Building Named for Generous Benefactors to Help Create ‘Innovation District’

Business students at UMass Lowell will study in a brand new facility with a four-story atrium, access to real-time stock market information and technology-enhanced classrooms in a building that broke ground last month.

The Pulichino Tong Business Building, which will be home to the university’s Manning School of Business when it is completed in 2017, will become a key component in the continuing transformation of the North Campus.

The $40 million building will be named for UMass Lowell graduate John Pulichino ’67 and his wife, Joy Tong, successful entrepreneurs in the travel-goods industry who have donated $4 million to student scholarships. UMass Lowell leaders envision that the new building will complete an innovation district dedicated to business education and scientific research and development in support of the region’s economy.

The building will serve UMass Lowell’s growing population of undergraduate and graduate students studying accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, management and operations and information systems.

Located at the corner of University Avenue and Riverside Street, the Pulichino Tong Business Building will sit adjacent to UMass Lowell’s Mark and Elisia Saab Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center, as well as Alumni Hall and the Lydon Library.
The growth of UMass Lowell’s positive economic impact was driven over the last three fiscal years by construction projects, such as UMass Lowell’s University Suites, shown here.


University is a ‘Key Economic Driver ... Affecting Every Person in the State’

UMass Lowell’s positive economic impact on the region added up to more than $812 million last year, supporting thousands of jobs and businesses, according to a report released recently by the UMass Donahue Institute.

UMass Lowell increased its positive impact by $322 million, or 66 percent, in just three years, up from $490 million in fiscal year 2010, according to the report. The Commonwealth provided UMass Lowell with $79 million last year, which the campus in turn used to create a tenfold return on investment.

“UMass Lowell is a key economic driver in the Commonwealth, directly or indirectly affecting every person in the state,” the report states, adding that UMass Lowell’s contributions to the economy from major construction projects and spending by faculty, staff and students “generates significant benefits for the Massachusetts economy.”

The city’s second-largest employer, after Lowell General Hospital, UMass Lowell employs approximately 1,400 full-time faculty and staff, more than 560 of whom live in Lowell.

Eighty-nine percent of UMass Lowell undergraduates and 61 percent of graduate students are Massachusetts residents. Of UMass Lowell’s 80,283 living alumni, 49,733 live in the Commonwealth.

Get Wind of This!

New NSF-Funded Project to Advance Wind Energy

New funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will put UMass Lowell in the forefront of wind energy research in Massachusetts.

The University recently received funding from NSF to lead a consortium of industry, academia and government groups that will make wind energy more cost-effective and help develop an innovative and competitive workforce.

The project—called WindSTAR for Wind Energy, Science, Technology and Research—will provide a forum in which wind-turbine manufacturers, component and equipment suppliers, service companies and project developers can work together to solve problems. Undergraduate and graduate students will also be taught the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of wind-energy systems.

Other collaborators include the University of Texas at Dallas, Iowa State University, Southern Maine Community College, the Maine Wind Industry Initiative and the KidWind Project.

“Between contributions from NSF, the University and industry members, the investment into this one-of-a-kind national center will be more than $620,000 in the first year,” says WindSTAR researcher and mechanical engineering professor Christopher Niezrecki.

Presently, the United States obtains more than 4 percent of its electricity from wind energy, notes Niezrecki. The Department of Energy has shown that it is entirely possible to double that amount by 2020 and to achieve 20 percent of the nation’s electricity from wind. The WindSTAR Center will be an important asset in achieving these goals.

Poll: Majority of Americans Favor Gun Control

National Survey Finds Support for Bans on Assault Weapons, More Background Checks Crosses Party Lines

A majority of Americans support major policy changes when it comes to gun control, including expanding background checks and banning assault weapons, according to a new national poll from UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

The survey of 1,000 American adults found that 78 percent favor more thorough background checks for those buying guns, including in-depth psychological evaluations, and 80 percent support closing what is known as the “gun show loophole,” which allows individuals to purchase guns without the same background checks used in other types of sales, says Assoc. Prof. Joshua Dyck, co-director of the Center.

While large percentages of those who said they support more thorough background checks identified themselves as Democrats and independents, 70 percent of Republicans surveyed also said they support such a move. Tea Party members were nearly split on expanding background checks, with only a slim majority opposed (51 percent) compared to 49 percent in favor. Similar bipartisan support was found for closing the “gun show loophole” and a greater number of Tea Party members (65 percent) said they are in favor of the reform.

In addition, 60 percent of those polled said they support banning the sale of assault weapons. Those who identify as strongly Democratic (70 percent) stated the strongest support for the measure, while only 18 percent of Tea Party members were in favor and 45 percent were strongly opposed. About a third of all Republicans (32 percent strongly identifying as Republican and 36 percent of others) said they favor a ban.

“The most striking finding in this survey is that the public appears to be far more supportive of reforming our gun laws than Congress appears willing or able to respond,” says Dyck.
$2 Million in Grants will Launch Studies on Terrorist Behaviors

Researchers from UMass Lowell’s Center for Terrorism and Security Studies (CTSS) will launch two groundbreaking studies on terrorist behavior after being selected to receive $2 million in grants from the Minerva Initiative.

The Minerva Initiative, a Department of Defense-sponsored, social science research group, announced 12 awards for 2014; UMass Lowell was the only university selected to receive two.

