Effective communication is certainly an important priority for all educational leaders. I am, therefore, pleased that students enrolled in the course “Leadership in Higher Education” selected this newsletter as a class project. The product, I believe, enhances communication with current and prospective students. I hope the work has also been a worthwhile learning experience.

I wish to thank the students who organized and completed this project within the one semester time constraint. The students and I are interested in receiving reactions from readers. We look forward to having you complete the communication loop by offering your comments and suggestions.

Happy spring!

Donald E. Pierson, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School of Education

If you are planning to take the Comps this summer, please submit your intention to take the Exam at least 3 weeks or 15 working days in advance of the test date.

**Upcoming Comp I & II Exams:**
- July 13, 2002, 9:00am – 1:00pm
- October 26, 2002, 9:00am – 1:00pm
- February 8, 2003, 9:00am – 1:00pm
- July 12, 2003, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Your advisor must approve the request form. Forms are available at the Graduate School of Education office.

Comp Exam II options are presented in the Doctoral Student Handbook on page 15.

**Oral Defense of Dissertation**

Thursday, April 11, 2002 at 1:00 pm:
Carol Keirstead: “Charter School Principals: Profiles of a Profession”.

Thursday, April 18, 2002 at 9:00am:
Steven Tello: “An Analysis of the Relationship between Instructional Interaction and Student Persistence in Online Education”.

**Hearing for Dissertation Proposal**

Thursday, April 11, 2002 at 1:00 pm, Gould 202:
Ellen Koretz: "A Study of the Relationship Between Primary Grade Teachers' Literacy Perspective and the Statements They Make About Struggling Readers in Special Education Referrals"
The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) of the Graduate School of Education is a student organization whose mission is to:

- provide students with an avenue for input to faculty
- to promote opportunities for students, administration, staff and faculty to interact outside of regular classes
- to represent the Graduate School of Education at university-wide Graduate Student Association meetings
- to promote better communication among graduate education students
- to provide information about the university, the Lowell community, and the region;
- to provide student input to the faculty regarding course selection and evaluation;
- to act as liaison with the Dean of the Graduate School of Education in providing forums for student information, colloquia, and educational opportunities.

The current office holders of the GSO include: Melissa Juchniewicz (President), Emile Tabea (Vice President), Judith Marley (Secretary), Steve Whitney (Treasurer) and Monica Flores (Senator). The next elections for these positions will be held in the last week of April.

In keeping with its mission, the GSO has among other things this academic year, helped with the “Virginia M. Biggy Lecture” and held the informational meeting in January on the intended relocation of the Graduate School of Education. It has acquired and intends for student use by summer, a copier, color printer and a digital camera. It is involved in organizing the Spring Math and Science Colloquium scheduled for April 10th 2002.

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### The Basics

- GSO’s main web page is located at http://gse.uml.edu/gse/
- For new Summer students, GSOE is located on the West Campus of UMASS Lowell. A map of the West Campus can be found at http://www.uml.edu/maps/west.htm
- The GSOE office’s regular hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. The main phone number for the office is (978) 934-4600. Call for summer hours.

### Summer 2002

- The GSOE Summer 2002 course schedule is available as of 3/18/02.
- Pick one up outside the main office in Upham Hall on West Campus. Phone-in registration for Summer 2002 for matriculated students begins on April 5th.
- You must be in good standing and have no holds on your account to use phone-in registration. Don’t forget – you need your PIN number!

#### Summer 2002 session dates:
- Summer I      May 20-June 28
- Summer II     July 8-August 16
- Summer I-II   May 20-August 16

### Books

- The bookstore for GSOE is located on South Campus in the basement of the McGauvran Student Union. A map of the South Campus can be found at http://www.uml.edu/maps/south.htm.
- Bookstore hours are posted on their website at http://www.bkstore.com/uml Lowell.
- Summer hours and contact information are listed under the “FAQ” tab.

### Other Interesting Information

- The Master’s Degree in Educational Administration is available online! To obtain
additional information e-mail to edoffice@uml.edu.

- If you are a matriculated student in the GSOE, you have an “interoffice” mailbox in Upham Hall. Find your program group and then look for your name alphabetically.
- The 2001-2002 Doctoral Student Handbooks are available. Ask for a copy in the GSOE main office in Upham Hall or call (978) 934-4600.
- The residency requirement has been waived for all Doctoral students.
- Students in Mathematics and Science Education have their own newsletter! Are you a matriculated Math and Science Education student? If you would like to begin receiving copies of the newsletter, please e-mail anita_greenwood@uml.edu and request that you be added to the distribution list.

Looking Ahead to Fall 2002

- The GSOE tentative Fall 2002 schedule can be accessed through the main graduate school web page at http://www.uml.edu/grad/. Once at the site, select “ON-CAMPUS Fall 2002” under Schedules on the left menu bar, then select “EDUCATION” from the top center of the schedules page.

