Research Foundation Celebrates Half a Century of Innovation and Discovery
Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends:

As we begin a new academic year on the Lowell campus, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support — whether in the form of your involvement in our programs, your expressions of support for our work in the region and around the state, or your generous gifts to the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

In these challenging times, the University continues to serve its students and the Commonwealth by offering affordable, excellent educational programs, conducting exceptional research, and sharing its resources in myriad ways — always keeping its focus on assisting sustainable regional development. The University’s profile is as prominent as it has ever been and is improving. From timely research on the SARS virus and helping improve the teaching of history in Lowell schools to promoting innovative “green chemistry” that prevents pollution of the environment, U Mass Lowell is active across the spectrum of disciplines and issues facing us every day.

This year we celebrate a half century of achievements at the University's Research Foundation. Our congratulations and appreciation go to the many researchers whose work has contributed to making our society one that is wiser, healthier, and more productive. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the final class of graduates at Lowell Textile Institute. We extend our best wishes to all of them and all those whose academic roots stretch back to the textile programs in Lowell. We hope to see many of them on campus for the Fall Festival Reunion and Homecoming celebrations.

Finally, we will recognize the second anniversary of 9/11 this fall by dedicating a sculptural tribute on campus to the members of the U Mass Lowell community who perished in the attacks. One of the alumni, John A. Ogonowski ’72, was awarded an honorary degree posthumously at the 2003 Commencement, in recognition of his service to community and country. He and others lost on 9/11 will be remembered in an artwork to be installed on an overlook along the Merrimack River.

Sincerely,

William T. Hogan
Chancellor
FAMILY DAY will be held on Saturday, Oct 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Enjoy a craft fair, food fest, old photos, caricatures, ponyrides, live performances, and more!
Please join us for Homecoming at your alma mater on the weekend of October 10 and 11, 2003. Class Reunions for the 50th, 40th and 25th classes and the decade of the 90s (including 2001 thru 2003) will take place all weekend. We invite all other alumni to take part in the activities on Saturday, October 11, including those listed below at the new and exciting Campus Recreation Center.

9:30 am
*Active Start* Several activities at Campus Recreation Center-Fun Run/Walk, Yoga, etc.

Noon
Alumni Homecoming Luncheon
All alumni invited. Campus Recreation Center $15 (You must pre-register for the luncheon).

1:30 pm
Just for Fun Contests
Get a team together from your class or from a group you were active with on campus (e.g. Band, athletic teams, Student Government, Residential Life) and join us for a fabulous time. Outside of the Campus Recreation Center.

Afternoon
Varsity athletic games on campus

7 pm
River Hawk Hockey vs. UMass Amherst at the Tsongas Arena. Discounted tickets are available through the Alumni Office.

For additional information, or to register, call the Alumni Office at (978)934-3140 or toll free at (877) UML-ALUM or email us at alumni_office@uml.edu by October 1. For an updated schedule of events, visit our Web site.

http://www.uml.edu/alumni
Write to us using this form with news about your family, career, or hobbies. If you send us a photo we will gladly include it and return it to you after it appears. This form may also be used for updating a new business or home address or phone number.

Be sure to give us your e-mail address so you can receive our e-newsletter.

Please send to:
UMass Lowell
Office of Alumni Relations
Wannalancit Mills Complex
600 Suffolk St.
Lowell, MA 01854-3629
Fax: (978) 934-3111
E-mail: Alumni_Office@uml.edu

What topics would you enjoy reading more about?
— Alumni, Students, Faculty, Campus?

Name: ____________________________
W21
Major: ____________________________
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Colleges - Arts & Sciences

Butler was widely hated in the South; he was widely controversial for his occupations of Southern cities during the war," says Prof. Michael Pierson of the History Department.

The Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center advisory board named Pierson the Scholar in the City for 2003. He is performing extensive research on Butler, perhaps Lowell's best known 19th century figure.

Butler began in Lowell as an attorney who developed an interest in labor activism, often defending mill workers against their Whig-party employers. This experience was important to him when he went on to serve as an officer for the Union army.

Pierson plans to incorporate his research into a book on unionism in New Orleans. The $2,500 Scholar in the City award will enable him to do research at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., studying Butler's personal papers.

The Scholar in the City program is sponsored by the Lowell National Historical Park in partnership with UMass Lowell.

Shea and Rogers Collaborate on ‘Rusty’ Research

It has been demonstrated that vitamin B12 plays an important role in retarding the onset of A Alzheimer's disease. Unfortunately, it fails to work in some cases because it “rusts.”

It rusts, says Prof. Thomas Shea of biological sciences, because it oxidizes—just as a scratch on the fender of your car would oxidize and rust. The solution, in the case of the vitamin, is an antioxidant called glutathione that converts B12 into its active forms.

Research conducted by scientists at the University of Wales College of Medicine, has found that a “rust-proof” form of the vitamin, GS-B12, should be a far more effective treatment.

GS-B12 is retained in the body longer than the form now in use and it can be administered in tablet form.

Shea and Prof. Gene Rogers of UMass Lowell’s Health and Clinical Sciences Department are among a number of scientists collaborating on the research.

The long-term goal, says Shea, is “the role of nutrition on neural health.” There are genetic things that go wrong in Alzheimer’s disease, but at every step of the way it’s clear that good nutrition and good levels of antioxidants buffer those problems.

Healthy nutrition plays a major role.

Study Shows Economic/Ecological Value of Black Brook

Black Brook is an unassuming stream that originates in Chelmsford, meanders through a section of Lowell and eventually flows into the Merrimack River.

Known as the Black Brook watershed, it covers about 3.4 square miles. Like wetlands everywhere, its benefits are generally unknown or ignored by those who live and work around it.

But Prof. Supriya Lahiri of the Economics Department says that Black Brook’s total economic value to the community “over an infinite time horizon” is $160 million. And Prof. A mold O’Brien of the Environmental Education and Atmospheric Sciences Department would describe its ecological benefits—including flood control and the filtering of toxins in the water supply.

A system-wide distance learning honors course was established at UMass Amherst in 1998 to study environmental problems throughout the state.

These students videotaped the wetland and evaluated it through a process that rated its functions in terms of social significance, effectiveness and opportunity to perform a number of functions.

The faculty are especially helpful. "Each class I have taken has multiple professors, and research reports were videotaped and distributed to each campus. They’s first courses have all been through distance learning, each campus maintains a classroom dedicated to that interactive, Internet-based approach."

The course is attracting high caliber graduate students from each of the system’s campuses, giving us a better program than any one campus could provide. And it maintains a classroom dedicated to that interactive, Internet-based approach."

Prof. Arnold O’Brien Prof. Supriya Lahiri

"Our project," O’Brien says, "was to see if we could come up with a scheme to evaluate the environmental and economic potential of Black Brook."

A core group of five students conducted the research to determine both the ecological and economic value of Black Brook.

In the ecological portion, the students videotaped the wetland and evaluated it through a process that rated its functions in terms of social significance, effectiveness and opportunity to perform a number of functions. Th functions include such things as flood control, the filtration of pollutants, support of wildlife and availability for recreational purposes.

To determine the economic value, the students surveyed 150 area residents. After explaining the function and benefits of the wetland, they asked the respondents what they would be willing to pay to maintain the benefits.

Based on the results of the survey, Lahiri says, the total economic evaluation of the Black Brook system was about $3.2 million a year or, over an “infinite time horizon,” $160 million.

"No," says Lahiri, "we need to disseminate this knowledge to the people in Lowell. If they knew the value of the watershed, maybe they would not allow commercial development to occur."

We’d like the people to know that they have something valuable and that we don’t want another parking lot there."
Montrie’s New Book Unearts the Troubles with Strip Mining

During the 1960s, social activism was a hallmark in the streets of W. Ashley, Boston, San Francisco — and the foothills of Appalachia. Few might associate the sleepy environs of Lielie County, Kentucky, with civil disobedience and demonstrations. But, according to a new book by A. Prof. Chad Montrie of the History Department, Appalachia saw a surge of grassroots militancy to abolish a common scourge during this period. “Small farmers, active and retired deep miners, homemaker wives and mothers, as well as some middle-class and the accompanying movement to the Department, Appalachia saw a surge of grassroots militancy to abolish a common scourge during this period.”

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The New Yorker magazine said M. M. ree’s book “chronicles resistance to surface mining in A palachia, as com-

panies left behind gutted communities that were no more than ‘rural slums’.” The book grew out of M. M. ree’s dissertation work at Ohio State University. While there, he helped organize a strike by the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Whiteburg in his home state of Kentucky. Through his contacts there, he learned of the need for greater examination of the environmental and social crisis that had been generated through the process of strip mining in the region.

CS/ CE, Engineering Awarded Training Contract by OFS Fitel

Working with the Plastics and Engineering Technology departments, the Division of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education (C/CE) has delivered 156 hours of on-site training at OFS Fitel, an optics company in Sturbridge.

