Jacqueline Moloney Elected Chancellor of UMass Lowell

First Woman in the 121-year History to Lead the Campus

Jacqueline Moloney, lauded as a pioneer in online education and for her leadership, entrepreneurial skills and impressive record of achievement, has been named the new chancellor of UMass Lowell.

Moloney, who is the first woman to serve as chancellor of the campus, was the unanimous choice of the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees. She was recommended for the position by UMass President Marty Meehan, who led the Lowell campus for eight years before becoming president of the UMass system in July.

“Jacqueline Moloney is an innovator in education and a dynamic leader with a proven track record. She has the skills, experience and passion that this job requires along with the bonus of local knowledge,” President Meehan said, noting that Moloney played a major role in the transformation and achievements that UMass Lowell has experienced in recent years.

In response to her selection, Moloney said, “I want to start by thanking the trustees for the vote of confidence that you’ve given me today in naming me as the next chancellor of my alma mater, UMass Lowell. It means the world to me; I’m very excited about leading this great institution and our remarkable faculty, staff and students.”

Trustee R. Norman Peters, co-chair of the chancellor search committee, said, “In a pool of extremely qualified candidates, she rose to the top with a record of high achievement, proven leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, collaboration and campus experience. She had the overwhelming support of students, faculty and the local community.”

Moloney will be formally inaugurated on Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

As executive vice chancellor, Moloney led and implemented the campus’s strategic plan, which is credited with the remarkable achievements of UMass Lowell in the last eight years, including the opening of 10 new buildings and impressive growth in enrollment, selectivity, diversity, research expenditures and standings in national academic rankings.

Considered a national online education expert, she is the architect of the forerunner to UMassOnline, the university’s highly successful distance-learning program, which is now a $43 million operation at UMass Lowell.

The first 90 days of Moloney’s first academic year as chancellor will include an engagement tour of the campus and micro grant program to spur advances toward the university’s strategic goals, among other activities.

Moloney will make a series of campus visits and participate in meetings and forums with students, staff and faculty to identify opportunities and challenges as she leads UMass Lowell into phase two of its 10-year strategic plan, UMass Lowell 2020.

Moloney will also award Chancellor’s 2020 Challenge Grants, 20 micro grants of up to $1,000 each, to faculty, students, staff, alumni and community members seeking funding for projects that advance the goals outlined in the plan.
The university’s continued surge in enrollment has meant an increased need for student housing and classroom space. The completion of phase two of the Riverview Suites project has helped address both those needs by adding accommodations for 299 students along with 10 new classrooms.

There was a literal building “boom” on North Campus this summer with the periodic blasting of ledge on the site of the new Pulichino Tong Business Building, the future home of the Manning School of Business.

Scheduled to open in spring 2017, the 54,000-square-foot building will feature a state-of-the-art trading room, 10 classrooms and 150 offices and collaboration spaces. The centerpiece of the building will be a four-story atrium that overlooks an outdoor plaza and connects to Lydon Library.

Renovation work continues on the new and improved McGauvran Center, on track to reopen in January. The $34 million project will offer more than 52,000 square feet of new dining space, learning commons and smart classrooms.

The North Quad project, which involves the construction of two permanent “pods” to improve accessibility, utility infrastructure and amenities, is expected to be complete in August 2016 and will also create a communal green space in the quad.

At Fox Hall, the university’s largest residence hall, the main entrance patio got a facelift. At the Inn & Conference Center, a $1.15 million renovation of the dining facility is underway.

Across campus, residence halls, classrooms, labs and offices have been refreshed and updated and the university’s Information Technology team continues to make system upgrades throughout the campus.

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Business Students Lend Hand to Sandy Victims

Through Volunteer Work, Class Learns What Makes Nonprofits Tick

Six Manning School of Business seniors spent a week this summer helping to repair and rebuild homes still damaged nearly three years after Superstorm Sandy. They lived together in a cramped church basement in Brooklyn, N.Y., doing volunteer construction work by day and cooking and cleaning chores by night.

The three-credit, service-learning project was organized by visiting professor Olga Tines through All Hands Volunteers, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization that provides relief to those affected by natural disasters around the world.

For the six students, all of whom had taken Tines’ organizational behavior course, the purpose of the trip was twofold: Not only did they help repair and rebuild homes still damaged nearly three years after Superstorm Sandy, but they also got an inside look at how a nonprofit organization operates.

