The $70 million, 84,000-square-foot Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center will be the centerpiece of a sweeping transformation of the UMass Lowell campus.
If people are surprised that UMass Lowell has broken ground on a $70 million advanced technology research center and is poised to break ground on a new academic building on South Campus, then they have not paid attention to the history of this institution.

If people are astonished that our enrollment is the largest it has ever been, that student success – by all measures – has shot up and that research expenditures are breaking records for the school, then they have simply underestimated us.

The drive and determination so visible at UMass Lowell today has its roots in the founding of its predecessor schools in the 1890s when farsighted community and business leaders saw the need for well educated engineers, managers and teachers.

Equal resolve brought about the merger of Lowell Technological Institute and Lowell State College into the University of Lowell in 1975 to better accommodate the baby boom generation and to develop programs to meet new technological, economic and social needs.

The school became part of the UMass system in 1991, further enlarging its vision, its programs and its accomplishments.

Today, the momentum on this campus is more intense than ever. In addition to the growth in enrollment, we have established new academic programs; enhanced interdisciplinary partnerships; increased diversity; strengthened experiential learning and created academic and research partnerships around the globe.

The new UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center and the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell — along with the new technology center under construction — provide not only a dramatically enlivened campus life, but new sources of revenue. A precipitous drop in the percentage of our budget that comes from public dollars has necessitated an entrepreneurial spirit.

If you haven’t been on campus for a while, drop by and take a look at the changes. Talk to students. Visit our website at www.uml.edu.

Our students need your support. Please consider giving to UMass Lowell. You can find out how at www.uml.edu/advancement/give.
Summertime at UMass Lowell
Volume 13, Number 2

Editor’s Note: Never before in its 116-year history has the University of Massachusetts Lowell undergone such a top-to-bottom transformation. From new buildings to record enrollment, from prestigious research grants to Presidential recognition – UMass Lowell is truly on the move. This issue celebrates the achievements of the past several months and previews those ahead. None of the exciting changes could happen without the enthusiastic support of the best alumni in the world (that’s you!). Thank you for your support!

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The University of Massachusetts Lowell is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action, Title IX, H/V, ADA 1990 Employer.
Wasserman Named Air Force Young Investigator

Physics Asst. Prof. Daniel Wasserman has been chosen by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) as one of 38 scientists and engineers from across the country whose research proposals will receive funding through the AFOSR’s Young Investigator Research Program. The program is open to researchers who “have shown exceptional ability and promise for conducting basic research.” This year, the agency received more than 200 proposals.

“It’s a pretty prestigious and very competitive award,” says Wasserman, who is assistant director of the University’s Photonics Center. “I think it speaks volumes for the growing national recognition in the scientific community of the quality of research going on at UMass Lowell.”

Wasserman and his team will receive $100,000 to $120,000 per year for three years to fund their research in active surface plasmonics, the study of surface plasmons, “which are surface waves that propagate along the interface between a metal and a dielectric material,” he explains.

Unlocking the Secrets of Alzheimer’s Disease

A team of researchers led by biology Assoc. Prof. Garth Hall has found a new mechanism by which tau — a key protein associated with Alzheimer’s disease — can spread within the human brain. Their work has also provided a new explanation of how tau can appear in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of Alzheimer’s patients, giving new hope that this disease may someday be cured.

Hall, who has spent almost two decades studying Alzheimer’s on the cellular level using larval sea lampreys as models, says that his team has discovered two different ways in which tau, a normal human protein that becomes toxic in Alzheimer’s disease, is secreted by neurons, or brain cells. He says this might explain how tau-containing lesions seem to propagate between adjacent, interconnected parts of the brain during the development of the disease. Until recently, it was universally assumed by scientists that tau is never secreted or transferred between neurons at all, and that CSF-tau only appears after many neurons have died and irreversible harm has been done to the brain.

“The fact that tau secretion can occur via two distinct mechanisms strongly indicates that it is biologically ‘real’ and is not just tau protein leaking out of dead neurons,” says Hall. “The fact that it occurs in a pattern that reproduces what is seen in the CSF of Alzheimer’s patients holds out hope that patients in early stages of the disease might someday be cured.”

Oh, the Axon’s Connected to the…

Motor neurons are among the largest in the central nervous system. Starting from a small cell at the base of the spine, for example, a nerve axon extends all the way down the leg to move toe muscles.

How these neurons mature and function is the focus of a new study, funded by a $65,405 grant from the National Science Foundation. Leading the research team is biology Prof. Thomas Shea, director of the Center for Cellular Neurobiology and Neurodegeneration Research. Sangmook Lee, senior post-doctoral research fellow, is conducting the study with undergraduate student Jacob Kushkuley.

A series of investigations in Shea’s lab has led to ever more detailed understanding of nerve structure and function. “At the beginning, we didn’t even know what proteins are involved (in nerve maturation) and now we’re investigating their electrical charge,” Shea says.

Using advanced techniques of molecular biology, Lee cuts out elements of the neurofilaments to identify their function. Under normal circumstances, the filaments link their arms. These arms carry a small magnetic charge, mediated by the level of phosphorylation, and changes in phosphorylation can disrupt the process.

Former Teen Prostitutes Speak Out for Report

Hidden in plain sight, they’re part of every urban landscape. Teenagers who panhandle, sleep in doorways and stand on shadowy corners, trading sex for cash, food and the “protection” of pimps.

Researchers at UMass Lowell took the unusual and revealing approach of asking teens themselves about the pathways that led them to being prostituted, how
they survived under these circumstances and how they took steps toward recovery. The report, “Pathways into and out of commercial sexual victimization of children: Understanding and responding to sexually exploited teens,” is based on intensive interviews with teens at shelters and drop-in centers, or living on the streets, in metro Boston and Washington, D.C.

Prof. Linda Williams of the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department directed the study, with Co-Investigator Andrea Powell, executive director of Fair Fund Inc. in Washington, and lead Researcher Mary Frederick. The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funded the research.

“The resiliency of these teens surprised me,” says Williams. “Interwoven with their vulnerabilities, the damage and harms they had suffered, they showed strengths and intelligence. They provided astute observations about systemic problems. They want better schooling and better services. And they want their voices to be heard, to help others.”

University Orchestra Performs Movie Classics

Think about Rose and Jack in the killer deck scene from “Titanic.” Or Vivien Leigh in that deep embrace with Clark Gable in “Gone With the Wind.” In these and other movie classics, the musical score becomes another, equally important character. Without the songs, the plotline wouldn’t carry nearly so much emotion.

Recently, the University Choir presented “A Night at the Movies!” in which famous movie musical scores from genres including The Golden Era, Best Pictures and Supernatural were shared with a packed audience at Durgin Hall. Music Asst. Prof. Timothy Crain wrote the program notes and selected background photos to accompany the 12 pieces performed, which included the themes from “Schindler’s List,” “Titanic,” “Psycho” and “Harry Potter.” Prof. Kay George Roberts conducted the evening’s performance.

GSE Student Wins Fulbright

Stephen Sanborn, a doctoral student in the Graduate School of Education, was named a Fulbright scholar in late March. Sanborn, who also teaches biology and biotechnology at Andover High School, joins the ranks of such noted Fulbright Scholars as Henry Kissinger and John Steinbeck.

“The good news arrived unexpectedly in an e-mail with the name of a city in India I had never heard of before and the name of an Indian teacher who would be taking my place in my school community and living in my home in a few months,” he says. “It felt like the first step on a grand adventure. When I discovered where Trivandrum was located, I was even more excited for it is in one of most beautiful and interesting parts of India.”

Sanborn is a veteran of the program, having participated in the same Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program in Hungary in 1991-92. “The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program makes possible an incredible experience for both the American and foreign exchange teachers,” he says. “In addition to financially supporting the program, they do excellent work in matching teachers for the best possible experience as well as providing very good support both before and during the exchange.”

Sanborn, who resides in Amesbury, will leave for India in August, along with his wife and two daughters. He’ll teach biology to high school students at the Trivandrum International School in the Southern Indian state of Kerala.

“I am looking forward to learning everything I can about India – the cultures, the people, the important issues, the geography and especially the education system,” he says. “By teaching in a different country, I will be stepping outside of my comfort zone as a teacher, something that requires me to take a close look at how and why I teach the way I do.”
Interest in Education Minor Program Skyrockets

A growing number of undergraduates are interested in becoming teachers. In fact, the number of students enrolled in the University’s new minor in education program has nearly tripled since the program launched last fall.

“We were able to reach so many more students through open houses and fliers – undergraduates now realize that you can become a teacher at UMass Lowell,” says Anita Greenwood, interim dean of the Graduate School of Education. “Without a minor, it was previously difficult to be noticed by undergraduates.”

Although the 18-credit minor does not lead to licensure, it enables students to explore education as a possible career path. Should a student decide to become a teacher, he or she can apply to the fifth-year master’s degree program, either as a Fast Track candidate in the senior year or upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

Professors Get Book Removed From Reading List

MinJeong Kim knew there was something wrong with “So Far From the Bamboo Grove.” The semi-autobiographical book by Yoko Kawashima Watkins – used in middle-school literature curricula all over the United States – details a Japanese family’s escape from Korea toward the end of World War II.

Kim, an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education, noticed what she believed were some historical inaccuracies – namely, that the Koreans are portrayed as aggressors, and the Japanese as victims, she says. So, over winter break this year, Kim sought help from her colleague, Clinical Asst. Prof. Patricia Fontaine.

“I teach history education at the GSE and she wanted me to do a first read to determine the historical accuracy of ‘So Far From the Bamboo Grove,’” says Fontaine, whose primary scholarly interest is World War II. “From the beginning of the read, I knew that historically there were inaccuracies.”

Fontaine and Kim asked the state’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to remove the book from its recommended reading list. In early March, Kim received a letter from the DESE spokesperson, who agreed to remove it from the recommended reading list.

Kim also received a grant from the Korean government to provide professional development opportunities so that regional teachers can learn about Korean history. She expects the grant will be renewed each year.
Engineering Professors Speak at NASA's Kennedy Space Center

In February, Mechanical Engineering Profs. Peter Avitabile and Christopher Niezrecki visited NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., to give several technical presentations to the Center's engineering staff about their research at UMass Lowell.

“Our lab is well recognized both nationally and internationally,” says Avitabile, who co-directs the University's Structural Dynamics and Acoustics Systems Laboratory with Niezrecki.

After the talks, the pair received a behind-the-scenes tour of the space shuttle Endeavour, sitting on Launch Complex 39A just 36 hours before liftoff.

“We passed through the launch pad's first security checkpoint, then through the second checkpoint where they took our name badges and secured them in a metal box at the gate — in case something goes wrong, they would know where to send the remains,” says Avitabile.

After the group received clearance, they took an elevator up to the shuttle's gangplank. “We actually got as far as poking our heads into the astronauts’ entry hatch to the shuttle,” Avitabile says. “Even the engineers who escorted us hardly ever get this close.”

M2D2 Co-hosted Boot Camp for Start-ups

The Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), along with attorneys from Nutter McClennen & Fish LLC, recently hosted the Nutter Strategic Planning Program at Wannalancit Mills. M2D2 is a UMass Lowell–UMass Worcester initiative that helps entrepreneurs and inventors move new medical device ideas from patent to commercial production.

“The Nutter Strategic Planning Program is a boot camp for technology entrepreneurs and early-stage companies,” says Nutter partner William Geary, who received his bachelor's degree in Plastics Engineering from UMass Lowell in 1980. “It is designed to meet the needs of start-up companies that are ready to undergo sophisticated strategic planning and take important next steps in the formation and growth of their businesses.”

About 12 companies participated in the program, and are currently collaborating with M2D2 for prototype development, clinical testing and/or business development activities.

Hanoi University of Technology Sends Delegation to Lowell

The language of technology is nearly universal: graphs, computer programs and electrical circuits are used by engineers around the world. Thus it was no surprise that a visiting delegation from the Hanoi University of Technology found much in common with the departments of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The five delegates from Vietnam's premier university for engineering were exploring possibilities for international collaboration, such as faculty exchanges.

Prof. Jie Wang, chair of the Computer Science Department, and Prof. Craig Armiento, chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, led the group in discussions and lab visits.

M2D2 co-hosted a bootcamp for technology entrepreneurs.
Prof. McCarthy Delivers Plastics Lecture in India

Plastics Engineering Prof. Stephen McCarthy was recently invited by India’s Central Institute of Plastics Engineering Technology (CIPET) to give a lecture at an international plastics conference held in that country. McCarthy, who co-directs the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), gave a talk on biodegradable and bio-based polymer blends during the International Conference on Advancements in Polymeric Materials, held in Bhubaneswar.

The conference was attended by ranking government officials, including Dr. Shri Bijoy Chatterjee, secretary of the Government of India’s Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and president of the CIPET governing council and Dr. S. K. Nayak, the institute’s director general and head of all 16 CIPET campuses in India, as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

In 2009, UMass Lowell signed an agreement for education and research cooperation with CIPET, which is a premier national institution in India devoted to academic and technology support and research for the country’s plastics and allied industries. “The timing was perfect for a formal partnership between the leading plastics engineering institutes in India and the United States,” says McCarthy, who serves as technical contact for UMass Lowell.

The Lexington High School and BU Academy teams battle it out in the final round of the Science Bowl.

Lexington High School Wins Regional Science Bowl

A team from Lexington High School beat 28 other teams from across the state and New Hampshire to win the Massachusetts Regional Science Bowl, held Feb. 27 on the North Campus. The “Jeopardy”-style academic competition, sponsored by UMass Lowell’s Francis College of Engineering and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science, tested the students’ knowledge in the areas of astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, mathematics and physics.

The Lexington team took home the top honors by outscoring Boston University Academy in the championship round. The winners participated in the National Science Bowl Finals, April 29 to May 4 in Washington, D.C. This was the first year UMass Lowell hosted the event.

Prof. Hu Receives Grant to Study Nonlinear Oscillations

Assoc. Prof. Tingshu Hu of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has received a three-year $286,824 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to analyze nonlinear oscillations using the Lyapunov approach.

“Nonlinear oscillations, also called nonlinear vibrations, are ubiquitous in physical systems,” explains Hu. “They have been observed in systems of various types in biology, chemistry, circuits, communications, biophysics, plasma physics, power electronics, etc. In many cases the oscillations are unwanted, and may cause undesirable effects and disasters such as vibrations in bridges, buildings, airplanes and all sorts of noises.”

Hu’s expertise is control systems, for which nonlinear stability is a fundamental issue. And the most powerful tool for studying stability is the Lyapunov theory, named after Russian mathematician Aleksandr Mikhailovich Lyapunov (1857–1918).

This ongoing research on constrained control systems is funded by a four-year $246,000 grant, also from the NSF.
UMass Lowell Concrete Canoe Bests New England Competitors

A canoe that’s made of concrete and can float in water? The concept might seem far-fetched, but not to the dedicated teams of engineering students from across the Northeastern United States and Canada who took on the challenge of building such a canoe as part of an annual regional competition.

The UMass Lowell team and its self-designed and built concrete canoe, dubbed “The Hydrohawk,” finished second overall in the April 10 races, which were organized by the New England student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The event was hosted by Northeastern University on the Charles River in Boston. Laval University from Quebec City took home the top honors, while the University of Maine placed third.

UMass Lowell’s canoe, which was molded from a specially formulated lightweight concrete mix and reinforced with fiberglass mesh, measures 20 feet long, 31 inches wide and 16 inches deep, and weighs 255 pounds. To qualify for racing, it passed a test in which the canoe is filled with water and pushed below the surface; the canoe should resurface on its own.

“The Hydrohawk is 115 pounds lighter than last year’s canoe, ‘The Merrimack Maiden,’ and it is a magnificent work of technology and art,” says Prof. Clifford Bruell, chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

“The fact that our Hydrohawk team bested all U.S. universities in the region is a tremendous accomplishment,” says College of Engineering Dean John Ting.

Robotic Arms to Aid People with Disabilities

Opening and closing doors, picking up the phone or drinking a cup of coffee. These are simple, mundane activities that people do every day and often take for granted. But for individuals with physical disabilities or cognitive impairments, these can be daunting tasks. Two prototype systems being developed at UMass Lowell’s Robotics Lab may be able to lend a helping hand.

The first system, a low-cost compact unit called DORA (Door Opening Robot Arm), is mounted on a motorized wheelchair and has a special gripper that an operator can use specifically to unlatch a variety of doorknobs and handles. It is the brainchild of Erin Rapacki, who graduated this year with a master’s degree in mechanical engineering and now works at Anybots, a robotics company based in Mountain View, Calif.

“The gripper is what I consider the new and innovative part of DORA,” says Rapacki. “It uses only a single motor to turn a knob or handle clockwise or counterclockwise.” Her project was funded through a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant awarded to Computer Science Prof. Holly Yanco, the Lab’s director.

The second system, named Halo, was designed by computer science doctoral candidate Katherine Tsui. It uses a commercially made Manus ARM from Exact Dynamics in the Netherlands to help people pick up objects on the floor or shelf.