The hands-on training program included modules in eight areas — such as Introduction to Pumps and Compressors, Industrial Maintenance Practices and Couplings, and M and M and M and Mechanical Drive Components. The willingness of the faculty in both the Plastics Department and the Mechanical Engineering Department to customize programs for businesses and industry has been a major factor in helping us to develop strong corporate partnerships,” says C/CE Dean Jacqueline M. M. ooney.

Prof. Robert Tuholski, engineering technology, and Prof. Nick Schott, plastics, helped develop the program and taught several modules. “Our satisfied customers continue to be a constant source of future business for the division. M. ooney after the successful manufacturing training program delivered twice at Lucent Technologies in North Andover, this new education contract resulted as a referral from former Lucent training managers who were extremely pleased with our retention rates and high quality training.”

Design Lab Entices Young Engineers’ with After-School Program

Carey Warren of the Wm Middie School uses a drill press to advance his project in the University’s DesignLab, which is funded by the National Science Foundation to encourage student interest in science and engineering.

Rohm and Hasa Company has donated a $1.5 million film process called Stress Free Optical Process to the Institute of Plastics Innovation (IPI). The company also gave the Institute an additional $50,000 to help support construction of the equipment. The process creates a special film completely free of stress, an invention pioneered by Rohm and Haas, the company that also invented Plexiglas in 1936.

Nypro Makes New Plastics Lab Possible

Nypro Chairman Gordon Lankton and his company have funded the renovation of a laboratory in Ball Hall to create the Nypro Precision Injection Molding Lab. The lab will house more than half a million dollars’ worth of equipment, including an all-electric Nova injection molding machine from Nypro.

According to Prof. Robert M. M ally, chair of plastics engineering, Nypro is also coordinating an effort to have machinery suppliers make other equipment donations to help fill the revamped space. One supplier, Sumitomo of Japan, contributed a precision micro-molding machine.

Six pieces of equipment will each represent different aspects of injection molding to expose graduate and undergraduate students to a wide range of processes.

The lab gives students hands-on experience with sophisticated equipment that will give them an incredibly broad education in the field,” says Mally.

GSE Forms Partnership with Haverhill Public Schools

School districts are grappling with a wide variety of issues — from the No Child Left Behind Act to finding qualified school administrators. It’s no wonder some districts are looking for guidance and, in the case of Haverhill, have turned to the Graduate School of Education (GSE) to get it.

“A lot of things we’ve been asked to do are much different than what we’re used to being used” in other districts like Lowell and Lawrence, says Prof. Judy Davidson of GSE, one of the lead consultants for the district. The programs in Lowell and Lawrence focus specifically on coursework. In Haverhill, it is a combination of coursework and facilitating communication across the district.

“Our partnership with Haverhill is another example of how the University is responding to the needs of local school districts and providing viable, collaborative solutions to the challenges of improving public education,“ says Dean Donald M. Merson, GSE.

Since recently taking the position, G. M. Quatrali, director of curriculum and instruction for the district and a U. M. ass Lowell alumnus, has been leading the charge in ramping up Haverhill teachers’ professional development.

“Our mission at the University is to work regionally,” says Davidson. “Now we’re covering the three major cities in our region.”
New Lab Opens in Plastics Engineering

Stephen Rocheleau, second from left, cuts the ribbon to the Plastics Engineering Department’s new Rocheleau Blow Molding Lab, which contains equipment donated by Rocheleau Tool and Die Co., Inc., of Fitchburg. Rocheleau, president of the company and grandson of its founder, was joined by plastics engineering Prof. Stephen Oroth, left, former engineering Dean Krishna Vedula, and plastics engineering Prof. Robert Malloy, chair of the department. Blow molding is used to produce plastic bottles for dairy, industrial, medical, container and toy applications.

Colleges - Health

Nursing Launches Two Graduate Certificates

The Department of Nursing launched two graduate certificates last fall to respond to the needs of the nursing community. The certificate in nursing education will address the shortage of educators in the field. The certificate in geropsychiatric and mental health nursing will fill the increasing need for nurses to care for the country’s older population.

Wile many nurses have the appropriate undergraduate degree, they lack expertise in teaching methods and curriculum. The education certificate is intended for nurses who hold a master’s degree, a doctoral degree or are matriculated into a doctoral program but may be interested in shifting to teaching. Some of the courses can be applied to the master’s degree program.

O’Leary Library Renovation Nears Completion

O’Leary Library underwent an eight-month renovation this past school year to make room for the College of Health and Social Work’s relocation to the fourth floor and revamp the first floor and mezzanine for student-related activities.

The first-floor enhancements include the relocation of administration offices to a centralized area. Students will have 20 new computers available for research, new furniture and artwork, and freshly painted walls to create a more appealing environment.

The mezzanine, formerly office and storage space, provides students with a larger study area. Two group study rooms, with glass walls to provide privacy with openness and natural lighting, occupy one section of the mezzanine.

The third floor continues to house the Center for Learning and the School of Health and Environment faculty offices, while the fourth floor was redesigned to hold the entire book collection.

The fifth floor is the interim home for the School of Graduate Education, which eventually will move to the Lawrence Mfg. Co. mill building.

Colleges - Engineering

UMass Lowell Students Show Off ‘Big Brains’ in College Bowl

The U Mass Lowell College Bowl team placed third out of 10 teams in this year’s northeast Regional Tournament at Bentley College.

The UML squad also collected the award for Most Improved Team, and team Capt. Charles Guthy, a junior electrical engineering major, was named one of the five tournament all-stars.

Guthy’s teammates were Sarah Fischer, Charles Greene, Patrick Joyce and Laurie Macunn. Honors Program Coordinator Laurie Tirado and Honors Program Director Steve Pennell served as the team’s coaches.

College Bowl, often called “The Varsity Sport of the Mind,” is a contest of questions and answers played by teams of competing students. The tournament is divided into two parts: a round-robin session, followed by a double-elimination playoff among the top four teams.

The U Mass Lowell team’s overall record in the competition was 8-4.

Undergrads ‘Reach Out’ for Capstone Project Credit

Two undergraduate mechanical engineering students, working on a community outreach project, found a way to engineer their efforts into credit for a senior capstone project this year.

Brian Goodhue and Ryan Jansen discovered they were spending a significant amount of time on the first (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

The objective of the competition is to generate enthusiasm among high school students throughout the country for the field of engineering. The idea is to have some 20,000 youngsters on 800 teams participate in a process in which corporations and universities design and construct robots in just six weeks.

Goodhue and Jansen spent hundreds of hours each on the project — ordering, designing and machining parts, and training a team of students from Winthrop:ke Christian Academy.

Making it a capstone project made sense to Goodhue, who said, “It’s an intense period of work and similar to a project you would get in industry.

There’s a problem to solve, certain resources you can use and a deadline to meet.”

Prof. Sammy Shina was the adviser to Goodhue and Jansen. Steven Cote, a mechanical engineer in the Submillimeter-Wave Technology Lab, headed up the design and fabrication team.

Task Force Recommends Ways to Improve Teen Worker Safety

The Massachusetts Young Worker Initiative Task Force released a report earlier this year that calls for a broad-based effort by employers, schools, communities and the state to address the high rate of teen worker injuries. The report includes an array of recommendations that would provide safer jobs for young workers.

“With we talk about risks for teens, we generally think about their risks on the road, on the sports field, or in the streets. We rarely think about their part-time, after-school or summer jobs as a source of concern, but we need to think again,” says Prof. David Wegman, chair of the Department of Work and Environment and task force co-chair.

Interim Provost John Wooding is a member of the task force. Co-chairs include Susan Gallagher, senior scientist, Education Development Center, Inc., and M. Arvy Goldstein-Geb, executive director, MasCOHS.

The task force is composed of representatives of youth and community organizations, schools, employers, unions and health care organizations.

Each year, 200,000 teens under the age of 18 are injured on the job across the nation. More than 600 cases are reported annually in Massachusetts.

Teens are most frequently injured while working in restaurants, grocery and other stores, and health care facilities. Surveys of working youth in Massachusetts indicate that half do not receive any training about how to perform their jobs safely.

New Project Seeks to Make Homes Healthy

M any families in Lowell rent older housing, built before the 1978 ban on lead paint. Besides lead, the houses may have high levels of mold and
mildew, a problem compounded by poor ventilation. Electrical systems are often inadequate for the load placed on them by extended families sharing a living space.

In addition, families from different countries are using their homes in ways that are unfamiliar to inspectors from local agencies. What does one do about cooking grills used indoors, exotic bedding materials or unusual methods of food storage? How does one communicate the dangers of solvents used in a home business or the potential asthma triggers?

UMass Lowell’s Center for Family, Work, and Community (CFWC) is teaming up with the Lowell Health Department to begin a Healthy Homes Demonstration Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. CFWC Co-Director Linda Silka is heading the project with Stephanie Chalupka, associate professor of nursing; David Turcotte, program manager at CFWC; and Frank Singleton, director of the Lowell Health Department.

"Any of Lowell’s children face triple challenges," says Silka. "Of coming from homes where English is not spoken, where the family is living in poverty and where healthy housing cannot be assumed."

The Healthy Homes Project will develop culturally sensitive educational materials and will train home visit providers. Project leaders will also develop methods for tracking observations on home environmental quality.

