Lawrence Mills to Host Nanomanufacturing Center

The state will invest $23 million in a nanotechnology manufacturing center at the Lawrence Mills site in the hopes of capturing a major portion of the $1 trillion in worldwide economic activity expected to be generated by the ground-breaking new technology.

“It is that technology that is going to create jobs,” said Senator Steven C. Panagiotakos of Lowell, chairman of the Lawrence Mills Re-Use Committee, which was established a few years ago under legislation authorizing private redevelopment of most of the 13-acre former mill site. Panagiotakos stressed that nanomanufacturing is necessary to commercialize the science behind the products people will use, and that UMass Lowell’s expertise in that area is second to none.

UMass Lowell’s researchers have the business connections and manufacturing science that will help change the way people work and live in the not-too-distant future,” he said. The funding for development of the McGuade Building on the site had previously been slated for the Graduate School of Education. The Lawrence Mills Re-Use Committee approved the switch to nanomanufacturing in mid-March.

“By getting in early and attracting capital to us, it will enable us to capture a significant portion of the jobs nanomanufacturing will generate,” said Frederick P. Sperounis, vice chancellor for university relations and development. “That’s really why the university made the shift.” He added that the nanomanufacturing team of researchers—including Prof. Joey Mead, Assoc. Prof. Julie Chen and others—have the expertise in finance at Bentley College, using financial analysis tools, and at a fraction of the cost of a traditional business valuation.

The two were delighted at UMass Lowell’s response. “Most people asked us, ‘Where’s the nanotechnology?’” says Winsby.

Start-Up Holds ‘Graduation Party’

Aft three years in UMass Lowell’s Commercial Venture Development (CVD) center in Wannalunk Mills, Axiom Valuation Solutions is moving to its own facility.

“Graduation” is an important milestone in the life of a start-up company and was celebrated recently with anecdotes, parting gifts and cake.

Axiom, like most new companies, started with little more than a good idea and a need for help. Founded by business executive Roger Winsby and Dr. Stan Feldman, associate professor of finance at Bentley College, the company helps small business owners determine their company worth, using high quality valuation and transfer and partnering, left, talks with Roger Winsby, co-founder of Axiom Valuation Solutions. The company is graduating from UMass Lowell’s Commercial Venture Development center.

UMass Lowell Professor Is “Science Guy” at Florida Baseball Field Trip

When PBS broadcast a show last month on “The Physics of Baseball,” which was carried live to schools across the country—14 million students in 47 states—the network turned to two men for on-screen help. The first was Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith, who showcased the hitting and fielding, the day-to-day playing of the game; the other, to explain the physics—what actually happens, for instance, when the bat meets the ball—was Professor Jim Sherwood of the UMass Lowell Mechanical Engineering Department.

Kerouac’s Scroll Is On the Road to Lowell

Congressman Marty Meehan announced on March 12 that Lowell has been selected to host an exhibition of Jack Kerouac’s legendary “On the Road” scroll as part of a national tour of the extraordinary literary artifact. Meehan made the announcement on what would have been Kerouac’s 82nd birthday, in the presence of the numerous agencies involved in bringing the scroll to the city, including Lowell National Historical Park, the University and the Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL).

“It’s only natural that a national tour of his prized work would be coming to this city,” said Meehan, who was integral to ensuring that Lowell was on the tour schedule. In Kerouac’s hometown, the scroll will be shown at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum of the National Park Service, from June 1 through August 15, 2007.

The yellowed manuscript of Kerouac’s beat generation novel, which the author typed on a 120-foot paper scroll in a 21-day marathon in 1951 and was published six years later, is on a 13-stop national tour of museums and libraries. The tour kicked off last month at the Orange County History Center in Orlando, Fla. and will conclude with an exhibition at the New York Public Library in the fall of 2007, the year marking the 50th anniversary of the publication of Kerouac’s classic novel.

Joining Meehan at the announcement were Mayor Armand P. Mercier, City Manager John Cox, Acting Park Supt. Cynthia Kryston, Park Curator Carolyn Goldstein, Assoc. Prof. Hilary Holladay of the Department of English, John Sampas, literary representative of the Kerouac Estate, and Lawrence Carradini of Lowell Celebrates Kerouac Inc., a community group that organizes an annual Kerouac literary festival.
Forum Focuses on Creating Caring Workplaces

The 6th Annual Forum—“Gathering at the Well”—will bring students, faculty and members of the community together to explore “Creating a Caring Workplace” on Thursday, April 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The panel will be held in the Alumni Lounge on UML North.

To register, visit the Center for Women and Work’s website at www.uml.edu/centers/women-work, or call 978/934-4380.

Industrial Architecture Symposium Set for April 23

The Department of Cultural Studies and Lowell National Historical Park will sponsor a symposium on “New England’s Industrial Architecture” on Friday, April 23, 1 to 5 p.m., at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum in Lowell. Speakers will include Rick Greenwood of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation, discussing adaptive reuse strategies, and Heritage Commission and MIT scholar and historic preservation consultant Sara Wermiel, talking about 19th-century commercial and industrial buildings. For more information, contact Marie_Frank@uml.edu.

