Message from the Dean

For nearly a decade, we have been anticipating the relocation of our Graduate School of Education offices and classrooms from the West Campus to a renovated mill in downtown Lowell, to be in closer proximity with the rest of the university. About five years ago, the university acquired “Building 14” in the former Lawrence mill, adjacent to the Tsongas Arena, as the site for the new Graduate School of Education. The five story building is comprised of 70,000 square feet and will house the entire School of Ed, including the Center for Field Services and Studies and an expanded Demonstration School. The design work is nearly complete for a truly magnificent, state-of-the-art facility. Unfortunately, delays in the state’s design approval process and current fiscal constraints have delayed the anticipated occupancy date by another year, from September 2004 until September 2005.

In the meantime, continued deterioration of the West Campus buildings would require prohibitively expensive repairs to address issues of safety and comfort. Consequently, Chancellor Hogan decided that our offices will move temporarily to the fifth floor of O’Leary Library at the close of the spring semester this May. The third and fourth grades and offices of the Demonstration School will move to an additional modular building on West Campus as soon as the modular can be installed. Beginning with the summer semester on May 19, all of our classes will be held in either O’Leary Library or Coburn Hall on South Campus.

Everyone will be invited to a celebration of “The West Campus Era” and presentation of “Future Plans” on Saturday May 3. Save the date!

Congratulations to GSE Doctoral Student

Rocco Perla a student in the Math and Science Education Doctoral Program received a professional development award to present a paper at the Eastern Educational Research Association meeting in March 2003. The title of his presentation is *The Nature of Scientific Revolutions from the Vantage Point of Chaos Theory*. For more information about professional development awards, see page 5.

Biggy Lecture Series

Andy Hargreaves will be on campus February 12, 2003 as part of the Biggy Lecture series. The Biggy lecture will be held at 5:00pm at Wannalancit Mills. Mr. Hargreaves is the author and editor of more than twenty books, including the award winning Changing Teachers, Changing Times (1995). His areas of teaching include educational change, the emotions of teaching and leading, and teachers’ work and teacher development.

Eighth Annual Colloquium On Research In Mathematics And Science Education

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 2, 2003, 3:15–6:30pm, Upham Hall, West Campus. To register, please send an email to Dr. Regina Panasuk before March 15, 2003. For more information and colloquium agenda please see page 5.
Graduate School of Education Graduate Student Organization continues to lead the way with various new initiatives that are open to all Graduate School of Education students.

Welcome Table a Success! Thanks to everyone who stopped by the GSO welcome table during the first week of school. The number of signatures we received (over 100) has allowed the GSO to secure additional funds for this academic year. We are one of the largest student organizations on campus.

Communication Initiatives! The GSO is compiling a list of email addresses for all GSOE students. One of the goals in compiling such a list is to make it easier for all GSOE students to communicate with each other, organize study groups, meetings or other pertinent activities. To communicate with colleagues and stay informed about policies and current events at the GSOE, email your name, program and email address to the Graduate School Organization at GSOED@yahoogroups.com. The GSO and the Transformer staff are working together to use this newsletter as another means of communication. Look for this newsletter twice per year, fall and spring, for GSO and GSOE updates.

GSO Elections! GSO elections are in April. If you are interested in becoming involved with the GSO now, or as an officer in the spring, please contact a current board member or email gsoed@yahoogroups.com to find out more, or to get your name on the ballot. Look for your ballot in your mailbox in April, and be sure to vote. Current GSO board members include Melissa Juchniewicz (President), Emile Tabea (Vice President), Charmaine Hickey (Treasurer), Judy Marley (Secretary), M. Kim Lindley-Soucy (Senator), Carolyn Siccama (Alternate Senator).

---

Message from UML Institutional Review Board:
New Mandatory Educational Requirement

As of October 1, 2002, the Institutional Review Board (IRB) requires that any Faculty or Staff Member, who submits an application for approval of a research proposal, must demonstrate knowledge of human subject research, including ethics.

This requirement may be fulfilled by completing an educational module on this subject, which is contained on a CD-ROM that may be borrowed from the IRB Office after signing a Software License Agreement. A Test regarding the content needs to be completed and returned after the Investigator has viewed the CD-ROM. The CD-ROM should be returned to the IRB Office together with the completed Test. Students, both Graduate and Undergraduate, are similarly expected to be knowledgeable of human subject research, including ethics. Such competency should be certified by the respective Faculty Advisors.