Seminar Empowers Voices of the Disabled

If you’re in a wheelchair, breathing with a respirator, and reliant on others for basic mobility and life functions, it’s nice to control something.

UMass Lowell Spin-off Konarka Receives State Funding

Calling UMass Lowell spin-off company Konarka an example of the “kind of innovation... that leads to jobs, to technology and to enhancement of the environment,” Gov. Mitt Romney announced a $1.5 million loan to the company from the state’s Renewable Energy Trust Fund. The funding will be used for a pilot production line.

The loan represents the first public funding for Konarka, which has secured $13.5 million in venture capital. The company will produce flexible plastic solar cells — the brainchild of the late Prof. Sukant Tripathy.

Tripathy envisioned low-cost, wearable, lightweight power sources as a way to bring power to the two billion people who have no access to electricity.

Romney says he intends to use the fund to support economic development and the creation of alternative energy sources. Established in 1996 through the electric restructuring law, the fund receives deposits from a monthly surcharge on consumer electric bills and is administered by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.

New Center Targets Security

Security, as most of us recognize, is not a simple matter of gates, guns and checkpoints. For people to feel safe and secure, their society must also support a growing economy and preserve the fundamental values of democracy.

The new Center for Security, Safety and Society (CSS), directed by Senior Research Scientist Hal Salzman, takes a broad approach to issues of security, combining policy considerations with research results, in order to develop better education and training programs for safety workers.

“Security can’t be achieved just through technology,” says Salzman. “You have to consider policy objectives and worker training.”

For example, many positions that could be considered “front-line” security work, such as private security guards and airport workers, have an incredibly high turnover rate — up to 400 percent.

"Imagine trying to train a security forest when today’s crew of workers is entirely gone every four months," says Salzman. "And in many cases the critical front-line workers responding to a security issue aren’t even designated as security workers. They are the cleaning crew or utility workers or building inspectors. We have to think about skill development and career ladders for these people.”

Sensory Shoes Help the Blind Walk with Confidence

Richard Castle was just trying to come up with a good idea — something that had never been done in the past — for his senior capstone project in assistive technology to complete his requirements in electrical and computer engineering.

He finally decided to create a sensing system that could replace the walking stick for the blind. Sensors would locate objects and some sort of alarm would alert the person to obstructions and also tell how far away they were. If he could manage to make it small enough, the whole system would fit onto a pair of shoes.

"My original idea was to put the sensors on the shoes and run wires up to a belt pack for the alerting mechanism," says Castle. "I didn’t think I could miniaturize it enough to put it on the shoes."

He did, though, with persistent searching for very small components. The sensors are each about the size of a quarter. Each is a small infrared transmitter and receiver combination that has a range of about one meter.

Next, Castle turned to the problem of making the person aware of the obstruction — some warning device. He rejected speakers as “obnoxious” and too conspicuous, and then thought about vibrating motors. The solution was a motor, about the size of a dime, devised for cellular phones.

The elegance of the design solution is in the circuitry. The electronics can control any of the three sensors and three vibrators on each shoe. To make it compact, Castle eliminated microprocessors and converters. He carefully chose and tested components that would run on four and one-half volts, or about three AAA batteries, then packed all the wiring into the fourth slot of a four-battery pack.

With a working prototype in hand, Castle contacted the Lowell Association for the Blind to find a volunteer tester. Dana Bernor was happy to give the first shoe a “test walk.”

Bernor made some suggestions and then asked to keep the final pair of shoes. "The shoes can enhance the mobility of blind and visually impaired people," says Bernor. "They are especially useful in new environments where using a cane would be impracticable.”

Konarka's employees and administration officials. Behind him are Gov. Mitt Romney announces a loan to UMass Lowell spin-off company Konarka. Konarka is headed by co-founder and President Konarka’s employees and administrators. Konarka's employees and administration officials. Behind him are Gov. Mitt Romney announces a loan to UMass Lowell spin-off company Konarka. Konarka is headed by co-founder and President Konarka’s employees and administrators.
Next Stop, Lawrence Mfg. Co. Mill — Grad School of Ed Moves to South

Four pairs of scissors snapped the red, white and blue ribbon across the doors to the new Graduate School of Education, officially marking the move to the fifth floor of O’Leary Library. Dean Donald Pierson; Prof. Judith Boccia, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies (CFSS); Patricia Noreau, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies (CFSS); Prof. Judith Boccia, director of the Center for Field Services and Studies (CFSS); and John Wooding, provost, welcomed students and colleagues to explore the renovated space.

The new location includes the GSE faculty offices, CFSS, a faculty/student lounge, two multimedia classrooms, a computer room and a new information kiosk.

A nood the school brought a piece of U M L Ve to D ‘Leary — a garden that was in U phall Hill inspired by former Dean Virginia Biggy.

Bell’s Research Explores Practice of Vodou

Caryn Cosse Bell believes vodou has received a bad rap. The history professor says that the ancient African religion, commonly associated with dolls and stickpins, actually fostered spirituality and enlightenment that enabled oppressed people to feel empowered. She hopes her ongoing research will prove that vodou was a catalyst for good, rather than evil and sorcery, and has been misrepresented in popular fiction and Hollywood movies.

“What vodou promoted and the spiritualism provided was a multi-culturalist, universalist society in which everyone was equal,” Bell says. “It’s a wonderful message, this vision of women and men, black and white, the notion that we’re all part of the same spirit world. It’s life-affirming.”

Bell discovered information about vodou (often spelled “vodoo”) as part of her research into the religious culture of 18th- and 19th-century New Orleans, the city she called home most of her life before moving north seven years ago. In her book, Revolution, Romanticism, and the Afro-Creole Protest Tradition in Louisiana, 1718-1868, Bell examines Spiritualism, a religious sect that emphasized personal empowerment and repudiated orthodox religion. She said that in Louisiana, vodou emerged among enslaved West Africans who fused their ancient religious rites with elements of Roman Catholicism and Native American spiritual beliefs.

Vodou is based on the worship of one god, who is helped by various spirits, and the practice of rituals that native Africans discovered were similar to Roman Catholicism with its saints and sacraments. (“Vodun” actually means God, creator or Great Spirit.) Vodou encourages its participants to better understand the natural processes of life and their own spiritual natures. For example, Bell said the vodou dolls are created from items found in nature such as Spanish moss, twigs, cloth and string, crafted in the image of a person with an article from him or her, such as a piece of hair.

In particular, the enormous influx of Haitian immigrants in 1809 — with nearly doubled the size of New Orleans and increased the city’s black majority to 63 percent — contributed to the ascendency of vodou across all levels of the city’s society. Bell said that in 1874, about 12,000 spectators, both black and white, swarmed to the shores of Lake Pontchartrain to the Tsongas Arena.

“Vodou’s interracial appeal and egalitarian spirit ... offered a dramatic alternative to an Anglo-American racial order that attempted to confine all persons of African descent — both slave and free — into a separate and inferior caste,” Bell says. Bell notes that there is little documented evidence about vodou — which is still practiced by 15 percent of the New York State population — but she hopes that her continued research will uncover more.

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There are so many misconceptions about vodou. I’d like to sort it out and show how vodou fits into the larger culture,” she says.

Last summer, Bell conducted research in France and New Orleans, with support from UMass Lowell’s Healey Grant for her next book, an annotated translation of a French-language memoir, Souvenirs d’Amérique et de France, published in Paris in 1833. She has received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to continue that work.

A Long-Ago Hoospter, a Modern Philanthropist

The Lowell Textile Institute basketball team in 1941, with David Pernick as its captain, was drawn from a student body of not much more than 400. It was a tiny school of mostly local students playing in a big-city, big-college sport.

A nd the schedule reflected it: Tufts, U NH, the Pratt Institute, Hofstra, and others just as daunting.

A nd yet they finished the season with a near-500 record. A nd David Pernick, the team’s leader and inspiration, was the seventh-highest scorer among all New England schools.

But ask him what he recalls as the high-point of that long-ago season, and his answer is more personal than any of that. W hat he remembers most, he will tell you, is the voice of an old friend from the stand: “At one game — it was against U N H, I think — I’d just scored a basket or two, and I heard this person calling down. It was a guy I’d gone to high school with — I’d played basketball in high school, but I was never really good. ‘Hey Pernick!’ the voice yelled down. ‘When did you learn to play basketball like that?’”

There wasn’t a lot of time for basketball after that. Not long after his graduation, with a degree in textile machinery business, the Joseph Pernick Company in New York. He got married the same year. Today, 62 years later, both the company and the marriage remain at the center of his life.

There have, of course, been some course adjustments along the way. But for the most part, the route has been direct. In 1960, 19 years after he joined it, he took over his father’s company, renamed it — the Monarch Knitting Machinery Corp. — and expanded its business to Japan. T he company today, headquart ered now by David Pernick’s son Bruce, has designed and sold fabric to some of the top clothing makers in the world; J. P. Stevens, Hanes, Burling, Fruit of the Loom. A nd, for years now, its presence has been international — with a plant in North Carolina and offices in New York, North Carolina, Florida, Canada and the United Kingdom.