Halo uses tiny stereo cameras mounted over the arm and on the gripper to display the desired object on a flat-screen monitor. The operator simply touches the screen (or uses a joystick) to select the object, and the arm then uses its gripper to autonomously retrieve the object and bring it to the operator. The project is funded through a three-year, nearly $168,000 NSF grant awarded to Yanco.
UMass Lowell Receives Presidential Community Service Award

UMass Lowell was named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Together with the 2008 recognition as a community-engaged university from the Carnegie Foundation for Excellence in Teaching, this award underscores UMass Lowell’s commitment to giving back.

The three service projects highlighted in UMass Lowell’s application were the Village Empowerment in Peru (College of Engineering); Media Literacy and Engaged Education (Department of Community Health and Sustainability, Division of Media Services) and Project IMPACT (Office of School Partnerships). Three special focus area projects were also featured: Assistive Technology (College of Engineering); Bring Diversity to Nursing (Department of Nursing) and Serving Urban Youth and Families through Athletics (Athletics Department).

“Service learning is a key component of our experiential learning model,” said Provost Ahmed Abdelal. “UMass Lowell’s students provide more than 44,000 hours of service each year and we intend to increase those hours by expanding on current initiatives and adding new community initiatives, involving a greater percentage of our students.”

2010 Greeley Scholar Presented Programs on Peace

Prof. Gavriel Salomon of the University of Haifa in Israel, UMass Lowell’s 2010 Greeley Scholar for Peace, presented a series of programs on campus and in area communities, beginning with the annual Day Without Violence on April 6.

Salomon, selected for the honor for his creativity and excellence in building and teaching peace, is known for using sports teams to form peaceful relationships, including bringing Israeli and Arab players and fans together to transform animosity and mistrust into cooperation and support.

“I am greatly honored by my selection as a Greeley Scholar,” says Salomon, founder and director of the Center for Research in Peace Education at the University of Haifa. “I hope that our work in Israel will be inspired by the work done at UMass Lowell, as well as inspire colleagues here to transcend peace education in regions of conflict to other, related domains of education for human rights, anti-racism and full integration of minorities. Life in a democracy cannot exist without these and it is our responsibility to both study these and advance them.”

Salomon’s visit coincides with UMass Lowell’s work with universities in Israel, Ireland and other nations to develop a peace and conflict studies program that will award bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Blueprint for UMass Lowell 2020 Established

More than 100 faculty, staff and students gathered on the concourse of the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell in early May to review the executive summary of “UMass Lowell 2020: A Strategic Plan for the Next Decade.” Under the direction of Provost Ahmed Abdelal and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney, more than 200 members on 11 committees have been working for the past 15 months to develop the campus’s next generation strategic plan.

Additionally, an external advisory task force comprised of alumni and community leaders provided advice and counsel on the project. The committees assessed the University’s current academic, research, partnership, fiscal and physical plant status and recommended strategies to improve the campus’s achievement, reputation and rankings across these areas.

“I want to thank all of you for the many hours of careful consideration, creative thinking and energy you have given over the past 15 months to this strategic planning process,” Chancellor Marty Meehan told the group at the May meeting. “The result is an important guide for us as we look toward bringing this campus to new levels of excellence in terms of teaching, research and community engagement.”

Next phases of the work include setting an assessment plan and creating standing committees to ensure that the strategic plan is implemented as continually adjusted in response to new challenges.

To read the executive summary, go to www.uml.edu/2020.
Grinstein’s Work Will Help Improve Homeland Security

Last Christmas, a 23-year-old Nigerian passenger aboard a Northwest Airlines flight tried, but failed, to detonate a homemade explosive device as the plane was preparing to land in Detroit, Mich. Such incidents highlight the need for the United States to be ever more vigilant in the face of global terrorism.

Computer Science Prof. Georges Grinstein, director of UMass Lowell’s Institute for Visualization and Perception Research, is hoping to help. Grinstein is working with researchers at Rutgers University and other institutions as part of a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence. The Center is developing technological tools needed to analyze vast amounts of information from multiple sources and provide a more reliable means of detecting threats to national security and infrastructure.

Rutgers and Purdue University will co-direct the Center, which will receive a grant of up to $5 million per year over a period of six years. Rutgers’ role in the effort is the Command, Control and Interoperability Center for Advanced Data Analysis (CCICADA), which is also what Grinstein is working on, along with 12 other partner universities and corporations.

“My role at CCICADA will be to concentrate on the evaluation of data analysis, the role of visualization in analysis and the educational aspects of visual analytics,” says Grinstein, who is one of the principal investigators for the project.

University Delegation Supports Effort to Increase Diversity

The University’s continued efforts to promote diversity were recently supported by a five-person group of UMass Lowell officials who attended a Clemson University meeting designed to present and share strategies for closing the “achievement gap” that exists between black students and their counterparts.

The group – which included Doreen Arcus, director of the Honors Program; Robert Grantham, assistant professor of sociology; Peggy Knight, assistant professor of nursing; Michael Belcher, director of outreach and recruitment, and Pascha McTyson, assistant director of multicultural affairs – was among the largest groups to attend the annual event, which drew 250 attendees.

“Presenters discussed best practices used to support students of color in college,” says Arcus. “Some talked about specific academic programs as part of the overall college experience, while others spoke to efforts designed to improve retention of students once they enroll.”

Professional Science Master’s Conference Hosted in Lowell

Representatives of all UMass campuses met recently at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center to advance the system’s offerings of Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degrees. The system received a grant from the Sloan Foundation last summer to develop these programs, innovative non-thesis graduate options designed to help students pursue advanced training while simultaneously developing workplace skills highly valued by employers. Programs include an internship and courses in management and communications as well as the core of science courses.

This spring, the Lowell campus offered four courses that support the PSM in biology. Boston is offering a program in environmental science and there is an inter-campus program in marine science.
UMass Sponsored PBS ‘High School Quiz Show’

Two teams of students – the best and brightest from two area high schools – face each other over buzzers. A question is asked. Hands race for the buzzer and an opportunity to answer. Cheers rise from the team and from their classmates in the audience as the fastest team – providing they have the right answer – scores points.

That’s the concept for High School Quiz Show, a new PBS program WGBH-TV Channel 2 introduced this spring, sponsored by the University of Massachusetts. “The intent of the competition,” according to Leslie Granese, marketing director for the UMass system, “is to ignite interest in the pursuit of learning, to remove barriers to access by ensuring students are surrounded by supportive coaches and role models, and to foster school, community and state pride.”

Each campus nominated questioners from among its faculty. UMass Lowell’s questioners were Julie Chen, vice provost for research, and Fred G. Martin, professor of computer science. Questions were developed by WGBH to conform to grades 9 through 12 curriculum standards.

Center for International Students Opens

UMass Lowell students and graduates often point to the University’s international connections as a key, positive aspect of their campus lives. Whether playing sports, discussing global affairs, or learning different cultural perspectives, our undergraduate students find their college experience is enriched.

To support and enhance this aspect of campus life, UMass Lowell has established a Center for International Students in collaboration with Navitas, an educational service organization that recruits students through offices around the globe.

The model is collaborative – Navitas will recruit international students who are interested in a bachelor’s or master’s degree education at UMass Lowell. On campus, the Center for International Students will function under the Division of Continuing Studies, Corporate and Distance Education (CSDE). Offerings by the UMass Lowell Navitas International Center will include introductory courses, taught by UMass Lowell faculty in the major of interest, as well as skills and academic culture courses taught by faculty and professional CSDE staff.

Turkish Universities Offer Promising Partnerships

Interest was intense as a delegation of UMass Lowell faculty and administrators met with their counterparts at universities in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, to discuss partnership opportunities. The group visited with faculty and administrators from six universities in Turkey. Three were chosen because of prior faculty collaborations: the universities of Yeditepe, Sabanci and Bahcesehir. The others are well known, top-tier universities with many established exchange and research projects, including the Middle Eastern Technical University and Bilkent University. The University of Hacettepe was chosen for its strong program in the health sciences, with an associated hospital, as well as programs in engineering and arts.

The UMass Lowell participants broke into small working groups to discuss potential collaborations and partnerships, exchanges and research opportunities. One of them, John Ting, dean of the College of Engineering, worked on two-way international student exchanges and experiences, three-plus-two bachelor to master’s programs and faculty exchanges.

“Regardless of any other interactions that may occur in future,” says Ting, “we are hopeful that we will receive applications from these universities for top graduate students at the doctoral level to strengthen our graduate research mission.”

Five students from Turkey are currently graduate students in engineering programs and were featured in UMass Lowell presentations. A sixth, Berke Gur, completed his doctorate and is now an assistant professor at Bahcesehir University. While at UMass Lowell, Gur was a University Graduate Research Fellow and won the Dean’s Medal – presented to him personally during this trip.

New ‘Scholars Rock!’ Exhibit Honors Published Works

The work of 30 faculty members from 21 departments is spotlighted in a library exhibit housed in both O’Leary and Lydon libraries, where it will remain throughout 2010. “Scholars Rock!” features the literary accomplishments of participating faculty members whose authored and edited works were published between 2007 and 2009.

“UMass Lowell’s authors, researchers and scholars enhance our intellectual profile, reminding us of the historic contributions of academia,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan.
Campus EMTs Receive National Recognition

More than 245 colleges in North America have student-run Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations. UMass Lowell has one of the best. In February, UMass Lowell EMS received its fourth consecutive award in as many years from the National Collegiate EMS Foundation (NCEMSF). Senior John Casey was recognized at the association’s national conference in Baltimore, as the 2009-10 Campus EMS Provider of the Year. Casey is a co-director of UMass Lowell EMS and its director of field operations.

UMass Lowell EMS provides the University and its contiguous communities with the same level of professional emergency medical service as a regional EMS provider (with the exception of patient transportation) 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the academic year. It also includes a cadet program for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in training and provides supplemental emergency services for all University events and CPR/First Aid training to approximately 1,000 people every year.

UMass Lowell EMS was founded in 1986 as the UMass Lowell Emergency Medical Technicians Society under the guidance of alumnus David Eberiel, EMT and professor emeritus of biology who remains a clinical adviser to the current organization. These days, the organization works closely with the University police department and with Trinity EMS, Lowell’s 9-1-1 provider, and Saint’s Paramedics. UMass Lowell EMS was recently written into the city of Lowell’s emergency response plan.

“Our professional partners in Lowell have the utmost respect for our EMS program and consider our EMTs as colleagues and peers,” says Dean of Student Affairs Larry Siegel. “Not only does the organization serve the University, it also provides students with valuable opportunities for experiential learning, leadership and pre-professional training. Over the years dozens of students have become paramedics, EMTs and firefighters based on the strength of their campus EMS experience.”

Faculty Development Conference Draws More Than 200

More than 200 people attended the Faculty Development Conference April 8-9, titled “Linking Assessment, Technological Innovations in Pedagogy, & Scholarship of Teaching & Learning.”

The event drew more than just UMass Lowell’s own faculty and staff.

“I was surprised at the interest in the conference by invited guests external to UMass Lowell,” says Faculty Development Center Director Charmaine Hickey, referring to attendees from Middlesex Community College, Boston College, UMass Boston, The Sloan-Consortium and the UMass President’s Office.

The two-day event, held at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, featured a lively conversation dinner and keynote by Tom Angelo, co-author of “Classroom Assessment Techniques: A Handbook for College Teachers,” who offered practical ideas for making assessment really work.

The conference also featured an interactive “Research, Scholarship & Creative Works” poster session, sponsored by Prof. Julie Chen and Andy Morris of the University’s Nanomanufacturing Center.
College of Management Records Large Graduate Enrollment Gains

Graduate enrollment in UMass Lowell’s College of Management is at an all-time high this year. For the first time, enrollment in graduate degree and certificate programs has topped 400, an increase of 24 percent this academic year, says Gary Mucica, director of graduate programs for the college.

Leading the way is the master of business administration program. The number of MBA candidates is up 24 percent to 240 students. Eighty-one students are enrolled in certificate programs, an increase of nearly 70 percent. The college is also seeing an increase thanks to the new master of science degree in innovation and technological entrepreneurship, which was launched this fall, and is an option for undergraduate students who wish to complete both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years through the University’s “Plus One” program.

“Not only have the enrollments mushroomed, but the academic profile of our students continues to improve at the same time,” says Mucica. “We have attracted students from more than 120 undergraduate schools in several states and countries.”

Mucica attributes the increased enrollment to several factors, including on-campus and online options; accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and the affordability of the program.

The college’s undergraduate numbers are also rising. In the spring semester, enrollment was up 12.6 percent in undergraduate business-related majors, including finance, over the same time last year: 1,541 undergraduate students compared with 1,368 in Spring 2009.

The increases in enrollment are across all of the undergraduate concentrations offered, which include accounting, entrepreneurship, management information systems, management, marketing and finance. In particular, enrollment has more than doubled in the entrepreneurship concentration, the newest in the college, and accounting is up nearly 13 percent.

Frank Andrews, associate dean of the College of Management, says the college is projecting another increase in enrollment for the fall, based in part on strong interest shown by business students at nearby Middlesex and Northern Essex community colleges. The college has a number of initiatives in place to help students at both schools make a smooth transition to UMass Lowell.

Another draw for students is the new international business concentration for undergraduates, which will launch this fall.
Prof. Joseph Says Sustainability Must Figure Into Bottom Line

George Joseph contends that accounting shouldn’t just be about the financial bottom line: sustainability must also be factored into the strategic goals of a company. Increasingly, corporate social responsibility – more generally described as economic, environmental and social sustainability – has begun to influence every facet of an operation. But accounting has not fully adapted to this trend, says Joseph, an associate professor of accounting in UMass Lowell’s College of Management. He points out that management accounting must support a management strategy that views business not just from the perspective of shareholders but with consideration of stakeholders beyond those with a financial interest.

Joseph’s research about social responsibility and accounting is getting attention outside the University. One paper on the subject was chosen as a Highly Commended Award winner for the U.K.-based Emerald Book Publishers’ Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2009 and published in its Journal of Accounting & Organizational Change. Another paper received the Best Manuscript Award at the American Accounting Association’s Northeast Regional Meeting.

The aim of both award-winning papers, according to Joseph, is to illustrate – conceptually, theoretically and through case studies – how the stakeholder basis for management he advocates is the preferable approach to address the issues in developing countries, “even when histories and social structures differ widely, rather than blindly emulating a Western management model that can result in glaring inequalities and lopsided development.”

Joseph arrived at his findings after several years of research. What he learned changed the way he views the role of accounting. As a result, he is developing a course for UMass Lowell M.B.A. candidates that will teach them to integrate sustainability issues into accounting practices.

UMass Lowell Online MBA: Among Best Values in Nation

UMass Lowell's online master's degree in business administration gets high marks for quality and value, according to a new national ranking by GetEducated.com. UMass Lowell's online MBA program is one of more than 400 reviewed by GetEducated.com in categories based on accreditation: regional, national and international. The Vermont-based consumer group objectively reviews and ranks online programs for cost, quality and credibility and provides the rankings at no cost to institutions as part of its online “Consumer Guide to MBAs.”

UMass Lowell ranks No. 27 on the list of online MBA programs considered “High-Quality Buys, All Under $20,000.” It is the only New England program to make the list. UMass Lowell was considered among the 133 online MBA programs nationwide accredited by the international Association to Advance College Schools of Business (AACSB), considered the gold standard in business education. In addition, UMass Lowell's online MBA was ranked No. 9 overall in affordability for graduate business students nationwide.

The average annual cost of an AACSB-accredited MBA is $32,926. UMass Lowell “online learners will pay a remarkably low cost of just under $16,500 for this MBA,” GetEducated.com stated in its announcement of the 2010 rankings.

“Cost is the No. 1 factor that keeps working Americans from enrolling in higher education. The University of Massachusetts Lowell offers online learners nationwide a chance at a high-quality graduate business degree through distance learning at about half the cost of the national average. That's great value,” says Vicky Phillips, founder of GetEducated.com.

The online MBA program is offered through the Division of Continuing Studies, Corporate and Distance Education. Classes are taught by faculty in the College of Management.
Researchers Receive Technology Development Grants

Two teams of UMass Lowell researchers led by Profs. Daniel Schmidt and Ramaswamy Nagarajan of Plastics Engineering and Jayant Kumar of the Center for Advanced Materials received two of this year’s eight grants from the UMass Commercial Ventures & Intellectual Property (CVIP) Technology Development Fund. Each team will receive $25,000 in funding.

Schmidt was awarded for his proposal to develop practical, high-performance epoxy resins that are free from bisphenol A (BPA). This technology attempts to address growing concern surrounding the use of BPA, which mimics the human hormone estrogen and is found in epoxy liners used in the vast majority of metal food and beverage cans.

