New Strategic Plan, Nanotechnology Progress, and Task Force on Higher Education Create Promising Prospects

With the launching this spring of an ambitious strategic planning process, the progress being made in nanotechnology initiatives, and other encouraging developments, Chancellor William T. Hogan sees this as a moment with great potential for UMass Lowell.

The ten-year strategic plan or Transformation Strategy will guide the transformation of the campus into an institution focused even more sharply on its integrated mission of providing affordable, high quality instruction and assisting in sustainable regional development. The plan is being shaped in the context of realistic expectations for future state support and with keen awareness of the speed at which technology is changing both teaching and learning. A draft report, due in September, will describe steps to be taken to place the Lowell campus in a secure position regarding both academic affairs and finances.

Coinciding with these activities on campus, the Massachusetts Senate has established a new task force charged with developing a comprehensive ten-year strategy to reform public higher education in the Commonwealth. Senate President Robert E. Travaglini appointed Sens. Steven C. Panagiotakos of Lowell and Stanley C. Rosenberg of Amherst to chair the task force.

“We welcome the opportunity to work with the members of the Senate task force in their important undertaking and with Sen. Panagiotakos especially on initiatives such as

Day of Dedications Honors Major Gifts to Engineering

Three major gifts to departments in the Francis College of Engineering gave occasion for celebration at the spring meeting of college and departmental industrial advisory boards.

Mark A. Saab, president of Advanced Polymers, Inc., in Salem, N. H., and a 1981 UMass Lowell graduate in plastics engineering, created more than $120,000 toward the renovation of a laboratory. The new Advanced Polymers Physical and Rheological Properties Testing Laboratory is a teaching and research facility dedicated to polymer property evaluation. The lab serves both undergraduate and graduate students and includes air conditioning and a conference room.

Advanced Polymers produces innovative products including ultra-thin tubing, catheters and angioplasty balloons.

Stuart Kapp, sales manager of Leistritz Corporation, was recognized for the donation of a new extrusion machine worth $180,000. The machine replaces one the Plastics Engineering Department had purchased 20 years ago. The company has placed 27 such machines in North American Universities: UMass Lowell’s is the only gift.

Leistritz, an international equipment manufacturer, produces high-end extrusion processing equipment. The company hires many UMass Lowell graduates.

Rick Pierro, a 1983 M.S. graduate in chemical engineering, is president and co-founder of Superior Controls, Inc. The company funded a new computer laboratory in the Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Department that serves undergraduate and graduate students. The gift is unusual in also providing an annual donation for student support and continual lab upgrades.

Superior Controls designs custom automated control and information systems for the chemical engineering industry.
The Wheels on the Bus...  
▲ Sixteen buses lined up in front of O’Leary Library and down Wilder Street deposited children from area schools—including North Middlesex, Billerica, Lawrence and Lowell—into Durgin Hall. The classes attended a performance of “Charlotte’s Web” as part of the STARTS (Student and Teacher Arts) program run by the Center for the Arts.

UMass Lowell Shows Well at Firefighting Contest—Robot Style

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Mass Lowell’s Computer Science Department entered five robots—the most by any college or university—in the 11th annual Firefighting Home Robot Contest held recently at Trinity College in Hartford. “Trembling Cricket,” developed by graduate student Ruslan Shamayev, took third place in the Senior Division, which had 53 robots entered. Four other teams of students supervised by Fred Martin and Holly Yanco, assistant professors of computer science, successfully qualified for the event and ran robots in the contest.

The students build robots as part of the two-course sequence in Robotics taught by Yanco and Martin.

“The contest is a very humbling experience,” says Martin. “Things that you didn’t think of at all, like the surface friction of the floor, can cause a robot that seemed to work fine to fail completely.” Yanco sponsored the contest entry fees and overnight hotel stays for all five teams. Martin served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the event.

Lawrence Mayor Hears Class Results

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Prof. Jeff Gerson, political science, and students in his Urban Politics class have been studying housing issues among Latinos in Lawrence through an innovative research program.

Gerson was invited by Jorge Santiago, a Dean at Northern Essex Community College, to contribute a chapter for a larger volume on Public Policy and Latinos in Lawrence being edited by Santiago.

“I accepted the invitation under the condition that it would be a paper that my class this spring could write with me,” Gerson says.

Each student was required to write a short paper on topics relevant to the project such as zoning, affordability, homelessness or public housing. Gerson is adding an introduction and conclusion for the article and weaving the student papers together to make a unified whole.

Recently, the class met with Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan to learn about his hopes for the city.

The program would be appropriate for students with a background in human services, law enforcement, health care and education, among others.

For information, visit www.uml.edu/Dept/RESD/peace/.

