UMass Lowell Takes the It’s On Us Pledge

It’s On Us is a national campaign to raise awareness of sexual assault on college campuses and a commitment to help eradicate it. It’s On Us encourages bystanders to actively stand up and step in to prevent gender based violence and sexual assault. UMass Lowell has made the safety of its students a top priority and violence prevention education has long been promoted by the University. On November 28, a group of students and staff gathered to take and publicize the pledge, encouraging community members to sign on as well. On that day alone, nearly 300 students, faculty & staff, including Chancellor Jacquie Moloney, came together to sign the pledge. UMass Lowell once again reaffirmed that any act of violence is totally unacceptable and that the entire University community stands together in solidarity to prevent it.
Message from the Family Programs Team

Joy Schmelzer & Mike Coughlin

Dear Parents & Families,

Greetings from UMass Lowell! We hope that this newsletter finds you well and that your student has enjoyed a successful semester to this point. We want to thank those of you that joined us at events throughout the semester. Over 200 parents and family members joined us at the Parent & Family Reception during Homing Coming Weekend. Another 100 of you have joined us at one or both of the Family Advisory Board meetings. If you are interested in joining us at any future event, please let us know and we will be sure that you receive the invitation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of the newsletter. If there is anything different that you would like to see in a future newsletter, please let us know. We want to thank you for all that you do to support your student. If you ever have any questions or concerns, we would be more than happy to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Joy & Mike

A message from University Advancement:

The Parent Giving Campaign will strengthen the relationship between parents and families, and UMass Lowell. With opportunities for philanthropy and volunteering, the Parent Giving Campaign seeks to increase funds that will directly impact your UMass Lowell student’s experience. To learn more or get involved, please contact Zibby Ryan at Elizabeth_ryan@uml.edu or (978) 934 6312.

Impact your student’s experience!

Parents play a key role in supporting their student’s experience. One important way to support your student is through making an annual gift today! Get in the holiday spirit by giving your gift before December 31st www.uml.edu/givenow. All gifts are 100% tax deductible & 110% appreciated.
Did you know that 35% of college students report having been food insecure during their college experience? That there are over 58,000 self-identified homeless college students in the US? The numbers are staggering, and are growing.

The well-being of our students is critical to their academic success and timely graduation. Recognizing and addressing the complex challenges our students face is no small task; for some it is being a first-generation college student, for others it is a far more complex combination of challenges. Realizing the various non-academic challenges our students encounter affects more and more students, the Student Resource Security and Success Strategic Infusion Team (SIT) has been created.

This SIT employs a multi-disciplinary approach to assist students who are dealing with a multitude of issues, including food insecurity, housing insecurity, other resource insecurity, single parenting, extreme financial need, foster care, etc. Collaborations with on campus departments, areas, and programs as well as off campus community service providers and state agencies in the Lowell and Merrimack Valley assist in connecting students with the services and resources necessary for success. Partners already engaged with Student Affairs in support of our students include Financial Aid, CLASS, Sociology, Psychology, Aramark, the bookstore, CTI, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, MCC, the Wish Project, Suitability, and DCF.
UMass Lowell Opens Food Pantry to Help Support Students in Need

The ultimate goal of the “Student Resource Security and Success Strategic Infusion Team” is to assist students in achieving academic success without being derailed by complex non-academic issues in their lives. We believe these efforts will enhance the retention, persistence, and success of first-year students, food insecure students, housing insecure students, students who come to the university from DCF, unaccompanied, or homeless, and parenting. Hopefully, with support, these students will successfully complete their degrees at UMass Lowell, stop the cycle of poverty and educational attrition, and improve their life choices and opportunities.

To that end, The Navigators, a UMass Lowell student organization, created the food pantry and have operated it on a very restricted budget, with little space and resources. Student Affairs has partnered with them and have relocated the Food Pantry to room 104 in University Crossing. The Food Pantry is open 20 hours per week (Monday-Friday, 3-7pm), is staffed by students, and supplies free food and toiletry items for any member of the UMass Lowell community who may be experiencing hunger and struggling to buy food. In addition we have established the UMass Lowell Neighborhood Food Project to supply the food pantry with a constant flow of food, toiletries, and other goods to help our food insecure students eat, thrive, learn, and be successful students.

