New School of Health and Environment Celebrated

On April 13, the University community, colleagues and friends gathered to celebrate the new School of Health and Environment. The School, which includes the Departments of Health and Clinical Sciences, Nursing, Physical Therapy and Work Environment, became official in January.

Chancellor William T. Hogan spoke of the creation of this School as a significant step in the campus’s “long-term efforts to demonstrate the ways a public campus can help a region sustain its quality of life.”

“The new School is guided by a vision of human health that links individual wellbeing to healthy communities and environments,” said Dr. David Wegman, dean of the School. He was unable to attend the reception because of a family emergency, but was interviewed separately. “We are planning innovative ways to combine outstanding teaching, the University’s commitment to community service and our proven success in interdisciplinary problem-solving.”

Wegman concluded, “All of this will improve the quality of the educational experience for our students.”

At the celebration, former Dean of the College of Health Professions Janice M. Scetchi was honored as the first recipient of the Provost’s Award for Lifetime Achievement. A faculty member for 32 years, Scetchi served as dean of the College of Health Professions for 11 years before she retired in 2003. During her tenure as dean, the College instituted a doctorate in nursing (awarded jointly with the UMass Boston campus) and a doctor of physical therapy program.

Congressman Martin T. Meehan spoke of the creation of this new school on the Lowell campus.

Brunette Develops Safety Training Program for Hispanic Workers

In the construction industry, education is a matter of life and death. Hispanic construction workers are particularly at risk for injury and death due to language barriers and lack of job experience.

To address this need for greater safety, Asst. Prof. Maria Brunette of the Department of Work Environment has been awarded a $105,626 grant from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to develop a Construction Outreach Program for Hispanic workers.

“Hispanics have higher fatal occupational injuries than any other ethnic group in the country in the construction trades,” explains Brunette. “The fatality rate for Hispanics is 20 percent higher than rates for white and black workers.”

One of the main reasons for this trend is most (OSHA) programs are written and delivered in English. This creates an obvious problem for workers who read or speak little English. Brunette’s program will be delivered entirely in Spanish.

“The program is a concentrated 10 hour session, which will train Hispanics in the base skills and knowledge needed to be valuable, safe and productive in the construction trades,” Brunette says. “It will feature practical materials and curricula written in colloquial Spanish, such as training manuals, visual aids, health and safety alert cards and a Spanish construction dictionary.”

The need for actual field workers and program evaluators prompted Brunette to partner with the Laborers International Union of North America Local 175. Michael Gagliardi, business manager for the Methuen-based union, was eager to work with Brunette.

“It’s important to help educate people of the community, especially those of Hispanic descent, who maybe haven’t been given the same opportunities,” explains Gagliardi. “Right now we’re filming a video on work hazards, featuring Hispanic construction workers from Local 175.”

Brunette plans on launching the initial training session in Lawrence by September of this year.

Botball, Botfest Fill Rec Center with Ingenuity

Lowell’s new Campus Recreation Center was the scene of a high-tech, high-energy competition on a recent Saturday, as 14 high school and middle school teams from Massachusetts and Rhode Island competed in the national Botball program.

Student teams had just seven weeks to create robots—using kits from the KBS (“Keep It Simple, Stupid”) Institute for Practical Robotics—that competed completely on their own, with no remote control.

“These are robots with brains,” says Holly Yanco, assistant professor of computer science. “Students designed, built and programmed their robots, and the competition is very exciting.”

The Botball game board was set with blue and yellow plastic cups and soft orange balls. Scoring depended on collecting yellow cups, pushing blue cups onto opponent territory, or dropping a ball in a basket—and, of course, the all-important matter of starting and stopping on signal.

Overall standings based on tournament play combined with Web documentation were South Kingston High School, first; Algonquin Regional High School, second; and Waltham High School tied with Wellesley High School, third.

An associated event, the Botfest, is an exhibition of robotics and animatronics for inventors of all ages and included demonstrations by college students, school groups and community exhibitors.

“Robotics makes computers exciting,” explains Asst. Prof. Fred Martin, computer science. “It’s an aspect of human experience that’s open to everyone.”

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Gear-Up Holds Partnership Event
U Mass Lowell Chancellor William T. Hogan, Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan and Lowell Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karla Brooks Baehr will headline a forum recognizing educational partnerships between the institutions. The event will be held in the newly renovated Federal Building at Middlesex Community College, 9 - 10:30 a.m. on April 27.

Gear-Up is completing five years of federal funding by the U.S. Department of Education. The program has supported the educational aspirations of students from seventh grade through their sophomore year in high school, and was recently cited by the Department of Education as an overall “best practices” Gear-Up program.

Esterberg to Speak at Qualitative Research Network
The Qualitative Research Network will hold its next meeting April 26, in the MLL conference room at Wannalancit Mills. Meetings start at noon and lunch is provided. Associate Provost Kristin Esterberg will give a presentation titled, “Qualitative Research and Sustainable Regional Development.”

The network explores the methodologies and challenges of conducting qualitative research, and discusses these in a collegial setting. All interested persons are invited and encouraged to attend a network meeting.

Forty-two Retirees to be Feted May 20
All UMass Lowell faculty and staff are invited to celebrate with their friends and colleagues who are the ’03-’04 retirees on Thursday, May 20, at noon in Cumnock Auditorium. The luncheon is free for retirees and $15 for everyone else.

Please drop off or mail checks, made out to UMass Lowell, to Communications and Marketing, Cumnock Hall, One University Avenue, Lowell, MA 01854. For more information, contact Renae Lias Clafey at Renae_Lias@uml.edu.

RAP Makes Earth Day a Multi-Media Event
Earth Day is about more than picking up trash. On April 22, youth from the River Ambassador Program (RAP) of UMass Lowell’s Center for Work, Community and Environment will coordinate and host a multi-media stage show, “Justice for All: Stories of Environmental Health Issues in Lowell.” The event will be held at the McDonough City Magnet School, 43 French Street, 6 - 8 p.m.

