NSF Awards $12.4 Million to UMass Lowell with UNH, Northeastern

UMass Lowell has won a $12.4 million grant in collaboration with Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire. The National Science Foundation funding will establish the Center for High-Rate Nanomanufacturing to conduct research on tools and techniques for manufacturing at the nanoscale, in which the building blocks are the size of atoms or molecules, and materials can behave in unusual ways.

“Nanotechnology will be an enabling technology for the next great cycle of industrial growth, touching every area of the economy,” said UMass Lowell Chancellor William T. Hogan. “Fundamental and applied research is necessary to bridge the gap between laboratory invention and the commercial market.”

The research is expected to be useful for a wide range of companies—more than 170 Massachusetts companies have been identified as having products, or are interested in developing products, that incorporate nanotechnology. These companies employ about 30,000 people and generate more than $5 billion in revenue.

Already, 13 companies have contributed $9 million to the Center, mostly through equipment contributions. Woburn-based Nantero Inc. and Chelmsford-based Triton Systems Inc. are the initial research partners and will serve as models. Nantero is near production of nanotube memory chips that can scale-up from lab quantities to commercial quantities in about 30,000 people and generate more than $5 billion in revenue.

‘Green Chemistry’ at Lowell—New Approach to Science, New Academic Frontier

A new concept is being born among the sciences, a new ideology that could shake some assumptions as old as science itself. Known as “Green Chemistry,” it is somewhere around seven or eight years old, has the backing of several giants of the pharmaceutical industry, and is the creation of a former Polaroid chemist, now among the newest members of the UMass Lowell faculty.

Prof. John Warner, who left Polaroid in the late ‘90s to join the faculty at UMass Boston, where he created the Center for Green Chemistry, was then co-author—with Paul Anastas of the EPA—of the seminal work, Green Chemistry: Theory and Practice, published in 1998 by Oxford University Press. He left his position in the Chemistry Department at the Boston campus in the spring of this year to join the faculty of the School of Health and Environment—where, he says, “the right pieces and the right people were all committed and in place” to make the Center a success.

Green chemistry, as defined on the Center’s Web site, is “a revolutionary philosophy that seeks to unite government, academic and industrial communities by placing more emphasis on extending environmental impacts at the earliest stage of innovation and invention.”

Or, as Warner puts it: “We’re not just studying the impact of industry on the environment—the environmental sciences have been doing that for years. We’re actually looking to find ways to create products that can be compatible with the environment from the start. In other words, let’s figure out how not to generate [pollution] in the first place, rather than just treating or disposing of it after it’s created.”

As a practical means to this, students of green chemistry—according to the Center’s mission statement—“will learn the skills necessary to design materials and processes with minimal or reduced environmental or toxicological impact.” Part of this process will be a mastery of “the entire molecular life-cycle of any commercial endeavor.”

The concept of all this, says Warner, “sounds like the sort of thing that would have grown out of the environmental movement, then have been applied to industry. Actually, it’s the other way around—it’s been industry that’s been behind it from the start.”

As evidence, he cites the “many millions” being spent by drug and chemical giants Pfizer, Dupont, Rohm and Haas and others to fund research on developing toxic-free products—some of which has been allocated to the work of the Center. Pfizer, he says, “actually pays for workshops that introduce students to the [principles and methods] of green chemistry. These companies really are interested in doing the right thing—we just have to find ways to make it possible.”

UMass Lowell, and its faculty, have been involved with Warner and his work since long before he came...
Worms Come Through Again

Those hard-working worms are still at it. In a quiet corner of the Riverview parking lot on UML South, a contingent of red wriggler worms turn campus landscape trimmings and fresh food extras into high-quality compost. The natural cycle was completed this past summer, as the compost was used to nourish the plantings around Coburn Hall. John Coppinger, left, owner of The Coppinger Company, Inc., in North Chelmsford and consultant to the vermicomposting project, directed the process into high-quality compost. The natural cycle was completed this past summer, as the compost was used to nourish the plantings around Coburn Hall. John Coppinger, left, owner of The Coppinger Company, Inc., in North Chelmsford and consultant to the vermicomposting project, directed the process.

Mark Your Calendars: Partnership Lunch—Oct. 22

Chancellor William T. Hogan will host a luncheon for all faculty, staff, and invited community members on Friday, Oct. 22, at noon, in the Campus Recreation Center. Titled “Partners in Progress: UMass Lowell and the Community,” the event will feature food, music, speeches—and a take-home gift for all attending.

Buses will transport faculty and staff from UML South, North and Wannalancit to the CRC and back. Specific instructions will be broadcast by e-mail the week of the event. RSVP by Oct. 15 to Christine_Dunlap@uml.edu to reserve your seat!

Menu for the Conversation Dinner Will Feature Technology

At the next Conversation Dinner, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 27, the participants will explore ways that technology can enhance teaching and learning.

“Blended and Hybrid Courses: Face to Face Classes with a Difference,” is the title of the discussion for this event, sponsored by the Enrichment Task Force of the Council on Teaching, Learning and Research as Scholarship.

The time is 3:15 p.m. and the place is the Faculty Lounge in Lydon Library. For further information, call ext. 2923.

Upcoming Parker Lectures Look at the Health of 19th-Century Textile Workers, Erie Canal Travel, and the Presidential Election Results

r. Janet Greenlees of the University of York in England will present her research on the health and working conditions of 19th-century cotton weavers in Massachusetts and England on Sunday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. at the National Park Service Visitor Center, 246 Market Street. Greenlees is the 2003-04 Scholar in the City at the Mogan Cultural Center, a partnership project of UML and the Park Service.