Diversity and Pluralism Seeks Seed Grant Proposals

The Council on Diversity and Pluralism is seeking proposals for its 2004-2005 Faculty Seed Grant Program. Faculty may submit proposals for research, teaching, extra-curricular and community action programs related to all aspects of diversity. Special themes this year include: How far we have come 50 years after Brown versus Board of Education; Examinations of the lives and rights of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered community members; and The role of diversity in affecting education for sustainability.

For information, call Brenda Evans in the Office of Multi-cultural Affairs, ext. 4335, or email Brenda_Evans@uml.edu. Proposals are being accepted through May 1.

Tripathy Summer Graduate Fellowship Open for Application

The Tripathy Endowed Memorial Summer Graduate Fellowship is a prestigious award given to two outstanding Ph.D. candidates at UMass Lowell in their final year of research in the broad areas of materials science and polymer science.

The Fellowship is awarded in memory of the late Sukant Tripathy, University Professor and a former provost of the University. Dr. Tripathy was an internationally recognized leading scientist in the materials sciences and also a recipient of the C.S. Marvel Award of the Division of Polymer Chemistry of the American Chemical Society.

The Fellowship is awarded a $6,000 stipend for the summer, plus optional $750 travel funds to participate and present at national meetings during the following year.

Information is available at www.uml.edu/TripathyFellowship. Award winners will be announced by May 15.

The broadcast, dubbed an “electronic field trip,” was organized in part by the Teachers’ College at Ball State University in Indiana, which was in charge of the audio-visual work. To fulfill the content end of its job, Ball State turned to the Baseball Hall of Fame, which recommended Ozzie Smith, a long-time Hall of Fame shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals, as host of the program; and to Sherwood, who has done extensive ball- and bat-testing for both Major League Baseball and the NCAA, to serve as what he calls “the science guy.”

“I talked about flight, trajectory, impact, those sorts of things,” says Sherwood. “The idea was to illustrate the basic concepts of physics to middle—and high-school students, using baseball as the vehicle.”

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The event took place Feb. 10 in Jupiter, Florida. Although the electronic field trip series was originally sponsored by the state of Indiana as an exhibition of the capabilities of distance learning, it is now in its third year and has spread far beyond Indiana, to all 50 states.

The theme of the first year’s Baseball Hall of Fame field trip was baseball’s Negro Leagues; last year’s theme was Women in Baseball, while this year it was the Physics of the Game.

The program was aired live Feb. 10 on two 90-minute shows. An archive of the program can be viewed on the web at http://ali.apple.com/ali_sites/ali/exhibits/1001207/The_Field_Trip.html. For more information, contact Prof. Sherwood at James_Sherwood@uml.edu.

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Take Note

Cheney Describes Lowell’s Art in Glass

Prof. Liana Cheney, cultural studies, presented slides and described many of the examples of 19th century stained glass windows in Lowell’s churches at a recent faculty Salon. The future of many of the elaborate works are endangered because of possible church closings. The Salon is a faculty colloquium in fine arts, humanities and the social sciences.

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UMass Lowell Professor Is “Science Guy” at Florida Baseball Field Trip

Prof. Jim Sherwood, fourth from right, with some of the students, from both Florida and Indiana, who participated in the field trip program. Ozzie Smith’s daughter is at the far left.

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UMass Lowell Councils, Now Celebrating Ten Years, Are Models of Innovation, Inclusion

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.

For the next three issues, The Shuttle will profile the missions, achievements and future goals of the Council on Diversity and Pluralism, the Council on Teaching and Learning and Research as Scholarship and the Council on Regional Development.

The following is the first of this three-part series.

The Council on Diversity and Pluralism, under the co-direction of Psychology Prof. Anne Mulvey and Dean of Student Life Larry Siegel, is dedicated to the promoting of ethnic, cultural and sexual diversity, both among the students and in the programs and activities they share. The Council, directed through its first years by Lan Pho, who retired in the spring of 2002, has been behind a host of initiatives in recent years. Ethnic celebrations such as Black History Month, Hispanic History Month and the Vietnamese New Year; “Dinner Conversations” with faculty and—more recently—with student leaders to promote on-campus connections; forums that showcase ethnic issues, such as last year’s showing of “The Laramie Project,” with its powerful depiction of the Wyoming murder of gay college student Matthew Shepherd; expanded overtures toward international students, with assistance on such basics as vacation plans and transportation to and from the airport; a recent, heightened effort to recruit top-level minorities—all of these are among the outreach efforts that have come under the Council’s broad umbrella.

The general direction has been toward inclusiveness. The former ALANA, for example, the campus group originally devoted to the needs of ethnic students, has been expanded to the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), under the guidance of Brenda Evans, which will address a broader range of ethnic, cultural and sexual needs and preferences; while the “Dinner Conversation” events, originally restricted to faculty members, were broadened last year to include students as well.

