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'THE LOWELL FUND: FUNDING EXCELLENCE TODAY'

Your gift funds excellence, now. Call 978-934-4808 or visit www.uml.edu.

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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

For the first summer in several years, I am able to share with you good news about state funding for public higher education. Between 2001 and 2004, the University of Massachusetts and the state’s colleges lost 32.6 percent of their state support (adjusted for inflation). This year we started to climb back up the hill. The Massachusetts legislature brought forward and the Governor signed a budget for this new fiscal year that includes a $41.7 million increase for the 29-campus public higher education system, including an $18 million increase for the University of Massachusetts. UMass Lowell received an additional $2.5 million for its operations.

We owe great thanks to the legislature, in particular leaders from the Lowell delegation in the State House. Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos co-chaired the enormously effective Senate Task Force on Public Higher Education, whose work reshaped the statewide conversation about public higher education. Sen. Panagiotakos is also Senate vice chairman of a new legislative committee on higher education, which is chaired in the House of Representatives by Rep. Kevin M. Murphy. Rep. Murphy marshaled support in the House for increased funding and has begun to implement recommendations made by the Task Force and develop other initiatives with his committee. Aiso crucial to this effort were Rep. Thomas Golden and Rep. David Nangle, both of whom attained leadership positions in the House this session and advocated strongly on behalf of public higher education.

The Senate Task Force called for the Commonwealth to allocate an additional $400 million on operations and $1.7 billion on capital improvements in the next five to seven years for the state’s public campuses. This business community in Massachusetts, which lamented the fact that the state ranked 47th in state spending on public higher education per capita, hailed the turnaround. The Task Force hearings demonstrated there is a strong consensus that public higher education is the key to the state’s long-term economic vitality.

To compete nationally and globally, Massachusetts must enlarge its investment in the University of Massachusetts and the public colleges. Private schools are not graduating enough well-trained, high-skilled people for the Commonwealth’s workforce. Massachusetts had nearly 60,000 unfilled jobs in the past two years, and many of which were positions that required a college degree. Eighty-five percent of the graduates of our state’s public institutions remain in Massachusetts to live and work—including many of you who receive this magazine. We need all of you if Massachusetts expects to offer a high quality of life to its residents and contribute to the larger world.

Thank you for your continued support of UMass Lowell. We are doing all we can to ensure that we have the resources to fulfill, and then exceed, our potential in Lowell. In a few weeks the new academic year will begin, and you will be hearing more about the progress being made by our students, faculty, researchers and staff. The generosity of our alumni, their families, and our friends is crucial to the success of the UMass Lowell community.

William T. Hogan
Chancellor
We Want News About You!

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
Southwick Hall
One University Ave.
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What topics would you enjoy reading more about — Alumni, Students, Faculty, Campus?

Name:
Went: Please include your graduation name.

Class Year:

Home Address:

City:
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E-mail Address:

Employer:
Title:

Business Address:
City:
State:
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Please check the activities with which you would like to help:
- Alumni Relations Council
- College/Departmental Activities
- Regional Events
- Regional Chapters
- Career Services
- Class Reunions
- Community Service

Please send me a copy of the latest Lowell Alumni Handbook, which includes information on all alumni benefits, services and activities.

Thank you!

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Table of Contents

FALL 2005 VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

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Cover Story
17 ‘Not the Usual Stuff’ — Christopher Lydon’s ‘Open Source’ Aims to Stretch the Limits of Talk-Show Radio

Feature Story
20 WUML’S ‘Sunrise’—Public Radio for the Merrimack Valley
22 Commencement ‘05
27 Campus Athletics
29 Alumni Events
34 Class Notes

Feature Story
34 Public Higher Education on the Rise: Legislators See Heightened Role for UMass and State & Community Colleges

UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE FALL 2005
Lego Lands in the College Classroom

The day that Assoc. Prof. Sarah Kuhn found out her undergraduate class had been unable to get the reading for that day’s lesson—so she wouldn’t be able to teach what she had planned—she reached into her car and found her kid’s tub of Legos.

At a faculty workshop led by Assoc. Prof. Sarah Kuhn, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Academic Services Joyce Gibson, right, and Asst. Prof. Paul Davidson try their hands at hands-on learning.

“I had been thinking about how to bring the physical element into the classroom,” Kuhn recounts. So she brought in the Legos. The students’ charge: in five minutes, and students were now learning the lesson.

“I see their eyes light up,” says Kuhn. “They get engaged.”

Since that day, Kuhn has periodically used Legos in her undergraduate and graduate classes. More recently, she has become a teacher of teachers, and of other adults. For a Lego division called “Serious Play,” Kuhn has led workshops for business, dressing the teambuilding that is engendered when adults “play” with Legos.

Psychology to Offer Autism Certification

The UMass Lowell Department of Psychology began offering a graduate certificate in Behavioral Intervention in Autism in the fall.

Prof. Charlotte M andell, chair of the Psychology Department, spent several months collaborating with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center to revise a four-course sequence, originally designed for undergraduates.

“We have developed many outstanding undergraduate programs in disabilities through this collaboration,” says M andell.

The program, offered on campus and online through Continuing Studies and Corporate Education, is designed for professionals working in the field and those seeking national certification in behavioral analysis.

M andell says that early behavioral intervention is the key to successful treatment of autism. Symptoms such as diminished communication and self-stimulation may be observable as early as two or three years old, but may not be diagnosed for years.

“Parents are often the first to notice the symptoms, but doctors may mistakenly conclude that it’s just a phase,” says M andell.

Women’s Week Turns 10

Psychology Profs. Anne Mulvey, left, and Khasha Dinh, right, join Judy Tso after Tso’s presentation at Women’s Week. Too told autobiographical stories describing how messages about cultural and physical differences can have a negative impact on young women. The Council on Diversity and Pluralism, which Mulvey and Dinh are members, supported the event, the first of which was held in 1996. Members of more than 70 organizations attended 210-plus events dedicated to social issues, performances, awards and women’s networking.

Ashland High School Takes Top Honors in Botball

It was the joy of victory and the agony of defeat.

Emotions ran high as 19 high school teams competed in the regional finals of the national Botball program this spring. Initial favorites performed well in the seeding rounds, then lost focus in the head-to-head competition—some whirred aimlessly in the corner; others placed prizes in the competitor's goal.

Student teams had just seven weeks to create robots—using kits from the KISS (“Keep It Simple, Stupid”) Institute for Practical Robotics—that performed tasks completely on their own, with no remote control.

A small High School took overall first place, with Nesham and Roxbury Latin High Schools following. Overall standings are based on tournament play combined with Web documentation. In just the double elimination tournament, the standings were Nesham first, A shland second and A rlington High School third.

Information Technology Helps City Fight Violent Crime

If you’ve had a restraining order taken out against someone, instructing them to stay away from your place of business say, you probably expect that the police know about and are prepared to enforce it if necessary.

You’d probably also expect that a probation officer would be fully aware of any conditions placed on a parolee by the court system in order to set proper conditions on a convict’s release.

But, because of the often arcane record-keeping systems used by many communities’ law enforcement agencies, there’s no guarantee that the necessary communication is occurring that would ensure that this level of tracking is taking place.

A st. Prof. A pril Pattavina of Crimi

nal Justice is working with one such city to provide an information-sharing system that would enable separate agencies to better integrate their data, and, thus, better track violent offenders.

T hree years ago, Pattavina, with University support, began an audit of the information systems used by the Lawrence Police Department. Through that process, she determined that most violent crime data was not computerized and, therefore, difficult to access; and that appropriate law enforcement
agencies had no real system of information-sharing. Lawrence officials agreed with the researcher that something needed to be done. Together, they received a $24,000 grant from the National Institute of Justice, to be split between Lawrence and UML, to develop an information technology system for data management.

Pattavina and her graduate students are working with officials in Lawrence to input arrest records, court documents, restraining orders and other information from the various offices. They will also develop an information-sharing protocol to facilitate communication between probation and the police.

State House Display Features Graduate School of Education Partnerships

The Massachusetts Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) hosted a poster display and reception for legislators at the State House recently, highlighting some of the numerous school-college partnership projects. Former president of MACTE Donald Pearson, left, dean of the Graduate School of Education, joined University of Massachusetts Trustees William Kennedy, center, and Rep. Paul Casey of Winchester.

Dil'shtein, Lue Explore New Infrared Imaging

Those of us of a certain age can remember the most magical moment in shoe shopping. Step onto a little platform, wiggle your newly shod feet into a slot and lean over the eyepiece to see a green and ghostly image of your bones inside the shoes. It was the “perfect fit.”

“Of course, we could never have known at that time what new insights such an observation could bring,” says Prof. Sam Mil'shtein, director of the Advanced Electronic Technology Center.

However, experiments on another candidate in biomedical engineering, working with Niyom Lue, doctoral candidate in biomedical engineering, are looking at bones, tendons and blood vessels in real time, using infrared light.

“Infrared is a weak light, with not very deep penetration— unlike x-ray,” says Mil'shtein. “With special algorithmic processing of images, we are clearly distinguishing, bones, tendons, blood vessels and tissues.”