The popular Tamburitzans student folk ensemble from Duquesne University returns for a performance of music and dance from Eastern Europe on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 2 p.m. at Lowell High School Auditorium, 50 Fr. Morissette Blvd.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, Fran Reidelberger will present her film on the Erie Canal, exploring the history and geography of the canal system, following its route from New York City to Buffalo. The program begins at 2 p.m. at Lowell High School auditorium.

Boston Globe reporter Brian Mooney will analyze the outcome of the presidential election in a program on Sat., Nov. 6, at 2 p.m., at the Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack Street. Mooney is a co-author of John F. Kerry: The Complete Biography by the Boston Globe Reporters Who Know Him Best.

The Moses Greeley Parker Lectures, established in 1917, are presented by the Parker Lectures Committee in cooperation with UMass Lowell, the City of Lowell, Pollard Memorial Library, Lowell High School, Middlesex Community College and Lowell National Historical Park. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Paul Marion, director of Community Relations, at x3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

‘Take a Stand, Have a Seat’ Thirteen Benches With Inspirational Quotes Unveiled on South Quad

Touting the slogan, “Take a Stand, Have a Seat,” the University recently unveiled 13 benches engraved with inspirational quotations designed to celebrate diversity.

The Creating Diversity Spaces Project, sponsored by the Council on Diversity and Pluralism and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, involved replacing the benches on the South Quad with the environmentally friendly, socially conscious models.

“The impetus behind this is a deep desire to create diversity spaces for all members of UMass Lowell. It’s a wonderful place to see, hear, talk about and embrace diversity,” said Khanh Dinh, assistant professor of psychology, who chaired the project.

The benches—which surround the quadangle in front of the McGauvran Student Union—include quotes from a variety of notables, from Goldie Hawn (“I have witnessed the softening of the hardest of hearts by a simple smile.”) to Gandhi (“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.”) to Martin Luther King (“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.”) They were unveiled by members of the University and Greater Lowell communities at a festive celebration.

The undertaking was accomplished by Facilities Department staff who painted the bench hardware and replaced the wooden slats with recycled plastic that resembles redwood and including a green section containing a plaque with a quotation. John Murphy, superintendent of grounds, said the plan is to eventually replace all of the approximately 150 benches on campus with their inspirational counterparts.

“I’d love to replace all of them,” Murphy said. “The new ones are a lot sturdier and require less maintenance.”

Mayor Armand Mercier, who joined in the celebratory event, said he often takes a respite from walks around UML South by sitting on a bench.

“No, as part of my walks, I’ll sit and read all these great quotes,” he said. “UMass Lowell’s diversity is what makes it so successful; what makes all the students who leave here leaders of the future.”

Take a Stand, Have a Seat, Created Diversity Spaces at UML

From left, Prof. Anne Mulvey, student Bobby Tugbyele of the Association for Students of African Origin and Asst. Prof. Khanh Dinh celebrate the unveiling of the diversity benches on the South Quad.
Promethea Emerges From Bio/Cheminformatics

Search on "protein" in Google and you’ll get more than 26,000,000 hits.
This indicates the importance of proteins—they’re responsible for all the functions of life—but the scientists who study them need more efficient ways to gather and compare data.
Enter “Promethea.” Promethea is the brainchild of Asst. Prof. Kajal Claypool, computer science, working with Chemistry Prof. Melissa MacDonald and Adjunct Prof. Gayathri Vasudevan, faculty in UMass Lowell’s Bio/Cheminformatics program.

“For the protein chemists, getting information from the huge data sets can be difficult,” says Claypool. “There are more than a thousand biomolecular databases and not all are well integrated and accessible to query.”

Promethea uses a different model of gathering information, known as “peer to peer.”

“If someone asks you a question, you may not know the answer, but have friends who may,” says Claypool. “Eventually, the answer is presented to the original questioner.” Initial release and data source development will be available to the UMass Lowell community, after which other researchers can join at will and anyone in the system can find information.

How does one integrate a new data source into the existing array?

“A core part of the system is schema matching or schema integration—looking for a semi-automated manner to say, ‘This protein is involved in nutrition,’ or, ‘This has to do with amino acid functions,’” says Claypool.

Foreign Born Workers Face Unsafe Conditions

Are immigrants literally worked to death? Reports show that they are, more often than other categories of workers.

A recent symposium held in Wannalancit addressed the grim statistics. Participants made recommendations for public health research and intervention programs to improve immigrant workers’ health and safety. Co-sponsored by UMass Lowell and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the symposium drew about 200 experts in the safety and health fields, community activists and organizers, labor union representatives, and government funders from across the nation.

“A recent symposium held recently at Wannalancit that she has seen an increase in immigrant concerns in the greater Lowell and Lawrence area. She is joined by conference co-organizers Sherry Barnes, priority populations coordinator for NIOSH, and Asst. Prof. Carlos Eduardo Siquiera, research scientist in the Work Environment Department.

Office of Information Technology Rolls Out ISIS

In an effort to stay technologically current and administratively efficient, the Lowell, Dartmouth and Boston UMass campuses are rolling out the Intercampus Student Information System (ISIS) software in spring 2005. Dubbed Project ISIS, the three campus technology collaborative will provide a much more efficient experience for staff, faculty and students as they will be able to have self-service access to academic records and other enrollment services via the web.