If your student is in need of assistance, please send them our way. For more information you can email Student_Affairs@uml.edu.
We have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with thousands of students so far this semester. They have come to us for tutoring, advising, academic success coaching, pep talks and to show us their good grades. The things we do to support students fall into three main areas. Here is a summary of what we provided this fall and things to look out for in the Spring!

Below you will find information on our three main service areas. Please do not hesitate to call or have your son or daughter call us to see how they might benefit from meeting with us. Our main number is 978-934-2936.

TUTORING

The Tutoring Center at UMASS Lowell has four vibrant locations. The academic campus locations are open from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and located on North Campus in 321 Southwick Hall, and South Campus on the First Floor of O’Leary Learning Commons. Our evening locations are open from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the Inn and Conference Center on the 8th floor and in the lobby of the Fox Hall tower. In spring of 2017, we saw the largest demand for tutors in the first two weeks of school with over 1,000 students visiting. We have close to 100 tutors with extensive professional training that tutor in over 100 subjects.

As we move into the New Year and our 2017 spring semester, please take time to share with your son or daughter the academic assistance of the drop-in Tutoring Centers. We are a Center where students make strong academic connections – many of which last a lifetime.
Final Exams and Beyond...

The Centers for Learning and Academic Support Service (CLASS) staff team is here for your student!

ADVISING AND ACADEMIC COACHING

We have an advising center on both the North and South Campuses. Our professional advisors help undergraduate students with all sorts of questions they have about their academic career here at UMass Lowell. Appointments with students are one-on-one and we cover a range of topics including advising, registration, study skills, graduate school planning, change of major and success coaching to name a few. We offered several collaborative programs this fall which included “Get Caught Studying”, “Advising After Dark”, “Change of Major Coffee House”, and time management workshops in almost all First Year Seminars. We hope your son or daughter came to some of our events!

During the final exam period we are offering “Cocoa for Finals” to help students catch a breath in between exams and to get some encouragement from our staff beforehand. Tell your son or daughter to stop by during the week of 12/12 to get questions answered and some treats.

Over the winter break we encourage you to talk with your son or daughter to see how things are going. If you think they may be having some academic challenges, please send them our way next semester to talk about strategies to boost where they are.

We love to see success! During the academic semester, we run an awesome program where students can come to our offices and “Show Us Their A”. Tell them to stop by and show us any grades of an A on tests, quizzes, lab reports, papers, etc. and we will give them a prize!

EDUCATIONAL COMPUTING

Our centers all have computer labs open to all students with extended hours. These labs are used by students to work on group projects, complete homework assignments, print papers, and study for exams. We provide a study-conducive atmosphere that is supervised by professional staff who keep all our labs updated.

Enjoy the Winter Break with your son or daughter. We can’t wait to see them in Spring 2017!
For the past seven years the Office of Residence Life in collaboration with Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities (MVCC) has hosted a Thanksgiving Food Drive to provide Lowell families with important staples such as rice, vegetables, stuffing, dessert, as well as a gift card to a local grocery store for their Thanksgiving meal. This event is only made possible through the generous donations we receive from members of the UMass Lowell community. Our 8th annual Thanksgiving Food Drive took place on Monday, November 21, 2016 at the Inn and Conference Center in Downtown Lowell.

This event has become a firmly rooted tradition here at UMass Lowell. It provides our students the opportunity to see the significance of giving and serving others. Students, staff and faculty members come together to serve our Lowell community.

This year we raised over $3,200 and were able to provide Thanksgiving meals for over 300 families. This event could not be successful without the support and efforts from the UMass Lowell community.

We hope that you and your families have a wonderful holiday season!
Marijuana Policy Remains Unchanged

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chose to legalize, regulate and tax the use of marijuana for individuals at least 21 years of age. As this referendum becomes law, colleges and universities have to decide how this law should impact their campus polices and ensure they continue to act in the best interests of their students. Moving forward, the University of Massachusetts Lowell will continue to prohibit the use, possession, and cultivation of marijuana.