Going farther back, to the mid- and late-nineties, the Council was behind the initiative that created the task force on sexual harassment—under Profs. Claire Chamberlain and Jon Hellstedt—which in turn produced the policies that remain in place today. During the same period, roughly six years ago, it was the Council’s report to the faculty senate that formally established diversity as part of the UMass Lowell Gen Ed requirement.

The Council meanwhile has maintained a policy of close ties with the Lowell community. This relationship has added to the strength of the local Rape Crisis Center, greatly improved community awareness of Lowell’s Asian-American community (the Council, six weeks from now, will be hosting a breakfast for the group, Asian-Americans in New England) and generally contributed to the University mission of symbiosis between the University and the region as a whole.

As the Council looks ahead, says Larry Siegel, among its priorities will be to promote “a heightened sense among the student of themselves as citizens”—of their towns, their country, their world. To this end, an upcoming “Dinner Conversation” with students will focus on affirmative action, highlighting such landmarks as Brown v. the Board of Education and other civil-rights highpoints of the ‘50s and ‘60s. A second dinner—one to include both faculty and students—will examine the now-burning issue of gay marriage, civil unions and the like. A third one, on “Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability,” to take place May 10, will be co-sponsored by all three councils—Diversity and Pluralism, Teaching and Learning and Regional Development—which, notes Siegel, “amounts to a statement of diversity almost by itself.”

The Council, he says, “is always evolving. It depends on its people. And we are always—and I want to stress this—we are always looking for new ones.”

Annual Golf Tournament Slated for Sky Meadow on May 27

The annual UMass Lowell Golf Tournament will be held this year on Thursday, May 27—once again at the lush Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua, N.H. This event raises some $20,000 each year for the University’s Scholarship Fund.

In addition to the greens fee, cart and practice balls, the $200 entry fee for this scramble format tournament entitles each golfer to a gym bag stuffed with goodies, contests (e.g. longest drive, etc.), raffles, and a post-play banquet.

The morning round tees off at 7:45 a.m. and the afternoon session starts at 1:30 p.m. Each round consists of four flights so, at the end of the day, eight foursomes walk away with great prizes.

Sky Meadow is located off Split Brook Road, one mile west of Route 3 (at Exit 1).

Individual or team applications—with credit card information or a check made out to UMass Lowell—should be sent to UMass Lowell Golf Tournament, Department of Athletics, One University Ave., Lowell 01854. For more information, contact Tournament Director M. J. Mastrović at UMLGT@uml.edu or (978) 934-2302

Andover Schools Discuss Laptops in the Classroom at Superintendents Forum

Andover’s team of teachers and administrators presented the pilot project at a recent Superintendents’ Forum hosted by the Center for Field Services and Studies. From left, Eileen Woods, principal at the South Elementary School; Elizabeth Kennedy, instructional technology specialist; and Elizabeth Kennedy, principal at the South Elementary School; Charlotte Lynch, a student leader; and Elizabeth Kennedy, not pictured, instructional technology specialist; reported that students are engaged, motivated to learn and their writing skills have improved.
Kerouac’s Scroll is On the Road to Lowell

Speaking on behalf of the University, Holladay introduced Sampas, who announced a personal gift of $12,500 to be provided as a matching donation to help cover the costs of the exhibition and related programming. Acknowledging the generous contribution, the University Advancement Office pledged to work with the Department of English to match the gift from John Sampas.

Calling the literary scroll “iconic,” Sampas said the announcement was “an important step in Jack’s reputation in Lowell, in the sense that he wanted to be honored by the city.”

Jack Kerouac (1922-1969) was named by both LIFE magazine and the Times of London as one of the most influential figures of the 20th century. The author of more than 20 books of prose and poetry, Kerouac is regarded as the premier writer of the Beat Generation, which he named and helped to define. Working in a spontaneous prose style, he chronicled his life and times in America, creating an enduring literature that has been translated around the world.

Congressman Marty Meehan, right, joins John Sampas, the literary representative of the Jack Kerouac Literary Estate, at the announcement that Kerouac’s On the Road scroll will come to Lowell. Sampas announced a $12,500 matching donation to help defray the cost of bringing the project.

Students Attend “Boston Marriage” between University and Merrimack Repertory Theatre

Hundreds of students saw their English class textbooks come to life when they attended a University-only production of “Boston Marriage” at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre.

Thanks to a collaboration between the University and the MRT, which also brought actors into the classroom to discuss their work, the students last month were able to attend the David Mamet play which, for many of them, was their introduction to live theatre. University students, faculty and staff bought out the 308-seat Liberty Hall in downtown Lowell for the bargain price of $10 per seat, steeply discounted by the MRT from its regular rates.

“The students were all excited at the prospect of going to see the play, which added to the usual academic experience of reading it and talking about it. It has produced a lot of good learning,” said English Asst. Prof. Nancy Selleck, program coordinator for the theatre arts minor.

