Making it Real in a New Space

Bookstore Re-engineered for Hands-on Learning

What do you do with an old bookstore? Re-make it for makers.

What was once a North Campus bookstore will soon become a honeycomb of student activity and a lure for the university’s engineering students.

“This is transformative,” says Joseph Hartman, dean of the Francis College of Engineering, of the maker space that is taking shape in the basement of Falmouth Hall.

The still-unnamed maker space is unrecognizable as its previous incarnation—ceilings have been peeled down, walls pulled back.

The space will hold eight 3-D printers and work stations for electronics and machining. There’s room for 100 students at a time, says Hartman, and it will be available to students 24 hours a day.

In the 8,500-square-foot space, concepts will come to life.

“This is really about making things real,” says plastics engineering Prof. David Kazmer. “All the time, students learn equations and math and how to do things. This maker space will let students at all levels realize their ideas.”

Hartman and Kazmer both envision a space that will hum with the trial and error of students testing out ideas. Working in teams or individually, students will be able to build prototypes.

The maker space trend, which parallels a renewed interest in manufacturing in the U.S., has become a hot item and a lure to prospective students, notes Hartman.

“Imagine being able to take prospective students to this hub of engineering activity,” he says.

The space will also be open to other university departments, says Hartman, and it dovetails with the university’s growing DifferenceMaker effort.

“The engineering maker space will support UMass Lowell DifferenceMakers as they invent new solutions and new products for the 21st century,” says Steven Tello, associate vice chancellor of entrepreneurship and economic development. “This space reflects the College of Engineering’s commitment to integrating innovation and entrepreneurship into the engineering curriculum. The university is a national leader in this regard, developing programs like DifferenceMaker and facilities like the maker space that will encourage and support entrepreneurial learning and initiatives among our students for generations to come.”
The School of Nursing has long focused research on the needs of the elderly.

School of Nursing
Recognized for Scientific Study of Older Adults

Selected as National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing

The School of Nursing has been selected as a National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence, a designation that recognizes the school’s strong commitment to gerontological nursing.

“Only 35 schools of nursing were designated from over 725 representing baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the nation,” says School of Nursing Interim Dean Karen Devereaux Melillo. “We are very excited and honored to be recognized.”

As the population ages, it has become critical to build a strong nursing workforce that is knowledgeable about the unique healthcare needs of older adults. This designation connects the School of Nursing faculty to leaders in other top schools and provides access to leading innovations in education and research.

UMass Lowell’s strength in gerontology began in 1975, when former Chair and Professor Emeritus May Futrell established the first master’s gerontological nurse practitioner program. Since then, faculty have researched and published hundreds of papers on elder issues including wandering, health promotion, physical activity and exercise, cognitive health, depression, delirium, raising grandchildren and more.

Young Artists Take on Climate Change as Part of Cool Science

Messages Displayed on Buses Throughout the Region

Schoolchildren across the commonwealth recently competed in the university’s Cool Science program, creating artwork that educates the public about the effects of climate change.

In the Graduate School of Education’s third annual Cool Science competition, students in third through 12th grade from 28 schools submitted more than 506 pieces of artwork. The winning entries are displayed throughout the region on Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) buses, reaching thousands of commuters with climate change messages every day.

“We are thrilled with the excitement that surrounds Cool Science, from the creative and passionate students, their teachers, parents, our corporate partners and the public as well as the advertising community,” says Prof. David Lustick, who was recently honored at the White House for his work on Cool Science and the ScienceToGo.org (see story, page 3). Cool Science entries were judged for clarity of message, scientific accuracy, creativity and artistic appeal. Suzanne Giardino of UPS, one of the judges, says the student artwork was “thought provoking.” UPS donated money to help pay for placement of the placards on the LRTA buses.

Cool Science recently won a Merit Hatch Award for outstanding achievement in creative branding and marketing.

The LRTA and Anastas Advertising Associates have contributed to the project since 2012.

Students Immersed in Innovation in India

Entrepreneurship Course Teaches How to Create Solutions from Chaos

Manning School of Business students Rebekah Dufrene and Joanne Pesnell had never worked for a startup company before. Yet there they were in January, halfway around the world in Hubli, India, telling the investor behind their new mobile app why he needed to pump the brakes on a public launch.

“It was very intimidating,” says Dufrene, a graduate student pursuing her MBA.

It was also Dufrene’s favorite part of the two-week “Global Immersion in Innovation and Entrepreneurship” course that she and 16 fellow UMass Lowell students participated in over winter break.