There are many factors to consider when it comes to campus polices. Although marijuana is set to become legal in Massachusetts, it remains illegal on a federal level. As a university that accepts federal funding, UMass Lowell needs to consider many factors before deciding to change a policy. The most important factor is always the health and safety of everyone in the UMass Lowell community. As marijuana policy changes in the state of Massachusetts, the policy at UMass Lowell will remain unaffected. The specific policy can be found in the Student Code of Conduct section IV.F.2 and appendix C. Section IV.F.2 states specifically:

Drugs-No student shall knowingly sell, possess, manufacture, cultivate, distribute or use, or be in the presence of, on or off campus, substances defined by Massachusetts or Federal Law as illegal. Use/possession/sale/sharing of prescription medication that is not prescribed to a student is a violation of the Student Conduct Code, as well as a violation of the law. Additionally, the possession of drug paraphernalia is a violation of the Student Conduct Code. See Appendix C, Drug Policies and Regulations. Federal law imposes definite sanctions for drug use, sale, possession, distribution, manufacture and cultivation.

The University will maintain this policy in order to promote the university goals of student wellness and success. The use of any drug can interfere with a student’s pursuit of a holistic education, effecting educational experiences both inside and outside the classroom. We encourage you to have a conversation with your student about the marijuana policy. If you have any questions about the policy, please reach out to the Students Affairs office, 978-934-2100, and they will be happy to provide additional answers. The University greatly appreciates your support in this and is thankful to have families as partners in nurturing student success.
Reflecting gains in overall quality and student success, UMass Lowell has reached a new high on the latest U.S. News & World Report ranking of national universities.

UMass Lowell has climbed 31 spots since it was first ranked among the best universities in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in 2010, rising from No. 183 to No. 152. Its ascent in the rankings is the second-fastest in the nation over the last six years and UMass Lowell is the only institution, public or private, in the eastern United States to move up more than 30 spots over the same timeframe. Among the public institutions that made the National Universities ranking, UMass Lowell is No. 78, up from No. 84 last year.

UMass Lowell also gets high marks for graduates’ success. PayScale.com’s College Salary Report found that, with an average of $94,700, UMass Lowell ranks No. 28 in the nation and No. 1 among New England public research universities for mid-career salaries earned by graduates with bachelor’s degrees. UMass Lowell also ranks No. 1 among New England public research universities for graduates’ return on their educational investment.

“All of these rankings illustrate the quality and value that UMass Lowell is delivering to students and the academic success they are achieving,” said UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney. “As a university community, we have set high goals for our institution and developed a strategic plan to guide us on our path to becoming a world-class institution. Our rise in the rankings is evidence that we are well on our way.”

UMass Lowell’s dramatic transformation over the last nine years includes the opening of 12 new buildings since 2009, including a state-of-the-art research facility, an academic building for health and social sciences, two new student centers, the region’s premier sports and entertainment venue, a downtown location combining university housing and lodging and function space for the public and the campus, along with three residence halls and two parking garages. Other renovation projects since 2007 have improved existing academic buildings, residence halls, the campus’ two libraries, its largest dining hall and academic and research space.
Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Wednesday 12/14, 5-7pm
Fall 2016 BFA Exhibition Reception
The Department of Art & Design welcomes the public to celebrate the capstone projects of our graduating seniors. Light refreshments will be served. Works have been created in a variety of media, including animation, painting, photography, graphic design and sculpture. The students will talk about what inspired their art with fellow students, family, faculty and the public during an artists’ reception that will kick off the show.

Saturday 12/17, 6pm
Residence Halls Close

Sunday 12/18, 1pm
Women’s Basketball vs. Colgate
Today its Battle of the Bands as the River Hawks take on Colgate: Have your band rock the house in our Battle of the Bands competition.

Wednesday 12/21, 7pm
Men’s Basketball vs. Boston University
Santa will be making a visit to the Tsongas Center to meet boys and girls and hear about those last minute holiday wish list items

Sunday 1/15, 12pm
Residence Halls Reopen

Friday 1/27, 2-8pm
CareerCON
This January, UMass Lowell students will have a unique opportunity to engage with outstanding employers and alumni. Open to all, but targeted especially to juniors and seniors, CareerCON 2017 will help students jumpstart their career plans with key advice from experts.

Important Contacts

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<tr>
<td>Student Affairs</td>
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Family Programs

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