“We’re quite excited about the positive upgrades this new system is going to bring to UML,” says Ed Roberts, Information Technology Training and Communications Lead. “Students will be able to add and drop courses, check their schedules, pay bills, and even accept financial aid awards. Faculty will be able to enter grades as well as view their roster and schedule.”

Already in use in the Office of Admissions and in Contributor Relations, ISIS will “go live” across the whole campus this year. The implementation of ISIS was necessitated by changes in technology and the way universities need to conduct business. The current system, SIS, was installed in the late ‘80s. As a result, it is outdated and does not meet the administrative needs of the modern university setting in which efficient access to schedules, grades, transcripts and financial information is a must. Further, the vendors of SIS no longer support the system, making its continued use an inevitable impossibility. While worries always exist when a new system is introduced, the IT Department hopes to nullify any such anxiety.

“Students will be able to add and drop courses, check their schedules, pay bills, and even accept financial aid awards. Faculty will be able to enter grades as well as view their roster and schedule.”

“The system functionality receives three rounds of testing and the hardware and software infrastructure is continually ‘stress

A poster presentation at the American Society of Biological Chemistry described the development of Promethea, a potentially robust tool for information searches on proteins. Presenters were, from left, Asst. Prof. Kajal Claypool, computer science, and Adjunct Prof. Gayathri Vasudevan and Prof. Melissa MacDonald, chemistry.

A poster presentation at the American Society of Biological Chemistry described the development of Promethea, a potentially robust tool for information searches on proteins. Presenters were, from left, Asst. Prof. Kajal Claypool, computer science, and Adjunct Prof. Gayathri Vasudevan and Prof. Melissa MacDonald, chemistry.

Ed Roberts tested for peak workload (i.e. large number of users) responsiveness,” says Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Jeff Thompson. “This rigorous testing will help us sort through the system configuration and response time to reduce our level of risk and mitigate problems before the system is live.”

As a trainer, Roberts is the direct link between the software and the user, so he appreciates the need for ease of functionality in ISIS. In light of this, training will be made available for those affected beginning in November and will run through next summer. The degree of training depends on the how much users need access to ISIS.

“Of course there will be a learning curve,” says Roberts. “But once users become trained on it and comfortable with it, it’s going to be great and will offer a functionality that we’ve lacked with SIS.”

Like the system now in use, ISIS is built on and supported by PeopleSoft who allowed UMass to make the necessary adjustments to implement the administrative redesign. Recent speculation in the media that Oracle may buy PeopleSoft raised some concern that ISIS might not be supported if the buyout occurs.

“These concerns, while valid, will not impact the ISIS implementation at the Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell campuses,” says Roberts. “We have discussed the potential buyout of PeopleSoft with the Metagroup, a well-known and respected consulting firm that evaluates information technology trends and have concluded that our PeopleSoft implementation is secure and will continue.”
store more data than silicon chips, operating at high speed and low cost. Triton is developing biosensors that can be implanted in the body to detect diseases.

Nanomanufacturing will look quite different from current macroscale processes, presenting new challenges. What novel tooling must be created to assemble different nano-components into a complex system? How will long-term reliability of nano-components be tested and defects be detected in billions of molecular connections? How can nanoscale structures be processed continuously? What are the environmental effects of nanomanufacturing?

“We wanted to focus tightly on the scale-up from lab quantities to commercial quantities: large volume, fast throughput, high repeatability for quality control and an economical process for high profit margins,” says Hogan. UMass Lowell’s research contribution to the NSF center will concentrate on integrating nanotemplates into high rate processing of polymeric structures, according to Plastics Engineering Assoc. Prof. Joey Mead, co-PI of the grant.

“They’ll guide nanoscale elements to the right position so there will be a pattern, and that pattern would be correctly functionalized for guided self-assembly,” says Mead. “New devices and materials with nanoscale properties have tremendous potential for electronic, medical and energy applications. Our challenge is to solve the problems of mass-producing with this technology—that means high-rate, high-volume throughput. You might start with a test tube, but you can’t just add more test tubes to get to tanker-loads.”

Mead adds, “We’ve made excellent progress under a previous NSF grant. With this grant, each institution will contribute its special strengths to the project, making our efforts even more effective.”

Northeastern will administer the grant and the director will be Mechanical Engineering Prof. Ahmed Busnaina, Northeastern. The Commonwealth has made a significant commitment to the work at UMass Lowell, with a $5 million matching-funds grant through the John Adams Innovation Institute. State Sen. Steven Panagiotakos says the NSF grant makes it possible for the state to award its matching funds.

“This is a major step in placing our region at the forefront of the research and development of the latest and possibly most comprehensive enabling technology of our lifetime, which means that we are poised to truly become a leader in the new innovation economy,” he says.

—$5

The winning research team represents many disciplines, reflecting the broad range of nanotechnology interest. Faculty are, from left, Asst. Prof. Xiaogang (Jackie) Zhang, civil and environmental engineering; Prof. David Eilenbecker, work environment; Carol Barry, Assoc. Prof. James Whitten, chemistry; Joey Mead, Prof. David Kemer, plastics engineering; Asst. Prof. Alkmin Akyruta, electrical and computer engineering; and Prof. Ken Gosec, work environment. Absent from the photo are Prof. Susan Braumhut, biological sciences, and Prof. Kenneth Marx, chemistry.