Poje to Address Advisory Board

Dr. Gerald Poje will speak to the Advisory Board of The New England Consortium at its spring meeting on May 26. The meeting, to be held in Alumni Library, UML North, is open to the public. The time of the speech is yet to be determined.

Poje is a member of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB). He will talk about CSB’s work and discuss the future direction of worker health and safety, environmental justice and public health movements in confronting the challenge of potential chemical incidents, security and other serious risks to our communities.

The New England Consortium, based at the Lowell campus, has delivered Hazardous Waste Site Operations and Emergency Response training to over 15,000 workers since its formation in 1987.

New Certificate in Conflict Resolution Offered

The Department of Regional Economic and Social Development will introduce a new graduate certificate in Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies beginning in the summer of 2004.

The certificate will require students to take five courses including three requirements: Conflict Resolution; Analyzing Peace, Violence and War; and Field Experience in Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies.

Display Highlights Asian-American Women

A photographic display in honor of Asian American History Month will be shown in the mezzanine of the O’Leary Library through the end of May. The exhibit, “Asian American Women of Hope,” features biographies and pictures by photographer Cheung Ching-Ming.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Council on Diversity and Pluralism and the UMass Lowell Libraries. For information, contact Prof. Anne Mulvey, psychology, ext. 3965, or Brenda Evans, Office of Multicultural Affairs, ext. 5021.

Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan, left, spoke to Prof. Jeff Gerson’s Urban Politics class. Gerson, right, is co-authoring an article with his students relating to housing issues confronting Latinos in the city of Lawrence.
UMass Lowell is Reaccredited and Placed in Highest Review Category

UMass Lowell has been reaccredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and placed on a 10-year review cycle—the longest review period awarded—following the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education’s rigorous evaluation of the campus.

The commission’s evaluation report notes that among the campus’s “outstanding assets are a clearly defined mission...a dedicated and talented faculty; an ambitious and loyal student body; and an experienced, committed administrative leadership team.” The commission also noted that “academic programs are of good quality, and programs targeted for support and expansion (e.g., plastics) are doing very well indeed, and positioned for national prominence.”

Chancellor William T. Hogan said he was pleased with the outcome of the review and thanked the faculty and staff for their dedication and efforts in making UMass Lowell a first-class university.

The reaccreditation, which was based on a rigorous evaluation process conducted over the last year, tells us that we are responding to the needs of our students and the region,” he said.

The campus’s reaccreditation team was led by Faculty Teaching Center Director Mary Beaudry, former Special Assistant to the Provost Kenneth Lemanski, and former Dean of the College of Health Professions Janice Stecchi.

In addition to coordinating the written report from various faculty and staff, the team arranged for the commission’s evaluation pre-visit, visit and banquet. “It kept me busy for a couple of years,” said Beaudry.

The NEASC commission’s cover letter noted that members were “impressed by the deep sense of loyalty to the University... We learned a great deal during those four days [of their campus visit] about an important, valuable institution of higher education that plays a vital role in its region.”

The campus will receive an interim review at the five-year point in the ten-year cycle, due Fall 2008.

Forum Envisions a Caring Workplace

Hi-tech worker burnout, management techniques for an improved workplace environment and recommendations for improved public policy were among the topics at the Center for Women and Work’s 6th Annual Gathering at the Well Spring Forum in April that welcomed nearly 70 attendees.

The group engaged in role-playing, watched a dramatic reading and heard speakers on the overall theme of “Creating a Caring Workplace: Trends and Visions.”

Prof. Nina Coppens and members of the Community Social Psychology Master’s Program Practicum class led small groups in a series of exercises exploring ways to create a sense of community in the workplace. One of the groups presented a role-play illustrating the reticence workers often feel in discussing the possibility of unionizing. Another showed how a manager can use effective communication skills to alleviate conflict among employees.

Members of the University’s Off Broadway Players and others presented scenes from the play “Top Girls” which dramatizes the challenges a being a successful woman.

Graduate student Kathleen Bailey, Regional Economic and Social Development, presented findings from her study of the effects of high-tech burnout, especially among female employees. In order to reduce burnout, Bailey recommends changes in public policy that would offer incentives for companies that train to retain, motivate and promote from within, and require worker representation on all trade boards lobbying government.

The forum concluded with a recognition of the leadership and vision of four women on campus: Associate Provost Kristin Esterberg, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for Academic Services Joyce Gibson, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Louise Griffin and Vice Chancellor of Facilities Diana Prideaux-Brune.

The gathering at the Well was co-sponsored by the Council on Diversity and Pluralism, Council of Federated Centers and Institutes and the UMass Lowell Bookstore.
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New Strategic Plan, Nanotechnology Progress, and Task Force on Higher Education Create Promising Prospects

the nanomanufacturing center envisioned for the Lawrence mills complex, which was announced last month,” says Chancellor Hogan. “Efforts such as these are essential to creating jobs and assisting sustainable development in this region and throughout the state. A college degree and the skills to acquire it are needed now more than ever to meet the demands of a new and changing economy,” says Sen. Panagiotakos. “We need a realistic, well thought out ten-year plan with the same commitment that was made for K-12 education over a decade ago.”

