Minority Students, Aided by the Efforts Two UMass Lowell Groups, Play an Ever Larger Role in Campus Life

Two campus organizations, until this year separate and distinct in their functions, now have a common office, a shared staff and overlapping missions—all of which bode well for the diversity of the UMass Lowell community.

The Center for Diversity and Pluralism, and ALANA, the campus group devoted to the needs of ethnic students, now share a common office on the first floor of McGauvran Hall. The center’s policy committee, the Council on Diversity and Pluralism, which was headed until this year by Lan Pho, now has co-directors: Dean of Student Life Larry Siegel and Psychology Professor Anne Mulvey—while the ALANA director, Stephan Coggs, is, with Mulvey, a co-director of the Center.

“It sounds more complicated than it is,” says Siegel. “The big point here is that there’s a huge overlap in the missions [of the two groups]. They’re both about the University’s sensitivity to the needs of the ethnic community. There’s a fairly seamless line between them. It seems only natural that they would share an office and some staff.”

Until recently, explains Siegel, there were two principal distinctions between the groups: ALANA was largely a student organization, while the Center functioned mostly for the faculty; and, while ALANA was devoted almost exclusively to ethnic issues, the Center involved itself in diversity of all sorts.

The first of these distinctions, says Siegel, no longer applies: “What we’re trying to do now is to widen the focus of the Center to embrace students as well as faculty, to include them in the dialogue, and in some of the events we stage.”

A Feb. 4 “Dinner Conversation” with student leaders, whose theme will be “Making Connections” at UMass Lowell, is one example, Siegel says, of an event that has been expanded to include students: “Dinner Conversations,” until this

University Police Investigate a Suicide Threat and a Hit-and-Run

The first story began one night this past fall when a young woman’s father telephoned University police. Obviously distraught, he told Dispatcher Tricia Everly that his daughter had escaped from a state hospital and taken a cab to the campus. Once there, he said, she intended to jump off a bridge.

The second story began late one other night when a pickup truck collided with a University escort van and then sped away.

In the case of the young woman who had threatened suicide, Officer Everly dispatched Officers David Couture, Thomas O’Donnell and Kristen Lamond to check all area bridges. Everly then contacted the cab company, but the driver who had transported the woman couldn’t be reached.

Meanwhile, Couture, checking the University Avenue bridge with the other two officers, heard what sounded like someone shouting from below. Shining his flashlight onto the river’s surface, he saw a woman in the water. Unable to gain access to that part of the riverbank, the officers called the Lowell Fire Department and kept up a dialogue with the woman, who told the officers that she had jumped from the bridge minutes earlier. Although apparently not seriously hurt, she was at risk of suffering hypothermia in the cold river water.

Firefighters arrived within minutes and pulled the woman from the river. She was taken by ambulance to an area hospital.

Rockefeller Funds Community Youth Arts Program Partner

Community and campus leaders are celebrating the receipt of a prestigious national grant for an award-winning after-school and summer youth program operated by Lowell’s Angkor Dance Troupe (ADT). The Rockefeller Foundation has awarded $139,350 to ADT for in-depth training in traditional Cambodian dance and well as related training in personal and career development for at-risk youth. In the past five years, faculty, staff and students from the University’s nursing and community psychology programs and Gear Up initiative of the Center for Family, Work and Community have played key roles in the development of ADT as one of the country’s premier youth arts organizations.

“Our work with Cambodian American youth in Lowell is testimony of the power of the arts to transform young lives,” says Angkor President Vichenny Keo-Sam. “Our youth straddle two very different cultures on a daily basis. Immersing them in the rich cultural heritage from which they come helps them sort through some of the complicated identity issues they face.”

The grant, to be dispersed over three years, was awarded by the Rockefeller Foundation Creativity and Culture “PACT” program (Partnerships Affirming Community Transformation). The Troupe operates its after-school and summer youth program in conjunction with the University and the ADAM project (Awareness and Development of Adolescent Males) of Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Lowell. Gear Up staff will work with ADT on a college readiness component to provide one-on-one academic counseling, college and career awareness workshops. “The Angkor Dance Troupe has made an extraordinary contribution

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Basketball Alumni to Square Off January 25th

Whether you were a River Hawk or a Chief, if the court was your calling, then The Old Court is calling you. All basketball alumni are invited to a reception at The Old Court in downtown Lowell following the River Hawks games on Saturday, Jan. 25. At 2 p.m. in Costello Gym, fans will gather to cheer on 300-win Coach Kathy O’Neil’s team; to peer or cheer alumni in a reunion game at around 3:45 p.m.; and to see why Coach Ken Barer’s men’s team is ranked third in the country at 5 p.m. Thereafter, basketball alumni, their family and special guests are entitled to free appetizers at The Old Court. Those interested in attending should contact Barer at (978) 934-2340 or Ken_Barer@uml.edu.