The applications are in the early stages, and yet exciting.

Collaborating with Biology Prof. Thomas Shea, the research team is investigating the effectiveness of imaging tumor growth in mice—to watch the tumor as it grows and before it would normally be visible.

The new imaging technology may one day transform mammography.

A seed grant with the U Mass Medical School will compare infrared and ordinary x-ray mammograms using side-by-side equipment.

“With special algorithmic processing of images, we are clearly distinguishing, bones, tendons, blood vessels and tissues.”

The State Legislature has made a major commitment to the Center of Excellence in Nanomanufacturing at UMass Lowell, with a $6 million matching-funds grant from the John Adams Innovation Institute. Also, Gov. Romney’s budget proposal includes $21 million for a new building.

Colleges - Engineering

Three state senators recently visited the University for a briefing by administrators and faculty on plans for a nanomanufacturing and biomanufacturing center on campus. From left are Chancellor William Hogan; Sen. Jack Hart of South Boston, chair of the Economic Development and Emerging Technology Committee; Sen. Steven Panagiotakos of Lowell, who requested the session for his colleagues; and Sen. Steven Baddour of Methuen.

Colleges - Education

“Please Wash Me” scrolls on the message board of the Computer Science Department’s robotic car. With Asst. Prof. Fred Martin, front, are some of the inventors and developers: from left, Zebulon Halsey, Kaseena Abu-Zahra, Yan Tran, J. on Viclairine and Kyewook Lee.

Reach Out to Lawrence

SHPE-UML, the campus chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, is reaching out to local high schools. In March, eight SHPE-UML student members from the College of Engineering, along with their advisor, Hector Valdes of the Office of Economic Development, and Admissions Counselor Ed Seem, visited Methuen High School, where they talked about careers in science and engineering with 70 seniors. In April, the engineering students, along with Valdes and admissions counselor Gwen Dem, made a presentation at Lawrence High School. The UML group was hosted by physics teacher Jesus Hernandez (far right in photo), who brought together some 60 Lawrence High students for a discussion on careers. The UML delegation in Lawrence included, standing from left, Jose Fernandez, Luis Escobar, SHPE-UML advisor Valdes, Kaidhamas Martinez, Felix Kam, Yees Carrion, Rusení Nagage, admissions counselor Dem, and Lawrence High teacher Hernandez. Kneeling, from left, are Kelvin J. garbe and Jose Martinez.

Manatee Dispute

Niezrecki’s ‘School Zone’ Sign May Help Resolve Manatee Dispute

The manatee, which plies the waters of Florida, is the focal point of an ongoing dispute between environmentalists and boaters. Manatees are frequently injured by the hulls or propellers of power boats that speed through Florida’s rivers and channels. Environmentalists, who want to protect the herd— whose number is estimated to be about 3,000— have taken steps to control the boats.

They have succeeded in having manatee zones established in which boaters must travel at only idle speed; have limited the construction of new docks, which reduces the number of boats; and have clamped down on the awarding of permits for new marinas.
"There are issues that we have to address with a grant from the state of Florida of nearly $130,000. Our solution to this problem may emerge from research being conducted by a sociologist, Prof. Christopher Nierecki of Mecanical Engineering. He is working on a "Manatee Avoidance System" with a grant from the state of Florida of nearly $130,000. Nierecki's work responds to complaints from boaters that there are not enough warnings about the presence of manatees, a light flashes on a "Manatee Avoidance System" when the hydrophone system detects the sounds they emit. The most recent innovation is an e-marketing system that shortens response time for inquiries about specific departments and programs. Each week, graduate coordinators are provided with biographical information and an e-mail hyperlink for all prospects who inquire about their programs. Coordinators can respond with a brief, colorful electronic message developed by The Graduate School. The single page description contains general information about the high quality of faculty and resources in each program and specific listings of research opportunities available to graduate students. Links to department or program Web sites and to graduate coordinator and chairperson e-mail accounts are included. Coordinators can modify and personalize each response as they choose. The new protocol, designed by Jerome L. Hujnicki, dean of the Graduate School, and James Magarian, director of Corporate and Community Graduate Programs, is available to all 28 U Mass Lowell and intercampus graduate programs. The automated delivery program was developed by Magarian, Linda Southworth, director of Graduate Admissions, Jay DeFrank, assistant director of Graduate Admissions, and two doctoral students, Piti Piyachon and Somchai Jiatkiswat.

Graduate School staff members who contributed to new e-systems include, from left, seated, Piti Piyachon and Somchai Jiatkiswat, both doctoral students, and J oy DeFrank, assistant director of Graduate Admissions, and, standing, J ay DeFrank, assistant director of Graduate Admissions, and J ames Magarian, director of Corporate and Community Graduate Programs.

Web-Based Communications Help Make Grad School More Competitive

The global arena in which schools vie for the best graduate students is increasingly competitive. In that environment, quick response to prospective student questions, applications and problems may be the factor that helps a school capture good candidates.

Recognizing this, the Graduate School at the Lowell campus has instituted new, faster methods of processing student inquiries and applications. The most recent innovation is an e-marketing system that shortens response time for inquiries about specific departments and programs.

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There is off, boaters may proceed at their own risk. When the hydrophone system detects the presence of manatees, a light flashes on a "Manatee Avoidance System" — much like the one used to control the speed of motor vehicles in school zones: a trips to the ocean could take an hour or so because of reduced speed limits — consequently, the value of their homes is reduced. A nd so on.

One solution to this problem may emerge from research being conducted by a sociologist, Prof. Christopher Nierecki of Mecanical Engineering. He is working on a "Manatee Avoidance System" with a grant from the state of Florida of nearly $130,000. Nierecki’s work responds to complaints from boaters that there are not enough warnings about the presence of manatees, a light flashes on a "Manatee Avoidance System" when the hydrophone system detects the sounds they emit. The most recent innovation is an e-marketing system that shortens response time for inquiries about specific departments and programs. Each week, graduate coordinators are provided with biographical information and an e-mail hyperlink for all prospects who inquire about their programs. Coordinators can respond with a brief, colorful electronic message developed by The Graduate School. The single page description contains general information about the high quality of faculty and resources in each program and specific listings of research opportunities available to graduate students. Links to department or program Web sites and to graduate coordinator and chairperson e-mail accounts are included. Coordinators can modify and personalize each response as they choose.

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Health

Safety Competition a Big Win for Students and Workers

Richard Schultz and Megan McAuliffe, both industrial hygiene graduate students, won a competition aimed at providing health and safety information for workers in a variety of industries. A part of an Occupational Safety Engineering course, the goal of the competition was for students to identify hazards that workers face on the job site and create a publication for each hazard to effectively communicate its control and prevention. McAuliffe focused on eye hazards and personal protective equipment for plumbers, while Schultz concentrated on machine guarding in woodshops. Both publications will be placed in a number of industrial settings so that workers can see the benefits of protecting themselves from hazards while on the job.
Afraid You Won’t Sleep Well Tonight? Then You Probably Won’t.

Everyone needs eight hours sleep a night, right? Wrong.

"Most people need between four and 12 hours sleep, and it’s wildly variable from person to person," says Asst. Prof. Geoffrey McEnany, a psychiatric nurse and teacher in the Department of Nursing. "Nearly everyone with psychiatric illness has sleep disturbance," he says. "Sleep disturbance to psychiatric illness is like chest pain to cardiac disease. It’s that common."

"Sleep is a critical index to a lot of illnesses. In psychiatric illness, sleep is the first thing to change. Sleep disturbances usually occur before a person will admit he’s distressed. The change in sleep is an indication that a person’s body rhythms are changing."

"When the psychiatric illness is treated adequately, the sleeping experience usually gets better."

But if a person isn’t getting as much sleep as they think they should, it doesn’t necessarily indicate a psychiatric problem. "Sleep disregulation is very common," McEnany says. "We need to teach the public what normal sleep is."

N infant doesn’t sleep the same as a child. N and adolescents usually go to bed later and have a hard time getting up in the morning. People who are middle aged don’t sleep the same as teens. "A s we all age, one thing is sure—the stages and more wake time. The problem is that no one expects it and they become anxious and seek medications to help them get to sleep."

The best predictor of a bad night’s sleep, he says, is the anticipation of a bad night’s sleep. "If you’re afraid you won’t sleep well, you won’t. A nd if you don’t, it can perpetuate the problem. "Sleep is directly related to a person’s functional performance. If you sleep well, you’ll be more alert; think more clearly and function more effectively," he says.

Egg Study Sheds Light on Blindness Prevention

Wha would’ve thought an egg a day might keep blindness at bay? A study underway by researchers in the Center for Health and Disease Research in the School of Health and Environment indicates it might be so.

"Certain things happen with eggs," says Margaret Martin, associate director at the Center. "A nd certain things certainly happened when 47 area nursing home residents began eating an egg a day for five weeks. Their levels of two important anti-oxidants increased significantly. These antioxidants—lutein and zeaxanthin—help prevent macular degeneration, which is a leading cause of blindness. Subjects’ levels of lutein increased 20 percent, and zeaxanthin, 43 percent. To ensure that the participants’ cholesterol levels did not also increase, their blood was checked twice a month. Those levels rose one percent."

