UMass Lowell Breaks Ground on Advanced Technology Research Facility

On June 8, UMass Lowell broke ground on the $70 million Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center (ETIC), the first new building in the University’s expansive plan for growth.

The 84,000-square-foot building, to be located at the intersection of University Avenue and VFW Highway, will be home to experts in nanotechnology, plastics engineering, biomedicine and electro-optics. Recognized as an international leader in advanced manufacturing, UMass Lowell will draw researchers from around the world to collaborate with faculty and students at the center, as well as work hand-in-hand with industry.

The center is expected to be completed in 2012 and will create hundreds of new private sector jobs in its first five years of operation, as well as more than 400 construction industry jobs.

“We are ensuring UMass Lowell’s research enterprise will continue to grow with this signature facility,” said UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan. “The seeds of the next industrial revolution will be planted by the research conducted inside this building.”

“The research and development that will take place here will advance the life science and other high-tech industries that are so important to the future of our state’s economy,” said Governor Deval Patrick.

“The road to this day has certainly been long, but perseverance won out and UMass Lowell will now have a state-of-the-art center to work with emerging technology companies here in Massachusetts,” said State Sen. Steve Panagiotakos.

Panagiotakos worked with Reps. Thomas Golden, Kevin Murphy and David Nangle to garner $35 million in state support for the ETIC through the Massachusetts Economic Investment Act of 2006. Additional funding includes $25 million financed through the UMass Building Authority, and federal monies that include $5 million to equip the building secured over the last few years with the support of U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, U.S. Sen. John Kerry and the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Private donations include $750,000 from Mark Saab ‘81 and his wife Elisia Saab of Lowell, who co-own Advance Polymers Inc. in Salem, N.H. John Kennedy ’70, retired president and CEO of Nova Analytics Corp. of Woburn, has pledged $250,000.

 Campus Growth Takes a $70 Million Leap Forward
Blades Down!
Women’s Rowing and Community Water Sports Programs Benefit From Boathouse Renovations

Women’s rowing at UMass Lowell has been elevated to varsity status as an NCAA Division II sport, thanks in part to recent renovations to the Bellegarde Boathouse as well as efforts to improve management and maintenance of the facility.

In May, the Bellegarde Boathouse was re-named the UMass Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse, a designation that reflects the University’s ownership and honors the Boathouse origins. Edmund Bellegarde was a Lowell resident and avid boater whose family still has strong roots in the community.

Built on the Merrimack River in Lowell Heritage State Park, the boathouse fell into disrepair in recent years. Substantial renovations to the facility were completed last year with state funds secured by Rep. Thomas Golden and Sen. Steven Panagiotakos. The facility is now expected to become a center for rowing and water sports in the Merrimack Valley.

Former UMass Lowell crew standout Shelagh Donohoe, who won a silver medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, is one person who thinks that’s great news.

“I’m psyched that the boathouse is back up and the river is being used for what it is supposed to be used for,” said Donohoe, who is now coach of the University of Rhode Island women’s crew team. “I’ve rowed all over the world and the Merrimack is still one of my favorite rivers. I think they have all the resources they need for a successful program, an incredible river and a great high school program.”

Among the boathouse programs being offered for the first time are youth spring and summer learn-to-row programs, competitive youth and collegiate summer teams, adult learn-to-row programs and corporate and team-building programs. Paddle board and kayaking programs and rentals also are now available.

For more information about boathouse programs, call Peter Murray at (978) 934-2310.

Two UMass Lowell Trainers Bring Expertise to Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill’s Workers and Volunteers Need Proper Training

As the devastating environmental effects of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill continue to mount, numerous agencies and thousands of individuals have volunteered to help with the clean-up. Among them are two worker safety experts from UMass Lowell, whose skills are well-suited to the situation.

David Coffey and Jimmy Smith are trainers at The New England Consortium, which provides health and safety training to workers in the region. Based in UMass Lowell’s College of Health and Environment, the program is a collaboration with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

Coffey, a training manager, and Smith, an adjunct trainer, were deployed by NIEHS to the Gulf for a week in May. “We had to travel great distances of the Gulf region and the strong feeling of despair among the people wanting to work on the clean-up was palpable,” says Coffey.

Coffey and Smith evaluated worker training programs, ensuring that workers and volunteers are protected from disreputable contractors who provide inadequate training. The pair are experts in the training and education of workers involved with hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation and emergency response.

UMass Lowell Commencement Gets the World’s Attention

UMass Lowell’s 2010 Commencement gained the attention of new and traditional media around the world, from print and broadcast outlets to Web sites, blogs and social media networks like Facebook and Twitter. In total, more than 1,800 mentions were made of the events, including NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell’s address to the Class of 2010, his introduction by New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and their joint press conference at the ceremony.

National coverage included the New York Times, Sports Illustrated and the Associated Press. The Associated Press story alone was picked up by nearly 200 newspapers around the country, including the Washington Post, Forbes, Newsday, Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle. Footage of the ceremony, the press conference and interviews aired on Boston TV stations, ESPN, Comcast SportsNet and NESN, as well as on radio stations WEEI, WBZ and WCAP. Regionally, the events were covered by the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Eagle-Tribune, Lowell Sun and Nashua Telegraph. For links to coverage of the event, check out www.uml.edu/coverage. To view videos of Goodell’s Commencement address and other important moments, visit www.youtube.com/umasslowell.
Engineering and Design Students Chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy for Prestigious Contest

The oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico from the biggest oil spill in the history of the United States is further motivation in the search for new and enhanced alternative sources of energy.

Enter Team Massachusetts. Solar engineering students from UMass Lowell have joined forces with architectural students from Massachusetts College of Art (MassArt) to build an affordable, energy-efficient and attractive solar-powered home. The home will be displayed in Washington, D.C., next year as part of a federally funded effort to support the development of practical alternative energy.

The U.S. Department of Energy chose Team Massachusetts as one of only 20 teams from around the world to compete in the agency’s next Solar Decathlon.

Over the next 18 months, Team Massachusetts will design a house no larger than 1,000 square feet in area, build it during the summer of 2011 and put it on public display somewhere in the state. Afterward, the house will be disassembled, shipped to Washington, reassembled on the National Mall and opened for public viewing for about 10 days.

All the houses will be judged in 10 categories: engineering, architecture, comfort zone, energy balance, communications, marketing, affordability, home entertainment, hot water and appliances.

“There are no prizes of any sort, just the honor of being chosen among the top three finalists from around the world,” says Walter Thomas, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and doctoral candidate in energy engineering, who is the team’s lead engineer.
Commencement 2010: What a Time!

UMass Lowell celebrated Commencement 2010 in style, graduating a record class of 2,390 students with newly minted bachelor, master and doctorate degrees; hosting a conversation with renowned authors and historians Doris Kearns and Dick Goodwin; receiving inspiration from keynote speaker Roger Goodell—the NFL Commissioner—and raising a half a million dollars for scholarships.

National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell addressed the graduates, encouraging them to “create a vision, be determined and have a plan.” Goodell and his brothers accepted a posthumous Doctor of Humane Letters degree for their father, the late U.S. Sen. Charles Goodell.


NFL Commissioner and keynote speaker Roger Goodell shakes hands with thrilled graduates as they process into the stadium for Commencement ceremonies.

Graduates are all smiles on Commencement Day.

The Kevin Barry Irish American Pipes and Drums led the procession of faculty, administrators, public officials and graduates into the stadium.

The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell was crowded to the rafters with graduates and their family and friends.