Who’s Who at the UML Graduate School of Education: An Interview with Dr. Richard Ackerman

Richard Ackerman has been teaching at UMASS Lowell since 1991 in the Leadership program. Various courses he has taught include: Organization of Schools and School Systems, Issues in Staff Development, Advanced Research Seminar, and The Principalship K-12 (an online course). Ackerman stated he was a passionate convert to online education. “I was very pleased with the experience. It was a new experience of teaching and I am looking forward to doing it again.”

Dr. Ackerman has an extensive educational background taking him from the Banks Street College of Education to Harvard University where he earned both a Masters Degree as well as a Doctoral Degree in Education.

As of March 2002, Dr. Ackerman has released a book titled, The Wounded Leader. In essence, the book gives the reader an insight to various stories of leaders who have struggled through personal adversities. The book takes on the taboo topic of unveiling the “wounds” of our leaders and addresses how they might go about healing their wounds. Ackerman hopes the reader will come away with a better understanding of the struggle leaders carry with them, as well as serve as a model for leaders to follow. “Sharing more of one’s self and not always expecting to be on the top of everything,” are key concepts the book offers.

When asked why he wrote the book, three primary issues arose. He hoped to: (1) examine and document the struggles school leaders are faced with, (2) attempt to understand the stories of various school leaders, and (3) attempt to unravel the progression of a leaders healing process in hopes of relaying the message to others.

The book will most likely be used in at least one of his courses as a supplementary text in the upcoming semesters. However, if you would like to purchase the book, you can order it on Amazon.com by using its ISBN #: 078796110-8. We want to thank Dr. Ackerman for inviting us into his world and sharing part of his story with us. We appreciate and commend his desire.
Did you know?
Dr. Ackerman was an Outward Bound leader and he knows one of the writers of *A Beautiful Mind*.

Dr. Ackerman’s Favorites:
Ice cream: chocolate chip cookie dough
Vacation spot: Maine
Book: *Pilots Wife* and *The Heart Aroused*
TV shows: *CSI* and *Law and Order*
Recent movie: *A Beautiful Mind*
Way he spends his free time: hiking in the White Mountains with his wife
Dr. Ackerman wanted to send a message to all those Red Sox fans: His words of encouragement are, “Good Luck” and “It’s the effort that counts.”

**Professional Development Awards Available**
The UMass Lowell Graduate Student Association (GSA) has established Professional Development Awards (PDA) to promote professional activities of graduate students at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. There is a $500 per student, per semester limit on awards. For more information or an application, contact the Graduate School at (978) 934-2380.

**Conference Update!**

**Local**
Supporting Student Outcomes Through Family Involvement
May 4, 2002, Boston, MA
http://www.responsiveeducation.org

Massachusetts Education Computing Conference (MECC)
Cape Cod Community College
June 5, 6, 7, 2002
http://www.cite.mass.edu

**Regional**
New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO)
April 24 - 26, Northampton, MA
http://education.unh.edu/~cobb/neero

**National**
New Hampshire Association of School Principals Annual Conference
June 26 - 28, 2002, Jackson, NH
http://www.nhasp.org

Charter Schools National Conference: Celebrating 10 Years of Charter Schools
June 19-22, 2002, Milwaukee, WI
http://www.conferencepros.com/conferences/charter/charter02/index.htm

American School Counselor Association Conference
June 29, 2002 to July 2, 2002
Miami, FL
http://www.schoolcounselor.org

**National - Ongoing**
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Conferences and workshops on using NCES databases
Washington, DC
http://www.nces.ed.gov/conferences/

**Ask Us or Contact Us!**
The Transformer is a collaborative project begun by five Doctoral students who are members of the Leadership in Higher Education course in Spring 2002. Carolyn Siccama is in her second year of doctoral coursework and is employed by UMASS Lowell as a Distance Learning Coordinator. Steven Dion is also in his second year of doctoral coursework and is a professor of Sport, Fitness and Leisure at Salem State College. Jeanclare Manjong is entering the dissertation proposal stage in his degree program and is employed by Horace Mann Educational Associates. Eve Noss is a professor of Social Work at Salem State College and is also a doctoral student at the University of New Hampshire in the Education Department. She takes courses at UMASS Lowell whenever she can. Charmaine Hickey is in her second year of doctoral coursework and is employed in Enrollment Services and Institutional Research at Middlesex Community College.

You may contact us by e-mailing thetransformer@uml.edu. We would like to thank the Graduate Student Organization of GSOE, Dean Donald Pierson, and our professor, Dean Jacqueline Moloney for their support and encouragement as we progressed through this project. We look forward to working on the next issue of *The Transformer*. Watch for it in the Fall!