Nagarajan and Kumar, along with graduate students Sethumadhavan Ravichandran and Subhalakshmi Nagarajan and collaborators from UMass Amherst, have come up with a novel class of “greener,” halogen-free flame-retardant materials. Brominated and halogenated flame retardants are used extensively worldwide in textiles, plastics and consumer electronic items to reduce their flammability, but unfortunately, they show adverse effects on humans as well as the environment.

CVIP is responsible for the commercialization of discoveries made on all UMass campuses. Licensing of UMass intellectual property generated $73 million in fiscal year 2009, making the University a national leader in this area. CVIP, established in 2004, has since then provided $1,115,000 in new research grants to faculty members on all five campuses.

More Freedom, Higher Death Rates

In a new study exploring the link between personal freedom and mortality, researchers have found that states with less restrictive laws also have higher rates of death due to injury. “Freedom is deeply ingrained as a fundamental belief in the American character,” says Asst. Prof. Leland Ackerson of the Community Health and Sustainability Department and lead author of the study. “However, our study shows that protecting public health by regulating some health-related behaviors can be instrumental in creating a healthier society.”

The study, conducted by researchers at UMass Lowell and the Harvard School of Public Health, measured personal freedom across states according to the strictness of laws governing behaviors such as the use of fireworks, seat belts, motorcycle helmets and cell phones while driving, as well as smoking, access to alcohol and use of controlled substances.

The researchers reported a wide variation in state rates of unintended injury mortality — in 2006, New York had the lowest death rate in the country at 25.9 per 100,000 with the third-most strict laws while New Mexico had the highest death rate at 67.1 per 100,000 with the third-most lax laws. Alaska had the most-lax laws in the country with a death rate of 51.9 per 100,000 while Maryland had the most-strict laws with a death rate of 26.1. Massachusetts had the seventh most-strict laws with a death rate of 32.0.

Finance and Innovation: U.S. vs. China and Japan

As governments consider new regulations on the financial industry, a new study will seek insights regarding the relationship between finance and innovation at the business level, and the implications for the economy as a whole.

An international team of scholars, directed by Prof. William Lazonick of the Economic and Social Development of Regions Master's Program, has received a $200,000, two-year grant from the Ford Foundation for the project, titled Financial Institutions for Innovation and Development. The team includes five researchers from the Economic and Social Development of Regions Master's Program and the Center for Industrial Competitiveness, which Lazonick co-directs.

The project will compare the experiences of the United States, Japan and China with a focus on information and communication technology, biotechnology and clean technology. “We will analyze the governance, organization and operation of financial institutions that fund industrial innovation in these key high-tech sectors of the economy,” says Lazonick. “Business interests may have a central role in restructuring financial institutions.”

The Ford Foundation grant complements a European Commission grant for €1.5 million for international collaborative research on finance, innovation and growth. Lazonick is involved in this grant through his affiliations with The Open University in the United Kingdom and the University of Bordeaux in France.
Researchers Receive $1.3 Million in NSF Funding

Five professors at UMass Lowell’s Center for Network and Information Security (CNIS) received more than $1.3 million in grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) this academic year. The funds will help support projects designed to enhance wireless connectivity and computer-science education and to help protect our national cyber infrastructure.

“The number of cyber crimes has increased dramatically as mobile computing, wireless networks and the Internet become pervasive and ubiquitous,” says Prof. Jie Wang, chair of the Computer Science Department and director of the CNIS. “Common cyber crimes include sexual exploitation of children, identity theft, intellectual property theft, financial fraud and industrial espionage, to name just a few.”

The NSF grant recipients are: Xinwen Fu, Benyuan Liu and Jie Wang ($500,278); Benyuan Liu ($400,000); Guanling Chen ($300,000); Xinwen Fu ($75,000) and Xinwen Fu, Yan Luo and Jie Wang ($72,000).

Moure-Eraso Named Chair of Chemical Safety Board

Prof. Rafael Moure-Eraso of the Department of Work Environment was nominated by President Barack Obama to chair the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, an independent agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents.

The President also nominated UMass Lowell Alumnus Mark Griffon ’92 as a member of the board. The nominations have moved to the Senate for confirmation. In a statement, Obama said, “I am grateful that these exceptional individuals have chosen to dedicate their talents to serving the American people. I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.”

A member of the faculty at UMass Lowell for 22 years, Moure-Eraso is currently serving as graduate coordinator of the Department of Work Environment in the School of Health and Environment, where he had been a professor and chair of the department, which teaches prevention of work-related deaths and illnesses.

“Dr. Moure-Eraso’s broad educational and professional experience in occupational health, chemical engineering, science policy and scientific institution management, as well as his experience on federal advisory boards, make him an ideal candidate for the chair of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan.

Moure-Eraso and Griffon both were confirmed by the Senate in June. They began work immediately on investigation into the April 20 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig, which scientists say is leaking up to 2.52 million barrels of crude oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico. Said Moure-Eraso: “I am looking forward to overseeing the investigation to get to the source of the explosion to prevent future tragedies, but the lives of those workers are gone forever. And the cleanup of the oil and restoration of marine life will take years or even generations.”

Board of Higher Education Approves Environmental Health Program

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education has approved a new Environmental Health bachelor of science degree program in the School of Health and Environment. The one-of-a-kind program in the Northeast will begin September 2010.

“Our research and interviews showed that with the shortage of qualified professionals, students will have tremendous career options that will make a difference for all of us,” says Assoc. Prof. Joel Tickner of the Department of Community Health and Sustainability, who led the development of the new program.

Environmental health, a branch of public health, includes the study of epidemiology, toxicology, sanitation, occupational health and safety, food safety, health communications and policy.

“More than 90 percent of environmental health graduates who are actively seeking a job have one at graduation or soon after,” says Tickner. “It’s this generation of change agents that will help solve our health and environment issues for a healthier future.”
Nursing Students Without Borders Traveled to Ghana

Ten nursing seniors traveled to Ghana, Africa, on Dec. 27 with Asst. Prof. Valerie King to provide care, medical supplies and education to people in the Kpando district. The Nursing Students Without Borders group brought supplies, including first aid equipment, medication, vitamins, surgical gloves, needle syringes and iron-enriched baby formula as well as soap, shampoo and other hygiene products.

To subsidize their mission, the group held various fundraising events, including one at Allen House that raised more than $2,000. The students and their faculty adviser, King, paid for their own travel and personal expenses.

Nursing Students Without Borders was the brainchild of Brianna Norton, who established the group in 2008 while in her junior year of the nursing program. The first group of students visited Ghana in January 2009. Both groups educated HIV patients about nutrition, health and medication regimens. They held blood pressure clinics, conducted HIV testing and taught good hygiene practices.

Doyle Wins UMass President’s Public Service Award

Prof. Kay Doyle was one of five recipients of the UMass President’s Public Service award that honors faculty who have provided exemplary public service to the Commonwealth. Every year, the chancellor from each campus nominates one faculty member to be considered for the award.

“Kay Doyle has enormous compassion for and dedication to her community and her students who study science and health,” said Chancellor Marty Meehan. “She is a true leader and model for others in her roles as educator, UMass Lowell department chair and community advocate.”

Doyle, who is chair of the Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences Department, is also a global leader within the American Society for Clinical Pathology, through which she participates in the certification of medical laboratory professionals in this country and extends standards for laboratory medicine across the world.

Doyle has also served on the board of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation for more than 10 years. Her leadership helped the Foundation’s assets grow from zero to about $20 million, with about 200 community endowments in its portfolio. Through its grant programs, more than $3.5 million has been distributed to nonprofit organizations since 1997. Giving back to the community has always been part of her life, she says.

“Volunteering puts you in contact with people who can see beyond themselves, and their own needs, working for the greater good for all,” she says.

Grant Will Bring Broadband to the People

UMass Lowell will use nearly $1 million to expand infrastructure and access to broadband Internet in the Merrimack Valley. LINK, the Lowell Internet, Networking and Knowledge project, is a collaboration between the University and community organizations.

The principal investigators are economics Prof. Carol McDonough, who specializes in telecommunications and public/private interplay for broadband; and Prof. Robert Forrant, director of UMass Lowell’s Center for Family, Work and Community, who has worked with the Lowell community on grant-funded initiatives for nearly two decades. The team won a highly competitive grant of $780,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, supplemented by $196,000 in matching funds from UMass Lowell.

The LINK project will promote broadband awareness and computer literacy among vulnerable populations, including the nation’s second-largest Cambodian population, low-income and at-risk youth, the unemployed, residents without college degrees and seniors in Lowell and the Merrimack Valley.

Initially, the project will expand and upgrade computer centers at the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC), the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, Community Teamwork Inc., three public housing complexes and three senior centers. UMass Lowell undergraduate and graduate students and young people at UTEC will be trained to help clients in the computer centers, providing jobs for youth.
Local Firms Honored as TURA Marks 20-year Anniversary

Ahead of its time 20 years ago with the passage of the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA), Massachusetts continues to lead the nation in reducing use, waste and emissions of toxic chemicals. To recognize these accomplishments at the source, state environmental agencies and dignitaries are visiting Massachusetts companies to highlight and honor each for their performance and leadership.

The recognition of “TURA 20th Anniversary Leader” is being presented by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Office of Technical Assistance.

“We always respected the connection between economics and the environment,” says Michael Ellenbecker, professor of Work Environment at UMass Lowell and director of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, as well as a contributor to the TURA legislation. “Over the years, companies have saved millions of dollars through the use of safer chemicals and more efficient production processes as well as conservation efforts, resulting in significant reductions in workplace and community chemical exposures.”

M.D. Stetson, a Randolph-based maker of janitorial cleaning solutions, was the first company recognized in March. State Reps. Walter Timilty and Joseph Driscoll and Sen. Brian Joyce presented company leaders with a citation for developing green cleaning products. Jason Marshall of the Toxics Use Reduction Laboratory said the company began working on greening its product line more than 15 years ago.

“We selected M.D. Stetson for its foresight and dedication in supplying public schools, universities and municipalities with green cleaning solutions way ahead of the spike in awareness of green products,” says Marshall, who provided the third-party performance testing of M.D. Stetson’s cleaning products.

“I’ve always been proud of our company for doing what’s right and manufacturing and selling our products here in Massachusetts,” says Michael Glass, president of M.D. Stetson.

Nursing Workshop Inspires Lawrence High School Students

The UMass Lowell Nursing Department hosted a four-week workshop with 24 Lawrence High School students to raise awareness of nursing as a career option. The weekly one-hour sessions were part of the Bring Diversity to Nursing program, intended to attract and recruit diverse students to the nursing program.

The workshop gave the high school students first-hand nursing experience. For instance, during a workshop on neurological system evaluation, the students got into small groups to test each other’s cranial nerves, reflexes, and motor functioning, which involved the use of tuning forks, reflex hammers, vision cards and scents in bottles. In another session, students participated in activities that helped them understand patients who deal with sensory loss. In one of the exercises, the students were blindfolded and performed a task. In another, they had one arm tied to their side and tried to write their names. They put on drunk-driving goggles and then walked through a maze.

“These interactive classes help students understand the important and interesting tasks a nurse does beyond what they might see when they go for their checkups or visit someone in the hospital,” says Lisa Abdallah, associate professor of nursing who also graduated from Lawrence High School. “The hands-on approach with the tools and exercises give students a real feel for all the ways that nurses help people, from assessment to providing nursing care.”

As the nation’s ethnic minority population grows – it will comprise 35 percent of the American population by 2020 according to the U.S. Census Bureau – so, too, does the need for more nurses who understand different languages, religious beliefs and traditions.

“We need to broaden the scope to mirror the population – more men and ethnic and diverse populations,” says Abdallah. “Latinos in Lawrence bring bilingual skills to nursing which is important because language is a barrier to delivering care. It’s critical that we make sure patients understand preventative actions and treatment options while being sensitive to their cultures and backgrounds.”
Tutors Teach Young Students That ‘Math Matters’

Biology major Delphine Acha says that tutoring at the Kathryn P. Stoklosa Middle School in Lowell has been as valuable for her as for her young students — even if it’s challenging at times: “The seventh-grade students are much better behaved than the eighth-graders!” she laughs.

Acha, a junior, is part of the RAMP UP math tutoring program, which brings UMass Lowell students to the Stoklosa School on a weekly schedule to provide academic support to students at risk of not passing mathematics classes in grades five through eight. Funded by the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, which recently approved a $39,500 grant for the program (98 percent of which goes to student support, like tutor stipends), RAMP UP is currently comprised of 12 University tutors, who collectively spend 50 hours each week working with the middle-school students.

“This program is making a significant impact on the quality of learning in the lives of the middle-school students, who see college students each week in their classrooms helping them with their math,” says Nancy Pitkin, coordinator of partnership projects in the Office of School Partnerships.

“The UMass Lowell students are a diverse group of dedicated tutors who inspire, motivate and encourage the middle school students to focus on why math matters.”

Student Helps Turn Chelmsford’s Solar Project into Reality

Cities and towns nationwide are brainstorming ways to cut energy costs and save natural resources. For the Chelmsford Water District, the solution was to install a photovoltaic (PV) system that will harness enough solar energy to power the district’s entire Crooked Spring Water Treatment Plant during peak operating hours. The state’s Department of Environmental Protection appropriated $3,783,000 of federal stimulus money to finance the project, which will create one of the largest municipal solar projects on the East Coast.

Patrick Retelle, a graduate student in UMass Lowell’s solar engineering program, helped the district come up with a “shovel-ready” plan of using 2,300 PV panels that are estimated to generate about 588,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. “Pat volunteered his time to do the analysis for the district’s grant application,” says Mechanical Engineering Prof. John Duffy, coordinator of UMass Lowell’s solar engineering graduate program.

In addition to its goal of energy self-reliance, the project will help reduce the water district’s carbon footprint by 132 tons of carbon dioxide emission annually. This is equivalent to saving about 111 acres of forest each year. Work on the project is expected to begin in July 2011.

Ode to the Oud

Dozens of musicians took to the stage for the ninth annual Winter Concert of the UMass Lowell String Project in conjunction with the Lowell Youth Orchestra. Nearly 500 delighted fans – parents, fellow students, friends and members of the community – packed Durgin Hall for a varied set of musical performances.

Guest artists included Joseph Darenbourg and grad student Safi Shams, who incorporated instruments including the oud – a stringed instrument used in Middle Eastern music – to share his world music set featuring Andalusian, North African and Middle Eastern influences.

The Lowell Youth Orchestra (LYO), founded and directed by Prof. Kay George Roberts, is made up of public school students from the greater Lowell area. Members of the LYO are selected from the UMass Lowell String Project – “an after-school training program for Lowell public school students,” says Roberts.

The UMass Lowell String Project is a member of the National String Project Consortium and ARTWorks for Kids Coalition. The LYO is supported, in part, by the UMass President’s Creative Economy Initiatives Fund.
Rock Climbs, Rock Concerts and Shared Nights of Study: The Good Life at UMass Lowell

By Geoffrey Douglas

On a Tuesday in early March, tickets went on sale for an April 29 concert at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell by hip-hop sensation and 2010 Grammy nominee Drake – the first major event to be scheduled at the Center since it was acquired by the University a month before. The tickets were gone in three days.

“And that was only the beginning,” says Dean of Students Larry Siegel. “The negotiations are underway already for more top-name performers next year.”

The Drake concert, part of the Canadian-born rapper’s 25 city “Home Away From Home” tour, ended up being rescheduled because the performer was having vocal problems, but as Siegel says, it’s “typical of the sort of event we want to be staging [at the Tsongas Center] on a more-or-less regular basis.”

In addition to hosting such concerts – which will be open to both students and the public – the $24 million, 6,500-seat arena will be the venue for a full schedule of hockey games played by the UMass Lowell River
Hawks as well as a year-round series of sporting events, family shows, conventions, special events and University functions.

With all that, though – as the Chancellor himself noted at the time of the Center’s acquisition last winter: “[The arena] is only one example of how the University is enhancing life for our students.”

And, indeed, while rock concerts may be hard to top for their flash factor, the enhancements are everywhere you look. From the arena stage to the residence halls, to the almost overnight explosion of growth now taking place on campus, it seems fair to say that day-to-day life for UMass Lowell students has probably never, in the University’s century-plus history, been richer or more diverse.

It almost doesn’t matter where you look. You could begin with the acquisition of the Tsongas Center itself, and all that this makes possible; or the purchase, only seven months earlier, of the three-star Doubletree Hotel (see related story), and its conversion to an in-town residence hall, the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, with its plush lobby, private bathrooms and queen-size beds.

But a more fundamental change, and certainly a more pervasive one, may be the one that’s transpiring inside some of the residences themselves.

It began gradually, two years ago, when roughly half the incoming freshmen were enrolled in “learning communities,” cohorts of 20 to 25 students each that shared core courses, a faculty adviser and an academic major or theme (and in the case of residential freshmen, the same resi-
dence hall). The program widened this past fall to include all freshmen – and, in designated sections of Fox Hall, to allow for cohorts (known as living-learning communities, or LLCs) joined by their interest in non-academic themes. It will be expanded yet again this fall, when three more LLCs are added in Fox Hall, in collaboration with the School of Health and Environment, to benefit students in the health professions.