Concerning nanotechnology, UMass Lowell is a finalist in a quest for funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish a nanomanufacturing center, in partnership with Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire. Last year, Lowell’s proposal, ranked within the top 5 of 80 submitted, narrowly missed being funded when the NSF selected only two proposals.

In its strategic planning, UMass Lowell will explore approaches to education that incorporate the latest technology and reflect the way people now organize their lives. Lowell will look to fully integrate “day,” “evening,” and “summer” school, as well as online instruction.

The use of mixed classroom-based and electronically delivered instruction will be expanded. Closely related courses will be combined and offered in streamlined, interdisciplinary, and resource-saving sets. More courses will be provided to and received from other UMass campuses whenever cost effective agreements can be made. Such changes will require significant negotiations with the faculty and, in the case of the new structure for course offerings, require legislation on retention of tuition.

UMass Lowell aims to make itself a “school of choice” for a larger pool of potential students. The chief academic goal is to provide to all under-graduates an experience in which they learn how different kinds of knowledge interrelate and how that dynamic shapes the sustainability of a vibrant society and robust economy. To improve advising, academic performance, and retention, the Curriculum Design Initiative encourages interdisciplinary courses for first-year students that blend project-based and service learning. Lowell will continue to make its programs accessible by granting significant campus-paid financial aid—aid that will be available due to reduced costs for instruction and business and facility operations.

UMass Lowell will reduce costs by expanding efforts to conduct all transactions, information exchange, and business processes in a self-help mode via the Web; using centralized service centers; and fully deploying all PeopleSoft systems. By Feb. 2005, Lowell will have PeopleSoft implemented in finances, human resources, student records, and contributor relations.

To supplement state support, Lowell will develop new sources of earned income and work with its alumni and friends to raise the level of gift giving. Increased visibility from communications initiatives will help leverage connections with prospective individual, foundation, and corporate supporters.

As expressed by the Chancellor, UMass Lowell’s ambition is to be recognized within higher education as a model that demonstrates how a public university providing high-quality, affordable programs and operating in the respected tradition of land-grant institutions can assist sustainable regional development in a global economy. The practical results of this effort, as Chancellor Hogan stated at the recent ceremony marking the establishment of the new School of Heath and Environment, are “more and better jobs, healthier people, and a higher quality environment.”

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Continued from Page 1

UMass Board of Trustees Names Dr. Jack M. Wilson as President

September, previously was vice president for Academic Affairs of the system. He also is a tenured professor of management at UMass Amherst.

“We look forward to working with President Wilson as UMass Lowell advances to its next stage of development,” says Chancellor William T. Hogan. “This is a time of transformation on our campus, with promising initiatives that will impact sustainable development. In partnership with Dr. Wilson, we will forge ahead with innovative efforts that will yield economic and social benefits for the region and entire state.”

A well-known entrepreneur and distance educator, Wilson was a co-founder, president, and chairman of Learnd.Line Corporation (now Mentery), a supplier of software systems for comprehensive training to Fortune 1000 firms.

Following his appointment, Wilson said, “This opportunity exists for me as an individual, for the University, and for the Commonwealth only because so many giants have shaped this great enterprise over the last century and a half. Chancellors and presidents, governors and legislators, faculty members, staff people and alumni have had one thing in common—a love of the idea of this University and a dedication to the cause of public higher education.

“Because of them, we are able to look forward with optimism that our University will successfully confront every challenge, continue its academic ascendance, and continue to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth through excellent teaching and discovery.”

Wilson formerly was the J. Erik Johnsson Distinguished Professor of Physics, Engineering Science, Information Technology, and Management at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), where he also had served as a dean and interim provost.

As interim president, Dr. Wilson was appointed as core steering committee member of the Science and Technology Caucus, a blue-ribbon committee of business, government, and academic leaders that is shaping a comprehensive plan to develop an innovation economy. He also created at $1 million science and technology fund to assist the University’s five campuses in developing strategic alliances to pursue major new external funding opportunities.

—PM

RAP Makes Earth Day a Multi-Media Event

Earth Day is about more than picking up trash.

On this Earth Day, youth from the River Ambassador Program (RAP) of UMass Lowell’s Center for Family, Work and Community coordinated and performed in a multi-media stage show, “Justice for All: Stories of Lowell,” held at the McDonough Cultural Center in Lowell.

The RAP students created five environmental skits combining story, music and poetry to draw awareness about those issues, and educate others in the community about those issues, and to take action wherever possible to improve the environment.