Diversity and Pluralism Makes Connections on Campus

How welcome or “at home” do people feel on the UMass Lowell campus? The Council on Diversity and Pluralism (CDP) will host iMaking Connections: Conversation and Support for the entire University community to discuss various answers to this question. Leaders from a diverse collection of campus groups have been invited to share ideas for ways to bring students, faculty and staff more closely together.

The event will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., to pay tribute to the five partners who shared in the National Trust honor: the City of Lowell, Commonwealth of Massachusetts/Department of Environmental Management, Lowell Historic Board, Lowell National Historical Park, and Lowell Plan/Lowell Development & Financial Corporation. The award recognizes 25 years of work that has made Lowell a national model for urban redevelopment.

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Bay State Historical League Highlights Tsongas Center’s Immigration Education

A one-day, system-wide symposium, “Literature, Communication and Democracy,” to explore the theory and performance of democracy in higher education, will take place on the UMass Lowell campus on Wednesday, April 2. The keynote address, “The Humanities in the Information Age,” will be given by Prof. Patrick Brantlinger of Indiana University.

The symposium organizers, Todd Avery of the UMass Lowell English Department and Stephen Olbrys, a communications professor at UMass Amherst, in order “to help foster an open, system-wide inter-campus discussion,” requested and received paper proposals, from both faculty and students, on a wide cross-section of subjects. These range from issues of ethics and media literacy to anarchism, sexuality and political dissent. To promote and encourage an active dialogue, the symposium will feature a roundtable format; each roundtable will include both faculty and students. Anyone interested in moderating a discussion should contact Prof. Avery at ext. 4184.

Art Department Shares in NEA Grant for Lowell’s Revolving Museum

This is just the beginning of what I expect to be a model partnership between UMass Lowell and the Revolving Museum, said Prof. Jim Coates of the Art Department in response to news that the National Endowment for the Arts had awarded a $26,000 grant to the museum for an innovative public art program in downtown Lowell. The contemporary arts museum moved from Boston to its Shattuck Street home in Lowell last spring, helping to energize the city’s arts district.

Jenny Beck, the museum’s director and an adjunct professor of art on campus, explained that the program, “On Track and Off the Beaten Path,” will include interactive artworks, exhibitions, and events that make use of inactive railroad tracks and alleyways in Lowell’s historic district. Beginning with workshops that will run from February through July, the project will culminate with the creation of three major public artworks and an exhibition, scheduled to open during the Lowell Folk Festival.

Along with UMass Lowell, the project team includes Lowell National Historical Park, the City’s Division of Planning and Development, and the Cultural Organization of Lowell, the city’s cultural services office. For more information about the project, contact Beck at (978) YES-ARTS or Coates at ext. 3490.

Supernovas, Crab Nebulas Spark Intense Interest

In the middle of a crab nebula, a neutron star is spinning rapidly. The neutron star has more mass than our sun yet measures only 10 miles across—about the size of Boston. Neutron stars, supernovas, black holes—all have been made visible by the Chandra X-Ray Observatory and all are generating long lists of questions for physicists. Dr. Harvey Tananbaum, second from left, is the co-creator of Chandra and director of the Chandra X-Ray Center of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. His presentation fascinated a large group of students, faculty and alumni of the Biological Sciences Department. With Tananbaum are Carole Ward, left, a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, which supports the seminar series; biology Prof. Susan Braumut; and Robert Tamaris, dean, Division of Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences.

Symposium to Explore Democracy and Higher Education

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University Police Investigate a Suicide Threat and a Hit-and-Run

The hit-and-run incident occurred near the North Campus at 11:15 on a Friday night. Four students were in the van when a white Ford pickup truck entered the wrong lane, hit the van, then swerved onto a lawn and through a parking lot before returning to the road and speeding away. While no one in the van was injured, the van itself was heavily damaged.

Officers Lamond and O’Donnell responded. Lamond found pieces of plastic from the damaged truck and bagged them for evidence. The next night, she learned that a man had reported to Lowell Police that his white Ford pickup had been stolen Friday night, shortly before the accident.

Suspecting that the report was a cover-up for the hit-and-run, Lamond discussed the case with Sgt. Chester DuPont. The owner was brought to the UMass Lowell police station three days later and, after questioning by DuPont, admitted filing the false report and driving the truck when it hit the van.