Students Hope to ‘Search and Rescue’ First Place at IEEE Conference

Graduate students Michael Baker, Robert Casey and Brenden Keyes teamed up and wrote a paper that was chosen as a finalist for the best student paper for the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics to be held in The Netherlands this month. The three were awarded 250 Euros for their work. Only five out of 130 submissions were selected as finalists and their authors invited to The Netherlands. The students will present their paper at the conference for a chance to earn another 250 Euros and a plaque.

They started this project in a directed study under the guidance of Asst. Prof. Holly Yanco, computer science. This dynamic team composed a paper, titled “Improved Interfaces for Human-Robot Interaction in Urban Search and Rescue,” which describes a user interface that makes it easier to interact with a remote robot to perform urban search and rescue.

“I am obviously very proud of my students. I’m telling everyone!” says Yanco.
EPA Awards $100K Environmental Justice Grant to CFWC and Partners

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will be offered on recycling in hopes of reducing solid waste disposal, which is becoming increasingly harmful to the health of the residents.

Prof. Linda Silka, director of the Center for Family, Work and Community, was part of the team that accepted the ceremonial check at the EPA’s announcement ceremony.

\[ This is about justice and it’s about partnership, \]

she said. “This is a grant that says to all of us, ‘Make the city a better place to live by working together.’”

The goal is for residents to experience improved air quality and a decrease in difficulties associated with asthma.

“EPA’s environmental justice grants ensure that residents of New England all receive equal protection from environmental hazards,” said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of the EPA’s New England Office.

With a clear focus, and the funding to help residents learn the steps necessary to address the problems of indoor air quality and pollution, the partnership will work to protect the community from environmental hazards.

-KP

Mexico Must Be More ‘Producer Oriented’ to Compete Globally, Says Tilly

Mexico, says Prof. Chris Tilly, is too consumer oriented and not sufficiently producer oriented, and it must build up its productive capacity to compete in a global economy.

The RESD faculty member spent seven months studying retail jobs and employment in Mexico earlier this year on a Fulbright Fellowship.

While living in the centrally located city of Morelia, he traveled to Mexico City and elsewhere, interviewing retail managers, workers and others “to see what jobs were like and learn how things were changing.”

One thing he noted was the marked increase in the number of street vendors—people who set up tables and sell all manner of products, such as fresh meat and produce. A few make decent wages at these jobs but most do not. And they lack a minimum wage, social security and other benefits.

Employees in retail stores make out a little better. They earn the equivalent of about $2 a day and enjoy benefits mandated by law—social security, health care and some vacation time.

“It’s a job,” says Tilly, “but not a great job.”

Meanwhile, he continues, manufacturing jobs are shrinking, as are white-collar jobs in industries like banking.

According to Tilly, Mexico has pursued a free trade model for some three decades but it hasn’t built up enough sectors to guarantee success in the world market.

One of its three sources of income from outside the country is the export of assembly manufacturing—such as the sewing of pre-cut clothing, or the assembly of auto parts. (The other two are oil exports and the export of people, who send back money to support families.)

“In general, the Mexican model is too consumer oriented and not sufficiently producer oriented,” Tilly says.

“For Mexico to be successful in the long run, they’ve got to move toward more innovation in manufacturing. And they also have to prioritize agriculture.”

“To compete in a global economy they have to build up their productive capacity because if you help the consumer at the expense of the producer, eventually you’re not going to be producing anything.”

-JMC

GearUp Does SAT Prep

continued from page 1

‘Green Chemistry’ at Lowell—New Approach to Science, New Academic Frontier

here from Boston, Chemistry Prof. Sukant Tripathy, who died in 2000, worked with the Center for more than a year before his death. The first Green Chemistry Conference, says Warner, was dedicated to his memory.

The UMass Lowell program remains in a fledgling stage. While 12 UMass Boston students have transferred here to continue it under Warner’s guidance—in addition to the students who started here new—the details, he says, have yet to be finalized.

“We call it a center? A major? A program? I’m not sure, we haven’t determined that yet. My vision, though, is that it won’t be a degree program, but rather a collaboration between the School of Health and Environment and the various [related] departments—Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Work Environment, Psychology. The idea is that a student in one of these can take a course in, say, toxicology or environmental law and policy that will supplement the work he or she is already doing. The idea is to create a multidisciplinary student body—but one that understands and can anticipate the effect of industry and innovation on the environment. ‘Multidisciplinary’—that’s the key word in all this.”

The target date for the program’s kick-off, says Warner, is the start of the February semester, though he concedes that may be wishful thinking.

“We’re hoping we can put all the parts together by then, but that’s a lot easier to say than to do.”

-GD
Tripathy Fellows Honored for Research

In its second year, the Tripathy Fellowship was awarded to two doctoral students, Bon-Cheol Ku and Xiaodong Wu, for outstanding research in the areas of materials science and polymer science. The two won research stipends for this past summer and additional travel funds to participate in national meetings during the academic year. Both are in the Chemistry Department, polymer science program.

The fellowship is awarded in memory of the late Sukant Tripathy, University Professor and a former provost. He was an internationally recognized leader in the materials sciences, a dynamic research collaborator, and founder and director of the Center for Advanced Materials.

