UMASS LOWELL

2026



Faculty Symposium

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18
2-7:30 P.M.



2026

Faculty Symposium

2025-2028 DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Ardeth Thawnghmung, *Professor, Political Science*

2026 MANNING PRIZE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Sumudu Lewis, *Clinical Professor, School of Education*

2026 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
Padmini Chandrasekaran, *Associate Teaching Professor, Art & Design, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching
Samantha Reig, *Assistant Professor, Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Award for Excellence in Online Teaching
José-Mauricio Geleilate, *Associate Professor, Management, Manning School of Business*

Award for Excellence in Teaching for Adjunct Faculty
Paul King, *Senior Adjunct Faculty, Political Science, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Award for Excellence in Mentoring Students
Raj Kumar Gondle, *Associate Teaching Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Faculty
Mignon Duffy, *Professor, Sociology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Award for Excellence in Community Engagement
Michael Millner, *Associate Professor, English, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Steven Tello, *Professor, Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Manning School of Business*

Award for Excellence in Research - Early Career Faculty
Anhar Bhuiyan, *Assistant Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Francis College of Enigneering*

Sarah Merrill, *Assistant Professor, Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Award for Excellence in Research - Advanced Career Faculty
Christopher Niezrecki, *Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Hong Yu, *Professor, Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

PRESTIGIOUS EARLY CAREER AWARDS *NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER AWARDS*

Hadi Amiri, *Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Jasmina Burek, *Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Teresa Lee, *Biological Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AWARDEES

Jose Godinez, *Associate Professor, Management, 2026-2027, Universidad de Murcia in Murcia, Spain*

Shakil Quayes, *Professor, Economics, 2026-2027, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh*

2026 PROMOTION AND TENURE

Applicants Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor with Tenure

Minhyung Joo, *Political Science, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Joshua Long, *School of Criminology & Justice Studies, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Sashank Narain, *Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Chandra Waring, *Sociology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Peter Bender, *Physics & Applied Physics, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Rodrigo Castro Cornejo, *Political Science, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Daniel Glasscock, *Mathematics & Statistics, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Stephen Lam, *Chemical Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Christine Montecillo Leider, *School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Tamara Montag-Smit, *Management, Manning School of Business*

Joris Roos, *Mathematics & Statistics, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Jane Sancinito, *History, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Christopher Skinner, *Environmental, Earth, & Atmospheric Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Kristen Stern, *World Languages & Cultures, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Robai Werunga, *School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Applicants Promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor

Stephanie Block, *Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Abigail Chandler, *History, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Urmitapa Dutta, *Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Ingrid Hess, *Art & Design, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Fuqiang Liu, *Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Michael Obal, *Marketing, Entrepreneurship, & Innovation, Manning School of Business*

Nese Orbey, *Chemical Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Sheree Pagsuyoin, *Civil & Environmental Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Megan Papesh, *Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Peter Tashman, *Management, Manning School of Business*

Jinxiang Xi, *Biomedical Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Dongming Xie, *Chemical Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Yuan Zhang, *Solomont School of Nursing, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*

Applicant Promoted from Associate Clinical Professor to Full Clinical Professor

Sumudu Lewis, *School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Applicants Promoted from Associate Teaching Professor to Full Teaching Professor

Ramon Castillo, *Music, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Johanna Choo, *Biological Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Leslie Farris, *Chemistry, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Michael Geiger, *Electrical & Computer Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Milena Gueorguieva, *English, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Shaina Roy, *Biological Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Katherine Shrieves, *English, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Applicants Promoted from Assistant Teaching Professor to Associate Teaching Professor

James Daly, *Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Bhavna Gupta, *Chemistry, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Ramanpreet Kaur, *Physics & Applied Physics, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Carter Keough, *Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Akshay Kokil, *Plastics Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Frank Tredeau, *Electrical & Computer Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*

Janet Welby, *Music, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

FACULTY HIRES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

School of Criminology & Justice Studies

Myunghoon Roh, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

Economics

Kelly Hellman, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

History

Joshua Morrison, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

Music

Molly Joyce, *Assistant Professor*

Psychology

Brett Gelino, *Assistant Professor*

World Languages & Cultures
Jose Rodrigues, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