The idea was hatched last semester when English professors met with MRT Artistic Director Charles Towers in an effort to establish a stronger connection between the University and the theatre company. While reviewing the season’s upcoming productions, it was decided that “Boston Marriage” could easily be worked into a number of English courses’ syllabi because of the popularity of playwright Mamet. As a result, a dozen English faculty members opted to incorporate the work into their courses, from college writing for freshmen to advanced theatre for seniors—enabling a range of students and majors to experience the play.

In addition to studying the play and attending the production, MRT Artistic Director Towers and Actress Seana McKenna, one of the show’s stars, visited campus to talk to students prior to the production. The night of the show also was an interactive event as, upon its conclusion, members of the cast engaged in a dialogue with the University audience.

Selleck noted that it makes sense for the University to take advantage of a professional theatre organization in its backyard, rather than trek to Boston for educational and cultural “field trips.” Professors currently are checking out next season’s crop of plays, as they plan to run the same sort of program next year.

“What we’re trying to do with the MRT is make this into a regular kind of event,” she said.
River Hawks Hockey Wrap-up

The 2003-2004 hockey season ended too soon for UMass Lowell when the University’s Division I hockey team lost consecutive games in the opening round of the Hockey East Association Conference Tournament. For those who watched the club, the season, with its roller coaster ride of dramatic wins, growth and frustration only served to whet the appetite. The River Hawks finished with 15 wins, 18 losses and 7 ties. Five of those wins were forfeited after it was discovered that an administrative error had resulted in an ineligible player appearing in nine of the team’s games.) The season was highlighted by victories against Michigan State and the University of New Hampshire. There also were back-to-back shutouts against UMass Amherst. In addition, the River Hawks had a winning record against nationally ranked teams.

“When you look at the whole body of work, we’re ahead of the process,” says Head Coach Blaise MacDonald. “We had a better year on the ice than I ever could have imagined.”

Playing in what many consider the toughest conference in the country, the team was the youngest in the nation. It is because the team, by college hockey standards, is so young that MacDonald speaks more of “the process” than wins and losses. “It’s an ongoing learning process,” he says. “There is no destination, in that the journey goes on.”

Most nights, the River Hawks skated 17 or 18 freshmen or sophomores.

Two of those freshmen, defensemen Cleve Kinley and forward Jason Tejchma, were named to Hockey East’s All-Rookie team. Sophomore Elias Codoy was Hockey East’s fourth leading scorer in overall games. Sophomores Ben Walter and Andrew Martin were in the top 15.

The club loses just one senior to graduation and you can’t blame MacDonald if he whispers wait ‘til next year. The coach is optimistic. “I think the next two years, we’ll be a national player.”

—BE

UMass Lowell Participates in FIRST Robotic Competition

UMass Lowell had a strong presence at the 2004 FIRST regional competition in Manchester, N.H., held early in March. Two faculty members served as invited judges and the Submillimeter-Wave Technology Laboratory sponsored a high school team from Whitinsville Christian Academy.

Aust. Prof. Holly Yanco of computer science and Prof. Sammy Shina of mechanical engineering judged the competition.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is directed by inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen, creator of the Segway. The project pairs high school teams with working engineers and technologies to develop and build a robot in six weeks, working with a kit of parts. More than 30 regional competitions involve more than 1,000 high schools.

Two seniors in mechanical engineering, Andrew Adams and Nathan Throop, mentored the high school team, using facilities in the Submillimeter-Wave Technology Lab. The UMass Lowell students worked on the design concept, the detailed CAD design, the construction of parts and final assembly. They contributed time in their January break and continued with the team through competition in early March.

“There were lots of last minute engineering changes and machine adjustments with liberal use of duct tape and chewing gum to hold the robotic monster together,” says Shina, who supervised the engineering seniors. “The competition was exciting and noisy and just as loud as a wrestling match. It felt like a pressure cooker, with teams strategizing and changing designs and mechanisms on the fly.”

Lawrence Superintendent Shares Vision for System

Superintendent Wilfred Laboy recently presented his vision and guiding principles for the Lawrence Public School District to the Graduate School of Education faculty. Among the six principles Laboy discussed were knowing more about each student and aligning resources. Participating in the meeting were, from left, Dr. Hector N. Torres, director of the College Prep Program and liaison to the Lawrence Schools; Gail Rogsengard, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction; Laboy; Dean Donald Pierson, Graduate School of Education; and Dr. Judith Boccia, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies.

Lawrence Superintendent Shares Vision for System

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Analog Employees Graduate from CSCE's Customized Certificate Program

Nineteen Analog Devices employees recently completed a customized certificate program in Engineering Skills provided by the Division of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education (CSCE). This is the second group from Analog to complete this program. The seven-course certificate, including student services such as advising and registration, was delivered on-site at Analog’s Wilmington facility. The Electronics Circuit Lab course utilized a custom designed portable electronics lab kit to enable the program to be delivered completely on-site. Many of the graduates are continuing their education through an on-site associate’s degree in engineering technology program offered by CSCE.