"I really think that this will make a difference in people’s lives," says Prof. Robert N. icolos, who is heading the research project. "He says that a leading N icolos ophthalmologist "thinks our interventions are as good as any drug he’s seen—and the interventions we’re talking about are things people eat.”

A sso c. Prof. Susan H oude of N ursing is working with Nicolos on the $230,000 study, with assistance from the Center’s Martin, Asst. Prof. Thomas N erson, and Program Manager Maureen Faul. It is funded by the Egg Nutrition Board of the Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA).

Egg Nutrition Board of the Federal Management

Commercialization Lab Bridges Gap Between Idea and Working Venture

Valerie K jiewski thinks the business of creating a new business is haphazard at best. A nd she intends to do something about it.

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“Sleep as directly related to a person’s functional performance. If you sleep well, you’ll be more alert; think more clearly and function more effectively,” he says.
Red Sox Yearbook Readers Getting a UML Pitch

Even if you’re not a die-hard Red Sox fan, you might want to pick up the 2005 Yearbook of the world championship team.

Featuring among the career statistics of some of your favorite players is an ad for the University’s Baseball Research Center.

At UML, we’ve got our eye on the ball.

Video, Publications Promote Safety for Hispanic Workers

“Protect yourself. Your family needs you!”

This important reminder from a worker is part of a new safety and health video aimed at educating Hispanic construction workers on how to protect themselves from hazards and injuries in the workplace. In this 16-minute video, produced in Spanish and translated into English, Hispanic construction workers talk about the different hazards they face at work and the impact of on-the-job injuries and illnesses.

Dr. Maria Brunette of Work Environments developed the video and other instructional publications with help from a grant awarded to her by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Because a significant portion of the Hispanic worker population has serious difficulties understanding technical English, Brunette felt that they lacked the resources to obtain important and safety information that would help protect and prevent injury or illness while on the job. Her efforts to create linguistic and culturally appropriate training resulted in an effective way to communicate this vital information to the Hispanic construction workers.

One in five construction workers are Hispanic. The City of Lowell is hosting a monthly world culture film series, “Destination World: Lowell’s Global Film Venture,” highlighting the community’s vibrant social mosaic. The film features a team of 26 community partners led by the Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL) and including UMass Lowell as a major sponsor. The project received a $75,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) for the project.

The University is especially pleased to have this grant because we’ll make up the 23 cent gap!” That is the current gap between men and women.

“It’s not about women being insufficient; it’s about discrimination,” said Murphy, who is a resident scholar at Brandeis University and has a book on the subject. “As soon as we realize this, we’ll make up the 23 cent gap.” That is the current gap between men and women who work in the same jobs.

“I’m going to persuade you to do something worthwhile to do. We take great pride in the enthusiasm of students when they have something worthwhile to do. We take great pride in their achievement.”

The Lowell Save Our History project received another award from The History Channel: an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete for a national prize.

The celebration filled the room as dignitaries, family, sponsors and hardworking participants — adults and students — marked the completion of the Save Our History project.

The occasion was the official unveiling of a printed booklet, Lowell’s Acre Access Trail, written entirely by students from the Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau. The book features the project, a joint effort of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, the Lowell National Park and the Bartlett School. The celebration was sponsored by the City of Lowell, Groton/Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The History Channel awarded the project an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete for a national prize.

From left, Linda Willis, Neary Mam, Vania Perez and Mark Souza will represent their colleagues.
High-Tech Incentive Improves Attendance at Lowell High

Buoyed by the Laptops for Lowell program that provides Lowell High School seniors with an opportunity to earn a free laptop provided they attend school regularly, attendance among high school seniors has increased by more than 60 percent compared with the same time last year, according to Lowell High School Housemaster David Conway.

DNA Project Connects African-Americans to Their Roots

Growing up in New Haven, Bruce Jackson gave up his dream of playing first base for the Yankees when he got a taste of science through a program for urban youngsters.

“I was making bacterial plates at Yale Medical Center and loved it,” says Jackson, a molecular geneticist. “When I finished my Ph.D., I was most interested in Alzheimer’s—nothing at all like the DNA project.”

Jackson, a molecular geneticist and associate professor in the Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology program, third from left, leads the project at UMass Lowell.

UMass Lowell is among the major partners that donated to the program, along with Lowell city government, state Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos, and Middlesex Community College. Provost John Wodding leads the UML effort on behalf of the program. To date, some 50 computers have been donated, and organizers are seeking further gifts.

From September 2003 to January 2004, 231 students would have met the current requirements: absent less than eight days, accepted at two- or four-year colleges or enlistment in the military. From September 2004 to January 2005, there were 413 students who met the standards.

“To see the numbers increase by a whopping 60 percent is phenomenal,” says High School Headmaster William Samaras.

For more information or to make a donation to the program, contact daconway@lhs.lowell.k12.ma.us.

How does an African-American trace personal genealogy back to the homeland without knowing a country of origin, or connection to an ethnic group?

Forensic DNA is the answer.

The African-American DNA Roots Project, which Jackson heads at UMass Lowell, uses specific DNA analysis techniques to identify unique signature sequences among African-Americans that might link them to particular West African or Central African ethnic groups that have also been characterized.

The goal is to match the DNA lineages of African Americans and Caribbean people of African origin to the DNA signatures of ethnic groups that were the sources of slaves. The point of common ancestry should show up in the DNA. Developing all the data, though, is like creating all the genealogical records in Europe—from scratch.

Jackson also feels the pressure of having to 1,500 applications annually are wiping out whole groups of people. A nod, in the U.S., fraudulent services have cropped up, claiming they can trace African roots—for a fee.

Staff Writer Miller Awarded Stegner Fellowship from Stanford

Matthew Miller, a staff writer in the Communications Office, has been awarded a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Creative Writing from Stanford University.

Every year, the Stanford C creative Writing Program awards five fellowships in poetry and five new fellowships in fiction. Coveted by writers world-wide, competition for this two-year fellowship is fierce, eliciting roughly 1,500 applications annually from more than 30 countries. Fellowships are awarded for two years and include a living stipend, workshop tuition and a summer stipend totaling $62,000 for the two-year period.

Miller, a native of Lowell, recently received a Mogan Cultural Center Grant and has been twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His work has been published in several journals including the Connecticut Review, Etcetera International and Lowell’s Renovation Journal.

Reardon Assumes New Security Post

Former UMass Lowell Chief of Police Patricia Reardon has assumed the new post of director of Institutional and Security Affairs.

Her responsibilities include assessing the University’s security needs; managing centralized reporting of security-related tasks and providing for crisis management, as both chair of the Crisis Management Committee and as a representative of the University with federal and state emergency management agencies.

Umass Lowell Goes Hollywood-For-a-Night

The UMass Lowell north campus was briefly remade into Hollywood Boulevard one evening this spring.

From the steps of Cumnock Hall, a 95-foot red carpet extended to the street; a movie poster hung between two columns, balloons and posters festooned the interior, klieg lights stabbed the sky. On the sidewalk between the Cumnock entrance and the street, and in the hallway inside, more than 300 invited guests awaited the arrival of a bright-white limousine.

The occasion, too, was a staple of Hollywood: the world premiere of a movie—The Game of Their Lives, a PG-rated, 90-minute film, based on the book of the same name by UMass Lowell adjunct professor and Communications writer Geoffrey Douglas. The film, which opened that same night in theaters around the country, is the real-life account of 11 young, first-generation American soldiers who made up the 1950 U.S. World Cup soccer team that defeated England, 1-0, in Brazil in June of that year—arguably the greatest single upset victory in the history of World Cup soccer.

The move, shown in the Cumnock Hall auditorium, was followed by a buffet reception and author’s book signing in Alumni Hall.

Geoffrey Douglas, at the Alumni Hall reception, holds aloft the framed Game of Their Lives movie poster presented to him as a gift from the Communications staff.
For a Class of 10-Year-Olds in Acton, a Lesson in World Citizenship

For Vicky Dalis, it all began that day last fall when her daughter Emma, who was 10 years old at the time, came home from school—the Merriam School in Acton—with a story about an inter-class project.

It was play-off-time for M ajor League Baseball; her fifth-grade class, Emma told her mother, had been meeting with a class of sixth-graders to discuss the Red Sox-Yankee rivalry.

“What had happened was,” says Vicky—a graphic designer in the U M Ass Lowell Publications Office—which ran a piece the following Sun-day in the Herald, “the classes had gotten together to talk about the two teams, and why some people supported the Red Sox and some liked the Yankees—the whole subject of what makes a sports fan a sports fan, I guess. And what the teachers found, pretty much right away, was that things had gotten a little bit ugly.”

“The teachers, to try to address the problem, started a dialogue with the kids about playground behavior. That had led to some talk about respect and good sportsmanship, those sorts of things...”

A t some point during all this, one of the fifth-graders, a baseball player of things...”