FRANCIS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Biomedical Engineering
Sydney Packard, *Visiting Professor*
Antonio Freitas dos Santos, *Visiting Professor*
Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
Andrea Vivaldi, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Matteo Forgione, *Visiting Lecturer*
Bradley Mingels, *Visiting Lecturer*
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Saifur Rahaman, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Chemical Engineering
Xinyan Wang, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Yang Cheng, *Assistant Professor*

KENNEDY COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences
Dane Christensen, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Wenjin Zhou, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Environmental, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
Kaitlyn Horisk, *Visiting Lecturer*
Mathematics & Statistics
Matthew Beyranevand, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Jiwon Park, *Assistant Professor*
Ke Huang, *Assistant Professor*
Guangming Jing, *Assistant Teaching Professor*

MANNING SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Management
Michael White, *Assistant Professor*
Management
Catherine Rymsha, *Assistant Teaching Professor*
Operations & Information Systems
Hua Ye, *Associate Professor & Endowed Chair*
Operations & Information Systems
Pranay Prateek, *Visiting Professor*
Operations & Information Systems
Bernardo Quiroga Gomez, *Professor & Endowed Chair*

ZUCKERBERG COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences
Hossam Hammouda, *Assistant Professor*
Public Health
Emily Wilson, *Clinical Assistant Professor*
Solomont School of Nursing
Robynn Petrain, *Visiting Instructor*

HONORS COLLEGE
Emma Peterson, *Visiting Lecturer*

2026 DEPARTMENT TEACHING AWARDS

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Art & Design
Jennifer Cadero-Gillette
School of Criminology & Justice Studies
Yahayra Michel
Emily Greene-Colozzi
Economics
Chenyang Xu
English
Maggie Dietz
Maureen Stanton
History
Patrick Young
Music
Alan Williams
Philosophy
Aaron Shepherd
Political Science
Vanessa Gray
Psychology
Ashleigh Hillier
Anita Li
Sociology
Chandra Waring
World Languages & Cultures
Fabiana Viglione
School of Education
Colleen Tapley

FRANCIS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
Biomedical Engineering
Adam St. Jean
Chemical & Energy Engineering
Caitlin Morris

Civil & Environmental Engineering
Edward Hajduk
Raj Kumar Gondle
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Lewis Tseng
Oshadha Ranasingha
Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
Ertan Agar
Carter Keough
Plastics Engineering
Stephen Johnston

KENNEDY COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
Biological Sciences
Nicolai Konow
Naomi Wernick-Pfaffmann
Chemistry
Suzanne Young
Jerome Delhommelle
Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences
David Adams
Sirong Lin
Environmental, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
Juliette Rooney-Varga
Mathematics & Statistics
Joris Roos
Erica Yankowskas
Physics & Applied Physics
Ofer Cohen
Cecil Joseph

MANNING SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Accounting
Jingrong (Karen) Lin
Finance
Tunde Kovacs
Management
Adam Roebuck
Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Yuerong (Cindy) Liu
Operations & Information Systems
Juheng (Julie) Zhang
Ju Myung (JM) Song

ZUCKERBERG COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences
Brent Shell
Renee Barrile
Solomont School of Nursing
Tanya Coutu
Yun-Ju Lai
Physical Therapy & Kinesiology
Yi-Ning (Winnie) Wu
Public Health
Cassandra Hua