But textile-making has been only one dimension of David Pernick’s life. Twenty-three years ago, he co-founded the Shenkcror College of Textile Technology and Fashion in Israel, a school for 2,000 students that now includes both a textiles and plastics program. He has since funded — through successive $50,000 yearly gifts — an exchange program between the Shenker and U M L Lowell, which continues to thrive today. Then there is the Israel Tennis Center, designed largely for children and teens — which, he says, is “an effort to provide some active outlet in a nation that has seen so much trouble and so much loss.”

Pernick, though retired now, remains as engaged and committed as ever. He travels often internationally — to Israel and elsewhere — is chairman of the international board of directors for Shenkcror College, a trustee of the North Shore Hospital in New York, and of the Kings Point (New York) Civic Association. (His daughter, Jill Friedman, continues the family tradition of giving as a teacher of gifted children.)

In addition to the U M L Lowell-Shenker exchange program, he has given a $100,000 grant to the U M L Endowment Fund, which benefits students in the College of Management. T he recipient, in 1993, of the U M L Lowell Distinguished A lumni Award, awarded annually to an alumnus “who has made a significant contribution to a field of knowledge or provided exemplary service to the public.”

Today, two years following the 60th anniversary of both his marriage and his graduation from LT I, David Pernick continues to live with his wife Frances in the Kings Point section of Long Island, New York. A mong the many friends he keeps in touch with, at least a few date back to his basketball years.

“There were only about 70 of us who graduated that year, I think. A very small group. In a group that small, you get to know people, to share times with them. W e had some wonderful experi ences together. I remember them as some very good years.”

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Your gift to the University of Massachusetts Lowell is important in many ways. Whether your gift is for general support, or designated for a specific academic program or scholarship, your contribution helps the University provide high-quality education at an affordable cost.

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Mail Enclose your gift in the envelope attached to your mail and mail to U M A S Lowell, Office of University Advancement, 800 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA, 01854.

Phone The Office of University Advancement is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to accept gifts by phone. Please call 978-994-2223 to make your gift today.

Email To contact a gift officer, send a message to University Advancement at Give_to_Lowell@uml.edu.
Research Foundation Celebrates Half a Century of Innovation and Discovery

By Jack McDonough

The brick rested atop a bookcase in the small office at the end of the hallway on the second floor of the Wannalancit Mills building. On its face was this inscription:

UMass Lowell, Research Foundation, 450 Aiken St., Lowell, MA

Date of Demolition 7/17/97

The message is both startling and misleading. It wasn’t the Research Foundation that was demolished that day in July. What fell to the wrecking ball was the one-time supermarket building that had housed the Foundation for some 30 years.

Situated near Fox Hall, the market stood on land now occupied by LeLacheur Park, home of the Lowell Spinners and UMass Lowell baseball teams.

Far from being demolished six years ago, the Research Foundation is now celebrating its 50th anniversary, although (wink, wink) it actually may have passed the half-century mark a year or two ago.

That small Wannalancit office with the bookcase and the brick belonged to Ed Miller, who, in June, retired from the Foundation for the second time.

Miller joined the Foundation in 1959, fresh out of the Navy. Having served as an electronics technician on a destroyer, he took a similar job with the Foundation.

“I thought I’d come here for a couple of years,” he says. “Well, it ended up being a career. And I’ve always been happy here. Things progressed.”

By “progressed,” Miller means that he became purchasing agent and then assistant director and, finally, director of the Foundation.

“I was told,” says Petrovic, “that they would feed dogs certain diets and then analyze the dog’s stool, and then store the stool in a freezer. One day the freezer broke.” He didn’t elaborate.

“A nother time, I heard, a number of gerbils or other small animals like that were kept in cages for research purposes. One day they got loose and found their way into the building’s ventilation system and came dropping out at
New ‘Smart Bandage’ Improves Healing Rate of Wounds

Two UMass Lowell researchers have found a way to use growth factors produced by human cells to create a dressing that can dramatically improve the healing rate of a wound.

They call it a Smart Bandage and they’re exploring ways to commercialize it.

The two — Prof. Susan Braunhut of the Biological Sciences Department and Prof. Kenneth Marx of the Center for Intelligent Biomaterials in the Chemistry Department — have been collaborating on this research for more than two years.

Initially supported by money from a National Institutes of Health (NIH) exploratory grant and from Chancellor William T. Hogan’s discretionary fund, the work has more recently been awarded a grant from the federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) which, Braunhut and Marx say, “looks for the next ‘big thing’ across the board — from medicine to branches of the military, other universities, and big companies” — Raytheon, MA/COM, Genzyme, Lucent — and a variety of other entities.

Money that a company or government agency pays for this work provides revenue for the University and income for the faculty researchers. In addition, a certain percentage of the fee charged is maintained in a special fund for the researchers, which they may use to support their ongoing work.

It’s the job of the Research Foundation to facilitate the work of the faculty researcher. It helps prepare, polish and deliver proposals, handles licensing and legal matters, ensures that the proper accounting systems are implemented, helps with the hiring of assistants, and does whatever else is needed to free the researcher to concentrate on research.

“We focus on service,” says Petrovic. “If we do all these things, then the researchers don’t have to spend time on details for which they’re not paid.

“We have to satisfy faculty needs. We must make certain they want to keep writing proposals. We need to get them interested in sponsored research that could lead to something we could license and that would generate money for the University. In effect, the more research we do, the more money that is returned to the campus.”

— JMcD

The Foundation’s mission is to increase the level of sponsored research that has commercial implications; to find ways of moving from implication to actual products.

The Foundationaramel to high education.

But the Research Foundation is about more than faculty research, as suggested by Petrovic’s title: Director of External Funding, Technology Transfer and Partnering.

The Foundation’s mission is to explore every possible way to support technology transfer, to increase the level of sponsored research that has commercial implications; and to find ways of moving from implica-

At the same time, it is the job of the Research Foundation to facilitate the work of the faculty researcher. It helps prepare, polish and deliver proposals, handles licensing and legal matters, ensures that the proper accounting systems are implemented, helps with the hiring of assistants, and does whatever else is needed to free the researcher to concentrate on research.

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New Discovery Speeds Delivery of Drugs

Improving drug delivery is a hot topic. As anyone who has filled a few prescriptions recently can attest, more conditions are being treated, and treated effectively, by drugs. But drugs can be toxic — especially those used to treat cancer and HIV-AIDS, or can be poorly absorbed, or dissolve too quickly in the digestive system. A newly designed family of polymers, recently patented by Emeritus Professor Arthur Watterson and his colleagues in chemistry, has shown promise to greatly improve drug delivery systems.

The new polymers, which form nanospheres in water, overcome many drug delivery problems. “The surface of the nanospheres is polyethylene glycol, which is environmentally benign in the body and doesn’t generate immune reactions,” says Watterson, who directs the Institute for Nano Science and Engineering Technology (INSET). “The polymer itself is amphiphilic and the nanospheres self-assemble around the drug, encapsulating it.”

“Actually, this process has worked with every drug tried: ‘We haven’t found one yet that we can’t encapsulate,’” says Watterson.

The encapsulated system has proven dramatically effective in delivering drugs to cells, both in the lab and in laboratory animals. “Drug delivery with encapsulation is five times to one thousand times more efficacious than the drug itself,” says Watterson. This means the drugs are faster acting and can be delivered in smaller doses.

Also, the nanospheres pass easily through the skin. Experiments have shown anti-inflammatory drugs reach their target quickly and might be used to treat inflammations such as tendinitis, arthritis, conjunctivitis and boils by topical application. Even empty nanospheres have shown anti-inflammatory properties.

Cancer drugs are fairly toxic and many cannot be dissolved in water, so encapsulating them in the watersoluble nanospheres makes them easier to administer. Someday, instead of a large, difficult-to-tolerate dose of chemotherapy, patients might wear a patch that delivers a time-released, smaller and more effective dose.

Commercial production of the polymers is the next step, and Watterson is looking for industrial partners to help scale up to that level. A proven volume of production is necessary before proceeding to clinical trials in humans. As a chemist, Watterson finds himself on a steep learning curve about medical and life sciences applications. “Collaborations have been and will be vital to this project,” he says.

Collaborators include Robert Nicolosi, professor of health and clinical sciences, who has directed the animal trials; Virinder Parmar, visiting professor of chemistry, who has developed the enzymatic synthesis of the polymers; Thomas Shea, professor of biological sciences, who is developing an application for treating neuroblastosomas; and researchers with the Center for Advanced Materials. As a chemist, Watterson is also excited about the uniqueness and flexibility of the designed polymer.

“Our way to synthesize the polymer is very flexible and we can vary the parameters easily,” says Watterson. “With a composition of matter patent, even if others manufacture the polymer, they have to license our technology.” All the claims of the patent application were approved, an impressive achievement, and another patent is pending on an improved preparation of the nanospheres and on an enzymatic synthesis of polymers.

The possible applications seem limited only by imagination. One idea is to formulate polymers with mosquito repellent and attach them directly to the fibers of clothing; in current military use, repellent is sprayed on clothing and can be irritating to skin. Repellents could also be incorporated into house paint. Again, Watterson is in search of collaborators: “We have an answer in search of a question — many questions,” he says.