“Some kids heard from Red Sox Manager Terry Francona and baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, who wrote to say that he found the idea “fascinating.” Vicky volunteered as an informal press liaison and, with the help of some folks from the Publications Office, put together a press release, which was sent to local media.

The response was beyond anyone’s imaginings: The coverage, which began with a front-page story in the Boston Globe and an account the same day in The Herald, then caught the attention of The New York Times, which ran a piece the following Sunday; and of Sports Illustrated, which weighed in with its coverage of the “Handshake Project” within several days of that.

Then the broadcast media joined the chorus: CBS-TV, ESPN, NPR and a host of New England affiliates.

The Red Sox-Yankees handshake never took place. But for Vicky the handshake was only part of the point. “Those kids saw a wrong and they tried to right it,” Vicky says. “A nd they made an impact—people all over New England, maybe all around the country, read or heard about what they did. A nd for Emma and the others, that’s the lesson that counts—that if you see something wrong or unjust, and take a stand on it, you can make yourself heard in the world.”

Two Agreements in One Month Is Cause for Celebration

Susu Wong, licensing associate in U M Ass’s Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property (CVIP) Office, recently reached two licensing agreements in one month for software developed at U M ass Lowell—agreements that will, if all goes well, return a stream of income to the campus and the inventors.

Triumvirate Environmental of Somerville bought a license to EMS Software®, developed by Environmental Health and Safety Director Richard Lemoine and former computer science graduate student M ikun J osh. Triumvirate will use the software to shape an EMS program for its consulting and hazardous waste management businesses.

The company is also making a $20,000 grant available to colleges and universities for purchase of the EMS Software from U M L.

A nd Bunker Hill Community College licensed EZREG® software. EZREG® is an easy-to-use, possible simple, online student registration, and is currently being used by Continuing Studies and U M Ass Lowell’s faculty.

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engaged leading researchers and practitioners in the field of geropsychology to address the issue of health care in older adults.

A. J. Prof. Jacqueline Dowling of Nursing has received a grant for Step Into Wellness, a pilot program aimed at improving the nutrition and activity of Head Start child-care providers and adult family members.

Dr. Donald Pierson, dean of the Graduate School of Education, has been elected to a three-year term as Region I representative for the Executive Board of the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities.

Prof. Linda Silka of ES&D, director of the Center for Family, Work and Community, was one of eight faculty members recognized nationally with an Ernest L. L. Linton Honorable Mention for her work with refugee and immigrant communities.

John Shirley, associate professor in Sound Recording Technology, has released a CD titled Sonic Ninius, a collection of original experimental electroacoustic compositions written over a 10-year period.

Raymond Rigney, Former U Lowell Vice President

Raymond I. Rigney, an administrator in two of UMass Lowell’s predecessor institutions for a dozen years, died April 13 at the Pavilion in Hyannis, from complications of emphysema. He was 82.

A native of Boston, M. R. Rigney was a graduate of Holy Cross College and held master’s degrees from Boston College (history) and Boston University (education).

After teaching school for a decade, he became fiscal and education advisor to Gov. Foster Furcolo in 1957 and later served succeeding governors in similar posts.

He was named treasurer of Southwestern Massachusetts Technological Institute in 1964 and, in 1973, was appointed the first director of fiscal affairs for Lowell Technological Institute, where he helped oversee the merger of that school with Lowell State College to form the University of Lowell in 1975. He was vice president of Fiscal Affairs for ULowell from 1976 to 1985.

Dr. Dr. Lanett Scott, Founder of A L A N A

Dr. Lanett Scott for many years a counselor in the University’s Counseling Center, died April 12 in Georgia at the age of 53.

Dr. Scott served briefly as a career counselor in the Placement Office and then became the founding director of the A L A N A Student Center, now the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

She left the University five years ago and moved to Powder Springs, Ga., with her husband, Gregory, and their daughter, Lakendra. She was a native of Birmingham, Ala.

Joan Roberts, Retired Director of Personnel

Joan Roberts, who served as the University’s director of Personnel for eight years, died Feb. 3 at the Lawrence General Hospital. She was 68.

A native of Lawrence, M. R. Roberts graduated from Lowell State College in 1971 with a major in education and a minor in science. She joined the staff of the college that same year as a lab technician and later was elevated to the rank of professional technician.

In 1978, she was named assistant director of Personnel Services and, two years later, was appointed temporary director of Personnel. She was named director of Personnel in 1981 and, two years later, the title was expanded to director of Personnel and Classified Labor Relations.

Mrs. Roberts lived in North Andover where she served on the town Finance Committee. In addition, she was a member of the League of Women Voters, and was a delegate to the National Women’s Conference for Equal Rights in 1975.

She retired from the University in 1991.

June Gonsalves Miles, Former Equal Employment Officer

June Gonsalves Miles, an equal employment officer and associate professor at the University for 17 years, died of colon cancer on May 20 at New England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton. She was 65.

After leaving the University in 1990, she was appointed a judge in the Boston Juvenile Court, a post she held for 12 years before retiring on a disability pension.

Judge Miles earned a bachelor’s degree in political science at Northeastern University in 1962 and a law degree there in 1971.

Christopher Lydon’s ‘Open Source’ Aims to Stretch the Limits of Talk-Show Radio

T

here is, says Christopher Lydon, a tectonic shift underway in our media. Before it is through, it will touch on everything we know, everything we believe to be true. But most of all, it will transform forever the way our news is brought to us, as well as the messengers who bring it.

― Remember that old Walter Cronkite sign-off—‘And that’s the way it is,’ and such-and-such a date, at the end of all his old TV newscasts? Remember how revered he was? He was the consummate voice of authority, we believed every word he said... “Well, no more. I hear that today, I’m going to say, ‘Hey, hold up a minute, Walter. Why is that the way it is? Because you say it? Because your people [at CBS] say it? Because that’s all you know?’ — Christopher Lydon

The internet has changed everything. Everything. It’s created this huge shift. Because there’s no pope on the internet, there’s no New York Times, no Cronkite. There’s no absolute authority anymore."

Lydon, once host of "The Connection," the brainy, no-holds-barred morning talk-show on Boston’s W BU R, which went off the air four years ago, returned to the airwaves May 30 on a new show—"Open Source." It airs Mondays through Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. A re-broadcast is aired on the University’s W UM L Radio (91.5) Tuesdays through Fridays 9 to 10 a.m. Next year, following an upgrade of the University’s studios, W U M L is slated to serve as the permanent site and source of the broadcast.

But coverage doesn’t end at the outskirts of the region. Open Source launched May 30 in the Seattle market as well, and is syndicated nationally by Public Radio Interna-
tional (PRI), which, starting July 4th, will feed it live to 727 affiliate stations for broadcast and simulcast streaming.

With conventional broadcasting technology built around the broad freedoms of the Internet—the same freedoms that have created the “authority collapse” Lydon is so fond of discussing—the show draws its source material from bloggers, podcasts, and Web enthusiasts in general, with Lydon overseeing a dialogue with callers and e-mailers from around the world on a virtually limitless range of subjects. You could say it’s the technological equivalent of Speakers’ Corner in London’s Hyde park, where, for at least two centuries, locals have gathered every Sunday to specify, rant and heckle, unplanned and unsolicited, on an infinity of topics.

“The idea,” Lydon says, “is to have a broadcast with the speed and expanse of the Web—fast, wide-ranging, dynamic—but delivered with the human voice. The vox humana. It has the advantages of both mediums, of both technologies. It reflects the realities of our world today, the speed of technology, and the interconnectedness of everything and everyone. A at the same time, it manages what the straight media hasn’t yet really even attempted—it lets the readers become the writers, the listeners become the broadcasters. It lets the audience in.”

His goals for the show are not modest. His hope, he says, along with that of producer Mary McGrath, is “to get people engaged in conversation and to the coverage of several presidential campaigns in later years he anchored “The Ten O’Clock News” on WGBH-TV in Boston, then founded “The Connection,” broadcast to more than 70 stations with close to half a million listeners—once cited as “the most original, varied, and inclusive ‘smart’ public radio talk show in America.” Two years ago, in a logical lead-up to his current Open Source endeavor, he produced and hosted a seven-hour PRI series, “The W hole World,” that examined the roots, perils and implications of globalization. H is 2004 “Blogging of the President” Web site was described last year by Vanity Fair as “the smartest coffee-house conversation on the presidential campaign.”

“Open Source” with Lydon and other U Mass Lowell’s executive director of "Open Source" Lou DiNatale, “His local show will light up the Merrimack Valley, from Concord to Lawrence.” — Lou DiNatale

UMASS LOWELL MAGAZINE FALL 2005

Chris Lydon and “Open Source” producer Mary McGrath. The show is being produced by UMass Lowell, and will air next year at the WUML studios.

“Chris Lydon’s show will light up the Merrimack Valley, from Concord to Lawrence.”

—— Lou DiNatale

Lowell students as part of a planned new communications program (see story on page 21).

“We’ve been getting a lot of calls,” says Lydon, “from [University] kids who want to be part of the program. That’s exciting to me. I love to teach. And it adds a whole new dimension to things.”