FY25 EXPENDITURES — OVER $500,000

1. Guy DeMartinis, *Submillimeter Wave Technology Laboratory*
2. Hong Yu, *Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences*
3. Christopher Niezrecki, *Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*
4. Aboutaleb Ameli, *Plastics Engineering*
5. Stephen Lam, *Chemical Engineering*
6. James A. Sherwood, *Office of the Provost*
7. Seongkyu Yoon, *Chemical Engineering*
8. Ruairi O'Mahony, *Sustainability*
9. Ramaswamy Nagarajan, *Plastics Engineering*
10. Supriya Chakrabarti, *Physics and Applied Physics*
11. Natalia Palacios, *Public Health*
12. Steven F. Tello, *Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Innovation*
13. Hengyong Yu, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
14. Jonghan Kim, *Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences*
15. Yuyu Sun, *Chemistry*
16. Sheldon Xiaodong Zhang, *School of Criminology and Justice Studies*
17. David Turcotte, *Economics, Public Health*
18. Grace Wan-Ting Chen, *Plastics Engineering*
19. Alkim Akyurtlu, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
20. Leslie Wong, *Equity and Inclusion*
21. Suzanne Nobrega, *Biomedical Engineering*
22. Christopher Mendillo, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
23. Yuanchang Xie, *Civil & Environmental Engineering*
24. Chiara Ghezzi, *Biomedical Engineering*
25. Adam Norton, *Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences*
26. Dan Berlowitz, *Public Health*
27. Alireza Amirkhizi, *Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*

28. Margaret J. Sobkowicz Kline, *Plastics Engineering*
29. Wenjun Li, *Public Health*
30. Weiming Xia, *Biological Sciences*
31. Joey L. Mead, *Plastics Engineering*
32. Thomas Estabrook, *The New England Consortium*
33. Pradeep U. Kurup, *Civil & Environmental Engineering*
34. Michael Ross, *Chemistry*
35. Ivan Galkin, *Space Science Laboratory*
36. Jayant Kumar, *Physics and Applied Physics*
37. Robin Toof, *College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
38. Christopher Beaudoin, *Physics and Applied Physics*
39. Hualiang Zhang, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
40. David Kazmer, *Plastics Engineering*
41. Carol McDonough, *Economics*
42. Gulden Camci-Unal, *Chemical Engineering*
43. Alessandro Sabato, *Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*

BOOK AUTHORSHIPS

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Francis College of Engineering
Roberto Herrero, *Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Robert Malloy, *Plastics Engineering*

Kennedy College of Sciences
Jerome Delhommelle, *Chemistry*
Caroline Deranges, *Physics & Applied Physics*
Kenneth Levasseur, *Mathematics & Statistics*

College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Nicholas Evans, *Political Science*
Marie Frank, *Art & Design*
Christine Leider, *School of Education*
Christopher Linebarger, *School of Criminology & Justice Studies*
Hilary Lustick, *School of Education*
Bridget Marshall, *English*
Giulia Po DeLisle, *World Languages & Culture*
Maureen Stanton, *English*
Phitsamay Uy, *School of Education*
Sheldon Zhang, *School of Criminology & Justice Studies*

Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences
Heidi Fantasia, *Solomont School of Nursing*

PUBLICATIONS

(Recognitions by College)
January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Claire Lee, *School of Criminology and Justice Studies*
Sarah Merrill, *Psychology*
Jason Rydberg, *School of Criminology and Justice Studies*
Neil Shortland, *School of Criminology and Justice Studies*
Yan Wang, *Psychology*
Sheldon Zhang, *School of Criminology and Justice Studies*

Francis College of Engineering
Ertan Agar, *Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*
Margaret Sobkowicz Kline, *Plastics Engineering*
Seongkyu Yoon, *Chemical Engineering*
Hengyong Yu, *Electrical and Computer Engineering*
Tzu-Yang Yu, *Civil and Environmental Engineering*
Hualiang Zhang, *Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Kennedy College of Sciences
Nicolai Konow, *Biological Sciences*
Sashank Narain, *Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences*
Viktor Podolskiy, *Physics & Applied Physics*
James Reuther, *Chemistry*
Joris Roos, *Mathematics & Statistics*
Christopher Skinner, *Environmental, Earth, & Atmospheric Sciences*

Manning School of Business
William Johnson, *Finance*
Jingrong (Karen) Lin, *Accounting*
Kimberly Merriman, *Management*
Michael Obal, *Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Innovation*
Asil Oztekin, *Operations and Information Systems*

Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences
Dan Berlowitz, *Public Health*
Wenjun Li, *Public Health*
Kelsey Mangano, *Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences*
Sabrina Noel, *Public Health*
Natalia Palacios, *Public Health*