Demo School Receives Best Buy Technology Funds

The Best Buy Children’s Foundation awarded the Demonstration School a $2,500 teetch grant for integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. Kelly King, first grade teacher, is leading the project on teacher training and technology integration into the Demo School. The project invites children to visit a classroom website where they can find homework, view movies of themselves working and playing at school, or check for upcoming school events.

teech, a new program which Best Buy launched in October, is designed to reward schools that creatively integrate interactive technology into their curricula. All accredited, public and private non-profit elementary, middle and secondary schools located within 25 miles of a Best Buy store were eligible to apply. Nearly 1200 schools across the country received grants.

“Today, teachers across the country are using technology in new and creative ways; we want to support and recognize their efforts to make learning fun and easy,” says Susan Hof, president of the Best Buy Children’s Foundation. “The teetch program helps innovative educators enhance their curricula. By committing dollars to the communities in which we work and live, we can more fully support our employees, our customers and their families.”

Parker Lectures Focus on the North Cascades, Susan B. Anthony and a Cambodian Homecoming

The Parker Lectures continue on Saturday, March 20, at 2 p.m., at Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., with actress, speaker and educator Sally Matson taking on the role of a legendary women’s rights activist in her program, “Susan B. Anthony, the Invincible.”

Author and photographer John Suiter’s slide-talk on his journey in the North Cascades National Park of Washington State is set for Sunday, March 21, at 2 p.m., at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St. Suiter is the author of the critically acclaimed Poets on the Peaks: Gary Snyder, Philip Whalen and Jack Kerouac in the North Cascades.

“A Cambodian Homecoming” is the subject of a slide-talk by Boston photographer Joanne Ciccarello, along with KunthyThai, on Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m. at the Park Visitor Center. After 24 years, KunthyThai and her parents, Thav Thai and Leoung Yin, reunited with their family in the village of Phnom Sampaveau in Cambodia. Meeting her relatives triggered KunthyThai’s personal journey during which she rediscovered her heritage. Ciccarello documented the family’s experiences.

The Parker Lectures, established in 1917, are presented by the Moses Greeley Parker Lectures Committee in cooperation with UMass Lowell, the City of Lowell, Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell High School and Pollard Memorial Library.

For information on these programs or to obtain copies of the complete Parker Lectures schedule, contact Paul Marion, director of Community Relations at x3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu. Faculty and staff members are welcome to offer suggestions for the 2004-05 series, which begins in October.

Wooding to Board of Higher Ed: UMass Lowell Academic Program Promotes Sustainability

Provost John Wooding, left, explained to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education how UMass Lowell’s mission of promoting sustainable economic development translates into action at UMass Lowell. Wooding said this campus is changing its curriculum and pedagogical practices with the aim of instilling critical thinking skills and promoting students’ ability to make sound professional and life choices.

Joining Wooding are BHE Chancellor Judith Gill and Chairman Stephen Tocco. UMass Lowell hosted the BHE meeting, which included discussion of a report on state and community college accountability measures.

Wooding to Moderate Retention Conversation

Provost John Wooding will moderate a Conversation Dinner on March 31 at which the topic will be Student Engagement and Retention. The program begins with a reception for faculty at Alumni Hall on UML North at 3:15 p.m., followed by the discussion at 3:45 p.m. and then dinner at 5:30 p.m. To reserve a place and select a choice of entrees, please call the Faculty Teaching Center at ext. 2925.

The Enrichment Task Force of the Council on Teaching, Learning, and Research as Scholarship has identified three areas to be focused upon during the program. Faculty members Melissa Pemmell of the English Department, Michael Pascall of the History Department and Aram Karakashian of the Physics Department will offer their thoughts on the importance of student advising, student organizations, and classroom engagement.

This occasion will also take note of the fifth anniversary of the Carnegie Initiative on campus. To mark the event, the Faculty Teaching Center will provide each dinner guest with a gift. Alease Bruce and Mary Beaudry, co-chairs of the Carnegie Task Force, will take part in the Carnegie celebration.

The Dinner, sponsored by the Enrichment Task Force, is being presented by the Faculty Teaching Center.
Campus Activities Mark Women’s Week

Among University-sponsored events as part of Lowell Women’s Week activities were a performance of Eve Ensler’s award-winning play, Vagina Monologues, guest speakers, panel discussions, displays and an open house hosted by the Gender Studies Program.

Campus sponsors for Women’s Week included the Black Arts Festival, Community Social Psychology Program, Council on Diversity and Pluralism, Center for Women and Work, Center for Family, Work and Community, departments of Psychology and Work Environment, Gender Studies Program, Labor Extension Program, Multi-Faith Council, Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, Mogan Cultural Center, Peace and Conflict Studies Institute, Protestant Campus Ministry and Student Activities Office.

▲ The UMass Lowell Labor Extension Program hosted two talks during Lowell Women’s Week by Ellen Bravo, left, director of “9 to 5,” the National Association of Working Women. Bravo is aided by Nancy DellaMattera, center, and Susan Winning of the Labor Extension Program as she illustrates economic inequality in her presentation on “Fighting for Economic Justice in the Global Economy: How Will Women Face the Challenge?”

