Achievement, Passion, Ability to Inspire Propel UMass Lowell Graduate to Presidency

He graduated from the University of Lowell in 1978; he represented the region in the U.S. Congress from 1993 to 2007, serving on the House Armed Services and Judiciary committees; and he has led his alma mater, now known as UMass Lowell, to stunning heights of success since he was named chancellor in 2007.

And now Marty Meehan will bring his vision, experience and determination to the University of Massachusetts, after being elected the 27th president of the system in a unanimous vote of the UMass trustees on May 1.

The university has hired leading placement firm Isaacson, Miller to help identify Meehan’s successor at UMass Lowell. The firm will be assisted by a search committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members.

Meehan will succeed President Robert L. Caret, who will step down June 30 to become chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

“Serving as Chancellor of my alma mater, UMass Lowell, for the last eight years has been the most fulfilling period of my professional life, so I am excited about the opportunity to lead the University of Massachusetts system,” says Meehan.

Trustees cited Chancellor Meehan’s strong record of achievement and success at UMass Lowell, his distinguished record of public service, his passion for UMass and its mission, and his ability to communicate and to inspire as being among the reasons for selecting him as the system’s 27th president.

“We strongly believe that after a broad and encompassing search, the best person to lead the University of Massachusetts into a new era of growth and achievement is someone who has proven to be an integral part of its current success,” said Victor Woolridge, chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees. “Chancellor Meehan’s successful tenure at UMass Lowell has shown that he has what it takes to move the University of Massachusetts system forward. His results-driven, visionary leadership has opened up new frontiers for UMass Lowell, and we fully expect the same to happen for the entire university in the course of his presidency.”
Green Light for $27 Million Energy-savings Plan

Investment will Reap Significant Savings

An ambitious energy-savings plan to upgrade 32 buildings on campus is expected to reduce UMass Lowell’s energy and water bills by nearly $1.5 million annually. The $27 million, three-year project, which was announced by Chancellor Marty Meehan and state officials during the campus’s Earth Day Sustainability Festival on April 22, is part of the state’s Accelerated Energy Program (AEP). Spearheaded by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and the Department of Energy Resources, the AEP was launched in 2012 to facilitate $470 million worth of energy and water efficiency projects at 700 sites statewide.

“We are proud of the comprehensive sustainability program on this campus that extends from facilities and faculty research to classroom learning, student organizations and operations,” says Meehan. “We are at the forefront of investment in energy conservation among public universities.”

A team of engineers has already begun a room-by-room audit of the campus to create an energy conservation measures list that includes: 3,500 lighting system upgrades with LED and compact fluorescent alternatives; the addition of more than 630 low-flow faucets, showerheads and toilets; the replacement of 26 boilers with natural-gas heating equipment; and upgrades to lighting and heating systems campuswide.

Long May He Run

Family endows $100,000 scholarship in memory of Thomas Chamberas ’86

Thomas Chamberas ‘86 was a four-year member of the University of Lowell’s cross-country and track teams, a dedicated runner from a family that could practically field its own cross-country squad.

His father, George ’61, and brother Anthony are both longtime runners, and his brother Michael ’92 co-captained Lowell’s 1991 cross-country team, which won the Division II NCAA championship.

When Tom’s life was cut tragically short in 1994 in a workplace robbery, his family was determined to honor his memory and, if possible, to prevent similar tragedies through education. They founded the Thomas Chamberas Runners’ Memorial Scholarship, funding it largely through the tireless efforts of his mother, Cynthia, who organized golf tournaments and did extensive fundraising with sports organizations and individual donors. An annual trail race organized by Tom’s friends, classmates and co-runners has been contributing funds to the scholarship for nearly 20 years.

The scholarship fund grew to $100,000; Chamberas scholarships have been awarded to 19 UMass Lowell runners who embody Tom’s love of the sport, as well as his character and spirit.

Now, Tom’s spirit will thrive for years to come. George and Cynthia have created the Thomas Chamberas ’86 Runners’ Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund as part of the quiet phase of Our Legacy, Our Place: The Campaign for UMass Lowell. Helping students go the distance by increasing support for financial aid is a cornerstone of the $125 million campaign, which will have its official launch in late October. Close to 150 new endowed scholarship funds have been created since 2011, bringing the total number to 412.

They Shoot, They Score … from Wheelchairs

Participants Learn, Raise Money for Charity

Physical therapy and exercise physiology students recently competed in a basketball game against the New England Blazers, a local professional wheelchair basketball team.

It’s a fun event, but it also helps students understand the competitive abilities and struggles of people using wheelchairs.

The Blazers, an affiliate of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, donate their time and provide specialized wheelchairs for the game so that the students can experience the challenges of playing basketball in wheelchairs. And every year, the result is the same: PT students lose to the pro team.

“The athletes we play against come in smiling and ready to have a good time and end up really embarrassing us,” says Jessica Hopkins, a second-year physical therapy student and organizer of the game.

“Future patients include those who want to return to activities like marathon running, tennis, boating, skiing and basketball,” says Physical Therapy Lecturer JoAnn Moriarty-Baron. “This game allows our students to experience the physical and physiological demands that wheelchair mobility places on the body, giving them insight into treatment options.”

This year the students raised more than $1,600 for the Physical Therapy Club, which will make donations to the New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the National Organization for Rare Diseases.

Rowdy takes a seat next to Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton and DCAMM Commissioner Carol Gladstone during the formal announcement of the university’s $27 million in building upgrades through the Accelerated Energy Program.
UMass Lowell Honors Outstanding Alumni

Graduates Saluted for Leadership, Commitment to Community and Campus

UMass Lowell recently honored seven outstanding graduates who have gone on to career and personal success while demonstrating leadership in their communities and commitment to the campus.