The show draws on the positive energies of youth, as they use creativity to deal with environmental justice and community health concerns, such as lead, asthma, smoking, sewage, fish and Brownfields sites. Also, local youth artists will perform in dance and song, and a short video will highlight environmental leaders in the community.

The event is sponsored by the Center for Family, Work and Community, the River Ambassador program and the New Ventures Partnership (Coalition for a Better Acre & Lowell Community Health Center) with grant funding by the Mogan Cultural Center in Lowell.

For more information, contact Sokny Long, 978-934-4676.

Student Work Takes Priority in Research Symposium
The seventh annual Student Research Symposium will take place on Thursday, April 29, at Cumnock Hall, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. The symposium is sponsored by the Faculty-Student Collaborative Research Task Force of the Council on Teaching, Learning and Research as Scholarship.

More than 100 undergraduate and graduate students participate, presenting their research findings on posters and discussing results with visiting faculty and students. A book of research abstracts is available at the event.

Undergraduates may apply for the C. Daniel Cole Undergraduate Research Award, sponsored by the Sigma Xi Chapter of UMass Lowell. Applicants must submit a paper and present a poster. Finalists make oral presentations to a faculty committee following the symposium and prizes are awarded at the May 12 Sigma Xi banquet.

Volunteers Needed for May 8 Campus-Neighborhood Cleanup
University volunteers are needed for the campus and neighborhood portion of the Lowell City-wide Cleanup, part of the Great American Cleanup, on Saturday, May 8, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Campus volunteers will team up with the Pawtucketville Citizens Council and others to collect litter and groom the area around UML, North and along streets nearby. The Keep Lowell Beautiful organization will provide tools, bags, etc. Volunteers will meet at Cumnock Hall at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, pastry, assignments, and a free, high quality T-shirt.

The current plan is to concentrate on UML North, but if there are sufficient volunteers the effort will be expanded to UML South and UML East.

In addition to the University, the cleanup is co-sponsored by the Pawtucketville Citizens Council, City of Lowell, Lowell Plan Inc., Keep Lowell Beautiful Inc., Mogan Cultural Center, Lowell Heritage Partnership, Lowell National Historical Park, and Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust.

For more information or to sign up for the cleanup, please contact Patricia_McCafferty@uml.edu or call her in the Communications and Marketing Office at ext. 3238.

9/11 Memorial Dedication Set for May 14
Chancellor William T. Hogan and the Student Government Association have announced that the University’s 9/11 memorial will be dedicated in a ceremony on Friday, May 14, at 2 p.m.

Among those being remembered are Douglas A. Cowell ’71, Robert J. Hayes ’96, Brian K. Kerney ’95, John A. Ogowski ’72, Patrick J. Quigley IV, Jessica Leigh Sachs, and Christopher Zarba. The commemorative artwork titled Unity, designed by UMass Lowell art students Rebekah Hermans, Gail Milligan and Janet Wittlinger, will be installed this month along the Riverwalk beside Leitch Hall on UML East. Following the dedication ceremony, there will be a reception in the Campus Recreation Center. Members of the campus community are invited to attend.

Those expecting to attend are asked to respond by May 3 to the Communications and Marketing Office at x3224.

Workshop on Lowell’s Cultural Industry Will Be Held May 1
The Cultural Industry of Lowell (COOL) and the University will sponsor “How Do We Sustain Lowell’s Cultural Industry? A Community Workshop” on Saturday, May 1, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in O’Leary 222. The workshop will include panel discussions and collaborative planning sessions. Among the panelists will be Assoc. Prof. Robert Farrant, Regional Economic and Social Development, discussing economic trends in the region; Mert Jenkins, cultural economic development specialist at the Massachusetts Cultural Council; and Colin McNiece, director of economic development for the City of Lowell. Registration is $30. For information or to register, call Paul Marion, director of community relations, at ext. 3107 or send e-mail to Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

Communications and Marketing Office Hosts New Faculty Reception
Communications and Marketing last month hosted a reception that gave new faculty members an opportunity to learn about the services offered by the office and meet the staff in an informal setting. The participants included, from left, Rick Sherburne, special events; Cindy Chen, assistant professor, computer science; Joanna Resnansky, adjunct professor, sociology; Christine Dunlap, executive director of Communications and Marketing; Edward Chen, associate professor, management; Patricia McCafferty, media relations; and Xuejun Lu, assistant professor, electrical engineering.
GSE Grant Targets Improving Science Education

The 2003 MCAS science test results indicate a serious deficiency in science content and skills among Massachusetts’s students. With statewide failure rates in fifth and eighth grades at 14 and 30 percent, respectively, the need for improved teaching in science is clear. The Lawrence and Lynn school districts have partnered with the Center for Field Services and Studies (CFSS) and Salem State College to tackle the problem of developing science instruction in their schools. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has awarded an Improving Teacher Quality State Grant to CFSS, Salem State and the two partner schools to develop and deliver science institutes to K-12 teachers during the summer and fall of 2004. Nearly $200,000, plus an additional $60,000 in matching funds from the partner institutions, will fund the one-year program, Project SPIRE (Science Partnership Institutes Renewing Education).

“We are excited to provide a forum for K-12 educators to come together with scientists, science educators and engineers to design a seamless curriculum which best meets the needs of their particular district,” says Dr. Michelle Scribner-MacLean, principle investigator and full-time lecturer in the Graduate School of Education.

The focus topics for Project SPIRE are: Life Cycles and Heredity, Properties of Matter, and Earth in the Solar System, which are taught in elementary and secondary schools. The specific content of the summer and fall institutes, geared to the different school levels where the topics are presented, will be developed by design teams of higher education faculty, scientists, science educators, engineers, and classroom teachers.

Teachers may take the institutes for professional development points toward recertification or for graduate credit at the higher education institution sponsoring the institute.