The two incidents are related only in that they demonstrate the kinds of serious situations the University Police routinely respond to and the professional manner in which they carry out their responsibilities. It also underscores the teamwork that exists between the University and Lowell public safety departments.

—JMCD

Rockefeller Funds Community Youth Arts Program Partner

to both the enrichment of young lives in Lowell and the preservation of a precious cultural tradition in the form of Cambodian dance,” says Paul Marion, director of community relations at UML. “The University is a proud partner in the ongoing work of the troupe, which is now helping to drive cultural development in the region through its expanding programs. The news of a major grant from the Rockefeller Foundation underscores the troupe’s national reputation and adds to Lowell’s growing reputation for excellence in the arts and humanities.”

“Those of us who work closely with at-risk youth are keenly aware that to address issues like violence and drug use by young people we need to get at the root causes,” says Jim Conlon, director of the Big Brother Big Sister ADAM project. “This is a thoughtful, well-planned, comprehensive program.”

—PM

Tripathy Symposium Explores Materials Research

Things are not what they seem. Get down to levels of the very small or very thin, or add sensitizing dyes, and materials get very interesting—molecules that are left-handed or right-handed, polymers that are “glassy,” or polymers that conduct like metals.

Researchers at the Sukant Tripathy Annual Memorial Symposium presented the latest of their research findings. They are excited about the implications and applications of what they are seeing in their labs.

For example, Anthony Guiseppi-Elie is investigating electroconductive hydrogels that have been used in biosensors that show enhanced performance in detecting glucose, cholesterol and galactose. These biosensors are being developed for subcutaneous monitoring of glucose and lactate. Guiseppi-Elie is professor of chemical engineering and of emergency medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, and founder, president and scientific director of AAI-ABTECH.

Michael Rubner is developing multi-play thin film systems that display new properties and are being explored for use in reversibly erasable anti-reflection coatings, novel drug delivery systems and cell resistant coatings. Rubner is professor of materials science and engineering at MIT and directs its National Science Foundation Materials Research Science and Engineering Center.

These were just two of the distinguished researchers making presentations at the annual symposium dedicated to the memory of Sukant Tripathy, a leading researcher, inspirational teacher, and mentor to students and colleagues alike.

Papers presented at the 2001 symposium have been published as a special issue of the Journal of Macromolecular Science: Pure and Applied Chemistry, as will the papers from the 2002 symposium.

UMass Lowell research groups made poster presentations at the symposium.

—LMH

Tripathy Annual Memorial Symposium on Materials Science

Auburn University, Alabama; Mark Green, Polytechnic University, Brooklyn; and James Whitten, UMass Lowell; Warren Herman, University of Maryland; Michael Rubner, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Vaman Naik, University of Michigan; Ashok Cholli, UMass Lowell; Mrinal Thakur, Auburn University; Alabama; Mark Green, Polytechnic University, Brooklyn; and James Whitten, UMass Lowell.

Rockefeller Funds Community Youth Arts Program Partner

Photographs: © Andrew Page

Papers presented at the 2001 symposium have been published as a special issue of the Journal of Macromolecular Science: Pure and Applied Chemistry, as will the papers from the 2002 symposium.

UMass Lowell hosts and presenters at the Tripathy Symposium included, from left, Merrill Cohen and Edward A. Boulter, consultants, and Russell Gaudiana, vice president for research and development for Konarka Technologies.

Dr. Lynee Samuelson, right, scientist with UMass Lowell’s Center for Advanced Materials and with the Materials Science Team at the Natick Soldier Center, talks before the Tripathy Symposium with, from left, Merrill Cohen and Edward A. Boulter, consultants, and Russell Gaudiana, vice president for research and development for Konarka Technologies.
Many Callers Think H-E-L-P Spells ANYTHING YOU NEED

T

here are spiders all over my room. I’ve killed about a dozen of them. You’ve got to get an exterminator in here or I’ll be eating spiders with my cereal.”

That was the gist of a phone message that a student left on the University’s 934-HELP desk voice mail recently. It was one of the more unusual calls fielded by the Help staff but it certainly wasn’t atypical.

Located on the first floor of Olsen Hall, the desk helps solve faculty, staff and student problems related to University computers, network connectivity and telephones.

But, according to the unit’s manager, Marc Place, callers attach a very liberal interpretation to “HELP.”

For example, complaints or questions have included:

• There’s a hole in my wall.
• There’s no hot water
• Is professor (so-and-so) in today?
• I don’t feel good.
• The lights don’t work
• Can I get a bus to the University?
• The toilet is backing up.
• My ear hurts.

In cases related to building problems (lights, water, etc.), the Help desk staff refers the problem to Physical Plant. Others are put in touch with the appropriate University service.