▲ Women’s Week activities included a performance of Eve Ensler’s Vagina Monologues. Participating in the production were, from left, Prof. Charlotte Mandell, psychology; Brenda Evans, Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs; graduate student Erin Sheehan, Community Social Psychology; and Prof. Anne Mulvey, psychology.

▲ Zimbabwe native Michelle Mombeshora, left, and Halleh Mahini of Iran appeared on a panel entitled, “Women Students Bridging Cultures: UMass Lowell & Middlesex Voices” as part of Lowell Women’s Week. Both students say joining the International Club made the transition to a new school easier.

▲ From left, Imogene Stulken, campus ministries; Chandrika Sharma, counseling center; and Chris Dunlap, communication and marketing, served as discussants for the Women’s Week panel, “Braided Streams: Women of Faith.”

Henry David Thoreau Visits Tsongas Center

Henry David Thoreau, portrayed by local historian Richard Smith, center, hosted an anti-slavery meeting in Lowell at the Tsongas Industrial History Center. Participants stepped back in time to 1854 and heard Thoreau’s ideas about slavery, listened to the Canebrake Minstrels perform and mingled with others from the 1800s such as Susan B. Anthony at the Center’s Eighth Annual Making History Come Alive. With Smith before the performance were Tsongas Center staff members Michele Turcuy, left, and Sheila Kirschbaum.

CFWC Project Targets Dangers in the Home

In the year 2000, nearly 20,000 children were exposed to or poisoned by household chlorine bleach in the United States. Problems such as this one are being addressed by UMass Lowell’s Center for Family, Work and Community (CFWC) and the City of Lowell’s Health Department in a two-year project called Healthy Homes.

The goal of the project is to increase the understanding of unhealthy home issues within the diverse communities of Lowell.

In the first of a series of training seminars held recently for representatives of community organizations and participating University students, Assoc. Prof. Stephanie Chalupka of nursing stressed the importance of cultural responsibility.

“The effectiveness of the program is dependent upon communication,” Chalupka said. “Not only do we need the right information, we need to speak in terms understandable to the people we are reaching out to.

“We think of home as a safe haven,” said the director of baccalaureate nursing and creator of the project training manual, “Cross-Cultural Approach to Healthy Homes: Healthy Solutions for Healthy Families.”

In reality, though, she said the home may be littered with hazards such as lead, carbon monoxide and carpet cleaners that could endanger children.

“Because a child’s metabolic rate is so much higher than an adult’s, the damages caused are more severe and permanent.”

David Turcotte of CFWC is manager of the project, and Julie Villarel is assistant manager.

“Our goal,” says Villarel, “is to create a stronger network of community organizations and agencies that can address the healthy home issues affecting children.”

The initiative is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

— JH

Appointments

Petra Miesmaa, outreach and field coordinator in Health and Clinical Sciences, from researcher in Port, Finland.

Promotions

Petra Miesmaa, outreach and field coordinator in Health and Clinical Sciences, from researcher in Port, Finland.
F or twenty years, Asst. Prof. Gena Greher pld her trade as a music director for a New York advertising company, collaborating on such familiar jingles as, “Just for the taste of it—Diet Coke.” “I was interested in the challenge of creating something from nothing,” Greher says.

During the 90s, however, the advertising industry began to rely less and less on original music—turning instead to existing pop melodies. “My job was less relevant,” she says.

The native New Yorker elected to return to school, earning her Ed.D. from Columbia University Teachers College, focusing on the integration of the arts into school curricula. She joined the UMass Lowell faculty in 2002.

After teaching in the Milford Public Schools for 15 years, Asst. Prof. Nick Tobin decided it was time for a change and returned to school to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. He then began a career in academia, spending time at Boston University and Regis College before joining Greher as one of the core instructors of the Department of Music’s revised dual-degree music teaching program.

“The history of the music education program really excited me,” says Tobin. “The University has a really wonderful music education history.”

The two were integral in revamping the program which allows students to earn both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in music education history.

“I think the program has tremendous potential,” says Tobin, who also sits on the executive board of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association. “I think we’re going to bring it back to where it was—the premiere music education program in the state.”

Greher also coordinates Creative Sound Play (CSP), an adjunct program with the department’s String Project which provides lessons in string instruments to more than 100 Lowell schoolchildren. CSP brings together undergraduate music studies majors with children one on one.

“CSP encourages the more focused kids to explore their innate musicality,” says Greher. “It was also good for my aspiring music teachers because they had to face issues such as classroom management, curriculum development and how to keep kids engaged.”

Greher and Tobin’s restructuring of the music teaching curriculum has placed increased emphasis on analytical thinking and music research. As a result, students can take a much broader view of educational philosophy as well as music itself.

Moeller Reaches Out to Needy World

E ven before he was an undergraduate, Emeritus Prof. William Moeller, of civil and environmental engineering, had a strong interest in, as he puts it, “developing the basic needs of five-sixths of the world.”

“And water is a critical global resource,” says Moeller.