“This was designed to give students an opportunity to become embedded in a not-for-profit organization while it’s working,” says Tines, who assigned reading before the July trip and had students complete a portfolio summarizing the experience when they returned.

The UMass Lowell group worked alongside more than 30 other volunteers from across the country and around the world, including people from as far away as Spain, France, Italy and Sweden.

‘Lure of the Spindle’ Celebrates Portuguese Impact

Unearthed Artifacts Tell Stories of Labor and Love

Led by the Holy Ghost Marching Band, more than 150 people paraded into the Boott Cotton Mills Museum one night this summer to celebrate the opening of an exhibit highlighting the Portuguese community’s history and influence in Lowell.

“The Lure of the Spindle: The Portuguese in Early 20th Century Lowell” showcases the lives of immigrants at work and in the community and explores their devotion to faith, family and neighborhood. The exhibit was inspired by historic records discovered last year in the attic of Lowell City Hall.

The artifacts came to light shortly before Prof. Frank Sousa arrived at the university to direct the Saab-Pedroso Center for Portuguese Culture and Research.

“It was serendipity,” says Sousa, speaking of the discovery of letters, passports, photographs and visas, which detail the lives of thousands of Portuguese laborers who arrived in Massachusetts more than 100 years ago. The immigrants, many of whom originally traveled to Massachusetts to work in the whaling industry, worked alongside many other groups in the Lowell mills.

The exhibit, which is presented in partnership with the university’s Center for Lowell History and Lowell National Historical Park, includes historical and contemporary collections of photographs, maps, city records and cultural and religious artifacts.

Sousa hopes the exhibit and the center’s work will raise awareness of Portuguese contributions to the region. Established in 2013, the center promotes the languages, literatures and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world, while advancing the presence and visibility of the Portuguese culture and community throughout the Merrimack Valley.

The exhibit is on display until Dec. 1 and is free to the public.

Cleaning Up in Art History

Students Help Restore Sculpture in Coburn

Students in Prof. Marie Frank’s American Art History class helped restore several casts of historic sculptures as part of their coursework.

The students helped bring new life to six plaster casts that stood watch in Coburn Hall for more than a century. Ten casts, made by the noted Caproni Brothers firm, were created from direct molds of the frieze at the Parthenon and from 15th century Italian sculptor Luca della Robbia’s Cantoria panels.

Using cotton swabs and diluted solvents, students carefully removed decades of dust, conserving the casts for generations to come.

Frank used grant money from the Transformational Education committee to make this hands-on learning experience possible. Part of the funds were used to hire Christine Thomson, an objects conservator, who met with students to plan for the casts’ cleaning. Thomson also repaired a few damaged areas of the fragile casts, showing students the art and science of her work.

“Working with art, cleaning it and learning some of the history of Lowell, our university and the art itself was fantastic,” says Katherine Holloran, a liberal arts junior concentrating on art history and psychology. “Because of this class I’ve decided to go to graduate school for art conservation and pursue it as a career.”
New School Year Launches with Record Number of Students

UMass Lowell opened this fall with more students than ever—17,500—and a new chancellor—Jacquie Moloney. (See front page story for details about the new chancellor and her plans for her first 90 days.)

Joining the university community this fall is the largest-ever group of new students—more than 2,800 freshmen and transfers—who also boast the highest average SAT scores and the highest average high-school GPA in the institution’s history.

Convocation on Aug. 31 officially opened the academic year and kicked off the college experience for new students. Clancy Martin, an acclaimed writer and philosopher, delivered a keynote speech encouraging students to embrace new ideas and develop a sound moral compass as they step into adulthood.

A record number of students—some 4,300—moved into residence halls on campus. More than 1,300 of the resident students are participating in UMass Lowell’s living-learning communities, which allow students with similar interests and goals to live together and take part in programs that enhance their educational experiences.

Late August featured season openers for two of UMass Lowell’s 18 Division I sports teams. Women’s field hockey faced off against the Quinnipiac Bobcats, followed by a men’s soccer match between the River Hawks and Monmouth University.

New and returning students are seeing infrastructure improvements at every turn. The entrance of Fox Hall, the university’s largest residence hall, has been remodeled. The North Campus quad is being converted back to green space after many years as a parking lot. Renovations continue at the McGauvran Center and construction continues on the 54,000-square-foot Pulichino Tong Business Building, the future home of the Manning School of Business scheduled to open in 2017.

Convocation serves as the official welcome to students at the start of the school year.

UMass Lowell Students are Work Ready, Life Ready, World Ready