Some calls even come from off-campus, including the occasional one intended for Saints Memorial Medical Center. (The hospital’s exchange is the same—934—but the last four digits are nowhere near that of the HELP desk (4357). Go figure.)

If you walk in the front entrance of Olsen and turn right, you’ll see the Help desk behind a window at the end of the hallway. In addition to Place, the office is staffed by one other full-time employee and two part-time students. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. At other times, callers may leave voice mail messages that are returned when the office opens.

The desk is at its busiest at the beginning of each semester, when new people are arriving on campus and others are changing rooms or offices. Once things settle down, the desk receives an estimated average of 80 to 100 “tier one” calls a month. Tier one calls are defined as problems that the desk can solve while the caller is on the line.

“Tier two” calls are those in which the staffer must generate a work order that usually requires someone, such as a physical plant employee, to visit to the caller’s room or office. The desk handles an average of 300 tier two calls a month.

—JMcD

2003 V-Day Gets Under Way

The UMass Lowell V-Day Collaborative marks its second annual College Campaign with a new staging of Eve Enslerís Obie Award-winning The Vagina Monologues. The play generated over $7,000 in aid to emergency womenís services when it was produced on campus last spring.

Performances will run from Feb. 27 through March 1 at 7 p.m. at Mahoney Auditorium. Proceeds will benefit Alternative House Womenís Services and Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell.

Everyone is invited to audition for the production as well. Auditions will be held Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Friday, Jan. 31 from 1 to 3 p.m. in McGuigan 410. No prior acting experience is necessary. The V-Day initiative uses theatre and art to aid in the prevention of violence against women and girls, as well as to educate the public. The College Campaign 2003 is sponsored on campus by the Center for Diversity and Pluralism, the Psychology Dept., Student Activities and SPECTRUM.

For information about The Vagina Monologues and other V-Day activities, contact Prof. Anne Mulvey, ext 3965, or Anne_Mulvey@uml.edu.

Teachers Learn by Doing in Engineering Course

S

ay you’re a math or science teacher in a middle school. Your students are taking the MCAS and have to answer questions about engineering design.

How are you supposed to know what to teach them?

Students in greater Lowell middle schools will know more about engineering—and will have fun learning it—when their teachers complete the 15-week Introduction to Engineering course at UMass Lowell.

Douglas Prime, director of K-12 educational outreach for the Francis College of Engineering, teaches the course, which is funded by the UMass/Raytheon K-16 Education Collaborative grant.

The teachers are learning by doing—building electrical circuits and electromagnets before designing and constructing their own secret candy dispensers. Along the way, they try out projects with their own classes, using materials and guidelines provided for them, and with the opportunity to talk over what did and did not work.

“Teaching is a learning experience,” says Prime. “You can’t anticipate everything the students will do.”
Minority Students, Aided by the Efforts Two UMass Lowell Groups, Play an Ever Larger Role in Campus Life

year, were faculty-only affairs. A second change will be an expanded initiative toward international students (“We’re trying to pay more attention to some really basic stuff, like who’ll meet them at the airport, and where they’ll go for Thanksgiving break”), while a third will be a heightened effort to recruit top-level minorities.

A key player in all this is Council co-chair Anne Mulvey, who has been involved with both faculty and students in an effort—as she puts it—"to create a broader definition of just what sorts of programs we want to get involved with, beyond the traditional ones, as important as they are, that tend to focus largely on [ethnic-cultural] foods and costumes.”

One example she gives is the “Making Connections” dinner; another is the recent on-campus performance of the play, “The Laramie Project,” which, through its depiction of the Wyoming murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard, served as a powerful indictment of homophobia, hate crimes and discrimination in general.

Both of these events, notes Mulvey, involved the collective participation of students, faculty and staff—and as such, were expressions of diversity in themselves.

ALANA, now in its second year under Stephan Coggs’ direction, will maintain its focus on ethnic-cultural events-such as Black History Month in February, and the upcoming “Step Afrika!”, a Feb 24 performance by a Washington-based dance ensemble—while at the same time expanding its efforts to involve minority students in day-to-day campus life.

“That’s the big challenge,” says Coggs, who serves as an advisor to both individual minority students and to UMass Lowell ethnic groups. “We need to give these students the sense that they belong here, that they have a voice in the life of the University; they need to get more involved in the mainstream student organizations-student government and residence life-to feel more empowered to take part in activities, to play a role in how things work...”