Professor and CTSS Director John Horgan, with his colleague Prof. Scott will use the $1.3 million funding to examine the role of Muslim converts from the U.S. and explore why they are statistically overrepresented in Islamic extremist activity.

Prof. Mia Bloom’s project mapping the pathways of children’s mobilization into terrorism was selected to receive a $941,169 Minerva grant. The project will examine how and why children are increasingly involved in terrorist operations in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Israel-Palestine, Iraq, Syria and Somalia.

Both projects represent unprecedented international efforts for the CTSS, which launched in September 2013 when Horgan—a member of the FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime’s research working group whose research focuses on terrorist behavior—and Bloom—a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations whose expertise is in understanding suicide terrorism and the victimization of women and children in political violence—joined the UMass Lowell faculty.

Center for Terrorism and Security Studies Receives Minerva Research Awards

Exhibit Ushers in Next Phase of ScienceToGo.org Public-Education Campaign

An interactive citywide exhibit called “Storm Surge in Boston” that kicked off in May is giving the public a glimpse of what the landscape could look like if global warming goes unchecked. The month-long exhibit is the latest undertaking by ScienceToGo.org, a campaign to engage the public in learning about climate change.

“Storm Surge in Boston” shows eight key points in the city to which sea level would rise—at minimum—if climate change continues unabated. Launched in October 2013, ScienceToGo.org is engaging the public on the issue of climate change by bringing science education out of the classroom and into everyday life. A joint project of UMass Lowell, UMass Boston, Hofstra University and the Museum of Science, the program is supported by a National Science Foundation grant.

Last year, ScienceToGo.org introduced posters aboard the MBTA’s Red and Orange line trains and in stations to encourage the 500,000 commuters who ride the public-transit routes daily to learn more about climate science. Each month, riders are introduced to new messages from “Ozzie the Ostrich” and his flock, who share insights about how climate change affects the Boston area and how the public can get involved with efforts to avert it.

Lowell General Hospital will Offer Smoking-cessation Programs

Following a yearlong, student-driven campaign to clear the air on campus, UMass Lowell will become smoke- and tobacco-free effective September 2014.

The new policy, initiated by UMass Lowell’s Student Government Association (SGA) and endorsed by the Faculty Senate and the administration, will designate all campus property as tobacco-free. Implementation will include signs across campus and smoking-cessation programming provided by Lowell General Hospital. The university’s existing tobacco policy prohibits smoking inside or within 25 feet of campus buildings.

“It has been inspiring to watch countless clubs, organizations and individuals come together for the purpose of creating a healthier living and learning environment on our campus,” says SGA President Amanda Robinson.

Beginning in the fall, UMass Lowell will partner with Lowell General Hospital to offer eight-week Freedom from Smoking programs on campus for students, faculty and staff who wish to quit smoking or use smokeless tobacco.

University officials have committed to working with the campus community to manage a smooth implementation of the new policy.

She’s a Shining Star

Kimberly Chao, an honors student and recent graduate of the Manning School of Business, was honored as one of the “29 Who Shine,” a group of outstanding Massachusetts public college and university graduates honored by Gov. Deval Patrick and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education at the State House in May. Chao, an accounting and finance major, is joined by operations and information systems Assist. Prof. Asil Oztekin, whom she named as her most influential campus mentor.
Bill Nye “the Science Guy” Challenges the Class of 2014

Record Number of Graduates—3,478—Received Degrees on May 17

Bill Nye “the Science Guy” challenged UMass Lowell graduates to overcome obstacles like politics and naysayers to find solutions to a host of problems ranging from climate change to the threat of an asteroid impact.

Nye, a scientist and inventor who produced an award-winning television program for children, spoke at the morning Commencement ceremony; U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh spoke at the afternoon ceremony, both held at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell.

A record number of graduates—3,478—received degrees as part of the Class of 2014.

This is the third year in a row that UMass Lowell has held two Commencement ceremonies to accommodate the record number of graduates (up 10 percent over last year and 77 percent since 2008)—evidence of the University’s 45 percent increase in enrollment since 2007 and climbing student success rates.

Nye told graduates: “You are UMass Lowell graduates, you are really among the best in the world at thinking about new arrangements, new tools and new elegantly engineered designs to reach for what I like to call ‘the high-hanging fruit’—the big prizes and great big prizes. That’s what we want you to do for us. I’m not kidding, change the world in new, exciting and big ways.”

Added Nye, “Class of 2014, here’s wishing you the joy of discovery. Keep reaching. Keep seeking. Keep using your abilities to bring out the best in those around you, and let them bring out the best in you. As you do, you can and you will, dare I say it, change the world!” Both Nye and Meehan wore bowties—Nye’s signature neckwear—with the UMass Lowell logo.

Honorary degrees were presented to Brian MacCraith, president of Dublin City University in Ireland and John Pulichino ’67 and Joy Tong, successful entrepreneurs and supporters of student scholarships and other initiatives at UMass Lowell, and for whom the new Pulichino Tong Business Building will be named. Mary McAleese, former president of Ireland, was presented with an honorary degree by UMass Lowell at a ceremony in November 2013.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Gerald Colella ’78 and Joyce (Liakos) Colella ’77 of Seabrook, N.H., and Naples, Fla.