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Bloomberg Finance Lab Opens for Business

Twelve-terminal Trading Room Takes Manning School to New Level

One of the most anticipated features of the new Pulichino Tong Business Center is the Finance Lab and Trading Room, a high-tech space where students will learn on Bloomberg terminals, surrounded by scrolling stock tickers.

But students don’t have to wait for the new building to open next year to get their hands on Bloomberg terminals, the industry-standard computer system that more than 320,000 business professionals in 160 countries around the world use to access real-time market data, as well as powerful analytics, news and research tools.

With the opening of the Bloomberg Center this semester in Pasteur Hall, students and faculty have access to 12 new Bloomberg terminals—along with training resources to help them get the most out of the system.

“I couldn’t be more excited for our students,” says Manning School Interim Dean Scott Latham, who thanked Rob Manning ’84 for providing the financial resources necessary to help the school subscribe to the Bloomberg Professional service which, in addition to the dozen twin-screen computer terminals, includes free web licenses that allow faculty to access the system remotely on almost any device.

“This gives our students a competitive advantage in the marketplace,” says Prof. Yash Puri, Finance Department chair. “We want to get every student Bloomberg-certified so that when they go to an employer, they have the tools necessary to hit the ground running.”

Puri says installing the Bloomberg terminals now, more than a year ahead of the school’s move, allows faculty to develop their own expertise on the system and integrate its capabilities into the curriculum. It also gives current juniors and seniors a chance to become Bloomberg certified—which will stand out on their résumés.

While finance is the field most closely associated with Bloomberg terminals, Puri points out that the system enhances learning and research possibilities across every business program.

“Bloomberg can be used for corporate research, for decision-making when looking at the markets, for economics, for employment data, for acquisitions and mergers,” he says. “Marketing students can research where the demand is for new products. Operations management can use it for logistics training, which is a big piece of business management these days. It looks at things like traffic patterns and flight times, which lets you know how long things will take.”
Visiting Author Encourages Students to Grapple with Passions

Kerouac Writer-in-Residence Steve Almond Teaches Nonfiction Workshop

Best-selling author Steve Almond is known for works that combine rants and reporting, such as his latest book, “Against Football: One Fan’s Reluctant Manifesto,” and op-ed columns for major newspapers. He also writes fiction and co-hosts “Dear Sugar Radio” with writer Cheryl Strayed.

In all his work, he grapples with personal and public obsessions and moral dilemmas. Now, as the university’s Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence for 2016, he’s asking students to do the same thing in a weekly, three-hour workshop on creative nonfiction. Students will study personal essays, literature of place and essays in which writers “struggle morally on the page” and then write their own.

“Students at this age, at the beginning of their writing careers, mostly need permission just to do that very simple thing of telling the truth about the things that matter to them most deeply,” he says. “You’ve got to find the things that you love—and usually those are the things you’re obsessed with and struggle with in some way—and that’s your material.”

Almond was selected as writer-in-residence by the English Department’s creative writing faculty for his prowess in fiction and a wide range of nonfiction formats. Almond also has extensive teaching experience, most recently at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, where he teaches narrative journalism to mid-career reporters.

Cigars, Hemingway and the Narrative of Revolution Fascinate Young Travelers

Louise Wu, a freshman nursing major, joined an Honors College immersion program in Cuba over winter intersession hoping to learn more about the country’s universal health care system—and got so much more.

Coffee, for starters. “It’s so much better than American coffee. I’m a coffee enthusiast and I tasted it and said, ‘Yes!’” Wu says. She bought four bags, duty-free, at the airport to bring home.

Other aspects of Cuban life weren’t as much to her liking. The Cuban education system curbs individual choice, with quotas set for how many students can enter each profession, she says.

Wu was one of 10 Honors College students who took part in the university’s first study abroad program in Cuba, led by first-year honors seminar instructor Julian Zabalbeascoa.

The students stayed with families in Havana and attended lectures every morning at the José Martí Studies Center. In the afternoons they took field trips to art and history museums, a tobacco farm and cigar factory, a health center, the national film school and Ernest Hemingway’s home. They also tried salsa dancing, cigars and non-alcoholic mojitos.

The students had the unique opportunity to hear one political narrative from the lecturers at the Martí Center—and compare that to the stories they heard from ordinary Cubans and the version of Cuban history taught in American schools, says Zabalbeascoa.