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Youth members of UMass Lowell’s River Ambassadors Program (RAP) created a take-off on “Real World” to make environmental points at an Earth Day celebration. Sokny Long, second from left, of the Center for Family, Work and Community, directed the production: with her, front, from left, are Sony Sim, Channy Lim and Nanny Neov; back row, from left, Sophiell Tom, Sreyath Sreyvithiya and Melissa Khim.

▲
LEARN: Bringing Faculty and Students Closer, Keeping Students Successful and Involved

It was a simple enough idea: bring the classes and faculty to the doorstep of the students, and chances are good that they will come. It had grown out of an exchange between UMass Lowell leaders—Fine Arts Dean Nancy Klencowski and Larry Siegel, then director of campus life—three years ago this spring, then taken form officially four months after that. Today, heading into the close of its third full year of implementation, the fruits of this idea are both stunning and pretty much inarguable: vastly improved grade-point averages, a rise in earned credits by students, a jump in retention rates.

Larry Siegel, who has shepherded the program through each of its several phases, is unsurprising in his praise. It is, he says, “probably the most exciting project I’ve been involved with in my 18 years at UMass Lowell.”

Its acronym is LEARN (for Living Education and Resource Networking); it began, with 60 freshman students and four faculty members, in a renovated space on the sixth floor of Fox Hall in the fall of 2001. Its goals, in its first phase, were basic: to increase faculty-student interaction outside the classroom, bring academics into the residence halls and improve attendance at early-morning freshman classes by making them more accessible.

In pursuit of these aims, four courses were offered—two each in English and philosophy—in a renovated Fox Hall classroom space, only steps from the students’ bedrooms, before most students had to leave their dorms for the day.

Phase two, which went into motion a year later in the fall of 2002, widened the pool of students to 84—all of them, as undeclared liberal-arts majors, considered to be at high risk of dropping out—expanded the course offerings, added a number of workshops and other support services and saw the beginnings of a mentoring program.

The results were almost immediate. Of the 84 at-risk freshmen, 79 were back the following fall.

Phase three began last September. Easily the most ambitious to date, and coordinated (as the LEARN program has been from the start), through the efforts of Ann Ciarraldi, Greg Wilder and the Office of Residence Life, it has seen the soup-to-nuts renovation of Bourgeois Hall on UML East—bathrooms, lounges, all student bedrooms refurbished—to accommodate 300 high-risk freshmen. Incentives have been created, a staff steering committee named; faculty offices, a computer center and a 30-hour-a-week tutoring program are now in place in Fox Hall.

Phase three has also included a partnership with the University’s orientation program, and with the Centers for Learning, whose personnel oversee all tutoring and support services. These cooperative relationships have allowed for the cross-training of student staff, as well as for LEARN students to be the focus of enhanced preparation the June prior to their freshman enrollment, and of a two-day orientation experience in advance of the September opening of school.

It’s hard to argue with the results. Ninety-five percent of the Phase-three LEARN freshmen—an unprecedented number—returned to UMass Lowell for the spring ’04 semester. The average GPA of those in the program was close to 10 percent higher than the campus-wide freshman grade; the number of credits earned per LEARN student was more than 20 percent greater than for the freshman class as a whole.

“I think these students, partly because of their easy access to the University’s offerings—the tutoring programs, the mentoring, the computer labs—as well as each other through the close proximity of dorm life, tend to come away from this with better life skills, just a better overall ability to manage the business of their lives,” Larry Siegel says.

But LEARN has a future as well as a present and a past. Phase four, which is set to kick off in the fall of this year, will enhance the mentoring program still farther, bring student staff into Bourgeois Hall to lead academic support initiatives, and sponsor motivational workshops by deans, department chairs, even the University provost.

“The bottom line,” says Siegel, “is to find as many ways as we can to increase faculty-student contact outside the classroom. That, plus the resources of the University and the closer student-to-student contact that comes with residence life, is bound to enhance academic success—not to mention the effect it has on retention rates, student involvement on campus, and just a generally happier, more satisfied student body.”

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Day of Dedications Honors Major Gifts to Engineering

▲ The Mark A. Saab Advanced Polymers Physical and Rheological Properties Testing Laboratory in plastics engineering was officially opened with the help of, from left, Prof. Robert McGarry, chair, Polymers Engineering Department; Mark Saab, president, Advanced Polymers, Inc.; John Ting, dean, Francis College of Engineering, and Provost John Wooding, UMass Lowell.

▲ Stuart Kapp, left, sales manager of Leistritz Corporation, reviews some features of the newly donated extrusion machine with Prof. Stephen Oestroh, plastics engineering.