Young Inventors Visit Wind Tunnel

High school students from Central Falls, R.I., had more than a passing interest in a tour of the wind tunnel in the Mechanical Engineering Department, led by Prof. Eugene Niemi. The young inventors had built their own wind tunnel using wood and two box fans, part of a class on applied electronics led by teacher Herb Angell. Above, a few of the students pause for a photo—from left, seniors Angel Gavidia, Jason Madrid and Pedro Garcia, and junior Michael Bowers.

Spring Gala Celebrates Ethnic Diversity

Feb. 25, 2004 was a festive mood recently at the Spring Multi-Ethnic Celebration, which featured multi-cultural displays of arts, crafts, music and food.

Are There Other, Better Ways to Do Things?” The Question We Need to Keep Asking Ourselves

Ten years ago, as part of a University-wide realignment project undertaken to improve the quality of programs, services and facilities, the Chancellor proposed the establishment of three faculty-driven councils, each with defined goals and a separate role in the University’s planning process. The councils, which consist of all-volunteer groups of faculty and staff and have their own budgets and task forces, have come a long way in the decade since their founding.

Over the course of three issues, The Shuttle is profiling the missions, achievements and future goals of the Council on Diversity and Pluralism, the Council on Teaching and Learning, and Research as Scholarship. The Council on Regional Development.

The following is the second in this series of three.

The Council on Teaching and Learning and Research as Scholarship, under the direction of Sheila Riley-Callahan and Prof. Bob Gamache, is dedicated to the enhancement of student learning through creative initiatives that promote excellence in teaching. It is faculty-driven, and consists of two center-groups—the Faculty Teaching Center and the Centers for Learning and Academic Support Services—and six task forces, with agendas ranging from classroom technology and issues of student advising.

The Council, founded in 1992 (two years earlier than either of its companion Councils), has been behind a host of initiatives. As a result of the work of its Carnegie Task Force, UMass Lowell is the only one of the five UMass campuses working directly with the Carnegie Foundation toward the promotion of scholarship in teaching; its several faculty institutes, conversation dinners and other colloquia have made real progress on issues of teacher-student relations, faculty promotion and tenure, classroom technology and distance learning (the latter of which, says co-chair Bob Gamache, a professor of environmental earth and atmospheric sciences, “sounds simple enough in concept, but it’s really like teaching a class on TV, and that’s some-thing it takes some time to learn”). As a result of its task force on faculty-student research, the number of poster-presentations by students has risen from 30 seven years ago to more than 120 today, while the number of UMass Lowell students involved in research projects has tripled in that time. Council grants of roughly $18,000 a year have been devoted to faculty development in the classroom as well as to promoting relations between faculty and the students they teach.

The Centers for Learning (“a true gem of this University,” in the words of Gamache), under the direction of Sheila Riley-Callahan, feature tutoring centers on both North and South campuses that offer one-on-one instruction in everything from ESL to physics, as well as group workshops in study skills, time organization, test-taking and a host of other academic staples. “I’ve seen first-hand what a difference this can make in this lives of my own students,” says Gamache. “A real grasp on a subject that was eluding a student before, maybe making further learning impossible. A full letter-grade difference in performance. Sometimes a whole new perspec-tive on what learning is about.”

Are there other, better ways to do things?—that’s the question we need to keep asking ourselves,” says Riley-Callahan of her work at the Centers for Learning. “What can we try here, to advance the learning of our students, that we haven’t thought of before?”

“I guess the bottom-line for the Council,” says Gamache, “is that it allows the faculty and staff—and the staff are a critical component in all of this — an opportunity to make UMass Lowell a better place, both for themselves and for the students who, after all, are the reasons we’re all here.”
New School of Health and Environment Celebrated

applauded the campus for its “continuing leadership role in the region, focusing its research and teaching on the complex interactions that make success sustainable.”

Sen. Steven C. Papanikolas also noted the significance of the new School. “The creation of this new school at UMass Lowell is a great example of why we need to support public higher education in Massachusetts,” he said. —EJ

Continued from Page 1

Botball, Botfest Fill Rec Center with Ingenuity

At the New England Botball tournament, officials re-set the game board for a seeding round. High school teams designed and programmed their robots to operate autonomously as they moved cups and tried to place a ball in a corner “basket.”

Gray Surveys the Effect of Colombian Conflict on Environment

Asst. Prof. Vanessa Gray, political science, was a recent speaker for the Salon, the faculty colloquium in the fine arts, humanities and social sciences. Gray, who lived and worked for several years in Colombia, addressed the environmental aspects on the conflict there.
Student Engagement and Retention Served Up at Conversation Dinner

A n animated crowd recently gathered for a conversation dinner on the topic of “Student Engagement and Retention.” The dinner was hosted by the Enrichment Task Force of the Council on Teaching, Learning and Research as Scholarship.

Special presentations were made by Prof. Aram Karakashian, physics, Prof. Melissa Pennell, English and Asst. Prof. Micheal Pierson, history, prior to a free-ranging discussion on the issues.

Karakashian described methods for engaging students through technology. He described his use of Personal Response Systems in his Physics II class. The electronic device allows students to give him immediate feedback on their understanding of a concept or problem.

“We need to actively engage students in lecture classes, and be able to provide focused feedback.”

Karakashian said. “This technology allows that to happen.”

According to Pennell, most freshmen who drop out of school do so in the first eight weeks of the fall semester. Yet, she pointed out, the UMass Lowell advising period doesn’t begin until week 10.

Pennell presented extensive research demonstrating the critical role faculty advisors can play in student’s decision to stay in school.

Pierson concluded the formal presentations discussing the place of student clubs and their advisors. Pierson, who advises the history club, says he was surprised to find so many non-majors attracted to history. He placed particular emphasis on the importance of academics clubs.

“Academic clubs can make people feel connected not only to the people in their departments, but to a larger academic community,”

Pierson said.

The dinner marked the fifth anniversary of the Carnegie Initiative at the University which brought about the task force. In honor of the anniversary, attendees were presented with a gift book, Teaching at its Best. Assoc. Prof. Connie Seymour, physical therapy, also won a drawing for a $100 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble.