“It is an honor to have the fellowship in memory of Dr. Tripathy,” said Ku. “A lot of things he did inspired me to do hard work.” Ku expects to continue his research in a post-doctoral position. Wu also said he was “greatly honored to do this work.” Wu will take a post-doctoral position at Iowa State University.

Graduate students Bon-Cheol Ku and Xiaodong Wu, second and fourth from left, are the 2004 Tripathy Fellows. The fellowship supports a summer of research to complete doctoral research in materials and polymer sciences. With them are members of the fellowship award committee, from left, Chemistry Prof. Daniel Sandman, Physics Prof. Jayant Kumar, and Susan Thompson Tripathy.

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Calendar of Events

Monday, Nov. 8

Wednesday, Nov. 10
Lecture, Physics Fall Colloquium, “Left Handed Light,” by Prof. Srinivas Sridhar, Northeastern University, 3:30 p.m., Olney 218, UML North. For more information, call (978) 934-3760.

Friday, Nov. 12
Hockey, vs. Colgate University, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Saturday, Nov. 13
Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “Retirement Seminar,” 2 p.m., Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul.Marion@uml.edu.

Monday, Nov. 15
Seminar, CIC/RESD Fall Seminar Series, “Offshore Outsourcing of Technology Jobs: Implications and Policy Responses,” by Rev. Dave Malone, 2 p.m., Elliot Church, 273 Summer St., Lowell. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul.Marion@uml.edu.

Diversity Celebrated With Music

As part of a “Culture Shock” festival celebrating the diversity of the campus, the reggae band Jah Spirit performed classic Jamaican music for an audience on UML South.

Promotions Appointments

Promotions
Kerry Donohue, associate registrar in Academic Services, from coordinator of Student Services.
Robert Langlois, maintenance specialist I in Residence Life, from skilled laborer.
Michael J. Laurin, maintenance specialist I in Residence Life, from skilled laborer.

Appointments
Kathryn Hunt, administration specialist in Continuing Studies and Corporate Education.
Mark G. Lukitch, manager of utilities and energy in Physical Plant.
Roland J. Doucette, electrician in Physical Plant.
Jemilee Montanez, assistant to the associate vice chancellor in Academic Services.
Joseph S. Borodawka, police officer in the University Police Department.
Jay A. DeFrank, assistant director of graduate school admissions in the Graduate School.
Alexander G. Gee, postdoctoral research associate in Computer Science/Bioinformatics.
Melissa Coffin, project associate in Research Administration.
Susan Winning, labor extension coordinator in Research Administration.
Constance Crooker, communications dispatcher in the University Police Department.
Christos Protonotarios, administrative assistant in Administration and Finance.

Paula A. Etheridge, communications dispatcher in the University Police Department.
Roger D. Hall, technical support engineer in Facilities.
Rodrig E. Stubbis, nurse practitioner in Student Health Services.
Victoria Drazoulakos, assistant to the vice chancellor in Facilities.
Kareem Abu-Zahra, Web application developer in Communications and Marketing.
Brooke Crossman, coordinator of honors and advising services in the Centers for Learning.
Arlene Huard, administrative assistant in Administration and Finance.
Rajeev K. Menon, supervisor of technical services in the College of Engineering.
Everett D. Colby, electrician in Physical Plant.
Ocan Acosta, Elkin Caro, Edward Casey, James Cronin, Timothy Deignan, Melissa Doubleday, Christina Dwyer, Timothy Gilday, Chi-Jung Hsu, Samuel Jordan, Maria Lopez, Albert Rocheleau, Meghan Rourke, Francis Scanlon, Joseph Raymond, Oscar Riveia and Stephen Swett, maintainers in Physical Plant.
Joyce Higgins, Mark Sheehan and Paul St. Onge, maintainers in Residence Life.
Robert J. Stack, sergeant in the University Police Department.
Therese O’Donnell, marketing coordinator in Work Environment.
Sharon A. Cole, nurse practitioner in Student Health Services.
Aliya J. Cox, assistant women’s basketball coach.
**One Alum's Story: He Came Home, and Gave Back**

In the late 1970s, when now Vice Chancellor Fred Sperounis was still a young professor of sociology at U Lowell, he had a student, a native of Lawrence, who impressed him more than most.

“He was clearly gifted,” Sperounis remembers. “But it was more than that. He was the sort of person—you just knew he was going to land in an interesting place.”

Maybe the most interesting thing about the place Bill Traynor has landed is that it is the same place—the city of Lawrence—where he began Which, if you were anyone but Bill Traynor, might be the last place in the world to which you’d want to return.

Lawrence is a gritty, hardscrabble mill city that has been struggling for respectability at least since Bill Traynor was born. He grew up there, the son of a housepainter (he was briefly one himself) who knew firsthand from the earliest age the hardships of working families and the endless, sapping anomie of life in a place that has been struggling to find its place in the world to which you can comfortably return.

For five years, from 1984 to 1989, he taught social service and field placement as a sociologist adjunct at U Lowell.

In 1992, with his wife, Debra Fox, Traynor created Neighborhood Partners, a training and consulting group that would go on to advise, assist or help finance more than 200 urban community-development initiatives nationwide. Seven years later, partly as a result of the success of that work, he was awarded a Loeb fellowship in design from Harvard, a year-long course of independent study that would enable him to further his training.

During that year in Cambridge—1998-99—he met three MIT graduate students who shared his interest in grassroots neighborhood work; the four launched a redevelopment project, Lawrence Community Workshops (LCW), that would bring Bill Traynor back, full-circle, to the city of his youth.