▲ The new Superior Controls Chemical Engineering Computer Laboratory was dedicated by, from left, Prof. Albert Donatelli, chair, Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Department; Rick Pierro, president and co-founder of Superior Controls, Inc.; Prof. John White, chemical and nuclear engineering, and Dean John Ting, Francis College of Engineering.

River Hawks Host First-Ever Track and Field Meet

The UMass Lowell campus hosted its first-ever track and field meet last month when athletes from nine colleges competed in a full day of events at the Cushings Field complex.

The George Davis Invitational was “a major step for the (University’s) program,” says track and field Head Coach Gary Gardner.

“It puts us on the map, not just as a successful program but as a program that can host big meets and maybe a New England Championship.”

Gardner, the University’s second track coach, succeeded George Davis for whom the meet was named. Davis came to Lowell Tech with a background in baseball. But he signed on for track and stayed for 33 years without ever having the opportunity to coach a home meet.

“I know the kids really, really enjoyed having a home meet for the first time,” says Davis, who was on hand for the event. “It’s a wonderful situation for them. This is state-of-the-art. It’s as good as any facility around.”

For years, UMass Lowell track and field athletes had to use various old school facilities and an old building known as the “track factory.”

Gardner says, “The factory is basically the building that everybody thinks is abandoned right next to the Tsongas Arena. It’s an old factory that we converted into a track and field area.”

The teams also used to work out on an old dirt track that surrounded the basketball diamond in the Cushings Field area. Avoiding fly balls and line drives was part of the challenge.

Davis says, “If we had a practice and they (the baseball team) had a practice, we’d have one guy trying to direct traffic. It was very chaotic, most of the time.”

Both coaches say they believe those old facilities have helped build the program’s success. Davis says they always used them as a motivational tool, and Gardner says he thinks the factory built character and helped the teams bond.

Now, the Cushings Field Complex gives the team a chance to display its talents and success at home. And there have been successes. Both the Men’s and Women’s Cross-Country teams went to the NCAA national championships and both finished in the top five in New England during the indoor season.

—BE
Quilters, Girl Scouts Provide Boost to Children Entering Foster Care

The Psychology Club has just concluded its third annual Welcome Pack Drive, presenting more than 100 children’s back packs to the Mass. Department of Social Services (DSS). The packs contain age-appropriate items such as underwear, toiletries and other essentials needed by children entering foster care. Many children enter and move within the system so quickly that they have little time to collect what belongings they have. The packs help ensure the basics are provided for.

Many institutions and individuals help support the drive. The Stoneham Bank contributed $1,000, and the Acorn Daycare in Lowell and the Drton Family also provided clothing and other materials. In addition, this year’s drive attracted support from two new sources: a Westford middle school student and the Tewksbury Pecemakers Guild.

Jessica Molignano of Westford learned about the Welcome Pack Drive when a member of her Cadet Girl Scout troop saw an item in the local newspaper. The troop decided the drive would be a terrific service project to help them all earn their Silver Award in scouting.

In early April, the troop hosted a “battle of the bands” at the Parish Center for the Arts in Westford, raising $500 to support the Welcome Pack Drive.

“It was Jessica’s idea to host a battle of the bands,” says her mother, Dottie. “She had to find six local bands that would play for nothing. She enlisted and oversaw the whole thing.”

Jessica, who attends the Stony Brook Middle School, says, “It was fun, though getting the bands together was probably the toughest part of it.”

With the money, Jessica purchased nearly two dozen back packs, filling several with much-needed supplies like underwear and toothpaste and delivered them to the Psychology Club headquarters.

The Tewksbury Pecemakers Guild also saw a notice in their paper and decided to contribute their efforts to the Welcome Pack Drive as well. The guild, which has more than 100 members, gathers weekly in the Tewksbury Library, quilting blankets and other items for a series of charities. Previously, they’ve contributed their work to the Tewksbury Pantry, Lowell’s Saints Memorial Hospital and the Cambridge Cares for AIDS project.

The guild’s Lynda Harrington says, “We’ve been working on the project since January. We’re delivering 15 baby quilts, 30 pillow cases and 45 Teddy Bears. We’ve put in too many hours to count.”

The Psychology Club presented the packs to representatives of the DSS at this year’s Psychology Banquet in early May. For information on the Welcome Pack Drive, contact Prof. Charlotte Mandell, ext 3954.

Teaching Goes Totally Wired

Gerard Dybel, associate professor of physical therapy, has always preferred including multiple media in his lectures.

“I have students with different learning styles, who benefit from information presented in different ways,” says Dybel. “I use lots of case studies and video clips and documents.” Dybel teaches courses in physical therapy procedures and business management skills to students in the clinical doctorate program.

A few years ago, he had to load a cart with all the equipment he needed and allow extra time for set-up before and after classes. Not any more.