The colloquium was coordinated through the efforts of Mary Beaudry, director of the Faculty Teaching Center working with the Task Force which is co-chaired by Prof. Bob Gamache, environmental earth and atmospheric sciences, and Sheila Riley-Callahan of academic services.

Seminar Focuses on Restoring the State of Public Health

▲ From left, Asst. Prof. Micheal Pierson, history, Prof. Aram Karakashian, physics, Prof. Melissa Pennell, English were the featured speakers at a Conversation Dinner focused on student engagement and retention. Chancellor William T. Hogan welcomed the capacity crowd.

Boston Journalists: ‘Girls Can Play Ball—But Not with the Boys’

W omen athletes have come a long way since the days of wearing skirts on the basketball court in the 1960s, but they still have a distance to travel to reach equality with men in sports.

That was the consensus by Boston sports journalists at a roundtable discussion of “Women, Sports and Equality: The Year 2003 in Review” run last month by Jeffrey Gerson, political science associate professor, and Joan Lehouiller, senior associate athletic director. The event, which grew out of Gerson’s “Politics and Sports” class, was attended by about 40 students, faculty and staff members at the Campus Recreation Center.

Panelists included Karen Guregian, Boston Herald sportswriter; Karen Given, producer of WBUR radio’s “Only a Game;” Eileen McDonough, Northeastern University professor and author; and Laura Pappano, Boston Globe journalist.

Guregian said when she started working for the Herald 20 years ago, women’s sports were not covered by the paper, while now there is a full-time reporter exclusively on that beat, while the Globe has an entire section devoted to the subject every week.

“The biggest stories in sports involved women the last few years,” she said. “Ten to 15 years ago we wouldn’t have bothered.”

Recent achievements for women were highlighted – such as Annika Sorenstam competing in a PGA tournament, the U.S. women winning the World Cup, and high school senior Candace Parker besting her male peers in a slam-dunk contest. But much of the discussion centered on the strengths and limitations of Title IX, the 32-year-old federal law which mandates gender equity in collegiate sports.

McDonough, who has authored with Pappano a soon-to-be released book, Playing with the Boys: Why Sports Equality Matters to Women, noted that Title IX actually promotes discrimination by segregating women in sports by gender, not abilities.

Many times, Pappano noted, concessions still are made for female athletes, such as shorter races in track events and fewer games in tennis matches, based on arcane ideas about their stamina and strength.

“We’ve created a sports system in which men’s sports are real sports and women’s sports are the second-rate sports,” she said. “We’ve held onto these beliefs without giving credence and giving value to what women do.”

Guregian believes that, for example, women’s professional basketball is more exciting to watch than men’s because it involves a more traditional style of adept ball handling and passing, rather than dunking and three-point shooting that often dominate men’s games.

The panelists envisioned the day when sports would be integrated, creating various levels that provide more opportunities for both genders, and more women would own professional sports teams to provide the necessary resources to improve their status.

Sponsors of the discussion included Politics and Sports, Athletics, Center for Women and Work, Gender Studies Program, Center for Diversity and Pluralism and the Political Science Department and Club.

Funding was provided by the Bookstore Advisory Committee.

Participants in the “Women, Sports and Equality” roundtable discussion held on campus recently included, from left, Kathy O’Neil, women’s basketball coach; Eileen McDonough, Northeastern University professor and author; Laura Pappano, Boston Globe journalist; Joan Lehouiller, senior associate athletic director; Karen Guregian, Boston Herald sportswriter; Karen Given, producer of WBUR radio’s “Only a Game;” and Jeffrey Gerson, political science associate professor.
UMass Lowell Math Team Achieves High Rank in International Competition

Each February since 1998 UMass Lowell has fielded teams for the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, an international competition sponsored by the non-profit Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications. Prof. William Harp, chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department, is the team coach.

In 2004, one of UMass Lowell’s teams achieved the ranking of Meritorious, the third in our history of the competition. This is the second highest rank and places UMass Lowell in the top 11 percent of competitors—and ahead of teams from the University of Michigan, Cornell, Northwestern, Worcester Polytechnic and Boston University. In all, 599 teams entered from 11 countries.

The competition may be cerebral, but it’s hardly for the faint of heart. Teams choose one of two problems posted at 8 p.m. on a Thursday. Using any published sources and consulting only with each other, they study and attempt to solve the problem and submit a report by 8 p.m. the following Monday.

Says Graham-Eagle, “Our participating students give up a weekend near the beginning of the spring semester when they have many other commitments. They deserve many kudos for their hard work and enthusiasm.”

High School Teams Will Score an Assist

Teams of high school students from Tyngsboro, Lawrence and Westford are spending a lot of free time in unusual ways: hanging out with disabled folks, puzzling over electrical circuits, hammering and welding.

These students are preparing for the second annual UMass Lowell High School Assistive Technology Design Fair, to be held Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. in Ball 210.

Douglas Prime, director of 8-12 educational outreach for engineering, directs the program and meets with the teams and their coaches. Funding through the UMass Lowell Assistive Technology Program provides some cash support for materials.

“The work we see is terrific,” says Prime. “The students have found local people with needs and developed some devices that will make a positive change in their daily living. Normally our college seniors take this on as a capstone project, and these high school students are doing very creditable work.”

On May 15, each team has to show a working prototype of their invention and give a detailed presentation of their design process, alternate solutions and costs. UMass Lowell engineering students will be on hand to demonstrate some of their more sophisticated research and design projects.

Prime encourages faculty and staff to drop by the design fair and bring kids who might be interested. He says, “It’s engineering in action, helping real people in everyday life and that helps make the connection between your math studies, for example, and the creative, interesting things you can do.”

NOTE: The summer Design Camp for students who have completed fifth to tenth grade, is already more than one half subscribed. Updates on workshops schedule and availability can be found at www.designcamp.org.