By September, says Siegel, “Every floor [of Fox Hall] will be involved with living communities of one sort or another,” while roughly 200 students will belong to the more academically linked learning communities. Whether academic or not, he says, all the cohorts share a common general mission: “to give students the opportunity to come together around a shared life interest – politics, the environment, performing arts, whatever – and to explore it further, often with the people they’re living with. This is the sort of thing that builds connections, often friendships – as well as knowledge. All of which goes a long way toward making for a richer, fuller college experience.”

Deluxe residence halls, sold-out rock concerts, dedicated study groups – the new, mostly public face of UMass Lowell today. But what of the quieter, more private, more quotidian version of things? What is the average month, for the typical student, likely to include?

This April was probably as good a sample as any. It began, according to an online calendar posted on the Gotta Be Here! UMass Lowell website, with a free concert featuring campus bands, followed three days later by a widescreen showing (complete with free hot dogs and soda) of the Red Sox-Yankees opener in Fenway Park – both put on by the Student Activities Office. Later in the month came several free movies at O’Leary Library, at least two more free concerts, a weekend backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail and a rock-climbing expedition in Quincy (both of these headed by a Rec Center instructor), golf lessons at Kimball Farm in Westford, another Red Sox game, and – finally, on the last day of the month – an all-day spring carnival, courtesy of Student Activities, on the South Campus softball field.

It would be hard to argue that the 2010 UMass Lowell student isn’t living a pretty full life. ☀
The University is roughly three years into a growth campaign on a scale that hasn’t been seen in decades. And like a lot of successful campaigns, it’s being waged on multiple fronts.

The first, and most visible, has come with the construction of new buildings (see related story, on page 24) – notably the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center and new South Campus academic building, both due inside two years. The second can be seen in the upgrading and refitting of everything from classrooms and computer labs to the new meeting rooms in Pasteur Hall and the elevators in McGauvran Student Union.

A third front, at least as far-reaching as either of the others, has come with the University’s acquisition of two major city buildings, and their conversion to student use.

The first to be acquired was the former Doubletree Hotel, purchased last year for $15 million – then renovated for another $5 million – which opened last fall as the 252-room UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center (ICC), the University’s newest residence hall, with housing for 400 students and accommodations for University conferences and events.

The Doubletree was a highly rated hotel – and it shows. The rooms are plush and oversized, with air conditioning, private bathrooms and queen-size beds; there is an on-site dining room, a mail room, a large, opulent front lobby, even a special second-floor “learning commons” for uninterrupted late-night study. Shortening the commute to classes is a new shuttle bus that ferries students to and from campus at 15-minute intervals.

Most of those housed at the ICC are upper-class or honors students, many of them organized in “living and learning communities” (LLCs) or Your Space groups, clusters of between eight and 20 students, focused around particular interests or themes.

The most compelling reason for the hotel’s purchase, of course, was the shortage of student housing: in 2008-09, the overflow was so critical that the University was forced to house close to 400 students at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, N.H. But there was more to it than that. Prior to last year, no part of the University campus was located near the city’s heart, creating a separation between the two that had existed for decades. All that changed with the hotel’s purchase and conversion.

“The ICC project shows the enormous potential of [how] universities can interact with cities,” Chancellor Marty Meehan said in his remarks at the ICC’s official opening. “This is an opportunity for students to engage in their community.”

“There are so many resources in the city – the restaurants, the coffee houses, the museums, the galleries, the national
park – that we hadn’t tapped into completely before,” said James Kohl, the University’s director of Residence Life, shortly after the ICC’s opening. “So we saw this as an opportunity to do that: to expand the University, to bring the city to the students, to really infuse student life. The idea was to make Lowell, in a very real way, a part of the campus – with all the benefits that accrues.”

It seems clear that, from the students’ perspective at least, the new digs have been a huge hit. Witness the reaction of one of them, a freshman blogging this April about his chances of making it next year into an ICC Your Space group:

“The group would guarantee us rooms at the coveted ICC in downtown Lowell, [where] we have larger rooms, larger beds, plus our own bathroom…It’s just about as good as having a suite.”

Larry Siegel, UMass Lowell dean of students, calls the new building “an absolute home run” – then ticks off the benefits, one by one:

“To begin with, the students love it – which makes for a happier student body and helps us increase retention. Plus, there’s this new sense among them of embeddedness in the community, which results in more engagement, more volunteerism, all that, among the students. Then there’s the economic impact on the city, the use of the stores, the galleries, the whole downtown. And finally, you have the revenue we bring in, with it being a destination for companies to use as a training and conference center – not to mention the link it gives them with the University and its students. All in all, just a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

Then there is the second jewel in the crown: The Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, officially acquired – after approval by the governor and state legislature – from the city in early February. The $24-million, 6,500-seat arena, long the home of the UMass Lowell River Hawks hockey team, will continue to play host to the team, as well as to a full schedule of other athletic, entertainment and community events.

The first of these to be scheduled, an April 29 concert at the Tsongas Center – part of a 25-city tour by rapper and 2010 Grammy nominee Drake – had to be postponed when the singer was grounded medically by his doctor, placed on an indefinite “vocal rest.” The concert, which has been rescheduled, is typical, says Siegel, of “the sort of event we want to be staging [at the Tsongas Center] on a more-or-less regular basis.” The University, he says, is already negotiating with several other “top-name” performers for events this fall and winter.

Meanwhile, the Tsongas has been seeing upgrade after upgrade, with still more expected. Improvements made last winter include the installation of a 400-foot electronic LED “ribbon board” to display cheers, messages and sponsors’ ads, while a new scoreboard and sound system are expected by this fall. The LED boards, says Director of Athletic Business Enterprises Peter Casey, are the tallest of any indoor facility in the northeast.

“They’re a real step forward for us,” says Casey. “Not only do they enhance the atmosphere at hockey games; the [sponsors’] ads we run on them are a big revenue producer – nearly $40,000 just between the time we installed them in February and the end of the [hockey] season. Plus, they’re a great opportunity for us to get messages out to students and fans.”

The new scoreboard, Casey says – complete with video-replay capability – should be in place by the start of the River Hawks’ season in October. Also expected by then will be a new premium-seating section on the arena’s south side, complete with a lounge that will serve food and drinks.

“Watching hockey live is [always] exciting,” says Casey. “But the new improvements are creating a whole new experience for fans.”

But the Center’s most recent upgrade, in April of this year, may also be its most fitting: a new, permanent exhibit honoring the life and legacy of the late Senator Paul Tsongas, in whose memory the arena was opened in 1998, a year after he died.

“A Journey of Purpose: The Paul E. Tsongas Exhibit” features a bronze plaque detailing the high points of Tsongas’s career, as well as a wall-mounted display showcasing his legacy.

“This exhibit draws attention way beyond the building to things like generational responsibility, to understand and solve the extraordinary problems we face as a nation,” said U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, the late senator’s widow, at a dedication ceremony in April. 
By the time you read this, the most sweeping transformation on the UMass Lowell campus in more than three decades – since the merger of Lowell State College and the Lowell Technological Institute in 1975 – will be officially, and very visibly, underway.

It began just days after this year’s graduation ceremonies, with the razing of Smith Hall, the 110-bed, 62-year-old residence hall across from Cummock Hall on the University’s North Campus. By the time the entire transformation is completed, in the 2012-13 academic year, the University will be home to one of the most thoroughly modern, technologically advanced research buildings in New England, as well as a $40 million academic building that will rival anything in the UMass system.

The South Campus academic building, currently in its design phase, is scheduled to break ground this fall, and should be completed within two years, according to Deborah Poodry, executive director of Facilities, Management and Planning. To be located at the corner of Broadway and Wilder Streets, its 65,000 square feet will be divided over four floors, with the main floor dedicated to classrooms and the top three devoted largely to labs and office space. The principal departments slated to be housed there will be Nursing, Psychology and Criminal Justice.

The building’s projected $40-million cost, says Poodry, will be provided largely by state funds.

The jewel of the expansion plan, though, and the first of the two projects scheduled to be up and running, will be the research building – the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center (ETIC), an 84,000-square-foot structure to be built on the site of Smith Hall and the area just behind it. Scheduled to be completed in late 2012, according to Poodry, it will be — assuming an on-schedule completion — the first new academic building on campus in 33 years.

At least four other locations were considered for the ETIC: one near downtown Lowell, another near the Lawrence Mills and LeLacheur Park, a third on Riverside Street and the last in Chelmsford. The Smith Hall site was chosen for its visibility, as well as its central location on the campus.

“It’s important that this building be a cornerstone of the campus,” said Chancellor Marty Meehan at the time of the site selection. “This location is especially appealing, given that the city’s new bridge will be directly across from our new building, creating a scenic gateway to the campus.”

The ETIC will house numerous labs for both bio- and nanomanufacturing research, as well as a major “clean
room” equipped to filter air to a level of almost inconceivable purity, and a two-story “high-bay room” designed to accommodate oversized research equipment such as extruders and injection-molding machines.

The air in the “clean room,” designed for use by some of the most sensitive research equipment on earth – such as biochemical sensors to measure toxins – will be filtered continually to remove dust particles and other impurities.

“We’ll be filtering the air in that room to a ‘class 1,000’ level,” says Prof. Julie Chen, vice provost for research, explaining that a clean room’s air quality is rated by the number of particles in a cubic foot of air. “A typical [unfiltered] lab might be rated somewhere near ‘class 100,000’ – so we’re talking about a very, very clean room.”

The cost of the building, according to Poodry, is estimated at $70-80 million, which will be subsidized through a mix of state, federal and University funding.

Much of the work to be done in the ETIC, especially that involving sensors, will benefit the military – a major reason why $4 million of the federal government’s funding will come through a defense appropriations bill announced last December. This will build on a University-military partnership already in

Continued
place: with the Army Research Laboratory in Hyattsville, Md., and with the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center, both involving sensors and health-monitoring research.

“UMass Lowell is the place to go to get nanotech-based products that will work in battlefield conditions,” Meehan said last year when the funding was announced. “The sensors we have developed will be the proverbial canary in a coal mine for our soldiers – determining whether an area is free of biological or chemical substances so no one risks his or her life.”

In addition to its military applications, the new research building is expected to generate jobs in the region, and to attract commercial partners and revenue to the University.

“The first jobs you’ll see will come as a direct outgrowth [of the building],” says Chen. “These will be graduate students, research assistants and the like, who’ll be needed to help with the new projects. The indirect, secondary phase we hope will come later – as the new research creates the possibility for new products, which in turn creates new companies and more jobs.”

According to a study completed last year, roughly 300 new jobs are expected to result from R&D projects conducted in the ETIC.

The revenue, Chen says, would be a byproduct of all this: “The access [the building] will provide, the research opportunities and equipment it will offer, will draw companies that will pay for its use – we already work with about 30 companies [including BASF, Textron, Nanogreen Solutions Corp., Nypro Inc., Teknor/Apex and Nynodynamics Inc.]. These will likely increase the work they do with us. This in turn will attract more companies.

“The key to it all is partnerships. Having access to a research building like this will enable us to attract top-notch researchers, which in turn will draw new companies to the area – which will then partner with the researchers and the University. It’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved.”

A relatively modest event in early April, the fourth annual Nano Summit at the University’s new Inn & Conference Center, may have offered an unintended preview of the opportunities to come. More than 30 UMass Lowell faculty members, headed by the two co-directors of the University’s Nanomanufacturing Center, presented the results of their research on a bevy of such kindred topics as nanoelectronics, nanomedicine and nanomaterials, as well as some of the health and environmental benefits that could come from these. In attendance at the event were representatives from such UMass Lowell industry partners as Nypro, Raytheon, Konarka and Albright Technologies – one of whom, a speaker from Nypro, delivered the keynote address on “Doing Business with UML.”

The Chancellor, in opening the event, announced the ETIC’s scheduled groundbreaking, and the projected completion date of fall 2012. After predicting that the Center would strengthen an already-vibrant University-industry partnership, create new jobs and “help spawn entire new industries,” he concluded his remarks on a note that speaks to the importance of the role of this long-awaited new building:

“The future of Lowell, the Merrimack Valley and the Commonwealth will emerge from this new research and learning center.”

— Chancellor Marty Meehan
Classrooms, Labs and Residence Halls – the Changes Are Everywhere You Look

While most of the buzz lately has been about the two big-ticket additions in the works – the new South Campus academic building and the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center (ETIC), both due to be serving students within two years – other major changes have been going on as well, just a little more quietly. Taken together, though, their impact on the lives of UMass Lowell students is no less dramatic – and perhaps even more pervasive.

There is almost no campus building, or dimension of life, that hasn’t been addressed. Probably the most visible has been the top-to-bottom refitting of the 18-story Fox Hall, the University’s (and the city’s) tallest building, whose $11.8 million renovation project, featuring the addition of 119 beds and a new student lounge, was completed by the start of the fall semester last September. The upgrade also included seven-day-a-week cleaning services for the building, an improved security system, residential-use kitchens, expanded air conditioning, code-compliant elevators and a revamped hot water system. Among the changes are new housing units – many of these strategically clustered to allow cohorts of students with common interests to share “living-learning communities” (see related story on page 19) that include their own bathrooms and lounges.

A second major initiative has come on the academic front. The addition of 80 more “smart” classrooms, funded by federal stimulus money, brings the University to the 90 percent mark (as of this writing) in the share of its total classrooms that meet this criterion – being equipped with the level of technology that allows faculty to easily present and collaborate electronically. With conversion work still underway, the 100 percent mark will be achieved by the time classes open in the fall.

A “smart” (or “Tier 1”) classroom is equipped, at a minimum, with a computer, digital camera, DVD player, laptop and network connections, and a system to control all this from the lectern. Some classrooms (“Tier 1+”) also include a “Smart Technologies Symposium,” or interactive touchscreen that can be used to save, share or modify class material. Equipped with such a system, a professor can now, for instance, lecture from a series of Powerpoint images on the touchscreen she controls, making changes or additions as the need arises – which then appear instantly on an overhead projector screen. From there, they can then be printed, e-mailed or transferred to the Web.

“It definitely makes learning more interesting” says Jessica Provan, a senior English major. “A professor is finally able to show you the clip she’s talking about, or show a picture he’s talking about, or play a song.”

Other new initiatives, large and small, have been taking place all over campus. In Weed Hall, rebuilt computer labs, as well as a freshened, repainted, redesigned lobby that— for very little money – has turned a big, empty space into a gathering place for students. A remodeled Admissions Office in Dugan; in Pasteur, a new meeting room and lounge for management students; in McGauvran, new elevators and a refurbished counseling center.

Close to half a million dollars has been spent, campus-wide, on new computers and software. A fiber network between the North and South campuses has been upgraded, as has the connection between North and East. Bandwidth has been expanded in residence halls and other buildings; computers and software have been added or upgraded in virtually every academic building.

The South Campus dining room has been freshened and refurbished, with new chairs and tables, remodeled serving stations and a bright, colorful student mural in the lobby. There is more office space for nursing faculty in O’Leary, a new screen and projector for the Durgin concert hall; new laboratories in Finanski and Olsen.

On the campus-safety end of things, pedestrian crosswalks have been striped in a number of locations, including on University Avenue and Riverside Street on the North Campus and on Broadway on the South. The University Police Department has been refitted with new computers, monitors, scanners and cameras – enabling police to maintain a secure environment, and high-speed connections, among and throughout the three campuses – as well as seven new officers.

All this, and much more, has occurred within the past 16 months, despite funding cuts that have hobbled much of the state.

Clearly, the campus is on a roll – and with the ETIC and academic building scheduled to open in two years, there’s no sign of a slowdown in sight.
Chen Named Vice Provost for Research

Prof. Julie Chen has been appointed the vice provost for research following a national search, raising the role to a permanent, rather than interim, position. In making the announcement, Provost Ahmed Abdelal said, “The University is fortunate indeed to secure her leadership in advancing research and scholarship as we launch our newly developed strategic plan.”

The UMass Lowell campus spent a total of $56.7 million on research last year. For the entire University of Massachusetts system, research spending hit an all-time high of $489.1 million in 2009—a growth rate that has significantly outpaced the national average in recent years.

Besides the $4 million defense appropriations (see adjoining article on page 25) for nanomanufacturing of functional sensors, bringing the total appropriations to $9 million for this project, the nano-based research at UMass Lowell continues to expand with the $12 million, five-year renewal of the Center for High-rate Nanomanufacturing, a collaboration with Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire, funded by the National Science Foundation.

Two rapidly expanding areas of research are cyber forensics, which reached $1 million in expenditures last year, and clean energy research, at more than $2 million. The work in wind, solar and nuclear energy includes workforce development.

“Research creates new knowledge,” says Chen. “We want our students to be learning at the leading edge and our goal is to expand involvement of undergraduates in research activity.”