Extensive upgrades of three lecture halls in Weed Hall show the shape of things to come across campus. Michael Lucas, coordinator of distance learning for the Center for Field Services and Studies, directed the project. New equipment in each hall includes a computer, flat-screen monitor, LCD projector, digital document camera, VCR, and DVD. Machinery is mounted in new teaching stations, built by the carpentry shop, and controlled by an Extron MediaLink switcher.

“This will allow faculty to control all of the technology via one easy-to-use interface,” says Lucas. “It eliminates multiple remote controls and greatly simplifies using technology in the classroom. All of the upgraded rooms are configured exactly the same, so once faculty are familiar with the equipment in one of the lecture halls, they can easily teach in another one without having to learn any new interface.”

The equipment is remarkably versatile and user-friendly. The digital document camera, for example, can project from transparencies or paper or books, and can be used to explore the features of three-dimensional objects, such as the landmarks on a bone.

As more upgrades are done (planned for Coburn, Ball and O’Leary), Lucas hopes to use the new configuration as a model, so there is a consistent look and “feel” to the rooms and the technology.

After all, says Dybel, “this makes teaching more effective and expands the capability of different students to learn. Technology isn’t just what you are teaching; it’s an avenue to learning.”
EU Environment Commissioner Visits Campus

The European Union’s Top Environmentalist visited the campus last month to learn about its pioneering efforts at reducing chemical use in Massachusetts and meet with business representatives about proposed new regulations for exports.

Margot Wallstrom, EU environment commissioner, heard a presentation from faculty and staff about the Toxics Use Reduction Institute’s (TURI) efforts to help industry reduce the harmful chemicals in manufacturing processes, then talked informally with about 40 business people who attended a luncheon at Wannalancit Mills. Her visit was sponsored by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production.

“We’re proud of the fact you picked Lowell as a place to come and understand the strategies we’ve developed here,” said Chancellor William T. Hogan, who welcomed Wallstrom to campus. “Your visit couldn’t be at a better time in our history.”

Hogan pointed to the recent creation of the School of Health and Environment, in particular, as an example of the priority the University has placed on meeting the needs of the region and its people.

Wallstrom said that the priorities that the University is addressing are ones that she shares and welcomed the opportunity to bring the strategies she learned on campus back to Europe.

“We live in very exciting times. We’ve finally come to the end of the division in Europe and become one European Union and that is fantastic,” she said.

Prof. Kenneth Geiser, co-director of the center, said that Wallstrom’s visit represented a “cross-Atlantic” dialogue.

“This was a chance for us to hear about the best of the new policies in Europe and for the European environment commissioner to learn about the important studies being made here in Massachusetts and the role the University plays as a catalyst in promoting sustainable production,” he said.

Wallstrom is the leading government proponent of sweeping new European Union chemicals legislation—Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH)—that could change the way companies are required to manage hazardous chemicals and set new standards among producers and users world-wide. If adopted, it would be phased in over 11 years starting in 2006. Massachusetts industry is the fourth largest U.S. exporter of products to Europe.

“We reserve the right to take action when it will not be detrimental to the health of our children or future generations or the environment,” Wallstrom said.

Asst. Prof. Joel Tickner, project director for the center, said the commissioner’s visit was a “win-win” situation for everyone involved.

“The pioneering work of the University on toxics reduction, substitution and sustainable development was internationally recognized; Massachusetts businesses had a unique opportunity to learn about emerging policies in Europe and share lessons, barriers and opportunities for toxics reduction with the European Union’s leading environmental official; and the Europeans learned about successful efforts in Massachusetts that can inform their own chemicals management policy,” he said.

Wallstrom was appointed EU environment commissioner in September 1999. She has had a long career in politics, both in the Swedish Parliament and its government, where she was minister over the years for consumer affairs, women and youth; culture; and social affairs. She also has worked as the CEO of a regional television network in Sweden and was executive vice-president of Worldview Global Media in Sri Lanka.

Wallstrom’s U.S. trip also included talks before the United Nation’s Commission on Sustainable Development in New York City and the U.S.-EU Chemicals Conference in Virginia.

Macau Nursing Faculty Visit UML Nursing Department

The Nursing Department in the School of Health and Environment (SHE) recently welcomed three visitors from the Macau Kiang Wu College of Nursing (MKWCN).

Dean Florence Via Iat Kio, and Professor Michelle Zhu and Professor Amenda Ma audited some graduate courses, toured nursing labs, and exchanged ideas on education and research with nursing faculty in SHE. It was their first visit to the United States. They expressed interest in developing a graduate gerontological nursing program in Macau.

Among the attendees were, from left, seated, Lowell City Councilor Jim Milianazzo, Prof. Anne Marie Hurley of mathematical sciences, Jack O’Brien of the United Teachers of Lowell, and (standing) Deans Charles Carroll and Robert Tamarin of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Prof. Alan Doerr of mathematical sciences.