2026 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVMENTS IN CREATIVE WORKS

Pouya Afshar, Art & Design,
Unsettled Realities, Denver Art Museum

Matthew Azevedo, Music,
Juried installation at the International Computer Music Conference 2025 (Emerson College; Boston Public Garden); Shelemy Sound Lab Harvard residency performance

Shelley Barish, English,
Scenic design for Art, Her Portmanteau, Our Town, Primary Trust, and Ring of Fire

Maggie Dietz, English,
Six poems published including Someone Else (Plougshares); Sola Fide choral premieres composed by Gregory W. Brown featuring texts by Dietz

Andre Dubus III, English,
Ghost Dogs: On Killers and Kin (W.W. Norton); Chautauqua Prize longlist

Caitlin Foley, Art & Design,
Kaleidoscopic Machines, ICIDS 2025, Malta (juried)

Ingrid Hess, Art & Design,
Fragile & Resilient (curated, Azores); Notes on Nature (Belfast)

Christopher Lee, Music,
Sonata for Flute and Piano, juried premiere, College Music Society National Conference

Sandra Lim, English,
Eight poems published including The Court Hummed with Suitors (The Atlantic, April 2025); six invited readings, including at the Harry Ransom Center

Stephen Mishol, Art & Design,
Parallelo drawing exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Chile

Yuko Oda, Art & Design,
Learning with Trees (Rome); Migration (WGBH digital mural)

Misha Rabinovich, Art & Design,
Kaleidoscopic Machines, ICIDS 2025, Malta (juried)

Jonathan Richter, Music,
Choirmaster, Groton Hill Choral Artists with Vista Philharmonic Orchestra; three Lowell world premieres

Lanier Sammons, Music,
Due West (album; producer and engineer); vvaaccuumm (score composer)

John Shirley, Music,
Solo set of original multimedia music, Bleep Blorp Electroacoustic Music Festival

Maureen Stanton, English,
The Murmur of Everything Moving: A Memoir (Columbus State University Press); Donald L. Jordan Prize

Brandon Vaccaro, Music,
Mechanical Brass, and Incessant Pulses series (Mystery Cabal)

Kate Way, Art & Design,
Banned Together (documentary; six public screenings)

Ellen Wetmore, Art & Design,
FISSURA (Lisbon); Hal Bromm Gallery (New York, juried)

FY26 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

PI: David Cornell, *Associate Professor, Physical Therapy and Kinesiology, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*

Co-PI: Sabrina Noel, *Associate Professor, Public Health and Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*

Co-PI: Angela Consentino, *Graduate Research Assistant, Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences*

Project Title: Amplifying Asian Voices: Perspectives on Substance Use in Greater Lowell and Lawrence

PI: Christine Montecillo Leider, *Assistant Professor, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Co-PI: Stacy Szczesiul, *Associate Dean of Online Education, Accreditation & Licensing, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Co-PI: Phitsamay Uy, *Associate Professor, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Co-PI: Robai Werunga, *Associate Professor, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Co-PI: Colleen Tapley, *Assistant Teaching Professor, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Project Title: Introduction and Immersion to Multilingual Learner Education in the United States: A Pilot Study to Expand the Teacher Diversification Pipeline

FY26 INTERNAL SEED GRANT RECIPIENTS

PI: Stephanie Block, *Professor, Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Co-PI: Joseph Gonzales, *Associate Professor, Chair, Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Co-PI: Hannah Johnson, *Assistant Teaching Professor, Psychology, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Co-PI: Alice Newton, *Medical Director, Child Protection Program, Mass General Hospital*
Project Title: Accommodations & Resources for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse: A Stakeholder Survey

PI: Zeinab Hajjarian, *Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*
Co-PI: Chiara Ghezzi, *Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*
Project Title: Optical quantification of cervical viscoelastic signatures as an early mechano-biomarker of preterm birth

PI: Yuho Kim, *Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy and Kinesiology, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*
Co-PI: Soumita Das, *Professor, Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*
Project Title: Development of Patient-Derived Muscle Organoids to Model Skeletal Muscle Pathophysiology in Friedreich's Ataxia