“I think, in general, it’s starting to work. I’m seeing more involvement lately, more of a sense of empowerment. The key now will be to get the students to take the initiative. As it is, it’s generally me who initiates an idea or program; then they’ll go along and finally get involved. The next step is for the students and student-groups to come up with the ideas, to participate from the start. I think we’re moving in that direction, though.”

Coggs, an African-American who, in his student days, was among a one-percent minority of ethnic students at Kansas State University, recalls the mentorship of a KSU sophomore who, he says, probably played as large a role as anyone in the reasons he has chosen the path he has:

“I was a freshman at the time, feeling pretty lost in the crowd. And along comes this guy, this sophomore—he took me under his wing, introduced me to people, showed me what I had to do to fit in. He didn’t have to do that, but he did...

“And the last thing he taught me was—you gotta reach back. If someone does you a service, when it’s your turn you’ve got to find a way to do the same. So I figure it’s my turn now.”

—GD

Pinanski Serves as Pilot for Green Cleaners

The Pinanski Building, one of the oldest buildings on campus, is now a little cleaner and a little safer after completing a pilot program to introduce greener cleaning products.

In partnership with the Toxics Use Reduction Institute’s Surface Solutions Laboratory and Rochester Midland, which provided their EnviroCare line of products and equipment for the pilot, Building Foreman Jerry Ryan began substituting the less toxic products over the summer on the linoleum tile floors, three men’s rooms and two ladies’ rooms.

At the completion of the pilot, Ryan saw no decrease in cleaning performance with the safer Rochester Midland cleaners. The company is recognized under the state’s Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) procurement program for agencies and vendors doing business in the Commonwealth.

The EnviroCare cleaners are still being used in Pinanski with the hope of extending the trials to other buildings on both campuses.

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Make intranet.uml.edu your home page and gain easy access to everything UMass Lowell.

- Access your e-mail online
- See a listing of campus events
- Check out the latest news articles about UMass Lowell
- View an archive of email and administrative announcements
- Get the latest weather report
- Stay up-to-date on the River Hawks

Jan 22, 2003
Environmental Management System Addresses Health and Safety Issues in Olney

From handicapped access to emergency procedures, from laboratory cleanliness to air conditioning, every aspect of the Olney Science Center is used as part of the environmental management system (EMS) being put into place. An EMS provides tools to help manage an organization’s environmental impacts efficiently and effectively and to improve environmental stewardship across the entire organization.

Olney Building is the pilot project for achieving ISO 14001, an international EMS standard that requires constant improvement to health and safety guidelines, and makes UMass Lowell one of the first universities in the country to attain this standard. Since the Olney Building houses more than 100 laboratories for six disciplines, it was the site with the most urgent need for an EMS.

Over the past two years, in partnership with the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Dean Robert Tamarin and the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, seven committees have met to address the areas of concern within the building: air quality, chemical purchasing and handling, capital projects, laboratory cleanliness to air ducts. Recently, their findings were presented to Dr. Susan Goodwin and other administrators. Some of the improvements under way are:

- Creating a smoking ban within 25 feet of the building to eliminate air contamination through the intake air duct.
- Developing a form/placard to report problems with fume hoods to alert laboratory users and maintenance staff to the hood’s condition.
- Establishing a new procedure for ordering, receiving, delivering and storing chemicals to have tighter control and a better inventory of hazardous materials.
- Ensuring renovations do not adversely affect the environment and others in the building by developing a checklist.
- Developing a Laboratory Bill of Rights to outline procedures.
- Establishing a robust recycling program for cans, paper, solvents, virgin chemicals and compostables.
- Creating a safe environment for people with disabilities, beginning with an accessible restroom and unobstructed entrances.

UMass Lowell has adopted “ride the CREST” as an environmental principle to create a model of environmental health and safety in teaching, research, partnerships with the community, and the management of the organization. CREST stands for Continuous Improvement; Reduce; Reuse, Recycle; Environmental Compliance; Stewardship; and Training and Education.

The internal opportunity assessment began in January with the third-party certification audit to take place later in the year. The College of Management has volunteered to be the next unit to implement an EMS.

UML Conference Unites American and European Groups

For the first time in their histories, the American-based Business History Conference and the European Business History Association will hold joint annual meetings as part of the “Regions, Nations, Globalization” conference to be held June 26 through 29 at UMass Lowell. One hundred and forty-four papers will be presented by researchers, policy makers and scholars from all over the world.

Prof. Bill Mass, of Regional Economic and Social Development and co-director of the Center for Industrial Competitiveness (CIC), initiated the effort to bring the conference to UML four years ago when he was a nationally elected Trustee of the Business History Conference.