Now in its second year, the intensive three-credit study abroad program is a collaboration between UMass Lowell and B.V. Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering and Technology in Hubli. The course is designed to teach entrepreneurship through multicultural and multidisciplinary activities.

“It’s a complete immersion,” says Manning School Lecturer Deborah Finch. “You’re working with Indian students, living with them, being part of their community; it’s 24/7 from the time you hit the ground.”

Rather than starting the program in the classroom and spelling out the steps of the entrepreneurial process, the 50 students were divided into nine teams and turned loose for the first two days at different nonprofits, hospitals and technology companies around Hubli, where they gained insight into the organizations’ processes and challenges.

Back in the classroom, the groups then learned the basics of entrepreneurship, heard from guest speakers and developed solutions for the organizations they visited.

In the final class, students presented their solutions to representatives from the organizations.

“We let students make mistakes and figure their way out of it, which was a directed purpose in our mind,” Finch says.
**White House Honors UMass Lowell Professor**

**Lustick Named a ‘Champion of Change’**

Assoc. Prof. David Lustick was one of eight local heroes honored at a “Champions of Change for Climate Education and Literacy” event at the White House in early February. The event celebrated Americans who are doing extraordinary work to enhance climate education and literacy in classrooms and communities across the country.

Lustick teaches in the Graduate School of Education, where he conducts research on adult learning and climate-change communication. As principal investigator on two informal-science learning projects, he leads a team of interdisciplinary professionals who are dedicated to engaging communities with climate science.

Cool Science displays K-12 student artwork about climate change throughout the local transit authority in Lowell. ScienceToGo.org is a multifaceted learning campaign on the Boston subway featuring “Ozzie the Ostrich,” who engaged Bostonians with the reality, relevance and hope associated with climate change. Both projects utilize out-of-home media and social networks to engage the riding public with science-learning opportunities during their daily routines.

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**University Can Call Manchester a Friend**

**Melissa Manchester Residency Closes with Authority**

For three days in February, Grammy-winning pop singer-songwriter Melissa Manchester was in residency at UMass Lowell, mentoring music department students in songwriting and vocal technique.

On Feb. 28, students performed versions of Manchester’s songs, then Manchester treated the crowd of 600 to a 75-minute set, rendering both her hits and selections from her new (and 20th) album, “You Gotta Love the Life.” It all wound down with 100 or so performers onstage, and a larger-than-life, all-ages rendition of Manchester’s un-recorded “Plant a Seed.”

Manchester had come to the university at the behest of her lifelong friend, Music Department Prof. Gena Greher. The concert raised $13,000 for the Joyce Pang String Scholarship Fund, in honor of the alumna and former UMass Lowell String Project student and teacher who died last year.

Manchester, 64, worked the stage like a woman half her age, even as old clips of her singing the bubbly pop of her Grammy-winning 1982 smash, “You Should Hear How She talks About You” flickered on a screen behind her. Onscreen, a Spandex-clad singer skipped around the stage like an aerobic-age sprite, while the wiser, mature and less glammed-up version of Manchester belted the song with undiminished power.

She chatted between performances about how her songs came to be. It was an evening over a “large bottle of wine” shared with Kenny Loggins that helped birth “Whenever I Call You Friend,” a smash for Loggins and Stevie Nicks.

“The students here I found very earnest and curious to learn,” Manchester said after the show. “They are just starting their adventure. I remember it when it was exciting and new.”

Over her 45-year career, she noted, “I have seen songs which society has dismissed that have changed a life, changed a mind and galvanized a nation.”

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**Grammy-winner Melissa Manchester shares songwriting tips with students in Prof. Gena Greher’s class.**

**Melissa Manchester wrapped up her three-day residency at UMass Lowell with a rip-roaring concert at Durgin Hall, performing at times with university students and local schoolchildren.**

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**Prof. David Lustick has been named a “Champion of Change” in climate education and literacy by the White House.**
Photos Shared on Instagram Showcase Campus in Snowy Splendor

It was quite the February here in Lowell. Snow. More snow. Then—whops—here comes more snow! In addition to tough driving conditions, canceled classes and frigid temperatures, the record-breaking weather cast a magical, glittering gloss over the UMass Lowell campus.

We asked for Instagram photos of the campus in its winter glory, and we are sharing some of them here. To see them all, go to www.uml.edu/campusbeauty.

We also asked the campus community to vote on their favorites. Congratulations to winners Mehmet Ali Yavuz, Raven Tang and Tanthanh Hoang, whose photos are included here.