GSE ‘Pilots’ Palm Project

Imagine hopping a plane to Chicago to give a presentation with nothing more than a Palm Pilot. That is exactly what Prof. William Harp, education, did. He is among the nearly two-dozen Graduate School of Education faculty and staff who received Palm Pilots and were trained to use them in their classes.

Harp created a PowerPoint presentation on his computer and then downloaded it to the Palm to use at the conference.

As John Wren, Center for Field Services and Studies multimedia support, pointed out, Palms are now equipped with high resolution, color screens and enough memory to function similarly to a laptop. Seventeen students in two GSE classes are also using Palms to maintain records, create lesson plans and assessment tools, and take notes, which will then be beamed through infrared signal back to the faculty members.

Lecturers Patricia Fontaine and Michelle Scribner-MacLean, for grading.

“This is just the beginning,” Wren says. He sees a great potential for cutting down on the amount of paper used in the classroom and shared among faculty members. For example, GSE has a kiosk in the lobby that could be used by students to download class notes, class schedules or other information. The Palms have the capability for multimedia and video files, which could be conducive to creating virtual field trips for K-12 students.

As Wren sees it, the possibilities are endless as faculty become more familiar with the capabilities of the equipment. “We were slow in getting people to use them to capacity, but people are starting to be able to use them to do anything a laptop can do.”

Michelle Scribner-MacLean, left, and William Harp, are two faculty members in the Graduate School of Education using Palm Pilots in their classes. Both are using the Palms similarly to laptops, now that the screen resolution and memory capabilities have expanded.
Division of Preventative Medicine Hosts Ronan Tynan

The campus’s Division of Preventative Medicine celebrated its first anniversary in March with a reception for Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan. Held at the City of Lowell, Lowell school system, Lowell National Historical Park and the Lowell Housing Authority to produce and distribute a coloring book demonstrating healthy lifestyle habits. To date, the coloring book has been distributed to 1,000 first graders in the city.

At the March reception, City Council member Bill Martin read a citation from the city expressing gratitude for the Division of Preventative Medicine for its “success in organizing a coalition of business leaders, healthcare representatives, scientists and educators to address chronic disease prevention in the Greater Lowell community.”

Lowell Memorial Auditorium before the tenor’s concert, the reception raised money to support the ongoing initiatives of the division.

Director Robert J. Nicolosi says the division’s initiatives are focused on developing and implementing intervention strategies for the prevention of chronic diseases. In addition to a series of activities with the senior population in and around Lowell, the Division headed a collaboration among the City of Lowell, Lowell school system, Lowell National Historical Park and the Lowell Housing Authority to produce and distribute a coloring book demonstrating healthy lifestyle habits. To date, the coloring book has been distributed to 1,000 first graders in the city.

Asst. Prof. Patrick Scollin, right, was one of several attendees who took the opportunity to be photographed with Irish tenor Ronan Tynan before his concert.

Math and Science Education Colloquium Features Doctoral Research

The ninth annual Colloquium on Research in Math and Science Education, organized by Prof. Regina Panasuk of the Graduate School of Education, featured presentations by UMass Lowell doctoral candidates Rocco Perla and Danielle Cross, and by recent graduates Dr. Toni Ledger, science educator at Nashua High School North, and Dr. Mitchell Shuldman, Head of the Division of Media Services at UMass Lowell. Keynote speaker Andee Rubin of TERC, a leading education research organization, discussed the development of statistical reasoning. Colloquium leaders are, from left, Panasuk, Shuldman, Dona Donald Pierson of the Graduate School of Education, Ledger, Rubin, Cross and Perla.

UML Basketball Team Completes Record Year

The UMass Lowell men’s basketball team was still playing hoop when most other programs had shut down for the year. The season ended for the River Hawks with a loss to Humboldt State in the NCAA Division II Elite 8 national tournament. It was the end, not a sour note, of a terrific season during which UMass Lowell established itself not just as an excellent team, but an outstanding program.

The basketball squad, led by the Division II national Player of the Year Elad Inbar, equaled the school record for wins, 28, and grabbed three – the Northeast-10 regular season and tournament and the NCAA Division II Northeast region, championships – along the way. It was the team’s fifth consecutive 20 win season.

“The year was an incredibly difficult year in which we overcame quite a bit of adversity, injuries, and so on. I am very, very proud of what this team has accomplished.”

The seemingly endless list of obstacles featured a frustrating recruiting season, eligibility concerns, and player injuries that included a ruptured appendix, a knee injury, a broken foot. “There were a whole slew of things,” according to Barer. “We had to almost change our style of play, and to do that and still have 28 wins when all was said and done is, to me, remarkable.”

WEB UPDATE

Summer Camp ‘Site’ Goes Live

Looking for ways to keep the kids busy this summer? How about something that’s educational, athletic, or just plain fun? UMass Lowell offers a variety of summer camps to suit each child’s unique interests. Hockey School, National Park Adventures and building liquid-propelled rockets at Designcamp are just some of the programs being offered.

For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/sumercamps.

For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/sumercamps.
University Gallery to Exhibit the ‘Large Toys’ of Alumnus Millard-Mendez

The University Gallery, from April 14 through May 12, will be featuring a continuous exhibition of sculpture—“Getting Shot Out of the Canon,” a tongue-in-cheek commentary on the historical criticism and established theories of art—by alumnus Rob Millard-Mendez.

The works in “Getting Shot” are kinetic, and make reference to a broad range of sources, including mythology, science and history; their playfulness belies the underlying struggle between the practical and theoretical concepts they examine.

Born and raised in Lowell, Millard-Mendez became enthralled as a young man with 19th-century mechanical technology, and has been strongly influenced by the austere, no-nonsense Yankee style of invention; his own invented objects, he says, he considers “large toys.”

He earned his BFA at UMass Lowell and an MFA at UMass Dartmouth, and is currently teaching art-related courses here and at Northeastern University in Boston. He maintains his connections to the Lowell community through an ongoing collaboration with the Revolving Museum.

A reception with the artist is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. with a slide presentation in O’Leary 222 at 3 p.m.

