McGauvran Student Center Reopens

Dining, living and learning on South Campus has improved in a big way thanks to the completion of the $34 million McGauvran Student Center renovation project. The new McGauvran Center features 52,000 square feet of dining options, study spaces and lounging area, making it the hub of student life on South Campus.

From the ground-floor entrance opposite O’Leary library, students can access the all-you-care-to-eat South Campus Dinning facility featuring “home-cooked” entrees at Full Plate, pizza and pasta at Aroma, sandwiches from Broadway Deli, a salad bar at Wilder Farms, gluten-free options at Choices and late-night takeout from Grill Out. There is seating for 400 on the first floor, including a bright and open section with a two-story glass wall providing a view of the South Campus quad.

The second floor features a bakery and a café, as well as retail food options at Subway and Freshii. Grab-and-go options are also available at the Merrimack Market. However there is no need to take it to go if you’d prefer to stay, as the second floor has seating for another 400 students, including several tables on a new outdoor terrace. There is also a convenient bridge connecting students to the O’Leary Library without having to go outside.

The second floor is haloed by the balcony of the third floor, which is accessible by a new central staircase that also connects to O’Leary. Students can study by the fireplace in the learning common while faculty can take advantage of a private lounge. The third floor also features seven new smart classrooms and seminar areas, including one for 35 and another for 50.

It is no exaggeration to say that the incredible changes found in the redone McGauvran Student Center will change life on South Campus in a very positive way.

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Dear Parents & Families,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that your student has settled in nicely to their spring semester. I am very excited to be able to introduce myself as the brand new Coordinator for First Year Experience & Family Programs. In my short time as part of the UMass Lowell team so far, I have learned from Joy & Phil about all of the great work Family Programs has done in the past few years. I am honored to be part of Family Programs going forward as I endeavor to partner with you to provide your students with the support they deserve.

In this issue of the newsletter, I want to highlight some really wonderful things taking place across campus. There is some great work happening at the Centers for Learning, particularly regarding the Starfish Early Alert retention system. During spring break, several students will have the opportunity to take an alternative route and make a real impact doing community service in the greater Lowell community. The Office of Multicultural Affairs is putting on some powerful programming to support and educate UML’s student body on diversity related issues. In addition to these features you will also find valuable information about the upcoming 2016-2017 Housing Selection process.

One very important thing to highlight is that we will be having our first Family Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd. The meeting will be held beginning at 6pm in the newly renovated McGauran Student Center. I encourage you to reach out to me and let me know if there is anything you would like me to include in future newsletters, Family Advisory Boards, or anything you would like to see changed for the future in Family Orientations. Thank you and I look forward to working with all of you going forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Coughlin
Room Selection 2016-2017

General Information

How to Apply

Go to www.uml.edu/reslife and log on to the Online Housing-Gateway using your email credentials (Make sure you are using either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.)*Be sure your pop up blocker is off before beginning this process*

Once you have logged on, chose “Housing Applications” on the left hand side and select 2016-2017 Housing Application.

Once that screen opens, review the information to ensure that it is correct and scroll to the bottom of the page to hit “next step”

Make sure you submit a credit card payment for the $200 housing deposit in order for your contract to be complete. Be sure to click “submit” and then “finish”. Your payment will not be processed if you do not do this and could delay your contract process.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the 2016-2017 Room Selection Process you must be a current resident and registered for courses in the spring semester. Current residents are eligible for room retention (if applicable), general selection and auto-allocation. New incoming students and current commuters will not be permitted to participate in any aspect of Room Selection.

Housing Contracts and $200 non-refundable Housing Deposits must be completed online by March 31, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. Deposits are paid online with credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) during the housing contract process on the ONLINE HOUSING GATEWAY. Cash and Checks are not accepted.

Students not living in apartments must choose a meal plan through the Online Housing Gateway. Failure to do so will result in automatic assignment of a meal plan. Apartments are defined as: Riverview Suites West, Moody Street, East Meadow Lane, 725 Merrimack Street, and Princeton Properties.

