From the Dean

Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues,

To help our students truly grasp the concept of teamwork, our faculty developed a real-life scenario that took place in the nursing simulation laboratory. Students from five different majors worked together to come up with a care plan for a simulation of a 17-year-old who was on the cusp of addiction. This is one example of a major initiative in our college called Interprofessional Education, or IPE. Read more below and watch the video.

Our amazing faculty continue to be leaders in their fields, teaching our students while bringing their real-world experiences back to the classroom. For example, Alex Lopes recently returned from the Winter Olympics, where he worked as a researcher capturing data on athlete injuries. Read more in his blog.

Bringing all of our departments together on South Campus was a major goal for 2017 through our "Health on South Initiative." With the support of our administration and talented team from facilities, we were able to realign offices to improve access for faculty and students.

You can now find the Department of Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences in Weed Hall and Duggan Hall, the Department of Physical Therapy on the second floor of Weed Hall and the Department of Public Health on the fifth floor of O’Leary Hall. The Solomont School of Nursing remains in the Health and Social Sciences Building.

To all of our alumni, I encourage you to attend one of our upcoming events such as the Healthy Aging - Living Well Forum on April 6, or any of the events listed.

All my best,

Shortie McKinney
Dean of the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Upcoming Events

Young Alumni and Senior Networking Night
Tuesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.
UMass Club, Boston
Build connections and give advice to graduating students. Register.

4th Annual Healthy Aging - Living Well Forum
Friday, April 6, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Saab Emerging Technologies & Innovation Center
Featuring keynote speaker Michael E. Festa, Esq., who will discuss "The CARE Act: It's the Law." Learn more and register.

20th Annual University Alumni Awards
Thursday, April 16, 5:30 p.m.
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, Lowell
Alumnus Richard Lynch ’87, executive vice president & northeast region market president for Beacon Health Options, will be recognized at this dinner and awards ceremony. Register.

Save-the-Date
50th, 60th, and Golden Alumni Reunions
May 18 to 20
The Classes of 1968, 1958 and Golden Alumni (those who have previously celebrated their 50th reunion) enjoy faculty talks, campus tours and opportunities to reunite with classmates.

Make your gift today to the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences.
**Interprofessional Education Teaches Students How to Work on Teams**

A key initiative of the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences, Interprofessional Education (IPE) teaches students from two or more health professions how to work as a team during all or part of their professional training. The objective is to provide students with experiences that mirror the real world of delivering patient-centered health care.

In this video, students from different health majors – nursing, public health, nutritional sciences, medical laboratory science and physical therapy – participate in a simulation to learn how to work on a team for the benefit of a patient (acted by a UMass Lowell theatre major).

[Learn more and watch the video.](#)

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**Student Spotlight**

Meet Ellen Panetto, a senior in the [medical laboratory sciences](#) program, who was recently accepted into the pathologists' assistant program at Indiana School of Medicine.

The medical laboratory science program offered her many hands-on opportunities to find her passion. She has worked in hematology at Tufts Medical Center, microbiology at Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford, urinalysis at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital and the blood bank at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center. Her final rotation at Lowell General Hospital will be in clinical chemistry. [Read more about Ellen and the pathologists' assistant profession.](#)
Professor Wins $3.9M Grant to Study How Diet Affects Dementia

Highly processed foods are known to contribute to obesity, high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes. Now there’s something else to worry about – brain function. Prof. Katherine Tucker of the Department of Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences has received a $3.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the effects of highly processed foods on cognitive decline. The five-year study aims to find out if consuming processed foods such as white rice, soda, frozen meals and deli meat contributes to dementia. Read the story to learn more about the importance of two nutrients on the brain -- vitamin B6 and phosphorus.

UMass Lowell Researchers Develop Safer Solution for Paint-Stripping Products

You can walk into a home improvement store today and purchase paint strippers that contain the dangerous chemical methylene chloride. The toxic chemical can stop breathing and trigger heart attacks in less than one hour if not used properly. A team led by Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) research manager Greg Morose, which included public health, chemistry and engineering students, developed a safer paint remover that performs as well as products that contain the toxic chemical methylene chloride. Read the story.

Morose and Prof. Emeritus Michael Ellenbecker were interviewed on campus by CBS News correspondent Anna Werner, who is producing a series about the dangers of methylene chloride. The segment aired on Jan. 2, on “CBS This Morning.”

Nursing Alum Finds Calling, Gives Back

Donna Manning and her husband, Rob Manning ’84, ‘11 (H), who is executive chairman of MFS Investment Management and chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees, established the Donna Manning Endowed Faculty Chair for Nursing position. As an oncology nurse for nearly 30 years, Donna Manning has seen the best and the worst in health care. From her early years caring for cancer patients after radical surgeries at University Hospital in Boston to her more recent experiences working on groundbreaking clinical trials at Boston Medical Center, she has found a career that she loves. Read Donna Manning’s story.

Eying Eggs Could Help Vision

Have you thought about the positive benefits of eating eggs? According to new research by Assoc. Prof. Thomas Wilson of the Department of Biomedical and Nutritional Sciences, a diet that includes regular consumption of eggs may help protect against macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss in the U.S. The 12-month study, the results of which were published in the Journal of Clinical Ophthalmology & Research, measured the effects of eating a dozen eggs per week on people with early age-related macular degeneration.
According to Wilson, eggs provide nutrients that protect eyes from harsh light that damages the macula. Read more on how eggs protect the eyes.

Alex Lopes Conducts Research at Olympic Games

Have you thought about how research helps future Olympians? Alexandre Lopes, associate professor of physical therapy, conducted research, blogged and posted photos about his experiences at the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. Working behind the scenes, he captured data on the injuries and illnesses of all of the athletes. The results will be provided to the International Olympic Committee and could lead to changes that prevent injuries in all sports. Read his blog and view more photos.

Billerica High Students Gain Insight into Exercise Physiology and Physical Therapy Careers

When athletes get injured, physical therapists and exercise physiologists are crucial to recovery. Students in a sports injury management class at Billerica Memorial High School visited UMass Lowell’s exercise physiology labs to meet professors and participate in demonstrations. Twenty-two students rotated between two labs where Clinical Assoc. Prof. Edgar Torres and Lecturer Kyle Coffey of the Department of Physical Therapy showed them how clinicians evaluate the risk of injuries. Coffey had students perform squats to watch for inconsistencies in movement patterns that give insight into weaknesses. Read more.

Nominate Leaders in Celebration of 50 Years of Nursing

This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the nursing program at UMass Lowell—50 years of preparing well-trained nurses who make a difference in the lives of community members every day. In commemorating this important milestone, we are recognizing 50 current and past leaders who have made a difference in our first 50 years. We welcome your nominations of those who are advancing nursing, leading change and supporting UML’s renowned program. Selected nominees will be honored at the 50th anniversary celebration on Thursday, Oct. 4. Make your nomination by March 30.
Days of Giving on April 10 and 11

Last year we made history—together, we can do it again.

During our first-ever Days of Giving, 2,286 alumni, parents, students, friends, faculty and staff rallied together and donated to change students’ lives. This year, we are looking to hit 2,500 donors in 48 hours to support our students. Please consider making your gift to Health Sciences this year.

Goal: 2,500 donors in 48 hours
How: On April 10 & 11, make your gift at uml.edu/umlges

Challenge: Make your gift. Challenge friends. Share on social media. Encourage everyone you know to give back to the university you love.