Attainment of such competency must be attested to by Faculty Advisors completing and signing the “Attestation of Student Competency in Human Subject Research and Ethics” form found in the IRB Manual of Instructions and Procedures. Faculty Advisors are welcome to have students utilize the CD-ROM that is referred to above. In any case, the CD-ROM should be borrowed by the Faculty Advisor.

To Obtain a Software License Agreement Faculty and Staff should contact the IRB Office at University Extension 4134 or call (978)934-4134.

Note: The webpage of the Institutional Review Board is http://irb.uml.edu
NCATE Review a Success

Faculty, Staff, Students and Colleagues:
We were advised in the exit interview that, following their five day review, the NCATE Board of Examiners and State Program Approval Team have determined that the Graduate School of Education at UMass Lowell has met all six NCATE standards required for five year re-accreditation. The team was very complimentary about the quality of educator preparation taking place at UML. The team did identify five "areas of concern," all related to the new performance expectations, which we will be required to address in the future. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who worked so hard and with such collaborative spirit to accomplish our re-accreditation goal. More details will be forthcoming when we receive the written report. The official vote of the NCATE Unit Accrediting Board will not take place until its annual meeting this Spring. With best wishes, Don

Did You Know…?

GSOE website: http://gse.uml.edu/gse/
Course Offerings: http://www.uml.edu/grad
GSOE Main Office: (978) 934-4600
Course Registration: (978) 934-2050
Weather-related cancellations: (978) 934-2121
Campus Map: http://www.uml.edu/maps
Bookstore: http://www.bkstore.com/umlowell

Important Spring Dates

January 22: First Day of Classes
February 17: Presidents Day: No Classes
March 17 - 23: Spring Break
May 9: Spring Semester Ends
June 1: University Commencement

Pick up a complete semester Academic Calendar in the office in Upham Hall.

Other Interesting Information

- 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.
- GSOE students can suggest books to be added to the O'Leary Library. Notify one of the GSOE faculty members if you know of a great book that would be a useful addition to the collection!
- 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.
- 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.
- You need a student ID to withdraw books from the UML library. For a Spring 2003 ID schedule pick one up at the library or contact the Division of Student Affairs at (978) 934-2100.
Who’s Who at the UML Graduate School of Education:
An Interview with Dr. Judith Davidson

This issue spotlights Judith Davidson, a professor in the Graduate School of Education. This is Judy’s 4th year at UMASS Lowell and she continues to say how pleased she is about coming to UMASS Lowell.

Dr. Davidson has an extensive and varied educational background taking her from coast to coast and even to Japan for a 2 ½ year stay as she further pursued her educational career in Japanese Language. During her stay in Japan she taught English to businessmen and women. Her stay in Japan led her to write a nonfiction children’s book about Japan geared to English-speaking elementary schoolchildren. “I found it so thrilling to go to the library of a school and see my book on the shelf or hear other teachers talking about it – it was really quite neat.”

After receiving her BA in Japanese Language, she headed to the Big Apple and Bank Street College of Education, where she earned her Masters in Education. From New York she traveled to the Midwest where she attained her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Illinois. Her dissertation was published in 2000 and focused on exploring the lives of reading teachers, and of course, it was a qualitative study.

With regard to her present professional work, an article she recently submitted will soon appear in the Teachers College Record. The article discusses the role of educational technology in education. Further, she investigated several hard-hitting and multi-layered questions like, “How do adults deal with the challenges of educational reform?” It all seemed quite interesting.

With regard to the direction of our Leadership Program, she had nothing but excitement in her voice. She continues to give positive accolades to her students and fellow faculty members and looks forward to the continued use of technology and online learning in her classes. When asked about her goals and visions for the program, she focused on her high expectations of her students, and building a greater sense of community among graduate students and the faculty as well as regional partnerships with school systems.

Within these articles we like to take a moment to try and discover and share the more personal side of our featured person. The following responses where given:

Dr. Davidson’s Favorites:
Ice cream: chocolate mint.
Food: mayonnaise.
TV Channel: HGTV - although she doesn’t have cable but her friends do and they let her watch it.
Winter leisure/Outdoor activities: cross-country skiing and ice-skating.