For more than 30 years, Christopher Lydon has been a signature voice in print, TV, and radio journalism. Early in his career, he was a political reporter for The New York Times, contributing to the coverage of several presidential
Executive Producer Christine Dunlap, also the University’s executive director of communications, “We’re different from your basic FM station. We run daily essays, for instance, from a wide cross-section of folks—both in and out of the University—and interview personalities that profile men and women you might never know of otherwise. A lot of that, along with the usual diet of news, sports and weather to keep our listeners abreast.”

The program, which patterns itself on public radio, but with the Merrimack Valley as its focus (the targeted audience is roughly 250,000), begins its typical day—at 6 a.m.—with a brief newscast followed by a discussion of major news events. T is hour will lead into the first of four or five daily guest interviews, which are recorded live and interspersed throughout the three-hour time-slot, followed at half-hour intervals by news and sports briefs. T ere is also a daily essay—four to six minutes, on a limitless subject-range by an assortment of sources—and, from time to time as the schedule allows, a pre-recorded segment. On Thursday mornings, a special feature, “Common Threads,” spotlights some indigenous feature, trend or personality—the recent influx of artists into the Valley, for instance, or a local old-time clock-maker.

T e twin goals, says Dunlap, are freshness and variety. “We look for subjects you might not hear about every day, maybe something the average listener hasn’t thought about. Family and relationship issues maybe, or homeowner problems, or travel ideas—news you can use,’ we like to say.”

— Christine Dunlap

WUM L’S ‘Sunrise’—Public Radio for the Merrimack Valley

WUM L, the University’s FM station, has an all-new morning format.

T e newly-designed “Sunrise,” which airs on the station weekday mornings from 6 to 9 a.m., kicked off last winter with an eclectic mix of news, weather, sports, features, essays and interviews. T e program, which had been on-air since the fall of 2003 as a partnership of UMass Lowell and The Lowell Sun, has been produced since January by the University’s Communications Department with creative support and source back-up from The Sun and its staff.

“We like to think of ourselves as a forum for the exchange of ideas,” says “Sunrise”
Commencement 2005

UMass Lowell's June 5 commencement attracted an overflow crowd, as more than 6,000 people filled the Tsongas Arena to cheer for the nearly 2,000 graduates receiving bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

M aster's degrees were awarded to the first group of students completing multi-campus degree programs. Four students have earned the Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology degree and one is completing the Marine Science and Technology program. Both degree programs are shared among the University of Massachusetts campuses; each student chooses the campus from which to receive his or her degree.

Degrees conferred on June 5 included 70 doctorates, up from the annual average of 55.

Four professionals were recognized for their achievements. Swedish environmentalist Margot Wallström, John Beckwith and Eric S. Lander received honorary degrees. James V. Dandeneau received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Wallström, who delivered the commencement address, is first vice president of the European Commission, delivered the commencement address to the nearly 2,000 graduates receiving bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

The ceremony was called to order by The Honorable James DiPaola, Sheriff of Middlesex County.

Margot Wallström, first vice president of the European Commission, delivered the commencement address to the nearly 2,000 graduates who received bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

Mr. Robert Tamarin, dean of the Division of Sciences, right, conferred a Doctor of Humane Letters on Eric S. Lander, a leader of the international Human Genome Project, which completed mapping the human genome-extrusion companies serving the medical device industry. Industry experts attributed the company’s success to Dandeneau’s ability to find innovative solutions to the challenges of manufacturing critical components. In 2004, twenty years after its founding, Putnam Plastics was acquired by M emry Corporation. James Dandeneau was named a vice president of Memry Corporation and was subsequently elected to the company’s board of directors.

Dandeneau returned to his alma mater in 1999 to establish the Dandeneau Family Endowed Scholarship Program for the benefit of students in UMass Lowell’s Francis College of Engineering. Two years later, he was inducted into the University’s Francis A cademy of Distinguished Engineers. Dandeneau also is a member of the steering committee for the 50th anniversary celebration of plastics engineering at UMass Lowell. To mark the occasion, Putnam Plastics renovated the S. J. Chen Extrusion Laboratory in plastics engineering.

A Doctor of Humane Letters degree was conferred on Jonathan Beckwith, left, a geneticist, microbiologist and researcher on the social impact of science. by Dr. David Wegman, dean of the School of Health and Environment.

Chancellor William T. Hogan presided over commencement ceremonies on Sunday, June 5 at the Tsongas Arena.

John Beckwith, a geneticist, microbiologist, is deeply involved in mechanical engineering. DiNitto also received the Trustees’ Key, which honors students who completed four years at UML and earned a grade point average of 4.0. The Trustees’ Key has only been awarded 13 times since its creation 20 years ago.

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A Doctor of Humane Letters degree was conferred on Jonathan Beckwith, left, a geneticist, microbiologist and researcher on the social impact of science, by Dr. David Wegman, dean of the School of Health and Environment.
Advisors are shown hooding this year’s 70 doctoral recipients. The annual average of doctorates awarded in recent years has been 55.

Key administrators on hand for the chancellor’s Commencement breakfast included, from left, Diana Prideaux-Brune, Vice Chancellor for Facilities; Louise Griffin, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance; Frederick P. Sperounis, Executive Vice Chancellor; Jeffrey Thompson, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology; and Kristen Esterberg, Associate Provost.

Chancellor Hogan welcomed State Sen. Steven Panagiotakos to the commencement breakfast. The Senator brought greetings from the Commonwealth to the graduates.

The Commencement Breakfast was attended by Provost John Wooding, left, and David Wegman, dean of the School of Health and Environment.

Chancellor Hogan welcomed State Sen. Steven Panagiotakos to the commencement breakfast. The Senator brought greetings from the Commonwealth to the graduates.

Distinguished Alumnus James V. Dandeneau, ‘80, plastics engineering, fourth from left, is welcomed to the breakfast by Chancellor Hogan. Dandeneau was accompanied by, from left, his mother Rosemary, his daughter Lauren, his wife Debbie and his son Ryan.

David Gray, UMass Vice President for Information Technology, joined Dean Jacqueline Moloney, right, in congratulating Cheryl Gray, who earned a bachelor’s degree in Information Technology on line through the Division of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education. Gray received a Chancellor’s Medal for Distinguished Academic Achievement.

The crowd of more than 6,000 prompted this graduate to use a cell phone to locate those in the audience who came to wish him well.

Christopher DiRittts, left, valedictorian for the Class of 2005, and Charles Cary, a recipient of the Chancellor’s Medal for Student Service, flash a thumbs-up sign before joining the commencement procession. DiRittts also received the Trustees’ Key, awarded to a student who completed all four years at the Lowell campus and who achieved a 4.0 grade point average.

The Commencement Breakfast was attended by Provost John Wooding, left, and David Wegman, dean of the School of Health and Environment.

Chancellor Hogan, with the assistance of his granddaughters, from left, Ella and Ceara Tomaino, welcomed commencement speaker Margot Wallström to the commencement breakfast.
Winter Athletes Excel on the Field and in the Classroom

A thletes competing on UML’s winter teams compiled great numbers in their respective sports. They also had great numbers in the classroom.

Twenty members of Lowell’s Division I River Hawk hockey team were on the fall ‘04 Dean’s List and 10 of them earned a grade point average of 3.5 or better. The Lowell campus was ranked second for its academic record among the teams of Hockey East.

On the ice, the team finished with a record of 20-12-4, making this the seventh season the team won 20 or more games since entering Division I more than 20 years ago.

Center Ben Walter, a junior from British Columbia, was the third-highest scoring player in the country this season, scoring 26 goals in the season’s 36-game season. Walter, who was named Hockey East’s second team All Star, has already been drafted by the Boston Bruins but will finish school before turning pro. Freshman goalie Peter Vetri of Windham, N.H., was named Hockey East’s Rookie of the Year.

In basketball, both men’s and women’s teams did well. The men’s team posted a record of 18 and 10, finishing second overall among Northeast 10 Division II teams.

The Lady River Hawks basketball team ended the season with a record of 16 and 13, placing them sixth in the Northeast 10. Mariette Guillamae, a junior from Audubon, Penn., averaged 11.8 points per game. Guillamae has already etched her name in the school’s record books for executing the fourth highest number of steals in a career.

The men’s and women’s indoor track and field teams produced a record-breaking 18 athletes who qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships this year. In the New England Championships, Lowell’s men’s team finished second and the women’s team third in the invitational match in which Division I, II and III athletes compete together.

Runner Patrick Morasse, a junior from Lowell, shattered two significant school records during the season. He ran the mile in four minutes, 6.54 seconds. And, with a time of two minutes, 24.99 seconds, he became Lowell’s fastest 1,000 meter runner, beating the previous record by nearly one and a half seconds.

Student-Athletes Honored at Annual Excellence Banquet

UMass Lowell athletes who excelled in the classroom as well as on the playing field were recognized this spring at the University’s annual Excellence Banquet.

