On December 14, 2011, Governor Deval Patrick announced that UMass Lowell would receive funding from the Commonwealth’s Race to the Top initiative to replicate the undergraduate teacher preparation program known as UTeach. UTeach was developed by the University of Texas Austin in 1997 to increase the number of science and mathematics teachers graduating from that institution. Over the last 15 years, the program has graduated about 675 new STEM (science, technology/engineering, mathematics) teachers. Twenty nine universities nationwide now have a UTeach program and UMass Lowell is the only institution of higher education in New England to receive funding to replicate the model. Because UMass Lowell has strength in the sciences, engineering and education we were able to put together a winning proposal. The Principal Investigators who will oversee UTeach—UMass Lowell are Anita Greenwood, Dean of Education, David Kazmer, Associate Dean of Engineering, and Kenneth Levasseur, Professor of Mathematics.

UTeach—UMass Lowell marks a return to undergraduate education in STEM (science, technology/engineering, mathematics) after thirty years of all graduate teacher preparation.

The UTeach model is distinctive as an undergraduate program because it includes extensive experiences in schools, mentoring from master teachers and mentor teachers at school sites and courses that focus exclusively on how to teach mathematics and science. The program partners with the school districts of Lowell, Methuen and Lawrence.
Graduate School of Education

GSE News

Professor Regina Panasuk named University Professor

Dr. Panasuk, a faculty member at the Graduate School of Education since 1993, is well known among alumni for her dedication to her students, and her amazing command of mathematics pedagogy. To the mathematics education community nationally, she is recognized for the quality of her research. Consequently, when she was named UMass Lowell’s fourth University Professor, it was no surprise to her students and colleagues. The prestigious title is held by three UML professors at any one time and Dr. Panasuk joins Dr. Ken Geiser of the School of Health and Environment and Dr. Robert Giles of the College of Sciences. Dr. Panasuk will deliver a lecture to the university community this spring.

New Appointments

Dr. Roser Giné joined the faculty in September as a Clinical Assistant Professor in Mathematics Education. Dr. Giné has an undergraduate degree in mathematics from Dartmouth College, a master’s degree from Harvard and an Ed.D. from University of Massachusetts Boston. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Giné taught mathematics at the Frances Parker Charter School and at Medford High School.

Doug Prime - is the Program Coordinator for the UTeach program at UMass Lowell. Doug will also continue his summer work as the Director of the very successful Design Camp.

Dr. Sumudu Lewis - is a Master Teacher in the UTeach program. Dr. Lewis was previously a Chemistry teacher in London, UK, and has been working in the Graduate School of Education for two years. She will be teaching the STEP 1 course and supervising the practicum.

River Day

Dr. Fred Martin (Associate Dean—College of Sciences) and Dr. Michelle Scribner-MacLean (Graduate School of Education) joined Rep. Nicki Tsongas at the fifth annual River Day in Lowell. Drs. Martin and Scribner-MacLean received a $1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to engage K-12 students in internet-based data analysis. The project includes data gathering to assess the water quality of the Merrimack River in conjunction with the Tsongas Industrial History Center’s “River as Classroom” workshop.
GSE News

Professors Lustick and Lohmeier are “Carbon Smart”

On October 20th and 21st, experts representing science education, informal learning, and atmospheric research shared their ideas on how to improve the public’s understanding of climate change science. Professors Lustick and Lohmeier were Co-PIs on this NSF funded initiative. Speakers at the conference included: Anthony Leiserowitz, Director of the Yale Project on Climate Change and Julie Benyo, Director of WGBH Educational Outreach. A further proposal to the NSF to extend the work has recently been submitted by Professors Lustick and Lohmeier.

GSE Graduate Student Organization raises $800 for Lowell’s “House of Hope”

The GSE has a very active student organization, led by doctoral student Shanna Thompson who serves as the organization’s president. Shanna is also a Teaching Assistant and has assisted Professor MinJeong Kim in a literacy project at Lowell’s House of Hope. Understanding the needs of the mothers and children at the shelter, Shanna (an avid quilter) offered one of her quilts bearing the GSE logo as a raffle prize. The raffle raised $800 which went towards the purchase of car seats, diapers, formula and other essentials. The full story can be read at http://www.uml.edu/News/stories/2011-12/GSE-Quilt.aspx

He’s a Poet Too

Not only is Professor Jay Simmons a researcher, expert teacher and chair of the GSE, he is also a poet and has published in such journals as the Nimrod International Journal and Illuminations.

Jumpstart begins at UMass Lowell

Jumpstart is a national program that engages UML undergraduates in delivering an early literacy program at local pre-schools. Undergraduate students who are enrolled in the Education minor earn credit for their work and all students can earn AmeriCorps recognition for a year-long commitment. The coordinator is housed in the GSE. She can be reached at Leslie_Randall@uml.edu

Office of School Partnerships

Over the past six months OSP has continued its work with K-12 schools in four areas: leadership in schooling; teacher professional development; STEM educational partnerships; and college readiness for students in urban school districts. This work has further strengthened OSP’s linkages with both the GSE and other schools and departments within UMass Lowell. Leadership in schooling programs included the annual Chancellor’s Breakfast for Superintendents that showcased UMass Lowell faculty partnerships with K-12 schools. As 2012 begins, OSP continues to expand its partnership work with more than 25 school districts and faculty in the GSE as well as other colleges at UMass Lowell. For more information, see out website at http://www.uml.edu/OSP/default.html
Tsengas Industrial History Center’s Year-Long Celebration Continues

This past October, the Tsengas Industrial History Center began a year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary as a unique and successful educational partnership between Lowell National Historical Park and the UMass Lowell Graduate School of Education. Over its 20 years, the Center has welcomed over one million people – students, teachers and parents – to Lowell to explore industrial history through hands-on activities and tours. Chancellor Meehan, speaking at the kick-off event, described the Tsengas Industrial History Center as “a great success story for both the National Park Service and the Graduate School of Education at UMass Lowell.” Paul Tsengas’ twin sister Thaleia Tsongas Schlesinger also spoke at the event and noted that the Tsengas Industrial History Center “is a project that Paul held dear to his heart.” The Center’s increased engagement of UMass Lowell faculty and students in unique learning and research opportunities was cited as a positive example of its evolution over the years.

The next event of the Center’s year-long series of special offerings occurs February 21 with “A Night at the Museum” (museum “mystery” and free film showing), followed by such FREE attractions as a “Three Mill Girls” performance, a candlelight boardinghouse tour, a Mass. Memories Road Show, a Bread and Roses Centennial event, and a Civil War walking tour. A highlight of the series is a visit by award-winning children’s author Katherine Paterson (author of *Lyddie* and *A Bridge to Terabithia*) on May 3. For details on all events, visit [http://www.uml.edu/tsongas/Anniversary](http://www.uml.edu/tsongas/Anniversary).

Selected Published Research (2011)

- **Elizabeth Bifuh-Ambe.** Post Secondary Learners: Recognizing the Needs of English Language Learners in Post Secondary University Classrooms. *Multicultural Education*. 18(3), 14-19
- **Jill Lohmeier & Lee, S. W.** (A School Connectedness Scale for Use with Adolescents. *Educational Evaluation and Research* 17(02), 85 – 95.
- **Michelle Scribner-MacLean** and Miller, H. Strategies for success for online co-teaching. *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, 7 (3). 419-425.