Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

I do hope that you are enjoying a wonderful summer. At UMass Lowell, summer began with commencement weekend at which I was honored to present Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings with a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Dr. Ladson-Billings is well known to educators for her work focused on the education of African-American children in our schools. At this year’s commencement we awarded 14 doctoral degrees. We are tremendously proud of the achievements of our students and recently heard that Steve Sanborn, a student in the Mathematics and Science Education Ed.D. program, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in India. Steve will maintain a blog so that we can follow his progress. He is the second GSE student to receive this award. Lastly, Dr. Charles Christensen retired this summer, we are fortunate that he will continue to teach online, but will miss seeing him around the GSE.

With best wishes,

Dean Greenwood with Prof. Ladson-Billings

From the Dean

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Graduate School of Education
Office of School Partnerships
Tsongas Industrial History Center

In April, the NCATE Board officially voted to approve the accreditation of the Graduate School of Education. The board found no areas for improvement, which is a tribute to the hard work of our faculty and the quality of the programs we offer.

GSE Online Degrees Endorsed by NEA

The GSE has offered online graduate courses since 2003 and now has many fully online Master’s and CAGS degrees. Recently, the National Education Association examined 120 institutions which offered online education degrees. UMass Online was selected as one of three online degree providers which the NEA will recommend to its membership. In July, Dean Greenwood travelled to the NEA delegate conference in New Orleans for the announcement of the NEA’s endorsement. NEA members will access information about online education degrees from UMass Online through the NEA Academy website.
Office of School Partnerships

The Office of School Partnerships (OSP), under the direction of Dr. Judith Boccia, expanded its collaborative work in Spring 2010 through two new grant funded professional development programs, and in a new focus for its Superintendents’ Forum. Eight school districts, led by Billerica, and including Amesbury, Chelmsford, Hamilton-Wenham, Littleton, Tewksbury, Triton Regional and Westford, partnered with OSP to win a 3 year, $960,000 US Department of Education Teaching American History grant. “Imagination, Invention and Innovation: The Making of American History” brings together 40 teachers from the 8 school districts to study major themes in American history. Scholars from UMass departments of History, Political Science and Education, present their research and the GSE’s Dr. Patricia Fontaine works with teachers to integrate the new learning into existing curriculum. More information about the project is available at http://gse.uml.edu/btah.

A second new project, the Partnership for Readiness in Math and English (PRIME), funded by the MA Department of Higher Education’s Improving Teacher Quality program, brings together UMass Lowell faculty from the Graduate School of Education, and the Math and English departments with 24 math and English teachers in Lowell and Lawrence High Schools to help develop students’ college and career readiness. The summer institute, led by Dr. Jay Simmons of the GSE, focused on reading and writing in the content areas, a key skill set identified by school leaders for student success. Monthly follow up sessions between university faculty and teachers throughout the school year will continue to explore how to better prepare urban youth for college courses, and how to align curriculum and learning expectations between secondary and college programs.

While not a new program, the Superintendents’ Forum, sponsored by the OSP, expanded this year to include leadership teams from area school districts and focused its sessions on a single theme, “Building Collaborative Leadership.” Dr. Jim Nehring, of the GSE, was the featured presenter in a discussion of professional learning communities. Other topics included global education and potential links to the new international centers at UMass Lowell.

This summer, the OSP will be moving to the fifth floor of Wannalancit Mill
This year, the annual Colloquium on Research into Mathematics and Science Education was renamed the Colloquium on Educational Research and Practice and the event moved to UMass Lowell’s Inn and Conference Center. Still under the direction of Dr. Regina Panasuk, with the assistance of Dr. Michaela Colombo, nearly 200 educators filled the ballroom to listen to Dr. Andy Hargreaves speak on the subject of educational change in an era of accountability. Following Dr. Hargreaves’s address, three breakout sessions were held at which GSE doctoral students presented their research. A fourth session, led by Dean Greenwood and Dr. Colombo, described the doctoral program to interested candidates.

The opportunity to promote international study of education has been embraced by faculty in the Graduate School of Education. This summer, Professors Nehring and Szczesiul from the Leadership in Schooling program, worked with two faculty from St. Mary’s Belfast, N. Ireland and two from Haifa University, Ireland. All three countries have diverse school populations, with some groups that are marginalized. The faculty members came together to define a research project which will examine practices in each country which promote success for all students. The international visitors were in Lowell for a week.

