The Perkins Complex, located in the heart of East Campus, is the newest residential student housing at UMass Lowell. The Perkins Complex will house nearly 780 students starting in Fall 2017. Perkins is a unique property that will offer all of the same benefits as existing residence halls, along with many distinctive and impressive features all its own.

There are variety of room options and configurations available within the Perkins Complex. From 4-person Traditional units to glorious Townhouse Deluxe units, there are great options for everyone. The units fall into four categories; Traditional, Standard, Deluxe and Townhouse Deluxe; allowing for options at several different price points. Traditional units are the only style that require students to purchase a meal plan, in every other unit meal plans are optional. Every unit type is furnished with twin extra long beds, desks, dressers, high top counter chairs & a bookcase. Washers and dryers are provided in every unit, allowing residents to do laundry for free. Each unit also has a beautiful full kitchen, outfitted with a stovetop, oven, microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator and a sink.

In additional to the diverse and breathtaking units, Perkins provides many of the other amenities your student can only get from living on campus. There is a spectacular lounge on the main floor with pool & ping pong tables. In the central lobby, students will also have access to their mail room and professional staff offices. The Perkins Complex will have all of the security features of the other residence halls, including a staff of RAs, front desk security from 7pm-7am, and a front entry that requires card access to enter 24/7. Every floor is outfitted with a lounge and a group study space for residents to utilize. In addition to all of the features inside the building, Perkins residents will also have convenient access to a parking garage.

Perkins is a phenomenal new housing option that students should certainly consider for this Fall!
Dear Parents & Families,

Greetings from UMass Lowell! We hope that you are doing well and that your student is enjoying a successful Spring semester. April is often the busiest month of the year for students so we encourage you to check-in with your student to determine if they have all of the support that they need. If you want to help your student but not exactly certain what they need, please reach out to us and we will be happy to work with you.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find useful information about what’s happening in a few different areas on campus. You will find an article on the University’s newest residence hall, some updates about dining on campus, and an overview of the resources available in the Wellness Center. In addition, you will find the Housing Selection Guide has been sent out at the in the same email as this newsletter. The guide was too large to fit in this newsletter but if your student plans to live on campus next year it contains some critically important information.

Here at the Office of Family Programs we are beginning to prepare for the 10 Family Orientations that we will be hosting over the summer. If you went through Family Orientation when your student first started at UMass Lowell, we would love for you to share your experiences and encourage new families to attend an orientation this summer. If you have any suggestions for things you wish you knew about before your student started at UML, please let us know that so that we can best prepare to help new parents and families.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything at all, please feel free to reach out and we will do whatever we can to help.

Sincerely,

Joy & Mike
The Wellness Center at UMass Lowell is comprised of Counseling Services, Disability Services, Health Education and Promotion, and Health Services. We serve all matriculated undergraduate students as well as graduate students taking at least 9 credits in the semester. It may be helpful for students and families to know what we do to support the success of students on campus.

We provide episodic care for common health issues that crop up during the school year. These include dealing with the all too common cold, minor stomach upsets, and those unexplained aches and pains that seem to creep up on all of us from time to time. With well over 15,000 students at the University we cannot take on the role of primary care or specialty provider for your student. Students who have ongoing medical issues should maintain their relationship with their providers. For example, a student with diabetes needs to stay in the care of their endocrinologist, as would a student and receiving medication and/or talk therapy from a psychiatrist should make arrangements to see that provider during school breaks or long weekends. Having a conversation with your student’s provider about how to maintain the therapeutic relationship far in advance of the start of their time at the University will be of great help for students transitioning from high school to college.

Services provided in the Wellness Center do not carry any out of pocket expense for students except for lab tests and immunizations. We do not bill insurance. Students can come by or call to make an appointment. Our hours are 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday. Students needing care outside of those hours can utilize local entities like the urgent care center run by Lowell General Hospital.