A new graduate certification program—Sustainable Infrastructure for Developing Nations—is the first chapter in the story of an ambitious plan to make a real difference.

“Our engineering education in the U.S. is great,” says Moeller, “but the rate of failures in projects worldwide is high. American engineers have not been culturally sensitive, have not planned carefully for maintenance. We need functionally sustainable water and wastewater treatment plants that reflect understanding of the locally available technology.”

The new program is timely: The American Society of Civil Engineers has declared that the Third World is the new frontier for engineers and that engineers have to train for a new mindset.

The certificate requirements were developed from existing courses, with problems set in developing areas.

“The engineering analysis is the same,” says Moeller. “Students have to expand their thinking to consider, ‘What do you do when you are not dealing with the standard American model?’”

As the program develops, Moeller hopes to include courses from other disciplines, such as energy engineering, health professions, education and public policy.

“Retirement” has been the impetus for Moeller to pursue his deepest interests. He is planning a technical assistance center for the developing world, based on a training-the-trainer approach.

That is yet another chapter.
Coppens and Psych Students Conduct Research on Healthy Lifestyles

living a healthy lifestyle is the buzz in the news, but what does that really mean for college students? Three psychology students under the direction of Prof. Nina Coppens are conducting a study to find out.

Graduate student Ana Valdez and undergraduate students Kenneth Pitts and Danielle Rivard are looking at different aspects of healthy behaviors—interpersonal relationships, physical activity relating to stress and nutrition. As part of the Research III class, Coppens asked students to help hone the lifestyle questionnaire used in the study.

“Because the questions came from undergraduate students, we are asking more realistic questions,” says Coppens.

“It has been interesting too that the questionnaire that we designed has more validity for working with various cultural groups than another questionnaire that we also used which has been utilized in the social sciences field for over 10 years,” adds Valdez.

Using the Healthy People 2010 frameworks developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the research team hopes that their results will influence programs to promote healthy lifestyles on campus when students are at a transitional point in their lives.

Data have been collected from students taking General Psychology over the past four semesters, more than 400 subjects total. The initial data from a small subgroup of 100 showed interesting correlations, however the larger group will provide more valid information. Feedback from the participants is that even filling out the questionnaire has helped them be aware of and learn more about their health.

Coppens and her research team have also found the study to be a valuable experience.

“Because of this, and other, research projects, I see learning as a self-directed process. That the role of a great education is to teach us the history, the vernacular, and the procedures of a discipline, to train us to be objective, and then to set us free to discover the truth for ourselves,” says Pitts.

Rivard is hoping the directed study will give her an edge in graduate school. “By doing this I was able to learn how to create, run and present a research project. I was able to pull together all the things I have learned over the past four years at UMass Lowell and actually apply them.”

Data analysis is underway and the results will be presented at the spring undergraduate Student Research Symposium, as well as at a Psychology Colloquium in May. Long-term, the results of the study may inform health promotion activities on campus.

NoteWorthy

Chemistry Prof. Kenneth Marx was selected by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) recently to serve as a member of an international team of expert reviewers considering the proposed establishment of a $25 million scientific center at Dublin City University.

The mission of SFI, which has existed for only a few years, is to bring Irish science up to world standards in some critical areas.

Proposal tasks for the center’s initiatives included nanobiotechnology, surface science, and optics applied to biosensor design for application to non-invasive health monitoring and disease diagnosis.

Prof. Robert Niccoli of the Department of Health and Clinical Sciences presented a technology update at a Merrimack Valley Venture Forum held earlier this month at the UMass Lowell Conference Center in the Wannalancit Mill building.

The forum, titled “TissueLink: The Challenges of Taking a New Product to Market,” was sponsored by Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP and Underwriters Laboratories. Keynote speaker was Jacqueline Eastwood, president and CEO of TissueLink Medical Inc.

Christine Dunlap, executive director of Communications and Marketing, has received the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Volunteer Service Award for 2004 in recognition of her “notable work” in support of the Council’s Lowell program.

Dunlap has served as chair of the Lowell Council for the last two years.

Assistant Professor Lisa M. Abdallah, Nursing Department, has been selected as a participant in a prestigious research institute this coming summer.

She is one of only 16 such scholars from across the country to attend the Summer Geriatric Nursing Research Seminar of the John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University. The seminar will focus on honing research skills and research proposal development.

Seo Details the Challenge for Women Workers in South Korea

o one was more affected by the financial crisis that struck South Korea in 1997 than Korean women. According to Younju Seo, a graduate student in the Department of Regional, Economic & Social Development (RESD), women were the first fired, more than doubling unemployment among women in one year to nearly six percent, while male-dominated trade unions offered little help.

Most women, says Seo, were expected to return to their homes, care for families or work in the informal economy, performing piece work, working as domestics or, sometimes, in the sex trade.

“Go home, women’ was the attitude,” Seo says.

Seo has dedicated her graduate work to the examination of women’s worker issues and the emergence of three women-only labor unions in South Korea that have had some success in improving the situation.

She discussed her work at a campus presentation during Lowell Women’s Week activities in early March.