PI: Mei-Yun Lin, *Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*
Co-PI: Ofer Cohen, *Associate Professor, Physics and Applied Physics, Kennedy College of Sciences*
Project Title: Characterizing the Space Weather Impact by Tracing Heavy Ions in the Terrestrial Environment

PI: Kimberly Merriman, *Professor, Management, Manning School of Business*
Co-PI: Michael Obal, *Professor, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation, Manning School of Business*
Co-PI: Teresa Gonzales, *Assistant Professor, Sociology, Loyola University Chicago*
Project Title: Soft Infrastructure and Informal Governance in Adaptive Reuse Organizational Systems: Emergence of Order Without Hierarchy

PI: Samantha Reig, *Assistant Professor, Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*
Co-PI: Jose Mauricio Galli Geleilate, *Associate Professor, Management, Manning School of Business*
Project Title: Examining the Effects of Bounded vs. Freeform AI Writing Support on Students' and Workers' Self-Perceptions and Perceptions of Peers
Award Amount: $15,000

FY26 RESEARCHERS AND SCHOLARS INVESTMENT (RSI) FUND AWARDS

PI: Nishant Agarwal, *Associate Professor, Physics and Applied Physics, Kennedy College of Sciences*
Project Title: Quantum probes of many-body correlations

PI: Elizabeth Altman, *Associate Professor, Management, Manning School of Business*
Project Title: Platform and Ecosystem-related Research Projects

PI: Nripojyoti Biswas, *Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Francis College of Engineering*
Project Title: Bridging Physics and Machine Learning for Erosion Resilience in Coastal Geotechnical Systems

PI: Joselyne Chenane, *Associate Professor, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: Media Portrayal of the Police in Kenya During the 2024/2025 Gen-Z Protest: A Content Analysis

PI: Nicholas Evans, *Associate Professor, Political Science, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: Bridge Funding for Evans Labs fellows while awaiting supplemental funding

PI: Sabrina Noel Feldeisen, *Associate Professor, Public Health, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*
Project Title: Urinary Titin to Assess Risk of Sarcopenia and Muscle Damage in Patients Using GLP-1

PI: Sarah Gignoux-Wolfsohn, *Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*
Project Title: Identifying beneficial microbes associated with coral reproduction for probiotic development

PI: John Kaag, *Professor, Philosophy, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: AI and the Psychological Fallout of Modernity

PI: Claire Lee, *Associate Professor, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Co-PI: Joselyne Chenane, *Associate Professor, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: From Social Media to the Streets: A Comparative Analysis of Gen-Z Protests and Digital Mobilization

PI: Alison McConwell, *Assistant Professor, Philosophy, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: Evaluating Evolutionary Biology's Social Impact

PI: Keith Mitchell, *Associate Professor, English, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: Standing on the Frontlines: African American Literature, Film, and the Afterlives of the Vietnam War

PI: Yuko Oda, *Associate Professor, Art and Design, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: Catalogue as Catalyst: A Professional Exhibition Catalogue for National and International Curator and Museum Outreach

PI: Peter Tashman, *Professor, Management, Manning School of Business*
Project Title: Third-Party Assurance and selective corporate environmental disclosures

PI: Lewis Tseng, *Associate Professor, ECE, Francis College of Engineering*
Co-PI: Hsien-Yuan Hsu, *Associate Professor, School of Education, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: River Hawk Resume Quest: LLM-based Gamification for Responsible Resume Development

PI: Jenna Vinson, *Associate Professor, English, College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*
Project Title: Indexing a Scholarly Book about the Rhetoric of Vasectomy

PI: Indrayani Waghmare, *Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences, Kennedy College of Sciences*
Project Title: Investigating role of membrane fluidity on extracellular Wnt distribution

PI: Juheng Zhang, *Professor, Operation and Information Systems, Manning School of Business*
Project Title: Combating AI-Generated Misinformation in Fintech ecosystems