In a second international venture, Dr. Minjeong Kim was awarded funding from the Korea Foundation to organize and conduct a three-day institute for teachers focused on exploring Korean history and culture. The Consul General of the Korean Consulate in Boston attended the first day.

Students from Saint Georges de Beauce, Québec, visited the Tsongas Industrial History Center (TIHC) in May to learn about the strong ties between Lowell’s cultural heritage and the Quebec villages whose residents uprooted themselves for new opportunities in the mills of Lowell.

The Belfast-Haifa-Lowell Educational Research Group from left: Martin Hagan of St. Mary’s College at Queens University in Belfast, Ireland; Lily Orland-Barak of Haifa University in Israel; Rivka Eisikovits of Haifa; Stacy Szczesniul; Jim Nehring; and Frank Hennessey of St. Mary’s College.

Each year, the Graduate School of Education faculty review the work of master’s and doctoral candidates in order to present five awards which celebrate academic achievement. This year, the following students were honored:

Joanne Nichols—Outstanding Dissertation Award
Sumudu Lewis—University Fellow
Shanna Thompson—Outstanding Doctoral Student (pre-dissertation)
Annette Sughrue—Coburn Award for Excellence in Secondary Teaching
Hillary Pickard—Coburn Award for Excellence in Elementary Teaching

At left: Sumudu Lewis and Shanna Thompson (seated)
Student Scholarships - Celebration to be held on Oct. 14, 2010

The GSE faculty and students are grateful to alumni who have contributed to scholarships or have endowed their own scholarship to assist students with the costs of their education. Scholarship recipients and donors will be invited to a celebration on October 14th at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center.

- M. Holland- Barrett ’38 Scholarship to Brettany DiMatteo (English)
- FitzPatrick Family Scholarship to Colleen Ostler (Elementary)
- Conlon-Drauch Scholarship to Sarah Bouchard (Science)
- Class of 1962 Scholarship to Sarah Ross (Elementary)
- Vito and Vasiliki Selvaggio Scholarship to Jose Torres (Elementary)
- M. Virginia Biggy Scholarship to Jen Bauer (Doctoral)
- Ruth Walker Frank Scholarship to Steve Sanborn and Lisa Golobski (Doctoral)
- Catherine McArdle ‘35 Scholarship to Julie Shea (Doctoral)
- E. Dewey and Rose Dyer Scholarship to be awarded

- GSE Alumni Centennial Scholarship to Melissa Phelan (Elementary)
- Dr. Constance Lanseigne-Case Scholarship to Stacy Jamerson (Reading)
- Douglas and Mary Sullivan Scholarship to Elise Bradley (Ed. Admin)
- Florence Zaher-Lacouture Scholarship to Jean Kenny (Doctoral)
- Murphy-Roberts-Murphy Scholarship to Katrina Lutkus (Elementary)
- Mary Curtin Alden Scholarship to Stephanie Mollica (Elementary)
- Mary France Hogan Scholarship to Elizabeth Often (Doctoral)
- Socrates-Lagios Scholarship to Danielle Mason (English)
- Patricia Dyer McPhail Scholarship to be awarded

Faculty News (please see faculty pages on the GSE website for more faculty news)

- Three GSE faculty have received UML Public Service awards: Elizabeth Bifuh-Ambe, Patricia Fontaine and MinJeong Kim.
- Jill Lohmeier is an evaluation consultant on two externally funded projects.
- Regina Panasuk was asked to join the Executive Committee for the Sadlier National Mathematics Advisory Board.
- Jim Carifio and doctoral student Theodore Carey have published three articles focused on the Minimum Grading Movement
- Judith Davidson presented at the Sixth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.
- Vera Ossen received an award from the MA DESE to offer a Literacy Coach Institute.
- David Lustick published an article on The Priority of the Question in the Journal of Science Teacher Education
- James Nehring conducted summer institutes with teachers in Billerica, Woburn and Methuen, focused on reflective practice.
- Stacy Szczesiul is the PI on a contract from the National Park Service to develop a leadership training program.