COPC Hosts Campus-Community Breakfast

Participants heard presentations on service learning opportunities, partnership building and signature outreach initiatives.

Prof. Linda Silka, director of the Center for Family, Work and Community and professor of regional economic and social development, described how signature outreach areas might help shape the campus-community collaboration, including, for example, “Working Together to Make Lowell a Math Morra,” “Reinventing the Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy,” and “Improving the Prospects for Youth.”

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▲ Back row, from left: Assoc. Prof. Susan Houlte; Professor Maya Furell, Chair of Nursing Department; Joan Ashlock, director of nursing labs; and front, from left: Professor Michelle Zhu, Dean Florence Via Iat Kio, Professor Lin Zhan, Professor Barbara Meave and Professor Amenda Ma. Zhu, Kio and Ma are from the Macau Kiang Wu College of Nursing in Macau.
Two students in the online educational administration master’s program found more than Prof. Laura Punnett attending the quarterly meetings as musculoskeletal disorders such as covering all areas of workplace— as many as 140 proposals per year, occupational Health study section reviews "I can only assume it was a political move, presumably retaliation for my advocacy and testimony in favor of the OSHA ergonomic standard (developed in the Clinton Administration and rejected by a Republican-led Congress two months into the Bush Administration). I have also testified in some keyboard product liability cases on behalf of clerical workers." NIOSH is no stranger to political passions. During the ergonomics debate, congressional Republicans tried to kill off the agency altogether, and requiring Cabinet-level approval for NIOSH is unique within the National Institutes of Health.

Two other panelists were rejected: Catherine Heaney of Ohio State University and Manuel Gomez, director of scientific affairs at the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Punnett’s colleagues on the study section expressed frustration and support for her: "Some wrote letters," she says, "but there are no appeals or recourse.

Since her dismissal, Punnett has heard that the study section is running with a large number of ad hoc members and high turnover, potentially degrading the institutional memory and free exchange of ideas that have characterized the process. "Study section review is an arcane system to the general public," says Punnett. "The Administration’s (control of membership) has a tremendous impact on the process without any appearance of blunt intervention. I think it conveys very powerfully that part of the goal is to intimidate researchers and limit what research questions are asked."
David Turcotte, program manager at the Center for Family, Work and Community, and an adjunct professor in the Department of Regional Economic and Social Development, spoke at the 2004 National Environmental Assistance Summit. Turcotte’s presentation was titled, “Are Current Drivers Sufficient to Sustain Green Building Development?”

Held in Baltimore, the conference was hosted by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It attracted more than 550 practitioners from government, industry, and nonprofit organizations.

Paul Marion, director of Community Relations, was one of several authors from Canada, France and the United States who were featured at the fifth annual Northrop Frye Literary Festival in Moncton, New Brunswick, in April. In addition to giving a presentation about the writings of young Jack Kerouac and co-teaching a bilingual poetry writing workshop with Quebec poet Eric Charlebois, he read selections of his own writings about his French Canadian-American heritage during a “Roots” program broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Company’s national radio network.

A story about Prof. Arno Minkinen of the Art Department was featured on PBS last month as part of a series called “Art Close Up.” A spokesman for WGBH-TV, Channel 2, in Boston said the program was part of a series that would be carried for six consecutive weeks, chronicling the works of sculptors, playwrights, artists and other creative professionals.

The short documentaries follow the Masterpiece Theatre’s hit series, “Prime Suspect.”

Dr. Ronald Karr, reference librarian at the O’Leary Library, presented a paper, “The Origins of the Suburban Land Market in Nineteenth Century Boston,” at the annual conference of the Urban History Group held last month at the Royal Holloway College of the University of London in Egham, England.

The conference was attended by urban historians from Great Britain, the United States, Ireland, Canada, Germany, France and Australia. Karr, who also teaches in the History Department, was the only scholar in attendance from New England.

PACSI Forum Discusses Draft Resistance

Michael Foley, an assistant professor of history at the College of States Island-CUNY, delivered a lecture titled “Draft Resistance and the War in Vietnam” recently at a Coburn Hall forum sponsored by the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute (PACSI). Foley is the author of Confronting the War Machine, a book detailing the draft resistance movement in the Boston area during the Vietnam War.

Gay Marriage Issues Explored at Conversation Dinner

Bijan Etemad-Moghadam, second from left, of the Freedom to Marry Coalition, and Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues, right, of Rasi Associates were the guest speakers at a conversation dinner focusing on the issues related to gay marriage. Psychology Prof. Anne Mulvey, Council on Diversity and Pluralism (CDP), left, and Associate Provost Kristin Esterberg helped lead the discussion. The event was sponsored by the CDP.