Important Dates:

March 2016

- Tuesday, March 22nd – 8th Annual “Beat the System” event
- Thursday, March 31st – Housing Contracts and $200 deposit due by 11:59pm

April 2016

- Monday, April 4 – Lottery Numbers and RMS ID’s emailed out
- Friday, April 8 – Honors Housing Selection: University Suites floors 1-2 (Honors Student’s Only)
- Monday & Tuesday, April 11 & 12 – All Hall Retention
- Thursday & Friday, April 14 & 15 – All Hall Roommate Pull-in
- Wednesday, April 20 – General Selection (all halls included)
- Thursday, April 28 – Auto Allocation
Room Selection
2016-2017

Roommates

Your RMS ID will be emailed to you with your Lottery Number. This ID is only needed if you are being pulled into a room and must be provided to the student who is pulling you in.

If you have a particular roommate or roommate(s) you wish to live with, they must meet all the eligibility requirements listed above. If they do not meet these requirements, you will not be assigned with that roommate.* Upperclass students may not live with incoming freshmen.

All roommate requests must be mutual. If you are pulling in a roommate you must have their Student ID and RMS ID.

If your roommate request(s) cannot be met due to lack of space or invalid requests, you will need to select space in separate rooms.

If you are attempting to pull-in a roommate into your retained room you MUST do so through the Roommate pull-in process (see calendar for dates) after you have retained your room (via the Online Housing Gateway). You CANNOT pull-in a roommate strictly by putting their information in your preferences.

General Selection Schedule – All Upperclass Halls (April 20)

Any returning resident and commuter students are eligible to go through General Selection, provided they have submitted a housing contract/deposit.

General selection opens up all remaining available bed spaces on campus. You may choose to select a room as a group or participate in this selection process individually.

If selecting a room as a group, the student who has the lowest (best) Lottery Number should act as the “Group Representative” by choosing a room and pulling the rest of the group in at that time. If the student with the best Lottery Number is unavailable, anyone in the group can act as the group representative to select the room and pull-in suitemates during their scheduled time. Proxy Forms are also available on our website at http://www.uml.edu/reslife for students who will not be available during this process.

Before starting, you must have your intended roommate(s) RMS ID, Student ID number, and Meal Plan Preference.

What Residence Halls & Types of Rooms are available?

- University Suites: 4 & 6 person suites (primarily double rooms) East Campus
- Donahue Hall: 4, 6, & 8 person suites (doubles) East Campus
- Bourgeois Hall: Doubles and Quads, East Campus
- Riverview Suites: 4, 5, & 6 person apartments (all doubles), South Campus
- Riverview Suites East: 4, 5, & 6 person suites (primarily double rooms), South Campus
- Concordia Hall: single and double Rooms, South Campus
- Inn and Conference Center: Double room with private bathrooms, Downtown
- University Apartments: 2-6 person apartments, single & double rooms – full kitchens (various locations)
Starfish Early Alert was a system we implemented through the Centers for Learning in Fall 2012. Our objective is to help retain UMass Lowell students by intervening with students’ attendance and academic issues in a timely fashion.

The initiative started small, involving only a couple of courses with mostly first-year students – College Writing I and Calculus I. We have since expanded the program to include more than two dozen courses, including College Writing II, other versions of Calculus I, first-year seminars, Chemistry I, Statistics, and Anatomy & Physiology I and II lab sections, among others.

This Starfish Early Alert software enables faculty in these course to alert students and the Centers for Learning of students who appear to be struggling academically and/or missing classes. These faculty members raise flags for the attendance or academic issues, or send kudos, positive messages of and/or encouragement. These flags and kudos automatically email the student(s), encouraging them to contact their instructors and/or advisors, and to take action.

We have received some great feedback, both from students and the faculty members participating in Starfish. We have been surprised by how happy students are to receive the kudos: one student emailed us back after receiving it: “thank you very much for the uplifting remarks” and “Thank you so much for providing me with this recognition” were typical responses to the kudos. Even students receiving the flags often take the message in stride, taking the initiative to schedule an advising appointment, to visit the Tutoring Center, or other measures.

In discussing Starfish, Vice Provost Charlotte Mandell has stated that, “on the whole, we are very pleased with this initiative.” We are confident that the growing community of UML faculty, staff, and students involved with Starfish are pleased with it as well.
Alternative Spring Break
A chance to give back to the Lowell community

With the snow on the ground and sub-zero temperatures on campus, it’s hard to believe that Spring Break is right around the corner. While many of our students will use the break to catch up on sleep, or travel to faraway places, a small group of students will be exploring their own backyard and giving back to their community.