Healthy Homes Seminars Teach About Hidden Hazards

The Healthy Homes project, a two-year collaboration of the Center for Family, Work and Community with the Lowell Health Department, includes a training seminar offered at multiple times to representatives of community organizations. Participants pictured above are, from left, Pean Chhuon, Clarendon Family Daycare; Jane Ginsburg, Lower Highlands Neighborhood Group; Jennifer Pires, Elaine Melanson and Jennifer Taylor, all of Community Teamwork Inc.; and Rene Demers, City of Lowell Fire Department. The curriculum stresses a cross-cultural approach about such common but invisible hazards to small children as lead, carbon monoxide and carpet cleaning solutions.

‘BIG Show’ Coming to the Dugan

“The BIG Show,” the 14th annual juried exhibit of UMass Lowell art students, featuring work in a variety of media, will be shown in Dugan Gallery, in the Dugan Hall Art Studios on Broadway Street, April 21 to May 12.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Michele Gagnon, gallery coordinator, at ext. 3491 or the Art Department at ext. 3494.

Cybercrime Expert Says New Laws Not the Answer

David Wall, right, of the United Kingdom’s University of Leeds, recently addressed criminal activity on the Internet. Wall, an international cybercrime expert, believes new laws are not needed to fight Internet crime, but instead supports a bolstering of existing regulating structures like the police and service providers. The talk was hosted by the Department of Criminal Justice. Joining Wall were, from left, Dean Charles Carroll, fine arts, humanities and social sciences, Asst. Prof. April Pattavina and Prof. Eve Buzaeva, both of CJ.

Research Notes

Christensen, Charles
24,090
Greater Lawrence Technical High School
Leadership Development Proposal

Crumbly, Cathy
$10,000
The Bauman Foundation
Support for A Conference on European Chemicals Policy

Donohue, Matthew
$25,000
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Municipal Stewardship Training and Measurement Program

Gartner, Nathan
$15,000
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Implementation of a Web-Based Course on Traffic Principles for Intelligent Transportation Systems (Phase II)

Hellstedt, Jon
$36,705.93
Umass Lowell Summer Youth Program (UMLSYP)
Research Foundation

Hines, Mark
$42,646
National Science Foundation
Collaborative Research: Mercury Cycling in Soils: Dynamic Sources for Aquatic Environments

Kegel, Gunter
$8,000
National Technical Systems
Radiation Resistance Testing

Lazonick, William
$70,000
National Science Foundation
The Stock Market and Innovative Capability in the Optic Networking Industry

Montesalvo, Mary
$6,500
Spectrum Technologies
Decontaminability and Evaluation of Coating Samples

Radiation Exposure of Components

Montesalvo, Mary
$8,000
National Technical Systems
Radiation Resistance Testing

Montesalvo, Mary
$7,400
ICI DeVoe Coatings
Decontaminability and Evaluation of Coating Samples
Zaitchik Wins Playwright’s Award as Career Enters New Stage

Prof. Joe Zaitchik, English, traveled to the Lambs Club in New York City on April 12 to receive the 2004 Stanley Drama Award for his new play, Be Our Joys.

The prestigious award, which includes a prize of $2,000, was established in 1957 by Alma Timolat Stanley to encourage and support aspiring playwrights. As many as 200 plays are submitted annually and ultimately judged by a panel of three guests which has included such notables as Edward Albee, Geraldine Page and David Susskind.

Zaitchik describes the play, which takes its name from the Robert Browning poem, “Rabbibn Ezra,” as a comedy with a very serious theme. The three-act play revolves around three characters. T.V. personality Anthony Satchel is a Jerry Springer-type at the height of his popularity. Mary Byrd was Anthony’s college lover whom he abandoned when she became pregnant 18 years earlier. Mary sought solace living as a lay Carmelite, but reappears when she realizes what Anthony has become. She and her disabled son Antonio come to see Anthony to encourage him to reject his life of coarseness and vulgarity.

Mary’s Carmelite background allowed Zaitchik to explore an area of particular interest to him—asceticism, or the rejection of physical pleasures.

“I’m very much interested in mysticism. This play is based on the philosophical question of why good people suffer so much,” says Zaitchik.

It was his youngest son Daniel, himself a professional actor, who got Zaitchik thinking about playwriting. Over the years, the self-described “dabbler” has published poems, short stories, academic articles and textbooks, but had not written a play.

“Once Daniel started acting in New York, I started seeing a lot of plays,” says Zaitchik. “I found myself critiquing what I saw and decided I should give it a try.”

Since then, he has written five plays, most of them full-lengths, in three years.

“I got bit by a bug,” he says. “It’s exhausting, but I love it.”

Despite the accolades for Be Our Joys, none of his plays has been published.

“My career as a playwright has been less than moderately successful,” says Zaitchik.

Of course, with plays, publishing is somewhat less critical than having them produced for the stage, and Zaitchik’s award-winning play has received interest from numerous theatres. The American Theatre of Actors, an amateur company in New York, will present four showcase performances of Be Our Joys in June.

Zaitchik feels strongly that receiving the Stanley award will open doors for him in the theatre world.

“The competition was very keen. I think it may help me get an agent. And that’s what you need to get the right people looking at your work,” says Zaitchik.

Zaitchik, who has been at UMass Lowell since 1965, teaches 19th century American literature and human values courses, which are interdisciplinary. He says he plans to continue teaching another year or two, or 10. He’s in no rush to leave teaching.

“My colleagues are fantastic,” says Zaitchik. “I’m in a great department.”

Management

Appointments

Victor D. Reis, third class power plant engineer in Physical Plant, from power plant operator at Malden Mills.

Promotions

Gary Howe, director of Labs in Civil and Environmental Engineering, from professional technician.

Pamela Jahngen-Provenal, executive director, Administration and Development in Engineering, from office manager, coordinator. Engineer- ing in Mass Collaborative.
It’s rare issue of The Shuttle that doesn’t include one or more stories about the University’s laboratories.

But, what of the care and feeding of these labs? Who stocks them and maintains them and keeps them going?