Honored as the top student-athletes of the year were Shannon Seidel of the women’s track and field team, who maintained a 3.9 grade point average in biology; and Nate Liebenow, a graduate student with a 3.8 GPA in criminal justice who also hit .374 on the baseball team.

Seidel received the Laurie Mann Award as female student-athlete of the year while Liebenow was the recipient of the David J. Boutin Award as male student-athlete of the year. Seidel also received the Chancellor’s Medal at Commencement for her contributions to the University.

Seniors Jonathan Curran of the men’s soccer team and Jackie Driscoll of the field hockey squad were named winners of the Lester H. Cushing Award as male and female athletes of the year.

Senior Carly Hopkin, a mid-fielder on the women’s soccer team, received the Jon Holliston Award. This award, which was made for the first time, goes to the male or female student-athlete who exemplifies outstanding service to the University community, the City of Lowell and other causes.

The award is named for retired Psychology Prof. Jon Holliston who served as faculty representative to the Athletic Department for 10 years.

Twelve other student-athletes also were honored at the banquet. Their names, sport, GPA and major are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sport</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Seidel</td>
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<td>Nate Liebenow</td>
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The role of women in sports has developed significantly over the years, yet there still remains a gap between men and women at all levels of sports, according to panelists at a recent campus roundtable.

At the roundtable panel, “Breaking the Glass Ceiling: The Road to the Top for Women in Sports,” panelists Marry Mazzio, former Olympic rower turned film producer; Joanne Aldrich, Division I women’s basketball official; and Joanne Merrill, senior athletic director at Rivier, far right, all spoke about getting ahead in the male-dominated world of sports. Professor of Political Science Jo Ann Lehoullier, second from right, facilitated the discussion.

Among the panelists were women who have made a visible difference in the world of sports. One was former Olympic rower and lawyer Mary Mazzio, who has been the athletic director at Rivier College for more than 20 years, and Joanne Aldrich, an N.C.A.A. Division I women’s basketball official.

Women Speak Out for Equality in Sports

Some women have had to make a difficult transition from sports to business. Joan Lehoullier, senior associate athletic director at the University of Massachusetts, was one of those women. She was an Olympic rower and a lawyer before she jumped into the film industry. She was appalled at the portrayal of women in the media and, with the birth of her daughter, Daisy, on the way, she made the switch to film so her daughter and other young girls could have some realistic role models.

Others panelists included Joanne Merrill, who has been the athletic director at Rivier College for more than 20 years, and Joanne Aldrich, an N.C.A.A. Division I women’s basketball official.

With women having such a small presence in sports-related careers, these panelists were asked to describe how they got where they are today. Mazzio was an Olympic rower and a lawyer before she jumped into the film industry. She was appalled at the portrayal of women in the media and, with the birth of her daughter, Daisy, on the way, she made the switch to film so her daughter and other young girls could have some realistic role models.
7. Alumnus Michael Johnston ’69, chairman and chief executive officer of Visteon, was one of the keynote speakers at the May 22nd plastics gala.

5. The 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Jim Dandeneau ’80. Pictured at a dinner in his honor the evening prior to commencement are, from left, John Davis, senior director of development, Debbie Dandeneau, Ryan Dandeneau, Jim Dandeneau, Lauren Dandeneau, Rosemary Dandeneau and Prof. Steve Driscoll.

6. Over 400 plastics alumni, faculty, staff and friends celebrated the 50th anniversary of plastics at Lowell at a gala at the Boston Marriott.

8. Chancellor William Hogan chats with keynote speaker Barry Perry ’68 and his wife, Janice Perry at the plastics gala celebration.

9. The UML Golf Classic was held at Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua on August 2. The weather was picture perfect and enjoyed by all. From the left, George Dixon ’69, Stephen VanderEls ’00, Andy Shupe ’96 and John Dixon ’00.

10. First place at this year’s UML Golf Classic morning round championship flight went to, from left, George Dixon ’69, Stephen VanderEls ’00, Andy Shupe ’96 and John Dixon ’00.

11. Golfers at this year’s tourney included alumni, friends, faculty and staff. From left, Rich Lemoine ’96, assistant director of Environmental Health and Safety, Patti McCafferty, Media Relations, Rich Conley ’92, Peoplesoft Project manager and Jeff Thompson, vice chancellor of Information Technology.

12. Circle of Distinction donor appreciation night at the Spinners ballpark was held on Tuesday, August 2. Alumni gathered at the campus recreation center for a picnic before heading over to LeLacheur Park to cheer on the Lowell Spinners, Class A Affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. From left, Ron Boudreau ’75, Dr. Susan Pasquale ’75, Tom Lunenello ’64, Carolyn Lunenello ’63, Katherine Hastings, director of the Lowell Fund, Tom Gillick ’43, and a UML friend, Warren Bambury.
These three Plastics Engineering alumni, founders and presidents of their own companies, have been generous contributors to the Plastics Department and its students. They are, from left, Mark Saab, Eamonn Hobbs and Jim Dandeneau.

Jim Dandeneau ’80 had some scholarship aid when he was an undergraduate at U Lowell and he also worked as a residence director in Fox Hall to help make ends meet.

Eamonn Hobbs ’80 says, “I was on my own nickel.” He also was a residence director — in Leitch Hall — and made a little money tending bar in the Ruthskeller, a pub that operated in Fox Hall in those days when the drinking age was 18 in Massachusetts.

Mark Saab ’81, whose father died when he was 6, enrolled in U Lowell because, he says, “That’s what we could afford.” He had his own carpentry business that he worked at at weekends and summers to help pay the tuition that he remembers as being about $450 a semester.

Today, these three graduates of Plastics Engineering are presidents of companies they founded and each has contributed substantial amounts of time and money in support of the University. Ask them why they do it and their answers are strikingly similar: They’re grateful for the education that led to their success, they want to repay the school, and they want to help today’s students.

Dandeneau, the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award at this year’s Commencement, is president of Putnam Plastics Extrusion, Inc., in Massachusetts. He is in the business of providing solutions to complex medical tubing problems.

His career in medical plastics began right after graduation when he was recruited by Cook Inc., of Indiana, as a carpenter. He liked working with his hands and seeing the results. “I was introduced to the field of medical device manufacturing, specifically angioplasty balloon catheters. Meanwhile, he was working on a master’s degree thesis with Prof. Rudy Deuan. And it was while researching his thesis topic — the structure property relationships of biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate tubing (PET) — that he came up with the idea for producing a thin, small-walled balloon tubing that became the cornerstone of Advanced Polymers, Inc., a company he established in Salem, N.H., in 1989.

Now, 16 years later, he looks back at his success and says, “Why do I have all this? If it hadn’t been for the education I received at Lowell, it wouldn’t have happened. I owe the Plastics Department for my education.”

Saab has addressed that “debt” by, among other things, underwriting the $122,000 cost of renovating the properties laboratory and by establishing a $100,000 scholarship fund. Prof. Bob Malloy, chair of the Plastics Department, talked recently about these three graduates, each of whom worked his way through school and who now contribute so generously to the department and its students.

“Together the level of support from these three alums is more significant than anything that has ever happened in the department.” — Prof. Bob Malloy

The Face of Philanthropy

Growing up in Springfield, he earned excellent grades in high school and, he says, he “aced the SATs.” A s a result, he had full scholarship offers from MIT, Duke, Stanford and other schools.

But he accepted an appointment to the Air Force Academy because he wanted to be an astronaut. The Academy program began in June but before the summer was over he learned that he had a progressive astigmatism in his right eye, that by the time he graduated, he Hobbs eventually left Indiana, moved back east and started a business he had ended up selling. Then, in 1988, he founded AngioDynamics, Inc., which makes medical devices used to treat peripheral vascular disease. Business Week recently named this Queensbury, N.Y., company one of the 100 best small public companies in the U.S. and Canada.

Mark Saab enrolled at U Lowell a year after Dandeneau and Hobbs with the idea that he wanted “something” in
Mark Johanson '88 says arthroscopic surgery “is like trying to tie your shoes in a big box with a couple of instruments. It’s very difficult.”

A founder, president and CEO of Scandia Biomedical in Littleton, he’s making the job a little easier.

Earlier this year, Johanson’s company introduced the Strats™ ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) reconstruction system that enables surgeons to perform this procedure faster and more easily, while at the same time, reducing trauma and scarring for the patient.

“... The two most common sports injuries involve knees and shoulders, he explains.

“We’re a new and upcoming company,” he says of Scandia, which he founded five years ago. With a strong emphasis on research and development, and input from an advisory board of renowned orthopedic surgeons, the goal is to be a major player in the medical device industry, he says.

