Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The fall semester was an incredibly busy one for the Graduate School of Education, marked by a substantial increase in enrollment over the previous fall. We have seen growth in two masters programs in particular—Curriculum and Instruction and Reading and Language. Both of these programs are online degrees and the demand for them attests to the quality of our online instruction (the reason the National Education Association chose UMass Online as one of three providers of online degrees for its membership). The GSE also embarked upon several programmatic changes. The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study programs (CAGS) were renamed as Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degrees to better convey the professional nature of the work completed by graduates. We developed a new 12 credit Graduate Certificate in Elementary Mathematics and a Teacher Leader graduate certificate is also in progress. The Leadership in Schooling faculty restructured the doctoral program and also met with representatives from the National Institute for School Leadership in order to encourage principals who have completed the NISL program in their district to consider doctoral work.

I am happy to report that we have three new faculty joining the GSE in the spring 2011. Phitsamay Uy will become an Assistant Professor in Leadership in Schooling after completing her Ed.D. at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education. Charmaine Hickey who received her Ed.D. here at the GSE will take up a position as a Lecturer (the first in our college) and Miriam Margala is a Visiting Lecturer for the year, teaching Academic Writing for English Language Learners and helping to develop an ESL program for graduate level international students. We welcome them and look forward to another busy and productive semester.

Best wishes,

From the Dean

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The Graduate School of Education faculty are naturally active in teaching, research and service to the university and college; however, they also work with community and/or school groups. Below are examples of the types of projects in which faculty are presently engaged.

**Michelle Scribner-MacLean** with Fred Martin from Computer Science is finishing a third year of an NSF iSense grant.

**Patricia Fontaine** received a UML Service Learning grant to work with eleven Cambodian students from the Bartlett School in Lowell, helping them to understand their history and culture.

**MinJeong Kim’s** work examines how culture and poverty affect the literacy of preschool and kindergarten children; she is conducting a literacy project at a local homeless family shelter.

**Jim Nehring and Stacy Szczesiul** continue to work with colleagues in Israel and N. Ireland on their comparative study of school improvement.

**Judith Boccia, Jay Simmons and Regina Panasuk** are collaborating on a Department of Higher Education funded project focused on student college and career readiness in English and Math. They are working with Lowell and Lawrence school districts.

**Judith Davidson** is working with Andy Harris from Criminal Justice on a project on “sexting” funded by the US Department of Justice. She is gathering qualitative data for analysis dealing with how young people understand the issues.

**Stacy Szczesiul** is the PI on a project with the National Park Service to help build a structure for leadership in the park service. Stacy and Scott Latham (management) led workshops at a regional NPS conference in December.

**Michaela Colombo** is working with the Lawrence Public Schools to offer professional development in teaching English Language Learners.
LAUNCH OF THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL READINESS CENTER
Vera Ossen, Director of Educator Preparation Programs, serves as UMass Lowell’s representative on the Executive Board of the region’s Readiness Center which is a collaboration between Salem State College, University of Massachusetts Lowell, North Shore Community College, Middlesex Community College, Northern Essex Community College, Merrimack College, Endicott College, and Gordon College. In the coming semester, the Readiness Center will focus on the Common Core Standards which will be utilized in Massachusetts.

MEET THE GSE TEACHING ASSISTANTS
The GSE is able to offer a number of teaching assistantships to well-qualified individuals who are enrolled full-time in our doctoral programs. Our TAs are all teachers and consequently work with UML students in the undergraduate minor or with students who are becoming teachers. Some of our TAs also teach online in conjunction with faculty. This year we have seven full-time TAs:
Katharine Covino, Sumudu Lewis, Ellen O’Brien, Bindu Sunil, Shanna Thompson, Edward Tonelli, Qing Zhao. To read more about them, please visit our website www.uml.edu/gse and look under student information.

JAMES BRADLEY VISITS CAMPUS
James Bradley, author of “Flags of Our Fathers” and “The Imperial Cruise” was invited to campus by Professor Patricia Fontaine (pictured left) to speak with pre-service history teachers and practicing teachers enrolled in her Teaching American History project. “After the death of his father, going through his papers and personal effects, he found out to his surprise that his father was one of the flag-raisers on Iwo Jima,” says Fontaine, referring to the group of five Marines and one Navy corpsman who raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, resulting in one the most memorable and duplicated photographs in history. Bradley spoke to the audience about America’s relationship with Japan at the beginning of the 20th century and then fielded questions. Dr. Bradley also presented his work at a summer institute on Korean History offered by Dr. Kim and Dr. Fontaine and Teaching Assistant Shanna Thompson.


Professor Regina Panasuk has had two papers published during the fall. Both papers focus on multiple representations in algebra and how these impact students’ conceptual understanding.
The Mary, Joan, and Nancy Scholarship for Courage and Compassion

Assistant Professor Jim Nehring is an avid bike rider and when he embarked upon a three-stage ride across the United States he decided that he would use this as an opportunity to establish a scholarship for first-generation college students who aspire to become teachers. Jim has honored three women in founding his scholarship, each of whom showed strength of character, compassion and courage as they provided end-of-life care to loved ones.

Jim has already completed 2,100 miles and will ride the final 1,900 during the summer of 2011 starting in Fargo North Dakota and ending in the Cascades of Northern Washington State. You can read more about Jim’s ride at the website address below and you may even like to sponsor him and help him reach his goal of a $30,000 endowed scholarship.

https://www.uml.edu/advancement/maryjoannancy/

Scholarship Recipients Meet Scholarship Donors

Patricia Dyer McPhail and the E. Dewey and Rose A. Dyer Scholarships

It is not always possible for donors to meet the recipient of their scholarship and so we were delighted this fall when Mrs. Pat McPhail and her husband, Jim, came to campus from Mississippi to meet Jennifer Valente, the recipient of both scholarships. Jennifer is a student in the elementary education program.

GSE Advisory Board Scholarship

Members of the GSE Advisory Board not only give their time to supporting the work of the college, but they also have a scholarship for a UML student who enters the M.Ed. Initial Licensure program. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Bopha Boutcelis (center in each photograph) who is preparing to be licensed as a mathematics teacher. Advisory board members pictured from top to bottom are Linda FitzPatrick, Edward Barrett, Marie Sweeney, Robert Gower and George Tsapatsaris.