FY26 UML-FGCU COLLABORATIVE SEED GRANT

PI: Cindy Chen, Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences, UMass Lowell
Co-PI: Leandro de Castro, FGCU
Project Title: Data-Driven Plastic Waste Forecasting and Intervention Prioritization: A Proof-of-Concept Decision Tool

PI: Christopher Niezrecki, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, UMass Lowell
Co-PI: Osman Karatum, FGCU
Co-PI: John Hunter Mack, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, UMass Lowell
Co-PI: Lauren Redfern, FGCU
Co-PI: Juan Pablo Trelles, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, UMass Lowell
Project Title: Creating Collaborations Between UML and FGCU in Energy and Sustainability

PI: Ali Ozdagli, FGCU
Co-PI: Alessandro Sabato, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, UMass Lowell
Project Title: Exploring the Complex Design Spaces: AI-Driven Design Generation and Optimization Using Real-Time Hybrid Simulation (AID-RTHS)

PI: Christopher Skinner, Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UMass Lowell
Co-PI: Mathew Barlow, Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UMass Lowell
Co-PI: Christopher Daly, FGCU
Project Title: Understanding the underlying physical drivers of future changes in compound flood risk

PI: Juheng (Julie) Zhang, Operations and Information Systems, UMass Lowell
Co-PI: Chengyi Qu, FGCU
Project Title: AI-Driven Multimodal Security Framework for the Age of Deepfakes: Safeguarding Financial Integrity and Smart-Home Safety

CAREER CONNECTED EXPERIENCE MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

Diana Archibald, *Professor, English*
Adrienne Atterberry, *Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology*
David Claudio, *Associate Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*
Theresa DeFranzo, *Senior Adjunct, English*
Romy Guthier, *Assistant Professor, Physics & Applied Physics*
Thomas Hersey, *Senior Adjunct, English*
Karen Jinggrong Lin, *Professor, Accounting*
Richard Keating, *Senior Adjunct, English*
Sirong Lin, *Associate Teaching Professor, Miner School of Computer and Information Sciences*
Elissa Magnant, *Associate Teaching Professor, Management*
Alison McConwell, *Assistant Professor, Philosophy*
Kevin Petersen, *Teaching Professor, English*
Pavel Romaniko, *Associate Teaching Professor, Digital Media*
Danielle Santos, *Senior Adjunct Faculty, English*
Natalie Steinel, *Associate Professor, Biological Sciences*
Wego Wang, *Senior Adjunct Faculty, Engineering Technology*

FY26 COMMERCIALIZATION AND NEW VENTURE ACHIEVEMENTS

Two or More Invention Disclosures
Ertan Agar, *Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*
Alkim Akyurtlu, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Amir Ameli, *Plastics Engineering*
Anhar Bhuiyan, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Matthew Gage, *Chemistry*
Suri Iyer, *Chemistry*
Sanjeev Manohar, *Chemical Engineering*
Joey Mead, *Plastics Engineering*
Ramaswamy Nagarajan, *Plastics Engineering*
Michael Ross, *Chemistry*
Seongkyu Yoon, *Chemical Engineering*
Maryum Zaidi, *Solomont School of Nursing*
Jinde Zhang, *Plastics Engineering*

Patents Issued
Alkim Akyurtlu, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Craig Armiento, *Electrical & Computer Engineering*
Gulden Camci-Unal, *Chemical Engineering*
Long Chiang, *Chemistry*
Archana Kamal, *Physics and Applied Physics*
David Kazmer, *Plastics Engineering*
Joey Mead, *Plastics Engineering*
Ramaswamy Nagarajan, *Plastics Engineering*
Anna Yaroslavsky, *Physics and Applied Physics*
Seongkyu Yoon, *Chemical Engineering*

Commercialization Grants
Amir Ameli, *Plastics Engineering*
Jinde Zhang, *Plastics Engineering*

Technology Licensed
Weile Yan, *Civil and Environmental Engineering*
Seongkyu Yoon, *Chemical Engineering*

2026 CORE RESEARCH FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dhimiter Bello, *Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor, Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences*
Paul Bryce, *Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Professor, Kennedy College of Sciences*