— Sandra Seltz

that generate revenue for faculty and student researchers, and for needed educational and research facilities on campus; and to develop government, community and industrial relationships that help achieve the funding and technology transfer goals.

The licensing function and the technology transfer operation, the commercialization aspect and the management of the Wannalancit building are all part of something that wasn’t there six years ago,” he says.

A further thing that wasn’t there six years ago is the Commercial Venture Development (CVD) arm of the Foundation. CVD invests in entrepreneurs with the goal of launching and participating in successful ventures. It provides money, workspace in Wannalancit and mentoring for small start-up companies in exchange for equity in the young firms.

Since its inception in 1998, more than $60 million in venture funding has been attracted to seed nearly 20 companies. The fledging firms spend anywhere from three to 18 months at the mill building before expanding to larger quarters elsewhere.

Companies receiving CVD funding must employ UMass Lowell faculty or students, or both — a major “real world” educational experience for students.

This partnership with the business community is central to the University’s mission of supporting regional economic and social development.

Among the companies that have achieved success through the CVD incubator are Konarka, which produces flexible plastic solar cells; AnVil Informatics, which creates software that accelerates the analysis of the billions of bytes of data produced by gene research; and FuelSpot, a Web-based gateway for trading in refined petroleum products.

Textiles, leather and paper were among the objects under investigation when the Research Foundation began its work a half century ago. Today, in many cases, the stuff of research being carried out by Foundation scientists is invisible to the naked eye. The three stories that accompany the main article about the Foundation describe some of this work. Two of them deal with nanospheres, polymers measured in billions of an inch. The third concerns work with membranes attached to cells of the human body.
A Patch May Replace the Needle for Insulin-Dependent Diabetics

If you’re one of the millions of insulin-dependent diabetics in the United States, you very likely know how it feels to inject yourself with a hypodermic needle — maybe two or three or four times a day — every day.

The experience is not pleasant.

Now, however, research being conducted by Profs. Stephen McCarthy, director of the University’s Institute for Plastics Innovation, and Robert Nicolosi, director of the Center for Health and Disease Research, may take the pain out of the diabetic’s daily routine.

They are perfecting a process whereby insulin can be delivered by simply rubbing it on the patient’s skin. The ultimate objective will be to devise a system of administering insulin by use of a patch — much like the patches people now use to kick the nicotine habit.

“This research is very very exciting,” says Nicolosi.

And well it should be. Diabetes afflicts nearly 6 percent of the world’s population. There are 16 million diabetics in the United States — nearly one in 17 — and 2,000 new cases are diagnosed every day.

Some diabetics can take insulin orally but this method is often ineffective because the medication is degraded by digestive acids and enzymes in the gastrointestinal tract. But the research being conducted by McCarthy and Nicolosi has produced encouraging results in that area, too.

At the heart of their delivery system is something called a “nanosphere.”

“It’s a very tiny droplet,” says Nicolosi. “It’s three dimensional, so you could envision it as a rubber ball. But it’s so tiny you can’t see it.”

In fact, it’s 20 to 50 nanometers in size — and a nanometer is one billionth of an inch.

“Steve’s nanosphere is a carbohydrate, a starch,” Nicolosi says. “By itself, it doesn’t do anything. It must deliver something.”

The “something” in this case is insulin.

McCarthy explains that his challenge was to find a way to combine two polymers to form one block copolymer that, when immersed in water, would form the invisible nanosphere ball described by Nicolosi. This combination of polymers is at the heart of a patent that has been applied for by the two researchers, along with Assistant Research Prof. Balint Koroskenyi.

Once the sphere is created, McCarthy says, its center is removed and replaced with insulin. The insulin-bearing nanosphere can then deliver the medication transdermally.

“We’ve performed 20 experiments to prove that transdermal delivery is successful,” he says, “and we’re quite certain that it also will work orally.”

The experiments have been conducted on laboratory rats provided by Dr. Aldo Rossini of UMass Worcester, an expert in diabetes research. The researchers place about half a gram of glucose in the stomach of a rat, elevating the glucose level in its bloodstream. They then immediately administer insulin using the nanosphere process. In most cases they have used the transdermal method, but in some instances they infused the insulin orally.

The results, says Nicolosi, “are very impressive. You can see that we totally blunt the glucose rise.”

This research began two years ago when Chancellor William T. Hogan made money available from his discretionary fund.

“This is a relatively new area we’re working in but we have some of the best chemists and plastics engineers in the world here. We’re still a ways away, but the results have been remarkable and people who have talked with us are really pleased with our progress,” Nicolosi says.

Discussions are under way with large pharmaceutical companies to establish a corporate partnership for taking the system to human clinical trials.

— JMcD

Umass Lowell Magazine Fall 2003
Provost Robert Wagner Retires

When a 33-year-old Bob Wagner traveled to Lowell in pursuit of an instructor’s job in 1970, he stopped on Broadway to ask a police officer where the state college was.

"Anything I’ve done over the years, it’s been a collegial effort of teams of people. If I ever look good, it’s because of the people I have working for me," he said. "There’s something about Lowell, the ‘esprit de corps,’ not found elsewhere. We have a can-do attitude."

Wagner doesn’t fit the mold of a typical college administrator with the Looney Tunes tie around his neck, Nike sneakers on his feet, Mick Jagger portrait adorning his office wall and Harley motor-cycle in his parking spot. But the slightly "wild side" that his longtime assistant Vera Preston first noticed endears him to colleagues and helps him relate to a diverse student body.

"He appreciated the fact that students have their own personalities, their own ways of expressing themselves and did not try to fit them into an assigned role," Preston said. "He was never too busy to leave the office, walk out in the hallway to talk to the students and ask them how everything was going."

Soon after arriving in Lowell, Wagner found that his own experiences — he grew up in Ohio, the son of a repairman — mirrored many of the campus’s working-class students. His parents beamed when he enrolled at the University of Cincinnati where, after pledging a fraternity as a freshman, as Wagner describes it, he “did not allow books to interfere with my education.” Not surprisingly, he was asked by the academic dean not to return the following fall.

"There’s something about Lowell, the ‘esprit de corps,’ not found elsewhere. We have a can-do attitude."

— Bob Wagner

"There are stages in a person’s life. I may not miss the headaches, but I will miss the people at Lowell. It just seemed right," he said.

"It is a more mature campus today, stronger and more robust than at any time in its history."

— Bob Wagner

"I was more motivated to go to school," Wagner said. "After a year and a half, my mother said, ‘Is this the kind of life you want?’ I said, ‘No.’ She said, ‘You can go into the service or go back to school.’ After working that many hours a week, I was more motivated to go to school,” Wagner said.

"After a year and a half, my mother said, ‘Is this the kind of life you want?’ I said, ‘No.’ She said, ‘You can go into the service or go back to school.’ After working that many hours a week, I was more motivated to go to school,” Wagner said.

Wagner decided upon Ohio State University, where despite working 20 to 30 hours a week to pay his way, managed to fulfill his degree requirements in three years. Besides a bachelor’s degree in education, Wagner left Ohio State with his wife, Linda, whom he met and married while still a student. Wagner obtained a master’s degree at Kent State University and worked as a special education teacher and high school vice principal, before moving east to begin his doctoral studies at Harvard in 1968.

Two years later, he was hired as a part-time instructor at Lowell State. Eventually one of his mentors, former academic affairs dean, then vice president, Robert Foy, encouraged him to finish his doctorate (which he did in 1975), saying that, “We need you to do other things.”

Those “other things” evolved from being promoted to associate professor and serving on numerous committees to, after spending a dozen years on the faculty, becoming an administrator. He served as assistant to the president and associate vice chancellor for academic affairs before becoming provost in 1996.

Over the years, he has enjoyed working closely with Dr. William Hogan, whose vision and “remarkable leadership” he credits for the University’s success and sustainability. "I always had a firm belief that there are many talented students, who do not have the advantages because of their socio-economic background. We need to continue to have an affordable, university-level campus in this area with administrators and faculty who are not cloistered in an ivory tower, but engaged in the community and its welfare," he said.

Even though he experienced the usual emotional misgivings, Wagner believes it is time to retire. He expects now to relocate from his North Reading home of 32 years to Boston, travel more with his wife who is a cancer survivor, enjoy his grandchildren and catch up on reading.

"There are stages in a person’s life. I may not miss the headaches, but I will miss the people at Lowell. It just seemed right," he said.

Specifically, he is credited with revamping commencement (previously it was off campus and diplomas were mailed to graduates), effectively negotiating the University out of potential employee problems and earning the respect of faculty and administrators in the process, overseeing significant campus renovations and relocations, and ensuring several successful accreditations.

But, at the heart of all Wagner’s efforts are the students.

"I always had a firm belief that there are many talented students, who do not have the advantages because of their socio-economic background. We need to continue to have an affordable, university-level campus in this area with administrators and faculty who are not cloistered in an ivory tower, but engaged in the community and its welfare," he said.

