From the Dean

With the launch of new programs and an increase in enrollment, the College of Health Sciences has experienced dramatic growth. Within the last five years, student enrollment has increased by more than 30 percent. We currently have a combined total of 7,980 students in undergraduate and graduate programs.

We introduced the new Pharmaceutical Sciences and Public Health programs and have more on the horizon. New simulation laboratories in the School of Nursing are transforming the way students learn. A state-of-the-art Pharmaceutical Sciences laboratory is being built in the Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center building. In addition, we are increasing our resources to continue to improve student retention.

All of this excitement on campus has triggered a need for more talented faculty to join our team. Please see some of the available positions on the right. If you are interested, please visit the UMass Lowell Human Resources website.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season,

Seeking Faculty

Visit the UMass Lowell Human Resources website to view faculty job descriptions in the following disciplines:

- Public Health
- Nursing
- Nutritional Science
- Physiological Chemistry
- Physical Therapy
- Clinical Immunology
- Toxicology
- Health Informatics and Management

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 10, Home for the Holidays: Taniya Nayak '97, HGTV & Food Network, 6 to 9 p.m., University Crossing. Learn more and register.

Friday, Feb. 6, College of Health Sciences Hockey Night, River Hawks vs. Boston University. We are also celebrating National Wear Red Day to raise awareness of heart disease prevention. Learn more and register.

Save the date: Wednesday, April 15, Ribbon
Advisory Board Offers Expertise to College of Health Sciences

Left to right: David Stordy '90, '93, Richard Lynch '87, Dean Shortie McKinney, Jan Stecchi, Louis Coiro '82, Judy Casagrande and Wendy LaBate '96. Board members missing from photo: Bruce Arakelian '82, Doryanne Passler '75 and Cathy Spinney '84, '06.

The College of Health Sciences advisory board is important to the success of the college, especially during this time of unprecedented growth among programs, student enrollment and faculty. Board members, who recently met at University Crossing, lent their expertise in areas such as healthcare, physical therapy and long-term care.
Kriebel Receives $1.4M Grant for Vision Disorder Research

Prof. David Kriebel of the Department of Work Environment recently received a $1.4M grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to evaluate whether preventable factors such as heavy lifting cause retinal detachment, a serious condition that can result in vision loss. The retina pulling away from blood vessels ranks as one of the most common ophthalmologic emergencies, often leading to irreversible vision damage. Until recently, only a small portion of retinal detachment cases was considered preventable. Emerging research identifies a strong association between retinal detachment and preventable factors such as heavy lifting. Read more.

Master of Public Health Program Offers Six Options

The new Master of Public Health (MPH) program offers students a choice of specializing in one of six areas:

- Global Environmental Sustainability and Health
- Epidemiology
- Healthcare Management
- Population Health
- Nutrition
- Gerontology

The Public Health program offers Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees as well as an accelerated BS to MPH program for current junior or senior UMass Lowell students. We also offer a Graduate Certificate in Public Health studies. If students receive a 3.5 GPA in the certificate, four of the five introductory courses are completed for a MPH and students can waive the Graduate Record Examination to get into the MPH program.

For more information about the MPH program, contact Leland_Ackerson@uml.edu. For more information about the undergraduate program, contact Rebecca_Foco@uml.edu.
Undergraduate Students Gain Research Experience

Exercise Physiology majors Caroline Stark and Kayla Chan, and Clinical Laboratory Sciences major Kevin Twombly gained real-world research experience this summer as Co-op Research Scholars. Caroline Stark never thought she'd be working in a laboratory to help solve real problems so early in her college experience. But she got to do just that after completing her freshman year. "Working with this caliber of research is more than I could have expected of my first-year college experience. I’ve learned new software, therapy techniques and how to get approved for research, all which is extremely gratifying.”

Read more.

New Research Center Studies Nutrition and Health

Prof. Katherine Tucker of the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department leads the university’s Center for Population Health and Health Disparities. Her research team is conducting a longitudinal study of 1,500 Puerto Rican adults between 45 and 75 years old living in Boston to reduce high rates of cardiovascular disease. She explains that although the study targets Puerto Ricans, heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States. Understanding the study findings can be helpful for everyone, regardless of ethnicity.

Read more.

Simulated Activities Give View into PT Career

What does a physical therapist do? In the spirit of show rather than tell, university graduates designed hands-on activities to teach local high school and college students about the profession. Recent physical therapy graduates volunteered at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference at UMass Medical Center in Worcester. HOSA, a national organization that provides professional networking experience and exposure to health profession options, hosts an annual symposium.
for youth members to learn about jobs in the healthcare field. Read more.