“He took his reputation, his credit—all that he’d learned, all his resources—and he brought it all back to Lawrence,” says Fred Sperounis today. “It takes real character to do that, real courage. He could have gone anywhere.”

It has been five years. LCW, which began with a staff of one and a negative bank balance, has grown to a force with a paid staff of 20 and $1 million in the bank—most of it from private donations. But that is only the surface of things. More than 200 children, and 150 adults, have been enrolled in learning programs; $12 million has been invested in the city of Lawrence—25 buildings and two playgrounds, with more schools closing every month. Savings accounts have been opened, with every dollar matched; home-buyer programs are being initiated for those who have never owned a home.

“It’s a broad revitalization effort,” says Bill Traynor. “We’re rebuilding neighborhoods, creating social networks, going after affordable housing, rebuilding family assets, helping folks put money in the banks. We try to do whatever needs to be done.”

“He’s done a lot for a lot of people, for a long time now,” says Fred Sperounis of his old student.

“He didn’t have to do any of it, but he has. He could have burned out a long time ago, but he hasn’t. Those kinds of people are rare.” —GD

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**Najarian Lends an Ear to Deaf Women**

Taking on the challenge of communicating with deaf women was something that Asst. Sociology Prof. Cheryl Najarian welcomed with open arms. As part of a three-year research project that she recently completed, Najarian interviewed 10 deaf women from New York and Boston, collecting data on their life histories and struggles.

Najarian, who is one of the new faculty associates in the Center for Women and Work (CWW), focused on identifying the ways in which deaf women negotiate education, mothering and paid work. Growing up with a brother who was deaf, Najarian learned sign language. That made it possible for her to communicate with the women in her study.

“I wanted to understand how they negotiated their identities,” says Najarian, who found that eight of the 10 women left their jobs in the hearing work environment.

“Women and Work” focused on identifying the ways in which deaf women negotiate education, mothering and paid work outside their linguistic community.

*Asst. Prof. Cheryl Najarian of the Sociology Department recently completed her research on 10 deaf women in New York and Boston in an effort to understand how they negotiate education, mothering and paid work outside their linguistic community.*

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**Nursing Professor Recognized for Public Service**

Nursing Department Prof. Stephanie Chalupka was selected as a recipient of this year’s President’s Award in Public Service. Chalupka was one of five faculty selected from across the University of Massachusetts system for this award.

“This is in recognition of [her] service as a public health nurse,” says UMass President Jack Wilson. “[Her] personal efforts, combined with [her] influence on future nurses as director of Lowell’s undergraduate nursing program, have already had great impact on the community and beyond.”

Chalupka’s work emphasizes environmental health issues and the health of children and families. Her community activities range from training local firefighters in cardiac life support to serving on the Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee of the EPA. She is the principal co-investigator in the Healthy Homes project which has benefited more than 20 organizations and 1,000 families by identifying home hazards that can damage children’s developing bodies.

“I can’t believe it,” says Chalupka of her recent honor.

*As Prof. Stephanie Chalupka*

“There are so many people at this University doing so much good work for the community at large, it’s just chance that the work I have done got selected. It’s really a reflection of what UML is doing, I love being a part of what this place does. I’m a believer.”

Dr. Chalupka’s award will be presented in conjunction with a meeting of the Board of Trustees’ Committee on Academic and Student Affairs on the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 19, at the President’s Office in Boston.

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October 12, 2004

www.uml.edu/shuttle
Gerson Book to Chronicle Latinos in Lowell

Will veteran Miguel Morales spent his final few months in the Army recovering at Fort Devens from wounds suffered in the French Alps. After his discharge, he used the GI Bill to earn a music degree and settled in Lowell. There, he founded The Chico Combo, a musical group that played throughout the Merrimack Valley for decades. Thus began the presence of a Latino community in Lowell.

Prof. Jeffrey Gerson, political science, has taken on the task of writing a book chronicling the history of Lowell’s Latino population, estimated to have grown to more than 10,000 since Morales first settled here. “I’m building the book chapter by chapter,” says Gerson. He’ll look at the challenge faced by Latinos, especially its large Puerto Rican contingent, in being accepted as an immigrant group, and examine contributions this population has made to the city’s politics, social life and economics.

Among the more significant events in this culturally rich community is the annual Puerto Rican Festival held on North Common in July. Gerson has spent the past two festivals recording interviews and taking photographs capturing the day which is filled with traditional costumes and music from throughout Latin America.

According to Gerson, the 24-year-old festival is significant for several reasons. First it is the longest continuously held Puerto Rican event in the city and its committee the oldest such organization.

Richardson Wins Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award

Charles Richardson, director of the Labor Extension Program at UMass Lowell, received the 2004 Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award along with fellow members of Military Families Speak Out at a formal ceremony on Sept. 30 in Washington D.C. The Institute for Policy Studies honors fallen colleagues in the human rights movement while celebrating new heroes from the United States and elsewhere in the Americas with the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Awards. “My son has been a Marine since before the war in Iraq,” says Richardson. “We formed Military Families Speak Out to educate others about how wrong this war is.”

Military Families Speak Out emerged in November 2002 as a forceful voice opposing the Iraq war. The organization now comprises more than 1,700 families across the United States with loved ones in the military. In addition to their continuing activism against the war, Military Families provide support for families who have lost loved ones.