When asked to reveal something that not many know about her – she said that she loves to make her own mustards. Her favorite right now is a lime, coriander, & honey mustard with balsamic vinegar. “It’s a great marinade and it’s to die for.” If you’d like to receive the recipe, she would be more than happy to share it – just send her an email at Judith_Davidson@uml.edu.

Lastly – she is looking forward to the GSE ice skating gathering on Feb 7th, so she can show off her skills as an Ice Dancer. Who would have thought?

We want to thank Dr. Davidson for inviting us into her world and sharing part of her story with us. We appreciate and commend her dedication.
You are invited to attend Eighth Annual Colloquium on Research in Mathematics and Science Education.

The feature presentation, “A Study of Science Teacher Learning in an Online Environment: What Are We Learning About Learning?” will focus on a fully-online masters program in science education for K-8 teachers sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Three concurrent sessions will explore the links between theory and practice in K-16 education reform. The presenters will discuss topics related to the online resources for educators, controversial issues associated with block scheduling, and teacher professional development that is based on shared vision, shared leadership, and team learning.

The Colloquium Journal, vol. VII will be available for presenters and participants.

To register, please email Dr. Regina Panasuk before March 15, 2003 at Regina_Panasuk@uml.edu

---

**EIGHTH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM**

**on Research in Mathematics and Science Education**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2003**

**AGENDA**

**PART I**

3:15 - 3:45  Registration, refreshments
3:45 - 4:00  Welcome; Dr. Regina Panasuk, Colloquium Director
4:00 - 4:45  Keynote Speaker: Dr. Susan Doubler, TERC/Lesley University *A Study of Science Teacher Learning in an Online Environment: What are we learning about learning?*
4:45 - 5:00  Questions, discussion
5:00 - 5:10  Break, refreshments

**PART II**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session I: Formative Use of Select-and-Fill-in Concept Maps in *Online Instruction*: Implications for Students of Different Learning Styles, Dr. Charles Kaminski, Middlesex Community College, Adjunct Faculty, UML

Session II: The Effects of Varying Retention Intervals of Three and Eight Months, Within *Block Scheduling*, on High School Students’ Retention of Algebra II Concepts and Skills and Achievement on the Follow-on Pre-calculus Course, Dr. David Arias, Mathematics Teacher, Andover High School.

Session III: A Study of *Teachers’ Perceptions* of Learning Organizations in Taiwan, Cheng-Hung Chen Ed.D. Candidate, UML

---

**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.
**Leadership Stages**

In an effort to improve communication and cohort identity for students, faculty in the Leadership in Schooling doctoral program held two meetings last fall. Students who were admitted in the past two years and were still working on the required core courses were invited to a “Stage One” meeting to discuss topics related to program requirements and expectations. Students who have completed the required courses and are preparing for Comprehensive Exams or the Dissertation Proposal were invited to a “Stage Two” meeting to discuss strategies for the challenges they face at the mid-point of the program. This spring the faculty plans to hold a “Stage Three” support group meeting for students who have completed a Dissertation Proposal Hearing and are working on the dissertation. Further meetings for the Stage One and Stage Two groups are also planned. If you are interested in these initiatives, contact your advisor for more information.

---

**Upcoming Conference Opportunities**

**Local**
- April 2, 2003, Annual Spring Colloquium on Science and Mathematics Education, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Graduate School of Education. Contact Information: Dr. Regina Panasuk, See page 5 for more details.
- April 11, 2003, New Hampshire Council of Teachers of English Spring Conference, Bedford, NH. Contact information: Linda Stimson, 603.271.2035, lstimson@ed.state.nh.us

**National**

For more information about these or other scheduled conferences, try the ERIC Calendar of Education-Related Conferences at http://webprod.aspensys.com/education/ericconf/ericcal/SearchForm.asp

---

**Ask Us or Contact Us**

The Transformer is a collaborative project originally begun by five Doctoral students who were members of the Leadership in Higher Education course in Spring 2002. Carolyn Siccama is in her third year of doctoral coursework and is employed by UMASS Lowell as a Distance Learning Coordinator. Steven Dion is in his third year of doctoral coursework and is a professor of Sport, Fitness and Leisure at Salem State College. Charmaine Hickey is in her third year of doctoral coursework and is employed at Middlesex Community College as Director of Institutional Research. 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. Three students, Steve, Charmaine & Carolyn continue to publish the Transformer twice per year.

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 continue this project. We look forward to working on the next issue of The Transformer.