New Research Links Stress at Work to Unhealthy Lifestyles

Working Conditions Trigger Poor Diet, Smoking

Stress at work is linked to unhealthy lifestyle habits such as smoking, poor eating and lack of exercise, according to two research studies conducted by the Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace (CPH-NEW).

In March 2015, the first study, published in “The Scientific World Journal,” was conducted at 18 nursing homes with 1,506 health-care workers. The research showed a correlation between a wide range of stressful working conditions and workers who are smokers, overweight and inactive.

Smoking was almost twice as likely among nursing aides exposed to at least three of five job stressors: low decision control, low supervisor support, having another paid job, physically demanding work and recent physical assault.

The second study, published in the January 2016 issue of the journal “Health Promotion Practice” in partnership with the Massachusetts Coalition of Occupational Safety and Health, describes how low-wage jobs influence diet and exercise patterns. Workers interviewed in focus groups reported that high job demands and low job control left little time for adequate lunch breaks, which resulted in eating quickly, overeating or not having time to eat at all.

The CPH-NEW Healthy Workplace Participatory Program, available at www.uml.edu/cphnewtoolkit, is a free online toolkit to help employers and employees work together to make the workplace conducive to health and safety.

Honors Students Study Cuban Culture and History in Havana

Honors students tour the National Literacy Museum in Havana, Cuba.
Former U.S. Sen. Paul Tsongas, who would have been 75 last month, helped shape the trajectory of Lowell and the university.
Four New Communities Coming in Fall 2016

When George Le decided to come to UMass Lowell, he looked for a club or another extracurricular experience that would help him fit in. An honors computer science major from Methuen, Le decided to join the freshman Honors College Living-Learning Community (LLC) for help focusing on his studies.

“Getting thrown in as a freshman, there’s a lot of freedom and it’s really easy to get off track,” Le says. “I wanted to be around other strong students, people to motivate me to work harder.”

Introduced eight years ago to help freshmen find social and academic support, living-learning communities are now available to upper-class students as well. Roughly one in three students who live on campus now lives in an LLC.

Living-learning communities provide students the opportunity to explore common interests with other students in their living environment. They also improve student success: Of freshmen living in LLCs last year, 90 percent returned as sophomores, compared to 86 percent of those living in general freshman housing and 84 percent of commuters. Sophomores living in an LLC are also more likely to continue as juniors.

Some LLCs arise out of student interest, such as Multicultural Advocates of Tomorrow and Greek Life, while others come out of the colleges, such as Developing Leaders in Engineering and Business Innovation.

The university will add four new LLCs next fall, bringing the total to 24. The new LLCs include Political Science; International Experience, for students planning to study abroad; Digital Media/Animation; and DifferenceMakers, for upper-class students involved in the interdisciplinary entrepreneurship program.

Some LLCs emphasize academics, while others are organized around extracurricular or social themes. Rec-It, with advisers from the Campus Rec Center, is for students interested in personal health and fitness, while HEALL—Health Education Academic Living Learning FYE (first-year experience)—is mostly academic.

About half of all freshmen in the College of Health Sciences join HEALL. Freshmen take the same required classes, so they can study together. One of the most challenging is Anatomy and Physiology, and Arlee Dulak, the course coordinator, is also the HEALL adviser. She holds an evening review session in Weed Hall before each major exam. Students also can work with a tutor who comes to their residence hall every Sunday evening.

“Part of being faculty in residence is just making myself available to the students if they have questions about anything,” Adams says. “I want them to feel they can come to me when they have issues or problems.”

Faculty adviser David Adams and his daughter offer coffee and donuts to freshmen in the Honors College Living-Learning Community.

“They love that you can walk downstairs in your PJs and get tutoring,” Dulak says.

Freshman Alyssa Aurilio joined Hall of Justice, an LLC for first-year criminal justice majors.

“It puts you at ease to know there are other people around who understand what you’re doing,” Aurilio says. “We have similar schedules, we have the same classes and we can help each other.”

Students in the honors LLCs also have a mix of majors, says adviser David Adams, a lecturer in computer science. Adams organizes eight extracurricular lectures a semester, but even more important is his presence on campus. He and his family share an apartment in University Suites, in the upper-class Honors LLC, making him the only live-in LLC adviser.

“Part of being faculty in residence is just making myself available to the students if they have questions about anything,” Adams says. “I want them to feel they can come to me when they have issues or problems.”