UMass Lowell is proud to announce *Our Legacy, Our Place*, (link to [www.uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace](http://www.uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace)) the university’s first-ever comprehensive fundraising and engagement campaign. A bold effort that aims to raise $125 million by 2020, the campaign focuses on significantly increasing student scholarships, supporting our top-notch faculty and our growing campus, building a strong Division I athletics program, and deepening the engagement of our alumni, parents and friends in the life of the university.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends, we have already raised $78.5 million toward our $125 million goal. As a community, with your help, the university will continue to change the lives of our students by providing them with exceptional classroom learning and real-world experiences.

To learn more about *Our Legacy, Our Place* and how you can support the campaign, please visit: [uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace](http://uml.edu/ourlegacy-ourplace)
Message from the Family Programs Team

Joy Schmelzer & Mike Coughlin

Greetings from UMass Lowell. The Spring semester is racing toward the finish line and we hope that your student is navigating the stress of finals season successfully.

Here at the Office of Family Programs, we are preparing for the 10 Family Orientations that we will be hosting over the summer. We know many of you went through Family Orientation when your student was beginning their journey as a Riverhawk. We would love for you to share your experiences and encourage new families to attend orientation this summer as well as make any suggestions for changes to future orientations based on your experience as a UML parent.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find useful information about a variety of initiatives taking place on campus. There are articles that introduce four brand new Living Learning Communities rolling out next year, the Centers for Learning highlights their continued growth, Student Activities recaps another successful Spring Carnival, and the University rolls out “Our Legacy Our Place”, the first comprehensive fundraising campaign for UMass Lowell.

Going forward, the Office of Family Programs will continue to improve the service we provide to parents and families. We hope that you will consider joining us or reaching out if there is anything you’d like to see. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,
Joy & Mike
It is exciting to be part of the Living-Learning Community (LLC) program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The 2015-2016 academic year started off strong, with 16 LLCs and over 1500 students participating in the program. As the year went on, dozens of events were created for the students of each LLC to engage in, bridging the gap between what is being taught inside the classroom, and the real-life application of such skills. Networking opportunities and career development programs, including resume building and panels of alumni were brought into the residence halls to help students make the connection between their goals and dreams, and the practicality of being able to accomplish them.

In an effort to continue to capitalize on the success of the LLC program, the Office of Residence Life is seeking to take this experience to the next level. Our 2015 retention rate for students in Living-Learning Communities was 90.4% vs. 84.6% for commuter students. This shows that continuing to provide students with direct access to faculty, campus resources and a purposeful experience benefits student success. Therefore, beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, each LLC will have intentional Learning Objectives associated with the living experience. As a result of living in an LLC at UMass Lowell, every student will be provided with the opportunity to gain exposure to purposeful and enriching opportunities that will compliment and build upon what is being learned inside the classroom, and expanded to teach students how to apply such skills into their daily lives as they prepare for life after college, their career and a lifetime of success.

Below is an example of a few learning objectives from a new LLC that will be piloted for 2016-2017:

**As a result of living in the Politikos: Politics & Public Service Living-Learning Community, students will have the opportunity to:**

*Develop personal and professional skills, including knowledge of current political issues & debates; political rhetoric & messaging; intellectual diversity & ideology; developing tolerance towards diverse points of views, and respectful deliberation.*

*Develop public speaking skills that promote the respectful debate of current political policies and social issues.*

*Deliberate, Debate and Engage in the politics of our society.*

These learning objectives will be the basis for programming that the Resident Advisors (RAs) will provide to their LLC residents with the goal of further enhancing their skills, abilities and the learning taking place outside of the classroom.
We will also be piloting Living-Learning Seminars in three first-year LLCs (Pre-Med, Hall of Justice and Politikos) in an effort to provide students with a 1-credit academic experience that is directly tied to their participation within their respective LLC. This is in addition to the RA programming around the Learning Objectives (featured above). The seminars will utilize LLC Faculty advisors who will serve as the instructor for these 1-credit seminar courses. The courses are being offered through the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and will provide an outlet to intentionally connect classroom learning to the out-of-classroom experience being created by the Residence Life staff within the residence halls. Each seminar will look differently as the needs of the groups vary greatly, however, this is unchartered territory for the LLC program, and one that will increase the connection between the academic side of the University and the intentional living experience provided for students who live in a Living-Learning Community.

