch to provide a second point of internet access, and a permanent connection will be made by January. This will add a second route, through Springfield, to the Boston access that the University has been using.

Upgrades also are being initiated that will provide higher speed bandwidth for anyone connecting to the internet from campus.

As part of an emergency management evaluation, prompted by the Virginia Tech incident, the state legislature has appropriated $250,000 for a notification system for all public colleges and universities in the state. Dialogic Communications Corp., the vendor chosen for the project, offers a system that disseminates emergency messages via e-mail, text messages, cell phones and, in extreme emergency, an audible siren.

Students, faculty and staff will be required to register their cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses to become a part of this system. Campus meetings will be held to explain the process, the benefits of registering and to describe how to register.

During the summer, the University purchased some 300 new PCs and Mac computers for student laboratories and another 100 for the faculty, both desktop and laptop. The restriction on purchasing Macs for faculty was eliminated in July. The Mac OS is certified for use with all PeopleSoft applications.

“At the same time,” says Costello, “we’re looking at classrooms where we can add technology like LCD projectors, screens and podiums with controls that will enable faculty members to plug in their laptops and run multi-media sessions. We’ve already done three on North and will be installing four in Dugan on South. We expect to enhance additional rooms during the year.”

In other technology matters, the IT office has been restructured so that network and voice services now report to the same manager, Steve Drescher. The Help Desk, most of the calls to which deal with e-mail, internet and office applications and network connectivity, now comes under Enterprise Services, managed by Jim Packard.

“Active student staff have been given a brochure explaining how to connect to the UML network, and a CD that contains a licensed copy of McAfee VirusScan that they can install on their computers, both PCs and Macs. Additional free copies of this package are available at the Help Desk for any student or staff member.

The administration also is working with the University IT System (UITS) office in Shrewsbury to address faculty, staff and student complaints about difficulties experienced in accessing information on the ISIS system. As a result, UITS has indicated that it is going to change the governance of the ISIS system to include deans, faculty members and students.

On another topic, Costello says, “We’ve had early talks with our student trustee and the SGA president about establishing user groups for things like wikis, blogs and other specific applications. We’ll have training sessions for these kinds of things.”

Finally, the Hardware-Software Committee, which is composed of faculty members and computer system managers who recommend the purchases of hardware, software and upgrades, will likely be restructured into two committees. One would consist of representatives of colleges and policy makers who would suggest the functionality they’d like to see implemented for campus or multi-area support. The second would be system implementers and managers who know best how to use the various products and implement the practices.

“We also expect similar committees to be established to provide comments and guidance to set priorities for the PeopleSoft, ISIS and Financial software systems,” Costello says.

UMass Lowell Wired Into ‘Wired Science’

PBS Series Will feature, and Be Underwritten by, UML

Don't be surprised to see UMass Lowell on PBS this fall.

UML is both an underwriter and the subject of one segment of a new 13-week series on WGBH-TV called Wired Science. The program, which airs Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on WGBH-TV Channel 2, will dedicate a 15-minute segment in the third show (airing Oct. 17) to the work conducted at UML’s Baseball Research Center.

As an underwriter of Wired Science airtime on WGBH, UML will have a 15-second spot that airs immediately preceding and following each weekly program, introduced by a voice-over identifying UML as an underwriter.

“It will be interesting to see what they actually show in the program,” says Patrick Drane, assistant director of baseball research. “The last crew that was here filmed all day and then actually aired about three minutes of tape.”

The Baseball Research Center appeared earlier this year on the National Geographic Channel in a segment titled “Science of Summer.”

Produced by the public television station in Los Angeles, the Wired Science series combines the respected reporting of the Public Broadcasting System with the irreverent attitude and award-winning design of Wired magazine. The series untangles the complex research that defines 21st-century culture and innovation and introduces viewers to the people making it happen.

This is the first PBS series to be tested with a combination of broadcast and interactive, web-based media. The series has a lively web site that includes a blog, downloadable supplemental information and an active viewer comment section.
New Program Integrates Computer Science and the Arts

Blends Computing With the Performing, Fine, and Design Arts

What do computer scientists and artists have in common? Superficially, not much, one might say. But to the faculty at UML’s Art, Music, English, and Computer Science departments, the bonds that link the two run quite deep.

“The bottom line is that we believe computer scientists have much to learn from those trained in the arts and the humanities, and vice versa,” says Computer Science Assoc. Prof. Jesse Heines, the principal investigator for a new educational program getting underway this semester called “Performamatics: Connecting Computer Science to the Performing, Fine, and Design Arts.”