“These graduates are seven remarkable individuals who have used their UMass Lowell educations to achieve success in their careers and communities,” said Chancellor Marty Meehan.

The honorees:
- Kathryn Carter ’78 of Nashua, N.H., is UMass Lowell’s vice provost for graduate and international affairs and strategy, following 16 years as dean of the Manning School of Business. A generous supporter of the school, Carter is committed to its culture of providing business education and research that are relevant in the global economy as well as building strong industry partnerships.
- Wendy LaBate ’96 of Nashua, N.H., is senior vice president of operations for the Northeast area for Genesis HealthCare. She serves on the advisory board of the College of Health Sciences and has donated her time to programs such as the university’s DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge.
- Lawrence Lin ’90 of Cupertino, Calif., and Taiwan is president of Grand Dynasty Industrial Co. Ltd., an injection molding company in New Taipei, Taiwan. He established the Dr. Lawrence C.H. Lin Taiwan Students Endowed Scholarship Fund in the Department of Plastics Engineering.
- Glenn Morgan ’86 of Belmont is the co-owner of SkyWorld Interactive, which provides web development solutions and services. Morgan founded the Creative Venture Competition in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and also established the Richard J. Morgan Memorial Scholarship Fund, which assists students who demonstrate community leadership.
- M. Margaret “Peg” Palmer ’73, ’77 of South Dartmouth is president of Surface Solutions Laboratories Inc. and CEO of Coatings2Go LLC, which provides coating products for medical devices used worldwide. Palmer, a generous supporter of the College of Sciences and the Department of Chemistry, has worked with the university’s Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center, which provides expertise in business, engineering and medicine to startup companies.
- Molly Sheehy ’60, ’82, ’00 of Lowell was the dean of Middlesex Community College’s Lowell campus before her retirement in 2012. She has generously supported UMass Lowell’s Graduate School of Education, including serving on its advisory board.
- Bryce Anderson ’04 of Newburyport is the principal of Coffey Design + Build Co., which is involved in all aspects of commercial construction projects in the Boston area. He has been a generous supporter of UMass Lowell, including serving as a judge for the DifferenceMaker Idea Challenge and attending men’s soccer alumni events.

New Lab Takes on Nuclear Safety and Security

Bringing Technical and Policy Experts Together for a Safer World

With the threat of nuclear terrorism facing the world, nuclear safety and safeguards are more critical than ever.

In response, the university has established the Integrated Nuclear Security and Safeguards Laboratory (INSSL), which brings together a multidisciplinary group of experts from across the campus.

“The INSSL is developing research, education and training tools to solve complex problems associated with global nuclear security and safeguards,” says nuclear engineering Assoc. Prof. Sukesh Aghara, who is the lab’s director. “We provide a platform for faculty, scientists and students to explore the interplay between technical and social science disciplines associated with nuclear security.”

The INSSL works with academic research centers and government and industry partners, including the university’s Center for Terrorism and Security Studies, Radiation Laboratory and global studies program, as well as Canberra Industries, a Meriden, Conn.-based company that provides nuclear measurement solutions.

In March, Aghara was part of a delegation of experts, including those from the U.S. State Department and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, who visited Saudi Arabia to present technical talks on nuclear security culture, insider threat and synergies between nuclear safety, security and safeguards. That same month Aghara also participated in a disarmament verification working group meeting in London.

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UMass Lowell Launches School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**State’s First Public School of Pharmacy will Prepare Grads for Careers in Practice, Research**

Pharmaceutical workforce shortages in Massachusetts, particularly in the high-tech biopharmaceutical arena, have spurred UMass Lowell to launch first-of-their-kind public pharmaceutical sciences programs in the state. A collaborative effort with UMass Medical School, the programs will harness the strengths of both institutions to deliver high-quality programs in both fields.

Mehdi Boroujerdi, a leader in pharmacy education, has been named founding dean of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Boroujerdi brings an extensive background in academic program development, administration and pharmaceutical research to his new role.

Faculty from the medical school will collaborate with counterparts from UMass Lowell’s College of Health Sciences, College of Sciences and College of Engineering on the curriculum of the degree programs, teaching courses and supporting clinical instruction.

“We have committed ourselves to train pharmacists who will shape the evolving health-care system of the country and the profession of pharmacy,” says Boroujerdi. “The presence of strong research and diverse health sciences programs at UMass Lowell and our collaboration with UMass Medical School will prepare our graduates to be interdisciplinary contributors to the health-care system.”

“UMass Lowell and UMass Medical School are excited about the opportunities for innovative, interprofessional education across the two campuses that will train our students to become highly skilled specialists who contribute to the care of the population of Massachusetts and beyond,” says Shortie McKinney, dean of the College of Health Sciences. “The school will meet practice, academic and industry needs for highly skilled pharmacy specialists to contribute to health care, research and the pharmaceutical/biotechnology industry.”

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will offer the following degrees:

- **Master of science in pharmaceutical sciences:** This program trains students to support technical roles in research and production settings that will help meet the demand for new drugs and to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drug therapies.

- **Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences:** This interdisciplinary doctoral degree with six specializations readies doctoral students to conduct research to discover new therapeutic agents and develop methodologies in drug delivery, including nanoparticles, and to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of dosage forms.

- **Doctor of pharmacy (PharmD):** Students in this program will develop the skills to become licensed pharmacists, learning various specializations of the clinical science of pharmacy.

“Our pharmacy degrees will benefit from established connections with clinical and community agencies,” says McKinney. “UMass Lowell provides research co-op scholarships to top students, so they can work with faculty. This will help young scientists get a jump-start on a career in pharmacy.”

Research for the pharmaceutical sciences program will be housed in the university’s Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center. It contains nanomedicine and biopharmaceutical labs, cell culture areas and an instrument room.

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