McCafferty Named Media Relations Director

It’s fair to say Patricia McCafferty knows UMass Lowell inside and out. As a journalist, she reported on campus activities and life in Greater Lowell when she wrote for the Lowell Sun in the 1980s. Later, she joined the UML communications staff on a part-time basis, contributing stories to the magazine and newsletter and acting as a liaison to the area’s print and electronic media outlets. She had also been a student at Lowell, before transferring to UMass Amherst to complete her bachelor’s degree. This fall she was named Director of Media Relations in the Communications and Marketing Office. “I’m enjoying directing our efforts to help promote the University, its programs, and people to the region and beyond,” McCafferty says. “We have a talented and experienced team in Communications and Marketing, and I am fortunate to be part of it.”

McCafferty’s roots on campus include a long connection based on the career of her mother, Bernadette Galvin, who for 20 years served as secretary for Dr. Mary McGauvran, former dean and vice president in the student affairs area.

From 1993 to 1998, McCafferty was communications director and later district director for U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan. As district director, she supervised operations in Lowell, Lawrence and Marlboro, and worked with the congresswoman’s Washington D.C., office on communications, legislative issues, constituent services, and events, including visits to the district by First Lady Hilary Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Chancellor Makes Promotion and Tenure Recommendations

Chancellor William T. Hogan has announced his final 2004 promotion and tenure recommendations. Recommended for promotion to full professor were Stephanie Chalupka of the School of Health and Environment, Kavitha Chandra of the College of Engineering, Anita Greenwood of the Graduate School of Education, Luvi Motiwalla of the College of Management, and Marvin Stick of the College of Arts and Sciences/Math and Science.

Recommended for promotion to full professor with tenure were Cary Handelman of the School of Health and Environment and Jay Simmons of the Graduate School of Education.

Recommended for promotion to associate professor with tenure were Peter Avitable of the College of Engineering, Caryl Bell, Daniel Egan, Monica Galizzi, Jeannie Judge, Michael Pierson, John Shirley and Brandon Welsh, all of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and Juliette Rooney-Varga of the College of Arts and Sciences/Math and Science.

Former Lowell Tech President Everett Olsen Dies at 87

Everett V. Olsen, who was president of Lowell Tech in 1974 when the school merged with Lowell State College to become the University of Lowell, died at Lowell General Hospital last month at the age of 87.

“He as a born leader who was Trumanesque in his ability to connect with students, faculty, trustees, and even maintenance people and secretaries,” says Ernest P. James, a retired professor of chemistry. “He always had a smile on his face and an open door.”

Born in Chelmsford, Mr. Olsen attended Lowell Textile Institute and Bradshaw Business School and even maintained people and secretaries, his ability to connect with students, faculty, trustees, and even maintenance people and secretaries,” says Ernest P. James, a retired professor of chemistry. “He always had a smile on his face and an open door.”

Born in Chelmsford, Mr. Olsen attended Lowell Textile Institute and Bradshaw Business School and operations in Lowell, Lawrence and Marlboro, and worked with the congresswoman’s Washington D.C., office on communications, legislative issues, constituent services, and events, including visits to the district by First Lady Hilary Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

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Scollin Helps Seniors Surf the Net

In an effort to integrate technology and computers into the everyday lives of seniors, Prof. Patrick Scollin is educating residents of a long-term care facility on how to use e-mail and search the Internet.

“My mother had been a resident here and since her passing I’ve continued to stay involved. After all of the requests from the residents, I knew that we had to do something with computers,” says Scollin, the health and clinical sciences assistant professor who developed the Senior Computer Camp at D’Youville Senior Care Center in August.

Prof. Robert Nicolosi, health and clinical sciences, donated a new computer, and since then the residents have been exchanging e-mails with friends and family all over the world.

Gertrude Gleason, 87, who participates in one-on-one weekly tutorials with Scollin, sends e-mail to her niece in Germany and has tutorials with Scollin, sends e-mail over the world.

The camp has also joined forces with a Girls Inc. after-school program to create pen pals for the residents. The girls and the residents communicate through e-mail and will eventually get the opportunity to meet one another.

Angela Boucher, director of activities at D’Youville, says “We figure that in 20 years every resident will have their own cell phone and personal computing device. We are just trying to slowly integrate the technology into our facility.”

The interest among residents has grown and they are able to sign up anytime during the week to check their e-mail and visit their favorite Internet sites. Scollin continues to donate his time to the residents and says he hopes to integrate the students from Service Learning courses into the program as it develops.

Hallsmith Outlines a Systematic Approach to Sustainability

Prof. Phil Moss, left, and Bill Mass, both of RISSO, welcomed Gwendolyn Hallsmith, the executive director of Global Community Initiatives in Burlington, Vt. Hallsmith, who spoke before the Center for Industrial Competitiveness Fall Seminar Series, explained how a systems approach can be used to uncover the keys to creating sustainable cities. Her appearance was co-sponsored by the Lowell Center for Sustainable Development.

The newly-formed Mass Technology Transfer Center (MTTC), founded to foster the transference of technology from the state’s universities to Massachusetts industry, has named a new director, Dr. Abigail Barrow, who has been hired by UMass from the University of California San Diego.

The MTTC, a new state-wide center to be operated by UMass, is funded under the state’s Science and Technology legislation and is intended to boost the technology commerce that flows between the state’s private and public universities and its industries, both new and established.

Barrow, who had served in a similar post at UCSD, will begin her new duties by visiting each of the UMass campuses to get input into what is to be the design and focus of the MTTC.