Chen was educated at MIT, receiving her Ph.D. in mechanical engineering in 1991. She served on the faculty of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at Boston University before joining UMass Lowell in 1997. From 2002 to 2004, she served at the National Science Foundation as Program Director of the Materials Processing and Manufacturing and the Nanomanufacturing Programs.

Chen has also been a NASA-Langley Summer Faculty Fellow, a visiting researcher at the Ecole Nationale Superieure d’Arts & Metiers in Paris, and a three-time invited participant in the National Academy of Engineering, Frontiers of Engineering Program. Since 2005, Chen has served as a co-director of the UMass Lowell Nanomanufacturing Center, and was responsible for its state-funded Center of Excellence component. Since 1997, she has also been co-director of the UMass Lowell Advanced Composite Materials and Textile Research Laboratory.

UMass Lowell Making Waves for ‘Surfers’ and TV Watchers

UMass Lowell is catching the attention of media outlets near and far, social and traditional. In particular, 2010 Commencement— and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell’s address to the Class of 2010, his introduction by New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and their joint press conference at the ceremony—garnered more than 1,800 mentions in publications such as The New York Times, Sports Illustrated and the Associated Press.

The Associated Press story alone was picked up by nearly 200 newspapers around the country, including the Washington Post, Forbes, Newsday and the San Francisco Chronicle. Footage of the ceremony, the press conference and interviews aired on Boston TV stations, ESPN, Comcast SportsNet and NESN, as well as on radio stations WEEI, WBZ and WCAP.

Throughout the year, UMass Lowell faculty members have been quoted in longstanding pillars of national media, including Time, Business Week, USA Today and the Washington Post. Topics included the impact of chemicals in plastics (Prof. Joel Tickner), the use of the word “we” by married couples (Prof. Doreen Arcus) and stock buy-backs (Prof. William Lazonick).

When pundits considered Chancellor Marty Meehan a top contender to fill the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy’s senate seat, the news hit The New York Times and most other national publications. Boston-based TV stations interviewed Meehan and the Boston Globe covered his possible candidacy several times.

Additionally, student athletes have appeared in Sports Illustrated, CBS Sports, ESPN and New England Sports Network, among other outlets.

Other stories covered widely included the opening of the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, the transformation of the Tsongas Arena to the Tsongas Center and the groundbreaking of the new Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center building.

“Exciting times on campus attract positive media attention which results in more people learning how incredible this university is,” says Patti McCafferty, chief public affairs officer. “This helps to raise the institution’s image and profile, while also encouraging prospective students to pursue a UMass Lowell education.”
For all the new buildings and fresh initiatives sprouting up at the University these days, in the end it comes down to numbers – you have to bring the students to the campus in the fall, and keep them there through succeeding years, if your story is going to be successful.

By this measure, almost more than any other, the UMass Lowell story is a smashing, and still unfolding, success.

It begins with undergraduate enrollment – which increased last year by 10 percent, highlighted by a 2009 freshman class of just fewer than 2,500, the largest in the University’s history. On the graduate level, the combined total of master’s-degree and doctoral enrollments showed a 12 percent increase over the past two years, total enrollment across all classes has grown 17 percent – while new undergraduate students have increased 25 percent.

Some academic majors have seen an especially strong spike. In the College of Management, for instance, in the Spring 2009 semester, undergraduate enrollment in business-

Continued
related majors was up nearly 13 percent over last year – a jump the college’s associate dean, Frank Andrews, feels is no accident:

“Our College of Management’s reputation for training students to enter that field is growing,” says Andrews, noting that the college is projecting another enrollment increase this fall, based in part on strong interest by business students – potential transfers – at nearby Middlesex and Northern Essex community colleges.

Meanwhile, the freshman retention rate (the percentage of freshmen who return for their sophomore year) has risen to 81 percent, more than 20 percent higher than the national average of public doctoral universities, according to ACT, the independent educational assessment organization. “That’s a very high number for a public institution,” Chancellor Marty Meehan told a reporter last fall. “I think if we can get it up a little higher, we can compete with anyone at any time.”

“It’s been huge. I’ve been here 32 years, and I can’t remember anything like it,” says Charlotte Mandell, vice provost for undergraduate education.

The focus now, says Mandell, will be on increasing the rate of transfer students. “That’s our big push at the moment,” she says. “Transfers tend to know more what they’re looking for; they’re not just shopping around” – and as a result, are more likely to enroll once accepted.

The goal, Mandell says, will be to “increase the transfer numbers while stabilizing the level of new freshmen.” There were 936 transfer students last fall, a 14 percent jump over 2008-09.

“The key is, as we raise our enrollment numbers, we need to try at the same time to increase our resources – space and faculty – to accommodate all the new students,” she says. “That can be a delicate balance, but it looks like we’re pretty well on pace.”

Indeed. With a new residence hall and sports and entertainment arena already up and running, a new research building and academic building both roughly two years away (see related
stories), and improvements across the campus in everything from athletics to dining rooms and computer labs, the growth, it would seem, is more than keeping pace.

“Academically, there’s more opportunity in the classroom than ever before,” said Kerri Johnston, director of undergraduate admissions, shortly after the start of school last fall. “And more internships being offered. And student life — with nearly 120 student clubs now, and the [residence hall] living and learning communities — has probably never been richer. All in all, I think we’re just making ourselves more attractive, and more visible. And it’s showing some results.”

The increase in enrollment, and in student diversity — as well the parallel growth of the campus and its resources — was all a part of Meehan’s vision. The Chancellor has been pursuing a path of expansion almost since the day he arrived on campus three years ago. Still, without the leadership of the Board of Trustees and UMass President Jack Wilson, who has been at the helm of the state university system since he took over from William Bulger in the summer of 2003, the path to growth could hardly have been as smooth.

Wilson, who has announced that he will step down next summer, has guided the five-campus system to a unity and cohesion it never knew before. In the process, he has more than tripled its endowment, increased its financial-aid pool to $138 million a year, and — perhaps most significantly — overseen a 14 percent enrollment increase, to nearly 66,000 students system-wide.

“Jack’s greatest accomplishment was his strategic vision of what the whole university system should look like, while preserving each campus’s autonomy,” said UMass Board Chairman and UMass Lowell alumnus Robert Manning ’84, on the occasion of Wilson’s retirement announcement last winter. “He has created a powerful team of people working together and rowing in the same direction.”

Diversity of Faculty, Staff Also On the Rise

And as the faculty grows to keep pace with demand, its diversity, more and more, is a mirror of the student body it serves. The numbers alone can’t tell the whole tale, but they are impressive. Nearly 16 percent of the full-time faculty and staff today identify themselves as minorities, up from 13 percent four years ago. Among African-Americans, the increase has been more than 60 percent.

“We’ve been making good progress the last four years, though it’s mostly been gradual,” said Director of Equal Opportunity and Outreach Oneida Blagg last fall.

In conjunction with the uptick in their numbers, Blagg says, members of underrepresented populations have been filling University positions at “progressively higher levels of authority” as the years have passed.

Jaime Nolan, the University’s new director of multicultural affairs, who came to UMass Lowell 18 months ago from Colgate — where she had been for 10 years — was drawn here, she told a reporter late last year, by what she saw as the University’s “crystal clear” vision of its future.

“What’s happening on this campus takes inclusiveness beyond just the numbers,” she says. “What we’re doing here is creating a place that’s truly welcoming, where people feel a sense of connection. I can’t think of anything more important or valuable than that.”
Wayfinding. It’s a Good

Julius Caesar is famously quoted as having said, “I came. I saw. I conquered.”

Unfortunately, many prospective UMass Lowell students have been known to say, “I came. I didn’t see. I went home.”

That, in a nutshell, was the impetus for a project, called Wayfinding, that the University embarked on last fall to solve the problem faced by many first-time visitors who become lost in the tangle of surrounding highways and the streets of Lowell en route to meetings or tours at the University.

The problem has been felt most keenly by the Admissions office.

Admissions Director Kerri Johnston says, “We offer daily campus tours to all prospective students. The tours are one of the biggest influences as to whether students decide to apply to the school. We want that experience to be a positive one from the time they arrive until they leave.

“There’s nothing worse than when a family arrives after they’ve been driving around for an hour and they’re agitated and frustrated. It’s hard for them to look at the University and all that it has to offer.”

Indeed, some potential students have been known to just give up and go home.

Jean Robinson, who co-manages the Wayfinding project, which was implemented by the Facilities Department, says, “On a typical day, Admissions gets four to six calls from people who have gotten lost. In an environment where our number one goal is to increase enrollment and help people feel welcome and reassured during their first visit, having to talk them to the campus by phone is not a good first step.”

First-time visitors frequently have trouble finding the University because they may not realize there are three campuses; it can be daunting for uninitiated drivers to make their way through the streets of Lowell; the University’s various destinations are divided by a river; and, while there are signs along the way, they often still leave the traveler perplexed.

So, last October, aided by federal stimulus funding, Facilities Executive Director Deborah Poody launched the Wayfinding project. Roll-Barresi Associates Inc. of Cambridge was selected from among three qualified firms to carry out the work.

Roll-Barresi specializes in signage and wayfinding, interpretive displays, corporate identity and marketing communications. Its list of clients ranges from a beach resort in Dubai to Harvard University, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Yale-New Haven Hospital.

The project began in November with input from three focus groups — one from each campus — made up of faculty, staff and students. The participants, especially the students, described the frustration they experienced when first coming to the University because of the lack of adequate signage and the fact that the three-campus configuration was confusing.

But solving the wayfinding problem was only one of the goals of the project, according to Jean Robinson.

“The second goal was branding,” she says, “and tying all three campuses together for the sense of connectivity and similarity. Third was to encourage people to do less driving around the campuses — to walk more or use shuttle bus transportation.”

Andrew Barresi, a principal of the firm, says his team began by driving the routes provided in the University website and following existing signs.

“We discovered a number of holes,” he says.

To simplify the trip for first-time visitors, the team settled on two primary routes to the University: either Route 3 or I-495, both leading to the Lowell Connector. From the Connector, visitors are directed to take the Throldike exit to Dutton Street to Father Morrisette Boulevard. Once at the perimeter of the University, visitors will find signs leading them to their destination campus.

“We found that made the most sense,” Barresi says. “Signs on highways and city streets should say ‘UMass Lowell,’ period. Once they reach the perimeter of the
University, we begin peeling the visitors off to a specific campus — North, South or East. And we’re using very simple language — North Campus. South Campus. East Campus. That’s it. We’re not talking Admissions or departments or colleges.”

The gateway to each campus will be marked by a large granite sign. Then, what Barresi calls “quieter, smaller and more detailed” signs will direct visitors to specific buildings and parking lots. Once visitors arrive at their building destination, they will be guided by directories to all offices, classrooms and other facilities. There also will be signs on rooms and in stairwells.

And all the signage, from the highways to the building directories, will be uniform in design. “One priority,” Barresi says, “is to apply the UMass brand identity uniformly across the board.”

The project also will include parking lot signage that will show visitors where they are in relation to campus buildings and how to get around easily on foot. Other signs will show all three campuses, with shuttle bus information and estimates of the time it takes to walk from one campus to another.

Although the plan consists of two primary ways to reach the University (Routes 3 and 495), signs also will be placed elsewhere in the event that visitors happen to approach by other roads, such as Route 38. In all cases, “trailblazing” signs will help motorists find their way through Lowell.

Barresi says the University took the lead in dealing with the state and the City of Lowell on the placement of signs.

“We’re really impressed with the active role they’ve taken. It’s the only way to do it. If the project is to be successful, that’s what’s required.”

In most cases, Barresi says, clients carry out these projects in two separate phases — exterior signage first and then interior.

But, he adds, “The University is taking a comprehensive approach, doing both at once — from the highway to the front door and through the door to individual rooms. That speaks to the boldness of the vision and the desire to solve their critical wayfinding issues as soon as possible.”

Jean Robinson says all exterior signs will be installed by the time students return in September, and the entire project should be finished by the end of the first semester. ❖
He’d arrived home from a business trip the night before, and would be off the next day on a fishing trip to Belize with his about-to-be-40-year-old daughter. They would be fishing on fly rods, for bonefish and tarpon. It’s kind of a tradition, he says. “All three of my girls, on their 40th birthdays, I try to do something really special,” says Barry Perry. “This one, my middle one, she said what she wanted was to go on a fishing trip with her old man – which, of course, I was very happy to make happen.”

He does quite a lot of fishing these days, along with clay-target shooting, some quail hunting and the occasional round of golf. There was a time when the prey he hunted were larger and farther afield – elk, rams and grizzlies, in Wyoming or the Yukon – but nowadays, allowing for exceptions around a daughter’s milestone birthday, he plans most of his excursions closer to his Pennsylvania home. “I’ve slowed down a little, I guess, but I still like to stay pretty active,” he says. “It’s not in my nature to sit home and watch TV and read the paper. That’s just not who I am.”

Perry is in his early sixties, four years into a very active retirement. In addition to the golf and the hunting and fishing trips, there are the hundreds of hours of travel and phone calls that go into his work as a member of four different company boards – which occupy him almost daily when he’s home, and can take him as far away as London. There are times, he concedes, when it can be grueling, and he’s planning to cut the directorships back to three – which
they taught you the practical application

as how I'd been taught at LT I –

Perry says. “And a lot of the reason, I

thankful for his LT I education.

occasions after – he had reason to be

almost from the first day, and for many

together still.

Perry's career unfolded. They remain

will eliminate the London commutes –

but on most days he'd probably tell you

he wouldn't want it any other way.

“It's the best way I know,” he says, “to

keep your head in the game.”

All of it – the elk hunting, the company

boards, the trips to Wyoming and

Belize – are light-years away from where

he began, more than four decades ago,

the son of a prison guard and a textile-

plant worker, an 18-year-old on scholar-

ship aid at the Lowell Technological

Institute.

From the start, he excelled: an honors

student, president of his fraternity, twice

listed in a Who's Who Among Students,

he graduated with a Bachelor of Science

degree in plastics engineering – and the

Dean's Key award – in the spring of 1968.

He'd also gotten married, toward the

end of his junior year, to Janice Perry

(no relation), a neighbor from Dart-

mouth and a schoolmate since sixth

grade, by then a student at sister-school

Lowell State. The two, who'd been a

couple since high school, would go on
to raise three daughters, all the while

uprooting and re-rooting and uprooting
again, more than a dozen times in all, as

Perry's career unfolded. They remain
together still.

His first job was with GE, where –

almost from the first day, and for many

occasions after – he had reason to be

thankful for his LT I education.

“I really hit the ground running there,”
Perry says. “And a lot of the reason, I

think, was how I'd been taught at LT I –

they taught you the practical application

of science, not only the facts and the

theories, not only the science for sci-

ence's sake, but the real, day-to-day,
ground-up practical end of things.

“Especially later, once I'd moved into

sales, I needed to be able to talk about

how things were actually used. And

because I'd learned to run a molding

machine, and I knew how a lathe

worked, I really had a big leg up.”

He stayed at GE for 22 years, leaving

in 1991 to join French chemical giant

Rhone-Poulenc, where he would remain,
as group vice president, a little more

than two years. In 1993, he moved to the

company at which he would spend the

final 13 years of his career, New Jersey-

based Engelhard Corp., a chemical and

metals firm which, although probably

best known for its development of the

first production catalytic converter in

the early 1970s, was a leader in a broad

range of products, from specialty pig-

ments to the ingredients in high-end

cosmetics.

Over the course of it all, the family

just kept on moving. They moved,
Perry estimates, 14 or 15 times, including

a five-year stint in Japan while he was

with GE. It was the kind of career mobi-

lity, he says, that comes with the territory

– but it can take a toll on families, a toll

that many don’t survive.

“It can bond you or break you – I've

seen it work both ways. And it bonded

us. We came through it tighter than

before,” he says. “The credit for that all

belongs with Janice. She put up with me,

she took care of our daughters, she rode

through all those moves – and some of

them were tough. She built our family,
she really did. She's a hell of a woman,

my wife.”

In January 2001, he was handed the

reins as Engelhard's chairman and CEO.

At the time, as he recalls it, the compa-

ny's stock was selling for roughly $16 a

share. Five years later, by the time the

BASF Group of Germany, the world's

largest chemical company, had completed

its hostile takeover, Engelhard's stock

(following two rebuffed offers) was

valued at $39 a share – resulting in a

total acquisition price of just under

$5 billion.

“The stock had languished,” he

remembers today. “This not only affected

the investment community, but also how

employees felt about the company, and

ultimately about themselves. We needed

to reposition the company and its

portfolio to mobilize growth.”

His team was able to do that, but

even so, it wasn't an easy time.

“They wanted me to stay on after the


spent all these years building up a com-

pany; you're about to change everything,

and I don’t need to be a part of that.’

It was a difficult time. But that's the way

things go. I just told myself – ‘Well, it

looks like it's time to move on.’ ”

So he retired – and the time of

directorships and fishing trips began.

“I've had my day in the sun,” Perry says

over the phone as he counts down the

hours till the Belize birthday trip. “It’s

time now to enjoy life a little – and to
do what I can to help others have

their day.”