The answer is that this work is done by a number of hard-working employees who usually, but not necessarily, go by the title “professional technician.”

Three examples of these workers are Glen Bousquet, Jim Hall and Gary Howe. They serve different departments but all have many things in common: they all have advanced degrees, all supply and maintain the laboratories, all support students and faculty alike, and all have work schedules that vary from day to day depending on what’s needed.

Bousquet, director of the labs in the Mechanical Engineering Department, earned both his mechanical engineering degrees (B.S ’90, M.S. ’95) at Lowell and has worked for the University for 14 years.

He is responsible for more than a dozen graduate and undergraduate labs, for which he orders, maintains and repairs equipment. In addition, he also designs experiments, guides and instructs students in their assignments, and helps those doing research.

“There’s no such thing as a daily schedule,” he says. “You may come in expecting to take care of two or three things and you can’t get to any of them. Every day is different. But that’s what makes it nice. It’s always different.”

Bousquet may arrive at work anywhere from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m., depending on what must be done, and may leave at 6 p.m. On top of that, he teaches a course and a lab in Continuing Studies.

“The toughest part of the job is trying to meet everyone’s needs, getting pulled in all directions,” he says. “But the best part is that I enjoy it. There’s always something to learn.”

Jim Hall came to the Lowell Chemistry Department in 1988 after teaching and supervising the chemistry labs at Tufts University for 15 years. He earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry at Tufts and his master’s at Northeastern.

Although his title is Professional Technician, Hall says he considers himself to be the freshman lab coordinator. This entails planning schedules, choosing experiments, ordering and setting up the chemicals, meeting with teaching assistants who teach the labs, and preparing notes on how to grade the labs.

With assistance from Mitch Shulman, head of Media Services, he has produced more than two dozen videos that students view to see what they are going to be doing in a particular lab session. The videos, Hall says, “get them in the mood for the work.”

His workday extends from 8:30 a.m. until “whenever the last kids finish their lab work—hopefully by 5:30, but sometimes it isn’t.”

Hall also maintains the department and freshman lab Web sites. The freshman site contains the syllabus, explains how to write lab reports, how to do calculations, etc. This is one popular site. From the beginning of the spring semester until the first week in April, it had 7,000 “hits.”

Houghton Mifflin has published two lab manuals written by Hall: Experimental Chemistry and Introductory Chemistry.

Gary Howe says his responsibilities in Civil and Environmental Engineering are “very broad.”

He orders lab equipment, handles all procurement for the department, does Web design, controls reader-card access to all doors, maintains five labs, and assists with research.

“I work with a lot of graduate students, but not one-on-one. I don’t want to hold their hands,” he says. “I just steer them in the right direction.”

Howe earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering at UMass Lowell in 1992 and his master’s four years later. Before joining the University in 1995, he had held a co-op job with NYNEX in Manchester, N.H., and worked for an electronics equipment company in Burlington.

The toughest part of the job, he says, is “trying to keep things clean, operational and put away. I try to ensure that everyone works together and that everyone is happy.”

He tries to maintain a normal daily work schedule with the exception of Web work, he says, which he often does at home.

— JMcD

Obituary

David Wade, 67, Retired Member of the Electrical Engineering Faculty

Prof. David Wade, 67, a member of the Lowell faculty for more than 30 years, died recently following a brief illness.

A graduate of Lowell Tech, Prof. Wade earned a master’s degree at Northeastern University and did further graduate work at Worcester Polytech.
The March issue of *New England Quarterly* contains an article, titled “The Missing Clause: Myth and the Massachusetts Bay Charter of 1629,” written by Dr. Ronald Karr, reference librarian at O’Leary Library. Karr also teaches in the History Department.

Prof. Georges Grinstein of the Computer Science Department gave the keynote address at the Biomedical Informatics Research Symposium held recently in Shreveport, La. The address by Grinstein, who also is director of the Institute for Visualization and Perception Research and the Center for Biomedical and Medical Informatics, was titled, “High dimensional Data Visualization for Solving Complex Data Exploration and Discovery Problems.”

Dr. Marjan Trutschl, a UMAl lowell alumnus and former doctoral student of Grinstein, presented two abstracts at the meeting. Trutschl is an assistant professor and director of the Laboratory for Advanced Biomedical Informatics at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. The symposium was part of the Consortium for Education, Research and Technology of North Louisiana.

**Student-Athlete Day Honors All-Star Students and Inspirational Faculty**

Students and faculty gathered recently to celebrate National Student-Athlete Day. Held annually since 1987, National Student-Athlete Day honors student-athletes who have achieved excellence in academics and athletics, while having made significant contributions to society.

The event was also a chance for students to recognize faculty members, who have helped them achieve a balance between academics and sports.

This year’s student-athletes and their faculty choices were Uri Grunwald and Assoc. Prof. John Hamer, Karen Cloutier and Prof. Theodore Namm, Nate Jenkins and Lecturer Patricia Fontaine, Martha Marsden and adjunct faculty member Nancy Zeller, Robert Robins and English Chair William Roberts, Elizabeth Odian and Softball Coach Harold Sauter, Pella Anderson and Asst. Prof. Elizabeth O’Neill, Shannon Seidel and Prof. Edwin Jahngen, Adam Johnston and Assoc. Prof. Martin Moser, Andrea Turner and Director of Undergraduate Education Pauline Ladebauche and Chris Fontas and Prof. Mary Kramer.

Alum in China Sheds Light on LTI’s Role in Chinese Textile Development

An item in the Class Notes section of the fall issue of the *UMass Lowell Magazine* caught the eye of Assoc. Prof. Shehong Chen.

The single sentence under the heading for the class of 1950 read, “Wang Xuan-Sun writes that he is living in the People’s Republic of China and has been retired since 1988.”

This was exciting information for the history professor because, as she says, “I’ve done some research into the history of Chinese immigrants in Lowell. I realized that Lowell Textile Institute had quite a number of Chinese students and I always thought there must be some sort of link between Lowell and China’s textile industrial development.”