In addition to all of this, we would like to announce that the LLC program will be growing from 16 to 20 LLCs for the 2016-2017 academic year. We will be expanding the LLCs to offer four new communities:

**DifferenceMaker - Upper-Class LLC - Bourgeois Hall:**

This community is a great way for upperclassmen students to immerse themselves in the DifferenceMaker initiative and learn more about what it means to be creative and innovative in the service of entrepreneurship. Students living on this floor will have the opportunity to work with a faculty advisor who is directly involved with the DifferenceMaker Program, focusing on initiatives and field trips that highlight problem-solving skills, leadership and critical thinking.

**Media Makers - First-Year LLC - Inn & Conference Center:**

If you have a passion for television, films, social media or radio, then this LLC is for you. Designed as a community for students pursuing a digital media minor or anyone with a passion for the topic area, this LLC will explore several aspects of what goes into creating art in a digital world. Students will have the opportunity to work with an advisor from the Art & Design Department and meet several faculty members. Students will also get hands on experience working in a studio on campus.
Living-Learning Communities are booming!
Max Quinn, Coordinator of Living-Learning Communities

Politikos:
*Politics & Public Service - First Year LLC - Fox Hall:*
Greek for *The Statesman*, the Politikos LLC empowers students to deliberate, debate and engage in the politics of our society. Discussing politics can be a hot button topic, and this LLC dives right into the discussion. Students have the opportunity to learn about American and international politics while working with a faculty advisor from the Political Science department. Students will have the opportunity to interact with political leaders and learn how to get involved in the government after college. Students in this LLC will also be scheduled in a First-Year Seminar together. This seminar will highlight the many resources at UMass Lowell, discuss the experience of transitioning to college life and explore the various careers available in politics and public service. It will also fulfill the required first-year seminar for students in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

World Passport  First-Year LLC - Inn & Conference Center:
Have you ever dreamed about traveling the world? A study abroad experience can be a great first step in this dream. This LLC is designed to educate students about the varying cultures of the world and help students start thinking about a study-abroad experience in future years. Advisors from the World Languages Department and the Office of Study Abroad help students learn everything they need to know to be ready for a study abroad experience. Students in this LLC will also have the opportunity to participate in numerous cultural experiences in and around Lowell.

We are so excited for the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year, as our LLC program is truly reaching new heights. We want to thank all of the advisors, campus partners, students and of course, their families, for all of the support they give to this incredible program. For more information about LLCs, please contact Phil Begeal, Associate Director for Living-Learning Communities, at Phillip_begeal@uml.edu or 978-934-5160.
Peer tutoring is forever growing at UMass Lowell, and more and more students are taking advantage of the free service. The Centers for Learning & Academic Support Services offer free drop-in tutoring to all UMass Lowell students.

The Centers for Learning has expanded to cover 25 subjects! With the addition of tutoring for every language more courses to bring their tutoring coverage to over 100 age offered at UML, the Centers has you covered.

Not only does the Centers for Learning cover drop-in tutoring, but they also have professional staff offering advising, time management & study skill workshops. Let us be your success coach! Our educational computing, and much more! Feel free to stop into our four locations: Southwick 3rd floor, O’Leary Learning Commons 1st floor & evening tutoring at Fox Hall & the ICC! For more information visit uml.edu/class, call 978-934-2936, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CentersForLearning/
Held annually in April, the Spring Carnival is the one of the biggest and most beloved traditions at UMass Lowell. Surrounded by many other great events such as Culture Shock, Relay for Life and the annual Whose Who Banquet, the Spring Carnival provides students with another way to celebrate the end to a great semester.

While this is always a great opportunity for students to come together and have fun, this is also a wonderful challenge for students interested in learning to plan events. Many students work hard all year to bring together live music, carnival rides, club tables, and more.

This year’s Spring Carnival brought together both current students and alumni. At the event alumni participated and reminisced on the days when they were students on campus. Although the event changes a little each year, the heart of the event has been retained since its beginning. This year’s tag line was “Ride the Wave” encouraging students to join in on the fun and celebrate the fast approaching summer season.
Upcoming Events

Wednesday 4/27
Family Advisory Board
An opportunity for parents and family members of UML students to learn more about what’s happening on campus and provide feedback on how the University can better support their student. For more information please contact Michael_Coughlin@uml.edu

Saturday 4/30—Sunday 5/1
The First Annual Mill City Steampunk Festival
Co-sponsored by the Lowell National Historical Park and UMass Lowell, this free festival will celebrate the city’s past, present, and future with a variety of Steampunk-themed activities throughout the city.

Saturday 5/7
Last Day of Finals & Residence Halls Close

Friday 5/13
Commencement Eve Gala
A celebration of achievements and honoring of award recipients and distinguished guests. The event also consists of live entertainment, gourmet cuisine and several keynote speakers.

Saturday 5/14
University Commencement
Commencement Day at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell. Two ceremonies will be performed at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.