According to Mass, “The themes of the conference are central to the mission of RESD and UML.” Mass will be speaking as part of the conference, offering a New England perspective on conference themes. Prof. Bill Laznick of RESD and Prof. Mike Best, professor emeritus of management, will also be speaking at the conference.

The conference is being hosted by RESD, CIC and the Committee for Industrial Theory and Assessment.

Engineers Have Fun, Say Middle-School Students

Doug Prime remembers his own fourth-grade teacher, who “set the fire” of his enthusiasm for science and engineering design.

“I want to get kids excited about doing these things,” says Prime, who is completing the first 10-week session of Design Lab, an after-school program for middle-school students funded by the National Science Foundation. “They don’t have opportunities elsewhere.” Prime is director of K-12 science and engineering education for the Francis College of Engineering.

In Design Lab, Prime has introduced electrical inventions, starting with learning how circuits work and building switches, before advancing to flashing LEDs on drinking cups or Frisbees, and culminating in using solenoids to build a secret candy dispenser.

Students in the first session were drawn primarily from the Robinson and Wang middle schools in Lowell. The program with the Robinson School was coordinated by GearUp, a program of the Center for Family, Work and Community to encourage more inner city kids to attend college.

Two more sessions are scheduled for this year, reaching a total of 120 students.

“Our summer Design Camp is so successful that we just want to do more of it,” says Prime about the after-school Design lab. “Now I’d like to add robots and glider toys as a follow-up for students who are interested in more than one session.”

At the closing celebration for students and their families, students displayed their projects before touring a plastics engineering lab, the baseball bat testing lab and the electrical engineering assistive technology program.
As a professor of music, John Ogasapian is a teacher. But when he gives organ recitals, he eschews the pedagogical role.

“I don’t go into a recital planning to conduct a seminar to educate an audience,” he says. “I play music that’s good. I go in to play and have fun and they usually have fun along with me. I have a whole different persona when I go out to perform.

“It’s supposed to be an evening that’s fulfilling and enjoyable. They shouldn’t have to go home afterward and say, ‘Well, I couldn’t stand a minute of it but it was good for me.’”

Ogasapian acknowledges that the average person in the audience wouldn’t recognize the music he plays, but he says, “They like it.”

His specialty is American concert music of the 19th and 20th century, much of which was written by a group of Boston composers—and George Whitefield Chadwick of Lowell—around the turn of the century.

“A lot of what I play, no one else does because it’s stuff that’s long out of print or it’s in manuscript form. That’s generally what people who invite me to play expect to hear.”

Ogasapian became interested in the organ as a youngster because his father was the organist of a small church in Worcester and, he says, “I found I had an affinity for it.”

He has an 1899 Estey reed organ with two keyboards and a pedal board. But he’s really a lot of help.”

Although he has been teaching music here since 1965, he seldom gave organ lessons and hasn’t given any at all since the early 1970s. “I’m not a patient organ teacher,” he admits. “If the student is playing a piece wrong I push them off the bench and show them how to do it and say, ‘There. Now do it.’ That’s my technique but that’s not really a lot of help.”

In his Pepperell home, Ogasapian has an 1899 Estey reed organ with two keyboards and a pedal board. But he’s not one of those musicians who practice three or four hours a day.

“When I’m going to give a recital I practice,” he says. “Otherwise I might not play for weeks at a time.”

“What he didn’t know was that the recital was being recorded. He learned some time later that National Public Radio (NPR) was featuring the performance on one of its weekly presentations of organ music called “Pipedreams.”

NPR sent him a CD of the program but, ironically, he could not have heard it on the air. The nearest public radio station that carries “Pipedreams” is in Portland, Maine.

Asked to describe the toughest part of giving a recital today, he has to think for only a moment before answering, “Deciding what I’m going to play. To me that’s the most important thing. Making a program that will grab an audience early and hold them. I spent a lot of time shuffling pieces around.”

Blue-collar immigrants often encounter hazardous working conditions due to insufficient training, a lack of communication and standard safety measures. UMass Lowell is responding to that problem by supporting a collaborative that is helping immigrants promote safe working conditions.

The University’s Work Environment Justice Fund has awarded $60,000 to the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) and its partners, the Chelsea Human Services Collaborative and Western MassCOSH.

The partnership’s Immigrants Safe Work Initiative is designed to provide 500 immigrants in Greater Boston and 175 Latino workers in Western Massachusetts with information, tools and support to end dangerous work situations and promote secure employment. In addition to training immigrants on workers’ rights, it will provide a forum for these minority groups to share experiences and strategies for solving health and safety problems in the workplace.

