UMass Lowell Innovation Hub to Offer Startups Room to Grow

UMass Lowell is expanding space for entrepreneurs, startups and new ventures in Lowell’s emergent Hamilton Canal District, thanks to $1 million in capital funding from the state.

In an April 24 visit to the city, Gov. Deval Patrick announced the funding, which will be used to build research and development labs in the two top floors of the newly renovated building at 110 Canal St., a former mill. The University, the building’s first tenant, is leasing 22,000 square feet of space from the developer, Trinity Financial.

The new UMass Lowell Innovation Hub will help entrepreneurs and early-stage ventures in testing products and business concepts, developing prototypes, raising funds and launching high-growth businesses. It will also provide additional room for the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), a UMass Lowell-UMass Medical School partnership that offers product and business development assistance, incubator space and other support to medical device entrepreneurs. M2D2 currently occupies 14,000 square feet in Wannalancit Mills at 600 Suffolk St.

“We invest in innovation because we believe in enabling and encouraging industries that are using their brainpower to help shape our future,” said Patrick. “We look forward to seeing the great work that will come out of the Innovation Hub.”

“This is great news for the University. This facility will provide much-needed innovation space for startup companies, expanding beyond just the medical-device industry by supporting other startups in the robotics, flexible electronics and clean tech sectors,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan.

The $1 million in funding comes on the heels of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center’s recent award of $4 million to UMass Lowell for the M2D2 expansion.

The third floor of the building, which is scheduled to open in the fall, will feature office space, rapid prototype development tools, meeting areas, industry suites and advanced manufacturing capabilities.

Gov. Deval Patrick announced $1 million funding for the new UMass Lowell Innovation Hub, which will provide space for up to 40 entrepreneurs at a renovated mill in the Lowell’s emergent Hamilton Canal District.
Hungry for Solution

$35K Idea Challenge Winners Address Real Problems

Support Our Students, a proposal for a campus community shop aimed at eliminating student hunger, was the top money-winner in this year’s DifferenceMakers Idea Challenge. The $7,000 prize will allow its six-member team to move forward in turning its idea into reality.

Team leader Teresa Shroll ’13, psychology, now a first-year graduate student majoring in community social psychology, says the group is determined to bring the idea to fruition.

“We are very passionate about this,” she says. “We’re not resting.”

“DifferenceMakers has been very successful,” says Steven Tello, associate vice chancellor of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. “It gives our students an opportunity to identify a problem and plan, organize and find a solution to it.”

Support Our Students proposes “a centrally located resource for students of low-income or those in need of assistance. It would also serve as a resource center for community engagement, for credit service placements and volunteer opportunities in the area.”

Shroll says the team’s research revealed that hunger isn’t just lack of food. “It’s the stress and time thinking about getting it and not having it that affects learning, too,” she says.

Thirteen teams competed in the second year finals of DifferenceMakers, whittled down from 70 applicants (nearly double the amount who entered first year) and 42 semifinalists. The $35,000 purse money—spread between TK winning teams—will help students file patents, purchase supplies and develop business strategies to flesh out their ideas.

Recognition

To earn a HeartSafe designation, institutions must meet specific criteria to ensure that anyone suffering sudden cardiac arrest on campus will have the best possible chance for recovery. The requirements include providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to the campus community and equipping all emergency vehicles with automated external defibrillators.

UMass Lowell’s Emergency Medical Services, which includes 30 students who are certified emergency medical technicians, respond to medical emergencies on campus and provide CPR training to students, faculty and staff. The service operates around the clock during the academic year.

The Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center at 1 Perkins St.

UMass Lowell Names First-ever Alumni Center in Honor of Alumnus

New Hoff Alumni Center Located in Mill Complex

The new UMass Lowell alumni center has been named in tribute to distinguished alumnus Charles J. Hoff ’66, ’04 (H). The center is located in the newly renovated administration building of the former Lawrence Manufacturing Co. at 1 Perkins St., Lowell.

The naming recognizes Hoff’s leadership as the chair of UMass Lowell’s first-ever major comprehensive fundraising campaign, as well as his generous legacy of giving to the University. This includes a recent major commitment, in addition to his steadfast support of the Charles J. Hoff Scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to students across the entire University of Massachusetts system. The program is the largest privately initiated scholarship program in UMass history.

The new Charles J. Hoff Alumni Scholarship Center offers meeting and reception space for alumni and campus events. Located along the Merrimack River, it also includes outdoor space for events and activities. The center houses Office of University Advancement operations.

The $2 million renovation is a showpiece for the dramatic expansion of the UMass Lowell campus and is located in what was known as the counting house at the Lawrence Manufacturing Co. Built in 1877, it is a historic landmark built in High Victorian Gothic style.

University Earns HeartSafe Designation

Commitment to Lifesaving Recognized

UMass Lowell has been designated a HeartSafe campus in recognition of its commitment to training and awareness of emergency cardiac care.

The designation was recently awarded by the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation at its annual conference. UMass Lowell is only the second university in the state to earn the HeartSafe designation.

“This honor demonstrates the University’s commitment to keeping our campus and community healthy and safe,” says Richard Lemoine, director of environmental and emergency management.

UMass Lowell’s Emergency Medical Services members train students in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Learning with Purpose
Professor Investigates How Antarctic Glaciers Respond to Changing Climate

NSF-Funded Research Looks into Planet’s Climate History

Glaciers occupy only about 10 percent of Earth’s land surface but they hold roughly three-quarters of the planet’s fresh water. Most of them are found in Antarctica and Greenland.

A UMass Lowell professor recently led an expedition to Antarctica to better understand this important resource by investigating how that continent’s glaciers have responded to climate fluctuations in the past.

