Governor Announces $4M Grant for University Research and Learning Collaborative

A bandage that alerts you when it’s time to remove it. Shrink-wrap on a bridge that electronically detects the tiniest of cracks. A soup can label programmed to display a dozen different languages. It may sound like the stuff of sci-fi movies, but the future of printed and flexible electronics is closer than you think. And thanks to a $4 million grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, that future is taking root at UMass Lowell.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced the four-year MassTech grant, which will fund the university’s new Printed Electronics Research Collaborative (PERC), before a standing-room-only crowd at the Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center on Jan. 13.

Under the direction of Craig Armiento, professor in electrical and computer engineering, PERC will connect Massachusetts businesses big and small with the expertise of university researchers, providing students with cutting-edge experiential learning opportunities.

“This is exactly the sort of thing that we should do more of,” said Baker. “I love the idea of creating relevant opportunities for kids, relevant opportunities for faculty, leveraged by resources from the public and private sector.”
Learning with Purpose

He Packs a Multi-tool and a Passion for Helping

Jon Victorine Lauded as Rising Star in Security Technology

Jon Victorine carries a multi-tool in his pocket when he walks around campus in case a security gate or card reader needs a quick repair.

For Victorine, the university’s senior associate director of administrative services, paying attention to details and being able to make an immediate impact are some of the things he likes best about his job.

“I see the things that I’m doing are helping to protect the university. That’s rewarding,” says Victorine, who earned both his bachelor’s (‘04) and master’s (‘06) degrees in computer science at UMass Lowell. He oversees all technology planning and upkeep of the university’s security system which includes card access, intrusion and fire alarms and video surveillance systems.

Victorine’s accomplishments have earned him recognition from his peers in industry. Security Director News, a trade publication based in Yarmouth, Maine, named him to its annual “20 Under 40” list, an honor that recognizes rising stars in the security profession.

In his current position, he interacts with a wide cross section of people on campus as he applies technology to solve problems. That interaction is a facet of his job that he clearly loves.

“I realized early on I didn’t want to sit in a cube and code all day. I like working with people,” he says. “I love this place and I want to give back.”

Meehan Earns Living the Dream Award

Chancellor’s Dedication to Equality and Diversity Recognized at MLK Event

As Chancellor, Marty Meehan has made it a priority to both increase diversity on campus and ensure that there are equal opportunities for all students, staff and faculty. For his public service, including his efforts as assistant district attorney and then congressman, Meehan was awarded the 2015 Living the Dream Award at the 17th annual “Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” event in Lowell.

Since Meehan became chancellor of UMass Lowell in 2007, diversity has grown at the university. More than 21 percent of students are members of underrepresented groups and 1,300 international students are enrolled. Meehan, who is a vocal supporter for diversity in education, has made increasing opportunities for all students, regardless of background, a priority.

Under the chancellor’s direction, the Office of Multicultural Affairs has worked with several partners toward these goals. There are now 37 cultural and spiritual student groups with new ones forming each semester.

Faculty and staff have also become more diverse, with more than 13 percent now coming from underrepresented groups.

The Heroes among Us

Six Members of University Police Department Honored

It was a routine overnight patrol late last June for UMass Lowell Police Department Officers Walter Nadeau and Sean Donovan, until a citizen flagged down their cruiser just off campus to alert them that his friend had no pulse and was not breathing.

Nadeau and Donovan sprang into action, beginning CPR and performing chest compressions and artificial breathing until paramedics arrived. The victim soon regained his pulse and survived the ordeal.

In recognition of their roadside rescue efforts, Nadeau and Donovan received the Heroic Action Award at the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators’ (MACLEA) 27th annual awards ceremony Dec. 18 at Northeastern University.

Six members of the UMass Lowell Police Department were honored in all—the most of any of the 68 campus law enforcement agencies represented.

“These MACLEA awards are a testament to the dedicated staff we have here at UMass Lowell,” says UMass Lowell Police Chief Randy Brashears.

Lt. Melissa Mullen received an award for Outstanding Administrative Contribution. As Administrative Lieutenant, Mullen oversees the detective unit and community policing. Sgt. Mike Soucy and Officers Joe Brown and Jeff Connors were also recognized for Outstanding Administrative Contribution thanks to two of their community policing initiatives: the Home Visit Program and Coffee with a Cop.

Chancellor’s Dedication to Equality and Diversity Recognized at MLK Event

As Chancellor, Marty Meehan has made it a priority to both increase diversity on campus and ensure that there are equal opportunities for all students, staff and faculty. For his public service, including his efforts as assistant district attorney and then congressman, Meehan was awarded the 2015 Living the Dream Award at the 17th annual “Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” event in Lowell.