Part of the helping he does these
days has come in the form of dollars:
the Barry W. Perry Plastics Engineering
Endowment Fund, which stands today
at more than $150,000, was enough this
year to award $1,000 each in tuition
aid to four UMass Lowell plastics
engineering majors.

“My parents didn’t have much — but
they gave me everything they could.
One of those gifts was a strong work
ethic. That, along with the financial
aid I got, is what made the difference
for me,” Perry says. “So that's all I'm
aiming to do – to give some kids who are
willing to work hard, but don’t have the
financial resources, the same advantage
I had.”

Barry Perry
The University raised more than $500,000 for student scholarships at its Commencement Eve Celebration at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center on Friday, May 28. The amount is the largest ever raised through an event on campus.

The evening kicked off with a special program presented by honorary degree recipients Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian, and her husband Richard Goodwin, a renowned author and presidential adviser. “A Conversation with Dick and Doris” was moderated by Joseph P. Kennedy II, the of the late Robert F. Kennedy and a former U.S. Representative. Hundreds of guests attended the gala, including alumni celebrating their 40th and 50th reunions. The night was also a special time to honor 19 student-award winners.

This year’s commencement speaker was Roger Goodell, commissioner of the National Football League, whose passionate speech touched all who attended. In addition to

From left:
1. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Bonnie Comley ‘81, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Richard Goodwin and Alan Lightman
2. Julie Chen, Roger Goodell, Paul Sheehy and Molly Sheehy ’60
3. Roger Goodell, Richard and Nancy Donahue, Marty Meehan
4. Beth Kennedy, MaryJo Leahey ’37, ’08 (HD), Joe Kennedy
5. Larry Ardito ’69, Linda Carpenter ’89, Yana Shapiro and Bernie Shapiro ’56
6. Louis ’74 and Kris ’74 Beaudette, James and Trish O’Donnell
7. Richard Goodwin and Student Government Association President Mike Mizzoni
8. Peter and Kathy Allen ’77
9. Ted McPhee ’69 and University President Jack Wilson
10. Cynthia and George ’61 Chambers
the Goodwins, this year’s honorary degree recipients were Roger Goodell’s father, the late U.S. Senator Charles Goodell, who was honored with a posthumous Doctor of Humane Letters degree, Alan Lightman, physicist, novelist and essayist known for his work linking science and the humanities; Gloria Ladson-Billings, author, researcher and professor of urban education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Distinguished Alumni Award winner Bonnie Comley ’81, renowned Broadway, film and TV producer.

50th Reunion Celebration


2. Enjoying the 50th reunion Lowell State festivities are, front row, from left: Jane Bartlett White, Susan Murray Holmstead, Mary Monaghan Phelps, Anne Crowe Sheeran, Molly Gleason Sheehy and Patricia O’Neil. Back row, from left: Geroma McKee Gurney, Donna Edgerly DiGennaro, Ann Hall Reusch, Mary Moynihan McCaffrey, Colette Nordberg Welch, Jeanne Thibault Dunn, Dennis DiGennaro, Roger Marchand, Barbara Baroni Flanagan, Mary Curran, Ellen O’Neill Miller, Helen Frawley Picanso and Lorane Hajjar.

On Saturday, May 29, National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell addressed the largest graduating class in the history of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, encouraging them to “create a vision, be determined and have a plan.”

“Your education is not over, it’s just beginning. But that’s a good thing. You’ve learned how to learn, now continue. Learn how to work with people, respect relationships, embrace change, don’t resist it,” said Goodell, who worked his way up to commissioner at the NFL from a job as public relations intern at the NFL, a position he secured not long after his own college graduation through an extensive letter-writing campaign to the league and all of its teams.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft introduced Goodell. “Roger continues to live by one of his father’s philosophies that you can’t go wrong when you are committed to doing what you think is right. I’m sure that [his parents] would be proud not for just what Roger has accomplished but the way that he has succeeded.”

Goodell and his brothers accepted a posthumous Doctor of Humane Letters degree for their father, the late U.S. Sen. Charles Goodell, a Republican who was elected to Congress in 1959 and appointed to the Senate following the assassination of U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1968. He established a solid record on issues such as civil rights, the war on poverty and education, and had a reputation for not compromising his values.

“My father had the courage to stick to his principles, no matter what the consequences. People may not know that initially he supported the Vietnam War. He always supported our troops. But over time he listened, listened to students like you. I want you to know that your voice is important,” Roger Goodell told graduates. “It was my father’s principles, integrity and character that left an important legacy. Remember, it’s not what you do, but how you do it. Have the courage to do what you believe in.”

Chancellor Marty Meehan presided over the ceremony, held at the UMass Lowell Tsongas Center, where a record number of graduates – nearly 2,400 – received bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

“William Butler Yeats said, ‘Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire.’ We hope that in your years at UMass Lowell that you have been filled up with learning – with concepts, with facts, with skills, with ideas,” Meehan told graduates. “But what is more important, we hope a fire has been sparked in you to take your learning and make the world a better place.”

Graduating senior Allison Geissert of Chelmsford, a member of the group
Nursing Students Without Borders that traveled to Ghana, Africa, served as student speaker.

“Each of us has been transformed here. I myself went from rollercoaster grades to the Honors Program.

“Each of us has a story of transformation. Each of us has a story of change that is yet to be told,” Geissert said. “Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.’ Graduates, imagine what a group this big can do. We have so much to offer …. Go out there and be the change you want to see.”

1. Distinguished Alumni winner Bonnie Comley ’81, center, is congratulated by Chancellor Marty Meehan and Executive Vice Chancellor Jacquie Moloney.
2. The 50th reunion class prepares to march in the Commencement procession.
3. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, left, and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft address the media backstage at Commencement.
4. The Chancellor’s Platform Party gathers back stage. From left: UMass President Jack Wilson; NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell; honorary degree recipients Richard Goodwin, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Alan Lightman and Gloria Ladson-Billings; Bonnie Comley ’81; and Chancellor Marty Meehan.
5. Keynote speaker and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell addresses the graduates.
7. Doctoral students prepare to receive Ph.Ds.
8. New graduates celebrate their achievements.
Fifty-seven plastics engineering students received financial support from 35 endowed scholarship funds for the 2010-11 academic year. The monetary values vary, but most of the scholarships are in the range of $1,000 per academic year.

“The Plastics Engineering Department has a long history of providing scholarships to its students,” says department Chair Robert Malloy. “This is something we are all very proud of. Many of these scholarship funds have been created thanks to the extreme generosity of our alumni, either collectively or as individual family funds. Several funds have been endowed by corporations, such as Autodesk Moldflow, Nypro, Sterilite, Eastman Kodak, New England Keyboard, Freudenberg NOK and Visteon Corporation.”

Malloy says 80 percent of the current recipients are undergraduates while 20 percent are graduate students. Among the recipients are students from other countries, including India, Indonesia, Thailand and Israel.

“One hundred percent of those who applied received scholarships,” he says, adding that eight faculty members helped, by establishing new endowed scholarship funds this spring.

The plastics engineering program at UMass Lowell was founded in 1954 as the very first program of its type in the country and it continues to be a leader in the areas of plastics engineering education and research. The department has a new graduate certificate program in plastics engineering fundamentals that is available online and on campus.

For more information, visit http://plastics.uml.edu.

57 Plastics Engineering Students Receive Scholarships

100 Percent of Applicants Get Financial Aid

Profs. Tayebi, Schott of Plastics Engineering Retire

The Plastics Engineering Department hosted a reception for Profs. Amad Tayebi and Nick Schott, who retired at the end of the spring semester. Tayebi and Schott joined the department in 1978 and 1971, respectively.

Both professors have created new endowed scholarships for plastics engineering students.

About 100 colleagues, students, alumni, family and friends were on hand to extend best wishes to the two long-time faculty members, who have 71 years of teaching experience between them. Tayebi and Schott joined other distinguished senior faculty members who had retired, including Prof. Rudy Deanin, who began his career at Lowell Tech in 1967 and retired in 2008.

Prof. Robert Malloy, chair of the department, plans to have portraits of these professors put on display in the department’s hallway. “This is a unique opportunity for our alumni, who have fond memories of Profs. Tayebi, Schott and Deanin, to help fund the commissioning of these portraits by local artists,” says Malloy.

Contact Malloy at (978) 934-3435 or Robert_Malloy@uml.edu.
Scholarships

Criminal Justice Student Receives Scholarship Award

It’s the first established scholarship of its kind awarded to criminal justice majors at UMass Lowell. This year’s recipient of the Lt. Col. Michael B. Shanahan Memorial Scholarship Fund, Awilda Pimental ’11, said the news “brought her to tears.” At a special reception in April, Pimental expressed her gratitude to Lt. Col. Shanahan’s family, friends, and colleagues.

“I am so honored and humbled to receive this award. Lt. Col. Michael B. Shanahan was a hero, a true legend. I can only dream to be like him. I will always do my best to continue (the legacy) of your honorable husband,” she said.

Shanahan, a 1985 alumnus of the University, was a four-year member of the Marine Corp., serving two tours of duty in the Vietnam War. Attaining the rank of sergeant, he received numerous awards and was honorably discharged in 1970. In 1971, he joined the Massachusetts State Police and retired after 25 years of service, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. Shanahan lost a valiant battle with cancer in 2006.

In 2008, Shanahan’s wife, Diane, established the scholarship in her husband’s name. In less than a year, with the support of family, friends, colleagues and numerous law enforcement agencies and businesses, the scholarship has reached endowment status, placing it in perpetuity and creating a lasting tribute to her late husband.

“I am so touched that Mike’s legacy will continue to motivate students in the field of criminal justice. The recipients we have chosen truly exemplify who Mike was: accomplished, dedicated and hardworking. Our family wishes them continued success,” she says.

Steve Parent ’11 was the first student to receive the scholarship in 2009. “I am thankful to the University and especially to the Shanahan family. As an independent student paying for college, this help goes a long way,” he says. “I will be the first in my family to graduate with a college degree and plan to seek a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force while pursuing a master’s degree in criminal justice.”

Eve Buzawa, chair of the Criminal Justice Department, said, “Our faculty and students are extremely impressed with Diane and her dedication to the memory of her husband and to our department. Thanks to her commitment, our department now has not only its first scholarship, but its first endowed scholarship. We are deeply indebted to her for her generosity.”

Nearly 600 Faculty and Staff Contribute to Annual Appeal

Since 2008, the number of faculty and staff who have generously given to the UMass Lowell Faculty and Staff Appeal is nearly 600, reaching close to $730,000 in total giving.

To date, more than half of University employees have contributed toward the Advancement goal of 100 percent participation from all areas on campus. To this end, the faculty of the Graduate School of Education has committed to 100 percent participation while the Plastics Engineering Department took this challenge head-on and already has achieved 100 percent participation from all of its faculty and staff.

“We are grateful to the faculty and staff for their generous support. Especially with shrinking state resources, private contributions are essential for us to achieve our goal to become a world class institution,” says Chancellor Marty Meehan.

In addition to individual giving, over the last five years 31 endowments have been established by or on behalf of a faculty or staff member, totaling nearly $3 million. The UMass Lowell Faculty and Staff Endowment Scholarship, which supports scholarships for the children of UMass Lowell employees, totals more than $33,000.

While many employees contribute through personal checks or credit cards, there also has been an almost 50 percent jump in the number participating in the payroll deduction option in 2009-2010.
Alumni Events

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.
1. New York City alumni gathered to see Come Fly Away on Broadway on May 19. From left: Rosemary Foley '92, Kathy Laska, Phyllis Adler, Ellen Murphy Meehan, Warren Moss ’45, Ilse Moss, Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78, Layla Meyer, Ed Adler ‘53, Stewart Lane, Bonnie Comly ’81, Gloria LaTorre, Don LaTorre ’59, ’07 (H), Rudy Morin ’60, John Davis, Carol Cohen, Ehud Laska ’75, Leah Schneider, Mort Schneider ’58, Dan Quinlan ’72, Betty Morin, Rosemary Bliss, Jack Bliss, Virginia Quinlan ’72, Ken Cohen ’57, Diane Earl, Heather Makrez ’08, ’09, Nancy DiRocco, Peter DiRocco ’90. (Not pictured: A. Nick Minton and Cheri Minton.)

2. A group of California alumni gathered for a wine tasting at Cellar 360 in San Francisco in February.


6. Gathered at the Alumni Showcase & Rob Manning Speaker Series are, from left, Elizabeth Boudreau ’10, Kathy Allen ’77 and College of Management Dean Kathy Carter.

7. Alumni and their families gathered at Alumni Night at the River Hawks Hockey Game.


10. Enjoying a Young Alumni Reconnection Road Trip at the Mambo Grill in Lowell are, from left, Harsha Sheshanna ’06; Heather Makrez ’06, ’08, associate director of Programs and Alumni Services; and Keith Sorota ’07.

11. Joining Chancellor Marty Meehan, center, at the March 16 Champagne Reception at The Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., are David Pernick and Mary Jo Leahey.

12. Taking in a Red Sox spring training game in Ft. Myers, Fla., are, from left: Noel Charette ’96, Jerry Byrne, Steve Mercier ’82, Mary Jo Spinola ’66, and Frank Spinola ’66.
13. Enjoying an alumni gathering, at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club in Florida, March 18 are, from left, Frank Talty ‘77, Patricia Sullivan Talty ‘78, Charlie Hoff ‘66, Michelle Healy ‘68, Jim Healy ‘67, Chancellor Marty Meehan ’78.


15. Faculty and alumni of the plastics engineering class of 1980 gather for their 30th reunion at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center on June 12. Front row, from left, Dennis Roddy, Rick Strand, Carol Royal, Debbie Hauser, Prof. Amad Tayebi, Prof. Nick Schott, Prof. Aldo Crugnola, Prof. Steve Driscoll, Prof. Steve Orroth, Prof. Bob Malloy and Phil Canale. Middle row, from left: Mark Yates, Julie Carignan, Joe Rapuano, Ralph Guyer, Mary Cotting Godwin, Eamonn Hobbs, Roger Temple, Cathy Ogar Ruiz, Phil Tessier, Barbara Stefani Levitt and Kevin St. Cyr.

Back row, from left, Jeff Rondeau, Tom Peeler, Paul Donga, Doug Waterman, Brian McGregor, Bob Speirs, Jim Dandeneau, Jim Nason, Mark Thomas, Bill Geary, Angelo Mansilla, Mike Haley, Andy Routais and Mike Heath.

Over the past 40 years, students from India have come to study in Lowell: first textile engineering at the then Lowell Technological Institute, and now plastics engineering at UMass Lowell.

“Prof. Stephen Driscoll took a lead role in encouraging this interchange,” says plastics engineering Prof. Nick Schott. “Over the past four decades, he has made more than a half dozen trips to India where he has a long-standing interaction with CIPET, a government institute for studying plastics engineering and technology.”

As part of the University’s efforts to recruit foreign undergraduate and graduate students, reconnect with alumni in their native countries and solicit scholarship support, the Plastics Engineering Department sent a faculty contingent to India in early March. The team included Schott and Asst. Profs. Stephen Johnston and Ramaswamy Nagarajan.

“A group of about 70 alums showed up for the reunion at the Taj Lands End Hotel in Mumbai,” says Schott. “Former Engineering Dean Krishna Vedula, now special assistant to the provost for international partnerships, also flew in for the occasion. It was great to see many alumni and their spouses and family members.”

The team also drove to Silva SSN, as well as the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat to visit some of the local plastics manufacturing companies. “Many of our alums are entrepreneurs who have their own businesses founded by them or by their parents or even grandparents,” says Schott.

One of the first companies the team visited was Rajiv Plastics, owned by the family of Hemant Minocha ’99.

The firm, which has an annual revenue of $20 million, has multiple plants in India that supply color concentrates and plastics additives throughout the country.

“Hemant illustrates how our alums combine their book-gained knowledge with the industrial experience they gained in the U.S. to become innovators in their own country,” says Schott.

The team also visited Nilkamal Plastics, a $200-million company north of Mumbai owned by Nayan Parekh ’94. The company, which processes about 400 tons of resins a month, is one of the largest makers of plastic furniture and bins and crates used in manufacturing and shipping.

The team also toured a number of universities, as well as the Indian Institute of Packaging and the United States-India Educational Foundation in Mumbai.

About 70 plastics engineering alumni gathered for lunch and “A Grand Reunion” at the Taj Lands End Hotel in Mumbai.

Plastics professors, from left, Ramaswamy Nagarajan, Nick Schott and Stephen Johnston visit at a Mumbai hotel with Nayan Parekh ’94, owner/director of Nilkamal Plastics and Mihir Contractor ’95, ’96, senior vice president at Nilkamal.
1937
Betty S. Keller, who recently turned 94, says, "It is amazing to me to read all of the wonderful things the students and graduates are involved in. I'm glad to have lived long enough to see and enjoy this modern world. Aloha nui (a big aloha).