“We are pleased that the University is in a position to help efforts to improve the work environment of immigrant workers, those who are most at risk of on-the-job injuries in Massachusetts and whose rights to safe and productive lives are the most vulnerable,” said Prof. Charles Levenstein of the Work Environment Department. “We congratulate MassCOSH on its long history of advocacy for workers and we applaud the alliance between MassCOSH and immigrant community organizations. Only through building such coalitions can we hope to bring a public spotlight on the hazardous conditions which immigrant workers suffer—and remedy these intolerable situations,” he added.

Immigrants are considered at a higher risk to encounter hazardous working conditions. In one recent month, three immigrants in Massachusetts died on the job. According to a recent study by Northeastern University, 45 percent of semi-skilled, blue-collar workers in the state are immigrants.

The Work Environment Justice Fund was established in 1994 by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, as part of a settlement with Bay State Smelting, which had exposed its mostly immigrant workforce to hazardous levels of lead, copper, zinc, cadmium and carbon monoxide. The fund supports projects that promote prevention of occupational disease and injury and provide advocacy services for workers faced with health and safety problems.

“The Work Environment Justice Fund will provide critical support to MassCOSH’s effort to help immigrant workers fight against dangerous and unhealthy working conditions,” said Jean Carmel St. Juste, who will coordinate the Initiative for MassCOSH.
Can Universities Humanize the Forces of Globalization?

“We were surprised,” says Jean Pyle, former professor of the Regional Economic and Social Development Department (RESD), “that the role of the university as a force for sustainable human development has not been explored in the development literature.”


The editors begin the volume by exploring the context of globalization and how institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the multinational corporations have gained power relative to more human-centered organizations.

The contributed chapters in the first section focus on the specific challenges of globalization and the need for the university to take a role. Authors in the second section provide a variety of examples of how universities can and do foster beneficial development. Promising initiatives are under way in Malaysia, India and at UMass Lowell.

“Universities are breaking important new ground,” said Pyle. “Especially in developing countries that have limited resources, universities form an important seedbed for development projects.”

Prof. Georges Grinstein, director of the Center for Biomolecular and Medical Informatics, gave a lecture on “High Dimensional Data Visualization and Analysis for Drug Discovery” recently in Bethesda, Md.

The presentation, with an accompanying demonstration, was sponsored by the National Cancer Institute’s Bioinformatics, Biostatistics and Computational Biology faculty; the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Genomics and Bioinformatics Interest Group; and the NIH Drug Discovery Interest Group.

UMass Lowell was well represented with invited presentations at MACRO-2002, the Seventh National Conference of the Society for Polymer Science of India, held at the Indian Institute of Technology in Khargpur.

Jayant Kumar, physics professor and director of the Center for Advanced Materials, gave the plenary lecture, “Enzymatic and Biomimetic Synthesis of Conducting Polymers and Macrodyes and their Optical and Electronic Properties.” Arthur Waterson, chemistry professor emeritus and director of the Institute for Nano Science and Engineering Technologies, spoke on “Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of Novel Copolymers.” Ashok Cholli, director of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Lab, spoke on “Structural Investigation of Polymer Nanocomposites and Biocatalytically Polymerized Conducting Polyaniline by Solid State NMR.”

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New Security Analyst to Take On Spread of Computer Hacking

Mass Lowell, like colleges and universities across the nation, has been the target of a rash of computer hacking unlike anything seen in the past, according to the University’s chief information officer.

“It’s happening on a daily basis,” says Jeff Thompson. “All the time, we’re having to take machines off the network because of viruses. I don’t think it’s ever been as bad as it’s been since the [fall] semester began.”

In an effort to combat this onslaught, as well as to boost the general security of the UMass Lowell IT network, the University has hired its first full-time security analyst. Jim Packard, formerly director of Information Technology at CCA Inc. in Bedford, Mass., arrived on campus last summer and, says Thompson, made himself indispensable almost from the day he came.

“Ironically, we’ve had more problems since he got here than ever before. As a result, we’ve never needed him more. The viruses just keep happening. A lot of people don’t even know when they have one, which only makes the problem worse.”

It is no accident, Thompson says, that universities are being targeted by hackers: “It’s the price you pay for academic freedom—which all universities depend on. We are defined, at least in part, by the free flow of information. We can’t just lock down our networks the way a private institution can. As a result, we’re sort of a natural target for the hacker, whose goal is to bring a PC to its knees.”

Packard himself is even more blunt-spoken, if that’s possible:

“For every hour you don’t spend on security,” he says, “because you’re more interested in the convenience [computers offer], you’re going to spend ten hours fixing the problem.”

