Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues,

I’m delighted to share our new video showcasing the growth of the College of Health Sciences. With new programs, research facilities, simulation laboratories and resources that support student success, we are a college on the move. If you haven’t been on campus for a while, you may not recognize us.

I am happy to announce the launch of our new School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the first public school of its kind in Massachusetts.

Please join me in welcoming the founding dean of the School, Mehdi Boroujerdi. We are very fortunate to have him at the helm to build the exciting new Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015. I wish you much success in the future. Be sure to stay connected to UMass Lowell.

Have a warm and enjoyable summer.

Best,
New School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Launched

UMass Lowell is now home to the state's only public School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A collaborative effort with UMass Medical School, it will harness the strengths of both institutions to deliver high-quality programs in both fields. Mehdi Boroujerdi (left), a leader in pharmacy research and education, has been named founding dean of the new School. He brings an extensive background in academic program development, administration and pharmaceutical research to his new role to develop the new programs.

Read more from the Lowell Sun.

View the website.

Rob and Donna Manning Give to School of Nursing

The Mannings’ latest donation includes funds to help equip the School of Nursing’s new simulation laboratory in the Health and Social Sciences Building. The lab features medical manikins that can describe ailments to students in multiple languages. Donna Manning '85, '91, who has worked as an oncology nurse at Boston Medical Center for nearly 30 years, earned nursing and masters of business administration degrees from the university (in photo, left, Gov. Charlie Baker and Rob and Donna Manning). Read more.
Featured Alumna

Wendy LaBate ’96, middle in the UMass advertisement above, is this year's College of Health Sciences University Alumni Award Honoree. She received her master's degree in Health Services Administration (now Health Informatics and Management) from UMass Lowell in 1996. She is the Senior Vice President of Operations for the Northeast area for Genesis HealthCare. In addition to being a strong supporter of the College of Health Sciences, she also serves on the College's Advisory Board and has judged the spring 2014 DifferenceMaker Competition.

NIOSH Awards Quinn $2.4M Grant

As treatment of serious illnesses in the home increases, so does the risk of infections typically only seen in hospitals and rehabilitation centers. To fight these infections, more cleaning and disinfecting products with toxic chemicals are being used, raising health concerns like asthma for home health care aides, nurses, patients and the community. To find the right balance between fighting infections and using safer cleaning and disinfection methods and products, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) awarded Prof. Margaret Quinn of the Department of Work Environment a $2.4 million four-year grant. Read more. (photo by Earl Dotter)

View the new Safe Home Care and Hospitals website.
Physical Therapists Stroll to Victory

Confident, personable and touting their hydraulic walker’s simple design and wide-ranging benefits, Peter Klausmeyer and Ryan Andrews walked away with $5,000 and the top prize at the third annual DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge. “I’m just ultimately humbled by this whole situation,” said Klausmeyer after the decision by the panel of seven judges was announced. Klausmeyer and Andrews both graduated in May with doctorates in physical therapy. Anthony Pitaro, who just graduated from exercise physiology, won first place in the "Contribution to a healthier lifestyle" category for the Playable Therapy project. Exercise Physiology students Jessica Dion and Dylan Doucette won first place in the "Significant Social Impact" category for their Love of the Game project. Read more.

School of Nursing Earns Recognition

The School of Nursing has been selected as member of the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence, a designation that recognizes the school’s strong commitment to gerontological nursing. “We are very excited and honored to be recognized,” says School of Nursing Interim Dean Karen Devereaux Melillo. “This designation connects the School of Nursing faculty to leaders in other top schools, providing access to leading innovations in education and research for the health of older adults.” Read more.

Researchers Win $1M Grant to Protect Construction Workers

The National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) through the Center for Construction Research and Training, awarded a five-year, $1M grant to Assoc. Prof. Dhimiter Bello and Prof. Susan Woskie, both of the Department of Work Environment, to study ways to keep workers safe. “These chemicals have among the lowest occupational exposure limits ever established, putting workers at a severe risk,” says Bello. “The products that contain these chemicals are
widely used in construction, but very little exposure and health data is available,” says Bello. Read more.

Public Health Students Advocate at State House

As part of their studies in the course Politics of Health, public health students participated in an advocacy day event at the State House in Boston. They attended a rally with speakers who addressed pressing student debt concerns, the need for infrastructure upgrades at many of the state’s public higher education institutions and the rationale behind the demand for free public higher education in Massachusetts. Students divided into groups and spoke with legislators and their aides about the amount of debt they carry, the number of hours they work at one or more jobs in order to support themselves while in school as well as their appreciation for the opportunity to study at UMass Lowell. They asked legislators to support the Board of Higher Education’s call for $4.2 billion bonding capacity for maintenance needs on campuses and to increase the MassGrant program to $42 million while transitioning to a free system.

Wheelchair Basketball Gives PT Students Insight

Physical therapy and exercise physiology students played basketball against the New England Blazers, a non-profit organization that supports athletes in wheelchairs participate in basketball tournaments across the East Coast. Physical Therapy student and President of the Physical Therapy Club Jessica Hopkins said the event raised more than $1,600 for the New England Blazers and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. "This competition shows everyone how individuals labeled as disabled are true athletes and competitors. As a future physical therapist, I believe it's important to give back to our community by encouraging good health and fitness.” Read the story.