The Office of Residence Life will be sponsoring a group of students on an Alternative Spring Break trip from March 13th-18th, 2016. The students will be experiencing a whole new side of Lowell while performing community service. During the day, we will work with local organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, The Lowell Food Pantry and UTec, a community center that provides support for at-risk youth. And in the evenings, we will experience a different side of the city we live in, such as taking tours through the National Parks Service, hiking along the Merrimack River and checking out Mill No 5’s flea market.

Thanks to Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney and The Division of Student Affairs, the trip will be free to students, including lodging in Lowell and meals for the week. There are a few spaces left for the trip and we would love to have your student join us. For more information, please contact Kelly Bowes at Kelly_Bowes@uml.edu
The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) supports and advocates for students while also leading diversity related programming efforts for the UMass Lowell community. OMA’s programs are designed to foster inquiry, enhance critical thinking and experiential learning, build community and strengthen leadership skills. Additionally, OMA offers ongoing programs each month in recognition and honoring of each of the Heritage Awareness Months. For updated information on all of our programs and services, please visit the OMA website at www.uml.edu/multicultural. We invite you to seek the opportunity to get involved in our programs, services and use our office as a resource and space to grow and learn!

Some of our featured programs are:

“What’s Race Got To Do With it” came to fruition last semester, based on conversations following student activism on college campuses nationwide. We launched our first dialogue series during MLK Awareness week on January 25th, and it provided a space for students of color, allies, and the community to have an open dialogue on race on college campuses.

On February 22, the second session will focus on Race in the Media, specifically on the representation and visibility in films, television, and other sources. We will have Professor Mona Kleinberg from Political Science as our guest presenter. Her area of expertise is in media, democratic politics and the role of race and gender in American politics. As with all of our discussion series, all viewpoints are welcome, and we urge you to bring your friends, club members, and anyone who is curious to learn more about this topic. Mark your calendars!

Race in the Media
Monday, February 22nd
5:00pm-6:30pm
University Crossing, Rm. 255

Our second feature program, the Invisible Identity Dialogue Series, highlight topics on identities that may not be visible or goes unaware or hidden amongst our student population on campus. Beginning in September and ending in April, this series will showcase a different Invisible Identity, many of which are topics brought to us by current students. Participants in the past have benefitted by challenging their current presumptions and gained important information about topics they previously did not know quite as much about. Past topics have included: Friends and Families of Addicts, Individuals who have been placed in Foster Care, Survivors of Relationship Violence, Veterans, etc. Join us for any of our upcoming Spring Sessions and feel free to suggest future topics!

Wednesday, February 17th
International Students
UC 255
5:00-6:30pm

Wednesday, March 23rd
Grief & Loss
UC 492
5:00-6:30pm

Wednesday, April 13
Body Image
UC 255
5:00-6:30pm
Upcoming Events on Campus

Saturday 2/27
Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Boston College
UMass Lowell men’s hockey takes on rival Boston College in their final regular season game. Root for the Riverhawks to best the Beanpot champion Eagles in preparation for a postseason run. For more information visit www.goriverhawks.com.

Wednesday 3/2
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

Wednesday 3/2
Vitaly Komar: Year of the Monkey
Vitaly Komar is a painter and performance artist born in Moscow who emigrated to New York in 1978. He gained worldwide attention as member of the collaborative duo Komar & Melamid and has been working solo since 2003.

Wednesday 3/8
"Prejudice and Pride." Latino Discussion series
part of the UMass Lowell Libraries free, six-part series featuring local experts who will share insights into the history of Latinos in the United States and their contributions to American culture.

Wednesday 3/9
Robert Pinsky Poetry Series
Poet and essayist Robert Pinsky, a three-time U.S. poet laureate, will do a public reading of his poetry on campus.

Wednesday 3/23
Spring Career Fair
Don’t miss this opportunity to meet employers representing a variety of industries during our all-major spring event! 200 employers and over 1,200 students are expected to attend.