Wagner’s parents were understandably upset and, seeking a fresh start, the family moved to Florida. There, Wagner toiled at a grueling job at a local dairy: shoveling ice, loading milk crates, driving trucks, washing out bottles and cleaning equipment for 80 to 90 hours, seven days a week.

"It’s been a wonderful experience. I really believe you accomplish things when you have people working together for the common good. It sounds corny, but it really isn’t," he said.

During Wagner’s tenure, he witnessed the headaches of creating unity out of duplication during the merger, times of fiscal duress when new faculty were told their jobs had been eliminated, dramatic enrollment increases in a diverse student body, dynamic research programs and creative new initiatives such as distance learning.

"There are stages in a person’s life. I may not miss the headaches, but I will miss the people at Lowell. It just seemed right," he said.
It may have been pouring outside, but it was all sunshine inside the Tsongas Arena on June 1 as thousands of family members, friends, and faculty cheered for the newest graduates of the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Distinguished novelist and Boston Globe columnist James Carroll (one of the honorary degree recipients) delivered a stirring commencement address, while a jubilant Senior Class President Rob Velella spoke on behalf of the students.

“We all celebrate today,” Carroll said. “We celebrate your openness to the future, your readiness to be of service, your ambition to move the world to a better place. You are partners in the ongoing creation of the world.”

Middlesex County Sheriff James DiPaola called the commencement to order, and state Senator Steven Panagiotakos offered congratulations and greetings on behalf of the Legislature.

Chancellor William T. Hogan and University of Massachusetts Trustee Michael Agganis conferred 1,500 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in a ceremony filled with emotion, as the University awarded its first-ever posthumous honorary degree to John Ogonowski ’72, captain of American Airlines Flight 11 that was crashed into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan, who nominated Ogonowski for the honor, made the presentation to Peggy Ogonowski of Dracut, the pilot’s widow, on behalf of the University.

“The life work of this humble humanitarian will forever remain larger than the tragedy of his untimely death,” said Meehan, recounting Ogonowski’s life of service as a community leader and farmer.

Other honorary degree recipients were Margaret R. Becklake, professor emeritus at McGill University in Montreal, and William T. O’Shea, vice president of marketing for Lucent Technologies and president of Bell Labs.

The University also recognized individual graduates for academic excellence and service, including Chancellor’s Medalists for Distinguished Academic Achievement (students with the highest GPAs in each college): Randy Froc, Arts and Science — Division of Science and Mathematics; John Edward, Arts and Sciences — Division of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; John Boron, Arts and Sciences; Kari Stevens, Engineering; Maegan Berry, Health Professions; and Jeffrey Hayes, Management.
15) Margaret Becklake, professor emeritus at McGill University in Montréal, adjusts her hat as Kenneth Lemanski, special assistant to the provost, right, helps with her hood and Chancellor Hogan, left, presents her honorary degree.

16) Distinguished novelist and Boston Globe columnist James Carroll, one of the honorary degree recipients, encouraged the new graduates “to move the world to a better place.”

17) Chancellor Hogan, left, applauds the many accomplishments of the late John Ogonowski, ‘72, a captain of the American Airlines flight that was crashed into the World Trade Center. Congressman Marty Meehan, right, nominated Ogonowski for the honor, which was accepted posthumously by his wife, Peggy Ogonowski.

From Balladeer to CEO: One Brother Remembers Another

They used to sit up into the wee hours in the old Pi Lambda Phi house on Livingstone Avenue, talking about anything and everything. More often than not, Bill O’Shea was at the center of it.

“He was a terrific conversationalist,” remembers his friend and former fraternity brother, UMass Lowell computer science Prof. William Moloney. “He was interested in everything, could talk about any subject you could name — from quantum physics to Irish philosophy. Some nights, when he’d really get going, you could get him singing Irish songs…”

All that was close to 40 years ago. Moloney graduated from Lowell Tech in ’68; O’Shea finished a year behind him, then went on to earn graduate degrees from Northeastern and MIT’s Sloan School. The two men remain friends, although, says Moloney, their paths only rarely cross these days.

“I saw him at a graduation not long ago. Before that, it had been close to 10 years. He’s a pretty busy guy — the president of the best-known research lab on the planet.”

It’s a fair description. O’Shea today, in addition to being vice president of corporate strategy and marketing for Lucent Technologies, is president of Bell Labs, the communication industry’s most heralded R&D organization. Prior to that, he was executive vice president and CEO of Lucent’s Enterprise Networks Group.

There’s probably not a lot of time these days in Bill O’Shea’s life for late-night Irish ballads. But Bill Moloney remains hopeful for a reunion with his old friend sometime soon:

“A bunch of the frat guys make an annual trip to Vermont, always around leaf-peeping time. I may join them this year. And if Bill is along, you never know — we might coax a song out of him.”
The upcoming merger, for all its innovation and fresh ideas, is a natural extension of what is already a 15-year effort at the Lowell campus to serve as a model of innovation and interdisciplinary experimentation — in the pursuit of regional economic development. It also further reinforces the University’s long-proven commitment to community outreach, business assistance and the search for solutions to the region’s social and economic ills.

For much of the past several months, Wegman has been working with outgoing College of Health Professions Dean Janice Stecchi, both to “build bridges” between the two entities and to work out the mechanics of the assimilation. Stecchi, following 32 years at U Mass Lowell — as professor, department chairperson, director of the Center for Health Promotion, and finally as dean —

By Geoffrey Douglas

New School Will Integrate, Expand

And, finally, in its service capacity, it will work with business, labor, government and other organizations to promote community, work and environmental health and safety. In order for all this to effect the broadest possible outreach, it will integrate its work, whenever necessary, with the colleges of Engineering, Management and Education.

“Health writ large,” is how David Wegman defines the concept. To achieve it, he says, will require a “new, strategic approach” to the training of healthcare and prevention skills — one that will involve more “field-based” work for both students and faculty, as well as an increased involvement in the social, political, cultural and public-health issues of the community and region.

The College of Health Professions — which grew out of the efforts of one woman in the mid-sixties, was born officially in 1974, and now joins forces with Work Environment to form a brand new entity — has a history as colorful as the era that spawned it.

The woman was Gertrude (Trudy) Barker, hired in the fall of 1967, one month after she earned her Boston University doctorate (with a dissertation on “The Self Esteem of the Unwed Mother”), by Lowell State College President Daniel O’Leary. She was a woman with a keen mind, a sharp tongue and few illusions. “I had no experience teaching in a college,” she would say later, “and he only hired me, frankly, because I had my doctorate.”

It was a very different time. Nursing, while not exactly a second-class profession, enjoyed nowhere near the esteem accorded it today. At nearby St. John’s and St. Joseph’s hospitals, the nursing programs had been phased out; Lowell General retained its program, but opposed the start of another at LSC. The BU nursing dean, when contacted for advice by Trudy Barker, told her Lowell State had “no right” to start a program, that prospective new students would have to attend BU.

“This is going to be a very good thing for the University,” says Stecchi, who was part of the original task force that came together to plan the move. “Here’s some really wonderful [research] work the different faculties can do together.

Work of Health Professions, Work Environment

The College of Health Professions — whose mission, it will integrate the academic programs of the School of Health and Environment, as well as a broad range of research on the identification and elimination of work-related risks and environmental hazards, approaches to health problems, the treatment of disease and the efficacy of new, sustainable social and economic models.

When she retired at the end of this past school year, Wegman became dean of the new college on Sept. 1.

“This is going to be a very good thing for the University,” says Stecchi, who was part of the original task force that came together to plan the move. “Here’s some really wonderful [research] work the different faculties can do together.

Trudy Barker’s response surprised no one: “Look. If there were all men here, would you ask them to clean the building? Of course you wouldn’t. That’s ridiculous. We’re not doing anything.”

It went on like that — fighting for every dollar, every classroom, every moment of respect. Even a body for dissection, it seemed, was far too much to ask.

“Not one medical school in the United States would let us have a cadaver. It was unbelievable. We weren’t supposed to start a physical therapy program because we didn’t have a medical school.”

So Trudy Barker and her girls went door to door:

“One of the local funeral parlors had a body to be buried, but there was no room and no car. They said, ‘There’s a funeral director who would bury it. And transportation had to be in a proper funeral car, not in an automobile or a truck…It was finally delivered to the cold room, and it was like it was made of gold.’

Trudy Barker retired in 1981. She was replaced by Eleanor Shalhoup, another strong-willed reformer with a mind of her own, who had been serving since 1974 as chair of the department. By then, both Barker and her program had long since earned the respect they deserved. Today, a little more than 20 years later, the college she founded, though many times larger— and on the verge of expanding its mission and its size — still bears the marks of her legacy, and is a tribute to her gilt.
Sixteen Athletes and Two Teams Recognized at Excellence Banquet

Nine female and seven male athletes were honored this year at UMass Lowell’s annual Excellence Banquet. In addition, the Bob Griffin A cademic Cup went to both the men’s and women’s cross-country teams.

Erin Miller, a three-year, all-conference and all-Northeast Region standout on the volleyball team, won the Laurie Mann Award as female student-athlete of the year. A philosophy communications major, she maintained a 3.5 GPA.