After graduating from South Korea’s Ewha Women’s University in 1992, with a degree in Korean Language and Literature, Younju began working as an organizer of women workers in her homeland. She was struck in ’97 by how disproportionately women were affected by the crisis. Seo decided to make this episode the focus of her research when she began her graduate studies at UMass Lowell in 2002.

“RESD is a very interdisciplinary program,” Seo says. “The faculty have encouraged me to pursue my interests.”

By the time Seo began her graduate research at RESD, she had broadened her scope of work to explore the antecedent conditions that shaped the situation. Her thesis, “Industrialization, Globalization and Women Workers, 1962-2003,” covers the period when women first began to emerge as a presence in the industrial economy.

Seo, who is currently applying to doctoral programs in the U.S., plans to return to Korea to work as a feminist labor researcher.

“I hope to empower women and improve the conditions of their working lives,” says Seo.

Committee Undertakes Website Redesign

The Web Planning Committee held a kick-off meeting in early March to begin discussions of an overall redesign of the University’s website. The redesign will be overseen by a Steering Committee and four sub-committees: policy; content, design and infrastructure; Vice Chancellor for Information Technology; Jeff Thompson, left; the co-chair of the Steering Committee. He is joined by committee members, Kristin Luterberg, assoc. provost, center; and Michele Pagliarulo, assistant director of administrative computing.

Younju Seo, right, a graduate student in Regional, Economic & Social Development, presented her work on women-only labor unions in South Korea during Lowell Women’s Week activities. She was presented by the Center for Women and Work. The event was co-sponsored by the Council for Diversity and Pluralism and Work Environment. Joining the speaker were, from left Prof. Anne Mulvey, Imogene Stulken, campus ministries, and Lenore Azaroff, work environment.

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Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 31
Conversation Dinner, Provost John Wooding will moderate a discussion on Student Engagement and Retention, featuring speakers Melissa Pennell, English; Michael Pierson, history; and Aram Karakashian, physics, 3:15 p.m., Faculty Alumni Lounge. For more information or to reserve a seat, call (978) 934-2925.

Thursday, April 1
Performance, STARTS program, “New Kid,” performing arts for grades 3-6, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Durgin Concert Hall, tickets: $5. For information and reservations, call the STARTS hotline (978) 934-4452.

Performances

Tuesday, April 6
Career Fair, for students interested in careers in the health professions, dress professionally, noon to 3 p.m., Weed Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-2355 or visit http://career.uml.edu.

Performance, “SCRAP Arts Music,” internationally-known percussion ensemble, tickets $5, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Hall. For tickets, call the box office 978-934-4444.

Thursday, April 8
Open House, Graduate School Information Session on the Bachelor’s-Master’s Program, 2 to 4 p.m., Alumni Lounge. For more information, call the Graduate School (978) 934-3626 or visit www.uml.edu/grad.

Friday, April 9
Walk for Hunger, if you can’t walk, please donate. For more information, contact (978) 934-2866 or David_Eberfield@uml.edu or visit www.walkforhunger.org.

Saturday, April 10
Performance, 12th Annual Clarinet Congress, Prof. David Martins, director, small admission charge, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Monday, April 12
Conversation Dinner, New Faculty Tea, 3 to 5 p.m., Alumni Hall. For more information, call Brenda Evans (978) 934-5021.

Lecture, “Draft Resistance and the War in Vietnam,” by Prof. Michael Foley, College of Staten Island-CUNY, author of Confronting the War Machine, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Coburn 205.

Performances

Tuesday, April 13
Conversation Dinner, Seed Grant Projects, includes speakers and poster displays, 3:30 to 7 p.m., Alumni Library. For more information, call Brenda Evans (978) 934-5021.

Performance, Faculty Recital, Prof. Rebecca Leonard, clarinet, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Wednesday, April 14
Advice Day, get feedback on resumes or advice on career pursuit, meet with reps from health care, law enforcement, business, engineering, the arts, more. For more information, call (978) 934-2355 or visit http://career.uml.edu.

Thursday, April 15
Forum, 6th Annual Gathering at the Well, “Creating a Caring Workplace,” 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Lydon Library, UML North. For more information, call (978) 275-1705 or visit www.lowellwomensweek.org/Events.htm.

Performances

Monday, April 19
Performance, STARTS program, “Charlotte’s Web,” 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.

Performance, Student Recital Series, Brian Nickerson, piano, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Tuesday, April 20
Performance, Small Jazz Ensemble, Prof. Water Platt, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Wednesday, April 21
Exhibit Reception, “Getting Shot Out of a Cannon,” by Rob Millard, 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, Jazz Rock Big Band, Prof. Daniel Lutz, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Performances

Friday, April 23
Conversation Dinner, Asian American in New England Research Initiative, 9:30 to 2 p.m., Wannamalic Conference Room. For more information, call Jeff Gerson (978) 934-4255.

Sunday, April 25
Performance, Student Recital Series, Laura Frye, oboe, 3 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Monday, April 26
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, “Romeo 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.

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.