“For Computer Science students, Performamatics will help give context to the concepts and techniques taught in our classrooms by introducing them to some of the ways in which computer technology influences these seemingly non-technical fields,” says Heines, who coined the name of the program. “It will encourage CS majors to think creatively and expand their views of what computers can do and what they can accomplish.”

For Art students, the program provides the opportunity to interact with the type of technical people whom they will rely on to implement their ideas in real-world environments. Many types of art produced today and many designs for exhibitions include highly sophisticated technology. Working with people familiar with technology can expand these students’ concepts of the types and scope of art they can produce.”

The people at the National Science Foundation agreed, and recently awarded the two-year program a $368,162 grant.

Besides Heines, professors involved in Performamatics as co-principal investigators include Fred Martin in computer science, Karen Roehr and Jim Jeffers in art, Gena Greher in music, Nancy Selleck in the English Department’s theater program, and Sarah Kuhn in regional economic and social development. Supporting the faculty is a group of project advisers and institutions that represent museums, theaters, and engineering and computer science professional organizations in Lowell, the Merrimack Valley region and beyond.

Performamatics builds on collaboration already underway between the CS and Art departments called Artbotics. The brainchild of Holly Yanco, Fred Martin and Hyun-Ju Kim, this three-year, NSF-funded course brings together computer science, robotics, and exhibition art. For details about the types of projects undertaken by the students, visit www.artbotics.org.

Performamatics aims to revitalize the traditional Computer Science curriculum by streamlining its core program to allow more flexibility and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. The faculty hopes that such an invigorated CS curriculum would both attract and help retain CS majors, particularly non-traditional students and women, and allow them to gain greater practical, marketable employment skills by emphasizing performance, communication, teamwork, and creativity.

“Our ultimate goal is to use Performamatics as the basis for a new Bachelor of Arts in Computing degree program,” says Martin. “Performamatics can serve as a model for similar programs across the country.”

“We’re always looking for new ideas, and we invite students and faculty to work with us to develop exciting, fun, and educational programs,” says Heines.

For more information, visit the Performamatics website at www.performamatics.org.
The Science of Small Things Reaches Young Learners

Center Wins Grant With Team-Based Approach

T he good news? Your pre-proposal has been selected for a full proposal. The bad news? You have only four weeks to pull it together - half the normal time needed.

Faculty, staff and students at the Center for Family, Work and Community (CFWC) met the challenge with an all-out, team-based approach to grant writing. As a result, the National Science Foundation has awarded a grant for $756,000 over three years for a program that will introduce students to science on the nano scale.

“We started with an open invitation to brainstorm about responding to the RFP (request for proposal),” says Linda Silka, director of the Center and professor in the Regional Economic and Social Development Department. “Ideas and tasks were apportioned based on individuals’ strengths and experience—everyone could handle some tasks, such as making phone calls or researching information.”

Project Manager Shawn Barry facilitated the effort and CFWC Assistant Director Robin Toof continued to develop the project. The team, which includes, from left, Program Manager Shawn Barry, CFWC Assistant Director Robin Toof, Associate Program Manager Leonor Daley and CFWC Director Linda Silka, stayed on track. The team worked with Fred Martin, assistant professor of computer science, for mentoring on NSF grant proposals.

Barry and Associate Project Manager Leonor Daley will develop the program.

“The students and I became obsessed with fall color,” says Lustick. “The more we investigated, the more complexity was revealed—like an onion. Science provides a way to get your mind around it.”

For these future classroom teachers, the point of engaging in an authentic experience—from posing the question to presenting and defending a solution—was to enable them to recognize opportunities for similar experiences with their students.

“The students approached the problem from both an analog and digital perspective. The results from each revealed a high level of agreement between the two ways of quantifying color. Their data source: online webcams of scenic vistas.

“Our observations show a sequence of changes,” says Lustick. “The red, orange and yellow increase; green decreases. Then green disappears, followed by an abrupt drop in all colors. We calculate a ratio of fall colors to non-fall colors. Once the ratio rises above one, we have a one to 10 scale of peakness—what we are calling the ‘UML color index.’”

The project was funded by a grant from the Faculty Development Center and presented at a conference of the Eastern Educational Research Association.

Hockey Team Poised to Break Out

Strong Season Ticket Sales Continue While Team Prepares for Season Opener

W ith a renewed commitment from the University and community, and a talented roster continuing to develop, the River Hawk hockey team has potential to become one of the elite teams in Hockey East, according to Coach Blaise MacDonald. Season tickets continue to sell at an encouraging pace and excitement is growing for the home opener, Friday, Oct. 26, at the Tsongas Arena.

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