New Gerontology Research Center

The Center for Gerontology Research and Partnerships was recently formed to foster collaborative research on campus and within the New England region to promote healthy aging that enables adults to grow old with dignity. Researchers study nutrition, healthy living, chronic disease and caregiving, cognitive changes in the workplace, formal and informal caregiving and technology use in older populations. Learn more about community and industry partnerships and the regional consortium of community-engaged gerontology researchers.

Interim Dean Announced for School of Nursing

Dean Shortie McKinney named Karen Devereaux Melillo Interim Dean of the School of Nursing, effective July 1. She served as the Chair of the Department of Nursing for nine years. Assoc. Prof. Lisa Abdallah was elected chair of the School. The Department of Nursing was elevated to the status of School of Nursing July 2013 and moved into a new state-of-the-art facility, the Health and Social Sciences Building on South Campus. With more than 600 students, the School of Nursing continues to build programs, offering bachelor's, master's, doctorate of nursing practice and Ph.D. degrees to meet the demanding needs of the healthcare industry.
Online Toolkit Helps Employers Improve Worker Health

The Center for Promotion and Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW) released an online toolkit that helps organizations implement successful worksite health, safety and wellness programs. Researchers at CPH-NEW designed and field tested all of the materials and tools that engage employees at all levels in the design of integrated interventions. The toolkit, called the Healthy Workplace Participatory Program, encourages organizations to integrate their health, safety and wellness programs. Studies show that programs that integrate health, safety and wellness can produce better health outcomes and may help save health care and administrative costs. Read more.

Conference Advances Green Chemistry

The 9th Annual Green Chemistry & Commerce Council (GC3) Innovators Roundtable in May at the 3M facility in St. Paul, MN brought more than 150 organizations together to advance green chemistry in product development. The GC3, led by Assoc. Prof. Joel Tickner of community health and sustainability, is a business-to-business forum for sharing experiences about the challenges of and opportunities for using safer chemicals and products. The three-day conference featured company innovators large and small, from Target, Walmart and Staples to companies such as Ecovative that uses mushroom technology to replace plastics and plastic foams for packaging and building materials. Shown in photo, left to right, Director of Sustainability at Walmart Robert Kaplan, Senior Scientist at Staples Roger McFadden and Assoc. Prof. Joel Tickner.
**Featured Alumnus**

Louis Coiro '82, who serves on the College of Health and Sciences Advisory Board, is the owner of Tewksbury Physical Therapy and Drum Hill Physical and Sports Therapy. He launched the companies three years apart in the late 1980s, after working several years as a therapist in Boston. Both practices have flourished; they now include a total of 28 staff members, including 13 therapists, who offer both physical and occupational therapies. The team addresses a wide range of patient needs in areas including orthopedic and neurological, pre- and post- surgical, adult and pediatric care. Coiro, who earned a B.S. in physical therapy from the University of Lowell in 1982, serves as chairman of the UMass Lowell Physical Therapy Program Advisory Board, and is a member of the Advisory Board of the College of Health Sciences. He was honored in 2011 with the Distinguished Service Award from the Physical Therapy program. He also received the University Alumni award in April 2014. In addition, he has served for the past seven years as president of the New England Physical Therapy Network, and has lectured nationally through the Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association.

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**Welcome to New Faculty and Staff**

Lecturer in the Department of Physical Therapy Kyle Coffey received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UMass Lowell. He has practiced physical therapy in the outpatient orthopedic and sports medicine setting for several years, gaining significant experience and receiving advanced training focused on manual therapy techniques for the shoulder, knee, and spine. He teaches undergraduate Exercise Physiology courses. Kyle is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Orthopedic section of the APTA, as well as national and New England chapters of the American College of Sports Medicine. He is also an APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor.
Assoc. Prof. Eric James of Physical Therapy completed his doctorate in motor control at the Pennsylvania State University, with his dissertation examining motor learning and postural control dynamics. His research interests include the application of dynamic systems theories of motor control and learning to enhance human motor function. He has a special interest in promoting healthy aging and motor functions such as balance, postural control and gait in elderly populations. Eric is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the Gerontological Society of America, the American Physiological Society, the International Society of Motor Control and the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity. He previously held a faculty position at the University of Texas Brownsville and has also worked as an instructor in the Feldenkrais Method of movement education and as an instructor of Bujinkan Taijutsu.

Coordinator of Student Success Jennifer Keene-Crouse works in the Dean’s office on academic advising, student recruitment, orientation and retention activities, CORI process, assisting in the management of the College’s Student Resource Center and collaborating with the departments with student co-op placements. Previously, she was an Academic Advisor in Student Affairs at Salem State University. She has additional experience in higher education in the areas of financial aid, student affairs and residence life. She holds an M.Ed. in Higher Education from Salem State University.