1958
Athena Letsou and Kathryn Connors Tymorek spent Christmas together at the Florida home of Kathryn's son, John, and his family. Since her retirement from teaching in Lowell, Athena has made Boca Raton her winter home.

1964
Ann Chandonnet, who lives in Vail, Colo., has written a Civil War era history that explores the lives of two Union infantrymen and the woman they both love. Titled "Write Quick: War and a Woman's Life in Letters, 1835-1867," it was published by Winona Press of Wilmington, N.C., in both soft and hard cover.

1969
Steve O'Brien is the new assistant superintendent of Salem Public Schools. His career experience has also included teaching social studies, serving as principal at international schools in Greece and Indonesia, and serving as a high school principal in Pittsfield. While in Pittsfield, he met William Cameron, who was assistant superintendent of schools there before he became the Salem superintendent in 2007. Steve and his wife, Maureen, live in Winchester. They have a daughter, Justine, a freshman at Assumption College.

1977
Brian Rist has been named the small businessman of 2010 by the South Florida District of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The award recognizes his efforts and achievements in creating and sustaining a successful business while simultaneously creating meaningful employment for a significant number of people. Brian is owner and CEO of Storm Smart Industries, the largest hurricane protection company in Ft. Myers. In addition to his Small Business award, Brian also recently received the 2010 Corporate Leadership Award from Gov. Charlie Crist.

1977
Karen Devereaux Melillo has earned the distinction of being named a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. A professor and chair of the Department of Nursing, she is planning to publish the second edition of “Geropsychiatric and Mental Health Nursing” (2010) with Jones & Barlett Publishers. She also serves as principal investigator on Bring Diversity to Nursing, a project aimed at recruiting, retaining and graduating minority and economically disadvantaged students from Lowell and Lawrence.

1978
Robert J. Manning, chief executive officer of MFS Investment Management in Boston, recently assumed the additional post of chairman. In that capacity, he succeeds Robert C. Pozen who became chairman emeritus on July 1. Manning also chairs the UMass Board of Trustees.

1981
Rachel Davis Chaddock, who most recently had been a branch manager for Caritas Home Care in Waltham, has been named director of the Visiting Nurses Association in Lowell. Her professional career of nearly three decades has included a period as liaison at St. John's Hospital in Lowell and seven years, from 1982 to 1989, with the Greater Lowell VNA. Rachel says the new post appealed to her “because I’ve been there before, this is my community and it’s an opportunity to give back.” She and her husband, Steven, have two daughters, Stephanie, 15, and Ashley, 13.

1983
Carol Ann Lee is the assistant superintendent for Human Resources in Katonah-Lewisboro, N.Y. She assumed the post in February following the retirement of Deputy Superintendent Karen Benedict. Carol, a Cross River resident, was an administrator at the Ossining School District before accepting this new position.

1987
Wayne Pastore of Sonus Networks, Inc., a developer of telecommunications technologies, has been promoted to the post of full-time chief financial officer. A senior financial executive with the Westford-based company since 2008, Wayne had served as Sonus’ interim CFO since February. He joined Sonus in February 2008 as director of business-process improvement and became the company’s chief accounting officer and corporate controller in May of that year.

1991
Jim Morrison, a former Leitch Hall RA, and Kelli Murphy were married last December in Newton. The couple lives in Boston.
Andrew Szava-Kovats recently released a new documentary movie, “The Last Farm in Lowell,” about Rollye’s farm. More information can be found at www.thelastfarminlowell.info

1992
Paul Martin, who lost his leg in a car accident soon after graduation and who later wrote a book, “One Man’s Leg,” about his life experiences, has written a second book, “Drinking from My Leg.” The latter work brings readers up to date on his accomplishments as a world record-setting Ironman tri-athlete and participant in a world championship bicycle race. “One Man’s Leg” had described his life beyond athletics — from a misspent youth and time spent in a foster home to lost love and the death of a best friend to the glory of representing his country in sports. It concluded in the year 2000 with his participation in the Sydney Paralympics. For more details, visit www.paulmartinspeaks.com and www.onemansleg.com

1997
Spenser Peavey, director of Student Activities and Orientation at Alfred State College in New York, has been awarded regional showcase honors by the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA). He was recognized for a presentation he made to the NODA that described how Alfred State incorporates both traditional and new media in conducting student orientation. The presentation earned him Region IX showcase honors, designating it as the one that will represent the region at the national conference in November. Prior to joining Alfred State, Spenser served in a similar capacity at St. Bonaventure University. He has been a therapist for Port Psychological Services in Port Allegheny, Penn.; coordinator/therapist for Beacon Light Behavioral Health Services of Bradford, Penn.; and therapist for the Mentally Ill Chemically Addicted unit of the Bradford Regional Medical Center.

2002
Mary M. Ardua, a Ph.D. alumna and former Nursing Advisory Board member, was the 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Nurse Practitioner Award from the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. Mary is an assistant professor at the Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing.

Kerri Johnston, director of Undergraduate Admissions, and her husband, Mike, welcomed their daughter, Alyssa Ruth, into the world on Friday, Feb. 19. Alyssa weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz., measuring 19.25 inches long.

2003
Judy Gold, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the College of Health Professions and Social Work at Temple University, has conducted studies suggesting that neck and back pain among teens and young adults may be connected to computer use and texting. “It’s a new issue and I think the jury’s still out,” she says, adding that more research is needed. Judy presented her findings at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association held recently in Philadelphia. Her presentation can be found at livescience.com.

2005
Michael Ehrhardt has been named Head of School at Marshall Preparation, a college prep school in Duluth, Minn. Mike, who grew up in Lakeville, Minn., has been an educator for more than 16 years, having been a teacher, administrator and director of information technology at various schools, including posts in London, Brazil and Cyprus. He has a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf's College, a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, a master's degree in educational administration from UMass Lowell and a doctorate of educational administration from the University of Minnesota.

2007
John Kneeland has written a play for the Ghostlight Theater Co. of New England in Salem, N.H. Titled “3 Wise Men,” it is the story of a young man, the eldest of three brothers, who realizes it is up to him to take care of the family after the father dies. Kneeland says the plot concerns the brother’s struggle “to keep his family together while dealing with people from his past who try to get him back into the wrong lifestyle.”

Jessica Long and Sean Grady were married March 13 in Sturbridge after nine years of dating. They live in North Providence, R.I., where Jessica works at Johnson & Wales University and Sean works for Home Depot.
Athletics

Shot Putter Jacqui Barrett Snags National Title

By Bob Ellis

She just wanted to be Jacqui Barrett, shot putter. Instead, she is Jacqui Barrett, 2010 Shot Put NCAA National Champion. UMass Lowell senior Barrett was not at commencement on May 29. She and several of her teammates were competing in the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championship in Charlotte, N.C. Barrett’s second of six throws during the afternoon landed 50 feet and 8.25 inches from its launching point – the longest throw of the day.

“When I threw 50 feet,” says Barrett, “I knew it was going to be good enough for first or second, but nobody wanted it more than I did.”

That gave Barrett the NCAA title; it also was a new UMass Lowell school record.

Barrett is the women’s track and field program’s third ever national champion and the second in four years. Distance runner Nicole Plante won the 10,000 meters in 2007, and Jane Servi claimed the high jump title at the 1988 NCAA indoor championship.

“Jacqui came into this meet much different,” says UMass Lowell Throws Coach Barbara Smith. “She walked in like she belonged here. She was unbelievable, she has so much confidence.”

The school record was important to Barrett. The record, 50 feet and 8 inches, was held by UMass Lowell Hall of Famer Heather Oldham.

Barrett and Oldham went to the same high school and, according to Barrett, “I’ve always been Jacqui Barrett, the best since Heather Oldham. So my goal is just to be Jacqui Barrett, shot putter, not the shadow. I’ve always pushed myself to do the best I can.”

And Barrett has pushed herself. “I’ve thrown in the rain, on really hot days. It gets really tiring, but I know that if I don’t practice, I’m not going to get better,” she says.

All of that work has paid off. Barrett finished second at the indoor championships and stayed focused through the outdoor season. Her mental approach has changed as well. “I think it’s my confidence, just growing up and being more mature,” Barrett said. “I’ve decided to be more positive this year. From day one I just put everything into practice. I’m here for a reason.”

Women Sports Reporters Visit Campus

An impressive panel of women sportswriters and sportscasters visited campus in April to take part in an event called “Women TV Reporters: Stuck on the Sidelines?”

The event, hosted by the Athletics Department – along with the Division of Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts – was part of a Politics and Sports series, organized by Assoc. Prof. Jeffrey Gerson of the Political Science Department.

The speakers were Lesley Visser, Jackie MacMullan and Carolyn Manno, all of whom discussed their experiences working in the field of sports broadcast journalism through the years, including hardships they’ve faced and accomplishments they’ve achieved.

Visser is widely considered to be a pioneer of her profession, as she was one of the first prominent and successful women in the field of sports reporters, sportscasters and sportswriters. MacMullan, a former Boston Globe columnist, also has contributed to ESPN, Sports Illustrated and NBA.com. Recently, she also published the book “When the Game Was Ours,” with Magic Johnson and Larry Bird. Manno is a reporter and anchor for Comcast Sports Network and has also served as a sideline reporter for ESPN.

Although the number of women in TV sports is increasing, the number remains small. In 1991, fewer than 50 women were working as sportscasters out of 630 affiliate stations. The three major networks and nine cable networks employed 127 women in on-air sports positions in 2003, according to USA Today.
“A major success.”

UMass Lowell Men’s Basketball Head Coach Greg Herenda used those words used to describe the 2009-10 River Hawk basketball season.

Others might have described the season as a “roller coaster ride,” having included 20 wins (a 20-12 record) the Northeast 10 Conference Tournament Championship and a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

“Those three things,” says Herenda, “if someone offers you that on Oct. 15 [when college basketball teams begin practicing for the season], you take it and run. [This season] was a major success and another step in the building blocks of continued success.”

The “major success” was highlighted by an improbable run and championship win at the Northeast 10 Conference Tournament Championship. It was the team’s third such title in 10 years.

“Hard work” was the oft repeated phrase, a cliché, chanted by the team every time it broke from a huddle, every time the players returned to the floor following a timeout. “It’s what we’re built on,” says Herenda. “If we don’t work hard, we get beat.”

The River Hawks stumbled into the post season. They dropped three of their final four regular season games and entered the tournament as the seventh seed.

But then something happened.

“We all got ‘it’ at the right time,” says Herenda. “We built momentum and wound up winning games when it counted. If you continue to work hard, you get what you deserve and we’re a champion team and a championship program.”

UMass Lowell ran roughshod through the tournament field, winning all four of its games by double digits. Assumption, the highly ranked Bentley and Merrimack and Adelphi all fell victim to a smothering River Hawk defense and a multi weapon attack.

“The Bentley and Merrimack games are going to be looked upon as some of the best wins in the school’s history,” says Herenda.

UMass Lowell defeated Adelphi in the championship game, 73-58. The River Hawks received key contributions from variety of sources. Freshman Scotty Tavares- Taylor threw in 19 points, 11 in the second half of the game including 8 during an 11-3 run that put an exclamation point on the game and the season.

“I told Scotty after the game that I was glad he was a freshman,” Herenda said. “I think his inexperience helped him because I still don’t think he realizes exactly what he did in that situation.

He took over the game.”

Sophomore Kyle Caiola added 18 points and was named the Tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

“It’s hard to talk about individuals in a game like this,” says Herenda. “It was such a team effort.”

Basketball Team Learns Hard Work Pays Off

By Bob Ellis

River Hawks Season Tickets on Sale Now!

Season tickets for River Hawks hockey are now available for as low as $75.

Save on box office tickets and reserve your seats for all River Hawks home games.

Season packages include tickets to special events, such as the Meet the Team BBQ and Holiday Skate with the River Hawks. Plus, season ticket holders gain priority access to Hockey East tickets and 10 percent off all merchandise at home games.

Don’t miss your chance to reserve your seat now at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, featuring the new Hall of Fame Gallery and video scoreboard. There are discounted rates for alumni, faculty and staff, seniors and children. Visit www.goriverhawks.com for information.
Athletics

Of Note…

Inbar Inducted into Hall of Fame

Former basketball standout Elad Inbar was inducted into the UMass Lowell Athletic Hall of Fame during the 2010 Excellence Awards Night at the Costello Athletic Center in early May. Inbar, a native of Kiryat Haim, Israel, starred for the River Hawks from 2000 to 2004. He was the Division II National Player of the year in 2004 and is the River Hawks’ all time leading scorer with 2,099 points.

“Elad had a basketball IQ that was off the charts,” says former UMass Lowell Head Coach Ken Barer. “He was always thinking a play or two ahead of everybody else. He had an uncanny way of making difficult shots look easy and was the consummate team player.”

Six Sign Pro Deals

Six River Hawk hockey players signed professional contracts following the completion of their senior season at UMass Lowell.

Goaltender Carter Hutton signed an Amateur Try Out contract with the National Hockey League’s Philadelphia Flyers and began playing with the team’s American Hockey League affiliate, the Adirondack Phantoms, on weekends while attending class at UMass Lowell during the week. Hutton was then asked to report to Philadelphia, where he served as the team’s back-up goaltender, watching from the bench, as the Flyers battled to earn a spot in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. When his try out ended, Hutton signed with the NHL’s San Jose Sharks.

River Hawk Defenseman Nick Schaus also signed with San Jose and played with the club’s AHL affiliate in Worcester.

UMass Lowell captain Ben Holmstrom signed with the Flyers organization and played for Adirondack.

Two players signed on with American Hockey League clubs. Defenseman Jeremy Dehner played with the Norfolk Admirals and Goaltender Nevin Hamilton signed with the Providence Bruins.

Defenseman Barry Goers got a look at the bright lights of Las Vegas. He signed with the Las Vegas Wranglers of the East Coast Hockey League.

Rowing Elevated to Varsity

Women’s rowing was elevated to varsity status as an NCAA Division II sport, effective this fall. The newly renovated UMass Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse played a large role in the new status.

“I’m psyched that the boathouse is back up and the river is being used for what it is supposed to be used for,” said Olympic medalist and former UMass Lowell crew standout Shelagh Donohoe, now coach of the University of Rhode Island women’s crew team. “I’ve rowed all over the world and the Merrimack is still one of my favorite rivers. The natural resources between the river and the community are what will make the program successful. You can’t just put a rowing program anywhere.”

Summer on the Cape

The Cape Cod Baseball League has a well earned reputation for top-notch baseball played in a relaxed setting. It also has a reputation as a training ground for future major leaguers. Two UMass Lowell players are spending at least part of their summer playing baseball on the Cape.

Left-handed pitcher Jack Leathersich and third baseman Cam Kneeland have agreed to play for the Orleans Firebirds. Leathersich, a sophomore, has been a mainstay in the River Hawks pitching rotation for two years. He has struck out 125 batters in 127 innings of work and carries a career won-loss record of 10-6 with 4 saves. Kneeland came into his own during his sophomore season. He led the River Hawks in batting average, doubles, runs batted in and slugging percentage.

East Region Athletes of the Year

A couple of UMass Lowell track and field athletes have picked up some impressive honors. New graduates Jacqui Barrett and Ruben Sanca were named Division II East Region Athletes of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Barrett, a shot putter, earned the same honors during the indoor season. Sanca, a distance runner, is being honored in such fashion for the first time.

Were you a student-athlete at UMass Lowell?
If so, we need to hear from you!

Construction is underway of the UMass Lowell Hall of Fame Sports Gallery, which will include an interactive touchscreen enabling viewers to research former athletes from every era at UMass Lowell. Please send your name, sport and years played to Chris O’Donnell, Director of Athletic Media Relations: christopher_odonnell@uml.edu.
One of the big reasons that Gary Mucica enrolled at Lowell Tech in 1967 was the existence of a golf team. He returned to the University 32 years later, partly because he was tired of playing too much golf.

Now — after 30 years as a sales and marketing manager for Johnson & Johnson, and the Clorox Company — he’s the coach of a very successful UMass Lowell golf team, he teaches in the College of Management and he’s director of Graduate Management Programs.

“I retired from Clorox in May of 1999 and that summer I played so much golf that I almost couldn’t stand it,” Mucica says. “I was exhausted. About that time I met Dean (Kathy) Carter at some alumni function and she said, ‘You ought to come back and teach a course.’

“I said I’d teach one course for one semester and see how it worked out. I taught Marketing Fundamentals in the MBA program. It was twice as much work and three times as much fun as I thought it would be. That one course became two courses, and two courses became fulltime and that led to becoming director of Graduate Management Programs.”

Later, at the request of Athletics Director Dana Skinner, Mucica re-established the golf team that had gone out of existence in 1997.

“We went on a campus-wide search for players and found enough to get started,” Mucica says. “And we were decent from the get-go.” The team has had a Northeast 10 Conference all-star every year since the program was reinstated.

Mucica’s coaching philosophy is simple. “I put the best five guys on the course every week.”