Since Meehan became chancellor of UMass Lowell in 2007, diversity has grown at the university. More than 21 percent of students are members of underrepresented groups and 1,300 international students are enrolled. Meehan, who is a vocal supporter for diversity in education, has made increasing opportunities for all students, regardless of background, a priority.

Under the chancellor’s direction, the Office of Multicultural Affairs has worked with several partners toward these goals. There are now 37 cultural and spiritual student groups with new ones forming each semester.

Faculty and staff have also become more diverse, with more than 13 percent now coming from underrepresented groups.

The Heroes among Us

Six Members of University Police Department Honored

It was a routine overnight patrol late last June for UMass Lowell Police Department Officers Walter Nadeau and Sean Donovan, until a citizen flagged down their cruiser just off campus to alert them that his friend had no pulse and was not breathing.

Nadeau and Donovan sprang into action, beginning CPR and performing chest compressions and artificial breathing until paramedics arrived. The victim soon regained his pulse and survived the ordeal.

In recognition of their roadside rescue efforts, Nadeau and Donovan received the Heroic Action Award at the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators’ (MACLEA) 27th annual awards ceremony Dec. 18 at Northeastern University.

Six members of the UMass Lowell Police Department were honored in all—the most of any of the 68 campus law enforcement agencies represented.

“These MACLEA awards are a testament to the dedicated staff we have here at UMass Lowell,” says UMass Lowell Police Chief Randy Brashears.

Lt. Melissa Mullen received an award for Outstanding Administrative Contribution. As Administrative Lieutenant, Mullen oversees the detective unit and community policing. Sgt. Mike Soucy and Officers Joe Brown and Jeff Connors were also recognized for Outstanding Administrative Contribution thanks to two of their community policing initiatives: the Home Visit Program and Coffee with a Cop.

The Heroes among Us

Six Members of University Police Department Honored

It was a routine overnight patrol late last June for UMass Lowell Police Department Officers Walter Nadeau and Sean Donovan, until a citizen flagged down their cruiser just off campus to alert them that his friend had no pulse and was not breathing.

Nadeau and Donovan sprang into action, beginning CPR and performing chest compressions and artificial breathing until paramedics arrived. The victim soon regained his pulse and survived the ordeal.

In recognition of their roadside rescue efforts, Nadeau and Donovan received the Heroic Action Award at the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators’ (MACLEA) 27th annual awards ceremony Dec. 18 at Northeastern University.

Six members of the UMass Lowell Police Department were honored in all—the most of any of the 68 campus law enforcement agencies represented.

“These MACLEA awards are a testament to the dedicated staff we have here at UMass Lowell,” says UMass Lowell Police Chief Randy Brashears.

Lt. Melissa Mullen received an award for Outstanding Administrative Contribution. As Administrative Lieutenant, Mullen oversees the detective unit and community policing. Sgt. Mike Soucy and Officers Joe Brown and Jeff Connors were also recognized for Outstanding Administrative Contribution thanks to two of their community policing initiatives: the Home Visit Program and Coffee with a Cop.
Students Study Fundraising Firsthand

Honors Philanthropy Class Awards $10K to Local Educators

A class Thomas Reimonn enrolled in just to fulfill a requirement ended up giving him a valuable view of the university and his role within it. Reimonn participated in the first Honors Seminar: Experiencing Philanthropy, together, the class awarded a total of $10,000 to two local nonprofits.

“The class taught us about business strategy, sociology, ethics and just how the world works,” says Reimonn, a chemical engineering student.

Honors College Dean Jim Canning recruited instructor Nancy Lippe, a nonprofit professional, to bring the class to campus. Lippe helped the students with resources and logistics, but let them guide much of the class.

The students researched nonprofit and philanthropy issues, debated project priorities, created a request for proposals and then evaluated each applicant with a rubric of their own creation. The Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust (LPCT) and Project LEARN most appealed to the students’ focus on science and technology education for disadvantaged groups, earning $5,000 each.

Learning by Giving, created by Doris Buffett (sister of billionaire investor Warren Buffett), provided the money for the students to distribute. The group partners with 35 schools and has helped 20,000 students support more than 445 local organizations.

LPCT will use the money to reinvigorate a program pairing high school and struggling middle school students for hands-on projects and trips connecting science and technology with the natural world. Project LEARN will expand its after-school SeaPerch program, during which middle school students will build and race underwater robots.