After graduating from ULowell with a degree in industrial technology, Johanson gained experience at GTE Government Systems in Nashua and in electronic and optical devices company in Danvers before joining a start-up medical equipment maker, Innovative Devices. While at Innovative, he was heavily into research and development, and spent a significant amount of time developing relationships with orthopedic surgeons around the country, watching them perform arthroscopic procedures on sports injuries. “I gained a valuable network doing this,” he says. Johanson isn’t the only Lowell graduate on Scandia’s management team. Jennifer Silverman ’86, a business administration major with a concentration in marketing, is Scandia’s director of marketing. Johanson gained experience at GTE Government Systems in Nashua and in electronic and optical devices company in Danvers before joining a start-up medical equipment maker, Innovative Devices. While at Innovative, he was heavily into research and development, and spent a significant amount of time developing relationships with orthopedic surgeons around the country, watching them perform arthroscopic procedures on sports injuries. “I gained a valuable network doing this,” he says. Johanson isn’t the only Lowell graduate on Scandia’s management team. Jennifer Silverman ’86, a business administration major with a concentration in marketing, is Scandia’s director of marketing.

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FALL 2005

Robert Fitzgibbon III is director of operations in charge of information technology, customer service and order entry with Creative Playthings, Inc. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Amy (Blanchette) ’91 and their son, Robert Fitzgibbon IV (Robbie), who was born in May 2003. He has also been restoring the barn in which they live in Westboro.

Greg Martin Moomjian received his master of software engineering from Brandeis University in May. He is a software engineer with General Dynamics C4 Systems in Needham Heights.

Lieutenant Commander Demetrius P. Rizos was recently named head of the Department of Natural Sciences at Colby-Sawyer College. Received his master of science in May at Simmons College in 2005 and is a sociological research data collector at U Mass Boston.

America—ice hockey player under Coach Bruce Crowder, have been married for eight years.

J'Anne Prudhomme Walker and her husband, Dean, welcomed the birth of their son, A drew dean, on a Pril 22. They reside in Hiram, Maine, where J'Anne is a special education teacher.

Fitzgerald is the founder, president and principle lecturer at Fitzgerald Health Recognition Award Ceremony in the Massachusetts State House on April 1. Susan also received a master’s in criminal justice in 2002.

Margaret Fitzgerald, one of New England’s top speakers on health care issues, has earned the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation. In 1980, the CSP is the speaking profession’s international measure of experience and skill. Fewer than 10 percent of the speakers who belong to the International Federation for Professional Speakers hold this professional designation. Ms. Fitzgerald is the founder, president and principle lecturer at Fitzgerald Health Recognition Award Ceremony in the Massachusetts State House on April 1. Susan also received a master’s in criminal justice in 2002.

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In Framingham, the Music Man Plays On

By Geoffrey Douglas

For nearly 40 years now, since he first took the job at Framingham High School— as band director—in 1968, George Perrone has been making music. For himself and for others, as player and as teacher, in New England and around the world.

He has played bass for the Merimack Philharmonic, earned a master’s degree in music from Harvard— following his bachelor’s from Lowell State Teachers College in 1964— led student bands on trips all over Europe, played the Russian National A’them in the Palace of Peter the Great; (he has lost count of his trips to Russia, he says) and directed two generations of kids in their mastering of the drums, the piano, the cello, the tuba, the trumpet, the sax and the guitar.

Most recently, he directed the FHS band’s rhythm section in a seven-minute performance at the Fleet Center— before an A.B.C.T.V audience to introduce a Phish game this spring. (“I never played at halftime of the football games,” Perrone told a reporter not long ago, “and it got to the point where they were the featured act.”) A week before that, the nine vocalists of the high school’s a cappella choir, again under Perrone’s direction, sang at the dedication of the newly-reopened John A. Dams Courthouse in Boston, between speeches by Sen. Edward Kennedy and the Speaker of the Massachusetts House.

In addition to all this, he has served for some years now as the fine arts director at FHS, a job, he says, that involves more deskwork than he sometimes would like. And he’s a widowed dad to a 12-year-old son he’d like to spend more time with: “I take him with me on trips whenever I can. He was just with me in Spain, where we went with a choral group. But really, with the job and all, it’s been tough to find the hours to spend together.”

That’s about to change. Starting this September, George Perrone is stepping down from the fine arts directorship to devote more time to parenting. But he’s not giving up his “Being with the kids, helping them, watching them grow and perform—that’s what’s kept me going all these years.” — George Perrone

Ringersen’s Act Arrests the Crowd’s Attention at Elwood’s Place

Elwood’s Dixie Bar B Que in Delray Beach, Fla., packs them in every Thursday night. It’s not sick architecture that attracts them.

Elwood’s used to be a gas station. The old hydraulic car lift is now the bar. Otherwise, the building has a canvas roof and three walls. The fourth side is open to the street, East Atlantic Avenue.

What the crowd of more than 200 — men, women, bikers, families— come to see is U Lowell alumnus Scott Ringersen. When he takes the stage in a white leather pantsuit with rhinestones and bellbottoms, and belts out his opening number, the place goes wild.

Ringersen, who has been a Delray Beach police officer for 23 years, is also an Elvis Presley impersonator. But he’s not just another Elvis impersonator. Florida M onthly magazine named him Best of Florida Entertainer the last two years. His act is considered so good that he’s played engagements in Las Vegas and on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship, as well as venues in the Bahamas, Michigan and Atlanta, Ga.

Music has been a part of Ringersen’s life for a long time. A fter graduating from Chelmsford High School in 1977, he enrolled in the Criminal Justice program at U Lowell because, he says, “I wanted to be a cop.”

Because money was tight at home, he played drums and sang in a wedding band to pay for his tuition and other college expenses.

But he’s not out of music for a decade. “Some fans get so emotionally caught up in the show that they start screaming as I walk on stage.” — Scott Ringersen

By this time, Ringersen had been married and divorced after 13 years, and he had the couple’s two girls, Jaclyn and Madision. “I was broke,” he says of that period. “I wanted a part-time job and I kept looking for a year and a half. I’d seen a lot of Elvis impersonators who were terrible — but they were working. I knew I could do better than them.

A long about this time he got a job as master of ceremonies for karaoke at Elwood’s. “I got paid but it wasn’t the best job. You always have to deal with a bunch of drunks.”

Meanwhile, he says, “I started to build up my vocal cords. They’re like muscles. You’ve got to train them.”

“First I’d do three songs, then build up to a set. Then two sets. Then I could go three hours if I had to. Plus, the more you sing and practice, the higher and lower your range can go.”

So, for a while he’d M.C the karaoke sessions and finish up with some Elvis songs.

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to divulge the identity of his supplier.

“Some fans get so emotionally caught up in the show that they start screaming as I walk on stage.”

T he toughest part of the entertainment gig, Ringersen says, is working two jobs—singing at the Dixie Bar B Que and at private parties, and being a policeman. He is law enforcement schedule calls for 23 hours on patrol one week and 57 the next.

“It’s a killer,” he says. “The last year or so I’ve been doing a lot of Elvis appearances and with the day job it’s hard work.”

Even on the job—patrolling the streets in a cruiser, with sideburns and sunglasses—Ringersen is easily identified as Elvis.

“Even in uniform, people recognize me all the time,” he says. “My two careers never conflict, but sometimes the Elvis appearance works to my advantage. When I walk into a situation, I’m not just a police officer, I’m an entertainer who’s also a cop.”

When he first started out, a few of his fellow officers may have thought his Elvis routine was stupid, he recalls, but “about everyone has seen the show now and they’re fine with it. They think it all’s right.”

And there’s always one place where he’s neither a performer or a policeman. That’s home, where he goes at the end of the day to be with his daughters, 12-year-old Madi and 15-year-old Jacyln. And no their mixed breed dog, whose name, of course, is Elvis.

Notes

Fall 2005

Class Notes

Mary Hallaren, WAC Leader and Early Feminist, Was a ‘Towering Figure’ of WWII Years

On the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, December 7, 1941, Mary Hallaren was teaching a junior high school class in remedial reading somewhere in Massachusetts. She gave her notice that week; when school finished the following June, she enrolled in the only service that would accept her at the time, the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps—standing on her toes to meet the height requirement, then telling a recruiter who doubted her, “You don’t have to be six feet tall to have a brain that works.”

That was the start of a 20-year military career, by the end of which she had established herself—as Tom Brokaw would write decades later in T he Greatest Generation—as “a towering figure, a godmother to the women who continued to struggle to find their places in the male-dominated military establishment.”

“That was right at the beginning of the women’s movement. It was ahead of its time, and so was Mary.”—Ruth Herman

H allaren, who died in February at the age of 97, was born in Lowell, graduated from Lowell State Teachers College in 1927, then went on to study at both Harvard and BU. But her career in education ended abruptly with the war. After her enlistment, followed by boot camp at the WA C Officer Candidate School in Des Moines, she served briefly in the U.S., then—by now a captain—was named commanding officer of the W A C Separate Battalion. Soon after, in the spring of ’44, she sailed for London, where she served with the Eighth Air Force during the Germans’ V-1 and V-2 bombardments. In March 1945, she was named WA C director for the European Theatre (the “Auxiliary” designation by then had been dropped), with 9,000 troops under her command. By the time she returned to the U.S. following the war, “the little colonel,” as she was widely known—she had been promoted again—was a much-honored officer: the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Croix de Guerre for service in France.