He does this by using what he calls the Darwinian method — survival of the fittest. Before each tournament, the high scoring players from the previous week and the seven players who didn’t play the previous tournament, shoot an 18-hole round of medal play and the top scorers make the starting team the following weekend. Everyone knows whether they’re playing or not because of their individual performance. It’s good training for their after-college careers.”

The strategy seems to work. The River Hawks have gone to the NCAA regional tournament three straight years.

“Winning the Northeast 10 championship and getting to the NCAA tournament are the big goals each year,” the coach says.

To help fund the program, Mucica sends appeal letters to golfing alumni and the response about 25 percent and growing has been outstanding.

Mucica, who received the Francis Cabot Lowell Award Alumni Award in 2003 in recognition of his achievements in the business world and his support of the University, knows the value of giving back to the school.

In addition to supporting athletic programs every year and establishing an endowment to increase scholarships, he donated $100,000 during the college’s 50th anniversary to help fund the building of a new business school.
SRT Alums Make Beautiful Music Together

Greg Capolino ’00, Michael Verrette ’07, Sean Jeffrey ’07 and Chris Wilson ’04 are way too young to have met the Beatles, but their intimate knowledge of the Fab Four ranks right up there with that of the band’s most ardent fans.

The four sound recording technology alumni each played a part in developing Beatles: Rockband, a music-based game for Xbox 360, Microsoft, Playstation 3 and Nintendo’s Wii developed by Harmonix Music Systems. Rockband allows fans to pick up a guitar, bass, microphone or drum sticks and experience The Beatles’ extraordinary catalogue of music for themselves.

Capolino, Verrette, Jeffrey and Wilson work together for Harmonix in Cambridge. Capolino put his degree and significant industry experience to use as sound designer on the project.

“Basically, my job was to take the mix stems – or the individual parts of the music separated by instrument – that were coming in from Abbey Road studios, create tempo tracks throughout and allow for authoring – or creating – the ‘MIDI’ notes that become the ‘gems’ that flow down the screen and tell the player which buttons to press.”

Capolino also created voiceover editing in five different languages, so people who’ve never played Rockband can access a tutorial and hear instructions in their own language.

Verrette is director of production for Harmonix. In this role, he manages the production group on internal product development. “I worked with our teams to coordinate scheduling, testing and certification to make sure the game reached store shelves on time,” he says.

Jeffrey, who worked as part of Harmonix’ Quality Assurance Department, reviewed the timing and gem arrangements. “Rockband is full of true to life details that required significant research and a constant focus on detail,” he says, adding that he has since been promoted to the Audio Department.

Meanwhile, Wilson spent hours watching recordings of the hands of The Beatles as they performed. “We strove for realism in every aspect of the game,” he says. “We needed to make sure that the John, Paul, George and Ringo characters looked like they were actually playing their songs, and not some generic animation loop.”

Wilson and a colleague on the audio team were responsible for working with artists and computer coders to get the chord shapes and finger movements right. They worked through each of the game’s 45 songs, transcribing them into data that the game uses to run the hand animation system. “It was a lot of painstaking work, but I think it adds a lot of realism to the experience in a very subtle way,” he says.
Creative Careers of Designing Alumni: 10 Success Stories

Assoc. Prof. Karen E. Roehr created and curated a recent exhibit called "Working Proof" to promote the success stories of 10 graphic design graduates, and to inspire students to pursue an art degree as preparation for many viable career options.

Susan Tuyen ’04 is a marketing manager and graphic designer for Nightclub & Bar Conference & Trade Show. “I support the company through social media, website development, e-marketing, print advertising, conference materials and trade show signage,” she says. Tuyen recently joined forces with Scott Pilote ’04 to form SSquared Design, a firm that specializes in creating marketing strategies, designs and media.

Scott Cahill ’06 uses his talents to support Middlesex Community College’s in-house publications, earning awards for marketing, public relations and admissions advertising. “Working in an academic environment is very fulfilling,” he says. “Many designers go to work everyday, creating layouts for things like jewelry, food, and products people want to buy. Working for a college means that something I design may help someone decide to go back to school, change careers, or better their lives through education.”

Erik Bettencourt ’03 designs websites and creates user experiences for small to medium sized corporations. “I transform a client’s vision and objectives into an effective marketing tool to build their business and brand,” he says. His work for connect-health.org earned an award from the Massachusetts Innovation and Technology Exchange (MITX) in 2007.

Kohei Kanata ’03 is a footwear designer for Adidas, after years at Reebok. “I am responsible for all stages of the design process for the footwear – my focus is always on innovative and forward thinking design,” he says. Kanata’s work has been featured in publications including “Dime,” “Slam,” “Fuel Basketball,” and Japanese magazines “Gekkan Basketball,” and “Street Jack.” He’s won awards from the Best of New England (BoNE) show, and an award of excellence for outstanding design for Reebok Basketball.

Kevin Zwirble ’04 puts his artistic talent to work for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. “I communicate with member universities, design publications and event graphics and initiate branding campaigns,” he says. Zwirble’s logo work is featured in the upcoming book “LogoLounge6.”

Stephanie Wu ’04, a graphic designer for serena & lily, a small retail company known for bedding, décor and gifts, not only knows how to design homepages, collaborate with writers and marketing department colleagues, and create collateral, she also has learned how to say “no”.

“If I were giving advice to students, I’d tell them that there will always be a healthy push and pull between design and marketing, and designers and clients,” she says. “But there is value brought to a brand through great design that is hard to quantify. You need to know which battles are worth fighting for: you’re the designer – the expert – they are coming to you, so stick with your gut.”

Jennifer Skoropowski ’05 is an illustrator and artist with a passion for modern and mid-20th century design. After graduation, Jenn Ski (as she’s now known) started creating the paper and acrylic paintings that began to define her style. Her paintings and digital giclée prints are a critical and commercial hit, resulting in a relationship with the Lilla Rogers Studio (LRS) art agency.

“Through LRS, my abstract designs evolved into illustrations that have been licensed and published by a wide variety of clients including Scotties and Hallmark,” she says.

Soon after graduating, Steven Keating ’04 became a fulltime intern at Saucony, designing graphics. He created ads for “Runners World” catalogues for the running shoe line and all in-store collateral. Later, he moved into a position that split his time between graphic and footwear design.

“I was eager to learn the ropes of industrial design – I began working late nights sketching and learning the process of engineering shoes,” he says.

His diligence worked: Keating became one of four footwear designers to transform Saucony into an industry leading manufacturer. He recently accepted the position of senior designer for the running shoe division at Puma.

The hectic world of advertising is where David Lally ’04 spends his days.

“At Fuseideas, I’m constantly learning and being challenged to stay on top of new trends and technologies and finding the right point between creative vision, practicality, and a tight deadline,” says Lally, whose clients include HBO, Fox Sports, Massport and Phyto. “Being an art director is still something I’m surprised to be at this point: in this business, that takes hard work, a little talent, and, oftentimes, a lot of luck.”

Roehr’s pride in her students’ achievements is evident.

“I wanted to share the significant and distinctive talents of the University’s graphic design graduates and to help people realize that when they surf the web, pick up a salt shaker, open an invitation, grab a tissue, lace up their sneakers, open a course booklet or check out a concert poster, they may be in contact with the creative work of one of our alumni,” she says.
‘80 Alumnus Mixes Law and Engineering

William Geary ’80 didn’t follow the typical career track for a plastics engineering graduate.

“I am not an engineer,” he says. “However, the training in science and engineering I received at UMass Lowell is essential for my career as an intellectual property attorney as it requires an understanding of science and engineering, and the ability to learn new applications of science and engineering.”

Geary obtained his bachelor’s degree in plastics engineering from the University of Lowell in 1980 and his law degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1983. He is currently a partner at Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, a 130-year-old law firm that is one of the largest in Boston.

Together with the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2), Geary and other attorneys from Nutter recently hosted the Nutter Strategic Planning Program at Wannalancit Mills. M2D2 is a UMass Lowell–UMass Amherst initiative that helps entrepreneurs and inventors move new medical device ideas from patent to commercial production.

“The Nutter Strategic Planning Program is a boot camp for technology entrepreneurs and early-stage companies designed to meet the needs of start-up companies that are ready to undergo sophisticated strategic planning and take important next steps in the formation and growth of their businesses,” he says.

About 12 companies participated in the program and are currently collaborating with M2D2 for prototype development, clinical testing and/or business development activities.

Tassone ’72 Creates New Work for Winds

In the course of his musical composing career, Pasquale Tassone ’72 has received numerous accolades and awards – his “Cenere” for flute and piano premiered and was broadcast over Radio France during an exchange concert at the Paris Conservatory; he won first prize in a composition contest for “Laudate Dominum” which premiered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and in 2004, a number of Tassone’s works were performed at the Artama Choral Festival in the Czech Republic. In all, he has composed more than 100 original compositions and arrangements for ensembles and groups who have performed them around the world.

In 2008, Tassone retired as director of fine arts for the Arlington Public School system, and has continued to compose works including “Suite Folkloristica” – which serves to bring together the broad based musical influences of Hebrew melodies, Negro spirituals, and Neapolitan folksongs with Spanish and Italian influences. “Suite Folkloristica” premiered on campus in a performance by the University Wind Ensemble, conducted by David Martins ’79.

Tassone – winner of the 2001 Francis Cabot Lowell Award for Fine Arts/Music – and his wife, Helene ’72, are both Music Education alumni. He is published by Kendor Music.

George Condo Chosen for Whitney Biennial

The Whitney Museum of American Art’s famous biennial exhibit features the work of 55 artists, including former student George Condo ’76,’79. This is Condo’s second appearance in the esteemed exhibit, which marks its 75th year. The museum describes this year’s exhibit as “balancing different media ranging from painting to sculpture to video, photography, performance and installation.”

In a lengthy article in Slate magazine, writer Ben Davis describes Condo’s work: “Condo’s most resonant inventions ... are probably his ‘antipodal beings,’ portraits of elfin, freakish cartoon creatures, alternatively goofy and horrifying, rendered in a semirealist style.”

Condo was 30 when he was chosen for the Whitney exhibit the first time. He has since traveled extensively and collaborated with figures as celebrated as William Burroughs, producing etchings and paintings for his book “The Big Chief.”

In a story by Anney Bonney for Bomb Magazine, Condo describes his fascination with painting monsters.

“Monsters are just as beautiful as maidens,” he says. “In a Bosch painting, a beetle can have a human head and cellophane-like wings, hairy little flesh-tone legs and spots on his back, with a glowing pink underbelly – exquisite like a jewel.”
Remembering Manny Panos

Aristomenes “Manny” Panos had a career spanning nearly 40 years at UMass Lowell and its predecessor institutions. He held many key administrative posts that greatly enhanced the prestige and scope of operations for the University.

A Korean War veteran, Panos was the associate director in the early 1970s of the evening school division — now known as Corporate Education and Distance Learning — where he helped establish the criminal justice program. This program graduated many young officers in the police departments of the Greater Lowell area.

“One of Manny’s outstanding traits was his people skills,” says plastics engineering Prof. Nick Schott. “He had an outgoing personality and a sincere professional who could do an outstanding job following through on assignments to advance the University.”

In the late 1970s, Panos became director of the Placement Office (now Career Services). He worked closely with the Plastics Engineering Department to attract Fortune 500 companies to come and recruit students on campus. The year 1977 saw the inauguration of the plastics engineering industrial short courses coordinated by the Division of Continuing Education. Panos assumed the task of organizing all the seminars for Continuing Education.

“Manny was the key person to establish the procedures and the logistics for on- and off-campus courses,” says Schott. “Seminars were run during summer vacation and semester breaks. More than 100,000 flyers were mailed each year, and seminars were held both on campus and in major cities across the country. This brought additional income to the University and greatly spread the name of the then ULowell far and wide.”

In the mid-1990s, Panos decided to retire. However, he did not want to cut his ties with the University. Instead, he took on new challenges, serving as an assistant and PR person at the newly formed Institute of Plastics Innovation.

In 1996, Panos took on another major challenge. The Plastics Institute of America (PIA), a non-profit research and educational institute founded in 1962, was relocating from New Jersey to the UMass Lowell campus. Panos was chosen as the Institute’s associate director. The PIA went on to direct and conduct in-house corporate training for major companies, helping them upgrade the skills of their workforce, a program that brought in revenue for the University.

In 2009, Panos fell and broke his leg. He and Mary, his wife of 54 years, had moved to Nashua, N.H., to a condo to start a simpler life. During that time, Panos’s health began to deteriorate. Sadly, he passed away on March 3.

“In 2009, Panos fell and broke his leg. He and Mary, his wife of 54 years, had moved to Nashua, N.H., to a condo to start a simpler life. During that time, Panos’s health began to deteriorate. Sadly, he passed away on March 3.”

“Manny often times talked about the University, Career Services, Continuing Education and most of all, the students, the alumni and the people whose lives he touched, improved and guided in their professional careers,” says Schott. “He is missed by us all.”
International Interest Alumni Survey

As the World Connects,

UMass Connects

We want to hear from you!
Please fill out this brief survey and return it to us.

We want to find out more about our alumni and their international experiences as we work to help our students internationalize their education. We want to share stories of the importance of globalization with our UMass Lowell community and you can help!

Do you work with international colleagues now? Any comments?

Have you or are you conducting research with an international colleague or on an international topic? Any comments?

Did you have an international experience as a student (study abroad/international internship/exchange/etc.)? Please, tell us about it.

Did you have an exchange student in your class and/or as a friend? Any comments?

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the most important), how valuable do you think an international component is to a college education? □1 □2 □3 □4 □5

Finally, do you have any photos/videos/blogs you would like to share?

Do you have a quote on the importance of international education for us to use in future materials?

Please give us some information about yourself.

Name

Year of Graduation

Major

Email Address

Current Home Address

Current Employer

You can also email this information to alumni_office@uml.edu.
Facebook - UMass Lowell Office of Alumni Relations

As a UMass Lowell alumnus/a many of you already connect with college friends via Facebook. NOW... UMass Lowell has a central meeting place there. You can find long-lost friends, reconnect with people you may have forgotten to look up when you created your account, learn about events on campus, see how you can reengage with the University, discover what services we offer that might help you with the next phase of your life and, if nothing else, help support and promote UMass Lowell’s growing River Hawk pride.

**HOW TO:** Just type “UMass Lowell Office of Alumni Relations” in your search box at the top of your home page and become a fan or visit http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lowell-MA/UMass-Lowell-Office-of-Alumni-Relations/61402692126?ref=s

**Alumni Network**

This is a simpler social networking site on the UMass Lowell website that will get better the more people use it. Right now, we are trying to help alumni from all over the system connect with one another in a more cohesive way! A bigger UMass network is a better UMass network for everyone who gets involved.

**HOW TO:** http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/membersonly/UMCL/mypage.jsp

**Twitter**

For those of you who have been brave enough to try the waters of Twitter, UMass Lowell has feeds you can follow. The UMass Lowell alumni office is teaming up with the UMass Lowell Tweeter to send updates to our alumni.

**HOW TO:** Here is the master site of them all: http://www.uml.edu/twitter

**LinkedIn**

Are you LinkedIn and connected to other professionals? Why not connect with other UMass Lowell Alumni and expand your network. UMass Lowell has an alumni group for you to join: “UMASS LOWELL ALUMNI.” Where people post discussions, suggest readings and advertise job opportunities. The bigger we grow it, the better.

**HOW TO:** Go to groups and search for UMASS LOWELL ALUMNI or visit http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=55178. You must have a LinkedIn account to access and join the groups. Both are easy to do.
The Power of Possibility
The Annual Campaign for UMass Lowell

A Powerful Combination
Just as the mighty Merrimack River powered the Industrial Revolution, so the University on its banks is empowering the next generation of thinkers and dreamers, innovators and doers. UMass Lowell is a world-class institution that creates possibilities for thousands of students each year. The Power of Possibility: The Annual Campaign for UMass Lowell will support four essential areas: student scholarships, faculty research, facilities and athletics.

Your gift to The Power of Possibility: The Annual Campaign for UMass Lowell provides critical resources to the University on an annual basis.

Calendar of Events

Aug. 23:
Chemistry & Polymer Science Alumni Reception
Anthony's Pier 4, Boston

Aug. 29:
4th Annual Alumni Rowing Day
UMass Lowell Boathouse

Sept. 24:
Plastics Alumni Golf Tournament
CT National Golf Course, Putnam, Conn.

Oct. 14:
Donor & Recipient Dinner Reception
UMass Lowell Inn
& Conference Center

Oct. 22-23:
Fall Festival/Hockey Opener
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

Nov. 14:
String Project's 10th Anniversary:
Featuring Harlem String Quartet
Durgin Hall

Nov. 18:
Francis Cabot Lowell Alumni Awards
and Honors Fellows Gala
UMass Lowell Inn
& Conference Center

Dec. 2:
Sukant Tripathy Tribute
UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

Visit www.uml.edu/alumni for more information.