UMass Lowell Opens University Crossing Student Center

UMass Lowell is very excited to welcome you all to our new University Crossing. All summer long, offices in the Division of Student Affairs and beyond moved into the new building to provide a “one stop shop” destination for students and families. Whether you need a transcript, to see a career advisor, grab a bite to eat or apply for university housing, you can do it all in University Crossing.

For more details about the new property and a complete list of offices in University Crossing go to their new website: www.uml.edu/UniversityCrossing/default.aspx.
Dear Parents & Families,

Greetings from UMass Lowell. A new year is just beginning and we are excited to take this journey with each of you. For some of you, your students are coming back to UMass Lowell for their sophomore, junior or senior year. For others, your student is starting their first year experience. Whether you are the parent of a returning student or a new student, we are here to help.

This newsletter is the first issue in a monthly series. In this edition, are articles about opening week events, our new University Dining venue, campus safety and how we are identifying students that are struggling academically. Each issue will highlight important topics and campus events to keep you informed about life on campus.

Over the spring & summer, there were some changes made to our office. Parent Programs is now located in the Office of Residence Life (University Crossing, Suite 120). Additionally, we are both new to the parent programs initiative at UMass Lowell. Feel free to stop by or give us a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Throughout the coming year, we plan to offer informative workshops/tutorials both on campus and online to keep each of you informed about important processes your students will be going through. Additionally, we hope to provide opportunities for you to join us on campus for fun activities with your student and other families.

Sincerely,

Joy & Phil
Get Your Student Geared Up for all of the Excitement at UMass Lowell!

The Office of Student Activities & Leadership previews Opening Week

Immediately following move-in, your student will have multiple opportunities to immerse themselves in River Hawk nation with over 60 Opening Week events!

Every day is filled with activities to have fun and meet new people. Highlights include:

- Playfair Teambuilding Event & Class Photo
- Difference Makers Kick-Off with Entrepreneur Johnny Cupcakes
- Afterhours @ Target Exclusive Shopping Trip
- Comedic-Magician Tim Gabrielson
- New Student Convocation w/ Keynote Speaker Deanne Bell
- Club Fair with Over 200 Clubs and Organizations

For a complete list of events visit www.uml.edu/Openingweek/events.aspx or download the free app Guidebook and search for Opening 2014@ UMass Lowell.

Use the QR Code to the left to download the Guidebook App & Access the Complete Opening Week Event Schedule Now!

Have additional questions?

Office of Student Activities & Leadership
University Crossing, Suite #220
978-934-5001
student_activities@uml.edu
www.uml.edu/student-services/Student-Activities
Happy New Year! It’s hard to believe that summer has come and gone and a new school year is upon us. All of us at University Dining are gearing up with new flavors, more locally grown produce and extended hours. We’re ready to make your student’s home-away-from-home a welcoming, nourishing and fun experience! For a list of all our new extended hours please visit [www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSNE/UMassLowell/Locations/](http://www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSNE/UMassLowell/Locations/).

We are excited to announce a new member of our family, Crossroads Café. Located in University Crossings, the café features Starbucks “We Proudly Serve” coffees, espresso & teas, Sal’s Pizza and flatbreads, and a full range of made-to-order signature sandwiches, paninis, salads and soups. Open seven days a week, breakfast through late-night, Crossroads Café is sure to become a favorite destination. Please use the coupon below to experience Crossroads yourself.

As your student (and you) navigate the new school year, remember we are here to help! We are prepared to help with meal plans, allergies, care-packages and any other dining needs your student has. Please call our office at 978-934-5369, visit us online at [www.uml.edu/dining](http://www.uml.edu/dining) or email at dining@uml.edu. We strive to make your students dining experience exceptional, every day. So rest assured, they’re in great care.

Take Care & Eat Well!
Your friends at University Dining
We are all familiar with the phrase “Let’s nip this in the bud” when referring to solving a problem before it gets out of control. In keeping with that philosophy, the Centers for Learning implemented Starfish Early Alert in Fall 2012. The objective of this program is to help raise retention at UMass Lowell by initiating interventions for students who may be experiencing attendance and academic issues in a timely fashion—which means getting to students when we can help them figure out what sort of problem they are having and recommend some strategies for improvement.

The initiative originally involved several freshman-level gateway courses: College Writing I, Calculus I, and Calculus IA. We have since expanded the program to include a dozen additional courses, including College Writing II, other versions of Calculus I, some first-year seminars, Chemistry I, and Anatomy & Physiology I and II lab sections which allows us to interact with even more first-year students.