Kim Holloway, *Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Acceleration, Office of Research and Innovation*
Sharon-Anne Mapes, *Assistant Vice Chancellor for Financial Services and Controller, Controller's Office*
Anjana Ray, *Director of Laboratory Systems, Facilities Management*
Susan Roberts, *Dean, Francis College of Engineering*
Jason Sidman, *Executive Director, Core Research Facilities*

RESEARCH INTEGRITY COMMITTEES

Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Wilson Palacios, *Criminology and Justice Studies – Committee Chair*
MinJeong Kim, *School of Education*
Paulette Renault-Caragianes, *Student Affairs*
Spencer Ross, *Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Innovation*
Jiabin Shen, *Psychology*
Emily Sousa, *Office of Research Integrity*

Conflict of Interest (COI) Committee
Sanjeev Manohar, *Chemical Engineering—Committee Chair*
Hakim Hammach, *New Venture Development*
Natalie Houston, *English*
Ying Huang, *Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Innovation*
Carl Lawton, *Chemical Engineering*
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Jeffrey Moore, *Biological Sciences*
Thomas Porro, *Office of Research Integrity*
David Ryan, *Chemistry*
Alessandro Sabato, *Mechanical Engineering*

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
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Peter Gaines, *Biological Sciences*
Norma Levasseur, *Chemistry*
Glenn MacDonald, *Environmental Health and Safety*
Natalie Steinel, *Biological Sciences*

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
Indrayani Waghmare, *Biological Sciences—Committee Chair*
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Peter Gaines, *Biological Sciences*
Nancy Goodyear, *Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences*
Gui-Xin (Susan) He, *Biomedical & Nutritional Sciences*
Glenn MacDonald, *Environmental Health and Safety*
Thomas Porro, *Office of Research Integrity*

Radiation Safety Committee (RSC)
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Kinsey Boehl, *Radiation Laboratory*
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Terrence McCarthy, *Facilities Management*
Thomas Porro, *Office of Research Integrity*
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TEACHING: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ENGAGING LEARNERS

By Sumudu Lewis, D.Phil., Ed.D.

In 2011, when UMass Lowell received $1.6 million to replicate the UTeach program, I was asked to write a teaching philosophy as part of my application for the position of Master Teacher. At that time, I had been working as a science teacher in England for nearly 13 years.

In that two-page letter, I identified many qualities I believed were central to effective teaching: creativity, motivation, engagement and the ability to adjust practice. Then, towards the end, I wrote, "I believe teaching and learning is a dynamic equilibrium between the teacher and the students. An effective teacher is one who is able to set up this equilibrium, monitor it, and maintain it regardless of external influences."

I had deliberately used the term *dynamic equilibrium*, a phrase scientists know well. It describes a system in constant motion, one that responds to stress and change, but never fully comes to completion. Although I did not say it directly in that letter, I was already wrestling with classifying teaching an art or a science. I still struggle with this.

As an art, teaching asks us to see the learner in front of us. Sometimes we may see a blank canvas (though we know they are not!) or a figure to sculpt into what we want them to be, like Pygmalion with his lump of rock. For me, teaching as an art means helping students see possibility where they first saw difficulty. It means giving them space to try, revise, question and begin again. It means knowing when to guide and when to step back. It means creating a classroom where students learn not only content, but also how to think, persist, trust themselves and express their ideas in a safe learning environment.

As a science, teaching asks us to look carefully and objectively at learning. Good intentions are not enough: We need evidence of student learning, research-based practices, careful planning, clear goals, meaningful assessment and reflection. We need to ask: What are students learning? How do I know? What needs to change?

The art of teaching helps us reach students. The science of teaching helps us understand whether we have.

The dynamic equilibrium I wrote about in 2011 refers to pedagogies that live in the constant movement between art and science, between evidence and intuition, between planning and responsiveness, between the teacher's intentions and the learner's experience. It is never fixed, never finished, and never perfectly balanced for long. But in that movement, the real work of teaching is not only in helping learners discover what they are capable of achieving, but also in shaping our own identities as the teachers we are still becoming.

UMASS LOWELL