The David J. Boutin male student-athlete of the year award went to Adam McCusker, a three-time all-conference and twice all-Northeast region baseball star, who also posted a 3.0 GPA in criminal justice.

Heather Oldham, the greatest shot put hurler in UMass Lowell history (47-25-5), was crowned the Northeast-10 female and male athletes of the year.

In winning the Griffin Academic Cup, the men’s cross-country team posted a 2.99 GPA, while the women earned a 3.27.

In addition to Miller, McCusker and Oldham, other student-athletes, as identified by their coaches in each sport, included:

- Meghan Leary, women’s soccer
- Amber Gagnon, softball
- Niamh Brady, women’s tennis
- Uri Grunwald, men’s basketball
- Carl Morse, men’s cross-country
- Ed McGreene, ice hockey
- Kevin Aillette, men’s track & field
- Glenn O’pie, football

Fall/Winter Sports Athletes Honored for Academic Achievement

Ten athletes in five fall/winter sports programs were honored by outside organizations this year for their academic achievements.

The honorees included three field hockey players, three track and field athletes, two volleyball and two men’s basketball players.

The men’s and women’s cross-country teams received the U.S. Track Coaches Association (USTCA) Team Academic Award for maintaining a team cumulative GPA above 3.0.

Kevin Aillette of Methuen, Jonathan Murphy of Worcester and Nate Jenkins of Templeton received the USTCA’s All-Academic Award, which goes to athletes whose cumulative GPA exceeds 3.25 while the team GPA is over 3.0 and their respective times rank in the top 30 percent in Division II.

Martha Marsden of Hull, Alysia Morgan of Gardner and Josselyn Mroz of Salisbury represented the University on the National Field Hockey Coaches Association National Academic Squad. A II three had GPAs of 3.3 or better.

Erin Miller of Auburn and A ndrea Turner of Highlands Ranch, Colo., were named to the Verizon District I (Northeast) Volleyball Academic All-America First Team. Miller had a 3.5 in philosophy communications while Turner achieved a 3.8 in the College of Nursing.

Elad Inbar of Kiryat Haim, Israel, (3.5 in business administration) and Uri Grunwald of Haifa, Israel, (3.8 in management information systems) earned Verizon District I A-II-A men’s honors for men’s basketball.
With the retirement of River Hawks Baseball Coach Jim Stone, who has run the University program for 37 years, comes, in a very real sense, the end of an era at UMass Lowell. Stone, only the second coach the University has had in the past 78 years — the other was the legendary Rusty Yarnell, who coached the team for 41 years — leaves with a remarkable legacy of achievement: more than 700 wins (roughly half that many losses), 21 post-season berths (NCAA or ECAC); and two trips (in 2001 and 2002) to the College World Series in Alabama. It has been 28 years, at least, since a Jim Stone team has known a losing season.

“I’ve had a good run,” he says with characteristic understatement. “I’ve done most of what I would have wanted to do. It’s time to hand over the reins.”

The new coach, effective with the 2004 season, will be Stone’s assistant of 19 years, Ken Connerty, a UMass Lowell grad and player from the early 1980s, who will take over the coaching duties — at least initially — on a part-time basis. “Ken will do a good job,” the outgoing coach says. “He knows the game, he knows the system and he’s real anxious to get started. I don’t blame him. I’ve been doing it for 37 years. It’s somebody else’s turn now.”

Coach Stone’s parting duty will be to oversee the 21st summer season of the Greater Lowell Baseball Camp. Once that is done, he says, his coaching days are over.

“We’ll be going to Florida in February and March — my wife [a high school principal] is retiring this year, too. So I’m looking forward to that.”

For most of the rest of the year, he says, he’ll continue to make his home in southern New Hampshire — from where, starting early next spring, on sunny home-game afternoons, he’ll be making the familiar trip south:

“I’m going to be a fan now. A fan in the bleachers, that’s all. No worries, no pressure. That ought to be fun for a change.”

Jim Stone’s 37-Year Legacy Marks an End

By Geoffrey Douglas

Support from alumni and friends for the annual Lowell Fund effort is critical. The University depends on your participation, at whatever level your means allow, to maintain its margin of excellence. Your unrestricted support is thoughtfully directed to the University’s area of greatest need.

Your annual Lowell Fund gift does the following:

- supports scholarships for students,
- funds both graduate and undergraduate research projects,
- enables the University to keep pace with technology and support world-renowned faculty.

Every gift helps. Your gift, combined with those of your classmates, the faculty and staff, and friends of UMass Lowell, provides much needed financial support to the University.

To put your gift to work today...

Mail your gift in the envelope attached to this magazine to the Office of UMass Lowell Advancement, 600 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA 01854.

Charge your gift by calling Kathrine Hastings, Director of The Lowell Fund, at 978.934.4808.

Email your questions to the Office of University Advancement at Give_to_Lowell@uml.edu.
1.) Winners of the Academic Cup at this year’s River Hawk Golf Tournament are (from left to right): Tom Sullivan ’02, Brian Andriolo ’95, ’97, Joe Andriolo and Kevin Andriolo ’99, ’01.

2.) Attending the Seventh Annual Francis College of Engineering Alumni Awards Banquet are (from left to right): Matthew Eynon, executive director of University Advancement; Mary Jane and Hank Powell ’55; Frank McKone ’56; Dean Krishna Vedula; and past award recipient and College of Engineering Advisory Board member, Ralph Mondano.

3.) Recipients of this year’s Francis College of Engineering Alumni Awards are (from left to right): alumnus and faculty member, David Wade ’62, Richard Gilbert ’78, Anne Marie Chesno ’84, Dean Krishna Vedula, Lisa Brothers ’84, Michael Johnston ’69 and Professor and Chair of Plastics Engineering at UML Robert Malloy ’79, ’83, ’88. On this special evening, outgoing Dean Vedula was presented with the Lifetime Achievement in Engineering Award.

4.) Presenting retiring Dean Janice M. Stecchi of the College of Health Professions (third from left) with a check for $40,400 are (from left to right): Susan Petullo Laroche ’85, Alan Solomont ’77 and Denise Sevigny McQuaide ’79, ’82. These funds were donated by alumni, faculty, staff, family, and friends of Dean Stecchi for an endowment fund created in her honor that will provide scholarships to students within the college.

5.) College of Health Professions alumnae reunited to celebrate with Dean Jan Stecchi at her retirement celebration on June 18th at the Wyndham Andover Hotel.

6.) Enjoying UMass Night at the Pops on June 25 are, from left to right: retiring Dean of the College of Health Professions Janice Stecchi, Dave Stecchi, Tonita McKone, and Frank McKone ’56.

7.) Among a full house at this year’s UMass Night at the Pops are, from left to right: Alumni Relations Council Member Ron Boudreau ’75, retiring Provost Bob Wagner, Linda Wagner, and Alumni Relations Council Chair Susan Pasquale ’75.

8.) Class of 1953 reunion committee members are calling old friends and classmates to return to campus on Oct. 10 and 11 for their 50th college reunion. Join them for Fall Festival Weekend 2003!
1950
Wang Xuan-Sun writes that he studied in the People's Republic of China and has been retired since 1988.

1956/1957
A llen A. Denio is a professor emeritus from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. A llen moved from Wisconsin in 1999 in search of "milder winters" and now lives in Delaware. He is a director in the Delaware section of the American Chemical Society and also is active in the Sierra Club. A llen notes that he is still running, but "gave up marathons."

1969
George J. Ouellette, Jr., principal engineer for Basel USA in Elkton, Md., has received an ASTM Interna- tional A ward of M erit, the high- est honor given for individual contributions to standards activi- ties, and the accompanying stipend of $100. He was cited for his dedicated participation in and technical contributions to standards initiatives in the committee and for continuous leadership both as a committee officer and as an liaison between standards organizations serving the plastics industry. George is a resident of N orth E ast, Md.

1971
R obert W ard, founder and President of the Polymer Technol- ogy Group, Inc., was presented with the 2003 Society for Biotematerials Technology Innovation and Development Award. T his prestigious award formally recognizes biomateri- als research that has been successfully applied to develop- ment of a novel medical product or technology that significantly benefits medical and surgical patients. T his award is a major acknowledg- ment of his lifetime of contrib- utions to this vital field.

1974
John David Murphy is pleased to announce that his daughter Lindsay has received a basketball scholarship at Southern Polytechnic State University in M iddletown, Ga. She also has been recognized as a member of the A lanta Trophy Club as one of the top high school basketball players in metro- A lanta in 2003.

1977
Joseph Ralph D'Virgilio retired from active practice as a licensed professional civil engineer in Massachusetts in June 2000. In December 2002, Joseph graduated from the 4th Civilian Police A cademy, Grafton. He also graduated summa cum laude in February 2003 from the Professional Career Institute College of Private Investigation. In May 2003, Joseph was a community block captain for the neighbor- hood W atch program.

1980
Valerie A. nill King is a nursing practitioner with Dr. Carlos Del Rio in D rucat. S he is currently president of the Eta O mega chapter of Sigma T hetta T au Interna- tional Honor Society for nurses in her capacity as a member of the M eckinack Valley Nurse P ractitioners. Valerie is married to Michael King 90 and has three children.