Prof. Robert Nicolosi was nominated for the Outstanding Paper Presentation in recognition of the excellence of his presentation at the 95th American Oil Chemistry Society (AOCS) annual meeting and expo in Cincinnati this past summer.

Engineering Dean John Ting delivered the keynote talk at a panel session of an engineering workshop hosted last month by the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Ting discussed “Perspectives on Incorporating Service Learning in a College of Engineering” at the workshop devoted to “Integrating Appropriate-Sustainable Technology and Service-Learning in Engineering Education.”

The panel facilitator was Emeritus Professor William Muoeller of the UMass Lowell Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

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Wednesday, Oct. 13
Concert, singer/songwriter Jenny Boylan, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., South Quad. For more information, contact (978) 934-2948 or Susan_Lemire@uml.edu.
Open Meeting Hours, meet with Chancellor William T. Hogan, staff: 2 to 3 p.m., students: 3 to 4 p.m., faculty: 4 to 5 p.m., Trustees Room, Cumnock Hall, UML North. For information, call (978) 934-2201.
Exhibit Reception, Alumni Exhibit featuring Patrick Poltrock, Saturday, 2001, exhibit runs through Nov. 10, 2 to 4 p.m., Dungan Gallery, UML South. For more information, call (978) 934-3491.
Lecture, Physics Fall Colloquium, “Experimental Gravi-tation: Gravity Probe B and Other Adventures,” Prof. Rainer Weiss, MIT, 3:30 p.m., Olney 218, UML North. For more information, call (978) 934-3750.

Thursday, Oct. 14
Film, In Women’s Hands, Rachel Field’s award-winning documentary explores the critical role women played in shaping recent Chilean history, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., O’Leary 222. For more information, contact (978) 934-4199 or Diana_Archibald@uml.edu.
Discussion, Jenny Boylan, author of She’s Not There: a Life in Two Genders, will read from her book and discuss gender and diversity issues, 2:30 to 4 p.m., O’Leary 222. For more information, contact (978) 934-2948 or Susan_Lemire@uml.edu.
Talk, “Connecting High School Instruction and College Performance in Physics: A Project FICSS Report,” Dr. Phillip Sadler, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 3 p.m., Olney 218. For more information, call (978) 934-3765.
Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “Between the Shadow and the Light: An Exploration of Victorian Secularism,” by author Dee Morris, 7 p.m., Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

Saturday, Oct. 16
Women’s Soccer, vs. St. Anselm College, noon, Cushing Field. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.
Men’s Soccer, vs. American International College, 3 p.m., Cushing Field. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Sunday, Oct. 17
Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “Tamburitzans,” a Duquesne University folk production, 2 p.m., Lowell High School Auditorium, 50 Fr. Morissette Blvd. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

Monday, Oct. 18

Tuesday, Oct. 19
Hockey, vs. Boston College, 7 p.m., Tsongas Arena. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Wednesday, Oct. 20
Lecture, Physics Fall Colloquium, “Impedance of Skele-tal Muscle,” by Prof. Ronald Aaron, Northeastern University, 3:30 p.m., Olney 218. For more information, call (978) 934-3750.

Saturday, Oct. 23
Volleyball, vs. Queen’s College, 1 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.
Volleyball, vs. Bryant College, 7 p.m., Cushing Field. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Sunday, Oct. 24
Open House, Tsongas Arena, 9 a.m., for more information, visit http://www.uml.edu/admis-sions/openhouse/.
Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “Health on the Corpo-ration,” Dr. Janet Greenlees discusses health and working conditions of cotton weavers in Mass., 2 p.m., Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 256 Market St. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

Monday, Oct. 25
Seminar, “Medical Plastics Suppliers: How to Make It Work,” Mark Saab, president, Advanced Polymers Corpora-tion, Salem, N.H., 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Ball 214. For more information, call (978) 934-3429.
Field Hockey, vs. Bentley College, 7 p.m., Cushing Field. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Tuesday, Oct. 26
Volleyball, vs. Stonehill College, 7 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Wednesday, Oct. 27
Lecture, Physics Fall Colloquium, “Surface Science from the Nanometer to the Kilometer Range,” by Prof. Theodore Madye, Rutgers University, 3:30 p.m., Olney 218. For more information, call (978) 934-3570.

Sunday, Oct. 31
Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “The Erie Canal,” by Fran Reidelberger, travel the Erie Canal system from New York City to Buffalo, 2 p.m., Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 256 Market St. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

Monday, Nov. 1
Volleyball, vs. College of St. Rose, 1 p.m., Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK.

Saturday, Nov. 6
Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “2004 Presidential Elections,” by Brian Mooney, 2 p.m., Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.

Sunday, Nov. 7
Volleyball, vs. LeMoyne College 12:00 p.m, Costello Gym. For more information, call (978) 934-HAWK Lecture, Parker Lecture Series, “New England Coastal Mansions,” by Marian Butts, 2 p.m., Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 256 Market St. For information or a schedule, contact (978) 934-3107 or Paul_Marion@uml.edu.
Performance, Discovery Series, “Lazer Vaudeville,” combines high-tech laser magic with the traditional arts of vaudeville, shows at 2 and 4 p.m., great for all ages, tick-ets $10, 2 p.m., Durgin Concert Hall, UML South. For more information or tick-ets, call (978) 934-4444.

Continued on Page 6