Promotions

Celine Beaudry, academic resources coordinator, media north University library, from audio visual, Lydon Library.

Peter R. Bergeron, hazardous material manager in Environmental Health and Safety, from hazardous material receiver.

Claire M. Hall, recruiting programs manager in Career Services, from recruiting coordinator.

Mark Metzler, maintainer II in Physical Plant, from maintainer I.

Donna Rogers, professional technician II in the School of Health and Environment, from professional technician.

Sandra Seitz, director of research in Communications and Marketing, from assistant director.

Karen Thompson, professional technician II in Biological Sciences, from professional technician.

Juan Vielmas, maintainer II in Physical Plant, from maintainer I.

Appointments

Cynthia Ruszczyk, systems analyst in Financial Aid, from 03 to 01.

Obituary

Kenneth Rogers Professor Of 40 Years

Kenneth L. Rogers, a professor of engineering at Lowell for more than 40 years until his retirement in the early 1990s, died last month at the Exeter (N.H.) Hospital. He was 81.

A native of Lawrence, Prof. Rogers was raised in Methuen. During World War II, he served with the Marines in the Pacific theater and later graduated from the University of Maine at Orono.

An avid golfer, he was a longtime member and past president of the Vesper Country Club.

Prof. Rogers had lived in New Hampshire before moving three years ago to Singer Island, Fla.

Prof. Kenneth Rogers, right, and Chancellor William T. Hogan at a University alumni event.
Wednesday, May 12
Graduation Ceremony, History Club graduation recognition ceremony, featuring student speakers John Galipeau and Megan Donoghue, and alumni speaker Zach Simmons, 4 p.m., Coburn 205. For more information, call Prof. Michael Pierson (978) 934-4283.
Performance, Concert Band, Prof. Daniel Lutz, director, 7:30 p.m., Fisher Recital Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Thursday, May 13
Graduation Breakfast, Cumnock Auditorium, 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (978) 934-2355 or visit http://career.uml.edu.
Performance, Contempo-Rock Project and BFA Senior Recital, Dr. George Roberts, project director, 3 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Saturday, May 15
Performance, Music Education Festival, Prof. Donna Nagle 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Durgin Music Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.
Exhibit Reception, BFA Candidates Spring 2004, runs through June 12, University Gallery. McGauvran Student Center. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.
Performance, All City Youth Wind Ensemble, Prof. Deborah Nicole Huber, director, 7:30 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Thursday, May 20
Retirement Luncheon to honor the ’03-’04 retirees, noon, Cumnock Auditorium. Luncheon is free for retirees, $15 for all others. 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 Claffey at Renae_Lias@uml.edu.

Sunday, May 23
Performance, String Project Spring Concert, Lowell Public Elementary School Students, Prof. Susan Turcotte-Savriel, master teacher, Dr. Kay George Roberts, project director, 3 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall. For more information, call (978) 934-3850.

Thursday, Jun. 3
Seminar, “Preparing for PMVR: Background, Purposes and Objectives,” 3-day course: June 3, 7, 9, Faculty Teaching Center. For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/centers/ftc.

Tuesday, Jun. 8
Seminar, “The Course Portfolio: A Tool for Examining Student Learning in the Classroom,” 3-day course: June 8, 10, 11, Faculty Teaching Center. For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/centers/ftc.

Monday, Jun. 14
Seminar, “Blending Learning: Deepening Engagement with Online Interaction,” 3-day course: June 14, 15, 17, Faculty Teaching Center. For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/centers/ftc.

Wednesday, Jun. 16
Seminar, “Course Design for the 21st Century: Developing Materials for a Web Presence,” 3-day course: June 16, 18, 22, Faculty Teaching Center. For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/centers/ftc.

Monday, Jun. 21
Seminar, “The Promotion and Tenure Process,” 3-day course: June 21, 23, 24, Faculty Teaching Center. For more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/centers/ftc.

Presentation Features the Books of Daniel
David Daniel, the 2004 Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence, recently read passages from his books White Rabbit, Goofy Foot and Jack Kerouac’s Ghost, not yet published. Afterward, he was joined by Visiting Prof. Andre Dubus, left, the 2001 Writer-in-Residence, and John Sampas, the literary representative of the Kerouac Estate. The program is run by the Department of English and is made possible through an annual contribution from Sampas.

Sculpture Featured in a Moving Exhibit
▲ Art alumnus Rob Millard-Mendez, right, was the featured artist in a University Gallery exhibit of interactive sculpture titled, “Getting Shot Out of the Canon.” The kinetic works, which include materials from rulers and mouse traps to spit balls, offer a tongue-in-cheek commentary on established views of art criticism and theory. Millard-Mendez and Art Chair Jim Coates, left, rank the artist’s favorite current work, “Unable to See Over the Hegemony.”