This Starfish Early Alert software enables faculty in these course to alert both students and the Centers for Learning when a student appears to be struggling academically and/or missing classes. Faculty members complete five surveys throughout each semester beginning the second week of classes. Faculty can raise flags in the case of students who are having either attendance or academic issues, and for students who are doing well faculty may send kudos—positive messages of praise and encouragement. These flags and kudos trigger automatically generated email messages which go out to the student and to Doug Cooper, the Coordinator of Retention Initiatives at the Centers for Learning. The messages are worded to be as professional, non-judgmental, and supportive as possible, encouraging students to contact their instructors and/or advisors, and to take action.

For additional information about the Starfish Early Alert initiative, please contact:
Douglas Cooper, M.S.; Coordinator of Retention Initiatives
Centers for Learning and Academic Support Services (CLASS)
978-934-4548; Douglas_Cooper@uml.edu
Keeping the Community Friendly & Safe
The UMass Lowell Police Department & Campus Resource Officers

The University Police Department has over 30 full time academy trained police officers that have the authority to enforce all criminal and motor vehicle laws. The Universities’ Police Department has a working relationship with the Lowell Police Department (LPD) and the National Parks Service Police Department. All three law enforcement agencies meet on a regular schedule, share information and work together to provide a safe campus community.

UMLPD has two Campus Resource Officers, whose primary focus is interacting with the campus community. The Department is committed to community policing, and offers specialized services and programs year round. Programs include: Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) courses, safety talks, work study positions, student intern programs and campus safety walks. Additionally, guest speakers from the law enforcement field are brought in to meet with students and discuss possible career paths.

As the Fall Semester approaches, incoming freshmen and transfer students are excited and apprehensive about their pending freedoms. The Campus Resource Officers plan to meet as many of the incoming students as possible and cover topics that range from securing property to domestic violence prevention. This is accomplished through numerous partnerships with student groups, athletic teams and Resident Life. The Campus Resource Officers work closely with the Resident Advisors (RAs) in order to build a better rapport within the student community.

As you prepare to send your student off to college, the Campus Resource Officers would like to offer a few words of advice to pass on to your student. The UMass Lowell Campus is an open but safe community. It is recommend that students remember to lock their residence hall rooms and vehicles at all times.

The Campus Resource Officer Team
Officer Joe Brown
and
Officer Jeff Connors

For more information or to speak with one of the campus resource officers
call: 978-934-2398
e-mail: police@uml.edu
www.uml.edu/police
Join us for River Hawk Homecoming (October 23-26, 2014). Homecoming (formerly Fall Festival) is UMass Lowell's biggest celebration of the year. Don’t miss our exceptional line-up of entertainment, sports, family fun, reunions, food and opportunities to unite with friends, classmates and colleagues. See the transformation happening on-campus during the most vibrant season of the year.

Parent Programs will be hosting a parent & family reception on Saturday, October 25. Check out our October newsletter issue for more exciting details about the parent & family reception as well as an in-depth look at all River Hawk Homecoming 2014 has to offer.

River Hawk Homecoming Events Include:

- 16th Annual Jennifer's 5K Run/Walk
- Reunions & athlete alumni games
- Campus tours
- Open skate
- Book signing with local author Jim O'Brien
- Hawkey Way: family activities, live music, food, student organization showcases, performances and more
- UMass Lowell Hockey vs. University of Michigan
- UMass Lowell Hockey vs. Michigan State University
- UMass Lowell Field Hockey, Soccer & Volleyball games
- After-party River Hawk celebration
- And more...
Upcoming Events for Parents & Families

Sunday, 9/7 (8:00am-6:00pm)
Backyard Sunday River Festival (Hosted by the Tsongas Center)
The Backyard Sunday River Festival is a free admission, flea-market style event from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. then features live music from 4 to 6 p.m. The band taking the Lowell Jewelry and Loan Stage will be Hal Holiday & The Tones. This event is free to the public with free parking.

Tuesday, 9/16 (2:30pm-4:00pm)
Grand Opening of University Crossing (Hosted by UMass Lowell)
Located at 220 Pawtucket St., University Crossing serves as a hub of student activity and connect the university’s three campuses and the downtown business and cultural district. Join us for its grand opening featuring student entertainment, snacks, giveaway and an opportunity to see the brand-new 200,000-square-foot facility.