Mannings Keep on Giving

Alumni Couple’s Latest $4M Gift Includes Systemwide Teaching Excellence Awards

Whenever Rob and Donna Manning drive down Route 110 to visit their alma mater, the emotion builds. Turning onto University Avenue, they say a sense of pride hits them as they look out at University Crossing, the Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center and, of course, the future home of the eponymous Robert J. Manning School of Business, the $40 million Pulichino Tong Business Building.

The Mannings have played an instrumental role in the 21st century evolution of UMass Lowell. With their most recent gift of $4 million, the alumni couple has now committed nearly $10 million to the university over the past eight years. Not only have they endowed scholarships for students majoring in nursing and business, they’ve helped fund capital projects that have transformed the campus skyline.

Now they’re adding a new layer, earmarking part of their latest donation to endow the Rob and Donna Manning Teaching Excellence Awards, systemwide honors that will be given to faculty annually on each of the five UMass campuses. The awards, which will factor in student reviews and be decided by deans from across the UMass system, will each include a $10,000 check from the Mannings.

The Mannings’ latest commitment will also help equip the School of Nursing’s new simulation laboratory in the Health and Social Sciences Building and a state-of-the-art trade desk that will serve as the hub of the new Pulichino Tong Business Building’s atrium when it opens in spring 2017.

Rob ’84 and Donna ’85, ’91 Manning get a standing ovation from Gov. Charlie Baker during the January announcement of their $4 million gift to the university at the Saab Center.

Art Prof’s Videos Chosen for Giant Boston Marquee

Works Presented on 80-foot Screens

“There’s a lot of art history walking around in my head,” says Ellen Wetmore, an associate professor in the Art Department.

She’s not kidding. Her latest work, “Frescoes,” showcases some of her thoughts through a set of videos inspired by the frescoes on the ceilings of the Uffizi museum in Florence, Italy. The videos mimic the tromp l’oeil scene effects, artificial surfaces, and collections of flora and fauna.

For Wetmore, art is alive, not fixed.

“I like to imagine what happens next when I look at a piece—what happens to the couple, what changes might occur,” she says.

Wetmore says the videos, shot in Haifa, Israel, and her hometown of Groton, “animate the stillness of museum pieces, and feature important themes like elisions of space, time and fantastic dysmorphia.”

“Frescoes” has been selected to be featured in Art on the Marquee, a collaboration between the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority and Boston Cyberarts that puts rotating digital art on display on an 80-foot-tall multi-screen LED marquee outside the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in South Boston. Wetmore’s work was also featured in 2012, and her students’ work has also been selected to be featured as part of a student competition.

Artist Ellen Wetmore drew inspiration from Italy for her video “Frescoes.”
UMass Lowell Research Seeks Solutions to Sexual Violence and Victimization

**National Institute of Justice Awards $4.2M to Faculty Researchers**

Human trafficking. Sexual assault. Child sexual abuse. They are some of the most serious issues society faces today and the U.S. Department of Justice has turned to UMass Lowell faculty to conduct research needed to address those problems.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ)—the research, development and evaluation agency of the Department of Justice—has awarded three grants totaling nearly $2 million to UMass Lowell faculty to conduct research that will guide federal and state policy in these and related areas. With the latest grants, UMass Lowell has received $4.2 million from the NIJ to support eight research projects addressing pressing topics including terrorist behavior, police discipline and the control and monitoring of sex offenders.

The new grants are:

- **$1 million** to conduct the first-ever comprehensive nationwide assessment of sex offender registration and notification systems. The study—driven in part by a congressional mandate in the 2006 Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act—is led by Andrew Harris of the School of Criminology and Justice Studies, who is one of the nation’s leading experts on sex offender registries. Working with Harris will be Joshua Dyck of the Department of Political Science and Vinod Vokkarrane of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

- **$498,000** for research into the factors that influence the prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, led by Stephanie Block of the Psychology Department and Linda Williams of the School of Criminology and Justice Studies.

- **$490,000** to research the effects of new forensic-testing policies and protocols on the outcome of sexual assault cases, including the impact of state laws that require such testing. The research will be conducted by Williams, along with fellow School of Criminology and Justice Studies faculty members Melissa Morabito and April Pattavina.

All of the research efforts are designed to offer solutions to the problems of sexual violence and victimization, according to Harris, associate dean for research and graduate programs of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

“NIJ has increasingly evaluated research proposals based on their capacity to inform policy and practice,” says Harris. “These are not merely academic exercises; they are driven by our commitment to generating knowledge that will make a difference and enhance the safety of our society.”

“The selection of UMass Lowell faculty research projects for NIJ funding reflects the university’s growing reputation as an innovator and leader in criminal justice research and the expertise of our faculty researchers,” says Luis Falcon, dean of the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.