His role at the University, says Thompson, is threefold: the combating of computer viruses; the development of standards for computer servers, so that they can be made as close as possible to hacker-proof; and finally, the promoting of awareness, among faculty and staff, of the importance—and proper methods—of securing PCs.

Prof. Jones Submits Testimony to Title IX Study Commission

Prof. Michael Jones of Legal Studies has submitted 21 pages of testimony to the U.S. Department of Education’s commission studying Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The commission is expected to make its recommendations by the end of January.

Because of his longtime interest and experience in recreational and competitive swimming, Jones was asked to make a presentation to the commission, which has been directed by President Bush to review the interpretation of Title IX as it affects high school, college and Olympic sports programs.

One of the tests the government has given the courts to determine compliance with the law is proportionality. That means that expenditures on men and women’s athletics must be proportional to the ratio of a school’s male-female enrollment within one percent.

“If you do the math, it is just impossible for any university to meet that proportionality rule,” Jones says.

For example, he says, the female-to-male ratio at UNH is 60-40, meaning that 60 percent of all money spent on athletics must go to women’s sports.

But, like many universities, UNH has varsity football, a revenue-producing sport that may award as many as 85 scholarships. There are no women’s sports of a comparable size to help balance the equation.

More importantly, Jones says that in an effort to obey this legislation, colleges and universities are abandoning men’s varsity sports such as swimming, tennis, golf and others — healthy activities graduates can participate in throughout their lives.

As an example of the fallout from this situation, he points to the numbers of boys and girls participating in swimming programs at the high school level over the last 30 years. In 1972, about 91,000 boys and 17,000 girls were swimming in high school. By 1999, the number of boys participating had dropped to less than 87,000 while the number for girls had grown to more than 138,000.

This imbalance exists, he maintains, because — given the effects of Title IX — the boys know that there is little opportunity for them to earn a college swimming scholarship.

“Title IX,” says Jones, “has had unintended consequences.”

Much of the research for his report to the commission was done as honors work by one of his students, Megan Williams, a junior majoring in history with a minor in legal studies.

— JMcD

Appointments

Shirley Alejandro, associate project manager for Gear Up Lowell, from training coordinator at Excelus Motivational Associates.

Sokny Long, youth program co-advisor in Gear Up, from student.

Lisa M. Taylor, association project manager for Gear Up Lowell, from program manager at Middlesex Community College.

Embryonic البطشينات Cinerea

Promotions

Brian W. Andriolo, associate director of Advancement for Endowment Services, from director of Annual Giving.

John C. Davis, director of Capital and Leadership Gifts in University Advancement, from senior constituent director of Development.

Demetra J. Gys, associate director of Programs and Alumni Services in University Advancement, from assistant director of Alumni Relations.

Patricia K. Kelleher, director of Prospect Management and Donor Relations in University Advancement, from director of Prospect Management.

William Schlieman, sergeant of University Police, from patrol officer.
Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Jan. 22
Spring Semester. Classes begin for Continuing Studies students. For information, call (978) 934-2480 or visit http://continuinged.uml.edu.

Thursday, Jan. 23
Women's Basketball, vs. Assumption College. 5:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 29
Exhibit Reception, “Highlights and Shadows,” the photographic collection of Arlette and Gus Kayat and others, 2 to 4 p.m., gallery talk at 3 p.m., University Gallery. Exhibit runs Jan. 29 through Feb. 19. For information, call (978) 934-3491.

Women's Basketball, vs. Merrimack College. 7 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Saturday, Feb. 1
Women's Basketball, vs. Southern New Hampshire, 2 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Wednesday, Feb. 5
Performance, STARTS program, “Amelia Bedelia,” a musical production for school field trips, grades K-3, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Durgin Hall. Tickets $5. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 11
Women's Basketball, vs. Stonehill College. 5:30 p.m., Costello Gym. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
Exhibit Reception, Annual juried exhibit of student artwork, 2 to 4 p.m., Dungan Gallery. Exhibit runs Jan. 29 through Feb. 19. For information, call (978) 934-3491.

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Open Meeting Hours, Opportunity for faculty, staff and students to meet with William T. Hogan, Chancellor. Staff: 2 to 3 p.m.; Students: 3 to 4 p.m.; Faculty: 4 to 5 p.m.; Trustees’ Room, Cumnock Hall. For information, call the Chancellor’s office (978) 934-2201.

Wednesday, Feb. 26
Performance, STARTS program, “Dream Keepers,” performing arts for school field trips, grades 7 and up, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Durgin Hall. Tickets $5. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452.

Saturday, March 1
Hockey, vs. Northeastern. 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Did you know...
that the UMass Lowell Barnes and Noble bookstores carry an average of 50 different selections by campus authors each semester?