Students who had IEP or 504 plans in high school should contact Disability Services as soon as they have committed to the University. Documentation outlining a student’s functional disability are required to be submitted and reviewed if a student is in need of accommodations. You can find more information at https://www.uml.edu/student-services/Disability/default.aspx

A big role of the Wellness Center is to assure that students are in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding mandated vaccines as well as the law mandating that students have comprehensive health insurance. If they have not submitted complete records they will be barred from registering for classes for upcoming semesters until this is completed. In addition some majors, particularly those in the health sciences, require additional vaccines or disease screening so have your student reach out and understand what they need. Information regarding requirements for vaccines can be found at https://www.uml.edu/student-services/health/. For more on health insurance requirements please visit https://www.uml.edu/student-services/Health/Health-Insurance/

We look forward to working with your student to be part of supporting their success at UMass Lowell!
April is Earth Month, a time to focus on reducing our impact on the environment. To celebrate, University Dining’s chefs are working on menus to highlight local foods and educate our community about small ways they can help make a sustainable difference on campus. While this month offers a time to showcase our green dining efforts, University Dining is continually developing and implementing sustainable solutions on campus.

University Dining is proud to support local farms such as Shaw Farms, Pioneer Valley Growers Association and Lanni Orchards. We also partner with Reds Best seafood in Boston to supply campus with locally caught seafood. In addition to local foods, we also have weaved a conscious approach to our operations by composting both pre- and post-consumer food waste, participating in a fryer oil recycling program, and utilizing green cleaning products.

Our efforts to create a sustainable dining program on campus have been recognized by the Green Restaurant Association. Two of our campus dining locations, South Dining Commons and Crossroads Café have been awarded a 3-Star Green Restaurant Certification from the Green Restaurant Association. This certification takes into account water and energy efficiencies, sustainable goods and building materials, sustainable food purchasing and waste reduction, and chemical and pollutant reduction.

To learn more about University Dining, please visit www.uml.edu/dining

Caption: University Dining comports all food waste to be used for campus gardens.
Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Monday 4/10 @ 4pm in University Crossing

Cap & Gown Countdown

Undergraduates will be able to pick up their cap & gown and other important Commencement items and information. This special celebration will feature music, food, raffles and more. You will also be able to order class rings and other Commencement-related items. Cap & Gown Countdown will take place from 4-7pm in University Crossing.

Wednesday 4/11 @ 4pm in the O'Leary Library

PhotoVoice: Diversity & Inclusion Students' Photo Exhibit and Reception

Twenty UMass Lowell students participated in a photo-voice research project over a period of nine weeks. The goal was for students to explore their experiences at UMass Lowell from their racial/ethnic identity lenses. Come see the students' work and hear the stories behind their photos. The exhibit is sponsored by the UMass Lowell Digital Media Program, the Emerging Scholar Program and the Department of Psychology. The opening reception will be on the O'Leary overpass, followed by the Photo Exhibit in the O'Leary Mezzanine. The exhibit runs through Sept. 2017.

Wednesday 4/12 @ 3:30pm in the O'Leary Library room 478

The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities

The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities. A Presentation by Doris Sommer (Harvard University). The Jack and Stella Kerouac Center for the Public Humanities and The UMass Lowell Master in Public Administration invite you to celebrate art and interpretation that take on social challenges and join Doris Sommer as she steers the humanities back to engagement with the world.

Tuesday 4/18 & Wednesday 4/19

Housing Selection

Thursday 4/20 @ 5:30pm at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center Grand Ballroom

University Alumni Awards

Some of UMass Lowell’s most eminent alumni will be recognized during the 19th annual University Alumni Awards for their distinguished service to the university, their profession and their community. Faculty and staff play a critical role as educators and mentors to students, preparing them for their future accomplishments as alumni. Please join us in celebrating their success. Register online and join us in honoring the outstanding achievements of our alumni. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend! Tickets are $75 per person*; $35 special young alumni rate (2006-2016); $500 for a table of eight. *A portion of your ticket fee is tax-deductible and will benefit student scholarships. For more information, contact Alumni_Office@uml.edu or at 978-934-3140.