1981
Dr. T imothy A. J ohnson has published a textbook that approaches the basic building blocks of music theory from a mathematically oriented perspective. Foundations of Diatonic T heory provides a framework for exploring scales, intervals, and chords through a series of exercises designed to help the reader discover several important principles that underlie the musical structure. Foundations of Diatonic T heory, part of Dart- mouth College’s Mathematics A cross the Curriculum project, funded by the National Science Foundation, is the first book published on diatonic set theory. Timothy is an assistant professor of music at Ithaca College. He is also working on a manuscript for a book tentatively titled A Proving Ground.

1986
Sylvia C ontover recently retired from U M as Lowell after working 12 years at the O ’Leary Library. R ichard N. K imball has joined the Boston law firm of N utter M cC lennen & F ish LLP as a partner. Richard has extensive experience representing venture capitalists and corpo- rate investors in private equity transactions and investment deals. Prior to joining N utter, Richard chaired M ale and D orn’s Venture Capital Finance Group. Richard lives in Boston with his wife, Virginia.

1982
Sharon B urgrabe is an office supervisor for the City of D reefield Beach in Florida, where she resides.

1984
Doris G azeyan has written a children’s book that will be published by N ational G rapics in May 2004.

1985
E lena T. Y ee is the director of Intercultural Programs at Westmont College, a Chris- tian liberal arts college in Santa Barbara, Calif. Elena writes she is enjoying the opportunity and privilege of mentoring Christian college students in understanding diversity through the means of cross-cultural service and education. Elena says it’s ‘also cool to have Oprah W infrey and R ob Lowe as neighbors and see them at the local Starbuck’s or restaurants.

1991
A my (Blanchette) Fitzgibbon and her husband R ob Fitzgib- bon III (1992) had their first child, Robert F. Fitzgibbon IV in M ay. R ob is the IT manager of Creative Playthings, Inc., in Framingham and a my is cur- rently a stay-at-home mom. R ob and Amy still keep in touch with their lifelong friends from their first years at U Lowell and they would love to hear from other alumni.

1992
K athleen A. K rikorian returned to finish her degree at U M as Boston in 1997 and became certified to teach grades 1 through 6. S he also received her master’s in Educa- tion in A ugust 2000 from Cambridge College and was head teacher at the Family School on Cape Cod in the past two years. Kathleen and her 9- year-old daughter recently moved to W aren, N.J., where she planned to work at The Common M an Inn for the summer.

1993
D avel T. L. Thompson left Eлектon and S ampson E ngineers in 2001 and moved back to Southern California. He is currently working on landfill pad design for the Department of P ublic Works of P ort Hueneme, P ort Hueneme. T he D epartment received a rate from Michael S. F. S. E ngineers in Boston as Vice President for Public A ffairs.

1994
G ary L. BURNS is living in Woburn. He is a Sprint P TS Sales Representa- tive for Costco Waltham W Oburn. Doris recently graduated from U M as Lowell in the Department of G eography.

1995
P ete A. S. V. B Ona and his wife, Janet, are the proud parents of Scott N icholas, born A pril 18, 2003.
2003. Scott was welcomed home by his big sister, Rachel. Bilodeau ’97

2002 at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Leominster. They were married in May

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2001 Blair Doucette lives in Waterville, Maine, and is working for the Malden

Obituaries

Prof. Emeritus Ruth A shley of the Mu sic Department, who retired in 1990 after two decades of service to the University, died at Boston Medical Center in March following a lengthy illness.

Prof. Emeritus Ruth Ashley

2000 Anggia Boucher received her master's in occupational therapy and is working at Sunbridge in Lowell. She is engaged to Raymond O'Lei

1999 Wayne J. Tachera (MBA), vice president of Sales and Marketing at East Boston Savings Bank, has earned the Certified Financial Marketing Professional (CFMP) designation by the American Bankers Association (ABA) and the Institute of Certified Bankers (ICB). The CFMP designation is awarded to individuals who demonstrate excellence in the areas of financial principles, laws and regulations, market research, characteristics of marketing plans and marketing components. Wayne directs all marketing efforts for EBSB including advertising, public relations, direct mail and web site. He also oversees management of retail sales programs.

1998 Karen Grimes is a sales manager for Harrion Conference Centers at the Center for Executive Education at Babson College. Karen was married in February '92 to Kevin O'Keefe of Acton. They were married in May 2001. Amy D'Andrea

1997 Blodsoe ’97 and Rebecca Ledb ’97 were married in May 2001. They are residing in A cton. A manda Vezzo ’97 was selected as a W right to the University. She was director of the Handbell Choir at St. Mark's Congregational Church in Roxbury, and was active in professional music organizations.

Gifts in support of a scholarship in her name may be sent to the U M Lowell office of Advancement; 600 Suffolk St., Lowell, MA 01854. Checks should be made payable to the Ruth C. Ashley Memorial Scholarship.

Prof. Emeritus Ruth Ashley

2000 Anggia Boucher received her master's in occupational therapy and is working at Sunbridge in Lowell. She is engaged to Raymond O'Leilette and they plan to be married in October 2004.

1999 Jennifer K. Peterson and Kenneth P. Bilodeau ’97

1998 Michelle (Poirier) Duhesneau was married on July 13, 2002 at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Leominster. Her husband, Chris Duchesneau, is a 1999 graduate of Bryant College.

Cristy (Davidson) Rosenhahn, J.D., is now a contracts manager for Network Specialists, Inc., a privately held software company in Southborough. Cristy is also continuing to work toward her MBA in finance at Nichols College.

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1996 "Rusty" Yarnell, who, in September of that year, bought out the management of Second Hand Barbells — the 'Gym' at Lowell Tech. He had been there for ages; hardly anyone ever went in.

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Robert Lodie (LTI, B.S., electrical engineering, '65) was one of the regulars. The president of his class, an ROTC student and contributing editor to The Test, he had been — along with Rusty Yarnell — among the earliest champions of the gym. A Melrose native who aspired to be a fighter pilot, he founded the LTI "Barbell Club," worked out regularly on the Olympic weight set that had come from the defunct Lowell health club, and was the driving force behind LTI's first and last intermural weightlifting meet, which got local press coverage and took place in his graduating year.

"We had a good time in that room," he remembers today. "Rusty devoted several hours a day to chasing iron. When he wasn't there, either his assistant, Jim Lambert, or Professor [Joe] Waterman usually covered the desk. As I remember, the room was pretty well used. We never had less than about a dozen or so."

Lodie, who lives in California today where he runs his own sales consulting business (he never did achieve his goal of being a fighter pilot, though he served for several years as a navigator in the Air Force), concedes that he rarely gets back to the UMass Lowell campus these days. He keeps up with news, though, by reading UMass Lowell Magazine. When he saw last fall's cover piece on the newly-finished, 65,000-square-foot campus center, he said, "Well, I just couldn't resist sending you all a letter to crow the headline in that issue: "Fabulous Health Center Open Daily, Stock of the Executive 'at a fraction of its cost.'"

And so was born the earliest known precursor to today's new $15 million Campus Recreation Center: an equipment room filled with hand-me-down gym weights in the basement of Kitson Hall. "Fabulous Health Center Open Daily," crowed the headline in LTI's student paper, The Test, which went on to describe the new gym: "...a small room dedicated to the physical improvement of students at Lowell Tech...[who] may make use of the health room from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on any school day." The room's traffic flow was heavy, the paper reported, averaging 25 students a day.

by Geoffrey Douglas

two steam cabinets, "a vibrating table," and an electric heating pad.

Somehow, this news reached Lowell Tech President Martin J. Lydon, who passed it on to the school's Athletic Director W.W. “Rusty” Yamell, who, in September of that year, bought out the stock of the Executive "at a fraction of its cost."

They moved to Jaffrey, N.H., and is now a contracts specialist for Network Specialists, Inc., a privately held software company in Southborough. Cristy is also continuing to work towards her MBA in finance at Nichols College.

Kazim Z. Mohammed is a captain in the Army, currently stationed in Kuwait. Kazim wanted to let everyone know that he is thinking about all of the people he has come across in his life.

Michael W. Tomney recently joined Salem Five Investment Services LLC as an investment officer. He has been working in the financial services area for eight years, most recently as a consultant with State Street Research and Management.

Prof. Emeritus Ruth A shley of the Mu sic Department, who retired in 1990 after two decades of service to the University, died at Boston Medical Center in March following a lengthy illness.

A native of Milton, Prof. Ashley was a 1952 graduate of Lowell State Teachers College. She also did graduate studies at Boston U niversity and Fitchburg State College, where she earned a master's in education. Following her graduation from Lowell, Prof. Ashley taught music in public schools in Norwood and Easton for 17 years before joining the Lowell faculty. She was named chair of the Department of Music Education in 1987.

In addition to her duties at the University, she was director of the Handbell Choir at St. Mark's Congregational Church in Roxbury, and was active in professional music organizations.

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# UMass Lowell Alumni Gift Items

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<th>Item #</th>
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