Kate Swanger, an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and her team were in Antarctica from November 2013 to January 2014. The research was supported by a three-year $124,070 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Swanger and her team were in McMurdo Station, the U.S. research facility on Antarctica’s Ross Island, located at latitude 78 degrees south. The team conducted fieldwork to analyze and date past advances of alpine glaciers.

“This region purportedly has remained free of ice for at least 15 million years, and is therefore an important window into the continent’s long-term glacial, geological and climatic history,” explains Swanger. “Given Earth’s changing climate and its potential future impact on ice volume and sea level, it is crucial to gain a better understanding of past advances and retreats of Antarctic ice, especially under higher carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and/or warmer-than-present conditions.”

Chancellor Meehan Receives National Honor

ACUI Also Presents Award to University’s Dean of Student Affairs

One of the nation’s largest organizations of collegiate student affairs professionals recently presented its President of the Year Award to Chancellor Marty Meehan, calling him “a leader with vision, ability and boundless energy who gets results.”

The Association of College Unions International (ACUI) honored Meehan during the organization’s annual conference last month. ACUI’s 3,250 professional members represent more than 520 colleges and universities.

Meehan was recognized by ACUI for his “commitment to the student experience on campus,” including holding monthly open forums with students and reinforcing the importance of student involvement. ACUI also cited Meehan for his pledge to provide students the space they need for their programs, activities, services and more at University Crossing, a new, $95 million student center to open this fall.

“It is truly an honor to be named 2014 President of the Year by ACUI, as I have tremendous respect for the high standards the organization has brought to the field of student affairs,” said Meehan. “This award is truly one to be shared with everyone at the University, and particularly our Division of Student Affairs, for their hard work to make the UMass Lowell experience a fulfilling one for our students.”

Also honored by ACUI was Brenda Evans, UMass Lowell’s dean of student affairs and event services. Evans received the organization’s Presidential Award for Distinguished Service. The award is given at the discretion of ACUI’s president and has not been presented in several years, according to the group.

UMass Lowell Honors Outstanding Alumni

Graduates Saluted for Leadership, Commitment to Community

UMass Lowell presented its annual University Alumni Awards recently to seven graduates who have distinguished themselves professionally and have also supported the University with exceptional leadership and service to the campus and community:

- James J. Barry, Ph.D. ’88 of Marlborough (College of Sciences) is principal at the Convergent Biomedical Group and holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Lowell and a B.S. in chemistry from Saint Anselm College.
- Mark Cocozza ’71 of Boston (Manning School of Business) is chairman of the board of Grandview International, a global distributor of footwear and accessories.
- Louis B. Coiro ’82 of Andover (College of Health Sciences) is the owner and founder of Tewksbury Physical Therapy and Drum Hill Physical and Sports Therapy in Chelmsford.
- Patricia D. McPhail ’54 of Hattiesburg, Miss. (Graduate School of Education), a prominent member of the real estate community in Mississippi for nearly 40 years, is a former president of Pat McPhail Inc. and McPhail Enterprises Inc.
- Jacqueline Moloney, Ed.D. ’75, ’92 of Chelmsford (College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) is executive vice chancellor of UMass Lowell, playing a vital role in the most transformative growth period in the University’s history. Moloney also founded UMass Lowell’s highly successful online education program, which has earned several prestigious international awards.
- Richard A. Pierro Jr. ’83 of Hampton Falls, N.H. (Francis College of Engineering), is president and co-owner of Superior Controls in Seabrook, N.H.
- Adam M. Hogue ’03 of Lincoln (Recent Alumnum Award) is an adviser at Coastal Capital Group LLC, a financial-planning firm in Danvers, as well as the author of the book, “Shaping the Battlefield,” about his experiences during an 11-month military deployment in Afghanistan.
Rare Birds Nesting on Campus ‘Adopted’ as UMass Lowell River Hawks

Roll of drums, please. The names of the peregrine falcons living atop Fox Hall have been unveiled: Merri and Mack. A riff on the river running alongside their home—the Merrimack—the names were chosen from several finalists in a campus-wide contest and unveiled at an “adoption” ceremony on April 22.

UMass Lowell’s athletics teams and its mascot, Rowdy, have been known as River Hawks for two decades, a tribute to the birds of various species who, like the University, call the banks of the Merrimack River home.

The falcons have lived on the Fox Hall roof since at least 2007, when they were discovered by workers, and have been officially welcomed into the campus community as the living embodiment of the River Hawks. The symbolic adoption of the birds celebrates school spirit as well as enhancing understanding of peregrine falcons, which are on the state’s endangered list.

From the time they were discovered, the University has worked with the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to protect and monitor the pair and their chicks. The campus made a nest box and erected a webcam to monitor them back in 2007 and this year built a new, upgraded nest box and installed two monitors, one inside the box and one outside.

The webcam is available at www.uml.edu/hawkwatch, a page which also features more information on UMass Lowell’s River Hawks traditions as well as on peregrine falcons.

“Today, we are not only adopting the pair of falcons as River Hawks, we are recognizing the importance of the birds to our environment,” said Chancellor Marty Meehan at the adoption celebration held at the aptly named Hawk’s Nest Café, a short distance from Fox Hall on East Campus.

Two of just a few dozen pairs of peregrine falcons believed to be living in Massachusetts, Merri and Mack become parents to two to three eggs every year. Not all of the eggs have hatched over the years, but it is believed the pair has helped increase the number of falcons in the area.

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA)—both of which participated in the event—support the University’s efforts to raise awareness of the falcons and to provide an example of how people can peacefully co-exist with wildlife, even in an urban setting.