Through Alumni Services, Chen obtained Wang’s home and e-mail addresses and initiated an e-mail correspondence with him. She asked him to see if he could find documents from his Lowell days—like certificates and other records—and she made arrangements to meet him while on a trip to China during the winter break.

Once there, she called him and made the 75-mile trip from Beijing to Tianjin where Wang lives in retirement with his wife.

She discovered that he had kept not only the certificate of the master’s degree in textile chemistry that he was awarded in Lowell in 1950, but also photographs taken during his days on campus.

“He misses this place. He’s very fond of the school and he thinks of it often,” Chen says. “He remembers the quad where he took classes, and the apartment that he rented on what is now University Avenue.”

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Alum in China Sheds Light on LTI’s Role in Chinese Textile Development

After leaving Lowell in 1950, Wang became assistant researcher at Dalian Chemical Physics Research Institute, an important part of China’s Academy of Sciences. He later became senior engineer at Shenyang Research Institute of Chemical Industry and head of the Department of Dyestuff Application in the institute.

In 1980, he joined the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Hua Qiao University where, in addition to teaching, he used his mastery of the English language to help prepare Chinese students and scientists for studies in English-speaking countries.

Besides providing Chen with a wealth of information, Wang put Chen in touch with Guo Dadong, who, like Wang, also earned a master’s degree from Lowell Textile in 1950.

Chen traveled to Shanghai to visit Guo, who had worked at East China Textile Administrative Bureau as a senior engineer.

“He used what he learned in Lowell and contributed a great deal to the development of China’s textile industry,” says Chen. “His contributions included publishing many important papers in the *China Textile Journal*, the most influential magazine in the industry.

“And while working at the East China Textile Administrative Bureau, he taught at East China Textile Institute and Suzhou Institute of Technology, helping train China’s own textile engineers.”

Chen hopes to use the material she collected on this trip in the writing of an historical article that establishes a connection between Lowell Textile and China’s textile development.

“I plan to show that Lowell trained the pioneers for the Chinese textile industry.”

—JMcD
### Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, April 21**
- **Exhibit Reception, “Getting Shot Out of a Canon,”** by Rob Millard-Mendez, gallery talk at 3 p.m., runs through May 12, University Gallery, McGauvran Student Center. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.

**Thursday, April 22**
- **Performance, “Justice for All: Stories of Environmental Health Issues in Lowell”** multi-media stage show, featuring students from the River Ambassador program, 6 to 8 p.m., City Magnet School, French St., Lowell. For more information, call Sokny Long (978) 934-4676.
- **Performance, Jazz Rock Big Band, Prof. Daniel Lutz, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

**Friday, April 23**
- **Colloquium, presented by Leaf Petersen, 3 to 4 p.m., Olsen 311.** For more information, call Computer Science (978) 934-3620.
- **Conversation Dinner, Asian American in New England Research Initiative, 9:30 to 2 p.m., Wannalancit Conference Room.** For more information, call Jeff Gerson (978) 934-4255.

**Friday & Saturday, April 23 & 24**
- **Performance, The Off Broadway Players present, “How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying,” admission $6, students/seniors $5, 8 p.m., Mahoney Auditorium. For information contact (978) 934-5024 or visit www.uml.edu/student-groups/offbroadway.”

**Sunday, April 25**
- **Performance, The Off Broadway Players present, “How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying,” admission $6, students/seniors $5, 2 p.m., Mahoney Auditorium. For information contact (978) 934-5024 or visit www.uml.edu/student-groups/offbroadway.”

**Monday, April 26**
- **Reading & Conversation, by David Daniel, Kerouac Writer-in-Residence, refreshments served, 3 to 5 p.m., Coburn 205.** For more information, call Rick Sherburne (978) 934-3232.
- **Performance, Mixed Chamber Ensemble, Prof. David Martins, director, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

**Tuesday, April 27**
- **Performance, STARTS program, “Roméo and Juliet,” performing arts for grades 7-10, 9:30 and noon, Durgin Concert Hall, tickets: $5. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452.
- **Conversation Dinner, faculty, staff and students invited to discuss gay marriage.** For more information, call Brenda Evans (978) 934-5021.
- **Performance, Electric Guitar Ensemble, Prof. Jonathan Wheatley, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

**Wednesday, April 28**
- **Exhibit Reception, “BIG Student Show,” annual juried exhibit of Art Dept. student work, runs through May 12, 2 to 4 p.m., Dugan Gallery.** For more information, call (978) 934-3491.
- **Performance, Jazz Concert with guest, Dr. Stuart Smith, director, 7:30 p.m. Fisher Recital Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

**Thursday, April 29**
- **Performance, STARTS program, “Freedom Train,” performing arts for grades K-3, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Durgin Concert Hall, tickets: $5. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452.
- **Symposium, Student Research, students will share their research in student-modernized panel discussions regarding humanities research, 10 a.m. to noon, Cumnock Hall.**
- **Performance, String Ensemble, Dr. Kay George Roberts, director, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

**Saturday, May 1**
- **Performance, The Off Broadway Players present “How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying,” admission $6, students/seniors $5, 8 p.m., Mahoney Auditorium. For information contact (978) 934-5024 or visit www.uml.edu/student-groups/offbroadway.”

**Monday, May 3**
- **Performance, Wind Ensemble, Prof. David Martins, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

**Saturday, May 9**
- **Campus Run, 1st Annual Campus 5k Run to benefit the Battered Women’s Shelter in Lowell and the UMass Lowell Women’s Soccer Scholarship Fund, 11 a.m., Costello Gymnasium.** For more information, call Athletics (978) 934-2310.

**Monday, May 10**
- **Conversation Dinner, Education and Sustainability, Wannalancit Conference Room.** For more information, call Brenda Evans (978) 934-5021.

**Wednesday, May 12**
- **Performance, Concert Band, Prof. Daniel Lutz, director, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall.** For more information, call (978) 934-3850.