But her most crucial legacy may have been her postwar service. Working with Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and George C. Marshall in those first months after the A Iled victory, she led a group of officers and civilians against still resistance—both in Congress and among the public—to pass the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act. Signed into law in 1948, this measure enabled the entry of women into the regular armed services for the first time in U.S. history.

Col. Hallaren was named the top WA C officer in 1947, and led the corps through the Korean War before stepping down as director in 1953. She retired from the Army seven years later.

But she did not go away. In 1965, by then 57 years old, she became the first executive director of Women in Community Service (WICS), a nationally-based, non-profit coalition which, under her direction, took on as its mission the plight of poor and marginalized U.S. women and children.

“That was right at the beginning of the women’s movement,” Ruth Herman, a later W ICS director, told a reporter not long after Mary H allaren’s death. “It was ahead of its time, and so was Mary.”
For This Builder’s Clients: ‘Few Surprises, a Good Experience’

When Joe Albanese founded his own company three years ago this fall, after more than a decade in the construction trade—as project manager, project executive and partner at three different Bay State firms—he did so with at least one firm resolve: that the new company would not, as he had seen others do so often, promote its best people so high into the organization that they all but lost contact with clients.

“It is the senior builders who know [best] how to attack a project,” says Albanese today. “I want them intimately involved in all the projects we do.”

And if there is a trademark of Commodore Builders, Joe Albanese, a 1984 civil-engineering graduate from U Lowell, is long- and well-versed in leadership roles. As commanding officer of a Navy mobile construction battalion, then later in his various management jobs, he has experienced the building process from all sides. Recently undertaking a renovation to convert a 117,000-square-foot facility into a new office and manufacturing firm, the Commodore team was faced with a 16-week deadline to meet the client’s needs. The deadline was met. On another occasion—in January of last year—Commodore was selected from among numerous bidders to complete 76,000 square feet of corporate office space, as well as a 4,000 square-foot data center, in the space of 18 weeks. A gain, the project was completed on-time and to the client’s satisfaction.

“We continue to be amazed by the quality of your work and integrity,” says one client, Paul Flaherty of the Bryman Institute. A nother, Robert M Chalir, senior vice president of Symmes, Maini, M an, McKee A ssociates, writes that his project was “on a tight budget and an equally tight schedule,” but that Commodore’s performance was nothing short of “outstanding.”

For Joe A Albanese, such testimonials are gratifying, but may not come as much of a surprise: “My most important role at Commodore,” he says, “is to beat the drum for project execution and client service. But while we beat the drum, we want to be sure to keep our humility. Industry has seen what corporate arrogance can do…”

Life is Good 101

The University of Massachusetts Club – Opening October 2005

Introducing the University of Massachusetts Club—a private club for alumni, friends, and faculty of the university overlooking the city and Boston Harbor from the 33rd floor of the State Street Bank building. For information on how to be sponsored for membership, call 617.287.9202.

Public Higher Education on the Rise: Legislators See Heightened Role for UMass and State & Community Colleges

The students at the University of Massachusetts and in our public colleges are the workforce of tomorrow—they are the future of the Commonwealth,” said Sen. Steven C. Panagiotakos in releasing the results of a comprehensive study of public higher education before a capacity-crowd at the State House this past spring. The Report of the State Senate Task Force of Public Higher Education recommends, among many other actions, that the state should provide an additional $400 million over the next five to seven years to close the funding gap for UMass and the community and state colleges.

In his new book, The Flight of the Creative Class: The New Global Competition for Talent, regional development scholar Richard Florida writes; “Universities are the intellectual hubs of the creative economy. A merica’s vital university system is the source of much of our best scientific, social, and creative leadership…” The tendency to see universities primarily as the laboratories of new research and technology has grown particularly acute in the last twenty years. “Universities also do a remarkable job fostering the other two T’s of economic growth: talent and tolerance... But how many political and business leaders... are ready to act on this? ... As a result, higher education doesn’t make the cut in tough economic times. State after state consistently cuts its higher education budget, and the resulting system of American universities is made less and less accessible to those whom it could benefit the most... China and India, in the meantime, are pumping money into their universities and graduate schools.”

Massachusetts has responded. The state is moving in a new direction. Political, educational, business, and labor leaders joined together in the past year to make the case for public higher education. A hearing, in stud-
ies, and through their public state-ments, visionary leaders, astute anal-ysts and thoughtful public- and private-sector officials emphasized that the Commonwealth must renew and strength-en its commitment to its public university and col-leges.

With Sen. Stan Rosen-burg of A mherst, Panagiotakos co-chaired the Task Force, holding hear-ings at which education official-s, business leaders, alumni and others testi-fied about the condition and needs of public higher education. In 2004, Mas-sachusetts ranked 49th in the nation in state spending on higher education per $1,000 of state income and 47th in the nation in state spend-ing on higher education per capita. Ours was the only state that was spending less on public higher educa-tion last year than it was spending 10 years ago, according to the Task Force.

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“I nvesting at the state level is absolutely necessary for Massachusetts to compete,” says U Mass Lowell Chancellor William T. Hogan. “Prive-te colleges and universities are not producing enough well-trained people for the Commonwealth workforce. State-built and state-supported research facilities that are ration-ally distributed around the region can make a positive impact on the Massa-chusetts economy.”

As the House of Representatives’ committee on Higher Education, Rep. Kevin Murphy of Lowell called for increased funding for the public higher educa-tion system (Sen. Panagiotakos is the Senate’s vice chair). The Senate chair is Sen. Robert O’Leary, the son of for-mer Lowell State College President Daniel O’Leary. The senator grew up in Lowell and now represents the Cape Cod area.

A senate committee met with chancellors, students, faculty, and alumni, explains Rep. Murphy. It became clear that the chal-lenge in education was universal, from class size to interaction with teachers, from better pay for faculty and staff to affordability for students and families. For-exam-ples, he says, “Fewer full-time fac-ulty means less office time for advising students, which affects the quality of the individual student’s experience.”

Noting the newly released study by the Senate Task Force, Murphy said this spring that the Commonwealth had to make a significant commit-ment to U Mass and the state’s col-leges, one that is comparable to the commitment made by the legislature to K-12 education in the past decade. A nd the legislature did just that. At the end of June, Gov. M. J. O’Malley signed a state budget that increased funds for higher education by $41.7 million, which translates into approx-imately $18 million for the University system, of which the Lowell campus will receive a boost of $2.5 million over last year’s state funding.

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The new budget also includes a $2.2 million increase for scholarships, including $300,000 more for Gilman Grants for needy students and $1 million in new scholarships for early education work-ers. The budget continues funding the Board of Higher Education’s Nursing and A U Health Education initia-tive to address the nursing and nursing-faculty shortage in the state.

Even with this significant step, the Boston Globe noted, “spending for higher education will remain 23 per-cent under the amount allotted five years ago.” A ccording to the Senate report and Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, “Between 2001 and 2004 the campuses lost approximately 32.6 percent of their state support, adjusted for inflation.” This reduction followed a one-third decline in state support between 1989 and 1992, when a deep recession cut into state tax revenues. As a result of these combined losses, faculty and staff numbers dropped and students had fewer academic options.

“We made great strides with the new budget, especially in the area of affordability,” says Rep. Murphy. “Funding is the key issue when it comes to affordability as well as better compensation for faculty and staff. In recent discussions with University President Jack Wilson, he emphasized to me that the increased funding means that students will not see signifi-cant increases in fees, as they have in the recent past.” Committee mem-bers will hold hearings around the state this fall and launch a public-advocacy campaign on behalf of the public higher education system.

Writing in the World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century, Pulitzer Prize-winning author T homas Friedman described America’s “quiet crisis” in the decline of science and technology education that will affect the nation’s future competitive-ness. “…[W]e should be embarking on an all-hand-on-deck, no-holds-barred, no-budget-too-large campaign for science and engineering education immediately.” Friedman cites the 2004 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study that “showed the American labor force to be weaker in science than those of its peer count ries.” Countries in Asia are the ones making strides in advanced science and mathematics, he adds.

Business leaders such as Ray Stata, chairman of the board of A NALOG Devices, emphasize the need to improve the state’s competitiveness through increased funding for centers of excellence in the U Mass system. William H. Gwynne, president of Mass Insight Corporation, says, “We need to build concentrations of talent around certain industries—pools of tal-ent that can compete internationally.”

Commenting on the situation in Massachusetts, Donna Cupelo, presi-dent of Verizon (Mass. and R.I.), said, “We want Massachusetts to be ahead in the tech race, but the feeling is that we are not keeping pace.”

“We cannot allow states that have made public higher education a real-priority to supplant us as one of the central stations for the new economy-train,” says Panagiotakos.

Rosenberg adds, “It is my greatest hope that this budget will be remem-bered as the first step toward rebuild- ing our public education system and creating one and for all the kind of world-class opportunities our students, professors, and staff deserve.”

N otin g that 85 percent of Mas-sachusetts public higher education graduates live and work in the state, the Task Force emphasized “affordabi-lity, quality, and jobs” in its report. “It’s in everyone’s interest to see that students are better prepared to stay ahead of the economic curve,” says Panagiotakos.

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